



May 1, 2019

Attn: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) 'First Nations Guardians Initiative Fund'

**RE: Letter of support for TH's application to 'First Nations Guardians Initiative Fund'**

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (the Board) is an advisory body established within the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements and the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) as the "Primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in the territory" (UFA, 16.7.1). We are writing to you to express our support for the funding application by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) for the 'First Nations Guardians Initiative Fund' for their project *Nänkäk lihgha tr'ädätr'ëhoh'qy - On the land we work together*.

This project will build capacity of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewards/officers and strengthen relationships with resource management partners to improve environmental and compliance monitoring in the TH Traditional Territory. Monitoring and patrolling our natural resources, along with documenting the change that is occurring to broader landscape values in the traditional territory is an essential component of being able to develop management strategies that plan for, and/ or mitigate, disturbances and pressures on the land.

Across the Yukon, the Board has seen time and again the value of game guardians and land-based monitoring programs that are built by the community. Specifically, this project is also one piece in fulfilling the objective of the TH Final Agreement "to enhance and promote the full participation of Yukon Indian People in renewable resources management" (TH FA 16.1.1.11).

We understand that this proposal is intending to address the current capacity challenges of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in with fulfilling their obligations that have been established under the Final Agreement. Building strength within Yukon First Nations governments will result in a robust approach to natural resource management and will support sustainable outcomes that all Yukoners will benefit from in the years to come.

The Board strongly supports the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in application for funding from the 'First Nations Guardians Initiative Fund' for the project *Nänkäk lihgha tr'ädätr'ëhoh'qy - On the land we work together*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Burdek', written in a cursive style.

John Burdek, Chair