

Gwich'inat Eenjit
Gàdatr'igwijiicheii Gidilii
Gwich'in nan, nakhwek'yùu ts'at gwitr'it
tthak nakhwidavee gwilhezàa eenjit



Gwich'in Tribal Council
Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

August 3, 2011

Honorable J. Michael Miltenberger
 Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
 Government of the NWT
 P.O. Box 1320
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Re: Bill 9 - NWT Wildlife Act

Dear Minister Miltenberger,

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) wanted to take this opportunity to directly inform you of its position on Bill 9: *NWT Wildlife Act*. The GTC has previously made its views known to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI) when it held public hearings in Inuvik on the above-mentioned draft bill in April 2011.

The GTC does not support Bill 9 as it is currently drafted. There are significant changes that have been made to the Bill without consultation with the Gwich'in Participants. Sections dealing with the Conference of Management Authorities have been substantially altered in such a way that that the GTC believes weakens the Bill. The Consultation Draft of November 2010 was agreed upon by the Working Group which consisted of all the settled land claim organizations.

With this in mind, I have had the benefit of the proposed SCEDI motions being shared with me in confidence by the Department. I have reviewed these proposed motions and have determined that they represent a reasonable, and acceptable compromise between Bill 9 and the Consultation Draft. While they do not incorporate all the changes the GTC has been seeking to the sections of Bill 9 relating to the Conference for Wildlife Management, the motions - if accepted as written - would do enough to allow the GTC to support the Bill. The GTC's position is to support all the proposed SCEDI recommendations with this exception:

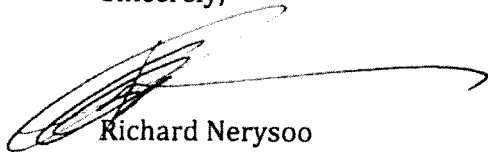
16. (1) The Conference may invite each of the following to participate in meetings of the Conference convened for the purposes of this Act:

- (a) Dehcho First Nations;
- (b) Northwest Territory Métis Nation;
- (c) NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation;
- (d) prescribed Aboriginal organizations that represent persons who are not beneficiaries in respect of their Aboriginal or treaty rights to harvest wildlife in the Northwest Territories.

The GTC support these recommendations to be incorporated in the draft of Bill 9 to be presented for its third reading, if not the GTC will be forced to consider its alternatives in relation to the legislation.

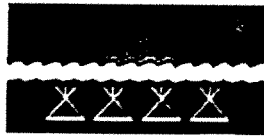
Thank you for your consideration of the GTC's concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Nerysoo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Nerysoo
President





Tlicho Government

Box 412, Behchokq, NT X0F 0Y0 • Tel: (867) 392-6381 Fax: (867) 392-6389 www.tlicho.ca

August 17th, 2011.

The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister
Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Yellowknife, NT

Re: Tlicho Government Position on Proposed Changes to Bill 9 the GNWT Wildlife Act

Dear Minister Miltenberger,

We understand there has been some confusion in the Assembly today as to whether the Tlicho Government supports the position taken by the Gwitchin Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Sahtu Secretariat in their letter to the Minister dated August 15th, 2011. We believe this letter contains important information and relevant views - which are held jointly by Tlicho Government, IGC, SSI and GTC.

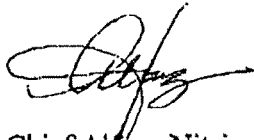
This past weekend a meeting was called by your staff to attempt a reconciliation of positions on the makeup of the Conference for Wildlife Management. As indicated in the IGC/GTC/SSI letter... "The positions of our organizations on the makeup of the Conference have been presented and explained directly to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI) and have been communicated to you and your staff on numerous occasions..." The idea of the Conference has been central to the Bill during three years of its development, including ongoing consultations. Again from the IGC/GTC/SSI letter... "The Consultation Draft was developed collaboratively, in a co-management context, by the Working Group. Its provisions for the makeup of the Conference are acceptable to us. In our collective views they will result in an effective Conference made up of parties with the actual authority to be a part of such decision-making processes..." The Tlicho Government cannot now support the current revisions that are substantially different from the Consultation Draft circulated earlier. It is our Government's position that there has been no proper consultation on such a Bill.

