



Tłıchǫ Government

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Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Grant Pryznyk, Acting Chair  
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board  
102A, 4504 – 49 AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

JUN 29 2016

Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

**WRRB Recommendations**

**#1-2016 and #2-2016 from Decision Report on Bathurst Herd (May 26, 2016)**

The Tłıchǫ Government (TG) and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) would like to thank the WRRB for its May 26, 2016 report on management of the Bathurst herd in Wek'èezhii. In its Report, the WRRB indicated that it required Recommendation #1-2016 to be implemented by July 1, 2016 and expected Recommendation 2-2016 to also be implemented by July 1, 2016.

At this time, ENR and TG wish to provide the WRRB with their responses to those recommendations.

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**Recommendation #1-2016:** The Board recommends that TG and ENR come to an agreement on whether the Bathurst Mobile Core Conservation Zone (MCBCMZ) or Wildlife Management Units Subzones is the most effective way to differentiate between caribou herds, and then implement the approach with criteria for managing any overlaps between herds, for the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 harvest seasons.

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Representatives of the TG and ENR met on June 22, 2016 to review Recommendation #1-2016 and we provide the following joint response.

Although a system of sub-zones with fixed boundaries is an option for management of harvest of Bathurst caribou and neighbouring herds, it would be challenging to create and implement a system of fixed sub-zones on a short-term time-frame, and certainly not by July 1, 2016. The reason it would be difficult to do this in the short-term is the need to identify and achieve a consensus on the appropriate features on the natural landscape area to allow smaller zones to be properly mapped and incorporated into legal descriptions. As a result, a continued use of the MCBCMZ is the preferred approach for the 2016-17 harvesting season.

As a result of a number of discussions between TG and ENR, the approach to defining the MCBCMZ has been modified slightly from the initial two winters to reduce the number of times that the zone is re-defined, and make the zone more predictable and practical for hunters. The criteria for defining the zone for the 2016-2017 harvest season is expected to be as follows:

- The mobile zone boundary will be defined from a minimum convex polygon (MCP) around all functioning collars on Bathurst caribou (cows and bulls) plus a 60 km buffer around the MCP.
- Where collared Bathurst caribou show distinct, well-separated sub-groups, the mobile zone can be shaped as 2 or more parts of the mobile zone.
- Once established, the mobile zone boundaries will not change as long as all the collared Bathurst caribou remain within the mobile zone.
- If one or more collared Bathurst caribou move to within 5 km of the boundary of the zone or move out of the mobile zone, the mobile zone will be re-defined based on the same method described above, and the new zone boundaries will be in effect as long as all collared Bathurst caribou remain within the new boundaries.
- With respect to areas where collared Bathurst caribou may overlap with collared Bluenose-East or Beverly and Ahiak caribou, the WRRB determination of a zero (0) harvest on the Bathurst herd means that no caribou will be harvested within the mobile zone, regardless of herd affiliation. The possibility of dividing the mobile zone into two or more parts provides some flexibility with respect to identifying areas where collared caribou from neighbouring herds may be found and where some harvest is possible provided there are not Bathurst collars in the area.
- The mobile zone will be defined in the NWT beginning when collared Bathurst caribou move back into the NWT, potentially as early as mid-summer, and will continue until the end of the winter harvest season.
- TG and ENR will explore ways of modifying zone boundaries to use natural features such as rivers or lake edges as a way of making the zone more practical for hunters, provided that there is no significant reduction in protection for the Bathurst herd. Review of the mobile zone boundaries from winter 2015-2016 suggests that from about the end of November to the end of March, there was little directional movement of collared Bathurst caribou and a relatively fixed zone may be possible. Boundaries on the land that are readily recognized by hunters would be very helpful to both harvesters and enforcement officers.
- TG and ENR will also explore ways of making information about the mobile zone location more easily accessible to hunters by making it available in formats for GPS devices and Google Earth, and by using signs on the winter road to show the direction of the zone boundary.

