



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 24, 2016

Day 2 of 2

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5	Anne Gunn) Board Advisor
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11	Bruno Croft)
12	Jan Adamczewski)
13	Roger Fraser)
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15	Dean Cluff)
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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:02 a.m.

2

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Good
4 morning. Good morning. Can I get everybody to take
5 their seats, please. So at this time, I'd like to
6 reconvene with our hearing. So at this time, ladies
7 and gentlemen, I'd like to ask one (1) of our Board
8 member, Mr. Charlie -- this young Elder, Charlie
9 Jeremick'ca, to do -- give him the honour to do the
10 opening prayer, please. You can either sit or
11 stand...

12 Just during the ope -- our opening
13 prayer, you can just remain seated. So I'll ask Mr.
14 Charlie 'J' -- Jeremick'ca to do the opening prayer.
15 Masi cho.

16

17 (OPENING PRAYER)

18

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you.
20 I'd like to say thank you to Charlie, our Board member
21 that's been given the honour to -- to have done the
22 opening prayer for us. Before we proceed, ladies and
23 gentlemen, I'd just like to give the chair to my co-
24 chair, get him to proceed. Thank you.

25

1 QUESTION PERIOD CONTINUED:

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Good
3 morning. Okay, just first an announcement here just
4 to inform the parties that the day 1 transcripts are
5 now posted to the public registry, and you can find
6 them there.

7 Today we're just going to continue on
8 with questioning. And just to give you some
9 information here. So we started with some of the
10 technical experts yesterday. We didn't actually get
11 finished those, and we'll continue with those. So
12 those are the Board's technical experts.

13 Then we will proceed to Board staff,
14 legal counsel, and then Board members. So with that,
15 I will ask Dr. Gunn if she had any further questions
16 to pose to either of the proponents.

17 Dr. Gunn...?

18 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn, for the
19 Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have some
20 questions. Yesterday I asked about some questions to
21 help the Board understand the two (2) management
22 actions on the training program, and the TAH.

23 My questions this morning are on the
24 third element of the joint proposal, which is
25 monitoring. Now, monitoring of itself is not an

1 action obviously that affects vital rates of the
2 caribou but it certainly allows us to see when we need
3 to do more actions or their effectiveness.

4 The -- the joint proposal's actions are
5 very much focussed on adult survival. So it would be
6 useful for the Board to have the evidence on the --
7 the effectiveness of monitoring adult survival for
8 those two (2) actions. And so I'm going to ask a -- a
9 couple of questions about adult survival.

10 The 215 Draft Calving Ground Report
11 states that the colours are ineffective in monitoring
12 adult survival. So my question is: How will adult
13 survival be monitored to determine the effectiveness
14 of the two (2) proposed management actions?

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

16 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, if
17 the Board doesn't object, we'll ask our statistician
18 Mr. Boulanger to address the question.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Proceed.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: Hi, this is John
22 Boulanger, statistician. I think that there is a
23 variety of measures that we plan on using. As you
24 indicated, collars are always going to be limited in
25 terms of sample size. The current collar numbers have

1 been increased over historic levels.

2 For example, for most of the historic
3 data set there were maybe fourteen (14) or fifteen
4 (15) female collars on, now that's been doubled to
5 thirty (30). So one (1) way that we can monitor
6 survival is with that increased collar sample size.

7 One (1) of the projects that was in
8 progress, but has been slowed down by the hearings,
9 yeah, okay, is the monitoring of not just the fate of
10 each collar, but where it was when it -- when it maybe
11 died. And that way we can get a better sense of
12 really not just estimating a number, but we can also
13 get a -- a sense of what factors that might have
14 influenced the death of that collar. So that's one
15 (1) method.

16 And the second method is the use of the
17 OLS model. The OLS model basically allows us to use
18 co-variates, or factors that we think influence cow
19 survival. So that might be, let's say we have -- we
20 tally the number of wolves that are harvested in the
21 area of the Bathurst in the next few years. We can
22 then use that as a co-variate in -- a direct co-
23 variate to help us estimate yearly survival from the
24 OLS model.

25 So in kind of modern statistics we're

1 veering away from just estimating a number. We're
2 trying to come up with factors that influence
3 survival. And I believe those are the methods that
4 will be the most powerful to detect management
5 actions.

6 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: If I could maybe
7 just add to what John said. I think the other measure
8 that will be very useful is the annual reconnaissance
9 surveys over the calving grounds. I think as people
10 who are familiar with those surveys will recognize
11 that precision is not nearly as high as on the calving
12 photo surveys, but it is -- it does provide an index
13 of the number of cows on the calving ground and it
14 would be an annual measure that we could look at.

15 And we suggested yesterday, perhaps an
16 annual adaptive review meeting in the fall. And that
17 be one (1) of the -- I think, one (1) of the key
18 measurements that we could use in that adaptive
19 management review.

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Jan, just --
21 if you could remember to just state your name at the
22 beginning so the transcribers over here can... Thank
23 you.

24 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: My apologies.

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Dr. Gunn...?

1 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr.

2 Chairman. I wonder if Tlicho government will --
3 wishes to respond?

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
5 Nishi...?

6 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
7 Chair. I'm John -- John Nishi. I don't think I have
8 much to add to the first part of the question. The
9 second part of the question was asked whether adult
10 female survival, I think, would be monitored with
11 respect to the second action, which was the pilot
12 program to support Tlicho hunters to be out hunting
13 wolves. And I think just to reiterate, the goal of
14 that program is to work with and help train hunters.

15 So the link to adult female survival is
16 not a clear one -- or not a direct one. It's -- the
17 focus is more on working with the communities, working
18 with the hunters. And as we anticipate the
19 feasibility assessment going ahead, the capacity or
20 the ability of hunters to become more engaged in
21 actually implementing a predator management approach,
22 then -- then we would make those linkages in that
23 management proposal.

24 So as far as the current joint
25 management proposal before the Board and the -- the

1 objective of establishing community-based wolf
2 hunting, it's -- the focus again is on working with
3 the hunters and -- and getting community folks,
4 hunters to become more interested in hunting wolves.
5 Thank you.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Dr. Gunn,
10 any further questions?

11 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. -- Mr. Chairman,
12 yes, I do have a couple further questions. Going back
13 to the second round of IRs, the Government of the
14 Northwest Territories stated in the context of whether
15 a more aggressive predator management program could be
16 considered if there is evidence of further decline.

17 Given that the Board is very sensitive
18 to the time lines for -- given the rate of decline for
19 the caribou, I'm interested to be able to know more
20 about what would constitute further evidence and would
21 it be such as the loss of seven (7) or eight (8)
22 collars in one (1) period, like, a couple of months,
23 or would we have to wait each June for the
24 distribution survey on the calving ground? And if we
25 did, what sort of -- what sort of rate of loss would

1 be considered to trigger possible further action?

2 So I'm -- I'm after the rate of loss
3 that would be measured by say a loss of seven (7) or
4 eight (8) collars or other monitoring action, such as
5 the calving ground one.

6 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
7 with ENR. We talked about the collars yesterday. And
8 I think John Boulanger would support what I'm saying
9 in -- in the sense that we still don't have enough
10 collars out there to where you could, I think, detect
11 an annual change in adult survival just based on the
12 collars; there just aren't enough of them and the
13 variance around those estimates is simply too high.

14 I think what we're suggesting and what
15 we put forward in our proposal -- or our presentation
16 yesterday is that we would look at an annual fall
17 review of all the information that we have at that
18 time, including the recognizance survey and the spring
19 calf to cow ratio.

20 And then collectively, with all the
21 information that we have between the Tlicho Government
22 and ourselves and the Board, we would sort of say
23 where are we at and do we need to change something, so
24 I guess maybe a somewhat more holistic approach than
25 simply saying, if the collars say this, then we will

1 do this.

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Dr. Gunn...?

3 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr.

4 Chairman. So I'm not sure -- I understand your
5 process, that there will be an annual review of
6 adaptive management. What I'm not understanding is
7 what would constitute a further decline, a rate of
8 decline that would lead to timely management actions.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
13 with ENR. I'm not sure how much further we're going
14 to get with this, Mr. Chairman. I think the approach
15 we're advocating is that we would sit down at that
16 annual review meeting, assess the information we have,
17 and go from there.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr. Nishi?

22 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-

23 Chair. John Nishi. I think, you know, in terms of
24 what Dr. Adamczewski said, makes sense in terms of the
25 -- the process of -- of reviewing the data, and -- and

1 to really do a thorough job of it. I guess I'd like
2 to take the opportunity to -- to think a little bit
3 more about the question posed in terms of possible
4 criteria that we would be interested in -- in
5 considering as we anticipate the data get collected
6 and when we review that data.

7 We know from the calving ground surveys
8 that the abundance of breeding females is declining by
9 about a rate, I think, between the last two (2)
10 surveys are -- and again, there's variability
11 associated with the rate. So it's anywhere from --
12 and the -- the average rate of decline is 23 percent.
13 And we know that we don't want to see that continue.

14 So I think that one (1) of the things
15 we should be trying to look at, as Dr. Adamczewski
16 indicated, ENR is going to be doing annual
17 reconnaissance surveys on the calving grounds. And I
18 think there may be some additional analysis or
19 consideration in the existing data that we -- that --
20 that we have with ENR to -- to try and look at how
21 sensitive that data may be to detecting whether this
22 rate of decline is continuing.

23 So in terms of distribution and
24 relative abundance of one (1) plus year old caribou on
25 the calving grounds from these reconnaissance survey,

1 there may be some opportunity to -- to take another
2 look at those data and establish some criteria before
3 we go into the June 20 -- what year is it now? 2016?
4 And -- and think about the design of that survey.
5 Because I think it'll be an important one. And I
6 think that's a -- that it's -- it's an important
7 question to try and address. And that's -- that's my
8 thought right now. Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
10 Mr. Nishi. Dr. Gunn? Oh, Anne, would you like to
11 respond?

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: If I could maybe
13 just add a little bit further there. It might be
14 useful for the Board to remember the situation that we
15 had in 2014 where it was basically the calving
16 reconnaissance survey that year for Bathurst and
17 Bluenose East that essentially triggered a whole bunch
18 of meetings that fall, and then the management
19 proposal from ENR for the Bathurst mobile zone and
20 zero harvest on the Bathurst herd.

21 So that's perhaps an example of a
22 situation where we didn't wait for the population
23 survey. We had an imprecise reconnaissance survey,
24 but the results were such that we felt, Look, we -- we
25 need to look at this and we need to reassess what

1 we're doing in terms of management.

2 And if I could perhaps add to what Mr.
3 Nishi said. One (1) of the options that we had looked
4 at, and it's -- it's in our survey report, because of
5 the very tight concentration of caribou on the
6 Bathurst calving ground, we're looking at in --
7 increasing the -- the number of survey lines on that
8 calving ground survey. It used to be 10 kilometres.
9 We've gone to 5 kilometres. We're looking at going to
10 2 1/2 kilometres.

11 And the purpose of that would be to
12 increase the precision of the estimate out of that
13 survey. And that would be one (1) way that perhaps we
14 can improve the value of that survey and -- and use
15 that as a proxy for a measure of the adult cow
16 survival rate.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
18 Nishi...?

19 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
20 Chair. The other consideration, I guess, as we -- as
21 we consider this question and thinking about the data
22 that are being collected and the -- the monitoring
23 that's being done, is that we know from ENR's
24 modelling work that the average estimate for survival
25 of -- of collared cows is about 78 percent.

1 And I understand what Dr. Adamczewski
2 was saying in terms of small sample size, and
3 variability around the survival estimate, because
4 there's not a lot of cows with collars on them. But
5 if we just think about a really simplistic approach,
6 which is if it's 78 percent mortality, let's just --
7 or, sorry, survival, that would be on a -- you know,
8 let's just think about that as 20 percent mortality.

9 So if there's thirty (30) cows that
10 have collars on them at the end of March, I think we
11 should be able to establish or agree that if 50
12 percent of those cows die within six (6) months, then
13 it would suggest to me we still have a problem, or
14 perhaps an increased problem.

15 And so I appreciate the -- the comments
16 from ENR and their perspective that they'd like to
17 also look at more closely when and where these
18 collars, when they do die -- when these collared
19 caribou do die, that they would like to try and find
20 out exactly sort of -- or pinpoint when and where, and
21 I think that will be very helpful.

22 But I also think that we should also be
23 able to agree that, you know, with -- within six (6)
24 months, if half of those collared animals are no
25 longer alive then -- then that should be a pretty

1 clear indication that we do continue to have a
2 problem. And that would just be an initial kind of
3 thought, and not really based on looking at the data,
4 because it's just thinking and responding to the
5 question.

6 But I think -- I think it's an
7 important point. And, yes, there's variability in the
8 data, but if -- if there's -- yeah, I think we can --
9 we -- we should be able to understand and agree that
10 if there is a certain number of collars and that
11 number is more than 50 percent, and maybe it's a
12 smaller number, maybe it's more than 30 percent, then
13 that should trigger us into thinking about what
14 additional actions should be taken, because as we --
15 as we've suggested in our presentation, the population
16 of breeding females has become quite small, and it's
17 continued to decline, and that's a concern. Thank
18 you.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Bruno...?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Bruno, your
25 mic is not on.

1 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Got a green light.
2 Is it better? Okay. Just to add on one (1) or two
3 (2) more mon -- monitoring actions that ENR already
4 touched on the reconnaissance survey of every year to
5 get a sense of the number of cows, or animals,
6 returning to the calving ground.

7 One of the monitoring actions, Mr.
8 Chair, that were -- we had identified in the list of -
9 - of monitoring actions that we have in the plan
10 moving forward is to actually do a composition survey
11 every June as opposed to wait every three (3) years on
12 the calving ground when we have a photographic survey
13 to get a better sense of the num -- not only the
14 number of adult females returning, but the proportion
15 of those that are breeding cows.

16 Also, the size of the Bathurst calving
17 ground. Now the core calving area is so small that we
18 could actually probably do a visual survey, for those
19 of you who are familiar with this technique, as a
20 first-caught as oppo -- instead of waiting three (3)
21 years down the line to get a full -- full blown
22 photographic survey, and -- and it's relatively
23 cheaper to do it this way.

24 Those monitoring actions are identified
25 to supplement what we do. Of course, it depends on --

1 on the resources, and we're stretched to the limit on
2 that front. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you.
4 Dr. Gunn...?

5 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you. Anne Gunn.
6 Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. Thank you, Bruno. I'd
7 really welcome to see ENR add a composition survey to
8 the calving ground reconnaissance surveys. And the
9 suggestion that a visual survey, perhaps a double
10 counting, would be useful.

11 To go back to the collars for a moment.
12 I wonder when the -- when will be available, I think I
13 could call it a fate analysis that you talked about,
14 and the OLS model runs. When -- when could the Board
15 expect to see those -- those analyses? Because
16 they're so critical as to understanding what level of
17 decline we can actually detect from those techniques,
18 and as -- also, as a follow-up, to include what John
19 suggested about looking at the percentage of collar
20 loss as a criteria.

21 So I wonder when these three (3)
22 elements could be put together to provide the
23 information on the rate -- how the rate of decline can
24 be detected.

25 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,

1 with ENR. As I think we've indicated, or at least in
2 the Information Response -- Request Responses, we have
3 asked John Boulanger to do an analysis of the timing
4 and the location of the collar caribou mortalities.
5 The intent was to have that this fiscal year, so by
6 the end of March.

7 The only reason that that hasn't
8 happened is, basically, these hearings and all the
9 materials and documents and everything else associated
10 with it. So the intent is to have that completed
11 early next fiscal year. Exactly when, I'm not quite
12 sure. I don't think I can make a commitment on that.

13 But I think certainly if we have an
14 annual fall review of any new information, then we
15 would certainly have that analysis available at that
16 time.

17 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: Just John
18 Boulanger here, just -- one (1) more comment.

19 The OLS analysis, for those of you who
20 maybe have not seen it, up to 2015 is included in the
21 2015 calving ground survey report, which is on the
22 registry, and so that should -- that shows kind of how
23 it works.

24 One (1) enhancement to the OLS model
25 has been estimating the standard error of all the

1 demographic parameters. Using that approach, it's
2 fairly simple to then look at power type iss --
3 questions.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
5 Mr. Boulanger. Dr. Gunn...?

6 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Co-
7 Chair. Anne Gunn, for the Board. That's a
8 misunderstanding on my part then, because the OLS
9 model that is in the calving ground report is the one
10 that is the recommendation not to use the collars
11 themselves because they're too variable, and it gave a
12 constant rate of decline of point seven-eight (.78),
13 gave the best fit to the various models that were run.

14 That -- I don't -- obviously, we don't
15 want to get into a detailed stat -- statistical
16 discussion here. But what I understood your answer to
17 my question earlier was that you had another approach
18 using the OLS model where you would use -- and I
19 thought you were using a different approach too
20 because you have a larger sample of collars, that this
21 was a proposed new model run that you were doing that
22 you could explore further adult survival as a co-
23 variate.

24 So I guess I'm asking you to confirm
25 whether you're prepared, whether you've got a new

1 approach, a newer way to run the model or whether it's
2 just the one that we already have availability to?

3 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: Yes. Okay, just
4 to -- John Boulanger here.

5 To clarify that. The OLS model in the
6 calving ground survey report is not -- does not use
7 covariates, per se. The approach that I discussed --
8 okay, the approach that Jan just discussed uses the
9 collared data alone to look at covariates, such as
10 where and when the -- the caribou were -- died. So
11 that's using the caribou -- the collar data alone. So
12 that's one (1) approach.

13 The other approach that I discussed
14 briefly is that the OLS model can be very easily
15 modified to add covariates for survival also. So you
16 have kind of two (2) type of ways to look at survival
17 rates. And so the OLS model looks at survival more on
18 an annual basis. The collar data allows you to chop
19 it up into more monthly time frames.

20 However, it actually would be possible
21 to expand the OLS model to look at it in smaller time
22 frames also. So yes, the intended development of the
23 OLS model is to add covariates for survival such as
24 described before. Hopefully that makes sense.

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,

1 Mr. Boulanger.

2 Dr. Gunn...?

3 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn. Thank you,
4 Mr. Co-Chair. So you can -- there can be -- okay, you
5 can include adult survival at a finer scale for -- as
6 a co-variate. When -- when do you think you would be
7 doing this and when would we see the outcomes?

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
13 with ENR. It's a little bit of an awkward question
14 for us, because to some extent, we're talking about a
15 possible analysis that we haven't actually set up. We
16 don't have a contract in place with John B. to do that
17 analysis. So it's something of a hypothetical
18 question.

19 It's certainly something that we would
20 be able to look at this coming fiscal year. And any
21 new information or insights that we have would be
22 available for, let's say a fall meeting of the Board
23 or any sort of annual review of adaptive management.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Dr. Gunn...?

25 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn. Thank you,

1 Mr. Co-Chair. Probably to everyone's relief, I'll
2 leave the question of the adult survival model for the
3 moment.

4 The caribou -- the cows have already --
5 and this is shown in your calving ground report, the
6 caribou have already -- the cows have adjusted their
7 behaviour on the calving ground. They were -- in
8 order to maintain their togetherness, they've reduced
9 the area they're using. And this obviously is going
10 to create problems for your survey design if the
11 caribou continue to adjust -- the cows continue to
12 adjust their behaviour.

13 In -- in light of that and in light of
14 what John Nishi said yesterday, that they -- they may
15 further adjust their behaviour and either move to
16 disbursed calving or to another calving ground, what
17 contingencies in your monitoring design do you have
18 that would anticipate that? Because if you got to the
19 calving ground and found it happened, it might be
20 quite difficult to make the adjustments if you haven't
21 already considered them and -- and have a contingency
22 plan for them.

23 So I'm asking what contingencies you'll
24 make for both, another reduction in calving ground
25 size, a switch to highly disbursed calving, or if they

1 move to a neighbouring herd's calving ground?

2 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: John Boulanger,
3 statistician. I think the sequence that is used
4 usually for both the photo surveys and the
5 reconnaissance surveys is first based upon the
6 distribution of the female collars.

7 And in most years, especially if we
8 have sample sizes of thirty (30) collars, that should
9 give a relative indication of one (1) of your
10 scenarios if they've gone to another herd's calving
11 ground. So that kind of helps us there.

12 One (1) thing I -- I've been, you know,
13 involved and up on the calving grounds since the 2009
14 survey that has become quite apparent is that the
15 distribution of collars prior to calving has gone
16 from, in let's say 2009, even in 2006, to a fairly,
17 you know, disbursed in various clusters down to just
18 one (1) little group or two (2) little groups, both in
19 the 2012 and 2015. To -- to the point that you have
20 to sometimes zoom your map in just to see them all.

21 So I think that we have, before we do
22 any of these reconnaissance surveys, a relative
23 indication of what we might expect. So -- so that's
24 kind of, you know, the first part of the way this is
25 done.

1 The second part is that we have on our
2 tablet computers a grid of 10 kilometre spacing
3 transects, 5 kilometre spacing transects. And we
4 propose 2.5 kilometre transect spacing.

5 So dependent upon the dispersion of the
6 collars, any of those search effort or search
7 intensity designs can be employed. And what the
8 enhancement is for the -- what, you know, the
9 aggregation that we see continues to occur is the idea
10 that, you know, we would fly the core based upon where
11 most of the collars are at 5 kilometres.

12 But then if we have these collars piled
13 on top of each other, being able to put it down to 2.5
14 kilometres for a set of rows. And that allows us to
15 have a few more lines going through most of where the
16 caribou are. And that's -- that's, to me, one (1) of
17 the real key modifications that we will have to
18 consider if the -- if the degree of aggregation
19 continues. So -- so I'll -- the main point to be made
20 is that the way these reconnaissance or photo survey
21 designs occur is to be fairly adaptive in their
22 nature.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
24 Mr. Boulanger. Dr. Gunn...?

25 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Co-

1 Chair. I wonder if the Tlicho government has a
2 response.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
4 Nishi...?

5 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
6 Chair. I'm trying to think of a response here. I
7 think these are -- you know, the scenarios of -- of
8 changing calving ground distribution as a result of
9 changed behaviour in the cows as the numbers of
10 breeding females declines is an important one (1).

11 I think Dr. Boulanger has provided some
12 insight -- good insight on the first scenario in terms
13 of if the area that concentrated calving distribution
14 becomes smaller, then it becomes -- the contingency
15 should be based on redesigning or trying to allocate
16 effort within there. Because the concern would be
17 that at some point if that distribution gets too
18 small, even at a 2 1/2 kilometre line spacing, we may
19 not be able to sample that distribution with enough
20 intensity to have a -- a precise estimate. So that
21 would be one (1) concern.

22 I -- I would imagine though that
23 possibly -- and again, it would depend really on the
24 distribution of these -- these collared -- or not the
25 collared caribou, but the breeding females. And I

1 think that it'd probably be worthwhile discussing some
2 other options. Maybe it's a change in survey design
3 from transects to blocks, or something like that.
4 Maybe it's something to do with trying to do a total
5 count, which is done -- which is done during the post-
6 calving aggregation surveys as -- as I understand it.
7 So that would be the -- the first thought with respect
8 to scenario number 1.

9 Scenario number 2, switch to a highly
10 dispersed calving ground. So if I understand that
11 question, it suggests to me that the distribution
12 would become -- the area of occupation would become
13 larger and there would be -- the density of caribou
14 would -- would be reduced. In that situation, I think
15 that the current design should probably be able to
16 account for that as long as the stratification is done
17 well. And the reason I'm thinking that is if the area
18 becomes bigger then it -- it allows you to sample that
19 area more intensively with more transects.

20 And the third scenario, Mr. Chair, was
21 presented as the move to another neighbouring calving
22 area. And that was -- and that's a -- that's also a -
23 - a concern as well. And I think if that were to
24 occur there would be a indication of that through the
25 collared cows.

1 So I think that there would be an
2 initial signal that -- that the collared cows, based
3 on their movements, would show. A contingency would
4 be to consider how that area would be surveyed, as
5 well, in addition to the traditional or the -- the
6 calving area that's been used since 1996 west of
7 Bathurst Inlet.

8 So I would envision that if there were
9 multiple collared caribou moving to an adjacent
10 calving ground from the Bathurst herd, that there
11 would be a requirement to survey the -- the calving
12 area west of Bathurst Inlet that's been used since
13 '96, but to also at least do a distribution survey of
14 where these other collared caribou have gone to, to
15 get an indication of the densities that they -- that
16 those collared cows have moved to.

17 I -- I would hope that that doesn't
18 happen but in terms of thinking through that as a
19 possibility, I -- that would be the first kind of
20 approach that I would -- I would think. Thank you.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Nishi. Dr. Gunn...?

23 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn. Thank you,
24 Mr. Co-Chair. The joint proposal mentions
25 environmental variation and cumulative effects as

1 other influences on the caribou, and it notes that you
2 obviously can't manage the weather, the -- the
3 climate, or at least you can't manage the weather.

4 But you can accommodate the effects of
5 weather in -- in your management actions because the
6 weather can obviously accentuate or reduce effects of
7 management actions, such as a drought could increase -
8 - looks like it increases adult -- reduces adult
9 survival and calf survival.

10 So do you have any evi -- evidence on
11 how other wildlife management agencies with barren-
12 ground caribou have accommodated those changes, the
13 methods they use, and can you suggest then any changes
14 to the proposed actions, or propose actions, in the
15 joint proposal to accommodate those effects?

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

17 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
18 with ENR. I would have to say at this point that we
19 don't -- we don't have any such ideas. I mean, those
20 things can be explored but, no, we don't have any
21 specific actions to mention at -- on this point.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Dr. Gunn...?

23 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn. Thank you,
24 Mr. Co-Chair. Cumulative effects was -- is obviously
25 a huge concern among the -- the users in the

1 communities.

2 Do you have any specific actions in the
3 short term that would reduce the effects of cumulative
4 effects because you -- you have them measured to the
5 extent of their effects on calf survival and pregnancy
6 rates. So either can you accommodate those changes in
7 the existing proposed actions, or propose specific
8 actions in the short term that would actually reduce
9 the predicted effects on calf survival or pregnancy
10 rate?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

15 MS. LYNDY YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for
16 ENR. If I understand the question correctly, we're
17 looking at what specific actions can be taken in the
18 near term to reduce the impacts of cumulative effects,
19 and you've asked specifically on cow survival -- or
20 calf and cow survival.

21 But the way that we address this is
22 through the EA process. And with the most recent EA
23 process we're now beginning to look at compensatory
24 mitigation measures in addition to mitigation that is
25 directly related to a development.

1 So developers are all required to look
2 at their -- their development and put in mitigation
3 measures to minimize their impacts. They're now
4 looking at things that can be applied to other
5 developments as well to reduce their impact and, thus,
6 reduce the total cumulative effects. So that's what
7 we're doing in the near term.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Anne
9 Gunn...?

10 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Co-
11 chair. I wonder if the Tlicho Government has a
12 comment.

13 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Thank you. Paul
14 Bachand, Tlicho Government. We're just formulating
15 our response now. If you'd just give us a minute.

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: No problem.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr. Nishi,
21 would you like to just take a five (5) minute break
22 and we can come back to this? Thank you very much.

23 MR. JOHN NISHI: I would.

24

25 --- Upon recessing at 9:49 a.m.

1 --- Upon resuming at 10:01 a.m.

2

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay,
4 welcome back. Mr. Nishi, would you like to provide
5 some comments on the last question?

6 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
7 chair. John Nishi. I think the -- the issue of
8 cumulative effects is a -- is a very important one for
9 Tlicho government. And just to be clear, there's a
10 couple definitions of cumulative effects.

11 One (1) is used by MVEIRB, which is
12 focused on anthropogenic disturbance, like human cause
13 disturbance. And then there's the definition of
14 cumulative effects that is used by the CIMP, the
15 Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, which
16 acknowledges that cumulative effects on -- on caribou
17 would come from human cause disturbance as well as
18 natural disturbances like, as Dr. Gunn had indicated,
19 environmental conditions.

20 So in the context of that I'll just try
21 and keep it to the definition of human cause
22 disturbance. Tlicho government has -- has intervened
23 on all the projects that have been proposed on their
24 traditional lands, including Gahcho Kue, Fortune
25 Minerals, and most recently the -- the Jay Pipe

1 Project, and they have made recommendations for those
2 projects.

3 And their recommendations have
4 acknowledged the importance of both the science and
5 the -- the wealth of knowledge that they have for
6 traditional knowledge. And I think the more -- the
7 emphasis on traditional knowledge has evolved to the
8 point where Tlicho government is proposing to
9 implement a boots on the ground monitoring program,
10 which allows -- which would facilitate traditional
11 users, and traditional knowledge holders, and Tlicho
12 people to be active participants in -- in monitoring.

13 And so I'm going to just have Sjoerd
14 Van Der Wielen talk to a little bit further about that
15 program to give you some perspective on that, maybe a
16 bit on how it came about and what the intent of that
17 program is.

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you.
19 Sjoerd...?

20 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
21 Mr. Co-Chair. Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho
22 government. So the -- the boots on the ground program
23 evolves from a -- from a different modelling program
24 where Tlicho hunters were harvesting from the Bathurst
25 herds and they were taking samples and they were

1 looking at the -- at -- at different aspects. And so
2 it really heavily involved Tli -- traditional --
3 Tlicho traditional knowledge looking at the caribou
4 health.

5 But because the hunt -- the -- nobody
6 is harvesting from the Bathurst herd anymore, so this
7 program need to be involved. We heard during the Jay
8 Pipe hearings from our own Chief and -- and with
9 internal meetings and from our elders that there's
10 still a heavy need for this program and there's a --
11 there's a need to be -- have Tlicho monitors on the
12 land 24/7.

13 So -- so we evolved this program in --
14 into a 24/7 monitoring program. The request was three
15 hundred sixty-five (365) days a year. They money only
16 is enough for one (1) month, but nevertheless, we're
17 still on the -- on the lands for -- for one (1) month
18 on the summer grounds monitoring this -- monitoring
19 the Bathurst herds.

20 And -- and that's all we'll be doing is
21 monitoring from a Tlicho -- from a traditional
22 knowledge aspect. So we have people on the land --
23 Tlicho people watching caribou behaviour and see how
24 caribou behaviour changes once they get closer to the
25 mines and see how caribou behaviour changes once --

1 once they get -- how they react on insects, how they
2 react on drought, how they react on fires.

3 Like -- well, I guess it's summer
4 grounds, there's no fires there, but -- or little, and
5 -- and finally then how they react once they get
6 closer to Lac de Gras/Ekati. Masi.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
8 very much. Dr. Gunn, did you have any further
9 questions?

10 DR. ANNE GUNN: Thank you, Mr. Co-
11 Chair. Anne Gunn, for the Board. Thank you. I have
12 no further questions.

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. I'd
14 like to move on to Allice Legat and she'll provide her
15 questions at this time. Thank you.

16 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you. Thank
17 you, Mr. Chair -- Chair, and good morning to everyone.
18 My first question, Mr. Chair, is for ENR presentation.
19 I would like some clarification, as I'm -- I think I
20 may have misunderstood something that was presented
21 yesterday. And I'm just wondering if what I heard is
22 correct, or if it's wrong. I heard -- I thought I
23 heard that ENR is committed to protecting the calving
24 grounds, but not committed to protecting the water
25 crossings or the fall range.

1 Did I hear that correctly or not?

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

3 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
4 with ENR. I guess to clarify there have been
5 environmental assessment processes, and there have
6 been some hearings, meetings in Nunavut on caribou
7 habitat protection. Two (2) of them last year,
8 another one (1) coming up in March that Bruno is
9 attending. And the GN -- the Government of Nunavut
10 has a position which they've put forward to the land
11 use planning commission in Nunavut, which says they
12 are opposed to any development on any calving grounds
13 -- any caribou calving grounds. They reiterated that
14 at meetings that we were at, and we spoke up as -- for
15 GNWT and said we fully support that position. We also
16 oppose any development on any calving grounds.

17 I don't think we've formally come up
18 with a position that says this is our view on water
19 crossings or post-calving ranges as such. We
20 certainly stay engaged in any environmental assessment
21 processes, including Sabina, Back River. And we would
22 certainly support protection for water crossings. We
23 just don't have a -- a formal government position at
24 this time that says this is our stand on water
25 crossings or post-calving ranges as such.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Lynda

2 Yonge...?

3 MS. LYNDY YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for
4 ENR. And just to add to that, so there is a -- an
5 ongoing range planning process for the Bathurst herd.
6 And during that process the migratory routes and the
7 water crossings are being included as a layer. We're
8 working the Tlicho government and other partners to
9 identify those and put them in as values on the land
10 that need to be -- need to be considered.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
12 Ms. Yonge. Allice...?

13 MS. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you both for
14 your answers. The reason that I'm asking this is
15 because on the fall grounds, and with the water
16 crossings, and in the TK Tlicho knowledge reports
17 since the ni -- mid-1990s there's been quite a lot of
18 information put forward by the Elders that -- and the
19 harvesters that both the range, the fall range, and
20 the water crossings together are very important. And
21 the water crossings especially as they predicted
22 around the mines.

23 As well as the Yellowknives Dene First
24 Nations and Lutsel K'e explained that the water
25 crossings, if they were destroyed in any way along

1 with the fall range, it would cause stress --
2 additional stress to the -- the caribou, and that it
3 would cause them to get tired and stressed.

4 So I'm -- I'm just wondering if you'll
5 think about supporting the protection of the fall
6 range, as well as the water crossings. Because for
7 the Elders that I know it go -- they go together. And
8 the information that they've presented in the past
9 they go together.

10 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So Lynda Yonge, for
11 ENR. So as I indicated in the range plan that is a
12 layer that's being looked at. And so certainly being
13 considered in that respect. The water crossings are
14 also considered during EA processes, and when we're
15 looking at potential impacts of development. And they
16 are -- they -- the fall crossings and other important
17 ranges for caribou are also raised during that
18 process. So, yes, we do think about them.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Alicia...?

20 MS. ALLICE LEGAT: And -- and thank
21 you very much, Mr. Chair. And you'll -- and you'll
22 support the protection of them? It's Alicia Legat
23 speaking.

24 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge. So I
25 guess it depends on what exactly you're -- you're

1 saying in terms of support protection. We identify
2 them as important areas that need to be protected and
3 conserved.

4 If you're suggesting, Do we support a
5 protected area around each of those, we're not at this
6 time prepared to do that.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thanks,
8 Lynda -- thanks, Lynda. Allice, would you, please,
9 state your name prior to your questions of concern for
10 the record for the --

11 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Yes.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: --
13 transcriber? Thank you very much.

14 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: This is Allice
15 Legat. Thank you very much, Lynda. Mr. Chair, my
16 next series of questions are for the Tlicho Government
17 presenters.

18 And as you probably know, the community
19 of Deline has developed a plan in which its community
20 members, including young people, will be conserving
21 caribou -- caribou by taking a limited number through
22 cermer -- ceremonial harvests. In this way, young
23 people learn and community members can maintain their
24 relationship with caribou.

25 As I understand the plan, the harvest

1 will be limited by the Deline people themselves. I
2 see the ceremonial harvest plan as similar to many on
3 the land programs that Tlicho Government and the
4 Tlicho Community Services Agency have that provide
5 guidance on how to manage behaviour in relation to the
6 land.

7 Given the concern you expressed
8 yesterday on the challenges you're facing in guiding
9 your youth -- your youth relationships with the land
10 due to the loss of the Ekwo caribou, my question to
11 the Tlicho presenters, Mr. Chair, is: Is it
12 possible that the Tlicho programs and the enhanced
13 trapping program you mentioned yesterday could support
14 and assist Tlicho Government to help Tlicho people
15 maintain their knowledge, and remember how to harvest
16 and treat Ekwo for the future through stories they
17 hear, and the places Dr. Zoe mentioned?

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Tlicho
19 Government, John B?

20 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: Masi. It's John B.
21 Zoe, Tlicho Government. We've been doing on the land
22 programs for officially I guess going back to 1995
23 where we've been taking youths, Elders, women,
24 children, on the canoe trails to the barren lands
25 every summer. And we're planning to do another one

1 following one of the small rivers from Russell Lake
2 all the way to the community of Wekweti, which is the
3 old canoe route to the -- to the barren lands.

4 And I would say that some years we
5 would end up taking at least two hundred and sixty
6 (260) individuals, and some years we would end up
7 taking thirty (30). So it's an average of at least a
8 hundred and fifty (150) overall. And so if you
9 multiply that in the last twenty (20) years, I'd say
10 we -- minimum we've taken out over a thousand
11 individuals so far.

12 And those that participated as youth
13 back in 1995 are now canoe leaders. And so far most
14 of our programming, because we don't have the -- as
15 many traditional Elders who used to travel the
16 landscape and have a lot of experience, we relied on
17 them very much in the early years.

18 So now we've introduced what we call a
19 canoe safety program as much as we can, at least two
20 (2) a year, to introduce young canoe leaders to take
21 the safety program in communication, GPS, first aid
22 and survival skills and predator observation so that
23 we enhance their skills so that they're on constant
24 monitoring and we make sure that they have the proper
25 mapping with traditional names and try to communicate

1 through action.

2 What makes things different now in how
3 we enhance our programs is that our ability to -- to
4 hunt something at the end, it doesn't exist anymore.
5 That's the big difference.

6 And so we're now talking about -- like,
7 yesterday, one (1) of our presenters, public
8 presenters, talked about on the land program that --
9 that's running out there right now where we're
10 introducing over ten (10) young people to an
11 introduction to trapping. And so far, they've trapped
12 a few animals, from what we hear. And they even got a
13 few woodland caribou and have gone ice fishing. And
14 they're working with the Elders.

15 And so that's our first experience in
16 trying to enhance so that their skills hopefully will
17 be transported to doing more harvesting hopefully
18 before the winter ends more towards the caribou range
19 and fur harvesting, just natural fur harvesting
20 without -- without getting too heavily in it as just a
21 natural course of -- but the programs that -- that --
22 like, the On the Boots Program (phonetic).

23 Those are things that are done through
24 different sponsors, but in the end, I think we're
25 aiming for the same thing. Is that to introduce and

1 make sure that the transfer of information from the
2 older people to the younger ones, the forum for that
3 transfer is best done out in the landscape, in a
4 setting that -- where you can point out to the
5 landscape and you can feel the -- the stories, and the
6 attention span is a lot better.

7 So it's a lot to do with the youth
8 relationship to the land. And this summer, like I'm
9 saying say, we're -- last summer, actually, we had
10 about four (4) different canoe trips, which is kind of
11 unusual for what we were doing before, and it happens
12 on an individual basis. But for a Tlicho Government,
13 we've been involved in about four (4) canoe trips on a
14 smaller scale, so it's kind of increasing.

15 The interest is picking up from the
16 younger people because the -- the value of that
17 knowledge has kind of -- through our education system
18 in the last twenty (20) years, when the Elders first
19 had their meeting with the edu -- education
20 institution to say that we should do programming for a
21 strong -- like, two (2) people.

22 And so the -- the school has been
23 working -- the schools, in a primary and -- and in the
24 high school, have been doing a lot of on-land
25 programming on a day basis. And they are doing a lot

1 more language programming.

2 So I think the -- the vision of the old
3 Chief Jimmy Bruneau, from when he first stated those
4 words as to what kind of education that -- that he's
5 perceived for our area, has taken a long time to -- to
6 make it work and it's been going on for a period close
7 to forty (40) years and it's -- it's not easy to
8 measure. But the best measurement is the willingness
9 of as many young people who are willing to go out on
10 the landscape if given the opportunity.

11 And the best indicator of that interest
12 is that any on the land program is done by
13 application. And even on our canoe trips our
14 application always double what we normally take. And
15 so for a programming like they're doing right now,
16 it's not just through an application, but they --
17 through an interviewing process to gauge the interest
18 and -- and that they're doing it for the right
19 reasons.

20 And most of our programming that we do
21 is based on -- on the interview process, just so that
22 the organizers -- the organizers and the team leaders,
23 and even the individuals being interviewed get used to
24 the process of being interviewed, of being prepared,
25 and -- and keeping track of the skill level of the

1 people that apply for those things.

2 And it's very important to -- to have
3 that information not -- and it's more to -- to
4 enhance. And if -- and if some companies or some
5 resou -- resource companies or anybody that's looking
6 for individuals, we can always -- we'll know who would
7 be the best candidates for those things. So it takes
8 time.

9 But I think the -- the interest so far,
10 the Tlicho government is more like a supporting body
11 with staff and budgeted funds and -- and the ability
12 for the -- for the staff to kind of do outreach to
13 mineral exploration companies and governments to see
14 if we can tap into some things to do specific things
15 that would kind of help us in an overall way. Masi.

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
17 John B. Allice, another question?

18 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. Yes, this is Allice Legat, speaking for the
20 Board. I do have another question, a followup
21 question.

22 If I understood you correctly, that all
23 of these programs and your focus is to ensure that in
24 the future the young people will have the skills, the
25 knowledge, the language to harvest and treat barren

1 ground caribou in the appropriate way when they
2 return? Thank you.

3 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: John B. Zoe, Tlicho
4 Government. One (1) of the things that we know from
5 our own history is that in the early years, in the
6 '50s and '60s, the emphasis on -- on people by
7 governments were to draw people from the land so that
8 they can get into the -- into the community housing,
9 welfare system, and especially to bring their children
10 to the schools.

11 And so a lot of emphasis was just on
12 modern education -- modern education and a lot of
13 residential stu -- stuff to go with it. And so the --
14 the transfer of information kind of fell by the
15 wayside. But than -- thankfully old people have long
16 memories and so the idea is -- the idea is that if we
17 -- if we do what they were doing before, the
18 traditional way of transferring information is to take
19 youth and people outside the community into the
20 landscape to provide a forum for that transfer of
21 information.

22 And the more we do it the more
23 knowledgeable they become, because being custodians of
24 our land, we need a whole bunch of people with a
25 collective memory because the landscape is big. Not

1 one (1) person can -- can hold everything.

2 So knowledge is collective. And so we
3 need to protect something. We're not talking
4 military, but to protect something you need an army of
5 knowledgeable persons who can go in -- into the
6 landscape to translate the information that they have,
7 to do the monitoring, to look for changes, and to --
8 and any time you're on the landscape you know which
9 areas are burnt and what their recovery is over time.
10 Because you're constantly re -- visiting these areas.
11 Masi.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
13 very much. Allice?

14 MS. ALLICE LEGAT: Yes, Allice Legat,
15 for the Board. I understand the Tlicho government had
16 several community gatherings on the zero harvest of
17 the Bathurst herd. And thank you so much for
18 explaining how difficult dealing with a zero harvest
19 will be for the Tlicho people. I have two (2)
20 questions for the Tlicho presenters on a zero harvest.

21 The first one is: If I understood you
22 correctly, you did not act on the ceremonial harvest
23 that was av -- available last year because it would
24 not help the Tlicho people overall. As Gu -- Anne
25 Gunn pointed out, oh, that's my second question.

1 Could you answer the first one?

2 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: I guess -- John B.
3 Zoe, Tlicho government -- Elders teach you how to act
4 at a table. When the -- when the ceremonial tag was -
5 - was talked about at the time you either have a -- a
6 peak or a bottom. And at the -- at the peak of
7 anything we're -- it's a wild west of assorted things.
8 But when you get to the bottom of the barrel, you're
9 looking at small numbers. And competition can be
10 tough, not just the competition of how -- of
11 distribution, but competition of a lot of thoughts and
12 a lot of opinions. And -- and even to some degree
13 unfairness.

14 And -- and being a -- the -- probably
15 one (1) of the only Aboriginal groups in the north who
16 are involved in developing the joint management
17 proposal, we get to see how ENR operates. And we get
18 to see how the politicians operate. And we get to see
19 how the board operate. And we get to see how our
20 people absorb information. And a lot of the
21 information is technical in nature, but in simplistic
22 terms we have a number of caribou that is declining as
23 we speak. Or that's we are -- we're led to believe,
24 that it's constantly on the decline.

25 And -- and our first attempt of joint

1 management proposal was stabilization. We want to
2 stabilize it first. And all the actions that we've
3 taken were to stabilize. And that was back in 2010.
4 And here we're in 2015 (sic), and there has been no
5 stab -- stabilization. It's been a constant decline.

6 So when the -- when the ceremonial tag
7 was introduced and talked about, it -- I think the
8 natural answer at the time was, Well, we -- we're
9 still on track of the stabilization.

10 And anything that we can do to
11 stabilize it, and all the assessments that ENR does
12 and the questions towards the methods of assessment, I
13 think it's very helpful for us because all we can do,
14 like I was saying -- like yesterday, we're more on the
15 sidelines on this thing. And we're on the sidelines.
16 We -- we don't necessarily need to -- to be thrown
17 biscuits.

18 We want to be real partners, and real
19 contributing member of the Joint Management Proposal.
20 That we're doing something that's going to hopefully
21 make a difference. And that's probably the biggest
22 reason that -- that the -- that the leadership decided
23 that rather than be thought of sitting on the
24 sidelines, that we're -- our first action would be
25 zero harvest and -- and decline any ceremonial harvest

1 tags. Masi.

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
3 very much. Allice...?

4 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. Allice Legat, for the Board. Thanks, John.
6 Mr. Chair -- okay, if the Board recommends a zero
7 harvest of the Bathurst herd rather than a regulated
8 total allowable harvest of zero, how will the Tlicho
9 Government manage this? Who will guide the actions of
10 the harvesters?

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: John B...?

12 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: Well, it's -- we're
13 not --we're not there yet, but I think just by hearing
14 that question, I think it gives us a lot of food for
15 thought. Masi.

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Allice,
17 further question?

18 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Yes -- yes, I have
19 a few more. Thank you. This is Allice Legat, for the
20 Board.

21 I would like to know from the Tlicho
22 presenters if there was ever a time when the barren-
23 ground caribou, based on Tlicho stories and
24 experience, was as low as it is now?

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Tlicho

4 Government...?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Mr. Co-

9 Chair, Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho Government. I'll
10 take this time when they are discussing the answers
11 just to -- an addition from what John B. -- from your
12 question, Dr. Legat, about what the Tlicho Government
13 will do regarding -- regarding our harvesters for the
14 Bathurst herds.

15 We do have a monitoring program where
16 community members are on the lands with -- with the
17 ENR, and -- and they -- they talk with -- with our
18 harvesters, and they monitor our harvesters as well.
19 They're not enforcers though, I want to make that
20 clear.

21 We also -- we also are in -- are in
22 touch with our community directors who are really the
23 -- the people who are in most contact with the -- with
24 the harvesters. The harvesters have to come into the
25 office now to get their tags, and they go to the

1 community directors. They talk to the community
2 directors. The community directors have the most
3 updated map of where the mobile zone is, and -- and
4 they will inform the hunters where they can hunt and -
5 - and where not.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you.
7 Joe Rabesca...?

8 ELDER JOE RABESCA: Mr. Chair, Joe
9 Rabesca.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
11 very much.

12 ELDER JOE RABESCA: I know a time when
13 there was no caribou around Snare Lake. I know
14 sometime in 1970, somewhere around there, there's
15 three (3) Elders that are still around yet. Since
16 there's no caribou, the leaders at Snare Lake had to
17 send three (3) young people. They were young then.
18 They are probably seventy-five (75) years old now.
19 They had to go to Rae. And one (1) passed away.

20 And from Rae, it didn't matter if it
21 was my friend's dog or somebody else's dog, people got
22 together and -- and talk about it, said, We're going
23 to pick all the best dogs all over the whole Snare
24 Lake, so they did. They put three (3) teams together
25 and they took off from Snare Lake. This is what I

1 heard and I know.

2 And then they never slept, went right
3 through. There was no road. And they made it to Rae
4 and went to see the priest, which they do all the
5 time. Went to game warden, RCMP. Then everybody was
6 -- this is sometime in 1970. And the old hospital was
7 still there. And I saw a twin otter landing.

8 Mr. Chair, I saw my wife coming out. I
9 didn't know her then, okay? But that's -- that's what
10 it was. And then, after that, Joseph and I were
11 talking. And we all had to go to Snowdrift, because
12 there was no caribou around Snare Lake, Rae Lakes,
13 nothing. And we were using dogs. No skidoo then. I
14 went, too. Everybody in Snare Lake, they went. We
15 all went by dogs.

16 And earlier when we used -- started
17 using skidoo again, Joseph had to fly into Snowdrift
18 to get his caribou. There's no caribou then. So
19 sometime it happens to -- I -- I know two (2) occasion
20 it did happen. And I asked the Elders, Why did this
21 happen?

22 And here I listen to you guys talking
23 about scientists, collar and all that stuff. Sometime
24 it does happen. It moves. And I -- I talked to my
25 dad about it. And I asked him, Why do those happen?

1 Well, it's the leader, he says, the caribou leader.
2 If he's going to go this way, that's where all the
3 herd's going to go.

4 So that's what I -- I know that it
5 happened twice. And there was no caribou in our area.
6 So they had to bring all the Snare Lake people back.
7 Absolutely nothing. The dogs were starving, but they
8 made it back to -- to Rae twice that I know of, so
9 sometime it happens. We don't know but why. We don't
10 know.

11 Just to tell you, the group here, I'm
12 glad that I came. This group I'm sitting here with
13 and the Chief asked me to sit on some of the meetings
14 that already happened. We back -- so sometime I -- I
15 listen to some information that you guys are sharing
16 back and forth. Sometimes it's kind of new to me
17 because I wasn't partly involved in it. But I'm glad
18 I'm here because it's very, very important, this
19 caribou that -- and wolves that we're talking about.

20 As I left yesterday, I go -- a lot of
21 people know me, government, industry. I deal with a
22 lot of people. And people that I talk to out there,
23 they're saying, Go and do what you have to do,
24 caribou, wolf. Do what you have to do. That's what
25 they're saying.

1 It's up to the Board. We know that.
2 But as individual like me and people back in Rae would
3 say the same thing. And I wouldn't hesitate to tell
4 the Board, We're going to have to shoot this wolf.
5 We're going to have to kill it. We're going to have
6 to do it, even though others would tell me why, but I
7 would still insist.

8 If I can balance -- there's two (2)
9 animals, I'd rather save one (1). I'm not going to
10 live on this for sure, but the caribou, we're going to
11 have to do whatever it takes, and I will support the
12 Board. I will support any individual out there that
13 are saying the way -- the funny thing about caribou,
14 if it's on my side and on the group, I don't think the
15 chiefs and the leaders would.

16 And I talk to other regions. The other
17 regions are not here. People like Providence. I have
18 a lot of friends there. I -- I talk to them on the
19 phone all the time. This is what we're doing. Even
20 people in Fort Liard, way on the other side, he don't
21 think the youth is heard. He don't think.

22 But sometime they come out and we share
23 whatever we have. That's what we do. We share. And
24 we all have relatives. I got a sister living in
25 Edmonton. My daughter's out there with kids who are

1 all in the same boat. So whatever we do, we share.

2 So as I listen to people, we're going
3 to have to do what we have to do. That's -- that's
4 it. But I'm still worried a lot, Mr. Chairman. If
5 this decline is still going down as we speak, I still
6 would like to know why, why, why, why, why.

7 Is it because it's getting sick? Is it
8 because of where they migrate? Is there something
9 wrong? I -- I said to you, the Board -- Mr. Chairman,
10 twice I said, in my lifetime, I saw it happen.
11 What'll -- before, then? What will be before?
12 There's something that's wrong. We don't know. Maybe
13 all of us can put our heads together. Maybe we don't
14 have an answer, but we still need to look -- look at
15 it and see why. What's causing this? It never
16 happened before.

17 It happened twice, but it came back.
18 And too bad we don't have the Elders that we used to
19 have. Many of you know Alexis Arrowmaker, many of
20 you. When I was leader -- Mr. Chairman, forgive me to
21 -- taking the time away from the -- the question, but
22 I listen to the Elders.

23 Allice, you were there in Gameti, and
24 all the Elders were there, every one of them, all the
25 Elders that were in Rae Lakes, when I was a leader, do

1 you know what they told me? Stay here with me on the
2 table.

3 Next time I go there, they said, I got
4 to move to Andrew Gon's house. Next time I will go to
5 this one, because that's what they said.

6 And the reason being is that we're
7 going to tell you a story about why we move in here.
8 All the Elders have different stories, so that's what
9 I did and I did the same thing as I travel so that I
10 don't listen to one (1) particular person. I listen
11 to everybody.

12 This way all the knowledge that they
13 have, they would give it to me, even though it's not
14 written down, but it's all in here and I still know
15 all the stories. But just go back to what we were
16 saying, we need to -- I'm going to help this group as
17 much as I could.

18 We have to. We have to support each
19 other. Don't forget as I -- as I speak, all the other
20 region won't hesitate to support you guys. We're
21 going to have to do what we have to do. But if you
22 talk about the wolf, look at the map. It's a huge
23 country. And the wolf are different. I talk to my
24 friend here. I talk to some. The wolf to the west,
25 man (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN). Traditional knowledge.

1 (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN) means "further west." The
2 wolves, they're bigger.

3 And the wolf to the east that follows
4 the caribou are a lot smaller. A lot smaller. The
5 wolf on this side to the west are very aggressive, I
6 know, because -- and they're dangerous too. There's a
7 friend over there, Charlie (phonetic), that's where he
8 lives.

9 You listen to people like Louie Simpson
10 (phonetic), trappers that in Whati, that's where they
11 live. And today, I tell you, someone was telling you
12 that there's a young guy that climbed a tree. It's
13 true. It's true. The wolf behaviour is changing.
14 Since I got this mic here I might as well tell you, I
15 know I live in Rae. I see the wolf. You know Edzo,
16 eh? You know where the community is.

17 I know when I was young, I see the wolf
18 halfway. They never come close to community. Two (2)
19 miles away, that's how far they'll stay. Right now,
20 you'll see it in the dump.

21 And one (1) morning I woke up -- my
22 little ones got to go to school. I see a wolf
23 standing off just a little ways. So I phoned my
24 neighbour, Look, there's a wolf there. What's
25 happening? Even their behaviour is changing. Now

1 they're going to the community. That's why I was on
2 the radio before Christmas.

3 People travelling back and forth to Rae
4 Lakes, Whati, the road -- and there's no skidoo trail
5 to this community. So I said, Young guys, I said,
6 Come in. And going back, make sure there's two (2) or
7 three (3) together. Watch each other, because I know
8 that this is what's happening with the wolf. Their
9 behaviour is changing.

10 So we can talk all we want, but how far
11 -- how far out are they going to change? That's --
12 that's what -- quite often I wonder about it. I'm not
13 the only one. There's a lot of people out there, and
14 that's what John's talking about when he's taking
15 people on the trips, on the boat trip.

16 Nick Black was a really good Elder. I
17 spent a lot of time out on the land with him. John
18 was on that trip. We never say nothing. In the
19 evening we just sit, pray verse, story, until he goes
20 to sleep. He learned a lot from those people. That's
21 why the boat trip that he was talking about, it's so
22 important.

23 Young people -- half of our young
24 people in Rae don't know. We need to bring them back
25 out. That's a term that I -- you know me as well,

1 yeah, pretty well all of you. Once I get behind,
2 there's no stopping, because unless you tell me to
3 stop, I'll stop. But I will stop. Thank you very
4 much.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
6 very much. Allice, any more questions?

7 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Yes, thank you, Mr.
8 Chair. I do have more questions. Allice Legat. I
9 have lots now after that, but -- but I'll do them in
10 order. So you were talking about there's twice that
11 you remember that there were no caribou, and you had
12 to travel to Lutsel K'e by dog team, three (3) dog
13 teams, and also once by plane.

14 And the people that stayed behind, not
15 everybody can go on these trips, what did -- what did
16 they harvest? Or what did they use from the land to
17 survive when -- when the caribou didn't come on those
18 two (2) occasions?

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Joe?

20 ELDER JOE RABESCA: Mr. Chairman,
21 right now in Rae, okay, very few people would set net.
22 Fish is the only thing we had. I wish -- you know, I
23 saw a net like this, one after another. If you -- I
24 know the land here around Rae where they go fishing,
25 it was set -- you would see net one after another,

1 like this. Right around. I can show you a -- a, you
2 know, where the channel goes, because I had a net in
3 there, too.

4 Every dog -- everybody had dogs, so.
5 The only thing we had was fish to eat. Nothing else.
6 That's it. And for order to -- for the dogs to
7 survive, we had to set net. There's every little spot
8 that -- that we know where we can catch fish was just
9 fish only. That's a -- just -- that's all the answer
10 I can give you.

11 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Masi. Thank you,
12 Mr. -- oh. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Allice Legat, with
13 the Board.

14 I hear Elders at several meetings in
15 the last little while talking about -- talking and
16 saying, Leave the caribou alone. Could you explain
17 what that -- what that means?

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Joseph...?

19 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: My name is Joseph
20 Judas. I just wanted to say that in my language, so
21 I've got to use the head so -- head phone.

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Everybody have

1 their headset? Thank you. My name is Joseph Judas.
2 I'm originally from Wekweti. The question regarding
3 the caribou, yes, not to talk about the caribou and
4 the -- we heard that from the Elders within our
5 community.

6 The reason why the Elders were saying
7 that because the -- the Elders had the history of the
8 caribou relationship. They have, and then the -- just
9 like the land or animals. And that if you talk about
10 the animals behind their back, they listen regardless
11 of the -- the distance, you know. So that's the idea
12 the Elders have. That's what they're referring to.

13 Definitely says that the -- just like
14 any human being, I guess, people have to go through a
15 hardship through their life. I guess the animal go
16 through the same thing. And then the -- so to avoid
17 that, I guess, we pretty well have to have respect the
18 animal, and they -- how they survive on the land.

19 Yes, some questions that I have
20 listened to from Anne Gunn, but I didn't know --
21 didn't say or respond to his (sic) comment.
22 Definitely says the -- the calves, you know, the --
23 what's happened with the calves, and then about the
24 calf survivals, and all that. And then adult caribou
25 survive, and where they travel to, and how they

1 migrate into a tree line.

2 And how the -- some other predators
3 that -- that affects the -- the caribou, such as flies
4 and all that, and the -- and the warm weather, and the
5 -- and they have to migrate on the eskers, and the
6 water crossing, and all that.

7 Yes, definitely he says that we -- we -
8 - when we were taught how to travel on the land and
9 how to hunt, all the questions that we went through
10 since this morning I guess, you know, we have to learn
11 that in order to -- to relate to the caribou on the
12 land. And -- yes, that today, I guess, you know, that
13 through our traditional knowledge, I guess, you know,
14 that we have to have respect.

15 But every year or every other three (3)
16 years that the reconnaissance is done by ENR, and all
17 the caribou surveys and, you know, comes along
18 annually, or whatever, and then the -- these are very
19 important things that, you know, we have -- we have to
20 follow the trend of caribou population. The -- I
21 think we have -- we have some professional people
22 through the ENR that do surveys on our behalf, which
23 is good.

24 Yes, that we are the land users. We
25 know the land inside out, and all the way down to

1 MacKay Lake, and all that, to -- going down through to
2 almost to Contwoyto Lake, and so right through
3 Enterprise and Snare Lake. I guess the -- the
4 migrations go right though to -- right down towards --
5 to Hottah Lake area.

6 So the -- the caribou sometimes, you
7 know, they divide -- some herd divides, and some go
8 down to the north and some to the west, some to -- to
9 the south. Yes. If they go down to the south, I
10 guess, you know, they go down to the Lutsel K'e area
11 because the -- the migration route, I guess, it's --
12 it stretch out into the southern part of Canada, I
13 guess, you know.

14 And the mig -- the migration route, I
15 guess, it gets lengthy. It gets too long, you know,
16 because -- might be because of the barren land. It
17 stretch out into the southern part of Canada. Yes.
18 I, too, I guess, you know, like to know exactly where
19 the caribou are going to. And then the -- when they
20 start moving, are they going to somewhere else with a
21 sudden death?

22 I don't know what's happening to them
23 because, you know, on the return there's very -- very
24 little that comes back to the calving grounds.

25 Yes, we know that there's a lot of

1 people that are using the -- maybe people from the
2 Bluenose herd is being used by the people from Gameti
3 and some by Behchoko.

4 The -- to date, if you look at the --
5 the -- how the caribou mi -- want to survive is quite
6 minimum because the -- the land itself is pretty well
7 taken over by forest fire. But we're not making any
8 directions. We didn't tell them where to go. Right
9 now, the -- the caribou are probably still on the
10 barren land. But the -- to date, we don't know what -
11 - to the migration route. Would it be on burn -- the
12 land is probably burned out.

13 But the -- if we look at the -- the
14 history of our ancestors that I think the creator that
15 provides every nations, I guess, you know, that if we
16 had an abundance of caribou, I'm pretty sure that the
17 -- the creator could have sent some caribou our way,
18 but there re -- through the depletion of the caribou,
19 that we have very minimum caribou that's within our --
20 our area. But now that I too, I guess, you know,
21 like the -- like to protect the animal. And I too
22 like to protect the hunters. And I like to -- to
23 support the ENR, what they're doing, and then all the
24 researchers.

25 And I ask, you know, people like Anne

1 Gunn, you know, as to what directions that, you know,
2 we, as a leader, could consider. But to -- to date --
3 to date, the -- there's a lot of things, a lot of
4 factors that are out there that the migrations is
5 impacted by. And that it makes you wonder where the
6 caribou are going to because the migration route has
7 been changed quite drastically.

8 The -- knowing that the -- the caribou,
9 I guess, you know, really migrates right on the barren
10 land going down to the southern part of Canada, so
11 they -- they don't go into much -- they don't swing
12 into our area like they used to in the past.

13 But the -- for some reason, I think the
14 -- although I don't want to speak for the caribou, but
15 speaking -- I look at it as if the caribou have given
16 up their very important land they have for a lot of
17 areas that still -- the caribou food is still out
18 there, but the -- for some reason, the caribou had
19 changed their route, you know. And they haven't given
20 up their very important land where they used to
21 migrate through in the past.

22 But the -- but the research on the
23 caribou and the -- where the caribou migrations routes
24 are, we should take a thorough research as to, you
25 know, where the migration's taking us into the future.

1
2 And I -- I seen that Anne Gunn had a
3 lot of good questions, I guess, you know. Like, I
4 think the ENR had a lot of -- they had a lot on their
5 plates. They had done a lot of things that, you know,
6 had reported on, which is something that people in the
7 community are hoping to know. So true. And I think
8 the ENR had a lot of good questions that -- you know,
9 that our people in the community want to know more
10 about.

11 Yes, we know that the -- the -- how may
12 pe -- how many caribou were at one point, I guess --
13 one point, I guess, four hundred and fifty thousand
14 (450,000) animals, and to date, somewhere around
15 twenty thousand (20,000), I guess, you know. Within a
16 short period of time the amount of caribou had -- had
17 dropped.

18 So the -- so somewhat, you know, we
19 have to be on alert and we have to be cautious and
20 respect one another as to what people are planning on
21 doing. I think the -- all the governments that put
22 their heads together, I think they're heading in the
23 right direction.

24 The -- the history that -- one (1)
25 question about when's the last time that the caribou

1 disappeared from our area, that was back in 1969 in --
2 in Wekweti when that the caribou -- there's no
3 caribou. So that's the reason why, I guess, the
4 people had to be medivac, either that or evacuated to
5 Behchoko, you know, so this is where they left the
6 dogs behind. This is what Joe Rabesca is referring
7 to.

8 But even then, back then, the climate
9 change was still in full force, I guess, and the ice
10 was too thick. And we can't chisel ice -- through the
11 ice to set our net for our -- for human consumption as
12 well as the dog -- for dog food.

13 So that's how the -- you know, we had
14 to evacuate a community. Yes, that -- yes, I guess
15 that we had a visiting priest by dog team, I guess,
16 you know, so that Father Amoureux came around and I
17 guess we sent a message to the -- to evacuate people
18 out of there because of the -- the problem with the --
19 the people -- the community, this, a few years after I
20 got married.

21 Yes, even one (1) year we had to go all
22 the way down to Lutsel K'e because there was no
23 caribou within our area at one (1) point. So I'll --
24 when it takes, I don't know how many weeks, you know,
25 to -- to make that trip by dog team, because, you

1 know, so -- and -- and now that we -- we even there --
2 to Lutsel K'e to -- for a community hunt as well too,
3 so we -- so twice in the -- in the community was quite
4 distressed because of the no caribou within our area.

5 I guess that we had to go to a
6 different regions to harvest caribou for survival.
7 Yes, that's a -- a history. And our elders they still
8 keeps us, you know, they tell us to be cautious and
9 they tell us to be patient, and then, you know, maybe
10 at some point in time in the very near future maybe
11 the caribou might rebound and -- so the -- so we're
12 still hopeful and then the -- the -- our ancestors at
13 the -- are -- taught us how to respect the animal.

14 That they even did caribou itself, I
15 guess, has a great respect for its hoof. So, I guess,
16 you know, that now and again, so that's the reason why
17 our ancestor told us not to burn the hooves and they
18 make sure that you handle with care and that if you
19 are dispose the animal bones then make sure it's where
20 all the -- you know, dispose in a -- you know, in an
21 area where it shouldn't be scattered all around the
22 country.

23 So today, I guess, you know, that we've
24 gone away from our -- our tradition, you know, like we
25 used to. We're not practising it like we used to.

1 Maybe that too have something to do with the -- the
2 caribou.

3 And then through our traditional
4 knowledge, I guess, you know, we have to educate one
5 another to have a great respect for -- and of course
6 to while we're out there I guess we're doing a lot of
7 littering. Leaving unwanted plastics and, you know,
8 cans and things like that out in the -- in the tundra,
9 that -- maybe these -- these things have something to
10 do with, you know, why the caribou are not coming
11 within our -- our area.

12 Definitely being as a leader in the
13 past, I guess, you know, that nobody will ever all
14 agree with us, but at least the majority of the people
15 would agree with us I guess we could make decisions
16 from there on.

17 So I heard a lot of great stories, a
18 lot of great questions have been asked and on behalf
19 of the people. And we as an Aboriginal land users I
20 guess we have a lot of, you know, concerns about --
21 regarding our traditional knowledge.

22 And definitely when one (1) leader says
23 if you saw two (2) maybe you could shoot one (1) and
24 leave one (1) for the future. And we all feel the
25 same way. But nonetheless that even if we tell them,

1 you know, shoot one (1) caribou for your survival and
2 try to leave one (1) for the future, I don't think the
3 people in our community will -- they might just go and
4 want to drop the last caribou around. Thank you.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
9 Joseph. Allice, do you have any further questions?

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: I just have a
14 couple more questions.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: This is, I believe,
19 my final question for the Tlicho government. Well, I
20 read the publication We Live Here For Caribou with
21 interest. So I'd like to -- let me just turn this
22 off. I'd like to thank Mr. Judas and the other Elders
23 that worked on that public -- that publication. I am
24 particularly interested in the physiology and health
25 of the caribou. And my question, Mr. Chair, is to the

1 Tlicho government presenters.

2 Given the indicators of possible
3 disease due to the abnormalities in the stomach,
4 lungs, meat, liver, bone marrow, and the lungs ribs
5 issues, fat level, and state of hides that the Tlicho
6 from Wekweti were seeing can you tell me what these
7 abnormalities disease mean for the caribou?

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Joseph...?

9

10 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes, I -- I
13 believe you, yes. Yes, it was maybe about back two
14 (2) or three (3) years in Wekweti the -- the -- even
15 though the caribou didn't go near us, but went near a
16 lake called Abiti (phonetic). And so -- and so even
17 though it went near Abiti the people were not able to
18 hunt for it. And so we went by plane and we went to a
19 area called Little Marten Lakes Onti (phonetic).

20 And further up north there's another
21 area Titati (phonetic). That lake is just a little
22 bit bigger. And so we travelled in those areas by
23 airplane. And so we -- we wanted to go further than
24 what we planned to travel in that plane that day. So
25 we went to Little Marten Lake and then we went to

1 another little kind of a stream further north. And we
2 found some caribou at that time. And then -- and then
3 so when we -- when we decided to go hunt nearby that
4 area.

5 So the caribou that we got, one (1) big
6 caribou and then a smaller caribou. The big caribou
7 was very, very fat. It was so fat that it -- we
8 couldn't eat it. And then the ca -- the smaller
9 caribou was a bit healthier. It wasn't that fat. And
10 so that's how the two (2) caribou looked at the time
11 when it was hunted. And -- and then another caribou
12 that travelled near the Sahtu herd was the herd that
13 we killed the caribou from. And the caribou that was
14 so fat, it didn't look the same as our caribou.

15 And the caribou, the Bathurst that --
16 that come our area, it didn't look the same as a
17 Bathurst. The loo -- the fat -- the fat on the
18 caribou looked different. And so the Bathurst
19 caribou, wherever they travelled in their traditional
20 migration area, was exactly where all the mine
21 industry is existing now. And so maybe there's some
22 contaminants that -- that could be stressing the
23 caribou. It could be some areas that the caribou
24 could be stressed.

25 And -- and on some occasions there's

1 rain all winter or all summer long. You get good
2 rain, you get good forage, you get -- but sometimes
3 when it's so dry and it's, like, drought season it's
4 very difficult for -- for the caribou to eat. And
5 then if there's maybe a short distance of mining
6 development going on and -- and near the mine area,
7 the kind of sound that the food makes, it's just like
8 a crunching sign. But if it's further away from the
9 mine it's good food.

10 So when -- when it's near the mine you
11 -- you're eating, like, salt substance near the mine
12 areas. It's just like when -- when we're eating eggs
13 we're putting salt on it. They're eating salty
14 substance that's around the areas around the mine.

15 And then the development happening
16 around -- and so sometimes exploration camps leave
17 their camps just -- they just leave it. They abandon
18 their camps. They leave a lot of debris at the camp,
19 and they leave -- they don't bother to clean up. And
20 so that's exactly the kind of way that the migration
21 area is.

22 If my migration area of route -- I
23 don't think I would go to an area where it's littered
24 with garbage and debris all along that migration area.
25 And so according to all the areas that we looked at,

1 in the bone marrow, in the lungs, and all that, I'm
2 sure that's one of the area -- reasons why the caribou
3 are not going to our area. And so I'm sure that's an
4 area where we went hunting around near about that --
5 near the Sahtu herd. Thank you.

6

7

(INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9

(PORTION NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

10

11

MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.

12

Chair. First question, or set of questions is

13

directed to ENR. Yesterday it was mentioned that the

14

report on the -- or the feasibility assessment, rather

15

-- feasibility assessment on potential predator

16

management options will be delivered by the end of the

17

calendar year.

18

Just clarifying that the report on

19

monitoring of wolves, that the delivery for that is

20

still expected to be Spring 2016?

21

DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,

22

with ENR. Could you, please, clarify -- I -- I'm not

23

quite sure what report you're asking about.

24

MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Okay. So -- oh,

25

Boyan Tracz, Board staff. Yesterday we heard about

1 two (2) reports. One of them was the feasibility
2 assessment for different types of predator management
3 options, and -- and another report that was mentioned
4 was a review of ways to monitor wolf abundance.

5 In the materials provided by ENR, some
6 of the materials provided by ENR, it's mentioned that
7 the delivery for the review of wolf monitoring methods
8 is expected to be 2016. So just a clarification that
9 that delivery date or time...

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

14 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
15 with - - with ENR. I think to clarify it, I'd -- I
16 don't think that we intended to have a separate report
17 on wolf monitoring methods. We saw that as being
18 something that would be included with the feasibility
19 assessment because part of that -- you know, we want
20 to know -- we want to have some sort of estimate of
21 how many wolves are out there. And then if there's
22 further monitoring to assess whether reduction is
23 being effective, then we'd want to keep monitoring
24 wolf abundance further.

25 So I don't think we envisioned, you

1 know, an actual report or review. What we did have,
2 we had a biologist meeting in January just ENR -- an
3 annual ENR biologist meeting, and we spent two (2)
4 days talking about wolf monitoring and wolf
5 management. And so that was kind of an in-house
6 discussion, review, on wolf monitoring but there's no
7 actual report out of that.

8 So I guess back to your original
9 question, that -- that would -- we would see that as -
10 - as a part of the -- the feasibility assessment.

11 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz, Board
12 staff. Oh, yeah, carry on. Sorry. Yeah, just to --
13 to put this into context, I'm looking at response to
14 Round -- Round One, IR number 15, where it says that:

15 "ENR reviewing -- is reviewing
16 methods for monitoring wolf
17 abundance in the NWT and considering
18 the use of wolf survey methods that
19 have been elsewhere. In addition,
20 ENR will carry out in 2016 a review
21 and feasibility assessment of
22 methods of reducing wolf numbers and
23 caribou range."

24 So on and so forth. So to -- just to
25 clarify, one (1) report with both a feasibility

1 assessment of predator management options that will
2 also include information on monitoring wolf abundance?

3 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
4 with ENR. That's what we had in mind, yes. Thank
5 you.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Boyan, go
7 ahead.

8 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. The second set of questions is also for ENR.
10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12
13 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: So I'll provide a
14 bit of background just to set the question into
15 context. So in WRRB recommendation number 51 from
16 2010 the Board recommended that ENR and TG assess the
17 need for forest fire control in areas of important
18 caribou habitat.

19 In the 2011 revised joint proposal
20 implementation plan, specifically in section 4.1.4,
21 it's mentioned that ENR fire management program is
22 currently under review and that the new program will
23 reflect the position of ENR in regard to the need for
24 forest fire control in areas of important caribou
25 habitat.

1 In the responses that ENR provided,
2 specifically Round Two, IR number 22A dealing with
3 fire, it's stated that:

4 "The Bathurst caribou range planning
5 working group is still considering
6 how it'll incorporate the impacts of
7 fire into its management approach
8 for the plan."

9 And then it goes on to talk about that:

10 "Current concepts under
11 consideration by the BCRP working
12 group include the tracking of the
13 annual amount of winter habitat
14 burned and comparing it to the
15 average overall records since the
16 late 1960s. And if this indicator
17 shows annual burned areas as -- as
18 exceeding the average, then
19 recommendations could be triggered
20 to take action in priority winter
21 habitat areas identified through
22 science and traditional knowledge."

23 And the final statement in that IR is
24 that:

25 "ENR forest management carried out a

1 review of its fire management
2 program starting in 2010. And one
3 (1) result of community input was
4 the identification of key unburned
5 caribou ranges in caribou winter
6 range that should be considered for
7 fire protection."

8 So the question to ENR is: Recognizing
9 that through community input ENR identified key areas
10 which should be considered for fire protection, has
11 ENR completed its assessment of the need for forest
12 fire control in these areas of important caribou
13 habitat?

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
15 Mandeville...?

16 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
17 ENR. Just on the fire protection area for the
18 Bathurst winter range, not only the Bathurst but the
19 Bluenose East, it's a ongoing discussion we have with
20 community members and our FMB (phonetic) department.
21 And it -- it's a priority that, you know, our
22 government has made steps in -- in trying to -- sorry.
23 Sorry about that.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Sorry about
2 that. Yeah, where I was -- I was saying that it is a
3 priority to have fire protection in the Bathurst
4 wintering range. And our resources, you know, are
5 spread thin, especially when we have a busy fire
6 season.

7 We do, in the -- in the early part of
8 the season, try to action any of these areas that have
9 been identified as, you know, priority wintering range
10 for the caribou. And, like I said, we do action them
11 as much as we can.

12 But in the past few years, there's
13 been, you know, a lot of huge fires that affected
14 communities. And, you know, all of our resources just
15 about were redirected to action those fires for, you
16 know, the protection of human life and community
17 infrastructure.

18 But we -- like I said, there is a
19 commitment to continue whenever we have the resources
20 to protect the existing wintering range of the -- not
21 only the Bathurst, but the Bluenose East. Thanks.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
23 Fred. Boyan, next question?

24 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff. So to follow up on

1 that, appreciating that there have been changes over
2 time, what is ENRs current position regarding fire
3 management in key areas of unburnt caribou winter
4 range?

5 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
6 ENR. I've got my phone shut off this time. I guess
7 like I -- I stated, we -- we do recognize areas that
8 have been identified and we will, you know, make an
9 effort to, when -- when possible, to action those
10 fires in the key wintering range, providing there's no
11 other area where fire is threatening communities or
12 infrastructure, which is the priority. So, thanks.

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thanks,
14 Fred. Boyan, again?

15 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff. Final question in
17 this fire realm, and I'll just set the situation. So
18 we've heard -- we've heard concerns about fire and
19 climate change and how things are -- are changing.

20 We heard statements yesterday from ENR
21 that currently it's not believed that the winter
22 habitat is limiting or that lichens are limiting, but
23 that if trends continue, there may be -- may be some
24 concerns about this key habitat.

25 So if -- if in 2017 the fire season is

1 -- is worse than 2014, and 60 percent of the current
2 identified key caribou habitat is burnt, what steps
3 will ENR take with regards to fire management in the
4 remaining key area, keeping in -- in mind and -- and
5 acknowledging that there are limitations to what can
6 be done and that there is priorities, but there's also
7 considerations of valued components, so to speak.

8 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
9 ENR. I think like I stated in my last two (2)
10 answers, we -- you know, we will protect whenever we
11 can any unburnt corridors for the barren-ground
12 caribou wintering grounds. You know, we can't predict
13 right now what kind of a season we're going to have or
14 how big a fire season we're going to have.

15 And like I said, resources are -- are
16 stretched. And, you know, it's a huge landscape out
17 there. A lot of times by the time a fire is
18 discovered, it's already way beyond our capacity to
19 try to contain it. And -- and like I say, it -- it's
20 the resources, too.

21 We're -- you know, we have to maintain
22 a set amount of resources to protect anything that
23 does come up closer to the communities and stuff. So
24 we can't put all our resources way out there in the
25 barren lands or in those corridors and leave

1 communities unprotected.

2 So we have to take all that in mind
3 every year when the fire season starts. It's -- it's
4 -- we don't know what -- what's coming. So we have to
5 be prepared for everything, I guess, but we will early
6 in the season -- I know early fires, we make every
7 effort to action them as soon as we discover them.
8 And that's the key, I guess, is -- is to discover them
9 when they're -- when they're small and can be actioned
10 and suppressed.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
12 Fred. Boyan...?

13 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff. I guess one (1)
15 follow-up to that one. Given that the working group
16 is looking at percentages relative to historical
17 fires, would ENR use that information to set triggers
18 or thresholds for when actions would take place?

19 Again, understanding that you can't
20 predict, but you can set triggers for when you would
21 do something. Again, considerations of limitations.

22 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Fred Mandeville,
23 ENR. Yes, we do use the fire history maps when we do
24 action fires over the -- over the years. That's all
25 part of the planning progress. And also some of the

1 older fires from years ago, they're starting to come
2 back into the -- you know, into the -- into the
3 picture, where the habitat is suitable for caribou.
4 So it -- it is used part -- within the planning
5 progress, all our information we have on past fires,
6 past fire history.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Okay.
8 Thanks, Fred. Before I give the floor to you, Boyan,
9 I'd just like to give the floor to Bruno. If you want
10 to add anything further. Thank you.

11 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Masi cho, Mr. Chair.
12 Boyan, thank you for your questions and -- and follow
13 up on the -- on one (1) we presented yesterday. I
14 certainly appreciate where you're coming from. I hear
15 your -- your questions in the different ways wherever
16 we go, sharing the information we have.

17 Here's how the answer came to me in
18 2014 when all those fires were taking place across the
19 landscape. And having the fire management team next
20 door to my office, with people from all over Canada
21 and the States, with the best fire behaviour possible
22 we can hope for, \$50 million to work with that one (1)
23 year.

24 And I was listening to those fire
25 behaviour person describing a plan of attack. I --

1 I'm not sure that the initial attack, I think, is the
2 term they were talking about in some -- some areas.
3 And it -- the message that kept coming back is that
4 the fire behaviour indices are totally off the chart.
5 Something that they had never seen before anywhere
6 else.

7 So that's how it hit home for me.

8 Like, no matter how much resources we would have had,
9 and how much information we would have had to initiate
10 those triggers and -- and protect the winter caribou
11 habitat, there's probably nothing we could have done.

12 Are we getting into an area where more
13 of those kinds of fire behaviour, where there's not a
14 whole lot we can do? Our department has spent, I
15 think, up to \$80 million in the last two (2) years in
16 -- in fire suppression. That's -- I think that's one
17 (1) of the reason we're in the hole as a government.
18 It's -- it's not sustainable under those -- those fire
19 behaviour indices.

20 So hopefully things will change and we
21 can regroup and consider the suggestions that you had
22 and -- and your questions and the thresholds, and --
23 and the corridor to protect which we hear all the time
24 in the communities. But we're dealing something that
25 is out of our control, in a nutshell.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
2 Bruno. Boyan?

3 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff.

5 Just, I guess, to conclude this area.
6 It's -- it's a series of questions that Ms. Anne had
7 mentioned earlier. It's this idea of contingency
8 planning. And again, referencing concerns about how
9 quickly things are chaining and this idea of -- of
10 risk management. Further, it's this idea -- to -- to
11 clarify in the Board's mind what options really do
12 exist, and what options truly don't exist, and under
13 what circumstances what could be done and what will be
14 done.

15 So again, appreciating that things are
16 changing, but also recognizing that this has been
17 ongoing for a while. And there have been previous
18 concerns about delays and reports or -- or information
19 coming. So it's -- that's -- that sort of
20 encapsulates where the -- the questions are coming
21 from.

22 So I'll -- I'll conclude the fire --
23 the fire questions there. With Chair's permission, I
24 have questions for TG.

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Carry on,

1 Mr. Tracz.

2 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chair. So this -- this series of questions is for --
4 for TG. Again, I'll start with a bit of context in
5 terms of some of the information that's -- that's been
6 provided in the proposals and in the responses. So in
7 the Round 2 IR, specifically number 15C, TG stated
8 that:

9 "A primary mechanism used by Tlicho
10 Government to ensure that
11 development on Tlicho land does not
12 adversely affect caribou populations
13 is the Tlicho Wenek'e -- or Tlicho
14 Wenek'e, the land use plan is..."

15 I hope I'm getting the pronunciation
16 right.

17 "While other mechanisms such as the
18 environmental screening and review
19 process under the Mackenzie Valley
20 Resource Management Act are also
21 critical, the Tlicho Government has
22 developed the Tlicho Wenek'e to
23 manage Tlicho lands with the goal of
24 protecting Tlicho culture, heritage,
25 and a traditional way of life."

1 Then later they clarify that, in the
2 Tlicho Wenek'e, there are land protection zones in --
3 in Chapter 5 and directives in Chapter 6 that are
4 tools, or mechanisms, to be able to achieve what needs
5 to be done.

6 One -- one that's provided is --
7 please, excuse me.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: So one that's
12 mentioned in the response is Land Protection Directive
13 6.2(a), and I'll just read the -- the preamble. It's
14 -- it's under "Caribou." And so:

15 "Tlicho respect and -- respect and
16 commitment to sustain barren-ground
17 and boreal caribou extends beyond
18 management of hunting, and includes
19 the broader and longer-term issues
20 of managing traditional, industrial,
21 and recreational land use activities
22 on Tlicho lands."

23 Now, the land protection directive
24 specifically states:

25 "The Tlicho Government will develop

1 a strategy of permitting and
2 managing land uses within seasonal
3 caribou ranges that link
4 disturbances to the land, best
5 management practices, and
6 recommended mitigation with the type
7 of activity that is undertaken. The
8 strategy will seek to minimize
9 impacts to caribou and caribou
10 habitat, and consider in part the
11 herd status and levels of
12 disturbance at larger spatial
13 scales, for example, the entire herd
14 range."

15 So the question to representatives from
16 TG is: What is the status of the strategy mentioned
17 under 6.2(a)?

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Tlicho
19 Government...?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Sjoerd...?

24 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
25 Mr. Co-Chair. Thank you, Boyan. Oh, Sjoerd Van Der

1 Wielen, Tlicho Government.

2 The strategy, we do have a strategy
3 regarding protecting the caribou. It's one (1) of the
4 highest priorities in the Tlicho Government, I would
5 say, but it hasn't been implemented, as in it has not
6 been implemented in the practical sense.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
8 very much. Boyan, a further question?

9 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Some further
10 questions, Mr. Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff. So
11 to clarify, is there documentation of this -- this
12 strategy? Basically, I'm looking for specifics on --
13 on what it contains.

14 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Sjoerd Van
15 Der Wielen, Tlicho Government. No, there hasn't been
16 the -- the actual documentation yet, or an actual
17 strategy. This -- this is due to resources. We only
18 have one (1) land use planner, and -- and we -- we are
19 dealing with -- with a -- a lot of things in the land
20 use plan that has been implemented. Mind you, the
21 land use plan is only two (2) years old. So -- two
22 and a half (2 1/2) years old.

23 So there's a lot of things that haven't
24 been implemented yet in the land use plan, but we are
25 working on it, and we're trying to implement it all.

1 We're actually currently organizing -- we're bringing
2 back the land use plan working group, which exists out
3 of eight (8) Elders. We're also going to bring --
4 eight (8) male Elders. We're also going to bring in
5 four (4) female Elders, and four (4) youths, and we're
6 going to have a two (2) day workshop where we're going
7 to discuss the land use plan.

8 And -- and what we want to create is a
9 -- is sort of an action plan where the Elders can
10 prioritize the -- the recommendations, or -- or the
11 directives in the land use plan. So because what we -
12 - what we've done in the last two (2) years was just,
13 what came on our desk, that was the priority, but that
14 of -- of course, obviously, that's the wrong way of
15 doing it. So we want to create an action plan where
16 the Elders decide what -- what's highest priority.

17 The -- what we're currently doing is --
18 is if there are any new developments on Tlicho lands,
19 we are working on a case-by-case basis. And we are
20 looking at how that case will impact the caribou.

21 And -- and, as I mentioned before, the
22 caribou are very high on -- on our leadership's
23 agenda, and so we -- we are looking at per -- per
24 development. We are looking at how -- how best to
25 protect the caribou, and what impacts it will --

1 impact will it have, and what we can do for -- to
2 mitigate those impacts.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
4 Sjoerd. Boyan...?

5 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. Boyan Tracz, Board staff.

7 So the final question in -- in this
8 area. In -- in the responses to other IRs, there's
9 the con -- concept of linkages between different
10 things that are going on.

11 So there's -- as was mentioned in the
12 ENR presentation yesterday, there's a number of
13 working groups, committees, concurrent processes, EA
14 process, et cetera, and range plan is one (1) example,
15 too. But the idea that information is shared between
16 them and lessons can be -- be learned from each
17 process, in -- in the IR responses, there's the
18 mention that the range plan -- that basically, it can
19 -- it can help with aspects of the land use plan.

20 Given that the range plan is looking at
21 measuring types of disturbance, anthropogenic and --
22 and fire, I'm just wondering if you could comment,
23 keeping in mind that things are ongoing and things
24 haven't started, if you can comment on how what's
25 going on in the range planning process can fit into

1 what you're describing right now to maximize
2 efficiencies, save time, save effort, save energy so
3 that things aren't delayed any further.

4 Basically, a -- a question about
5 collaboration and using what's there to make other
6 stuff move more quickly.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Sjoerd, do
11 you want a few minutes?

12 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Co-Chair. That will be great, a minute or two
14 (2).

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay, why
16 don't we just take a quick five (5) minute break, and
17 we'll come back. Thank you.

18

19 --- Upon recessing at 11:40 a.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 11:48 a.m.

21

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Okay, before
23 I give the floor to the Tlicho Government, at this
24 time, as the inter -- interim Chair, I'd like to
25 recognize the -- the former Grand Chief. George

1 Mackenzie's in the audience. Welcome to the Board,
2 Mr. Mackenzie. Masi.

3 Okay, my co-chair, take over, sir.

4 Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
6 Jonas. So let's just proceed with the response from
7 the Tlicho Government. And then we'll hear from a
8 member from the public. And then we will break for
9 lunch. Thank you.

10 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
11 Mr. Co-Chair. So -- and thank you, Boyan, for the
12 question. So to respond, the -- the range plan -- the
13 Tlicho Government is sitting at the range plan's
14 table, and we're very involved with -- with the
15 creation of it.

16 We -- we put -- we have a -- a strong
17 input in -- in the TK sense, and we're sharing our TK
18 data and our -- our GIS data with the trills trails.
19 And our land use plan. And as you probably know, our
20 land use plan is based on a -- our -- a -- a large
21 part, I should say, is based on the caribou trails and
22 the traditional trails. And so we -- we share that
23 vision of the protection of the trails with -- with
24 range plan on that table.

25 And it -- this -- this is a two (2) way

1 process and so we completely realize that. And so
2 when we're sitting at the table we're also learning
3 about -- about the range plan and how we can -- how it
4 can be -- how we can be most efficient in the
5 implementation of that. So we'll bring that knowledge
6 back to our -- to our -- our implementation of our
7 land use plan. Thank you.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
9 Sjoerd. Thank you very much. Any other questions,
10 Boyan?

11 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz, for
12 Board staff. No further questions, Mr. Chair.

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
14 very much. Is there isn't any further question I, at
15 this time, would like to break for lunch and re...

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Okay. Just
20 to -- so there is a member of the public that would
21 like to speak and we thought we'd just do it now while
22 she is here. So I'd like Madelaine to come to the --
23 the microphone and -- and provide some comments.
24 Thank you.

25

1 STATEMENT BY MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE PASQUAYAK:

2 MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE PASQUAYAK:

3 Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Madelaine,
5 can you just state your name before you begin. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE PASQUAYAK:

8 Thank you. My name is Madelaine Chocolate Pasquayak,
9 and I'm from the Dogrib region, from Gameti. My late
10 dad was David Chocolate. He dies in 1999. My late
11 mother was Elizabeth Chocolate and she died in 2006,
12 December, I -- I recall.

13 Look -- looking back on my past, all
14 the years that -- all the years when my mom and dad
15 were alive I was -- I was raised on caribou meat. We
16 always had plenty of meat. And my dad was a good
17 hunter. And not only did he provide for the family,
18 but he also provided for other members of the Tlicho
19 family members.

20 And because my mom was very -- very
21 good with cleaning meat and she -- she was a very
22 traditional woman and she taught me a lot. During the
23 years that they were alive together I ate a lot of
24 meat. But after my dad passed on we didn't have so
25 much meat, whatever my brothers killed and brought to

1 my mom, that was what we -- what -- that's what her
2 and I shared.

3 And after she died I must say I -- I
4 haven't had too much caribou meat since that time.
5 And sometime I -- I long for that. And for me to eat
6 store bought meat it's really hard for me to do. I --
7 I don't care for the taste. It's not the same as
8 eating caribou meat. And so I find myself eating a
9 lot of soup and a lot of oats, like the old
10 traditional days when I -- I mean, when I went to a
11 former residential school.

12 In all the years that I was there it
13 was like -- it's like I said I've been thrown back
14 into those days again. And it's like my -- I don't
15 have an appetite for food it seems to me.

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Madelaine,
17 would you please slow down for the translators,
18 please?

19 MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE PASQUAYAK:
20 I'm sorry. Yeah.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
22 very much.

23 MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE PASQUAYAK:
24 Oh, I forgot they're -- they're there. Masi for
25 reminding me. And I'm only given ten (10) minutes,

1 too, so I got ten (10) minutes in my head, so.

2 Well, the concern that I would like to
3 bring to the group here is that when I was still young
4 and at residential school, I didn't know about this
5 until years later when I came back to the community
6 and mom shared this story with me, and it brought
7 tears to my eyes. You know, my dad could have died.
8 My dad. He was a good hunter. He had dog teams. He
9 was always out working on the land.

10 And the story that my mom shared with
11 me was that the government, it wanted to control wolf
12 control. I understood that there was too much wolf
13 and the big bright idea that they were going to give
14 some caribou and they put poison in the caribou meat.

15 And I guess they took a plane and they
16 flew over the Dogrib region and they threw meat here
17 and there. And the story is that I had an uncle who
18 wanted to go after my -- my dad, who had gone to check
19 his traps. And funny my -- my unc -- my grandfather
20 said to him, Okay, you can go.

21 So he went after my dad walking on the
22 trail. And as he was walking along he saw something
23 that looked very unusual. And he thought, That's odd,
24 you know, what's this doing way out here, and who
25 would leave a piece of meat out here.

1 So he kept walking. And then he met up
2 with my dad. And when they met up my dad was really
3 glad to see him and so he said, You know, my boy, he
4 said, You know, why don't you tie the dogs for me and
5 I'll -- I'll make fire, so he did that.

6 And then his nephew said, Uncle, he
7 said, On my way over, he said, I saw something way
8 back there that looked like a piece of meat. He said,
9 Why don't you go and check it out. So he said, Okay,
10 I'll do that.

11 And so he said, Just make sure you make
12 -- make some hot tea and -- and make sure the dogs are
13 nice and warm. Because he meant -- what he meant by
14 that was he wanted to make sure that they had some
15 branches, so that they had something comfortable to
16 lie on.

17 And so he went to collect the meat.
18 When he brought it back he was amazed and said, Look
19 at this. He said, There's a piece of caribou leg
20 here, hind leg. He said, Who would, you know, leave a
21 piece of meat behind like that? And so he sat it by
22 the fire hoping that it would maybe, you know, melt.
23 And when it looked like it was thawed enough he cut it
24 into chunks and he fed that to the dogs.

25 And there was enough meat left there,

1 you know, for him and his niece, so he sat that by the
2 fire to cook for them -- for them to eat. And while
3 they were just relaxing and, you know, warming up
4 around the fire all of a sudden the dogs started to
5 make a -- a funny noise. And so they look up and look
6 at the dogs.

7 All of a sudden my dad saw the lead dog
8 on all four legs. His -- his tail was stiffened. His
9 legs were all frozen, like, all -- you know, just all
10 four (4) just stiff. And the body began to stiffen,
11 too, and the ears. And all of a sudden the lead dog
12 fell over and all the other dogs did the same too.
13 One (1) by one (1) they all fell over and they died.

14 And when my dad realized that this was
15 poisoned meat he became quite concerned. Then he got
16 scared and he said, Let's just, you know, clean up and
17 wash our hands off with some hot tea that they had
18 made. So they did that and they cleaned up and they
19 left. And when he found out what had happened, like,
20 he went back to the camp. He said, Dad, I'm going to
21 go to Rae and find out, you know, what's this all
22 about? What's this poisoned meat doing out in the
23 land.

24 So he went to Rae. He went to the game
25 warden's office and he found out that the government

1 had this idea that they would, you know, throw out
2 poisoned meat for -- to -- to control the wolf -- wolf
3 population. And so when he -- when he shared what had
4 happened with them, there -- there was nothing they
5 could do to -- to compensate him in any way.

6 So when -- when the government found
7 out in Fort Smith their big -- their big -- their --
8 their idea of, you know, resolving this problem was to
9 send him some pet dogs from Fort Smith. Pet dogs.
10 You know, they had big dogs and little pups. You
11 know, like, how -- how can you make -- make that into
12 a dog team? You know? And it -- my dad just shook
13 his head and he said, This is not, you know, this is
14 not the way to resolve this issue.

15 But being Dene people we're a humble
16 people. We don't speak out. All the years that I was
17 at residential
18 school for ten (10) good years of my life I never,
19 ever spoke. Because I was told, You can't speak your
20 language. So that's all the language I knew, so I
21 didn't speak my language.

22 And not knowing a word of English I
23 never spoke. And there's a lot of us who would love
24 to speak our minds, but we're all told -- we're --
25 we've always been told to, Hush up. Be quiet.

1 (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN). And with that we never,
2 ever said much.

3 But the time has come where we as a
4 Dene people need to come together. We need to speak
5 up. I'm tired of sitting back and just keeping my
6 mouth shut. You know, I -- I'd like to see, you know,
7 solutions to problems. I hear so much about caribou
8 all the time. There was a time when the caribou were
9 healthy. And now I understand they are sickly. Why
10 is that? And the number of population of the caribou
11 has dropped. What's going on?

12 You know? And Rayrock should, you
13 know, teach us a lesson about what happened to the
14 caribou. I understood that at one (1) time the
15 caribou used to come right into Rayrock mine, into
16 that area. But after they open up a mine there, a
17 uranium mine, with all the noise and activity the
18 caribou never came back into that area. You know,
19 with all the mining that's -- the diamond -- diamond
20 mining, you know, that's going on in the north, in the
21 tundra, what's it doing to the ca -- to the caribou?
22 Even the wind farm. What kind of an impact is it
23 having on our caribou?

24 And if we're restricted, you know, from
25 killing caribou, I understand that my brothers, you

1 know, are good for one (1) tag per household. What
2 about me? I would love some caribou meat. You know?
3 And so when I, you know, think about it I -- you know,
4 I hear other communities, you know, being allowed to
5 kill -- kill as many as they want. And it's like, and
6 we're restricted to one (1) or two (2). And I
7 thought, That's so unfair. This is not right.

8 If we're going to take care of this
9 caribou problem, maybe we should put a restriction on
10 killing -- killing caribou for maybe one (1) or two
11 (2) or maybe five (5) years. We can go without. I've
12 learned that I can go without. I haven't died. I --
13 I haven't starved. I'm still very much alive, you
14 know, thank God.

15 So, you know, if we can put a stop to
16 killing the caribou what would that mean for us?
17 Maybe the caribou co -- population would come back up.
18 And then maybe we could -- by that time maybe we can
19 wisen up and teach our young people not to abuse
20 caribou.

21 And even the non-Aboriginals, I hear
22 that sometime they go hunting. And they come back and
23 when you go to the dump site what do you see? You see
24 a whole caribou just thrown away in the dump site.
25 That's very sick, you know, as -- as far as I'm

1 concerned.

2 You know, when mom and dad taught me
3 that every part of the caribou is to be respected. To
4 hear that they're -- caribou, you know, are being
5 thrown in a dump site, that hurts. It makes me cry.
6 It makes me want to lash out and say something. It
7 makes me want to put a stop to it.

8 And we have to stop that foolishness.
9 We need to train people. We need to talk to our young
10 men and say, Let's not abuse caribou. And if we do
11 abuse caribou, what happens? Long before there was --
12 before more Aborig -- Aboriginal came onto the -- into
13 the land the Dene people relied on caribou meat. And
14 the Elders say that when the caribou used to migrate
15 through Whati and there was said that young man
16 clubbed a caribou in the head, that's taboo.

17 And what happened as a result of that?
18 For fifty (50) years, no caribou in the area. They
19 never came back into that area. You know, so there's
20 lessons to be learned, you know. So we need to teach
21 our young people to respect animals, know when to
22 kill, know how much to harvest, how -- you know, what
23 part -- how -- we should harvest every part of the
24 caribou.

25 And mom used to say that they used to

1 keep cartilages from caribou leg. Why is that, mom, I
2 said? I said, That has no meat. I said, You know, we
3 can't even chew on this thing. But she said, There
4 are days when sometime we do go hungry, and the woman
5 know this so the woman, they keep all the cartilages
6 for a day when there's nothing to eat so that they
7 could, you know, boil this. And when it softens, you
8 can eat it I found out.

9 So, you know, that goes to show me
10 that, you know, we need to go back to respecting the
11 caribou, and love it, you know, because that's what
12 sustained us all these years. So, you know, if we
13 want to resolve this issue I think we need to
14 seriously think about putting a restriction on hunting
15 caribou, maybe for -- as long as we have to, you know,
16 and -- and educate our young people and -- and show
17 them how to use a gun correctly, and how to cut up a
18 caribou correctly.

19 We don't take an axe and -- and chop up
20 its legs. That's not the way to cut up a caribou.
21 Mom always used to say, Teach your husband, who was a
22 Cree, she said, Teach him how to cut up a caribou,
23 because he used to take an axe to a caribou. So I had
24 to put a stop to that and say, This is the way we do
25 it. And before long, he caught on. And so he was

1 able to cut up the meat correctly.

2 So there's a lot of, you know, good
3 principles that we can pass on, and -- and adopt and
4 implement if we can. So I -- I just want to thank you
5 for giving me a chance to say this. I had to run away
6 from work because I had a few minutes, so here I am
7 and I'm glad that I'm able to share this -- share my
8 thoughts with you. So I -- I hope that we can resolve
9 this. Masi.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you --
11 thank you very much, Madelaine. So at this time I'd
12 like to break for lunch, and reconvene at 1:15. Enjoy
13 your lunch. Thank you very much.

14

15 --- Upon recessing at 12:02 p.m.

16 --- Upon resuming at 1:13 p.m.

17

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Order.
19 Order. Can I reconvene with our meetings? And I
20 would like to give the co -- I would like to give this
21 floor to our co-chair, Mr. Steve Matthews.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: I'll just
23 wait till Anne runs to her seat -- sorry, Suzanne.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: You know,
25 it's always nice -- I know we got two (2) minutes

1 prior to our -- our hearing here, but it's always nice
2 to -- to add humour whenever we have a meeting.

3 I remember -- I remember -- I hope it's
4 not on the record here but I remember going to a
5 meeting one time, and there was one guy right in the
6 middle of the floor would go walk up to the mic, and
7 talked and talked and talked and talked. The chairman
8 says -- finally says, Excuse me, sir. He says, What
9 is your question? He says, I don't hear your
10 questions. You are -- our agenda is pretty lengthy.
11 You just get to the point if you want to ask a
12 question. We might have some answers for you.

13 He said, Okay. He went on and on and
14 on. Finally after he shut up the chairman says, I
15 didn't hear any questions. Your speech was little too
16 lengthy, so therefore we're going to take a break, a
17 fifteen (15) minute recess. Sure enough, they all go
18 outside, having a cigarette, and this guy that just
19 gave the speech was standing among the crowd, and this
20 little boy walked up to this gentleman that gave the
21 speech. He says, Excuse me, sir. He says, Aren't you
22 the guy that gave the speech?

23 The guy proudly says to this little
24 boy, he says, Yeah, I just gave the speech. So this
25 little boy jiggled his pocket, and he had some money

1 in his hand. He says, Excuse me, sir. He says,
2 You're the guy that just gave the speech. You know I
3 should give you some money. The guy says, Why? Well,
4 my dad is telling everybody that you're one of the
5 poorest speakers I've ever -- he's ever heard.

6 Anyway, it looks like everybody is
7 back, so I'll give -- I'll give the floor to Mr.
8 Matthews. Thank you very much.

9

10 QUESTION PERIOD CONTINUED:

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
12 Jonas. Okay, we'll just carry on with questioning.
13 We have one more Board staff. I'll just ask Jody if
14 she has any questions for -- yeah, for the
15 governments.

16 MS. JODY PELLISSEY: Jody Pellissey.
17 No questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
19 Jody. We'll move on now to our legal counsel, John
20 Donihee. Any questions for the Proponents, John?

21 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. I'm John Donihee, I'm Board counsel. I --
23 I just have some sort of cleanup questions here.

24 The first one for our friends at GNWT-
25 ENR. There's been a request from the Board related to

1 the -- some of the literature that was cited in Round
2 2 of the IRs. We note that in Round 1 of the IRs that
3 you provided a bibliography, or a list of references
4 cited in those questions where there were a number of
5 scientific authorities referred to.

6 But that didn't take place in Round 2.
7 So the question -- the request is to have ENR provide
8 a list of the references cited by IR for Round 2 of
9 the -- the Board's IRs.

10 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for
11 ENR. Yes, we will commit to providing that to the
12 Board.

13

14 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 1: ENR to provide a list of
15 the references cited by IR
16 for Round 2 of the Board's
17 IRs

18

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
20 Ms. Young. Mr. Donihee...?

21 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. We'll note that down then as Undertaking
23 number 1 from the hearing, and is a week sufficient
24 for you to prepare that, and file it?

25 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair. Yes, a week will be adequate. Lynda Yonge,
2 for ENR.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
4 again, Ms. Yonge. Mr. Donihee...?

5 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. I -- I just want to clarify something with
7 respect to -- I think there were a number of questions
8 about it. In Round 1, IR number 13, and I don't think
9 you actually have to turn it up. I'm -- I'm just
10 going to make reference -- there was a reference there
11 to a report that was to be prepare -- about collars
12 that was to be prepared by Mr. Boulanger.

13 And I know there are a number of
14 questions about it today, and I -- I just want to be
15 sure that I understand it. The -- the outcome of
16 those questions, as I recollect, was that that report
17 would not be available until later in 2016.

18 So I -- I suppose the first part of it
19 is if you could confirm that, but the second -- it's a
20 two (2) part question. The second part really is, if
21 it's -- the -- the final version of the report is not
22 to be available for some time, is there an interim
23 draft or interim version of the report that could be
24 shared with the Board so that we can review it?

25 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,

1 for ENR. We're in the interesting situation where we
2 had a contract this fiscal year ending March 31st is
3 John Boulanger to do that analysis, which basically
4 would be looking at the spacial and temporal patterns
5 of mortalities of collared caribou.

6 And I think I mentioned it yesterday,
7 the -- the main reason that John was not able to
8 complete that was that we pulled him into these
9 hearings and Information Requests and things. And so
10 the time that he had budgeted to do that work simply
11 wasn't there. So that will be postponed into the new
12 fiscal year and the analysis at this point has not
13 been done.

14 So it would be sometime this summer I
15 think we should be able to free up a little more of
16 John's time to do the analysis and produce the report
17 and we can certainly make that available to the Board
18 later this year.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thanks, Mr.
20 Adamczewski. Mr. Donihee...?

21 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. Dr. Adamczewski, then I -- I'm summarizing
23 your answer as being that if we hadn't asked so many
24 questions we'd have the answers already?

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: I believe

1 move on. Thank you.

2 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: It's John Donihee,
3 again, for the Board. I have a -- a question or two
4 (2) that relate to some slides. Well, at least one
5 (1) that relates to a slide in your PowerPoint from
6 yesterday. I'll -- I'll refer you to the specific
7 one.

8 But the -- the first -- on slide number
9 51 you had some information about overall Bathurst
10 caribou management in Nunavut. And you made
11 references to collaborations between the Government of
12 Nunavut, GN, and the GNWT with respect to protection
13 of caribou on calving grounds and you indicated, I
14 think, in your comments that the GN and GNWT were of
15 one (1) mind, if -- if I can put it that way, with
16 respect to the fact that development should not take
17 place on the Bathurst calving ground.

18 I -- I guess the -- the question is
19 really quite -- quite basic and that is simply: Has
20 there been any conversation between the Government of
21 the Northwest Territories or -- the Government of the
22 Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut,
23 and the Government of Canada, who are actually
24 responsible for the management of lands in Nunavut
25 about this issue of the protection of calving grounds?

1 Sorry, I'm not sure how much of that
2 you lost. So the question is, really, have you had
3 that conversation with the Government of Canada,
4 because really, they're responsible for land in that
5 area of Nunavut?

6 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
7 with ENR. I think what we saw at two (2) meetings
8 last year in Nunavut that I attended, one (1) held by
9 the Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission and the other
10 by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was that the
11 Government of Nunavut has put forward a written
12 position to the planning commission. It's on the --
13 on their website, opposing any development on any
14 caribou calving grounds, which obviously would include
15 Bathurst.

16 But that is -- they are only one (1)
17 player at the table. And in -- in a sense, the key
18 body that needs to, I guess, come up with a -- a firm
19 position on this now is the Nunavut Land Use Planning
20 Commission. That's kind of their responsibility.

21 The one (1) meeting that I attended
22 last year in Iqaluit was quite a large group. There
23 were at least a couple hundred people there. And most
24 of the regional wildlife boards, the HTOs, government
25 of Nunavut, are all pretty much on the same page then

1 with respect to caribou calving grounds, Bathurst and
2 other. But not all players at that table are in
3 agreement yet on that -- on that subject.

4 There is a further meeting of the
5 Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission week after next.
6 And my colleague, Bruno Croft, is -- is going to be
7 attending there. And we will once again have the same
8 position. But it's my understanding that the Nunavut
9 Land Use Planning Commission now is the key body that
10 has to say, This is what we recommend for the Nunavut-
11 wide land use plan.

12 And then, from there, the
13 implementation in Nunavut would be, as you indicated,
14 primarily the Federal Government. So we're trying to
15 be as active on this as we can, but there are still
16 further conversations and decisions that have to be
17 made before something like that could actually be sort
18 of on the table in a -- in a legal form.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
20 Mr. Adamczewski. Mr. Donihee...?

21 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. John Donihee again. I wonder if you would
23 just sort of flip that slide over. I have a question
24 about slide 52 from your PowerPoint. It was your
25 summary slide. And just to read the points.

1 First you say, "Bathurst herd has
2 declined 96 percent from 1986."

3 Second you say, "The -- the herd will
4 decline further." And third you say:

5 "ENR and TG recommend zero harvest
6 until the herd shows signs of
7 sustained recovery."

8 And that's the point I'm wondering
9 about. Just what do you mean by, "Sustained
10 recovery," and how would you know when you have it?

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
13 with ENR. And I'll say a couple of things. And then
14 I believe Bruno would like to maybe add some points,
15 as well. But I'm not sure we've, you know, put
16 something formally on paper. But I think what we
17 would be looking for at a minimum is a population
18 survey that shows an increasing trend in the herd.

19 I mean, stability is what we're hoping
20 for initially, but I think we would be looking for an
21 increasing trend. We would be looking for a number of
22 years of good calf recruitment because, of course,
23 that's the only way that the herd can grow. We would
24 be looking for a cow survival rate of 83, 85 percent
25 associated with stability.

1 So we would be looking to those vital
2 rates that we talked about yesterday. And I think, at
3 a minimum, we would be looking for a population
4 estimate that shows an increasing trend in the herd.
5 I think those would be sort of our -- our minimums as
6 far as being able to say that, you know, we're
7 confident that -- that we're seeing an increasing
8 trend.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay, thank
10 you very much. I take it Mr. Croft has nothing to add
11 at this point. Okay, Mr. Donihee, further questions?

12 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Yes, I do, Mr.
13 Chairman. It's John Donihee again.

14 Just -- just to follow up. I -- I --
15 the -- in response to your -- your answer, which I
16 appreciate, what -- what I -- what I take from the
17 answer is that it's going to take years.

18 The -- the wildlife management proposal
19 before the Board is -- is from now until 2019. But as
20 I read it, you're not doing another major survey on
21 the calving ground until 2018, 2019.

22 I -- I guess what I'm trying to
23 understand really is how long Tlicho harvesters, you
24 know, may -- and other harvesters affected by this
25 proposed total allowable harvest of zero are -- are

1 likely to be in a position where there's really no
2 harvesting at all avail -- of -- of Bathurst caribou
3 available to them?

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
5 with ENR. I guess the short answer is we don't know,
6 because we don't know what this herd is going to do in
7 the next few years. And if you recall the slide we
8 had yesterday on the history of the Fortymile herd, it
9 is possible for herds sometimes to reach low numbers
10 and then remain there for some time. In that case --
11 in the case of that herd, for -- for a number of
12 decades.

13 We need to be careful, I think, about
14 having any sort of really simple relationship between
15 our numbers on the herd in terms of size and trend and
16 what the harvest would be, because I think one (1) of
17 the things that maybe we could get to, if we get to a
18 harvest management plan for the herd, would be also
19 establishing priorities.

20 So let's say ten (10) years from now
21 that the herd has increased by five thousand (5,000)
22 caribou. Do we start to open a harvest at that time?
23 Or do we say the priority is for the herd to continue
24 to increase, and so we will have no harvest or we'll
25 have a very limited harvest?

1 So I think collectively between us, the
2 Tlicho government, the Wek'eezhii Board and others, we
3 would need to kind of think about those contingencies
4 and at what point do we think it's safe to reopen the
5 harvest and how big should that harvest be at that
6 time. So those are -- those are discussions that will
7 need to happen in future. But the reality is right
8 now, yes, it will be years before we can seriously
9 look at -- at any significant amount of harvest on
10 this herd.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
12 Mr. Adamczewski. Mr. Donihee, further question?

13 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Yes, thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. Thanks for that response. My next question
15 I -- I think I'll -- I'll ask both the Tlicho
16 Government and ENR to respond to. But it's a single
17 question, and -- and it goes as follows: As -- as I
18 read the Tlicho agreement, wolves are fur-bearers.
19 The Tlicho have the exclusive right to harvest them on
20 their own lands. And they have the right to -- to
21 kill wolves anywhere -- anytime of the year that they
22 find them.

23 And so I'm -- I'm just curious, you
24 know, given the proposal, of course, for this pilot
25 program that TG has set out in the -- in the wildlife

1 management proposal, it -- it seems to me that the
2 Tlicho government has -- has all the legal authority
3 it requires right now to do whatever it wants it --
4 with respect to managing or -- or culling wolves.

5 And so I guess I'm -- I'm asking the --
6 the joint partners in this proposal to explain to the
7 Board why that part of the wildlife management
8 proposal has been put to the Board at all.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Who would
10 like to go first?

11 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So Lynda Yonge, for
12 ENR. Yes, our understanding of the agreement is the
13 same. There are no restrictions on Tlicho citizens
14 for harvesting wolves throughout the area. They do
15 have the exclusive right to harvest on Tlicho lands.
16 When we put forward the joint proposal for the -- the
17 -- this caribou proposal, we were informed by the
18 Board that if there was to be a pilot project, it
19 would be considered a management action under the
20 Tlicho agreement, and it would need to go in front of
21 the Board. And so that's what we did.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
23 Ms. Yonge. Tlicho Government?

24 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
25 Mr. Co-Chair. Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho

1 Government.

2 We -- we put it forward as a -- an
3 expectation that we -- that all three (3) parties work
4 in a collaborative manner in solving this problem. So
5 we -- that's why we put it forward as a management
6 action.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
8 both. Mr. Donihee, further question?

9 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Yes, sir. John
10 Donihee. I have another question about the proposal
11 as well.

12 There -- Section 1 there -- the --
13 there are three (3) sort of elements in -- in the way
14 that the proposal is -- is laid out. Hunter
15 harvesting, the wolf management -- predator
16 management, it's called, and -- and monitoring. And
17 part of the hunter harvest component of the proposal
18 add -- addresses questions related to hunter education
19 and -- and hunting practices, and that -- and that
20 sort of thing. And the presentations men -- mentioned
21 hunter harvesting -- pardon me, hunter education and
22 those sorts of initiatives in passing but we didn't
23 get much detail on it.

24 I -- I guess the -- the question I have
25 is: From the standpoint of a report from the Board,

1 is it the parties' desire to have the Board deal --
2 deal with the hunter education process, as well? I
3 mean, I -- I do see its -- its relation to harvesting
4 activities.

5 But again much in the way that we -- we
6 asked earlier today, you know, monitoring by itself
7 does -- doesn't really do anything except give --
8 hopefully give biologists and others information from
9 which they make wildlife management decisions that
10 then do come to the Board. It seems to me that, you
11 know, educating harvesters is sort of in the same
12 category.

13 You're -- I don't deny the -- the
14 value. I just am wondering whether you're
15 anticipating that the Board will provide you with some
16 response, and possibly recommendations on -- on this
17 part of your -- of your wildlife management proposal.

18 MS. LYNDY YONGE: Lynda Yonge, for
19 ENR. The hunter education and the communication, most
20 of those initiatives are things that have been
21 undertaken for a number of years, and many of them
22 came from the original 2010 recommendations from the
23 Board. They're mentioned in passing because they are
24 ongoing, and we're constantly building on those. And
25 I'm sure that the Tlicho Government will want to

1 comment on this, as well.

2 We're not asking the Board for
3 additional recommendations, unless the Board feels
4 there's something -- something in particular that they
5 would like to see but we're not asking for specific
6 recommendations there.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
8 Ms. Yonge. Could we just take a break for one (1)
9 minute while -- before Charlie comes back.

10

11 --- Upon recessing at 1:35 p.m.

12 --- Upon resuming at 1:36 p.m.

13

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Charlie has
15 come back again.

16 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair. It's John Donihee, for the Board. I -- we
18 didn't hear from the Tlicho Government on that, and
19 I'm assuming that's because you didn't want to say
20 anything so I -- oh, you do want to say something?

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Go ahead,
22 Sjoerd.

23 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
24 Mr. Co-Chair. Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho
25 Government. We -- we haven't developed much in -- in

1 the education plan. It's still in its infancy.

2 And it -- this is due because we are
3 stretched thin, for resources on the human resources
4 level as well as financial. And we -- we're doing the
5 best we can with the resources we have. Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Donihee (sic).

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Oh. Carry
12 on, Mr. Donihee.

13 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. John Donihee. The next question is for the
15 -- the GNWT, and it has really to do with -- I -- I
16 don't want -- the involvement of other parties, I
17 don't want to use the word 'consultation' because it's
18 not one of those questions.

19 But the involvement of other parties, I
20 guess, during the -- the course of the development of
21 the wildlife management proposal, and -- or -- or
22 since its been filed, and so I -- I'm just wondering,
23 you know, what involvement -- or -- or how the -- the
24 GNWT went about working with the other users of
25 Bathurst caribou when it was proposing -- preparing

1 the -- the proposals that were submitted to the Board?

2 Did -- more specifically, I suppose,
3 did you meet with YKDFN, or talk to them? Likewise
4 for NSMA? Likewise for some of the other users of the
5 -- of the herd?

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
7 Croft...?

8 MR. BRUNO CROFT: So, Chair, thank
9 you. Mr. Donihee, thank you for your question. The
10 short answer is, Yes. We invited ourselves to all the
11 Aboriginal group, the Yellowknives Dene. We visited
12 with them in Ndilo. The Chief, band, and council. We
13 also had two (2) or three (3) visits with the Chief
14 only.

15 We went to Lutsel K'e once. We're
16 hoping to go one (1) more time. We received notes
17 from the NSMA that they were in agreement with the
18 proposal as we move forward, supporting our actions.
19 We visited with the -- the NWT Metis in Hay River.
20 And of course, we visited with the Tlicho communities
21 quite a few times. We're going again on Friday.

22 And throughout all those visits, we had
23 a -- a summary of the joint proposal, first interim
24 for this winter, the management actions for this
25 winter, waiting for this public hearing to take place

1 and what the joint proposal has for the next three (3)
2 years.

3 We presented, heard, and collected all
4 the information. We have a note speaker and all this
5 information is -- is on file. I hope, Mr. Donihee,
6 that answers your question now.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
8 Mr. Croft. Mr. Donihee...?

9 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman and Mr. Croft. Thank you. You did answer
11 the question. I have two (2) left, Mr. Chairman.
12 This question is for Tlicho Government.

13 The former Grand Chief Rabesca spoke
14 yesterday of -- of problems with wolves, and certainly
15 as I listened to his words, he conveyed a real sense
16 of -- of urgency that -- that I don't think -- and I'm
17 not trying to be editorial here, but I -- I don't
18 think that urgency of dealing with the wolf problem
19 was -- has been reflected in this -- the answers that
20 the biologists have given to the Board's questions
21 over the last day or so.

22 And, you know, the -- the issue of -- I
23 think Dr. Gunn asked a number of questions about the
24 timing of wolf removal and the possibility of, you
25 know, giving the caribou a break, I guess, by -- by

1 doing that sooner rather than later.

2 So I -- I just -- that's, I suppose,
3 the background. The -- the question really is we --
4 you know, the -- the pilot program that the Tlicho
5 Government is proposing for -- for dealing with wolves
6 to be conducted in the spring, I guess, of 2016, is
7 quite important.

8 And the question is: you know, how
9 soon will the Tlicho Government be able to report on
10 the successes of that program and, you know, how
11 quickly would the two (2) governments then be able to
12 respond, I guess, to expand that program if, in fact,
13 you -- you don't get all that many wolves this winter?

14 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Sjoerd --

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Carry on.

16 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Sjoerd Van
17 Der Wielen, Tlicho Government. Thank you, Mr. Co-
18 Chair. Thank you, Mr. Donihee, for the question. So
19 we -- we -- as mentioned before, we are truly hoping
20 to have -- the program will start with a workshop and
21 -- and this workshop takes its due preparation.

22 As mentioned also by our Elders is that
23 the wolf -- the -- the wolf is -- is a sacred animal
24 and -- and we don't -- and we got the clear message
25 from our Elders that we, Yes, we want something done

1 about the wolf, no -- like for now, people -- we -- we
2 don't want to just send out people -- our own people
3 in the -- in the fields and -- and start shooting.

4 They -- they -- we want to prepare them
5 what the Tlicho values are. So -- so the -- so -- so
6 this knowledge has to be taught to the -- to the
7 Tlicho hunters by -- by our own Elders. And -- and
8 therefore, a -- a workshop, it takes -- it -- it just
9 takes due preparation.

10 We're still hoping and we're still
11 hopeful that we -- we'll have this workshop in place
12 in the next week -- or four (4) weeks. I'm truly
13 hoping. And then -- and then after that, we're going
14 straight out in the fields from Wekweti with a group.
15 Maybe another two (2) or three (3) weeks.

16 And -- and then -- and then it's -- and
17 then it's not just the Tlicho Government, but it's --
18 we're going in the fields with ENR. So it will be ENR
19 and Tlicho Government looking at the results, at -- at
20 that -- and then -- so that will -- will -- that will
21 happen over the stretch of the summer as -- as also
22 was said before. Masi.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
24 Sjoerd. Mr. Donihee...?

25 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair. Just -- just one (1) followup then. Assuming
2 that this work -- collaborative work is done, you
3 know, by springtime, is it your plan at this point to
4 provide any kind of report to the Board about the
5 effectiveness of the 2016 pilot program?

6 MR. SJOERD VAN DER WIELEN: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair. Sjoerd Van Der Wielen, Tlicho Government.
8 Well, affir -- I want to clarify something also very
9 clear like. We also -- several times today and
10 yesterday it seems that the success rate of the pilot
11 program is measured in -- in caribou recovery.

12 And -- and, as we also mentioned -- and
13 I'm not sure if we were aiming for that. But we -- in
14 our IR we put several ways how we rate success rate of
15 our -- of the program.

16 So -- so early results could probably -
17 - could probably be saying something, like, well, we
18 trained eight (8) successful hunters, and -- and then
19 in -- in the -- in wolf harvesting. And I -- and I
20 would already call then the program a success.

21 But -- so there will be -- over the --
22 over the time span there will be several results being
23 shared. And -- and that's one (1) of the reasons why
24 we put it as a proposal measure, because we want all
25 parties working to make this program a success. And -

1 - and how we rate it will probably be in a different
2 priority for different -- for the different groups of
3 this table.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
5 Sjoerd. Mr. Donihee...?

6 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. My final question is for our friends at
8 ENR. I -- I think it was about 2010, but I might be
9 off one way or the other by a year, it seems like a
10 long time. But -- but when the Government of the
11 Northwest Territories first had to take steps to
12 restrict Aboriginal harvesting of the Bathurst herd
13 because of the low -- the -- the ongoing trend, I
14 guess, of -- of low numbers, you know, the pre --
15 previous minister, Miltenberger, described the
16 situation as an emergency.

17 And I would just suggest -- I'm not
18 speaking for the Board here. But I suggest that the
19 evidence shows clearly, and I think that the answers
20 we've heard over the last two (2) days confirm, that
21 the emergency is continuing, perhaps even worsening.

22 And there have been a number of
23 questions about cumulative effects on the -- the
24 Bathurst caribou and -- and on their range. And, you
25 know, the Tlicho Government in -- in response to those

1 questions and -- and certainly in their evidence in
2 the recent Jay hearing has been clear about their
3 concerns about cumulative effects, as well.

4 But when presented with these questions
5 this morning the -- I'd characterize the ENR responses
6 as follows. And if -- I don't mean to be unkind. I'm
7 sure you'll let me know if you think I am. But
8 basically what you've said is, We use the
9 environmental impact assessment process to address
10 these kinds of things, and we have a range plan that
11 we're working on, as well.

12 But the range plan isn't going to be
13 ready until 2018. And we asked an IR about the
14 implementation and enforceability of the range plan.
15 And your answer was that it's not enforceable.

16 And so it seems to leave -- it leaves
17 me with the concern, I guess, that perhaps not
18 everything -- not -- not all of the -- the levers that
19 are available are -- are being considered.

20 And so I really wonder. I mean, ENR is
21 here on -- you know, you're GWNT, and ENR is second, I
22 suppose. And I guess the question I have for you is
23 this. You know, if the situation is -- is as dire as
24 it seems to be, you know, why the Government of the
25 Northwest Territories isn't looking to its direct

1 authorities over land to really deal with these
2 cumulative effects in a way that's decisive and that
3 would have an affect in the shorter term rather than
4 waiting for three (3) years or waiting and hoping
5 that, you know, ministers collectively are going
6 approve a reported EA?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR...?

11 MS. LYNDY YONGE: Mr. Chair, if we
12 could just have a moment?

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Yeah, that's
14 fine.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ENR, are we
19 ready for a response? Go ahead, Lynda or Jan.

20 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
21 for ENR. You're going to get -- you're going to get
22 three (3) responses here. Or a, you know, a triple
23 tag team kind of a thing. I guess the first thing
24 that I'd like to point out, we were very much part of
25 the Jay process not long ago with -- with MVEIRB. And

1 the modelling that was done for Jay, for the
2 Proponent, suggested that there was a -- a population
3 scale effect of development accumulated to date, but
4 relatively small scale.

5 And the modelling that we've done or
6 we've had done through Don Russell, and the cumulative
7 effects model for the range planning group, basically
8 suggests the same thing. That, yes, there have been
9 some effects, but they're probably relatively small
10 scale.

11 So in the short-term, is that something
12 that's going to magically turn around the cow survival
13 rate and the calf recruitment? Probably not. So
14 that's -- I guess that's the first part of our
15 response and I'll ask Bruno to take over.

16 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jan, Mr.
17 Chair. Mr. Donihee, I'll -- I'll phrase it in -- in a
18 different way for me. If we just look at this way:
19 We presented also throughout this last two (2) days
20 information about environmental conditions that
21 appears to be changing on us. We presented a few
22 slides, mostly in the summertime, of a few indices
23 that is taking place.

24 Let's picture for a moment if those
25 environmental conditions would have been favourable to

1 caribou, and for the past three (3) or four (4) years
2 we would have had a calf-to-cow ratio, or a calf
3 survival rate normal or above average as opposed to
4 what we've shown you.

5 Let's assume that a cow survival rate
6 would have been normal to above average rather than
7 what we've shown you. Let's assume that the pregnancy
8 rate as we believe we've tracked it would have been
9 normal or above average, which is not the case for the
10 past three (3) or four (4) years.

11 What kind of conversation would we have
12 today in relation to cumulative effect, and the
13 addition to known stressors to -- to known natural
14 stressors and natural stressors as far as its
15 impacting the herd?

16 What we are seeing with the Bathurst in
17 terms of poor demographics and everything else, is
18 also happening on the Bluenose East herd, and we will
19 go through this, Mr. Donihee, I am sure in two (2) or
20 three (3) weeks time. No development there, or hardly
21 any.

22 So there's something else on the
23 landscape that is -- has a strong influence that we
24 should not overlook moving forward. So for me, this
25 is -- this is how I look at those dynamics, and trying

1 to explain what's happening with the herd at the
2 moment.

3 So that's part number two (2), Mr.
4 Donihee. If -- if it's not clear enough, please, do
5 not hesitate to ask for clarification, Mr. Chair.
6 Thank you.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
8 Mr. Croft. Ms. Yonge...?

9 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr. Co-
10 Chair. Lynda Yonge, ENR. And so the ultimate answer
11 to this question is that the GNWT is a public
12 government. It is not nearly as black and white a
13 question as has been put to us. It's not a question
14 of caribou or not caribou, cumulative effects not
15 cumulative effects.

16 The government needs to weigh a number
17 of factors, and balance the benefits and costs of
18 development and other things, and that's why we use
19 the public process, the regulatory process, so that we
20 can bring forward concerns that we have so that that
21 development very publically and transparently has to
22 say, These are potential impacts. This is how we are
23 going to monitor them. This is how we are going to
24 mitigate them. And then a decision is made weighing
25 those things and the potential costs against benefits,

1 as well.

2 So when we sit here, yes, we do sit as
3 a member of the GNWT, and addressing that balance
4 between development, the impact of cumulative effects,
5 and other things, and wildlife is something that the -
6 - the GNWT as a whole takes very seriously, and has a
7 priority. The information we have presented to this
8 Board, who is in a very similar situation, needing to
9 look -- to act in the public interest here is
10 primarily from the perspective of caribou and how can
11 we help them.

12 When we're in the regulatory realm,
13 there are other things to be assessed as well. That's
14 why we're looking at the range plan in the way we are.
15 The range plan looks at a number of values on the
16 landscape through the lense of caribou, recognizing
17 that there are other values. That's why we use the EA
18 process, and that's really all -- all I can say.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
20 Ms. Yonge. I might just ask the Tlicho Government if
21 they would like to respond?

22 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
23 Chair, for the opportunity to speak a little bit about
24 that question, as well. We -- I think as a government
25 there -- there's a similar understanding to what the

1 GNWT has pointed out in terms of sort of the multiple
2 things that are affecting caribou.

3 But one of the points of difference, or
4 perspectives might be that -- that the Tlicho
5 Government and Tlicho people have caribou as their --
6 their number one (1) sort of issue. They -- they
7 obviously have to balance their economic opportunity,
8 or economic development and interests through their
9 land use plan.

10 But as our speakers have -- have talked
11 about repeatedly that the caribou is the number one
12 (1) issue. And I guess what I'm trying to work
13 through is even responding to some of the prev --
14 previous questions about the sense of urgency with
15 respect to timing of the wolf removal.

16 And I'll just kind of backup and think
17 about this question. The issue that we're facing, as
18 you've pointed out in the questions that, Yeah, we
19 understand that the caribou population is small and
20 declining. And the levers that we have are harvest
21 management, predator management, and possibly trying
22 to reduce the effects of development.

23 And I think as Dr. Adamczewski pointed
24 out, you know, the -- the impact pathways that we've
25 come to understand through the range planning process

1 and through the modelling work that's been done on
2 that project is to not necessarily confirm, but define
3 how we understand the effects of development, which
4 essentially is through an impact pathway that affects
5 the cows ability to get pregnant, or their condition,
6 which translates into a reduced number of calves being
7 born and it could also translate into reduced survival
8 -- early survival of calves.

9 And that's an important effect. And
10 the Tlicho government has been on record as saying
11 that is a significant effect. In terms of trying to
12 help the caribou, it -- it's really going to take
13 consideration of all these factors, harvest,
14 predation, and development.

15 And we may get some benefit from trying
16 to manage development, but in terms of the pathways of
17 the impact, it's going to be a less -- it -- it's not
18 less important, but the expected potential recovery
19 for caribou over the short-term is likely tied to
20 minimizing mortality through reducing the harvest and
21 through managing predation.

22 The other thing that I think the range
23 planning project is showing us, again, and it's just
24 in preliminary model results, which supports the
25 Tlicho perspective in the sense that impacts have been

1 significant. And again, it comes back to this notion
2 that even though the current amount of footprint out
3 there, we could only think of a small -- relatively
4 small impact to the caribou when we -- when we
5 consider how development and exposure of caribou to
6 that development could -- could reduce productivity of
7 the herd.

8 It's still -- it's still an important -
9 - it's still an important factor. And the problem is
10 that it's difficult to -- as -- as a cumulative effect
11 as you have -- as you have development on the
12 landscape that's not a -- an easy thing to just erase
13 off the landscape.

14 And so I think in the context of the
15 current emergency, or the crises (sic) as we're
16 considering the current situation with caribou, it
17 really points to doing as much as we can to minimize
18 the continued effects of development, but to also be
19 very serious about restricting or managing harvest,
20 which the Tlicho government has agreed to in a very
21 serious manner, and really trying to get our co-
22 management partners, the GNWT, to support the notion
23 that predator management is an action that needs to be
24 undertaken involving the Tlicho.

25 And the previous question about do

1 Tlicho have the right to kill wolves is very much
2 reflected by a conversation I just had with former
3 Grand Chief Joe Rabesca who essentially said the same
4 thing. There's nothing restricting Tlicho from going
5 out to harvest wolves.

6 But as a responsible government and as
7 a responsible co-management partner, the Tlicho
8 government would like to undertake that exercise in a
9 thoughtful collaborative manner. So the reason for
10 the community pilot program is to build the capacity
11 to implement that, because it's pretty hard to just
12 tell people, Well, go out and shoot wolves.

13 It -- it takes training. It takes --
14 it takes training and knowledge transfer, as -- as
15 we've heard. And so that's really the focus of it.

16 But there's a recognition, I think, for
17 the Tlicho Government that predator management is to
18 go forward in a reasonable, respectful manner, that we
19 need to have the support of the GNWT both in terms of
20 their ability to help design and -- and provide
21 resources to that exercise. And it allows us to -- to
22 start trying to scale it up at a broader scale than
23 just with the Tlicho hunters.

24 And as we talked about, there's
25 recognition that, you know, over the annual rain

1 scale, predation may be important in terms of
2 mortality on the calving or post-calving grounds. And
3 that's why we had mentioned the need to also engage
4 with Nunavut, as well, on that aspect.

5 So it's a really -- it's a -- it's a
6 really important question. And I -- I think the
7 Tlicho Government wanted to go on record just to sort
8 of acknowledge that it's a key question, a key issue,
9 that the priority for the Tli -- Tlicho Government
10 over the short-term with respect to caribou is to try
11 and help recovery and that we really need to get the
12 support of the GNWT and the Board and other partners
13 to -- to help design and implement a predator
14 management program that's going to be achievable, it's
15 going to be undertaken as much as possible by
16 community hunters, and it's going to be resourced.

17 And as -- that's probably one (1) of
18 the biggest challenges, I think, before the Tlicho
19 Government, is the lack of resources to -- to do these
20 sorts of things on their own.

21 So that's -- that's the perspective, I
22 guess, we wanted to -- to provide with response -- or
23 in response to that question. Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
25 Mr. Nishi. Any further questions, Mr. Donihee?

1 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Yes. John Donihee,
2 for the Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are my
3 questions.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay, thank
5 you very much. Now I'd like to move on and allow the
6 Board members to ask any questions they may have. And
7 I will start with Charlie on my far right.
8 Charlie...?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: You may want
13 to put on your headset here, folks.

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 MR. CHARLIE JEREMICK'CA: Masi. Mr.
18 Charlie Jeremicka'ca, member from -- from Gameti. He
19 says, I observed the -- now, the hearing first over
20 the last two (2) days. Yes, definitely, he says, they
21 -- they recovered a lot of grounds. That's relating
22 to the caribou.

23 And this -- the hearing is very
24 important because it's only give us good message from
25 across examinations and all that at in the... We have

1 to learn from one another, I guess. The -- and then
2 the -- definitely the -- we, as the Board members, I
3 guess we collect our information from the grass root,
4 right from the community and the true scientific, what
5 the experts from our people that are working for us.

6 And the -- we're making very wise
7 decisions for the people of the Northwest Territories,
8 including for the one (1) species of animals, such as
9 caribou. Yes, definitely here we are, as a Board
10 member. And the -- there's a lot of research that's
11 been taking place, you know, prior to the hearing
12 because, you know, the -- I think the -- the ENR done
13 the same thing in the -- in -- within their
14 department.

15 Once the -- the -- all the research and
16 all that has come to the actual hearing, I guess, you
17 know, the final -- it seems to be done with it, I
18 guess it goes to the Minister. I guess we have to
19 deal with as a member on this pan -- on this panel or
20 in this Wek'eezhii Board.

21 He says, That is the concern that I
22 have was that the -- when one (1) member from our --
23 Elder member from our community mentioned something
24 about the -- the hearing's supposed to take place in
25 Behchoko, but apparently the -- somehow it's been

1 rescheduled to here in Yellowknife.

2 Nonetheless, there were too many -- too
3 many things that were happening within the communities
4 and -- and there's a lot of other people that are
5 using the same building that we were supposed to be
6 renting in -- for the hearing. But apparently so we
7 couldn't change the scheduling, so we have to --
8 that's the reason why we're here today.

9 Nonetheless if we had it in our home
10 community I think there were going to be a lot of
11 discussions. A lot of people out there are already
12 kind of upset. That's what happened. They might
13 bring in their frustrations to the hearing. But
14 nonetheless I think the -- the ENR had done their
15 homework. And so it's our members from the Tlicho
16 government done their share of work, you know, coming
17 from the communities.

18 And what we're doing here is the --
19 most of us, I guess, that we -- what we're actually
20 saying that, you know, that the decision has been made
21 by our forefathers and the leaders of the past. And
22 now it's our turn to see the -- the changes that taken
23 place to date that we have to deal with it. That's
24 the reason why we're here today.

25 Yes, that -- all the -- the

1 informations that goes through the department and then
2 eventually, you know, goes through ENR is sent to the
3 Board, and including the same goes with the Tlicho
4 government, you know, and staffs, I guess. All the
5 things that they want to deal with I guess they send
6 to -- to this Board member to finalize it.

7 But the -- we as the Board members, I
8 guess, you know, that we -- we do make the final
9 decisions somewhere along the road. But nonetheless
10 we leave all the researches and the information
11 gathering from -- resting with the -- with the
12 community. Yes, that the very important subject, you
13 know, within the community is something to do with the
14 caribou. So we -- we have to accept the -- the
15 recommendation from our leaders, should it be the
16 territorial government, should it be Tlicho
17 government. And the exception from the -- from the
18 Elders of the community to traditional knowledge.

19 Yes, we're here to, you know, to
20 exchange a lot of good views and questions. I think
21 we just exercised that. And we're quite thankful with
22 it.

23 The -- it's just -- pressure here we
24 are in -- today, but was -- nonetheless unless we have
25 to deal with it. Whatever the outcome of the -- the

1 hearing is, it might come up to the north -- tonight.
2 So the story on the public -- go a long way from there
3 other than from here.

4 Most definitely it's just I'd just like
5 to make a, you know, it's just my own personal
6 comments to thank, you know, ENR and Tlicho government
7 to work this for. Thank you.

8

9 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

10

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
12 for those comments, Charlie. And now I'd like to ask
13 Jonas if he has any questions.

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
15 Mr. Co-Chair. At this time I do not have any --
16 anything to add except that after this hearing, as a
17 Board, the decision that would not -- that the
18 decision we will be making at this hearing as a team.
19 Just keep in mind that we are a public board. We'll
20 do anything that we can to make a good recommendation
21 as a team. Thank you very much.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
23 Jonas. And Suzanne Carriere.

24 MS. SUZANNE CARRIERE: Suzanne
25 Carriere, Board member. I've asked that slide to be

1 on because I would like to explore in my question --
2 it's two (2) questions. I'd like to explore short-
3 term and then long-term possible actions. And I'd
4 like to link together -- yeah, I'd like to link
5 together in those two (2) timelines money, so human
6 resources and money. Sorry, that arm is broken.
7 Money, time, and possible actions in each of those two
8 (2) periods. So short-term and long-term.

9 Short-term. We're in 2016, just past
10 that. So those three lines are the possible calf
11 productivity and what the herd is doing right now in
12 terms of population. This is the -- the -- your best
13 estimate.

14 And then the next estimate of the whole
15 using -- using all the surveys and everything will be
16 in 2018. And then there's a whole list of monitoring
17 that can be done in between that. You know, annual
18 surveys, calf-cow ratio, and a -- whatever. So that's
19 time and money annually. For sure there's a --
20 there's a full-blown survey in 2018 but before that
21 it's suggested that it's suggested that we could --
22 everybody here could spend time and money measuring
23 what the herd is doing in between.

24 So that's lots of time and money in the
25 short term, and even if all that time and money is

1 spent the prediction is that either we can measure the
2 decline, which in this case if we can measure the
3 decline in 2018 is going to hit ten thousand (10,000).
4 Anything above that is unmeasurable in terms of
5 change. I know it's not a question but it's a -- it's
6 an assumption.

7 My question now is: In the short term,
8 would it be better to spend the time and money on a
9 set of short-term actions, and what are they? What
10 can we do now?

11 I heard yesterday, and it's in the
12 Information Request, that the only two (2) things that
13 can be done before -- before 2018 is stop harvesting.
14 Done. And get more wolves. Getting -- we're doing --
15 we're kind of getting there. There's no other levers,
16 or there's no other short-term action that we can do.

17 What can you tell the Board -- how can
18 we help move those long-term actions into the short
19 term -- to help in the short term in terms of
20 resources and money? Is it -- is there anything else
21 that can be done that are now on the -- on the long
22 term that we could move in the short term? Not medium
23 term. We're talking about, you know, before a baby
24 can walk.

25 So what can the -- how can the Board

1 help? I'll give you a hint of what im thinking of.
2 Things like water crossing protections. More -- more
3 work on the land use plan. More work on the range
4 planning. Really hammer Nunavut. You know, like
5 really I want to know your suggestion either -- either
6 on what is the short-term actions we can do?

7 I know yesterday it's said there's
8 nothing else we can do, but what can the -- how can
9 the Board help move those long-term actions into short
10 term? That's my -- my first question, believe it or
11 not.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
13 Suzanne. Again we'll let both ENR and TG respond to
14 Suzanne's questions. And who wants to go first?
15 Bruno...?

16 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, I'll --
17 I'll let them think a little bit. I'm sure they'll
18 come up with something. Mr. Chair, Suzanne, thank you
19 for your question.

20 If there's one (1) thing you could do
21 right now is change the weather. All those other
22 things we -- be -- beside the two (2) points that Dr.
23 Carrier (sic) mentioned, there's not a whole lot we
24 can do.

25 You mentioned water crossing. We

1 talked about it this morning with Dr. Legat and, you
2 know, what we could do to protect those. To me, right
3 at the top of the list, and I'll be hitting this next
4 week -- or two (2) weeks from now, I think the biggest
5 battle is to make a case for the protection of the
6 calving ground. And if the Board could rally through
7 recommendations, or motions, or whatever they can do
8 to reinforce the importance of the protection of the
9 calving ground, not just the Bathurst, every one of
10 them.

11 We had a case last year, a case of the
12 Bluenose East where we had drilling taking place on a
13 core calving area, Mr. Chair. We didn't even know
14 about it. It -- it went up a notch the following
15 summer. That's how we found out about it because it -
16 - it got screened through the NIRB process.

17 We will need all the help we can get.
18 We have a hard time making a case for the protection
19 of the calving ground at this stage. Ms. Legat, with
20 due respect, if we can't even do that it will be even
21 harder to approach the water crossing and those other
22 places that are important throughout the range.

23 So that, for me, Dr. Carriere, that's
24 the first thing that comes to mind. And if you could
25 change the weather, please do it.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
2 Bruno. Anybody else from ENR like to comment,
3 respond? Jan...?

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
5 with ENR. It's quite a -- quite a question there. I
6 don't have a whole lot to add and -- and it's -- it's
7 not a -- I guess it's just kind of a difficult
8 question to -- to try to answer.

9 I would maybe go back to something that
10 Grand Chief Joe Rabesca spoke about yesterday about
11 the need for us all to work together. And, you know,
12 I think we have a fairly good relationship now with
13 Tlicho government. We have a joint management
14 proposal.

15 I guess I would want to feel that --
16 that the Board is also a partner and is going to be
17 working -- walking down the same path with us. I
18 think Bruno touched on this a little bit, but I think
19 where we could maybe get some help would be on helping
20 facilitate the communications with Nunavut and putting
21 your voice forward on land use issues.

22 We've had some initial conversations
23 with some hunters from Kugluktuk about, you know, them
24 possibly hunting wolves, possibly bears on their side
25 of the border. They don't seem to have quite the same

1 reservations as some of the cultural aspects on this
2 side of the border.

3 But you folks can talk to Nunavut as
4 well and you can help us with that -- that
5 collaboration, I think, across the border. In my
6 experience, now, I mean, that collaboration with
7 Nunavut is more extensive now than it ever has been.
8 But I guess look beyond the borders of Wek'eezhii.

9 Maybe you can help us working with some
10 of the other Aboriginal groups. I don't know. These
11 are not very specific things, but I just thought I'd
12 sort of mention those.

13 In terms of the resources, I mean, it's
14 not really an either/or question. If anything, we
15 have put more money into the Bathurst herd than any
16 other wildlife population in the territory. There are
17 moose surveys not getting done because of Bathurst
18 issues.

19 So I think the basic monitoring will
20 get done because it has to. The -- the population is
21 such a high profile. Beyond that, the resources, we
22 will try to fund everything we need to fund, but
23 recognize that, you know, those decisions ultimately
24 are made at a cabinet level. They depend on transfer
25 payments from Ottawa.

1 So I think one (1) way or another we
2 will do the basic monitoring. We will help -- we will
3 support the Tlicho wolf program. We will do the
4 things that we need to do, but ultimately we don't
5 have absolute control of the funding either.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Adamczewski. Would somebody from the Tlicho
8 government like to respond?

9 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
10 Chair. John Nishi, Tlicho government. I'm wondering
11 if that light could be turned off for that slide.
12 It's hard to see. The reason I asked for that light
13 to be turned off is because I think it's a very
14 important slide that we're looking at.

15 And -- okay. Anyways, in terms of the
16 question of -- I'll try and address the question of
17 short-term actions first and, you know, actions as --
18 as we've heard require resources, commitment. And we
19 appreciate that GNWT is supportive of the cull, the --
20 the pilot program. But that support needs to also be
21 transmitted into active participation. And the
22 feasibility assessment is a good first step towards
23 doing that.

24 This slide here is important because it
25 shows some assumptions about how this herd might do

1 given different levels of calf productivity or, you
2 know, how many calves are born and how many are
3 surviving.

4 There's another slide in this deck,
5 slide 55. And the difference between this slide and
6 the slide 55 is an assumption on survival rates, cow
7 survival rates.

8 So in this scenario, with survival
9 rates of 78 percent, which is what's considered now,
10 versus slide 55. Oh, there isn't. Well, they're in
11 the notes.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. JOHN NISHI: Oh, okay. Can I talk
16 about slide 55?

17 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: If I could, Mr.
18 Chairman, could I just clarify? We sent the Board the
19 PDF version of our PowerPoint, which was the slides
20 that we were going to present. The PowerPoint version
21 that John is looking at has some extra slides that we
22 put in there sort of at the end in case of questions,
23 but they're not -- they're not in this file, so.

24 I mean, I have a memory stick. If --
25 if you want, we can pull up slide 55. It does exist.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Maybe you
4 could perhaps just talk about that particular slide,
5 Mr. Nishi.

6 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
7 Chair.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Certainly
9 descri --describe it, of course. Thank you.

10 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you. So,
11 basically, if we just think about the cow survival
12 rate staying the same, at 78 percent, what the
13 simulation suggests is that we're going to see a
14 continued decline.

15 If that cow survival rate goes up to,
16 say, 86 percent, or 80 percent, or 85 percent, those
17 slopes or those gra -- those lines are going to
18 change. So as you start having good years, as do --
19 as Bruno said, you know, hope for good weather,
20 basically, if you have higher levels of calf
21 productivity, then the likelihood is that the -- the
22 herd, according to the simulation model, will either
23 be stable or potentially increasing.

24 So what that suggests to -- what that
25 suggests to me is that the cow survival, as we talked

1 about, is -- is one (1) of the management levers we
2 can try to hold to improve cow survival is a really
3 key one.

4 So in terms of short-term management
5 actions, what it suggests is that the perspective that
6 the Tlicho Government has with respect to trying to
7 enhance or reduce the number of wolves is an actually
8 useful approach to try to improve cow survival.

9 And as we've talked about before --
10 actually, I think Alex Power brought up the question
11 in his questioning, which was, you know, how many
12 wolves would you need to remove to improve the cow
13 survival rate?

14 And -- and I think this kind of
15 approach helps us substantiate, or least define how
16 wolf management over the short-term might actually
17 improve cow survival. And I think that's a really
18 important takeaway.

19 And it's -- as I've said before, it's
20 thinking about managing wolves from a caribou
21 perspective versus thinking about managing wolves from
22 a wolf perspective.

23 So if we're thinking about managing
24 wolves from a caribou perspective, we would be
25 thinking about cow survival rates, how to improve

1 them, how a reduction in wolves might actually per --
2 bump up cow survival rates versus if we take a wolf-
3 centric approach, or manage wolves for wolves, then
4 we'd be more concerned about trying to figure out how
5 many wolves there are out there, and then trying to
6 decide how many wolves we should be removing.

7 So there's a fundamental difference
8 between those perspectives. And I think the caribou-
9 centric perspective is the really key one. And the
10 questions that we've had from experts and Intervenors
11 take us there.

12 And so again, just to reiterate, over
13 the short-term, I think it -- it highlights the -- the
14 need to consider -- seriously consider not only just
15 supporting the -- you know, the inter -- or the -- the
16 pilot program, but to actually use this opportunity
17 where the two (2) governments have said, Yes, we are
18 thinking about seriously considering how predator
19 management might be undertaken, and to -- to really
20 try and implement that, to put resources toward that,
21 to put the -- the necessary time and effort and the
22 thinking behind it to do it in a respectful, effective
23 manner, but in a timely manner. Timely being, you
24 know, within an -- within a year and a half.

25 So that would be the thought with

1 respect to the question of short-term actions. Those
2 actions require resources, commitment. And again, we
3 -- as co-managers, we need support, but we also need
4 active participation.

5 In terms of long-term actions and --
6 and what some of those important ones might be, I
7 think maybe from the Tlicho perspective, it's been
8 touched on, you know, from Joseph Judas's comments
9 about water crossings and the importance of migration
10 pathways. And it points us to thinking about really
11 acknowledging and incorporating the Tlicho traditional
12 knowledge of -- of sites and important areas for
13 caribou, and applying those in a new way in addition
14 to other traditional knowledge holders on the annual
15 range of the -- the Bathurst herd, to try to define
16 where those important places are and to start thinking
17 about possibly land use rules. Maybe it's not
18 protection as Lynda Yonge had indicated earlier. But
19 it's at least recognizing those as important areas.
20 That's the first step.

21 And then working with communities to
22 say, What should some of the rules be with respect to
23 disturbance or activity around those sites? And
24 again, the water crossing sites is a key one. And
25 again, it just highlights the -- the need to recognize

1 the traditional knowledge and -- and that -- bringing
2 that knowledge forward in a meaningful way through
3 something like the -- the range plan, and to use that
4 opportunity to define those places and develop some
5 rules around those. So it's place-based, and it's
6 based on their importance to caribou.

7 I think echoing what Dr. Adamczewski
8 was saying, you know, collaboration with Nunavut.
9 We've -- in our presentation, we highlighted -- or my
10 part of the presentation, I highlighted the need for
11 engaging with Nunavut if -- if predator management is
12 to be considered across the annual range, including
13 Nunavut and -- and Jan had also echoed that. And I --
14 and I think that's a really key -- key action that
15 needs to be emphasized going forward.

16 And perhaps the Bathurst management
17 committee is -- is the way to try to move that along.
18 There has been -- you know, it's -- there's been some
19 activity on that, and that may be a -- a useful way of
20 -- of engaging with Nunavut through that and possibly
21 through the feasibility -- predator feasibility or
22 wolf feasibility program that ENR is going to be
23 working on.

24 Those would be the -- the few things
25 that I could think of. And I think I've reflected the

1 comments that I was getting from my colleagues, so I -
2 - I think I'll leave it there for now. Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Nishi. Suzanne, further questions?

5 MS. SUZANNE CARRIERE: Yeah, I would
6 like -- now I would -- thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Now I would like to go past 2018.
8 That's when we learn what's the new population for
9 that herd. I would like -- I know that most people
10 don't like to hypothesize, but I think we have to in
11 this case. There's a debate in my mind on what
12 happens if the caribou -- if that particular herd hits
13 something of a size less than ten thousand (10,000).
14 I would like to know your thoughts on this based on
15 what happened with the Beverly.

16 And I would like to explore the long-
17 term actions that everybody is happily planning on,
18 including land use planning implementation and EA
19 processes, and -- for that herd. And I'd like to know
20 what you're thinking in terms of what if all our
21 prayers doesn't go anywhere, and climate change is
22 still happening, and the cow survival stays the same,
23 and the calf productivity -- here's a little -- a
24 little question that I would like you to answer is:
25 Do you know what is the drought index for 2015,

1 because that's this crystal ball for a year and a half
2 later, isn't it? So I would like to know if you know.

3

4 So -- so what happens when the herd is
5 so small, and is it possible that those females stop
6 calving together, and joins with other herds? Then --
7 then now bring yourself back to today. Is -- in two
8 (2) years, bring yourself back to today, and what --
9 what is -- what can we do to make sure that we do
10 those long-term planning ahead?

11 I'm talking about spending time on the
12 land use plan implementation, spending time on
13 protecting water crossings, spending time -- even more
14 time on that now, because by the time that we do all
15 the long-term planning implementation, we might
16 actually do that for other herds, not the Bathurst.

17 It will be -- it won't be lost time,
18 but we will not need an advisory committee on the
19 Bathurst. We will need an advisory committee on other
20 herds. And all we have to do now is to pray for
21 climate change to stop. Then we should do that, but
22 I'm thinking let's -- do we go -- what is your
23 thoughts based on what you know of last summer in
24 terms of the drought index, and on what you see in the
25 stats? Do we still have a herd past 2018 or '19?

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Jan...?

2 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
3 with -- with ENR. Well, you have an interesting
4 approach to questions, Suzanne. I'll -- I'll try and
5 answer as best I can.

6 What happened with the Beverly herd is
7 -- is still somewhat uncertain. There is a paper that
8 we published just recently, and we make the case --
9 the authors of that paper, at least, we believe that
10 the last of that herd basically moved out to the Queen
11 Maud Gulf. There is another theory about that, and
12 there's another paper.

13 If we assume that is what happened to
14 the Beverly herd, it seems like an exceptional event.
15 If you look at the history of the Fortymile, which I
16 talked about a little bit yesterday, at its lowest, it
17 was thought to number about seven thousand (7,000)
18 caribou, but it recovered from there. Now, whether it
19 will ever become three hundred thousand (300,000)
20 again, we don't know.

21 We have the Cape Bathurst herd in the
22 Inuvik region, which fell to, we estimate, around two
23 thousand (2,000), perhaps less, at its lowest point in
24 2006. That herd is roughly stable at about that
25 number. The Bluenose West herd, somewhere around

1 fifteen thousand (15,000) now. So herds can fall to
2 very low numbers, and they can still recover.

3 From Tom Bergerud's book on Ungava
4 caribou, there's a question around the -- the size of
5 the George River herd at its lowest -- previous low.
6 He -- he suggested maybe it may have been as low as
7 five thousand (5,000) caribou. All the way to six
8 hundred thousand (600,000), maybe eight hundred
9 thousand (800,000). Last estimate around ten thousand
10 (10,000). So we don't know where that's going to go.

11 I -- I don't know. I -- I -- this
12 scares me. But it can still turn around, and there
13 have been herds, and we know this from science and
14 traditional knowledge, that have fallen to very, very
15 low numbers and came back.

16 So I think the future's uncertain, but
17 it is still certainly quite possible that the herd
18 will stabilize and -- and turn around.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Bruno, would
20 you like to comment?

21 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. Thanks, Jan, Dr. Carriere. Just -- just to
23 add a -- a little bit on what Dr. Adamczewski just
24 shared and -- this morning when I was listening to Dr.
25 Gunn and -- and making reference to contingencies and

1 if the herd continues to decline or -- or the calving
2 grounds reduces in size, our colleague from the -- the
3 Tlicho Government, John Nishi, who I respect very
4 much, mentioned about one (1) way to determine if --
5 if something's changing in terms of calving locations,
6 certainly the collars will be the first indicators. I
7 have no doubt.

8 It's a comment just to reenforce what
9 Jan has -- has just mentioned. I think I've had in
10 the back of my mind now for at least two (2) years,
11 because I probably spend the -- more time on any of
12 those calving grounds than anybody else that I can
13 think about, and you look how much the core calving
14 area of the Bathurst herd has contracted.

15 John Boulanger showed a slide here. It
16 didn't quite, in my mind, showed it the way I -- I've
17 done it when I went to the communities, but the bulk
18 of those caribou counting on photography line up on
19 two (2) survey lines, or maybe three (3). So how much
20 more can this herd contract? How much smaller can it
21 get?

22 Given everything else that we're
23 tracking and monitoring, where -- where are we going?
24 So the -- all those speculations or pot -- potential
25 scenarios that could happen have been tried the back

1 of my mind non-stop for the last two (2) years at
2 least.

3 Are we going to see a switch as we
4 might have seen before? The Bathurst herd came from
5 one side, the Bathurst Inlet where it is now, is it
6 going to go back? Are we going to experience -- I --
7 I mean, how much smaller can it get? I mean, I can't
8 just -- I can't see it.

9 So I am concerned and -- and we don't
10 know for sure. So it's -- it's just a comment, Dr.
11 Carriere, that I wanted to share, Mr. Chair.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
13 Mr. Croft. Would the Tlicho Government like to
14 provide any comments on that, Mr. Nishi?

15 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
16 Chair. I think there's two (2) parts of the -- the
17 question, and -- and I don't -- I -- I think the first
18 part, you know, is basically trying to understand the
19 relative importance of different drivers to this herd.

20 We're challenged right now with trying
21 to not only understand and -- understand them, but
22 rank them in terms of how they have contributed to the
23 current decline. Surely as ENR has presented,
24 climatic and environmental conditions are important,
25 because it can affect productivity and growth of the

1 herd.

2 And I think for the first part of Dr.
3 Carriere's question, I -- I think rather than try to
4 hypothesize on the fly, I think it would require some
5 considerable thought and just scenario modelling,
6 which these results that we're looking at are
7 reflecting.

8 And I think we would be in a much
9 better position to explore those consequences if we
10 were to be very clear on what our assumptions were,
11 translate those assumptions into math, and run them in
12 -- in a model, and -- and work through them.

13 And there's models that we can -- we
14 can use. Dr. Boulanger's model that he's been working
15 on with GNWT, the OLS model. There's also the CARMA
16 model.

17 And so I think, you know, in terms of
18 planning, it's -- it's using these models to run
19 through these kinds of questions and being able to
20 track the logic that goes into them so that it's a
21 little bit more helpful than me trying to tell you
22 what I'm thinking. We can actually look at results
23 from a model. And -- and I think that's probably the
24 first step, or the first kind of consideration for the
25 comment.

1 And rather than praying for climate
2 change to stop, I think it -- it comes down to, you
3 know, what are the feasible actions that can be taken
4 both in terms of short-term and long-term. And again,
5 if we think about the drivers of mortality that affect
6 the herd and the drivers of fecundity or birth weights
7 that drive a herd, for me, those are the -- those are
8 the ways of trying to understand change in populations
9 and try to influence change in populations.

10 And again, as I've tried to indicate
11 before, over the short-term, the lever that probably
12 has the highest likelihood of improving conditions for
13 the Bathurst herd is to try to improve mortality --
14 sorry, reduce mortality by improving survival.

15 Not to say that environmental
16 conditions are not important, but perhaps it becomes
17 more important to try to manage mortality as
18 environmental conditions change. And this is how we
19 might be thinking about adaptation to a new sort of
20 set of environmental conditions. That the herd in the
21 future may not be the same as it was in the past and
22 that we have to be more active in terms of managing
23 harvests before it becomes a crisis.

24 That we have to be active in trying to
25 manage predation before it becomes an obvious problem,

1 maybe not in -- like, before it becomes a problem.
2 And we also have to take this approach, I think, Dr.
3 Carriere's question about long-term planning.

4 And I -- I come back to lessons that
5 I've learned from the gentlemen on my left, Joseph
6 Judas and Joe Rabesca, in terms of recognizing that
7 there are patterns of land use by caribou and that
8 traditional knowledge has insight into that land use
9 by the caribou, their use of space. And again, the
10 way we've come to understand it are migration routes
11 or water crossings.

12 And so in terms of long-term planning,
13 I -- I still think that if we were to acknowledge that
14 information and -- and utilize it in terms of
15 prioritizing rules ba -- you know, rules for managing
16 disturbance on the landscape, it -- it might be a more
17 useful way of using the foresight from traditional
18 knowledge and trying to manage that landscape to say
19 these areas are important for caribou, let's recognize
20 that, let's start to build rules around how
21 disturbance should be managed within those areas at
22 certain times and places.

23 And I think that's -- that's how I
24 would be thinking about responding to the question of
25 long-term planning and how we would try to use what

1 we've learned from the issues that we've been facing
2 with the Bathurst and apply them to other herds.
3 Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
5 Mr. Nishi. Suzanne...?

6 DR. SUZANNE CARRIERE: That was about
7 it. The -- there was my little question about the
8 drought index and whether we know what it was in 2015.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Mr.
10 Adamczewski...?

11 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
12 with ENR. The -- the climate database that comes from
13 is -- is the -- the MERRA. It's -- it's an acronym.
14 But anyway, the -- the information comes to us from
15 Don Russell. And it's the CARMA network that tracks
16 these things.

17 And I've asked him about the 2015 data.
18 But my understanding is that the information is not
19 available until the year has ended and you're, I don't
20 know, at least a couple of months into the next year.

21 So we're mindful of that. And I've --
22 I've asked Don about, you know, getting that update.
23 And it's something we'll be looking to do, I think, on
24 an annual basis. But I guess there is -- there is a
25 bit of a delay before the information's actually

1 available.

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
3 Mr. Adamczewski. Any further questions, Suzanne?

4 DR. SUZANNE CARRIERE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. That's it.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
7 very much. I have no questions for the Proponents.
8 So at this point, I'd -- what I'd like to do is just
9 take a ten (10) minute break and we will come back
10 with a presentation by the Yellowknives Dene First
11 Nation. Thank you very much.

12

13 --- Upon recessing at 2:49 p.m.

14 --- Upon resuming at 3:03 p.m.

15

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. So
17 that brings us to the conclusion of questioning of ENR
18 and the Tlicho Government. And the next part of the
19 agenda is a presentation by the Yellowknives Dene
20 First Nation. And I'll turn that over to Alex Power
21 to make that presentation. Thank you.

22

23 PRESENTATION BY YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION:

24 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Alex Power, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. So I

1 guess I'll -- I'll open just by saying I'm not much
2 for slides. I have two (2), including -- well, and
3 the cover slide, so. And this doesn't work, so it
4 turns out it's moot anyway. Anyway. So one's --
5 one's a picture of someone processing a caribou. It's
6 a great picture. And the other is of a wolf. And
7 there you go. And I love that picture. It's great.
8 Thank you. Here's the other.

9 So I really feel that a big -- a big
10 part of hearings and -- and speaking at the hearing is
11 that an Intervenor really is responding to what you
12 take in from others and -- and how you modify what
13 you're going to say based on -- on answers that are --
14 that you get. So there you go. My explanation for
15 previous and future presentations that will no doubt
16 contain less than five (5) slides.

17 So to the meat of it. So YKDFN underst
18 -- understands, you know, the -- the need for action
19 on the Bathurst herd. And -- and likewise, YKDFN
20 understands, you know, the -- the purview of the GNWT
21 to enact regulations and restrictions on harvest for -
22 - for conservation purposes. However, harvesting
23 restrictions are -- are a fairly blunt instrument.

24 And because for every restriction on
25 harvesting, there's -- there's a restriction on -- on

1 food on people's plates, and in the ability to engage
2 in traditional activities and a traditional lifestyle.
3 And so I guess the -- the flip side of the
4 conservation coin is, you know, a -- a food shortage
5 and the inability to engage in traditional cultural
6 practices.

7 So the discussion over the past two (2)
8 days has really centred around -- around wildlife.
9 And I think that's -- that's understandable. However
10 -- yes. How's that? Sorry.

11 However, you can't -- we can't separate
12 management actions from their consequences. And so
13 with -- with respect to these consequences, and
14 especially with respect to how this affects food
15 security, I think that you need to match these --
16 these regulations or -- or these actions with measures
17 that address the consequence.

18 So -- and I brought this -- this food
19 security issue up in -- in questions to the GNWT. And
20 they responded with -- with information that, you
21 know, I -- I was aware of, that the GNWT has supported
22 community hunts in the past and that recently, I think
23 it was maybe two (2) weeks ago, they bought --
24 assisted in the purchase of fourteen (14) caribou from
25 Inuvik from -- or reindeer. Sorry. From Inuvik from

1 farmed -- farmed Inuvik. And, of course, YKDFN
2 appreciates this.

3 However, this isn't -- I think that
4 understates the scale of, you know, of food security.
5 It's not about fourteen (14) caribou. And we have --
6 we have fifteen hundred (1,500) members approximately.
7 And among them, we have Elders and we have land users
8 who are not meaningfully engaged in the wage economy.
9 And so these aren't people who can necessarily just go
10 to the grocery store, and replace a valuable food
11 protein -- their pro -- protein source, food source,
12 by going to the grocery store. Meat is expensive.

13 Even -- even beyond the preference for,
14 you know, country food. Even beyond sort of the --
15 the cultural association with caribou specifically.
16 Replacing, you know, a community freezer full of
17 caribou meat with meat from the grocery store is -- is
18 not insubstantial as far as, you know, barriers to
19 overcome.

20 And so again, those most vulnerable to
21 this, the community members who are most affected by
22 this are, unfortunately, those who have the least
23 opportunity to offset it through, you know, means such
24 as going to the grocery store or, you know, going to
25 work and not -- not spending -- you know, taking their

1 money and not spending it on something else because it
2 doesn't -- that's not an accurate description of -- of
3 the situation.

4 And so these are the members who engage
5 the most in, you know, what would be considered
6 traditional practices, traditional harvesting. These
7 are the community members who participate the least in
8 -- in the wage economy. And these barriers remain
9 because these are also the community members whose
10 skills are least valued by most employers. You know,
11 I -- I didn't see a lot of job appli -- you know,
12 calls for job applications that include how to set up
13 a trap line as a skill. It just -- they're just not
14 the skills that transfer well to the wage economy.

15 And so I really want to highlight this
16 issue as -- or the concerns the YKDFN have with regard
17 to food security, and traditional practices. So
18 another concern the YKDFN has, and this is something
19 that I -- I brought up in my questions a bit but given
20 the -- the time period I had I wasn't able to really
21 build the narrative around it that I had hoped, and so
22 hopefully I can connect the dots on that now.

23 Is the way in which these restrictions
24 are enforced, and the perception within YKDFN among
25 some members that they're being targeted by ENR for

1 exercising their traditional harvesting rights. And I
2 have spoken to several -- several members have come
3 and spoken to me about this saying that, you know,
4 they've been threatened with ticketing should they not
5 be able to produce identification while out
6 harvesting.

7 And at first glance it's easy to -- to
8 understand how this happens. You know, when you're
9 driving you need a driver's licence. You produce ID.
10 If I as a resident, a non-Aboriginal resident were
11 hunting I should have a -- I should have a hunting
12 licence, and have to produce this identification.
13 However, these -- the comparison doesn't actually go
14 that deep because these -- these are privileges.
15 They're not rights.

16 And I have a hard time coming up with
17 another, you know, constitutionally entrenched right
18 that I need identification to exercise. I mean, I'm
19 not -- I'm not a lawyer but when framed in that
20 context, I think it speaks to the need for a mechanism
21 to easily resolve these conflicts around enforcement
22 because to my knowledge currently there isn't one
23 whereby members can improve the relationship with ENR,
24 which has been damaged through this, by having a -- I
25 guess a more streamlined mechanism for resolving these

1 issues.

2 Now, this has been -- this has been
3 brought to the attention of the GNWT via ENR a couple
4 times. The -- I'm going to -- I'm going to bungle the
5 -- the name of the -- the meeting from a couple weeks
6 ago. The Bathurst herd range management committee --
7 I know I don't have the -- the full name of it right
8 in front of me but my -- my mind is a swirl of
9 acronyms and -- and very long-winded names.

10 But this -- this issue around
11 enforcement was brought to Ernie Campbell, a Deputy
12 Minister at the time, by Fred Sangris. I also spoke
13 to him about it, and it was -- it was brought to ENR's
14 attention again here. And it's something that keeps
15 coming up in response to this is, I believe Ernie
16 Campbell said the -- you know, DNR officers are, you
17 know, they're very honourable and he got very
18 defensive about it.

19 And even Mr. Mandeville said that,
20 Well, you know, a lot of the officers are -- are
21 Aboriginal and they're aware of the issues. And so I
22 would like to reiterate that this isn't -- I'm not
23 implying that what's happening is under the auspice of
24 malice, but a misunderstanding of the rights of -- of
25 members and how maybe policies could reflect how it's

1 en -- enforced, not that they're -- they're out to get
2 necessarily, or that there's some -- you know, it's
3 not mean-spirited.

4 So I -- I understand how, you know --
5 you know, ENR officers might feel that in return we --
6 we are targeting them and that is not -- that is not
7 the intention, but we would like to see, in the face
8 of continued harvesting restrictions, and the
9 enforcement that comes along with that, a commitment
10 to developing a mechanism for dealing with that that
11 is, you know, equitable for -- for everybody involved.

12 So as to wolves, I got nothing, I'm
13 sorry. Oh, here we go. I stole this picture. Don't
14 tell anyone. So YKDFN is not against predator
15 management and in fact has engaged in predator
16 management for generations and there's -- there's
17 traditional knowledge around that. As has been
18 alluded to by members of the Tlicho, no everyone will
19 harvest wolves.

20 There are, you know, cultural
21 prohibitions around that for some. What YKDFN is
22 concerned about here is that errors of the past
23 aren't, I guess, repeated per the executed poisoning
24 programs, harvesting that just centres around
25 communities that has no impact on wolf population that

1 is predating on caribou. So essentially just killing
2 wolves because.

3 I -- I get the distinct impression
4 nobody wants that, but I wanted to certainly have that
5 heard as one (1) of our concerns and I look forward to
6 ENRs -- the development of the feasibility plan,
7 feasibility study to see actual options are on the
8 table and that it include, of course, you know, the
9 most recent science and traditional knowledge to
10 inform us in -- in the best way possible.

11 So finally I'd like to address
12 something that -- that's come up through the course of
13 the past couple days and that's with regard to the
14 contribution of development and cumulative impacts of
15 development and anthropogenic activities.

16 So -- and so I -- I -- Mr. Donihee
17 captured some of my -- my concerns with his question
18 and I think -- I think other technical members did
19 likewise. However, with the distinct impression that,
20 you know, this -- this was an issue when asked about
21 it, and I asked about it as well, it was sort of
22 deflected and -- with the assertion that this is
23 something that is dealt with through environmental
24 assessment and that, you know, it sort of falls
25 outside -- it's not said explicitly, implied that it

1 falls outside of the purview of this -- this exercise.

2 And now I understand that, you know,
3 ENR only has certain tools at their disposal and they
4 can't stipulate to industry where they can and cannot
5 undertake whatever activities they're -- they're up to
6 these days.

7 However, and this goes a little bit to
8 what Dr. Carriere was asking about, you know, what ENR
9 could do in the short term and I think one (1) of
10 those things would be is that they could have
11 supported compensatory mitigation during the Jay
12 Project, which they didn't.

13 And the way it's being portrayed here,
14 I mean, you would -- you would -- it almost seems as
15 though they spearheaded it in terms of the tone.
16 Bruno spoke to how the -- the model did not suggest
17 that there was a significant effect of development on
18 caribou populations.

19 However, it was, you know, people
20 pointed out repeatedly during the Jay hearing that in
21 fact it did have a -- have an impact. And I think,
22 how to word it, it wasn't a huge impact necessarily.
23 But small impacts over time have a big effect, and
24 that's the nature of rates.

25 And so if you're reducing the

1 reproduction rate or the ability of caribou to gain
2 weight or if you're affecting the pregnancy rate or
3 birthrate of -- of caribou even a small amount,
4 especially with a population that's already so
5 imperilled, well, it -- it's significant certainly by
6 our -- by our inter -- interpretation.

7 So, yeah, in closing, and this is
8 short, I hope everyone appreciates the brevity of my
9 presentation, YKDFN would like to see in the light of
10 restrictions on hunting, which are, you know, in the
11 pipeline, would like to see meaningful discussion with
12 the GNWT, whether through ENR or whomever it is they
13 feel should be pulled in to also sit at the table on
14 this, meaningful plan that addressed food security for
15 members, especially those most vulnerable to, you
16 know, not -- not having access to food by virtue of
17 either age or their engagement with the wage economy.

18 Further, YKDFN would like to see a
19 commitment from ENR to sit down and discuss how
20 enforcement is carried out and to work together
21 towards a solution around enforcement, so. And this
22 would go a long way towards, I think, repairing what
23 for many is -- is a strained relationship with ENR
24 officers and it's not -- it's not productive for
25 anybody. And so we would like to -- we would like to

1 see -- we would like to action on that.

2 And, finally, YKDFN looks forward to
3 seeing an innovative and targeted approach to predator
4 management that incorporates best practices from both
5 scientific and traditional knowledge based resources
6 or, you know, information.

7 That's basically it. I would just like
8 to take a second to thank the Board and thank
9 everybody for all the work that goes into a hearing
10 like this. And this is the -- the past two (2)
11 hearings I had to speak on the Friday afternoon, so
12 this is -- this is a step up for everyone to have to
13 sit through my presentation. At least it's not
14 Friday, right before the weekend, so. It's still the
15 end of the day, but Shin gets that dubious honour this
16 time. Thank you.

17

18 QUESTION PERIOD:

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
20 Mr. presenter, Alex, Mr. Alex Powers, for your
21 presentation. So at this time, ENR, do you have any
22 questions to Mr. Alex Power at this time, or concerns?

23 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr. Co --
24 Co-chair. Lynda Yonge, ENR. We have no questions at
25 this time. Thank you.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
2 very much. I take it that ENR does not have a
3 question at this time. The Tlicho Government, do you
4 have any questions to the presenter from the North
5 Slave Metis, YKDFN?

6 MR. JOHN NISHI: Thank you, Mr. Co-
7 chair. John Nishi. No questions from the Tlicho
8 Government. Thank you for the presentation.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
10 Tlicho Government. North Slave -- North Slave Metis
11 Alliance, do you have any questions?

12 MS. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Thank you, Alex. I have no questions.

14 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you.
15 I take it there's no questions from the North Slave
16 Metis Alliance. The Board staff, do you have any
17 questions?

18 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Mr. Chairman, it's
19 John Donihee. There's no questions from staff. I --
20 I just have one (1) question for Mr. Power. And thank
21 you for your presentation.

22 I -- I do understand the point you're
23 making about food security. I guess the question I
24 have is whether, at least in relation to this
25 particular concern, whether you're looking for a

1 response from this Board or whether in fact your
2 points are directed at the Government of the Northwest
3 Territories more specifically?

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Alex...?

5 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Alex Power, YKDFN. I mean, you'll have to excuse, I
7 guess, my ignorance. And maybe you can -- you can
8 help me -- you can help me in answering this. It's
9 not clear to me if that's something which -- which
10 does fall within, you know, the purview of the Board
11 to direct, at least, again a commitment to sit down at
12 the table. Clearly I would not approach the Board and
13 say, you know, Tell -- tell GNWT to do this because I
14 -- I -- that's not -- I -- I understand that's not the
15 way things work and -- and shouldn't be.

16 If -- you know, if -- if GNWT is -- is
17 listening then it's directed at them obviously. You
18 know, I mean, you know, if -- if that's -- if -- if
19 you will hear that then -- then, yes. If it's
20 something the por -- the Board can give some direction
21 on, absolutely I -- I would -- that would -- we would
22 love that. But again, I mean, maybe you can tell me
23 if that's something that is within the scope of your
24 mandate. I -- I don't know. That's a little too --
25 too fine grained for me. Thank you.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
2 very much. Any further response from our legal
3 counsel Mr. Donihee?

4 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. Just all I will say is that I -- I'm not
6 really here to answer questions. But you -- to the
7 extent that the Board's mandate will -- will permit
8 it, we have your points.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Donihee. Any -- I do believe that we're done with
11 the Board staff at this time. Technical expert, do
12 you have any questions from Anne or Allice? For the
13 record, can I get you to say it into the mic instead
14 of shaking your head, please?

15 DR. ANNE GUNN: Mr. Chairman, I have
16 no questions. Anne Gunn.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you
18 very much.

19 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Mr. Chairman,
20 Allice Legat, with the Board. I have no questions.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you to
22 those two (2) young ladies. Board members. Is there
23 any questions from the Board members?

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. CHARLIE JEREMICK'CA: No
2 questions.

3 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: I take it
4 there's no questions from our Board member Charlie. I
5 -- so I have no question, too, so.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Steve
7 Matthews. I have no questions.

8 DR. SUZANNE CARRIERE: Suzanne
9 Carriere, Board member. I have a question. I would
10 like to know in which committees associated with the
11 Bathurst herd the YKDFN is involved in. And what are
12 your thoughts on how it's going and how the Board can
13 help, if -- in terms of -- in terms of -- did you
14 understand -- did not understand from the start or --
15 I can -- I can sit on Steve's lap, or. All right.
16 Okay.

17 I would like to know which committees
18 that you're involved in, in terms of the Bathurst
19 herd, and whether or not you think it's going well,
20 fast enough, and et cetera. So your thought on -- on
21 that, and how the Board could help make sure that the
22 actions are taken faster rather than later.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
24 Suzanne, our Board member. Alec (sic)?

25 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Alex Power, YKDFN. So the first part, so which
2 committees are we currently involved in. There's the
3 Bathurst Herd Range Management Plan -- I think I got
4 that right. And then there's the Bathurst working
5 group to make some sort of board or committee. I
6 don't remember the ac -- the name at the moment. I --
7 I'm sorry, it fails me. And that's the committee
8 charged with coming up with a committee or some kind
9 of -- we -- we had a lot of discussion about not using
10 the term 'Board'. But Board similar to the Beverly
11 Kaminuriak Management Board.

12 So my -- my involvement in those
13 because we had a change in -- in staff, my involvement
14 personally doesn't go back that far. We've
15 participated in the range management planning
16 committee since, I think, September. And the
17 committee to devise a committee or a board since this
18 year sometime. It's this year? Is that when we -- do
19 you remember? Yes, it was. Okay.

20 Prior to that, YKDFN has been consulted
21 on -- on that process. I can't answer with dates off
22 the top of my head. If it's something that the Board
23 wants, I -- I could certainly get that information.
24 As far as, you know, the interpreted productivity of
25 those meetings, I think they're -- they're going okay

1 considering the challenges associated with sitting
2 that many stakeholders together at the table at once,
3 and -- and trying to come up with some kind of
4 consensus or direction.

5 I -- I recognize the difficulty in
6 that, and I don't envy moderators. So now as far as
7 the plan, or the working group to come up with a
8 committee that -- the position on YKDFN regarding that
9 is not yet cast in stone. I -- I could answer that
10 maybe in a month, which I know -- I know seems -- it's
11 not meant to sound evasive but I need to get a
12 directive on -- on that before I -- I can really
13 comment too much on it.

14 I hope -- does that answer your
15 question? I know it sort of -- I -- there was a lot
16 of saying I could get back to you on -- on dates, and
17 I -- I appreciate -- that's probably not what you were
18 hoping for. But -- yeah.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
20 Mr. Power. Suzanne, do you want to...

21 DR. SUZANNE CARRIERE: That's good.
22 My question is -- is more about we're all among
23 friends here. I know it's all being taped and
24 everything, but we're all here for -- for the
25 Bathurst. And I just wanted the opportunity to learn,

1 or to know, or to -- for you to tell us if you think
2 that the long-term processes and all those meetings
3 and all those committees, and stuff, are working okay
4 with you, or if there were a couple of things --
5 actions at the back of your mind that you can see
6 handling there that are not being dealt with because
7 we're spending so much time having committees.

8 And how can the Board help push those
9 actions before the herd disappears?

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
11 Suzanne.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Alex...?

16 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Is that better?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. ALEX POWER: So in terms of what
22 the Board could do to make it -- you know, speed
23 things up or make things happen either more
24 effectively or more quickly I think -- I'll -- I'll
25 answer that by saying what I see as -- as the main

1 barriers to how those can contribute to, you know,
2 supporting the herd.

3 And as with so many things, it's --
4 it's almost -- almost feel silly saying it because
5 it's what everyone always says, but it's resources.
6 It's time and money. So, you know, for myself and I
7 know this is -- this is similar for other staff
8 members working for -- for Nations, or for -- for the
9 Metis, you know, this -- this is one (1) of like
10 fifteen (15) things of equal size that I have on my
11 plate.

12 And so -- and, you know, my -- my
13 position is funded through IRMA, and I have -- you
14 know, there's -- there's mines, there's caribou -- it
15 -- there's just so much of it -- it's obscene. And so
16 having the resources to invest the time to -- to go
17 through -- just even go through the material and make
18 meaningful recommendations to my bosses about -- about
19 it or to find the time to come to all these committees
20 without worrying about, you know, five (5) other
21 things falling off the table is, again, I'm not sure
22 it's the answer you're looking for. But I -- I know
23 that that's -- that's a barrier for everyone, and even
24 for GNWT, I know they're stretched thin. Everyone's
25 stretched thin and it's papery, papery thin.

1 Like, it's -- and so it's -- it's
2 actually hard for me to answer it, because I -- I
3 really do divide my time between so many different
4 things, and they're -- they're all emergencies, you
5 know, and it's -- I don't know, I -- I hope that -- I
6 hope that -- I -- I hope that helps and I'm sorry if
7 it -- it seems circuitudious (sic) or evasive, but it
8 -- it really, you know, if -- every morning if you ask
9 me, What's -- what's the barrier to getting things
10 done, it's -- it's just -- it's resources.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
12 Mr. Powers.

13 Suzanne, Do you have any other
14 questions, or concerns, or...?

15 DR. SUZANNE CARRIERE: No more
16 question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: I take it
18 there's no more questions from Suzanne. So at this
19 time, I'd like to thank Mr. Alex Powers (sic) for your
20 presentations. We'll get onto our next presentation.
21 It will be done by the North Slave Metis Alliance, I
22 do believe.

23 You know, English is my second
24 language, my friend, but I think your name is Shin. I
25 didn't swear, did I. I said, Shin. Mr. Shin (sic),

1 you have the floor at this time. Thank you very much.

2

3 PRESENTATION BY NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE:

4 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 English is my second language also. I hope you can

6 understand me. So I have my speaking notes, so I will

7 follow those notes.

8 So the reason I'm here, North Slave

9 Metis Alliance -- oh, my name is Shin Shiga,

10 regulatory analyst for North Slave Metis Alliance.

11 NSMA members have a -- a good prima facie claim to the

12 Aboriginal rights to harvest caribou north of Great

13 Slave Lake.

14 The proposed Bathurst caribou

15 management plan has a direct effect on the NSMA

16 member's ability to exercise their Aboriginal rights,

17 that is to -- to harvest caribou. NSMA's mandate also

18 includes exercise of Metis responsibility to protect

19 the environment, including wildlife. And so we

20 participate in this proceeding to ensure that the

21 proposed management plan is compatible with our values

22 and to protect our members' Aboriginal rights.

23 In general, NSMA is supportive of most

24 of the major points proposed in this plan, and in

25 fact, we appreciate that -- the hard work everyone put

1 into this plan. I think it is -- it is a necessary
2 step that we all needed to take.

3 So the four (4) components that we --
4 we thought were important was their harvest plan,
5 increased education and outreach, more monitoring of
6 caribou and the predators, and the management actions
7 on the predator. NSMA understands that the Bathurst
8 caribou is in a perilous state and we don't know the
9 reasons for it clearly.

10 Harvesting from a herd in such a state
11 culturally and scientifically is not viable for NSMA
12 members. For that reason, NSMA supports the
13 temporarily Bathurst caribou harvest restriction to
14 zero animals by all Aboriginal harvesters. And we
15 will continue to support zero harvest as long as the
16 responsibility is shared fairly and equitably by all
17 Aboriginal people who traditionally harvest from
18 Bathurst caribou.

19 We do question whether GNWT has done
20 enough in the past to avoid coming to where we are
21 today. The recent report of environmental assessment
22 on Jay Project by MVEIRB also commented that the ENR
23 has been overdue to roll out a long-term Bathurst
24 caribou management mechanism among other things that
25 the Review Board criticized of ENR, in fact, with

1 respecting caribou management.

2 And I think partly because of that,
3 many important Bathurst migration routes and habitats
4 have been lost to development. And so the -- the
5 ongoing process to establish the collaborative --
6 Bathurst Caribou Collabor -- Collaborative Management
7 Advisory Committee is the draft name. We -- we
8 strongly support that process. And we really hope
9 that that committee establish that as soon as
10 possible, hopefully this year or coming fiscal year.

11 And the community outreach and
12 education, we're always in support of that. That -- I
13 think that's a very cost-effective thing that we can
14 do. Even though -- even though it is relatively
15 cheaper compared to predator -- predator management,
16 NSMA still does not have enough resources to -- to do
17 that other than relying on volunteers, but there's a -
18 - there's a limit to what volunteers can do, so.

19 The same of monitoring of caribou and
20 predators, those are -- those are great. I think they
21 will improve management response. But again, I think
22 many specifics of this management monitoring programs
23 have -- had been discussed by -- by ENR, by Aboriginal
24 governments, by industry for many years. And I have
25 the impression that they still don't quite have the

1 methodology and system in place. And why I sto -- I -
2 - I do have a concern that it's taking much longer
3 than it -- it should have.

4 Finally, the predator management is a
5 difficult management response for NSMA members to
6 support because of its -- because of their cultural
7 values, ecological impacts and economic effectiveness.

8 NSMA also has not had sufficient time
9 and resources to consult our members in depth on this
10 issue. However, we are open to considering various
11 predator management options as suggested in the
12 proposed management plan. And we do welcome a careful
13 analysis and deliberation that ENR is proposing to do.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is my
15 presentation.

16

17 QUESTION PERIOD:

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
19 Shin. I'd like to say thanks to you. Thank you very
20 much. So at this time, do you have a question or
21 concerns or issues from ENR, please?

22 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr. Co-
23 Chair. Lynda Yonge, ENR. And thank you for the
24 presentation. We have no questions at this time.

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you

1 very much. ENR has no questions. The next one on the
2 floor is the Tlicho Government. Do you have any
3 question?

4 MR. JOHN NISHI: John Nishi. The
5 Tlicho Government does not have any questions. Thank
6 you for the presentation.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Tlicho
8 Government, thank you. The Tlicho Government has no
9 questions. Yellowknife Dene First Nation, do you have
10 any questions at this time?

11 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
12 Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 We do not have any questions. Thank you, Mr. Shiga,
14 for your presentation.

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Power,
16 thank you very much. From YKDFN, no question at this
17 time. The technical experts Anne and Allice, do you
18 have any questions at this time?

19 DR. ANNE GUNN: Anne Gunn, for the
20 Board. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions, but thank
21 you for the presentation.

22 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. Allice Legat, with the Board. I have no
24 questions at this time. And I enjoyed reading your
25 presentation beforehand. Thank you.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you to
2 both the technical -- technical experts, Dr. Anne Gunn
3 and Allice Legat. Thank you. You have no -- they
4 have no questions. Board staff. Is there any
5 questions from the Board staff?

6 MS. JODY PELLISSEY: Jody Pellissey,
7 WRRB staff. There are no questions at this time.
8 Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Shiga.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Than --
10 thank you very much. The Board staff have no
11 questions. The legal counsel, Mr. Donihee. Is there
12 any question?

13 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: John Donihee, Board
14 counsel. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Finally, to
16 our Board members. Is there any questions from the
17 Board members?

18 MR. CHARLIE JEREMICK'CA: No comment.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Charlie has
20 no questions. I, myself as interim Chair has no
21 question at this time.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Steve
23 Matthews, Board member. No questions. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MS. SUZANNE CARRIERE: Suzanne

1 Carriere, Board member. I have just one (1) question.
2 So you are part of the advisory committee. And are
3 you part of other committees like the range planning?
4 And do you see any way that the Board can help in
5 terms of making actions faster? So I think one (1) of
6 the answer from the Yellowknives Dene was, What are
7 the barriers to making action faster? And so I would
8 like your thoughts on -- on that.

9 So what -- what committee are you part
10 on, and what are the barriers -- barriers that you can
11 see on having faster actions?

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you,
13 Suzanne, Board member. The -- the response from Shin,
14 North Slave Metis Alliance.

15 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Suzanne.
16 I was hoping that you ask that question. We -- or
17 NSMA is on the Bathurst Caribou Range Management
18 Working Group, which has its own steering committee,
19 and we are both on those. The Bathurst caribou
20 collaborative management advisory committee is not
21 established yet. We are still discussing the terms of
22 reference for that. We are part of that discussion,
23 and we hope that when it is established, we'll be part
24 of it.

25 Are there other things? I'm sure

1 there's -- there's -- I think there are a few other --
2 at least one (1) working group, a zone of influence
3 working group. I'm sometimes invited as observers.
4 That's a technical group. I'm sure there are others
5 that I sometimes go to that I don't remember. It's
6 not really a shortage of committees and working groups
7 and -- or efforts that we are concerned about, I -- I
8 think.

9 Well, if there's one (1) thing you
10 could do. I don't know what consequence these
11 comments might bring. I'm a -- a little worried. But
12 I do think in -- in the -- in the discussion at -- at
13 the advisory committee at TOR, and the same with the
14 range planning, we always tend to -- tend to make
15 everything advisory capacity and the -- the only
16 recommendation for others to later consider.

17 And all those hours that we spent
18 becomes a mere recommendation that may or may not be
19 adopted, because then the recommendation will have to
20 go -- go to consultation with every Aboriginal groups
21 and other governments. And because of the capacity
22 issues that we all have, we may not respond in a
23 timely manner or we may not be able to assess, you
24 know, those -- those recommendations sufficiently.

25 So sometimes we just don't respond,

1 even though we participated all along in the -- in the
2 making of the recommendations. So I think that that's
3 something that could be changed somehow. I don't know
4 how. Maybe in the terms of reference. That's
5 something that I -- I think about sometimes. Thank
6 you.

7 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Shin, thank
8 you very much for that. Anything further to add,
9 Suzanne?

10 MS. SUZANNE CARRIERE: That was it.
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Okay. I do
13 believe that we are done with our presenters. So at
14 this time, we have one (1) registered general public
15 that stated their name. The public statement -- that
16 we have one (1) public statement to be presented by
17 Mr. George Mackenzie. So if you have a public
18 statement at this time, Mr. Mackenzie, please do so.

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 STATEMENT BY MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE:

23 MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair. My name is George Mackenzie. I'm from
25 Behchoko. I'll -- I'll say it in Fort Rae.

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE: I was a former
4 Grand Chief. I said it again, and I will say it
5 again, when we had the public hearing, or symposium,
6 in Inuvik about the Wildlife Act. This has to do with
7 Bathurst caribou management, and everything that goes
8 in that Act.

9 I can tell you today, we get a lot of
10 calls. We listen to the meetings in Rae when
11 Renewable Resource did their presentation. I can tell
12 you the population, the hunters, the Tlicho, the users
13 of the caribou, are not happy with the situation
14 today.

15 The reasons why they are not happy. We
16 know that the Wildlife Act, if it's still the same in
17 Inuvik where it says the GNWT will take whatever
18 measurement necessary to protect the species at risk.
19 I'm not opposing co-management. That's not the point.
20

21 Now, it was asked to ENR, Would you
22 charge the hunters, and the ENR response was, That
23 will be the last resource. What does that mean to the
24 Aboriginal hunters? It means ENR are saying, We
25 didn't say we will not charge you, but if we have to,

1 we will charge you. That's what it means. That puts
2 a restriction on us as hunters, and our women back
3 home that you saw the pictures. They prepare the food
4 for the meals.

5 Put restrictions on us. Now, the
6 Wildlife Act, it hasn't been taking into consideration
7 it's been three (3) years now or so we have been
8 restricted how to hunt, where to hunt. Now, how many
9 more years will we be restricted on harvesting the
10 caribou? We don't know.

11 But somebody told me -- he made a
12 presentation. I'm not going to elaborate on it.
13 Traditional knowledge is lost for six (6) years for
14 sure. It could be longer. Very hard to get your
15 traditional knowledge back once it's lost with the
16 modern time. We know -- we want to work together. We
17 want to work with GNWT, but not with the Wildlife Act
18 the way it was passed.

19 People were not consulted to its
20 fullest on the Wildlife Act. It was a new thing. I
21 just heard a Elder this morning talking. He said,
22 Today on our own land, we are not the boss. Today on
23 our own land, we're not the boss of our animals. And
24 I'll tell you why at the end. Around the table here
25 in the room, caribou has been hunted, harvested, long

1 before you guys came.

2 Our people, the Dene, the Aboriginals,
3 the Inuit, the Metis, have used it way before people
4 around the table. That's what the elder is talking
5 about. You talk about caribou management, the wolf.
6 I'm not going to get into the wolf, as it'll cloud
7 what I want to say. I'm going to stick to the
8 Wildlife Act.

9 The Wildlife Act allows -- it gives the
10 authority to GNWT over our treaty rights. That's what
11 the elders are saying today. Yes, we want to manage
12 it. We don't want a total decline. Nobody's going to
13 slaughter the caribou, there's nothing left. I heard
14 a lady said, Before all the caribou are gone. Before
15 all the caribou disappear.

16 That's a very powerful statement to
17 make in a hearing like this. We don't want that. But
18 there are different ways, other ways to manage it
19 together where GNWT does not have the final say on our
20 land, on our caribou. That's what the elders are
21 saying.

22 We can work together. We can find
23 different ways -- there are different ways to manage
24 it where our young hunters are not being charged,
25 where our hunter's caribou meat are not taken away

1 from them.

2 The ENR's job is to monitor. We can
3 support that, but not putting a restriction for our
4 young people to be criminals. Where they will be
5 criminals, that's not what we want. There are
6 different ways to do it.

7 I think the public are saying, and my
8 late dad said the same thing many years ago, I didn't
9 understood it then, now I understand. He said,
10 Someday the ENR will be our problem. He's not talking
11 about renewable resources. He talking about the
12 decision makers, the ones that make the decisions.
13 And I just heard it over the weekend in Deline.

14 A lady said the same thing to me. And
15 elder said there one (1) day ENR will be our problem.
16 When that happens we've lost all control. We will no
17 longer harvest the trees, the fish, everything. Our
18 young people will not go on the land. No reason to go
19 on the land. They're stuck at home jobless, homeless,
20 hopeless. That's what the elders are saying.

21 And we listen to the Tlicho here in
22 Behchoko. What they want in Behchoko is a big hearing
23 like this on the users of the caribou, not in a united
24 place. How many users do we have in the audience
25 here. All I'm saying is when we did the hearing back

1 when the Tlicho government started, Diavik hearing,
2 water hearing, the first one (1) again of its kind, it
3 was jam packed with people, Tlicho people. The
4 interest was so high.

5 You bring this to the people you have
6 packed -- room packed, no where to sit. There's so
7 much interest. It is in their heart. So we're
8 saying, bring the hearing -- the ENR, they did the
9 tour, bring the four (4) communities, Tlicho into one
10 (1) room and all the four (4) communities say what
11 they want to see.

12 If we don't -- if you guys don't listen
13 there will be a lot of unhappy people. There are lots
14 of unhappy people today, even the young ones. The
15 picture that you saw of a lady, that's how it was.
16 They don't have a dime in the bank, but they take
17 pride and they're very proud of the caribou. They
18 were gone for days. That's their richnessness (sic).
19 And you're allowing -- you're allowing that to happen
20 if you don't listen to us. That's the hunters.

21 I don't want the caribou to disappear,
22 but I don't want the ENR to have the final say on our
23 caribou on our land. That's the issue for us, as
24 people. We are the users of the caribou.

25 Now -- how many years now our trails

1 are not being used. Nobody goes on our trail now. We
2 used to go there for caribou dog teams; now, nothing.
3 And here where scientifically you guys talking about
4 terminologies and everything that you're expert at, or
5 not, but we have traditional knowledge through our
6 Elders.

7 I think it's time that this
8 organization is being looked at, it is being reviewed.
9 It's time that we look at the Wildlife Act for what it
10 is. It's not -- it's not meeting the purpose of the
11 Aboriginal world. Time to look at it.

12 You're going to talk about the caribou
13 management, co-management, to cloud this important
14 issue. You're going to talk about the wolves to -- to
15 cloud this important issue, but this issue will not go
16 away until you set a time, a place how to settle it.

17 I was the grand chief in Inuvik then.
18 I did not support the Wildlife Act. I knew then our
19 Elders would not be happy. They're not going to be
20 happy because it's going to infringe on the treaty
21 rights to hunt, harvest the caribou. That's why I
22 didn't support it.

23 But I'm not against co-management. We
24 can work together, yes. But let the people that use
25 the caribou on their land have the final say. And

1 then we'll work together. Masi Cho.

2 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Thank you.

3 Thank you very much, George. Just before I carry on,

4 we know -- we knew the fact that -- Mr. MacKenzie,

5 that we -- our executive directive had tried very,

6 very hard to have this public meeting in Behchoko. No

7 matter how hard she tried -- I have to hand it to

8 Jody, I have to thank you very much, but because of

9 the court hearing...

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

12

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Because they

14 weren't -- they weren't able to get the space at --

15 for the hearing in Behchoko, they had to have the

16 hearing here, unfortunately. Thank you, George, for

17 your presentation.

18

19 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

20

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: I'll just

22 hand it over to Steve at this time.

23 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,

24 Jonas. Before we proceed to closing comments, Joseph

25 apparently wants to share a story. Is it a short

1 story, Joseph? I'm not sure what I'm going to say if
2 you say it's a long story.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes, thank you.
7 I'd like to make a short comment. Yes, I guess we do
8 have to have respect all walks of life, I guess, you
9 know. Like, the -- we'd like to bring in some of the
10 good history and -- going back as far as the legend.

11 The -- we do have great respect with
12 the Elders. And I sat with one (1) of the -- Michele,
13 an Elder from Behchoko, a long time. And she even
14 talked about the caribou and animals. I guess, the --
15 since -- since the history, I guess, you know, we --
16 it's been passed from one (1) generation to another
17 that some way -- somewhere along the road that the ro
18 -- the -- the story doesn't come too accurate. But
19 nonetheless get to the point.

20 Yes, definitely the -- the Elders, I
21 guess, they -- they've got to respect the young
22 students that are receiving their story. And they
23 don't listen, I guess, you know, they -- they know
24 just by looking elsewhere or doing things or fitting
25 with something else. So that's when a person that

1 doesn't want to learn or doesn't want a lesson. But
2 nonetheless with respect they have to follow the
3 animals wherever they -- they find them. And with
4 respect they -- they do that.

5 One (1) people that -- one (1) people
6 that aren't hunting the area, I guess, there's a lot
7 of animals, but they -- they don't have enough -- they
8 don't have enough wood to eat on to -- to have to
9 support that many people. So I guess they had to
10 relocate. But somehow there is one (1) Elder lady
11 that became an El -- a widow, and she follows people
12 because she doesn't have any family to look after her.
13 But somehow she was following the group that moved to
14 a new location. Somewhat, since she's an Elder, I
15 guess, you know, she's walking with a snowshoe, but
16 miles behind people.

17 All of a sudden while on a trail I
18 guess this old lady, she heard a -- a cry out in the
19 wilderness. So she kind of thought it was kind of
20 strange to hear, you know, such a -- and a cry like
21 that and it strange it was a small infant. So I guess
22 he -- it -- it could be her ear -- in her ear or in --
23 in the lands making -- making some, you know,
24 attention. But however, in order to find out and then
25 there's a lot of -- so somehow he saw that the -- the

1 caribou were amongst the -- amongst the caribou herd,
2 this -- an Elder lady found a little child laying
3 there right after the -- the caribou had gone.

4 So the -- the -- so this child's been
5 picked up by an -- an Elder lady and followed the
6 group that -- that relocate. And then -- and then he
7 asked that (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN) I guess, to
8 somebody to break trail. That's the name. It's the
9 Aboriginal name that was given to the child. So that
10 the -- this -- an Elder lady had raised this child
11 into -- to a -- to a teenage and adult. And now that
12 he's old enough to hunt.

13 So this child, I guess, he -- since
14 he's came from the caribou herd, so every time that he
15 went out hunting anyhow, it's easy for him to find
16 animal. So somehow -- yes, the -- yeah, so young
17 people that like to hang around that El -- Elder
18 lady's house because there's always a lot of meat
19 there. A lot of country food.

20 So I guess the -- every time the --
21 there's a lot of kids hanging around the -- in the
22 teepee whatever. And then the -- that he told his
23 grandma -- or told her to look after the kids while he
24 was away.

25 So -- so while -- while the -- the kids

1 were running around in -- around the -- around the
2 teepee area that the -- the kids -- the kids they ran
3 over -- ran over the fresh caribou blood. So I guess
4 that what -- what he's trying to tell -- warn -- he's
5 trying to warn that they -- his grandma not to have
6 kids run over the blood, but apparently it did happen.

7

8 And so now that -- that the young guy's
9 out hunting and while he's away, I guess while --
10 while the -- the Elder lady -- I guess he gave the --
11 he gave the -- gave a little -- a bucket full of blood
12 and gave it to his son. And apparently his son must
13 have died because of the - - the mishap.

14 And when the -- the young man died
15 apparently he moved to the -- to the moon. If you
16 look at a full moon he says he could see a -- a man
17 sitting on a -- on the land with a bucket in his hand.
18 And that's how the -- the transformation of the -- the
19 story came about.

20 And so -- and so the -- me -- me and
21 some other young person that was there with me the
22 same evening, the Elder when he told us that story
23 that they turned around and told -- the Elder told me
24 that the other two (2) young -- young boys were there
25 the evening. They weren't listening, so I don't think

1 they captured a good story so that they could carry --
2 could be carried out into the future.

3 So now that I'm telling you a story
4 about what happened, and -- and all the young -- be
5 found by an Elder lady, and when he passed on it might
6 became into -- and up in to the moon. These
7 descriptions on the moon. And then the Elder -- Elder
8 people, I guess, you know, in their -- their way, they
9 taught us how to survive on the land and how to get up
10 early in the morning, and how to -- so the Elders told
11 us a lot of good stories that mainly for survival on
12 the land.

13 So how can you make a mistake if you
14 only listen to them? Yes, too, there's a lot of
15 people in our history, our Elders are telling us that
16 some people used to go as far as to over Contwoyto
17 Lake into the -- into the Pine Lake area. That they
18 used to go down by birch bark by canoe.

19 So a lot of our ancestors worked that
20 hard, just to harvest some caribou meat and dry meat,
21 and possible for clothing. And especially the meat.
22 I guess it won't last any more -- any more than two
23 (2) or three (3) weeks. And it takes about two (2) or
24 three (3) weeks to go in and back out to -- to the
25 main camp.

1 And the -- once the -- the caribou has
2 been brought back to the community, and then they all
3 shared the -- all the dry meat and all the good stuff
4 that came back from the land. And of course people
5 have to move around. They have to -- before freeze up
6 they have to go find a good fish camp, and prepare for
7 the winter.

8 So now a days the -- people used to
9 share. Used to spend the food that they'd been given
10 by somebody else. You just can't keep it too long or
11 save it because back then there was no such thing as
12 deep freeze or freezers.

13 Yes, that the -- when I was young, I
14 guess, you know, like the -- the only thing that you
15 had to rely on country food. First thing in the
16 morning our -- our fathers had to go out in the lake,
17 paddle out in the lake or by outboard motor to go
18 visit -- to visit their net to have a fresh fish for -
19 - for the days.

20 And then I thought I'd share this
21 interesting story about the animal. Thank you.

22

23 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you

1 very much, Joseph.

2 So at this point I'd like to move to
3 closing comments, and at this point all the parties
4 have an opportunity to provide some of those closing
5 comments, and you have a time limit of ten (10)
6 minutes.

7 So maybe -- maybe we'll start with the
8 Tlicho Government. Would you like to provide some
9 final comments?

10

11 CLOSING COMMENTS:

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Okay. If I
13 can just make a quick correction. Could we start with
14 the Intervenors first, and then we'll get to the
15 Proponents. So we'll start with the North Slave Metis
16 Alliance. Do you have any closing comments?

17 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 I just would like to thank everyone in the room once
19 again for caring about this animal. Yeah, NSMA hopes
20 that this -- this management plan will help -- help
21 save the caribou. Thank you.

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
23 very much, Shin. Alex Power, Yellowknives Dene...?

24 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Alex Power, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We do not

1 have a closing comment outside of just thanking
2 everyone for their time and considerable effort, and
3 the Board's deliberation. And just -- yeah. Have a
4 great week everybody.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you
6 very much. Mr. Power. May we move to ENR, and then
7 we'll give the Tlicho Government the last say. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. FRED MANDEVILLE: Co-Chairs, it's
10 Fred Mandevilla here, ENR. ENR would like to thank
11 the Board for convening this hearing, and providing us
12 an opportunity to speak about the state of the
13 Bathurst caribou herd, and the management proposal
14 that has been put before you jointly by the Tlicho
15 Government and ENR.

16 The information before us both from
17 community members and scientists is compelling. The
18 Bathurst herd has declined by 96 percent since 1986,
19 and is likely to decline further given that cow
20 survival, calf recruitment, and recent pregnancy rates
21 have been low.

22 The proposal before you has been
23 developed jointly by the Tlicho government and ENR and
24 is fully supported by both governments. Together we
25 recommend that there be no harvest on the Bathurst

1 caribou herd until the herd shows signs of sustained
2 recovery.

3 This is a very difficult message and we
4 commend the Tlicho government for the leadership they
5 have shown in recommending the conservation of this
6 herd. That was not an easy thing to do. We recognize
7 that this will cause hardship to communities.

8 The Tlicho elders and others have
9 spoken with great passion about the importance of
10 caribou not only as a source of food, but also as an
11 important means for keeping culture and language
12 alive. These are the important values that must be
13 protected and we need to work together to find ways to
14 do that while allowing the Bathurst herd to recover.

15 We also recognize the urgency of the
16 situation. We cannot just sit by and wait to see what
17 happens. However, the actions available to us to aid
18 in the recovery of the herd are limited. Other than
19 restricting human harvest, the other main driver that
20 we have some ability to -- ability to influence is
21 predation.

22 The joint management proposal includes
23 actions to enhance the current harvest of wolves
24 immediately through increased incentives to hunters
25 and trappers that will hopefully encourage more people

1 to harvest wolves. The Tlicho governments community-
2 based wolf harvesting pilot project will provide an
3 opportunity for communities to have real and
4 meaningful input into deciding how to hunt and trap
5 wolves in a culturally respectful manner.

6 This approach is intended to target
7 areas in the winter range that have maximum potential
8 benefit for improving the over winter survival of
9 caribou. We hope to learn from the Tlicho experience
10 and build on the success on this project in other
11 communities.

12 ENR will also lead a collaborative
13 feasibility assessment to look at other wolf reduction
14 options for the Bathurst range. Any approach taken to
15 increase the harvest of predators must be acceptable
16 to the communities and this means con -- consultation
17 and collaboration before decisions are made.

18 If there is one (1) message that has
19 been made abundantly clear throughout this proceeding,
20 it is the need for everyone to work together for the
21 recovery of this herd. We all bring something to the
22 table. And by working together and sharing
23 information and experience in an open, honest, and
24 respectful way we can make better decisions to help
25 the caribou.

1 Cooperation and collaboration is an
2 ongoing process and there's always room for
3 improvement. We all need to put aside our differences
4 and commit to working together so that there will be
5 caribou for the future.

6 Thank you and we look forward to the
7 Board's decisions and recommendations.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Mandeville. Tlicho government, closing comments?
10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

12

13 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes, on behalf of
14 the Tlicho government, all the presenters, I think
15 there is five (5) members from the Tlicho government
16 and we've been working and -- as a group and we want
17 to thank the Board on behalf of the Board this meeting
18 is happening. It's very good. If maybe there's some
19 information that we may not remember this is what we
20 were reminded of again at this meeting.

21 So in future meetings we're planning
22 how we can best work together. It would have been
23 nice to have more people, but we did have some public
24 that made their presentations and were looking at all
25 kinds of innovative solutions to help our people.

1 There's not everyone here to -- and we didn't actually
2 meet on people's land.

3 But at the same time, because caribou
4 cannot speak for itself, we have to find good
5 solutions and find good ways to manage our caribou
6 because this is caribou for our future generations,
7 the people that we don't see yet, but they're still
8 coming in the future.

9 And so in -- within our land claim
10 we're looking at what kind of responsibility that we
11 have within our land claim to make our own decisions
12 as well as making good decisions together for
13 everyone, as well. There's not a lot of times that
14 we're going to make good decisions. We're not going
15 to make good decisions that everybody's going to be
16 happy about.

17 But at the same time, we're going to
18 have to work in a very cautious way and very
19 informative way. We -- we did provide a lot of good
20 information. A lot of people have been waiting to
21 hear about the decision of the caribou.

22 Because the Tlicho have survived by
23 Conkatiekwo (phonetic) we don't want that caribou to
24 disappear. That's what we're saying. And what we're
25 doing here is we're trying to work for the Tlicho

1 leadership. And so as we work together we can find
2 good solutions for the future. And this is what we're
3 trying to do.

4 And many people have said good things.
5 A lot of good information was what we had at the
6 meeting. And just a little while ago someone spoke
7 about Yellowknives. There's Yellowknives that have no
8 money. There's Yellowknives who don't have food. We
9 heard all kinds of information.

10 But at the same time, we realize that
11 there's less caribou. So what can we do? We know
12 that not a lot of people are employed and making
13 money, but we do try to make something work so that we
14 can go ahead and start implementing some good ways
15 that we can work together.

16 We've asked each other questions. If
17 we had any -- any concerns, we asked questions. And
18 then we may be given another opportunity to meet again
19 like this. So on behalf of the Tlicho Government
20 there's five (5) members here who continue to meet
21 about these kind of issues. I want to thank you.

22

23 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 (PORTION NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON MATTHEWS: ...for
2 Intervenor -- from Intervenor that are to be
3 submitted by March the 8th, 2016. And ENR and Tlicho
4 Government must submit their comments -- final written
5 arguments, sorry, by March the 11th. And the record
6 will close on March the 11th, 2016.

7 And at this time, I'd like to pass it
8 over to Jonas Lafferty who will provide some closing
9 comments on behalf of the Board. Thank you very much.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON LAFFERTY: Finally,
11 ladies and gentlemen, now the closing comments. I
12 would like to read the closing comment at this time.
13 The co-chairs of the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources
14 Board would like to thank everyone for participating
15 in this public hearing.

16 Working collaboratively with all the
17 participants in this proceeding has enabled -- has enabled
18 the Board to move quickly to address these challenges
19 confronting the Bathurst caribou herd.

20 We appreciate your assistance in this
21 effort. The Board recognizes how big of a job it is
22 to bring the wildlife management proposal like this --
23 like this one being considered yesterday and today to
24 a hearing. We'd especially like to thank the Tlicho
25 Government and Department of Environment and Natural

1 Resources for all their hard work and with their help.

2 The Board has an important decision to
3 make and the precedent will be set. The precedent
4 will be set. We will begin working on these issue --
5 with this -- we will be work -- we will begin working
6 on this decisions right away, and look forward to the
7 arguments to be submitted by the parties.

8 The Board would like to recognize that
9 the hard work done by our staff, Jody Pellissey, Boyan
10 Tracz, our advisors Dr. Anne Gunn, Allice Legat, and
11 our counsel Don -- John Donihee. And our thanks as
12 well as to our hard-working translators James Rabesca
13 and Violet MacKenzie, Pido for the sound equipment,
14 and Bob Keelaghan, our transcriber.

15 We also recognize and appreciate the
16 input and the wisdom of our Elders, Mr. Joe -- Mr.
17 Joseph Judas and also our -- our Elder Joe Rabesca.
18 As I indicated, the Board will have a decision to the
19 Minister of ENR by May 13th. We have a lot of work to
20 do. We thank you for your assistance.

21 So at this time the meeting is
22 adjourned. Thank you very much, and if you could bear
23 with me. I, as the -- the interim Chair, would like
24 to do the closing prayer. And we would -- can we
25 could if -- if we could remain seated shortly, I'm

1 going to do this in my language.

2

3 (CLOSING PRAYER)

4

5 --- Upon adjourning at 4:26 p.m.

6

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10 Certified Correct,

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13 _____

14 Bob Keelaghan, Mr.

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