The Tlicho Government is opposed to a new Wildlife Act being enacted in the manner proposed by these most recent motions - which would delete all mention of the Conference of Management Authorities from the Act. The importance and need for the Conference, as developed by the Working Group over three years, has been explained over and over by Tlicho Government and the other land claims organizations.

Minister Michael Miltenberger
August 17th, 2011.
Page 2

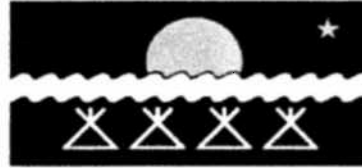
At this time, we believe the only proper course of action, in the circumstances, is to have the Bill **not proceed through second or third reading**. It needs to be reconsidered by the Working Group **after the next election**. Hopefully the outstanding issues can be properly resolved and consulted on, so that a new Wildlife Act consistent with the Tlicho and other land claims agreements can then go to the Legislature and be passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Altonz', written in a cursive style.

Chief Altonz Nitsiza for Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Tlicho Government

c.c. The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, MLA Monfwi Region



August 15, 2011

The Honourable Michael J. Miltenberger
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT

Dear Minister Miltenberger:

RE: Completion of the Wildlife Act Project

Our organizations have received an invitation from your staff to attend an emergency meeting of the Wildlife Working Group this weekend. The purpose of the meeting is to attempt a reconciliation of positions on the makeup of the Conference for Wildlife Management (the "Conference"). The positions of our organizations on the makeup of the Conference have been presented and explained directly to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI) and have been communicated to you and your staff on numerous occasions. We do not support the provisions of Bill 9 which set out the makeup of the Conference.

The Wildlife Working Group came to a position on this matter last fall. Not all participants were satisfied, but you were presented with a proposal for the makeup of the Conference which met with the approval of all Land Claim Organizations. This approach was reflected in the November 2010 Consultation Draft produced by your Department and discussed widely in NWT communities. It was your government which subsequently changed the makeup of the Conference, before releasing Bill 9.

The Consultation Draft was developed collaboratively, in a co-management context, by the Working Group. Its provisions for the makeup of the Conference are acceptable to us. In our collective views they will result in an effective Conference made up of parties with the actual

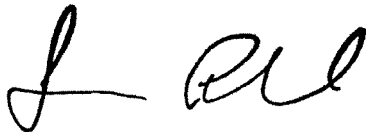
authority to be a part of such decision-making processes. Our views are on the record. They have been explained to SCEDI and your staff. We do not think that another last minute meeting to further discuss this issue will reconcile our differences over the Conference provisions in the Bill.

Before your government makes a decision on the fate of the Bill we think it is important to remind you of just how much has been achieved. The Working Group process was thorough, collaborative and constructive. It provided a forum for the development of modern wildlife legislation which is much needed as a foundation for important future wildlife management decisions. New legislation is particularly important now, when caribou numbers are in flux and aboriginal harvesters need governments to ensure good management of critical wildlife resources.

Notwithstanding our differences over the Conference, we want to commend you and your government for the approach taken to the development of a new Wildlife Act. In our view this kind of collaborative work and the resulting new legislation are building blocks which will be critical to sustainable wildlife management in the NWT.

We are therefore willing, if no resolution to the makeup of the Conference can be achieved in the time available before the Legislative Session ends, to commit to a limited continuation of the Working Group process to resolve these issues in the fall. The majority of Bill 9 is uncontroversial and acceptable to us. We think that it is in the interests of all residents of the NWT to complete the Wildlife Act Project as soon as possible.

