

## SCHEDULE "A"

### Chronology of Consultation Bathurst & Bluenose East Caribou 2014-2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
August 27, 2014	An in-person meeting was held with affected Aboriginal political leaders and co-management boards to discuss potential management actions for both the Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou herds.	Establishment of a technical working group to review information available on the herds and provide recommendations to leaders on management actions for the herds.
October 9-10, 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting	Development of an initial set of management actions.
October 22-23, 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting	Meeting focused on refining the list of possible actions and agreeing upon a package of recommended actions and their implementation for the leader's meeting
November 5, 2014	Letter from ACCWM to Minister Miltenberger	BNE Caribou Herd Recommendations
November 7, 2014	Second meeting with Aboriginal political leaders and co-management boards to discuss potential management actions for both the Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou herds.	Draft recommendations on management actions for the two caribou herds
November 17, 2014	Letter from Grand Chief Erasmus to Minister Miltenberger	Tłįcho position on caribou management and herd recovery
November 19, 2014	Letter from ACCWM to Minister Miltenberger	ACCWM's position on emergency measures
November 19, 2014	Letter from SRRB to Minister Miltenberger	SRRB input on management actions related to Bathurst & BNE caribou herds
November 28, 2014	Third meeting with Aboriginal political leaders and co-management boards to discuss potential management actions for both the Bluenose-East and	Agreement in principle on multiple actions for the caribou herds, but no specific agreement on Aboriginal

	Bathurst caribou herds.	harvest from the two herds.
December 2 & 5 2014	Meetings between Deputy Minister Campbell and other ENR officials & Chief Betsina and Chief Sangris	Meeting to discuss the status and potential management actions on the BNE & Bathurst herds
December 4, 2014	Letter from ACCWM to Minister Miltenberger	Request to remove the BNE discussions from the continued caribou meetings
December 5, 2014	Meeting between Deputy Minister Campbell and other ENR officials & Grand Chief Erasmus of the Tłjcho Government	Meeting intended to keep the dialogue open between the GNWT & Tłjcho Government in order to explore possible solutions to minimize hardship on Tłjcho citizens as a result of conservation measures contemplated on the Bathurst herd
December 12, 2014	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell to Chief Betsina & Chief Sangris	Follow up to the December 2 & 5 meetings
December 12, 2014	Letter from Minister Miltenberger to Grand Chief Erasmus	Confirmation of proposals for management for the Bathurst & BNE caribou herds for the winter of 2014-2015
December 15, 2014	Meeting between Deputy Minister Campbell and other ENR officials & President Enge of the NSMA	Discussion on proposals for management for the Bathurst & BNE caribou herds for the winter of 2014-2015
December 15, 2014	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell and to President Enge of the NSMA	Follow up to meetings & providing proposal for overall management of the Bathurst BNE harvest for winter 2014-2015
December 16, 2014	Letter to all Aboriginal Leaders	Follow up to meetings & providing proposal for overall management of the Bathurst BNE harvest for winter 2014-2015
December 17, 2014	Letter to ACCWM	Proposal for overall management of the BNE harvest for winter 2014-2015 & seeking advice of the ACCWM to refine & improve the approach

December 18, 2014	Letter to All Aboriginal Leaders	Advance Copy of Minister's Press Release updating on management actions for the Bathurst & BNE caribou herds
December 18, 2014	Letter to Deputy Minister Campbell from Chief Sangris & Chief Betsina of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Support for management actions on Bathurst caribou herd
December 22, 2014	Letter from President Enge of the NSMA to Deputy Minister Campbell	NSMA position on management proposal for Bathurst & BNE caribou herds
December 22, 2014	ENR Officials Meeting with Michael Cheeks, CEO of YKDFN & Rachel Crapeau, Director of Lands with YKDFN	Follow up on Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Zone and issues relating to a community hunt
January 9, 2015	Letter from ACCWM	Provided a recommendation on harvest target of 1800 BNE caribou for the 2014-2015 harvest season, including an 80:20 bull-cow ration
January 13, 2015	Meeting between Deputy Minister Campbell & Chief Betsina & Chief Sangris	Continued Follow up meeting on Bathurst & BNE management actions
January 14, 2015	Meeting between Deputy Minister Campbell & Grand Chief of Tłjcho	Continued Follow up meeting on Bathurst & BNE management actions
January 20, 2015	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell to Chief Sangris & Chief Betsina	Follow up to December and January meetings
January 20, 2015	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell to Grand Chief Erasmus	Follow up to December and January meetings
January 20, 2015	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell to President Enge	Follow up to NSMA's December 22, 2014 letter
January 20, 2015	Letter to All Aboriginal Governments	Progress update on short term management actions for the Bathurst & BNE for the balance of the 2014-2015 harvest season
January 20, 2015	Letter to WRRB & Management Proposal for Bathurst	Submission of Management Proposal on Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Zone
January 21, 2015	Letter from Minister Miltenberger to the ACCWM	Accepted ACCWM recommendation & requested input on allocation of harvest

		authorizations
January 23, 2015	Letter from WRRB to Minister Miltenberger	WRRB Support for the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Zone and corresponding amendments to the regulations
January 26, 2015	Letter from ACCWM to Minister Miltenberger	Confirmation of the ACCWM's support of ENR's proposal & request for draft regulations to review. Suggested meeting on the issue of allocation
January 23, 2015	Letter from Grand Chief Erasmus to Deputy Minister Campbell	Clarification Letter
January 27 , 2015	Email from Director of Wildlife to all ACCWM Members	Provided a draft of proposed amendments to the Big Game Hunting Regulations and the Mobile Core Conservation Area regulation
January 26, 2015	Letter from NSMA to Deputy Minister Campbell	NSMA support for Mobile Core Bathurst Conservation Area & support for the BNE harvest target and bull only harvest
January 28, 2015	Letter from Deputy Minister Campbell to ACCWM	Invitation to conference call on allocation on February 2, 2015
January 28, 2015	Press Release from Minister Miltenberger	Update on management actions & consensus points
January 29, 2015	Email from ACCWM	Identified additional participants for the conference call and provided a copy of the 2009 draft allocation
January 29 & 30, 2015	Assistant Deputy Minister Bird attended the Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou meeting	Provided participants with an overview of the request for feedback on the issues to be considered regarding harvest allocations
January 31, 2015	Letter received from SRRB & Délı̨ne First Nation	Identified 7 points of consensus from the <i>Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou meeting</i>
February 2, 2015	Conference Call with Aboriginal organizations and co-management board	Consultation on options for allocation of the BNE for the remainder of the 2014-2015 harvest season

February 5, 2015	Letter from President Enge of the NSMA to Deputy Minister Campbell	Rationale for NSMA's request for 100 BNE caribou
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## Bathurst and Bluenose East caribou: status and next steps

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Tree of Peace Friendship Centre  
9am – 5pm

### 1. Opening Prayer (*Chief Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Dettah*)

### 2. Introductions

<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Honourable Michael Miltenberger	Government of the Northwest Territories, Minister of ENR
Ernie Campbell	Deputy Minister, ENR
Jack Bird	Assistant Deputy Minister, ENR
Fred Mandeville	Superintendent, North Slave region, ENR
Lynda Yonge	Director, Wildlife Division, ENR
Bruno Croft	Manager, Research and Monitoring, North Slave region, ENR
Jan Adamczewski	Biologist, Wildlife Division, ENR
Christine Glowach	Policy and Legislation, ENR
Michelle Henderson	Species at Risk Coordinator, ENR
Judy McLinton	Public Affairs and Communications Manager, ENR
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Chief David Wedawin	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Chief Alfonz Nitsiza	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Chief Clifford Daniels	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Chief Johnny Arrowmaker	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Joe Rabesca	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Charlie Apples	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Gordon Judas	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Charlie Nitsiza	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Kerri Garner	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Jody Snortland Pellissey	Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board
Boyan Tracz	Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board
Chief Roy Fabian	Katlo'deeche First Nation
Peter Redvers	Katlo'deeche First Nation
Carolyn Lennie	Gwich'in Tribal Council
Chief Leonard Kenny	Deline First Nation
Deborah Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Matt Hoover	North Slave Métis Alliance
Chief Felix Lockhart	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Antoine Michel	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Emily Saunders	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
George Marlowe	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Ed Sangris	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Shannon Gault	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Todd Slack	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Steve Baryluk	Inuvialuit Game Council
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
President Garry Bailey	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Ken Hudson	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Cochise Paulette	Smith's Landing First Nation
Magliore Paulette	Smith's Landing First Nation
Diane Benwell	Smith's Landing First Nation
Agnes Cheezie	Smith's Landing First Nation
Robert Sayine	Deninu Kue First Nation
Brad Laviolette	Salt River First Nation
Warren Sikyea	Salt River First Nation
Karla Letto	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (teleconference) (AM only)

### 3. **Minister's welcome**

*Minister Miltenberger welcomed and thanked everyone for making time to attend this emergency political leaders meeting.*

*Two caribou herds – the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds - are in serious decline. ENR thought the Bathurst herd had stabilized from 2009-2012, but new information suggests it has continued to decline from 2012 to 2014, and the numbers are getting dangerously low. The Bathurst numbers have gone from an estimated 450,000+ to about 32,000-35,000 animals since 1986. The Bluenose-East herd has declined from over 100,000 to about 68,000 in 2013 and a 2014 survey indicates the decline has continued. These trends are critical indicators.*

*There is currently no other forum to discuss this topic that includes all parties with an interest in the two herds and to decide what we need to do as leaders to help preserve the herds. This is a conservation issue for us today and for the future.*

*The task today is to review the information and discuss next steps for:*

- 1. The short-term (interim actions before hunting season: November 1 deadline).*
- 2. The long-term (planning beyond interim actions).*

### 4. **Overview of BNE and Bathurst trends** (led by Jan Adamczewski, Ungulate Biologist, ENR)

*Jan provided a description and explanation of reconnaissance survey methodology and benefits/drawbacks of this type of survey. Recon surveys do not provide precise population estimates but have tracked population trend reliably in the past.*

#### Review of trends:

Based on the results of recon surveys and calving photo surveys completed in 2006-2012, the Bathurst herd declined rapidly 2006-2009 and was considered stable from 2009-2012.

The results from the 2013 Bathurst herd recon survey may not be truly representative of trends, due to difficult weather conditions during the survey period. This year's 2014 recon survey did not have any weather issues, and was considered a successful survey. The numbers are significantly lower than expected.

The results from the 2014 Bluenose-East recon survey suggest that a declining trend from 2010 to 2013 has continued to 2014 and may be accelerating. In 2013, this trend was considered a major concern.

#### Factors that drive declines:

The simple biological equation is: Number of caribou born vs. Number of caribou dying

Typical indicators during a decline are: low adult survival, reduced pregnancy, and reduced calf recruitment. Predation, fires, and weather in all seasons also affect caribou population trend. Harvest can become a significant part of a decline if it is large in relation to the size of the herd, and particularly if the harvest is mostly breeding females.

ENR's information on both these herds suggests that the herds have had lower calf numbers and lower pregnancy rates in recent years. An adequate cow survival rate is crucial for a herd

to be stable or increasing. A cow survival rate of 80-85% is the minimum needed for a stable herd, but the most recent data show cow survival rates below 80% (73-78%) in the two herds. This suggests both herds would be declining with no harvest at all.

Harvest of the Bluenose-East herd has increased since harvest of the Bathurst herd was restricted in 2010. The Bathurst herd decline is surprising to ENR biologists. Low survival, productivity, plus harvest (although low), are thought to be contributing to that decline.

5. **Lunch**

6. **Discussion of next steps**

**Topic 1: Industrial development in NWT**

ENR has not yet consulted with industry about the new caribou information. GNWT's first priority was to share information with the Aboriginal governments, wildlife management authorities and political leadership to discuss ideas and seek solutions together.

ENR recognizes the issue of development and uses programs like Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP), a newly developed cumulative effects framework, processes for environment assessments (EAs), and tools in the new *Wildlife Act*, such as Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans, and will continue to refine and improve its role in these processes to attempt to mitigate impacts to caribou.

A need for range management plans was identified to help inform future decisions about development. A range management plan for the Bathurst herd is already being drafted collaboratively with Aboriginal governments, stakeholders and industry to look at the values on the land. The plan will lay out how land should be used in specific areas.

A point was raised that these above-mentioned mechanisms will not result in protecting the caribou in the short-term. It takes more than just harvesting controls; land controls are needed. CIMP cannot institute controls on land. Land use plans are only going to produce recommendations, which probably already exist. IEMA only makes recommendations and can't impose controls of any kind. In summary, these programs cannot be relied upon to improve the situation the caribou are currently facing.

The industrial footprint on the land and the extent to which development is impacting the herds should be illustrated and provided to Aboriginal governments to assist them with decision-making. Satellite imagery of caribou on the range should also be provided. More detailed information is required before Aboriginal leaders will agree to (further) limit harvest. The graphs shown to the group should show when industry arrived, or should go back as far as 1990 [to see if there is any correlation between declining caribou numbers and an increasing industrial footprint]. Jan Adamczewski displayed ENR's best attempt to encapsulate development on the landscape now.

Trucking and infrastructure disturbance was also mentioned as having a negative impact on caribou. A suggestion was made to put cameras up at the big lakes to monitor caribou behaviour throughout the year in areas where development is happening.

Other information pertaining to mine site responsibilities for wildlife monitoring and mitigation would help inform the group about current measures that are in place. Industry should have monitors year-round at the mine sites.

Developers should sit down with ENR and Aboriginal leaders to talk about what's happening with the caribou. Industry should also be expected to sacrifice something if Aboriginal people are being asked to limit or restrict their harvest. Harvest restrictions should be the last option. Aboriginal governments require comfort that they won't be the only ones to sacrifice so that diamonds and minerals can be mined. Everyone needs to be in this together.

**Action:** ENR was asked to provide detail on actions taken with industry to mitigate effects to caribou.

**Action:** ENR was asked to provide satellite maps of industrial development/exploration/other activities on the caribou calving grounds or along migration routes from 2000-2014.

ENR will be consulting with industry to discuss the population declines in the future.

## **Topic 2: Herd management in Nunavut**

The importance of protecting the calving grounds and migratory routes was emphasized, but given that the calving grounds are in Nunavut, a question was raised about whether GNWT has any agreement with GNU for managing the calving grounds.

Nunavut still issues licences for commercial harvest of caribou. Minister Miltenberger has told Nunavut Minister of Environment that the issuance of commercial licences on caribou is very problematic. Minister Miltenberger will be meeting with Nunavut Minister of Environment again next month to discuss this topic, and hopes to gain traction in engaging Nunavut on this issue. It is apparent that the Government of Nunavut is hearing from communities that the herds are in decline.

It appears that only now GNWT is engaging politically with GNU; however, GNWT and GNU have been working together since Nunavut territory was born in 1999. There is strong opinion that NWT communities are conserving, but Nunavut is not doing its part and appears to have no plan.

Industrial and infrastructure development in Nunavut around the calving grounds is also something to be discussed by both jurisdictions.

## **Topic 3: Sharing information with co-management partners.**

ENR has a lot of supporting information to determine that the herds are in severe decline. The supplementary information has not been given to co-management partners, and is required before the wildlife management boards can begin discussing solutions. The most current information the Boards have is from 2011-12.

ENR noted that the survey results from 2013 have a great deal of additional demographic information contained within the reports. The intent for this meeting was to keep the discussion simple and less-technical.

ENR shared only four slides here for something that is so important to Aboriginal people. Information about this meeting was received only 20 days prior. To be effective co-managers, Aboriginal governments and Boards need access to information before it's ready for public viewing, as governments and Boards are not the general public. Data and information needs to be shared in a timely manner so that technical people are able to do their own analysis prior to coming to these meetings.

GNWT staff hears the message about flowing information, and insists that information is being shared. GNWT is often criticized that information we share is not peer reviewed or finalized, but that's because it's being shared in the spirit of co-management. Survey information takes time to analyze and finalize, but ENR staff who work with co-management partners do share the information back and forth.

ENR Minister stated a clear commitment to the co-management processes, and GNWT has ensured it will continue now after Devolution. As elected leaders, the number one priority is to look out for the best interests of our current and future generations.

**Action:** ENR will send all relevant information to its co-management partners.

#### **Topic 4: Improvement of research methods**

Research methods and equipment should be improved to minimize or eliminate any stress caused to caribou by collars or other methods. A collared caribou was killed last year and the fur on its neck (under the collar) was rubbed off.

ENR recognizes that the collars add weight and do rub some hair off the neck, and that carrying a collar has some costs to the caribou.

ENR has been lobbying the companies who design collars to reduce the weight as much as possible. The lightest weight is 800g. ENR will continue to push the supply companies to provide some in a smaller size. ENR recognizes that the collars have a cost to the caribou, but they are necessary to answer most of the questions that have been asked today. A lot of progress has been made in the past 10-15 years.

#### **Topic 5: Use of traditional knowledge in decision-making**

This group should work towards pooling traditional knowledge prior to making a decision. Some leadership expressed that by including TK that's held within their communities they could more effectively contribute to the discussion, and would be in a better position to make decisions.

The *Department of Environment and Natural Resources Traditional Knowledge Implementation Plan* outlines the principles, responsibilities and commitment to GNWT's traditional knowledge priority areas. Significant amounts of information about various topics, including caribou, come from TK. The Department uses both forms of knowledge and information, and views TK as critical.

#### **Topic 6: Accuracy of data collected**

GNWT must ensure its data is 100% correct because the consequences of the research will have a significant impact on people, and the whole environment.

### **Topic 7: Effects on other big game**

The limitations on harvest of caribou will have negative impacts on other big game populations, which should be considered when discussing management options.

### **Topic 8: Other processes already in place**

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) has been working for a number of years and is made up of co-management boards in NWT and NU. The ACCWM is meeting September 24-26, 2014 to make a final decision on a management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds. Once it's approved, it will be forwarded to the governments and boards for implementation.

### **Topic 9: Other management measures mentioned**

*Management actions were suggested and discussed, including:*

1. Sanctuary (Conservation Area) – This is possible in the new *Wildlife Act*.
2. Wolf management
  - i. Allow wolf harvesting by resident harvesters
  - ii. Encourage people to harvest more wolves opportunistically
3. Fire management
  - i. Fight more fires to protect caribou food.
  - ii. Identify key corridors for caribou that can be identified as values at risk when doing fire risk assessments.
4. Research and monitoring must continue to be done annually (both population surveys and other herd health indicator research)
5. Tag system, rather than voluntary harvest restrictions
6. Bathurst long-term management board
  - i. Groups have been asked to commit someone to participating on this board.
7. Increased enforcement
  - i. Trans-boundary overharvesting
8. Range management plans

## **7. Summary**

*There is a clear consensus that there has been and continues to be a significant decline in the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds. The causes of the declines are unclear. Harvest restrictions on the Bathurst herd have slowed its decline but now it appears to be declining further.*

*There is hesitation about further harvest restrictions without knowing with any certainty the real cause of the decline. There is desire for co-management which should also include industry and Nunavut (or others who contribute to the decline).*

## **8. Draft Communications**

*The group collectively prepared a news release to be released Friday, August 29, 2014.*

## 9. Next Steps

**Action:** GNWT to work with Aboriginal governments and co-management boards to set up a technical working group that will examine and analyze the relevant information to advise leadership on recommended management actions for: the interim, the short-term, and the long-term. Questions asked should be: What management actions should be done, how can they be done, and what do we (individually and collectively) need to do to implement the actions?

The technical working group will include up to two representatives per Aboriginal government for assessment, analysis, management options, past work and past management actions to report back on recommendations and options for political leaders to consider. The group will include: GNWT, Tłıchǫ Government, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Smith's Landing First Nation, Salt River Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, K'atlo'deeche First Nation, Dehcho First Nation, Sahtú Secretariat Inc, and the associated wildlife management authorities.

There was discussion about further meetings and whether the proposed new technical working group should focus primarily on the Bathurst herd or on both herds. The ACCWM and its draft management plan and its meeting in September will be a key focus for further discussion on the Bluenose-East herd. There are also management processes underway for the Bathurst herd (e.g. draft Tłıchǫ-ENR joint management proposal submitted to WRRB in 2014). The two herds overlap substantially in the winter and management will need to consider both herds and shared management zones. Further discussion may be needed as to the focus of planned technical meetings and how to ensure all parties who have an interest in the two herds are engaged.

**REVISED** List of Recommended Actions from Oct. 22-23 2014 Technical Meeting on Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou: ENR Review Nov 5 2014

- There needs to be a package of recommendations, not just harvest restrictions to deal with decline in these herds.
- These are immediate, short-term actions that are being recommended. Along with these immediate actions, there are longer-term commitments that have been or need to be develop through already existing co-management processes and management plans.
- It is assumed that ENR or other relevant government agency will commit funding and capacity support to implement the recommendations.

Item	Herd	Topic	Action	Aboriginal Caucus consensus to accept (Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting)
1	Both	Wolves	Immediately increase the wolf incentive program payment to \$800	Yes
2	Both	Wolves	Reinstitute the carcass collection program with options for whole carcass (\$200 incentive) or just skull and information (\$50 incentive) to enable additional observations on the number of wolves seen in packs to be collected and recorded	Yes
3	Both	Wolves	Form a working group (including hunters) to develop ideas about how to help harvesters increase wolf kills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Group and Terms of Reference to be formed with input from Aboriginal groups</li> </ul>	Yes
4	Both	Wolves	GNWT to work directly with Nunavut's Department of Environment to develop coordinated wolf control programs, informed by the working group and other parties	Yes
5	Both	Wolves	Develop a method to immediately report and record wolf sightings/caribou sightings and interactions	Yes
6	Both	Hunter Education	Organize voluntary "sight in your rifle" events in each community with ENR support this winter and use the opportunity to provide information on the caribou situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach industry for funding for these events.</li> </ul>	Yes
7	Both	Environmental Monitoring	Develop vegetation mapping protocols and partnership agreements to undertake mapping and ground-truthing including establishing and monitoring representative plots	Yes
8	Both	Environmental Monitoring	Undertake a literature review on the potential impacts of insects on caribou and insect control methods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including TK</li> </ul>	Yes
9	Both	Land Use	Support land use planning as a priority for the GNWT Lands Department and recommend consideration of an interim moratorium of development on the Bathurst and BNE range	Yes
10	Both	Overall management, Land Use	GNWT to send a strongly worded letter to the Nunavut Department of Environment and to the NWMB to consider the new information for both herds in the context of potential management actions and for land use planning in Nunavut. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include wording to strongly condemn commercial harvest in Nunavut in light of caribou decline and harvest restrictions for NWT aboriginals.</li> <li>• Request for face to face meeting with Nunavut including aboriginal leadership from both territories</li> </ul>	Yes
11	Both (mostly)	Land Use	Ensure that the Bathurst range planning and cumulative effects management program reports on goals and efforts to date public before March 31, 2015	Yes

	Bathurst)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide list of commitments and milestones for this program</li> </ul>	
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Item	Herd	Topic	Action	
12	Bluenose-East	Overall management	Proceed through ACCWM process while implementing local actions (support bull only-take less)	Yes
12A	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	ACCWM recommendations in letter to ENR re Bluenose-East mgmt. Nov 5 2014, include: Mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on TAH accepted by ACCWM (resolve how this will be addressed with non-claimant groups); Prioritize collection of harvest information; No resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; Majority bulls harvest, emphasizing young/small bulls, not big breeders; Recommend harvest of alternate species, encourage sharing and barter of traditional foods; Yes Increased enforcement, including community monitors	Yes
12B	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	Address Bluenose-East harvest in Nunavut	Yes
13	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	Provide funding and ENR personnel support to groups for immediate development of communication tools to promote reducing Bluenose-East harvest, preferential taking of bulls, elimination of wastage, avoidance of losses due to wounding, harvesting of alternative meat sources (e.g., muskox, moose) and respect for caribou. Media include radio, newspapers, posters and other collaborative messaging approaches to target both local communities and the broader audience	Yes
14	Bluenose-East	Harvest & Other Mgt	Additional funding support to ACCWM to develop an action plan for the Bluenose-East herd under the Management Plan	Yes
15	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	Encourage leadership to continue and increase meetings and activities in the communities and on the land to encourage responsible harvesting practices.	Yes
16	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	No more hauling caribou meat by plane in the winter or by trucks	No
17	Bluenose-East	Harvest Management	Legislated closure of winter truck hunting where possible and appropriate	No

Item	Herd	Topic	Action	
18	Bathurst	Harvest Management	Legislated closure of RBC02 and RBC03 to caribou harvest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for harvest for ceremonial purposes.</li> </ul>	No
19	Bathurst	Harvest Management	Leadership of all organizations to clearly support the decision to close harvesting of the Bathurst herd as part of an overall agreement to conserve both herds	N/A*
20	Bathurst	Harvest Management	Implement a broad communications strategy (including winter road signage) upon closure	N/A
21	Bathurst	Harvest Management	Establish subzones in R/BC/01, S/BC/03 and U/BC/01 to halt caribou harvest when Bathurst caribou are outside Zone R/BC/02 and R/BC/02	N/A

22	Bathurst	Harvest Management	Immediately establish a working group to develop the rules for emergency closures of those areas	N/A
23	Bathurst	Predation Study	Conduct further studies to determine the impacts of barren ground grizzly predation on caribou	N/A
24	Bathurst	Long-Term Panning	Continue and accelerate the long term planning process for the Bathurst herd and finalize terms of reference for a Bathurst caribou management board as soon as possible	N/A
25	Bathurst	Fire Mgmt Winter Range	Establish a working group to identify key caribou habitat for priority firefighting in 2015	N/A

