

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



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May 10, 2019

Honourable Minister Pauline Frost
Minister of Environment, Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Minister Frost;

Re: Appointment Process for Renewable Resources Councils and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

As mandated in the Umbrella Final Agreement and the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Yukon Renewable Resources Councils (RRC's) obtain their members through a process that requires the Minister of Environment to appoint Board and RRC members by approval from Cabinet, from both Yukon Government nominations as well as Council of Yukon First Nations nominations.

As you are aware through previous conversation and correspondence, both the Board and the RRCs have faced continual difficulties maintaining capacity and momentum in their work in part due to the timing of appointments. Often there are periods of vacancy between appointments, which impacts functioning of the RRC and the Board to undertake the work required to fulfil their mandates as they do not have full membership and sometimes do not have quorum. These periods of vacancy are also problematic for the nominees, as it produces a level of uncertainty for them regarding their personal planning – often these nominees are actively involved in many aspects of their communities, and as such need to know as soon as possible regarding their appointments to the RRCs in order to plan their time and resources accordingly.

This was again discussed at the annual RRC Chairs meeting with the Board on April 16, 2019, and it was felt that the timing of the appointment process could be improved to minimize these vacancies. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests Yukon Government to review the appointment process to reduce the possibility of vacancies in order for the Board and RRCs to fulfil their mandates under the Umbrella Final Agreement. This could perhaps be achieved by addressing upcoming vacancies through more advanced timing, by sending notifications to members whose terms are expiring, and earlier undertaking of the public call for nominations process by Yukon Government well before the expiration of member terms.

As the primary instruments of Fish and Wildlife management in the territory, the Board and RRCs provide the parties to the UFA with an essential public voice on fish and wildlife issues. We would appreciate your support on this matter in order to fully enable the function of the RRCs and the Board to fulfil our mandates as outlined in the UFA and First Nations Final Agreements.

Sincerely,



John Burdek, Chair