Yours truly,



Frank Pokiak
Chair IGC

Yours truly,



Eddie Erasmus
Grand Chief
Tlicho Government

Yours truly,

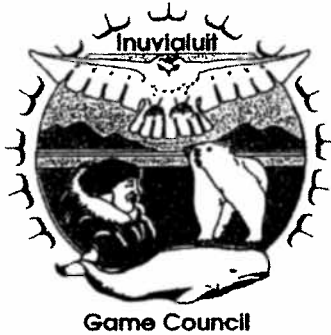


Walter Bezha for
Ethel Blondin-Andrew
Chair, SSI

Yours truly,



Richard Nerysoo
President GTC



INUVALUIT GAME COUNCIL

August 3, 2011

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the NWT
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Re: Bill 9 – NWT Wildlife Act

Dear Minister Miltenberger,

The Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) wanted to take this opportunity to directly inform you of its position on Bill 9: *NWT Wildlife Act*. The IGC has previously made its views known to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI) when it held public hearings in Inuvik on the above-mentioned draft bill.

The IGC does not support Bill 9 as it is currently drafted. There are significant changes that have been made to the Bill without consultation with the Inuvialuit. Sections dealing with the Conference of Management Authorities have been substantially altered in such a way that that the IGC believes weakens the Bill. The November 2010 Consultation Draft was agreed upon by the Working Group involving all the land claim organizations. For your convenience, I have included the presentation the IGC made to the SCEDI that outlines the specific concerns IGC has with these changes.

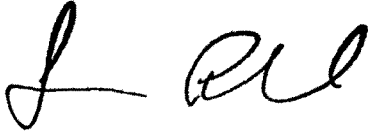
With this in mind, I have had the benefit of the proposed SCEDI motions being shared with me in confidence by the Department. I have reviewed these proposed motions and have determined that they represent a reasonable, and acceptable compromise between Bill 9 and the Consultation Draft. While they do not incorporate all the changes the IGC has been seeking to the sections of Bill 9 relating to the Conference for Wildlife Management, the motions – if accepted as written – would do enough to allow the IGC to support the Bill. Unless all the proposed SCEDI recommendations are incorporated in the draft of Bill 9 to be presented for its third

The Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees
P.O. Box 2120 Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0
tel: (867) 777-2828 fax: (867) 777-2610: email: igc-isc@jointsec.nt.ca web: www.jointsecretariat.ca

reading, the IGC will be forced to consider its alternatives in relation to the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of the IGC's concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Pokiak', written in a cursive style.

Frank Pokiak
Chair

Encl.

1. IGC presentation to SCEDI on Bill 9: *NWT Wildlife Act*

cc:

Nellie Cournoyea – Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corp.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

29 July 2011

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2LA

Dear Minister Miltenberger:

Re: WMAC (NWT) position on Bill 9: *Wildlife Act*

This letter is to advise you of the position of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) (WMAC (NWT)) that, consistent with their 08 June 2011 presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI) (attached for your convenience):

- the WMAC (NWT) does not support Bill 9: *Wildlife Act* without the reinsertion of sections dealing with the Conference of Management Authorities as stated in the November 2010 Consultation Draft, as recommended to you by the Wildlife Act Working Group; and
- that changes made to Bill 9: *Wildlife Act* concerning these sections dealing with the Conference of Management Authorities, as stated in the November 2010 Consultation Draft, were made without consultation with the Wildlife Act Working Group or the WMAC (NWT). For issues such as this, the Minister is required to consult with the WMAC (NWT) as per the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). It is felt that such consultation has not been undertaken, and therefore the GNWT may be in violation of the IFA

We urge you to act on the recommendations of the WMAC (NWT) and support amendments Bill 9 that would reinstate the Conference on Management Authorities as stated in the November 2010 Consultation Draft. If this is not done the WMAC (NWT) will consider other options with respect to any new wildlife act enacted by the GNWT. Such a situation is not in the interest of co-management of wildlife in the NWT.