\*The Aboriginal Caucus did not have enough time to discuss items 19 to 25 during the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bathurst and Bluenose East Caribou Meeting  
November 28, 2014 Explorer Hotel

Participants

Abel, Gilbert	YKDFN	Lam, Jen	IGC
Abel, Noel	YKDFN	Latour, Paul	SRRB
Adamczewski, Jan	ENR	Lockhart, Felix	LKDFN
Arrowmaker, Chief Johnny	Tlich	Mackenzie, Napoleon	YKDFN
Bailey, Garry	NWTMN	Marlowe, George	LKDFN
Ballairgon, Alfred	Tlich	Martel, Pat	Katlodeeche
Bekale, Gary T	Tlich	McKay, Henry	DKFN
Betsina, Ernest	YKDFN	Michel, Antoine	LKDFN
Bezha, Walter	DFN	Miltenberger, Minister	Michael
Bishop, Noel	Tlich	Nitsiza, Chief Alphonz	Tlich
Campbell, Ernie	ENR	Nitsiza, George	Tlich
Carpenter, Larry	WMAC	Norwegian, Herb Chief	Dehcho
Catholique, Archie	LKDFN	Pascal, Eugene	GTC
Clifford, Chief Daniels	Tlich	Paulette, Cochise	SLFN
Cluff, Dean	ENR	Paulette, Magloire	SLFN
Croft, Bruno	ENR	Paulette, Thaidene	SLFN
Dillon, Jimmy	SRRB	Pellissey, Jody	WRRB
Dumond, Mathieu	Nunavut	Pokiak, Frank	IGC
Enge, Arnold	NSMA	Poole, Stephanie	LKDFN
Enge, Bill	NSMA	Pryznyk, Grant	WRRB
Erasmus, Chief Edward	Tlich	Sangris, Edward	YKDFN
Evans, Earl	NWTMN	Sangris, Jonas	YKDFN
Gault, Shannon	YKDFN	Shaeffer, Ron	SRFN
Gon, Henry	Tlich	Simmons, Deb	SRRB
Hadlari, Attima	Nunavut	Snowshoe, Norman	GTC
Jacobsen, Petter	Tlich	Tollis, Mike	LKDFN
Judas, Joseph	Tlich	Unger, Peter	Lutsel K'e WLED
Kenny, Leonard	DFN	van der Wielen, Sjoerd	Tlich
Lafferty, Frank	DKFN	Wedawin, Chief David	Tlich
Lafferty, Tori	DKFN	Wetrade, Archie	WRRB
LaFleur, Wilfred	Katlodeeche	Yonge, Lynda	ENR
		Zoe, John B	Tlich
		Zoe, Sonny	Tlich

Opening Prayer: Alfred Ballairgon

Chaired by: Walter Bezha

Referred to meeting protocols. So many people from different regions. Respectful listening. No talking to the media. It is up to each region but don't talk for everybody here. We have a lot of people, try to think about getting points across and be brief. We never seem to finish our agenda, let's try to do that today.

There are some handouts. Related to the press, protocol, it has been recommended that near the end of the meeting there be an aboriginal caucus to talk about a joint press release and the next steps of the caucus.

### Opening Remarks

Minister Miltenberger: Collectively gather for our 5<sup>th</sup> meeting counting the technical meetings to discuss protection and survival of the Bathurst and Bluenose East herds. As we start these discussions, we left off last time with the harvest of the Bluenose East and hopefully can conclude that and the Bathurst. An observation, around the world species of animals are going extinct at an alarming rate. As we look at the Bathurst and Bluenose we know there are other herds in trouble as well. In the far north of our territory in Nunavut we leave the Leaf and George River herds were massive like the Bathurst that have collapsed. The issue is what do we need to do to ensure caribou are here for our grandchildren and great grandchildren. I have heard reference to the term the heavy hand of government. I want to make a clear observation that it is not just the GNWT here as a government, the rest of you are here as stakeholders. We are all around here as governments. Our task is to govern and make the right choices. Would like to quickly touch on wildlife management. We have two examples. Look over to the Porcupine caribou herd plan accepted and in place, thresholds and processes are clear. When the numbers are in the wildlife management people do their job. At the other end have places where there is no plan where we have the least favourable way to do wildlife management, which is get a room full of politicians at the table making difficult wildlife decisions as politicians. When politicians by definition tend to be hard decision adverse we don't like making hard decisions to tell our constituents. Puts the emphasis on the need for plans for the Bluenose East and Bathurst. We as governments are in a risk management business and today have to step up and come to an agreement of what we are going to do here. I have heard and seen some of the discussion about the numbers. Comes to mind the outfitters' defence. Years ago we took away tags from the outfitters. All they could do was try to discredit the numbers. We are well past that. Can't pick and choose numbers when it suits us. Have to look at all the numbers, full scale assessments, surveys, /trend analysis, cow/calf ratios, all those come together to tell us the herds are in big trouble. I hope we don't end up having a discussion about the outfitters' defence where we are going to haggle over the numbers, the science and the traditional knowledge that tells us the herds are in trouble. If we use the Porcupine caribou plan as a guide we would not be around this table. It would tell us that there is an allowable harvest for the Bluenose East because the numbers are so low. I would with the Bathurst. The numbers are so low there should be no harvest, but we don't have that plan so here we are. This is taking an enormous amount of time and three hundred thousand dollars so far for these meetings. At a time when we have a list of things we want to do to put money to. By the end of today we need interim emergency measures that are going to bridge us to a plan for the Bluenose East coming into effect and a plan for the Bathurst that is agreed to. I look forward to discussion and a report from the aboriginal caucus.

Walter Bezha: Add a bit as welcoming remarks from us as aboriginal people. This is a long process and a lot of people involved and I appreciate us working towards some kind of consensus today. One of the things that always comes out with aboriginal people is (language) – speaks for itself. Working towards some decision we can all live with. If you listen carefully every time an aboriginal people speaks they say I am Dene.

### November 27 Aboriginal Caucus Summary (Slide Presentation Attached)

Walter Bezha: This is an effort to reflect the discussion yesterday. You see that caribou on there. It is telling us to get off their land. Get into the summary of yesterday's aboriginal caucus. We always have the regional perspectives. This is the common vision, the big one, your children tomorrow. Those things count. Those things are what we made decisions for. Not only us, people who hunt and everybody out there who calls themselves stewards. Package of recommendations. That goes well with my own language.

Go through the highlights (red). Catches the common decision.

Collaborative, in my language, means we are talking together. This is for both herds. Always remember that, and probably other herds as well. Assume the GNWT and Nunavut will commit funding and capacity to implement the broad range of recommendations. To remind everybody the cost is a reality. Here is one that took a long time to agree on. Some can read it. The Aboriginal caucus does not believe that emergency measures to further restrict aboriginal harvest is required at this time for either Bluenose East or Bathurst herds; the caucus agreed to revisit harvest limits once a photo survey of both herds is complete in 2015. The second key message: Development is one of the key drivers of the decline of caribou that is not being managed appropriately at this time. These are really broad messages that came out of the caucus. I want to make sure we cover off things. In each area these things mean different things, so many regions. Some areas have land claims, some areas have boards, some don't.

Deb Simmons: Those six items listed earlier are again being approached for both herds. When we were going over the recommended actions that everyone agreed to we realized in fact there was a common approach for both the herds. All of the actions we are talking about are common to both herds. What we are presenting now is organized differently than what you saw in that table. Reflecting the meaning of the discussion at the caucus sessions on November 7 and yesterday. We wanted to ensure that this was a broad ranging package of recommendations. A much more proportional perspective among the balance of the different kinds of actions recommended by the caucus. The table that was originally presented - it was felt did not reflect that.

Land use: There were strong messages that land use planning should be an immediate priority and take place quickly as possible. Consensus around the room that a moratorium on development in key habitat should be implemented

Considerable discussion about building strong relationships with the Nunavut government, in both management planning, land use planning and addressing concerns around the commercial harvesting. Hope is to have a face to face meeting to include aboriginal leaders and wildlife management authorities.

Also important discussion about the role of range management planning and the challenges and opportunities provided by working in a concerted way on cumulative effects and understanding what effective management of cumulative effects might look like. A time line was put on that for March 31 to have a first report on progress. The reason for that timeline was to signal this is a priority area of action.

Earl Evans: The March 15<sup>th</sup> date to put a range plan in place is not realistic.

Deb Simmons: The YK Dene might want to speak to that. As I understand it the idea is to have a timeline for the first report on progress, not the full plan.

Long term management and action planning: In terms of the long term processes the group considered should be supported to continue and be high priorities. Included the establishment of a wildlife management board as soon as possible. The continuation of the ACCWM's process which at the moment is in the action planning phase. The action planning is going to prioritize the Bluenose East herd. That process is now underway and we are trying to get started on that.

Jody Pellissey: Further to the first point, Bathurst caribou management board, a draft terms of reference has been distributed earlier this week to kick start that process.

Deb Simmons: Considerable discussion about the effects of fire and assume those effects will be experienced this winter. Priority placed on establishing a working group to come to some consensus on fire management for next summer.

Environmental monitoring: Everyone agreed environmental monitoring is very important. A strong push for vegetation mapping and monitoring and development protocols that could lead to quality work and that that process should be collaborative and involve partnerships among agencies responsible.

People noted concerns about possible impacts of insects. There was a proposal to conduct scientific and traditional literature review so we could understand what actions need to be taken to address that impact.

Education and communication: Was understood to be a strong priority within communities. There were a variety of ideas about the kinds of ideas for work that could be done. Common theme is the approach should be collaborative. So, for example, using the language and concepts of communities so learning is effective. Ideas that seem to have worked in the past included voluntary sight-your-rifle events, development of communication tools, develop and promote stewardship and protocols for respectful harvesting and reducing harvesting that could be governed within the communities. To continue and increase activities and meetings in the communities and also out on the land so there is experience with encouragement of responsible harvesting practices. A practice in action among the generations.

Predator control: There was considerable discussion about the role of predator control in supporting recovery of the herds. There were four main items the group agreed to: increase wolf incentive program payment to \$800; reinstitute the carcass collection process for monitoring health and various aspects of the wolf biology; have a working group focusing on wolf control and developing an effective approach. Should include representation from the aboriginal groups. This program coordinated with Nunavut. There was a suggestion a method be developed so reporting of wolf sightings and caribou sightings and interactions between wolves and caribou can be documented and monitored.

Harvest management: The group agreed to maintain the status quo for subsistence harvest limits for both herds considering the key message presented earlier. The group wishes to revisit the harvest limit in 2015 after the photo survey. All supported the idea of harvest monitoring and finding ways to understand the role of harvesting and stewardship of the herd. Agreed the banning of resident and outfitter commercial harvest should be considered. Also agreed the majority bulls harvest should be promoted and emphasized, protecting the big breeders so important to maintenance of the herds. A

strong push that alternate species should be promoted. Some of the traditional ways of surviving on the land when caribou are not around should be developed and promoted with youth and others. Agreed to increased enforcement so that harvesting is maintained according to the protocols agreed to. A strong role for community monitors, community governance and enforcement processes is important.

Earl Evans: We didn't agree to the status quo. Don't think Salt River or Smith Landing did either.

Deb Simmons: As I understood it there was no consensus around the no harvest on the Bathurst herd. That the group did not come to an agreement on that recommendation from the technical working group – no harvest?

Eddie Sangris: We went away from the meeting knowing we did not agree on a harvesting ban last night. We did not have any discussion on enforcement. We said we need to have more community monitors out there in collaboration with ENR. That was my understanding. That is what we understood by making the last bullet points.

Deb Simmons: One possibility for dealing with this is we hold on that thought and have roundtable discussion. Agreed

Chief Clifford Daniels: Want to add in the calving area we have been told stories on different areas. There should be programs to protect the new born because they are vulnerable during that time until they become strong enough to keep up. Just wanted to include this because it is important. Creating a sanctuary. Somehow during calving time a program to protect the new small caribou.

Walter Bezha: These are things you can think about. It is going to be hard to come out with consensus for everything. We can sort them out internally. These are the main items here so let's leave it that way. Each region has different ways of doing things. Let's get to the regional perspective. Reminded of my own protocols.

### Regional Perspectives

Deb Simmons: Just to note what we are suggesting as part of the process is that we take notes on the key regional messages so we don't miss some of that detail. By putting it up on the screen you will see what we are hearing and correct mistakes.

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: When we opened with the introduction it went this way. For the first time I thought I get a chance to speak last. We will make our comments later.

Chief Felix Lockhart: Relax and get into this meaningful talk about caribou. I think later on this afternoon we have to come to some type of consensus. So far all of our questions have been harvest focused. I brought some Elders and negotiators and people involved with caribou, our relatives, ancestors. There is a lot of history in our area. We are looking at the management regime with the federal government and in a lot of ways there are a lot of unilateral decisions coming down. When we have always been listening to governments talk about harvest the herds continue to go down. We will see continuous decline. We have seen it. For myself personally there was a lot of caribou in the past and other activities happening – management boards, the Beverly and Kaminguark management board. At that time the population was healthy. Nobody was really concerned about harvesting. Just recently we are told by the biologists, ENR, that the numbers are down. Particularly now concentrating on the

Bathurst and Bluenose East. I think that is why we have to be taken seriously as aboriginal harvesters. To be able to address other conditions and approaches other than usual counting of the caribou by planes, choppers hovering over the calving areas. A strong disturbance to the caribou. We just let it go by, once in a while involved in the caribou count. Then we talked about it yesterday as a method of recon or comprehensive, pros and cons of that. When we go through the talks today I wanted to use this as an introduction for our area. In our areas there is the Beverly and now other people up in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are also utilizing that herd along with the Kamingurak. We had good discussions yesterday. We cannot agree on everything. We want to get away from the aspect of only ourselves being targeted. We have gone through enough. It is important to discuss the factors put forth by the mines, roads, development. I know there are laws in place from government in relationship to that but again those were discussed between the government and settlement areas. For Akaitcho and the Dehcho there are unsettled areas. We are very interested in what goes on in our area. Were there long before government laws. Important that we do have full participation in whatever happens here. I am looking forward to what the Tlicho put forth. It is important that the minimum would be we have a partnership. The Minister addressed that this morning, us as governments. That is probably a good approach but we will know later if that is the case. We can't live with continuous unilateral decisions of a government to tell us what to do. That is not a go. It is important that we all have a say and then continue discussions. There is a lot of detail to go through. We had a good meeting yesterday and brought those forward. It is a good start.

Chief Ernest Betsina: Some of our members are going to court over caribou. We are not going to back down. We are going to fight GNWT on these caribou. They charged members last year and we will fight all the way. We appreciate support of the First Nations. Another recommendation that has been talked about is to set up an Elders' committee to give us advice on the caribou. We Dene listen to our Elders. They have been around longer than us. Want to recommend an Elders' committee to give advice on caribou. Also to protect the calving grounds. The predators are eating the calves. The wolves, grizzlies, would like to emphasize to protect the calving grounds. Industry has to listen to us. When the caribou start moving towards the mines the mines should respect us when we say to industry to slow down or to stop production so no activities would happen around the mines so the caribou can move freely with least disturbance when they are migrating. Those are the key areas I wanted to mention.

Chief Eddie Sangris: We as Dene people, if we see a problem we have to discuss among ourselves on how to resolve the problem and try to work it out. We have not settled. Puts us in a difficult position to mitigate these problems when we don't have arrangements with Canada and the GNWT. From what I have heard since November 7 there is mentality there we have to conserve the caribou. No question about it. One thing that we haven't heard much is that we as Dene have to stress our treaty rights. We will never be prevented from pursuing our way of life, tradition and culture. Our Elders are stressing that. We have discussions on caribou in our community, the Elders said whose fault is it that the caribou is declining. Is it our fault that we haven't passed on the tradition of respect to the wildlife; did we allow other people to encroach on our land and take our resources or do we need to have more discussion on how that right from the beginning we should have discussed the future years of mining? Nobody thought about it when there were lots of caribou. We didn't stress that to industry. Nothing on the table about how industry can make compromises. The cumulative effects is believed as one of the major factors as to why caribou are not migrating as they used to. TK has not been included in these discussions. If we want a package deal today there was a lot of consensus around land use planning, monitoring, long and short term planning. Does this mean now governments and industry are putting their ideas on the table and not listening to the Dene and what we as First Nations want to do, going to do. Need to ensure YK Dene sacrifices are not wasted. We have made sacrifices with limited harvesting.

What we need is a written agreement, certainty. We need some discussion on the winter roads. We need discussion on conservation. Those things that have not been discussed. Don't want to sit here today and come away with agreements knowing our people are going to suffer further. We need to establish understanding between us. We said we don't believe the numbers that ENR put on the table. We said status quo until the count in 2015. Only four months away, May and June. Dread to think about how our Elders will go through another winter. We tried to tell ENR to fill our freezer so people don't have to go hunting as much. That has not occurred. Our members back home ask every day to if are we going to have meat for Christmas. It is discouraging to say we quit, no caribou meat. Cut the word quit out of the dictionary but the problem will not go away. We need some answers based on our treaty, based on availability, based on other government or people, or industry, to change their ways. We have done all we can. We were allocated 150 with no monitoring system in place. The total harvest for last year was 67. We originally went after 300 at the beginning of 2012. Other groups said what about us. The critical issue is in our traditional territory. We have made the most sacrifices. There are caribou in other groups' areas they can harvest. I appreciate the support. If you are going to sit here and say no hunting, our Elders/members, we need to stress our treaty rights. I cannot turn my back on our treaty rights that have been with us since time immemorial. I hope we can come away with consensus and look at the long term management and see how we can have it worked out. Other factors have to be considered, like industry, in participation of these plans.

Attima Hadlari: Am sorry to turn my back against the Elders, my apology. For the Kitikmeot regional wildlife board we are concerned with the two herds we hunt in Nunavut, only the Bathurst herd is mostly hunted at Bathurst Inlet and no one living there now. Very little impact on this from the Nunavut side. They do the sport hunt annually but maybe 20 caribou every year from that herd. With the Bluenose herd there is one community takes part in hunting, Kugluktuk. Right now the herd is far from the community so there is very little impact from that community. The communities put a limitation on their hunt on that herd. Trying to do subsistence in that area. As well with the Elders committee that was mentioned, in Nunavut we have an Elders' committee that reports to the Minister of Environment. That committee of Elders reports to the Minister on policy and any wildlife environment issues that they are concerned with. I am surprised there is no similar thing here in the NWT. It would be great if there is an Elders' committee reporting to the Minister. It makes a difference for everyone. It would be nice to see that in the future. Also, we Inuit don't have license to hunt, not even general hunting. Under the land claim agreement Inuit can hunt without a license. We still have a wildlife board as well as the Inuit associations take part in that. With a very limited population in Nunavut one guy can have many hats, I am one of them. I am representing the Inuit of Nunavut. Here as a Kitikmeot regional wildlife board chair. These are important discussions today. I don't think this should be the end of the meetings, should be continued for a couple of years to discuss what is best for everyone. This is huge. We have to look at it carefully and make a quick decision for everybody in Nunavut and the NWT.

Mathieu Demond: Wanted to comment on a few things mentioned from the caucus. Want to stress that despite some criticism over Nunavut management for the two herds there has been over the past decade and since the decline of the herds some action taken in Nunavut to help with management of the herds and having healthy caribou populations. Those actions are community based and the work between the GN and co-management partners including the KWB and HTOs. Many consultations and some action implemented to help reduce harvest, improving hunting techniques and practices. Maybe our biggest mistake was to not communicate enough about those actions. For example for the Bluenose East herd they have taken action at the community level including shifting organized community hunts towards muskox. They have banned sport hunting for Kugluktuk on the Bluenose East herd. Want to mention also the harvest on the Bathurst herd from the Nunavut side is limited. We still do have sport

hunts, this is something the government has been discussing. Under the Nunavut land claim agreement establishing a TH at this time the government is not supporting a TH of zero on the Bathurst herd. Any establishment of TH would not support sport hunts. The number is very limited, less than 100 animals taken from the Nunavut side on the Bathurst herd. On the Bluenose herd, due to the action at the community level and winter distribution of the herd the harvest has been reduced over the past decade. Regarding land use I want to remind people that the GN does have a position against development in the calving ground. The final decision on land use does not rest with government and there is a whole process identified under the land claim agreement where land use for the territorial government, we don't have the last say. We are exploring other options that could be legally viable to protect some of the key areas. No solution yet to establish those. The government support those discussions and working together to find solutions that are viable, recognizing the situation and the legal framework of each jurisdiction.

Norman Snowshoe: Gwich'in support any initiative to preserve caribou, especially when you have numbers that say the population is low. We have a lot of experience with the Porcupine and Bluenose caribou. We have multi users. The herd is located in Alaska, Yukon and NWT. It is an international herd with many user parties at the table. Have to find some way to address all user's concerns. Land claim groups, co management regimes and non-settled areas. In the Porcupine caribou herd they came up with an agreement signed by all the users, the Porcupine caribou management agreement. This agreement is a powerful document, takes precedence over our land claim agreement. The agreement includes wording that all harvesting of the Porcupine would be in accordance with the Porcupine caribou management agreement. Our land claim agreement is based on our right to resources and lands. Also at the insistence of the Elders at the time there is a conservation principle included in the agreement. We have the right to harvest but if that species disappears so do those rights. When we talked about the Porcupine herd we had Alaska, Yukon and the NWT at the table talking about rights. The Porcupine calving grounds is located in Alaska. There are a lot of oil and gas reserves in that area. Have for many years lobbied not to allow development in that area. We had some principles from yesterday's meetings. I thought we agreed to what was put on the board, today find out people disagreed to that. Today is important to work on this. The recommendation I would make is to prioritize the principles from yesterday, have a short and long term list. You have land use planning as one of the priorities for addressing the decline of the caribou. The Gwich'in have a land use plan established. It took the Gwich'in 30 years to establish that plan. Imagine how long it would take multi parties to develop a land use plan for the same range. With the Bluenose East herd, we do have a plan established for that, and also the Bathurst introduced in November. We also established a board, in my opinion, with the worst name ever given to a board in Canadian history. Called the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management, a plan for the Bathurst and Bluenose East. My biggest recommendation is to prioritize and come up with some agreement to not only reverse the trend of the herd and also to ensure future measures are proactive. The Porcupine herd is in the green zone today. They all decided to take off to Alaska today. We are making do. We have to come out of this meeting today with some agreement to preserve this herd.

Larry Carpenter: Want to make a correction on what was just said. The ACCWM plan is for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose East and West. Not for the Bathurst. In the plan we look at four levels of herd status. Management actions are based on the population. It is very similar to what is in the Porcupine management plan. Should be easy to follow. Because we have actually experienced it in our region with regards to the Bluenose West herd, until there is an agreement between Nunavut and the NWT I don't think interim emergency measures will work. If you are trying to have conservation on a species you have to look at where they are all harvested. Different rules across boundaries is not fair to people

living in the area and does not do the species good if they are allowed to be harvested in one area. You are looking at some restrictions. We also saw that with the Bluenose West. We did not know how many were being harvested although told they were harvesting below what they can take. Not fair to the people living off the caribou in the area. Before any measures are put in place I would like to see some formal agreement between Nunavut and NWT governments.

Frank Pokiak: We do have a plan for the Bluenose East herd and used the Porcupine herd as an example. Waiting to be signed.

Ernie Campbell: My Minister is going to speak on behalf of the GNWT and ENR. Over the last number of meetings I have been listening closely and I understand and hear on the six areas that were landed on through the caucuses and technical working group meetings. I feel the majority of them we can work with you guys to try to accomplish those. As Norman mentioned there are some long and short term. The long term related to land use planning, exercises are underway now. The Bathurst range plan is being worked on. Some of you folks have been to the table and we have had a couple of meetings already. Have to continue and ramp that up. And get that completed because that feeds into some of the long term planning. For example that plan will take into account the cumulative effects on the Bathurst range and feed into, the suggestion of long term moratorium on industry, don't think that is possible right now but again if we have these longer term plans in place we will have ideas of critical calving areas, number of things we can capture and build into this so that at the end of the day we will have solid frameworks to guide us. Same thing with the Bathurst management plan. Have to ramp it up and get it completed. Encourage collaboration. Let's get those done. On collaboration. Some of the approaches our department has done in collaboration. You point to some of the successes with the wildlife act, development, regulations, water strategies, forest management agreements with communities. Good stuff. This is the heart here, this caribou issue. We have to make tough decisions. Think we can get through it with this collaboration. Looking to work together to land on an approach here for two things, the short and long term. Under the short term, I have heard you on some of the recent work, call it science if you want, or some of the information that was done over the last year. And heard for years and recently people understand there is something happening with the caribou. They are in critical shape and declining. Also heard we don't want to use recon surveys or don't want to use some of this compensation work with cow/calf ratios. Over the years we have done recon surveys, we have heard people at the caribou summits and other meetings when the herds are declining we need to ramp up the work, do more monitoring. On the recon it is the trends we are looking for. It is trends. If you look at the recon surveys over the past few years they align with the photo surveys. These recon surveys are showing a downwards trend. When we follow with the photo survey on the calving grounds they align. In 2008 we did a recon survey. People said let's wait, did the 2009 photo survey, it reflected that information. Here today we know the recon survey on the Bathurst is alarming. I am hearing let's wait. We are trying to land on an interim approach until we complete the 2015 survey and work through the winter here on the information we have now, so we are ready come 2015. If we wait for the 2015 survey it is going to be like this recon survey information. You have to wait another year. If it is more alarming than the recon survey, waiting is two years. On the cow/calf ratio, when we were up there this fall we get a number like 24/25 calves per 100 cows. That is alarming. Healthy herds from the 90's were in the high fifties for cow/calf ratio. Now we are below 25 or less. Also this fall we did another recon type survey over the Bathurst that were rutting. That count, when you look at that, which captured almost all the collared animals, and come up with a number of 2500 animals, it is very alarming. We are trying to figure out an approach on how we can do something for the interim. We will do the 2015 survey. The other one I wanted to point out is the Bluenose East recon survey. If we back up on the Bathurst that is what we are saying. I am hearing status quo for the Bluenose East as well.

