



MR. ROBERT BOUCHARD
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

JUN 17 2015

Oral Question 835-17(5) Morel Mushroom Harvest

This letter is further to my commitment made in the Legislative Assembly on May 29, 2015, regarding Oral Question 835-17(5) Morel Mushroom Harvest. During our discussion, I committed to provide information to you with respect to whether the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has any plans to survey mushroom harvesters to determine whether they are locals or from the south.

ITI provides visitors and tourists the opportunity to participate in surveys at Visitor Centers throughout the Northwest Territories. Morel mushroom harvesters, from the south may already be participating in visitor surveys.

Morel mushroom harvests do not occur every year, and when these do they tend to be quite unreliable in terms of timing, output and duration. Therefore, from a marketing or planning perspective this is not a sector where long range plans or planning tools such as surveys would be beneficial.

ITI officials have provided information sessions on morel mushroom harvesting in all communities around the Great Slave Lake, spoken with over 1,200 residents and provided individual training to many of the residents through walking workshops, with the intent of encouraging local residents to participate in the harvest. In the past, with the exception of last summer when information sessions on morel mushroom harvesting were originally developed for the Dehcho Region, very few local residents participated in harvesting morel mushrooms. Anecdotal evidence suggests the number of local residents participating and benefiting from the harvest last year and this summer have increased significantly.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ramsay".

David Ramsay
Minister

c. List attached



Mr. Peter Vician
Deputy Minister, ITI

Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator