



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

January 14, 2021

Mark Cattet
Department of Environment
Government of Yukon
Box 2703 – V-5
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Mr. Cattet,

Re: The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Board) would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to your new role as Director of Fish and Wildlife. The relationship between the Board and the Director of Fish and Wildlife is vital in successfully implementing the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and fulfilling our mandate. This relationship is highlighted in section 16.7.7.2 of the UFA, which reads "*that the Director of Fish and Wildlife for the Yukon shall serve as an advisor to the Board and shall ensure that technical support is provided to the Board.*"

Furthermore, as per 16.7.1 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, the Board is identified as the "*primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in the Yukon.*" However, we exercise our authority as the "primary instrument" by respectfully comanaging alongside various partners. We work closely with First Nations, who have established Lands and Resources Departments and Renewable Resources Councils that manage fish and wildlife in their respective Traditional Territory. We also have a close working relationship with the Government of Yukon and Canada, each with its authority and jurisdiction in managing Yukon's fish and wildlife.

The Yukon has a place for all comanagers and the fulfillment of our respective mandates. However, our success depends on our collective ability to cooperate, maintain an open dialogue, share accurate and reliable information promptly, and offer transparency on management decisions.

We feel the Board's mandate cannot be satisfied without adequately understanding and recognizing each party's respective mandate and authority. Additionally, the Board's mandate requires technical support and advice that relies on continued positive and open dialogue with the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Along with the technical advice you and your staff provide, the Board depends on your understanding of the Spirit and Intent of the Umbrella Final Agreement and individual First Nation Final Agreements. We also want to note that the negotiators who created the Umbrella Final Agreement intended it to be used as a template to create Yukon's First Nations Final Agreements.

The Spirit and Intent of these agreements include the principles of respect, understanding, and trust. The Final Agreements are not static, but living documents founded on these three principles, allowing us to address changes in technology, access, demographics, and even our climate. As a Board, we must evolve to overcome new challenges together with our partners – and our relationship with the Department of Environment is crucial to ensuring Conservation and achieving the objectives outlined in Chapter 16 of the UFA.

We want to invite you to meet with the Board's Executive (Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director) at your earliest convenience so that we can present you with an overview of the Board's mandate, a brief history of land claims in the Yukon, and some examples of challenges and successes we have experienced in the past few years.

We sincerely look forward to working with you and your Department.

Please call our Executive Director, Graham Van Tighem, at (867)-667-5835 to let us know when you are available to meet.

Gunalchéesh,

Carl Sidney, Chair