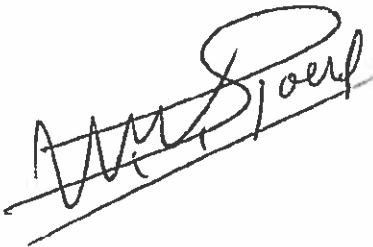
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**Recommendation #2-2016:** The Board recommends that TG and ENR provide weekly updates to the WRRB and the general public on aerial and ground-based surveillance of the Bathurst caribou herd throughout the fall and winter harvest seasons for the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 (seasons).

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GNWT is currently going through a period of severe fiscal restraint and budget reduction. It is not possible for ENR to commit to weekly aerial monitoring of the Bathurst mobile zone. Regular monitoring by air and by ground patrols will occur, as they did in winters 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. TG and ENR can provide weekly updates to the WRRB on any new monitoring information about the Bathurst mobile zone.

Sincerely,



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c. Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, TG

Ms. Laura Duncan, Tłıchǫ Executive Officer, TG

The Honourable Wally Schumann, Minister, ENR, GNWT

Ms. Lucy Escalante, Executive Secretary to Minister Wally Schumann  
ENR, GNWT

Mr. Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, ENR, GNWT

Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, ENR, GNWT

Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, WRRB



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Mr. Grant Pryznyk, Chair  
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board  
4504 49<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

JUL 15 2016

Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

**Response to WRRB's Reasons for Decision Related to Joint Proposal for the Management of the Bathurst ʔekwǫ (Barren-ground caribou) Herd**

The Tłıchǫ Government (TG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) have received the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board's (WRRB) Final Report, Part A, entitled *"Report on a Public Hearing Held by the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board 6-8 April 2016, Behchokǫ, NT & Reasons for Decisions Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Bluenose-East ʔekwǫ (Barren-ground caribou) Herd, Part A"*. The Report was delivered to the parties on June 13, 2016.

Please find attached our joint response to the WRRB determination and recommendations included in the Final Report, Part A. We look forward to further working with the WRRB for the management of the Bathurst caribou herd.

Sincerely,

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Attachment

c. The Honourable Bob Mcleod, Premier

Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary, Office of the Premier

Ms. Shaleen Woodward, Acting/Deputy Minister  
Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, TG

Ms. Laura Duncan, Tłchq Executive Officer, TG

Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, WRRB

The Honourable Wally Schumann, Minister, ENR

Ms. Lucy Escalante, Executive Secretary to Minister Wally Schumann

Mr. Doug Pon, Ministerial Special Advisor to Minister Wally Schumann

Mr. Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, ENR

Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, ENR

## ATTACHMENT

### **WRRB Determination #1-2016 and Recommendations #1-2016, #2-2016, #3-2016, #4-2016, and #5-2016 from Decision Report on Bathurst Herd (May 26, 2016)**

**Determination #1-2016:** The Board determines that a total allowable harvest of zero for all users of the Bathurst caribou herd within Wek'èezhìi be implemented for the 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 harvest seasons. For further clarification, the absolute number of caribou that can be harvested from the Bathurst herd is zero.

The Tłıchǵ Government (TG) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) accept this determination, which supports the recommendation made by TG and ENR in the Joint Management Proposal on the Bathurst herd submitted in December 2015. The Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area Regulations were in place to support a no-harvest zone for the Bathurst herd during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 harvest seasons, and will be updated as soon as practicable to reflect the modified method of defining the mobile zone described in our letter of June 29, 2016.

**Recommendation #1-2016:** The Board recommends that TG and ENR come to an agreement on whether the MCBCMZ or Wildlife Management Units Subzones is the most effective way to differentiate between caribou herds, and then implement the approach with criteria for managing any overlaps between herds, for the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 harvest seasons.

As noted in our joint letter to the WRRB dated June 29, 2016, TG and ENR have agreed that the continued use of the MCBCMZ is the preferred approach for the 2016-17 harvesting season. The approach to defining the MCGCMZ has been modified slightly, and is described in detail in the June 29<sup>th</sup> letter.

**Recommendation #2-2016:** The Board recommends that TG and ENR provide weekly updates to the WRRB and the general public on aerial and ground-based surveillance of the Bathurst caribou herd throughout the fall and winter harvest seasons for the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19.

As noted in the joint letter of June 29, 2016, the GNWT is currently going through a period of severe fiscal restraint and budget reduction. ENR has stated that it is not possible for ENR to commit to weekly aerial monitoring of the Bathurst mobile zone. Regular monitoring by air and by ground patrols will occur, as they did in winters 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. TG and ENR can provide weekly updates to the WRRB on any new monitoring information about the Bathurst mobile zone.

**Recommendation #3-2016:** The Board recommends that TG and ENR increase public education efforts and implement ENR's recently developed Hunter Education program in all Tłıchǵ communities.

TG will be initiating increased public education efforts and will inform the Board on progress in this area.

In addition to a number of ongoing ENR-led hunter education programs and products such as Sight your Rifle, Bear Safety training, Pelt Handling, , fact sheets and posters, ENR in collaboration with respected hunters will be rolling out a new Hunter Education program in the fall of 2017. This curriculum was developed in collaboration with representatives from Renewable Resources Boards, Wildlife Committees, Local Harvesting Committees, and Hunting and Trapper Committees across the north. While this new hunter education program is intended to meet the requirements of resident hunters under the *Wildlife Act*, the curriculum is designed to be adaptable community-by-community to incorporate traditional and local knowledge, and can also be used with community members who have Aboriginal or treaty rights to harvest. We anticipate that the work to include localized content will begin soon after the initial rollout of the program and that adapting the curriculum for use in communities will be an ongoing process.

**Recommendation #4-2016:** The WRRB continues to support the implementation of the Community-based Diga Harvesting Project, as a training program only, subject to the following conditions:

- a) If the Project is to be expanded to other Tłıchq communities, a management proposal must be submitted to the WRRB for review and approval.

TG will provide a management proposal if this specific project will be expanded to other Tłıchq communities.

- b) If the Project is to be expanded in scope, prior to the submission of a management proposal to the WRRB, an index of changing wolf abundance must be available and research on habitat quality and quantity on the Bathurst herd range must be conducted;

The WRRB, ENR and TG are all members of the Wolf Feasibility Study Working Group. This group is in discussion of the possibilities and merits of a wolf abundance study.

- c) TG and ENR must inform the WRRB of the following prior to the start of the Project:
  - i. How aerial and/or ground-based disturbance to Bathurst will be prevented or minimized? How will this potential disturbance be measured, assessed, and mitigated?

Aerial disturbances will be kept at a minimum by flying at an altitude (150 m agl), which will also ensure clear visibility of the caribou. When caribou are observed, the plane will be diverted. The camp will be set up away from large concentrations of caribou to minimize disturbance. If wolf carcasses need to be removed by plane, a landing strip will be marked in areas located away from the main concentration of caribou. Our view is that that the aerial and ground patrols are essential, and disturbance can be mitigated as noted above

- ii. ii. How will unintentional or accidental harvest of Bathurst caribou, by the Tłıchq Diga harvesters, be prevented? If a Bathurst caribou is harvested, how will TG and ENR report to the WRRB?;

The people that applied to the community-based wolf harvest pilot program are expert trappers who are concerned about the decline in caribou. We trust that these experts will not harvest Bathurst caribou while they are trapping in the mobile zone. We will also have an ENR biologist (when available) performing wolf necropsies at the field camp set up to support the field pilot project. In the unlikely event that during the course of this program a Bathurst caribou is harvested, Tłıchq Government will inform the GNWT and the WRRB.

and,

- iii. How will the facilitation of wolf movements through the wolves' use of skidoo trails be prevented or minimized?

It is possible that wolves may use skidoo trails where the trails pack down the snow and make travelling easier for wolves. However, it is noted that in the winter range, the snow is already hard packed and wolves tend to bypass trails. Diga tracks are observed both on and off the trails. By removing the wolves that would potentially use the trails in the first place, we can solve the suggested problem. Our view is that the benefit of using snow machines to help harvesters reduce wolves on the caribou winter range outweighs the potential issue of wolves using the snow machine trails to access the caribou.

- d) TG and ENR must communicate regularly about the Project with Tłıchq communities and the WRRB. Specifically, the Board requests an update prior to start-up of the Project in December 2016 and a follow-up on the success of the Project in May 2017. As well, TG and ENR must report monthly on the Project, including numbers, age, sex and pregnancy rates of wolves harvested and location of wolf harvest, to the WRRB;

TG and ENR will communicate updates through the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group on a regular basis or immediately when there is important information to share. As was the case in the Wolf feasibility Study, TG considers ENR and WRRB as partners and TG wants our partners involved in every step.

- e) The Project must be curtailed or stopped should negative impacts to the Bathurst caribou herd occur; and,

Noted. Thank you.

- f) TG and ENR must establish a threshold or criteria to evaluate the success of the program, i.e. the effectiveness of training a core set of wolf harvesters, the acceptance of the Project by Tłıchq communities, continued program implementation and reaching the target number of diga harvested.

TG and ENR will meet to establish criteria to evaluate the success of the program.

**Recommendation #5-2016:** The WRRB recommends TG and ENR support a collaborative feasibility assessment of options for diga management, led by the Board.



ENR and TG thank the WRRB for the board's support for a wolf management feasibility assessment for the Bathurst herd's range, and ENR would like to propose a modification to the recommendation on this initiative.

In 2015 ENR committed to conduct a collaborative feasibility assessment of wolf management options for the range of the Bathurst herd, including areas both within and outside of Wek'èezhii. Any proposed actions that arise from this assessment will require consultation with all Aboriginal governments and wildlife management authorities across the range of the Bathurst herd, and will require submission of a separate management proposal to the WRRB for their independent review and consideration. Given the scope of this work and role of various organizations, ENR initiated a collaborative process with the WRRB, TG, Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) as a forum to provide direction for completion of the feasibility assessment.

ENR initiated work on the feasibility assessment with a 2-day workshop on wolf research and management in November 2015, which included participation of TG and WRRB technical staff. A review was done of wolf management programs in other jurisdictions, including a review of the literature and discussions with agencies and individuals involved in these programs. A process to conduct the feasibility assessment has been identified, and ENR established a collaborative working group to provide input into this process. The working group includes technical staff from ENR, WRRB, TG, NSMA and YKDFN and has been meeting regularly since May 2016. ENR has committed to complete the feasibility assessment in 2016, with a target date of October 2016 for a final report. ENR supports the use of this collaborative technical working group as the forum to complete the feasibility assessment.

After discussion with ENR, while TG supports and appreciates the Board's willingness to lead the collaborative feasibility assessment, TG suggests that representatives of the parties meet as soon as possible to come to a suitable solution to avoid further delay.



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Mr. Grant Pryznyk, Chair  
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board  
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OCT 20 2016

Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

**Clarifications on Response to Reasons for Decision Related to Joint  
Proposal for the Management of the Bathurst 7ekwǫ (Barren-ground Caribou) Herd**

The Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) have received the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board's (WRRB) letter of August 26, 2016. This letter requested clarification on TG and ENR's response of July 15, 2016 to the WRRB report entitled "*Report on a Public Hearing Held by the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board 23-24 February 2016, Yellowknife, NT & Reasons for Decisions Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Bathurst 7ekwǫ (Barren-ground Caribou) Herd, Part A*". TG and ENR would like to provide the following responses.

1. As per Recommendation #1-2016, the WRRB understands that the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone (MCBCMZ) is the preferred approach for the 2016/17 harvest season as it is challenging to create and implement a system of fixed subzones on a short-term time frame. TG and ENR have noted that, in order to implement a system of subzones, a consensus on the appropriate features on the natural landscape area to allow smaller zones to be properly mapped and incorporated into legal descriptions is necessary. As such, the Board requests the following clarifications:
  - a. Is the subzone approach the most effective way to manage the caribou harvest? If yes, what progress has been made to date in developing the subzone approach? What is the timeline for implementation?
  - b. If the subzone approach is not the most effective way to manage the caribou harvest, will TG and ENR continue to use the MCBCMZ approach indefinitely?

**TG & ENR Response:** Based on the discussions between TG and ENR, the subzone approach is not being pursued further at this time. TG and ENR will instead focus on refining the Bathurst mobile zone. One of the main reasons that a subzone approach was considered an attractive option was that the boundaries, once established, would not change and the boundaries could follow natural features like rivers. Such boundaries would be relatively easy for hunters, officers and others on the land to identify. If the collared caribou moved little, then the Bathurst no-harvest zone would be made up of a number of subzones that were well-defined and changed rarely. However, a subzone approach would also present some challenges in implementation.

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To keep the no-harvest area relatively small, subzones would have to be small and there would need to be many. Creating a large number of subzones and defining them all legally would be a large task.

To be effective across the entire possible spring, fall and winter range of the Bathurst herd, sub-zones would have to be created in not only R/BC/01, R/BC/02 and R/BC/03, but also outside Wek'èezhì to the east and west. That would require consultation and discussion in the Sahtú and Tł̨chq land claim areas and further east where there are unsettled land claims.

On balance, TG and ENR believe that a mobile Bathurst zone with the modifications proposed is the best option at this time, and the intent is to use the MCBCMZ for the foreseeable future.

The same basic purpose of a well-defined no-harvest zone that changes rarely can be accomplished by modifying the mobile zone as TG and ENR have proposed. The buffer on the collar locations has been increased from 30-40 km to 60 km and the boundaries will not change unless collared caribou move out of the zone. TG and ENR have also suggested that the boundaries of the MCBCMZ could be amended to follow natural features like rivers or lake edges, provided this does not affect conservation of the herd, again to make the zone easier for hunters and others to identify.

TG and ENR will evaluate the mobile zone approach on an ongoing basis over the winter, and assess the need to adjust or refine operational implementation of the zone on an ongoing basis. Through the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group, TG and ENR will engage and regularly update WRRB staff winter on an assessment of the mobile zone approach.

2. As per Recommendation #2-2016, the WRRB recognizes that ENR is currently in a period of fiscal and budgetary restraints. While ENR is unable to commit to weekly aerial monitoring of the MCBCMZ, regular monitoring by air and by ground patrols will occur, as done in winters 2014/15 and 2015/16. As such, the Board requests the following clarifications:

- a. What aerial and ground-based monitoring was conducted in 2014/15 and 2015/16?
- b. When were the aerial and ground-based patrols done, i.e. how is 'regular' defined?

The WRRB appreciates TG and ENR agreeing to provide weekly updates to the Board with any new monitoring information. However, the Board requests that weekly updates should be given even if no patrols are conducted, i.e. the update would indicate that no new monitoring information is available as no patrols were conducted.

**ENR Response:** A summary on aerial and ground-based patrols in the last two winters is provided below. ENR can provide weekly updates on new information to the WRRB. However, given that there will likely be many weeks in which no additional information is available, routine updates will in most cases be short and email should be sufficient. More substantive information will be provided as it is available, and it may be useful to use periodic meetings of the Barren Ground Caribou Technical Working Group as a forum for updating and discussion by TG, ENR and WRRB. ENR also notes that there may be occasions when investigations into such activities as (possible) illegal harvesting are underway and there are confidentiality requirements associated with investigations that do not allow immediate reporting.

