

January 23, 2015

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca

Re: GNWT Management Proposal: Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area

Minister Miltenberger:

Per Sections 12.5.1 and 12.5.4 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has reviewed the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area management proposal, as submitted and presented by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on January 20, 2015 and January 22, 2015, respectively. The Board understands the proposed management actions to be as follows:

- Establish a Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area (MCBCCA), based on collared Bathurst Caribou locations and additional information from surveys, to protect the remaining core of the Bathurst Caribou herd for the 2014-2015 harvest season;
- Monitor the MCBCCA by using the most recent collar locations and periodic aerial reconnaissance surveys to update the boundary and location accordingly;
- Provide the weekly updated MCBCCA boundary and location to Aboriginal governments and wildlife management boards;
- Harvest of caribou will not be permitted within the MCBCCA;
- Harvest of a limited number of Bathurst Caribou bulls, up to a maximum of 15, may be considered within the MCBCCA for ceremonial purposes with the submission of a written proposal by an Aboriginal government with traditional harvesting rights for the Bathurst Caribou herd; and
- Require authorization cards, outside of the MCBCCA, for harvest within zones R/BC/01, R/BC/02, and R/BC/03. Harvest limits within the zones are still under discussion.

It is also understood that there is overall support for the MCBCCA approach by the Aboriginal governments, including the Tłı̨chǫ Government.

The WRRB has a mandate for wildlife, plant and forest management in Wek'èezhìi and adheres to the principles and practices of conservation in fulfilling its duties. As such, given the information provided in the GNWT management proposal and presentation, the WRRB supports the establishment of the proposed Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area through wildlife regulations and the amendments to the Big Game Hunting Regulations to require authorization cards for harvest within R/BC/01, R/BC/02, and R/BC/03 (Motion #307-22-01-2015).

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The Board would like to stress the importance of educating Tłıchq communities and all NWT citizens on the new MCBCCA and its associated regulations. In addition to community workshops, the WRRB recommends using radio/television and social media to distribute a clear, concise, and consistent message about the mobile zone, including the weekly updates, and the need for authorization cards.

The WRRB wishes to continue working collaboratively with the GNWT and the Tłıchq Government on this important file. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jsnortland@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,



J. Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair

Cc Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister
Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife
Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Tłıchq Government

Laura Duncan, Tłıchq Executive Officer
Tłıchq Government

Sjoerd van der Wielen, Manager of Lands
Culture & Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government