



STATEMENT

Vuntut Gwitchin Government celebrates signing the Porcupine Caribou Native User Agreement

(Old Crow, Yukon, Canada – September 4, 2019)

The Vuntut Gwitchin Government celebrated the signing of the Porcupine Caribou Herd Canadian Range-Wide Native User Agreement (Agreement) in Inuvik on August 27, 2019, alongside the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Game Council, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Tro'ondek Hwech'in.



The Agreement, signed on March 13, 2019, establishes formal harvest allocation and harvest-sharing arrangements of the Porcupine Caribou among all eight native user communities in the herd's Canadian range, reflecting the harvesting rights and management authorities and requirements established in the signatories' respective land claim and self-government agreements and through the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement (PMCA).

Vuntut Gwitchin Government is proud of this historic Agreement which provides a forward-looking proactive and precautionary approach to harvest management based on respect for the Porcupine Caribou and respect between its' signatories. The Agreement recognizes Vuntut Gwitchin's unique dependence on the Porcupine Caribou for food security, cultural wellbeing and survival.

The Agreement establishes the Porcupine Caribou Native User Commission which will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Agreement and harvest management between signatories.

“This Agreement has been a long time in the making and is reflective of years of hard work and traditional knowledge sharing” said Councilor Darius Elias. “As stewards of the Porcupine Caribou, this Agreement represents our collective responsibility in ensuring sustainable management of the herd for future generations.”

“Our life as Vuntut Gwitchin has always been deeply intertwined with the life of the Porcupine Caribou” said Elder Stanley Njootli Sr. “This Agreement is an essential component to ensuring the long-term conservation of the herd and thus our traditional lifestyle and culture.”

“It was an honour to be present in celebrating the signing of this Agreement,” said Councilor Brandy Tizya. “As a young leader, I am grateful for the opportunity to experience and learn from all those involved in its development, which is the success it is due to the more than three decades of work that went in to completing it. This Agreement reflects the values of respect and sharing that were instilled upon us by our Elders, leaving an important legacy for my children.”

You can view the Agreement at www.pcmb.ca.