



November 21, 2025

Orna Phelan
Wildlife Biologist
North Slave Métis Alliance
32 Melville Dr
Yellowknife NT, X1A 0G2

Re: Health and sex monitoring of harvested barren-ground caribou

Dear Ms. Phelan:

The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has received your Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application, submitted jointly by the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG), and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN). As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the WRRB considers the above-mentioned WRP application as a management proposal, as it is being jointly submitted by the TG, who is Party to the *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement*, and that the work is occurring partially in the Wek'èezhì and fully in the Mq̄whì Gogha Dè Njìtèè Boundary.

The Board understands that the objectives of the survey are to: 1) Have NSMA, TG, and YKDFN Guardians work together to collect discarded caribou heads on the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road (TCWR), 2) perform DNA sex testing and aging on these samples to determine the sex ratio and age composition of harvested caribou, and 3) test samples for health metrics that are important to caribou and humans, including Chronic Wasting Disease, brucellosis, and parasites, to better understand the health of harvested caribou.

The WRRB understands the management proposal to include the following monitoring actions along the TCWR for February 1 to March 31, 2026:

- NSMA, TG, and YKDFN caribou guardians on the TCWR will collect discarded caribou heads while on patrol;
- Heads will be brought back to Yellowknife and stored in an NSMA freezer; and,
- At the end of the season, GNWT Wildlife Veterinarian will run a sample collection workshop and the guardians will be invited to learn how to collect the samples for testing.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application and approves the permit application as written.

The Board requests results be provided to the Board upon the completion of the work. Please feel free to give us a call with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

Cc Stephanie Behrens, Manager, Lands Protection & Renewable Resources
 Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government

 Rhona Kindopp, Director
 Wildlife Management, Environment & Climate Change, GNWT