



Inuvik – January 23rd-26th, 2007
NWT Barren-ground
Caribou **SUMMIT**

Caribou Forever... Our Heritage, Our Responsibility.



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NWT Barren-ground Caribou SUMMIT

Caribou Forever... Our Heritage, Our Responsibility.

Dedication

This report is dedicated to Tłıchq elder Harry Simpson, from Gameti, who freely shared his extensive knowledge of caribou and the land with so many people. Harry participated in the Summit and died in April 2007. It is the knowledge, wisdom and guidance of elders that can help us to take care of our land and ensure that caribou are here forever.



Northwest
Territories Environment and Natural Resources
August 2007



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from the Minister | 4 |
| Executive Summary | 5 |
| Acknowledgements | 6 |
| Background | 7 |
| The Summit | 8 |
| Information for Management | 10 |
| Engaging Partners | 12 |
| Managing Human Impacts | 16 |
| Addressing Hardships | 20 |
| Setting Priorities | 23 |
| Closing Remarks | 24 |
| Government Response | 24 |
| Appendix 1: Information for Management..... | 25 |
| Appendix 2: Engaging Partners..... | 28 |
| Appendix 3: Managing Human Impacts..... | 31 |
| Appendix 4: Addressing Hardships..... | 35 |
| Appendix 5: Setting Priorities | 37 |
| Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items..... | 40 |
| Appendix 7: List of Delegates..... | 45 |
| Appendix 8: Reference Binder Table of Contents | 50 |



Message from the Minister



The barren-ground caribou of the Northwest Territories (NWT) have been and continue to be one of the most important resources that the people of the NWT depend upon. For many Canadians and people around the world, the vision of large, free ranging herds of barren-ground caribou defines the Canadian north.

For the last 25 years, there have been enough caribou. But now, for many reasons, there are fewer caribou and that means hardships for everyone. The NWT Barren-ground Caribou Summit was a unique opportunity to bring together people from across the NWT, Yukon, Nunavut, and northern Alberta and Saskatchewan to discuss the issues and work together to come up with priorities for action.

Over three days, people passionately shared their knowledge and ideas and built new relationships. It was a privilege to be a part of the Summit and I was encouraged by commitments made by leaders to take actions to help caribou herds to recover.

The priorities identified by participants will guide the actions being taken under the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy over the next four years. We will continue to support key management partners, such as the wildlife co-management boards established under land claim and self-government agreements and the caribou management boards, in the decisions they make. I believe that by working together and making personal sacrifices we will continue to have caribou forever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes, representing the name Michael McLeod.

Michael McLeod
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources



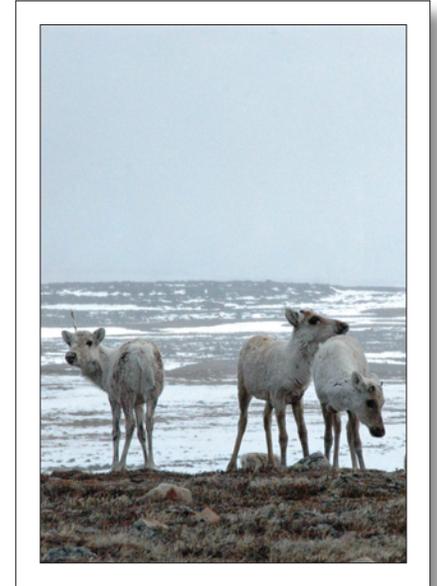
Executive Summary

Spurred by growing evidence that NWT barren-ground caribou populations were in sharp decline, the Government of the NWT organized the first ever NWT Barren-ground Caribou Summit. Representatives from every region, Aboriginal governments, caribou management boards, renewable resource and co-management boards, outfitters, environmental organizations, the oil and gas and mining industries came together to identify priorities for action over the next four years to help caribou herds recover. On January 23 to 26, 2007, over 180 delegates came together in Inuvik at the Midnight Sun Conference Centre and the Inuvik Curling Club to address this challenge.

The four major themes of the *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility: Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories 2006-2010* provided the basis for a series of background presentations to provide information for discussions during breakout group sessions. The themes were: Information for Management; Engaging Partners; Managing Human Impacts; and Addressing Hardships. Questions regarding possible actions and strategies were posed for the breakout groups to consider. Participants were encouraged to bring forward their own ideas for solutions. Results from each breakout group were presented to plenary sessions, enabling everyone to hear the full spectrum of concerns and perspectives from across the north. Delegates concluded the Summit by selecting priorities from each of the theme areas. The results of the Summit clearly demonstrate pan-northern agreement that action must be taken to reduce harvesting and focus on recovery. A very real sense of responsibility and concern was demonstrated and was evident by the actions identified that were aimed at both Aboriginal and public governments as well as the various stakeholders and management agencies in the north. It was particularly poignant to hear Aboriginal leaders talk about their willingness to forgo exercising harvesting rights for the sake of recovery of the caribou populations. These same leaders also made it abundantly clear that it is Aboriginal governments who must make these decisions; they cannot be imposed by other governments. They proposed holding an Aboriginal caribou summit to initiate the consideration of such actions.

Follow-up to this Summit will require continued collaboration with all organizations present, but will also require that steps be taken to enlist active participation from other jurisdictions who share our caribou herds. In particular, delegates were painfully aware of the importance of the protection of calving and post-calving grounds and the fact that most of these are in Nunavut. Participants were cognizant of the mineral potential in these areas and sensitive to the demand for jobs in Nunavut. Appreciation of this situation led to recommendations such as doing more to share our employment opportunities.

The Summit concluded with a collective sense of responsibility for supporting caribou recovery that will require all partners to continue to be active in developing solutions.



Acknowledgements



Many people contributed to the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Summit. Robert Charlie of Inuvik chaired the Summit, keeping the proceedings on track, and was an engaging and sensitive host. Joanne Barnaby facilitated the Summit and encouraged delegates to bring forward strategies and actions they could support. Lisa Tesar and Lona Collins, Bottomline PR, provided tremendous logistical support to all delegates so everyone had places to stay, were fed well and travelled safely. Delta Sun Services provided catering to the Summit. The regional Aboriginal organizations coordinated the involvement of community delegates. Pido Productions provided technical sound services. KopyKat North copied piles of documents. Staff of the Midnight Sun Conference Centre, Mackenzie Hotel, Eskimo Inn, Nova Inn and Capital Suites Hotel and residents of Inuvik made delegates feel welcome in the community.

Bringing together 200 people from across the north is an expensive undertaking and could not have been done without the financial contributions of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, De Beers Canada Inc., Canadian Boreal Initiative, World Wildlife Fund – Canada, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., BHP Billiton and Conoco Phillips.

Finally, the Summit's success was due to the dedication of all delegates, especially the leaders and elders, to work together and contribute their ideas, knowledge and experience to identify priority actions to help caribou recover and address hardships resulting from low caribou numbers. Qujannamiik, mahsi cho, marsi, e'kosi, mutna, merci and thank you.



Background

Why a Barren-ground Caribou Summit?

In response to discussions with Aboriginal leaders, communities, outfitters and wildlife co-management boards about the significant decline in barren-ground caribou herds, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) made a public commitment in June 2006 in the legislature to bring together a cross-section of representatives involved in the use and management of barren-ground caribou to address this crisis. Plans to organize a caribou summit were received with a great deal of interest and the forum grew quickly into a gathering of almost 200 people from the Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut, Yukon, and northern Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Getting Ready for the Summit

Communities and organizations from every region in the NWT and from neighbouring jurisdictions that share NWT caribou were contacted. They were asked to send delegates prepared to make tough choices about actions required to support the recovery of our herds.

Sessions were designed to consider actions identified in the *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility: Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the NWT 2006-2010* as a starting point. The final session was designed to enable participants to identify actions that should be considered as priorities.

Arrangements were made to provide concise background information for delegates on a full range of issues. Presentations were developed that focused on population study results, on traditional knowledge about caribou cycles, on harvest studies and methodology, on various monitoring programs, and on roles and responsibilities of various boards and agencies involved in the management of caribou. Reference binders containing relevant background information were prepared for each delegate.



The Summit



Meet and Greet

Summit delegates were welcomed to Inuvik on the evening of January 23 by local host Chief Richard Nerysoo, Inuvialuit Game Council member Sammy Lennie, and Mayor Derek Lindsay. The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources welcomed delegates and acknowledged the Summit sponsors: the Canadian Boreal Initiative, De Beers Canada Inc., World Wildlife Fund – Canada, BHP Billiton Diamonds, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., Conoco Phillips, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Chief Fred Sangris introduced the newly formed Dene Nation Chiefs Committee and explained the growing concern among Dene leaders about the state of NWT barren-ground caribou herds. Youth delegate Janine Olifie, with support from Natasha Olifie and Agnes Kuptana, closed the reception with a throat song.

Opening Session

The Summit began with an opening prayer offered by Gwich'in elder Liz Hansen, followed by the Honourable Michael McLeod, who opened the Summit. The Minister said that it is the government's turn to listen to what people have to say about caribou and what needs to be done. Everyone has a role to play and this is a unique opportunity to work together towards a common goal. Chair Robert Charlie explained the primary purpose of the forum was to identify actions and priorities to help with recovery of herd populations.

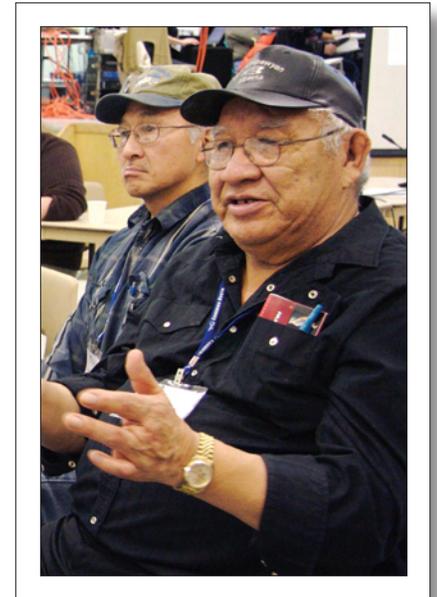
Danny Beaulieu, Renewable Resource Officer, North Slave Region, Environment and Natural Resources, provided an historic perspective based on traditional knowledge about caribou cycles. Traditional knowledge from Akaitcho elders shows a natural cycle of about 30 years. Danny pointed out that this understanding is supported by western science collected over the last 30 years. He stressed that we are currently in the low end of the cycle and that previously when numbers were low, harvest declined naturally as people did not have access to hunting and transportation technology available now and there were fewer pressures on caribou habitat.



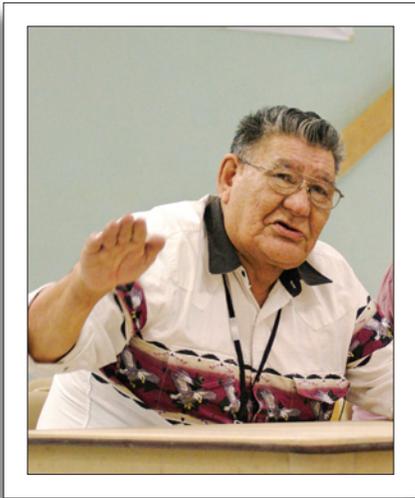
Chief Fred Sangris explained that the establishment of the Dene Nation Chiefs Caribou Committee developed out of concern about the decline in caribou numbers and that actions taken that would affect the rights of Aboriginal peoples would require their direct participation and consent. He reminded delegates that Aboriginal rights are protected by the Canadian Constitution and land claim agreements and that the roles of wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements must be respected. He also stressed the importance of providing information back to communities and working with them to develop appropriate management actions.

Facilitator Joanne Barnaby explained that the Summit was organized to give participants short but critical information presentations to enable them to effectively identify actions that should be taken. Delegates were advised that their reference binders contained information related to each of the major themes to be addressed as well as some of the presentations that they would receive during plenary sessions. The primary opportunity for delegates to voice their views would be in the breakout sessions. For the breakout sessions, delegates were assigned among 10 groups. Each group had a facilitator and notetaker. All concerns and suggested actions were recorded in each group and the facilitator provided a summary of ideas back to plenary sessions that followed the breakout groups.

On Day 2, an eleventh group was formed consisting of Aboriginal leaders and elders. Media attended the plenary sessions and did not participate in the breakout sessions.



Information for Management



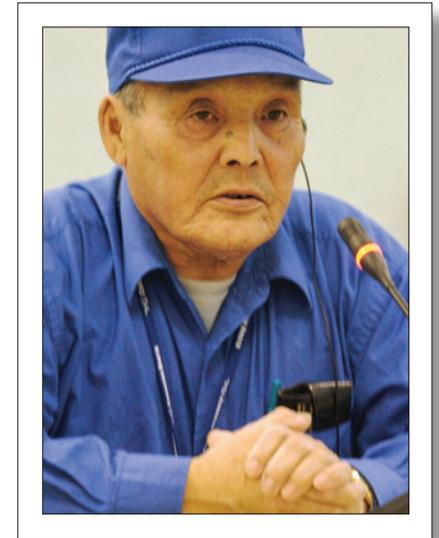
The purpose of the presentations was to provide the status of NWT barren-ground caribou herds and types of information collected by scientists and communities. This information is needed by wildlife co-management boards, environmental impact review boards and agencies to make decisions on how to manage caribou and human impacts.

- Ray Case, Manager, Wildlife Division, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT, provided an overview of information collected by the GNWT to monitor status and trend of NWT caribou herd and factors affecting caribou numbers and their habitat. The information shows a sharp decline in caribou numbers ranging from 40 to 86 percent in the last 10 years.
- Grand Chief George Mackenzie explained that, further to their extensive work on documenting traditional knowledge on caribou, the Tłıchǫ government was committed to taking steps to address the crisis. Under the *Tłıchǫ Agreement*, the Tłıchǫ Government has the authority to enact wildlife laws. He outlined their plans to host an elders' forum to seek their advice before determining precisely what action they would take.
- Rachael Crapeau outlined the unique approach to monitoring being taken by the Yellowknives in their Winter Road Check Station. This project provides information on harvesting activities by people using the winter roads to the diamond mines. It was established out of concern that these roads may affect the movement of caribou and substantially increase access to caribou, leading to over-hunting. She also noted that caribou were not being found in their traditional fall hunting areas.
- Don Russell provided an overview of the monitoring efforts of wild caribou and reindeer herds across northern Canada, Alaska and Russia. The Circumpolar Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) project is coordinating the sharing of information among agencies and people. The intent is to provide annual reports that compare what is happening to herds (such as calf survival and body condition) and their habitat (such as time of snow melt and plant growth) across the circumpolar region.



Delegates considered the following questions in breakout sessions:

1. Are there gaps in the current information?
2. Can we improve how information is collected?
3. Are the following Caribou Management Strategies (5-7) appropriate? If not, what changes should be made?
 - a. Implement monitoring actions to determine the status of all NWT herds and to understand factors driving changes in herd status.
 - b. Identify and implement studies necessary to understand caribou ecology, including the role of predators.
 - c. Develop population models that incorporate key demographic data, traditional knowledge and community-based knowledge to evaluate proposed management options.
4. What is your sense of which strategy or action is more important and why?



Delegate Responses

In gathering information for management, the biggest concerns were the collection and use of traditional knowledge and the need for community-based monitoring (Appendix 1). Lack of harvest information was recognized as a major gap and this was further discussed in Session 3 – Managing Human Impacts. Many questions were asked about the impact of predators such as wolves and bears. Delegates shared ideas on presenting information to the public, the need to collaborate with other jurisdictions, expanding types of information collected (such as weather, new diseases coming north, health of plants), and developing computer models to help evaluate proposed management options.

The top five actions in order of priority are:

1. Bring traditional knowledge into decision-making.
2. Do all population surveys at the same time.
3. Determine impacts of insects, climate change and change in caribou behaviour to human activity.
4. Develop a central database for information on herds.
5. Determine the impact of predators.



Engaging Partners



Many agencies have a role in managing caribou. These include governments, wildlife co-management boards established through land claim agreements, and caribou management boards established as a means to engage harvesters and other stakeholders in the management of shared herds. In addition, management plans for each of the NWT herds are at varying levels of development.

This session was designed to provide Summit participants with an overview of each of the players involved and the state of planning and management for each herd.

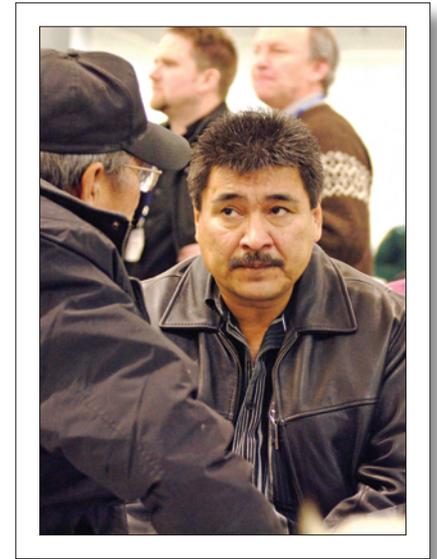
- Susan Fleck, Director of Wildlife, ENR, GNWT, provided a brief overview of the status of management plans for mainland NWT barren-ground caribou herds. Several herds do not have current management plans. It was noted that management and monitoring actions in several plans (Bathurst, Beverly/Qamanirjuaq) recognize that caribou herds cycle in numbers and should be adjusted depending if herds are increasing, decreasing or low.

