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## DEHCHO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

### Structure and Functions of a Dehcho Renewable Resources Board

Canada's tabled draft Chapter 9: Dehcho Resource Management Authority, dated February 6, 2008, includes the clause;

"12. Any advice that the Dehcho Resource Management Authority provides to the Dehcho Renewable Resources Board is not binding on the Board."

In response to a question from the GNWT, the federal team indicated that this clause was a mistake and that Canada was suggesting the structure, functions and responsibilities of a Regional Renewable Resources Board be incorporated into the proposed Dehcho Resource Management Authority.

The functions and responsibilities of Regional Renewable Resources Boards established pursuant to the Gwichin, Sahtu and Tlicho Agreements rest within the legislative jurisdiction of the GNWT.

In the event that the Dehcho Negotiating Team receives a mandate from the Dehcho General Assembly to negotiate an Agreement in Principle based on a land selection model, the GNWT is prepared to enter into an open discussion with the Dehcho and Canada on the merits and the possible disadvantages of situating the functions and responsibilities of Regional Renewable Resources Boards, as set out in the Gwichin, Sahtu and Tlicho Agreements, within a Dehcho Resource Management Authority which would have other functions and responsibilities.

### Delegation of GNWT Responsibilities to a Dehcho Resource Management Authority

Canada's tabled draft Chapter 9: Dehcho Resource Management Authority, dated February 6, 2008, includes the clauses;

"6. Under the Agreement, the Dehcho Resource Management Authority will be responsible for the following:  
(c) renewable resource management in respect of forests, wildlife, migratory birds, and fisheries where the authority to do so is delegated by the government having authority, as provided for under the renewable resource provisions of this chapter;"

and,

"11. Under the Agreement, the Dehcho Resource Management Authority shall exercise

its authorities as provide for in Chapter xx in relation to Forestry, Wildlife, and Migratory Birds.”

Forestry and wildlife are within the jurisdiction of the GNWT. In response to a question from the GNWT, Canada indicated that they were referring to GNWT responsibilities for fisheries in 6. (c).

Our assumption is that Canada's suggestion for the delegation of GNWT authorities in 6. (c) and 11. are in addition to the responsibilities of Regional Renewable Resources Boards as set out in the Gwichin, Sahtu and Tlicho Agreements. Generally speaking, the GNWT delivery of programs and services in these areas, including enforcement, is provided by departmental officials within the Dehcho region. There is generally a close working relationship between officials in the region and officials in Yellowknife, including the provision of policy, program guidelines and support on specific issues. The delegation of responsibilities in the areas suggested by Canada could have a significant impact on existing relationships between the region and headquarters, and other important aspects of program and service delivery.

In the event that the Dehcho Negotiating Team receives a mandate from the Dehcho General Assembly to negotiate an Agreement in Principle based on a land selection model, the GNWT is prepared to initiate an internal review and consideration of the suggestions offered by Canada and to bring the results to the table for discussion. It is not possible to predict the outcome of an internal review at this time.