



March 19, 2020

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

Dear John Burdek:

**Re: Call to ban Eurasian Wild Boar in Yukon under the *Animal Health Act***

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2020 on behalf of all Yukon Renewable Resources Councils and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (the Board) with regard to Eurasian boar in Yukon. We appreciate your response to the request that Dr. Vanderkop extended, seeking input for the review of legislation that is being developed to deal with the protection and control of animals in Yukon. We acknowledge that this is linked to concerns that the Board has expressed about the potential of Eurasian boar to damage the environment and have an impact on wildlife health.

We are familiar with the ongoing concerns in North American jurisdictions about the potential for Eurasian boar to escape from farms and to damage ecosystems. We are aware of the well-established potential of Eurasian boar to rapidly reproduce, to survive harsh climates, and to evade capture. The review of Yukon's animal protection and control laws creates an opportunity to develop the tools required to prevent domestic animals from becoming feral as well as those tools to address feral populations that exist now or in the future.

We appreciate that you have shared these concerns, and we will consider them as we revise animal protection and control laws. The new regime is anticipated to create mechanisms to define which animals can be owned in Yukon and enable conditions and requirements for keeping high risk animals such as Eurasian boar.

We confirm the response to the Board's November 18, 2019 recommendations, reiterated in your February 25, 2020 letter. Per 16.8.4 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, these recommendations have been "set aside" and will be considered once legislative tools are in place.

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For reference, the recommendations stated were:

- 1.1 The Departments work collaboratively to develop a long-term strategy that should include policy 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 the immediate removal of Eurasian wild boar from the list of agriculture species permitted in Yukon.

Setting these aside was inferred in our December 30, 2019 response and we apologize for not making this clearer. In our view, our December 30, 2019 response concluded the matter, fulfilling 16.8.4 well within 60 days of receipt of the recommendation.

Mahsi,



Pauline Frost  
Minister of Environment

Sincerely,



Ranj Pillai  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources