



“When You Talk - We Listen!”



SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

MANAGEMENT OF
BLUENOSE EAST EKWE (BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU)
PUBLIC HEARING

Panel Members:

Michael Neyelle	Chairperson
Paul Latour	Vice-Chairperson
George Barnaby	Member
Leonard Kenny	Member
Lesley Allen	Member
Jeff Walker	Member
Camilla Rabesca	Member
Leon Andrew	Member
Frederick Andrew	Member

HELD IN:

Deline, NT

March 1, 2016

Day 1 of 3

	APPEARANCES	
1		
2	Deborah Simmons) SRRB
3	Joe Hanlon)
4	Lori Ann Lennie)
5	Daniel T'seleie)
6	Keith Hickling) Advisor
7	Colin Macdonald) Advisor
8	Lorraine Land) Counsel
9		
10	Bruno Croft) ENR
11	Lynda Yonge)
12	Brett Elkin)
13	John Boulanger)
14	Heather Sayine-Crawford)
15	Jan Adamczewski)
16	Sarah Kay) counsel
17		
18	Gina Dolphus) Deline Land Corporation
19	Morris Neyelle)
20	Walter Bayha)
21		
22	Wilbert Kochon) Colville Lake
23	David Codzi)
24	Joseph Kochon)
25	Norman Barrichello)

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2 John Blancho) Colville Lake

3 Hychinthe Kochon)

4 Jennifer Duncan) counsel

5 Larry Innes) counsel

6

7 Chief Frank Andrew) Tulita Panel

8

9 Jordan Lennie) Sahtu Youth Connection

10

11 Leon Modeste) Members of the Public

12 Joe Bernard)

13 Raymond Taneton)

14 Jospeh Judas)

15 Ethel Blondin-Andrew)

16 Gordon Taneton)

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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:29 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning. I'm
4 getting some kind of feedback here. Oh, you mean the
5 earphones. Okay. Okay. Masi.

6 Good morning, everybody. We're going
7 to start this hearing with an opening prayer. So I'm
8 going to ask our Elder Board member George -- or
9 Leonard -- or Chief Leonard Kenny to do an opening
10 prayer for us.

11 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: Good morning.
12 It's always good to do a -- a prayer before important
13 meetings. And I -- I think for the past five (5)
14 years while I was chief, you know, one (1) of the
15 things -- important things I learned as being a leader
16 is that you always start with an opening prayer.

17 We've come a long way as a small
18 community. We negotiated community self-government
19 and stuff like that. So I learned that -- the Elders
20 tell me that it's very important to pray.

21

22 (OPENING PRAYER)

23

24 OPENING COMMENTS:

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, masi.

1 Leonard, masi. Good nahkale, everybody. Good
2 morning. I'm going to start my opening here in my
3 language. So put your earphones on, those who can't
4 understand Slavey, please.

5

6 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
7 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

8

9 (INSERT BEGINS)

10

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good Morning
12 Everyone. My name is Michael Neyelle and I am the
13 Chair of the Ehdzo Got'ine Gotse Nakedi.

14 Thank you to all of you who are here
15 today, as Board Members, Parties and community
16 members. It is good to see how much people care about
17 Ehdzo Got'ine Gotse Nakedi and that people are willing
18 to give their time to work on these important issues.

19 We are here because we all care about
20 the caribou. These hearings are a chance for all of
21 us to be part of thinking about our relationship with
22 Ekwe and how we can protect and live with Bluenose
23 East Ekwe in a way that ensures they will be there for
24 our people in the future.

25 We may have different ideas what needs

1 to be done, but that is what this hearing is about:
2 getting a better understanding, together, and
3 respectfully.

4 Dene people have lived with Ekwe for
5 many generations. Today, we must work together to
6 make sure that our grandchildren's children will be
7 able to live with Ekwe. We must ask difficult
8 questions of ourselves and others, such as "Have we
9 been taking too many Ekwe today?" and "What is
10 happening that could be harming Ekwe?" We must
11 remember that there are other users of these same Ekwe
12 in the NWT and Nunavut. The SRRB must make a decision
13 that is fair to everyone and yet allows the herd to be
14 healthy and sustain itself.

15 The Ehdzo Got'ine Gotse Nakedi is
16 holding these hearings because the Board has the
17 responsibility for dealing with Ekwe use and
18 protection in the Sahtu region. We are a co-management
19 Board established by the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement.

20

21 (INSERT ENDS)

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: ...our Board. As a

1 Board member, there is government and Sahtu -- Sahtu
2 people, and the Renewable Resources members. These
3 people and also people from the community, and also
4 our -- our laws and bylaws, and also they -- so that
5 we can look after our wildlife, including the Sahtu
6 Government.

7 Not only here but also on the land of
8 the caribou. For us that live here in the community
9 that are Metis, you can't tell that person not -- not
10 to go hunting. It is our culture, our law, that tells
11 us to do so. It is -- it is up to us if -- to us to
12 make some kind of recommendations.

13 These Board members, they probably
14 would like to say something whatever they wanted to
15 say later. But we are here for you when we talk about
16 caribou. These are our Board members. I want them to
17 let you know who they are -- and these Board members
18 are at the end: The Elder George Barnaby, Fort Good
19 Hope; Leonard Kenny, the Chief from Deline; Paul
20 Latour; Leslie Allen; Jack Walker -- Jeffrey Walker.
21 And Paul is co-chair with me.

22 Sometimes when we are Deline -- I -- I
23 represent. And then when I go -- and then when Deline
24 finish spe -- when they finish speaking on their -- on
25 the Deline plan, Paul will do the chairing.

1 So we want to do this correctly and
2 precise. Deline plan for me and Leonard, we are not
3 supposed to be here. But when at that time -- that
4 time comes we are both are supposed to leave. And
5 also other Board members Camilla Rabesca, he -- she --
6 if George is not here Camilla is here. She will be
7 the alternate.

8 And also Pat Bobinski is also an
9 alternate, but she's not here. And they -- there is
10 Sahtu region special advisors. They are -- they are
11 the people that help us are -- they will be -- when we
12 have meeting they would sit with us. They are the
13 special advisors, so they don't vote. Are -- the
14 special advisor are Leon Andrew, Fred Andrew, and
15 Keith Hickling. Those people are special advisors to
16 the Board.

17 On -- for this week, as we are here,
18 the Tlicho -- the Tlicho are like to say thank you to
19 the Tlicho people that are here. Wek'eezhii --
20 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board are here. Jonas
21 Lafferty, she is the -- an interim chair, Charlie
22 Jeremick'ca, Archie Weltrade, Suzanne Carriere. And
23 the special advisors are those two (2) people for the
24 Wek'eezhii Renew -- Renewable Resources Board.

25 They are here to hear us on what we're

1 going to say about the caribou. Them two (2), the
2 Tlichu, they -- this caribou that we're talking when
3 we talk about the Bluenose East, they also be having a
4 hearing. So whatever we're going to say, they're here
5 as observers. They may say something or not, but the
6 other people that are here with us are for people, the
7 legal -- legal counsels.

8 We have legal counsels, Lorraine Land,
9 that lady over there. And Colin Macdonald. He --
10 he's -- he over there. And the biologist Joe Hanlon,
11 Deborah Simmons (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN).
12 Daniel T'seleie (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN) he had
13 just -- they're sitting with us, working with us as
14 Board members from Fort Good Hope.

15 There's two (2) information that we
16 will want to talk about. The two (2) information is -
17 - one (1) is for renewable resources -- our
18 information, and the other one (1) is for Deline. And
19 Deline is, like, the Caribou is Forever. It's time
20 immemorial. Those are the -- their plan. Also the
21 Renewable Resources Board is Blue -- Bluenose East.
22 They are going to be -- we are going to listen to them
23 this morning probably.

24 When we start this hearing, how did it
25 began? The -- the Renewable Resources Board had said

1 and Deline. Because of the -- for hunting caribou is
2 -- we want to make it less, so you get certain amount
3 and -- and limited amount to hunt. If that's happen,
4 on -- in our land claims it says it has -- they have
5 to have a public hearing because of the land claims
6 agreement according to the Bluenose East herd.

7 We don't want it to disappear for the
8 future. We have talked about a lot of things. This
9 is why we're going to be talking about. We are --
10 been to meetings for a long time, for -- we -- we've
11 been talking about this. We've talked about this in
12 January.

13 We sent out posters until today. And
14 altogether, it's, like, twenty-two (22) people. They
15 will be talking with us. They are people that are
16 registered parties to the -- are going to be hearing.
17 For Sahtu region, there's about ten (10) people and
18 also Renewable Resources people. And, also, the youth
19 would be also -- Sahtu youth connection, they will be
20 presenting. They will be talking with us later on.

21 And we have been here in town for a
22 while, and so the other people might be -- when they
23 want to, they have to ask us first, and then they
24 would be -- they would be part of the -- the party
25 forum. And for people that are not here from Good

1 Hope, Norman Wells, they're not here.

2 So those people, they work for us, our
3 legal counsel, I want them to run smoothly, so when
4 you're talking, you have to -- please say your name
5 and who -- who are you representing. And, also, we
6 have interpreters. So when I'm talking, they do it in
7 English. Whoever is going to speak English, they'll
8 do it in their language.

9 So when you speak English, don't speak
10 with huge words. And when you do English complicated,
11 then you try to figure out if you can come up with a
12 smaller -- if you can explain it in simpler terms.
13 And, like, words like 'extrapolate', for us, it's very
14 difficult. Those people around here don't know. When
15 you say those kind of word, if you could use simple
16 English, then it would be -- it would be good.

17 We are here for three (3) days. So
18 when you look at your agenda, at first this morning,
19 we will be listening to the ENR group, and then the
20 Deline. And whatever they are doing their
21 presentation on, that's what you'll be listening. And
22 then we can question them, as Board members.

23 After the Renewable Resources Board,
24 you can -- the Renewable people had spoken in the
25 evening, tonight, at seven o'clock, we want to talk

1 with the people. Those people that are from the
2 community are tonight, at seven o'clock here, we will
3 be here, so I wanted to let you know.

4 Tomorrow -- tomorrow is Wednesday,
5 Colville Lake and Tulita will be presenting, those
6 that are here. And, also, after we finish eating, the
7 young people will playing hand games for us for
8 entertainment. And on Thursday, the -- the people
9 that -- the -- the children that played hand games
10 will be presenting on Thursday. Not only that, Colin
11 MacDonald will also do a presentation, he is our
12 technical advisor, how they -- they -- for wildlife,
13 what -- what laws are -- provide for it and also
14 applies to it. So that's what he will be talking
15 about, and also, other issues through biologists.

16 And, also, the ENR group would be
17 speaking. And then Deline would be presenting. After
18 -- on Thursday we -- at -- and at the closing in the
19 evening, yeah, we might be eating, having a feast, so
20 there's a lot -- there's a lot to talk -- think about.
21 And you have to wonder. That is why you're here.

22 I am very thankful for all of you for
23 coming. If you want to say something tonight, if your
24 name is not on here, tonight, if you want to say
25 something here, we are going to -- all going to be

1 here. So if com -- the community want to ask us
2 questions, they can ask us questions tonight also. We
3 don't want to exclude one (1) person because this is
4 very important.

5 For those that have put down their
6 names, we ae going to listen to them first. The
7 Deline ENR people, Fort -- people from Good Hope, and
8 I'll use -- so we are going to be here for three (3)
9 days. We -- we want to be really clear.

10 We don't want people to disrupt us as
11 we have zero tolerance, no under the influence of
12 alcohol or drugs. You ask them to leave. You ask
13 them nicely and ask them not to interfere with our
14 meeting.

15 Before we start, Colville Lake had
16 written to us. They had requested -- those of you who
17 are working on the Board, the three (3) of you, it's
18 like conflict of interest to you.

19 When you say, "conflict of interest,"
20 for me, I'm from Deline. I also chair for the -- for
21 the hearing, and also -- I also sit on the Deline
22 plan. And also Jeff, he is Sahtu region's new head of
23 renewable resources. And also Leonard is a chief and
24 also -- so the three (3) of us.

25 The Colville Lake said that they have -

1 - we've talked about it. And then, when that time
2 comes this morning, when they are talking about this
3 morning, Jeff are going to -- Jeff's going to -- I
4 said he's not going to answer question or same with me
5 and also with Leonard.

6 When they are going to say something
7 for about Deline, we are just going to sit there and
8 listen and not question them. Those conflict of
9 interest is under the land claims.

10 So because we are following the land
11 claims agreement, and when we talk about wildlife so
12 that we can look after -- after it, how we can be a
13 good government for the Sahtu people and all the
14 community. We want to work together because we follow
15 our laws.

16 Let us -- and also Canada has a really
17 strict law when it comes to wildlife. So we have to
18 work together with them.

19 When we sit on this Board, we are not
20 the only Board members. It's all the pub -- public,
21 for all the public in the Sahtu region. When we are
22 going to make recommendations, we have to all agree.
23 We have to all agree under one (1) consensus, so that
24 is how we are going to make our recommendations for
25 wild -- for this wildlife.

1 For those are sitting on the Board,
2 they -- they -- whatever they -- their thoughts are,
3 we want to come out with one (1) -- one (1)
4 resolution.

5 When the -- according to the
6 resolution, the motion from Colville Lake, about three
7 (3) members are in conflict. We've talked about it,
8 and we said -- we said, No, we're not. There's the
9 three (3) of us when -- for the Board members for --
10 we talked about it and we said that it is not. And --
11 and we said that it is not a conflict of interest.

12 So why we came to that conclusion, when
13 -- once we're done for what -- what recommendation we
14 came up with, we will clear it by the time we're done.

15 So for this hearing, we want the thing
16 -- the things go smoothly as far as possible. When
17 Deline are going to be presenting, when they are going
18 to do their proposal, Paul is going to take over as
19 the chair for me and Leonard. I mentioned this
20 earlier, and Jeff also -- with Jeff.

21 For those that are here, for those that
22 are belonging to certain parties, if there's a
23 conflict of -- conflict of interest or bias, you have
24 to -- if you don't think it's correct then you have to
25 -- if in's not correct -- it doesn't say it correctly,

1 then just let us know. And thank you.

2 I very thankful for all of you to be
3 here, and let us all be like -- us think and come up
4 with every -- one (1) solution for the caribou. We
5 have to respect it. We have to think about it because
6 it is very important to us. That is why we're saying
7 this.

8 So before ENR starts, Leonard
9 ehkwatide, he is the Deline ehkwatide. He would like
10 to do the welcome -- welcoming remarks, and then the
11 ENR people are going to present. Masi.

12 Leonard...?

13 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: Good morning.
14 Thank you for all of you coming to this community. I
15 hope that -- let's all gather here together for the
16 next three (3) days to come up with a solution.

17 When we talk about caribou, some -- it
18 is something that is very, very important to us. Just
19 recently we've been talking about it a lot. For how
20 many years, like we are -- as Dene, it has been there
21 for us for time immemorial, and that is how we live by
22 it.

23 When we talk about caribou, it is --
24 the information, it -- when we talk about it, it -- we
25 feel it. Whatever -- whatever we say, in the end we

1 have to come up with a solution for tomorrow when we
2 talk about the caribou we have to talk about it all
3 evenly.

4 I just wanted to say to welcome you,
5 and that we gather around this table that -- that we
6 say...

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: I want to
11 welcome all of you to Deline. It's been a very busy
12 month for Deline. We had a really big handgame
13 tournament last week. It -- we drew in about seven
14 hundred (700) people from outside. It was just
15 amazing. It was amazing week.

16 And I -- I really thank my community
17 for doing such a good job, and I think this is a
18 continuation from looking after our delegates, and I
19 hope that you all have a good stay. If there's any
20 issues, don't -- just talk to Debbie, and we'll try to
21 accommodate your concerns.

22 We have -- for those of you that don't
23 know the community, we have two (2) stores. We have a
24 northern store and a co-op store. And we have a
25 lodge. And, you know, those are the things that we

1 have in the community in case you -- you want to go
2 visit those -- those places.

3 And we have a spiritual place right at
4 the end of the town. You know, it's -- it's open for
5 anybody to -- to pray, to have a reflection on
6 themselves. It really --

7

8 (PORTION SWITCHED FROM
9 ENGLISH CHANNEL INTO NORTH SLAVEY)

10

11 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: But anyway, in -
12 - on the issue of the caribou, you know, last week we
13 -- the -- there was so many -- the Dene Nation came to
14 town with ourselves. You know, on my Band list we
15 have a thousand members on -- on my First Nation, and
16 then we had -- but about five hundred (500) -- six
17 hundred (600) live here. But we had seven hundred
18 (700) other people come into town, and I haven't seen
19 that since the Dene Nation meeting way back in the
20 '70s or early '80s. And it was such a good thing to
21 see.

22 And one of the things I saw at the
23 meeting -- at the tournament was the drums. You know,
24 they're all made of caribou skins. We depend on the
25 caribou. And we're always going -- going to use it as

1 First Nations, and the people that depend on it.

2 So I ask that the -- we always -- we --
3 we think about tomorrow when we talk about caribou.

4 It has to remain with us all for all time. With that,
5 I -- I want to welcome you again. And if you have any
6 -- any concerns or anything in the community, just let
7 us know and we'll try and accommodate you. Masi cho.

8

9 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
10 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi. Thank
13 you, Leonard. Okay. Now, we'll get into the nitty-
14 gritty stuff. I don't know who is going to head this
15 for the ENR. So, Lynda, maybe you can go ahead and
16 start the -- the ENR presentation and do your
17 introduction and -- okay. Masi.

18 Go ahead, Lynda.

19

20 PRESENTATION BY ENR:

21 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. So we do have a presentation. Is -- was it
23 able to be loaded for the screen?

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

25 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. So as they

1 load that, I'll just start with our introductions.
2 Good morning, Mr. Chair, Board members, staff, Elders,
3 community members, and all the parties and
4 participants in this hearing. We would like to thank
5 the community of Deline and the Board for having this
6 hearing, and for the warm welcome we've received. My
7 name is Lynda Yonge, and I am the director of wildlife
8 for the Department of Environment and Natural
9 Resources.

10 With me today at the table are Dr.
11 Brett Elkin, if you want to -- just want to raise your
12 hand, so people can see you. He's the manager of
13 wildlife research and management in the wildlife
14 division in Yellowknife. I have Mr. Bruno Croft.
15 Bruno, do you want to just raise your -- yeah. He's
16 the manager of research and monitoring in the North
17 Slave region.

18 I have Dr. Anne -- Jan Adamczewski to
19 my right here, the ungulate biologist, wildlife
20 division in Yellowknife. I have Ms. Heather Sayine-
21 Crawford, who I'm sure many of you know. She's our
22 manager of wildlife research and monitoring here in
23 the Sahtu region.

24 And next to me is Ms. Sarah Kay, legal
25 counsel from the Department of Justice. And we also

1 have Mr. John Boulanger, who is a statistician who has
2 worked with Environment and Natural Resources for many
3 years.

4 Today we're here to talk about the
5 Bluenose East caribou herd. We appreciate the
6 opportunity to speak to the Board and to present our
7 proposal on management actions for the Bluenose East
8 caribou herd for 2016 to 2019. This proposal was
9 submitted to the Board in December of 2015. So the
10 first part of our presentation this morning will
11 outline our biological information on the herd. The
12 second part will focus on the main parts of the
13 management proposal.

14 Conservation of the Bluenose East
15 caribou herd is an important issue for all of us here.
16 The herd is declining now at a rate as fast as the
17 Bathurst herd during its most rapid decline between
18 2006 and 2009. The proposal calls for a substantial
19 reduction in the harvest of the herd. We recognize
20 that these reductions will mean hardships for
21 communities that depend on this caribou herd.

22 The proposal also identifies actions to
23 deal with wolf management, and to monitor the herd for
24 the next four (4) years. We look forward to a
25 thorough discussion of this proposal with the Board

1 and all of the participants at this hearing.

2 So I just want to point out we do have
3 a hard copy of the presentation if people would like
4 to follow on. However, it's printed in an unusual
5 way, not on purpose. So the slides actually start at
6 the bottom and then go to the top.

7 So it's one (1), two (2), three (3),
8 four (4). And I apologize. We didn't notice that
9 until this morning, but maybe this way we'll be sure
10 everybody's awake. They see which slide -- they know
11 which slide we're on.

12 So thank you, Mr. Chair. And with
13 that, I would like to turn it over to Dr. -- Dr.
14 Adamczewski, who will begin our presentation for us.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: While we're waiting,
19 I just wanted to mention a few things. The Wek'eezhii
20 Renewable Resources Board representatives, Jonas
21 Lafferty and Steve Matthews and their staff Jody
22 Pellissey -- everybody must know Jody. She used to be
23 our executive directors for Sahtu Renewable Resource
24 Board. And then there's Brian (sic) Tracz, their
25 biologist. Masi.

1

2

(BRIEF PAUSE)

3

4

DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.

5

Chairman. I guess they call -- that qualifies as

6

technical difficulties. Being not technically gifted,

7

I very much understand that.

8

Okay, so our presentation today has two

9

(2) main sections, Part A and part B. Part A is

10

primarily on the Bluenose East caribou herd and Part B

11

is on the proposed actions from the management

12

proposal.

13

The first part of our presentation,

14

part A, has nine (9) components or parts to it.

15

First, the GNWT responsibilities for wildlife

16

management under the Northwest Territories Act and how

17

those responsibilities fit with other parties'

18

management responsibilities.

19

Second, how migratory barren-ground

20

caribou herds are defined. We will pause our

21

presentation to show some short animations that

22

demonstrate how collared caribou from the Bluenose

23

East and other herds move on the landscape throughout

24

the year.

25

Third, a brief description of why we

1 manage caribou on the basis of herds defined by
2 distinct calving grounds.

3 Fourth, a description of long-term
4 fluctuations or changes in numbers, sometimes called
5 cycles, in caribou abundance or numbers, and a brief
6 review of global trends in caribou numbers.

7 Fifth, a brief description of the main
8 factors that we know affect herd size and trend.

9 Sixth, a description of key indicators
10 or signs of population trend in a caribou herd.

11 Seventh, a short review of what we know
12 about the Bluenose East herd's current size and trend,
13 including key indicators or signals.

14 Eighth, a brief consideration of
15 whether the Bluenose East herd may have gone somewhere
16 else.

17 And ninth, a simple projection of the
18 herd's likely trend in the next few years based on a
19 population model. So this is our chance to kind of
20 look ahead into the near future and see where the herd
21 might go.

22 The Government of the Northwest
23 Territories gets its mandate to manage wildlife from
24 the Northwest Territories Act. This Act gives the
25 GNWT the authority to make laws with respect to the

1 conservation of wildlife and habitat.

2 One (1) of the main tools used by the
3 Government of the Northwest Territories to manage
4 wildlife is the Wildlife Act. Under this Act, the
5 territorial government can set up management zones for
6 different species and seasons, quotas, and other
7 restrictions for each zone.

8 The new Wildlife Act, which came into
9 effect in 2014, was developed through a collaborative
10 -- collaborative process that involved Aboriginal
11 governments and organizations, as well as co-
12 management boards established under land claim
13 agreements. The Wildlife Act recognizes and respects
14 Aboriginal and treaty rights.

15 In this case, the Sahtu Dene and Metis
16 Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement lays out the rights
17 of Sahtu participants and the role of the Sahtu
18 Renewable Resources Board, which acts as the main
19 instrument for wildlife management in this region.

20 There is a very similar management
21 proposal for the Bluenose East herd submitted jointly
22 by the Tlicho government and ENR to the Wek'eezhii
23 Renewable Resources Board. And this Board will hold a
24 hearing on this in the next few weeks.

25 Migratory caribou herds like the

1 Bluenose East herd are harvested by a range of other
2 Aboriginal users as well, and their rights must also
3 be recognized. The Government of the Northwest
4 Territories consults with other Aboriginal groups
5 where their rights may be affected.

6 There is a management plan called
7 Taking Care of Caribou, which is -- which has been in
8 place for the Bluenose East herd as of 2014. There
9 are processes that deal with land-use decisions, and
10 there are management processes in Nunavut that also
11 affect this herd.

12 It is only through a collaborative
13 approach, by working together, that caribou management
14 can be effective.

15 I'll turn over the microphone now to my
16 colleague, Bruno Croft.

17 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Dr.
18 Adamczewski. Mr. Chair, thank you.

19 This map shows the annual ranges in
20 calving ground of the migratory barren-ground caribou
21 herds that occur entirely or partially in the
22 Northwest Territories. The annual ranges are based on
23 accumulated satellite radio collar locations from
24 female caribou over time.

25 For -- for each herd, the calving

1 grounds are the darker polygons, or blobs, found on
2 the north end of each annual range. The Bluenose East
3 herd's range is the purple blob in the middle with the
4 calving ground -- ground west of Kugluktuk in Nunavut.

5 We will take a short break now from the
6 PowerPoint presentation to show you a couple of
7 animations that show the annual movement of the
8 Bluenose East herd --

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me.

10 MR. BRUNO CROFT: -- and neighbouring
11 herd.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Bruno, I wonder if
13 it's possible if you could grab that mic right there,
14 and go up there and maybe -- right by that screen.
15 Can you -- is that mic working over there, Bruno?

16 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Sure, Mr. Chair.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. BRUNO CROFT: So, Mr. Chair, I'll
22 -- I'll briefly read you a couple notes, and then
23 after that we'll action the animation and I'll lead
24 you through it, if -- if it's okay.

25 We will now show you two (2) caribou

1 animations based on movement and distribution of
2 barren-ground caribou collared in the NWT in Nunavut
3 between 1994 and 2013. The first animation will show
4 you the Bluenose East herd in relation to the Bluenose
5 West, and the Cape Bathurst herds ranging to the west.

6 The second animation will show the
7 Bluenose East caribou herd in relation to the Bluenose
8 West caribou herd, and the Bathurst and Dolphin-Union
9 herds to the east. Yes, Mr. Chair?

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just -- just hang
11 on. I think our interpreters are getting behind you
12 there, Bruno.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Okay. As we roll
17 through the animation, please, note the date at the
18 top of the map showing the time of the year at ten
19 (10) day intervals starting in the winter. And again,
20 I'll show this in a minute.

21 Location of caribou is depicted by a
22 dot with different colours for each herd. The
23 Bluenose East is shown in light brown, the Bluenose
24 West in purple, and the Cape Bathurst in dark green.
25 The outline around each colour distribution for each

1 herd represents its annual home range, and you will
2 also notice the location of each of their respective
3 calving grounds.

4 The calving ground of the Bluenose East
5 herd is shown between Kugluktuk and Bluenose Lake.
6 This is where the June 2015 calving ground photo
7 survey for that herd took place. And I will go
8 through this again, Mr. Chair, once we have the
9 animation. And we'll run the first animation without
10 stopping, so you can get familiar with what it does.

11 I will then rerun the first animation,
12 and start the movement of the caribou first at the
13 outset of the spring migration, second right at peak
14 of calving, third later in the summer, and fourth is
15 during the mating season. Then we will let the
16 animation run its course until the end of the cycle.
17 Finally, I will run the other animation non-stop.

18 So, Mr. Chair, I will action the
19 animation at this time.

20

21 (VIDEO PRESENTATION STARTS)

22

23 MR. BRUNO CROFT: So briefly, Mr.
24 Chair, this is the annual home range of the Cape
25 Bathurst herd, not to be confused with the Bathurst

1 herd obviously. The annual home range of Bluenose
2 West with its calving ground. The calving ground of
3 the Cape Bathurst. And the annual home range of the
4 Bluenose East herd with its calving ground.

5 So, Mr. Chair, we'll go through the
6 entire animation, and then we'll stop and go over it
7 again. Look at the dates right at the top as we move
8 forward throughout the annual cycle or throughout the
9 year.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: (NORTH SLAVEY
11 LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

12 MR. BRUNO CROFT: No, Mr. Chair, we'll
13 rerun it. I'll have to lay low here and -- and action
14 the animation. And I'll speak on...

15 Okay. Here we go, Mr. Chair. Please
16 take a look at the top of the screen. You'll see as
17 the day go -- the days change over time. And we will
18 stop it right here, which is more or less the outset
19 of the spring migration. Pretty much everybody in
20 this room know that.

21 Now, we'll resume the animation. And
22 this time we will stop right here, which is right at
23 peak of calving for pretty much all the barren ground
24 caribou herds. The further west you are, the earliest
25 it is. And you can see the caribou distribution of

1 each of these -- these herds have now zeroed in on
2 their respective calving ground. We'll move in, move
3 out. Now, we're getting into post-calving. And we'll
4 slowly drift into the summer migration. And I'll stop
5 it right here.

6 In the case of the Bluenose East, the
7 distribution of the light brown and orange dot is more
8 or less where the herd is at this -- in -- in late
9 summer. It has -- it's consistent and it hasn't
10 changed. Now, we'll resume the animation. And I will
11 stop right during the rut, which is about here.
12 Again, clear separation between those three (3) herds.
13 And at this time, Mr. Chair, I will simply let it run
14 till the end, and then I'll run the second animation,
15 and that will be it.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: (SLAVEY LANGUAGE
17 SPOKEN).

18 MR. BRUNO CROFT: So, Mr. Chair, what
19 we added to this animation here is the annual home
20 range of the Bathurst herd here, with its calving
21 ground in this area. And the Dolphin-Union herd,
22 which summers in -- on Victoria Island. We lost the
23 dates at the top here. There you go. We're into Se -
24 - September. Here we go, Mr. Chair. If it's okay
25 we'll resume the presentation on slide number 6. And

1 you want me to stay here, right?

2

3 (VIDEO PRESENTATION CONCLUDED)

4

5 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Slide number 6.

6 Jan, stay on top of it. Since the 1960s migratory
7 barren ground caribou herds across northern Canada
8 have been named and managed based on the distinct
9 calving grounds that female caribou return to every
10 year in June. There are ecologically similar tundra
11 reindeer herds in Russia that have distinct calving
12 grounds.

13 In the animation, you saw how the cows
14 were fairly spread out on the winter range with
15 sometimes considerable overlap between neighbouring
16 herds. In late May and June though they predictably
17 separate out and move to their individual calving
18 grounds.

19 The next slide, Mr. Chair, slide 7.

20 Since satellite collars have been placed on migratory
21 barren-ground caribou in the NWT in the mid-1990s, ENR
22 has kept track of collared cows where at least two (2)
23 consecutive June locations during calving were known.

24 We have generally found that collared
25 cows will return in the same calving ground in

1 consecutive years 96 to 98 percent of the time, Mr.
2 Chair. The other 2 to 4 percent of cases show a low
3 rate of switches between neighbouring herds. We have
4 found the same high rate of loyalty to calving grounds
5 in the Bluenose East herd.

6 The next slide. Mr. Chair, the same
7 approach to defining and managing herds have been used
8 in Alaska, Russia, Northwest Territories, in Nunavut
9 and Northern Quebec and Labrador.

10 The next slide, Mr. Chair. The
11 approach that wildlife manager have taken to defining
12 barren-ground caribou herds has been simply to
13 recognize how the caribou themselves separate out on
14 the landscape, as you saw on the animation. Over
15 time, we have found that each herd has individual
16 conditions, and sometimes neighbouring herds have
17 opposite trends.

18 In Alaska, the Porcupine herd is
19 currently increasing while its neighbour to the
20 Central Arctic herd is declining. Mr. Chair, we think
21 it makes sense to try to keep each herd in a healthy
22 state and to manage each herd so that communities that
23 have the opportunity to harvest caribou -- or do have
24 the opportunity to harvest caribou.

25 The harvest of two thousand (2,000)

1 caribou per year would have relatively little effect
2 on the Porcupine herd. For example, that number's
3 about two hundred thousand (200,000) animals. But the
4 same harvest would quickly wipe out the Cape Bathurst
5 herd in the NWT, which numbers a little over two
6 thousand (2,000) animals in total.

7 Mr. Chair, over a long timescale of --
8 of centuries, both traditional knowledge and science
9 show that herds sometimes disappear in and out of
10 time. Caribou will re -- recolonize an area. Every
11 herd in the NWT is important to multiple communities.
12 Thus, losing any one (1) herd would mean hardship to
13 those communities.

14 Mr. Chair, it might be that one (1)
15 day, decades of centuries later, caribou would
16 reappear and repopulate the area, but it might be a
17 long time before that happened. Responsible
18 management should seek to maintain all our herds in a
19 healthy state and thereby maintain harvesting
20 opportunities for the Northwest Territories and their
21 communities.

22 It is worth mentioning that some
23 migratory barren-ground caribou herds may be ancient.
24 Russell and his colleague in 1993 wrote of the
25 Porcupine herd:

1 standard practice across North America.

2 Large scale fluctuations in the size of
3 migratory barren-ground caribou herds have been known
4 to Aboriginal people for many generations across the
5 North American range from Labrador to Alaska. Surveys
6 carried out by biologists do not extend as far back in
7 time as traditional knowledge.

8 But surveys since the 1950s, and all
9 the scientific studies also show that herds have gone
10 through big changes in abundance over time. This
11 graph, Mr. Chair, shows the estimated herd size of the
12 Fortymile caribou herd in Alaska between 1950 and
13 1990. This herd was once estimated at a much larger
14 size of at least three hundred thousand (300,000), and
15 possibly as high as five hundred thousand (500,000) in
16 the 1920s.

17 Mr. Chair, it then dropped to much
18 lower numbers, to forty thousand (40,000) to sixty
19 thousand (60,000) in the 1950s, in 1960s, and may have
20 dropped as low as seven thousand (7,000) in the early
21 1970s. Since then, it has recovered to over a little
22 -- a little over fifty thousand (50,000) in 2014. And
23 it is unclear whether it will ever again reach the
24 hundreds of thousands it numbered a hundred year ago.

25 It is useful to be aware of this herd's

1 history, and it shows -- as it shows that long-term
2 fluctuation of caribou herds are not always
3 predictable cycles, and that herds may sometimes reach
4 relatively low numbers and remain at those low numbers
5 for many, many years, Mr. Chair.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, this map
10 shows the northern part of our planet, and all the
11 number area are ranges of caribou and reindeer maps --
12 or reindeer herds, sorry. The red caribou populations
13 are declining ones. The green ones are increasing.
14 And the grey ones are population where the status was
15 unknown. There is a lot of red on this map, and not a
16 whole lot of green.

17

Mr. Chair, the overall status of the
18 world caribou and wild reindeer populations is a
19 concern in the country's where they occur, and in the
20 communities that depend on caribou and reindeer. This
21 map was published in 2009 but, unfortunately, the
22 situation in 2015 has not improved.

23

So on this note, Mr. Chair, I will pass
24 the mic to my colleague, Ms. Sayine-Crawford.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: So there
4 are many factors that affect condition and abundance
5 of caribou herds, and this will be familiar to all of
6 you who have known and lived with caribou for many
7 years.

8 Weather affects caribou at all times of
9 the year. Fire can greatly affect the forested winter
10 ranges that caribou depend on. The cumulative effects
11 of development, including mines, roads, and other
12 human influences on the land, are an increasing
13 concern in the NWT.

14 Harvest can have significant affects on
15 herds in some situations, and predators kill calf and
16 adult caribou throughout the year. We will talk about
17 each of these factors briefly in the next slides.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Weather
22 affects caribou in all times of the year, and effects
23 of weather on range condition are likely key factors
24 in the large-scale fluctuations of our caribou herds.

25 The information that you see up here on

1 the screen is courtesy of Dr. Don Russell, a long-time
2 caribou biologist with the federal government. He is
3 now a member of the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring
4 and Assessment, otherwise known as the CARMA network,
5 based out of Whitehorse.

6 So what you see up here is an index of
7 drought conditions, so dry weather, in July on the
8 summer range of the Bluenose East caribou herd between
9 1979 and 2014. That information is based on satellite
10 images through time.

11 The trend for the Bluenose East herd
12 from 2009 to 2014 is an increasing drought code, so
13 getting more and more dry. We had the highest levels
14 on record in 2014, and as we all know and remember,
15 2014 was a very hot, dry summer. And it was also a
16 record year for fires.

17 So drought conditions or dry conditions
18 on the summer range likely mean that the vegetation
19 that the caribou are eating in the summer did not grow
20 as well, and not providing the good feed that the
21 caribou need.

22 This could have led to cows being in
23 poor condition in the fall, and could have led to a
24 low pregnancy rate. So in June of 2015, when we'd
25 done the calving photo survey for the Bluenose East

1 herd, we saw a pregnancy rate of about 64 percent,
2 which is well below the 80 percent we would usually
3 see in a healthy herd.

4 Next slide, please. Hunter harvest of
5 caribou is one (1) of the few factors directly
6 affecting caribou mortality rates that we can control.
7 It is unlikely that harvest is one (1) of the main
8 drivers of the overall caribou cycles or long-term
9 fluctuations in caribou numbers.

10 Those fluctuations or cycles have
11 occurred with or without substantial hunter harvest.
12 However, harvest can become a significant contributor
13 to decline in a herd if the harvest is large relative
14 to the herd's size, if it is mostly breeding cows, and
15 if the herd has an underlying declining natural trend.

16 So on the slide, we can see three (3)
17 NWT herds between 2000 and 2012. On the left in red
18 are estimates of herd size for the relatively small
19 Cape Bathurst herd. The Cape Bathurst herd declined
20 rapidly from 2000 to 2006. In 2007, all harvest of
21 that herd was closed, and since then, that herd has
22 been approximately stable. Stabilization was also in
23 part due to an increase in calf recruitment and
24 possibly an increase in natural survival rates.

25 The graph in the middle in the blue

1 shows the population trend for the Bluenose West herd.
2 It shows a similar pattern to what we see in the Cape
3 Bathurst in the red. There was a large decline from
4 2000 to 2006.

5 In 2007, a harvest was substantially
6 reduced to 4 percent of the herd and limited to 80
7 percent bulls, where the harvest previously had been
8 mostly cows and much larger.

9 This herd showed an approximately
10 stable trends between 2006 and 2012. Similar to the
11 Cape Bathurst herd, improved calf recruitment and
12 possibly an improved natural survival rate also
13 contributed to this herd's stabilization.

14 Finally, in the green on the right, our
15 herd estimates for the Bathurst herd between 2000 and
16 2012. The herd declined most rapidly between 2006 and
17 2009. Most likely the herd had a declining natural
18 trend between 2000 and 2006, as calf numbers were low.
19 We estimate that the annual harvest was around five
20 thousand (5,000) caribou per year, most of them
21 breeding cows. And the harvest stayed about this
22 level because the herd was easy to find.

23 Harvest was reduced by about 95 percent
24 in the Bathurst herd in 2010. And at least from 2009
25 to 2012, the herd showed an approximately stable

1 trend. As with the other two (2) herds, improved calf
2 recruitment and a possible increase in natural
3 survival rates also helped stabilize the herd.

4 Next slide, please. We'd like to take
5 a closer look at the effect of harvest on the
6 declining Bathurst herd. So on this graph, the solid
7 black line shows the decline of the Bathurst herd from
8 1986 through to 2015. The diamonds in that black line
9 are the herd estimates from years when surveys were
10 carried out. The dotted red line shows the percentage
11 of the herd harvested, assuming a constant harvest of
12 six thousand (6,000) caribou per year.

13 When the herd numbered at over four
14 hundred thousand (400,000) animals, a harvest of six
15 thousand (6,000) caribou would have been less than 2
16 percent of the herd. And this harvest would have had
17 little effect on the herd trend. However, when the
18 herd declined to much smaller sizes, the same harvest
19 would have become an increasing percentage of the
20 herd. By 2009, a harvest of six thousand (6,000)
21 caribou would have been nearly 19 percent of the herd.
22 So this size of harvest had a major impact on the herd
23 between 2006 and 2009.

24 The smaller the herd became, the more
25 rapidly it declined, and the harvest contributed

1 increasingly to the herd's downward acceleration. The
2 rate of decline in the Bluenose East herd between 2013
3 and 2015 is now very similar to the Bathurst decline
4 at its most rapid rates. It looks like a natural
5 downward trend has been accelerated in recent winters
6 by a harvest that has been mostly cows. The reported
7 harvest has numbered around twenty-seven hundred
8 (2,700) caribou per year, and the true harvest may
9 have been higher.

10 Next slide, please. Wolves kill calf
11 and adult caribou throughout the year, and are one (1)
12 of the main causes of caribou mortality. Grizzly
13 bears also kill caribou, but studies have generally
14 shown us that most grizzly bear predation on caribou
15 is around the peak of calving and in the next two (2)
16 to three (3) weeks when the calves are young and
17 vulnerable. Wolves are very difficult to count
18 accurately because they occur at low densities over
19 very large areas. However, there clearly are wolves
20 on the Bluenose East range, and based on their
21 importance as a source of caribou mortality, their
22 role as a limiting factor for caribou is likely
23 greater in a declining herd at lower numbers than in a
24 large herd with good calf recruitment.

25 Next slide, please. So this map shows

1 the fire that -- the fires that burned in the NWT in
2 2014. In 2014, approximately 3.4 million hectares of
3 forest burned, though there were not many fires on the
4 Bluenose East winter range.

5 Caribou have coexisted with fire on
6 their winter range for thousands of years. In the
7 short-term -- term, caribou usually avoid recently
8 burned forests as winter range because the fire burns
9 lichens that are their primary winter food. The
10 lichens that they feed on are slow growing, and
11 regeneration can take decades.

12 Caribou will use burned forests very
13 little until they are at least forty (40) to sixty
14 (60) years old, and generally prefer forests that are
15 more than a hundred years old. Losses of portions of
16 the winter range to fire are not necessarily
17 catastrophic as long as there are other areas that
18 remain unburned that the herd can winter in and feed
19 in.

20 We do need to be concerned, as there
21 might come a point when the overall supply of lichen
22 on the caribou's winter range becomes more of a
23 limiting factor for the herd.

24 Next slide, please. Here we see the
25 range of the Bluenose East herd in NWT and Nunavut.

1 So their range is that dark green outline that Lynda's
2 showing. And the light green outline just west of
3 Kugluktuk is where the herd calves.

4 In general, there has been little
5 development on the herd's range. And there are
6 currently no active mines on the herd's range. This
7 is in contrast to the Bathurst herd's range to the
8 east, where you see a number of existing diamond mines
9 and associated roads.

10 A recent Tlicho traditional knowledge
11 study in 2016 has suggested that caribou avoid areas
12 around mines and that the mines have affected caribou
13 health and condition. Scientific studies have also
14 suggested that caribou avoid disturbed sites like
15 mines and roads.

16 Although development in the Bluenose
17 East range has been limited, it will be important to
18 monitor any future proposals for new projects that may
19 affect the herd both in the NWT and in Nunavut, and
20 ensure that the herd has healthy ranges for all times
21 of the year.

22 Now I'll pass it back to Bruno.

23 MR. BRUNO CROFT: All good, Mr. Chair?
24 Thank you. Thank you, Heather.

25 Next slide, please. At the basic

1 level, population trend in the caribou herd comes down
2 to the balance between caribou that die and young
3 caribou that are added to the herd -- to the herd.

4 Biologists have found that there are a
5 few indicators called vital rates that determine
6 whether a herd will be increasing or decreasing. Mr.
7 Chair, the single most important vital rate of caribou
8 herds is the survival rate of the cows. There are --
9 they are the single largest component of the herd, and
10 they produce the young.

11 Experience with the Bluenose herd and
12 other herds has shown that the cow survival rates
13 needs to be about 80 to 85 percent for a herd to be
14 stable, and that the herd's trend is sensitive to
15 small changes in the cow's survival rate. If this
16 rate is below 80 percent, Mr. Chair, then the herd
17 will almost certainly be declining.

18 A second key vital rate is the rate of
19 calf recruitment into the herd. The mortality of
20 calves in their first year is often high, over 50
21 percent. Thus, calves are considered to be recruited
22 into the herd if they survive their first year.

23 The index of calf recruitment that we
24 use is the late winter calf-to-cow ratio, expressed as
25 number of calves per hundred cows, and measured at ten

1 (10) to -- nine (9) to ten (10) months of age in March
2 or April. We do have a survey coming up next week on
3 this herd.

4 Experience in population modelling has
5 shown that a spring calf/cow ratio of at least thirty
6 (30) to forty (40) per hundred cows is needed for a
7 stable herd. The third vital rate, Mr. Chair, which
8 in part determines calf recruitment, is the pregnancy
9 rate. In healthy herds, the breeding age cows usually
10 have a pregnancy rate of about 80 percent or more. If
11 the cows are in poor shape in the breeding season,
12 they may not breed and a low pregnancy rate may
13 result, Mr. Chair.

14 While these vital rates do not
15 necessarily explain all the factors that affect the
16 caribou herd, they are a useful way to assess what
17 might underlie changes in herd trend, and it can help
18 identify the likely future short-term trend in the
19 herd.

20 Next slide. Mr. Chair, we will now
21 move to the specific information we have on the
22 Bluenose East herd's size and recent trend as of 2015.
23 This map shows the intensive survey area covered on
24 the Bluenose East herd's calving ground in 2015. You
25 could see it here on the map. Each of the small

1 crosses show a 10 kilometre segment along a survey
2 flight line. The blank crosses show a segment where
3 no caribou were seen. The circles show where caribou
4 groups were seen and counted.

5 The size of the circles show relative
6 numbers of caribou seen. Most of the higher numbers
7 were seen in the western part of the survey, right in
8 here, right in there where -- and that's where the
9 photo plane was used. The circles that are all red
10 were cows with calves, while the circles with other
11 colours were generally a mix of bulls and non-breeding
12 cows.

13 There were thirty (30) collars Bluenose
14 East cows on the calving ground on June the 5th, all
15 of them accounted for within the main survey area.
16 This, Mr. Chair, provides confidence that a high
17 proportion of the herd's cows were on the survey area
18 at the time of the photo survey.

19 Ground coverage within the photo
20 stratum was 55.4 percent, and coverage in the next
21 largest survey block was 19.7 percent. Thus, we are
22 confident -- confident that the survey reliably
23 captured a high percentage of the herd's breeding
24 cows, Mr. Chair, which is the primary focus of this
25 type of survey.

1 Next slide, please. This graph, Mr.
2 Chair, showed the estimated size of the Bluenose East
3 herd from 2010 to 2015, all based on the same calving
4 photo survey methods. Previous to 2010, ENR used
5 post-calving survey methods to estimate herd size in
6 the Bluenose East herd. However, those surveys were
7 unsuccessful in a number of years as caribou in July
8 did not always form the dense aggregations that are
9 necessary for the survey to succeed right when the
10 insects are out in abundance.

11 In 2010, ENR carried out both a June
12 calving photo survey and a post-calving survey in July
13 for this herd. All herd estimate were between one
14 hundred thousand (100,000) and a hundred and twenty-
15 three thousand (123,000), suggesting that the two (2)
16 methods were providing similar overall herd estimates.

17 The estimates of herd -- the herd size
18 indicates an increased rate of decline in the Bluenose
19 East herd from 2010 to 2013, to 2013 and 2015.
20 Overall, herd size declined by about 43 percent in two
21 (2) years.

22 Next slide. This graph, Mr. Chair,
23 provides further detail on the estimate of Bluenose
24 East adult cows in 2010, 2013 in the middle, and 2015.
25 The total estimated cows in the survey area are the

1 bars including the blue and the red.

2 The red portion of the bars at the top
3 are the non-breeding cows. The survey results from
4 2015 are particularly concerning, as about 36 percent
5 of the cows were non-breeders. The pregnancy rate in
6 winter 2014/2015 was likely about 64 percent, well
7 below the 80 percent usually seen in a healthy herd,
8 Mr. Chair.

9 On the right are the estimate of the
10 breeding female of the Bluenose East herd in 2010,
11 2013, and 2015. The number of breeding cows dropped
12 by about 50 percent from 2012 to 2015.

13 Next slide, please. Mr. Chair, if we
14 go back now to the three (3) vital rates we talked
15 about earlier, cow survival, calf recruitment, and
16 pregnancy rate, we can see that the Bluenose East
17 herd's recent vital rates are not good and are
18 consistent with the declining trend seen from the
19 calving photo surveys.

20 The cow survival rate in the herd was
21 estimated at 71 percent between 2013 and 2015, well
22 below the 80 to 85 percent associated with stable
23 herds.

24 Calf recruitment in the last three (3)
25 years has averaged about twenty-five (25) calves to a

1 hundred (100) cows, well below the thirty (30) to
2 forty (40) calves to a hundred (100) cows generally
3 associated with stable herds, as we mentioned earlier.

4 While we do -- do not have annual
5 pregnancy rate for the herd, the June 2015 survey
6 suggested that the herd's pregnancy rate in breeding-
7 age cows are about 64 percent, which is lower than the
8 80 percent usually found in a healthy herd, Mr. Chair.

9 So taken together, these vital rates
10 are consistent with the rapid rate of decline for this
11 herd. Unless these vital rates improve substantially,
12 the herd is likely to decline further in the next few
13 years.

14 And on this note, Mr. Chair, I will
15 pass the mic back to Ms. Sayine-Crawford.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. It's -- we've
17 been at it since this morning without a break. So I'm
18 just wondering if we should just call for a fifteen
19 (15) minute break and then come back and resume. Is
20 that all right?

21 Okay. Let's -- let's go for a break.
22 Masi.

23

24 --- Upon recessing at 10:57 a.m.

25 --- Upon resuming at 11:15 a.m.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Are we ready to
2 commence? We'll continue with ENR's presentation.
3 And I believe Heather is going to be speaking.

4 Okay. Go ahead, Heather.

5 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: So when
6 we start talking about declines in caribou numbers we
7 often get asked whether the caribou have moved
8 somewhere else. So the information we have from our
9 surveys and our collars tell us that movement away
10 from the Bluenose East range is not the cause of the
11 decline that we're seeing. So up here on the slide we
12 have a map showing where we flew in June of 2015 over
13 the calving grounds of both the Bluenose East and
14 Bathurst herds.

15 So all of the north to south flight
16 lines are shown. And the lines that have empty grey
17 squares were flown, but we did not see any caribou
18 there. So we did fly lines between the two (2)
19 calving grounds, as well as to the east of the
20 Bluenose East calving ground and to the west. Sorry,
21 to the east of Bathurst and the west of the Bluenose
22 East herd. With the amounts of ground that we
23 covered, we are fairly sure that we did not miss any
24 huge groups of caribou from either the Bluenose East
25 or the Bathurst herds.

1 We also take a look at the locations of
2 our collared caribou. For the Bluenose East herd all
3 thirty (30) of the collared cows were within our study
4 area. Similarly, for the Bathurst, the thirty-one
5 (31) collared cows in the Bathurst herd were found in
6 the main survey area. So this increases our
7 confidence that the Bluenose East herd distribution
8 was very well defined, and that the cows were well
9 separated from -- so the cows of the Bluenose East
10 herd were well separated from the cows of the Bathurst
11 herd and from the Bluenose West herd.

12 Next slide. So here we have just a
13 little bit more information about the movements of
14 cows between the Bluenose East calving grounds and the
15 neighbouring Bluenose West and Bathurst calving
16 grounds. So for five (5) years, between 2010 and
17 2015, we tracked collared cows. In total we had two
18 hundred and four (204) locations. So up on the screen
19 there the curved arrows at the top show how many times
20 collared cows for each herd returned back to the same
21 calving grounds. The straight arrows between the
22 herds, between the boxes, show how many time cows
23 switched between calving grounds.

24 So of all two hundred and four (204)
25 pairs of locations that we had, a hundred and ninety-

1 nine (199) returned to the same calving grounds and
2 five (5) switched.

3 So as you can see up here, one (1) cow
4 switched from the Bluenose East herd to the Bluenose
5 West calving ground. And two (2) from the Bluenose
6 West calving ground switched over to the Bluenose
7 East. Two (2) Bluenose East cows switched over to the
8 Bathurst calving range and none of the Bathurst cows
9 switched back to -- or switched over to the Bluenose
10 East range. So this shows about a 98 percent loyalty
11 to calving grounds.

12 So we have taken a look at the other
13 herds, including Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk
14 Peninsula, and we see the same rates of calving range
15 loyalty or continue -- these -- these animals continue
16 to go back to their same calving range. So we --
17 movement out of the Bluenose East range is not likely
18 what is accounting for our -- our declines that we're
19 seeing right now.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CROWFORD: So we
24 would like to look at the herd's likely trend into the
25 future, and to do this, we use a population model. A

1 population model is a tool that just helps us
2 understand what is going on within the herd and it
3 tracks those three (3) vital rates that we talked
4 about earlier, so the cow survival rate, how many
5 calves are making it through that first -- their first
6 winter and the pregnancy rate.

7 So, basically, a model is a balance
8 sheet or trying to look at the births and the deaths
9 within the herd. So we use all of the information we
10 have about the herd, and we make this model. We then
11 take that model and put it -- use it on the past data
12 that we have. And once we -- we find that the model
13 works for the past, then we start to look into the
14 future.

15 So the model doesn't tell us exactly
16 what will happen, but it can give us an idea of what
17 might happen. So upon the screen we have a simple
18 example. The blue line shows a declining trend in the
19 herd to the present time, so what we've seen so far
20 for the Bluenose East herd.

21 If those three (3) vital rates were to
22 stay the same, that black arrow is what would probably
23 happen. If those three (3) vital rates were to get
24 better, the green arrow is more likely and the herd
25 might be stable. If things really improve, they

1 really got better, the purple arrow shows a possible
2 increase in the herd. Or if things got worse, the red
3 arrow might happen and the decline might speed up.

4 So the point of the model is try to
5 look -- is to try to look ahead and see what might
6 happen or what would be most likely. The next slide,
7 please.

8 So here is our model projection for the
9 Bluenose East herd. So this is from our last sur --
10 survey in 2015 through to 2019. So in this example we
11 have assumed that the cow survival rate stays the same
12 for the herd at about 71 percent and there is no
13 harvest in these projections.

14 If the recent low calf productivity
15 continues, then the herd will follow a trend similar
16 to that blue line. If calf productivity were to
17 increase to an average level, the red line is more
18 likely. And if calf productivity increases to levels
19 seen back in 2008 to 2010, the green line is the
20 likeliest trend.

21 Overall, unless the herd's three (3)
22 vital rates improve, the herd is likely to decline
23 from the current estimate of about thirty-eight
24 thousand six hundred (38,600) animals to somewhere
25 between seventeen (17) and twenty-seven thousand

1 (27,000) in 2018.

2 These model projections underline a
3 point we mentioned earlier. If the cow survival rate
4 is low, the herd trend is likely to be declining, as
5 it is difficult for the herd to produce enough new --
6 young new calves to offset all this -- the caribou
7 that are dying.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Heather.
12 Lynda Yonge. I'll continue on for the next few
13 slides. So that concludes the part of the
14 presentation that deals with the status of the
15 Bluenose East herd. Now, we're going to move to the
16 second part of the presentation, and that's going to
17 look at what the management actions proposed are.

18 So this slide lists the five (5) parts
19 of the second part of our presentation.

20 First, we'll talk a little bit about
21 the overall management context for the Bluenose east
22 herd.

23 Then we'll talk about the management
24 actions that are proposed for 2016 to 2019.

25 Third, we'll talk about some of the key

1 meetings and communications in the last year or so
2 that have been held with communities, the Sahtu
3 Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable
4 Resources Board, and other Aboriginal users of this
5 herd.

6 Then, fourth, we'll talk about a -- a
7 summary of Bluenose East caribou management that's
8 under discussion with Nunavut. The Bluenose East herd
9 is shared with Nunavut, and its calving grounds, and a
10 portion of the summer range are in Nunavut, so that
11 becomes important.

12 And finally, we will end our
13 presentation with a summary slide that highlights the
14 key points about the herd's status and the proposed
15 management.

16 So as many of you are probably aware, a
17 management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West,
18 and Bluenose East herds was completed in 2014. This
19 plan was put together by a group of co-management
20 boards called the Advisory Committee for Cooperation
21 on Wildlife Management, which is a long name, so we
22 refer to them as the ACCWM. The plan is called, Taking
23 Care of Caribou.

24 Management for the three (3) herds in
25 the plan is guided by a colour chart, which you can

1 see there on the left. And that chart shows four (4)
2 different phases for each herd. Green is for when the
3 herd is in high numbers. Yellow is for numbers that
4 are in the middle, but the herd is increasing. Orange
5 is for when numbers are in the middle, but the herd is
6 decreasing. And red is for when the herd is in low
7 numbers.

8 The plan includes recommendations for
9 harvest management, predators, land use, and habitat.
10 So right now, the Bluenose East herd would be
11 considered to be in the orange phase. For the
12 Bluenose East herd, the orange zone applies when the
13 herd is between twenty thousand (20,000) and sixty
14 thousand (60,000) animals and declining. So although
15 the herd is declining, it is still above the red
16 phase, which is low numbers, which starts at twenty
17 thousand (20,000) animals.

18 The ACCWM is working on an action plan
19 for the Bluenose East herd, and ENR is providing
20 technical and financial support for the development of
21 that action plan.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So because of the

1 Bluenose East herd's rapid decline, concerns over land
2 use and habitat protection have increased over recent
3 years. So the map on the lower left there, you see --
4 saw that a little bit earlier, where we showed the
5 herd's range and development on the range.

6 It shows where the communities, roads,
7 and mines in the North Slave and Sahtu regions are.
8 Unlike the Bathurst herd range, which is to the east,
9 there are no active mines on the Bluenose East range,
10 and there is much less development so far.

11 ENR participates in all the
12 environmental assessment processes in the Bluenose
13 East range including the ones that are held in
14 Nunavut. And our role is to raise issues that might
15 affect the herd's habitat.

16 The herd's calving grounds and some of
17 its summer range are in Nunavut, and there have been
18 meetings in Nunavut about the protection of caribou
19 habitat.

20 ENR participates in those meetings.
21 For example, there was a meeting in 20 -- in 2015 with
22 the Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission, and another
23 with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. There is
24 another meeting coming up with the Nunavut Land Use
25 Planning Commission next week, and we will be

1 participating in that.

2 Both the Government of Nunavut and the
3 Government of the Northwest Territories have expressed
4 opposition to all development on caribou calving
5 grounds. Both governments also expressed opposition
6 to minimal -- mineral exploration activities of tundra
7 copper -- tunder -- tundra copper which are on the
8 Bluenose-East herd's calving ground.

9 The Northwest Territories does not have
10 a single land use plan for the entire territory the
11 way that Nunavut does. There are regional land use
12 planning processes that can help protect caribou and
13 their habitat.

14 Within the Sahtu Settlement Area, land
15 use activities must follow the Sahtu Land Use Plan.
16 The Sahtu Land Use Plan recognizes the importance of
17 maintaining barren-ground caribou and their habitat.
18 All activities must use the most up-to-date
19 information from the local RRCs, the Sahtu Renewable
20 Resources Board, and the applicable territorial and
21 federal government departments to help mitigate their
22 impacts.

23 As well, any activities occurring
24 within the rutting or wintering habitat or barren-
25 ground caribou must address impacts to caribou and

1 their habitat.

2 So we'd like to move on now to the
3 management actions proposed for the Bluenose-East
4 herd. We'll start by looking at how harvest is likely
5 to affect the herd's trend in the next few years.

6 So you'll remember you saw a graph like
7 this just a few slides ago where we used the
8 population model to look four (4) year -- to look
9 ahead for four (4) years and see where the herd might
10 go.

11 In those model predictions, the cow
12 survival rate was kept at 71 percent, and calf
13 productivity was kept at twenty-five (25) calves to a
14 hundred cows. That's what we've been seeing over
15 recent years.

16 So in this graph, if you see the green
17 line, that shows the herd's likely trend if there is
18 no harvest. The blue line shows the herd's likely
19 trend if there's a harvest of five hundred (500)
20 caribou a year. The red line shows the herd's likely
21 trend with a harvest of nine hundred and fifty (950)
22 caribou a year.

23 The black line shows the herd's likely
24 trend with a harvest of twenty-six hundred (2,600)
25 caribou, which is about the average that was reported

1 between 2009 and 2014. And the yellow line at the
2 bottom shows the herd's likely trend if the harvest
3 was four thousand (4,000) caribou a year.

4 Because the reported harvest does not
5 include wounding losses, and there is always some
6 unreported harvest, the true harvest between 2009 and
7 2014 may have been somewhere on this scale.

8 The harvest in these projections is
9 based on 65 percent cows and 35 percent bulls, which
10 is about what has been reported or estimated between
11 2009 and 2014. So the harvest could have a big effect
12 on the herd's trend as you can see in the difference
13 between these different lines. If the vital rates
14 stay the same as they are now, and there was no
15 harvest, this model projects that the herd might be
16 between fifteen thousand (15,000) and twenty thousand
17 (20,000) in 2018, which is when the next survey is
18 planned.

