

Tulít'a RRC Responses to Information Requests

Topic 1: Caribou Status

IRs to All Parties

1.1. Which kinds of caribou most concern you as a Party: ɾedə/ɾekwé (Bluenose West or Bluenose East barren-ground caribou), shúhtagoɾepé (Northern Mountain caribou), or ɬodzi (Boreal Woodland caribou)? Describe your main conservation concerns. (SRRB)

- Mountain caribou and next would be the Boreal caribou but our priority is the Mountain caribou
- We don't know if they are healthy, no study has been done. And how do we manage to control the over killing of them.

Topic 2: Hunting Law

IRs to All Parties

2.1 Do you have concerns about regulation of caribou harvest? What are your concerns? (SRRB)

- Local hunting regulations, residency, permits, respect, outfitters (how far they can go, where they go)
- It's not good to just go hunting and have people mistaken for something and get hurt. So important to know where people are.
- It would also be nice to know where the kills comes from

2.2 How do you ensure that Indigenous harvesters that are not from your jurisdiction respect local hunting laws? How do you deal with visiting Indigenous harvesters that violate local hunting laws? (SRRB)

- RRC should be the one giving out permits so that we can see who is doing all the hunting and getting that information, the kill information and also not only for over killing but also safety-wise so we know who is in what area.

2.3 In the North, each region has a wildlife management authority that works with communities to determine the approach to caribou conservation. Do you have concerns about the coordination of caribou hunting regulation across regions? How do you propose that these concerns be addressed? (SRRB)

- I would leave it to their respective communities and regions.

Topic 3: Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

IRs to All Parties

3.1 List three (or more) aspects of Indigenous country food systems and ways of life that most contribute to promoting caribou conservation. Do you have concerns about threats to these systems? *(SRRB)*

- We would go back to what our ancestors have done things in the past. Harvesting approaches are respecting cows with calves, shoot bulls. Every part of caribou is used for subsistence, not wasting any food/meat, use it all. No harvesting during late rut. Seasonal hunting during fall. Take what you need, and not more.
- Ensuring a community freezer is in Tulita so that everyone gets a share of the meat and it helps the community not hunt caribou because there is also meat available.
- Educating the young people is also going to play a big role in the plan.
- Our elders always looked after habitat. If you mess it up, they said the caribou will not come back again. Have to keep it clean for them to hang around. Elder's say caribou have a mind of their own, like a human, come and go – advice of Elders, just leave them. Don't bother them. But we're doing all this stuff here, we're doing all this stuff and I'm starting to think the best way is just to leave them

3.2 How are Indigenous country food systems changing? What impacts are these changes having on caribou? *(SRRB)*

- New food from south that isn't good to eat is changing us. Traditional system is the best, shouldn't change but it is. We're all changing.
- Wolves keep the muskox on mountain side. So, I noticed the wolves keep the muskox at bay and if we kill the wolves the muskox chase the caribou away. So, I check on the pack every year. Usually caribou come back with wolves. When I see muskox, somebody's been hunting the wolves.
- The road is stressing the caribou and wolves, so the muskox are coming and fighting the caribou from food source
- Fire is the major change and is the biggest change. It destroys their food and the caribou have to move around now because caribou likes a specific kind of country.

Topic 4: Harvest Monitoring

IRs to All Parties

4.1 Harvest monitoring is recognized as a key component in effective harvest regulation. What is the most effective way to monitor caribou harvest in your experience? *(SRRB)*

- The kill information from your area. If RRC issues out the permits, then we know how much people are taking.
- For indigenous hunters, we'd like to start something like a harvest study. If I was told from day one, I would have been comfortable and understood why this study is important and provided the information. So this is part of the education process and educating the young people.
- Janet used to have a door prize and at the end of the month there was a draw and it was like an attraction to get people to come in and tell their information. – like 10/15 gallons of gas.

4.2 Over the past year, Indigenous Guardian programs have come onto the national stage as part of Indigenous environmental governance systems. What role can Guardians play in harvest monitoring? *(SRRB)*

- They would be the eyes and ears of the organization and doing all the monitoring for us.

Topic 5: Participation, Education, Information

IRs to All Parties

5.1 Discussions among Member Boards of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management emphasize education and communication as priorities in achieving effective harvest regulation. What are your priorities for education and communication? *(SRRB)*

- Rule books, clear regulations on what can and can't be done, workshops and on-the-land programs, training programs to help monitors manage, know what to look for on the land, patrols of our land and putting boots to the ground to walk our mother earth there.
- On-The-Land training on the rules then when they're on the land they know what to look for/report.
- Safety, not to over kill, quite a bit to it. This is where we need the elders to come in because there are a lot of things they need to understand what to do. Starting with respect.

5.2 The *Indigenous Discussion Paper and Calls to Action* presented at the 2018 North American Caribou Workshop notes that "all Indigenous people have roles to play in caribou stewardship – women, men, and those who define their gender in a more fluid way – just as caribou herds are structured according to the roles of individual animals. We all depend upon each other." Please describe the importance of gender roles for you in harvest regulation, and any concerns about inclusion. *(SRRB)*

5.3 In its 2016 BNE Hearing Report, the SRRB found that that "there is strong consensus in the Sahtú Region that youth involvement is critical for the success of community Ɂekwé [caribou] conservation plans." Describe your approach to involving youth in wildlife harvesting and harvest regulation. (SRRB)

- The guardian program is one of the best programs out there, training, tell kids what they're going to get out of the training or where/how far they can go if they get the training. Make it adventurous. Consult the kids, talk to the youth today about getting the training done.
- Education and taking them out on the land to teach them.

5.4 What materials or websites do you recommend for review as relevant for consideration by the Parties related to the central question of the Public Listening Session? (SRRB)

Topic 6: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

IR to All Parties

1.1 All regions in the North with Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements conducted similarly designed Harvest Studies as a requirement of their claims and as an evidence base for protecting Indigenous harvesting rights. If you participated as a partner in a Harvest Study, what do you consider to be the current and future value of the study? If you are continuing to participate in Harvest Studies, are these differently designed? Are they being used differently? (SRRB)

- Harvest study was full of really important information and if SRRB had continued, the community could know how much is actually taken out. People didn't understand it so it's important for people to understand why it's important to Tulita. You have to say it in a good on why they should share their information.