



Honi hededí: Łuechok Tue hot'ine chu yanahots'j dene ets'en doduhni a Kodhedinedhe adałnu huł'edhe etthen boghedi xa nihųt'ahi jghą kolu.

Press Release: CLFN joins Others in Petitioning Canada for an Emergency Protection Order on Woodland Caribou Habitat

November 27th, 2017

Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné<sup>1</sup> is a Denesųłiné<sup>2</sup> community located near Cold Lake Alberta. For centuries the Dene people have survived on **Dene Ni Nenne**<sup>3</sup> by conserving, managing and using the resources provided by **Yedariyihe**<sup>4</sup>. It is with great reluctance that we feel compelled in 2018 to seek redress from the courts in an attempt to force Canada to do its duty and protect critical **Etthen nene**<sup>5</sup>.

Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné has raised the issue of **etthen**<sup>6</sup> protection at every possible juncture and now finds that despite being given 5 years to develop range plans, none have been released for the Cold Lake Herd. The Federal Minister has set a deadline of April to make a decision on whether or not critical habitat is protected. **Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné**, Ecojustice, The Alberta Wilderness Association, and David Suzuki Foundation agree that there is ample evidence today to conclude there is no protection for etthen. Projects have been approved in **etthen** range for the past 5 years and more are approved each month.

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*They (Alberta) had 5 years and where are the plans? I don't see them. And the situation is getting worse. Something has to be done. Councillor Kelsey Jacko*

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Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné sides with the etthen. If the etthen can survive on the land then so can we. The etthen are tied to **Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné ch'ąnie**<sup>7</sup> and provide not only food, but also the material for making one of the most important Denesųłiné spiritual symbols – **Telgheli**<sup>8</sup>. Article 25 of the United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that: "*Indigenous peoples have the right to*

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<sup>1</sup> Cold Lake First Nations, CLFN, The People of Cold Lake

<sup>2</sup> Dene

<sup>3</sup> The Traditional Territory, the Ancestral Lands

<sup>4</sup> The Creator

<sup>5</sup> Caribou Habitat

<sup>6</sup> Caribou

<sup>7</sup> CLFN's Dene Culture

<sup>8</sup> The Drum



## COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS

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*maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard". Łuechok Tue Denesųłiné sees the conservation of **etthen** not as a resource management trade off, but as a responsibility to protect the cultural opportunities of future generations.*

Important decisions about the future of **Etthen** and **etthen nene** will be made in the next 6 months and CLFN must be there. The **Denesųłiné** of **Łuechok Tue** assert their rights to be part of this process. This does not mean consultation – it means taking a meaningful role in the process so that CLFN's land management plans are considered.

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*Overall the province has always mismanaged these issues. Now they are consulting with us because of their mismanagement. They are trying to make the correction. They have accepted the map of our traditional territory and they have responsibilities. Councillor (Sonny) Dwayne Nest*

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CLFN is very much looking forward to the correction around policy and being involved designing and executing the management actions that will follow from this process. These actions will almost certainly have an impact on CLFN's Section 35 rights and present an opportunity for CLFN to take a meaningful role in the management of Dene Ni Nenne. However- nothing less than the full protection of the Species At Risk Act is acceptable to CLFN. Provincial management efforts must meet or exceed the requirements of SARA and offer the best possible chance of recovery for the **etthen**. By signing onto this legal action with Ecojustice and it's other clients, CLFN is sending a clear message that it expects both the Federal and Provincial governments to meet both their obligations under SARA and their commitments to CLFN and other First Nations in terms of their wildlife management actions.

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*"This is the hardest problem Cold Lake First Nation has faced, The only way we're going to solve this is working together with government and everyone that's concerned about this issue." Councillor Kelsey Jacko*

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