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**VIA EMAIL: [Director.Of.Fish.And.Wildlife@nsgaa.net](mailto:Director.Of.Fish.And.Wildlife@nsgaa.net); [nancylwilkin@gmail.com](mailto:nancylwilkin@gmail.com)**

Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.), Co-Chair  
Nancy Wilkin, Co-Chair  
Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Dear Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) and Nancy Wilkin:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2022, regarding proposed changes to hunting regulations in the Northeast and your recommendations for finding a positive path forward. We apologize for the delay in response.

As you have noted, a decision on these hunting regulation changes has been very challenging. We have taken additional time to engage deeply with First Nations, understand stakeholder perspectives, and gather information to support a decision. We felt it was important to hold off on our reply until a decision had been made.

The situation in the Northeast has highlighted how important wildlife and habitat are to the people of our province, and the need to better manage cumulative effects to reduce impacts on these values. These interests are a priority for the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship as highlighted in its [Service Plan](#), which commits to developing a long-term collaborative approach with Indigenous partners to manage cumulative effects on the land base to balance economic opportunities and protect environmental and cultural values.

We wish to assure you that the concerns of citizens involved in the engagement process were heard, and the regulation changes were refined in response. Specifically, the original proposal to move all moose hunting areas to Limited Entry Hunt was scaled back to focus on areas with high levels of access. Remote areas will remain on General Open Season. In addition, there will be two short General Open Seasons for moose across the region, except for Management Units identified by First Nations.

We are happy to know that one of your priorities is to provide advice and support for establishing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees, as committed to in Together for Wildlife. The establishment of a regional committee in the Northeast is a high priority and we welcome your advice and support as this work advances.

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Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) and Nancy Wilkin:

The Northeast hunting regulation change process has highlighted many connections with the Together for Wildlife strategy. We will keep the following in mind as we continue this important work:

1. Sound data, information and knowledge are needed to drive better decisions (Goal 2).
2. Wildlife and habitat objectives are critical to support co-management and shared decision-making (Actions 8 and 18).
3. Transparency around decisions is necessary for building public trust and confidence (Action 16).

Again, thank you for writing to share your insights and for your commitment to wildlife and habitat stewardship in our province.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne  
Minister of Land, Water  
and Resource Stewardship



Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Forests

pc: Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship  
Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests  
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