



WEK'EEZHII RENEWABLE

RESOURCES BOARD

BATHURST CARIBOU HERD

PUBLIC HEARING

Panel Members:

Co-Chairperson	Steven Matthews
Co-Chairperson	Jonas Lafferty
Board Member	Charlie
	Jeremick'ca
Board Member	Suzanne Carriere

HELD AT:

Yellowknife, NT

February 23, 2016

Day 1 of 2

1 APPEARANCES

2	Jody Pellissey	) Board Staff
3	Boyan Tracz	) Board Staff
4	Bruce MacDonald	) Board Advisor
5	Anne Gunn	) Board Advisor
6	Alice Legat	) Board Advisor
7	John Donihee	) Board Counsel
8		
9	Fred Mandeville	) ENR
10	Lynda Yonge)
11	Bruno Croft)
12	Jan Adamczewski)
13	Roger Fraser)
14	John Boulanger)
15	Dean Cluff)
16	Christine Glowach)
17	Sarah Kay	) Counsel
18	Simone Tielesh	) Counsel
19		
20	Sjoerd Van Der Wielen	) Tlicho Government
21	John Nishi)
22	Joseph Judas)
23	Joe Rabesca)
24	John B. Zoe)
25	Paul Bechand	) Counsel

APPEARANCES (Con't)

1
2
3 Alex Power)Yellowknives Dene
4 First
5)Nation
6
7 Shin Shiga)North Slave Metis
8)Alliance
9
10 Tony Rabesca)Member of the Public
11
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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:04 a.m.

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Before any -
6 - before any meeting begins in our -- in our culture,
7 in our respective culture -- as Dene people we're very
8 spiritual people, and before anything happens --
9 before any meeting we'd like to say a prayer.

10

11 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

12

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: I already
14 asked the former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca to do the
15 opening prayer prior to our meetings. Thank you.

16

17 (OPENING PRAYER)

18

19 OPENING COMMENTS:

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you.
21 Thank you very much, former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca.
22 Masi cho.

23 So, ladies and gentlemen, at this time
24 I will do the opening statement. It will be done as
25 an interim Chair, and I will do this in my language,

1 so if everybody could put their headsets on, please --
2 please do so.

3

4 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

5

6 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

7

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Good

9 morning. Once again, I guess, you know that the -- my
10 name is Jonas Lafferty, and I'm from Behchoko. As I --
11 - I'm appointed to the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources
12 Board on behalf of my colleagues at home, and then I
13 have Steve Matthews here with us as a co-chair. And
14 we'll be here today all day. For next two (2) days,
15 we spoke to have this hearing with your schedule for
16 Behchoko, but apparently -- but apparently -- but --
17 Behchoko...

18

19 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

20

21 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Yes. We're
24 here to discuss the very important species of animal,
25 which happen to be caribou, that is so dear to the

1 Aboriginal users of this part of the land -- this part
2 of the territory. And we're here to discuss a very
3 important issue as to what decisions that the Board
4 might come up with.

5 Definitely, since the -- we're here to
6 discuss the very important issues that most of us that
7 are members that -- you know, that did a lot of
8 research on those areas that, you know, that -- is in
9 front of us today. That -- yes, the caribou herd that
10 is originating from the -- this -- on the calving
11 ground, on the -- pretty close to Kugluktuk area and -
12 - yes, most of us that -- we receive a lot of reports
13 as to the fate of the caribou over the years, and then
14 the -- we, as a Board, I guess we're struggling with
15 the issue because, you know, like definitely we know
16 that the caribou is so low as it is to date, and then
17 eventually -- hopefully that it would like to see the
18 caribou come back to -- to original as it was at one
19 time.

20 Yes. The -- when we sit on a board on
21 behalf of the -- our members of the general public, I
22 guess, you know, sometimes it's difficult because
23 sometimes, you know, we -- we've been approached on a,
24 you know, very specific issues individually, and --
25 yes, the -- we have to make decision on behalf the

1 whole Northwest Territories as a whole. Yes, it is
2 all the Board members that sits on -- as a public
3 Board I guess, you know, we're here to listen to the
4 general public, and as well as the -- all the roles of
5 government that are participating to -- to this issue
6 of the caribou, especially the Bathurst herd.

7 I'd like to introduce my members --
8 sits on the -- on the Board -- on the Wek'eezhii
9 Renewable Resources Board. We have a Tlicho
10 representative. His name is Charlie Jeremick'ca from
11 Whati. Suzanne Carriere, Steve Matthews; both are
12 representing the government. Grant Pryznyk is -- who
13 used to be a chair. And right now we have Edward
14 Chocolate, and Archie Wetrade from Gameti who is --
15 also sits on the Board.

16 Yes -- with the Board here to listen,
17 and then -- and from then on I guess I will have to
18 come to -- make a decision on a -- on a final date at
19 one point in the future. So this is what's going to
20 happen during the course of the hearing for the next
21 two (2) days.

22 We have a representative for the
23 Government of Canada. A representative. He's not
24 reappointed. So we have technical advisors, Bruce
25 MacDonald here with us. Yes, we have legal counsel

1 here with us. You have -- we've got John Donihee and
2 Dr. Anne Gunn is here, too, as an advisor. And Dr.
3 Alice Legat, from traditional knowledge advisor. Yes,
4 Dr. Anne Gunn and Alice Legat are here. They're very
5 special to us because we need their expertise to help
6 the Board.

7 And we have a plan here with us, too,
8 as well. He's a biologist, a specialist for --
9 working for the Renewable Resources. And we have Jody
10 Pellissey as -- as a director of the -- for Renewable
11 Resources Board.

12 Yes, we'll be here for the next two (2)
13 days. Like I said, that we have a heavy load of work
14 to be done in the next few days. And we do have all
15 representative from the -- ENR representative.

16 And with the joint proposal that's came
17 up on time, I guess, that that's reason why we're here
18 with the -- say we have to have some -- we have to
19 have some wolf control, as well, too, wolf management
20 plan in there, so we're going to be doing these
21 questions. And then the -- I guess it's all --
22 presented in the course of our hearing.

23 And we do have some Tlicho Government
24 representative that made the joint management plan
25 with the ENR. And the -- I think they have -- but a -

1 - a mobile zone has been set in place for this known
2 hunting for the band, for hunting caribou. And that
3 like I said, that -- you know, the predators, such as
4 other species, like wolves, I guess -- and other
5 things, this is probably within our agenda.

6 So under the Tlicho Agreement of 12.5,
7 Section -- under the Tlicho Agreement 12.3 -- and so
8 the Board works under that section and has
9 responsibility for all that. And we are here to
10 listen to the public. And so the meeting -- the
11 meeting has began two (2) years ago.

12 And as to how Monfwi has made this
13 agreement and how the Tlicho have made an agreement,
14 through the Tlicho agreement, it has made it able so
15 that through our Tlicho agreement, it -- it specifies
16 that we are able to hold hearings.

17 On January 18 -- beginning January 18,
18 public notice of the Bathurst pro -- proceedings --
19 and so we will be discussing all that information.
20 All evidence filed to date in this proceeding may be
21 found in the Board's registry.

22 There are four (4) registered parties
23 for this proceeding; two (2) Intervenor, the
24 Yellowknife Dene First Nation and the North Slave
25 Metis Alliance, ENR, and Tlicho Government. The Board

1 and legal staff, legal counsel, have been working with
2 the parties to ensure this process runs smoothly and
3 that the Board secures the information that it needs.
4 Thank you.

5 So we will now turn the floor (TLICHO
6 LANGUAGE SPOKEN) Steve (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

7
8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9
10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
11 Jonas. And good morning, everybody. I would now like
12 to just provide everybody with some procedural
13 information regarding the hearing. I'd like to make
14 note that this -- these hearings are -- are being
15 recorded and transcribed by Robert Keelaghan, Digi-
16 Tran Inc. reporter. Therefore, I ask that when you
17 speak, please provide any comments you make with your
18 name and the organization that you represent.

19 Also, I would ask that you be mindful
20 that we have interpreters, James Rabesca and Violet
21 MacKenzie. These proceedings are simultaneously being
22 translated, so please pace yourself accordingly.

23 The order of the meetings will be as
24 follows. The Board will first hear from ENR regarding
25 the Bathurst Caribou Herd Joint Management Proposal

1 before the Board. We will then have -- they will have
2 one (1) hour to make that presentation.

3 Once ENR has completed its
4 presentation, the Tlicho Government will make its
5 presentation regarding the Joint Management Proposal.
6 They will also have one (1) hour to make that
7 presentation. A question period will follow those
8 presentations and the order of questions will be as
9 follows: The Yellowknives Dene First Nation, North
10 Slave Metis Alliance, and then Board traditional
11 knowledge and science advisors, followed by any
12 questions from Board staff and legal counsel.

13 The Board members will have the last
14 opportunity to ask questions. Each party will have
15 fifteen (15) minutes to question ENR. At the end of
16 the fifteen (15) minutes, the registered party may
17 request the co-Chairs to allow additional time to
18 complete the questioning if required.

19 When questions to ENR and Tlicho
20 government are completed, we will proceed to the
21 Intervenors' presentations regarding the Joint
22 Management Proposal. Each Intervenor will be allowed
23 thirty (30) minutes to make their presentation. More
24 than one (1) person can deliver a presentation, but
25 there is still a thirty (30) minute time limit for

1 that presentation.

2 WRRB staff will be keeping track of
3 time and will remind you of your time remaining at
4 five (5) minutes and one (1) minute. Each
5 presentation will be followed by a reasonable but
6 limited period of questions, first by ENR, Tlicho
7 government, and then in the same order as previously
8 set out.

9 Time has been set aside for registered
10 general public to make a general statement on each day
11 on a first come, first serve basis. Speakers will
12 have ten (10) minutes to make that statement. There
13 is no questioning during this period. I would ask
14 that anybody wishing to make a statement during these
15 times please register at the door, including preferred
16 date of presentation. This will help us to manage our
17 time.

18 All right. Thank you. You were too
19 far. The Board wants to make this hearing as informal
20 as possible. However, the Board is bound by rules of
21 procedural fairness. And as the co-chairs, we are
22 responsible for the conduct of this hearing. And I
23 would ask that all comments and questions be addressed
24 through the co-chairs.

25 At the end of the hearings, the

1 registered parties will have an opportunity to prevent
2 (sic) closing comments. All closing comments will be
3 limited to no more than ten (10) minutes, and be used
4 to wrap up the evidence submitted during the hearing
5 only. The co-chairs will also make closing comments,
6 and then the hearing will come to an end.

7 Final written arguments from
8 Intervenor are to be submitted by March 8th, 2016.
9 ENR and the Tlicho government must submit their
10 comments, their final written arguments, sorry, by
11 March 11th, 2016. The public record will close on
12 March 11th, 2016.

13 These hearings are scheduled from 9:00
14 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. We will be taking a break
15 for lunch between 12:00 and 1:15 daily. Lunch will
16 not be provided. We will be taking appropriate rest
17 breaks and have coffee -- coffee and refreshments
18 available, so please help yourselves.

19 Now, before I proceed to the ENR
20 presentation, are there any other preliminary or legal
21 issues?

22 Yes, Mr. Bachand?

23 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Thank you. Good
24 morning, Co-Chairs. Paul Bachand. I am legal counsel
25 for the Tlicho government. We have one (1) request

1 and one (1) information item for you this morning.
2 The request has to do -- Tlicho government's
3 presentation. We did a dry run of presentations
4 yesterday, and we found that one (1) hour was
5 insufficient time.

6 We apologize for not being able to --
7 to be as accurate as we would like. But after the dry
8 run, we found out that it'll probably take an hour or
9 twenty (20) minutes to an hour twenty-five (25)
10 minutes for those, and we're making application to --
11 to have our time adjusted for that matter.

12 And secondly, one (1) of our
13 presenters, John Nishi, made a couple of fairly minor
14 changes to the presentation. We submitted it
15 electronically and we were asked by -- by Board staff
16 to contact YKDFN and the North Slave Metis Alliance to
17 see if they have any objections to the changes. We
18 saw both representatives here this morning, and we can
19 report that there were no -- there were no objections
20 to the changes that were made.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Bachand. I think we do have sufficient time to
23 accommodate you today. We have lots of time, so we'd
24 certainly like to hear your full presentation as -- as
25 it is. Thank you.

1 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Thank you very
2 much.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Before we
4 move to the first presentation -- question? Yes?

5 DR. SARAH KAY: Good morning, Mr.
6 Chair. Sarah Kay. I'm legal counsel for the
7 Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources.

9 We find ourselves in the same position
10 as the Tlicho Government. When we did the dry run of
11 our presentation yesterday, we were creeping up to the
12 two (2) hour mark.

13 We were conscious of the fact that
14 these proceedings will be subject to translation, and
15 that does account -- on a number of times, I reminded
16 my clients they need to slow down in order to
17 accommodate the translators. And so we would ask for
18 the ability to conclude our full presentation on this
19 complex and important material.

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
21 very much.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. I

1 think given that we do have, again, considerable time,
2 and in the -- in terms of being fair and having each
3 party be allowed the time that they need, well, that's
4 certainly granted. Thank you very much.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Just another
9 couple of items here before we get onto the first
10 presentation. Just so everybody's aware, there is
11 media personnel in the room today. We have Kate Kyle
12 from CBC and Mark Rendell from the Edge.

13 And again, before we get to the first
14 presentation, if I could just get names for the -- the
15 lead primary spokesperson for each of the -- the
16 presentations this morning so that we could have that
17 on record.

18 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: It's Fred
19 Mandeville, for ENR.

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay.
21 Tlicho Government...?

22 MR. JOHN NISHI: Good morning. John
23 Nishi, Tlicho Government. I will be leading off, but
24 I -- so I guess by definition, I'll be the lead
25 speaker, but there will be three (3) other esteemed

1 speakers to present on behalf of the Tlicho
2 Government. Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Nishi. North Slave Metis Alliance...?

5 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Shin Shiga, with
6 North Slave Metis Alliance.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. And
8 the YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION Dene?

9 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
10 Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
12 much, Mr. Power. Okay. So I guess we'll see how all
13 this goes.

14 Now our times have been changed a
15 little bit, but I guess we can now move on with ENR's
16 presentation. Thank you very much.

17

18 PRESENTATION BY ENR:

19 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Good morning,
20 Mr. Chair, Board members, staff, Elders, community
21 members, and all participants in the hearing. My name
22 is Fred Mandeville, and I am the Acting Assistant
23 Deputy Minister of Operations for the Department of
24 Environment and Natural Resources.

25 With me today to do the presentations

1 are Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife. Excuse me,
2 Mr. Bruno Croft, Manager of Research and Monitoring,
3 North Slave Region. Mr. Jan Adamczewski, ungulate
4 biologist. Also attending the hearings on behalf of
5 the Department are Sarah Kay and Simone Tielesh, legal
6 counsel for the government of the Northwest
7 Territories, Roger Fraser, Acting Regional
8 Superintendent, North Slave Region, Karin Clark,
9 Cumulative Effects Biologist, Brett Elkin, Manager of
10 Wildlife Research and Management, and John Boulanger,
11 a statistician who has worked on contract with
12 Environment and Natural Resources for many years.

13 We appreciate the opportunity to speak
14 to the Board and present the proposal on management
15 actions for the Bathurst caribou herd 2016/2019
16 submitted jointly with the Tlicho Government in
17 December of 2015.

18 The first part of our presentation this
19 morning will outline our biological information on the
20 herd, and the second part will focus on the main
21 points of the management proposal. The Tlicho
22 Government will present its information on the herd,
23 and further details on the management proposal.

24 Conservation of the Bathurst caribou
25 herd is an important issue for all of us here today.

1 We all know the current situation of the Bathurst
2 herd. It's in a very troubled situation. Even with
3 the management actions taken over the past seven (7)
4 years, the herd is still declining. The Government of
5 the Northwest Territories realizes the hardship these
6 management actions have caused the users of the herd,
7 especially the Aboriginal harvesters in the Tlicho and
8 North Slave region.

9 The joint proposal calls for the
10 continuation of zero harvest of the herd. We believe
11 any harvest would add to mortality rates of the herd,
12 and contribute to its ongoing decline. It also
13 identifies actions to deal with predator reduction,
14 and monitor the herd for the next four (4) years.

15 We look forward to a thorough
16 discussion of this proposal with the Board and
17 Intervenor, the Yellowknife Dene First Nation, and
18 the North Slave Metis Alliance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 I will now turn it over to Mr. Jan
21 Adamczewski to begin our presentation.

22 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Good morning.
23 Just to add a little bit of clarity, there will be
24 three (3) of us taking turns this morning with various
25 parts of the presentation. So I will lead off, and

1 Bruno will present some parts of it, and Linda will
2 present some parts of it, as well.

3 Our presentation to day has two (2)
4 main sections. Part A is on the Bathurst herd status,
5 and Part B is on proposed management actions. This
6 slide is a summary of the nine (9) components of the
7 first part of our presentation. These include the
8 following:

9 First, the GNWT responsibilities for
10 wildlife management under the Northwest Territories
11 Act, and how those responsibilities fit with other
12 parties' management responsibilities. Second, how
13 migratory tundra caribou herds are defined. We will
14 pause our presentation to show some short animations
15 that demonstrate how collared caribou from the
16 Bathurst herd, and other herds, move on the landscape
17 throughout the year.

18 Third, a brief description of why we
19 manage caribou on the basis of herds defined by
20 distinct calving grounds. Fourth, a description of
21 long-term fluctuations, some times called cycles, in
22 caribou abundance, and a brief review of global trends
23 in caribou numbers.

24 Fifth, a brief description of the main
25 factors that we know affect caribou herd size and

1 trend. Sixth, a description of key indicators of
2 population trend in a caribou herd. Seventh, a short
3 review of what we know about the Bathurst herds
4 current size and trend, including key indicators.
5 Eighth, a brief consideration of whether the Bathurst
6 herd may have gone somewhere else. And finally, a
7 simple projection of the herd's likely trend in the
8 next few years based on a population model.

9 This slide lists the six (6) components
10 of the second part of our presentation, which is
11 focussed more on proposed management actions.

12 First, the overall management context
13 for the Bathurst herd, including long-term planning
14 and range planning for the caribou herd.

15 Second, a brief summary on past short-
16 term management proposals for the Bathurst herd since
17 2009.

18 Third, the management actions proposed
19 for 2016 to 2019 by the Tlicho Government and ENR.

20 Fourth, a description of some of the
21 key meetings and communications in the last year or so
22 with Tlicho communities, the Wek'eezhii Board and
23 other Aboriginal users of the herd.

24 Fifth, a summary of Bathurst caribou
25 management under discussion in Nunavut given that this

1 is a transboundary herd with its calving grounds and a
2 portion of the summer range in Nunavut.

3 And finally, we will end our
4 presentation with a summary slide that highlights key
5 points about the herd status and proposed management.

6 The Government of the Northwest
7 Territories gets its mandate to manage wildlife from
8 the Northwest Territories Act. This Act gives the
9 GNWT the authority to make laws with respect to the
10 conservation of wildlife and its habitat. These laws
11 apply throughout the Northwest Territories and to all
12 people, including Aboriginal people.

13 One (1) of the main tools used by the
14 Government of the Northwest Territories to manage
15 wildlife is the Wildlife Act. Under the Wildlife Act,
16 the Government of the Northwest Territories can set up
17 management zones for different species and seasons,
18 quotas and other restrictions for each zone.

19 The new Wildlife Act which came into
20 effect in 2014 was developed through a collaborative
21 process that involved Aboriginal governments and
22 organizations as well as co-management boards
23 established under land claim agreements.

24 The Wildlife Act recognizes and
25 respects Aboriginal and treaty rights. The Wildlife

1 Act is also designed to respect and work with land
2 claim agreements that set out the rights of
3 beneficiaries and regimes for the management of
4 wildlife.

5 In this case, the Tlicho agreement lays
6 out the rights of Tlicho citizens and the role of the
7 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board which acts as a
8 main instrument for wildlife management.

9 Migratory caribou herds like the
10 Bathurst herd are harvested by a range of other
11 Aboriginal users, as well, and their rights must also
12 be recognized as -- recognized, pardon me. The
13 Government of the Northwest Territories consults with
14 other Aboriginal groups where their rights may be
15 affected.

16 There are multiple processes in place
17 to manage Bathurst caribou that involve a range of
18 different players. It is only through a collaborative
19 approach that caribou can -- management can be
20 effective.

21 This map shows the annual ranges and
22 calving grounds of the migratory barren-ground caribou
23 herds that occur entirely or -- or partially in the
24 Northwest Territories. The annual ranges are based on
25 accumulated satellite radio collar locations from

1 female caribou over time.

2 For each heard, the calving grounds are
3 the darker polygons, or LOBs in technical terms, found
4 at the north end of each annual range. The Bathurst's
5 range is the big, green triangle in the middle with
6 the calving grounds since 1996 found west of Bathurst
7 Inlet. The Bathurst range as mapped here takes in
8 about 350,000 square kilometres, so it's a big piece
9 of real estate.

10 We will take a short break now from the
11 PowerPoint presentation to show you a couple of
12 animations that show the annual movements of the
13 Bathurst herd and neighbouring herds. And I will turn
14 this over to Bruno Croft.

15 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jan.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to read first a few
17 notes describing what we'll show you in the
18 animations. And then I'll walk over to the computer
19 to actually run them, unless, Jody, you feel
20 comfortable in doing so.

21 Mr. Chair, we will now show you two (2)
22 caribou animations based on movement and distribution
23 of barren-ground caribou collared in the NWT in
24 Nunavut between 1994 and 2013.

25 The first animation will show the

1 Bathurst herd in relation to the Bluenose East herd
2 ranging to the west and the Beverly heard ranging to
3 the east. The second animation will show all the
4 barren-ground caribou herds located in Nunavut and the
5 NWT.

6 As we roll through this animation
7 please note the date at the top of the map showing the
8 time of the year at ten (10) day intervals starting in
9 the winter. Location of caribou is depicted by a dot
10 with different colours for each herd.

11 Beverly's in blue, Bathurst is darker,
12 rusty brown, And -- and Bluenose East is shown light
13 brown. The colours might change depending on the
14 monitor.

15 So the outliner on each colour
16 distribution for each herd represents its annual home
17 range. And what it will also note is the location of
18 each of their respective calving grounds. The calving
19 ground of each of these herds is where we conduct the
20 calving photo survey every three (3) years, in our
21 case here the Bathurst.

22 And we'll run the -- the first
23 animation without stopping, so you can get familiar
24 with what it does. And we'll then return the first
25 animation -- rerun the first animation, pardon me, and

1 stop the movement of the caribou first, Mr. Chair, at
2 the outset of the spring migration. Second, at peak
3 of calving. Third, late summer. And finally, during
4 the rut. Then we will let the animation run its
5 course until the end of the cycle. Finally, we will
6 run the second animation showing all the herds at the
7 same time non-stop.

8 So, Jody, if you don't mind.

9

10 (VIDEO PLAYED)

11

12 MR. BRUNO CROFT: There we go. Thank
13 you, Jody. Mr. Chair, we actually started with the
14 last run, all the herds together, but that's okay.
15 I'll switch to the -- the first one.

16

17 (VIDEO PLAYED)

18

19 MR. BRUNO CROFT: As mentioned
20 earlier, we have the Bluenose East to the west with
21 its outline and its annual range. We see its calving
22 ground. We have the Bathurst herd in the middle. And
23 its calving ground is located up here. And the
24 Bluenose East -- sorry, the Beverly to the east, and
25 its calving ground in this area.

1 (VIDEO PLAYED)

2

3 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Here we go, Mr.
4 Chair. We'll rerun it and stop it as mentioned
5 earlier, all different times during the migration for
6 each of those herds. And again, please keep -- keep
7 your eyes at the top here. It'll tell you where we
8 are in the annual cycle in terms of time. Here we go.
9 We're starting. So this is the winter.

10

11 (VIDEO PLAYED)

12

13 MR. BRUNO CROFT: And I will stop it
14 just right about here, sort of at the outset of the
15 spring migration. Some herds initiate a spring
16 migration earlier than others, but that gives you an
17 idea of what's happening for those three (3) herds as
18 they start leaving for the calving ground.

19

20 (VIDEO PLAYED)

21

22 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Okay -- stop here.
23 Okay. Let's stop it here. It's more or less peak of
24 calving. You can see where the Bluenose East calving
25 ground is located. You can see where the Bathurst loc

1 -- calving ground is located.

2 This is where we conducted the
3 photographic survey this past June, and it's been the
4 case since 1996. And this is where the Beverly herd
5 was located at peak of calving. Totally discrete,
6 separated from each other. And I'll keep on going
7 here for -- it's a little hard without a mouse.

8

9 (VIDEO PLAYED)

10

11 MR. BRUNO CROFT: And I will stop it
12 for you, as promised, a bit later. Like -- like right
13 here. That may be a bit later in the summer. We --
14 we're beyond post-calving, and now the animals are
15 starting the southern migration slowly towards the --
16 the tree line.