### **Aerial and Ground-Based patrols in 2014/15 and 2015/16**

#### **Aerial Patrols:**

- Bathurst caribou have usually settled into their winter staging area by mid - to late December, and their movement and distribution are limited and predictable until late April at the outset of spring migration. This is confirmed by monitoring the movement and location of Bathurst collared animals.
- This is also the time period when the MCBCMZ is implemented and when no caribou harvest is allowed.
- In order to ensure and confirm that caribou are within the MCBCMZ early in the winter, aerial reconnaissance flights are conducted around the perimeter of the MCBCMZ to assess the number of caribou located immediately on the outside (if any) of the mobile zone. This information is used to evaluate the proper size of the buffer area needed to create the MCBCMZ and verify if any hunting is taking place. It usually requires one or two aerial flights the first month after caribou have moved into their winter staging area to address this objective.
- Information recorded during these flights includes: 1) number and location of caribou, 2) presence of snow machine trails coming in or out of the MCBCMZ, and 3) presence of hunter kill sites.
- For the remainder of the winter, the MCBCMZ is usually flown once per month for enforcement purposes with emphasis on areas where potential hunting might occur based on the winter distribution of Bathurst caribou and accessibility. These areas have been 1) between Wekweètì and Lower Carp Lake on the Yellowknife River, 2) a corridor between Gordon – Brown – Snap Lakes via the Tibbitt-Contwoy to winter road, and 3) between the southeast edge of the MCBCMZ and the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.
- In addition, further assessment of hunting activity is undertaken for both the Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds during: 1) the pre-collaring reconnaissance fixed wing survey normally conducted in late February early March, 2) a rotary-wing based caribou classification survey done in March, and 3) rotary-wing based collaring efforts done in March and sometime early April for those two herds as well as for the Beverly herd.

#### Ground-based Patrols

- Community-based caribou monitors (4-6 monitors) are hired from late December until April each winter for each of the Tłıchq communities.
- Caribou monitors are also hired between December and April from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) communities (4 monitors) to work with ENR wildlife officers to conduct road and snow machine patrols along the Contwoyto winter road.
- In addition, 4-6 monitors are hired from the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation, with monitoring done mostly to the east of Łutselk'e.
- In addition, check stations are operational for the same period of time on both North Slave Region winter roads with additional harvest monitoring in place.
- Community, winter roads and check station monitors keep track of movement and activities of hunters. When evidence of potential illegal harvest is detected (kill sites, snow machine trails, no authorization cards, etc), the incident is reported to ENR enforcement officers and further investigation is initiated.
- All non-commercial vehicles are asked to check into the monitoring stations. Hunters are asked to report any wildlife sightings, wildlife harvesting and other general vehicle information such as vehicle description, and license plate information. Hunters are also asked to provide any hunting license and tag information.
- When the winter road is open, ENR wildlife officers are stationed at the monitoring station for one week periods, with new officers rotated through weekly. Generally, wildlife officer presence at these check stations begins when winter the road opens in January, and the station remains operational until the road closes in early April. Monitoring is done jointly with the YKDFN and Tłıchq monitors. When there are reports of caribou near the edge of the MCBCMZ, officers on snowmachines will patrol the area to ensure there is no hunting activity within that area.
- In addition, signage is posted to indicate the location of the MCBCMZ to allow hunters to know that they are not allowed to hunt within the specified area.

ENR is prepared to update the WRRB weekly on any monitoring activities that occur. ENR is also prepared to meet regularly with WRRB and TG staff to discuss aerial and ground patrol activities in further detail, as well as any opportunities for improvements to future patrols and monitoring.

3. As per Recommendation #4-2016, the WRRB understands that the Community-based Diga (Wolf) Harvesting Project will be implemented in the winter of 2016/17. TG and ENR have agreed to establish criteria to evaluate the success of the Pilot Project. As such, the Board request the following clarification:

a. What is the status of development of the criteria to evaluate success of the Pilot Project?

The WRRB is aware that TG and ENR have identified that regular communications about the Pilot Project will be conducted through the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group. However, in addition, the Board would like an in-person update during its regularly scheduled meetings in November, 2016 and May, 2017 to discuss the start-up and follow-up of the Pilot Project, respectively.



**TG Response:** Tłıchǵ want to be active participants in wildlife and predator management on their lands. This was reinforced during the recent WRRB public hearings on Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds in spring 2016, when Tłıchǵ community members stated that they do not want to simply sit at home anymore; they want to be involved in caribou and wildlife management. With respect to wolves, Tłıchǵ have recommended that caribou predation be dealt with in a traditionally acceptable manner. In Tłıchǵ communities there are many cultural and social considerations and taboos associated with respectful hunting of wolves. Consequently, the main focus of the community-based Wolf Harvesting Pilot Project is to share Tłıchǵ knowledge as well as supporting and building expertise among those Tłıchǵ hunters who wish to harvest wolves. Therefore a key objective of the Pilot Project is to encourage and support Tłıchǵ hunters to increase their harvest of wolves during the winter.

Through the Pilot Project, the Tłıchǵ Government will identify Tłıchǵ hunters and convene a training workshop in Wekweètł, which will be done in collaboration with GNWT-ENR trapper-training expertise. The workshop will focus on three main subjects; traditionally accepted methods for handling wolves, successful harvesting techniques and financially successful skinning techniques. Therefore, we will invite three experts; an elder, a harvester and a skinner.

The TG will also expand on the training workshops by providing logistical support and organization for community-based wolf hunts on the winter range of the Bathurst herd. Because this is a community-based program with a focus on developing and increasing hunter participation, the main indicators of success will be the:

- Number of Tłıchǵ hunters trained;
- Total hunter effort through the winter season (i.e., number of active hunters and their time spent on the land and/or kilometers-areas traveled by month); and
- Number of wolves harvested from the winter range of the Bathurst herd. Additional information will include sex, location, and condition of harvested wolves.

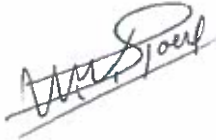
From a Tłıchǵ community perspective, general measures of success will include the education of hunters in traditional wolf harvesting practices, and the participation of Tłıchǵ harvesters on the land and active participants in caribou and predator management.

TG does not expect results of the Pilot Project to stop or reverse the decline of the Bathurst herd on its own. TG expects that a wolf management proposal will be developed collaboratively with ENR for submission to the WRRB as a result of the feasibility assessment of predator management options, which will establish numerical objectives and provide methodological recommendations for wolf removals and monitoring.

Due to the many potential factors that may affect the Bathurst caribou across its annual range, we have no illusions of directly attributing the potential success of this small Pilot Project to the health of the Bathurst herd.

However, we suggest that meaningful community hunter education and participation in wolf harvesting is a key step towards community acceptance and implementation of any broader predator management actions. If indicators of success are positive, we would consider expansion of the community-based program.

