



AUG 21 2013

Mr. Joseph Judas
Chair
Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
102 A 4504 49TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

E-Mail: jmccullum@wrrb.ca

Dear Mr. Judas:

Management Proposal for Bluenose-East Caribou – Resident Harvesting

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2013 concerning the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) proposals to allow resident harvests to purchase one bull-only Barren-ground caribou tag for use in Barren-ground management units U/BC/01 (Beverly, Ahiak or Qamanirjuaq herds), R/BC/01 (Bluenose-East herd), or S/BC/03 (Bluenose-East herd). In your letter, you asked for additional information before responding to ENR's proposal:

- 1) The 2013 population estimate for the Bluenose-East herd

ENR will not be able to provide a new population estimate for the Bluenose-East herd before November 2013. ENR successfully conducted a calving photo-census survey for this herd in June 2013; however, estimating herd size using this survey method also requires an estimate of the herd's sex ratio (number of bulls to number of cows). This ratio is usually obtained from a fall sex ratio survey, which is conducted at the peak of the breeding season in late October. We expect to release a Bluenose-East population estimate once this fall survey and subsequent analysis have been completed.

- 2) Consultation materials from Aboriginal leadership on the proposal:

Aboriginal consultation and public engagement on this proposal is still ongoing. We will forward you any consultation materials once consultation and engagement is complete.

Sincerely,

Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister

- c. Mr. Fred J. Mandeville, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR
Mr. Jack Bird, Assistant Deputy Minister, ENR
Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, ENR