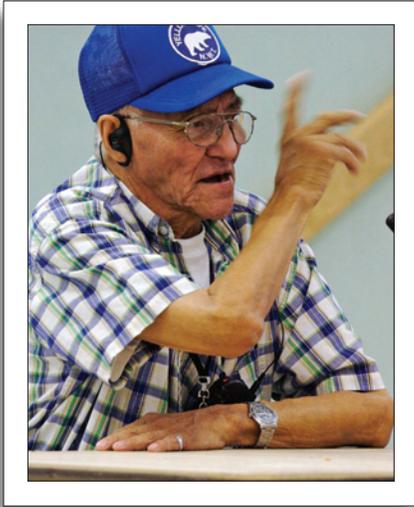
The next set of presenters represented co-management boards, including those established through land claim agreements and those established for inter-jurisdictional management of caribou.

- Joe Tetlich is the long-time Chair of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Joe grew up in Fort McPherson, but now makes his home in Old Crow in the Yukon. He described the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement that was signed in 1985 and formalizes the membership and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Board. The main responsibility of the Board is to manage the Porcupine Caribou Herd and protect the herd's habitat, noting, subject to conservation, a preferential right to Aboriginal harvest.
- Earl Evans is a long-time member of the Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and represents the Northwest Territories Metis Nation on the Board. The Board was established through an intergovernmental agreement in 1982 and is an Aboriginal-led co-management group working to conserve the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds of northern Canada for the benefit of traditional caribou-using communities. Representatives come from the Government of Canada, and governments and communities from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut and the NWT.



- Larry Carpenter, Chair of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), explained the Council has jurisdiction for wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the NWT. Larry grew up in Sachs Harbour. The Council was created through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, signed in 1982, and has equal Inuvialuit and government membership. Over the past two years, Council recommendations to close commercial and non-Aboriginal harvest, create new management zones, close one zone to all caribou hunting and set Total Allowable Harvest for Bluenose-West Herd were accepted by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Ernest Pokiak is a member of the other Inuvialuit Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) that has jurisdiction for wildlife management on the Inuvialuit Settlement Region on the North Slope of the Yukon.
- Robert Charlie is a long-time member and Chair of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board. This co-management board was set up in the early 1990s under land claims and is the main instrument for wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). Its mission is to conserve and manage renewable resources within the GSA in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of the public today and in the future. The Board also conducts research and provides contributions to research. This Board has also made strong recommendations to encourage the conservation of caribou.
- Jody Snortland is the Executive Director of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, which was established through the *Sahtu Dene-Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, signed in 1994. She lives in Tulita with her young daughter and husband. This Board is the main instrument for wildlife and forest management in the Sahtu and its responsibilities include wildlife research, wildlife management and undertaking consultations with the public, especially the community-based Renewable Resource Councils. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has accepted board recommendations on caribou management.
- Alfonz Nitsiza is from Wha Ti and is the Chair of the newly formed Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board that has been established under the *Th̓ch̓ Agreement* (self-government agreement) signed in 2005. The Board performs the functions of wildlife management in accordance with a number of principles. Its primary powers are wildlife management, commercial activities related to wildlife, forest management, plant management and protected areas.





- While the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was unable to send a representative, information about the Board and its role in managing the wildlife of Nunavut was included in the reference binder. It was set up in the early 1990s and its mandate is to help ensure the protection and wise use of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the long-term benefit of Inuit and the rest of the public in Nunavut and Canada. The government carries out the decisions of the board.

The final set of presenters reviewed the roles of various government agencies in caribou management.

- Doug Larsen is a biologist working for the Government of Yukon and is a member of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.
- Mitch Campbell works for the Government of Nunavut as the regional biologist for the Kivalliq region and is a member of the Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board. There are about 13 herds of barren-ground caribou in Nunavut (some are shared with neighbouring jurisdictions).
- Tim Trottier is a biologist working for the Government of Saskatchewan and is involved in the management of the Beverly herd and is a member of the Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.
- David Livingstone is the Director of the Renewable Resources and Environment Directorate with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Yellowknife and contributes regularly to caribou research and forums.
- Christian Bucher works for the Inuvik regional office with Parks Canada. Christian was formerly the Chief Warden for Tuktoyaktuk National Park and was involved in caribou studies. Parks Canada's mandate is to protect significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding and enjoyment in ways that maintain the ecological integrity of park resources.
- Bert Dean works for the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). He spoke on NTI's role in caribou management.

Delegates considered the following questions in breakout sessions:

1. What are the gaps in cooperation?
2. How should gaps be addressed?
3. How should stakeholders be involved (i.e. resident hunters, outfitters, tourism operators, industry?)



4. Are the following Caribou Management Strategies (1-4) appropriate? If not, what changes should be made?
 - a. Work with co-management and other public processes to effectively identify caribou conservation issues and options for caribou conservation.
 - b. Track the implementation of existing management plans, update management plans where needed and develop management plans for herds where they do not exist.
 - c. Establish inter-jurisdictional agreements where needed to enhance coordination and cooperation.
 - d. Enhance and promote the exchange of information on the status and use of caribou across the circumpolar north.
5. What is your sense of which strategy or action is more important and why?



Delegate Responses

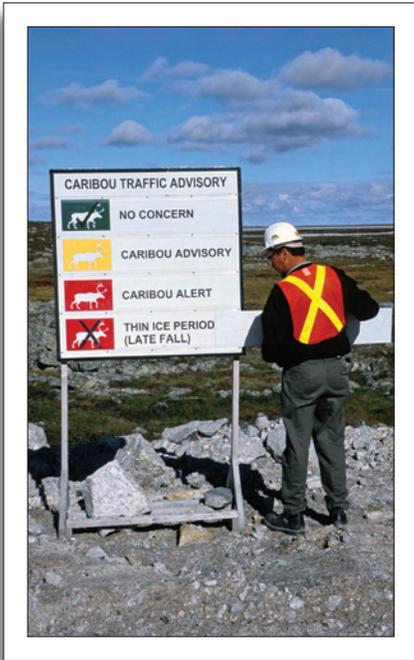
To increase partner involvement, delegates wanted all agencies, stakeholders and jurisdictions to increase communication, coordination and collaboration to monitor and manage caribou and implement actions (Appendix 2). Aboriginal governments should be full partners and have the capacity to be involved in monitoring. Dene and Inuit leaders wanted to meet together. People felt that everyone has a role to play, including reducing harvest voluntarily, reporting wastage and informing themselves. Tourism operators were asked to build relationships with communities and it was recognized that people need time to obtain information and think about management actions. Regulations should be consistent among jurisdictions and we need to develop a sense of stewardship in everyone.

The top five actions in order of priority are:

1. Bring youth into conferences, HTC/RRC meetings and board meetings.
2. Develop a management plan for each herd that includes management actions for different population levels.
3. Ask elders to help teach youth and southerners about hunting and handling meat.
4. Don't make decisions without partners.
5. Hold Aboriginal conference on caribou.



Managing Human Impacts



Over the past 40 years, there have been many changes in the north, especially in how we use the land. Forty years ago, we travelled more slowly and people could still depend on the land to make a living. Today, when caribou wander the land, they can no longer hide from people or their activities. Managing human activities is our greatest challenge and this session provided background on how these activities are monitored and what management actions should be taken.

The purpose of the presentations was to provide information on human activities that impact caribou, either directly (for example, harvesting) or indirectly (for example, resource development), and how these activities are monitored and managed. This session did not cover cumulative effects or climate change, which are potential topics for future workshops.

The following presentations focused on impacts from human activities, such as mining and harvesting, and programs set up to monitor these impacts.

- Chris Hanks, an anthropologist, worked for a number of years as the Chief Environmental Officer at BHP Billiton's EKATI mine and is now a consultant with Rescan Environmental Services. He spoke on behalf of the NWT/ Nunavut Chamber of Mines about the work and monitoring programs supported by the NWT diamond mining companies – BHP Billiton, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. and DeBeers Canada.
- Florence Catholique has played several leadership roles over the years on environmental issues. She is currently representing her community of Lutselk'e as a member of the Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board set up for the Diavik diamond mine. The Board was created through an Environmental Agreement signed by government, communities and the operator. The Board is the independent watchdog of monitoring activities undertaken by Diavik and regulators. Annual reports are produced and recommendations on monitoring programs are made each year.

The next set of presenters provided information on the status of harvest information on caribou. The Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and Nunavut harvest studies were required under the land claim agreements to determine minimum needs levels. Harvest data are critical information for wildlife managers.

- Sheila Nasagaluak organized the 10-year Inuvialuit harvest study, which was conducted from 1988 to 1997. During this time the caribou harvest declined from 5,300 to about 2,000 per year.



- Catherine Lambert Koizumi is a biologist for the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and reviewed the caribou harvest study for the Gwich'in settlement area. The study began in 1995 and ran for nine years. Over 700 Gwich'in beneficiaries participated on a voluntary basis. Like the Inuvialuit study, caribou harvest declined over this period.
- Jody Snortland is the Executive Director for the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and started working for the Board as the harvest study coordinator. The harvest study ran in some or all the communities between the years 1998 and 2005. Over this time period, barren-ground caribou harvest declined from about 3,000 to less than 1,500 in this time period and were concentrated along the winter roads.
- Mathieu Dumond is the Kitikmeot regional biologist for the Government of Nunavut and reviewed the caribou harvest information collected during the Nunavut Harvest Study. The study ran for five years (1996-2001).
- Bruno Croft, Caribou Monitoring Biologist, North Slave Region, ENR, GNWT coordinates the caribou monitoring program for the North Slave region and has been working with communities to collect harvest information. He reviewed results from the 2005/06 season and how harvest could be allocated among herds by using locations of collared caribou.