Sincerely,



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Attachment

c. Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister, ENR

Ms. Shaleen Woodward, Acting Deputy Minister, DAAIR

Dr. Erin Kelly, Acting Deputy Minister, ENR

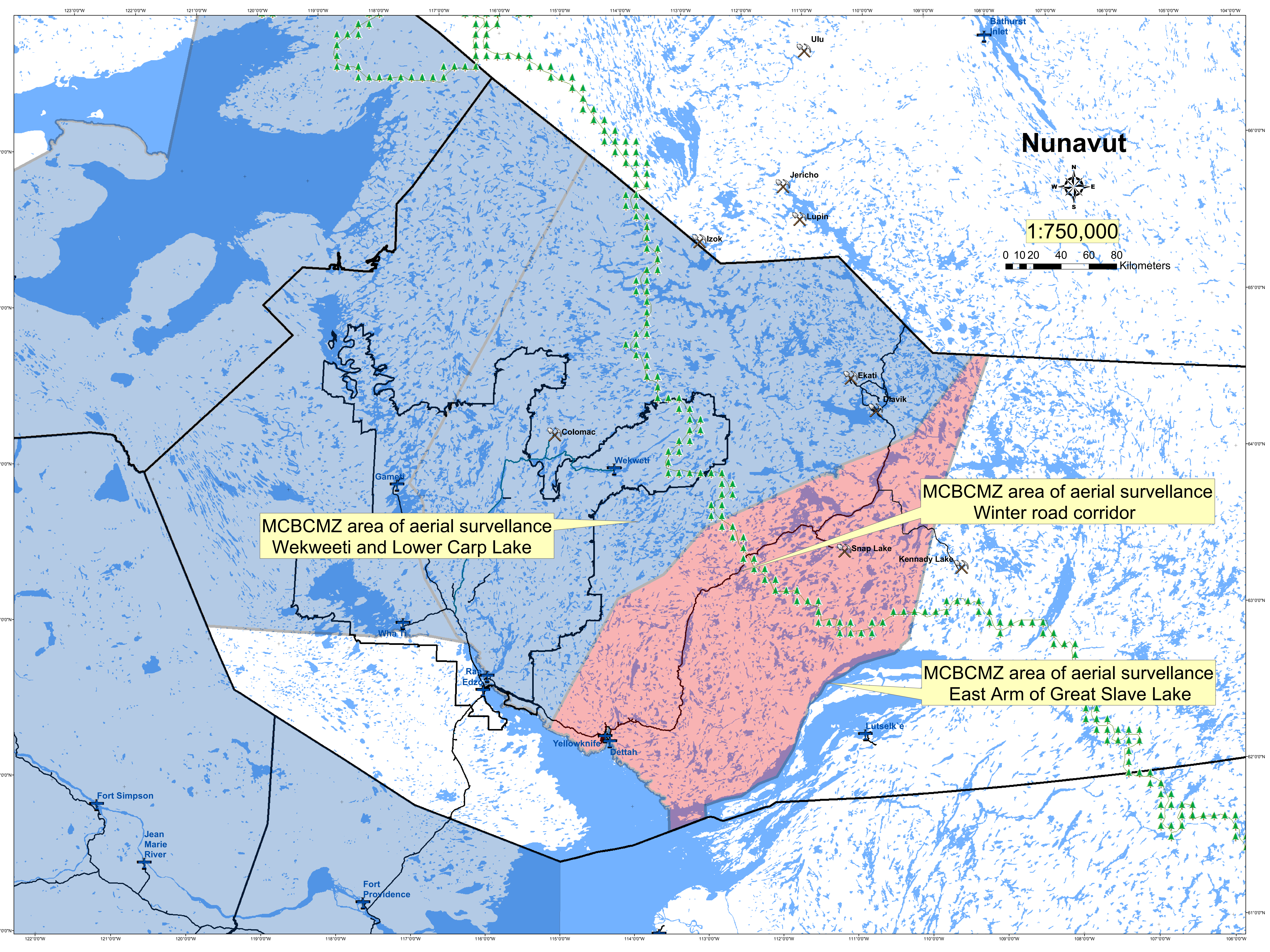
Mr. Fred Mandeville, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, ENR

Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director, Wildlife, ENR

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, TG

Ms. Laura Duncan, Tłıchq Executive Officer, TG

Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, WRRB



# Nunavut



1:750,000

0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

MCBCMZ area of aerial surveillance  
Wekweeti and Lower Carp Lake

MCBCMZ area of aerial surveillance  
Winter road corridor

MCBCMZ area of aerial surveillance  
East Arm of Great Slave Lake