



Via Email

May 6, 2013

Joseph Judas, Chair
Wek' èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Suite 102A, 4504 49th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1A7

Dear: Mr. Judas

Re: Next steps in caribou co-management proposal

The Tłıchǵ Government (TG) and Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Northwest Territories (ENR) have been working together in collaboration and cooperation in co-management since the decline of the Bathurst caribou in 2009. As you are aware, the two Governments jointly developed a Management Proposal submitted to the board in November, 2009. During the public hearings in March, 2010, the TG and ENR requested an adjournment so we could go back to the table and work together to come to consensus on the important issue of harvest restrictions. The Board obliged us at that time and in May 2010 a *Revised Joint Management Proposal* was submitted and an additional two days of public hearings were held on August 5-6, 2010. The Board issued its recommendations report in October 2010, that would remain in effect until the end of the 2012/13 harvesting season following the successful results of the next calving ground photo census survey.

In June 2012, the calving ground photographic census was successfully conducted under ideal survey conditions and resulted in an estimate of breeding females on the Bathurst caribou calving grounds of about 16,000 and a total extrapolated new population estimate of approximately 35,000 animals. In your letter dated June 27, 2012 to both the TG and ENR, the Board emphasized that as per Section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement, the WRRB requested that any changes in current management actions arising from the 2012 Bathurst Caribou herd population estimate be submitted jointly by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tłıchǵ Government as a management proposal, as per the Board's interim Rule for Management Proposals.

On March 6, 2013 TG and ENR submitted a letter to the Board expressing that we should have a revised proposal to the Board by April 26, 2013.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we do not have a revised proposal to submit to the Board at this time. Though the two Governments have been working together on this issue, consultation with community members is not complete. This consultation is necessary prior to the submission of this proposal to the Board.

As the Tłıchǫ Government is going into election periods for Chiefs and Council as well as the Grand Chief, the final position of the Tłıchǫ Government will not be determined until the next session of the Tłıchǫ Assembly, which will be after September 16, 2013. Therefore, we anticipate having a joint proposal to the Board as soon as possible thereafter.

Based on information previously provided by Board staff, our understanding is that the current harvest recommendations will remain in place until such time that a new proposal is submitted. If this is not the case, please do let us know.

We look forward to the two Governments and the Board continuing to work together in co-management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Director, Lands Protection Department, Kerri Garner at kerrigarner@tlicho.com or superintendent North Slave Region, Fred Mandeville at Fred.J.Mandeville@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Kerri Garner, Director
Lands Protection
Tłıchǫ Government



Fred Mandeville, Superintendent
North Slave Region, ENR

cc. Eddie Erasmus, Grand Chief, Tłıchǫ Government
Lynda Young, Director, Wildlife Division, ENR