19 If, however, the harvest was as high as
20 four thousand (4,000) animals a year and the vital
21 rates stay the same, the model projects the herd could
22 be as low as seven thousand (7,000) animals in 2018.

23 Okay. So on this slide the graph on
24 the right is the graph that you just saw. And that is
25 if the harvest, the projected harvest, is 65 percent

1 cows. Now, the graph on the left is the same
2 projections, but with 100 percent bull harvest.

3 So again, the harvest levels are zero
4 harvest is in green; five hundred (500) animals, all
5 bulls, is in blue; nine hundred and fifty (950), all
6 bulls, is in red; twenty-six hundred (2,600), all
7 bulls, is in black; and four thousand (4,000) is in
8 yellow.

9 So as you can see the lines where the
10 harvest includes 65 percent cows drops faster than the
11 lines with the hundred percent bull harvest. So over
12 time the effects of a cow-focussed harvest would
13 increase because of the sensitivity of the herd -- of
14 the herd's trend cow mortality rates and reduced calf
15 productivity. So what these graphs are showing is
16 that if there's a high cow harvest, the likely effect
17 on the total population is greater than if the harvest
18 is all bulls.

19 None of these harvest levels are
20 actually sustainable because the herd's natural trend,
21 even with no harvest, is declining. Any harvest will
22 add to mortality and add to the likelihood of decline.
23 But a harvest can still be recommended to address
24 community needs if the risk of de -- increasing the
25 decline is acceptable.

1 So we'll move on now to the harvest
2 that's recommended for the Bluenose East herd in the
3 proposal. A harvest of nine hundred and fifty (950)
4 caribou a year, all bulls, is recommended for the
5 following reasons.

6 First, the herd is now estimated to be
7 about thirty-eight thousand (38,000) animals and falls
8 into the orange declining phase in the ACCWM Plan.
9 Just as a reminder, the orange zone applies to the
10 Bluenose East herd when it is a declining herd between
11 twenty thousand (20,000) and sixty thousand (60,000)
12 animals.

13 According to the plan, when the herd is
14 in the orange zone a total allowable harvest and a
15 bull focus may be recommended. It is not yet in the
16 red phase, which has a threshold of twenty thousand
17 (20,000) animals or less, but we do note that the herd
18 could easily be in the red phase by 2018 if current
19 trends continue.

20 Okay. It's -- secondly, the herd had a
21 very rapid decline between 2013 and 2015 with a 50
22 percent loss of breeding cows. Because the cows are
23 the most important to the herd's ability to stabilize
24 and recover, we recommend there be no harvest of cows.
25 We also recommend that the harvest should focus on

1 younger, smaller bulls. And this is what's
2 recommended in the ACCWM Plan.

3 Third, the key vital rates of the herd,
4 so the cow survival rate, calf recruitment and the
5 pregnancy rate, have all been low. And unless these
6 change in the near future, the herd is likely to
7 decline even if there is no harvest.

8 Fourth, any harvest from the herd adds
9 to the mortality rate of adult caribou. And in a
10 declining herd this adds to the risk of further
11 decline. A harvest of nine hundred and fifty (950)
12 bulls a year does increase the likelihood of further
13 decline but to a much lower extent than a higher
14 harvest rate, especially if the harvest has a high cow
15 component.

16 Five, we recommend that the information
17 be available be reviewed and management actions be
18 looked at again every year. In addition, with a bull-
19 focussed harvest it will be important to make sure we
20 watch the ratio of the bulls to the cows.

21 Sixth, the recommended harvest limit is
22 herd-wide, including Nunavut, and it would include six
23 hundred and eleven (611) animals for the NWT
24 communities and three hundred and thirty-nine (339)
25 animals for Nunavut.

1 And, finally, this harvest
2 recommendation has the support of the Tlicho
3 Government, which is also one (1) of the largest users
4 of this herd.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Next we'd like to
9 talk about the allocation of the recommended Bluenose
10 East caribou harvest in the Northwest Territories. So
11 the proposal put forward includes a herd-wide harvest
12 total of nine hundred and fifty (950) animals, bull
13 only. This would mean six hundred and eleven (611)
14 animals for the Northwest Territories communities and
15 three hundred and thirty-nine (339) for Nunavut.

16 For the Sahtu, it's recommended that
17 the quota would be a hundred and sixty-three (163)
18 animals. We have put forward a proposed allocation
19 based on the percentages that were used to calculate
20 allocation for the 2014 to '15 harvest. But, if a
21 more comprehensive sharing formula is agreed to by the
22 co-management boards and Aboriginal governments, then
23 this formula could replace the formula that we have
24 put forward.

25 So the pie chart on this slide shows

1 what the NWT allocation would look like based on the
2 percentages that were contained when our minister sent
3 out a letter in February of 2015. So this letter went
4 to all the user groups.

5 There were many factors and
6 considerations that were taken into consideration
7 coming -- to come up with this allocation, and one (1)
8 of those was to look at recent harvest information.

9 This approach of using recent harvest
10 information has been used before in the Northwest
11 Territories, for example, in the sharing for --
12 formula that the three (3) co-management boards used
13 to allocate the Bluenose West caribou harvest in 2006
14 between users in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu
15 areas. Okay.

16 A similar approach was also used to
17 determine an allocation among Aboriginal user groups
18 that hunt the Porcupine herd. And that's outlined in
19 the Porcupine harvest management plan that was
20 finalized in 2010. And more recently, in 2011, the
21 ACCWM had early discussions and had taken this sort of
22 approach in a draft allocation plan.

23 So in January -- on January 20th of
24 this year, 2016, we held a meeting of Aboriginal user
25 groups to have more discussion about the harvest

1 allocation for the Bluenose East herd. A slightly
2 different sharing formula was proposed at that meeting
3 that would give each of the Aboriginal harvester
4 groups that harvest only a small amount of Bluenose
5 East a minimum harvest allocation of 2 percent of the
6 total allowable harvest.

7 So this shot -- this slide and this pie
8 chart shows how the nine hundred and fifty (950) would
9 be allocated under that proposal. This pie chart is a
10 little bit different than the previous slide because
11 it also includes Nunavut.

12 So that proposal for allocation was
13 sent in a letter to the Sahtu Renewable Resources
14 Board from the Inuvialuit Game Council and the
15 Wildlife Management Advisory Committee -- Council for
16 the Inuvialuit. And that's on the public record for
17 this hearing.

18 After the meeting in January, each of
19 the participants were asked to review the two (2) ways
20 of the allocation formulas with their communities and
21 their leadership and provide recommendations. This
22 allocation discussion may also inform the Sahtu
23 Renewable Resources Board and the Wek'eezhii Renewable
24 Resources Board recommendations that they make for the
25 Bluenose East harvest.

1 Okay. I'll now turn the slides over to
2 Dr. Brett Elkin.

3 DR. BRETT ELKIN: Mr. Chair, under the
4 ACCWM plan for the three (3) caribou herds, management
5 options for herds in the orange or declining phase can
6 include considera -- considering options for predator
7 management.

8 Because of the continuing declines in
9 the Bluenose East, Bathurst, and other herds, ENR is
10 planning a collaborative feasibility assessment to
11 consider options for wolf management that could be
12 considered to assist in increasing survival rates of
13 calf and adult caribou.

14 Experience with wolf reduction programs
15 in other jurisdictions suggests that wolf reduction is
16 most likely to be effective if carried out over a
17 large range over a number of years, and with
18 reductions that include removing a large proportion of
19 the targeted wolf packs.

20 The feasibility assessment we are
21 planning will include recommended measures for
22 monitoring the effect -- effectiveness of any actions
23 taken.

24 Assessment of wolf management options
25 will also need to consider the mixed views that people

1 have about managing wolves and other predators. Input
2 from Aboriginal governments and organizations will be
3 sought during this process.

4 Recently, the Tlicho government has
5 proposed a pilot community-based wolf harvest program
6 in Tlicho communities that will focus on training wolf
7 hunters and trappers in effective and culturally-
8 appropriate ways of harvesting wolves on the Bathurst
9 herd's winter range.

10 Other Aboriginal groups have also
11 expressed interest in increasing harvest of wolves to
12 increase caribou survival rates and help stabilize
13 herds. ENR will work collaboratively with these
14 groups on determining appropriate ways to harvest
15 wolves.

16 As part of efforts to increase wolf
17 harvest in the NWT, the Government of the Northwest
18 Territories has recently revised its incentives to
19 increase harvest of wolves by hunters and trappers.
20 These are available to both Aboriginal and non-
21 Aboriginal hunters and trappers in the NWT.

22 The first option, shown on the left of
23 the screen, is an option where a hunter or trapper can
24 bring in an intact, unskinned wolf in prime condition
25 and receive two hundred dollars (\$200). The wolf will

1 then be skinned by a skinner working with ENR who will
2 keep the pelt and be able to seek the best price for
3 it.

4 In the middle of the screen is an
5 option for a harvester to prepare a wolf pelt to
6 traditional standards, one where paws can be removed,
7 and lips and ears don't have to be fleshed out. And
8 the person would receive four hundred dollars (\$400)
9 for the pelt, and fifty dollars (\$50) for the skull,
10 provided the pelt is in prime condition and well-
11 handled.

12 On the right side of the screen is the
13 third option where the harvester prepares the wolf to
14 diguine -- genuine Mackenzie fur program taxidermy
15 standards. The harvester would receive four hundred
16 dollars (\$400) for the pelt --

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just -- just wait.
18 You're getting way ahead of the interpreters, okay.

19 DR. BRETT ELKIN: Pardon me. The
20 harvester would receive four hundred dollars (\$400)
21 for the pelt, and fifty dollars (\$50) for the skull,
22 and would be eligible for an additional three hundred
23 and fifty dollar (\$350) prime fur bonus if the pelt
24 sells for more than two hundred dollars (\$200) at
25 auction. Again, all pelts need to be in prime

1 condition and well-handled to be accepted into the
2 program.

3 This slide shows the biological
4 monitoring that is planned for the Bluenose East herd
5 and described in the management proposal. The
6 surveys, collars, and other monitoring will be led by
7 ENR in collaboration with monitoring by co-management
8 partners. We will list these briefly next.

9 Number 1: Annual reconnaissance
10 surveys over the calving ground should provide an
11 index of the number of cows on the calving ground.

12 Number 2: A new calving photo survey
13 to estimate the number of breeding females and overall
14 herd size is planned for June 2018. Consideration
15 could be given to moving this survey a year earlier as
16 part of adaptive management.

17 Number 3: Composition surveys are
18 carried out every three (3) years during the calving
19 photo surveys. These provide an estimate of the
20 proportion of cows that were breeders that year.

21 Number 4: Fall composition surveys are
22 planned every two (2) to three (3) years. These allow
23 us to track the bull-to-cow ratio, and also provide an
24 index of calf survival to four (4) months of age.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 DR. BRETT ELKIN: Number 5: An annual
4 composition survey in late winter provides a calf-to-
5 cow ratio and an estimate of calf recruitment through
6 the first year.

7 Number 6: Condition assessment of
8 hunter killed caribou can provide information on the
9 shape of caribou are in from year to year.

10 Number 7: An updated estimate of cow
11 survival rate is determined every year that a calving
12 photo survey occurs using collared caribou data in
13 combination with other demographic information about
14 the herd and using a population model.

15 Number 8: Complete and accurate
16 harvest reporting will be needed from all harvesters
17 and communities.

18 Number 9: Fifty (50) GPS satellite
19 collars will be maintained on the herd, thirty (30) on
20 cows and twenty (20) on bulls with annual additions to
21 replace collars that reach the end of their batteries
22 and collars that are on caribou that die.

23 Number 10: Annual wolf harvest by all
24 hunters and trappers will be monitored, along with
25 information about the effort expended by hunters and

1 trappers. The monitoring described on the previous
2 slide will allow us to track the herd's trend and key
3 variables between now and 2018 when we would expect an
4 updated population estimate.

5 Generally speaking, decisions about
6 caribou management have been made when a new
7 population estimate has been determined. However,
8 given the herd's low numbers and declining trend ENR
9 suggests that an annual review should also occur. At
10 this time updated information can be considered and
11 management actions can be re-evaluated.

12 The fall may be an appropriate time for
13 co-management partners, including the Sahtu Renewable
14 Resources Board and the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources
15 Board to review any new information and reconsider
16 management. At that time we should have a new
17 estimate of the calf-to-cow ratio from March or April
18 and a new estimate of the trend in cow numbers from a
19 June reconnaissance survey for that year.

20 It will also be important to continue
21 to work with the ACCWM and use its plan as guidance on
22 monitoring and management. This includes the action
23 plan under development for the herd.

24 When June 2014 reconnaissance surveys
25 of the Bluenose East and Bathurst calving grounds

1 suggested alarming declines in both herds ENR convened
2 a series of meetings in fall and winter 2014/2015 with
3 Aboriginal governments, boards and other organizations
4 to review the information and work together to develop
5 management options. Those meetings have continued
6 through 2015 and now into 2016.

7 This slide highlights some of the key
8 meetings that ENR has convened or participated in. We
9 recognize that the ACCWM, individual boards and
10 Aboriginal governments have also had many meetings
11 about caribou. There were three (3) meetings of
12 Aboriginal leaders and boards in August and November
13 2014 and two (2), two (2) day technical meetings in
14 October 2014.

15 Once the calving photo survey for the
16 Bluenose East herd was completed in June 2015 updates
17 on the surveys and on proposed management were shared
18 with everyone. Letters to provide updates on the
19 Bluenose East herd and to provide an update
20 opportunity for input on possible management actions
21 were sent out in July, September and December 2015.

22 There has been a continuing series of
23 meetings and discussion involving the Sahtu Renewable
24 Resource Board, Sahtu communities and ENR in fall and
25 winter 2015/'16. There has been a continuing series

1 of meetings on caribou between the Tlicho Government
2 and ENR at various levels.

3 ENR submitted its proposal to the Sahtu
4 Renewable Resources Board in December 2015 which is
5 very similar to the joint proposal ENR and the Tlicho
6 Government have submitted to the Wek'eezhii Renewable
7 Resources Board in December 2015.

8 We would like to acknowledge the
9 leadership taken by the community of Deline in
10 developing a community conservation plan for caribou
11 in November 2015.

12 As noted earlier, a meeting of
13 Aboriginal user groups of the Bluenose-East herd was
14 held January 20th, 2016, and may lead to a revised
15 allocation formula for this herd.

16 Finally, we note that the current Sahtu
17 Renewable Resources Board hearing on Bluenose East
18 caribou will be followed by a hearing on Bluenose East
19 caribou under the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources
20 Board.

21 I will now turn it over to Bruno Croft.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Dr.

1 Elkin. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for staying
2 with us. We're almost done. Just a few more slides.
3 We're getting there.

4 The GNWT and the Government of Nunavut,
5 along with Aboriginal governments and wildlife boards,
6 have worked together increasingly in recent years as
7 trans-boundary caribou herds have declined.

8 In this section, we will describe some
9 of the collaborative work that has occurred in the
10 areas of hunter harvest, wolf management, and land
11 use.

12 Mr. Chair, we recognize of course that
13 Nunavut is a different jurisdiction and that neither
14 the GNWT nor any other NWT agencies have authority in
15 Nunavut.

16 A total allowable harvest for the
17 Bluenose East herd in Nunavut will be determined by
18 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and a hearing
19 is expected in 2016. The GNWT will participate in that
20 process.

21 The Government of Nunavut has
22 recommended a TAH for the Bluenose East herd in
23 Nunavut of three hundred and forty (340) caribou.
24 This TAH for the Bluenose East herd fits well with the
25 overall harvest limit of nine hundred and fifty (950)

1 caribou, including Nunavut harvest, recommended by ENR
2 and the Tlicho government for this herd.

3 The interim allocation recommended by
4 ENR will include three hundred and thirty-nine (339)
5 caribou for Nunavut.

6 Next slide, Mr. Chair. Second,
7 informal discussions of caribou-related meetings in
8 the NWT and Nunavut suggest that hunters in Kugluktuk
9 and other Nunavut communities would be interested in
10 increased harvest of wolf associated with the Bluenose
11 East herd.

12 Accessibility of wolves, Mr. Chair, on
13 tundra ranges in winter for hunters on snow machine is
14 much greater than accessibility of ranges in the NWT
15 south of the tree line. ENR will pursue these
16 conversation further.

17 Next slide, Mr. Chair. Third, the
18 importance of maintaining adequate healthy habitat for
19 caribou has been recognized in Nunavut as well as in
20 the NWT

21 At environmental assessment processes
22 in Nunavut and NWT, as well as meetings of the Nunavut
23 Wildlife Management Board and the Nunavut Land Use
24 Planning Commission, the GN and GNWT have provided the
25 same position, opposing any development on any calving

1 ground of barren-ground caribou, as well as the need
2 to manage other key caribou ranges responsibly, Mr.
3 Chair, into the water crossing and post-calving
4 ranges.

5 It is also worth noting that
6 representative of Nunavut communities and
7 organizations have been participating in meetings in
8 the NWT on caribou, including the Bluenose East
9 allocation meeting in January of 2016.

10 And now, Mr. Chair, we'll pass this to
11 Ms. Yonge to wrap it up. Thank you.

12 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you. So we're
13 now drawing to the end of the ENR presentation on
14 Bluenose East caribou management actions, and we thank
15 you all for your patience. This slide is a summary of
16 our main points.

17 First, based on calving photo surveys
18 in 2010, 2013, and 2015, the Bluenose East herd has
19 declined by almost 50 percent since 2013 in just two
20 (2) years. Secondly, the herd is likely to decline
21 further, given the low recent cow survival rates, low
22 calf recruitment, and low pregnancy rates.

23 Third, ENR recommends that the harvest
24 of Bluenose East caribou be nine hundred and fifty
25 (950) caribou herd-wide, all bulls, with a focus on

1 harvesting younger, smaller bulls. And that
2 information available is looked at again every year.

3 Fourth, ENR will lead a collaborative
4 feasibility study to look at wolf management options
5 that may be considered for the Bluenose East range
6 using culturally appropriate methods.

7 Five (5), land use issues for this herd
8 are being addressed through environmental assessment
9 processes, both in the Northwest Territories and
10 Nunavut. The Government of the Northwest Territories
11 supports protection of all caribou calving grounds.

12 And sixth, finally, we would like --
13 like to ask everyone to remember that everyone who
14 cares about this herd needs to work together.

15 Thank you very much for listening to
16 us. Masi cho.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, ENR. Masi for
18 your report. It's lunch time right now, so maybe
19 after lunch, about a quarter after 1:00 we'll start
20 again, and then we'll start with questions for ENR.

21 So if that's okay, let's break for
22 lunch right now. I think the food is here already, so
23 we'll get back together at quarter after 1:00 for
24 questions to -- for ENR. Ka nezo. Okay, masi.

25

1 --- Upon recessing at 12:13 p.m.

2 --- Upon resuming at 1:19 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: ENR. Is ENR ready
5 to respond to some of the questions that are going to
6 be put onto the floor?

7 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, we
8 are.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

10

11 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
12 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: This afternoon we
17 are going to question the ENR about their
18 presentation. The Deline Group will be -- will be the
19 first group to ask the question, and then Colville
20 Lake, and then Tulita.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 (NOT SWITCHED BACK TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

25

1 QUESTION PERIOD:

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: ...please, go ahead
3 and forward your questions to ENR. Masi.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: When you ask these
8 questions, please, say your name, who you represent.
9 Masi. And the responder, too.

10

11 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
12 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: In the evening we
17 will have an open forum at 7:00. This is really just
18 question to the Elder.

19

20 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

21

22 (NOT SWITCHED BACK TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: ...be the public
25 forum where public can ask questions.

1 Okay, go ahead, Gina.

2 MS. GINA DOLPHUS: Thank you,
3 Chairperson. My name is Gina Dolphus. I'm with the
4 Deline Land Corporation. My question is to Lynda.

5 On page 6, I think, you mention -- I
6 heard you mention TK and science information. I'm not
7 too sure, so how do you collect TK and scientific
8 information to make a decision on allocation of
9 harvest in the region? Masi.

10 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Gina, for the question. I will
12 let some of our more technical experts step in, as
13 well, but -- excuse me -- with respect to the
14 traditional knowledge what we've used primarily for
15 the Bluenose East herd is the management plan that the
16 ACCWM developed.

17 And when they developed that plan, that
18 plan was developed by the co-management boards, they
19 did some very extensive work collecting TK. There was
20 a special TK report that that was based on. And so we
21 rely a -- a great deal on that.

22 We also -- when we work with the
23 boards, we rely on the boards to help provide (AUDIO
24 TURNED OFF). And -- and so we also want more
25 information on the science and how we use the science

1 to make those allocations, or was it more just how we
2 put the two (2) together?

3 MS. GINA DOLPHUS: Thank you. Yes,
4 that would be great, because I'm just trying to
5 understand and know how you're -- you're incorporating
6 the two (2) together to make a decision on harvesting
7 each region. Masi.

8 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. And thank you, Gina. So when we looked at
10 the actual allocation, we started with information
11 that we had on reported harvest, and much of that
12 information came from the communities. So it wouldn't
13 technically be traditional knowledge, but it's based
14 on community monitoring and information we have from
15 the communities.

16 Then we also looked at information that
17 we had on the history of harvesting in different
18 areas, both from the TK information we had from
19 different areas and from historical records for
20 understanding how different communities traditionally
21 used this herd.

22 Then we also looked at information we
23 had from communities about what other resources they
24 had available to them, so, again, more community
25 knowledge about other herds that they could harvest,

1 other resources, other species, so moo -- whether they
2 harvested moose. And, actually, Walter was involved
3 in some of those discussions explaining how the people
4 in this area also use moose and fish and what other
5 resources they have.

6 We also looked at availability of other
7 types of food to people in communities, so is the
8 community close to grocery stores, do they have easy
9 access to roads, as a measure of how much hardship a
10 restriction on harvesting might incur. So those are
11 the kinds of -- of traditional information and
12 community information, and then historical information
13 that we used.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. GINA DOLPHUS: Thank you for your
18 information. Masi.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. WALTER BAYHA: Masi, Michael. And
23 I have a few more questions here, I guess. I wrote
24 some of this down so that we can get it on record.
25 But I have one (1) I know that it's probably going to

1 come up, and then a lot of people here will probably -
2 - that's always the way it is, you know, how do these
3 things come about.

4 Anyway, I'm going to read this, because
5 it's coming from -- well, I'll just read it.

6 "What is the basis..."

7 No.

8 "What is the logical basis for the
9 difference in the proposed
10 allocation between the Sahtu,
11 Tlicho, Nunavut regions?"

12 Most of the range is in the Sahtu
13 region. So the E -- ENR suggests an allocation for
14 the Sahtu region that is less than half and closer to
15 a third of the proposed allocation for Tlicho, and
16 half of the allocation for Nunavut. And again,
17 they're stating here again:

18 "What is the basis for such a dra --
19 difference in allocation?"

20 I -- I hope you -- you get --
21 basically, I guess, what they're asking for is how
22 these allocations came about. Masi.

23 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair. Thank you, Walter, for that question. So I
25 guess I'll -- I'll build on what I just said in my

1 response to Gina's question, because we -- what we did
2 is we looked at the total number of animals that we
3 were proposing. And then we looked at the historical
4 records of harvest that we had and -- and lined those
5 all up amongst all the various user groups that we
6 had. That gave us some sense of reliance on the
7 Bluenose East herd by each of those groups.

8 We looked at some of those others
9 factors I mentioned where we knew that there had
10 traditionally been a harvest, but we didn't have
11 records of that because we don't have recorded har --
12 like we don't have a -- a complete set of records for
13 all harvest.

14 We looked at the -- what our sense of
15 the reliance of each community on the Bathurst East
16 was, both with respect to other herds that available
17 for harvest and other species that were available for
18 harvest.

19 We looked at the availability of other
20 sources and how isolated the communities were. We
21 also looked -- and I -- I neglected to mention this in
22 my last answer -- we looked at the size of the
23 communities and the number of people that were in the
24 communities that harvested the herd.

25 And we also took a look at -- we looked

1 at the statistics for what percentage of the
2 population reports that they hunt, trap, or fish. So
3 there is a study, the -- a labour force study that's
4 done I think, I don't know, every four (4) years maybe
5 with the census where people are asked whether they
6 spend any time hunting, fishing, or trapping.

7 And so we used that just as a -- a bit
8 of a measure of how traditional communities were and
9 how much they relied on hunting versus other ways of
10 getting food.

11 And then so we took all of those and --
12 and gave -- we looked at what percentage of the
13 harvest -- when there was an unrestricted harvest,
14 what percentage of the harvest each of the regions
15 were likely to be taking. And we used that percentage
16 and then applied it to the recommended harvest.

17 MR. WALTER BAYHA: Yeah. Lynda,
18 thanks.

19 MS. GINA DOLPHUS: Thank you. Gina
20 Dolphus, Deline Land Corporation. On page 21, you
21 talk about trends and indicators. How -- how often do
22 you do a survey in the area? Is it once a year in the
23 region?

24 And my second question is: How do you
25 involve the community or not? Masi.

1 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. Thank you, Gina. I'm going to ask Bruno Croft
3 to address that question.

4 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Lynda.
5 Thank you, Gina, Mr. Chair. Bruno Croft, ENR North
6 Slave.

7 As we presented, Gina, during our
8 presentation, we showed the -- we do calving ground
9 photographic surveys every three (3) years in the case
10 of the Bluenose East, although we advanced the last
11 survey. So we had one in 2010, one in 2013, and one
12 in 2015.

13 And those calving ground surveys are
14 the most accurate tool that we have to predictably
15 count the number of breeding cows return in -- in a
16 herd. So the next one is scheduled for 2018, and
17 we'll continue on this way as we proposed in our
18 monitoring actions.

19 We also do different kinds of surveys
20 at different time of year. We spoke earlier about
21 those vital rates. One is the spring calf-to-cow
22 survey that we do. One is scheduled next week, and we
23 do those every year.

24 We try to go in the fall to get a sense
25 of the number of bulls there are in the herd right --

1 during mating, the rut, when the bulls and the cows
2 are together. We usually do those every two (2) or
3 three (3) years.

4 And we sometime do -- in between
5 calving ground surveys, we do reconnaissance survey on
6 the calving ground every year at the time of calving,
7 around early to mid-June, just to get a sense of the
8 number of breeding animals returning on the calving
9 ground. Those systematic reconnaissance survey are
10 not as precise as the photo survey, but they are a
11 very good tool that we have to stay on top of what's
12 happening with the herd. So all those survey results
13 together provides you, the co-management boards, and
14 the decision makers with the information needed.

15 So when we go on those surveys, like we
16 did in June of this past year, the Bluenose East herd,
17 for example, covers a large area. We have users in --
18 in Nunavut. We have hunters in Sahtu. We have
19 hunters on Tlicho land, and we also have the
20 Yellowknife Dene and others that participate in their
21 annual harvest of -- on that herd. So we try to have
22 as many people as possible for each of these group
23 involved with the surveys.

24 That was the case this past June, Mr.
25 Chair. We had hoped to have Huey as part of our

1 representative, a -- a person from -- from Deline, as
2 he had been in 2013 and -- and '10. Huey was sick.
3 We had sent a plane to have him on board.
4 Unfortunately, he couldn't go.

5 We have one (1) scheduled for June, and
6 we already discussed that today. We want to make sure
7 we have someone from Deline on the next distribution
8 survey. I hope it answers your question, Gina. Thank
9 you, Mr. Chair.

10 MR. WALTER BAYHA: Masi -- masi, Bruno
11 Croft. Mr. Chair, I've got one (1) more question,
12 here. I -- I think what I'll do is, I have a -- a
13 whole bunch of questions that I wrote down. But I --
14 as we go through the hearing, I think some of this
15 would -- would probably come out again.

16 One (1) of the ones I want to bring up
17 right away, though, is, you know, we do -- if you look
18 at all of the -- all of the information that we have
19 now from the surveys, from, you know, all of the --
20 the information that is collected over the years from
21 the ACCWM, the management plans, and the manage --
22 historically, the management plan and hist -- you
23 know, our own history.

24 And just looking at the plan that we
25 have for Deline, and just reading some of the

1 technical reports that we have, you know, that's
2 available to -- to everyone, some of them -- we do
3 have weaknesses in the way we manage caribou. I mean,
4 you know, ourselves as Dene people, you know, when I
5 go through our plan, hopefully I also mention some of
6 these things.

7 But here in -- in the -- in the present
8 management plans that we have and some of the
9 decisions that lead up to the fact that we have
10 allocations, we still have a whole range of areas like
11 the ecology, habitat. You know, as somebody that's --
12 that has a background in wildlife, I'm always
13 interested in noise. Why caribou does certain things.
14 Why do they stay away from certain areas and why they
15 come to certain areas. There's patterns in our
16 harvesting activities that has a huge impact on
17 migration of caribou.

18 And then certainly harvesting. And
19 I'll be talking about that. But there are information
20 that we don't -- I don't think we spend enough time
21 in. And I don't know, you know. I don't have answers
22 to how we -- we're going to change those things, but I
23 think we do have -- we have a plan. And I think that
24 makes me realize that there is a whole bunch of areas
25 that we really do have to spend more time. And I

1 hope, you know, it's -- probably sounds like half a
2 question, but those are the areas, I think, that our
3 plan would capitalize on.

4 Because sometimes, you know, I -- and
5 I'm talking about myself as a -- working with a
6 background with -- with caribou management and
7 certainly co-management -- some of the surveys has
8 done. So I -- I want to put that out there and if
9 there's ways that we can -- we can, how would I say
10 it, fit -- fit these plan -- fit the management plans
11 with the way that Deline is going, I think that would
12 really help, because there's so many answers.

13 Well, let me put it this way. We -- we
14 have numbers -- we have good numbers, and you -- and I
15 thank you guys for doing the survey, and you spend a
16 lot of time getting numbers.

17 But numbers by themselves don't give us
18 solutions. And I think that's -- I -- I hope I'm --
19 I'm clear on that. And the -- note those areas,
20 because those are very important to us here in Deline.
21 I think sometimes we spend too much times on numbers,
22 and it really doesn't -- it doesn't leave much time to
23 do other things.

24 So, masi. Masi, Mr. Chair.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. WALTER BAYHA: But, you know, you
4 -- you really don't have to answer that. You might
5 want to, you know, digest it, and maybe at the end of
6 the hearing, we can -- because I don't want to take
7 much more time than...

