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Mr. Leonard Netser
President
SMC
Coral Harbour, Nunavut
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March 29, 2000

Dear Mr. Netser:

I am pleased to submit the following report on the 2000 SMC Caribou Harvest. I was extremely satisfied with the staffing of the harvest operation and would like to extend my congratulations to all associated with the hiring of the harvest workers. It is a pleasure to work with the people of Coral Harbour and their hospitality to CFIA staff and myself is outstanding. Harvest statistics appended to this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvest Manager
SMC 2000 Harvest

Caribou Harvest 2000

I arrived in Coral Harbour on February 7 to prepare for commencement of the 2000 harvest. Mobilization was started and the CFIA staff arrived on Feb 18 as they were stranded in Rankin Inlet due to weather conditions. We moved to the campsite on Feb 20 and commenced the harvest on Feb 22. The additions of several new cabins instead of tents made for a much orderly and efficient means of setting up the campsite. As usual weather delays were experienced but the harvest was completed as scheduled. The extreme lack of snow made the hunters movements to obtain the Caribou difficult and damage to snowmobiles and komotiks occurred frequently.

The management of the harvest by the Directors of SMC was again exemplary and while this is the last year of the contract with Aviit HTO, discussions with the HTO should proceed as soon as possible to allow for SMC to continue running the harvest operations.

Following are my recommendations for a 2001 SMC caribou harvest:

1) **Camp Set-up**

Obtaining cabins to replace tents would allow for more efficient mobilization and would allow for a quicker re-location of the harvest camp if required.

2) **Abattoir**

The abattoir tent is in extremely poor condition with tears and rotting canvas. I recommend replacement with a weatherhaven type of material if possible. The rollers should be stored in a warm area and oiled during the summer if possible.

3) **Harvest Employees**

Rehiring of the 2000 staff is recommended.

4) **Re-Supply**

With the agreement and funding arrangements with Keewatin Meat and Fish being finalized at such a late date it was very difficult to procure supplies on such short notice. All efforts to strike an agreement with KMF or another buyer with financing in place to allow for a sealift of supplies required. We will need to purchase combo bins this year and as they are very bulky a sealift is important. Food was purchased from Arctic Co-op this year and did not prove very satisfactory as most of what they supply is for consumer use and the shipping of it by Calm Air was confusing at best.

5) **Harvest Timing**

While the harvest was completed on time this year mild weather and storms made it close on the timing. I feel that we should try and have the harvest commence by the 1st of February to allow completion of the harvest no matter what the amount of caribou will be required.

8) **Hunters**

Several hunters were disgruntled when their snowmobiles and Komotiks were damaged due to hitting rocks, which were covered, by the soft snow. I understand their frustrations but am not sure how to allow reimbursement for these damages. The practice of rental fees for the snowmobiles was changed by the increase in the per caribou price and if sufficient numbers of caribou are obtained by the hunter the rate is higher than the previous \$100 per day previously paid out. Perhaps the hunters to allow for repairs could obtain some type of insurance. SMC could assist in obtaining this and offer modest financial help for this insurance.

9) **General**

The harvest went very well this year and other than the Abattoir tent there are no major areas of concerns that need addressing at this time. Agreements for the sale of the meat with at least an agreement in principle in place and some sort of financing to allow for the sealift of non-perishable supplies should be in place by late May or early June at the latest. Again the workers and SMC management should be commended for a job well done.

I trust this report is satisfactory and hope to participate in future harvests.

Sincerely,