



Simpcw
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Attention:
Daniel Drexler
CAO District of Barriere
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RE: Request for support

Hello Daniel,

The Natural Resources Department (NRD) from Simpcw First Nation seeks the support of your organisation to assist in our efforts to detect, monitor and mitigate the incursion of Chronic wasting disease (CWD) within Simpcwulecw (SimpCW territory). CWD is a fatal, infectious and degenerative disease of the central nervous system affecting species of the deer family (cervids). A recent occurrence (the fourth in B.C.) was discovered in the Kootenays, and that region is on high alert for further outbreaks. Simpcwulecw is currently at low risk for infection, but this could change very quickly. The diagnosis of CWD in one or multiple cervid populations in B.C. has the potential for far-reaching conservation, social and economic impacts. This disease threatens food security for First Nations and licensed hunters, cultural traditions, agricultural practices and local economies. Currently, there is no direct evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans.

For the sake of simplicity and brevity, NRD is proposing 3 priorities that will form the framework for a Simpcw CWD Plan:

1. Information gathering and dissemination

- Distribute CWD pamphlets and booklets within our communities.
- Placement of a Bag and Tag depot in Barriere.
- Host a visit from the Province to teach community members sampling techniques for the Bag and Tag stations.

2. Collaborate with neighbours and the Province

- Develop two more Bag and Tag depots- one in Clearwater and Valemount (2025/26)
- Attend working group meetings with the Province.

3. Establish procedures to minimise disease vectors

- Apply provincial measures to minimise disease spread (2025).
- Apply Simpcw specific measures to minimise disease spread.
- Stop the movement of hay from Alberta.

Specifically, we are asking if you would support our plan and assist with establishing Bag and Tag depot within your community. A Bag and Tag depot is simply a convenient store front location where hunters can deposit voluntary samples from their harvest in a large chest freezer. The location of the freezer does not need to be secure or visible to patrons of the business- the only essential requirement would be a

proximal power source to run the freezer. NRD will provide the freezer, an information kiosk with pamphlets and information sheets on CWD for hunters and the required sample bags and sample tags. \

The goal is to have several Bag and Tag depots within Simpcwulecw to ensure convenient drop off and pick up locations and dispersed sampling throughout the territory. Sampling will occur during the regular hunting season and regular retrieval of samples will be managed by the Province and/or NRD. Given what is known about CWD such as disease vectors, prevalence and persistence in the environment and what we do not know such as transmissibility amongst species other than cervids, Simpcw would like to follow a precautionary approach and get in front of this disease so that it does not grow roots and threaten Simpcw culture and food sustainability.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information on the disease or have general questions or concerns with our request.

Kukwstemc (thank you),

Wayne Sim
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