

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



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November 19, 2019

Lawrence Joe, Co-Chair
Fish and Wildlife Working Group
Yukon Forum
Council of Yukon First Nations
2166 - 2nd Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4P1

Dennis Berry, Co-Chair
Fish and Wildlife Working Group
Yukon Forum
Yukon Government
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Joe and Mr. Berry,

Re: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Review Implementation

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board wishes to express our appreciation for the invitation to the Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group meetings that have taken place since June 2019. The Board remains actively involved in implementing the recommendations that emerged from the review.

We continue to see this as an opportunity to strengthen our role in the implementation of First Nation Final Agreements, and our relationships with all three signatories to the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). We look forward to the outcomes from the engagement session slated for spring 2020 and implementing the recommendations from the Stratos Final Report over the coming years.

Since the Report was accepted at the Yukon Forum, our working group has begun addressing some of the recommendations identified as the “Board’s responsibility”. These range from reviewing and updating the Board’s Operating Procedures to address items including, but not limited to the chairperson’s roles, responsibilities and term length, and self-evaluation of Board members.

Additionally, we are looking into “in-camera” policies and clarification of in-camera use around the Board table. We are looking at mechanisms to enhance transparency and public accountability of Board discussions and decision-making processes wherever possible. We are also researching more formal approaches for accessing and incorporating Local and Traditional Knowledge. The Board’s Executive will review the many strategic plans the Board has employed over the years, with the intent of updating these and incorporating them into our management framework and planned outcomes.

With the upcoming Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group meetings, additional Board meetings to address the recommendations, and our mandated activities, we are looking at a very busy few months ahead.

Additional resourcing may be necessary to ensure we can complete the objectives within the review in a timely fashion and keep up with business as usual. The Board is planning to engage a contractor for assistance in achieving the goals outlined in this letter while continuing to work on our normal day to day requirements. Our hope is that we can continue to function as required, focusing on mandated activities while we partner in the review process and implementation of its outcomes.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue during the review process and continue to remain focused on our mandate and objectives. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Executive Director at (867)-667-5835.

Sincerely,



John Burdek,
YFWMB Chair