



January 7, 2020

Honorable Raj Pillai  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Honorable Pauline Frost  
Minister of Environment

Lynda Dickson (Skoehoeteen)  
Chief (Haa Shaa du Hen),  
Carcross Tagish First Nation

Dear Ministers Pillai and Frost and Chief Dickson

Re: Wild Boar in the Yukon Territory

The Carcross Tagish Renewable Resource Council has very serious concerns about the continued presence of wild boar on farms in the Yukon. The experience and scientific evidence with regard to the destructive impacts to the ecology of the landscape and natural environment and the resiliency of this species as introduced wildlife to survive and thrive in the natural environment in North America, including the western Canadian provinces is overwhelming and alarming (see map from the University of Saskatchewan study documenting the spread of wild boar in western Canada over the past 30 years - . <https://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2019/wild-pigs-invade-canadian-provincesan-emerging-crisis-for-agriculture-and-the-environment.php>)

Yukon has been complacent in assessing the risk to the environment from this exotic species based on the assumptions that the number of wild boar on Yukon farms is very small and manageable and that if escapement did occur they could be recaptured or would not survive in the wild because of the hostile Yukon environment and climate. We now know that this assumption was wrong based on the experience in 2018 when a number of wild boar escaped from a farm and the difficulties that were encountered in recapturing these wild boars which ended up having to be destroyed a process that took many weeks. Also climate change and global warming is rapidly changing the environment in the Yukon

and species that would not have survived and reproduced because of the harsh winter conditions are now thriving and impacting the ecology of the Yukon.

The intent of this letter is not to be critical of past events and governments but to address the significant risks to the Yukon from continued importation and farming of this species in the territory and highlight the need for immediate action and to work cooperatively with governments and management agencies to address this issue to reduce the risk to the Yukon environment. The potential impact from the escapement and establishment of wild boar in the natural environment would be most severe and immediate in the southern Yukon and the Southern Lakes region because most of the farming occurs in this region. The time to act is now as this is a very small industry which was stated as being less than 65 wild boars in total in the territory (Minister Pillai's response dated Oct 31/19 to the Yukon Fish and Game Association letter of Aug 6/19 on this matter – see YF&GA website <https://yukonfga.ca/wild-boar/>). It raises the question of whether the small-scale farming of wild boar in the Yukon is worth the risk to wildlife and the natural environment given the demonstrated problems with this species in Yukon and elsewhere?

Based on the overwhelming scientific and technical expert evidence of the potential threat to the Yukon environment from wild boars and the Yukon experience with escapement of this invasive species, C/TRRC recommends the following steps be considered and undertaken by the Yukon Government:

1. That further importation of wild boar to the Yukon and the possession without license be prohibited immediately under the Wildlife Act.
2. That wild boar be listed as a game farm animal under the Yukon Game Farming Regulations and that the possession, farming and sale of wild boar in the Yukon by existing operations be licensed, monitored and enforced under the Yukon Game farming Regulations and subject to all the standards and requirements of the regulations.
3. That all license applications be assessed through the YESAB process.
4. That consultation with Yukon First Nation Governments, Management Boards and Councils on the potential risks to the environment from wild boars and consideration of both scientific and technical and First Nation Traditional Knowledge as required under First Nation Final Agreements be undertaken ASAP.

Now that we know what the real and potential risks are to the environment, including fish and wildlife and habitat, from the proliferation of wild boar in the territory we need to develop a solution that works for the Yukon and protects the environment as we have on other issues involving the importation, possession, farming and sale of other fish and wildlife species.

The Council has prepared a preliminary list of website news articles, reports and studies relating to the threats to the natural environment from wild boars including the events in the Yukon in 2018 dealing with an escapement of wild boars from Yukon farms. The

coordinates of these articles are attached to this letter and should you wish further information on the background to this issue at the Yukon, Canadian and North American level.

The Council would be happy to meet with you and other interested agencies to discuss the above and a way forward on this issue.

Sincerely



Ken Reeder, Chair

**Preliminary list of scientific, technical and media article websites relevant to wild boar in the Yukon**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/invasive-pigs-canada-1.5136431>  
[Wild pigs are rapidly spreading across Canada, and researchers' Wild pigs are rapidly spreading across Canada, and researchers say it's time to worry](#)  
[Wild pigs are a big problem. Here's how they kill 'em in Texas \(spoiler: it's ruthless\) | National Post](#)  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/5893366/feral-hogs-montana-canada-border-fence/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/wildboarcanada/>  
<https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2017/11/15/wild-boars-in-western-canada-ecological-trainwreck/>  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-wild-boar-fiasco-1.4841600>  
<https://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2019/wild-pigs-invade-canadian-provincesan-emerging-crisis-for-agriculture-and-the-environment.php>  
<https://nationalpost.com/pm-news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/wild-boar-evade-capture-in-yukon-after-escaping-from-whitehorse-area-farm>  
<https://yukonfga.ca/wild-boar/>  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/wild-boar-farmer-fined-1.4804213>  
[Wild boars on the lam in Yukon subdivision | CBC News](#)  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-wild-boars-four-killed-1.4752602>  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-wild-boars-expert-1.4749418>  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-wild-boars-escape-dead-1.4802621>  
<https://www.whitehorsestar.com/News/most-of-escaped-wild-boars-remain-at-large>  
<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/then-were-2-more-wild-002711596.html>

