

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 10-63

TABLED ON Oct. 20, 1977

Box 1638  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
October 5, 1977

Mr. Don Stewart,  
Member, Legislative Assembly of N.W.T.,  
Hay River, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Re: Proposed Game Ordinance

The Hay River Band has held a couple of meetings to discuss some of the proposed changes in the Game Ordinance and we wish to take this opportunity to express some of our views and concerns about some of the changes. Although we reviewed briefly the proposed ordinance in its entirety the following sections on hunting were discussed at length.

Section 53 deals with hunting from and with a vehicle. The Band wholly agrees that hunting from a vehicle is undesirable but do not agree that hunting with a vehicle be prohibited. The Band feels that hunting with a vehicle be permitted on all highways and roads within the Territories but that the hunting of barrenland caribou be the only exception. We have witnessed the slaughter of caribou with vehicles on lakes when the snow hasn't been too deep and for this reason we disagree with it.

Section 56 (2). The 12 hour no hunting restriction when an aircraft is used for transportation. We believe that this was inserted primarily to discourage one day hunting excursions again for barrenland caribou. We believe that if this is the case the ordinance should be more specific. The Band cannot see where this is realistic or practical when it is applied to other circumstances than the hunting of barrenland caribou.

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Section 64 deals with the destruction of beaver dams, lodges and muskrat pushups. The Band agrees in principle with the suggestion that the wilful destruction of dams and lodges be prohibited but have reservations regarding muskrat pushups. It is probable that this section was inserted to prevent destruction by, say, a dozer clearing a seismic line and all agree that this should not happen. The fear is that the interpretation could conceivably hamper the trapping of muskrats therefore they would like the words "and muskrat pushup" be deleted from the section.

On the subject of carrying firearms in vehicles. If hunting with a vehicle is permitted then it is only logical that firearms should be able to be carried in the vehicle. The Band agrees that the owner or operator of a vehicle has to be in possession of a valid hunting license before firearms can be carried and that the firearms so carried be consistent with the type of license the person holds. In other words, if a person has only a game bird license he should not be carrying a 303 or a 30-06 in his vehicle but rather a 22 or 410 or other shotguns. Of course this would allow general hunting license holders to carry any and all firearms at all times.

Another major concern of the Band was the number of big game licenses which are sold each year. The Band firmly believes that quotas should be able to be set each hunting season depending on the results of surveys which would have to be carried out to determine the approximate quantity of certain species. The quotas should be determined and set by the Fish & Wildlife authorities in consultation with such organizations as Band Councils, Settlement Councils, Hunters & Trappers Association etc., each for their particular hunting area or zone which falls under their jurisdiction.

The Band wholly supports the suggestion that the number of barrenland caribou allowed a big game license holder be reduced from the present number of five to two only.

We regret that we have not had the opportunity to sit down with you to discuss these and other concerns but we hope that this may be of some help to you in your deliberations on the subject.

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If there are any clarifications required and/or questions please do not hesitate to call me at 874-6701.

Your truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Villeneuve", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jim Villeneuve,  
Reserve Manager for the  
Hay River Indian Band