

August 26, 2013

Ken Hall  
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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2W1

The Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board  
102 A 4504 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7

Dear Mr. McCullum and Board Members,

I am writing to comment on the GNWT proposal to make a single tag available to resident hunters for a bull caribou from the Bluenose East herd during the 2013/14 hunting season. I was born in the NWT and have been a life-long resident and hunter. Our family has been hunting, for food, in the NWT since 1952. My daughter is now carrying on our tradition by hunting with me and was preparing to harvest her first caribou when the current moratorium came into effect.

The Bathurst caribou herd is recovering slowly and I support the genuine efforts to help the recovery by limiting resident harvest until the herd reaches a size and health that will support the resumption of resident harvesting.

On the other hand, the Bluenose East herd is a large and vibrant herd in excess of one hundred thousand animals. There is no justifiable, defensible reason for not allowing the relatively insignificant resident harvest to resume. Because of the herd's geographic distribution a significant effort is required on the part of resident hunters to be in a position to harvest and this will be a deterrent to many. Consequently I cannot foresee anything more than a relatively insignificant resident harvest in 2013/14. In fact, I can see no reason for the Board not recommending a resident harvest in excess of what is proposed by the GNWT.

I can understand the Tlicho concern over a perceived influx of resident hunters, particularly inexperienced ones, into their traditional hunting grounds. A recent event involving substantial wastage of caribou, by other than resident hunters, exacerbates the concern. However, the existing safe hunting and wastages provisions of the Wildlife Act, albeit outdated, provides ENR with the tools to ensure a safe and respectful hunt by all. Further, the geographic location of the herd will limit the resident harvest.

There is no credibility in using asserted ownership of wildlife for political purposes. Wildlife is a public resource - one need only refer to the many NWT land claims that contain statements to that effect.

I encourage the Board to recommend the Minister of ENR provide tags for a limited resident caribou hunt, as proposed, with the proviso that a review be undertaken following the harvest to gauge the level of safe hunting and respect for the caribou that was undertaken by all hunters.

Sincerely and on behalf of my family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Hall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ken Hall