

*IR #6:*

*In the broader context of adaptive co-management of barren-ground caribou that occur within the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, it is vitally important for Territorial Governments and Indigenous Governments and Organizations (IGOs) to work cooperatively for recovery and long-term conservation of caribou herds. Most recently Tłıchq Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) submitted a revised joint management 2021-2025 wolf management actions proposal on wolves to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), which is currently being reviewed as a Level 2 proceeding.*

*To help inform a broader perspective on the recovery of the Bathurst caribou herd, please outline the perspectives and/or plans on community-based management actions and monitoring (guardianship) that your organization and community are considering as it may apply to barren-ground caribou and wolves in their traditional use areas.*

**Answer:**

In January 2020 Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation Wildlife, Land and Environment Department completed its Yúnethé Xá ʔetthën Háđı Caribou Stewardship Plan. This Plan is a written expression of Łutsël K'é Dēnesųłné's nálze (harvesting) practices, procedures, and protocols that help protect the ʔetthën (caribou) and our way of life. Our Plan is based on the values, beliefs, and words spoken by our members throughout the process of creating this Plan. This plan created the nálze (harvest) policy and protocols, which outline 19 policy measures, and our nálze (harvest) protocol has 16 measures for harvesting for our community to follow.

Since 2008, the LKDFN has operated a winter ʔetthën monitoring program focused on monitoring ʔetthën, namely the Beverly-Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq herds that come into our nuwé nēné (traditional territory). This planning process helped LKDFN WLED to amalgamate its existing monitoring programs to create a single Lutsel K'e Denesoline Guardianship program to monitor the ní (land), k'ech'ą́đı (animals), birds, tué (water), and fish, with ʔetthën and other k'ech'ą́đı (animals) monitoring as one of the main components of the winter monitoring season.

As we state in our Caribou Management Plan, the LKDFN fully supports opportunities to collaborate with Bathurst ʔetthën herd Indigenous guardians to work toward creating a regional network of Indigenous Bathurst ʔetthën Guardianships Network to monitor the herd across their entire range and in each season.

Toward this end, we have recently submitted a Letter Of Interest to the Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program for funding to coordinate our internal monitoring programs and data collection tools to focus improve knowledge mobility and data sharing. At this early stage, this project envisions to collaborate with the GNWT and any interested Aboriginal Organizations to create a regional data collection tool to

help create a standard approach to data collection that can facilitate regional data sharing on caribou and other wildlife, and improve harvester participation in data gathering.

In addition to this recent plan, the LKDFN has participated in the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board since its inception in 1982. The BQCMB holds bi-annual meetings that one of LKDFN's representatives attends and represents LKDFN's interests and positions. LKDFN also has representatives who attend the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee.