



November 18, 2019

Charles Shewen, President
Gord Zealand, Executive Director
Yukon Fish & Game Association
509 Strickland Street
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2K5

Dear Mr. Shewen and Mr. Zealand:

Re: Management of elk-agriculture conflicts in the Takhini Valley

Thank you for your letter dated October 8, 2019. I appreciate the concerns that you have identified regarding ongoing elk-agriculture conflicts in the Takhini Valley from the perspective of the Yukon Fish & Game Association. I also would like to acknowledge the instrumental role that your organization and members have played to support the establishment of elk in Yukon, including your ongoing participation in the elk management conversations.

Management of the Takhini Valley and Braeburn elk herds is currently guided by the Management Plan for Elk in Yukon (2016). As part of implementing the plan, addressing elk-agriculture conflicts has been an ongoing focus of time and effort by both departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Elk-Agriculture Working Group, established as an action from the management plan, will meet again this month (November 2019) to engage with all participants on current concerns about elk management, including the Elk-Agriculture Conflict Hunt. This meeting will provide an opportunity for a collective discussion focused on resolving challenges, and I hope it will result in some new ideas and recommendations for addressing various concerns. Department of Environment staff will be in touch with you regarding meeting specifics.

Thank you again for your ongoing engagement on this challenging file.

Mahsi,

Pauline Frost
Minister of Environment