Again, we saw this with the Bathurst and look at the conditions now. Hopefully we can figure out an approach. I didn't see discussion about these management zones. Know it has been out there, creating more sub zones. Trying to figure out an approach where the Bathurst herd is critical, we know we have to do something with the Bluenose East, we know people want to continue harvesting, they want caribou and continue their way of life. How do we figure out a regime where we can do something with these zones where the aboriginal people can have access to caribou but not continuing the status quo. Still continue that way of life, continue to find a way where people can still have caribou. Whether looking at whatever we come up with the Bluenose East. And I will point to Gameti and Wekweti, we know they are harvesting Bluenose East. If we had sub zones we could figure out something. We know to the East the Beverly Ahiak are relatively healthy. Can we figure out something there where people can still have caribou? It is back to collaboration. It is not that we are sitting in our offices and saying this is the way it is going to be, we have to work together. Work something out. We have an alarming situation. It is not just the survey we are looking for, another one coming in 2015. It is another piece of evidence where, it has shown us in the past, gives us an idea of what is happening here with these herds.

Pat Martel: It is hard to address a group like this in another language. I can understand what they are saying at those meetings. In order to do it here in another language you will be missing a lot of good points. Years ago some of our Elders with a dog team went to Behchoko to hunt with the Elders. They always go with someone who knows the area. A few years later we did that too. We made sure we had someone from the community go with us. As long as we have industry going the way they are now the people using the caribou ten years from now will be saying where did the caribou go? Until industry is causing disturbance, unless they agree to do what they need to do to be on the land that might help. Even though we don't use the caribou as much as the Tlicho in this area there is still concern. We are the same people and use the same food. It is hard to do something important in the short day set up for these meetings. You have to have the Elders involved and some of the younger people so they can learn what to do in the future.

Ron Schaeffer: Asked to attend today to represent the Salt River Council/Band. Will stick by our treaty rights. That government has put actions on First Nations, taking them to court. That these members should not be in court for harvesting on their traditional land. Re predator control, the wolves. Wolves can sustain living and travel many miles. Do not agree with this. With harvesting management action, there is no resident or outfitter harvesting. When it comes to a study, they come to the First Nation people to sign off on a research document pushed forth by government to say you will give us the opportunity to harvest so many. Doing a study. That impacts living. There is lots of cross boundary issues the First Nations have in the territories and we sit at the table as a whole, even under the Wildlife Act. The Elders teach constantly, to say we own this land, we harvest what we want, we take control and tell you if we over harvest. Researchers from the South will tell you if you keep harvesting the numbers will go down. They keep other game on these species at risk. How many more other animals are going on the species at risk? The government will put a stop on everything. The Dene and aboriginal people of this land have to make a stand, to say we tell you what is species at risk. They do lots of studies, subsidize communities. Salt River does not get subsidized, or go into the Beverly herd to harvest caribou. With land claim areas you have industry you say impacts the herds. It probably does, noise, traffic. Industry should be listening to the people when you signed a long time ago to allow industry to come into your area, you people have let it continue for years. We are not the ones to blame. It is the people in the past who did this to us. Now we are trying to correct the decline. People go harvesting, now they are putting community monitors, who will be the biggest squealers. If a community here can harvest and we can't, is not right. Chief Martselos made a statement that if they

continue to harvest and we have a moratorium to stop the hunting there are other ways the community will sneak in and harvest. Do we do it as a territorial community, to make a stand that nobody harvests in these areas? Once you stop in one area it will keep on with different herds. There is treaty rights we are going by and the First Nation people of the NWT have a say about what goes on. These acts and studies have to be endorsed by the First Nation people before we allow anything to go on in our traditional lands.

Walter Bezha: We are going to talk about solutions. Let's try to focus on tomorrow. Sometimes I feel tension, it is not a good feeling. I want a good feeling when I come out of here today.

Thaidene Paulette: When I sit here I respect the older people who have a lot of years of experience with caribou and their way of life. I never had the chance to live that way of life, caribou sustaining me. Had to go a long way to get caribou. Respect the spiritual relationship with the caribou. I empathize with you. Where I come from we have moose, buffalo, fish. But in the smaller remote communities caribou is the only main resource. I empathize when a colonial government tries to step on the treaty right. The treaties predate colonial jurisdictions. I feel you need to fight for your rights. We support YKDFN. It is wrong for you to charge. Our nation can't support a full ban on the harvest. Your main food source is now banned. The other thing is it is always our indigenous people making sacrifices, our lands, our rights, right to harvest and hunt. What about governments and industry. Never heard of industry making a sacrifice. Also more development. Capitalistic frame of mind. At what point does industry have to make the sacrifice. They are here on our lands. When will they make the sacrifices? We will be here longer than them. What is going to be left for us? Like the chair said it is solutions we are looking for. Respect and listen to everybody's knowledge.

Walter Bezha: Keep focus. I try to show how we can make sure people get involved and are included in the process. Here we have different regions. Too bad we don't have maps here. Once we bring in treaty and aboriginal rights we don't have authority here to talk about it, gets complex. Support solutions. Look at what is going on here. Remember there are things we talked about for many years that are cropping up again. We are moving forward tomorrow for the caribou.

Lunch

Walter Bezha: Remember there is general information that can come out of here but make sure you do that at the 3:30 caucus. There is good will to be built out of these processes. Talk about tomorrow, that helps.

Grand Chief Herb Norwegian: This is my second meeting at this event. The discussion before us is humongous, a major issue that we are dealing with. When we talk about ourselves as a people we do everything we can to ensure our livelihood will remain intact and protect ourselves. The caribou are no different and can't speak for themselves. It is us the hunters that have to speak up for them and need to speak up as though they are the same as us. That is the words I am hearing from Elders. I think we need to start looking at issues we have in common. The commonality and try to meet each other half way. I know the chair talked that it is great we try to be critical and talk about the issues that face us. At the same time when you are speaking about issues that bother you it is also important to put forward some solutions. This is about bringing together people that have strong concerns and at the same time want to talk about solutions, ideas on how you can fix this problem. I have worked with almost all of you and I think the best way to approach this is strike a balance, find that balance. When I say balance I mean meeting each other half way. What is that balance between all of us. And government is an

organization we also want to find out if they can meet us half way on our concerns. Striking a balance. Identify the balance. So far I have heard some of you talk about that. Those kinds of things are stepping stones to resolving some of the issues before us. Have also noticed the statistics being brought forward are scary. It is used as a leverage to tell us the worst fears that are out there. There is nothing wrong with the statistics but again the other side needs to be looked at, the traditional knowledge. The kinds of things Pat Martel talks about. This western science, technology, being used to examine the herds seems to outweigh the traditional knowledge we come forward with. We need to strike that balance. If we can do that we can start talking about ways we can work out the details and how we can make this work. My view is always we don't want to have people heavy handed with leverages at this table. This discussion here is round table, to put solutions on the table. Not to dismantle everything. Build these strong agreements that will stay around for a long time. Need to stay away from the clichés that we need to have something for the young generation. It implies let young people take care of that problem. That is irresponsible of us. This is the information we have and how we are going to make it work. If we can do that we are heading down the right trail. I see you coming here with solutions. And are good speakers. Let's do something about the caribou. The caribou need help. You see the developers lingering wanting to get out to the resources in the rich land but we need to stand very firm to make sure the caribou remain. Again finding the balance. We know what it is, we need to put it on the floor. In the Dehcho we have done some good work. One of the pieces we used in establishing some good plans was based on balance. Today we would like to continue to move forward and try to finalize our land use plan. In all of your presentations and good will put that balance on the table and let's try to move forward with this issue.

Arnold Enge: The NSMA supports the views as expressed by all the First Nations expressed so far about the fundamental right to hunt for food. It is the NSMA. That the short term action plans introduced in 2010 are actually working. The suspension of the commercial harvest, residential hunt, and restriction of 300 on the Bathurst and restrictions on the Bluenose East, 1200 is the rough number. The NSMA also support the initiative to increase management of the predators harvest on the Bathurst and Bluenose East herds. Also support government's effort to establish the Bathurst caribou management board to address the immediate and long terms issues that will benefit the herd.

Garry Bailey: We support the recommended actions except two. The caribou are declining, down to 15,000. We haven't supported Bathurst harvesting. Still support the total allowable harvest. Does not mean we don't support others, the issue at hand is the Bathurst herd. What can we do so our people can continue to practice their way of life. The numbers are critical now. The caribou are all of ours. The Elders around here know the history. They used to come to our territory to hunt rats, our people came here to hunt. We also shared the animals. We shared our territories. That is what we should continue to do. The NWTMN has not harvested for five years. All other groups have. Our people have watched others, live here too, but sacrificed. \$300,000 spent for this forum to take place. Concerned about the caribou. We are partly to blame. The developers should have been here to help resolve this issue. Totally support others in the room. It is not the only caribou in the territory. Government can provide funding along with development, a good amount so each community can access these caribou. Don't care if it is an organized hunt by plane, working alongside communities that are close to the herd, like Lutsel K'e. We want to save this herd. Will cost a bit of money. We have spent \$300,000 here and still talking. Don't have numbers today, but we had some in 2012 and still show a decline. The surveys today continue to show that. This is about the Bathurst herd. Making sure we have caribou to eat. It is part of our diets. We live on wildlife. We live off the land. There are no animals there, we will have nothing. If you left those caribou alone for ten years you would have 400,000. Government and development have to help to foot the bill to hunt other herds. If it is too dangerous to go by skidoo, we

need their assistance. Government has to foot that bill. That is what we need to do. We are here to talk about the Bathurst herd. We need commitment from government to accommodate this so the Tlicho, YK Dene and the Métis north of the lake can hunt. In the South we can hunt the other herd. I respect all here. Understand it is a touchy issue. Not saying you don't have the right to hunt. As Métis I have the same rights as everybody else. Without caribou we have nothing to talk about. Gameti and Wekweti can continue to harvest Bluenose. Have to admit the Bathurst is in serious decline and if government is willing to do this, this could cost another million dollars. A quick fix this year could accommodate those north of the lake and help harvest, work out with the other communities so everybody has meat in their freezer.

Earl Evans: Agree with Garry. Thanked Norman Snowshoe, he put out very good points we should take seriously. Shows the Porcupine herd management plan, took a while to do it, can work for all the aboriginal groups out there. Takes their considerations in, everybody has input. This plan is working. They have caribou every year. They know what is happening out there. We have to get this plan so we are ahead of the game, not reacting. This plan is an excellent plan. Although we have differences sometimes, we are here for the caribou and here to make sure we have caribou in the future. I have been hunting the Tlicho area since I was 14 years old. We did community hunts there. I miss doing that. Could not go up for the last five years. Miss that. Miss that way of life. It is sad to say we have to stop. There are other things we can do. Go to different areas for a few years. Then we can always continue to hunt caribou. I go to different communities and bring up things that are not always nice, wastage. It is not a good topic to bring up, for every 100 hunters there might be one bad one. Our leaders are here, and can address our people when we get home. Respect the caribou. Reinforce that in our people. I am here to voice my opinion and if I see something not right I will say something about it. If you talk one on one with caribou hunters they say they see that all the time. It is not right.

Henry McKay: Did a lot of caribou hunting. Not educated but am educated in the bush. Did a lot of community hunts in my days. Go out in the plane on a community hunt. We had to get 40, that is all we got. Has been going on for years. Never hear no decline, we never overtake what we need. I saw some caribou hunting by truck. Saw caribou shot, with just the tongues taken out. I still hunt caribou. I know what is going on, what they are talking about. I like to see it go the right way for people, what is best for us. Not take food off our table. Down to one caribou a person as long as it is good.

Leonard Kenny: Some of the aboriginal groups have claims and a process we follow, like Deline. We have a claim but the region is broken into three districts. The Bluenose herd that we harvest is mostly harvested by Deline. Some people are wondering why our Grand Chief is not here. Because we harvest the Bluenose, Walter and I are speaking for the region. We have a management plan we endorsed for the Bluenose that is in place. We have a process we follow in terms of the Bluenose herd. We also go as far as Hotta Lake each year. My community have Tlicho relatives. For the past ten years we have not hunted in the fall, the Bluenose changed their migration route. Hunting mostly in the spring. When we do hunt in the spring we mostly hunt in the Hotta Lake area. Sometimes when we go as far as the Hotta, we take some of the Bathurst because you can't distinguish between the herds. Hard for the hunters sometimes. We had a community AGM in November and brought up the caribou issue. Some Elders are very concerned and upset about the proposed zero harvest of the Bathurst herd. A lot of people spoke on the issue about how sensitive it is. To be an aboriginal you need the caribou, most of your diet is caribou. It is hard to buy store bought food. We introduced the plan and that is what we are going to use. I support the views of all the aboriginal groups that spoke. Like the Porcupine herd plan. Also Earl talked about teaching the younger generation to hunt properly, no wastage. Have to start hunting like our grandfathers. No waste. Need to show respect to the caribou.

