



## COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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[www.catg.org](http://www.catg.org)

### RESOLUTION 2018-12

#### *Resolution to permanently protect the Birthplace and Nursery Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.*

WHEREAS: The Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a Tribal consortium authorized by the Athabaskan tribes of the Yukon Flats; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments is to conserve and protect land and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-governance; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and its respective individual members; and to preserve and maintain the cultural and spiritual values of the people; and

WHEREAS: For thousands of years, the Gwich'in People of Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada, have relied on caribou for food, clothing, shelter, tools and life itself, and today the Porcupine (River) Caribou Herd remains essential to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of our people; and

WHEREAS: The Gwich'in have the inherent right to continue our own way of life; and that this right is recognized and affirmed by civilized nations in the international covenants on human rights. Article I of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the U.S. Senate, reads in part:

*"...In no case may a People be deprived of their own means of subsistence";* and

WHEREAS: The health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and their availability to Gwich'in communities, and the very future of our People are endangered by proposed oil and gas exploration and development in the calving and post-calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS: The entire Gwich'in Nation was called together by our Chiefs in Arctic Village June 5-10, 1988 to carefully address this issue and to seek the advice of our elders; and

WHEREAS: The Gwich'in People of every community from Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Stevens Village, Circle, and Eagle Village in Alaska; from Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik, and Inuvik in Canada have reached consensus in our traditional way, and speak with one voice; and

*CATG Resolution 2018-12 Protect the PCH*

**WHEREAS:** The Gwich'in People and Chiefs of our communities have met every two years since 1988 to re-affirm our position, guided by the wisdom of our elders; and July 27, 2012 in Fort McPherson, NWT the Gwich'in People reaffirmed our longstanding position in resolution *Gwich'in Niintsyaa*; and

**WHEREAS:** The Gwich'in People seek all opportunities to permanently protect the sacred birthplace and nursery grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and prohibit exploration and development in the Arctic Refuge coastal plains.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that President Trump uses his authority to recognize the rights of the Gwich'in People to continue to live our way of life by permanently protecting the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a National Monument.

Resolution 2018-12 passed on this 14th day of December 2018 during a CATG Council of Chiefs Regular Meeting at which time a quorum as established and voting at all times.

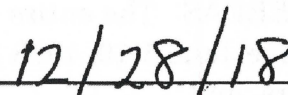
**CERTIFICATION:** This resolution was adopted by the CATG Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018 with the following members present.

Arctic Village 2nd Chief	X
Beaver Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Birch Creek Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Canyon Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Chalkyitsik Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Circle Village Council Member	X
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Governments 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Rampart Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X
Stevens Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	
Venetie Village 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief	X

ATTEST:



Donna Thomas, Executive Secretary



Date