



May 12, 2006

Mr. Joe Tetlich, Chair
Porcupine Caribou Management Board
Box 31723
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Re: PCMB Recommendations for Regulation Change

Thank you for your recommendations as outlined in your April 12, 2006 letter. First, I would like to commend you on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's (PCMB) thorough consultation with both the communities and the Whitehorse public and the careful weighing of all the issues before you made your recommendations.

The Yukon Government is prepared to accept your recommendation on mandatory use of blaze orange safety vests or jackets for all hunters year-round in all Dempster Highway subzones within the Yukon. I acknowledge that the PCMB has been handing out free vests for the last several years. I am now prepared to make this a mandatory requirement for which the hunters will be responsible for acquiring their own safety vests. I appreciate the PCMB's offer to continue to distribute free hats and to loan out orange vests for the next several years, however, that action may confuse hunters if, on one hand, they are required to provide their own safety vests yet, on the other hand, they can obtain them **free** from the PCMB. It may be good public relations for the board to have vests available for loan should a **hunter** forget to bring one. I'll leave that decision up to the board.

The Yukon Government strongly supports a comprehensive and standardized educational program to be delivered throughout the range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. We support all the components that you have listed in your recommendation including, reduce caribou harassment, meat wastage, wounding loss, and a voluntary hunting ban on mature bulls from October 10 to November 1. The Yukon Government is prepared to support this educational program through in-kind services from staff with expertise in hunter education, and through direct funds to help offset the cost. Please provide Environment Yukon (Mr. Doug Larsen) with a proposal outlining your needs.

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Environment Yukon will now proceed with First Nation consultation on the enclosed recommendations, as well as the one outstanding recommendation from the PCMB, the 2nd one-week closure.

With regards to Hart River caribou, I will wait for recommendations from a board or council before proceeding. I appreciate your points for consideration on the seasons as it may affect the Porcupine Caribou harvest. As per the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement, any regulations affecting the Hart River Herd and the PCH would involve both the PCMB and the Yukon Wildlife Management Board.

I am pleased to see your commitment to resolving other issues related with the Dempster Highway through your harvest management strategy. I look forward to a budget proposal from the PCMB on this important initiative.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Fentie'.

Dennis Fentie
Minister of Environment