



KASKA DENA COUNCIL
P.O. Box 9
Lower Post, B.C.
V0C 1W0 (250) 779-3181

March 11, 2019

To all concerned Kaska Citizens:

This letter is about the court case *KASKA DENA COUNCIL v. YUKON (GOVERNMENT OF)*, 2019 YKSC 13. This court case was filed by KDC on behalf of the Kaska Dena due to the mounting hunting pressures by sport hunters which is increasingly affecting Kaska' rights to access traditional foods which many families rely on for sustenance. Unfortunately for all Kaska the court case was unsuccessful (so far) because the judge ruled that Kaska Dena Council did not receive the proper authority to bring the case forward to the courts.

Kaska Dena Council continues to be of the view that the Yukon Government has a duty to consult and accommodate Kaska prior to issuing sports hunting licenses and tags under the Wildlife Act in the southern part of Kaska Territory in the Yukon. That is the basis on which this court case was filed.

In this case Liard First Nation first became involved as a defendant when the chief applied as "CHIEF GEORGE MORGAN on his own behalf and on behalf of all the members of Liard First Nation, and LIARD FIRST NATION" stating that KDC did not have proper authority to file the court case as the right-bearing group. To clarify, KDC has never stated the society is a rights-bearing group. KDC believes that the collective Kaska are the rightful rights-bearing group. The Kaska Dena Council was originally formed in order to protect Kaska Aboriginal Rights and Title in British Columbia and was later forced, by government of Canada policy, to pursue a transboundary claim in the Yukon.

The judge confirmed the Kaska Dena Council continues to have the authority to negotiate treaties and transboundary agreements on behalf of the Kaska Dena.

The Kaska Dena Council has always maintained the "One Land One People" statement and would happily agree to have the Kaska Nation working together in unity to protect the Aboriginal Title and Rights of all Kaska. This is what our Kaska elders have consistently directed.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Kaska Dena Council.

Sincerely,

Danny Case
Chair, Kaska Dena Council

ONE LAND-ONE PEOPLE