8 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, thank
9 you. Masi, Walter. Bruno Croft, ENR North Slave.

10 Just a comment, Walter. I appre --
11 appreciate and agree with everything you said. If you
12 look at the Bluenose East Caribou Management Plan and
13 other plans, the idea is always to make best use of
14 community knowledge, traditional knowledge, and the
15 scientific knowledge. So we continue to strive that
16 we work together, and include all knowledge that we
17 have.

18 I just want to say one word about the
19 Deline Plan. When we had all those technical meetings
20 last fall, I -- you know, after the reconnaissance
21 numbers, and we -- we had many meetings, and -- and
22 Debbie said one time that when you start -- we need to
23 start thinking outside the box, right.

24 When I saw your plan, I -- I finally
25 understood what she meant. I'm totally impressed with

1 the Deline Plan, and I can -- think I can speak on
2 behalf of just about everybody on our side here. It's
3 -- it's very progressive. We've learned from it. And
4 we see the results this winter.

5 And clearly we've learned, as you've
6 taught us how you can do things at a community level,
7 and we want to continue on on that note with you guys.
8 That's all, Mr. Chair.

9 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Mr. Chair,
10 Lynda Yonge, ENR. I'd like to also just add one
11 comment, and echo what Bruno said.

12 But when ENR determines what our
13 research and monitoring priorities will be for the
14 upcoming years, each of our regional biologists puts
15 in proposals for the work that they would like to do
16 in their region, and then we review those. And one
17 (1) of the things -- one (1) of the criteria that we
18 look at when we do that is whether or not a particular
19 work has been identified by a region or a community as
20 a priority.

21 So there's certainly opportunities to
22 help set those research and monitoring priorities by
23 working with Heather, and working together with her to
24 see what kind of work can be done. We can't do every
25 different kind of work, but certainly it is one (1) of

1 the factors that we consider when we look at what our
2 research and monitoring program will be. So I think
3 there's lots of opportunity to work together on that.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, masi. Deline
5 kaieson (phonetic). Okay. Okay, masi.

6 Our next questions will be coming from
7 Colville Lake to -- directed to ENR. So go ahead,
8 please.

9 CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: Masi, Chair.
10 This is Chief Wilbert Kochon. I don't really have
11 questions, I -- the people beside me are going to ask
12 questions, but I just have a general comment to make.

13 Because we're speaking to the Board, I
14 think that this exceed the doctors. When they do
15 presentation, they have to go by their loads. When I
16 speak, I speak from the heart. I know what I'm
17 talking about. I don't need to have people to tell me
18 what's on my land, and how the caribou lives.

19 That's the big difference when you talk
20 about caribou getting gone on your land, but we don't
21 believe that. When I know that herd is hurting, I'll
22 know that because I live it every day. You're just
23 out there wondering -- it's just a job for you. But
24 you're talking about your livelihood that we live with
25 every day.

1 I see when you're making a
2 presentation, you're reading. When I talk, I'm
3 talking from here, because I know it and I live it.
4 And there's questions that's going to be asked. It's
5 going to be asked by Norman, he's our biologist, and
6 some probably David. And I know this is a Deline
7 hearing, but it still impacts everybody.

8 And my ancestry comes from around here,
9 too. I got relatives here. I know how the caribou is
10 around here. A lot of people don't go on the land.
11 We live the land every day. If you don't live the
12 land every day how do you know what's going on?
13 Except listen stories from the past. It's changed
14 quite a bit now.

15 I just want the Board to listen, listen
16 good what we're talking about. And those who are hear
17 in -- I know you took a lot of time just to present a
18 lot of information. You're overloading information.
19 We don't need to do that. I want to work with you.
20 Help us get there. Don't be presenting something
21 that's going to go against us. It feels like you're
22 going against us, stopping people from hunting, or
23 quotas.

24 So just like when you're talking about
25 there were kids who would never talk about caribou.

1 The Elders will stop us. It's something that we can
2 control, no authority over. Somebody else, the
3 creator knows, that put it there. He didn't put it
4 there so it can be wasted. It's there to respect it.
5 I know you're doing your jobs. I know you're thinking
6 of you're a doctor of caribou, but when the Elders say
7 that, Oh, what are you a doctor of?

8 And I really wanted to kind of speak a
9 little bit, but I have more presentation tomorrow.
10 But our number 1 priority is I wish to work with you
11 guys, not against you. I want to say that we don't
12 really believe your numbers. Maybe we can come
13 together and work it out and work some -- leave it
14 with us to manage ourselves. Don't take it away from
15 us where you say your knowledge is wrong. That's the
16 way it looks when you're doing this hearing, you're
17 talking to the Board.

18 A lot of these Board members don't live
19 among us. It hurts me because the caribou is a part
20 of me. I lived the land. Every day I see caribou out
21 there. I know where the bunches are. I know where
22 the big bunch is, but I won't talk about that. I'll
23 never mention that.

24 Right now, you're talking about so
25 much. The caribou are staying far away because you're

1 talking about it too much. There's a big herd out
2 there. And I go out there every chance I get, and I
3 just get what I need. Even last week when I was here
4 I had a full truckload of meat. Only one (1) person
5 asked me for meat. Nobody asked me for meat. Why is
6 that?

7 Is it because there's going to come
8 ENR. They're going to take the meat away. Is that
9 what it is? I didn't know what to do with the meat,
10 so I gave it all to my sister-in-law.

11 So you see things like that, and the
12 caribou is a living thing, part of the land. If you
13 talk about it so much it'll be gone just like that.
14 And whatever rules you make or graphs you make, it
15 doesn't mean nothing to us, even to our Elders. Maybe
16 you have to sit down with them, go on the land.

17 My dad is eighty-three (83) years old.
18 He still goes on the land. He still goes out
19 trapping. I don't think a lot of you can do that, and
20 you're a lot younger than him. That's how much he
21 loves the land and the animals. I'm not questioning
22 what -- the job you're doing is your job.

23 But our job is to work together and
24 move forward and have a good plan. Like, you see the
25 plan that Deline did. It is good until a certain

1 point, until you took it over and said, Hey, this is
2 what ENR is going to do. No, that shouldn't be the
3 case, it should be together.

4 Even though it's Bluenose East, you say
5 it -- it doesn't go to certain areas; it does. Even
6 the caribou in Quebec, there's some of our caribou out
7 there. You don't recognize that, but I recognize
8 that. That's how much I know about caribou; it's part
9 of my life. You're talking about me when you talk
10 about caribou, so remember that. A person that lives
11 on the land, hunts on the land, and know the caribou
12 by heart, that's the person you talk to.

13 Like I'm -- I'm going to -- I can go on
14 and on. I'm just getting heated up, but it makes me
15 feel good. But it's not personal. What I'm saying is
16 not personal. You know, it's just a job for you, but
17 for me, it's my livelihood.

18 Your job, it's a paycheque every time
19 you do your job. For me, it's food on the table.
20 We're thinking about the future down the road, too.
21 We're thinking about our grandchildren.

22 But we have a plan. We have -- we're
23 doing something ourselves. But since you started
24 this, we spend a lot of our own money. Colville Lake,
25 it's a small community. Look at these poor, they hire

1 people because we don't believe you.

2 But we can do it together and start
3 moving forward. Then you won't have to spend so much
4 money. You're spending a lot of taxpayers' money,
5 we're spending our own money, the money that we make
6 ourselves. That's how much we care about the caribou.
7 That's why we're doing it. Otherwise, we wouldn't be
8 here.

9 Even though you're saying Bluenose
10 East, it's all the one caribou for us. You're saying
11 there are three (3) different herds. For us it's one
12 (1) herd. You only see your little graphs. It
13 doesn't mean nothing to us. You can see a lot of
14 things in there, but you have to see yourself. You
15 have to be out there yourself.

16 And I'm glad that Heather said she'll
17 work with us, and I hope she does because she's a
18 young person. That's the kind of person who want to
19 learn, educate because the young lawyer beside me,
20 we're educating her a lot of things that we're doing.
21 And she's educating us, too, both back and forth.

22 And I think that's all we need to do
23 more, more education on both sides and learn each
24 other's. That way we don't need hearings. You don't
25 need to spend all this money just doing this.

1 You're spending a lot of money just to
2 count where you could have saved a lot of money.
3 Maybe your jobs could have last longer, I don't know.
4 But you can see that the Tlicho government -- Tlicho
5 government's in a hole, about a billion dollars.

6 So you see a lot of things that are
7 happening, and it's always surrounding caribou, even
8 in the Tlicho area where a lot of friends call and
9 say, Want some meat? Took our meat away, and why is
10 that?

11 And I feel sad for those people. When
12 I go there, I'm going to bring some meat to my friends
13 because I care about them. They have to ask, but when
14 I came here, nobody asked me. And I kind of felt bad
15 because I didn't want to bring my meat back, so I
16 brought it all -- gave it all to my sister-in-law.

17 So I think I have Norman to ask a lot
18 of questions where I just wanted to make a general
19 comment. I think maybe David will go first and ask.
20 Masi, Mr. Chair.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi.

22 And the next -- David...?

23 MR. DAVID CODZI: Hello. My name is
24 David Codzi. I'm the president of the Ayoni Keh Land
25 Corporation.

1 As we were going through the -- the
2 presentation this morning, I've noticed that the
3 impact of exploration was mentioned just a little bit.
4 But when we -- you know, the -- the Tundra Copper
5 Corp., that variable is a little bit more bigger than
6 just a little bit.

7 You know, there was nine (9) drill
8 holes shot at in 2015. The year before that, there
9 was soil samples or, you know, samples gathered.
10 That's a lot of impact.

11 If you have a camp there that's a
12 twenty (20) man camp and they're flying and they're
13 re-supplying all the -- the drill sites, and they're
14 getting their supplies from, you know, Kugluktuk, and
15 this year they have another -- you know, some more
16 stuff that they're going to do and they're going to
17 drill some more.

18 And yet at the same time you're doing
19 your counts, you know, to say nothing is changing and
20 just say, Oh, this is the -- the baseline that we're
21 going with, it's not very accurate for me.

22 You know, maybe, yeah, you could make
23 it look like that. But, you know, I see -- as I'm
24 looking at it right now, I'm looking at their -- their
25 field reports and their drill samples and nothing

1 they're going to do. They've got, like, three (3) or
2 four (4), five (5) more drill sites to do this year.

3 And so now I'm -- I'm going at it. And
4 we're talking about we're going to protect the calving
5 area, yet that's still going. And then I'm looking at
6 the news on the Nunavut news, the -- Nunavut put a --
7 they're going to put a docking area right close to
8 there in the Bathurst, through there. So a road is
9 going to go there, through there, into a mining site.

10 And so we're -- we're talking about how
11 we're going to, you know, manage the harvesters, but
12 look at all that right there. Maybe there's nothing
13 there yet, but there is people walking around there
14 checking it out, disturbing a lot of things that I --
15 as a young person I used to do logistics and building
16 exploration camps.

17 You know, it's part of my experience,
18 the amount of stuff that happens, even if it's a small
19 camp. A lot of noise. A lot of helicopters flying
20 back and forth in a area of about 10 square kilometres
21 there's like. But -- but four (4) drill sites, five
22 (5) drill sites shot and that's in the span of the
23 wint -- the summer month. And that's going 24/7, two
24 (2) shifts of twelve (12).

25 Helicopters fly out there and those

1 sort of things. And that should have been mentioned
2 when you were doing your count. Everyone has to file
3 a flight plan I think, you know. I think that should
4 have been mentioned.

5 And, you know, if we have a, like, a
6 graph up there that said 2013 and then it went down
7 from 2014 or 2014/'15. So if something happened in
8 2014 the exploration was happening, then there was
9 some sort of impact, right? People walking out there
10 gathering soil samples and whatnot.

11 Now 2015 they started doing drilling
12 projects. So next year or this year these -- they're
13 going to have some more. So, you know, we should be -
14 - I know that it's in Nunavut, but it should be more
15 important. If we're going to have calf productivity
16 then that's where we have to aim. Harvesting is one
17 (1) thing, but it's -- you know, it's managed good.
18 But it's, you know, the resupply. That's probably
19 what I have to say for now.

20 It's just -- I'll send it over to Norm
21 if somebody wants to say anything about it or...

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, ENR, if
23 you want to respond to David's.

24 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Masi cho. Thank
25 you, Mr. Chair. David, thank you for your -- your

1 comment. Bruno Croft, ENR, North Slave.

2 When this whole situation came up about
3 Tundra Corp. drilling on the calving ground of the
4 Bluenose East herd I was actually the first one (1) to
5 find out on this side of the water. And that was a
6 year after it actually took place, as you mentioned,
7 David. And the way I found out is that I received a
8 file or a note from a Nunavut biologist alarming us
9 that there was some drilling going on coming up this
10 summer, right at the time of our survey.

11 They sent me those drilling sites. I
12 made maps and they overlaid perfectly on top of the
13 areas we go surveying every three (3) years doing the
14 -- those photo surveys. So immediately we raised the
15 alarm. We made a submission to NIRB. The government
16 of Nunavut did the same thing. They changed a few
17 things. Instead of going drilling in June they went
18 later. But I agree with you. This is a major
19 concern.

20 Next week I'm going to Iqaluit as part
21 of the Nunavut Planning Commission process to try to
22 define those areas that need to be protected at
23 calving in Nunavut, all those calving ground areas. I
24 can assure you it's a tough battle. Jan Adamczewski -
25 - Dr. Adamczewski and others have already gone to two

1 (2) previous meetings and have been given the heads up
2 that it's -- it's not going to be easy to change the
3 co-management boards up there to allow for permanent
4 protection of the calving ground.

5 So we'll take up that battle, but we
6 will need all the help we can get. So, David, if you
7 can show up either in two (2) weeks time or later on,
8 because there will be a public hearing on this, and
9 other groups I -- we said the same thing last week at
10 the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board hearing.

11 I have been sending emails around for
12 the last year or so on this tundra crop stuff.
13 Everybody has got to show up, and raise their voice.
14 It's in Nunavut, like you mentioned. The people in
15 Nunavut need jobs. They see their land as their land,
16 and they want to make the decision as they sit fit for
17 themselves.

18 So we need to work together and raise
19 the awareness of the importance of the calving ground.
20 This is ground zero. If we go beyond it, it's a risk
21 that nobody wants to even think about. So, please,
22 join us on that front because it's -- it's not easy.

23 So, Mr. Chair, this is the -- the only
24 comment I wanted to say on this. Thank you, Mr.
25 Robert, for your comment earlier -- Obert, okay.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Wilbert.

2 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Wilbert, sorry.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi. Go
4 ahead.

5 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: I'd like to
6 first thank the community for inviting me to attend
7 the meeting. And to the Deline First Nation, to the
8 Board, for inviting us here. And thanks --

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could you introduce
10 yourself?

11 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: Yeah, okay.
12 And thanks for the cooks. My name is Norman
13 Barrichello. Why I'm here I think Wilbert explained.
14 They brought in a biologist to try to interpret some
15 of the information that's being sent to them. As you
16 can see by the presentation that this is very much a
17 science-based process, and it's very difficult for
18 people to comprehend what's being told them.

19 I just want to give you a little bit of
20 background, if I could. I -- I've been a biologist
21 for twenty (20) years, and then I've worked for First
22 Nations primarily went for another twenty (20) years,
23 so I feel privilege that I have the advantage of -- of
24 learning from Elders, as well as understanding some of
25 the -- the science.

1 I was over here back in the mid -- mid
2 to late '70s, and I was -- I worked for the -- what --
3 what was then the Fish and Wildlife Service. I
4 actually worked for Debbie's dad. And -- and of -- of
5 interest, I was attending meetings over in the east --
6 east arctic, and back then there was the decline of
7 the Qamanirjuaq herd, and -- which then became I think
8 a decline a little later was observed of the Beverly
9 herd.

10 And, of course, the -- the discussion,
11 the issues, they're very much the same as they were
12 back then. And I'm just a little surprised. Forty
13 (40) years have passed. We're -- we're still not --
14 it seems to me that it's still a science driven
15 process despite -- despite the treaties, despite the
16 Wildlife Act, and the commitments. And I really think
17 we're missing a real opportunity to learn from each
18 other, and not try on more community-based man --
19 management.

20 It strikes me when I hear the -- at the
21 preamble of the presentation the need for
22 collaboration. And from what I've seen, it's really a
23 need for harvest data. I -- I don't really see the --
24 the collaboration. And I need only read the papers,
25 and I don't see -- I don't see where traditional

1 knowledge is -- is used to give us greater knowledge
2 of caribou. I don't see local knowledge. It's really
3 a science driven process, and it causes major
4 controversy, as you can see.

5 I -- I want to first start by the
6 question of managing caribou by herds. I -- I don't
7 think we're very satisfied that this is the standard
8 practice across North America, Alaska, and Canada. It
9 -- if you look at the graphs and you look at the
10 populations of caribou on the endangered species list,
11 one could argue that the -- the strategy hasn't
12 worked.

13 You can defend yourself, no doubt, but
14 -- but still I -- I think we should be thinking of
15 other ways to manage caribou. If you took management
16 back to the community you would be getting far more
17 information, far -- far more support, and we wouldn't
18 be arguing about numbers. We would probably be
19 looking more at trends.

20 And on that point, being imaginative as
21 to how you might count caribou are -- your primary
22 interest is what's happening to them. Are they going
23 up or down? And, for example, perhaps you could look
24 at the density of caribou on the calve -- on the core
25 calving area and measure the extent of the calving

1 ground. And maybe from year to year, that could tell
2 you some information about any kind of trend in
3 numbers.

4 I -- I want to briefly talk about radio
5 collars, because they're part and parcel with the
6 problem. Radio collars to me are -- are -- should --
7 should very much be prohibited. It's the most -- the
8 most severe kind of harassment, which is contrary to
9 the Wildlife Act, and it's contrary to Dene laws. I
10 appreciate you've got an exemption under the -- under
11 the Wildlife Act, but I think, as a matter of ethics,
12 we should be thinking of other ways to track animals.

13 And, again, if you go to the
14 communities, so much of that information could be
15 acquired if it was done right. So I -- I would
16 encourage ENR to -- to think about other approaches to
17 management and manage caribou without the deployment
18 of radio -- radio collars.

19 I also think there should be a little
20 more attention to protecting cultural practices. I am
21 sure when participants of the treaty signed the
22 agreement, they expected those practices to be
23 protected, and I see nothing really in the
24 presentations about how these practices should be
25 protected.

1 Whe -- when I -- when I asked the first
2 question about what's the status of the population, I
3 -- I'm a little confused that the real data that I see
4 being used is --

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me, Norm.
6 The interpreters are getting a little bit behind you.
7 I'm sorry.

8 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: My apologies.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: When I look
13 at the actual data that's going into the
14 extrapolations and the predictions, it -- it's
15 principally composition surveys on the calving ground,
16 looking at the ratios of -- of breeding to non-
17 breeding cows and the ratio of yearlings to cows. You
18 -- you've got fall -- fall ratios. And I believe you
19 have an early winter ratio. Again, it's composition
20 data.

21 There's the survival of collared
22 caribou that gives you some indication of survival
23 rates. And -- and then, of course, you collect
24 harvest data, but by your own admission, it's
25 questionable, so really doesn't conform to the rigours

1 of a -- a science approach.

2 If I look at the 2015 data from the
3 calving grounds, just simply looking at ratios and no
4 extrapolations of caribou observed, it -- it seems to
5 me we've got twenty-five (25) yearlings per hundred
6 cows, and -- and those cows include two (2) year olds,
7 which are non-breeders.

8 So it's -- it's hard for me to
9 understand how pregnancy rates are falling off the map
10 and survival rates are falling off the map when we've
11 got that level of recruitment. That -- that when you
12 -- when you put two (2) years -- pull two (2) years
13 out -- year olds out of that, it -- it should be -- it
14 should be clo -- close to thirty (30), I'm guessing,
15 which is very near your vital statistic.

16 If you look in the -- the fall ratios,
17 we have thirty-five (35) calves per hundred bulls.
18 And I'm not sure where the yearlings are, but you've
19 got yearlings and two (2) year olds as part of that
20 cow number, I presume. So it -- if you take them out,
21 the ratio should be fairly impressive for -- for the
22 fall.

23 And if the -- if the recruitment is as
24 good as the composition data makes it appear, one --
25 one could assume that cow survival rates are

1 relatively good because, of course, the calves are far
2 more vulnerable than the cows. That's why they're
3 with the cows.

4 So thi -- this all makes me question
5 the -- the derivation of some of the estimates that
6 become the facts, and it's the facts that are driving
7 show, and I -- I just have some problem knowing how --
8 how these -- how these connect.

9 If you hear local observations, and if
10 -- in talking to the veterinarian, it sounds to me
11 like the caribou are in relatively good shape from all
12 accounts I've heard, again which would suggest that
13 they may well be on the road back.

14 So those are some of my sort of, I
15 guess, questions around the -- the determination of
16 the population. If -- if we look at what's causing
17 the decline, by your own admission and -- and by all
18 the talk, it's very complicated.

19 We've got weather, which you see is
20 prob -- probably the primary factor. It's probably
21 caused the -- the disappearance of caribou, and
22 certainly impairing its recovery.

23 You've got chan -- climate change
24 patterns which introduce all -- all sorts of events.
25 As you know, snow and wind changes, and the willows

1 creeping up north. You've got wildfires. They don't
2 just burn habitat. They bring in moose, and moose
3 bring in wolves. And so you've got that whole dynamic
4 that -- that's changing.

5 So it's very complicated, and it -- it
6 strikes me from the presentations that, as -- I think
7 as Walter said, that we're really directing all our
8 attention to harvest rather than figuring out how we
9 can figure out what -- what's going on.

10 And again, I'll make a plug for
11 community-based management, because that's where
12 you're going to -- you're going to get the kind of
13 insights into what's really going on on the ground.
14 As I mentioned, the harvest data has been singled out,
15 but I don't see much supportive information as to how
16 it's implicated in any of this.

17 And I -- I guess I'm -- I'm curious as
18 to how harvest is today a serious issue when years
19 ago, I suspect that much more -- many more caribou
20 were harvested when dog teams were being fed and when
21 communities were hunting caribou and moving -- moving
22 with them more. And it -- it just is a surprise to me
23 to think that caribou is the -- the driving feature
24 here.

25 The -- the projected trends, again, I -

1 - I think we have to all agree that it's a very
2 complicated issue with various factors at play and
3 integrating with each other. You've got climate
4 change, which is introducing more variability.

5 Hard to believe why there would be any
6 development on a calving ground when that's presumed
7 that the drying of the land is having a -- a very
8 adverse effect on summer range and probably predict --
9 most particularly calving areas, I -- I'm guessing.

10 The survival rates, to me, I -- I just
11 can't -- I -- I'm just not convinced. But then, I
12 haven't gone through the kind of work that might be
13 required to go through the analysis, because it's very
14 complicated. As I said, the recruitment rates are
15 hard to fathom how the caribou's not -- is losing
16 ground when the calving ground composition looks
17 fairly good.

18 And I -- I just think there's probably
19 a tendency to look at this in a very arithmetic way,
20 that we can manage harvests, so -- and if it's part of
21 a very simple -- simple math that, if you shoot a cow,
22 it won't produce a calf. And I think we've got to do
23 a better job of under -- understanding caribou.

24 And I -- I would encourage all -- all
25 of us maybe to think about how we would reset

1 management, start to think about a whole multitude of
2 trends that we should be looking at. I -- I think the
3 communities should be very much engaged in all of
4 this.

5 I think ENR provides a -- a very
6 helpful contribution by bringing science to the table,
7 but I don't think science should be driving the
8 decisions. I think it should be a collaborative
9 approach, as I think was intended under the treaty.

10 And I think, at the end of the day,
11 when you start to pool knowledge, I think we're going
12 to be in far better shape to both to understand what's
13 happening and know how to respond to -- to the factors
14 that are important. So masi.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Any response
16 from ENR?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: You want to go
21 ahead? Or do you want to respond, and then we've got
22 another question for you later.

23 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Lynda Yonge,
24 for ENR. I'm not going to respond -- there -- there
25 was a lot of stuff in there so I -- I'm not going to

1 respond to all that, and I'm not the technical expert
2 to do that.

3 But I would like to make a couple of
4 points. The first one about including community ways
5 of doing things and traditional ways of managing, I
6 think that for us, the Deline plan that's been put
7 forward is a really good example of how that can be
8 done and working collaboratively.

9 So, yes, our information is very
10 science-heavy. I have a table of scientists with me.
11 The point about needing to work better with
12 communities to include different kinds of knowledge is
13 well taken, and we agree with that completely. I
14 think for -- for us, the beauty of the Deline plan is
15 we have provided some information here about what we
16 see happening in terms of numbers. And the Deline
17 plan then takes that and moves it into, Okay, and this
18 is how we're going to deal with it as a community.
19 That -- I think that take -- that shows great
20 leadership and a very creative way of dealing with
21 things.

22 And, frankly, that's not what we're
23 here for. That's not our job. We're not -- we're not
24 the implementers in the community. We're providing
25 information for the Board to make a decision, and some

1 recommendations. But it's critical that in moving
2 forward in what to do with that information, we work
3 with communities and communities implement that.

4 Mr. Barrichello, you had a lot of
5 comments, very specific comments about approaches.
6 And maybe I could suggest that rather than take time
7 here, because they -- some of them are -- would, I
8 imagine, result in some very technical discussions
9 back and forth about different ways things are done.
10 If we could get them in writing, some of those
11 comments, scr -- perhaps we could respond to some of
12 the more technical questions at the -- or que --
13 technical issues that you've raised.

14 And certainly with respect to how to
15 involve communities and find different ways of
16 collecting information and viewing information and
17 understanding that information, yes, we agree. That's
18 an important thing to do, and we would like to move
19 towards that.

20 So we're not in any way saying -- we
21 are not in any way saying, We know everything -- we
22 know everything and we know what's going on. Because
23 it definitely needs all kinds of information and all
24 kinds of views coming to the table to work together.

25 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me,

1 Wilbert, for a sec. My name is Paul Latour. I'm just
2 going to sit in as the Chair here on a very temporary
3 basis while our -- while Mr. Neyelle is out of the
4 room.

5 What I'm hearing here is an undertaking
6 from Colville Lake to supply a series of questions to
7 ENR. So I would ask that you do that as an
8 undertaking -- it would be, I guess, Undertaking
9 number 1 -- through the Board, and then we'll -- we'll
10 direct them out from there.

11 Yeah. A quest -- a question, Wilbert?

12 CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. I just had one (1) more question. I just
14 wanted to ask that on about the -- you were talking
15 about the wolves. And that you want to cut the
16 numbers down. But for us, wolves is important for us,
17 because they keep the caribou healthy. Always keeping
18 the caribou moving, and when you get rid of that
19 balance, what happens then?

20 And to us, when we see that when the
21 caribou get sick, the wolves will kill it right away,
22 and that sickness would never spread. Even if the
23 caribou got sick and spread that sickness right away,
24 the caribou will die faster in a big number.

25 So those kind of things you should

1 really look at before you start killing so many
2 wolves, or start putting bounties on it. You really
3 have to look at it before you start doing that, or
4 working with First Nations. And all -- some First
5 Nations have asked, maybe they think that would help
6 but if you're out there you don't see that. And
7 people, the way to control that is to be on the land.

8 When you're on the land, the caribou
9 comes around where you are, and the wolves stay away.
10 Right now the wolves are just having a field day
11 because there's nobody out there. So those kind of
12 things we see, and I'm sharing that with you right
13 now. And maybe we have to work together more to try
14 to control that. Not to wipe out the wolves, but kind
15 of control it more. And maybe try to get people out
16 there more.

17 And when I seen that, I didn't agree on
18 that. They wanted to throw a bounty wolves, so I just
19 forgot to mention that. So I wanted to mention it to
20 you while you were here, to ENR, and maybe the Board.
21 Something to consider, and work together more moving
22 forward. Masi.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, John
24 (sic).

25 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: Thank you,

1 Chairman. Just -- I wondered if you could just
2 respond to one question then, the question on why --
3 why the calving ground -- ground composition doesn't
4 jive well with the conclusions you've drawn. Masi.

5 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman,
6 Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. You raised a number of
7 issues, Norm, and I guess we'll be following up with
8 some further questions, and so on.

9 The calving photo survey that we use
10 has been around -- the basic methodology has been
11 around for thirty (30) some years now. It was
12 originally developed in the 1980s, and the big
13 improvement at that time of year was to bring a photo
14 plane in for those areas that have higher numbers
15 because it's a little bit hard for people to count
16 them when they're at larger numbers, you know, just by
17 looking out the window of the airplane.

18 But the methodology is -- is fairly
19 well established, and the method doesn't account for
20 the entire herd because the entire herd is not on the
21 calving ground. So then we -- we have these
22 corrections that we use to try to account for the
23 animals that are not on the calving ground.

24 But the methods have been well
25 established. There's some published papers. So I

1 think we feel fairly safe that we're seeing a real
2 trend on that calving ground because we're using a
3 very consistent methodology year after year.

4 In terms of the composition survey on
5 the calving ground, the main purpose of that is to
6 establish like the -- the photo plane and the visual
7 blocks will give you the numbers of caribou that are
8 at least one (1) year old, or older, on the survey
9 area. The point of the composition survey is to give
10 a cross-section of what's actually there.

11 So there are cows that are pregnant and
12 give birth. There are some that do not give birth.
13 There are some yearlings. There are some young bulls.
14 So it's basically to refine that number so that we get
15 a more exact number of breeding cows on the calving
16 ground. So that's where that composition survey fits
17 in.

18 You mentioned at one point the -- the
19 size of the calving area, and the survey area. Each
20 herd is a little bit different. And with Bluenose
21 East the calving distribution, even though the herd is
22 much reduced, is still fairly large on the landscape.

23 What we've seen with the Bathurst herd
24 over towards Bathurst Inlet is that herd is at even
25 lower numbers, and the size of the calving ground

1 where most of those cows are keeps on shrinking. So
2 every year from 2012, 2015, 2009, that calving area
3 just keeps getting smaller and smaller. So there is a
4 relationship there for at least that herd.

5 But what we have found with the
6 Bluenose East herd is that they tend to be somewhat
7 more dispersed on the calving ground. The calving
8 ground is -- is quite a bit bigger, but we do monitor
9 those things in each survey, as well. I don't if that
10 at least addresses some of your points, Mr.
11 Barrichello.