17

18 (VIDEO PLAYED)

19

20 MR. BRUNO CROFT: And then I'll stop
21 it one (1) more time for you right here. Maybe one
22 (1) more.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Right here, which is
2 more or less around peak of the rutting season. And
3 again, you can see the distribution of each of those
4 animals in relation to the other herds. And again,
5 that's the time of year when the cows and the bulls
6 are congregated together. And now I will let it run
7 until the end of the cycle, Mr. Chair, and I'll go
8 back to my seat.

9

10 (VIDEO PLAYED)

11

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thanks, Bruno.
13 Mr. Chairman -- chairman, I will sort of pick up the
14 presentation from this point on. So since the 1960s,
15 migratory tundra caribou herds across North America
16 have been named and managed based on the distinct
17 calving grounds that female caribou return to every
18 year in June.

19 There are migratory tundra reindeer
20 herds in Siberia, in Russia, that are ecologically
21 similar to our tundra caribou herds, and these
22 populations also have distinct calving grounds, and
23 are known and managed accordingly.

24 In the animation you saw how the cows
25 were fairly spread out on the winter range with

1 sometimes considerable overlap between neighbouring
2 herds. In late May and June though, they predicably
3 separate out and move to their individual calving
4 grounds.

5 Since satellite collars have been
6 placed on migratory barren-ground caribou in the
7 Northwest Territories in the mid 1990s, ENR has kept
8 track of collared cows where at least two (2)
9 consecutive June locations during calving were known.
10 We have generally found that collared cows will return
11 to the same calving ground in consecutive years 96 to
12 98 percent of the time. The other 2 to 4 percent of
13 cases show a low rate of switches between neighbouring
14 herds.

15 This has been the case for the Bathurst
16 herd, as well. 96 to 98 percent of the time, cows
17 that calved on the Bathurst calving ground have
18 returned there the next year, and a small number of
19 times cows have switched to the east and to the west
20 to the neighbouring calving grounds.

21 There's also the same low rate of
22 switches in reverse from the Bluenose East, and
23 Beverly and Ahiak calving grounds to the Bathurst
24 calving grounds. Thus, overall very little net
25 movement between neighbouring herds.

1 In 2008, the Alberta Research Council
2 carried out an independent review of the Government of
3 the Northwest Territories barren-ground caribou
4 program. In their 2009 report, the Alberta Research
5 Council endorsed the herd-based management used by the
6 Government of the Northwest Territories, and noted
7 that this was standard practice across North America.

8 It is also worth mentioning that some
9 migratory tundra caribou hoods -- herds may be
10 ancient. In 1993, Russell and co-authors wrote about
11 the Porcupine herd:

12 "We are relatively certain that the
13 herd has existed as an entity for
14 several thousand years."

15 Bergerud and co-authors in 2008 in a
16 humongous book on caribou wrote:

17 "Similarly, we believe that the
18 George River herd has traditionally
19 summered northeast of Indian House
20 Lake for the past seventy-five
21 hundred (7,500) to four thousand
22 (4,000) years."

23 Although we don't know how long the
24 Bathurst herd has been on the landscape, it is
25 deserving of our respect and conversation requires us

1 to do our best to keep this population on the
2 landscape for future generations.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Large scale
7 fluctuations in the size of migratory tundra caribou
8 herds have been known to Aboriginal people for many
9 generations across their North American range from
10 Labrador to Alaska. Surveys carried out by biologists
11 do not extend as far back in time as traditional
12 knowledge. But surveys since the 1950s and other
13 scientific studies also show that herds have gone
14 through big changes in abundance over time.

15 The graph on the left shows population
16 estimates for the Bathurst herd in the Northwest
17 Territories and Nunavut and the George River herd
18 found in Quebec, Labrador. So the Bathurst herd is in
19 blue and the George River herd there is in red.

20 The George River herd has had an even
21 more dramatic fall than the Bathurst herd since the
22 1980s with an estimated herd size in the late 1980s of
23 six hundred thousand (600,000) or more. And, in fact,
24 some of the estimates have ranged upwards of eight
25 hundred thousand (800,000) and an estimated herd size

1 in 2015, according to a recent new -- news release, of
2 about ten thousand (10,000) caribou with a declining
3 trend.

4 For the Bathurst herd, traditional
5 knowledge from Tlicho Elders has document high numbers
6 in the 1940s and the 1980s and low numbers between
7 these two (2) periods. The length of time between
8 periods of high numbers in caribou abundance varies
9 regionally and has shown to be between thirty (30) and
10 a hundred years.

11 This graph shows the estimated herd
12 size of the Fortymile caribou herd in Alaska,
13 sometimes in the Yukon, between 1950 and 1990. The
14 range in herd size that's shown here is between zero
15 and eighty thousand (80,000), but in the 1920s this
16 herd was once estimated as at least three hundred
17 thousand (300,000), possibly as high as five hundred
18 thousand (500,000).

19 It then dropped to much lower numbers
20 of forty (40) to sixty thousand (60,000) in the 1950s
21 and 1960s and may have dropped as low as about seven
22 thousand (7,000) in the early 1970s. Since then, it
23 has recovered to a little over fifty thousand (50,000)
24 as of about two (2) years ago. And it is unclear
25 whether it will ever again reach the hundreds of

1 thousands that it reached a hundred years ago.

2 It is useful to be aware of this herd's
3 history as it shows that long-term fluctuations of
4 caribou herds are not always predictable cycles and
5 that herds may sometimes reach relatively low numbers
6 and stay at those numbers for many years.

7 We would like to take a brief look now
8 at global trends and numbers of caribou. This is a
9 map from a paper published in 2009 called Global
10 declines of caribou and reindeer. It shows the
11 northern part of our planet. And all the numbered
12 LOBs, again that lovely that biologist's technical
13 term, those are migratory tundra herds like the
14 Bathurst. But it also shows on the map the Peary
15 caribou that we have on our arctic islands and boreal
16 woodland caribou further south in Canada.

17 The red cop -- caribou populations are
18 declining ones, the green ones are increasing, and the
19 grey ones are a population where status was unknown.
20 There's a lot of red on this map and not much green.

21 The overall status of the world's
22 caribou and wild reindeer populations is a major
23 concerns in the country where they occur and in the
24 communities particularly that depend on them. This
25 map was published in 2009, but, unfortunately, the

1 situation in 2015 has not improved.

2 I will turn the microphone over now to
3 Bruno Croft for the next part of our presentation.

4 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jan. Mr.
5 Chair, thank you. There are many factors that affect
6 condition and abundance of caribou, and they will be
7 familiar to all of you who have known and lived with
8 the caribou for many, many years.

9 Weather affects caribou at all time of
10 year. Fire can greatly affect the forested winter
11 ranges that caribou depend on. The cumulative effects
12 of development such as mine, roads, and other human
13 influences on land are an increasing concern on the
14 range of the Bathurst herd.

15 Harvest can have a significant effect
16 on the herds in some situations, Mr. Chair, and
17 predators kill calves and adult caribou throughout the
18 year. We will talk about each of these factors
19 briefly on the next slides.

20 Mr. Chair, weather affects caribou at
21 all time of year, as we mentioned, and effects of
22 weather on range condition. A likely key factor is in
23 the large scale fluctuations on all caribou herds.

24 The information on this slide is a
25 courtesy of Dr. Don Russell, who was a longtime

1 caribou biologist with the federal government and is
2 now an active member of the CircumArctic Rangifer
3 Monitoring and Assessment Network in Whitehorse, also
4 known as CARMA, also known a bit here.

5 The slide shows, Mr. Chair, an index of
6 drought condition in July on the summer ranges of the
7 Bathurst and Porcupine caribou herds from 1979 to
8 2014. The information is based on remote sensing of
9 satellite images over time.

10 The trend of the Bathurst herd, 2009 to
11 2014, in purple, is an increasing drought code, with a
12 peak in 2014. As we all know here, 2014 was a hot dry
13 summer in the NWT and a record year for fires.

14 Drought conditions on the summer range
15 likely also met the -- the vegetation caribou eat in
16 the summer did not grow as well and did not provide
17 good feeding conditions as -- as normal. This could
18 have led to cows being in poor condition in the fall
19 and a low pregnancy rate.

20 Indeed, Mr. Chair, the June 2015
21 calving photo survey for the Bathurst herd show that
22 about 40 percent of the cows did not produce a calf
23 and suggests a pregnancy rate of about 60 percent,
24 well below the 80 percent usually seen in healthy
25 herds.

1 The drought code -- or the drought
2 index, pardon me, on the Porcupine herd summer range
3 shows a very different pattern. It has generally been
4 low since the 1990s and much lower than on the
5 Bathurst range. It is worth noting, Mr. Chair, that
6 the Porcupine herd has been one (1) of the few
7 exceptions to the generally declining trend in caribou
8 herd size in NWT herds since 2000.

9 The Porcupine herd has increased
10 recently and numbered about two hundred thousand
11 (200,000) animals in 2014. It is unlikely that a
12 drought code or summer feeding conditions alone can ex
13 -- explain the Porcupine herds increasing trend.
14 There will always be multiple reasons for an
15 increasing or a decreasing trend.

16 However, Mr. Chair, the comparison
17 suggests that hot dry summers in poor feeding
18 conditions for Bathurst caribou may have contributed
19 significantly to the herds recent trend. Please let
20 me know if I go too fast.

21 This slide, Mr. Chair, shows another
22 index of summer condition over time for the Bathurst
23 herd and the Porcupine herd over the same period, 1979
24 to 2014. In the summer biting flies, as we all know,
25 mosquitos, black flies, and particularly warble flies,

1 can really bother animals or caribou and interfere
2 with their feeding, sometimes even causing caribou to
3 lose weight, and at the time when green vegetation is
4 the most nutritious.

5 This is particularly true in July when
6 conditions are usually the warmest. The activity of
7 biting flies is tied to temperature and wind speed.
8 They are most active and most bothersome to caribou
9 when it is warm and calm.

10 Mr. Chair, summer weather records can
11 be used to derive an index of activity level in warble
12 flies, which usually cause the strongest reaction in
13 caribou. The warble fly index shows higher level on
14 the Bathurst range than on the Porcupine range, and an
15 increasing trend for the Bathurst herd to 2014, which
16 shows up as the worst season on record.

17 The index is likely correlated with the
18 drought index of the previous slide. It suggests that
19 poor summer feeding condition in recent years may have
20 also happened at the same time as exceptionally high
21 insect harassment, further interfering with caribou
22 feeding and likely leading to a low pregnancy rate and
23 low calf production. These, Mr. Chair, are just two
24 (2) example of how weather affect caribou in the
25 summer. Winter snow condition, particularly ice

1 layers, and the timing of spring green-up when cows
2 are nursing young calves are other ways that
3 environmental conditions can affect caribou.

4 The map on the left part, Mr. Chair, on
5 this slide shows the fires that burned in the NWT in
6 2014. Some of the largest fires were between Fort
7 Providence and Bechoko. And there were other large
8 fires in the North Slave region, as we all know so
9 well. The graph on the -- on the right shows the
10 estimated total area burned in each year starting in
11 1975 and up to 2014. The green bar at the right end
12 was for the fires of -- in 2014, which was the highest
13 total area burned over that time period.
14 Approximately 3.4 million hectares of forest burned in
15 that year alone, Mr. Chair.

16 Caribou have co-existed with fire on
17 the winter range for thousands of years. In the
18 short-term caribou usually avoid recently burned
19 forest as winter range because the fire burns the
20 lichen that are their primary winter forage. Lichens
21 are slow growing, so regeneration takes decades. Mr.
22 Chair, caribou will use burnt areas -- or burnt
23 forests were -- very little until they are at least
24 forty (40) to sixty (60) years old, and generally
25 prefer forests that are more than a hundred years old.

1 Losses of portion of the winter range
2 of -- to fire are not necessarily catastrophic, as
3 long as there are other unburned areas that the herd
4 can winter in and find enough lichens. A two (2) -- a
5 study by Tara Barrier in 2011 of Bathurst caribou used
6 of burned and unburned areas on the winter range
7 confirmed the general avoidance of recent burn by
8 caribou, but suggested overall that the herd's winter
9 range had an adequate supply of old -- older forest
10 with good lichen abundance.

11 The future of the Bathurst winter range
12 remains uncertain though, and if there are more big
13 fires like 2014, Mr. Chair, then the overall age
14 distribution of the forest may shift more to younger
15 age classes with less lichen. If this trend
16 continues, Mr. Chair, there may come a point when the
17 overall supply of lichen-rich winter range becomes
18 more of a limiting factor for the herd. We need to
19 recognize that there are limit to what can be done,
20 especially in a big fire year like 2014. And that com
21 -- and that communities and human infrastructure will
22 always be the highest priority for fire suppression.

23 Mr. Chair, the next slide shows that in
24 recent years there has been an increased concern over
25 the effect of development on the Bathurst herd, and

1 particularly on poss -- on possible effect of the
2 mines and roads on the caribou herd. This map shows
3 the existing all weather and winter roads on the
4 Bathurst range, along with the communities and
5 existing mines of Ekati, Snap Lake, Diavik, and Gahcho
6 Kue.

7 A buffer, called a "zone of influence,"
8 or ZOI, is known around communities' roads and mines,
9 as there is evidence that caribou avoid developed or
10 disturbed areas to various distances up to 14
11 kilometres from the mine and 4 kilometres from roads.

12 Exploration camps are also shown as
13 pink dots on this map, Mr. Chair. A recently showed
14 traditional knowledge today, in 2016, has suggested
15 that caribou avoid areas around the mine and that the
16 mines have affected caribou health and condition.

17 Mr. Chair, scientific studies also
18 suggest that caribou avoid disturbed sites like mines
19 and road. Population modelling has suggested that
20 there have been relatively small but significant
21 effect on the heard at the population scale through
22 effects on energy balance and cow condition and
23 pregnancy rate.

24 With the herd now at record low numbers
25 and showing a declining trend, Mr. Chair, monitoring

1 and minimizing the effect of development of the herd
2 is important.

3 Mr. Chair, this map is the same as the
4 previous one but includes a number of additional mines
5 that may enter production in coming years. It is
6 important to bear in mind that there are proposals for
7 many possible mineral properties in the North Slave
8 region, but which of these will go ahead is uncertain
9 and depends on various factors that include the world
10 market and for metals and precious minerals.

11 Mr. Chair, at present, the NICO,
12 Courageous Lake, Kennady North and Black River project
13 are under discussion and there is potential for the
14 Lupin mine to reopen. Some of these projects are just
15 at the discussion stage while others are further along
16 in the environmental assessment process.

17 It will continue to be important, Mr.
18 Chair, to consider possible effect on the Bathurst
19 herd for further development proposed for its range
20 and to minimize those effects as much as possible.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, hunter
25 harvest of caribou is one (1) of them few factors

1 directly affecting caribou mortality rates that we can
2 control. It is unlikely that harvest is one (1) of
3 the main drivers of the overall caribou cycle or long-
4 term fluctuation in caribou numbers. Those have
5 occurred with or without substantial hunter harvest,
6 Mr. Chair.

7 However, harvest can become a
8 significant contributor to decline in a herd if the
9 harvest is large relative to herd size. It is largely
10 made up of breeding cows -- pardon me, if it is
11 largely made up of breeding cows and if the herd has
12 an underlining declining trend.

13 This slide show -- shows population
14 trend in three (2) Northwest Territories herd from
15 2000 -- to 2012. On the left in red, our estimate of
16 herd size for the relative small -- relatively small
17 Cape Bathurst herd which declined rapidly from 2000 to
18 2006.

19 All harvest of this herd was closed in
20 2007. And since then, Mr. Chair, the herd has been
21 approximately stable. Harvest closure meant that
22 mortality of adult caribou was substantially
23 decreased. Stabilization was also in part due to an
24 increase in calf recruitment and possibly an increase
25 in natural survival rates.

1 The graph in the middle, Mr. Chair, in
2 blue shows population trend in the Bluenose West herd.
3 It shows a similar pattern to the Cape Bathurst herd.
4 There was a large decline from 2000 to 2006. In 2007,
5 harvest was substantially reduced to 4 percent of the
6 herd and 80 percent bulls where the harvest had
7 previously been mostly cows and much larger.

8 This herd improved calf recruitment.
9 And possibly an improved natural survival rate also
10 contributed to the herd's stabilization.

11 On the right, Mr. Chair, in green, our
12 herd estimate for the Bathurst herd between 2000 and
13 2012. The herd declined most rapidly between 2006 and
14 2009. Most likely, the herd had a declining natural
15 trend between 2000 and 2006, and -- as calf number
16 were low over that period.

17 It also happens that the herd remained
18 very accessible to hunters on the winter roads, even
19 as it dropped to lower numbers. We estimate that
20 annual harvest was on the order of five thousand
21 (5,000) caribou per year, most of them breeding cows,
22 and the harvest stayed at about the same level because
23 the herd was easy to find on the winter range.

24 Mr. Chair, a harvest of five thousand
25 (5,000) caribou a year would not have been a big

1 problem when the herd was three hundred and fifty
2 thousand (350,000) animal. But from a much smaller
3 herd, the same harvest of five thousand (5,000)
4 caribou would have a major impact.

5 Harvest was reduced by about 95 percent
6 in this herd in 2010. And at least from 2009 to 2012,
7 the herd showed an approximately stable trend, as with
8 the other two (2) herds. Improved calf recruitment
9 and possible increase in natural survival rates also
10 have been a stabilizing trend in the herd.

11 Mr. Chair, wolves kill calf and adult
12 caribou throughout the year, and are one of the main
13 causes of caribou mortality. Grizzly bears also kill
14 caribou, but studies generally indicate that most
15 grizzly bear predation on caribou is around the peak
16 of calving, and in the next two (2) or three (3) weeks
17 when young calves are fairly vulnerable to predators.

18 Mr. Chair, wolves are difficult to
19 count currently because they are current low densities
20 over very large areas. This graph is from a master
21 thesis study by Mike Klaczek, and it shows relative
22 numbers of Bathurst caribou and wolves on the Bathurst
23 summer range from 1996 to 2014.

24 The grey dotted line, Mr. Chair, shows
25 the abundance of Bathurst caribou over that time. The

1 solid grey line shows the trend in wolf numbers at den
2 sites monitored on the Bathurst summer range since
3 1996. The black dotted line shows likely wolf
4 abundance estimated using a population model.

5 Information collected by ENR North
6 Slave region biologist, Mr. Dean Cluff, also indicates
7 that wolf pup productivity at den sites declined in
8 recent years with the caribou herd at lower numbers.

9 Overall, Mr. Chair, these studies
10 suggest that number of and productivities of wolves
11 associated with the Bathurst herd has declined since
12 1996, when the herd was still estimated at three
13 hundred and fifty thousand (350,000) caribou. This
14 seems reasonable, as these wolves do not have a lot of
15 alternate food sources, and the much larger caribou
16 herd likely supported more wolves than a much smaller
17 herd.

18 However, Mr. Chair, there clearly are
19 still wolves on the Bathurst range, and their
20 importance as a source of caribou mortality and the
21 limiting factor for caribou is likely greater in a
22 declining herd at lower numbers than in a larger herd
23 with good calf recruitment.

24 And on this note, Mr. Chair, I will
25 pass the mic to Mr. Adamczewski.

1 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thanks, Bruno.

2 I'll continue on here and, Mr. Chairman, in
3 recognition of our lengthy presentation, if there's
4 some point that you would want to take a coffee break
5 or something then, please, let us know. But if we
6 don't hear from you, we'll -- we'll keep babbling,
7 here.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Yeah, maybe
9 at around 10:30, we could take a break. If you can
10 find --

11 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Okay.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: -- a spot in
13 there, just...

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Okay. In
18 studying the populations of migratory caribou and
19 similar kinds of wildlife, biologists have found that
20 the balance between an increasing trend and a
21 decreasing one usually depends on a few indicators
22 that we call vital rates.

23 In a stable herd, deaths are exactly
24 balanced by the additions of young animals into the
25 population. Again, common sense, if the deaths

1 outnumber the additions of young animals, the herd
2 declines. If the additions of young animals outnumber
3 the deaths, then the herd goes up. That's just common
4 sense.

5 The single most important vital rate in
6 caribou herds is the survival rate of the cows. They
7 are the single largest component of the herd, and they
8 are the ones that produce the young. Experience with
9 the Bathurst herd and other herds have shown that the
10 cow survival rate needs to be about 80 to 85 percent
11 for a herd to be stable, and that the herd's trend is
12 very sensitive to small changes in the cow survival
13 rate.

14 If this rate is below 80 percent, then
15 the herd will almost certainly be declining. With a
16 low cow -- cow survival rate, it becomes nearly
17 impossible for the herd to produce enough young to
18 offset the animals that die.

19 A second key vital rate is the rate of
20 calf recruitment to the herd. The mortality rate of
21 calves in their first year is often high, over 50
22 percent, thus calves are considered to be recruited
23 into the herd if they survive that first year.

24 The index of calf recruitment that we
25 use is a late winter calf-to-cow ratio expressed as

1 calves per hundred cows, and usually measured at nine
2 (9) to ten (10) months of age in March or April.
3 Calves that have survived to this age are close to
4 being recruited into the adult, or one (1) year old or
5 more part of the herd.

6 Experience and population modelling has
7 shown that a spring calf-to-cow ratio of at least
8 thirty (30) to forty (40) per hundred is needed for a
9 stable herd. The rate of calf recruitment needed for
10 a stable population is in part linked to the survival
11 rate of the adults, particularly the cows. If the
12 cow's survival rate is fairly high, then you don't
13 need quite as many calves to be added to the
14 population. If the cow survival rate is relatively
15 low, then you need a lot of calves, a high calf-to-cow
16 ratio to get a stable herd.

17 The third vital rate, which in part
18 determines calf recruitment, is the pregnancy rate.
19 In healthy herds, breeding age cows usually have a
20 pregnancy rate of about 80 percent or more. If the
21 cows are in poor shape in the breeding season, they
22 may not breed and a low pregnancy rate may result. If
23 few calves are born, few are likely to survive the
24 first year and become adults.

25 While these vital rates do not

1 necessarily explain all the factors that affect a
2 caribou herd, they are a useful way to assess what
3 might underlie changes in herd trend, and they can
4 help identify the likely future short-term trend in
5 the herd.

6 We'll move on now to the specific
7 information we have on the Bathurst herd's size and
8 recent trend as of 2015. This map shows the intensive
9 survey are covered on the Bathurst herd's calving
10 grounds in early June 2015.

11 Each of the squares shows a 10
12 kilometre segment along a survey flight line, flown
13 with small aircraft and multiple observers. The blank
14 squares show segments where no caribou were seen. So
15 this is one (1) of the realities of these surveys is
16 you do a lot of flying and you see a lot of country
17 and a lot of places where there's no caribou at all.

18 The grey squares show segments with a
19 low density of caribou, less than one (1) caribou per
20 square kilometre. The blue squares show caribou
21 densities of one (1) to nine point nine (9.9) caribou
22 per square kilometre, which we call medium density.
23 And the red squares show densities of more than ten
24 (10) caribou per square kilometre.

25 The yellow stars are the locations of

1 thirty-one (31) collared Bathurst cows on June 5th,
2 all of them within the core surveyed area. The red
3 stars are collared bull locations, which were
4 basically to the south of the calving distribution
5 down to the Contwoyto Lake area, which is about as we
6 expected.

7 The tight concentration of the core
8 calving distribution show that nearly all the cows and
9 a large part of the herd were concentrated in an area
10 of about thirty 30 by 40 kilometres. This core area
11 was almost entirely within the photo block where 85
12 percent of the adult caribou estimated in the survey
13 area were found.

14 Ground coverage within the photo
15 stratum, this is the lines flown by the photo plane,
16 was 54.7 percent. Thus, we are confident that the
17 survey reliably captured a high percentage of the
18 herd's breeding cows, which is the main focus of the
19 survey.

20 We would also note that this tight
21 aggregation on the calving grounds continues a pattern
22 seen since 2009, but this concentrated cluster has
23 become smaller and smaller in the 2009, 2012, and 2015
24 surveys. This may be evidence that the herd's reduced
25 numbers of cows are still congregating to maintain the

1 advantages of calving in large groups. And this is
2 something that biologists like to call 'gregarious
3 calving'.

4 These graphs show the estimated size of
5 the Bathurst herd from 1986 to 2015 in blue on the
6 right, and the estimated numbers of breeding cows on
7 the calving ground in red on the left. And you can
8 see the trends are very similar in the two (2) graphs.
9 The same calving photo surveys -- survey methods have
10 been used for this herd since 1986, with refinements
11 over the years to increase the precision of the
12 surveys. From 1986 to 2015, the decline has been
13 approximately 96 percent.

