

TAHLTAN - KASKA - TLINGIT

Minister Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

July 30, 2015

Dear Minister,

Open letter regarding wildlife management in Tahltan, Kaska and Tlingit Nations' territories

We are writing to you to express our concern and request action around wildlife management and hunting issues in Tahltan, Kaska and Tlingit Nations' territories ahead of the upcoming hunting season.

These issues have been discussed for many years with our individual Nations with little progress. With yet another hunting season due to start, it is important for us to know that hunting and wildlife are being properly managed in our territories. We believe that uniting as a group will bring mutual benefits to you and to our Nations in this matter.

By August 7th 2015, we would like to confirm a meeting between you and our leaders to discuss these issues. We ask that the meeting take place before the hunting season begins on August 15th, 2015. At this meeting, we would like to hear about your plans for monitoring, management and protection of wildlife in our territories for this year. We would also like to discuss the impact of current Hunting Regulations on our Title and Rights as well as on the day-to-day lives of our people.

Ultimately, we would like to see changes to the Wildlife Act and Hunting Regulations to bring them up to date to reflect today's world.

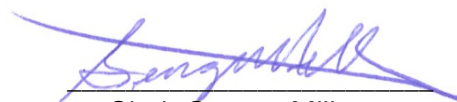
In the short-term, the meeting will help us to keep our members up-to-date as we face pressure and questions about limiting hunting in our territories. It is our hope that this will reduce the likelihood of direct action from community members seen in previous years. It is important to us that everyone in the area remains safe at this time.

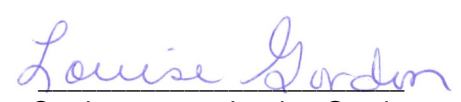
Given that our communities organize significant land use activities (culture camps, fishing, hunting, berry picking, food harvesting, etc) throughout our territories at this time of year, it is important that we collaborate to safely control the situation to protect our environment and our traditions for today, for our children and for our grandchildren.


We look forward to a prompt response and to a timely meeting with you.


Sincerely,



President Chad Norman Day
Tahltan Central Government


Chair George Miller
Kaska Dena Council


Spokesperson Louise Gordon
Taku River Tlingit First Nation


Chief Terri Brown
Tahltan Band


Chief Marie Quock
Iskut Band Council


Roma Walker
Daylu Dena Council