12 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: Yeah, thank
13 you, Jan, and thank you, Mr. Chair. More -- more --
14 it strikes me that the composition work that you're
15 doing on the calving ground is pretty good
16 information.

17 And it seems to me, if you can start to
18 think about how those become indicators of what might
19 be happening, you -- you probably will be left in the
20 same spot you're at in terms of where the herd is
21 going, understanding, as you said, that it's
22 complicated because the calving areas change. Some
23 animals aren't in the calving ground, so it just
24 struck -- it struck me as very valuable information
25 that doesn't jive with the conclusions you've drawn.

1 And whether it was collected for
2 another purpose, it still seems to me good data to --
3 to do an assessment on the re -- the trend in the --
4 in the caribou population. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

6 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
7 with ENR. Just to clarify, Mr. Barrichello, the --
8 the survey reports that we put together for each of
9 those surveys, they're long and they're detailed and
10 there's more technical information in there than we
11 would certainly want to put in front of a hearing like
12 this, but those survey reports do have all that
13 detailed composition information.

14 And part of what our statistician
15 modeller, Mr. Boulanger, does is he has a population
16 model, and the composition information goes into the
17 model so that it helps in a kind of an overall
18 assessment of where the herd is at. And what you
19 would find in the survey report, which has been avail
20 -- made available to the Board, is essentially he's
21 tracking all the components of the herd, so the -- the
22 cows, the bulls, the yearlings, the calves.

23 With the use of the population model
24 you can kind of integrate all of the information that
25 we have from the survey itself. So there's plenty of

1 technical detail there if you are interested in
2 pursuing it.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, I know you --
7 you've asked a lot of questions, Norm. I don't know
8 if all your questions were answered.

9 MR. NORMAN BARRICHELLO: Well, I thank
10 -- thank you, Mr. Chair. I -- I understood that there
11 would be a further discussion with ENR to answer some
12 of the technical questions. I guess I just want to
13 emphasize the big concern I have is that, when you're
14 producing a lot of models and a lot of -- using a lot
15 of analytical approaches, it would be nice to ensure
16 that what you see on the ground matches what your
17 models say, and -- and that's the big question.

18 And, again, I can go to models and try
19 to decipher the analytical approach, but at the end of
20 the day, it's the same thing, do the caribou on the
21 ground match what the model is predicting, and that's
22 not apparent to me. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi. And I
24 think we have another question from Joseph.

25 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Hello. My name is

1 Joseph Kochon. I'm the interim president for the
2 local RRC. The last time around, I think we had a
3 hearing in 2007. And then we brought a lot of our
4 members but didn't -- we didn't really connect because
5 when the SSRB (sic) made their recommendations there
6 was no mention of what our -- our -- the region
7 stated.

8 Everything that was presented by ENR
9 was taken into a record, so this time around we came
10 prepared. So we have somebody that you can
11 communicate with, and that's our biologist. We have
12 our two (2) lawyers that -- you know, if you look at
13 your titles, you got two (2) doctors across there and
14 one (1) biologist, and I don't know who else the other
15 one is. But -- so we -- we came a little bit more
16 prepared.

17 I -- I just have one (1) question, and
18 that's: How do you -- I don't know if it should be to
19 SSRB (sic) or ENR. How do you obtain your threshold
20 for approving an area for restrictions? You know, the
21 -- is it based on consultations, or is -- is it based
22 on talking with leadership?

23 I know there's a restriction in the --
24 in the Tlicho area. Now there's a restriction, part
25 of the Great Bear Lake. So I'm just wondering, how

1 did that come about? Was that just -- did ENR just do
2 it themselves, or was it SSRB (sic) had any input into
3 that?

4 So I'm just wondering, how do you
5 impose those type of restrictions? So if you can
6 answer it now or you can probably talk to your legal
7 counsel or your leadership, if somebody can provide
8 that info. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Joseph. This
10 would ENR's.

11 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair, and thank you for the question.

13 So I'm -- I'm not exactly clear which
14 restrictions around Great Bear Lake you're talking
15 about, but I'm -- I'm just going to talk generally
16 first.

17 When ENR is considering that there
18 might have to be some sort of a change or a
19 restriction, we work in two (2) -- we have two (2)
20 streams. So first we do do consultation.

21 When we do consultation, we send
22 information to the leadership. So there are
23 organizations that represent rights holders, and we
24 sent -- we initially start with a letter to those
25 organizations. And we offer as well follow-up

1 meetings.

2 We rely on the leadership or the RRCs
3 to do consultation with the actual community members.
4 That's -- we see that as part of the role of the RRCs.
5 And in the Sahtu, we would also send information to
6 the Sahtu secretariat and ask for their input. And
7 then we see the role of the Sahtu secretariat to also
8 talk to their members.

9 Now, we also -- that -- that -- so that
10 would be consultation with respect to how an action
11 might affect people and their rights. But then we
12 also go through the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.

13 So under the land claim agreement, the
14 Board is the main instrument of wildlife management.
15 So any wildlife measures that we are thinking about,
16 we would go -- we would send it to the Board and ask
17 the Board for their recommendation.

18 The Board has their own processes for
19 making a decision, and I can't speak to that. Perhaps
20 the Board will. But then we receive a recommendation
21 from the Board, and that's what we use. That's the
22 basis of what we use to go forward.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Joseph.

24 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair.

1 It just seems kind of backwards for me,
2 you know, that right now you seem to be justifying
3 yourself. From the way I understand it, the -- ENR
4 does their -- their data and they provide the numbers
5 to -- whether it's the Bluenose East or Bluenose West,
6 they provide the numbers to the -- the Board.

7 And if there's an immediate threat,
8 then I guess the Board triggers off a call for a
9 hearing. And then the restrictions should be --
10 should have been imposed. But it seems there's a big,
11 huge area of restrictions on the south side of the --
12 this lake.

13 There's a big circle there from last
14 year. Then we were given tags that -- that you have
15 to -- you have to function by these. And so I'm just
16 wondering how that came about. You know, you put a
17 big circle in the Sahtu regional area, and I'm just
18 wondering how did that come about? Normally you would
19 have a hearing like this and then, Okay, this is an
20 area that we're going to monitor within the next year
21 or two (2).

22 So I'm just wondering how -- how did
23 one come about before?

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: ENR, if you need a
2 little -- little bit of time to respond to this?
3 Okay. Let's give them a couple of minutes to respond.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I wonder if
8 we should just take a -- a few minutes break while ENR
9 -- and then ten (10) minutes. Okay. We'll get back
10 in ten (10) minutes. Okay. Masi. Let's just take a
11 break, stretch your legs.

12

13 --- Upon recessing at 2:34 p.m.

14 --- Upon resuming at 2:49 p.m.

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: We'll get the --
17 we'll get our hearing started again. So the last --
18 the last one was Colville Lake's question to ENR reg -
19 - I think it's regarding restricted areas. So go
20 ahead, ENR.

21 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Thank you,
22 Mr. Chair. Lynda Yonge, for ENR.

23 And thank you, Joseph, for the
24 question. I have to admit we're still a little bit
25 unclear about which restrictions you're talking about.

1 But I just want to explain how the restrictions for
2 the Bluenose East came into being. So we did do a
3 reconnaissance survey of the calving ground, so that's
4 not the full photo survey, but the one (1) where we
5 fly over. Not as precise, but it gives us a good idea
6 of what's happening on the calving grounds.

7 And the information from that survey
8 indicated that the herd had undergone a drastic
9 decline, enough so that there was real concern about
10 what was happening. So there were a series of
11 meetings. That information was provided to all the
12 user groups. And then there was a series of -- of
13 meetings with the leaders. So the Chiefs, our
14 Minister was there, our Deputy Minister, and all of
15 the political leaders of the Aboriginal groups that
16 were affected, and the Renewable Resource Boards from
17 the affected area.

18 There was a lot of discussion at that
19 meeting about what should be done. And then there
20 were a series of technical meetings that followed, so
21 that all of the information could be provided to all
22 of the groups, all the technical experts could discuss
23 what those -- what those surveys were telling us, and
24 what the information was. And then there were two (2)
25 more political leaders meetings, where it was

1 discussed what should happen.

2 And ENR then worked with the ACCWM,
3 which is the organization of co-management boards, and
4 asked for a recommendation from them about what should
5 happen for the 2015 -- sorry, 2014/2015 harvesting
6 season. Because harvesting had already started, and
7 there was a lot of concern about what was happening
8 for the Bluenose East herd. So the boards, including
9 the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, looked at that
10 request and agreed to the limits that were set for the
11 2014/2015 season until we could do a full photo survey
12 to find out what was really happening with the herd,
13 and get more certainty.

14 So then 2015, we did that photo survey,
15 and it confirmed that the herd was declining. And
16 that is what started this process to have a hearing so
17 that the Boards, not just the Sahtu Renewable
18 Resources Board, but also the Wek'eezhii Renewable
19 Resources Board and the Inuvialuit Board, as well, can
20 make recommendations going forward based on what we
21 now know about the survey.

22 So that's where -- that's the process
23 that was followed to put those restrictions in place.
24 So I hope that answers your question.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Colville Lake...?

1 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. The -- I guess that question of that line that
3 was put right into the Sahtu area, you know, kind of a
4 restricted area for hunting, that's on the south side
5 of this Great -- Great Bear Lake, so I'm just
6 wondering how that came about.

7 That was about almost a year ago that
8 we seen that map that was provided by ENR, that this
9 is a no-hunting zone, or something. So I'm just
10 wondering where the -- how -- how that came about.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. Mr. Chair,
15 we're still trying to clarify which line we're talking
16 about. Are you talking about -- so in 2010, there was
17 a line that was drawn for the Bathurst herd that
18 became a no-hunting zone.

19 Is -- is that the -- is that the area
20 that you're talking about?

21 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: I -- I'm not sure
22 if it's -- it's the one. But then the -- probably
23 about a year ago, information was provided to us that
24 there's a -- a line that goes on the south side of
25 this Great Bear Lake here, and it -- there's a -- a --

1 goes right into the Sahtu area.

2 So I'm just wondering how that have
3 come about, and if -- if you could provide some
4 information.

5 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman,
6 Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. I'm hoping that I'm
7 addressing the question that you're asking.

8 In 2010, there were actually two (2)
9 hearings under the Wek'eezhii Board, because at that
10 time, we knew there was -- there had been a big
11 decline in the Bathurst herd. And part of the
12 management that was established at that time was a
13 couple of large management zones, RBC02 and RBC03.

14 And within those two (2) zones which
15 are kind of the main wintering area for the Bathurst
16 herd, after a lot of meetings and by recommendation of
17 the Wek'eezhii Board, there was a harvest limit of
18 three hundred (300) caribou established within those
19 two (2) large zones.

20 What has happened since that time for
21 the Bathurst herd this winter and previous winter is
22 that rather than having -- excuse me -- those two (2)
23 very large zones, we established a much smaller mobile
24 zone around the Bathurst collars, and then that became
25 the area where harvesting was restricted, which

1 actually reduced the area where harvesting was limited
2 for the North Slave region.

3 So those are things that have worked
4 their way through the Wek'eezhii Board, and the Tlicho
5 Government, and ourselves, and I'm wondering if those
6 are the zones or the lines, that you were asking
7 about.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Colville
9 Lake.

10 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. Well, maybe we'll -- we'll try to find that
12 information, then -- then pro -- provide it so -- so
13 that would be more accurate, so thank you. Masi.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any more questions
15 from Colville Lake? Go ahead.

16 MR. LARRY INNES: Thanks. It's Larry
17 Innes, the legal counsel with Colville Lake. I've
18 been asked to put a couple of the more technical
19 questions to ENR regarding the use of the population
20 model, and the derivation of the results of that
21 population model.

22 So, in particular, we're interested in
23 the prediction of -- or the use of what are described
24 in the ENR presentation as vital -- vital rates, which
25 are cow survival rate, calf recruitment and pregnancy

1 rates.

2 And we're interested in the correlation
3 between the rates that are used to calibrate the model
4 and the observations based on the photo composition of
5 the herd during the actual surveys that are conducted
6 on those ranges.

7 So the first question, just waiting for
8 translation, is: Does ENR's population model
9 accurately predict caribou herd composition? So to
10 put that another way, when you flew your surveys in
11 2010, 2013 and 2015 did you get from your observations
12 the same results as your model predicted?

13 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: John Boulanger,
14 statistician with ENR. Let me just quickly -- or I'm
15 going to try to explain a little bit about how the
16 population model works. What the population model
17 tries to do is to take the information we get from our
18 photo survey, namely the number of caribou we see,
19 composition data from the spring calf/cow ratios and
20 the bull/cow ratio that we use in the fall and combine
21 that together to -- to give us better inference on the
22 population.

23 The information we can get from the
24 photo surveys, from the composition surveys that are
25 conducted during the photo surveys, main pertains to

1 females on the calving ground because on the calving
2 ground we know that the majority of breeding females
3 will -- will be in that area we survey. And so what
4 we also know is that the majority of adult females
5 that are capable of breeding will also be I that area.
6

7 And so the information that we use in
8 the model is the proportion of those adult females
9 that are breeding. And that would be indicated by the
10 presence of a calf, antlers prior to them having their
11 calves. And what that is used to then is that helps
12 us determine status because it lets us know how many
13 females are -- that are capable of breeding are
14 producing calves. That is the data that we use in the
15 population model.

16 And in the calving ground survey report
17 you can see that our model fit that data adequately.
18 I hope that helps with the question.

19 MR. LARRY INNES: Well, let me just
20 follow up with a supplementary. Again, it's Larry
21 Innes, legal counsel, with Colville. Lawyers like to
22 use terms like 'adequately', they're fairly unbounded.
23 Statisticians usually give a degree of precision. Can
24 you speak to what precision your model has? Or, in
25 other words, can define 'adequately' for the purposes

1 of establishing that correlation?

2 What we're trying to understand is what
3 degree of air or what degree of reliability, as you
4 will, the model produces when compared to actual obse
5 -- observations.

6 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: Sure. I think
7 the easiest way to think about that is that the model
8 generates a set of predictions. And in the calving
9 ground survey we have all the field data. We have an
10 estimate of the field data. And then we have an
11 estimate of the confidence limits on that field data,
12 which is how certain we are in that data.

13 And so the way that you -- and -- and
14 this provides a very transparent measure of how well
15 the model fits the data. If that line from the model
16 goes right near the estimate, then we know that it
17 fits it well. And I think you can look at that
18 visually and see that the model fits the data
19 adequately using that criteria.

20 The other criteria that we use is we
21 get confidence limits on model predictions. So we
22 then -- and that tells us the degree of precision of
23 the model. And those are also given in the calving
24 ground survey reports, in the figures, and also in the
25 text.

1 So in both cases, we -- the degree of
2 precision was -- was described in -- in the report,
3 and we felt was fairly precise.

4 MR. LARRY INNES: Rather than chase
5 you around for those numbers, we'll request them in
6 writing.

7 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: They're --
8 they're -- if you look -- I could read them out.
9 They're in the calving ground survey report, which is
10 on -- which is on the registry. I could read out all
11 the --

12 MR. LARRY INNES: Yeah.

13 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: -- confidence
14 limits if you want.

15 MR. LARRY INNES: Yeah. For -- for
16 the benefit of everyone in the room, that would be
17 helpful.

18 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: All right. Let's
19 see here. Just let me get to it. Okay. So adult
20 female survival and yearling survival was estimated at
21 point seven-one (.71) with a standard error of point
22 o-one (.01) and a confidence limit of point six-nine
23 (.69) to point seven-two (.72).

24 Bull survival was -- the estimate was
25 point five-seven (.57), with a standard error of zero

1 point zero-one (0.01) and a confidence limit of point
2 five-five (.55) to point six-zero (.60).

3 Calf survival and proportions of
4 females breeding varied on a yearly basis as described
5 in the model. So there's figures in the report that
6 show those. So I -- I don't think it's worth reading
7 out every year, but you can see it's Figure 29 on page
8 56 of the Calving Ground Survey Report.

9 MR. LARRY INNES: Thank you. So given
10 that we've established that these are estimates with a
11 certain degree of error associated with them, and
12 given that we've established that they fit
13 observations within confidence limits that ENR asserts
14 are adequate, the questions that we now want to turn
15 to is: What are the results of the model run if the
16 upper and lower bounds of those estimates are used?

17 For example, you know, if we're looking
18 at some of the key drivers like cow survival rate,
19 calf recruitment, pregnancy rate, and we're using
20 admittedly coarse harvest data -- and we can plug in
21 numbers as to what we think the harvest numbers are to
22 generate future results -- the questions are: What
23 are the results of your model runs if you're using the
24 upper and lower bounds of these estimates?

25 And how much uncertainty is there in

1 the model predictions re future population status if
2 those upper and lower limits are used? Are we talking
3 thousands of animals, hundreds of animals? You know,
4 what degree of -- of magnitude are we speaking of when
5 we actually look out at several years as ENR is
6 proposing to do in the slides detailing the future
7 trends of the herd over a four (4) or five (5) year
8 period?

9 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: We have not run
10 detailed -- what we call in statistical jargon,
11 stochastic simulations. However, some general
12 comments I can make are that the range -- the
13 confidence limit that I get for adult females even is
14 still below -- if I use the higher end, that is still
15 below what is needed for the herd to be a stable herd.
16 It still declines.

17 So that is a -- that's a general
18 comment we can make. We have not run detailed
19 comments.

20 So in other words, the model that we
21 use is a data-driven model. It is based upon observed
22 data, and some of the indicators that we see, such as
23 our breeding female estimate and our calving ground
24 estimates, show a fairly strong decline in the herd.

25 So that is -- that's where these

1 parameters come from is that's -- that's what they're
2 describing. And I believe that further simulations
3 would -- would show a similar trend, but we have not
4 conducted detailed simulations to that extent.

5

6

(BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8

THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Wilbert.

9

CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: I just wanted
10 to mention one more thing. Maybe it's more -- maybe a
11 question. You're saying that calf survival rate is
12 twenty-five (25) per hundred cows. But you're talking
13 about 2015, last year. When I went hunting on the
14 mountain and I think some of you heard this already.
15 And I seen about two hundred (200) cows where there's
16 no -- no calves. But some bulls.

17

And while I was skinning caribou there
18 was about another big bunch, two (2) to three hundred
19 (300) cows. Every one (1) of them had a calf. Every
20 one (1) of them. And I don't know how you say there's
21 twenty-five (25) per a hundred cows when I see that.
22 That's why we don't really believe in your numbers
23 when you say the survival rate is twenty-five (25) per
24 a hundred. But when I see that, over two hundred
25 (200) cows. Every one (1) of them had a calf.

1 How do you talk -- how -- how is that
2 then? And then the first bunch is nothing? All dry
3 cows and bulls. So when you're saying twenty-five
4 (25) per a hundred, where do you get your numbers
5 from? I'm actually right out there, caribou right in
6 front of me.

7 So maybe you have to work together more
8 and try to get a accurate number on that. And I keep
9 hearing that decline, but for us is not -- I don't
10 like using that word. And since the Board is here
11 that's why I'm mentioning it. And but I don't know if
12 that was Bluenose East or Bluenose West. It's hard to
13 tell them apart. I don't know how you can tell them
14 apart. Maybe by collar, but I don't know how much of
15 those cows are banned from the herd because somebody
16 touched them.

17 Animals are real sensitive to stuff
18 like that. I don't know if you're aware of that. Once
19 they're touched they're kind of outcasts. Maybe
20 those, the collar ones, are all the ones that go back
21 to wherever this -- that can't mix with the other
22 ones. These kind of things you should really look at,
23 talk to the Elders about. We have known that since we
24 were little kids. It's driven into us.

25 And I always think about that and when

1 you net cows and touch them and it's very -- not --
2 not good. And I know how the animal feels. It's --
3 it's just like you, you're doing that, netting me and
4 touching me. I don't think so. I don't think they
5 like that. So you should really look at the numbers
6 in the fall. Like this year even I seen quite a bit
7 of calves, but -- and I'm not going to say. You're
8 going to have to buy it off me. I'm just kidding.
9 That's all I'm going to say. Masi.

10 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman,
11 Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. We understand the
12 reservations in your community and other communities
13 about the collaring. But our experience has been that
14 the information from those animals is really critical
15 and valuable to our -- our monitoring. And what we've
16 generally seen, let's say we have thirty (30) collared
17 cows in the Bluenose East herd. If -- if we put those
18 on a map, and then we fly there with a plane or a
19 helicopter, they invariably predict where most of the
20 animals are. If there's a bunch of collared cows
21 there's going to be a whole bunch of caribou. If it's
22 one (1) collared animal, maybe a few, maybe not so
23 many.

24 But they very reliably predict where
25 the caribou are. And when the surveys are done, when

1 get those -- those ratios in late winter or spring,
2 March, April, Bruno does a lot of those surveys. Part
3 of what he -- what he does as he's flying that whole
4 distribution of collared caribou. So he's sampling in
5 many areas. And the reality is sometimes you get a
6 little higher ratio here. Some -- some of these cows
7 have more calves. Then you find a group that has
8 almost none. Then you find a group that has a few.

9 And so if you sample enough of those,
10 if you look at enough of those groups eventually
11 you're going to get a cross-section that is
12 representative or we think provides a -- a good idea
13 what's there. And that sample, I mean, Bruno might
14 say it was twenty-five (25) calves per hundred cows,
15 but he might have actually looked at five thousand
16 (5,000) individual caribou to come up with that
17 number.

18 So the collars reliably tell us where
19 the animals are, and when we sample them to do surveys
20 we're doing our very best to get a really
21 representative cross-section of what's out there.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Joseph, and then
23 Bruno.

24 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: I just have one
25 more -- just for clarification for our Elders. You

1 know, when you talk about ratios, percentage, all that
2 type of stuff, you probably have to sort of draw it on
3 a -- on a piece of paper or something so that it's
4 clear because it's really hard to describe that in our
5 language. You know, when you're talking about twenty-
6 five (25) per female, or whatever.

7 But those really have to be clearly
8 drawn out for us so that it can be interpreted well to
9 our -- our members, you know, that -- for us, we make
10 sure that we -- our people get the right message. If
11 you're just going through it really fast, you know,
12 you're talking about ratios, you're talking about
13 percentage, in our language it's -- we don't really
14 speak the same. We don't speak that fast.

15 But we like to be honest to our people,
16 to make sure that they get that clear message,
17 especially our Elders. They're the ones that are
18 advising us. So I think in your presentations, you're
19 going to either grab a board or whatever and describer
20 twenty-five (25) per whatever, and the Elders will
21 look at it and say whether they believe you or not.

22 You know, sometimes scientific
23 knowledge may not really be the same as our knowledge.
24 So -- so just for -- for clarification. Masi.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Bruno...?

1 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Masi, Mr. Chair.
2 Thank you, Joseph. Thank you, David and Wilbert.
3 Just to add a bit on what Dr. Adamczewski mentioned
4 earlier, we look at calf survival and we count the
5 number of cows and bulls just about this time of year.

6 In the case of Bluenose East, we will
7 start our survey next week around Lac Ste. Therese,
8 Keller Lake, swing around to the east by Hardisty
9 Lake, move north on Hottah Lake, and hit the north end
10 of Caribou Point where we have Bluenose East animals.

11 And if we're going to do the Bluenose
12 West we'd go on your land, Wilbert, somewhere between
13 Colville Lake and the northern distribution where your
14 caribou are located, and wanted to know how many
15 calves are surviving.

16 When the Tlichon people tell me we
17 haven't seen a whole lot of Bluenose East animals this
18 winter, because they -- they tell me all the time, and
19 when the folks by Yellow -- the Yellowknife Dene or
20 the -- the people -- the Lutsel K'e tells me they
21 haven't seen a lot of calves, I always pay attention
22 to it. I know which herd they're talking about, and I
23 know I can go to the bank with these things.

24 And when I find out is what they're
25 saying match what we're finding. So when -- if -- if

1 the animals you -- you saw were -- like you saw lots
2 of calf -- you mention, Wilbert, in the mountains,
3 it's -- it's probably somewhere else that where the
4 Bluenose East are. I -- I don't know.

5 But if we know exactly where you saw
6 them, we would pay attention to this. We would not
7 ignore this. It's -- it's part of the joint
8 settlement information that we use. So that's the one
9 thing I wanted to say, Mr. Chair, to reinforce what we
10 heard earlier. Masi.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, go ahead.

12 CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: Thank you for
13 listening. I think we're all done with our questions,
14 so I think tomorrow we're having our presentation.
15 So that's when we're -- bring some more out. I'll say
16 masi to everybody for listening, and masi to the Board
17 and ENR. Thank you for listening.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Masi,
19 Colville Lake. Okay. Our next community is Tulita. I
20 don't know if Tulita, will you might have any
21 questions for ENR?

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: One thousand

1 (1,000) dindin (phonetic).

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: This is Chief
6 Frank Andrew, from Tulita. They're just suggesting
7 that you put all your earphones on. Thank you. We're
8 very pleased to be here, and especially all the
9 leaders that are assembled here. When people assemble
10 like this, we -- we assemble to make sure that our
11 decisions and to make -- to make something of the
12 situations.

13 Since this morning -- since this
14 morning, I've been listening to and heard Michael's
15 feed this morning. We are the Board and that the --
16 when we make -- when we make decisions it's based on
17 consensus decision. And when we all agree, then we
18 agree and say that that is how we make our decision.

19

20 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED
21 FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 (NOT SWITCHED BACK TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON:

1 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: He's saying he's
4 thankful. He said I'm going to start from "thank you"
5 again. He said -- he has said...

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 (NOT SWITCHED BACK TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

10

11 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: ...meeting here,
12 and the Renewable Resource Board, too. This is a good
13 meeting. We had one (1) way back in -- Joseph spoke
14 about in Fort Good Hope way back in 2008 I think it
15 was. And, you know, this is good because what I want
16 to talk about is going to be in Slavey so my Elders
17 can understand what I'm talking about. Masi.

18

19 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Today we are
22 talking about caribou. Last week -- we had a
23 handgames tournament last week and there was a lot of
24 people here. I saw our vehicles. They were all --
25 driving by us how many times watching us. That's what

1 we are talking about today.

2 We want to make very strong and --
3 strong voice. We are sitting across from us. And --
4 and he said that those people -- it's the words of
5 these people that are going to allow us to make
6 decisions over here by the Board. It's their words
7 that are going to determine how things are going to
8 be.

9 We are people. We are -- and so they
10 are our own people. We should be able to be working
11 together. And what are we working on right now is a
12 very, very big issue. We are talking about the
13 children of the future, our own children for the
14 future. And when our children are on their -- on
15 their journey we want them to have a very positive,
16 positive experience and that. And that's why fix land
17 claims, because of that.

18 And -- and when the land claims was --
19 was -- even though -- and even though the land claims
20 came -- I was told that, even though I was living in
21 Fort Norma, I would still have the rights that are --
22 are granted to the Sahtu region, and I'm not going to
23 leave those rights.

24 And the Wildlife -- the Wildlife Act is
25 -- there's a paper here that is based on the Wildlife

1 Act. And back then, I -- and instead, that when --
2 and he said that when the Wildlife Act was going to
3 become into term, I -- I'm -- I strongly objected to
4 it because I said that it was going to eventually be
5 making decisions for us. And here it is.

6 And we are now talking about tags being
7 allocated to different people. In the Sahtu region,
8 how many are going to be located, especially the whole
9 region?

10 And -- and I live in Tulita. When the
11 caribou move and migrate in this area, it goes through
12 around Bennett Field area and it moves all the way
13 into Bennett Field, and then it goes all the way on
14 the winter roads. And it's a Bluenose herd.

15 It goes -- that -- the Colville Lake
16 herd came all the way -- all the way to Willow Lake.
17 The animals, they walk wherever they want to go. It's
18 never -- it's never how deep the snow is. It travels
19 along without determining the census.

20 And he said that maybe you are -- the -
21 - the counting and stuff like that you're saying,
22 maybe it is true. But for us as Dene people, we are
23 the Shootowtin (phonetic) people. We are -- we also
24 have caribou across that.

25 We've heard from our old ancestors and

1 our Elders about the caribou out there. And they say
2 that the Elders would tell us that there are -- there
3 is -- they always -- they -- we could see where their
4 tracks are and that, and where -- where they -- their
5 feeding grounds or calving grounds.

6 We really take care of -- really good
7 care of -- of those regions. And we call it in
8 reference to us -- in reference to those places, we
9 call it Sacred -- Sacred Places.

10 Today some of the discussions are being
11 -- the discussion is about giving tags for caribou.
12 Personally I feel -- I disagree with that. In the
13 future, when my child is playing, my grandchildren are
14 playing out there or out on the land and they see a
15 caribou and they want to get it, if they have no tags,
16 they can't get cut -- they can't get that animal.

17 Sometimes -- sometimes -- he said, I'm
18 thinking about it. And when we did our land claims
19 and rights were given to us.

20 We had meetings with -- with the
21 territorial government, and then we thought -- and
22 then devolution happened. And -- and when devolution
23 happened, they said that -- they said to us that our
24 treaty rights would not be impacted upon.

25 And this is what we're talking about.

1 Harvesting right is still a treaty right and it is a
2 new treaty right. The legislation that are -- are
3 written, and it's written within the land claims, and
4 it says -- inside there it said that in -- within the
5 agreement, it says that you have the right to hunt and
6 to harvest.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: The legislation
11 thought -- the legislation -- the beneficiary of
12 Tulita has the right to hunt. I think you guys are
13 overseeing some things that -- that you guys should
14 see.

15 I see that there are so many courts
16 happening in Canada over treaty rights. And I've been
17 telling my people, I said, If things just go ahead, we
18 can't leave it, I said. We either have to go to court
19 or do something about it.

20 Even before that things like that to
21 happen, we have to work together to make it fit so
22 that our younger generation will have a safe trip home
23 all the time. That's why we have treaty rights.
24 That's why we have the rights to the land claim.

25 But if we just leave it the way it is

1 today, we talk about how we're going to allocate
2 permits and stuff like that, I think our young people
3 is going to get hurt down the line.

4 You already heard it from our buddies
5 on the other side of the line. And the other thing
6 I've already thought about is the rights to hunt and
7 the rights to hunt for the Sahtu beneficiary. I might
8 be wrong, but that's what I understand. It's within
9 the Sahtu region. We don't have rights to hunt other
10 places except Dehcho because that's not a claimant
11 group yet. They have Treaty 11 rights. And that's
12 what I understood.

13 So you see, that's why I just can't let
14 go of my rights within the Sahtu region, this circle
15 right here, inside here. That's why we have to work
16 closely together as my friends from Colville Lake are
17 saying. And I believe that.

