



May 30, 2019

To Yukon Renewable Resources Councils,

Re: Moose Harvest Management Framework

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Department of Environment are presenting in this joint letter the upcoming work for modernizing the Yukon's approach to moose harvest management.

Moose are highly valued for food, cultural, and ecological reasons in the Yukon, and it is well known that moose populations in some areas are experiencing unsustainable harvest. In the past, restricting licensed harvest was the primary tool used by Yukon Government to address population recovery. However, the Board and the Department feel that taking a broader, more holistic approach to harvest management is necessary in order to conserve moose populations for future generations.

The Department is currently developing a Yukon-wide approach to moose management that looks locally to find the harvest management tools most suitable for various Moose Management Units. Updating the *Moose Harvest Management Framework* will determine these local tools – this document was developed in 2003 by the Board and RRCs to guide Yukon Government's decision-making and needs to be modernized to reflect current local needs and preferences. Once these local tools are established, an adaptive management regulation (that is currently proposed) will enable the Minister to act quickly and decisively to implement a range of these tools to conserve moose populations in the areas where these tools are supported.

The Board and the Department are looking forward to working with Renewable Resources Councils, as well as First Nations Governments and local associations and communities across the Yukon to update the *Moose Harvest Management Framework*. Please review the attached *Draft Framework* and discuss the issues of moose harvest and management in your Traditional Territory with your Council Members and your communities. Renewable Resources Councils will play an important leadership role in determining what tools (e.g. rotational closures, season lengths, permit lotteries) could be most appropriate in your backyards.

The Board and the Department will be accepting feedback on this Framework from RRCs, First Nations, and associations until October 30, 2019. Any questions or comments regarding this Framework can be directed to Graham Van Tighem. We look forward to the road ahead to improve moose harvest management and conservation across the Yukon.

Sincerely,



John Burdek
Chair,
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Cc: First Nations Lands and Resources Determinants,
Pauline Frost, Minister of Environment (Yukon Government)