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*"The primary instrument for Renewable Resource Management in the
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory."*

June 8th, 2020

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Box 31104
Whitehorse
YT Y1A 5P7

To whom it may concern,

Re: Fortymile Caribou Licensed Hunt – Fall Hunt

The Dawson District Renewable Resource Council has been involved with the recovery and management of the Fortymile Caribou herd since 1999. The recovery of this herd has taken many years and throughout this period the DDRRC has been supportive of all the measures that have led to the recovery of this herd, such as no licensed harvest and TH's voluntary moratorium on hunting.

Over the past two years we have had increased involvement with the Fortymile Caribou Coalition, we have attended several meetings in Alaska, and have helped shape future management of this herd as it grows. Research on calf survival and 3-year-old parturition rates are indicating that this herd has possibly reached a size that is jeopardizing the overall health of the herd. Alaska has decided to prevent future herd growth and is seeking to reduce it slowly through harvest. The Yukon has an agreed harvest allocation of 35% of the annual allowable harvest, shared between Alaska and the Yukon. Until the last two years we have supported not harvesting our allocation and letting the herd build. As the herd has reached a population size of 65,000, as identified through TH's General Assembly, TH has lifted the voluntary no-hunting moratorium in 2017. Combined with Alaska's push to limit the herd size due to health concerns, the DDRRC has recommended that a licensed harvest of this herd should occur.

The Fortymile Harvest Committee was formed in 2013 by YG and TH representatives to establish a harvest management plan within the Yukon. During the last number of years, the DDRRC has met with TH, as well as the Committee numerous times and has provided recommendations on the tools that would best address community concerns while allowing for a harvest. More recently, the DDRRC discussed the Fortymile Caribou harvest with our regional biologist on 01 June 2020, where it was presented the results of the 2020 Winter Hunt, as well as the proposed 2020 Fall Hunt under the current



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Licensed Harvest Plan. The DDRRC would like to exclude the Ladue River valley from the hunt, to protect moose and sheep from disturbances and open the hunt as early as possible without interference of the Tr'ondek Hwech'in hunt. The DDRRC would prefer that permits be handed out at the Dawson Region C.O.'s office but in the times that we are in with COVID 19 we realize that this may not be possible.

The DDRRC supports the proposed Harvest Management Plan, the tools included and the 2020 Fall Hunt, recognizing these will lead to one of the most regulated licensed hunts implemented in the Yukon. It is our understanding that these regulations and restrictions are a direct result of concerns that TH brought forward with the opening of a licensed harvest.

The mandate of the DDRRC is to make recommendations to TH and YG and we realize that the final decisions remain with the governments. We encourage all parties to follow the process and provisions set out in the TH Final Agreement. Our concerns are for the proper management and health of this caribou herd. With this in mind, we wish to encourage harvesting of animals from this herd, using the guidelines of the Draft Harvest Management Plan which includes provisions and guidance for both licensed and First Nation subsistence harvest.

Sincerely,

Mark Wierda

Co-Chair
Dawson District Renewable Resources Council



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CC Chief and Council, Tr'ondek Hwech'in Government

CC Honorable Pauline Frost, Minister of Environment