The final presentations in this session focused on priorities for harvest under land claim agreements and management actions being taken to reduce impacts from human activities.

- Steven Voytilla, Implementation Division, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, GNWT, reviewed the harvest allocation provisions under the NWT land claim agreements.
- Joe Tetlichy talked about the harvest management strategy that is being prepared through the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. The intent is to identify a full range of options for managing harvest, including meat wastage, hunting seasons, location and methods. The strategy will be developed jointly with user groups and the Yukon public over three years.
- Monte Hummel of World Wildlife Fund (Canada) and Stephen Kakfwi, (former NWT Premier) in his role as Special Advisor to the World Wildlife Fund and the Canadian Boreal Initiative, spoke about the importance of protecting caribou habitat, including calving grounds, and the opportunities available under the Protected Area Strategy.





Delegates considered the following questions in breakout sessions:

1. Are there gaps in monitoring impacts from resource-based industrial activity?
2. What harvest data is needed now?
 - a. How can it be collected in a cost-effective manner?
3. How do we prevent wastage and get the conservation message out?
4. Should caribou range be protected?
5. Are the following Caribou Management Strategies (8-10) appropriate? If not, what changes should be made?
 - a. Evaluate the impacts of harvesting (including predation) on herd declines and recovery and implement strategies to reduce harvest impacts.
 - b. Identify, monitor and mitigate impacts of exploration and development activities and improve understanding of the mechanisms for any impacts.
 - c. Develop models to assess cumulative effects of human and natural impacts.
6. What is your sense of which strategy or action is more important and why?

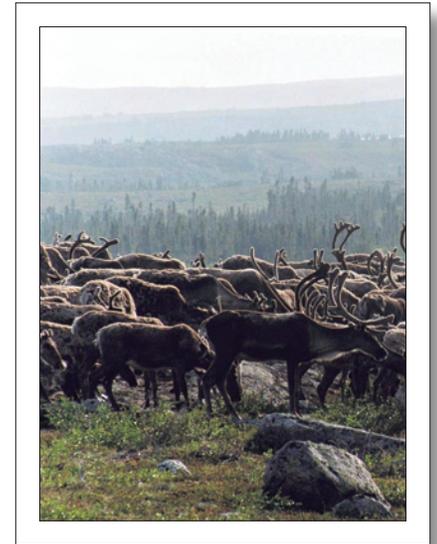
Delegate Responses

Delegates had many concerns and suggestions for managing human impacts (Appendix 3). Many actions were identified that could be used to decrease harvest and reduce wastage. Elders and Aboriginal leaders repeatedly emphasized the need for all hunters to know how to treat caribou respectfully and observe traditional hunting practices. Education of youth by elders was critical. It was felt that resource development and tourism companies should be involved in actions to help herds recover and habitat protection was critical. Cumulative impacts are not understood or accurate; current harvest information is not being collected.

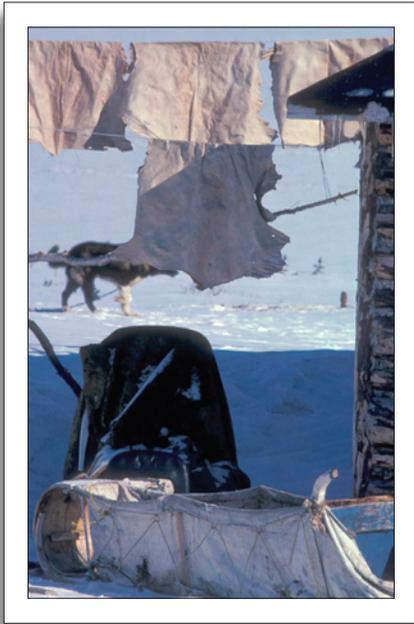


Because the list of suggested actions was substantially more than for other sessions, delegates were given 10 votes each in order to identify the top ten actions. In order of priority, they are:

1. Protect calving grounds in NWT and Nunavut.
2. Reduce all harvest.
3. Implement mandatory reporting of harvest.
4. Cut all resident, outfitting and commercial harvest.
5. Teach people about rights and responsibilities under land claim agreements and the Canadian Constitution.
6. Implement Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.
7. Engage all jurisdictions in a protected areas strategy for all barren-ground caribou range.
8. Hire elders and harvesters to go out with officers on patrol.
9. Stop sale of meat (including dry meat).
10. Provide information on disease to public.



Addressing Hardships



Low caribou numbers create hardships for people who depend on caribou for food or income. The purpose of presentations was to share information on hardships experienced by people who lived through low caribou cycles, the impact on outfitting and youth perspectives.

- Florence Catholique from Lutselk'e talked about the community monitoring program in her community. This unique program started in 2001 and collects both current observations from harvesters and traditional knowledge on past conditions to monitor environmental and socio-economic cycles. One component is monitoring caribou, as these are critical to the survival of Dene people and culture. The study monitors condition and health of caribou, behaviour, movements, weather patterns and harvest.
- Fred Wolki, a respected elder from Tuktoyaktuk, has watched the caribou cycle and seen the hardships when caribou numbers are low. He spoke about the importance of taking steps to reduce impacts on caribou from human activity.
- Tłıchǫ elder Jimmy Rabesca from Wha Ti explained that the Tłıchǫ have survived as a people on caribou. He is concerned that the exploration and mining activity in his region is having an impact.
- Tłıchǫ elder Harry Simpson of Gameti spoke about the work the Tłıchǫ elders have done to share their knowledge about caribou and their commitment to help with recovery.
- Akaitcho elder Albert Boucher from Lutselk'e talked of the difficulties of finding caribou now, and the need to support and help each other to work together. He recalled a prophecy that says that when the caribou go, there will be tears in your eyes as you see only old trails made by the caribou. He talked of actions that could help the caribou, such as stop killing bulls, keeping infrastructure away from areas where caribou migrate.



- Richard Kochon from Colville Lake spoke of stories of man protecting caribou. Long ago, one caribou was running from wolves and saw some Inuit and asked to hide in their tent. The caribou did this and since then caribou cannot smell Inuit because the Inuit helped them long ago. Elders taught young people ways to protect caribou and how to hunt properly in a respectful manner. He also spoke of people who had special gifts to bring caribou to them and when one old woman died, the caribou no longer came to the community. He stressed that the caribou is a strong animal and elders should be brought together to remember the stories and pass them along.
- Walter Bayha spoke about the caribou cycles that Deline has seen and what they did in the past to survive when caribou numbers were low and they could not harvest them.
- Chief Fred Sangris provided a personal perspective of the importance of caribou to the Dene. He explained that he was born in the barrenlands near Coppermine River and was raised on the land, very dependent on caribou. He talked about the hardships experienced when caribou populations were low in the past and how people survived. He reminded delegates that the Dene have Aboriginal rights and cannot be lumped in with 'interest groups', he also stressed that they also have stewardship responsibilities and must be part of the decision-making process.
- Jim Peterson started his outfitting operation over 20 years ago. He spoke on the economic benefits generated by the NWT Barren-ground Outfitters and the impact of reducing the number of caribou they can harvest. He expressed concern that harvesting rights not be determined based on race.
- Ron Morrison, Inuvik Regional Superintendent for Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, presented the results of the regional workshop held in Inuvik in November on addressing hardships resulting from low caribou numbers.
- Youth representative Janine Olifie talked about the changing world that young people are dealing with and the importance of their participation in forums like this.
- James Pokiak, an Inuvialuit outfitter, spoke of the hardships resulting from the decision to eliminate tags for outfitted hunts in the Inuvialuit and Sahtu regions.





Delegates considered the following questions in breakout sessions:

1. How can we improve public education?
2. How do we address hardships created?
3. Are the following Caribou Management Strategies (11-16) and actions appropriate? If not, what changes should be made?
 - a. Develop and implement a public information and education program.
 - b. Promote hunting excellence.
 - c. Document and publicize community-based hunting rules.
 - d. Enhance compliance programs.
 - e. Work with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), GNWT, and impacted communities to identify hardships and identify possible solutions, including alternate meat sources and alternate harvesting opportunities.
 - f. Work with ITI, outfitters and other commercial ventures to identify ways to maintain viability of businesses through changes in caribou numbers and distribution.
4. What is your sense of which strategy or action is more important and why?

