



March 31, 2006

Kim Hawkins
Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Box 1509
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

Ms. Hawkins:

Re: Progress Report for NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, Capacity Building and Monitoring Projects 2005-2006

To date Gartner Lee Limited (GLL) has initiated the proposed program to develop a monitoring program for the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) that would allow for the monitoring of grizzly bear, moose and woodland caribou. As you are aware, the purpose of this project is to research current techniques being used to survey these species and determine which survey techniques could be adapted to the GSA. The primary goal of this project is to develop monitoring plans for each of these species to ensure that negative impacts to their populations can be detected before the impact becomes severe.

To date we have contacted and interviewed wildlife managers in Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska. We have collected a significant number of government documents outlining results of various surveys and we have begun the process of analyzing these documents for each of the three species involved. In addition, we have been searching peer-reviewed journals to determine statistical techniques that may be better suited for the type of statistical confidence we wish to achieve.

To date, it appears that grizzly bears may be best monitored in the GSA through the use of hair DNA analysis. Currently this technique is not being used in the area. There is some concern that the average homerange of grizzly bears in the area may be too large to allow for the effective use of DNA. DNA from hair traps is being widely used for grizzly bear monitoring in other jurisdictions and we are currently in the process of gaining more details on the impact homerange size may or may not have on the statistical confidence associated with this technique.

Techniques for monitoring moose and woodland caribou appear to be fairly standardized in most jurisdictions we have contacted; however, in few instances are the results from these techniques providing wildlife managers with the level of statistical confidence we wish to achieve in the GSA. To deal with the statistical confidence issue we are currently researching the impact of increased sampling effort per survey or increased number of surveys per year on the statistical confidence of the results. Once we have clearly defined the best techniques for monitoring these species, we will develop a detailed plan that will include the detailed survey design, sampling effort required and timing of surveys. We will also provide an

outline for the kinds of training programs that will be required for local people to be directly involved in the monitoring programs. Our final report will include a detailed budget for each of the proposed monitoring programs, as well as a bibliography of documents we have reviewed and people we have interviewed.

Work on collecting the background data is almost complete and the writing of the detailed monitoring plans is expected to commence in the near future. Before releasing the final report we do plan on asking the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (and any other people or organization you recommend) to review a draft to ensure that the wildlife managers for the area understand and agree with the proposed monitoring program. We have been in contact with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and we plan to stay in close communication as we commence with the detailed monitoring plans.

Thank you for your support on this project. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Zimmerling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Todd N. Zimmerling, M.Sc., Ph.D., R.P.Bio., P.Biol.