14 The most rapid decline in the herd
15 occurred from 2006 to 2009, when the herd went from
16 more than a hundred thousand to about thirty-two
17 thousand (32,000). From 2009 to 2012, the herd
18 appeared to be approximately stable. But from 2012 to
19 2015, the decline in the number of breeding females
20 has been statistically significant and dropped by
21 nearly half from fifteen thousand nine hundred
22 (15,900) some in 20 -- 2012, to just over eight
23 thousand (8,000) in 2015. Overall herd size has also
24 declined by a similar margin from about thirty-five
25 thousand (35,000) caribou in 2012 to about twenty

1 thousand (20,000) in 2015.

2 This graph provides further detail on
3 the estimates of Bathurst adult cows in the last three
4 (3) survey years, 2009, 2012, and 2015. The total
5 estimated cows in the survey areas -- in the survey
6 area are the bars, including the blue and the red.
7 The blue bars are the estimated numbers of breeding
8 cows, and the red bars are the non-breeding cows. And
9 then if you add them together, you get the total
10 number of cows.

11 Both the total number of cows and
12 particularly the number of breeding cows has declined
13 from 2012 to 2015, and the number of breeding cows as
14 a proportion of the total number of cows provides a
15 measure of the previous year's -- the previous
16 winter's pregnancy rate. If there are many non-
17 breeding cows on the June calving ground, then the
18 pregnancy rate the previous winter was low. In this
19 respect, the 2015 results are particularly concerning,
20 as about 40 percent of the cows were not breeders.
21 This means the pregnancy rate the previous winter was
22 probably about 60 percent.

23 On the right are the estimates, just
24 the actual numbers, of the breeding females in the
25 Bathurst herd in 2009, 2012, and 2015. And you can

1 see they were similar in 2009 and 2012, but dropped by
2 almost 50 percent over the last three (3) years. And
3 just for reference, so you can remember what we used
4 to have, the number of breeding cows estimated in 1986
5 was a little over two hundred thousand (200,000).

6 If we go back now to the three (3)
7 vital rates that I talked about a little bit earlier,
8 cow survival, calf recruitment, and pregnancy rate, we
9 can see that the Bathurst herd's recent vital rates
10 are not good and are consistent with the declining
11 trend seen from the calving photo surveys. The cow
12 survival rate in the herd estimated between 2012 and
13 2015 was about 78 percent, which is still below the
14 minimum 80 to 85 percent associated with stable herds.

15
16 Calf recruitment in the last three (3)
17 years has averaged about twenty-two (22) calves per
18 hundred cows in late winter, which is well below the
19 thirty (30) or forty (40) calves per hundred
20 associated with stable herds.

21 And while we do not have an annual
22 pregnancy rate for the herd, the June 2015 survey, as
23 I mentioned a little bit earlier, estimated the
24 pregnancy rate in breeding age cows of about 60
25 percent, and this is well below the 80 percent we

1 would like to see in a healthy herd.

2 Taken together, these vital rates are
3 consistent with the rapid rate of decline. And unless
4 these rates improve substantially, the herd is likely
5 to decline further in the next few years.

6 I'll turn the microphone over back to
7 Bruno at this point.

8 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jan.
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess we're not close enough
10 to 10:30. We'll keep on going.

11 Mr. Chair, a question that is often
12 asked when surveys have documented a decline in
13 numbers of caribou in a particular herd is whether the
14 caribou might have moved somewhere else.

15 The information we have from surveys
16 and collars suggest that movement from the Bathurst
17 range does not account for the decline documented in
18 the Bathurst herd, including the most recent decline
19 between 2012 and 2015.

20 This map, Mr. Share -- Chair, shows the
21 extent of flying that occurred in June of 2015 over
22 the calving grounds of the Bathurst and Bluenose East
23 herd. All the north/south flight lines are shown.
24 The lines that have empty grey squares were flown, but
25 no caribou were found in those areas.

1 Lines were flown between the two (2)
2 calving grounds into the east of the Bathurst calving
3 ground, including some lines east of Bathurst Inlet.
4 With this level of ground coverage, it becomes very
5 unlikely that any substantial aggregation of caribou
6 from either herds were missed.

7 Mr. Chair, the locations of collared
8 caribou also provide some assurance that a high
9 percentage of the herds was accounted for in the
10 survey areas. For the Bathurst herd, all thirty-one
11 (31) collared cows were accounted for in the intensive
12 survey area, with nearly all of them found in the high
13 density survey block.

14 On this map, the yellow circles show
15 the locations of collared Bathurst cow on June the
16 5th. Similarly, thirty (30) Bluenose East collared
17 cows were accounted for in the main survey area for
18 this herd west of Kugluktuk.

19 Although they are not shown on this
20 map, all the Beverly and Ahiak collared cows were
21 monitored by ENR, and they were found to the east of
22 Bathurst Inlet, well separated from the Bathurst
23 collars. Areas between the Bathurst range and the
24 Bluenose East range had no collared caribou, and no
25 caribou were seen during -- there during the survey

1 flying.

2 These findings, Mr. Chair, increase our
3 confidence that the Bathurst herd's distribution was
4 well defined, and that the herd's cows were well
5 separated from the herds to the east and to the west.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. BRUNO CROFT: This slide, Mr.
10 Chair, provides additional information about movement
11 of cows between the Bathurst calving ground and the
12 neighbouring -- neighbouring Bluenose East and
13 Beverly/Ahiak calving grounds on either side.

14 We tracked information recorded from
15 2008 to 2015 on -- on collared cows for which
16 consecutive June locations were recorded. In total,
17 there were two hundred and fifty-nine (259) sets of
18 data for cows returning to calve in consecutive years
19 for the three (3) herds.

20 In this figure, Mr. Chair, the curved
21 arrows at the top show how many times collared cows
22 for each herd returned to the same calving ground and
23 the straight arrows show the switches.

24 Of the two hundred and fifty-nine (259)
25 pairs of location, two hundred and fifty-four (254)

1 were returned to the same calving ground, and five (5)
2 were switches. One (1) cow switched from Bathurst to
3 the Beverly/Ahiak, and one switched in the reverse
4 direction. Two (2) Bathurst cow switched to the
5 Bluenose East calving ground, and one (1) switched in
6 the reverse direction.

7 This represents, Mr. Chair, 98 percent
8 loyalty to calving ground. We sometime call -- use
9 the term "fidelity". Similar evaluations for the
10 Bathurst herd in the past have shown 96 to 98 percent
11 loyalty of collared cows to calving ground. And a
12 similar rate of loyalty to calving grounds has been
13 shown for the Cape Bathurst, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula,
14 and Bluenose West herds in the NWT using similar
15 analysis.

16 These results suggest that it has been
17 a very low rate of switching of cows between the
18 Bathurst and the neighbouring calving grounds between
19 2008 and 2015 with the net movement to or from the
20 Bathurst range being minimal. Movement from the
21 Bathurst range is unlikely to account for the
22 declining trend in the herd, Mr. Chair.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Bruno, maybe
24 we could just take a ten (10) minute break now? Is
25 that appropriate for you both? And we'll reconvene at

1 twenty (20) to 11:00. Thank you very much.

2

3 --- Upon recessing at 10:31 a.m.

4 --- Upon resuming at 10:46 a.m.

5

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Ladies and
7 gentlemen, I would like to call the meeting back to
8 order.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Yeah. And
13 if -- if people are ready, please proceed with your
14 presentation, please. Thank you very much.

15 And identify yourself prior to your
16 presentation again, please -- thank -- for the record.
17 Thank you very much.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Bruno, you
22 have the floor.

23 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you very much,
24 Mr. Chair.

25 On this slide, we would like to take a

1 look now at the herd's likely trend in the near
2 future. For this, we have used the population model.

3 The population model is simply a tool
4 that helps us understand what is going on with the
5 herd, and it tracks the kinds of vital rates we talked
6 about earlier; the cow survival rate, calf
7 recruitment, and pregnancy rate. At its simplest, it
8 is a form of balance sheet that tracks the birth and
9 the death in a herd, and how they all add up.

10 Mr. Chair, we use all this information
11 we have about the herd, and we tried to make sure that
12 the model caribou herd is consistent with what we know
13 of the herd's trend in the past up to the current
14 point. Once we are confident -- confident, pardon me,
15 that the model is faithful to what we know about the
16 herd in the past, we can use it to look ahead into the
17 future. The model is not a crystal ball, Mr. Chair,
18 and does not predict the future, but it can give us an
19 idea where things might go next.

20 So in this simple example, the blue
21 line shows a declining trend in the herd to the
22 present or current time. The green, black, and red
23 arrows are all possible future trends. If everything
24 stays the same, the black arrow is the likeliest
25 trend. If things get better, the green arrow is more

1 likely and the herd might be stable. If things get
2 worse, Mr. Chair, the red arrow might apply and the
3 decline might just speed up.

4 The slide, Mr. Chair, is now -- shows
5 us a model projection for the Bathurst herd from the
6 last survey in 2015 to 2019. In this example, we have
7 assumed that a cow survival rate stays the same for
8 the herd at 78 percent. There is no harvest in these
9 projections.

10 In the recent low calf productivity con
11 -- continue, and here I said "if" at the same level,
12 then the herd will follow a trend similar to the blue
13 line. If calf productivity increases to an average
14 level, the red line is more likely the outcome. And
15 if calf productivity increases to levels seen between
16 2008 and 2010, then the green light -- the green line,
17 sorry, is the likeliest trend.

18 Overall, Mr. Chair, as the herd's vital
19 range imp -- vital rate improve, the herd is likely to
20 decline from the current estimate of about twenty
21 thousand (20,000) animals to less than fifteen
22 thousand (15,000) in 2018.

23 The model projections underline a point
24 mentioned earlier. If the cow survival rate is low,
25 the herd trend is likely to be declining, and it is

1 difficult for the herd to produce enough young to
2 offset all the caribou that die.

3 And now, Mr. Chair, I will pass the mic
4 over to Ms. Lynda Yonge, our Director.

5 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Bruno.
6 Mr. Chair, I'm Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife for
7 ENR. And I need the slide clicker.

8 Okay. So that concludes the first part
9 of our presentation. And the intention of that part
10 was to set the stage and provide the information to
11 understand the context for what's happening -- what we
12 believe is happening with the Bathurst herd.

13 We'll now move on to the second part of
14 our presentation, and this part is focussed more on
15 proposed management actions. So there are six (6)
16 parts -- six (6) components to the second part of our
17 presentation.

18 First we'll take a look at the overall
19 management context for the Bathurst herd, particularly
20 with respect to long-term management of the herd and
21 range planning. The proposal that's before the Board
22 right now is for some very specific proposed actions,
23 and it's only one (1) part of a bigger picture. So
24 we'd like to just explain a little bit, very briefly,
25 about some of the other things.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Lynda, would
2 you please slow down for the --

3 MS. LYNDY YONGE: I will do that.
4 Sorry.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
6 very much.

7 MS. LYNDY YONGE: Okay. So the
8 second part -- that part is to provide some context to
9 understand other things that are going on as -- as
10 well as the proposal that's been put before the Board.

11 Secondly, we'll take a brief look at
12 the short-term management proposals that have been
13 produced and provided to the Board in the past. So
14 we'll go back to 2009 with the first proposal, and
15 just walk through the history of the proposals up
16 until the current point.

17 Third, we'll go through the specific
18 actions that are proposed in the Joint Management
19 Proposal from the Tlicho government and ENR that is
20 currently before the Board.

21 Fourth, we'll highlight some of the key
22 meetings and consultation that have occurred in the
23 last year and half with a focus on the Bathurst herd
24 and the management proposal in front of you.

25 Fifth, we'll describe management

1 initiatives underway for the Bathurst herd in Nunavut,
2 because this is a trans-boundary herd.

3 And finally, we'll have a summary slide
4 that will pull together all the main points of our
5 presentation and the actions that are proposed for the
6 herd.

7 Okay. So first of all, long-term
8 Bathurst caribou management actions. So as I'm sure
9 most of the people at this meeting know, under the
10 Tlicho agreement, there is a requirement for an
11 overall management process for the Bathurst herd, and
12 that process must include participation by other
13 Aboriginal user groups from the herd's range,
14 including Nunavut.

15 So meetings and workshops to work
16 towards implementing this long-term management process
17 for the Bathurst herd began in 2007. And there have
18 been a number of workshops ongoing involving the
19 Tlicho government, ENR, the Wek'eezhii Board, and
20 other Aboriginal governments and organizations. The
21 most recent meeting in that series was held on January
22 21st and 22nd of this year, and participants at that
23 meeting included almost all of the traditional user
24 groups. There were two (2) groups that were just
25 unable to attend, but have agreed to participate in

1 the process.

2 During that meeting, agreement was
3 reached on a draft terms of reference for a Bathurst
4 caribou herd cooperative advisory committee. In
5 addition, there was agreement on some of the
6 preliminary work that that committee should undertake,
7 which included the development of a Bathurst Caribou
8 Management Plan. Participants from that meeting have
9 taken the terms of reference to their leaders and
10 communities for review. And if all groups accept the
11 terms of reference, the committee will serve an
12 important role in future management discussions on the
13 Bathurst herd. So this committee is seen as an
14 advisory committee that would provide recommendations
15 to the Board as well as all the appropriate
16 governments.

17 Second, I'd like to touch just briefly
18 on the Bathurst range planning process. Because of
19 the Bathurst herd's continuing decline, and due to
20 concerns over the effects of the mines on the herd,
21 the ENR has initiated a process to develop a range
22 plan for the herd's entire annual range, and that
23 process began in 2013. A working group was formed in
24 2014, and several workshops were held in 2014 and
25 2015.

1 The working group working on the range
2 plan has representation from all user groups of the
3 herd, including user groups from the NWT, Nunavut, and
4 Saskatchewan. It also includes non-government groups,
5 industry, and other departments from the GNWT, not
6 just ENR. So those groups include the Department of
7 Lands, Industry, Tourism, and Investment. During that
8 process, information on the herd's seasonal ranges and
9 important areas has been assembled from both
10 scientific sources and traditional knowledge holders.

11 A cumulative effects model is being
12 used to try to assess how development to date has
13 affected the herd, and how future development might
14 affect the herd. The range plan is expected to
15 provide guidance on responsible development in the
16 herd's range, and on ensuring the herd has healthy
17 habitat in all seasonal ranges.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So in addition to
22 the work underway through the Bathurst range planning
23 process, environmental assessment process has --
24 processes have also occurred in recent years, or are
25 ongoing, to assess the potential impact of specific

1 mines and roads on the Bathurst herd's range. ENR
2 participates in all environmental assessment processes
3 in the NWT, and also participates in environmental
4 assessment processes in Nunavut for any developments
5 that may affect trans-boundary caribou herds like the
6 Bathurst herd.

7 ENR has also worked with the mining
8 companies, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
9 Review Board, and the independent diamond mine
10 monitoring agencies on wildlife monitoring and
11 protection plans on an ongoing basis. Under the new
12 Wildlife Act, developments that are likely to result
13 in significant disturbance to wildlife, substantially
14 alter or damage wildlife habitat, pose a threat of
15 serious harm to wildlife or habitat, or significantly
16 contribute to cumulative impacts on wildlife need a
17 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan that describes
18 how those effects will be monitored and minimized or
19 mitigated.

20 ENR also works with industry to monitor
21 impacts on a range-wide scale and develop standard
22 protocols for monitoring and assessing impacts. For
23 example, there is a task group which has been tasked
24 with advising on the conditions under which zone of
25 influence monitoring around mines should be carried

1 out.

2 So we talked about zone of influence a
3 little bit earlier, though -- that area around a
4 development or a road that caribou seem to avoid. So
5 they've been looking at when it's appropriate to
6 monitor that and how. The task group has
7 representation from government, monitoring boards,
8 industry, and Aboriginal governments and
9 organizations.

10 The Mackenzie Valley Environmental
11 Impact Review Board also sometimes directs measures
12 for environmental monitoring and mitigation at the
13 Government of the Northwest Territories in addition to
14 the project proponents.

15 In addition, ENR has participated in
16 recent meetings in Nunavut held in 2015 and 2016 by
17 the Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission and the
18 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, meetings that were
19 focussed on caribou habitat protection. At those
20 meetings, ENR has supported the Government of
21 Nunavut's position opposing all development on caribou
22 calving grounds.

23 With that, I'll turn it back to Bruno
24 Croft, who does speak more slowly than I do.

25 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Lynda.

1 Mr. Chair, thank you. The -- the next slide show the
2 -- the joint Tlicho Government ENR proposal for the
3 Bathurst herd for 2016/2019, which is currently before
4 the WRRB is one (1) in a series of continuing
5 proposals focussed on the Bathurst herd since 2009.

6 All these proposals, Mr. Chair, and
7 supporting documents are on the Wek'eezhii Board
8 Renewable Resources Board website. We will highlight
9 the main points of the past proposal to provide some
10 context and history for the current proposal.

11 In November of 2009, Mr. Chair, the
12 Tlicho Government and ENR submitted a joint proposal
13 to the WRRB after the June 2009 Bathurst calvings
14 caribou survey documented a large decline since the
15 2006 survey. The two (2) governments agreed on a
16 number of monitoring actions and on closing resident
17 and commercial harvests of the herd, but were unable
18 to come to an agreement on the Aboriginal harvest.

19 The hearing under the WRRB in March of
20 2010 was adjourned to allow the two (2) governments to
21 come up to an agreement on the recommended Aboriginal
22 harvest. Mr. Chair, a revised joint proposal from
23 Tlicho Government and ENR in May of 2010 included a
24 harvest target for the herd of three hundred (300)
25 caribou with an 80 percent bulls component.

1 The WRRB in October of 2010 largely
2 accepted the actions and monitoring proposed by the
3 two (2) government, including the harvest target of
4 three hundred (300) caribou.

5 In January of 2010, Mr. Chair, ENR
6 submitted a new management proposal to WRRB to create
7 a Bathurst mobile conservation zone where there would
8 be a no harvest of caribou with the possible exception
9 of an Aboriginal ceremonial harvest of up to fifteen
10 (15) animals. The WRRB accepted this proposal for the
11 2014/2015 harvest season.

12 The December 2015 joint proposals from
13 the Tlicho Government and ENR is the most recent in a
14 series of proposals and results from the June 2015
15 calving ground survey results in confirmation of a
16 serious decline since 2012.

17 The next slide, Mr. Chair. The first
18 proposed management action is the -- in the current
19 joint proposal addresses harvest recommendations for
20 the Bathurst herd. The Tlicho Government and ENR are
21 recommending that harvests of the herd be zero for all
22 of the herd's range for all the harvesters. The
23 reasons are as follow.

24 First, Mr. Chair, the herd has declined
25 by about 96 percent from its peak numbers estimated at

1 four hundred and seventy thousand (470,000) in 1986.

2 Second, Mr. Chair, the herd appears
3 likely to decline further given its poor vital rates.
4 The cow survival rate of 78 percent is below levels
5 needed for a stable herd. The calf recruitment level
6 has been well below levels associated with stable
7 herds. And the pregnancy rate was 60 percent in 2015.
8 Again, well below the 80 percent normally seen in an
9 healthy herd.

10 Finally, Mr. Chair, any harvest from
11 the herd, even on a small scale, adds to caribou
12 mortality rate and incre -- and increases -- and
13 sorry, increases the likelihood of further decline.

14 This map, Mr. Chair, shows the mobile
15 core Bathurst caribou management zone from February
16 17, 2016. Note that the date printed on this map is
17 an error and should read 2016, not 2017. We apologize
18 for that.

19 For convenience, we won't use the full
20 name, and refer to it now as the mobile -- the
21 Bathurst mobile zone. The Bathurst mobile zone was
22 first used in the winter of 2014/2015 when it was
23 found that all the collared caribou in the herd were
24 tightly grouped together on the winter range with
25 little overlap with the neighbouring Bluenose East,

1 and Beverly and Ahiak herds to the east and to the
2 west. And recognizance survey results from June 2014
3 suggested that there has been a large decline from
4 2012.

5 Mr. Chair, the mobile zone was proposed
6 by ENR to WRRB as an interim conservation measure
7 until the June 2015 calving photo survey could be
8 completed. WRRB accepted that proposal on an interim
9 basis. No harvest was permitted in the middle -- in
10 the mobile zone with the possible exception of a very
11 limited ceremonial harvest of up to fifteen (15)
12 caribou.

13 Mr. Chair, the Tlicho government and
14 ENR have proposed that the Bathurst mobile zone be
15 carried forward to 2015, 2016, and beyond. We note
16 that a mobile zone extend into Nunavut, because some
17 of the collared caribou have been north of the border,
18 and the zone is built around the collared caribou
19 locations.

20 In practice, of course, neither Tlicho
21 government nor ENR have any jurisdiction in Nunavut,
22 so restriction put forward on their -- the NWT
23 Wildlife Act for the mobile zone do not apply in
24 Nunavut.

25 Mr. Chair, the Bathurst mobile zone

1 covers all the most recent Bathurst collar locations,
2 bulls and cows. A simple method called a minimum
3 convex polygon is use -- Mr. Chair, I made a mistake.
4 I slip -- I skip a slide. So if you don't mind, I'll
5 go back one (1) slide and start again.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Carry on.

7 MR. BRUNO CROFT: It's just a little
8 hot, here, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much. This is
9 the one, right?

10 Okay. The Bathurst mobile zone was
11 first proposed in the winter of 2014/2015 for a number
12 of reasons.

13 Previously the harvest target limit of
14 three hundred (300) caribou -- Bathurst caribou, 80
15 percent bulls, recommended by WRRB in 2010 was applied
16 to two (2) large wildlife management zones, RBC02 and
17 RBC03.

18 Based on collared caribou locations,
19 the Bathurst herd largely wintered in these two (2)
20 large zones between 2010 and 2015. However, in some
21 winters, Bathurst collars wintered to the west and
22 east of these large zones. For example, 2013. And in
23 those areas, they were exposed to higher harvest
24 pressure -- what we mean is harvest in addition to the
25 three hundred (300) as allocated in the proposals --

1 as harvest in the Bluenose East and the Beverly/Ahiak
2 caribou was not restricted. And that's where the Bath
3 -- some of the Bathurst were again.

4 In addition, Mr. Chair, the
5 restrictions on the harvest in RBC02 and RBC03 limited
6 Aboriginal harvest of caribou over a very large area,
7 and effectively also limited harvest of any Bluenose
8 East, and Beverly/Ahiak caribou that sometimes
9 wintered in these zones.

10 The advantage of the mobile zone, or
11 the Bathurst mobile zone is that it is centred on the
12 herd's actual wintering location every year,
13 recognizing that there are -- can be substantial year
14 to year variation in wintering locations of the herd.
15 At the same time, Mr. Chair, the no harvest area to
16 conserve the Bathurst herd is much smaller in size
17 than the two (2) large zones that had been used. Thus
18 the restriction on -- on Aboriginal harvesting is
19 reduced spatially.

20 And now I'm back to that one slide that
21 I started already. The Bathurst mobile zone covers
22 all the most recent Bathurst collared locations, bulls
23 and cows. A simple method called the minimum convex
24 polygon is used to define the area around the mobile
25 zone. This method simply draws a line around the

1 outside of the points of the collared locations. A
2 buffer is then added around the outside of the polygon
3 to form the out-of-boundary of the mobile zone. The
4 zone is updated weekly based on new collar locations.

5 Mr. Chair, flying in the winter 2014
6 and 2015 in and around the Bathurst mobile zone
7 indicated that the collars were tracking the herd's
8 distribution well, and that larger groups of caribou
9 were generally found within 20 to 30 kilometres from
10 the collars. Thus, the 30 kilometre buffer should
11 cover a high percentage of the herd distribution.

12 Mr. Chair, if the animals spread out
13 more this winter or form distinct subgroups, it is
14 possible to have the mobile zone made up of two (2) or
15 more separate zones to reduce restriction on harvest
16 of neighbouring herds while still protecting the core
17 Bathurst herd.

18 The next slide, Mr. Chair. Because the
19 Bathurst mobile zone's boundary can change depending
20 on locations of collared caribou, maps of the zone are
21 produced weekly, posted on the ENR website, and made
22 available on paper or electronically to all Aboriginal
23 governments and organizations that may be hunting
24 caribou in the North Slave region.

25 Maps are posted in the office of the

1 superintendent in Yellowknife, in each of the regional
2 ENR offices, and delivered to the Band offices in the
3 Yellowknife area. And changes are discussed with the
4 Chief and staff when they are available.

5 Mr. Chair, the nature and purpose of
6 the mobile zone have also been explained and discussed
7 at Tlicho community meetings held jointly by the
8 Tlicho Government and ENR. Check stations and signs
9 are also set up on the winter road at the beginning
10 and end of the mobile zone to let people know that
11 they are entering or leaving the zone, and to remind
12 them that there is no harvesting within the zone.

13 Next slide. Mr. Chair, the Bathurst
14 mobile zone was monitored in winter of 2014/2015 by
15 regular air and ground patrol carried out by ENR
16 wildlife staff and community monitors. Reconnaissance
17 flights were used to check on areas with collared
18 caribou, and particularly the boundaries of the mobile
19 zone, to make sure that there are no caribou outside
20 the 40 kilometre buffer used for the mobile zone last
21 winter.

22 Go on to the next slide, Mr. Chair. As
23 noted in the previous slide the Bathurst mobile zone
24 has been monitored by air and by ground patrols
25 carried out by wildlife officers. In addition, a

1 check station was set up on the winter road to the
2 diamond mines. To date there have been very few cases
3 of caribou being harvested in the Bathurst mobile zone
4 in 2014/'15, and 2015/'16.

5 Mr. Chair, while the joint proposal on
6 Bathurst caribou includes extending the use of the
7 Bathurst mobile zone into 2015/2016, the Tlicho
8 government and ENR have also discussed and will
9 further explore alternatives to the mobile zone that
10 might accomplish the same purpose. One (1)
11 possibility would be a system of smaller subzones in
12 place of the larger zones, like R/BC/02 and R/BC/03,
13 using natural boundaries like rivers and lake edges
14 that would be easily recognized by hunters, wildlife
15 officers, and community monitors.

16 In this approach, Mr. Chair, a grouping
17 of subzones would take the place of the mobile zone.
18 Because the subzones would be smaller than the large
19 existing zones like R/BC/02, an area could still be
20 protected for the Bathurst herd. But the restricted
21 area would be relatively small, limiting the
22 restrictions on Aboriginal hunters, and easier to
23 locate than the mobile zone because they would be
24 permanent and based on natural features.

25 Mr. Chair, the second group of proposed

1 management actions deal with enhanced wolf harvesting
2 on the Bathurst range. There are three (3) actions
3 proposed by the Tlicho government and ENR to increase
4 the harvest of wolves from the Bathurst range.

5 The first of these is a pilot project
6 led by the Tlicho government and the Tlicho
7 communities with ENR support to increase wolf harvest
8 on the winter range of the Bathurst herd. The area of
9 focus would be the Bathurst mobile zone. Past
10 experience, Mr. Chair, from surveys and ground-based
11 observations have shown that the wolves will be where
12 the caribou are, and as bout -- and as that it is
13 their food source. Details on the proposed pilot
14 project will be provided as part of the Tlicho
15 presentation.

16 Mr. Chair, the second action associated
17 with wolf reduction on the Bathurst range is a
18 collaborative feasibility assessment that will be led
19 by ENR. The purpose of the feasib -- feasibility
20 assessment is to consider other options, including
21 more intensive wolf reduction that could be considered
22 in future as part of an adaptive management process.
23 Experience with wolf reduction programs in Alaska,
24 Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta suggest that wolf
25 reduction is most likely to be effective if carried

1 over a large range, over a number of years, and with
2 reductions that include removing a large proportion of
3 the targeted wolf packs.

4 Mr. Chair, the feasibility assessment
5 will include recommended measures for monitoring the
6 effectiveness of actions taken. Assessment of more
7 intensive predator reductions options will also need
8 to give due consideration to the mixed and sometimes
9 polarized views that people have about managing wolves
10 and other predators.

11 Next slide, Mr. Chair. The third
12 action intended to increase the harvest of wolves of
13 the Bathurst range is a revised program of incentives
14 to hunters of tra -- all trappers within the GNWT fur
15 program. This is described in details in the next
16 slide.

17 Mr. Chair, this slide shows the three
18 (3) possible options under the revised GNWT incentive
19 program to increase harvest of wolves by hunters and
20 trappers. These are available to both Aboriginal and
21 non-Aboriginal hunters and trappers in the NWT.

22 The first option showed -- shown on the
23 left is an option where a hunter or trapper can bring
24 in an intact, unskinned wolf and receive two hundred
25 (200) dollars. The wolf will then be skinned by a

1 skinner working with ENR who will keep the pelt and be
2 able to seek the best price for it.

3 In the middle, Mr. Chair, on this slide
4 is an option for a harvester to prepare a wolf pelt to
5 traditional standards, for example, paws being
6 removed, lips and ears don't have to be fleshed out,
7 and receive four hundred (400) dollars for the pelt
8 and fifty (50) dollars for the skull provided that the
9 pelt is in prime condition and well handled.

10 On the right, Mr. Chair, is the third
11 option, where the harvester prepares the wolf to
12 Genuine Mackenzie Fur Program taxidermy standards.
13 The harvester would receive four hundred (400) dollars
14 for the pelt and fifty (50) dollars for the skull and
15 would be eligible for an additional three hundred and
16 fifty (350) prime fur bonus, that was three hundred
17 and fifty (350) dollars, if the pelt sells for more
18 than two hundred dollars at auction.

19 Again, Mr. Chair, all pelt needs to be
20 in prime condition and well handled to be accepted in
21 the program. And again, on that note, Mr. Chair, I
22 will gladly pla -- pass the mic to my colleague, Dr.
23 Adamczewski.

24 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thank you,
25 Bruno. Thanks for making your way through all those

1 slides that we -- we dumped on you there. Okay, so
2 the third set of proposed management actions deal with
3 ongoing mane -- monitoring of the Bathurst herd. And
4 I know there's kind of a long list here. The details
5 are provided in the proposal. I'll just briefly touch
6 on -- on the elements that are on the slide here.

7 The survey's collars and monitoring
8 will be led by ENR, but they will be in collaboration
9 with Tlicho Government and other partners and
10 additional monitoring led by Tlicho Government.
11 There's a Boots on the Ground monitoring program that
12 I think John Nishi or one (1) of his colleagues will
13 be talking about.

14 So in terms of the work that ENR will
15 most likely lead, the first point, we're planning
16 another calving photo survey in June 2018 that would
17 continue the three (3) year interval that we've had.
18 Consideration could be given to moving this survey
19 earlier if we see some really poor numbers out there
20 and we're concerned about getting those numbers
21 earlier.

22 The second point, we have been doing
23 annual recognizance surveys over the calving ground.
24 These are not as precise as the calving photo surveys,
25 but they do provide an index of the numbers of cows on

1 the calving ground.

2 The third point, when we do the calving
3 photo surveys in June there's also a composition
4 survey done as part of that, and it provides an
5 estimate of the proportion of cows that were breeders
6 that year or essentially the -- the pregnancy rate for
7 the previous year.

8 The fourth point, we have been doing --
9 Bruno has been doing fall composition surveys every
10 two (2) to three (3) years. These allow us to track
11 the bull to cow ratio. And they also provide an index
12 of calf survival through the first four (4) months of
13 their life.

14 The fifth point, an annual composition
15 survey in late winter gives us a calf to cow ratio,
16 and this is an estimate of calf recruitment through
17 the first year, calves born the previous year and
18 checking to see how many make it through that first
19 year.

20 The sixth point, we update the -- our
21 estimate of the cow survival rate. That is usually
22 done in a year that we do a calving photo survey. And
23 that estimation is done with collared caribou
24 information in combination with other monitoring and
25 using a population model.

1 The seventh point, for almost a year
2 now we've had up to fifty (50) GPS satellite collars
3 on the Bathurst herd. It used to be never more than
4 twenty (20), but we now maintain thirty (30) on cows
5 and twenty (20) on bulls, and we will be doing annual
6 additions every year in late winter to replace collars
7 that reach the end of their batteries or collars on
8 caribou that die.

9 The eighth point, you saw a little bit
10 of information earlier on the environmental trends
11 like the warble fly index, the drought index, and
12 we'll be asking for updates on those annually with the
13 assistance of Don Russell and the CARMA network.

14 The ninth point, aerial and ground
15 patrols by wildlife officers, wildlife staff will be
16 used through the winter harvest season to keep check
17 on that Bathurst mobile zone and to ensure compliance
18 with the no harvest requirement of the Bathurst mobile
19 zone.

20 The tenth point, we'll be monitoring
21 the annual wolf harvest by all hunters and trappers
22 and we'll be trying to track information about the
23 effort expended by the hunters and trappers.

24 And finally, we are looking at other
25 ways to try to monitor wold abundance. There's some

1 possibilities suggested by methods developed in other
2 jurisdictions like Alaska. And this will be important
3 in assessing how many wolves are associated with the
4 Bathurst herd and whether wolf reduction efforts are
5 succeeding.

6 I'm pleased to tell you, Mr. Chairman,
7 that we are nearing the end. Okay. I'll go on now.
8 The monitoring described on the previous slide should
9 allow us to track the herd's trend and key variables
10 between now and 2018 when the next calving photo
11 survey is planned, and that will provide an updated
12 population estimate.

13 Generally speaking, management
14 decisions about harvest, predators, or other possible
15 actions have been made when a new population estimate
16 has been determined after a population survey.
17 However, given the herd's low numbers and declining
18 trend, the Tlicho government and ENR suggest that an
19 annual review should also occur so that updated
20 information can be considered and management actions
21 can be reevaluated, essentially, adaptive management.

22 The fall may be an appropriate time for
23 the Tlicho government, the Wek'eezhii Board, and ENR
24 to meet and review any new information and reconsider
25 management. At that time we should have a new

1 estimate of the calf recruitment ratio and a new
2 estimate of the trend in cow numbers from the June
3 reconnaissance that year.

4 There is an existing caribou working
5 group that includes these three (3) parties, Tlicho
6 government, ENR, and the Wek'eezhii Board that can
7 serve as a forum for adaptive management reviews.
8 Annual consultation with other Aboriginal governments
9 and organizations that have an interest in the
10 Bathurst herd should also be -- should also be done
11 annually.

12 One (1) of the outcomes of the January
13 2016 two (2) day meeting on Bathurst caribou long-term
14 planning was a proposed Bathurst caribou cooperative
15 advisory committee that would eventually oversee
16 management of the herd. There may be a role for this
17 group in an annual adaptive management review of
18 additional information.

19 And I'll hand it back to Bruno for a
20 couple more slides now.

21 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jan. Mr.
22 Chair. In the summer of 2014 a reconnaissance survey
23 ove -- over the Bathurst calving grounds suggested
24 that there had been a substantial decline in the
25 herd's breeding cows since the 2012 calving ground

1 photo survey.

2 A similar survey over the Bluenose East
3 calving ground suggest that -- that there had also
4 been a substantial decline in that herds breeding cows
5 since the 2013 calving photo survey for that herd.
6 Although these surveys do not have the precision of
7 full photo surveys, the trends was -- were alarming.

8 Beginning that summer and continuing
9 into fall and winter, ENR convened a series of
10 meetings with the Aboriginal government and
11 organizations, boards and other organizations, to
12 discuss the information about the herds and
13 development -- and develop management options. Those
14 meetings have continued into 2015 and 2016.

15 Mr. Chair -- Chair, this slide
16 highlights some of the key meetings that ENR had
17 convened. We recognize that the Tlicho Government has
18 also had many meeting with -- about caribou in the
19 last year and -- and a half, and have other Aboriginal
20 governments and organizations, boards, and other
21 wildlife management organizations. There were three
22 (3) meetings of Aboriginal leaders and boards in
23 August and November of 2014, and two (2) two (2) day
24 technical meetings in October of 2014.

25 Once the calving photo survey for the

1 Bathurst herd was completed in June of 2015, this
2 year, updates of the surveys and the proposed
3 management were sent out in July, September, and
4 November of 2015. Community meetings were held with
5 Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Yellowknives Dene
6 First Nation, and the NWT Metis Nation. Some meetings
7 included Chiefs and ENR as -- as were presented by the
8 Deputy Minister.

9 Mr. Chair, there has been a continuing
10 series of meetings between the Tlicho Government and
11 ENR at technical staff levels, and more senior --
12 senior levels. And there were joint community
13 meetings in the Tlicho communities in December of
14 2015, and January/February of 2016. The last series
15 of meeting -- meetings in the Tlicho communities
16 included a Tlicho Chief and the ENR Minister.

17 Mr. Chair, the GNWT and the Government
18 of Nunavut, along with the Aboriginal governments and
19 organizations and wildlife boards, have worked
20 together increasingly in recent years as trans --
21 transboundary caribou herds have declined, and the
22 need for management has become greater.

23 In this slide, Mr. Chair, we will
24 describe some of the collaborative work that has
25 occurred in the area of hunter harvest, wolf

1 management, and land use. First, the GNWT and Tlicho
2 Government have recommended a zero harvest for all
3 hunters, including Aboriginal hunters, for the
4 Bathurst herd across its range.

5 ENR has communicated with the GN,
6 that's the Government of Nunavut, including at the
7 Minister's level and with other agencies in Nunavut,
8 and recommended that Bathurst harvest be zero in
9 Nunavut, as well, given the herds large and continuing
10 decline. We recognize of course, Mr. Chair, that
11 Nunavut is a different jurisdiction, and that neither
12 the GNWT nor any other NWT agencies have authority in
13 Nunavut.

14 It is also important to recognize that
15 Nunavut -- Nunavut harvest of Bathurst caribou has
16 been small compared to the historic harvest in the
17 NWT. Mr. Chair, the total allowable harvest in
18 Nunavut will be determined by the Nunavut Wildlife
19 Management Board, and a hearing is expected in 2016.
20 The GNWT will participate in that process. The GN has
21 recommended the TAH for the Bathurst herd in Nunavut
22 of thirty (30) caribou.

23 One (1) more for me, Mr. Chair -- or
24 two (2). Second, informal discussions of caribou at
25 caribou-related meetings in the NWT and Nunavut

1 suggest that hunters in Kugluktuk, and other community
2 -- Nunavut committees, would be interested in
3 increased harvest of wolves associated with the
4 Bathurst and Bluenose East herds. Accessibility of
5 wolves on tundra range in winter for hunters on snow
6 machines is much greater than accessibility of range
7 in the NWT south of the tree line. ENR and the Tlicho
8 government will pursue these conversation --
9 conversations further.

10 Third, Mr. Chair, the importance of
11 maintaining adequate healthy habitat for caribou has
12 been recognized in Nunavut as well as in the NWT. At
13 environmental assessment processes in Nunavut and the
14 NWT as well as meetings at -- of the Nunavut Wildlife
15 Management Board and the Nunavut Land Use Planning
16 Commission the GN and GNWT have provided the same
17 position opposing any development on any caribou
18 calving ground, as well as the need to manage other
19 caribou key ranges responsibly, including water
20 crossing and post-calving ranges.

21 Finally, Mr. Chair, for me it is also
22 worth noting that representative of Nunavut
23 communities and organizations have been participating
24 in the Bathurst range planning meetings in Yellowknife
25 and meetings on Bathurst long-term planning most

1 recently in January of 2016. And finally, I will pass
2 the mic to Ms. -- Ms. Yonge, and will close the
3 presentation.

4 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Bruno.
5 So we are now drawing to the end of our presentation.
6 And I would like to thank the co-chairs and the Boards
7 for indulging us in being rather lengthy. We felt it
8 was important to make sure that we gave a full
9 presentation on what we think is going on, and give
10 you some context.

11 This slide is a summary of our main
12 points. And you will hear more about some of these
13 key points from the Tlicho government as well during
14 their presentation.

15 So first -- our first point is that
16 based on calving photo surveys that have used
17 consistent methods since the early 1980s, the Bathurst
18 herd has declined by 96 percent since 1986.

19 Secondly, the herd is likely to decline
20 further given that the cow survival rate, calf
21 recruitment, and recent pregnancy rates have been low.

22

23 Third, both ENR and the Tlicho
24 government recommend that the harvest of Bathurst
25 caribou be zero until this herd shows signs of

1 sustained recovery.

2 Fourth, the Tlicho government, with ENR
3 support, will implement a pilot community-based wolf
4 harvest program on the winter range of the Bathurst
5 herd, and you will hear more about this from the
6 Tlicho government.

7 Five, ENR will lead a collaborative
8 feasibility assessment to look at predator reduction
9 options that may be considered for the Bathurst range.
10

11 Six, land use issues are important for
12 this herd, and these are being addressed through the
13 range planning process for the Bathurst range and
14 through environmental assessment processes in both the
15 NWT and Nunavut. It is also worth noting that the
16 long-term Bathurst planning process is now underway,
17 and the proposed Bathurst cooperative advisory
18 committee will have an advisory role to play in
19 Bathurst caribou management in the future.

20 And seven, finally, we would like to
21 ask everyone to remember that everyone who cares about
22 this herd needs to work together now. We all see the
23 world through different eyes, but we need a common
24 vision now. Thank you very much for listening to us.
25 Masi cho.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thanks very
2 much, Lynda and all the ENR presenters. Next on the
3 agenda is the Tlicho presentation, but given the time
4 and -- and the length of your presentation I think
5 we'll -- we'll break for an early lunch now and
6 reconvene at one o'clock. And we'll have the Tlicho
7 presentation at that time. Thank you very much.

8

9 --- Upon recessing at 11:38 a.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 1:06 p.m.

11

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: It's 1:04,
13 so at this time I'd like to reconvene. Before I do,
14 I'd like to thank people from ENR and staff for their
15 presentation this morning. Thank you very much. At
16 this time, I do believe that John Nishi from the
17 Tlicho Government has the floor.

18 And for the record, would you please
19 state your name prior to your presentation? Thank you
20 very much. And just to remind you...

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Nishi,
25 would you please state your name -- or who has the

1 floor? Sjoerd? Please state your name. And speak
2 slowly for the interpreters, please. Thank you very
3 much. And the floor is yours.

4

5 PRESENTATION BY TLICHO GOVERNMENT:

6 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Masi --
7 masi -- masi cho, Mr. Chair. I feel for you, by the
8 way. So my name is Sjoerd Van Der Wielen. I'm the
9 lands manager for the Tlicho government.

10 I would like to introduce our team
11 first here. We have John Ni -- Nishi, who is our
12 biologist consultant for the Tlicho government. We
13 have Joe Rabesca an Elder and the past Grand Chief.
14 Joseph Judas is sitting here. He's our Elder and
15 advisor too, and a counsellor for the Wekweti. We
16 have Paul Bachand over here. He is our legal counsel.
17 And, finally, we have John B. Zoe, who is our advisor,
18 special advisor for the Tlicho government.

19 We also divide the presentation into
20 several different people that talk about different
21 aspects of the proposal. And with that I would like
22 to give the words to John Nishi. Masi cho, Mr. Chair.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: John, the
24 floor is yours. Thank you.

25 MR. JOHN NISHI: Good afternoon.

1 Thank you, Mr. Co-Chairs. My name is John Nishi. I
2 am a independent wildlife biologist and have been a
3 consultant to the Tlicho government since 2010.
4 Before working as a consultant I worked for the GNWT
5 as a bison ecologist in Fort Smith. And before that
6 it was regional biologist in the Kitikmeot region.
7 That was prior to the division of the NWT and Nunavut.

8
9 I've worked with communities and
10 biologists in the NWT and Nunavut, and much of my
11 experience with the Bathurst herd has been gained
12 through supporting the GNWT's efforts in planning and
13 conducting calving ground photographic surveys of the
14 herd. Which for me occurred between 1995 and 2009.

15 So in this first part of the Tlicho
16 government's presentation I would like to provide a
17 technical perspective, some rationale for
18 recommendations in the joint management proposal. And
19 my intent is to review -- actually my intent is not to
20 review all the details of the empirical data, as the
21 GNWT presentation did a thorough job of that. My goal
22 is more to review some key aspects of the available
23 population data on the herd, and to provide a -- a
24 Tlicho government perspective on the urgency for
25 harvest and predator management action, and for these

1 actions to be implemented and monitored through a
2 strong commitment to adaptive co-management.

3 As Dr. Adamczewski showed, it is known
4 from traditional knowledge and science that caribou
5 populations go through periods of abundance and
6 scarcity about every forty (40) to sixty (60) years.
7 And as noted in the GNWT presentation, the Tlicho
8 Elders have also indicated that through the 1940s and
9 1980s were periods of high caribou abundance. But for
10 the Bathurst herd our understanding of the recent
11 patterns of abundance are based on multiple aerial
12 surveys, which were standardized in the -- in the mid-
13 1980s to estimate abundance of breeding females.

14 A field study on the frequency of
15 trampling scars from caribou hooves on the tree roots
16 of black spruce trees in the central NWT, sampled
17 along the migratory routes of caribou below tree line
18 north and southeast of Yellowknife, showed that
19 caribou abundance patterns determined from these tree
20 root scar frequencies correlated strongly with
21 information from traditional knowledge of the Tlicho
22 and estimates of breeding females from the caribou
23 calving ground surveys.

24 Although it appears that these cyclical
25 patterns of abundance and scarcity occurred with some

1 regular -- regularity over a long period of time, like
2 the multiple decades that might span a human lifetime,
3 the previous patterns in abundance exhibited by
4 Bathurst caribou in the past did not provide assurance
5 that the herd will recover in the future. And as
6 highlighted by Dr. Adamczewski in his description of
7 the rapid decline and slow and prolonged recovery of
8 the Fortymile herd in Alaska, and as illustrated by
9 this dark brown line in this slide, recovery of the
10 Bathurst herd in the future is uncertain, especially
11 given patterns in recent data over the past few years,
12 which suggests low productivity in the herd.

13 So I'd suggest to you, Mr. co-chairs,
14 that there are two (2) underlying issues which need to
15 be considered when developing strategies for
16 management of the Bathurst herd.

17 The first has to do with the fact that
18 the Bathurst herd is in trouble because of the
19 observed pattern and continued rate of decline. In
20 developing effective management strategies for
21 declining populations, the focus is on the ways in
22 which we detect, diagnose, and halt the rate of
23 decline.

24 The work done by GNWT and partners,
25 including the Tlicho government, has detected the

1 decline, but there is still much uncertainty and
2 variability in the available data sets to weight the
3 importance of contributing factors to the decline.

4 The second issue emphasises the urgency
5 in which recovery actions need to be implemented, and
6 has to do with the pob -- problems that occur within
7 wildlife populations when they become small. In other
8 words, what are the negative consequences and problems
9 that occur due to small population size?

10 For migratory barren ground caribou
11 herds there is relatively limited scientific
12 experience and documentation of the negative
13 consequences of being small or the degree of smallness
14 that becomes problematic. However, a basic problem
15 that occurs in populations when they get small is that
16 they can lose resilience or their ability to respond
17 and recover from stressors.

18 An outcome of this problem is that
19 increasingly smaller populations may show lower
20 population growth rates. Random or directional
21 changes in environmental conditions can have strong
22 negative effects when populations are small, because
23 the impacts may affect a larger portion of individuals
24 in small populations just due to random chance.

25 So some examples you might think of are

1 avalanches for mountain caribou herds, rain on snow
2 events, or prolonged droughts during the growing
3 season for migratory caribou and reindeer. Small
4 populations are also more susceptible to random or
5 stochastic effects on the population structure where
6 population structure is the number of male and female
7 caribou in different age classes.

8 So a relevant problem for the Bathurst
9 herd if it declines further from its current size is
10 the additive effect of many years of poor survival and
11 recruitment of young animals, especially females. And
12 over time, this could reduce the reproductive
13 potential of the breeding females, because the average
14 age gets older and there are fewer young females in
15 the population.

16 Biologists think that the reason
17 pregnant barren ground caribou cows aggregate or -- or
18 get together in large densities on an annual calving
19 ground and calve within a few days of each other is to
20 reduce their individual risk and that of their calves
21 of being killed by -- by predators.

22 Therefore, if the Bathurst herd
23 continues to become smaller and the abundance of -- of
24 breeding females declines further, the benefit of
25 gregarious calving may start to break down. A

1 relevant example and hypothesis comes from observed
2 trends of breeding females on the traditional Beverly
3 calving ground from the mid-1990s into the early
4 2000s.

5 It was observed that breeding females
6 declined in number, likely due to a combination of low
7 adult survival and productivity, to a point where a
8 collapse in gregarious calving resulted. This in turn
9 is thought to have led to the small remaining numbers
10 of Beverly cows joining much larger numbers of cows
11 from the Ahiak herd, and migrating 250 kilometres
12 further north to maintain the advantages of predator
13 avoidance through gregarious calving.

14 So just to recap, the declining
15 population issue establishes the context and rationale
16 for management recommendations in the Joint Management
17 Proposal. The issues facing small populations
18 provides a framework for anticipating negative
19 consequences that will become increasingly apparent as
20 the number of breeding females, or the population
21 size, continues to decline. Both of these issues
22 highlight the urgency for thoughtful, responsible,
23 practical, and timely actions to be taken in light of
24 considerable uncertainty.

25 The next three (3) slides are based on

1 the same information on abundance of breeding females
2 in the Bathurst herd that Dr. Adamczewski showed you
3 earlier, but my reason for reviewing these data will -
4 - with you further is just to highlight the urgency
5 for implementing timely management actions, and I
6 think this is a foundation for the Tlicho Government
7 perspective.

8 So this top graph is identical to a
9 slide, slide 21 in the GNWT presentation, and it shows
10 on the -- the 'Y' axis is the abundance of breeding
11 females. And so the figure shows the estimates of
12 breeding females from eight (8) calving ground surveys
13 from 1986 to 2015. It reminds us that the abundance
14 of breeding cows has declined by about 96 percent when
15 we compare the large assessment in 1986 to the small
16 assessment in 2015.