Delegate Responses

To address hardships for subsistence users, delegates suggested elders could talk about how people survived in other times without caribou, and teach about harvesting and preparing other foods such as bison, rabbits, muskrats, birds, fish and berries (Appendix 4). Ways to reduce wastage and ensure that people, especially youth, know how to prepare all parts of caribou were suggested. Funding assistance to encourage communities to share meat was suggested. To address hardships for businesses based on the use of caribou, actions were suggested to help businesses adjust, such as assistance to change products and for marketing, and using existing facilities to teach about traditional hunting practices and respect for caribou.

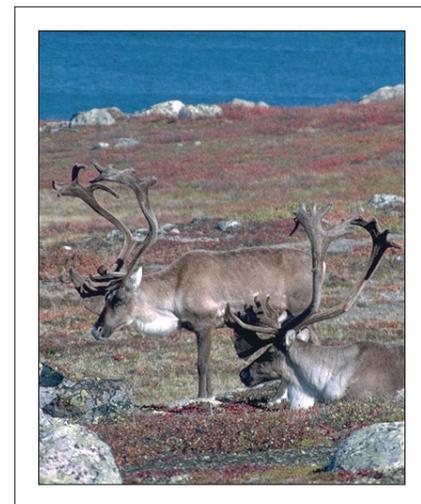
The top five actions in order of priority are:

1. Develop codes of conduct for harvest.
2. Hold regional harvester workshops.
3. Use Dene Kede program to teach about traditional laws.
4. Use outfitter camps to teach youth about hunting.
5. Use and educate people about alternative food sources to caribou.



Setting Priorities

Recognizing the urgency of the challenges and that not all recommended actions could be taken immediately, organizers asked delegates to review the results from the sessions and select actions that should be implemented as priorities. To prioritize actions in each session, delegates were provided with five votes each, which could be allocated in any manner among the actions identified during that session. Actions were ranked in relation to the number of votes received (Appendix 5).



Closing Remarks

Tłıchǫ Grand Chief George Mackenzie said that the Tłıchǫ would meet together after the Summit to consider actions to help caribou numbers increase. Tłıchǫ communities and elders would meet and make recommendations to the Tłıchǫ Government.

Dene Nation Grand Chief Bill Erasmus and Chief Fred Sangris thanked everyone for their participation and hard work. They stressed that we all have a role to play, including making personal sacrifices for caribou to recover. They felt that the Summit had helped create new relationships among communities and stakeholders so we could work together in the future.

MLA for Thebacha, Michael Miltenberger, closed the Summit on behalf of ENR Minister Michael McLeod. He stated that ENR will: take the recommendations from this Summit and share them with co-management boards, Aboriginal governments, other agencies and delegates; build the longer-term priorities into departmental business plans; and action immediate priorities that are GNWT responsibilities.

Joe Tetlichi, Chair of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, gave the closing prayer.

Government Response

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) reviewed the priority actions from the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Summit and has outlined next steps over the next four years to implement the immediate actions identified in the closing remarks to the Summit and the priority actions identified at the Summit. These next steps and suggested timelines will be provided to relevant agencies (Appendix 6). As these actions are all linked to the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy, progress can be reported annually.



Appendix 1: Information for Management

| Concerns | Action Required |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Gaps – Baseline information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support both traditional knowledge (TK) and western science research on historic population cycles and trends • Do population surveys on all herds regularly • Explore with Dene Nation Chiefs Committee ways to use information from Dene Mapping Project collected in the 1970s to compare historic information on caribou • Produce maps that show annual variations in migratory routes, predation, populations and calving grounds for each herd (need more frequent surveys) • Conduct TK research on variations in migration patterns |
| Gaps – Harvest information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to collect accurate harvest data from all harvesters • Do community-based studies in partnership with HTCs, RRC or Aboriginal governments to allay fears and distrust • Determine how many bulls, cows are taken and season harvested |
| Gaps – Habitat information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at effects of fire on caribou range • Do habitat research, including migration routes, calving and post calving areas for each herd • Do field research in areas not covered (i.e. southeast NWT and northern Saskatchewan) • Look at the erosion of permafrost on coast and its impact on caribou • Look at the health of other wildlife and plant species to understand what is happening to caribou |
| Needs – Predators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the impact of predators |
| Improvement needs – Sufficient funds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell communities how much money is needed so they can help ensure it is in territorial budget |
| Needs – Study techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all population surveys at the same time • Standardize study techniques • Census Beverly and Ahiak herds • Reduce size of collars to reduce effects on caribou • Add more collars for management |
| Needs – Harvester observations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do community-based monitoring and develop ways to collect harvester observations to plug into larger information pools • Build on and support traditional monitoring system where harvesters meet with each other and elders to share harvest information, observations and future plans |



Appendix 1: Information for Management

| Concerns | Action Required |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Needs – Traditional knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring TK into decision-making • Document TK of caribou • Promote traditional conservation practices • Obtain TK advice on maximum harvest levels • Obtain TK on impacts of forest fires on habitat • Educate younger Aboriginal leaders about their traditional roles as stewards • Educate young Aboriginal women about the power they have and what they must do to protect the caribou from their power • Teach young hunters how to show respect for the caribou spirit before they go hunting and after they kill caribou |
| Needs – Knowledge system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build ongoing working relationship between biologists and TK holders so that we recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each system and get the best possible information • Work with TK holders, harvesters and biologists to identify indicators |
| Needs – Information system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create central database for information on herds through collaborative approach with other jurisdictions so that the full range of herd habitat is covered • Ensure central database has both specific herd and habitat information as well as cumulative effects information • Develop population models that incorporate key demographic data, TK and community-based knowledge to evaluate proposed management options • Standardize monitoring information collection so that it is comparable • Improve methods to get information to public • Develop plain language information • Produce items for use by local radio stations • Expand Caribou News to all the NWT herds • Ensure community leaders are aware of regulation changes • Go through the rules and regulations with sports hunters • Work with HTC and RRCs to identify what information to interpret for elders – they can in turn help with public education locally • Remove maps of satellite collared animals from internet |



Appendix 1: Information for Management

| Concerns | Action Required |
|------------------------|---|
| Needs – Caribou health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine impact of insects, climate change and change in caribou behaviour to human activity • Identify new insects coming north, any diseases and their impacts • Improve toxicology data • Obtain better information on the impacts of noise from use of machines • Determine whether the muskox moving further south is having an impact on caribou (in particular their food supply) |
| Needs – Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify impacts of longer spring, summer and fall seasons and warmer winters on caribou migration and on their food supply • Determine impacts of thinner ice on mortality rates • Collect historic weather information • Collect TK on past climate fluctuations and impacts on caribou |



Appendix 2: Engaging Partners

| Concerns | Action |
|---|---|
| Representation and jurisdiction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government must recognize Aboriginal rights • Cannot treat Aboriginal harvester rights the same as resident hunters, outfitters or industry – they are paramount • Aboriginal governments are the only authority for establishing Aboriginal harvesting quotas – they need support in doing this effectively • Aboriginal governments must be treated as full partners (not advisors) in any decisions regarding harvest restrictions • Aboriginal jurisdiction must include their ability to carry out their traditional responsibility for stewardship over the land and wildlife • Aboriginal governments should develop monitoring capacity • Develop management plans based on TK • South Slave Metis need representation on Bathurst Management Board • Consideration of views of resident hunters • Involve women in teaching about hunting, preparing meat • Resident hunters and industry must be represented in some way • Involve Aboriginal communities in setting rules – this will make it more likely communities will understand and follow the rules • Dene leaders need to meet with Inuit leaders to encourage their support for protecting calving and post calving areas • Bring youth into conferences, meetings, boards and committees • Hold Aboriginal conference on caribou • Have regional elders/youth conference • Keep politics out of caribou management |
| Stakeholders need to be responsible and accountable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone needs to share information with each other • Representatives need to inform themselves and are responsible for passing on information back to their organization/community • Consider using a contract to specify roles and responsibilities of representatives to help ensure accountability • Everyone has responsibility to confront and report waste • Stakeholders should volunteer their part in reducing harvests • Need incentives for resident hunters to report harvests and there should be consequences for not reporting • Outfitters and tourism operators need to consult communities more effectively – it is their role to initiate building communications and a relationship with people on their traditional lands • Operators should hire local Aboriginal people as guides and monitors to increase local participation and information sharing |



Appendix 2: Engaging Partners

| Concerns | Action |
|------------------------|---|
| Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government needs to take the recommendations of the boards more seriously • Don't make decisions without partners • Make it easier for input into revisions to <i>Wildlife Act</i> • Need better communication both ways between government and boards and users • Community consultations must be taken more seriously • Involve outfitters in decisions made about cutting their quotas • Need annual territorial wide summit until caribou recover • Harvest studies need to be designed in partnership with RRCs in consultation with experienced researchers |
| Informed participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop management plan for each herd that includes management actions for different population levels • Who has it? Where does the information go? Why isn't it passed on? • Elders do not have access to translated information • Information is not always in a format understandable to each stakeholder – should be plain language • It is unclear how the study information is disseminated and stored or accessed • Stakeholders are not prepared for meetings; they lack information and therefore meetings are often repetitive (waste time clarifying things people should know) • People at meetings are not aware of all the management plans, land claims and industry restrictions that need to be considered • Develop communication training for all board members • People need enough time to look at and think about plans and strategies • Need to put a time line to tracking and reviewing management plans • Communities must be alerted to problems (such as unusual decline) to deal with them before a crisis develops • We must develop a sense of stewardship throughout the NWT • Develop communication strategy for Caribou Management Strategy |