Walter Bezha: The book is about a story of a meeting between the wolves and the caribou. I want to add about the sharing aspect of caribou. Leonard has a brother about 35 years old. He is one of the main hunters in Deline. Provides for other people. He gives everything away. It is a huge part of our tradition for caribou. That alone helps all of us. At our last hunt in the fall we got five caribou from the north shore. Leonard also did not mention we have lots of muskox. We will send it to you. These are good things to do, good relationships, relationship building.

Grant Pryznyk: Our board has comments mainly on processes to make things work efficiently, some already in place and some yet to be flushed out. The management plans for both the herds was submitted to government. Now in the action phase with the Bluenose East. Would like to thank the Minister for their support to complete the action plans. Our board is still looking for a revised joint management position for the Bathurst herd. That is continuation and follow up from the first one. The Tlicho government says that is a requirement in the agreement. The third point, the Bathurst caribou long term management process, we support the development of that. It is going to be a busy board for the next number of years. There is a draft terms of reference for that available to look at. Various processes going on now. In support of all these processes. All worked together on things where we have seen success. We have the momentum now, let's keep it going.

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: Spoke Tlicho for the benefit of my Elders who do not understand the English language, I thanked the Minister for inviting the groups here. We live here, in the North Slave region where the Bathurst caribou are. Where all the mines are. Where the City of Yellowknife is. Where GNWT also is. A city where all members of the NWT outlying communities, aboriginal people live here in, including all other ethnic groups. Population over 21,000 people. They all hunt. Some of them we don't know. Harvest from the same caribou. The Tlicho agreement tells us how we can deal with caribou. We can come up with a plan for the GNWT. We have a co-management process in place and are in the midst of getting into a long term plan. We agree with ACCWM proposing voluntary harvest targets for the Bluenose. Reduce predation on caribou by implementing a Tlicho community based wolf harvest this winter. Improve caribou herd monitoring by increasing the number of collars on Bathurst cows and bulls. Develop and implement a comprehensive and education training program for Tlicho hunters and monitors. I heard numerous times around the table that industry needs to be brought into this discussion. They need to put more money into research and community consultation. And the other issue is the GNWT needs to commit to put pressure on Nunavut for the sanctuary and other measures. Our people in our region have sacrificed to accommodate the government and to implement our agreement. That is what we are doing by the co-management process. It takes people working together with a united front to make this work, how we can have caribou for our future generations. I am sure that there are good examples out there, like the Gwich'in. The Tlicho government also spent a lot of money dealing with the caribou issue. We had special gatherings just for caribou where our Elders expressed their concern. I was not sure at the beginning whether we were on item number four, or number five. Now I realize that after going around the table. With that I would like to say thank you to the Minister for inviting us and for having worked together for the last five years. We would like to keep up that momentum, keep going and complete our long term co-management process.

Walter Bezha: We have the Minister's response ahead.

Minister Miltenberger: Thank all the aboriginal governments for the feedback today and at the end of the day. We have talked about the sacrifice that folks have put up with. As I was looking at the book from the Chief, thank you, the other species that has suffered is the caribou. When the numbers go

from 146,000 and dropping, they have paid a big price over the years for a number of reasons. As we look at the work before us, I want to talk about the co-management agreements and processes we have developed over the years. Going back to when the agreements were first signed. We are fully committed to that process, fully committed to the process of the government to government relations, MOUs we have signed, committed to drafting legislation together on issues like wildlife, species at risk act, and as we come to do the forest management acts, come to rewrite the water act, those are all pieces of legislation that will use the process that has been developed in the NWT in the last three to four years. As we look at the issues before us today I would like to ask Lynda to walk through the list of the things that we agree with and then I would like to touch briefly on the issue of Nunavut and then the interim harvest measures.

Lynda Yonge: GNWT's Response to the Key Messages

We are in total agreement there needs to be a package and a suite of actions. Speak briefly to what is here and how we see some of these things happening.

Land Use: The first set on land use, prioritize land use planning. We look at this one as a long term thing. We are committed to land use planning. This is what we are doing with the Bathurst range plan. The whole point of that process is to look at the various values and interest on that landscape and find ways to identify those areas most critical to the caribou and what kinds of activities are appropriate, not appropriate in other areas. That is a form of land use planning we are committed to doing. We ask everybody involved in that plan come to the table for that. This is an important tool, an important mechanism. In the broader sense, that is a long term commitment of our government, we are in agreement to that approach.

Interim moratorium on development in key caribou habitat: This has to be a two-step thing. First is to identify what that key habitat area is. That is also one of the things included for the Bathurst in that range planning process. See those two going together. With respect to the Bluenose East herd we have time to develop that key habitat because there is no development on that range yet. The process we are using for the Bathurst range is a good one, allow us to do this very thing, identify where those key habitats are, what thresholds can they tolerate and then look at what areas to consider for moratorium development. We don't make the final decision on development but can identify those areas and can put in strong advice. Our government is committed to sustainable development. Committed to look at those things.

We are committed to working with Nunavut on this issue. Heard the importance of all working together, we share these herds. Something we can continue to work on.

Range management plan: We can commit to completing a report by the end of March. There is a range management plan meeting next week for the Bathurst range. That is going ahead. We can commit to completing a report and to making sure the momentum on those programs keep going along with this process.

Long term management and action planning: Jody spoke to this. The Bathurst caribou management board have had a number of meetings about how we should be managing the Bathurst herd. We all agree we need some sort of mechanism that has proper representation on it for management of the Bathurst herd. There has been a terms of reference sent out. Urge you to take a look at those and have comments so we can get back together and have that discussion. The intent here is to establish a

mechanism, a board, and for that board to make recommendations on how the Bathurst herd should be managed and developed, a plan similar to the Bluenose herds plan. We are committed to keeping that process going.

ACCWM: That process is in the action planning phase. Have committed resources to help that group finish that plan. Will give us the guidance we need, will be numbers, thresholds, so the decisions will be made based on standards that are set not in crises mode, that can be applied across the board. Committed to continue to support that process.

Fire management: We should talk about how best to implement this. Identifying key caribou habituate might make more sense to do in smaller groups in the various regions. We can follow up on how best to get that information so it is an efficient and effective way. This information is important to our department when making difficult decisions about fire and fire management. Our system is set up to look at things like caribou habitat as a value at risk when making those decisions.

Environmental monitoring: This is a longer term thing. Are working with our forest management division looking at some of these questions about vegetation monitoring and mapping. Looking at some of these questions for other partners to do that. Not something that will be done over the next few weeks but important to do. Important tool for us. Using this information when looking at the Bathurst range plan to help inform which areas have different importance at difference times of the year for caribou.

Conduct TK and science literature review: Is a longer term thing. To do research first and then look at what we can do with the results of that research. Not something that will have impact over this season but for the future. Something we can look at for the future.

Education and communication: Absolutely. This is something we have talked about often, about the importance of this. Sighting rifle events have been held in a number of communities already, very successful. People enjoy them. Empowering. Can work on a regional basis, community by community with officers. Things people come out to. Can commit to do that. Communications tools, we need to have discussion about what sorts of tools would be most useful. Is it facilitating having people do local radio programs, paper ads, posters in schools? We can help with that.

Meetings and activities in communities: See this as not something that is just a GNWT thing. Something that all governments and organizations can be doing, part of what you already do. Something we can do together. If it means it would be helpful to have more GNWT presence we can certainly do that. We all need to look at how we will do these things.

Predator control: Has been an interesting discussion over the past few years. Certainly we are in agreement and willing to increase the wolf incentive program. Need to give more thought to the carcass collection. How it depends on the purpose of the collection program. If it is to monitor what is going on with wolves, a skull or sample collection would be just as effective. Looking at what best to do there. The idea we recognize as important to collecting more information. Incentive program to harvest prime furs, we have talked to ITI and working with them to make sure that can happen. We have done a fair bit of work with the Tlicho government about various ways to look at wolves in the Tlicho area. Committed to continuing on with those things we have identified. The thing with predator control will be different from region to region. In terms of reference for a working group to develop an approach to wolf control is the same things as fire management. We would want to work with small

groups, and take a regional approach. Open for discussion. Coordinate the program with Nunavut, we have a commitment to continue to talk with Nunavut.

Develop a program to record and report wolf/caribou sightings: We do have a system in place where we can take that information and enter into a data base and then analysed. Question of communicating to people. How to go about doing that. Can look at doing that.

Collection of harvest information: Is already in place. No intent to change that at this point. Collection of harvest information has always been a high priority for us. A question of working with each of you in your areas to determine how best to do that. See that as a high priority.

Hunting majority bulls: Agree with that as an important target. Look forward to discussion about how to best encourage that.

Alternate species: We would look to you to get ideas about how to do that. This is something aboriginal governments could work with their people to do. Let us know if we can assist. Seems to be something that is something for everybody to work on in their communities.

Increased enforcement: Would what to have discussion about how to go about doing that and what is being enforced. An area for further discussion.

Minister Miltenberger: As you can see just about all the issues raised, we are in agreement with. When it comes to Nunavut want to restate our efforts to link with the Nunavut government. Have met twice with the Minister. The deputy was here at the last meeting. Clearly as these issues progress and evolve and as we finalize these management plans that relationship will have to be nailed down, same as for the Porcupine. An understanding and agreement on how we will manage the herds. Ernie Campbell has been in touch and we will proceed and continue those efforts. The Premiers themselves have talked about the issue of caribou and water. That is an area where we need to keep our efforts up. Nunavut doesn't have devolution yet so some of these broader issues, putting sections of land off limits for development because of calving grounds, are issues that would probably involve the federal government. We are going to be moving on that. As we were talking I was going through this book and want to share some things with you, captures the issue of why we are here, restate the commitment to the co-management processes, the long history we have successfully worked in those arrangements and relations and will continue to do that. What we have before us are numbers that we accept as very serious. There is an emergency situation. We have the period now from today over the hunting season. This hunting season where some action is needed, that can't wait. Whatever we do on these interim measures will be subject to review within less than a year. If the Bluenose plan is put into place we will step away and let that process take its course. On the Bathurst, same will apply, if the Bathurst management board can get together and manage these issues, we will step away. But for this short period of time we have to remember the promise to look after the animals. Specifically in regards to the Bluenose, we propose a limit of 15,000 animals. How they are allocated, monitored, reported, would be sorted out by the various boards and aboriginal governments. When that plan is in place we will step back. The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and East caribou management plan, we will get out of the way. In the meantime we need something in place to give added protection to the Bluenose East. We accept the trend analyses, the recon survey numbers, the cow/calf ratio all tell us that this herd, along with the Bathurst is still under enormous pressure. We look forward to discussion on that issue. With regards to the Bathurst the numbers are so bleak, this above all is the herd that needs us to remember the promise. That it can't sustain any harvest at this point. We will work with aboriginal governments to

look at alternative arrangements to help fill freezers, community hunts. Collectively we have to recognize that any harvest, when the numbers are as small as they are, cannot sustain that, not if we are going to remember the promise. We would look to have those discussions with the aboriginal governments, the Bathurst management board, but in the meantime over this hunting season in my opinion we have no choice if we are to be stewards of the land, and honour our responsibilities as leaders. We need to step up and do that particular action that will help halt the decline and possible disappearance of the Bathurst herd.

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: We have written correspondence to you in regards to this. The Tlicho government, given the recent recon survey data, believe that the rationale is not strong enough for dropping the total harvest target. We are willing to consider reduction, but a total ban is not acceptable by the Tlicho government.

