

INFORMATION REQUEST TO TŁJCHQ GOVERNMENT

INDIVIDUAL - KAREN McMASTER

1. Why has this proposal been distributed to the public as a joint proposal with joint recommendations when there is so much uncertainty and disagreement as actions to be taken?
2. Do the elders and the younger population groups of the Tłjchq agree with this joint proposal? Was there a breakdown of votes?
3. Do you think it is administratively prudent to have individuals within a community overseeing reporting/enforcement etc. of their own community members?
4. What are post-calving grounds? Is the Tłjchq Government proposing to allowing oil and gas and tourism activities on these grounds? Why was mining singled out as an activity?
5. Does the Tłjchq Government have a specific map that outlines the land claims areas for the Tłjchq and other aboriginal communities in NWT, including those with fee simple lands, those that are traditional territory and those that are lands identified for a special purpose or protection from activity. Please advise as to the routes of the caribou throughout these areas and where the calving grounds are on these areas.
6. Has the Tłjchq Government had any meetings with community groups and individuals other than the Tłjchq in preparing this joint proposal? Have other aboriginal and Inuit groups been involved? Were NWT residents involved when this joint proposal went before the Tłjchq community in the summer of 2009? Were any other organizations consulted in preparation of this joint proposal?
7. Why are aboriginal hunters and resident hunters not required to report the number of caribou they harvest? Would this be valuable information in understanding the caribou situation in the NWT?
8. Was this proposal reviewed by the Tłjchq legal advisors prior to its submission to the public?
9. The proposal indicates that consultation and collaboration with the Nunavut Government and co-management groups will be needed to ensure that proper protection is maintained for each calving ground, as the Bluenose East, Bathurst and Ahlak calving grounds are all in Nunavut. Why is the GNWT and Tłjchq Government proposing to restrict resident and non-resident hunters when it cannot be certain that these calving grounds will be protected? Why are precautions not being required in Nunavut at the same time as in NWT? Why is the NWT taking the lead if the calving grounds are in Nunavut?
10. Who funded community hunts of caribou in the past? How many caribou were taken during these hunts? Is this subsistence hunting and traditional hunting? How many aboriginals rely purely on subsistence hunting these days?
11. The proposal indicates that " A limited low number of breeding females may be allowed to be harvested from the Bathurst herd in the winter months for scientific purposes (health and condition and assessment of pregnancy rate). Meat will be distributed to Aboriginal elders.

The numbers to be collected are to be discussed further with Tłıchǵo Aboriginal hunters, members of the WRRB and ENR biologist". How can members of the NWT public comment on this proposal when these numbers have not been agreed to? Why is meat only to be distributed to Aboriginal Elders?

12. The proposal indicates " No harvest of females is to take place when caribou of different herds are mixed together in the winter time to avoid accidental hunt of Bathurst cows. When this situation occurs, it is recommended that males only be hunted (ENR's position). Consultation between Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and ENR will take place to explore avenues to provide financial support to hunters to access new hunting areas." What is the Tłıchǵo's position? What does the consultation aspect really mean? What does access to new hunting areas mean? Who provides financial support and to whom?
13. The proposal indicated " The Diamond Mines' Wildlife and Environment Monitoring programs (WEMP) will be redesigned to adjust for results and findings acquired through several years of data collection and new proposed monitoring will be presented to the Tłıchǵo Government and communities for their inputs." What is involved here? What are the plans that you want people to comment on? Why are these plans not also presented to NWT residents?
14. During Tłıchǵo Government hosted meetings, did any of the elders indicate that they should also reduce the harvesting of male and female caribou?
15. The proposal indicates no direction is required from the Board on the action re compliance, winter road etc. Why is no direction sought here? Why is public interest implication in Wek'èezhii referred to specifically not the NWT interest?
16. Did the Tłıchǵo Government and GNWT consider instilling means to ensure that all caribou harvesting is being conducted according to the traditional values of Elders and good hunting practices?
17. The proposal allows for Tłıchǵo hunters to assess presence/absence of fetuses in 20 cows hunted during winter which is a joint decision but previously indicated that Tłıchǵo want unlimited hunting of cows. Please explain.
18. Does the Tłıchǵo Government need to determine whether wolves are hunting caribou as recommended in this proposal? How would you do this? What cost would be involved in doing so? Would providing incentives to hunters to trap and hunt wolves not be more efficient, fair, effective and economical than the actions proposed in this proposal?