



July 31, 2009

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Chief George Mackenzie
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Box 412
Behchoko, NT X0E 0Y0

Dear Sirs:

Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Proposal

The Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has been informed that the Bathurst Caribou Herd numbers are continuing their steep decline, and although we recognize the final estimates will not be available until the end of August, the Board is very concerned about the future of this critical resource. The WRRB wants to encourage governments to initiate a comprehensive management response as soon as possible in order to address this situation.

In the Board's view, early action is essential and we trust that governments will soon begin the consultation which must precede the regulatory changes necessary to secure the future of this resource.

The WRRB's preference is to receive a joint wildlife management proposal addressing this situation from the NWT and Tłı̨chǫ governments. We suggest such a proposal be filed with the Board by the end of October 2009 to give the Board enough time to review and respond to it, and sufficient time to facilitate any necessary regulatory changes to protect the herd in early 2010. Our staff is available to address any procedural questions which may arise in relation to the Board's process for review of this proposed management action.

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The WRRB anticipates that there may be a need for a public hearing before the end of December 2009. The timing of our receiving the joint proposal, therefore, is important. If the WRRB receives the joint proposal by October 30, 2009, we will have a response to it in an equally timely manner. Each government should ensure that they take preliminary steps to facilitate and expedite the implementation of these joint decisions.

The WRRB considers the Bathurst caribou population decline of significant importance. In the absence of timely government action we will consider developing our own recommendations for your consideration pursuant to section 12.5.6 of the Tłı̨chö Agreement.

We trust that both governments and the Board can work collaboratively to implement any necessary management actions to protect the Bathurst Caribou Herd.

Yours truly,



Alfonz Nitsiza
Chairman

c.c. Mr. John B. Zoe
Chief Executive Officer
Tłı̨chö Government

Ms. Bertha Zoe
Legal Counsel
Tłı̨chö Government

Mr. Gary Bohnet
Deputy Minister
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Ms. Susan Fleck
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