18 You know, I remember when I was a young
19 kid, my father was alive then. He used to go beaver
20 hunting in the springtime. He used to get five (5)
21 tags. You called 'tags' now at that time. You call
22 it seal, beaver seal, five (5). That's all you could
23 shoot, they said. And we had a whole -- whole bunch
24 of us. Five (5) beaver didn't mean anything. And
25 that's where we're going back today again. So for me,

1 I don't think talking about tags is good. It's not
2 going to be good for the future, for sure.

3 By listening to everybody talking here
4 today, I think we should really work closely together.
5 Way back in the days when I was a young guy, when the
6 territorial government was going to be established,
7 the Dene people of the Northwest Territories at that
8 time had Dene Nation. And the Dene Nation was the
9 people of the North. And it still today, it is yet.

10 But that time, the government said,
11 Let's build a territorial government. So our people
12 agreed to do that. And they said, If we put our
13 people within that organization, we'll have a lot of
14 say on whatever's going to happen within the
15 territories. That's why you see leadership of people
16 from the Sahtu or other regions sitting with the
17 people.

18 But somehow the law changed that. And
19 I think that's what we're trying to do here, even
20 though we have rights to hunt within the Sahtu region.
21 We're trying to change that, even though it's our
22 treaty rights, land claim rights. And I think for me,
23 I don't want to see that happen.

24 You know, we're all getting older. We
25 all have to think about the young people that's

1 coming. We don't think about the people south of
2 sixty (60) right now. They will be coming someday.
3 Probably a lot is here already.

4 So it's going to be a tough job for all
5 of us. But I think we should really work closely
6 together. We have to do that. You know, because you
7 can't be taking my rights away which you gave to me,
8 and take it away from me, and then me have to go to
9 court to get it back. No good. So let's work
10 together. Thank you very much. Masi.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't know if you
12 want to comment, ENR, to what Tulita -- okay. Okay.
13 The next line of questions, I don't know if there's
14 anybody from the youth. Jordan, can you grab that mic
15 there if you want? Jordan, you can introduce yourself
16 and who you represent.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. JORDAN LENNIE: Hello. My name is
21 Jordan Lennie, and I'm representing the Sahtu Youth
22 Connection today. My first question was -- hold on.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. JORDAN LENNIE: How does ENR
2 include climate change and the impacts of climate
3 change in the management of caribou?

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman,
5 Jan Adamczewski, with ENR.

6 That's a good question, and there's
7 simply no -- there is no simple answer to that. It's
8 something that we're aware of. It's something that I
9 think we need to understand better, and we try to do
10 some monitoring to help us understand it.

11 But it is basically beyond our control.
12 We don't know where it's going to take us. If you
13 think about how might a changing climate affect
14 caribou, it could be -- it could be positive. It
15 could be negative. You might see an earlier spring on
16 the calving grounds, which might be a good thing. You
17 might have a really hot, dry July, and that's probably
18 not a good thing for the feeding conditions of the
19 caribou.

20 We know that the -- the winter
21 conditions are changing. Winters are shorter.
22 They're not as cold as they used to be. So basically,
23 our approach on this is to try to monitor, and also to
24 look for relationships between some of those
25 environmental indicators and what we're seeing with

1 the caribou herds.

2 So I'm not going to pull out a
3 scientific paper here, but there was a -- a study that
4 was completed just -- 2014, and in that study, there
5 was an examination of summer range conditions based on
6 satellite imagery, remote sensing, and the series of
7 calf-to-cow ratios that we have for the Bathurst herd,
8 which goes back to the 1980s.

9 And they were able to show that there
10 was a relationship. If the summer range conditions
11 were really poor, then a year and a half later, you
12 would see a -- a low calf-to-cow ratio. If those
13 conditions were really good in the summer, a year and
14 a half later, you would see a much higher ratio. So
15 that's the kind of study that helps us understand how
16 one (1) of those factors might be affecting caribou.

17 But we know there are many such
18 factors, so it's one of those things that I think we
19 try to monitor, try to understand. And we get
20 information from the communities, as well. I mean,
21 people know there are big changes happening on the
22 land.

23 As far as how we're going to manage
24 that, I'm not sure that we really have an answer on
25 that. The best we can do is try to monitor and

1 understand, and try to understand where things might
2 be going in the next few years. But it's not
3 something that we can manage in the sense that --
4 unless we deal with global greenhouse gases at a -- at
5 an international scale.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Before your next
7 question, you said something about a report? We
8 should get a copy of that report that you just
9 referred to.

10 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: We would -- Mr.
11 Chairman, Jan Adamczewski, with ENR.

12 We would be happy to provide that.
13 It's a -- a paper in a -- a published journal, 2014.
14 The senior author's name is Chen, C-H-E-N, and we'd be
15 happy to provide that.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Go ahead with
17 your question, Jordan.

18 MR. JORDAN LENNIE: Thank you for the
19 answer, as well. Now, regarding the Colville Lake
20 biologist's earlier question, some would consider the
21 radio collars inhumane, and just plain animal cruelty.

22 What is ENR doing to make the collars
23 more animal friendly?

24 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
25 with ENR. One (1) of the things that we are doing is

1 looking to get smaller and smaller collars. There are
2 some collars going out probably this month on Bathurst
3 caribou, and they weigh 600 grams. Is it about a year
4 ago we put out some collars that were about 800 grams.
5 And the generation of collars previous to that was
6 about 1,100 grams. So the last -- the most recent
7 collars that we're putting out are a little over half
8 the weight of the previous ones just a few years ago.

9 We also follow up on the captures that
10 we do in March or April. So we kind of track those
11 collars. This is shortly after the capture when the
12 animal has had the collar placed on it. And the first
13 six (6) weeks or so, we keep a close eye on -- on what
14 those collars are doing. If there's any indication
15 that the animal is sick or it's died, then we -- we go
16 and we check on it.

17 We generally -- when we get an animal
18 back that's had a collar maybe shot by a hunter,
19 somebody will always take a look at the condition of
20 the neck to see what kind of shape that animal's in.
21 Once in a -- once in a while there'll be some wear,
22 maybe some soreness. Generally speaking, what the
23 collar does is it kind of wears the hair down a little
24 bit. But by and large, most of the animals seem to
25 tolerate that collar fairly well.

1 So we are aware there is a cost to the
2 animal of the capture and there's a cost to carrying
3 the collar. And we're going to do whatever we can,
4 especially by making the collar smaller and lighter,
5 to reduce the burden on -- on the caribou that -- that
6 carry those collars.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Jordan...?

8 MR. JORDAN LENNIE: I was informed
9 that there were lacerations down on the neck of one
10 (1) caribou. I'm not sure which herd it was from
11 specifically, but I was informed that there were
12 lacerations.

13 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
14 with ENR. As I mentioned earlier, we do -- once in a
15 while, there's a case where there is some soreness,
16 and the collars have that effect on the caribou, but -
17 - and those are the collars that people tend to hear
18 about. The ones you don't tend to hear about are the
19 ones where essentially there's very little wear or
20 damage. There's simply a little bit of rubbing in the
21 hair.

22 In a past part of my career, I was
23 working in the Yukon with some of the mountain caribou
24 there. And we had collared cows that carried a collar
25 for four (4) years and had a calf every year.

1 So, yes, there is a cost to the animal.
2 We're aware of that, and we're going to try and reduce
3 that where we can. But by and large, most of the
4 animals seem to tolerate carrying the collar fairly
5 well.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. JORDAN LENNIE: And that's all.
10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Jordan. Okay,
12 I guess we're the next in line, the Board here, to ask
13 questions to the ENR. So we'll go ahead and maybe
14 start off with Mr. Latour here.

15 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me.
16 Thank you -- thank you, Mr. Chair. My name's Paul
17 Latour. I'm a Board member.

18 I have a few questions more on the
19 technical side. I guess kind betrays my background as
20 a biologist, so we might -- I'll be focussing on the
21 technical, pretty much.

22 But the Board would -- really wants to
23 get a better understanding of this one (1) herd versus
24 multiple herd discussion that we're hearing a lot
25 about. And you gave a lot of evidence today, some of

1 it quite animated, actually, that would -- that would,
2 in your opinion anyway, support the -- the multiple
3 herd concept.

4 But I'm just wondering what's known
5 about the genetic relatedness of these herds? I
6 understand there's been some analysis done on the DNA
7 makeup of the various herds, and not just the -- the
8 one (1) or more that we're talking about here, but
9 other herds in the NWT and -- and even to the west.

10 So I'd like to know a little bit more
11 about what's known about that. Thank you.

12 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
13 with ENR. There's a paper that was published, I
14 think, 2014, looked at a fair number of caribou herds
15 across North America. And among them were some of the
16 -- the migratory caribou herds that we're talking
17 about here, including Bluenose East.

18 And by and large, it's been very
19 difficult to find distinctions genetically between
20 neighbouring herds. And I'm not really a geneticist,
21 but my understanding is, to get genetic separation,
22 you need physical separation over time, and preferably
23 small populations, which will then over time --
24 genetically, they'll go off in different directions.

25 And with barren-ground caribou herds

1 that number in the thousands and are not physically
2 separated, that becomes almost impossible to get.
3 They're not physically separated, and we know there's
4 a low rate of exchange between neighbouring herds.

5 So by and large, the genetic evidence
6 says that neighbouring herds are quite similar. If
7 you extend the range of the comparison, if you were to
8 look at a herd from, say, the far end of Alaska to,
9 let's say, the George River herd in Quebec/Labrador,
10 then the differences do start to show, because those
11 herds are -- they're so far apart that genetically,
12 there is some difference.

13 Then as you get closer, let's say
14 Bluenose East and Bathurst or even the Porcupine herd,
15 so far the genetic evidence suggests that they're --
16 they're relatively similar, particularly between
17 neighbours.

18 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for
19 that. Just a supplemental question, or almost a
20 comment. It would lead me to believe that there's
21 fundamental difference between behavioural separation
22 over the short term and genetic separation over the
23 long term.

24 Is that kind of a -- a way to summarize
25 it? Thank you.

1 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
2 with ENR. I think that's a reasonable way to look at
3 it, but I think the -- you know, the accumulated
4 evidence, and then if you recall some of the
5 suggestions from the Porcupine herd and the George
6 River herd, where biologists with a lot of experience
7 have suggested those herds have maybe been around for
8 thousands of years.

9 Even if they're not genetically
10 different from their neighbours, in my mind, that
11 means that's something worthy of our respect and
12 something that we should try to maintain on the
13 landscape.

14 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
15 Earlier in your presentation, you talked about long-
16 term cycles. And I know there's been discussion about
17 barren-ground caribou and what's commonly referred to
18 as like a -- a -- I think I've got the timing or the -
19 - the duration right -- about a sixty (60) or seventy
20 (70) year periodicity in the herd numbers, and that,
21 in fact, with this herd and other herds in the NWT, we
22 may be talking about a herd that's sort of in the
23 trough of that kind of sixty (60) or seventy (70) year
24 cycle.

25 I'm just wondering what -- what the

1 evidence is for this cyclicity over time, and what
2 your opinion on as to whether perhaps these Bluenose
3 East caribou and other herds in the NWT are, in fact,
4 just following that -- that trend. And for whatever -
5 - who knows what the causation is for that, but that
6 we are sort of within the range of nat -- of -- of
7 natural variability, but at the very low end of it.
8 Thank you.

9 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: There's -- oh,
10 Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. There are a number of
11 sources of information that kind of tell us that that
12 alternation between highs and lows is pretty much
13 continent-wide. And a fair amount of that information
14 comes from Aboriginal traditional knowledge.

15 There's some very nice work that was
16 done in the range of the George River herd,
17 Quebec/Labrador. That information goes back at least
18 a couple hundred years based on traditional knowledge
19 of high periods and low periods.

20 When we did our presentation, we
21 presented the information on the Fortymile herd
22 because it's a little atypical. And we presented that
23 information because, yes, caribou herds have come back
24 from low numbers before. But the evidence from that
25 herd would suggest it might actually take them quite a

1 while. In the case of that herd, it -- they kind of
2 went to fairly low numbers and then sat there for the
3 next fifty (50) years.

4 So I guess in some ways, the -- the
5 question from the young gentleman earlier about
6 climate change, that one frankly scares me, because I
7 don't know what it's going to do. And I'm not sure
8 anybody knows what it's going to do, you know. So we
9 saw 2014 as a -- an exceptional drought year, a big
10 fire year. Probably poor feeding conditions for
11 multiple caribou herds. Are we going to see more of
12 that? I mean, I don't know.

13 So the reason we put that slide up with
14 the Fortymile herd was just to kind of provide a
15 little bit of caution, to sort of say, We know caribou
16 have come back from low numbers before, and they may
17 again. But it's not a given. It's not -- it's not
18 that predictable. And I think climate change is
19 probably the -- the -- kind of the big monkey wrench
20 in the works, here. We don't know what it's going to
21 do.

22 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for
23 that. You also talked about in your presentation,
24 protection of caribou habitat. And I don't know if
25 you actually stated it in reference to calving

1 grounds, but certainly habitat. And I'm just
2 wondering what your -- in your view, what the various
3 tools are for protecting caribou habitat, and in
4 particular, the calving grounds, and what the
5 likelihood of the -- those various tools being
6 successful is.

7 Now, I know in this particular herd
8 that the main calving area is in Nunavut, so that --
9 that has some bearing on your answer, I'm sure. You
10 can't speak for them entirely. But I'm just kind of -
11 - get a better idea of what the GNWT's commitment is
12 to protecting caribou habitat either side of the
13 border, if you -- if you want to consider it that way.
14 Thank you.

15 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
16 with ENR. Well, we have one (1) nice example. A
17 national park, Tukturnogait National Park, which was
18 -- I think came out of the Inuvialuit land claim and
19 settlement. So the Bluenose West calving grounds are
20 protected for the long term through that national
21 park.

22 The Cape Bathurst herd is also in the
23 Inuvialuit settlement region. And I can't remember
24 exactly what the -- there's a Community Conservation
25 Plan. But that area, it's not, I guess, permanent

1 protection, but it's designated as a high -- a high
2 priority area for conservation and probably won't see
3 much development.

4 Beyond that to the west, then, there's
5 the Porcupine herd, but their calving grounds are
6 Alaska, occasionally Yukon. So that's kinds of out of
7 our domain.

8 And then Bluenose East calving ground,
9 as you mentioned, west of Kugluktuk, the Bathurst
10 calving ground west of Bathurst Inlet, those are both
11 in Nunavut. And there are -- there's still the
12 Qamanirjuaq herd, which sometimes winters in NWT. And
13 we have Beverly and Ahiak caribou up in Queen Maud
14 Gulf.

15 So we're in a -- we're in a difficult
16 situation. We have been on record at meetings in the
17 Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission, a meeting that I
18 was at last year, and another one (1) under the
19 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

20 The Government of Nunavut had put toget
21 -- put forward a position clearly stating they opposed
22 all activity, all exploration, mines, et cetera, on
23 calving grounds. And we were able to say the same
24 thing on behalf of GNWT.

25 The challenges tend to come because

1 even that commitment from the Government of Nunavut
2 does not guarantee that the calving grounds will be
3 protected. It has to go through the Nunavut Land Use
4 Plan. Then there are Inuit-owned lands where the
5 landlord is -- is the -- the local land corporation, I
6 believe. There's a very pro-development government in
7 Nunavut at the moment, so we don't know where that's
8 all going to end up.

9 I think what we would suggest is that
10 we keep advocating for protection of all calving
11 grounds, whether they're in this territory or
12 neighbours. But that is one (1) of the areas where we
13 could really use some help, some more voices from this
14 territory saying, You have the calving grounds in
15 Nunavut, but they're special to us as well.

16 So I think this is where perhaps some
17 of the Sahtu communities, and the Board itself, could
18 help us to give a -- a strong voice on this issue.

19 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
20 Paul Latour, Board member, still asking questions.
21 The figure on the top of page 33, I just need a bit of
22 a clarification on. It's the -- the harvest of 65
23 percent cows versus harvest of all bulls.

24 And if I'm interpreting this correctly,
25 it seems that up -- up to a harvest of the nine fifty

1 (950), it doesn't really seem to matter whether you're
2 harvesting a lot of cows or a lot of bulls. It only
3 seems to take hold when you get into higher harvests,
4 like up to twenty-six hundred (2,600), and then, of
5 course, the four thousand (4,000).

6 So unless I'm misinterpreting that,
7 could you please clarify that for me? That -- thank
8 you.

9 MR. JOHN BOULANGER: John Boulanger,
10 statistician, ENR. The effect of cow harvest in the
11 terms of the model actually becomes more pronounced
12 the more years the model runs. And the reason for
13 that is that when a cow is harvested, the -- the
14 metric that we are using to look at herd size is adult
15 herd size, right. So that is -- that is not -- that
16 doesn't count calves. It doesn't yearlings. It
17 counts caribou that mature into adults.

18 And so within a couple years, the loss
19 -- or the harvest of a cow just has the effect of
20 reducing the population size by that cow. However, if
21 the model is run for many more years, then what you
22 start seeing is that that cow that has been harvested
23 no longer produces future calves, and so the effect
24 becomes much more pronounced as time goes on.

25 And so that's why you don't see as

1 large of an effect of cow harvest in the short number
2 of years that the model was run.

3 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
4 Yeah, but -- I'll think about that a bit more, but
5 thanks for that. Yeah.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. I would like
7 to ask you a question. Can you provide more evidence
8 to -- to support that statement that wolves are the --
9 one (1) of the main causes of caribou mortality? Do
10 you have data on the numbers of calves or cows that
11 are taken by wolves?

12 And what has been the effectiveness of
13 the wolf harvest incentive elsewhere, or in the past?
14 And what is the role of other predators, such as
15 grizzly, black bears, in the predation of this
16 Bluenose East herd?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
21 with ENR. I will -- I'll try to answer your
22 questions, and if I miss something, perhaps you can
23 let me know.

24 Figuring out exactly how many caribou
25 are being taken by wolves and bears is -- is a very

1 difficult thing to do. It would require some really
2 intensive field work, at least based on my experience.
3 I think our understanding, generally speaking, is that
4 wolves are killing caribou from -- throughout the year
5 on the calving grounds, summer range, winter range,
6 the whole thing.

7 Our general understanding about grizzly
8 bear predation is that it tends to be focused around
9 the calving period and sort of those first weeks when
10 the calves are kind of young and not very -- don't get
11 around as -- quite as well as the adults do.

12 So we think that, overall, the wolves
13 are more of an issue for caribou. We have had, I
14 guess, some wolf harvest incentives in the range of
15 the -- it was -- it was basically to try to do
16 something for the Bathurst herd, and that started in
17 about 2010.

18 Generally speaking, so far, those
19 incentives have not been very successful. There have
20 been a few wolves taken, but a fair number of them
21 sort of around communities, town dumps, sewage
22 lagoons, that kind of thing. And we haven't had -- we
23 haven't had the scale of wolf harvest that we think
24 would be needed to -- to really have a major affect on
25 caribou survival rates.

1 And so, as we mentioned in the
2 presentation, we're -- now we have a pilot program
3 from the Tlicho Government. And they're looking to
4 focus on the Bathurst winter range and to, I guess,
5 get a little more serious about trying to increase the
6 harvest of wolves in ways that their Elders are -- are
7 comfortable with.

8 And we would be interested in working
9 with other communities and Aboriginal governments that
10 might be looking to pursue those kinds of options.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think Keith has a
12 question. Keith...?

13 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. My name is Keith Hickling. I'm a special
15 advisor to the Board. A question for -- for ENR with
16 regards to radio collars. And it's -- I'm looking on
17 page 26 with regards -- maybe it was Dr. Elkin. He
18 was making his presentation.

19 So it's -- eighty-five (85) collars
20 have been deployed on caribou from 2010 to 2015. Is
21 that what it says?

22 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
23 with ENR. If I could maybe clarify.

24 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Sure.

25 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: This is -- this

1 isn't all the collars that were in use at the time.
2 What we pulled out was those cases where we had a
3 collared cow and we had at least two (2) consecutive
4 June locations, so let's say June 2014 and June 2015.
5 And then we looked at each pair of locations.

6 So what that graphic means is that over
7 a five (5) year period we had eighty-five (85) cases
8 where a collared cow came back one (1) year, and then
9 the next, to that calving ground. It doesn't
10 represent all of the collars in total, and it's
11 accumulated over a five (5) year period.

12 MR. KEITH HICKLING: So how -- how
13 many collars do we have on -- on the Bluenose East
14 herd right now?

15 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: I would defer to
16 Bruno Croft on this. But what we have -- oh, pardon
17 me, Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. What we're trying to
18 do the last few years is to keep a total of fifty (50)
19 collars on the Bluenose East herd. And since a few
20 animals will always die every year, then annually in
21 late winter we're -- we're adding whatever number of
22 collars have been lost, either the animals died or the
23 collar ran out of battery life, so we're trying to
24 keep it at about that number.

25 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Thank you. Keith

1 Hickling again, special advisor to the Board. And so
2 with that, we know why the collars are on. And your
3 information gives us almost a 98 percent loyalty to
4 the area. And so is it necessary to add those extra
5 collars on now, at such a critical time with the
6 herd's health or decline in numbers? Do you feel
7 confident that you could go back to those calving
8 areas without the additional collars on?

9 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
10 with ENR. Maybe just to clarify, Keith, we use the
11 collars for many things. And looking at the fidelity
12 or the loyalty to calving ground is one (1) of maybe a
13 dozen uses that make of those collared caribou.

14 We use them to design our surveys. And
15 if we go to the calving grounds in June, then we want
16 confirmation that the animals are where they're
17 supposed to be. They tell us something about where
18 they are each year. Wintering locations are different
19 every year.

20 We've started using them to look at
21 responses to development -- mines, roads. They have
22 been used in that connection with the Bathurst herd.
23 And there's kind of a long list of applications that -
24 - that we have for that collared caribou information.

25 So this is just one (1) example, and

1 there are many others, many other things that we do
2 with those collars.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Just going back,
7 you -- you'd mentioned the weight, and I have a
8 difficult time trying to -- to visualize or to
9 compare. Was it 600 grams? And what do we have on
10 our table that's 600 grams that people could relate
11 to, I guess?

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Good. Thank you.

16 Mr. Chair, for the record, it's because
17 we won't have it -- it's a visual, and so that's --
18 that's how many litres or -- of water?

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. KEITH HICKLING: So -- how -- so
23 that's half a -- I need to describe it for -- for our
24 translators and for some Elders that might have a hard
25 time understanding what a gram is. That's the --

1 that's why I'm asking the question. So half a water
2 bottle, Mr. Chair. I -- I don't think that's a pound,
3 is it?

4 MS. LYNDA YONGE: So there are 545
5 (sic) grams in a pound. So about -- just over a pound
6 of lard.

7 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Okay. Okay.
8 Good. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to go back to my
9 question. The -- the radio coll -- thanks, Bruno,
10 what would be or what are some of the considerations
11 that are -- or ENR has for -- for the alternates for
12 radio collars?

13 And I think it was mentioned drones and
14 other types. Has that been considered?

15 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. Thank you, Keith, for your question.

17 First, Dr. Adamczewski mentioned in the
18 last three (3) or four (4) years the size and the
19 weight of those collars have been reduced drastically.
20 That came after we heard from Elders and hunters and
21 people in the communities have been telling us for a
22 long time to do something about the size of those
23 collars.

24 And we've been putting pressures on the
25 manufacturing companies to do so. So now we're able

1 to use collars that weigh just about -- a little more
2 than a pound, and we continue to work with them to
3 continue to reduce the size of those collars.

4 Hopefully in the future, we'll use more
5 new technique that will be less intrusive, and -- and
6 again working together on -- on the concerns and --
7 and again putting pressures on the mag --
8 manufacturing companies to help us out.

9 The use of drones has been explored,
10 Keith and Mr. Chair, especially in a case of doing
11 those calving ground surveys we talked about earlier,
12 and the distribution surveys at the time of calving
13 where you can line up a drone and -- and do the
14 counting for us.

15 We tried in 2013. It -- the idea there
16 or the objective was to use simultaneously the old
17 traditional method of airborne survey technique and
18 the use of drone. Right from the get-go we ran into
19 technical limitation, not only with the drone and the
20 companies, but also -- also the regulation with
21 Transport Canada that prevented us to move forward.
22 We will continue to explore those methods, but linking
23 the use of drones in lieu of collars is -- is a huge
24 jump.

25 We'd be open to hear any suggestions or

1 ideas of -- that you can come up with to replace the
2 collars to monitor movement and distribution of the
3 caribou, or all those other objectives or application
4 that Dr. Adamczewski mentioned about any time. So
5 we're trying hard to go somewhere else. We haven't
6 arrived yet. But we're certainly -- we'll certainly
7 listen to the concern of the people in the
8 communities, that's for sure. Masi.

9 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Thank you very
10 much. That ends my questions.

11 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Okay. If -- Lynda
12 Yonge, ENR. I just wanted to add also, Keith, that we
13 are monitoring advances in remote sensing. Again,
14 it's not at a point where we can use it to be doing
15 our su -- but we're -- we're keeping on top of that
16 technology because there's some promising things that
17 may come in that area as well.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Lynda.
19 Leonard, do you have a question?

20 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: I -- I have a
21 couple of questions. In your presentation you -- you
22 mentioned that you -- the ENR plan is a joint plan
23 with the -- the Tlicho. And I'm -- I'm wondering why
24 -- if -- why the -- the Sahtu Secretariat wasn't part
25 of it. And -- because we harvest the same herd. And

1 -- and one (1) of the things that -- that's been a
2 problem, I mentioned that in the beginning, is that if
3 you leave out user groups to make some of these
4 decisions, then it just -- it get -- it gets harder
5 for Aboriginal groups to accept anything. Because it
6 -- they feel like it's imposed on them. So I think
7 it's better if you involve groups.

8 And I'm just wondering how you came
9 about -- you said it was a joint proposal. The
10 ENR/Tlicho joint proposal. So I just -- I was just
11 wondering how you came about that and why weren't the
12 Sahtu Secretariat part of it. That's one (1) question
13 and I have another one.

14 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge, ENR.
15 Thank you, Chief Kenny, for that question. The reason
16 for the difference is because of the difference in the
17 two (2) land claim agreements. So the Tlicho
18 agreement is a land claim and self-government
19 agreement. And under that agreement the process for
20 wildlife management requires us, where we can, to put
21 a joint proposal in front of the Wek'eezhii Renewable
22 Resources Board.

23 And so that's the process that we use.
24 Under the Sahtu land claim use, the Sahtu agreement
25 our relationship is with the Sahtu Renewable Resources

1 Board. And we go directly through it. So it --
2 that's the difference. It's because one (1) is a
3 self-government agreement, as well as a land claim
4 agreement.

5 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: Thank you.
6 Leonard Kenny, SRRB again. This is an allocation
7 question. Can you talk about the approach taken in
8 developing the recommended harvest allocations,
9 including strength and weaknesses in the approach?
10 How does ENR assess the two (2) alternative formulas
11 that's recommended at the user group's meeting?

12 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Lynda Yonge, ENR.
13 Thank you. It's a good question. When we did the
14 initial allocation, the first proposed allocation, our
15 understanding was that there was an extremely small
16 and rare harvest on the part of the Inuvialuit group
17 that they didn't really harvest the Bluenose East herd
18 very often, although perhaps in the past there had
19 been. And so we gave them a lower rating in terms of
20 the criteria that we used.

21 And we used criteria -- maybe more
22 specific criteria for each of the groups that had a
23 small historical harvest, and divided it up. When we
24 had -- and -- and so we took the total amount of
25 caribou. We took a proportion that seemed

1 appropriate. We used some common sense to make sure
2 that everybody was getting full caribou, and not one
3 and a half (1 1/2) caribou or twenty (20) in a
4 quarter.

5 And so the -- the percentages may be --
6 looked a little bit odd, or very specific, but it was
7 because we wanted to make sure that it made sense.
8 That everybody was able to harvest full animals.

9 When we had the meeting of all the user
10 groups, the Inuvialuit put forward the idea that some
11 of those allocations then meant that they -- their
12 groups -- it wasn't worth it to them to harvest at
13 that low level. And so they wanted to have a minimum
14 allocation -- a minimum proportion given to them so
15 that it would always make sense for them to have a
16 harvest.

17 And so it was -- it was put out to the
18 group. There were a number of groups that agreed,
19 some that didn't. And so we proposed that everybody
20 go and discuss it with their leadership and their
21 communities, and come back with recommendation.

22 When ENR did that proposed allocation,
23 we did it with what we felt was the best information
24 we had at the time. And we have always said that if
25 there is a different allocation that -- that all the

1 groups can agree on, we'd be more than happy to adopt
2 that allocation.

3 CHIEF LEONARD KENNY: Thank you. I
4 never seen a live half a caribou before, so I don't
5 know where -- where that half came from.

6 My last question I guess: In terms of
7 muskox, have -- have ENR did any studies in terms of
8 impact on the caribou habitat? I know there's a lot
9 of concerns in the Sahtu region. We have a lot of
10 musk ox, so you always hear reports of taking over of
11 the caribou habitat -- habitat area.

12 So I'm just wondering if ENR -- is
13 there any studies under way, or stuff like that, for
14 that?

15 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
16 with ENR. That issue has come up in various places in
17 the north, Alaska, the Northwest Territories, and
18 various places. We have done studies in the past,
19 mostly up in the Inuvik region. Banks Island where
20 there was for many years an expanding musk ox
21 population, and smaller caribou population.

22 And a number of studies in other areas,
23 and they all -- they generally suggest that these
24 animals have -- tend to be in different places, and
25 they tend to eat different foods. On the arctic

1 islands, they've co-existed for many thousands of
2 years, and on some of the islands -- Bathurst Island
3 comes to mind, I mean, occasionally they have had some
4 hard winters and then both of them die in big numbers.

5 So I guess the scientific information
6 at least that we have, the studies that have been done
7 in various places would suggest fundamentally these
8 are two (2) very different animals. They tend to feed
9 on different kinds of plants. And sometimes you may
10 see musk oxen go up, caribou go down, but our
11 information at least generally would suggest that that
12 happens for different reasons.

13 And we haven't found any evidence yet
14 that somehow musk-oxen are just really bad for
15 caribou. And again, keep in mind they've both been on
16 that tundra landscape for many thousands of years.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Les...?

