



Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
c/o Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
102A, 4504 – 49th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7

January 9, 2015

Minister Michael Miltenberger
Environment & Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca

Re: Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Recommendations

Dear Minister Miltenberger,

In response to your letter of December 17, 2014, the Member Boards of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) appreciate the Minister of Environment & Natural Resources' (ENR) commitment to implement the *"Taking Care of Caribou: The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East Barren-ground Caribou Herds Management Plan"* and ensure that land claim processes are honoured. However, the ACCWM believes that the proposed approach to short-term management for the Bluenose-East Caribou herd undermines the process as set out in the Management Plan by suggesting that emergency measures are required. It has been strongly voiced that emergency measures for this herd are premature and inappropriate at this time. As well, it is unrealistic to expect several elements of the proposed approach to be developed, approved by communities and implemented within the 2014/2015 winter season. Those elements, in particular harvest allocation and harvest monitoring & reporting, will be a focus during the development of the Bluenose Caribou Herds Action Plans, with the ACCWM's first priority being the Bluenose-East Caribou herd. Therefore, the ACCWM requests that the Minister respect the processes set out in the Management Plan for action planning to move ahead as intended.

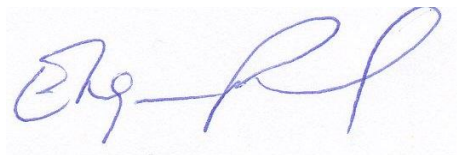
Further, the ACCWM respectfully requests that its previous recommendations related to the Bluenose-East Caribou herd be implemented. In particular, that during the 2014/2015 harvest season, the existing voluntary harvest target of 2800 Bluenose-East Caribou per year (NWT overall harvest of 1800 caribou) continues with a focus on a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders. If ENR has evidence to suggest that the harvest target has been exceeded by 10% or more for the 2014/2015 harvesting season, then, after consultation with the ACCWM, regulations should be put in place to close harvesting in areas occupied by the Bluenose-East Caribou herd. The ACCWM recommends that ENR actively enforce the proposed 80:20 bull:cow ratio as well as the overall monitoring of harvest.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If there are any further questions, please contact Jody Pellissey at (867) 873-5740 or jsnortland@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,



Larry Carpenter, Chair
Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



Eugene Pascal, Chair
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board



Paul Latour, Interim Chair
?ehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)



J. Grant Pryzyk, Interim Chair
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board