

Tłıchǰ Government

M.V.R.B.



Mr. Alan Ehrlich
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

May 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Ehrlich

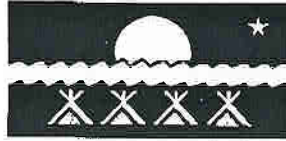
Re: TK regarding Blackbear baiting

This letter is intended to inform the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of new information we have obtained in the last week, which may be relevant to the True North Safari's General Wildlife Permit Application - NS2009GWP001.

In a letter dated April 21, 2009, the Tłıchǰ Lands Protection Department did approve the permit so long as our terms and conditions were addressed. This decision was made within the department, based upon the information that we had at the time. Our TK specialist looked at the issue and provided the information that she could. Up until this point, the black bear and in particular baiting the black bear for the purpose of hunting was not an issue that our TK specialist had ever encountered, therefore she had never discussed this issue in great detail with the elders.

Last week we had an opportunity to speak with both male and female elders. We now have additional information to respond to this issue, although we do realize that further research is still needed.

Traditional Knowledge of Tłıchǰ elders is seemingly against both the killing of black bears for sport and it seems to be unsupportive of the utilization of bait of any kind for the purpose of hunting black bears. The Tłıchǰ have never practiced this on their lands. The black bear is of spiritual and medicinal importance to the Tłıchǰ. They believe that...



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'you do not kill the bear for no reason, and if you come across is you must talk to it with positive thoughts as if you have negative thoughts it will have negative thoughts for you. You must never kill the bear unless you have to. We do not make bait, we do not do that. Baiting to kill the bears will get back to you' (this is not a direct quote but as close as I could get with translation and short time).

The Tlıcho Government has already stated their position of approval on the bear baiting permit for this year. This new information does shed a different light on the issue, however we recognize that more research (both traditional knowledge and scientific) is needed to assess this situation fairly.

The Tâichô Lands Protection Department is committed to the Protection of Tâichô lands and all lands within Mowi Gogha De Niitlee - for todays and future generations. Tâichô Traditional Knowledge is fundamental to our past, present and future. We must ensure that our younger generations understand and recognize where this knowledge comes from and how important it has been to the history of our people, and will continue to be for the future of our people.

Masi Cho

Kerri Garner
Lands Regulator

CC: Eddie Erasmus; Joline Huskey; John B. Zoe