



Via Email

March 6, 2013

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

Dear: Mr. Judas

Re: Next Steps in Caribou co-management proposal

The Tłı̨chǫ 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 this 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 Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the WRRB requests 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 Tłı̨chǫ Government as a management proposal, as per the Board's interim Rule for Management Proposals.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our proposed process to move forward. The TG and ENR have been working together to develop a Revised Joint Management Proposal for the next three years, until the next Bathurst caribou calving ground survey or until the Long Term Management Planning process is established. Work is already under way to come-up with a new Joint Proposal and we anticipate having a document to the Board by May 1, 2013, thus giving the Board 90 days to consider the proposal and make recommendations, one month for each Government to consider these recommendations and to complete our due Consultation, with implementation of recommendations for the fall harvest 2013.

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
Tlicho Government



Fred Mandeville, Superintendent
North Slave Region, ENR