Chief Eddie Sangris: Thank you for the comments and support for the last two days. It is disheartening to hear you say zero harvest in the YK Dene traditional area. The Akaitcho communities need to hear very clearly that government is prepared to talk about the immediate and temporary emergency measures over and above just simply saying harvesting restrictions. Our leadership here and our staff have actively participated in consultation on this decision. We have constantly advocated for a collaborative approach towards a package deal to address conservation needs. For us, a package deal means a harvest limit decision can be made only if other actions are agreed to including imposing development restrictions on industry throughout our caribou range. It is discouraging to hear you talk about the importance of government to government relationships while the industries' interests and deep pockets are working behind the scenes and implementing development of a good relationship that we have been trying to strike here today. Our position insists on having industry restrictions, harvesting limits or no harvesting is not popular. Indeed, we have been called hypocritical for seeking development restrictions while collecting financial and social economic benefits from mining operation in our territory. But IBAs are not an open ended license to operate and cost potentially lasting impacts on Dene lands and to the wildlife on which we depend on. We ask the question, if the environmental assessment of these projects were to be repeated today with the current caribou population statistics that have been heard over the recent months, would those permits and licenses be reissued with the same conditions. The point is if we are here and being asked to consider new information to change old ways of decision making, then industry should be held to the same standards. Our consensus is that industry must be prepared to accept some sacrifices as are being asked of the Dene people. Government has the ability to limit industry impacts on caribou. We heard the DM refer to the land use planning actions and cumulative effects studies as a way of addressing manmade factors affecting the caribou and habitat. We have said all along that we are not prepared to produce our land use plan because we have not made agreement on our claim with the federal government. We will continue to support and participate in these initiatives, but at the time our caribou will have suffered to the point of irreversible decline. We would like to continue in dialogue with government and other First Nations and have no intention of closing the discussion between ourselves and these parties. However this meeting does not appear to be the appropriate venue to pursue our decision for the reason previously stated. The MVRM Act is still a changing legislation. We have no land claim context with which to interpret these changes. Do not have an Akaitcho regional board to represent our interests regarding resource management decisions. This uncertainty puts us at a disadvantage at this table. We as Akaitcho Dene are treaty people. We have not surrendered our rights to any government and will not cater to private industry interests. Our Chief has met with our staff, your staff, about our interest in pursuing a bilateral agreement with government to address Akaitcho's unique interest in the subject. We appreciate the support of our brothers at this table. Thank you for your comments. We are confident that you our

neighbour First Nations understand and appreciate that due to uncertainty in the unsettled regions we cannot continue discussions with the government that we have no settled agreement with. We are here representing the interests of our members at home and future generations. More specifically, what in our view can government do right now? They have to demonstrate dialogue with key industry stakeholders with regard to caribou. Clearly define the emergency measures that the Minister has at his disposal under the wildlife act, demonstrate dialogue with other government departments for a government wide approach to addressing the caribou declines. Have the department of ITI and Lands echoed the process ENR and the First Nations groups are discussing? When we talk about a package deal we refer to the herd of Bathurst and what we can do. As Dene people we also have to respect our treaty rights. The government should have this discussion with only people who are affected by the Bathurst in their respective regions. Why are you bringing Bluenose East to the table when it is not in critical stage? Mixed bag of something to sway the decision at this table. We certainly as YK Dene do not agree with your proposal.

Minister Miltenberger: Thanked Chief Sangris for his careful and measured comments and appreciate the depth of his concern. We are willing and interested to have those discussions with him and the Band Council to talk about the next steps. Just want to thank him for the careful measured response.

Chief Eddie Sangris: I don't know why, for some reason, since the GNWT got devolution in their back pocket they are going after only YK Dene. These are the discussions we need to have. Like I said before we want to build a working relationship with the government for the future, even though we don't have an agreement now. Don't want to base our relationship on the Supreme Court decisions.

Garry Bailey: Would like to elaborate more on your last comment on the Bathurst. You did say support other harvesting. Could you explain what you mean by that?

Ernie Campbell: We know the communities need caribou and want to continue their way of life. We want to find ways to work with the communities most impacted here on how to continue to access caribou. That is what we are talking about when we talk about that issue.

Garry Bailey: That is what I talked about this morning. Going after herds to compensate.

Ernie Campbell: When it comes to the Bathurst we know there are the 300 tags available. If there is a zero target for the Bathurst we want to work with the groups to fill that void so they can continue to get those 300 animals for their communities

Garry Bailey: To have a solution now is not far away. Expected to come out of here with a decision of what we are going to do. Needs to be a commitment here to all who have been sacrificing. Maybe you can sit down and come up with a way to do it, set out some commitments, including costs I mentioned this morning. The issue was to save the Bathurst herd which would help if we left it alone but at the same time have to make sure there is a share of caribou. Pretty broad. You can hash it out. You can do that on your own. If there is a commitment given hopefully you can come up with an agreement to save that herd. This is what this is all about.

Norman Snowshoe: The dialogue with Nunavut. In our experience with the Porcupine and dealing with the Yukon when you do these types of conversations about trans boundary species you need leaders at the table who can make decisions. I would suggest and recommend we have representation that can make decisions at this table. In terms of the population I think the problem we have at this table now is

the recon numbers. Think they are more comfortable with a more comprehensive count. I know developing these numbers from a comprehensive survey is a huge task. When exactly is the next census taking place?

Ernie Campbell: June 2015

Norman Snowshoe: June 2015 is the next census. The measures you are proposing, say go out there and do a count and get back good numbers, those measures would probably be lifted to reflect the numbers you find if they are different. Am I correct?

Minister Miltenberger: It depends, if you look at the Bathurst and they are in a 15,000 range and they come back and are actually in the 30,000. And if you look at the bands that the Porcupine use or Bluenose East are going to use, that would be a measure we would be looking at. Where would that take us? A measure we are going to use. Only if it does not go further down than 15,000, still in the red zone but would definitely come up for review. Hopefully the Bathurst board will be functioning and we can put that on the table and have that discussion. And they can tell us what are the next steps.

Norman Snowshoe: When you are talking about a comprehensive census all the variables have to come in place for a good census. If that does not happen then you have to postpone for another year. Important you have to consider whether or not the consensus will take place, if not what are the measures you will put in place. The job here for the GNWT is to ensure the numbers are very good numbers. Not sure how you will do it with the folks here that have a right to harvest, that you are asking to limit their harvesting rights. We have to deal with the numbers. Last night we were trying to propose the last census were the numbers to use but not sure how you are going to get over the obstacle of acceptance of the population now.

Minister Miltenberger: That is a debate on an ongoing basis. If we operate on a precautionary principle, and we have some of the best caribou folks in the business doing the work, I have a high level of confidence that we are acting on the best information. And can't say we are not prepared to consider that. If it was going the other way and looking good we could say we can afford to wait. But the trends are worsening as we sit here talking then we are obligated to take the best information we have and make the best decisions we can under the circumstances.

Norman Snowshoe: A colleague pointed out that when we were doing the management of the Porcupine herd it is difficult to get the photo census that you need. Lots of variables involved. We had a ten year period when we could not get a good census. Using a modelling exercise to estimate the population. We were getting estimates of 70,000, 90,000 and dropping. But when they did the actual census it was 170,000 animals. I think the concern is there about the numbers that the recons are showing. The concerns are legitimate. We are talking about limiting harvesting ad yesterday at the caucus I called it doing the constitutional dance, starting to tread into constitutional rights and have to make sure what you are doing is supported by the justice system. We have to be wary of these details before we move forward. That is why I say the numbers have to be as good as we can get them.

Jan Adamszewski: The population survey done with the Porcupine herd is the post calving survey in July. We used that survey on some of our western herds. We have used it in the past with Bluenose East but ran into the problem several times where in July you need the caribou to form tight groups for pictures and for Bluenose East we had a number of failed attempts for the survey of the Bluenose East. In 2010 for the first time we did the calving photo survey used for our Eastern herds and the post calving

survey on the Bluenose East, same year. Since that time we have switched to the calving photo survey for the Bluenose East for that reason, caribou not forming groups. The track record on the calving survey not happening because of weather - it hasn't happened yet for the Bathurst. The two years for the Bluenose East in June 2010, 2013 worked fine. The other thing I would emphasize is the experience with the recon surveys is they are not precise but we have found with the Bathurst and Bluenose East that they reliably track the trend. If you look at the recon survey result in June this year for the Bathurst they would suggest a 75% decline since 2012. Is it exactly that? We don't know. We think it is down a long way from where it was. Also a couple of surveys this fall, a comprehensive survey during breeding to get a sex ratio and calf to cow ratio, and then a recon survey in October. We flew to an area where 11 of the 14 Bathurst collared females were, a few were north we couldn't get to them, we flew that area for several hours to where those caribou were in the breeding season, when they are mixed together, and we observed 2700 caribou. That was is what is left of the bulk of the herd. If there were 30,000 we should have seen a lot more than we did. The helicopter survey, a few weeks earlier, showed basically the same result, about 3,000 caribou. We are not happy to say these things but those two surveys are basically confirming what we saw on the calving grounds in June. Add to that declining calf to cow ratios. We don't know what the June survey will say but will be a lot less than in 2012.

Chief Felix Lockhart: Want to say echoing Chief Sangris. Everything he said we agree with. At the same time here I invite you Mr. Minister to Lutsel K'e meetings to talk about some of the issues we are talking about now. It is important because one of our members was charged in this area, charges were stayed but he was not given back his meat. You indicated we are a government, so in the spirit of government relationships that is why I invite you to our community, talk government to government. I think we could have done a lot of good if we did that earlier on. If we need to caucus again, amongst ourselves, to revamp our position and then go on from there. Before that happens, there are other factors we brought up earlier on. We want to recommend that GNWT, industry and tourism stop funding exploration projects on the caribou range and specifically the calving and post calving areas. ITI already gave out \$440,000 this year to various exploration companies. And another \$80,000 went to the post calving grounds exploration activities. When my member was charged over here it was a direct contravention of our reconciliation when we met. Our reconciliation with the federal government when we entered into treaty. A lot of people here did not want to talk about that because the discussion was around conservation. But we are very serious about the word conservation, but not at the expense of further deteriorating our rights. We are caught in a precarious situation. We want to come out with agreements. If we are going to go into further discussion we have to think about bilateral agreements for monitoring. We have never had a settled agreement, we are still sovereign in our own way. Just because your predecessor and yourselves consider yourselves sovereignty. We have not given up ours. We feel uncomfortable to accept unilateral decisions you make. The best people around advised to charge members of the YKnives and members of our community. If that is precedence setting then I am expecting my members to be charged under the wildlife act. Before that happens we need to address serious concerns. We want to reach consensus here but not at the expense of further suffering on our part. We need to talk about those factors. We have been doing it since the 80's, funding companies to explore the area, putting in access roads, no one wants to talk about it. Especially the government. We need to straighten out some things here. We are not going to wait until we settle our claim. You have tools you can work with. Perhaps we can fast track here. We are totally ready for further talks. Want to rectify some things ASAP. You are still invited to come to our community. Our people want to hear about the things you do, your responsibility. We are a government to government and want to protect our rights. Important we discuss that. More than GNWT talking about harvesting limitations, want to have a holistic approach. Caribou are part of us, we depend on the caribou. We have a special bond to the caribou. Respect that. We don't have to talk that much about the caribou. It concerns me to listen

to reconnaissance and comprehensive counts and continuously the numbers go down. I feel uncomfortable that we are led to believe it is because we do a lot of harvesting and not talking about other factors. We need serious discussion.

Walter Bezha: There is a question up there. As chair I don't want to get too involved. A lot of suggestions out already. Look at the question that needs to be addressed. We have been trying to do that, needs to be more clear. We are running out of time. We also have to caucus after this and talk about the next steps. Also get the Minister to respond to the question. We talked about this continuing in the regions and the communities. We can have more clarity in this process as we go along. A lot of things do not come out as clear as we think in the beginning.

Bill Enge: The NSMA has suffered more than any of our First Nation counterparts in the North Slave region. Mr. Minister you and your staff decided the NSMA did not have a right to share in the limited harvest of the Bathurst herd. We have taken you to court and won but still you do not relent by giving us a share of the Bathurst herd. We will fight for our rights, and demonstrate how serious we are. I quote the Tlicho leader in the newspaper this week. That statement equally applies to the NSMA people. We understand what hardship means because we have not been able to harvest since you imposed a limited harvest on the Bathurst herd. At the last session you held two weeks ago I felt if the numbers your staff is using to justify a 100 percent harvest ban on the Bathurst is correct then perhaps a harvest ban can be supported. Has since come to my attention the numbers the department is using to justify the ban is not supportable. The use of a recon survey is not empirical evidence. The same as using a photo survey. Even if according to the numbers I am hearing is left of the Bathurst herd is true, that would mean keeping the 300 limited harvests would be a two percent harvest rate. Do not believe a harvest out of 15,000 would collapse the herd, should that be an accurate count of that herd. Has been clearly stated here today ENR is planning a comprehensive survey in 2015. I believe that a winter harvest of 15,000 should be allowed to go ahead.... because 15,000 is an accurate figure the harvest can be sustained this winter. Have seen consistently every three years the recon survey is inaccurate. The photo survey shows significantly more than the recon survey. I believe it is sustainable at this time to continue a limited harvest of the Bathurst herd until an accurate survey can be done. The NSMA count on the caribou for our culture, our people, our knowledge and links to the land. To put a 100 percent ban on any herd is the most drastic action the crown can take against aboriginal people. I do not believe at this time that action is necessary. From what I have seen from empirical evidence the numbers do not add up. The NSMA, Tlicho, YKnives are the ones who rely on the herd in our back yard. We do not have another herd. Last year you suggested the NSMA harvest from the Ahiak herd. That is not fair, not right. I believe that now, until a proper survey can be conducted, the limited harvest of 300 caribou continue.

Attima Hadlari: My partner from Nunavut will speak after me. In Nunavut we have a land claim agreement. If there is going to be a community affected by hunting there is a process in place through the agreement that all the wildlife partners have to discuss this and do community consultation. That has started in Nunavut. There is no major concern now, so no changes from the Nunavut side. If there is a concern on the Nunavut side we would all be here.

