

Karen McMaster BA LLB MBA
PO Box 1988
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P5

Delivered via email

January 4, 2010

Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
Yellowknife Office
102A 4504-49th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1A7

Attention: Mr. Grant Pryznyk, Interim Chair

Dear Sirs,

Re Joint Caribou Proposal

Thank you for Mr. Donihee's letter dated December 20, 2009 written in response to my letter to the WRRB dated December 11, 2009 and a preliminary list of legal issues dated December 18, 2009.

With respect, I believe it is not my duty as an intervener to assist the board in creating a fair process as Mr. Donihee has asked me to. That is the responsibility of tribunals, their advisors and corresponding governments. Having said this, I have raised several concerns along the way (including the constitution of your board) and I have asked many questions. I will refrain from commenting in this forum on the other points raised in Mr. Donihee's letter as they seem to be a reaction to procedural issues I had raised, except to clarify my legal status for this hearing.

It is quite clear that I am not acting as NWT legal counsel on behalf of anyone in this hearing, and that I am an intervener in my personal capacity in this process. As backgrounder for you, I am, and always will be, a lawyer regardless of whether I am practicing law at any given moment or whether I am called to the bar in the NWT. Being called here is a minor procedural matter that I am considering for 2010. I have decades of domestic and international legal experience, for groups and people with aboriginal background and those with other ancestries. I have litigated

extensively with the courts and administrative tribunals, matters which often involved due process and procedural fairness. I have worked with many Chiefs and Councils in the north, and I have helped aboriginal groups with their constitutions and sustainable development practices in a proactive manner, including concerns for wildlife. I have also helped small, medium and large resource companies develop in a responsible manner, with concerns for the community and the environment. I am committed to accountability, fairness, environmental responsibility, the rule of law, self-sufficiency, economic independence, due process and more. I live and work in the NWT; the caribou are important to me and I think sound decision-making is important for everyone in the north. Hence my involvement.

Please ask Mr. Donihee to refrain from issuing threats to interveners. You are his client, and under the Tlicho land claim, the WRRB is an institution of public government which is to act in the public interest. I would expect all advisors to the board to act accordingly.

I trust you can appreciate that this hearing is a rather intensive and chaotic process for interveners and that it is quite impossible to address the procedural and substantive issues that can arise on a daily basis. I hope that in the future, any advisors to the WRRB will not try and shut-down people who are concerned and passionate about matters, especially those who are not legally represented at this hearing. Moreover, I sincerely hope that everyone at the WRRB will be open to critical feedback and hearing from all interveners. It is only with open ears, eyes and minds, challenges by stakeholders and the meaningful involvement of stakeholders, that proper and effective decisions can be made about this very important matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Karen McMaster BA, LLB, MBA