



Box 31104, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7
Phone: (867) 667-3754 Fax: (867) 393-6947 officemanager@yfwmb.ca

November 18, 2019

Honourable Ranj Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Honourable Pauline Frost, Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 2C6

Minister Pillai and Minister Frost,

Re: Wild Boar and the *Animal Health Act*

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board would like to take this opportunity following the presentation by Dr. Mary Vanderkop at our October 2019 Board meeting, to reiterate our position on Wild Boar in the Yukon. We were briefed on regulations for the *Animal Health Act* by Dr. Vanderkop and when the Board raised questions on the issue of Wild Boar in Yukon, many options were described to address the issue of escapement and containment of Wild Boar.

In the Board's previous correspondence on July 23rd, 2018, we stated that Wild Boar is an invasive species that pose significant challenges to wildlife managers and landowners in many parts of the world. In Canada, affected areas include Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. South of the border, this species is also wreaking havoc in 39 States, the most affected states being Texas, Arizona, and California. In Texas alone, wildlife managers spend \$400 million annually in damage control.

There are also thousands of articles citing the damage they have caused internationally. Wild Boar are known to be damaging to almost all types of ecosystems, but especially damaging to sensitive wetland habitats where they consume large amounts of vegetation, root-up ground, and thrive in these new ecosystems without natural predators. We acknowledge that to date, many of these jurisdictions are still south of the border, however, in Saskatchewan new evidence is being generated suggesting that Wild Boar is adapting to northern climates, and even managing to breed during colder winter months.

In addition to habitat concerns, the Board is deeply concerned about the ability of wild boar to pass on diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis to our native species. To jeopardize the

health of our native species for the sake of a few farmed or privately-owned wild boar would be catastrophic and profoundly unnecessary.

We, therefore, recommend that:

- 1.1 the Departments to work collaboratively to develop a long-term strategy that should include policy and/or legislation that would effectively ban Eurasian wild boar and prevent ownership, imports, and exports for farming and private ownership. This would include a ban on raising all Eurasian wild boar in the Yukon.***
- 1.2 Additionally, we recommend an immediate removal of Eurasian wild boar from the list of agriculture species permitted in Yukon.***

We thank you and your Departments for your work on this issue to date and we hope this can be resolved in an efficient and timely manner. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact our Executive Director Graham Van Tighem at 667-5835.

Sincerely,



John Burdek, Chair

cc: Dr. Mary Vanderkop, Chief Territorial Veterinarian
Kirk Price, Director of Agriculture, Department of Energy Mines and Resources
Christine Cleghorn, Director of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environment
All Yukon Renewable Resources Councils