Mathieu Demond: Just want to apologize on behalf of my Minister and Deputy Minister they could not make it to this meeting. They take the situation seriously. The GN with the co-management partners have implemented actions to help those herds and collaborated over the years with the GNWT on those herds. We have a commitment of collaboration. Regarding the comment about an interjurisdictional

agreement I don't have decision making power here and have reported to my Minister who will address the comment.

Larry Carpenter: Back to the Bluenose East, don't think that herd should have been part of this discussion. There is a management plan developed and agreed to by the NWT co-management boards in writing. Still waiting for Nunavut to sign on to it. With the interim measures he is talking about putting in place, there is no incentive for them to sign on. No reason they may want to be part of this discussion anymore. The herd has not even reached the threshold to require a total ban. That is not how it should work. It is something to be taken seriously. Government by doing this, there is a break down in the co-management position. This is a real breakdown. With regards to the Bathurst herd, Ernie mentioned replacement of food supply. Should not be based on 300 tags. 300 was the number given when restrictions were put in. Should be based on the needs of the people.

Leonard Kenny: I was going to bring up the Bluenose harvest program. With regards to the approved Bluenose caribou emergency plan, there is no emergency. The status quo of a voluntary limit of 2800 should remain in place. The management study shows there is no emergency. Echo what Larry is saying.

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: We agree also with the 2800. We have done extensive work and trying to work on this co-management and also extensive discussion with our technical experts and advisers. We have determined that the data that we have been provided does not justify an emergency. We recognize there is a concern for the Bathurst herd however it does not constitute an emergency. To implement emergency measures will not accomplish anything more than ruin the relationship with respect to co-management. We have asked and I will say it again, we have asked that you work with us in joint management proposal in light of the June recon survey. That you give the WRRB the important information they need to do their job as an institute of public government to manage wildlife within Wekweezi. The Tlicho government has an agreement. You signed onto that agreement as the territorial government. We have to respect and implement that agreement. To bring this back to our citizens that you, maybe you alone, by a total ban is not acceptable.

Chief Alphonz Nitsiza: I whole heartedly agree with Bill Enge of the NSMA. I don't agree with him on all things but he just took the words out of my mouth. We are in an emergency mode. Just because there was a recon survey done that we all jump on. We all know from experts that these are not true numbers. This is not a total population. We are not sure if it is the right number. Yes we do have concern about decline of the herd because of the activity in our area. As political leaders we have to make a good decision for the people and those good decisions only come with good information in front of us. Back in August 27 shortly after the count was done the leadership was pulled together. At that time we said because some First Nations do not have good resources to get numbers we asked for funding to hire technical people to work together. We agreed to set up the working group. We understand that was just a waste of time. The money was not enough to hire experts. We didn't get the information we need. To put a total ban on the Bathurst as Bill mentioned, if their number is 15,000, 2 percent of that would not eliminate those numbers. Our people are out on the land now. To tell our people you can't hunt anymore, they would think we have gone mad. This is not acceptable to our people. To expand on the work put in for the last five years, we tried to find ways to help the animal recover. We spent thousands of dollars and we continue to. I want to go away, go home thinking we have as leaders come to a decision as to how we are going to ensure that people are looked after. Ensure people are considered. In smaller communities caribou is the main source of food. In the papers today you hear of food prices going up. To fly here to get groceries cost a lot of money. It is easy to sit

back in the comfort of your office to think these numbers work well. If tough decisions are to be made you go to the community. I stand by my Grand Chief and say this total ban is not acceptable on the Bathurst herd. On the Bluenose East we know the numbers are also going down. I don't want to talk about the number so much but how do we monitor. We did a lot of that ourselves and I want some commitment from ENR to really give all the resources to this area, monitoring, ensure predation issues are addressed, so that we see the numbers coming up in the next few years. I am very disturbed by what the Minister proposed and hope that he changes his thinking.

Chief Clifford Daniels: We knew this was going to be tough but hearing those words from the Minister I feel anger. All around this table, the Tlicho are most affected. Of course it draws anger when you have someone else dictate how and when you can hunt, it is disrespectful, hurtful and not right. Sometimes you say it is legal but it does not make it right. Three months and here we are to this day. Over four years and the situation is getting worse and we are feeling most of this compared to anybody else. Our people have blamed us since day one, this is the Chiefs' fault. Never once did they blame the GNWT. And again I see this process. We are going to get blamed. Did you defend our rights, did you give us access, did you support the Tlicho? The consensus I heard earlier today was good. 2800 for the Bluenose East, I think that is okay. When you really say zero harvest for the Bathurst it is very hard. Everything else since 2009 has not been done. The harvesters have been blamed while everything else continues - predation, mining, exploration, all the cumulative impacts have not been dealt with. It is the harvesters. Even some of the Elders ask why are we saving the caribou, for the wolves? We do have issues. Please reconsider this impact, it is huger than you think, especially for the smaller communities.

Walter Bezha: We have to close the speaker list at this time and go to the question of the Minister and then deal with our caucus and some things we might want to do further.

Minister Miltenberger: In terms of clearly defining the emergency measures decided upon, I laid them out basically when I made my comments. Bluenose East we think a sustainable harvest at 1500 animals. Don't agree with anybody who says it is the end of the co-management process. Having been a touchy issue, there is a gap. Bluenose East plan is not ready. Was told last time for almost a year. In the meantime what do we do this hunting season based on the numbers. How those numbers are allocated could be a discussion worked out between ENR and the aboriginal government and the co management boards. The ban would be put into place for this hunting season and reviewed once the numbers are in from the 2015 census, a process that will take until next fall. Do not know if there are more specifics you need. That is what is intended.

Ernie Campbell: To add, you wanted a commitment. We touched on a number of things and are absolutely committed. How do you unfold this? If we have a target for the Bluenose East how do we fill that gap for the Bathurst? Talk about working groups to get on with predator and harvest management allocation. We need a commitment here to bring them together and move on this stuff recognizing the numbers and that it is interim. I also know it appears that on the numbers there is some misunderstandings. We are committed if we have to pull a group together to clearly understand what those numbers mean. The trends for the Bathurst are alarming and how can we work something out for an interim measure for this winter. Again, recognizing it will take some time for implementation of the action plan of the ACCWM for the Bluenose plan and preparation for the survey in 2015. The commitment is there to work this out.

Norman Snowshoe: Both sides put their position on the floor. Why do we need to caucus?

Walter Bezha: More for ourselves.

Deb Simmons: And after this meeting there will be a lot of media interest. Important for the aboriginal caucus to have time to come up with a message.

Ernie Campbell: Want to put something out there for the caucus and respond to the Minister's comments. Reference to this being half a dozen meetings so far, burning up the resources. Back to the commitment that we need to work something out. We are proposing here if we have to, after recognizing time, I would recommend the commitment for key individuals here to continue discussion here. Important to the commitment for collaboration. The commitment is there.

Jody Pellissey: We need to hear from the Minister, a further point of clarification. Are you going ahead with implementing the emergency measure?

Minister Miltenberger: At this point I would be telling the press the same thing, that the matter is still under discussion. If we are going to get some of the key folks together to come to some kind of agreement. At this point the process is still in flux, not saying anything specific to the press, other than it is important, we are doing the work, it is not finalized yet.

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: What does it mean, you just imposed a ban. Now what are you going to tell the media?

Minister Miltenberger: I am not going to tell the press anything in terms of decisions. Will indicate there are still some things to be discussed. That will be the total of my comments. Had that discussion in this room only. Mentioned it to Cabinet.

Chief Edward Erasmus: Are you saying this is still on the table? Open for further discussion?

Minister Miltenberger: To follow up on the deputy's offer, with the Bluenose East how do we do that? You are saying 2800 voluntary harvest. I am saying numbers are more critical. For the Bathurst we are saying no harvest that is sustainable, are there options? Deputy will restate.

Ernie Campbell: Can't add much to that. Think Grand Chief obviously we have to have further discussion. If we can commit to key folks, a smaller group, and a timeframe, let's see what we can do with these two herds.

Norman Snowshoe: Are we calling the Minister back after the caucus? What is the process?

Deb Simmons: Originally the end time for this meeting was 4:00. It is possible that the caucus would decide they have a message back to the Minister. Perhaps could be submitted in writing to the Minister and/or a message to the press that the caucus agrees to.

Chief Eddie Sangris: You heard what the Minister said. This issue of discussion is still on the table. Still want to have talks on both herds. If we caucus what is going to be the result of the caucus? If they say we need more talks then we have more talks. Don't see any resolution coming out of the caucus if the Minister is saying we need to have more talks.

Minister Miltenberger: Like to suggest if there is an interest we commit before the middle of December. Hopefully conclude this before Christmas.

Minister and ENR staff left.

Walter Bezha: It is important the regions have something for the public. If we leave it, it is going to happen. Any suggestions for the key areas?

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus: One message should be we are still talking. Don't know about the date. The message should be we are still in discussions.

Walter Bezha: So many issues vary in the regions. The key message: we have progressed a long ways since this morning, things sometimes don't look like they will change. Still have more time. Can bring up with the respective regions.

Chief Eddie Sangris: Basically the Minister came here and said I am not going to listen to you, ignore you. What are we going to tell our people, they have to wait for two more weeks? It is getting to a point where we need to seriously think about, because we are the most impacted on what he is proposing to do. When the other herds are part of this discussion, it is confusing the people, where can you go hunting. If we are allowed to hunt Bluenose East only allowed 1500. What about the Ahiak? When it is warm everybody will go past Lutsel K'e. To say not going to have any discussion, hands off on industry – we all know industry is contributing the decline of caribou, changing the migration route. That is what we thought we would be discussing.

Shannon Gault: as a technical person, I agree with Chief Erasmus' comment that the message needs to be ongoing. Concern is with the consultation we just witnessed. I can't say what we just witnessed was consultation. Every group around this table said they will not tolerate a ban on hunting the Bathurst. Don't have any better idea than I had this morning about where this is.

Norman Snowshoe: One of the messages we have to make clear is the Bluenose East herd is not in an emergency situation. There is an action plan for the Bluenose East herd, if there is requirement for any emergency actions. That should be made clear. If anything their commitment to further discussions is a good sign.

Jen Lam: In the context to why some of the staff want clear consensus was to what we are putting out to the media, we need a coordinated response we can provide to the media. Good to have some messaging we all agree on. Those are the three points now, like to have some sort of feeling these are the main three messages to be put out to the media at this time.

Bill Enge: The key message from my perspective is the aboriginal leadership gathered here today is not convinced that a 100 percent aboriginal harvest ban is necessary at this time.

Thaidene Paulette: I sat here today and tried to put myself in your shoes. I have to support you. When the Minister says he imposes a full ban have to think how you feel, who will fill up your freezer this winter. I know if there is a quota for the Bluenose East, the Hotta Lake area is a long ways to go. It hurts seeing myself in your shoes. Don't know what I would do to not be able to feed my family this winter. Don't know why the GNWT, if they are at the point to ban the food source, why are they not at a point to do a photo survey every year. I go home not feeling good. We can hunt buffalo. You go home and it

is different. I suggest the GNWT get accurate numbers every year before making that kind of decision, if it depends on your survival and way of life. The GNWT says it is their responsibility to make these decisions but as Dene people it is your responsibility to feed your family.

Shannon Gault: We support all of the key messages on the board but based on the Minister's comments number three is the only point that should be stated until a later date. Could be a scenario they will run with it if we give them too much. Easiest response is to say it is ongoing.

Deb Simmons: Are we talking about deleting all the items except #4.

Chief Felix Lockhart: What Shannon is proposing is good. And put in a general comment that the Minister listened to all the concerns, all the factors, other than harvesting. There is a major disconnect. The Minister understands there needs to be strong attention and co-management of wildlife. We are not considered as a settlement area but still have a lot of strong concerns. That is important to note, there is a major disconnect and needs to be further discussion. Herb, last time you talked about some kind of declaration.

Walter Bezha: It is important to look at what Felix is saying. So many other issues we haven't touched on.

Grand Chief Herb Norwegian: What you need to do is this type of discussion needs to be public. Can't continue to have closed door discussions. Dealing with an issue that people want to know is happening. These indoor discussions creates a lot of problems, people want to know why these are happening behind closed doors. If you want to send a message it should be positive. The perception out there is the problem with the caribou that is being addressed is a result of over harvesting. Of course this means the aboriginal people are out there slaughtering, that is not the case. The other is the massive developments in the way of the caribou. What you want to portray to the public this discussion is still going on and we as aboriginal groups are doing everything we can to find what is going to work with all of us. Government comes to us with a heavy hand and we come with the authority as the keepers of the land. Message needs to be positive.

Jen Lam: Would like to suggest the Bluenose East be taken off this table. No need for emergency measures for the Bluenose East.

Walter Bezha: Remember there is a Bluenose East management plan.

Closing Prayer: Chief Eddie Sangris