18 MS. LESLIE ALLEN: My name is Leslie
19 Allen, and I'm with the Board. And I have -- I am
20 curious about Nunavut in terms of -- it's been brought
21 up several times, and about having meetings with
22 Nunavut. And my question for you is: Does their data
23 support your data in terms of the decline and the
24 forecasts?

25 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, thank

1 you, Ms. Allen. Bruno Croft, ENR North Slave. We
2 actually conduct those surveys together jointly, so
3 they've been part of the Bathurst and the Bluenose
4 East surveys in the past. They were here this June.

5 And they also do the surveys on the
6 Qamanirjuaq herd. We helped them out last year. That
7 herd is also declining, probably the biggest herd
8 we've got left in central Canada, from three hundred
9 and fifty thousand (350,000) in 2008 to two hundred
10 and sixty thousand (260,000) animals as per last year
11 led by a Nunavut biologist, this one. And they
12 conducted a pretty comprehensive survey in the Queen
13 Maud Gulf in -- in 2011 that gave us the latest number
14 we have on the Beverly and Ahiak herds.

15 So we work together all the time
16 jointly. We compliment each other, support each other
17 when we can. Certainly on the follow to the
18 protection of the caribou calving grounds they are
19 leading force, and we're helping them out. And so I'm
20 -- I'm not sure if I answered the question here, Ms.
21 Allen.

22 But the declines that we're seeing
23 across the landscape, most of those herds is using is
24 based on -- on methods that are the same done at the
25 same time, during calving or post-calving, and it's

1 consistent across the board, so in a nutshell, Ms.
2 Allen.

3 MS. LESLEY ALLEN: Thank you. Can I
4 ask one (1) more question?

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, go ahead.

6 MS. LESLEY ALLEN: Okay. Thank you
7 very much. I have one (1) more question, and it has
8 to do with your proposal. As you can see today, the
9 whole topic about communication and education is
10 important both ways, both from a scientific
11 perspective, and also from TK perspective. And
12 getting the views of the communities and engaging with
13 the communities impor -- is important.

14 And we haven't seen much in your
15 proposal in this whole area of education and
16 communication. So we're wondering what sort of --
17 what you plan to do. Is it going to business as usual
18 or is it going -- are there going to be changes over
19 the next year or -- or further? Thank you.

20 MS. HEATHER SAYNE-CRAWFORD: So we've
21 been trying really hard to -- to work a lot more with
22 the communities in the region. So working on the
23 Deline plan I've been at many of Deline's meetings to
24 talk about their plan and to hear their concerns and
25 to start working on things about communication and

1 public education.

2 So we actually did have our officer do
3 a sight-in-your-rifle event in December. So we're
4 trying to -- to use these opportunities to get out and
5 work with people and work with Deline RRC and Land
6 Corp. and First Nations.

7 This isn't the only things we want to
8 do. We would like to see any recommendations that you
9 would have. And we would love to work more closely
10 with the Board and the communities in any types of
11 public education and communication ventures you see.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Paul...?

13 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Paul Latour,
14 Board member. I'm interested in your opinions or the
15 most recent thinking in the caribou world on the
16 impacts of wildfire on -- on the winter range in
17 particular. And earlier in the presentation I heard a
18 comment that kind of reflected the old line of, you
19 know, a fire roars through an area, and it's not
20 really of much interest or use to caribou as useful
21 habitat for forty (40) years minimum.

22 But then there's been more recent
23 research done, I believe, that would seem to maybe
24 indicate that, well, no, an area -- depending on the
25 nature of the fire and whatnot, but an area that --

1 that's get -- that gets raised by fire is not
2 necessary a no-go zone for caribou in terms of useful
3 habitat.

4 That they -- they may, in fact, within
5 a year or two (2) start moving into these areas and
6 using unburned areas, lake edges and -- and that kind
7 of thing. The sedge stands that escape the fire, and
8 islands within the burn that -- islands of unburned
9 forest, and that kind of thing.

10 So -- so that's maybe a little bit of a
11 contradiction to some of the -- the older thinking
12 about the effects of fire. And then even in your --
13 one (1) of your IR responses, there was a -- a comment
14 in there, and I quote:

15 "Fire modelling in Alaska. It is
16 suggested that a greater frequency
17 of large fire years may, over time,
18 have adverse effects on caribou
19 winter range."

20 So that's kind of maybe getting back to
21 sort of the older thinking about, you know, that fire
22 is not very good for caribou, and kind of renders what
23 was previously good winter habitat not of a great deal
24 of use to caribou for quite a long time.

25 So just kind of -- if I could get some

1 sort of -- some opinions from you on -- on that issue,
2 I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

3 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave. Dr. Latour,
5 thank you. I'll -- I'll start, and perhaps others can
6 jump in.

7 Perhaps the best and most comprehensive
8 work that we can rely on on the impact of -- of fires
9 on -- on winter habitat came from Dr. Don Thomas in
10 the '80s and early '90s in the caribou ranges of Fort
11 Smith.

12 And we learned a lot about frequency of
13 fires, how long it takes for the habitat to come back
14 to age. And perhaps the main conclusion that came
15 from the massive amount of work he did then was the
16 fires on the wintering range will affect movement and
17 distribution of the caribou, but would not impact the
18 conditions, or their ability to have calves, putting
19 on fat, and that sort of thing.

20 More recently we had a graduate
21 student, Ms. Tara Barrier, who took another angle to
22 this -- to this study. And the -- she looked at
23 habitat used by Bathurst caribou in the winter time in
24 recent fires, and fires of older years. And again,
25 she came to -- her results showed that caribou will do

1 the -- make the odd incursion within the area recently
2 burned, but always staying in periphery, or close to
3 old growth forest.

4 So to date, it -- it -- I can't say
5 what we know is conclusive, but it does appear that we
6 continue to see the impact of fire as a -- as an
7 infringement of movement and distribution, but we
8 can't say for sure yet if it does affect all the other
9 demographics.

10 It -- it makes sense in a commutative
11 effect context. That it all adds up, especially if --
12 if the summer range is not all that good. But we
13 can't say for sure if it does have a major impact.

14 What we've seen in recent years, we had
15 the same question not too long ago, Mr. Latour, Paul -
16 - Dr. Latour. Those big fires we had in 2014. The
17 fire behaviour indices were so high that even -- I was
18 keeping track of this because we had a few unburned,
19 untouched patch of old growth forests that I really
20 didn't want to see burning, because we had Bathurst
21 caribou staying there in the winter.

22 And it went through in spite a massive
23 amount of fire suppression. So there is still a lot
24 of habitat left on the Bluenose East range. They
25 haven't been impacted. Winter habitat, old growth

1 forests. And for me, I do seek refuge in the fact
2 that those big fires we had in the 1970s will come to
3 being usable again in the winter in terms of lichen
4 biomass within ten (10) years or so, as we have found
5 out from Dr. Thomas's work.

6 And the big fires we had in the 1990s
7 that were more -- more or less in terms of size what
8 we saw in 2014. We're twenty (20) years away from
9 having that lichen biomass coming back into -- into
10 effect, and -- and get the winter habitat being
11 better.

12 It's a hard question to evaluate, Mr. -
13 - Dr. Latour. How this clim -- climate change will
14 affect everything, we don't know. We do see fire
15 behaviour that we used to never see before. People
16 say fire frequency is changing. Instead of having a
17 fire cycle of fifty (50), or sixty (60), or a hundred
18 years, it -- it become maybe thirty (30) or forty (40)
19 years.

20 We've seen fires going through areas
21 that have burned not all that long ago. So where are
22 we going? I'm not sure. But it falls into what Dr.
23 Adamczewski was saying earlier: Where is climate
24 change taking us? Would fire behaviour impact on the
25 summer range, and everything else that the caribou

1 depend on?

2 That's my answer, Dr. Latour. Perhaps
3 others have something else to add.

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. I think Bruno's
6 covered the subject pretty well. I thought I would
7 just add a little bit by mentioning those two (2)
8 papers that I think you referenced, both of which are
9 fairly recent and came from Alaska.

10 And what they did is they were --
11 they're fire modelling papers. They're trying to
12 project, What's the future going to look like on
13 caribou winter range in Alaska? And it's a little bit
14 unnerving because, if you look at the way fires burn,
15 you get a lot of years where there's a few fires, not
16 too much, and then you get the big ones like 2014.

17 And those are the years -- that's when
18 most of the burning happens. And what the modelling
19 from Alaska was projecting was more years like that.
20 And that, basically a consequence or something that
21 goes with a warming climate.

22 So if we get more years like 2014, if
23 that starts happening more often, maybe at some point
24 we get to the point where there simply isn't enough
25 good winter range to sustain our caribou herds.

1 And now maybe just one (1) more point.
2 A Tara Barrier study that Bruno talked about, some of
3 her study did reference that there was some use of --
4 of recently burned areas, particularly those burns
5 that are not sort of down to the mineral soil, where
6 there are pockets left.

7 And, you know, you see this on
8 landscapes sometimes. There's kind of these fingers
9 of fire, and some evidence that caribou at least use
10 those areas, and even not that long after -- after a
11 fire.

12 But her overall sort of evaluation for
13 the Bathurst winter range was that there were lots of
14 areas with abundant lichen so that, in general, the --
15 the herd's winter range was in very good shape at that
16 time.

17 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for -
18 - for those answers. I appreciate it. Thanks.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. George, do
20 you -- do you have a question?

21 ELDER GEORGE BARNABY: Yeah. Okay.
22 So my question's regarding the -- the quota on the
23 caribou and the allocations. And what happened in our
24 area around Good Hope, Colville Lake was that they
25 started using tags to go hunting caribou. And people

1 were really against that.

2 So is that the plan for this quota as
3 well?

4 DR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
5 with ENR. I think what -- the way we're looking at it
6 is that we want to be flexible and work with the
7 communities on approaches that address management but
8 are acceptable to the people in the communities.

9 So in the Bathurst range, because of
10 the decline and harvest restrictions, the Tlicho
11 Government decided that they were fine using
12 authorizations except issued under the Tlicho logo,
13 under -- so controlled by Tlicho Government.

14 And we also had authorizations through
15 the Yellowknives Dene. They didn't want government
16 tags, but they were okay with authorizations that the
17 Chief would sign off on.

18 And we understand from the Deline Plan,
19 there's a dislike of tags, as such, and some
20 discussion of using the sample kits, maybe coming up
21 with, you know, a list of authorized hunters. And I
22 think we're very open to a flexible approach that's
23 going to work for the Sahtu communities.

24 ELDER GEORGE BARNABY: Okay, thank
25 you. And the -- the next question I had was about

1 collaring, another big subject. Last year, when we --
2 was that last year when we met at Colville, anyway.
3 We had a caribou meeting, and they were talking about
4 collaring and suggesting using people that were on the
5 land to point out where the caribou were instead of
6 using collaring.

7 So I never heard any more about it
8 after that meeting. So you guys know about that?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MS. HEATHER SAYNE-CRAWFORD: So --

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: You guys -- oh, go
14 ahead. Go ahead there, Heather.

15 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Oh,
16 sorry. It's Heather Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. And
17 so I've seen the resolutions that came out of both the
18 Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope meetings on caribou.
19 And those were both last year, I do believe.

20 So there were resolutions based on --
21 on collaring, that -- that the people of the Sahtu do
22 not believe in collaring and -- and don't feel that
23 ENR should be using them. And I guess I would -- I
24 would like to talk to people in the communities
25 further about your suggestion about people pointing

1 out where they are and giving us that information.

2 We talked about it a little bit before,
3 but we -- there are issues with, I guess, traditional
4 knowledge and who owns it and -- and using -- and how
5 we use that and, yeah, the issues on the rights on
6 that.

7 ELDER GEORGE BARNABY: Yeah, thank
8 you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, George. I
10 don't know, Keith, do you have a question? No? Paul,
11 do you have another follow-up question, and then
12 Colin?

13 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Yes, Paul
14 Latour, Board member. You described the fairly
15 elaborate system of rewards for wolf pelts brought in
16 depending on the quality and the -- the amount of
17 handling the -- the hide had received from the
18 harvester.

19 I'm just wondering, is this kind of a
20 made-in-the-NWT experiment? Has it ever -- has it
21 ever been tried before? Did it work? How -- how
22 confident are you that this is going to really make
23 much difference to wolf harvesting and numbers that
24 come in, dead wolves that come in? Thank you.

25 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Thank you, Paul.

1 Lynda Yonge, ENR. I'm not aware of this approach
2 being used anywhere else. The way it was developed is
3 we initially -- we've been hearing from people in
4 communities, many communities, and particularly in the
5 Tlicho area, that there are too many wolves and they
6 want something done about the wolves.

7 We -- when we talked to people about
8 harvesting wolves, we heard that it was too much work,
9 and there weren't very many people who could do it,
10 and people really weren't very interested in
11 harvesting wolves.

12 And so after a -- a series of
13 discussions, we, two (2) years ago, I think, came up
14 with an initial increased incentive where -- thinking
15 that maybe if people had more incentive, that they
16 would be encouraged more wolves, and at least we would
17 be harvesting some of the wolves, and it didn't work
18 very well. We got very little more uptake.

19 So we talked again to people to find
20 out why they weren't harvesting wolves. We put a six
21 hundred dollar (\$600) incentive in. And we thought,
22 six hundred dollars (\$600), that's pretty good. I
23 know that in the south, in areas where they've tried
24 to encourage wolf harvest, the incentives are much
25 lower.

1 And it turned out that the requirements
2 to put wolf pelts into the Mackenzie Valley Genuine
3 Fur Program were such that it was too much work for
4 people, and that not very many people were actually
5 skilled at fleshing out a wolf pelt to those
6 standards. And people wanted to be able to be able to
7 bring in wolves that they had -- they had skinned in
8 the traditional way. And so that's how we came up
9 with what we have right now.

10 There were also people who said, yeah,
11 they would be interested in hunting wolves, but they
12 really didn't want to skin the wolves. And so that's
13 why we have now put up the lowest level where you can
14 bring in a wolf. It still needs to be a wolf in good
15 prime condition, and there'll be professional skimmers
16 that then skin those out.

17 The intent was to provide a bigger
18 range of opportunity for people to harvest wolves if
19 they wanted to, while still making sure that the
20 wolves were not wasted, that they were still going
21 into the fur program. The other thing that's
22 connected to that incentive program is more of a push
23 towards using particularly that middle category where
24 they're skinned out in traditional ways for local
25 craftspeople. So ENR and ITI are working together to

1 try to use some of those pelts for things like parka
2 trim, uniforms for Arctic winter games, things like
3 that. So that those pelts are used in a -- that --
4 that they're effectively used.

5 THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Thank -- thank
6 you. Yeah.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Masi,
8 everybody, for questions that's been forwarded to ENR.
9 And I'd like to thank ENR for answering all the
10 questions and maybe tonight at seven o'clock we're
11 going to have a public forum. So there might be more
12 questions from the public to ENR. So expect some
13 questions tonight from the public. Okay. We're --
14 we're going to five o'clock, so what -- what we're
15 thinking of doing is maybe take a break right now.
16 And then supper is going to be at 5:30.

17 And then we're going to meet where the
18 public can ask questions tonight to the -- the panels
19 here. And then tomorrow we'll start up again in the
20 morning with Deline. Deline is going to do their
21 presentation. And Good Hope is going to be arriving
22 tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. So right after
23 Deline. Maybe Deline might be all day, I'm not sure.
24 But the other communities will be given the -- a -- a
25 chance to do a presentation.

1 So I think that's all I have right now.
2 I think that's it for to -- today till later on at --
3 tonight at seven o'clock. So I'd like to thank
4 everybody for their participation. Masi cho. And
5 we'll see you later on tonight. Okay? Masi.

6 Lynda...?

7 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Mr. Chair, just to
8 clarify. I wasn't listening. The public forum is in
9 this room?

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

11 MS. LYNDA YONGE: Yeah. Okay.

12

13 --- Upon recessing at 4:40 p.m.

14 --- Upon resuming at 7:05 p.m.

15

16 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: So if there's
18 anybody out there, public, who wants to ask questions
19 to anybody, anybody, just feel free to come up to the
20 mic or to ask questions. (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE
21 SPOKEN).

22 So what -- what I'm going to do is I'm
23 going to open up the -- the floor. This is for
24 anybody. Even the groups around the table here, too,
25 can ask questions to each other.

1 Morris, you want to start off? Morris?

2 Okay. Go ahead. Okay. English. Okay. It's okay.

3 MR. MORRIS NEYELLE: Hi. My name is
4 Morris Neyelle. I've been a -- I'm on band counsel,
5 DLC, and chartered -- chartered community, and also
6 I've been involved with Deline uranium team.

7 The issue I want to bring up is the old
8 mine sites that's been abandoned for last thirty (30),
9 forty (40) years. And one (1) of them is the clean-up
10 part in Port Radium.

11 I know the people been infected by the
12 radioactive waste they've been exposed to during the
13 years in '30s, '40s, and it also wiped out a lot of
14 our ancestors, our grandfathers, grandmothers, and so
15 on.

16 But so far, I never heard anybody say,
17 Maybe it does affect the caribou and the animals
18 that's around that area also. Because their migrating
19 route is through that area every year, so why isn't
20 something done about it? Why aren't we being told
21 maybe it's infecting the caribou herd also? If it had
22 affected our people, then it should affect our -- the
23 caribou also.

24 I've talked to scientists way back in
25 '70s, '80s, '90s, and they say the uranium tailings

1 that are left behind that weren't cleaned up will be
2 there for another eight hundred thousand (800,000)
3 years for half of it to go. Until then, it will
4 affect whatever's on it.

5 And something needs to be done it would
6 also affect our people, animals that are around it. I
7 know because I -- I've seen it. I've heard it from
8 the Elders that had passed on a few years back.

9 It affected the women back there that
10 were living there back in during the war, Second World
11 War, that war over there. And they saw a lot of
12 stillborns, deformity, and because they've been
13 exposed to radioactive waste there.

14 It must affect the caribou, but so far
15 the government isn't saying anything. Maybe that's
16 the problem, not only with that area, but all the
17 other remaining abandoned uranium mine sites around
18 that area.

19 And we are the ones that are using the
20 animals, and to this day our people are still affected
21 by the cancer. Where's it coming from? I don't know.
22 But I know my -- my grandfathers, uncles all passed
23 away because of that. And if my people died because
24 of that, the caribou must have died, or died because
25 of that.

1 I know the government had made a clean-
2 up in that area, and they put a sign there. I think
3 it says that it's a radioactive mine.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. MORRIS NEYELLE: But I don't think
8 the caribou can read that.

9 So my concern is that we need -- the
10 only solution we as a Dene people is we need to get
11 somebody we trust because of what had happened to not
12 only me but my people.

13 I'm going -- I'm going to be honest
14 with you because my trust with the government is nil
15 because of what had happened to us. We need somebody
16 that can tell us there's a problem.

17 If you want to deal with caribou herd
18 right across the country, it has to be done as a
19 whole. Deline itself can't do it, Colville Lake
20 itself can't do it, including Tliche Territory.

21 We need to come together and put a stop
22 to this as a whole, Nunavut, too, because I was
23 telling myself, Why are we trying to do what others --
24 seems like others don't even care? What's the point?

25 And then I'm also telling myself that

1 if these laws are put on us, do I make myself a
2 poacher by hunting, including the rest of the hunters?
3 It's going to be a problem. It will be a problem.
4 You need to look into it more so that people can
5 understand. You need to ask questions with the
6 Elders. The Elders are the scientists for us. They
7 know. They know all these things.

8 They've been saying that since 1970
9 when the Indian brotherhood was created, I think.
10 They said all these things, but it wasn't interpreted
11 right, so that's why it's never been believed in. But
12 they've been telling what we've been saying today,
13 same thing.

14 But that's -- that's a concern I have
15 because of what -- it had effect on my people. And if
16 it does affect my people, it must affect the animals
17 that's around there. And the caribou are the main
18 ones that goes through every year. Every spring they
19 go through there, every year. But to this day,
20 nobody's -- nobody comes up and says, Well, we found a
21 dead caribou. Where is it going?

22 I know it's going to be a problem, but
23 I keep asking myself, through the Elders, through the
24 prophets, these animals are rented out to you for your
25 own use. You take care of it well. That's what they

1 say. And it had always been like that.

2 We took care of it well, but the -- the
3 industries came. The oil companies came. The seismic
4 crew came. They destroyed all the land. You could
5 see -- you could fly over all these lines all over the
6 place. And they're only there for one (1) thing is to
7 get what's on our land, the resources. Once they get
8 it out, forget about you.

9 We're in that situation now. They're
10 not coming back. Once the caribou's gone, they're not
11 going to feed you.

12 But we need to come together to make it
13 better for our younger kids, our next generation. I
14 keep telling them, What are we leaving them for
15 tomorrow? Not only for our kids, but for your kids,
16 too.

17 Money's not going to solve everything.
18 If we have the land, the water, and what animals on
19 it, we can survive with nothing because we have that.
20 And we as Aboriginal people have to stand in front of
21 them and protect them as much as we can.

22 I know sometimes people bring issues
23 like treaty rights. Sure, that's fine. But even
24 though you have treaty rights, do you kill the last
25 caribou that's standing? No. You leave some for

1 tomorrow. That's what we're trying to do.

2 But it has to right across -- across
3 the territories. We have to come together as one (1).
4 The Elders, their prophets had always said it's to
5 come together as one (1), and you can move things.
6 Deline can't do it un -- unless we come together
7 because the caribou roams all across. They don't know
8 no boundaries.

9 So we need to come with a better
10 solution, better ways of understanding. But you need
11 to consult the Elders, the Dene people, because they
12 have lived with it.

13 But, I mean, the one (1) thing that
14 always bothered was this radioactive waste that are
15 left behind. Maybe it is affecting our caribou. I
16 don't know. I'm not a scientist, but if I see my
17 people still dying of cancer, bone cancer, then that's
18 where it's coming from.

19 But would the government come and say,
20 Well, that's where it come? No. They're not going to
21 say that. There's no way. That's why I keep asking
22 the -- the Land Corporation and other corporations,
23 Let's come together and get our own independence
24 signed because that give us the right answer. Maybe
25 we can find something.

1 And with that, I'd like -- I'd like to
2 say thank you for coming here and listening me out
3 because it's always been a problem, not only with me
4 but other communities, too.

5 We need to come together as one, and we
6 can move things. That's what the Elders said --
7 always said: You come together, guaranteed you will
8 move. But alone we can't do it, because caribou give
9 us everything. They give us clothing, they give us
10 tools, they give us food, they give us drum songs.
11 Without caribou, what are we going to do? Life is
12 useless to me.

13 So with that, masi nakerehsi. Thank
14 you for hearing me out. And this radioactive waste
15 need to be dealt with. It's not only Port Radium, but
16 there's a lot of abandoned mines right across that
17 area, right down the river. But Port Radium is the
18 main one where the main caribou herd migration goes
19 through there. It's not only affecting the caribou,
20 but the fish, the birds, what's on it.

21 Masi. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Anybody from around
23 the table or -- that would like to talk to what Morris
24 just talked about? Just feel free to speak to what
25 Morris just said. (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

1 Okay. Guzikula (phonetic). Anybody?

2 Leon...? Go ahead, Leon. (NORTH
3 SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 ELDER LEON MODESTE: Thank you. My
8 people, all the people that are here, this is an Elder
9 from Deline, Leon Modeste. I just -- I just wanted to
10 ask a few questions, those who are with ENR and the
11 Board.

12 You are also con -- our people. Us --
13 us, too. We are all human. If we are going to be
14 standing together, we're going to need to be strong,
15 like Maurice said. We -- you all said that.

16 When we're talking, discussing things
17 like today, and those messages that are very important
18 and strong, then that is the way we should go. We are
19 not just talking for today or tomorrow. We're talking
20 in future generations.

21 And so when I'm talking to you, for me,
22 I'm eighty-three (83) years old. All those years I've
23 lived here in this community, Deline. Where are
24 animal going to live, hunt, and fish, I know all
25 those. Not only me, all -- including all my Elders.

1 Because they -- the love they have
2 together, they all help each other and work together.
3 For me, my grandfather is from Good Hope. My mom is
4 from here, and my father.

5 When Elders go around on this land,
6 they go everywhere. When -- they were very happy
7 together and grateful that, that is how they work
8 together.

9 Today you are talking about wildlife.
10 They go -- they everywhere. We can't really monitor
11 every one of them because they go everywhere. When we
12 eat the food, we're thankful.

13 My people and -- and my ancestors never
14 talk about wildlife. When -- it says that when we
15 talk about it, it will change. It will change.
16 That's what they said. And now here we are.

17 But when -- when we think about it and
18 we come to some sort of a conclusion and make a very
19 great recommendation to work together, if they are
20 beside each other and one is on the other side and one
21 is on the other side, it will never be -- there will
22 be -- it will never be working together. It is for
23 the future generation.

24 We still have two (2) days here. We --
25 we eat our food. You are the ones who are going to be

1 talking about this, and we need you to discuss
2 together and come out with a -- we are not asking you
3 to go away somewhere else. We are asking you to come
4 to us and work with us. When we work together, the --
5 the solution also come -- come from us as Aboriginal
6 people. We know what is ours.

7 You are the ones who are working with
8 us, and you sit here with us and help us with certain
9 things. When it is -- things are difficult that we
10 don't understand, then you help us. It will be there
11 forever for us. If you don't help us, we'll --
12 they'll -- it'll be going back and forth like this.
13 It will be like waves. It will go -- it will never be
14 fixed. It'll go up and down.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 ELDER LEON MODESTE: And so let it so
19 that it does not happen. If it sits there -- if it's
20 come out really well, everybody will be very, very
21 thankful. We are very thankful for you to be here.
22 But when you work together, you should not be telling
23 us, Do this, do that. Do this, do that. That is the
24 one (1) thing that I think about.

25 There is nothing that we are thinking

1 against anything that you do. If we are working
2 together as white people, how we work -- we work that
3 way. That is how we are working towards...

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 ELDER LEON MODESTE: So if you keep
8 going back and forth, going -- and then telling us to
9 go do this and do that, and it will become difficult
10 for us. We'll be thinking about it constantly. It
11 will be -- it won't be really good for our future
12 generation. It is -- it is not only for our children,
13 it is also including all your children.

14 When the Prophet A (phonetic) has
15 spoke, he -- he prophesies that it -- it will become
16 very, very difficult. You will run out of food. It
17 will become dark. Who is going to fix it? Once it
18 gets dark, you cannot see a thing. Maybe a month, two
19 (2) months, we don't know.

20 The same thing when we have -- we run
21 out of food. For that reason, we should work
22 together. If we work together, it is said that we
23 will come to live together very well. When we listen
24 to each other, things will be good. If we don't
25 listen to each other, both sides would suffer.

1 But however, when you listen to our
2 Elders and let us work together, and our children will
3 be thankful.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 ELDER LEON MODESTE: My -- our future
8 generation would thank you for you to be sitting
9 there, coming out for solution with this.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 ELDER LEON MODESTE: However, if you
14 both don't listen to each other, our future generation
15 will suffer. Let -- let this not happen. Come out
16 with a very good solution. There is a spiritual
17 guide, and words from Elders.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 ELDER LEON MODESTE: And if you come
22 up with a solution, it will be there for a really long
23 time. You young people that are sitting here, you
24 don't seem to be speaking about the future
25 information. I am not saying that you -- you do not

1 know what you're saying, but you're leaving out what
2 the Elders are trying to say. You -- you are to
3 listen to that information and hold onto it and try to
4 figure out what the Elder is trying to say.

5 And the other thing, when you're
6 talking about the caribou and wolf, we have had a
7 meeting on this before. When we talk about wolf, they
8 both had a meeting together and they told each other.
9 We said the -- the caribou would not be here. And the
10 caribou said, No.

11 All the people eat our food. And --
12 and he also talked to diga and said, You also eat my
13 food. Until this day, this message is still the same,
14 and it's going to be there for time immemorial. For
15 this message to be here for time immemorial, we have
16 to listen and work together.

17 Us Dene people, as non-Aboriginal
18 people, let's -- let's come together. Let us not fall
19 to the bottom as Aboriginal people. Let us be on the
20 same playing field and come out with how it's going to
21 go. For us, also, that it would be up to us.

22 You probably come from various
23 different places, like Ottawa. That land is yours.
24 That's your home. As Aboriginal people, that -- and
25 as we go to your land, and you -- tell you to do this,

1 and do this, and build this way, and look after your
2 wildlife this way. Well, for us, we -- it will never
3 come to -- to that point. They would -- we would
4 never do that. As Aboriginal people, we love people,
5 and wildlife, and everybody.

6 When people eat, we say, Thank you.
7 And those person that are not -- that are not feeling
8 well, we think about them and try to feed them. When
9 the person who is not feeling well is eating, then we
10 say, Thank you. And let us not quibble about things.

11 When we eat our food -- and you should
12 -- let's -- there's a -- there's a whole bunch of
13 things that are to talk about on this -- on this
14 world, but for our wildlife, there's all kinds of
15 wildlife. Everything that lives on this land is
16 alive, including trees, even rocks. Even there's a --
17 a tree there. And they'll talk to the tree and say,
18 Let us grow together.

19 When the person is a hundred years old
20 and goes back to that same tree, now it's grown. And
21 he comes to there again and becomes a child again, and
22 he lived til -- through -- for two hundred (200) years
23 along -- along with the tree. Along -- and all my
24 life don't speak. For us as people, we speak -- when
25 we speak to animal, they won't speak back to us, even

1 though he's suffering.

2 My people, I am thankful for you all
3 being here. If you all come together -- I'm giving
4 you this message for this reason, so that you can all
5 work together. When we come out to there's something,
6 we want -- we are here because we want to live by it.
7 Things that we live by. It -- we -- we think a lot
8 about it when people come to talk to us about our
9 food.

10 Even children. I've listened to
11 children speaking about it. They say, Why are they
12 saying this? What's going to happen in the future?
13 If we stand together and be united, even young people
14 are talking about it in town now. So if you are going
15 to be writing to us about -- we don't talk about that.
16 We can't talk about this -- when you -- it says, yes,
17 then you -- it sounds like they've already agreed.

18 When we're talking on the phone, we
19 can't -- there's only one (1) person that's on the
20 other end talking to you when you're on the phone. If
21 there is three (3) people just decide on a solution,
22 then it's not going to be working really well.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 ELDER LEON MODESTE: In the Sahtu
2 region, I wonder how many people are here? Probably
3 about nine hundred (900) people in -- around this --
4 this place. Half of them probably don't hear. Half
5 of us don't know how to read. We don't -- nobody
6 calls us on the phone. And so now you are allowed
7 only a hundred for about nine hundred (900) people.

