



August 19, 2024

Judy Williams  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

*Via Email*  
*Judy\_Williams@gov.nt.ca*

**Re: Wildlife Research Permit application – Biological Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds**

Dear Ms. Williams:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considers the Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) application for monitoring activities on *Kqk'èetì Ekwò* (Bathurst caribou), *Sahtì Ekwò* (Bluenose-East caribou), and Beverly Ekwò Herds as a management proposal.

The WRRB understands the management proposal, submitted by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories, to include the following monitoring actions for July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2029:

- Continued use of satellite collars to monitor the movement and distribution of migrating *zekwò* (barren-ground caribou).
- Deploy and maintain up to 70 collars each on the *Kqk'èetì* and *Sahtì Ekwò* herds (50 on cows and 20 on bulls), and up to 50 collars on the Beverly herd (30 on cows and 20 on bulls).
- Deployment of collars involves:
  - Net-gunning capture by helicopter (no immobilization drugs will be used);
  - A hired professional capture crew;
  - Handling of caribou to fasten collars;
  - No measurements taken except for blood, hair, and fecal samples to assess pregnancy status and for other testing and possible genetic studies; and,
  - Shooting or pithing an animal if it is critically injured.
- Conduct composition surveys in:
  - October/November to assess bull:cow ratios; and,
  - March/April (late winter) to provide a measure of calf survival and an index of recruitment.

The WRRB has taken a Level 1 review, as outlined in the Board's Rule for Management Proposals, and has approved the WRP as written (Motion # 933-14-08-2024).

The WRRB requests that upon completion of each monitoring action an update be provided to the Board. Additionally, the Board requests an annual summary of the upcoming field season and to be contacted if there is any opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Pellissey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jody Pellissey  
Executive Director

Cc Lawrence Lewis, Acting Superintendent  
North Slave Region, Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

Michael Birlea, Manager  
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government