



November 21, 2025

Stephanie Behrens  
Manager, Lands Protection & Renewable Resources  
Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government  
PO Box 412, Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0

**Re: Ekwò Harvest Monitoring Program**

Dear Ms. Behrens;

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considers the above-mentioned Wildlife Research Permit application as a management proposal. The Board understands that the objectives of the survey are to: 1) collect samples during community hunts to test for important health metrics, including chronic wasting disease, Filarioid worm, brucella, and parasites to understand the health of harvested caribou, 2) perform DNA sex testing on these samples to determine the sex ratio of caribou harvested as well as herd affiliation, and 3) test for contaminants, depending on funding. The research is occurring along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road (TCWR), which is partially in the Wek'èezhì and fully in the Mòwhì Gogha Dè Njìlèè 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 Tibbit 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 January 1 to June 30, 2026:

- TG Guardians will collect blood (from filter paper), skin fur from rumps, Mesenteric lymph nodes, jaw/front teeth, lower hind leg, spleen, liver, left kidney and any abnormalities during community hunts and from discarded heads to test for important health metrics including chronic wasting disease, Filarioid worm, brucella, and parasites;
- Perform DNA sex testing on these samples; and,
- Test for contaminants, pending funding.

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