Appendix 2: Engaging Partners

| Concern | Action |
|---------------------------|---|
| Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach youth stewardship responsibilities • Aboriginal organizations need programs to educate youth about TK and ethical practices |
| Gaps in cooperation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build trust people must work to communicate with each other, share information and concerns • Some people did not believe the numbers were as low as they were reported to be • Aboriginal leaders need to be involved in order to get buy-in for harvest restrictions • Outfitters and operators need to meet with Aboriginal leaders and build a relationship • Government needs to engage stakeholders in the hard decisions to gain support for those decisions • Aboriginal harvesters should be doing their own data gathering to ensure greatest cooperation (need funding to do this well) • Ensure partners have capacity/funding |
| Inter-jurisdictional gaps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laws in all jurisdictions so they are the same (e.g. Dempster corridor) • Develop common goals and allow different user groups to develop local solutions • Boards could recommend changes to regulations in different jurisdictions to ensure compatibility • Propose MOUs with Nunavut regarding harvesting limitations and protection of calving and post-calving areas • Co-management boards across borders are working; Ministers need to follow up with implementation • Establish a joint caribou secretariat with support from all jurisdictions to oversee coordination of work among industry, government and communities • Help Nunavut with jobs so they don't approve development in calving areas out of desperation for jobs |
| Partners in enforcement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal governments need to be involved in planning enforcement with GNWT |
| TK in partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TK should be given equal consideration – this requires partnership between western science and TK holders • Elders should help teach youth and southerners about hunting and handling meat |



Appendix 3: Managing Human Activities

| Concern | Action |
|------------------------------|--|
| Gaps – Aircraft restrictions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control air traffic over calving grounds and post-calving areas • Establish regulations to stop use of helicopters and planes to find caribou • Restrict altitude to minimize impacts of aircraft • Avoid seasonally sensitive areas |
| Waste and prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply outfitters with support (freezers, transportation) to ensure all meat is brought to communities • Work with outfitters to identify and develop other ‘products’ • Stop hunting large leader bulls (trophy) • Require mandatory training for first time non-Aboriginal hunters and youth • Reduce wastage through public education by communities • Ensure outfitters are monitored and lay heavy charges for infractions • Make it very expensive for hunters and industry to break the law • Improve education, from schools through to new hunters and industry, on stewardship, proper hunting protocols, skinning, butchering and laws • Build on Dene Kede with direct role of TK holders in delivery of curriculum on caribou • Teach people about government laws and traditional laws • Foster hunter mentoring programs to teach TK and stewardship • Support TK research on good hunting practices including selecting caribou for harvest (sex, age, size) • Require hunter training certificate prior to issuing licences or tags • Redefine waste to include hides, heads and organs (identify in each community who would take these if hunter doesn’t want them) • Make wasting meat and illegal hunting criminal charges • Increase education of importance of not hunting collared caribou • Establish a poacher reporting program (make it easy, cheap and confidential – include reporting of waste) • Ensure women are involved in teaching stewardship responsibilities and using all parts of a caribou • Consider tag system for all harvesters • Establish total allowable harvest with Aboriginal governments • Do public education on diseases so that there is no unnecessary waste of meat that may appear abnormal but is safe |



Appendix 3: Managing Human Activities

| Concern | Action |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Waste and prevention – continued | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop systematic way of distributing meat from people who have harvested meat and don't need it all to those who need it • Hunting restrictions will increase the value people place on caribou • Distribute 'Walking Together' report widely • Reduce all harvest • Bring all parts of caribou from land and have system set up to distribute • Work with TK holders to develop 'code of conduct' for hunting and handling meat • Develop "Excellence in Stewardship" awards for organizations, communities, families and individuals • Sponsor elder/youth gatherings on caribou education • Publish hunting infractions widely • Establish regulations for minimum calibre used to prevent wounding and waste • Increase residency requirement for resident hunting licences • Plan now for the next 30 year cycle • Stop all hunting for two years • No sale of meat (including dry meat) • Teach people about rights and responsibilities under land claim agreements and Canadian Constitution |
| Harvesting information needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity to conduct ongoing harvest studies at community level building on traditional system of hunters reporting to elders/TK holders • Determine community harvest needs • Implement tags for Aboriginal harvests to be administered by community • Collect harvest data and develop calendar for all herds • Collect sex, age, health, location, hunter observations • Establish GIS systems with local RRCs to input harvesting information – share this information in visual form with elders and public at least once a year to ensure community awareness and sense of responsibility • Keep harvest data current to prevent crisis • Implement mandatory reporting of harvest |



Appendix 3: Managing Human Activities

| Concern | Action |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Predator information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do TK and scientific research on the effects of wolf and bear hunting of caribou • Consider supporting wolf bounties |
| Mitigation and monitoring needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut all resident, outfitting and commercial harvest • Increase restrictions on use of winter roads to hunt • Reduce outfitter tags to one per hunter • Require different companies to pay for a single independent monitoring agency for given regions (i.e. Debeers, BHP and Diavik) • Add a caribou monitoring and management fee to land and water licences • Assess impact of roads/traffic on caribou movements • Restrict noise, dust and surface disruption • Ensure research done by companies is made available to management boards • Oil and gas companies need to take greater responsibility for limiting employee and contractor hunting, harassment and disturbance of caribou • Government must fully utilize the data currently gathered by industry • Carry out international work to educate about effects of climate change on the north and on caribou • Consider holding off on any further mining development until caribou populations are healthy • Determine what is cause and effect of development on caribou • Involve existing mines in activities to support herd growth • Increase collaboration on caribou monitoring and research • Use West Kitikmeot Slave Study (WKSS) research program as a good model for cooperative research between government, industry, communities, science and TK • Provide information on disease to public • Use native grass in all remediation • Set up hunting zones |
| Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase check-stops on winter roads • Increase penalties • Increase enforcement by government and by community • Increase wildlife officer time on the land doing patrols • Hire elders and harvesters to go out with officers on patrol |



Appendix 3: Managing Human Activities

| Concern | Action |
|------------------------------|--|
| Habitat protection needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out land use planning in all regions (with a strong inter-regional and inter-jurisdictional focus on caribou habitat) • Engage all jurisdictions in a protected area strategy to protect caribou calving and post calving grounds • Protect calving grounds in NWT and Nunavut • Protect remaining caribou range from being burned (identify critical habitat as a 'values at risk' for fire management) • Recognize the Dene belief that calving grounds are sacred and require special protection • Bring Tłıchǫ, Akaitcho and NWT Metis Nation together to start work on land use plan |
| Assessing cumulative effects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research (both TK and WS) on cumulative impacts • Identify cumulative effects of air pollution (from aircraft and other exhaust emissions, smells, etc.), noise from mines, dust, traffic, ground disturbance, exploration • Establish a joint Aboriginal governments/public governments cumulative effects agency with teeth – implement cumulative impact monitoring • Major concerns about caribou but we need to see the 'big picture', the health of our environment to really understand what is happening to the caribou • Implement Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) |



Appendix 4: Addressing Hardships

| Concerns | Actions Required |
|------------------------|--|
| Public education needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize the food, spiritual, clothing and holistic value of caribou to Aboriginal peoples • Publicize the degree to which people are dependent on caribou today and the decline in populations • Support workshops and educational programming involving youth and TK holders • Hold regional harvester workshops • Produce NWT herds and individual herd calendars and posters • Identify role models to promote good hunting practices • Develop codes of conduct for harvest • Distribute educational material with licences • Encourage the use of adequate firearms to reduce wounding and waste • Collect recipes and ways of using all parts of caribou • Create designated seats for youth on Boards • Aboriginal governments need to promote traditional values and ethics – need to teach what it means to respect caribou and the consequences of abuse • TK holders need to educate people about the consequences of only shooting the caribou leaders • Increase budgets for carrying out educational activities, both in schools and for public awareness • Make better use of media to inform the public about state of caribou herds • Make use of local radio stations to get people talking about caribou issues • Use Dene Kede program to teach about traditional laws • Use Beverly/Qamanirjuaq schools program to teach youth about caribou |
| Addressing hardships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the responsible harvest of other country food while caribou cycle is low • Encourage sharing and ban the selling of caribou meat – need to define what we mean by bartering as it relates to caribou meat (develop bartering guide lines) • Document elders experiences about how they survived hardships in the past and what they learned • Leaders and harvesters need to ensure elders and single parents are provided with country food • Use other foods and educate people about their use • Elders need to teach how to harvest and prepare moose, bison, muskrats, rabbits, birds, fish and berries |



