



December 30, 2019

John Burdek, Chair  
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
Box 31104  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7

Dear Mr. Burdek:

Re: Wild Boar and the *Animal Health Act*

Thank you for your letter of November 18, 2019 in response to the presentation by Dr. Mary VanderKop at the October 2019 Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting. At that meeting, she provided an update on the review of legislation that is being proposed to deal with protection and control of animals in Yukon and we recognize that this is closely linked to the Board's concerns about animal health and the protection of ecosystems in Yukon.

We acknowledge your deep concern about the capacity of Eurasian boar to damage ecosystems, as has been experienced in other jurisdictions. We also acknowledge the challenges in containment for this species. Considered together with their capacity to adapt to Yukon's environment, and their rapid reproductive rate, Eurasian boar have the potential to be a significant threat to Yukon's environment.

Eurasian boar are one of the highly referenced species when discussing containment and management of livestock that pose a risk of creating a feral population. It is for this reason that we have engaged broadly with stakeholders on boar and other species that have potential to establish feral populations in Yukon. We believe the review of legislation creates an opportunity to develop a wide range of tools required to prevent domestic animals from establishing feral populations, and to deal with feral populations that exist now or may exist in the future.

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We appreciate that you have documented these concerns in the form of clear recommendations. We will take those recommendations into consideration as part of the review of our animal protection and control laws.

Mahsi,

Sincerely,



Pauline Frost  
Minister of Environment



Ranj Pillai  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

cc: Dr. Mary VanderKop, Chief Veterinary Officer  
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