Tłı̨chǫ Knowledge Technical Session

Summary | October 29–30, 2026

About the session

A Tłı̨chǫ Knowledge Technical Session was held on October 29–30, 2026, as part of the Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board's review of the joint management proposal for the Sahtì Ekwǫ̀ (Bluenose-East) caribou herd. The session provided an opportunity for discussion of caribou, relationships with the land, and considerations relevant to future management. This summary describes general discussion themes only. It does not reproduce the knowledge shared or represent the views of any individual participant. Attendees included 17 Tłı̨chǫ elder/harvesters, Government of the Northwest Territories, Tłı̨chǫ Government, ʔehdzo Got'ı̨nę Gots'ę́ Nákedı / Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the WRRB.

Caribou and relationships with the land

Discussions considered caribou as part of a wider relationship among people, wildlife, and the land. Participants reflected on how experiences from different times and places can inform the way caribou are understood and cared for. The importance of approaching caribou-related decisions with care and a long-term perspective was a recurring theme.

Caribou behaviour and harvesting practices

The session included discussions of caribou at different stages of life, particularly cows and calves, and how seasonal changes may be relevant to harvesting decisions. Past and present approaches to hunting, use of harvested animals, and the responsibilities associated with harvesting were considered. These discussions were varied and should not be read as a single position on appropriate harvest levels or practices.

Learning across generations

Participants discussed the value of opportunities for younger people to spend time on the land and learn from those with experience. The conversation also touched on the importance of language, listening, and maintaining opportunities for knowledge to be shared across generations. These themes were discussed in relation to both community life and future caribou stewardship.

Changes observed on the land

Discussions touched on changes in the environment and in experiences of caribou over time. Topics included weather and seasonal conditions, habitat, other wildlife, and the ways caribou may move through the landscape. These observations were raised as matters to consider alongside other information, rather than as findings established by the session.

Access, development, and monitoring

The potential implications of roads, access, and other activities on the land were among the broader subjects raised. Participants also discussed different ways of observing and monitoring

caribou and the importance of considering information gathered through time spent on the land. Some of these subjects extend beyond the specific management measures under review.

Community planning and future discussions

The session included consideration of how communities might approach harvest planning, participation, and communication in the future. Discussion also touched on the roles of communities and governments, and the value of having sufficient time and opportunities to consider complex matters. No collective plan or agreed management direction is presented in this summary.

Scope of this summary

The session was one part of a broader review process. This summary is intentionally limited in detail. It is not a transcript, an interpretation of Tłı̨chǫ Knowledge, or a statement of consensus, and should not be used in place of the full review record or any applicable knowledge-sharing protocols.