

My name is Greg McKinnon and I am just completing my second term as a director in Zone 2.

I know there are a lot of people out there I haven't met yet and I'm not going to go into a formal introduction at this time. During my short time on the board of directors I have had to come up to speed on the issues, options and resolutions. If you have been following the magazine and read Gordy's articles you know the plate is full. My only regret so far is that I have been so far behind in what has transpired thus far. I can't imagine where we would be without the leadership of Gordy Klassen, Ross Hinter and Jim Mitchell and the work of the other members of the board and staff at the ATA.

It's no coincidence that trapper's rights are under the gun here in Alberta and in British Columbia, and anywhere else in the world where industry competes with land users, especially where the land user's rights are not legislated. Most industrial corporations from foreign countries only comply with legislation. They don't care what's here in 40-50 years. They won't be here. I believe it's our responsibility to protect our rights and ensure all Albertans benefit from a management plan that will ensure something is left. We have the right and responsibility to manage the fur bearers and the privilege to conduct our business here in Alberta. Trappers did not create these major issues but are now in the middle of a big mess. There is absolutely no consistency as to how the rules and policies are applied across Alberta and we are in need of legislation.

Through meetings with SRD, industry and many other groups, we have determined what the issues are and explored our options and considered resolutions. Through this process all parties were made aware of their opposing groups issues. It has been conceded that trapping will have a place in the future of Alberta and is a very necessary partner in the maintenance of our environment. It has now become an issue to determine how best to manage trapping as we move forward. What has been agreed to at this time is that the ATA will be at the table to create and effect change as it relates to trapping and compliance with the new legislation. There is a "will" from government to allow self management –DAO (Delegated Authority Order). There will be a 24 month transition period under the authority of a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). Articles regarding this process and its components i.e. cabin policy, compensation, active trapper status and trapline management plans, have been reported in the Alberta Trapper. As we moved forward there have been many challenges and demands especially on Gordy, Ross and Jim.

Now is where we need support from our membership and the active trappers out there who want to be involved and ensure trapping prospers and works with all partners. We need our locals to step forward, take ownership and demonstrate how humane trapping of a sustainable resource can and should be managed. I

envision tremendous opportunity for trappers, industry, government and the future generations of Albertans.

We, as a board, have the responsibility to proceed with the perspective of what is best for all trappers, across Alberta. We would like to hear from you.

Thanks.

Greg McKinnon, Zone 2