Sincerely,

Larry Carpenter
Chair, WMAC (NWT)

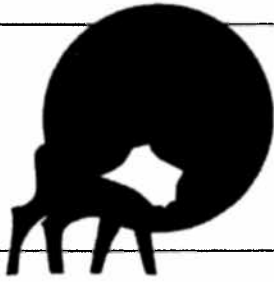
The Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Settlement Region
P.O. Box 2120 Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0
tel: (867) 777-2828 fax: (867) 777-2610 email: wmacnwt@jointsec.nt.ca
www.jointsecretariat.ca/wmacnwt/aboutus.htm

Attachment:

- 08 June 2011 WMAC (NWT) presentation to SCEDI on Bill 9: *Wildlife Act*

Ccs:

- Frank Pokiak, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council
- Richard Nerysoo, President, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, Tlicho Government
- Elizabeth Hansen, Acting Chair, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
- Walter Bayha, Chair, Sahtu Renewable Resource Board
- Grant Pryznyk, Interim Chair, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

P.O. Box 2240, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Phone: (867) 777-6600 Fax: (867) 777-6601
<http://www.grrb.nt.ca>

May 20, 2011

Honourable David Ramsey,
Chair: Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Re: GRRB comments on Bill 9: *Wildlife Act*

Dear Mr. Ramsey,

I am sending this letter on behalf of the GRRB to provide our comments and recommendations on *Bill 9: Wildlife Act* for your consideration as you report to the Legislature on this Bill.

Our board would like to compliment the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the progress made in developing Bill 9. We recognize that this is an important piece of legislation and one that requires input from many parties. We are appreciative of the efforts that the Department has made to include co-management boards, including the GRRB, in the development of this Bill through the Wildlife Act Working Group (WAWG). The drafting of Bill 9 and the involvement of the WAWG in this process has been a significant accomplishment.

The Board is generally supportive of the proposed Bill 9 but has reservations regarding one section of the Bill and has some additional comments that we would also like considered:

1. The GRRB is not in support of the current text of section 15 subsection 1 and has serious reservations about the implications of the current section's wording regarding membership of the Conference. Specifically, the GRRB is concerned that the current text in this section opens the Conference to unsettled land claim groups and to any organization with an interest in wildlife management even if they do not have any authority over wildlife management. The version of section 15 that is supported by the GRRB is the November 2010 draft version of this section. In this version, the membership of the Conference is only open to groups that have wildlife management authority. The GRRB sees value in having a venue such as the Conference where all bodies responsible for wildlife management can meet to discuss common concerns and interests in efforts to work together cooperatively to find solutions. Including organizations without legislated authority for wildlife management as members of the Conference (as is currently written in the draft Bill 9 section 15) opens this productive venue up to the possibility of being derailed by political discussions and biases. We feel that it is important to ensure that the right bodies are at the table for the right reasons and the intent

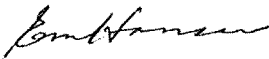
of the group is respected. This is a widely shared view, given comments at public meeting and recent correspondence from other co-management groups.

2. The text of section 15 was changed from the version used in public consultation and from that discussed by the WAWG. The GRRB believes that the changes are significant enough that they should have been more effectively communicated both to the WAWG and to the public in order to give appropriate opportunity for meaningful feedback and comment. The GRRB participated in all meetings of the WAWG and has been well included in the process up until the stages following the final WAWG meetings (August 17-19 and January 10-14, Yellowknife). During these final two WAWG meetings section 15 was discussed at length. It is our position that the outcome of these discussions was that the working group generally accepted the wording of section 15; this was used in the public consultation draft dated November 2010.

In closing, the Board recommends the SCEDI include these concerns in your report to the legislature on Bill 9. Specifically, the Board recommends the text in section 15 of Bill 9 be substituted with the text provided (and supported) in the consultation draft of November 2010.

Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Amy Thompson, by email at athompson@grrb.nt.ca or by phone at (867) 777-6602 if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hansen
Interim Chair
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board