Appendix 4: Addressing Hardships

| Concern | Action |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Addressing hardships – continued | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider bringing in reindeer, moose and bison meat to communities suffering from lack of caribou • Conduct a community-based study on diets • Everyone must cut back on harvesting until herds recover • Aboriginal representatives need to gather to identify strategies that make sense to Aboriginal communities • Identify more precisely the economic value of caribou (replacement value of meat as food, loss of revenue for outfitters and other related businesses, loss of revenue for tourist operators, etc.) • Establish a hardship budget for communities to access in ways that make sense to them • Engage transportation companies in partnering to reduce freight costs for communities sharing meat with each other • All harvesting could be coordinated by designated organizations (i.e. HTAs or RRCs) until herds recover • The significance of the spiritual relationship to the caribou must be understood and honoured • Aboriginal peoples should be supported in making amends to the caribou spiritually • Find ways to support each other and the caribou and not depend on the government • Aboriginal harvesters should be compensated; when someone else's livelihood or their land is destroyed by others they get compensated • Eliminate resident hunting until caribou recover unless they can show dependency on food • Hold regional harvesters workshops |
| Promoting excellence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish awards recognizing stewardship, hunting practices, conservation measures, responsible planning, etc. for individuals, communities and organizations • Support TK research on traditional laws and promote these laws as good management practices |
| Business planning and viability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfitters may need financial assistance to ensure all meat is used by their camps or by nearby communities • Use outfitter camps to teach youth about hunting • Outfitters and other businesses dependent on caribou need to change their marketing to promote conservation when populations are low • Businesses should be supported by governments to shift from harvesting to low impact opportunities such as photography or eco-tourism |



Appendix 5: Setting Priorities

| Rank | Action | Votes |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|
| Information for Management | | |
| 1 | Bring TK into decision-making. | 123 |
| 2 | Do all population surveys at one time. | 57 |
| 3 | Determine impact of insects, climate change and change in behaviour to human activity. | 53 |
| 4 | Create a central database for information on herds. | 52 |
| 5 | Determine the impact of predators. | 50 |
| 6 | Do community based monitoring. | 49 |
| 7 | Document TK on caribou. | 40 |
| 8 | Improve methods to get information to public. | 35 |
| 9 | Look at effect of fire on caribou range. | 33 |
| 10 | Add more collars for management. | 32 |
| 11 | Remove maps of satellite collared animals from internet. | 30 |
| 12 | Expand Caribou News to all herds. | 14 |
| Engaging Partners | | |
| 1 | Bring youth into conferences, HTC/RRC meetings and board meetings. | 76 |
| 2 | Develop management plan for each herd that includes management actions for different population levels. | 72 |
| 3 | Ask elders to help teach youth and southerners about hunting and handling meat. | 61 |
| 4 | Don't make decisions without partners. | 54 |
| 5 | Hold Aboriginal conference on caribou. | 43 |
| 6 | Provide funding for follow-up meeting. | 34 |
| 7 | Have regional elders/youth workshop. | 33 |
| 8 | Aboriginal community leaders need to become involved. | 33 |
| 9 | Keep politics out of caribou management. | 29 |
| 10 | Ensure partners have capacity/funding. | 23 |
| 11 | Create secretariat to oversee coordination of work among industry, government and communities. | 23 |
| 12 | Review laws in all jurisdictions so they are the same. | 23 |



Appendix 5: Setting Priorities

| Rank | Action | Votes |
|---|---|-------|
| Engaging Partners <i>continued</i> | | |
| 13 | Consider views of resident hunters. | 20 |
| 14 | Involve women in teaching about hunting, preparing meat. | 9 |
| 15 | Develop communication training for all board members. | 5 |
| 16 | Develop communication strategy for Caribou Management Strategy. | 5 |
| Managing Human Impacts | | |
| 1 | Protect calving grounds in NWT and Nunavut. | 131 |
| 2 | Reduce all harvest. | 56 |
| 3 | Mandatory reporting of all harvest. | 54 |
| 4 | Implement cumulative impact monitoring program (CIMP) | 49 |
| 5 | Engage all jurisdictions in a protected areas strategy for all barren-ground caribou range. | 48 |
| 6 | Cut all resident, outfitting and commercial harvest. | 47 |
| 7 | Hire elders and harvesters to go out with officers on patrol. | 44 |
| 8 | No sale of meat (including dry meat). | 40 |
| 9 | Protect remaining caribou range from being burned. | 39 |
| 10 | Teach people about rights and responsibilities under land claim agreement and constitution. | 35 |
| 11 | Reduce wastage through public education by communities. | 30 |
| 12 | Determine cause and effect of development on caribou. | 29 |
| 13 | Land use plans in all regions. | 28 |
| 14 | Increase penalties. | 27 |
| 15 | Increase enforcement by government and by community. | 25 |
| 16 | Implement tags for Aboriginal harvest to be administered by community. | 24 |
| 17 | Require mandatory training for first time non-Aboriginal hunters and youth. | 24 |
| 18 | Collect harvest data and develop calendar for all herds. | 22 |
| 19 | Assess impact of roads/traffic on caribou movements. | 21 |
| 20 | Bring all parts of caribou from land and have system set up to distribute. | 20 |
| 21 | Provide information on disease to public. | 11 |



Appendix 5: Setting Priorities

| Rank | Action | Votes |
|--|--|-------|
| Managing Human Impacts <i>continued</i> | | |
| 22 | Control air traffic over calving grounds and post calving areas. | 10 |
| 23 | Teach people about government laws and traditional laws. | 9 |
| 24 | Bring Tłı̄chǫ, Akaitcho, and Metis Nation together to start work on land use plan. | 5 |
| 25 | Set up hunting zones. | 5 |
| 26 | Use native grass in remediation. | 4 |
| 27 | Reduce outfitter tags to one per hunter. | 2 |
| Addressing Hardships | | |
| 1 | Develop codes of conduct for harvest. | 130 |
| 2 | Hold regional harvester workshops. | 122 |
| 3 | Use Dene Kede program to teach about traditional laws. | 49 |
| 4 | Use outfitters camps to teach youth about hunting. | 48 |
| 5 | Use and educate people about other foods. | 43 |
| 6 | Develop bartering guidelines. | 37 |
| 7 | Use Beverly/Qamanirjuaq schools program to teach youth about caribou. | 34 |
| 8 | Conduct community-based study on diets. | 27 |



Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items

ENR will: take the recommendations from the Summit and share them with co-management boards, Aboriginal governments, other agencies and delegates; build the longer term priorities into departmental business plans; action immediate priorities that are GNWT responsibilities; and seek partnerships to move ahead on the priorities.

| Immediate (as per closing remarks at Summit) | | | |
|---|---|------------------|-------------|
| Actions (in order of priority) | Next Steps Over Next Four Years | Agency | Timeline |
| Meet with Nunavut to begin discussion about protecting calving grounds | ENR Minister will write to Nunavut Environment Minister (Strategy 1) | ENR | Summer 2007 |
| Improve the way ENR shares information on caribou | ENR will translate Public Service Announcements on caribou for use on radio (CKLB), review and update information on the web site, including survey methods and trend information (Strategy 11) | ENR | Summer 2007 |
| No longer post data from satellite collars on the internet | ENR will remove collar location data from internet and replace with annual movement summaries | ENR | Spring 2007 |
| Continue to implement recommendations from wildlife co-management boards on harvest levels and seasons | ENR will continue to work with co-management partners to implement and strengthen processes set out in land claim agreements and inter-jurisdictional management agreements (Strategy 1) | ENR | Ongoing |
| Help communities and regions work with their neighbours to cooperate on management issues | ENR will provide assistance for meetings to develop management plans for herds (Strategy 2) | ENR | Ongoing |
| Expand and improve public education about the status of herds and hunting ethics | ENR will prepare fact sheets for public, increase distribution of hunter video/DVD and increase patrols (Strategy 11) | ENR | Fall 2007 |
| | Longer term – ENR will complete the interactive web-based educational program on resource management using caribou as case study. | ENR and Partners | Spring 2008 |
| Develop a closer relationship with industry and share more information and collaborate on caribou and other wildlife monitoring | ENR will continue to meet with industry (oil and gas and mining) to develop common approaches (Strategy 9) | ENR | Ongoing |



Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items

| Session 1 – Information for Management | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------|
| Actions (in order of priority) | Next Steps Over Next Four Years | Agency | Timeline |
| Bring traditional knowledge into decision-making | ENR will participate in Dene Cultural Institute workshop in March 2007 to improve use of TK in environmental impact assessment and work with co-management boards and communities to enhance TK studies | ENR, Co-management Boards | Fall 2007 |
| Do all population surveys at the same time. | ENR will seek additional resources to ensure that calving and post calving distribution surveys are conducted annually and that distribution of all herds is documented when censuses are conducted (Strategy 5) | ENR | Ongoing |
| Determine impacts of insects, climate change and change in caribou behaviour to human activity | ENR will initiate a study of the implications of biting insects and forage availability on Bathurst herd productivity (Strategy 6) and work with industry and monitoring agencies on monitoring caribou behaviour near development activities (Strategy 10) | ENR, UNBC, Industry, Monitoring Agencies | Ongoing |
| Central database for information on herds | ENR will enter historic data into Wildlife Management Information System and collaborate with CARMA to enhance availability of all caribou herd data (Strategy 4) | ENR | Fall 2009 |
| Determine impact of predators | ENR will continue to monitor predator abundance (Strategy 6) and develop incentives to increase wolf harvest as per the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan | ENR, ITI | Ongoing |



Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items

| Session 2 – Engaging Partners | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| Actions (in order of priority) | Next Steps Over Next Four Years | Agency | Timeline |
| Bring youth into conferences, HTC/RRC meetings and board meetings | ENR will forward action to management agencies and councils | All Agencies, Boards and Councils | Ongoing |
| Develop management plan for each herd that includes management actions for different population levels | ENR will work with co-management boards, the Government of Nunavut and communities to develop current plans for Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East and Ahiak herds (Strategy 2) | ENR, Government of Nunavut, Co-management Boards | Spring 2010 |
| Ask elders to help teach youth and southerners about hunting and handling meat | ENR will work with co-management boards and communities to hold more first time hunting courses (Strategy 11) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Ongoing |
| Don't make decisions without partners | ENR will continue to work with co-management partners to implement and strengthen processes set out in land claim agreements and inter-jurisdictional management agreements. ENR will work with Aboriginal governments to identify ways of enhancing participation in areas without land claim agreements (Strategy 1) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Ongoing |
| Hold Aboriginal conference on caribou | ENR will work with Aboriginal organizations (Strategy 1) | ENR | Spring 2008 |



Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items

| Session 3 – Managing Human Impacts | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Actions (in order of priority) | Next Steps Over Next Four Years | Agency | Timeline |
| Protect calving grounds in NWT and Nunavut | ENR Minister will write to Nunavut Environment Minister (Strategy 1) and work with co-management partners to protect the Cape Bathurst calving ground | ENR, Government of Nunavut | Spring 2007 |
| Reduce all harvest | ENR and co-management boards have identified Total Allowable Harvest levels in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement areas and eliminated resident and commercial harvest as set out in land claim agreements. ENR has submitted a proposal to Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board to eliminate commercial harvest, reduce outfitting in North Slave region and take other management actions to reduce harvesting (Strategy 8). ENR will work with co-management boards, communities and Aboriginal governments to identify and implement ways to limit Aboriginal harvest to Total Allowable Harvest levels (Strategy 8) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Spring 2007 |
| Mandatory reporting of harvest | ENR will work with co-management boards and communities to identify and implement processes to record Aboriginal harvest (Strategy 8). ENR will work with resident hunters and outfitters to identify and implement processes to record their harvests (Strategy 8) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Fall 2007 |
| Cut all resident, outfitting and commercial harvest | ENR and co-management boards have identified Total Allowable Harvest levels in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement areas, and eliminated resident and commercial harvest as set out in land claim agreements. ENR has submitted a proposal to Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board to eliminate commercial harvest and reduce outfitting in North Slave region (Strategy 8) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Summer 2007 |
| Teach people about rights and responsibilities under land claim agreement and constitution | ENR will work with DAIIR to prepare fact sheets for public (Strategy 11) | ENR, DAIIR | Fall 2007 |



Appendix 6: Next Steps (2007-2010) for Priority Action Items

| Session 3 – Managing Human Impacts | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Actions (in order of priority) | Next Steps Over Next Four Years | Agency | Timeline |
| Implement Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) | ENR Minister will write to DIAND Minister (Strategy 5) | DIAND | Spring 2007 |
| Engage all jurisdictions in a protected areas strategy for all barren-ground caribou range | ENR Minister to write to Ministers of neighbouring jurisdictions (Strategy 3) | ENR, Government of Nunavut, Yukon, Saskatchewan and Manitoba | Spring 2007 |
| Hire elders and harvesters to go out with officers on patrol | ENR will instruct regions to expand this practice (Strategy 14) | ENR | Ongoing |
| No sale of meat (including dry meat) | ENR will seek advice from co-management boards on how to implement this action | ENR, Co-management Boards | Winter 2008 |
| Provide information on disease to public | ENR will prepare fact sheets for public (Strategy 11) | ENR | Fall 2007 |
| Session 4 – Addressing Hardships | | | |
| Develop codes of conduct for harvest | ENR will work with communities to develop codes of conduct appropriate to culture (Strategy 13) | ENR | Fall 2008 |
| Hold regional harvester workshops | ENR held regional wildlife workshops in the Dehcho (November 2006) and North Slave (December 2006), and will be holding workshop in Sahtu. ENR will work with co-management boards and Aboriginal governments to hold regular workshops in all regions (Strategy 1) | ENR, Co-management Boards | Ongoing |
| Use Dene Kede program to teach about traditional laws | ENR will work with ECE to review Dene Kede program (Strategy 11) | ECE, ENR | TBC |
| Use outfitter camps to teach youth about hunting | ENR will make communities and co-management boards aware of this opportunity and work with ITI to facilitate this where necessary (Strategy 16) | ENR/ITI | TBC |
| Use and educate people about alternative food sources to caribou | ENR will work with co-management boards, ITI and HSS to identify alternate meat sources and harvesting opportunities (Strategy 15) | HSS, ENR, ITI, Co-management Boards | TBC |



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Appendix 8: Reference Binder Table of Contents



Inuvik – January 23rd-26th, 2007

NWT Barren-ground Caribou SUMMIT

Caribou Forever... Our Heritage, Our Responsibility

Table of Contents

SESSION 1 – Information for Management Decisions

| | |
|---|---|
| Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou and Upper Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula Reindeer/Caribou Photocensus 2006 | 1 |
| Flightlines by Herd/Map of ALL Surveys – 2006 | 2 |
| Bathurst Caribou Calving Ground Survey: June 3-16, 2006 (SURVEY METHODS and RESULTS)..... | 3 |
| Caribou Forever Strategies #5-7 | 4 |
| CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network (CARMA) – About Us | 5 |
| Map of Protected Areas on Barren-ground Caribou Ranges (to be provided)..... | 6 |
| Beverly and Kaminuriak Caribou: Monitoring and Land Use Controls 1980 – Progress Report #4 | 7 |
| Grizzly Bear Sightings at Point Lake from 1998 to 2004 | 8 |
| NWT Caribou Herds – Status..... | 9 |

SESSION 2 – Engaging Partners

Functions and Roles of Wildlife Co-management Boards

| | |
|--|----|
| Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board | 10 |
| Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board | 11 |
| Inuvialuit Game Council | 12 |
| Porcupine Caribou Management Board | 13 |
| Sahtu Renewable Resources Board..... | 14 |
| Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board – Wildlife Harvesting Management | 15 |
| Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) | 16 |
| Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) | 17 |
| Nunavut Wildlife Management Board | 18 |



Appendix 8: Reference Binder Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Land Claims Agreements – Harvest Allocation Provisions | |
| Gwich'in..... | 19 |
| Inuvialuit – Wildlife Harvesting and Management | 12 |
| Sahtu..... | 21 |
| Tłıchǫ Agreement..... | 22 |
| A Management Plan for the Bathurst Caribou Herd – November 2004..... | 23 |
| Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou – Management Plan 2005-2012 | 24 |
| Bluenose Caribou Herds Management Cooperation Agreement..... | 25 |
| Caribou Forever Strategies #1-4..... | 26 |
| | |
| SESSION 3 – Managing Human Activities | |
| Summary of Estimated Caribou Harvests..... | 27 |
| Caribou Forever Strategies #8-10..... | 28 |
| Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat – Barren-ground Caribou: | |
| Presentation to the Joint Review Panel | 29 |
| August Akaitcho Territory Government Resolution on Caribou Management .. | 30 |
| September Press Release from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation on Caribou Management | 31 |
| | |
| SESSION 4 – Addressing Hardships | |
| Handouts for the Walking Together Caribou Workshop – November 1-2, 2006 | |
| Walking Together: Agenda | 32 |
| ENR Presentation – 2006 Survey Results | 33 |
| Walking Together: Breakout Session 1 – Impacts | 34 |
| Walking Together: Breakout Session 2 – Mitigation and Mitigating Circumstances..... | 35 |
| ENR Summary Results Presentations to the Wildlife Management Advisory Council and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board | 36 |
| Management Decisions to Date | |
| Summary | 37 |
| Letters of Support..... | 38 |
| The Economic Impact of NWT Barren-ground Caribou Outfitters..... | 39 |
| Caribou Forever Strategies #11-16..... | 40 |
| Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency – Annual Report (Extract).... | 41 |
| Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board – Annual Report (Extract)..... | 42 |
| Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.: 2005 Wildlife Monitoring Report (Extract)..... | 43 |
| Ekati Diamond Mine: 2005 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (Extract)..... | 44 |



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