17 So this next graph below shows a linear
18 regression to those calving ground estimates after
19 those numbers have been converted mathematically.
20 Now, it's important to note that the conversion itself
21 is not important. The reason for doing this analysis
22 is to estimate the average annual rate of change over
23 the period that these surveys were conducted.

24 So if you can think of the average
25 annual rate of change as the same as an interest rate

1 you might apply to your money in a bank, an 'R' value
2 or this rate of change of zero means that the
3 population is stable. An 'R' value that is positive
4 means the population is growing. An 'R' value that's
5 negative shows that the population is declining.

6 So what this figure shows us is that
7 from 1986 to 2015, the average rate of decline per
8 year is 11 percent. So just keep that in mind.

9 So in this next graph, instead of
10 estimate the average annual rate of change across all
11 eight (8) of these calving ground surveys, all I've
12 done here is just compared the average annual rate of
13 change between two (2) successive surveys. So keep in
14 mind that this is a very simple analysis and there are
15 more complicated and rigorous ways of analyzing these
16 data.

17 But the simple story behind these
18 numbers corresponds to the graph above, and the story
19 goes something like this. Between 1986 and 1990, the
20 population declined by about 7 percent per year.
21 Between 1990 and 1996, the population seemed to be
22 stable, as there was virtually no difference between
23 those estimates.

24 Between 1996 and 2003, the population
25 was decreasing by about 9 percent per year. Between

1 2003 and 2006, the rate of decline was about 12
2 percent per year. And then as you may recall from
3 2006 to 2009, the decline -- or the rate of decline in
4 breeding females had accelerated to about 40 percent
5 per year.

6 After the harvest target was
7 implemented for the Bathurst herd in 2010 and when we
8 look at the data between 2009 and 2012, the rate of
9 decreased appeared to show stabilization in the herd
10 and the rate of decline slowed to about 1 1/2 percent
11 per year. However, the recent survey in June 2015
12 suggests that the Bathurst herd has resumed a high
13 rate of decline at about 25 -- 23 percent per year.

14 So on the next slide I just want to
15 show you a table that is based on the exact same
16 information as this bottom figure with one (1)
17 addition which I'll explain.

18 So the first four (4) columns of
19 numbers in this table just -- just summarize the graph
20 I -- I just showed you, year and number, or the
21 estimate of breeding females, the conversion of those
22 breeding females to a natural log value. And then the
23 -- the average annual rates have changed between these
24 surveys, or the 'R' value.

25 So again, if we look at the last

1 tennish years of surveys and just remind ourselves how
2 the population has declined that period of time, it
3 becomes apparent there's kind of two (2) takeaways.
4 The first is that, although the population seemed to
5 have stabilized between 2012 and 2009, the most recent
6 surveys suggest again that the herd has been
7 decreasing at about 23 percent.

8 So this column on the right-hand side
9 helps us understand the magnitude of the -- the rate
10 of decline. And what we've done here is just show
11 what we call the halving time, which is the number of
12 years that it would take for a population to become
13 half its size at the corresponding rate of decline
14 shown here.

15 So you'll note from 2009 to 2006 the
16 Bathurst herd was declining at a rate of 40 percent
17 per year, and that is a halving time of under two (2)
18 years.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. JOHN NISHI: So the second
23 takeaway is that the number of breeding females is
24 estimated at about eight thousand (8,000) animals and
25 the population is small, and it's continuing to

1 decline. And although we do not know what the lower
2 threshold might be before we observe problems that may
3 be symptomatic of the smallness of the population,
4 we're concerned by the current low number of breeding
5 females.

6 As highlighted by the GNWT
7 presentation, the TG also recognizes that the Bathurst
8 herd has a complex and dynamic ecology. And in this
9 context, barren-ground caribou should be considered an
10 ecological and cultural keystone species. However,
11 the scope of the recommendations within the joint
12 management proposal are focused on two (2) key factors
13 which arguably are the most important factors that may
14 directly affect survival rates of Bathurst caribou,
15 hunting by people and predation.

16 So the focus of the recommendations in
17 the joint management proposal is to reduce mortality
18 of caribou to help initiate recovery of the herd.
19 And, as we know, the recommendations in the proposal
20 to reduce mortality to the herd given its current
21 status are to set the total allowable harvest for the
22 herd to zero for the next three (3) years and
23 implementation of a Tlicho community-based winter wolf
24 harvesting pilot program.

25 Of the two (2) recommendations in the

1 proposal, the recommendation to establish a total
2 allowable harvest of zero for the herd is generally
3 supported equally by both Tlicho Government and GNWT.

4 With regard to predator management,
5 although TG and GNWT both support the recommendation
6 for a community-based wolf hunting pilot programming
7 to be implemented in Tlicho communities, there is a
8 broader range and the divergence of perspectives on
9 this recommendation.

10 So for the last few slides of my part
11 of this presentation I'll introduce the TG perspective
12 on the importance and the need for predator
13 management.

14 The Tlicho government recognizes that
15 given the current small size of the Bathurst herd and
16 a continued rapid rate of decline, that meaningful
17 management actions in addition to and supportive of
18 our disclosure should focus on reducing mortality due
19 to predation.

20 The Tlicho government recognizes that
21 reducing wolf numbers on the winter range of the
22 Bathurst herd would support a goal of reducing
23 mortality of caribou, but that a first step towards
24 implementing predator management is to facilitate
25 direct involvement of Tlicho hunters.

1 Consequently, the focus of the
2 recommendation for the pilot proj -- program is to
3 train Tlicho hunters and secondarily as a means to
4 further reduce mortality in the herd. Mr. Joseph
5 Judas, Joe Rabesca, and Dr. John B. Zoe will fully
6 present the Tlicho government perspective with Tlicho
7 as active participants in wildlife management.

8 But before that I'll just highlight to
9 the Board the Tlicho government's perspective of next
10 steps that would support the initiatives relative to
11 the community-based wolf hunting pilot program as well
12 as the bigger issue of predator management.

13 Firstly, Tlicho government supports the
14 ENR led feasibility assessment with the important
15 caveat that it would be a collaborative exercise that
16 fully engages the Tlicho government and the WRRB as
17 partners.

18 Secondly, although the focus of the
19 feasibility assessment is to be focussed on wolves,
20 the primary predator of barren ground caribou, the TG
21 suggests that a broadening of scope to include all
22 seasonal ranges, including Nunavut, would be useful.
23 Consequently, the feasibility assessment may also
24 consider grizzly bears, although the depth and breadth
25 of the assessment would likely depend on the

1 involvement of management authorities in Nunavut.

2 And thirdly, the Tlicho government
3 perspective is that an adaptive co-management approach
4 is action oriented. In other words, the feasibility
5 assessment is an important exercise, but given the
6 uncertainty of our knowledge and the variability of
7 the system, an equally strong emphasis should be on
8 learning by doing or learning through implementing and
9 testing management actions.

10 This figure shows the general logical
11 steps that typically comprise an adaptive management
12 approach. It generally starts off at the top through
13 recognition and assessment of the problem. In the
14 example of the Bathurst herd the problem assessment
15 involves the detection and the diagnosis of the
16 population decline.

17 Other steps, subsequent steps, include
18 the design and rationale for action, implementation of
19 the action, followed in turn by monitoring. The
20 information gained through implementation, compliance,
21 and effectiveness monitoring is then used to evaluate
22 whether the problem has been suitably addressed, or
23 whether managers need to readjust their understanding
24 of the problem.

25 So on this final slide of my part of

1 the presentation I'd like to highlight three (3) sort
2 of takeaways for the Board's consideration. In
3 addition to the logical and iterative, or repeated
4 steps of a typical adaptive management approach,
5 adaptive co-management emphasises the role of
6 dualistic power sharing between governments and
7 organizations.

8 And with the Bathurst herd, where there
9 is considerable uncertainty in our current state of
10 knowledge of the key drivers responsible for the
11 continued decline, an adaptive co-management approach
12 is well suited to generate new information or new
13 knowledge through sharing of traditional and
14 scientific perspectives, sustaining social and
15 cultural learning, and prepare for adaptation to
16 transformative change, such as that imposed by the
17 dramatic decline in caribou abundance, the recommended
18 closure of caribou hunting, and the potential impacts
19 to Tlicho culture, language, and way of life.

20 The current status of the herd is
21 unprecedented in our recent collective experience with
22 the Bathurst herd, and consequently demands an
23 unprecedented level of commitment, collaboration, and
24 communication to velop -- to develop knowledge, to
25 develop the best plans, to develop the capacity to

1 implement actions, and to monitor. Once again the
2 unprecedented severity of the decline and potential
3 collapse of this wildlife population calls for
4 commitment, collaboration, and communication.

5 The final principle that I'd like to
6 share with the Board from the Tlicho government
7 perspective is this principle of balance and respect.
8 Within an adaptive co-management system what do we
9 mean by 'balance and respect'? We mean balance and
10 respect of decision-making authority between parties,
11 including the Tlicho government, the GNWT, and the
12 WRRB. We mean balance and respect of knowledge and
13 information sharing, both from a science perspective
14 and a traditional knowledge perspective.

15 And probably the most important thing
16 to think about is the balance and respect of values.
17 It's really important to understand that the harvest
18 closures have tremendous implications for Tlicho from
19 their values, from their culture. And they do not
20 lightly take the notion of predator management as
21 something that needs to be done. Consider for a
22 moment that top down management stopping of hunting is
23 different than a bottom up perspective, suggesting
24 that predator management be undertaken or predator
25 reductions be undertaken.

1 And even from a technical perspective I
2 think we have to collectively open our hearts to
3 understanding these values, even though you may not
4 fully understand or agree with them. Once that
5 happens, then the -- your mind -- or technical
6 creative minds can follow with accepting an invitation
7 from a co-management partner in collaborating on
8 developing effective and respectful manners of
9 implementation.

10 The push to eliminate all harvesting of
11 caribou has very real implications to Tlicho language,
12 culture, and way of life, and needs to be balanced
13 with a serious and respectful consideration of other
14 similarly difficult and controversial management
15 levers. And finally, with respect to wolf hunting and
16 predator management, the Tlicho government is
17 embarking on a difficult path, but is doing so in a
18 thoughtful and very serious manner to ensure the
19 continued respectful relationship with caribou, the
20 land, and with the wolves is maintained.

21 So that ends my portion of the
22 presentation. And I'd like to pass it on to Mr.
23 Joseph Judas. Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
25 Mr. Nishi. And now our Elder, Mr. Joseph Judas. The

1 floor is yours. Masi.

2 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Masi.

3

4 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 THE CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Joseph -

7 - Jos -- Joseph, could you -- yeah, could you...

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Put your ears on.

12 Masi. My name is Joseph Judas. I am from Wekweti.

13 And I am working -- I also work with the Tlicho

14 assembly on the Tlicho assembly. I'm very grateful to

15 you have given me opportunity to speak today.

16 When we speak about wildlife it's very

17 important. That's why we're here today. And also as

18 we're talking, making plans for future generations.

19 So if we could approach this in a very thoughtful,

20 careful planning manner. Maybe if we're hiding

21 something, maybe if we're not being truthful, then

22 there comes problems. But when we're asking questions

23 to the point where there is no more doubt, then

24 there's -- there's a good collaboration.

25 It's very important for the Tlicho

1 people to talk about this caribou. They survive by
2 caribou, and that's why it's so important to our
3 people. And that's why our people continually talk
4 about it. Ever since time immemorial, we know that
5 our people have used caribou. They -- we -- they know
6 where the -- where the caribou go calving, and -- and
7 that is how we respect and know our caribou. And
8 that's how the caribou move around.

9 When we talk about the Bathurst area,
10 we're talking about that Bath -- Bathurst caribou. We
11 want to know what the situation is. How is it that we
12 can manage to help the numbers increase. That's why
13 we're here.

14 There's also other herds, like Ahiak,
15 Bluenose East. If we talk about those in with the
16 Bathurst, it -- it confuses us, so the reason why I'm
17 saying it is because the Bathurst is the one that
18 we're trying to focus on. It -- it calves in the fall
19 time, and then it -- it lives back in the wintering
20 grounds, and then in the spring time goes back north
21 for calving to the calving ground.

22 And so that's the kind of movement that
23 we'd like to see. As well, we also may be able to
24 have photographs that we can have. But if we talk
25 about other -- other caribou herds, and it -- we're

1 talking about too many herds. So we just need to --
2 we don't want to confuse other people.

3 We know there's lots of caribou, other
4 caribou herds and they'll think, Oh there's lots of
5 other herds around. They'll think like that. So
6 let's do this in a very practical, and very slow,
7 precautionary manner. Maybe if we can help each other
8 somewhere here and there, it's very good that we can
9 because we always live on caribou.

10 How is it that we can help each other
11 help the caribou -- the caribou in the Bathurst area?
12 Also there's Bathurst in the Bluenose East. The
13 Bluenose East travel to our lands, and so when -- when
14 they -- when they are going bak to the calving
15 grounds, they separate.

16 The -- the two (2) herds separate, and
17 then they go to their respective calving grounds. And
18 it's just like sometimes along the way back to their
19 calving grounds, maybe the forage -- feeding is no
20 good. If there's problems along the way, then they do
21 have a lot of stress along the way.

22 Thank you. It's very good -- a lot of
23 very good information. And all the information that
24 ENR has presented, and talking about how we can best
25 help the caribou. We -- we continually have the

1 caribou disappearing on our minds all the time. And
2 as people, we always -- it was our tradition.

3 It was our tradition. All our trails
4 are starting to disappear as the caribou trails are
5 disappearing. And so today let's help each other with
6 the caribou. And so as I speak today, I wonder how
7 can I help my people. How can I help future
8 generations, my future grandchildren, their
9 grandchildren, to -- to how far -- how far into the
10 future can we make plans for them.

11 And so that is why it's so important
12 that we attend these meetings. It's good that we
13 collaborate and try to find good answers. And -- and
14 find -- and implement those recommendations.

15 Also, you talked about predation. When
16 we talk about wolves, the wolves is considered a big
17 animal, and we respect it. But if the wolf is also
18 continually killing our caribou, we need to do
19 something about it. If there's -- our people -- some
20 people are able to work with wolves, then we'll find a
21 way that -- that maybe -- there must be a way we can
22 help the caribou.

23 And so how long are we going to
24 continue? We know that we're going to do this
25 management from 2000 -- for three (3) years. How many

1 wolves are we going to be collecting? How many wolves
2 will we harvest? We don't know exactly how much
3 wolves the caribou are also killing.

4 And -- and so I'm talking also -- and
5 we're talking also based on other people's
6 information. And I'm talking about the calving
7 ground. I'm really concerned about the calving
8 ground. In that area of the calving ground it's all
9 Nunavut jurisdiction. And so in the -- in the calving
10 grounds area, all the grizzly bears, wolves, are
11 predation that kill the calves.

12 Sometimes the survival of the calves
13 are -- are very limited, and -- and so -- and so these
14 are the stories that we're hearing. And so what is it
15 that we can do? The people who are in there -- maybe
16 there's other people in other jurisdiction, in other
17 areas. Maybe if other people in other jurisdiction
18 are here with us, because the calving ground is
19 happening in -- in the -- in their jurisdiction, maybe
20 we have to ask them if we're going to help predation.

21 We may have to get grizzly bears,
22 wolves in their area, and so we have to talk to that
23 government. And it's like that on our side with our
24 government, as well. And so if we're planning
25 something, we need to plan something. We need to get

1 people in place if we're going to do all this kind of
2 work.

3 And so, as -- as to how -- if the
4 wildlife -- if we're going to harvest the wolves, we -
5 - we really need to kind of annually know exactly how
6 many numbers that we need to harvest, how many wolves
7 we need to harvest. And if we're harvesting wolves
8 annually, is it -- will it show how well we know that
9 we are helping the caribou?

10 How -- how are we going to -- we -- we
11 need to know also the numbers that we're harvesting.
12 Sometimes if we see something with our own eyes and we
13 can say that it's evidence that -- that -- and some
14 things that we see with our own eyes, if it's
15 happening, if it's being implemented, maybe by
16 implementing some programs like this will help the
17 caribou increase over time. And so -- and so how --
18 how can we -- how can we plan?

19 We're also talking about mobile zone,
20 within mobile zone and the -- the wolf harvesting.
21 Maybe -- maybe for about fifty (50) people will
22 harvest caribou -- I mean, wolves for maybe a cou --
23 couple months within the mobile zone. And while --
24 within a couple months after harvesting will it make a
25 difference?

1 Sometimes in one (1) year wolves give
2 litter two (2) or three (3) times a year. Maybe even
3 if you kill thirty (30) to forty (40), there's -- it's
4 still a lot. And the numbers in -- in wolves will
5 continue to -- to increase. I'm talking about -- I'm
6 concerned about caribou.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: In ni -- in 1986,
11 around the time when there was abundance of caribou,
12 there was so much caribou that there wasn't land big
13 enough to feed the caribou, and -- and we had that
14 concern at one time. Now, today we're concerned about
15 no caribou. But at the same time, we had such a large
16 fire that -- that -- on the land that burned a lot of
17 feed of the caribou, so we need to find all those
18 stressors.

19 When we -- when we talk about all the
20 problems that the caribou have to face, sometime,
21 like, people -- even sometimes, not people, but
22 caribou has to go through areas where there's industry
23 going on, mine going on. Sometimes it -- it seems
24 there must have been something very wrong that over
25 time, since mining development has been happening in

1 the Northwest Territories, caribou have been migrating
2 through the car -- through the migration path where
3 the mines are all at.

4 But we really need to look at why all
5 of sudden there was such a sharp decline. We're
6 trying to say maybe it's predatation (sic), maybe
7 bears, grizzly bears, maybe wolves that's really the
8 cause of that sharp decline. But I think we really
9 need to do more studies around the mine site areas.

10 And so I keep getting off-topic too,
11 but at the same time I'm thinking also about the
12 climate change. When you talk about porcupine, we
13 never had porcupine, that -- that little critter
14 called porcupine, we never had that in Wekweti. But
15 over -- but over the last little while, we've had
16 reports that some of the local dogs have been attacked
17 by porcupine quills.

18 And so -- so maybe the porcupine is
19 getting closer to our areas. Maybe it's just because
20 of other wildlife that's strange, foreign to our land,
21 that maybe it's because of that that the caribou is
22 neglecting to go on that area. Maybe it's because
23 it's going to another area where it's a little bit
24 cooler in weather.

25 And so when -- when they show the areas

1 how far the range caribou travelled, in the -- in some
2 areas of the range, caribou would converge together
3 and then -- and then they would live together for a
4 while. Is it -- is that happening for sure? And then
5 sometimes maybe the -- maybe the middle -- the
6 wildlife in the middle, the -- the ones that we're
7 talking about is Bathurst is getting less and less.
8 Maybe they're going totally to another total different
9 land.

10 And so in the past, how our people used
11 a dog team, how they travelled by dog team, everybody
12 knows how. And because they travelled in -- with dog
13 team, they travel in a very good paced dogs, dog team,
14 it was a very good way to travel, because today,
15 everything is hunting.

16 Hunting takes place so fast. Using
17 airplanes, using fast mobile equipment to go hunting.
18 That -- and maybe that's what can be the cause of
19 disturbance for caribou. We need to listen to each
20 other. We need to believe one another. And that is
21 why when you get lucky.

22 And so when we try to think about
23 future generations and try to conserve for the future,
24 we may get lucky, but we're work -- we're not being in
25 a -- we're behaving in a careless way today, hunting

1 in careless ways. We lost a lot of our traditional
2 upbringing, our traditional way of life, the way that
3 you respect an animal, the way that we make the
4 caribou the most important caribou in our life.

5 And that's how I believe the caribou
6 should be. That's how I believe our people, our young
7 future generations need to know. And so the people of
8 Wekweti have all grew up on -- on eating wild meat
9 from the caribou. When they don't get the meat, they
10 feel very weak when they don't eat.

11 And they don't eat that much fish, but
12 it's mainly the diet of caribou that they grew up on.
13 So whatever kind of food that you grew up eating is
14 what makes you strong and that's what makes you a
15 person that you are. And so in with our leadership,
16 our people, our leadership are talking today about how
17 we can help each other, how governments can
18 collaborate with each other to help the caribou.

19 We need to take out all the secrets,
20 take out all the things that we're hiding. Maybe if
21 we're hiding some truth, we need to put everything on
22 the table and deal with it in a very respectful and
23 truthful way. Let's look at all the good areas and
24 pull those things together.

25 That's not what we're talking about.

1 That's not how we talk and meet when we meet at
2 meetings like this. We never talk like this. When is
3 it that we're going to eventually all get together and
4 put all our points together? Because we're not
5 working very good together, it's hard to make a good
6 plan.

7 Our people are pushing us to make a
8 decision. Our people are waiting for decisions to be
9 made. And so because we do use wildlife to survive,
10 and every family has in the -- in the Tlicho region.
11 And I'm sure that they will be bringing a lot of their
12 concerns to us at this meeting.

13 And I'm very grateful that we're able
14 to talk together, and think of -- bring our ideas
15 together. So this is what we're here for. And this
16 is how I'd like to look at -- look at different ways,
17 look at new ways, look at new information. Maybe
18 other people's information, this is what I'm talking
19 to you about. And so -- and so if there is going to
20 be a decision and everybody's in agreement, and then
21 I'm sure that's what we can do for -- to save the
22 caribou. Thank you.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Masi,
24 Joseph.

25

1

2 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: That's Joe
7 Rabesca, an Elder from Behchoko. He just -- he likes
8 to ask some questions just...

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 (PORTION NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

13

14 ELDER JOE RABESCA: I went to this
15 kind of a hearing many, many times. I want to step
16 away from the this particular issue about caribou. I
17 -- I want you to look at that map over there, back
18 over there, Mr. Chair. The reason why I say this is
19 because at one (1) particular time, the Tlicho peoples
20 got together, and some of them are here. Many of them
21 are gone, passed away, especially the elders that I
22 worked with.

23 When the -- we start talking about
24 lifetimes in the '80s, that map was there all the
25 time. As we proceed with our land claim and we go on

1 and on and on, towards the end, the Elders said,
2 Anything that happens within that Monfwi Gogha De
3 Niitlee we would be involved. Anything. Wildlife,
4 water, mine, you name it. Anything that happens, we
5 would be involved. That's what they understood, and
6 then that's what I understood.

7 And as we went along, the people were
8 very happy. I'm not saying that -- I don't want
9 people, the other people in the back or the public or
10 anybody in Yellowknife, to make decision that I
11 wouldn't be happy. That's not what I'm saying. All
12 I'm saying is, we have to do it together. That's what
13 the Elders were saying. Even today, I still feel the
14 same. That's the very reason why Tlicho people, we're
15 very strong and wanted to settle this claim.

16 Right from the day 1, I sat on table
17 and I finish it. That's what I understood. And we
18 did it.

19 And having worked with people all
20 around, I work with -- many of you might know Jim
21 Bourque, the late Jim Bourque. When I left the office
22 about twenty (20) years ago, when I was -- I got sick
23 and I had to leave, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to get
24 away from the issue, but Jim Bourque used to tell me
25 stories about caribou. Moose. Why we were allowed to

1 shoot one (1) moose.

2 So many martin, so many beavers. It's
3 no different today, the caribou that we're talking
4 about. But here, we're not allowed to shoot one (1).
5 One (1) particular herd. And he told me the reason
6 why. He said, People don't like it, Joe. You're
7 going to hear about it. That's a long time ago.

8 And I sat with him, and these are the
9 kind of people that I worked with. And here today as
10 we speak about caribou, I'm very, very concerned. But
11 on the other hand, I'm not looking at myself. I'm
12 looking, as my colleague said, We're looking into the
13 future. What would happen?

14 And that's why I sit at home, and I
15 would tell my wife -- Mr. Chairman, I would tell my
16 wife and say, you know, It would be very difficult to
17 see the numbers go back up -- go back up in our
18 lifetime, you and I. It would be difficult. It would
19 be a miracle for it to happen, because it's going to
20 be a long process. That's -- that's what I see.

21 But we have to work together, as Joseph
22 said. We have to. Anywhere I go, any speech I have
23 to give, Mr. Chairman, I will say, We have to work
24 together. The federal government, industry, all --
25 all of us. And we have to.

1 It would be very difficult for the
2 Board without listening to people to make decision.
3 Similar -- the same thing. And I would love to see
4 this hearing -- to have at least one (1) hearing in
5 Rae, but maybe it might happen. Most likely it won't
6 happen. But I would have loved to see that happen,
7 because it's those people that we're making decision
8 for.

9 And the information that -- that ENR
10 been sharing, and all the presenters, I imagine even
11 from John and -- many people have been presenters. A
12 lot of good information. And those people back in the
13 community are going to miss out on all of that.

14 And a lot of them that I know like to
15 point fingers because they don't have the facts, don't
16 go to meetings, or like to blame people, like to point
17 at people. And quite oft -- quite often, Mr.
18 Chairman, I will stand up to them, because I go to
19 these meetings, and I know the fact. The information
20 is there.

21 But for some reasons, they don't
22 believe people. They don't believe anything. But in
23 reality, the caribou have been going like this all the
24 way down, as Joseph was talking about. And when you
25 talk about predators, the -- especially the wolves,

1 Mr. Chair, you and I know that it's a very sensitive,
2 sensitive issue -- animal, rather.

3 I talk to a lot of Elders, and some are
4 saying Joe, make people kill it. Shoot it. But for
5 some of us, we can't. That's what they're saying.

6 There's reasons. And I think there's two (2)
7 individuals who are sitting in that corner, they know
8 about it as well as I do. For some, maybe not. But a
9 lot of people know what the wolves is all about.

10 So for me -- for me, I -- I would
11 rather kill as many wolves as we could. I would say
12 it anywhere. Even people who might not like it. Some
13 people might not. But you compare the wolf and the
14 caribou, like Joseph said.

15 I know what this community is like.
16 The cost of living is so high. I know we can't go
17 fishing. I know that because I live there. They
18 depend on caribou. They said it's very, very true.

19 Right now, Mr. Chair, if someone gives
20 me a piece of meat, a hind quarter, maybe a half, it's
21 happening right now, Mr. Chair, in our community,
22 Behchoko. I got a small, little piece of meat no
23 bigger than this piece of paper. We divide it into
24 four (4) pieces, Mr. Chair, this -- my neighbour over
25 here, my neighbour over here, my neighbour across.

1 That's what's happening right now in Rae.

2 When somebody shoots a moose in Rae,
3 same thing. Even having said that, Mr. Chair, we're
4 still going to support not shooting new caribou,
5 because it's important, what you do and what we say.
6 And, Mr. Chair, I would still say it, I would have
7 loved to see this meeting in Rae so the people can
8 hear for themselves. I know them. And I sat in a lot
9 of meetings with them. But the numbers are there, but
10 the people are not there.

11 We should have had this meeting in Rae.
12 Then they could have hear for themselves. It would have
13 helped them to think.

14 I'm not thinking about myself. I'm
15 thinking my grandchild and their future. What's going
16 to happen if this caribou keeps going down, down,
17 down, down to ten (10)? Let's use the ten (10)
18 number. What -- what happens? What are we going to
19 do?

20 You know, at one (1) meeting, my friend
21 got up and said -- he said, We got all these treaty
22 rights that you're complaining about all the time.
23 Yes, the treaty is good, wildlife treaty. I have
24 rights in there. The treaty says I can shoot caribou
25 and hunt anywhere I want.

1 My friend said, What if there's only
2 one (1) caribou? Are you going to shoot it just
3 because we have a treaty right? He said, No, save it.
4 Save it, that's what he said.

5 So the caribou can't do nothing for
6 itself, so we have to help it. In what way? A lot of
7 decision would rest on you. And I think the group
8 here would support you. What we do with the wolves, I
9 would love to.

10 Some people will say forty (40). I
11 wouldn't say forty (40). I would just tell people go
12 shoot. If -- if the season's open, you're going to
13 get paid for the skin. It's just another animal.
14 You're going to go trapping, trap wolves.

15 I wouldn't say, Oh, we shoot only once
16 over here. I wouldn't say that. I would open --
17 that's why I said Monfwi Gogha De Niitlee to the whole
18 land. Within that land, if you're out there, if you
19 see a wolf, shoot it. That's what I would tell
20 people, not particular area. It's very difficult to
21 go way -- way above the tree line, because I did -- I
22 did one time.

23 Joseph and I went to Courageous Lake.
24 We went trapping where the BHB (sic) and Diavik are
25 right now. But it's not every day that you can go out

1 there. It's a very rough, rough country. You got to
2 bring your own wood. A storm comes up. You get
3 storm. And you get stuck. And sometimes you don't
4 know where you're going.

5 So it's very difficult to -- for you to
6 say and for me to say, Go and shoot as many wolves way
7 above the tree line. It very difficult. It's not
8 like anybody -- tree line. We -- we've been up there.
9 And it's very far, too. If we break down, how are you
10 going to get home?

11 My skidoo broke down. We had to walk
12 ten (10) hours before Christmas. Can you imagine if
13 you're out there in a blizzard? It's very difficult.
14 So I would tell the Board that if Tlicho people see
15 wolves this side of Rae Lake towards the west, shoot
16 it. Get that wolf in the west. He may be 70, 80,
17 maybe a hundred miles away from Rae Lakes. He was on
18 this side, the west side. He can be way -- and where
19 the caribou are in three (3) days time. That's how
20 fast they travel.

21 And sometime when I was living in Snare
22 Lake, Mr. Chairman, you were there, you were living in
23 there, too, Archie and I went out towards the end of
24 Snare Lake. We were using dogs, Mr. Chair. There's a
25 whole bunch of caribou laying. My dogs were in good

1 shape, so we took off. This is just a true story.

2 And there was -- must have been about two hundred

3 (200) caribou laying at a lake -- at a lake. So I get

4 my gun ready, my dogs were in a rush, so I took off.

5 The closer I got to the caribou my dogs

6 begin to act a little bit funny. They can smell. The

7 over two hundred (200) caribou that I saw were all

8 wolves. My dogs they stop. They don't want to move

9 forward, Mr. Chair. Even the dogs were scared of the

10 wolves, over two hundred (200).

11 So I had to move my dog around and

12 left, Mr. Chair. I had to leave. Imagine two hundred

13 (200) more wolves if they got into the lake and they

14 saw twenty (20) caribou, what's going to happen. You

15 tell me. Twenty (20). Let's say twenty (20) caribou

16 and the wolves that I saw were two hundred (200) of

17 them, imagine.

18 And I was home, my brother-in-law was

19 telling me a story. He work at Cambridge Bay. He

20 wasn't -- and then he said he saw a wolf kill caribou,

21 one (1) caribou, one (1) wolf, one (1) caribou. He

22 said, You know, Joe, you know, I saw that caribou

23 (sic) knock the caribou down, eating on it. When he

24 had the stomach was full he lay down and lay on the

25 caribou like this, put his head on it.

1 He stayed there two (2) days he said.
2 The first day that he kill it to stay there, the next
3 day, nothing left. Then the wolf left, he said. One
4 (1) wolf, one (1) caribou, two (2) days. The wolf --
5 there was no more meat so the car -- the wolf just
6 moved on. He said one (1) wolf, one (1) caribou, two
7 (2) days. That's what he said.

8 So I was looking at it. Can you
9 imagine the two hundred (200) wolves I was talking
10 about. We need to do something with the wolves.
11 Sometime, Mr. Chair, people don't like it when we talk
12 about wolves, but me, I -- I would love to see the
13 caribou grow back up strongly.

14 That's why even though our people are
15 saying to us, We got to have caribou. We got to have
16 caribou. We got -- I keep hearing them. But in the
17 back of my mind I know the numbers are so low. It
18 never happened before. I'm going to be eighty (80) --
19 sixty-eight (68) pretty soon, this coming year, or
20 next year. I live among caribou a good part of my
21 life.

22 You see the map? Joseph and I probably
23 travel with dogs. I live among the caribou a good
24 part of my life. I know where to go to hunt for them
25 and I've seen wolf hunt as well as we do. But I -- I

1 can tell you that they take more than we do.

2 So even though our leaders are not
3 here, I spend a lot of time talking with them. I talk
4 to our leaders when we're in Rae and I go to them and
5 I tell them, What shall we do with the wolves? They
6 say, Kill them. And I would -- we would do it and we
7 would -- I would continue to support the staff here as
8 much as I could, because what else am I going to do
9 alone.

10 I can't do anything alone. I have to
11 work with people. And if this world is going to
12 continue to -- to go as it is, we have to help the
13 caribou. I don't think anybody around go to
14 Snowdrift, go to Yellowknife, the Metis people,
15 anybody for that matter would say no to what we're
16 saying. Because all we're doing is trying to help the
17 caribou, which that particular animal he won't be able
18 to speak for itself.

19 All we need to do is work together.
20 That's why I was so happy, Mr. Chair, when we finished
21 at land claims. I was sitting in the House of Commons
22 up there in the balcony like this. The Prime Minister
23 was sitting right across and I was doing this, Mr.
24 Chair. I was so happy that one (1) day the Tlicho
25 government would have a government, which we have.

1 One that would allow us to have piece
2 of land that we can own. We would have power. We
3 would have a government that we would work with this
4 particular government, work with Ottawa, work with
5 territorial government, that we would not be left out
6 on any issue that -- that they're going to deal with,
7 especially wildlife. I was so happy. That's why we
8 fought so hard, worked so hard to be a government.

9 And as a government I don't think the
10 leaders would take off in that direction and leave the
11 territorial government alone. I always tell them,
12 work together. Work together. Because we need to
13 work together. Otherwise if the bird takes off in one
14 (1) direction we're left over in this one (1), and
15 those guys take off in that direction, we won't get
16 anywhere. All we're going to have is crisis. And I
17 don't think anybody would want that.

18 So, John, you probably know me better.
19 That's -- that's how I feel. You know, I feel that we
20 need to work together. If we do, Alexis Arrowmaker
21 elder says we work together. Oh, I got one (1)
22 minute. I'll stop before then.

23 If we work together we can go a long
24 ways and it'll be the best decision we can ever make.
25 So with that I will just stop right there. And we've

1 still got tomorrow, the next day. You know, the best
2 thing that we -- that I learned, you know, if we take
3 a break, Mr. Chair, those people in the back can talk
4 to me. Those people over there I can talk to. And
5 then once we share, you know, maybe I'm off in this
6 direction. My friend over there can tell me, Joe, if
7 we go this way we're in the same boat. I find that
8 the more people you talk to, that's going to go that
9 way and the right way. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Masi
10 cho.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Yes, I'd
12 like to -- okay. I'd like to thank both Elders, Mr.
13 Joseph Judas, and former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca. But
14 there's something I'd like to clarify with you, this
15 presenter. Not clarify, but just to let you know that
16 this hearing was supposed to be held in Behchoko, no
17 matter how hard our Executive Director tried. There's
18 a court -- there's only one (1) big building. There's
19 a court proceeding going in Behchoko. (TLICHO
20 LANGUAGE SPOKEN)

21 But anyway, I'd just like to thank both
22 Elders, as a co-chair. Thank you very much.

23 Do we have another presenter at this
24 time from the TG? I hear an -- I didn't hear a -- no,
25 I see a nod. Thank you.

1 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Yes, there is one
2 (1) more presenter, sir.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Mr.
4 Presenter, would -- is it okay we take a short break
5 now, or you want to proceed? Oh, if it's okay with
6 everybody, can we recess? We'll have a health break.
7 Everybody can have a smoke.

8
9 --- Upon recessing at 2:16 p.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 2:34 p.m.

11
12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Should I say
13 -- I'm not asking. This is where -- we are ready to
14 reconvene. So I'd like to give the floor to Mr. --
15 that -- that senior ad -- special advisor, John B.
16 Zoe. Please state your name prior to your
17 presentation for the record, and you have the floor.
18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: My name is John B.
20 Zoe. I'm the senior advisor to the Tlicho government.
21 After listening to Joe's presentation, where we are
22 today -- it's kind of been a long journey to where we
23 are today because I remember back in the early '80s
24 when Joe became the Grand Chief at the time we were
25 kind of all working together at the time.

1 But after the agreement fell apart, we
2 spent a lot of time going back and forth between Rae
3 and -- and Snare Lake by boat and by skidoo, checking
4 his traps and shooting caribou along the way. At that
5 time, I never thought that things would change. There
6 was abundance.

7 There was so much abundance, I suppose,
8 that GNWT and through ENR have developed some programs
9 for resident hunters. They've developed commercial
10 harvesting and sports hunting, all these kind of
11 things. And, of course, we know that all of them have
12 been put aside. And those were the -- if we really
13 think about it, were probably the first time that all
14 those things happened. For the first time in our
15 history, and it just went away just as quickly as it
16 started.

17 But we know that from before contact --
18 people have always relied on caribou because not only
19 us but a lot of Aboriginal people in the north who --
20 who have it as a staple for clothing and shelter, and
21 everything else. That all their trails lead to the
22 hunting grounds, and all the placenames describe the
23 areas where the caribou cross, where the caribou --
24 caribou fencing is, where the wolf dens are, and how
25 to get there. So the placenames really tell the story

1 about what life was back then.

2 But we also know that there was natural
3 declines. But after taking its course, being in that
4 natural environment, they -- it kind of recovered
5 itself. But the challenges today is not natural.
6 It's global. It's got a lot to do with a lot of
7 different factors that didn't exist at the time. So
8 the challenges are great.

9 But we know that prior to -- prior --
10 even after that when things started to change, and
11 peoples livelihood were threatened by big scale
12 development, land transfers, very little consultation,
13 that a lot of these Elders that are no longer with us
14 right across the board, across the North, who stood up
15 to say that they had enough, and they wanted to have
16 their voice heard.

17 All the way up to the courts, and
18 eventually it opened up the way to -- to negotiate
19 because Canada's laws didn't recognize Aboriginal
20 Rights and Titles because they're based on -- on
21 common law. And so the objective of having those
22 negotiations opened up -- opened by the Elders as a
23 platform is what we built the agreement on.

24 And in the agreement one of the
25 vehicles that we created was the Renewable Resources

1 Board so that we would have a say because we have a
2 large track of land, and so does GNWT and -- and
3 Canada before. And they had management on those
4 lands, but they would overlap into ours. That
5 anything to do with wildlife we would be involved
6 because that -- that's what describes our language,
7 culture, and way of life. It -- and -- and the more
8 we practice the traditional way of hunting practices,
9 it -- it's a way of passing on information to the next
10 generation.

11 And so what we have now is -- is a real
12 threat -- a real threat to the method of transferring
13 information to the -- to the next generations. And so
14 we know that -- we know that just by natural knowledge
15 and the way we observe things, that the -- that the
16 caribou is very threatened because in our agreement it
17 says that -- that we have the Aboriginal right to --
18 to harvest anywhere within Monfwi Gogha De Niitlee at
19 any time of the year. That's where we draw our source
20 from.

21 But at the same time, GNWT has the
22 ability to regulate Aboriginal harvesting. So that's
23 where the -- the two (2) of us, meaning governments,
24 come to terms to spell out how it should be, how we
25 should engage and look at the issue of the caribou

1 decline.

2 And so those are a collaborative way of
3 doing things, very similar to the way that the Board
4 is existing on that collaboration between the Tlicho
5 Government, Government of the Northwest Territories in
6 Canada.

7 And so when we created the joint
8 management proposal it's not a good time -- it -- it
9 wasn't good timing for us to get involved with the
10 joint management proposal. We would have preferred if
11 it was at a time when the caribou was at its peak,
12 that -- that you -- we would have had some real good
13 collaboration.

14 But when our agreement took place the
15 decline was already happening to the point where
16 measures had to be taken. And our first collaboration
17 is to -- to tell our people that -- that we need to
18 put aside -- not to get -- get rid of our right to
19 harvest, but just put it aside until the caribou
20 recover because, as landowners, as the traditional
21 users of the area, we are -- we are a recognized
22 custodians of the lands and the animals in the area.

23 So the joint management proposal is --
24 yes, we've collaborated on it, but it's still under
25 the management of GNWT through ENR. They still have

1 the resources. And so all we're doing now is standing
2 on the sidelines. But we're in -- our intention is to
3 help whatever -- however we can to make sure that
4 there -- there is a sense of recovery, a real
5 recovery.

6 And when we do our harvesting in a
7 traditional way, passing on language, culture and way
8 of life, those things are the ones that are
9 threatened. And to wait on the sidelines and -- and,
10 like we say, twiddle our thumbs, that -- that the
11 activity of the transmission of information is -- is
12 being lost.

13 So we wanted to get into some programs,
14 trapping programs, of training more younger people to
15 take on those roles that are being vacated by the
16 older ones so that we continue to have an activity
17 that allows us to pass on information because the
18 landscape is big. You know, our area we have 39,000
19 square kilometres of surface and subsurface lands. If
20 we're custodians of those lands. We need to use and
21 travel those areas.

22 And so -- so it's not a -- a good time
23 to be in a -- in collaborate -- you know, to
24 collaborate on a joint management proposal, but we
25 did. And the first action we take is to say that we

1 can't do it anymore. And I think that's very tough
2 for anybody to -- to accept in a community where the
3 communities were -- people were never told that
4 before, that they -- they believe that the -- that --
5 that there's no restrictions in place.

6 Now, yes, it -- it's true, but the
7 problem is that there is very -- very little to
8 harvest without threatening the herd even more. So
9 everything is vested in our activity related to the --
10 to the caribou.

11 So one (1) of the things I wanted to
12 talk about was the -- was the collaboration part
13 where, when we're dealing with Canada and GNWT on the
14 Tlicho agreement, what we're talking -- bringing to
15 the table is to describe our lat -- relation to the --
16 to the land, to ourselves, and how we -- how we
17 collaborate with other governments and parties.

18 And so the agreement has an annual
19 gathering where we look for policy development based
20 on what people say at the annual gathering. That kind
21 of gives a good example of where our government should
22 be going. At the same time, when decisions are made,
23 law-making authorities, those are made by the assembly
24 where they actually pass -- pass laws in -- in
25 relation to the government, its structure, including

1 the lands and the usage of those lands.

2 And the chiefs, or chief executive
3 counsel is the one (1) that -- that implements those
4 laws. And the implementation is done by the work
5 force of Tlicho government until it -- it happens. So
6 that's the -- the general structure.

7 And -- and one (1) of the things that -
8 - that has come to be in the agreement is that the
9 Renewable Resources Board and what we brought to the
10 table was our way of doing things. And so when we sit
11 down with federal of Tlicho governments we work out
12 agreements with them and we try to infuse any
13 decisions that we make with them in creating things by
14 making sure that we include elements of our language,
15 culture, and way of life.

16 And I think the -- the Board here in
17 this area is very unique, because it's the only Board
18 that I know of that is established by an agreement
19 that includes self-government. And so the -- the
20 British colonial way of doing business can sometimes
21 maybe even be tweaked by the Board if they so chose.

22 By being part of this collab --
23 collaborative process to ensure that -- that what we
24 bring to the table at this late stage, without having
25 the benefit of putting together a good partnership

1 platform with GNWT instead of being where we are now
2 on the sidelines. That we -- we have an ability to --
3 to do something so that we are -- we are contributing
4 to the recovery of the herd, rather than sit -- sit
5 and wait and -- and wait for the recovery to happen
6 through some legislation or through some management
7 body that we don't really have a -- a part of.

8 So I think it's important that we have
9 a large tract of land. We have activities on those
10 lands, and animals don't know borders. And so we need
11 to collaborate. We need to join forces and even put
12 together programs that we can collaboratively
13 implement at the same time.

14 So we need to kind of get involved in
15 that way. So I think the -- the agreement -- the
16 agreement would allow to -- would allow to have some
17 new moulding around the edges of -- of the Board
18 itself as -- as well as with ENR and -- and Tlicho
19 government. So what -- what I'm basically trying to
20 say is that the Tlicho government needs to be very
21 involved in the caribou management. And we can't just
22 be sitting on the side waiting for this recovery to
23 happen. Because we have a lot of traditional
24 knowledge in the communities that we haven't even
25 heard of that can be used.

1 And all of the indicators that bring us
2 to where we are today is -- a lot of it is science
3 focused. The majority of it. But we need to look
4 further into the -- into the memories and into the
5 landscape where this information is, go on the trails
6 to where the -- where the caribou trails are. And we
7 heard some this morning that, you know, some person
8 would write a book to say that this caribou trails are
9 about seven thousand (7,000) years old.

10 I mean, we probably have those kind of
11 information. The -- the source that's out there has
12 to be tapped. And that's where our partnership comes
13 in, is that we need to bring those forth. But it has
14 to be done in a way that an opportunity is given to
15 open those doors.

16 So when I first started talking I
17 mentioned that, you know, Joseph, myself, and very
18 many people and Joe Rabesca, we started working
19 together in 1983. So when I -- when he mentioned that
20 he was almost sixty-eight (68) years old, I started
21 counting back. But I ran out of fingers. I had to
22 double -- triple it. So it's almost thirty-five (35)
23 years of talking about these things.

24 But it's all based on -- it's all based
25 on the Elders that were there before us, like

1 Arrowmaker, John Nitsiza, Harry Simpson, Joe Migwi
2 that when they -- when they talk about these things
3 they were talking about building a -- an agreement
4 based on the -- on the words of Monfwi, who laid the
5 foundation for these talks back in 1921.

6 And all we did was work with the Elders
7 to try to make it work. But their words are -- were
8 always the same. That as long as the sun rises, the
9 river flows, and the land does not move that we would
10 not be restricted from our way of life.

11 And the only way that non-restriction
12 is in that collaboration of how the river flows, that
13 renews itself constantly, but the parties remain. And
14 it's how we collaborate to deal with the issues that
15 are active, the issues that are tough. But always the
16 intention is to recover. And Canada has gone through
17 very similar things, especially with these residential
18 school hearings that were happening, and they now talk
19 about reconciliation.

20 And so we're really talking about
21 reconciling our differences, and reconciling our
22 knowledge into an area where it's -- we come up with a
23 solution that will make us feel better in the end.
24 And not doing it for division, and not -- not
25 entrenching ourselves into the structures that we've

1 become accustomed to because we're dealing with three
2 (3) different set of laws, federal, Government of the
3 Northwest Territories, and -- and our laws.

4 That those somehow have to be
5 harmonized, and but at the same time the caribou --
6 the -- the caribou being the heart of the -- of our
7 language, culture, and way of life, we need something
8 that gives us comfort from -- moving forward from
9 here. I think that's -- that's what I wanted to -- to
10 bring up, so I don't have any other thing beside that.
11 Masi cho.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Masi, John.
13 Thank you very much. At this time, I give the floor
14 to my colleague, Steve.

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
16 Jonas. Any other presentations from the Tlicho
17 Government? No?

18 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. No further presentation.

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
21 very much. Okay. We're going to move ahead here.
22 We're going to deviate a little bit here. The next
23 order on the agenda would be questioning of the two
24 (2) presentations we've heard from ENR and the Tlicho
25 Government.

1 But just prior to doing that we do have
2 a member of the public here, Mr. Tony Rabesca, who
3 would like to make a statement, and we're going to
4 allow Mr. Rabesca to go ahead and make that statement
5 now.

6 So if you'd like to come up to the
7 microphone, state your name, and you have the floor.

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 STATEMENT BY MR. TONY RABESCA:

12 MR. TONY RABESCA: Thank you. I want
13 to thank you for giving me opportunity to be here.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 MR. TONY RABESCA: The things that --
18 for me -- I've been working with the Tlicho Government
19 under the language, cultural and practice. I'm here
20 for a separate meeting, but I just thought I'd drop by
21 and see what's happening here.

22 But it's a good thing I came by because
23 it's very important that -- looking at changes today,
24 and our young people are looking at modern traditional
25 way of life. They call it strong like two (2) people.

1 How we could work together to make this strong, to
2 have a path that will help our people to -- to also
3 continue on preserving our language, culture, and way
4 of life.

5 As a young person, you know, not only
6 me but pretty -- pretty much in the Tlicho
7 communities, all our young people and youth needs --
8 need to have the rights of passage where they themselves
9 can -- can find the pride and find the skills that
10 they need to survive.

11 And it seems like going back to
12 residential school again where we're restricted from
13 doing things. I think for me -- when I was young, in
14 order for me to be sixteen (16) years old and going
15 forward I had to go hunting and shoot a caribou, and
16 then cut it myself. But I had to learn by my -- my
17 grandparents and my -- my -- so every year we go to
18 the barren lands and we go hunting.

19 I watched them. But finally I said,
20 This is time to go and make the trip, and do it by
21 myself. So I went out on the land, and I -- and I
22 seen a caribou, and I shot it. And I took the knife
23 out, and cut it by myself. And it was the first time
24 I cut caribou, that's the pride that I was looking
25 for. That's the right of passage that I was looking

1 for. That's the cultural that started to look at me
2 and say, I'm proud of being Tlicho.

3 And taking -- taking that away from our
4 young people and our youth is stopping the whole way
5 of life. We're going backwards. I'm seeing all these
6 young people here. And we were talking about it
7 yesterday. What does our past look like? Who's going
8 to stop from the caribou -- hunting the caribou and
9 saying that we're going to stop you from killing and
10 your culture and your way of life?

11 But for me, I found that passage -- by
12 going out there and doing it by myself, I'm able to go
13 there and come back home and feed my -- my parents;
14 not only that, but giving it to my grandma. And my
15 grandma, first thing said, Masi. This -- this is --
16 she had felt very proud of what I'd done.

17 These are the stuff that young people
18 are searching for. And they're the ones that are in
19 need of our help. But what kind of path are we giving
20 them? Think about it, because this is our way of
21 life. This is our culture, language and way of life.

22 I'm using traditional clothes which my
23 wife made me. But if we don't have any more, what's
24 going to happen? She's not going to be sewing. And
25 programs that's going out on the land -- we have --

1 right now, I got over twelve (12) people on the
2 trapping program that we just did. Right now, we have
3 young people going out trapping. And they're trying
4 to find out their -- their own passage of life. And
5 the only way to do it is they have to go out on their
6 own. But if we are stopping from them doing these
7 things, then what are we doing? What -- what kind of
8 message are we bringing across to our people?

9 So that's the reason why I'm saying
10 this. Just recently, we had the Whati people coming -
11 - one (1) youth coming back from Whati to Rae. When
12 he's trying to -- when he's trying to change the gas,
13 the wolf pack went -- went after the young guy. He
14 had to run and stayed on a tree for three (3) hours.
15 That's how scared the wolf are right now.

16 People are, in the communities, in
17 Whati, Gameti, D'noah (phonetic). And the young guy
18 survived because he -- he went on the tree and stayed
19 there for three (3) hours. But then there's a --
20 there's a skidoo coming back. He -- he started
21 running. This is how scary it is. Not only one (1)
22 skidoo, but there has to be two (2) skidoo following
23 each other now. These are the stuff that we're
24 looking at. These are the wolf. That's how damaging
25 they're doing. They're not scared now. They're

1 around in our community, in Whati, Gameti, Wekweti and
2 Behchoko.

3 And I think we need to -- for me, when
4 I was young, my grandfather said, if there was a wolf,
5 make sure everything balan -- would balance
6 everything, so everything will be balanced itself.

7 I just thought I would say this because
8 this is our life. This is our young people. We need
9 to have a plan in place that will develop a path that
10 will help our next generation. Masi.

11

12 QUESTION PERIOD:

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
14 very much, Tony.

15 Okay, so the next order, we're going to
16 move into the questioning now. And the order of
17 questions will be the Intervenors starting with the
18 Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Metis
19 Alliance, the Board's technical experts, Board staff,
20 legal counsel, and Board members.

21 For those asking questions,
22 Intervenors, please, you have fifteen (15) minutes
23 allotted for your questioning. And please direct your
24 questions to either governments or both the
25 governments. And again, please state your name and

1 speak slowly.

2 So if we can start with the
3 Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Alex. Thank you very
4 much.

5
6 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
7 Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Thank you, Mr. Chair
8 and the Board, everyone, for being here. My first is
9 directed to the GNWT, ENR. And I'm curious if there's
10 any -- if any talks or any, I guess, internal
11 consultations have been given to what restrictions
12 will be placed on industry in order to reduce the
13 impact on caribou?

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for the
18 GNWT. So as we pointed out in our presentation, the
19 way restrictions on industry are handled is through
20 the environmental assessment process. So each
21 activity, each development is treated separately and
22 specifically.

23 Developments are required to have a
24 wildlife management and monitoring plan in which they
25 identify what the potential impacts on caribou might

1 be, as well as other wildlife, and how those impacts
2 will be monitored, mitigated, and minimized. And
3 those restrictions -- the restrictions that go into
4 those plans are enforceable by law.

5 There is also restrictions put on
6 industry by the Board, by the Mackenzie Valley
7 Environmental Impact Review Board, during that EA
8 process. So that's how most of -- that's how
9 development is being handled.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Further
11 questions, Alex?

12 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
13 Yellowknives Dene First Nation. So something that --
14 that YKDFN has brought to ENR in the past is with the
15 current regulations and just regulations in -- in
16 general on hunting, one (1) of the issues that's
17 recurred for YKDFN members is the ticketing of YKDF
18 members -- YKDFN members for not having ID with them
19 identifying them as First Nation.

20 And so with the continuance -- sorry,
21 I'll slow down. With the continuance of these
22 regulations, I'm curious what ENR is doing to improve
23 training of ENR officers to ensure that they're
24 respecting the rights of YKDFN members?

25 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,

1 with ENR. I guess just the question he's asking is
2 what training we're giving our officers. Basically,
3 our officers are well versed on the regulations and
4 the Wildlife Act. But we -- I guess we -- we're --
5 we're not out there to ticket everybody that is out
6 there.

7 We usually ask for identification if
8 anybody is harvesting, which we haven't had any in the
9 last couple years. And like all our officers pretty
10 well are Aboriginal officers, so they understand the
11 culture and what's going on out there.

12 But for specific training, we -- we
13 don't have, you know, to train the officers to -- I
14 don't know, your question was to identify YKDFN
15 members, or -- but there -- there's a process when
16 they check somebody, ask for identification, you know,
17 but not just because they're out there.

18 If there is any harvesting that's going
19 on or any activities that require some information
20 being gathered from the people out there, they'll go
21 through the proper process.

22 Does that answer your question?

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay.

2 Thanks, Fred. Any other questions, Alex?

3 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
4 Yellowknives Dene First Nation. It partly answers my
5 question. I guess I'll -- I'll reframe it a little
6 bit. Is -- is ENR looking into, or would they be open
7 into looking into an improved mechanism for resolving
8 issues around harvesters who do not have
9 identification, but do have harvesting rights?

10 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
11 ENR. Absolutely. The department is always looking
12 for ways to improve working with the First Nations,
13 and any suggestions or anything that comes out of
14 meetings with them, we'll definitely pursue.

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Alex...?

16 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you. Alex
17 Power, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. So now,
18 another line of questioning. I'm -- I'm curious about
19 -- now that YKDFN recognizes the -- the authority of
20 governments to impose regulations for conservation
21 purposes. This is something that's been through
22 courts a number of times.

23 And, you know, it's -- it's sort of --
24 it's -- it's understood. But what I'm -- I'm curious
25 about -- and but a lot of members are really concerned

1 about is how either ENR or the GNWT is going to
2 address the soo -- food security issues that arise
3 from the restriction of harvesting, because this is
4 akin to, you know, closing the grocery store.

5 And so now that you're closing the
6 grocery store, are you -- should you close the grocery
7 store? How -- what's the plan?

8 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Well, we've --
9 we've offered assistance in the past to the YKDFN.
10 We've assisted in the community hunts to harvest from
11 adjacent herds to the -- to the Bathurst. And there's
12 other species that can be harvested. We've opened up
13 the harvest of muskox in unit U, which has been closed
14 up until this year. And the members are -- or
15 Aboriginal people, they can harvest the muskox.

16 And also another thing we've done this
17 year is we've assisted the Yellowknife Dene in -- in
18 purchasing a number of reindeer from the reindeer herd
19 up in Inuvik, which is privately owned. And I believe
20 they do -- we -- we purchased fourteen (14) reindeer
21 complete to give to the Yellowknife Dene.

22 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power, YKDFN.
23 Yeah. No, I'm -- I'm aware of those programs. And --
24 and I guess what I'm asking for is a more long-term
25 and syst -- systematic way of addressing food

1 security. Because there's not that many muskox. It's
2 getting harder to even get to other herds, or find
3 them for community hunts. And should those be closed,
4 we would like some assurance that, you know, that --
5 that some course of action will be taken to address
6 what, again, is a food security issue for -- that
7 affects most those who have the least other
8 opportunities to secure nutritious food, i.e. Elders
9 and land users.

10 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
11 ENR. I guess it's just continue a dialogue with the
12 Yellowknives Dene and, you know, working together on
13 coming up with ideas or, you know, on how to -- to
14 source the shortage of caribou, I guess. And -- and,
15 you know, this is not just a Yellowknife Dene
16 situation. There's other groups that still have that
17 -- that problem of -- of securing country foods, I
18 guess. And we'll continue to work and have dialogue
19 with the Yellowknife Dene on this.

20 MS. LYNDA YONGE: And Lynda Yonge, for
21 ENR. In addition to that, moving forward, so we do
22 have a new government in place. And that new
23 government has released its priorities for the 18th
24 Assembly. And one (1) of those is to address food
25 security issues, recognizing issues with caribou. So

1 I don't know exactly what that means, but it does mean
2 that it will be a priority and will stay high in front
3 for looking at things moving forward.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Any further
5 questions, Mr. Power?

6 MR. ALEX POWER: Yes, thank you. Alex
7 Power, YKDFN.

8 Okay. Thank -- thank you. I
9 appreciate the answer. And, you know, you're --
10 you're expressing willingness to work more on food
11 security issues in the future.

12 So I had some questions about the wolf
13 harvest. And the -- the questions are largely around
14 the logistics of wolf harvesting. And I -- I'll
15 preface by saying I understand that the feasibility
16 study isn't -- isn't done. But I'm going to ask
17 anyway.

18 So it's my understanding, I want to
19 know if it's also the GNWT's understanding, that wolf
20 harvests that -- or wolf control that has been done in
21 other districts has required a -- quite a large
22 proportion of wolves be harvested for an extended
23 period in order to have a significant impact on the
24 recovery of the prey species. Is this -- is this also
25 the GNWT's understanding of wolf control?

1 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
2 with ENR. Alex, that is our understanding, and there
3 are a number of published studies. There's a book
4 that was published a few years ago that kind of makes
5 that point.

6 I would maybe add one (1) point. We've
7 had a number of discussions with some of our
8 colleagues in Alaska because Alaska Fish and Game has
9 more experience with wolf control than anybody else
10 does, and they have four (4) tundra migratory caribou
11 herds that are most similar to the Bathurst, or the
12 herds that we have.

13 And they -- they have not yet had the
14 direct experience of wolf control with any of those
15 herds. So there's experience with mountain
16 populations. There's boreal woodland caribou in the
17 south. But no one has actually really done this for
18 one of these tundra migratory herds.

19 So to some extent, we'll be learning as
20 we go.

21 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you. Alex
22 Power, Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

23 So -- so my concern is, and I'll use
24 the concern, and it will -- there will be a question,
25 is that, like, the insufficient number, or not enough

1 wolves will be harvested to make a significant impact.

2

3 And I know that previously when wolf
4 harvests have been done, or wolf culls have been done
5 in the North, the majority of the wolves came from
6 around dumps and urban centres, and urban, like,
7 communities.

8 And so I'm curious how -- how are we
9 going to effect a significant change in the wolf
10 population over such a huge area, half of which is in
11 Nunavut, without it being a giant waste of money
12 because -- and -- and again, YKDFN isn't -- isn't
13 afraid -- or isn't against the harvesting of wolves,
14 though many YKDFN members will not harvest wolves.
15 And that's an issue, too, and that's why I'm -- I'm
16 posing the question to you.

17 How -- how?

18 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
19 with ENR, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a nice simple
20 answer for you on that. And I guess the way we're
21 thinking about this feasibility assessment is that it
22 -- you know, we have a template from Alaska Fish and
23 Game that they use when they consider predator
24 reduction. We can follow that, but we'll have to
25 modify.

1 And part of the overall evaluation is
2 going to have to be those kinds of practical
3 considerations, like can we do this on a large enough
4 scale in a way that's actually going to be effective?
5 And I guess at this point, we don't quite have the
6 answer on that. I think we're -- we're certainly on
7 the same page with the Tlicho Government that we need
8 to try something.

9 So we're very much supporting the pilot
10 program from -- that's been proposed by the Tlicho
11 Government. But as John Nishi emphasized, we want to
12 learn as we go. And part of that will be trying to
13 get a better sense of how many wolves are out there,
14 and if we take some wolves, is the reduction
15 significant? Is it having an affect on the caribou
16 herd?

17 So the follow-up monitoring, all those
18 things will have to be part of that overall
19 feasibility. So we don't have it all figured out.
20 We'll be very honest about that, but the kinds of
21 challenges that you're mentioning are very much on our
22 minds.

23 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power, YKDFN.
24 How -- how am I for time? I don't want to --

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: You're just

1 about out.

2 MR. ALEX POWER: Okay. Very, very
3 briefly is a question again for GNWT. If -- if you
4 can answer it now, I don't know if I can request an --
5 an undertaking or anything, if that falls within
6 something I can do.

7 But are you aware of any examples that
8 have been -- that have been well documented of grizzly
9 bear or brown bear harvesting or predator control, and
10 how brown bear populations respond to that?

11 Because, you know, one (1) of the nice
12 things about wolves is, as mentioned, you can -- you
13 can shoot an awful lot of them, and they come back
14 pretty quickly. I -- I don't know if that's -- if
15 that's -- what about bears?

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: I'd just
17 like to give the Tlicho Government an opportunity to
18 respond to any of Mr. Powers's questions.

19 John...?

20 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 John Nishi, Tlicho Government.

22 A great question, Alex. And maybe to
23 just add a bit more to the GNWT response. The -- you
24 know, the question of how do we design a -- a wolf
25 management program, I'd be hesitant to use the word

1 "control", because it assumes that we know more than
2 we do.

3 And I guess the way that -- that I've
4 been thinking about this problem is, in the context of
5 an adaptive management framework, which we were
6 talking about before, we could try to establish
7 numerical targets for wolf removals, basically asking
8 the question: How many wolves...

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. JOHN NISHI: Sorry. We're
13 basically asking the question of: How many wolves
14 would need to be removed in order to see some sort of
15 response in the caribou herd? And the simple
16 approach would be to consider that caribou -- excuse
17 me, wolves eat caribou.

18 On average -- there's various estimates
19 of on average the number of caribou that a wolf would
20 eat in -- in a year, and that number would range from,
21 say, fifteen (15) to thirty (30).

22 So if we think about the data that the
23 GNWT has in terms of population size, we can start to
24 understand or consider what the current age and sex
25 structure is. And if we are looking at the number of

1 breeding females or the number of adult females and
2 our objective is to try and help more adult females
3 recover, then we should be able to develop a rationale
4 and a logic and spell out what our assumptions are in
5 terms of how many wolves -- or how many caribou a wolf
6 would eat and how many wolves would need to be removed
7 in order to see an increase in survival.

8 So those are the key questions I think
9 that you've touched on that need to be worked through
10 and developed. And my assumption is that those are
11 the key questions that that feasibility assessment
12 would be tackling. But I think it's important to
13 remember a couple things, as Jan had mentioned, that a
14 lot of the experience on wolf management is not in a
15 tundra migratory barren ground situation.

16 So we should be cautious about applying
17 sort of a rule of thumb to say, you know, you need to
18 remove 80 percent or 60 percent of the wolves out
19 there. We should be looking, I think, at -- at a much
20 simpler rationale, and then looking to our partners in
21 the communities, the expert hunters, to get some
22 insight on what's feasible and what's not.

23 There's a tremendous amount of
24 experience and skill, I think, in communities from the
25 southern part of the Bathurst range all the way up

1 into Nunavut in terms of people's abilities and
2 knowledge on hunting wolves. And I think that'll be a
3 key part of addressing the question that you posed.
4 Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: I'd just
6 like to ask ENR, Mr. Adamczewski, would you like to
7 respond to the -- Alex's question about grizzly bears?
8 You say, No?

9 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
10 with ENR. In terms of the grizzly bears, again, I'd
11 go back to, I guess, some of the experience in Alaska
12 where, you know, they've -- they have gone after brown
13 bears or grizzly bears. It's hard to transfer that
14 directly to our part of the world because their
15 densities are much higher.

16 But they have run into situations in
17 the past where they went out and they killed a bunch
18 of wolves and found that with moose, they didn't get
19 the response that they wanted. And it turned out that
20 bears were actually the more important predator for
21 moose in those areas. And then in those areas, then,
22 once they decided to kill bears, then -- then they did
23 get the response that they were looking for in the
24 moose population.

25 In terms of their ability to recover

1 from harvest or reduction in numbers, that would be --
2 that would certainly have to be a consideration for
3 our grizzly bear populations in the sense that they're
4 relatively low density, they're low productivity, so
5 their ability to recover from large scale reduction
6 would be much slower, I would expect, than -- than
7 with wolves.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: John
12 Nishi...?

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
17 Chair. John Nishi. I just want to remind ourselves
18 that, you know, in -- in the recent caribou management
19 meetings and workshops over the past -- over the past
20 couple years, we've heard concerns about high
21 occurrence of predators like wolves and grizzly bears
22 from Inuit communities in the Western Kitikmeot, who
23 are traditional land users in the northern portion of
24 the Bathurst annual range.

25 And from those comments, we have a

1 strong sense from hearing those concerns that Inuit
2 are also concerned about impacts or predation on the
3 Bathurst herd. So in terms of potential objectives or
4 managing, say, grizzly bears, I think it's important
5 to also consider that it, you know, it may be trying
6 to target specific animals within the calving or post-
7 calving range, and it may not necessarily be sort of a
8 blanket see a bear/shoot a bear kind of approach.

9 And I think that from Inuit knowledge
10 and local knowledge of grizzly bears in -- in that
11 part of the range, then, that would -- that would
12 probably be another useful question to be considering
13 in the feasibility assessment if it were to consider
14 grizzly bears, is to try and rely on that local
15 knowledge to establish a target for -- for managing
16 bears, which initially should be, I would think,
17 within the kind of the current management up -- regime
18 in -- in Nunavut, which has a annual allowable harvest
19 of grizzly bears.

20 So maybe it's just allocating where
21 that harvest is taken from as opposed to trying to
22 develop sort of a broad scale bear reduction scheme.
23 Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. Thank
25 you, Mr. Power, for your questions and the responders.

1 If we could move on now to the North Slave Metis
2 Alliance. Shin, do you have any questions?

3 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Shin Shiga, with North Slave Metis Alliance. I -- I
5 would like to thank the Board and the staff for
6 organizing and hosting this hearing. I'd also like to
7 thank ENR and TG for drafting this proposal. NSMA
8 members appreciate that. We all share the concerns.

9 Having said -- said that, I have no
10 questions. Thank you.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
12 Mr. Shin (sic). Okay. Could we now move onto the
13 Board's technical experts, and we'll start with Dr.
14 Gunn.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 And thank you to TG and GNWT for your presentations.
20 The -- the questions I have for you relate to both
21 presentations. So first of all, my question will go
22 to GNWT, because you presented first, and then, if
23 necessary, to TG.

24 My questions are -- are set in a
25 particular context that was very well described by TG,

1 and that is what -- we're dealing with really, a very
2 small -- the herd has reached a very small number, and
3 it's still undergoing a high rate of decline. And so
4 time is not on our side.

5 So my questions refer -- or they
6 emphasize timelines within the joint proposal so as to
7 try and minimize the risk of delay in halting
8 declines.

9 My first question on the overall
10 proposal is the goal of the joint proposal is to halt
11 the decline. I think it's quite unusual in a
12 management proposal to have a -- a goal to halt the
13 decline, and at the same time, to acknowledge that the
14 decline may continue.

15 So knowing the risk that the -- the
16 decline may continue, understanding more about that
17 risk will assist the Board in which decisions to
18 support to reduce that risk, and as well, the
19 consequences of waiting, of delaying actions. So
20 based on your proposal, there are only two (2) actions
21 that provide relief to the caribou, direct measurable
22 relief, the TAH and the Tlicho Wolf Training Program.

23 Can you clarify are there any other
24 actions being proposed that would impact vital rates
25 such as adult survival within the next year? And I

1 understand your proposal starts -- well, the Tlicho
2 wolf work starts this coming spring, but I think you
3 gave an official beginning not until November 2016.
4 So I'm kind of hoping for a response that would be in
5 2016.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

10 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
11 with ENR. I guess the short and relatively simple
12 answer, Anne, is that there is nothing else that's
13 being considered at this time. The zero harvest, as
14 far as we know, was in effect last winter, and more or
15 less this winter, unless somebody goes out and kills a
16 bunch of Bathurst caribou.

17 The pilot project with the Tlicho --
18 the wolf reduction, I think the intent was to try
19 something still this winter, or towards the end of
20 winter. And beyond that, we would hope to have our
21 feasibility assessment done this year, and then I
22 guess consider next steps in terms of predator
23 reduction towards the end of the year once we have
24 that feasibility assessment done.

25 MS. LYNDA YONGE: And Lynda Yonge,

1 ENR, also to add. So the Wolf Incentive Program with
2 the increased incentive is in place now. So that
3 isn't waiting till the -- so for all harvesters, yeah.

4 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, I would
5 just like to follow-up on that. Just a point of
6 clarification, Lynda. That's the incentive program
7 that hasn't worked yet?

8 MS. LYNDA YONGE: It's an -- a
9 continuation of the incentive program that we had in
10 place. However, it's been expanded to try to
11 encourage harvesters -- additional harvesters to enter
12 in. So, for example, harvesters can now shoot a wolf
13 or trap a wolf and bring it in without having to skin
14 it. One (1) of the disincentives we were told of
15 participating was it was a lot of work to skin out the
16 wolves to taxidermy standards.

17 So we have removed that requirement.
18 So you can now bring in a wolf without skinning it and
19 get two hundred dollars (\$200). You can also bring in
20 a wolf done to traditional standards, which again, is
21 hope -- hopefully will address some of that
22 disincentive. And then -- then the incentives have
23 also been increased in terms of monetary value.

24 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, can I
25 ask another follow-up?

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Yes, you
2 can. Go ahead.

3 DR. ANNE GUNN: Does it take mostly
4 wolves close to communities, or is this setting up
5 longer distance trap lines so people will be right out
6 on the caribou ranges?

7 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
8 with ENR. The last couple of years, the majority of
9 the wolves that have been harvested have been wolves
10 taken closer to the communities. There's been some
11 that harvested out in the area of the actual wintering
12 range where the Bathurst are.

13 But even in the communities, there's a
14 lot of concern on the number of wolves around the
15 communities. So we're trying to remove those
16 populations, and -- people are trying to remove those.
17 And the ones that are out hunting, if they come upon a
18 wolf normally they'll harvest those, so.

19 I guess in answer to your -- to your
20 questions, I guess, a lot of the wolves are around the
21 communities in the last couple of years so we're
22 trying to -- trying to enhance it to get the people to
23 go out where the wolves are actually causing the
24 problems. Thanks.

25 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you. Now I have

1 another question. This one is on the proposed TAH,
2 which is one (1) of the two (2) management actions.

3 The importance of this for the Board is
4 the evidence of what was contributing to the most
5 recent decline in 2012/2015 (sic). At that time,
6 based on the collars this -- adult survival was about
7 50 to 60 percent per year. And then in 2014/2015, it
8 rose quite substantially to about 77 percent. So at -
9 - when the survival was low, the -- was when there was
10 overlap between the Bluenose East and the Bathurst
11 herd in, I think in one of the zones, zone 3 -- no,
12 zone 1.

13 And so what I'm asking is: If there
14 was the possibility of inadvertent harvesting because
15 the two (2) caribou herds were together in the zone
16 where Bluenose East could be -- the Bluenose East hunt
17 was ascribed to the Bluenose East? So if there was
18 inadvertent harvesting, could that be the mechanism
19 for the decline 2012 to 2014, and when the harvest was
20 restricted to thirty (30) that was when there was an
21 increase in survival?

22 The reason I'm asking this is because
23 it's important for the Board to know whether, in fact,
24 there's now with the -- with the further restriction
25 in the harvest, there's a greater likelihood of a

1 reduction in the decline, or whether the other factors
2 are still operating just as strongly? Have -- have I
3 lost you, or...?

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
5 with -- with ENR. I guess a couple things to point
6 out, Anne. In terms of the collar-based survival
7 estimation, we've talked about that. And I think you
8 have to be careful how much confidence you put in
9 those estimates because they are based on very small
10 numbers.

11 So random chance could mean those
12 numbers are up, or they're down. So we put more
13 confidence in the survival rate estimation that John
14 Boulanger gives us through the population model.

15 In terms of the inadvertent harvest, or
16 possible harvest of Bathurst cows, there was an
17 Information Request where we tried to address that
18 question, and a year that stood out was -- was 2013
19 because there were fourteen (14) Bathurst collared
20 females that winter, and they were scattered all the
21 way from Hottah Lake to the far end, sort of the east
22 arm of Great Slave Lake.

23 So there were Bathurst collars outside
24 of the two (2) protected zones at both ends of it, and
25 the scale of the harvest at the western end in zone 1

1 where the Bluenose East harvest was fairly substantial
2 still. There was overlap there.

3 Now, just how much that added up to
4 gets a bit marginal statistically because now you're
5 dividing fourteen (14) collars among four (4) zones,
6 and how much of the herd did that represent and how
7 many were taken because hard to judge but 2013 stood
8 out as a winter where there were at least five (5) of
9 the Bathurst collared cows were well over into that
10 zone towards Hottah Lake, Great Bear Lake. And very
11 back of the envelope calculations suggested that that
12 Bathurst harvest could have been larger than anything
13 in -- in the two (2) zones where the three hundred
14 (300) applied.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Dr. Gunn, I
19 think John Nishi would like to respond, as well.

20 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
21 chair. John Nishi. As I understood the questions
22 that Dr. Gunn posed -- sorry, I'm having a problem
23 here. The first question was: Are there any other
24 measurable actions, I guess, to improve adult survival
25 other than managing hunting or trying to manage

1 predation? And I can't think of any other management
2 lever off the top of my head, so I would say those are
3 the two (2) main ones.

4 As far as the potential for the
5 inadvertent harvesting of Bluenose and Bathurst
6 caribou when they overlap in their wister -- winter
7 distribution, I think that's always a concern. And I
8 think that that's shaped the -- the monitoring of the
9 harvesting and the hunting effort that's gone on.

10 I would like to think that through that
11 monitoring we can, as ENR has done through the
12 information response, provide some context as to what
13 the potential for inadvertent hunting might have been,
14 but I think there's room for improvement there,
15 possibly, you know, just trying to get better
16 resolution of when animals are taken relative to where
17 the collared caribou are.

18 I think there's another important thing
19 to consider when say, as Dr. Gunn points out, that
20 despite, you know, sort of the high variance in the
21 survival rates based on small number of collared cows,
22 if there's a pattern of lower survival when there's
23 overlap between adjacent herds versus when there's
24 less overlap, there's also another potential mechanism
25 which could be through predation where you do have

1 wolves that are following these migratory caribou.

2 And as these migratory caribou overlap
3 in the wintertime you could have higher rates of
4 predation on the smaller population because now
5 they're -- they're being preyed upon by not just the
6 wolves that are tied to them through most of their
7 annual cycle, but now through that period of time
8 there's higher numbers of wolves when they're
9 overlapping.

10 So I think that's another important
11 consideration when we think about the management
12 levers and the question of how to try to reduce
13 mortality. Thank you.

14 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 I would just like to do a short followup on that. I -
16 - your -- your response to the IR was very helpful.
17 You only gave the analysis for one (1) year.

18 And then I was also thinking of what
19 John was saying about when the herds overlap they may
20 bring their own wolves with them, so to speak. I know
21 Dean Cluff's work has already shown that that happens.

22 So what would be useful would be a more
23 detailed special analysis at a fairly high frequency
24 of timing of the winter distribution and the proximity
25 between the collars of the two (2) herds, and then to

1 go to the communities and ask them about their
2 knowledge of who -- what they thought might have been
3 going on with both the wolves and the caribou.

4 And that way, a more collaborative way
5 to seeing if the Board -- if there's evidence for what
6 might have been underpinning that decline between 2012
7 and 2015. And so I'll leave at that for this
8 question.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Further
10 questioning, Anne?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, in the
15 Information Requests about determining the outcome of
16 management actions, Tlicho responded to suggest that
17 the proposed harvest reduction to zero from the thirty
18 (30) caribou which was in 2014/2015, Tlicho suggested
19 that that would be undetectable given the precision of
20 the monitoring.

21 So my question to them is: Why not
22 have -- why not consider a TAH of thirty (30) caribou,
23 because it would be undetectable as an effect
24 biologically, so biologically there's no difference
25 between zero and thirty (30), but as an option for the

1 continuity of harvesting for elders sharing with
2 youth, to -- to have that continuity, I wondered if
3 that would be a helpful suggestion that you might have
4 an answer to?

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Tlicho
6 government...?

7 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Co-Chair. If you -- if you'd want to give us a
9 second. Thank you.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: No problem.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
15 Chair. John Nishi, with Tlicho government. That's a
16 great question. There had been a lot of conversation
17 around what a minimum sort of total allowable harvest
18 might be. And I think as Dr. Gunn points out, the
19 precision of the data that are collected would not
20 allow us to collect, you know, what the potential
21 benefit of taking ten (10) versus thirty (30) versus
22 zero caribou would be.

23 And I think the general discussion, at
24 least within the Tlicho government, and Dr. John B.
25 Zoe will -- will provide some more perspective on

1 this, but the approach I think was to -- to land on
2 this recommendation both as -- as a precautionary
3 measure as well as just showing support for the
4 severity for the decline and showing some leadership
5 on trying to manage the harvest.

6 But, yeah, it's a -- it's a good
7 question. I don't think I've answered it as -- as
8 well as -- as well as I could, but I think there's
9 some -- like the -- it's not necessarily just the
10 biological part of it, there's very much sort of the -
11 - the policy side of it and I'll ask Dr. John B. Zoe
12 to give you that perspective.

13 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: John B. Zoe, Senior
14 Advisor, Tlicho government. I guess the practical
15 answer would be that I guess when we go up the chain
16 we don't want to be the -- the part of the chain that
17 kind of determines the demise of the caribou, the
18 Bathurst caribou.

19 And so when we had the opportunity to -
20 - to have some, what are they called, the ceremonial
21 tags, the -- the leadership decided that we -- we
22 should take leadership, we should -- because we're one
23 (1) of the primary users in the area. That it's
24 serious decline, we're in an area that's unchartered
25 territory and that if there's going to be any recovery

1 we need to start right away.

2 And that was one (1) of the reasons
3 that zero tags was probably the best option at the
4 time. Masi.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Does the
9 GNWT want to provide any comments?

10 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
11 with -- with ENR. We did have one (1) slide that we
12 sort of was -- wasn't in our presentation. It was
13 kind of a -- oh, I guess a -- a reserve slide. But I
14 can give you the numbers, just -- just verbally. John
15 Boulanger is our modeler and has worked with the
16 Bathurst herd for many years now. And we asked him to
17 kind of take a look at how a zero harvest would
18 compare to a harvest of two hundred (200) bulls and
19 five hundred (500) bulls from the Bathurst herd. And,
20 of course, always lots of assumptions as to what you
21 put into the model.

22 But the short answer with the cow
23 survival rate and the calf productivity that we've
24 been seeing, with a zero harvest we would end up with
25 the Bathurst herd at about twelve thousand four

1 hundred (12,400) in 2018. With a harvest of two
2 hundred (200) bulls you would be just below two (2) --
3 twelve thousand (12,000). And with a harvest of five
4 hundred (500) bulls you would be at about eleven
5 thousand three hundred (11,300).

6 So those are not overwhelming
7 differences. But I think we see it much as John B.
8 Zoe explained. The first word has to be, Do no harm.
9 And, Don't contribute to further decline. And so even
10 that low level of harvest maybe is not going to be the
11 difference for the herd, but it's something that we
12 can control and it's something that we can do that's
13 positive for the herd.

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
15 Anne -- Jan. Bruno, would you like to say a few
16 words?

17 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Please, Mr. Chair.
18 Thank you. Dr. Gunn, thank you for your question.
19 Let's also keep in mind that GN recommended to the
20 NWMB, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, a TAH of
21 thirty (30). So it's already there. And if you look
22 at the history of the NWMB in the case of Baffin
23 Island last year, their final determination was much
24 higher than what GN recommended.

25 So and add to this, because there's

1 always some accidental harvest occurring, there's
2 already Bathurst caribou potentially that are going to
3 be harvested probably higher than the thirty (30)
4 numbers we just referred to. So that's our approach
5 when we -- we talk about a precautionary principle in
6 this case, Dr. Gunn.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Further --
8 further questions, Anne?

9 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, I have
10 several more questions. The effectiveness of the
11 restricted harvest, even the zero one (1), is going to
12 depend on this mobile protection area and with the
13 intent to develop a rules-based approach to a number
14 of subzones.

15 When will this be completed, and
16 provided as a management proposal to this Board?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Linda Yonge, for
21 ENR. We are still under discussion about the subzone
22 approach. It may or may not ever come to the Board.
23 It depends on whether or not we reach agreement with
24 the other Aboriginal governments. It is -- the -- the
25 subzone approach has some advantages to it. But for

1 now we feel that the mobile zone is capturing and
2 protecting the core of the Bathurst cows. And -- and
3 we are going to rely on that for now.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Does Tlicho
8 government want to respond?

9 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Yeah, I --
10 Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho government. I concur
11 what's been said. We just -- there's more research
12 needed than what's actually needed. We -- the -- the
13 subzones that were submitted in the proposal were --
14 were drafted between one (1) or two (2) Elders, or --
15 one (1) or two (2) Elders I think. And -- so -- and
16 technical staff.

17 And -- but more we need definitely
18 input from -- from different groups. And -- and to
19 make the lines more visible -- or more recognizable on
20 the lands. That's -- that was the whole point of the
21 substance, to make them recognizable on the lands.

22 So -- so more information is needed, so
23 to give a certain date to it would be -- would be very
24 hard. Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Other

1 questions, Anne?

2 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 I have a few more. The Tlicho project for -- for
4 training, both TG and ENR characterize the current
5 decline as an emergency crisis, that the herd is
6 precarious. The herd is declare -- declining 2012,
7 2015, somewhere between 13 and 20 percent a year, so
8 delays in any additional management actions are a real
9 concern to the Board.

10 So how, and more importantly, when will
11 the community training project be assessed and
12 reported so that there will be an understanding of
13 what next steps, and when they can be implemented?
14 And that applies to the next steps that the Tlicho
15 training program will do, but also how the results of
16 that would relate to GNWT's proposed intensive --
17 possible intensification?

18 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Masi.

19 Sjoerd van der Wielen, Tlicho Government. We are
20 already having some education programs in place. It's
21 a very wide range, and so the citing your gun offence
22 falls under it. The -- the posters and flyers that we
23 give out, and the information online, is also already
24 on the way.

25 We tried to inform our -- our Tlicho

1 citizens as -- as best and as most informative as we
2 can. We -- we try, but it's an ongoing process. We
3 do realize that. And -- and it needs additives, so we
4 are in discussion with the -- with the schools about -
5 - about adding it to the -- the regular school
6 program.

7 And -- and we are -- and we are looking
8 at ways to -- to give more and better information
9 sessions to all the Tlicho people, and harvesters.

10 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. -- Mr. Chairman,
11 can I -- can I get some clarification because --

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Certainly.

13 DR. ANNE GUNN: I may have
14 misunderstood you but I -- I didn't get an answer that
15 -- that I was hoping for. When your -- when you and
16 the youth are out and with the wolves, and some wolves
17 are going to be trapped, and there will be -- you will
18 have tracked the caribou, walked in their trails, and
19 got a sense of wolf kills in the bush. This sort of
20 thing.

21 Will there be a report on that, and an
22 assessment of its success in terms of how it
23 contributed to wolf management in -- in enough detail
24 that it then hands off to -- if GNWT needs to take any
25 steps? So I'm looking for sort of the timelines for

1 reporting, the -- the assessment of its success in
2 terms of wolf management, and how it helps -- how it
3 helps you collaborate with GNWT.

4 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Sjoerd van
5 der Wielen, Tlicho Government. I -- I apologize, I
6 thought we were talking about the education system.

7 But if we're talking about the pilot --
8 the community-based pilot harvesting program, we -- we
9 are trying to get the workshop organized as quickly as
10 possible. We are -- we were actually hoping to have
11 it done in February but we are -- our resources are --
12 are stretched out thin. I was working on this.

13 We are trying still to get the workshop
14 done as soon as possible. We are still looking at
15 February, and if not early March, and to have one crew
16 out on the land straight after that for a couple
17 weeks.

18 ENR will join us with the -- will join
19 us when they can on the lands with a biologist. And I
20 think I would leave then. And then we have to -- in
21 collaboration with the ENR, we would have to talk
22 about the -- the reports. So maybe ENR can answer
23 that part.

24 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for
25 ENR. And I -- just for clarification, and you're

1 asking about how the Tlicho pilot project will feed
2 into the feasibility and potential actions that we
3 take based on that, is that -- and how that will work.

4 So any -- working with the Tlicho, that
5 would be one (1) of the things that we look at. It's
6 one (1) of the options for increased wolf control, so
7 it would be part of that feasibility study. It'll
8 depend on how well that works, what kind of uptake
9 there is and whether other -- there are other
10 communities and other ga -- Aboriginal governments
11 that are interested in something similar.

12 If it's a success, then we could move
13 on that quickly.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, I have
18 another clarification. This is Anne Gunn, for the
19 Board. I keep forgetting. If -- if, for a variety of
20 reasons, it's -- it's not very successful in terms of,
21 like, supposing only five (5) wolves were taken, does
22 GNWT envisage being step -- being able to step in --
23 into '16 to start wolf removal as a support to the --
24 what TG has started but to amplify so as not to have a
25 long -- another long delay?

1 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Lynda Yonge,
2 for ENR. We would first need to know why the TG
3 program wasn't successful, like, what kind of barriers
4 there were. We would not be willing to say right at
5 this point what we would or wouldn't do. That's the
6 whole point of the feasibility study, to see what
7 kinds of actions may or may not work and what's
8 entailed in them.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Bruno...?

10 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. If I could just add to Mr. Yonge.

12 Dr. Gunn, there's a couple very simple
13 reasons why it's not any further ahead than we would
14 have liked to be this winter. The first one is --
15 like it was mentioned earlier, we're stretched right
16 down to the -- the wire here in terms of time and
17 resources due to those multiple hearings that we need
18 to get going.

19 The other reason is simply that, well,
20 first of all, the logistic and the training.
21 Everything has to take place. The trainers have to be
22 brought in -- into the -- the loop.

23 And, finally, as of the last seven (7)
24 to ten (10) days, the Bathurst caribou, the collared
25 females that were located somewhere else in the

1 mobiles are now moving back towards the very area
2 where we wanted to develop that specific project in
3 association with the Wekweti hunters.

4 Now we're slowly getting back to where
5 something can be workable. Are we going to make it
6 before the end of the winter? I sure hope so. But
7 we're fighting this thing on all kinds of fronts right
8 now. And hopefully we could get something going this
9 winter and be in the position to report to Dr. Gunn
10 and the Board and others what we found out by the time
11 we hit late April, early May. That's our objective.
12 There's a lot of moving parts into this. So that's
13 for this winter, Dr. Gunn.

14 Personally, I'd like to continue on
15 next winter so we give a good try to this wolf pilot
16 project, Dr. Gunn, and see what it can really do.
17 We're hearing from the communities now more so than
18 ever before that they want to be part of the solution
19 when it comes to wolf harvesting. And we need to give
20 them a change to be part of it.

21 And in the meanwhile, like was
22 mentioned earlier, we'll go and develop that
23 feasibility study.

24 DR. ANNE GUNN: Okay, thank you.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Any further
4 questions, Dr. Gunn?

5 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
6 I have just a few more. In the -- in the GNWT
7 presentation Jan mentioned the recovery of the
8 Fortymile caribou herd in Alaska. It's an interesting
9 example because nothing happened in recovery for quite
10 a number of years until they changed the model of how
11 they were going about it and they changed it to a
12 highly collaborative model involving a large number of
13 -- of different peoples, First Nations, outfitters,
14 two (2) levels of government, and so on, and so on.

15 When they switched to collaboration
16 they started to make progress, but the -- even so, the
17 recovery was really slow and difficult. And it does
18 have parallels with some of the situation we're facing
19 here, but it -- but it -- also there are some real
20 differences.

21 So I think the main thing to be learned
22 from it was that collaboration was the key to the
23 success of the recovery. Back to the -- to ENR's
24 review of wolf management options, in the second IR 2C
25 it states that:

1 "If there's evidence of a further
2 decline a more aggressive predator
3 management could be considered."

4 But there's no details on what the
5 evidence would be for a further decline and then what
6 would -- what would turn 'could' into 'would'. And it
7 seems to me that the -- the options for the wolf
8 management, they go back to 2010 when GNWT -- it was
9 item number 34 in the reasons for decision, that in
10 consultation with the Tlicho government, they would --
11 GNWT would provide options for wolf monitoring,
12 research, and management. And then a little later on,
13 well quite a bit later on, ENR was planning a review
14 of options for monitoring management-wolves in winter
15 2015. Now it's going to be initiated this year.

16 The timelines are obviously a concern
17 to the Board. Waiting for further declines in the
18 caribou is obviously a concern. But I also -- I
19 wonder why you need it? You -- you have the -- you
20 have indicators that show you a decline in wolf
21 numbers. So you have an indicator that allows you to
22 track wolf abundance.

23 You have an indicator that allows --
24 you have a couple of indicators that allows you to
25 track the effect on -- well, part of the effect on

1 caribou, and you have an indicator that would track
2 the effect on the wolves themselves.

3 So given what TG John Nishi pointed
4 out, that you can establish a target, because -- and I
5 can give you an example, so the current survival is 78
6 percent. To -- to get the herd stable you need to --
7 so it's a 22 percent mortality. You need probably at
8 least 8 or 9 percent mortality if calf/cow stays the
9 same at point two four (.24).

10 So that gives you a rough number. You
11 know that if you're losing 22 percent at the end of
12 one (1) year, you have lost about twenty-five hundred
13 (2,500) hundred animals. If you want to reduce -- and
14 these are -- these are not quite back of the envelope,
15 it was a little more than that, but they're fairly
16 rough figures, but they allow you to say, If I want to
17 get to 9 percent mortality then I need to add twelve
18 hundred (1,200) animals, roughly twelve hundred
19 (1,200).

20 And I think this is what John Nishi was
21 getting at, because if you need twelve hundred (1,200)
22 animals, you know, you've got an average wolf
23 consuming twenty-five (25) -- thirty (30) caribou --
24 fifteen (15) to thirty (30) caribou.

25 So my question to you is you've got the

1 indicators already. You could select a target you
2 could bracket.

3 And so can you start intensive wolf
4 control with what you already have?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. Even before you asked me to talk. Thank you,
10 Dr. Gunn. I'll -- I'll tackle part of it and I'm sure
11 my colleague here will jump in and possibly John
12 Nishi. Ironically, I've been on a consultation route
13 or engagement route for six (6) months, perhaps eight
14 (8) months on -- on this current proposal. And the
15 issue of a more intensive wolf control program is
16 discussed all the time. And it's been something that
17 has been discussed for ten (10) years, as you
18 mentioned earlier, Dr. Gunn, I think in your own ways.

19 What we're finding out, not only
20 through my own interactions with the communities, but
21 also what I heard from Sjoerd in his own workshop in
22 his own communities is that this gunship wolf control
23 approach, a more intensive approach to removing
24 predators, is not really what the folks in the
25 community want or the Elders. Hence, my suggestions

1 earlier to go along with what were being proposed or
2 being asked at a community level to see if it would
3 have an impact, as we hope it would.

4 It's not quite the level of -- of you
5 suggesting, Dr. Gunn. But I think it's -- it's the
6 right step-wise process that needs to take place at
7 this time. We're not dodging or -- or ducking the
8 feasibility study or -- or all those other things.
9 But there's merit to going this way at this stage.
10 Doing our very best to facilitate the success of the
11 wolf pilot project that is being proposed, not only by
12 the Tlicho people, but some of the recommendations
13 that came from this new Wolf Incentive Program came
14 from other communities as well.

15 Again, we have an obligation to test
16 this first as far as we can. Let's see where it takes
17 us next winter. There might be another part of your
18 question that you'd like to be answered. I'm just
19 going to pass it on to Jan here.

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Yes. Dr.
21 Gunn...?

22 DR. ANNE GUNN: I would like to make a
23 couple of clarifications before we hear from TG. My
24 calculations would suggest that sixty (60) wolves
25 would reduce adult survival by 50 percent to a level

1 where it would be stable even with low cal -- calves.
2 So I think that is something to consider. The other
3 thing is, I did not mention, and I would never
4 mention, helicopter gunship. I think the key for all
5 of us if we talk about wolf management, it has to be
6 ethical. It has to be respectful. And it has to be
7 humane. And I think there are ways of achieving that.
8 And so I think your comment was quite inflammatory.

9 And anyhow, having made that point, I
10 think it's all about ethics. It's about humaneness,
11 and it's about respect for people as well as the
12 wolves, as their relationship with the caribou.
13 But...

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Jan...?

15 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Just a brief
16 response to Dr. Gunn. I think one (1) of the things
17 that we've recognized in terms of this feasibility
18 assessment is that that does have to have a
19 collaborative element. It's not going to be in our
20 running off sort of doing it on our own. And as Bruno
21 mentioned, I'm aware of comments from Sjoerd about
22 Tlicho Elders. We've had a comment from the Sahtu
23 Board, at least one (1) of the other Aboriginal
24 organizations has commented that they do not want ENR
25 running off, you know, with helicopters or doing an

1 aerial cull program.

2 So I think respecting those views and
3 doing this in a collaborative way means that we can't
4 run ahead too far on our own. And we need to find
5 solutions that NSMA, YKDFN, and others will accept.
6 One (1) other thing I would maybe remind you: On the
7 Fortymile recovery program they did come to agreement
8 eventually on non-lethal wolf control, which consisted
9 of basically capturing wolves and then shipping them
10 off to the north slope of Alaska.

11 Now, how humane that was is a question
12 mark, but I also have an abstract from Rod Boertje who
13 worked on that data set, and in the end they were
14 unable to demonstrate any difference to caribou
15 survival rates from that entire wolf control program,
16 from that collaboratively derived approach to wolf
17 reduction.

18 So we need to be mindful of that, and
19 there is -- there are many examples of programs where
20 people ran off to go and kill a bunch of wolves, and
21 got nothing very useful out of it in the end. So we
22 don't want to repeat that history.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Would the
24 Tlicho Government like to provide any comments?

25 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 John Nishi. I think this is a very important
2 conversation, and I think we really have to be
3 thinking about the language we use.

4 And I also find it very difficult to
5 hear the word 'helicopter gunship' used because I
6 think it is not only inappropriate, it's kind of
7 uneducated because I think despite our different
8 values or different cultural perspectives, we should
9 be able to have a conversation around managing
10 wildlife.

11 If you go into a community and say
12 helicopter gun shoots, what do you think, you know
13 what kind of answer you're going to get. So it's
14 leading language trying to get to a certain
15 predetermined outcome.

16 And I -- I just want to follow up a
17 little bit on this, if you can bear with me a little
18 bit. There's quite a bit of substantial technical
19 literature coming out of Australia and New Zealand
20 where they are managing wildlife populations that have
21 been introduced into a new -- into a system that they
22 haven't been before. There's no predators, so they do
23 have to manage numbers.

24 And aerial shooting has been one of the
25 tools that they have used. Now, I'm not saying that

1 the Tlicho Government supports -- supports that, but
2 as part of a technical evaluation there is experience
3 in the world looking at the ethics, the humanness, and
4 effectiveness of aerial shooting.

5 These are technical studies that need
6 to be evaluated as part of the feasibility assessment,
7 and it's irresponsible for us to use the language like
8 "helicopter gunships" and it's also irresponsible as
9 technical minded wildlife managers to not fully
10 explore what that would look like, and then be able to
11 have that educated conversation with our co-management
12 partners and our communities.

13 Dr. Gunn's earlier question about the
14 approach to the calculations is an approach that, from
15 my point of view, makes sense. It's -- as I said
16 earlier, it's a bottom-up approach whereby we're
17 trying to understand and develop a rationale for a
18 numerical target. You know, how many wolves should we
19 be trying to remove annually, and as -- Alex Power
20 raised that question earlier.

21 I think that's a -- it's a key
22 question, but I think that the approach that I tired
23 to lay out, and what I've heard from Dr. Gunn makes --
24 are -- are consistent. And I am hopeful that that
25 takes -- or is -- is part of the feasibility

1 assessment, which Dr. Adamczewski is -- you know,
2 confirmed that it's very much going to be a
3 collaborative effort.

4 The Tlicho Government agrees that time
5 is of the essence. I think that was really the -- I
6 guess the main point I was trying to get across in my
7 earlier presentation. And if we accept the premise
8 that, as wildlife management strategies for recovering
9 a herd, the most direct management lever is to try and
10 improve survival, then we have to be looking at
11 managing hunting and we have to be looking at managing
12 predators.

13 And I would share Dr. Adamczewski's
14 concerns about not wanting to repeat mistakes in the
15 past. And I think that's part of the feasibility
16 assessment. But I also think that, again, we're
17 dealing with a small declining population and we need
18 to -- to learn by doing.

19 We need to establish what our -- as we
20 -- as we get into this designing or recommending a
21 predator management approach it comes down to being
22 very clear with how we establish those objectives and
23 developing implementation methods that involve
24 communities, are con -- engaging communities, but are
25 also technically robust.

1 So thank you for the opportunity to
2 follow up on that. Thank you.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay, I
7 think we'll just -- we have a question from legal
8 counsel here to ENR. And then I think we'll break for
9 the day, and then reconvene tomorrow at nine o'clock.
10 And I'll let Mr. Donihee have the floor. Then we'll
11 break. Thank you very much.

12 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. It's John Donihee. I'm Board counsel.
14 It's just to -- to follow up. I don't believe in
15 response -- the responses got a little warm, but it's
16 always good to have a conversation like that
17 occasionally.

18 But the -- the -- the real question I
19 think that -- or answer that we were hoping to get was
20 some sense of when specifically you anticipate having
21 this feasibility study done so that we can match that
22 up against the questions that were asked of TG earlier
23 about the timing of their pilot program.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So we expect to have
2 that feasibility completed by the end of 2016 calendar
3 year.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Further
5 questions, Mr. Donihee?

6 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. We're -- we're finished for the day.
8 Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay, thank
10 you very much. So we will conclude now for the day.
11 Just to let you know that the -- this room is going to
12 be used tonight by another group, so you need to make
13 sure you take everything with you. Before we do
14 conclude Mr. Joseph Judas will say the closing prayer.

15

16 (CLOSING PRAYER)

17

18 --- Upon adjourning at 4:27 p.m.

19

20 Certified correct,

21

22 _____

23 Bob Keelaghan, Mr.

24

25

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