8

9

(BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 ELDER LEON MODESTE: In our -- for our
12 different -- in the past, when the -- they made
13 caribou, they are happy about caribou. They make --
14 make dry meat. Have food. They have about three
15 thousand (3,000), four thousand (4,000), about that
16 much. They live a whole year on that. And the dogs
17 also eat it. That's their dog team.

18 They never said there's no -- no
19 caribou. Every few years, about three (3) years, you
20 don't really see that much of them. And they'll come
21 to us. Once a year -- one (1) -- one (1) year, two
22 (2) year, they'll come to us.

23 Right at the present time, across --
24 across the way, there's lots of caribou. They'll be
25 going there. They'll make dry meat about April, and

1 about to Easter, and then they'll be make -- be making
2 dry meat. That's -- and then they bring a whole bunch
3 -- and then they bring it back here and they live with
4 that all summer.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 ELDER LEON MODESTE: So as we are here
9 for this meeting, I want -- I would really appreciate
10 it if all of you have come to a conclusion, some sort
11 of solution to work with each other. And -- and just
12 don't leave without making some kind of decision.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 ELDER LEON MODESTE: We are Dene. We
17 don't grow things. In the south, there's a lot of
18 people that grow things, we're not like that. We
19 don't grow things. We have to work really hard to
20 have food on our table. If you don't work, you won't
21 be able to have food on your table, including with
22 vone (phonetic).

23 So as -- as Dene people, we work
24 really, really hard. The people from Colville Lake,
25 all my -- my people that spoke, please come to a

1 conclusion. Don't let them -- don't not make a
2 decision that is not for each other, that works
3 together for both sides, and gather -- and be together
4 to go to the end.

5

6 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
7 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 ELDER LEON MODESTE: For now, what I
12 am saying, they said it is -- they said that it --
13 there's quorum on the caribou. So if we keep going to
14 get -- and now it's not really like that. So if we
15 can come up with a solution, let us -- that it -- that
16 would not happen.

17 As Dene people, when -- when we get
18 something, we will -- something that is -- where we
19 are very respectful of it. Since last -- last year, I
20 haven't even killed one (1) caribou yet. I -- it's
21 given to me.

22 I think about it, and next year, about
23 April, I was thinking of going with the people. I
24 want -- I will go with my -- and I will come -- I'll
25 go there and make some dry meat. I was thinking about

1 that. And now we may not be able to. So let's not
2 that -- let that happen.

3 What I'm talking to you, like I said --
4 come up with a solution and be together so that all of
5 them -- all of you can be happy about it. And also
6 think about our ancestors' information and our Elders'
7 information.

8

9 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
10 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 ELDER LEON MODESTE: And our prophets
15 had said -- even people that are not here, they have
16 talked about them. Even though they are not here, it
17 -- they're -- they're probably here with us, but we
18 don't know that.

19

20 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
21 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 ELDER LEON MODESTE: That is what they

1 have talked about.

2 If we are -- if we think better of each
3 other, you will be thought of better by them. So
4 maybe tomorrow, maybe I can talk to you again
5 tomorrow, but this is all what I'm going to say. But
6 at -- at the present time, I -- when we're hunting,
7 it's not closed yet. How we hunt, we have -- you have
8 to work -- work on it.

9 When we work on -- when we stand
10 together, you stand together and work on it, we will
11 all be thankful for each other. So this is all I'm
12 going to say.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Leon.

17 Joe...? Joe Bernard, from Tulita.

18

19 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 ELDER JOE BERNARD: I agree with what
22 is being said around here. I agree with the words
23 that are being said here at the table. We -- when we
24 kill things that we need, we don't kill any more than
25 that. And when we kill things, we don't just throw it

1 outside. And how many we're going to eat, how many
2 we're going to make for dry meat, we don't shoot any
3 more than what we need.

4 And so -- and he says that I -- this is
5 not the way it goes. You can't -- you will have to
6 work together and stuff like that. You can't send
7 papers to people and say this is the way it's going to
8 be done. This is not the way to work together.

9 The people -- the person that is --
10 lives on and has been raised on this land and talks
11 about the animals, and including the fish and
12 ptarmigans and moose, all these things we used, and
13 this is what we were raised with. And it's not like
14 that today. Everything that is bought today is bought
15 at the -- at the stores.

16 And so we are -- and so -- and so --
17 and now they're saying that there is a lot of caribou
18 across there, but we can't -- we can't go and confront
19 them. He said that you can't -- that we can't keep
20 talking to you like this again and again. And then
21 turn around -- turn around to us and...

22 On the -- on the...

23

24 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM

25 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

1

2

ELDER JOE BERNARD: That's what --

3

that's what the (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN) sorry.

4

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Put -- put your ear back.

5

6

(INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

7

8

ELDER JOE BERNARD: He said that is

9

the way that the caribous -- when we work -- worked on

10

Clement Lake (phonetic) in the fall time we go in

11

Tulita. We go out Clement Lake in the fall time. And

12

that's because the -- the fish from there is really

13

good. And we go there when there's a fish run for

14

about a week. And when we fill our sleds, then we go

15

back to our communities.

16

Don't worry so much about us in the --

17

in the way that we are use -- use -- we don't use our

18

animals very well, that we're wasteful. We don't play

19

with things like that up here. When we kill, we kill

20

for what we need. We don't throw things around.

21

And since we began -- since the land

22

claim, we've been talking about things that we need

23

for our future and for the people. And we put the

24

land claim in place with an election. And from there

25

-- since we've been talking about the land claim, he

1 said, Deline is working on it and getting things, and
2 not today.

3 In Tulita, we don't -- we haven't built
4 anything for ourselves since the land claims has been
5 enforced. We haven't done anything. He said, the
6 things that you're talking today, I'm seventy-nine
7 (79) years old. I've been -- he says that, I quit --
8 I -- I've been having problems with my legs, so I
9 haven't gone trapping for -- within the last five (5)
10 years I haven't been able to -- to trap.

11 We're very thankful. He says, we've
12 been talking to you, telling you things and stuff.
13 It's really important that you guys opened your ears
14 and hear what is being said to you. We are very
15 interested in continuing to talk with you and there
16 are a lot of Elders over here. And they want to...

17

18 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
19 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 ELDER JOE BERNARD: We -- we were very
24 grateful because we've been invited to come to -- and
25 he says that we were invited last week but we came to

1 this meeting because this is really important to us.
2 It's not only important for us, it's important for all
3 our people.

4 And within the last two (2) years, I
5 haven't been able to hunt. And this year, I went -- I
6 didn't go anywhere. I didn't go anywhere on the land
7 to hunt. And that's how it -- that's what happens to
8 you when you get old. When you get old, your mind
9 does all the work for you, and it -- you're -- and
10 you're physically unable to -- to carry out all these
11 things that your mind tells you you could do.

12 And he said that these are what -- the
13 things that the Elders used to say to us, and -- and
14 it didn't occur to me that it would -- it would
15 eventually become true. And I'm now thinking about
16 that. And -- and that -- the prophets had said that -
17 - he said that -- he said that people -- he said that
18 they're going to bother you and bother you, and
19 they're going to try to beat you.

20 And he said that's when I -- I heard
21 all of these when I was a young guy. And when we --
22 we heard that the prophets, the words were very, very
23 good. It is said but I was -- but he said that my
24 mother -- my mother said that I -- they used to bring
25 me to the -- to the prophets, and the prophet would

1 pat me on my house (sic) and say that, Oh why is this
2 one so on his own like? And he said I've -- I've
3 never had any brothers or sisters, no father, no
4 mother. This is what eventually happens to you.

5 And but however -- however, we were
6 able to raise our own families, he said. We were
7 still -- we still raised them. We have -- I have --
8 personally I have twenty-three (23) grandchildren.
9 And even if they don't have a job, they don't have --
10 the only way that they're going to be able to sustain
11 themselves is by having a job and that.

12 And it's really important that you
13 don't think too -- too much about this. It's
14 important to think about a way to work together. And
15 he said, You can't be the boss of that. You have to
16 let everybody help you become the boss of that. And
17 when we -- at one time we said -- we said that when
18 land claims we were going to be the boss of ourselves.

19 And since that land claim, it's -- it
20 has just happened so that we are now more susceptible
21 to the laws and the governing of other people, and not
22 to ourselves. He says, I have no idea where you guys
23 -- any one of you come from.

24 He said, I want to say thank you to
25 Leonard and Michael, and say thank you. I'd like to

1 say thank you to all the people that did
2 presentations, and spoke today. I'm an old man. I'm
3 seventy-nine (79), and I'm very thankful. I didn't
4 want to give you -- I didn't want to give you this --
5 these words and yet I felt compelled to come and speak
6 to you, and tell you how I feel.

7 And he said, I want to -- I want to
8 pray for you at least once today.

9

10 (PRAYER BY ELDER JOE BERNARD)

11

12 ELDER JOE BERNARD: Sometimes Elders
13 feel that they need help to get the leading back in --
14 on track, and so he's saying that this is how he's
15 doing it.

16

17 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Raymond Taneton,
20 come on up.

21 MR. RAYMOND TANETON: Masi. I'm one
22 of the guy that created a mess here by signing the
23 Dene/Metis claim. But again, that was over twenty
24 (20) years ago.

25 We, as Aboriginal people, of this

1 country will always have our differences between the
2 government and us because if you look at the history
3 of the Dene Nation, we fell apart back in 1990, in
4 July in Dettah, because we all had different culture
5 and different history of what -- in our own
6 territories.

7 But we, as Sahtu people, the
8 information that was put together by Deline and
9 concerned by other communities like Colville, this is
10 who we are. Nobody in the world's going to change
11 that. Nobody's going to change the colour of my face.
12 This is who I am.

13 There's a lot of issues that needs to
14 be resolved. If you look at Great Bear Lake now, the
15 ice is only like just over 3 feet. That's one (1) of
16 the climate change.

17 I know when we were negotiating back in
18 the '90s, one of our great chief named former -- lake
19 Chief George Goragin (phonetic) told us that, I want
20 you to keep my freezer. I don't -- I didn't knew what
21 he meant at that time. And I asked that question,
22 What do you mean by "freezer"? I'm talking about
23 Great Bear Lake, that's my freezer.

24 So back in twenty (20) -- over twenty
25 (20) years ago when we negotiated the Dene/Metis

1 claim, we didn't knew about what's going to happen
2 today. If you go down south to -- if you don't have a
3 dollar in your pocket, you're not going to drink a
4 coffee. You got to pay. Up here, it's different. We
5 share. This is who we are as First Nation. I shot
6 caribou this fall. I have nothing in my freezer right
7 now. I have to give it away. We're First Nation. We
8 share.

9 Nobody's going -- in the world's going
10 to change that. This is who we are. We'll always
11 have our differences between the government and us
12 because when our poor fathers signed a treaty back in
13 1921, Deline never signed a treaty. But do we agree
14 on the modern agreement? It's to implement on behalf
15 of our members, it's try to work together with the
16 government and us.

17 Poor animals, we're just discussing
18 this for so many years and like hearing some of the
19 Elders and the people speaking is...and where in the
20 world are we going with it? All we do is draft up
21 legislation and all this stuff. And again, we fight
22 it because this is who we are. We're First Nation
23 people.

24 Many times I -- I said no to the modern
25 agreement. I nego -- I walked out of negotiation

1 table in Normal Wells because I always have
2 differences between the government and us. I haven't
3 spoke out publicly since about 1998, and -- but again,
4 I'm slowly listening to people and their concerns and
5 all that. And there's a lot of issues regarding,
6 like, the climate change and other issues that the
7 people are talking about.

8 There's a lot of social issues, there's
9 a lot of different issues that we need to deal with in
10 the community level. There's single parents that's
11 struggling, housing issues. You name all the stuff.
12 We need to resolve all the stuff also.

13 In the meantime, we're saying no to
14 putting food on the table for them, which is not
15 right. The way we -- Deline put the proposal
16 together, it's based on our El -- our Elders and our
17 culture and who we are as First Nation of this
18 country. We were here first. We'll never move.
19 We'll die here. We'll be 6 feet under the ground
20 here.

21 This is the eighth largest lake in the
22 world. It's 31,000 square kilometres. That's what
23 our late Chief George Goragin said, Keep my freezer.
24 That's what I'll tell my -- my kids, my grand kids and
25 all that.

1 We want to share. Like I said, it's --
2 I'm going to Calgary next March -- I mean, March 15th.
3 And if I don't have a dollar, I'm not going to drink
4 coffee. If I take my dry meat over there, I might get
5 charged crossing Alberta border. But again, under the
6 -- the modern agreement you could ex -- you could
7 share with First Nation within territories and within
8 the Yukon Territories as First Nation.

9 But again, I hope at the end of the day
10 by listening to all your present -- all the
11 presentation, we come to a very good agreement. And I
12 know back in the 1980s, around '82 or '83, we had
13 nothing around this area, no caribou whatsoever. And
14 one (1) of our prophet Andre (phonetic) told us to
15 feed the fire on October 1st, Friday, and two (2) herd
16 came in, one (1) from the west and one (1) from the
17 east. There was thousands and thousands of them just
18 across there just by prayer.

19 But I just want to say mas -- thank you
20 and I hope that you come to an agreement and move on -
21 - and put a wish list on the table and move on with
22 our -- as First Nation, move on with our lives and --
23 and share. And what we do in the past for thousands
24 of years, let's do it again and let's move on.

25 But I support what Deline's saying and

1 I support what Coville Lake, and the Elders here,
2 because we don't have mu -- not much Elders left. All
3 the knowledge are dying off, not only in Sahtu, Tlicho
4 area, all over the territories. The only people that
5 has the knowledge -- well, only few, because I know
6 there's a lot of research, a lot of interviews.

7 All the good stuff that the Elders be
8 taking about, about caribou, about the fish, about the
9 water, about the land, we document all this
10 information, but then it's set on a shelf somewhere
11 collecting dust. So that's got to be back -- put back
12 on the table and say this is what we -- this what our
13 Elders have said and this is what the whole idea and
14 intent was about.

15 So with that, I'd like to thank
16 everybody. And I don't want to speak, but I just want
17 to -- because -- just introduce myself. I was one (1)
18 of the former negotiator back in the '90s, so. I
19 liked the Elders' presentation. And I'd like to thank
20 the Tlicho delegates. I seen them here. And
21 hopefully we'll come to an agreement here. And
22 there's a few outstanding issues between Sahtu and the
23 Tlicho and they need to be resolved and -- but again,
24 that's something that we need to do in the future.

25 But again, masi. Thank you. I just

1 want to put my two (2) cents into it. So, masi.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Raymond.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Our visitors from
7 the Tlicho, can they come and see us? Want to say
8 something, Joseph?

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Masi. Hello. I
13 just wanted to say this in my language, I guess, first
14 of all.

15

16 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

17

18 ELDER JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes. Thank you
19 for giving me the opportunity to speak. I guess we
20 have some delegation coming in from Tlicho region, and
21 then -- but yet we're former leaders. And I guess
22 apparently we -- there's a lot of -- there's about
23 four (4) communities that make up our regional claims
24 where we're coming from.

25 But apparently here we were -- we were

1 only invited over here to observe, but apparently we
2 weren't here to speak. But nonetheless you give us
3 opportunity to say a few words, which is great --
4 we're grateful for it.

5 Definitely, he says, I'd like to thank,
6 you know, all the good presentations that have been
7 given by various communities and regions, and the
8 Elders. Definitely, he said, we have to learn from
9 one another, and then we heard a lot of good messages
10 from the Colville Lake. We -- we confer with one
11 another, and we -- certainly we do agree with them.

12 And definitely, he says, we -- in order
13 to confer or exchange some ideas and, you know,
14 eventually will come to conclusion and maybe we'll
15 make a final decisions on appropriate date and time.

16 Definitely, he says, when the last
17 speaker said about the Elders and the communities are
18 very few in --in very -- every regions, community,
19 which is true. Because they are sole advisors, and
20 the history of the past, you know, we -- we need them
21 a lot. And now that -- but nonetheless I, too, have
22 been a leader of the past.

23 I'm originally coming in from Wekweeti,
24 and then we -- we live pretty close to the barren
25 land, you know. And that the -- but everybody knows

1 about two (2) years ago I think we had major fires
2 around -- forest fires around that area. That the --
3 that probably has some, you know, problem with the
4 caribou migration.

5 And definitely even the forest fires
6 that have its own tolls, you know, to -- I guess, you
7 know, that burned up all the -- the canoe trails and
8 the ski-doo trails, and all historical trails I guess
9 have been burnt. So but now they have to rebuild.

10 But somehow the -- I'm pretty sure this
11 affects the caribou, too. I guess the caribou have to
12 change its migration route, as well. The -- I'm
13 concerned about my caribou around where I'm coming
14 from. I guess I'm more interested in the Bathurst
15 herd.

16 But the -- you're discussing the
17 Bluenose East over here. I guess I'm here to observe
18 although the -- the outcome of the meeting. Only then
19 we'll know, you know, what animals that, you know, we
20 might be able to share or, you know -- or install the
21 hunting for the next few years or so, if -- the
22 outcome of this hearing.

23 Definitely, he says, ever since the --
24 the caribou ban has been put in place within my
25 region, I guess, you know, that the -- I think the --

1 the -- I'm not ready to say that, you know, the
2 caribou has stabilized but yet since this ban, I
3 guess, you know, we always see, he said, the caribou
4 migration in -- in and out of the -- back to the
5 calving grounds, I guess.

6 You know, so the -- the history tell us
7 that there was a lot of abundance of caribou back in
8 the early days, I guess. You know, you could see them
9 out -- moving, or -- either that or the -- the trails
10 itself. And that is why and all that, and the caribou
11 crossing, I guess you know, there's a large herd of
12 animal crossing.

13 But to date, you know, I -- you know, I
14 really didn't want to blame the -- the mine itself,
15 but there's mines -- there's three (3) or four (4)
16 mines that barricaded the migration route. So to date
17 the -- the caribou has changed its migration route.
18 That -- that had some impact on some of our hunters
19 within our region.

20 To date, in summer time if you were in
21 a -- you were out hunting on the barren land or you --
22 you could always find a trail. A trail is pretty
23 deep. And then the -- now days, too, right about this
24 time of the year, too, if you were -- there's a lot of
25 caribou out there that the -- even on the -- against

1 the mountains. I guess you could always walk without
2 a snow shoe. That the -- you could walk on the
3 caribou trails. So that's how well it was pretty well
4 packed. But to date I think they -- there's hardly --
5 there's hardly anything within the -- the caribou
6 tracks within where I come from.

7 But definitely he says it's -- it's not
8 one tribe's problem, so we have to share all that
9 information with other hunters and other harvesters
10 and the other nations and so maybe we might come up,
11 you know, with some definite conclusion as to what we
12 should do with the caribou herd for the future
13 generation.

14 Now that we -- all the leaders that had
15 the -- not agreed that maybe we should zero hunting
16 within that for the next foreseeable future and then
17 so the -- but nonetheless we had -- it wasn't easy to
18 make a decision. But yet there we thought about our
19 future generation. So that's the reason why we come
20 up with a, you know, to ban the caribou for the next
21 few years.

22 But we're not asking for too long of a
23 years because, you know, compared to many years, you
24 know, we wouldn't be able to kill caribou because of
25 the ban. Definitely he says we know that the -- the

1 caribou, I guess, you know, it has no boundaries. And
2 it doesn't speak for itself. And -- and then the --
3 so if we left the animals, I guess, you know, like we
4 have to speak on behalf of the animals. And then
5 that's what we're doing.

6 And sure enough he says we do -- do
7 definitely have to have some preservations of caribou
8 for the future generation. So a lot of times we, as
9 the leaders, I guess we say that we have to think
10 about for -- for tomorrow's generation. Yes, he says
11 the -- I think we had the right approach and we should
12 just practice what we say. And just a few years ago,
13 I think it was a little over ten (10) years, I think
14 we had settled our regional claims. And now that the
15 -- now that since the -- there's about three (3) party
16 agree, the federal, and the territorial, and our
17 Tliche, I guess, agreed to signing authority to the
18 agreement.

19 So to date, I guess, with the -- with
20 our agreement, I guess, you know, that we did what we
21 had to do for the people with -- with the advice of
22 our regional Elders. And definitely he says I'm a
23 little over sixty (60) years old. And then to date
24 it's about fifty (50) years ago, I guess, you know,
25 that the -- a lot of people were still using dog

1 teams. And then a lot of people used to come home
2 with a load of caribou with a dog team and then
3 covered with snow and all that. And then we were just
4 -- and that we had a harsh life and a -- but yet if
5 you're healthy and, you know, eating cari -- you know,
6 healthy food, I guess, you know, the cold weather
7 doesn't stop you.

8 Yes, it definitely just after the hunt
9 I guess we have to report back to our Elders. And the
10 Elders always appreciate what we bring home. And what
11 we're going to do with the animal and how to protect
12 it and all that. And then the -- even to date I
13 guess, you know, like the -- we -- I live on the -- on
14 Wekweeti and we go down to Drybone Lake, Brown Lake
15 and we -- and all the way down past Contwoyto Lake.
16 He says I believe I cover a large track of land with
17 the skidoo. And the -- and so go as far as Point Lake
18 one point or another.

19 Yes, even down past Mesa Lake, I guess.
20 You know, we -- we used to fly over there, harvest the
21 caribou for the community hunt and all that. And then
22 the -- so there's a lot -- I have trav -- travelled by
23 dog teams. And a lot of times, you know, and I -- I
24 had to go trapping with the, you know, some of the
25 group of trappers and hunters. And then we even had

1 to harvest our caribou by packing our own gears and
2 outboard motors, and birchbark canoes on the barren
3 land. And a lot of people did travel that way. I
4 travelled with them because, you know, that's --
5 that's the only way you're going to put food on your
6 table.

7 And, yes, right from Wekweeti and I'm
8 going down towards Yellowknife. I guess you had to go
9 through Germaine Lake, I guess, and on to MacKay Lake
10 area. And I went out trapping and I went hunting.
11 And then definitely he says that the -- back them days
12 people used to use -- the only communication link we
13 had was with the bush radios.

14 And we connect, you know, to other
15 hunters out in the land there where to find our
16 caribou. That that's all we used to harvest some
17 caribou. But a lot of times, you know, that I
18 travelled quite a ways, a little over -- may -- not
19 two hundred (200), you know, a hundred miles around my
20 community. I did travel with by dog teams. And so a
21 lot of our ancestors and a lot of our community, I
22 guess, they did the same thing. Yes, like I just
23 said, that a lot of people that used to go all the way
24 down the barren lands in the early days with birchbark
25 canoe and lately with the canvass canoe.

1 So we have one (1) Elder that's
2 travelling with us. I guess, you know, he did the
3 same thing in his time. And then two (2) Elders, I
4 guess they did the same thing. And on how that the
5 people come a long ways, like supposing if the caribou
6 was far away from a community to -- no matter the
7 distance, you know, and as you -- how much you want
8 the meat, so you got to travel for long distances
9 regardless of the -- you know, how long it takes to
10 get to it.

11 Yes, that definitely says that we still
12 -- we still have some other meetings to do, you know,
13 like, the -- we -- we have to bring all this message
14 back to our communities. I guess, you know, that the
15 Wek'eezhii Re -- Renewable Resources Board are to meet
16 with the -- the communities, and they're going to have
17 community hearings down the road.

18 So I guess the -- the community really
19 wants to hear -- or make a good presentation to the
20 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. I think that --
21 that obligations rest with all -- all organizations --
22 all Aboriginal organizations; that's including us.

23 So to date, what I've, you know, gained
24 and what I've known from my particular region, how I
25 harvest my meat, I just report it back. And I'll --

1 how -- how else I go trapping and, you know, living
2 off the land. But it's always good to exchange some
3 ideas; that's the reason why I'm here. And I
4 definitely -- I hope you learn from me, as well, too.

5 And then the -- I hear that, you know,
6 how many, you know, calf survivors and how many, you
7 know, predators are taken the caribou and all that.
8 And then the -- in the fall time, I guess, when the
9 bull come back to the -- in the fall -- in the
10 springtime, when it goes back to the land, I guess,
11 you know, and -- you know, they put a lot of weight
12 on, and then for -- for the fall -- for the summer.
13 Yes, even the fall time, I guess, the bull itself,
14 too, have a lot of fat on it, I guess. You know, and
15 the -- but this is all the -- the type of animal we
16 have to harvest over time for -- for food.

17 Yes, that even the -- sometime in the
18 first week of August, when the -- the caribou start
19 migrating into the tree line, that we meet the caribou
20 out in the barren land approximately about the first
21 week of August to harvest some clothing, you know,
22 because we have to find a calf with really, really
23 fine -- fine fur that we'll be able to -- if it's not
24 too thick, I guess, it's always good to make, you
25 know, caribou trousers, high trousers with a parka, as

1 well. You know, so this is -- and use it for caribou
2 mattresses and all that.

3 It's just always good, you know, that
4 we're here. And it gave us the opportunity to -- to
5 express our concern. And then I'm not making a major
6 recommendation here, but I'm just only making a
7 personal comment about, you know, what I think about
8 the caribou. And definitely I'm here to observe, like
9 I said.

10 And then, eventually, if we come
11 together before the Board, I guess, you know, and then
12 we'll have to find out what we're going to with one
13 another, relationship, because we don't come and meet,
14 you know, in the west territory too often and
15 definitely assess the -- the only thing that, you
16 know, we're discussing here is the -- the fate of the
17 caribou. And then I hope everybody come to
18 conclusion.

19 But I can't speak for other regions as
20 to, you know, how the presenter... The case was about
21 the animals because, you know, the different regions
22 all have a different, you know, way of dealing with
23 their animals and how... But the -- a lot of times,
24 you know, and I thought about that. To make a long-
25 term discussion, I guess, is quite a -- it's hard to

1 predict what might happen in the future, so I can't --
2 I'm not too interested to making long-term plans.
3 Maybe if a short-term plan, short-term gain, sure, I
4 could -- you know, I mean, take into that discussion.

5 Definitely, he says, the -- we, too,
6 are living right in the heart of where the caribou
7 migrate to inland and back into calving ground. And
8 then we're -- most of our young generations were
9 raised by the caribou. And any other food that, you
10 know, to substitute the caribou at all I don't think
11 they sit well with them, so I thought I'd share that
12 with you. Thank you.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi.

17

18 (PORTION NOT INTERPRETED FROM
19 NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: This is --
22 be too high for the Queen, but ka nezo. Masi. It's
23 good to listen sometimes, you know, just to hear what
24 people have to say. And it's been an interesting day.
25 I came here this morning. I want to thank the

1 community for hosting this, and I want to thank
2 everybody that came because we are very busy people.
3 We have a lot of issues to deal with in Sahtu.

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I'd like to
8 -- we've been -- we've been -- we have quite a few
9 issues here. We'd like to talk about how our people
10 are living, and -- right now. Everywhere where there
11 are indigenous people living, there is a lot of things
12 that are happening to them that makes things difficult
13 for them.

14 And all the animals that need water.
15 Waters are not good. And the -- and -- and things
16 that are -- are all being spoiled up in the air.
17 Things that are on the land that is affected by the
18 poisonous substances that are thrown there. And we,
19 as Aboriginal people, we are -- we are not the only
20 ones that are having to face all these issues right
21 now.

22 This is happening all -- all the things
23 that are happening in the south with the water
24 becoming a problem. The lack of it. And in some
25 places the animals are disappearing. And where

1 certain kind of plants that are gone, and the kind of
2 things that are -- that are grown in the water that
3 allows the fish -- the fish to feed are all also
4 disappearing.

5 And the (NORTH SLAVEY LANGUAGE SPOKEN)
6 are all -- the bumblebee are all disappearing, as
7 well. And all these things that were created by the
8 Creator, and things that are really big like -- things
9 like elephants and all the tiny bugs that live in the
10 water, the water beetles, all those things living
11 allows for the land and things to evolve naturally.

12 And this -- the land claims that -- it
13 involve a lot of people who worked hard on it. And
14 before that, our ancestors worked on -- on the treaty,
15 as well. And a lot of people sometimes say that the
16 treaties are not very important but it was very, very
17 important for the Elders to put this treaty in place
18 knowing -- possibly knowing what is going to happen.

19 And -- and when the oil was discovered
20 at Norman Wells, the people wanted to take -- remove
21 the oil from the -- the land. But because the Elders
22 wanted to make sure that there was a treaty in place
23 that allow -- allowed for this exchange to happen.

24 And -- and our Elders, they never used
25 papers for the agreement, but our children are going

1 to -- to learn in the -- in the future. The -- our
2 children need to be educated, and therefore there has
3 to be resources available for them to do so.

4 And people today, when they are sick
5 and -- unwell, and to -- to -- and make sure that --
6 that our people were taken care of. And so they
7 negotiated that as well. And -- and I'll also, they -
8 - and they said that the people should be able --
9 should be able to feed themselves the way they always
10 have.

11 And so they ensured that all the
12 different animals, the birds and the -- and the geese
13 and the -- and caribou, all the -- all the animals
14 that are here, and so that they can feed themselves
15 out of -- off it, and they can -- they are able to
16 sustain themselves.

17 And so this is how they used in -- in
18 the past, and therefore -- and so they enabled,
19 through the treaties, to negotiate rights of harvest.
20 And so when these treaties were written, it was all
21 really well thought out and written. And in 1921, the
22 treaties happened.

23 And today, things are changing, and all
24 our -- the children were into -- over to residential
25 school. And that created a lot of confusion. And now

1 -- and today, we negotiated a modern treaty. And in
2 that modern treaty, it talks about the ability to
3 harvest and feed ourselves, the -- and -- and to -- to
4 have a say in the resources and -- and the trust fund.

5 And we have a trust fund that enable us
6 to do things. But however, things don't really change
7 in that respects. Since the beginning of time, people
8 have been able to feed themselves, and that hasn't
9 changed. It's still the same.

10 Our ancestors and their ancestors,
11 before people could remember things that happened, all
12 of them were able to -- able to sustain themselves and
13 to feed themselves with the land and the -- the
14 animals on the land -- from the land.

15

16 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: ...feed
19 ourselves. We believe that. We live that way, and we
20 always have. I've six (6) -- I'm sixty-four (64).
21 I've never spent a year of my life without eating
22 country foods except the time I was in hospital for
23 fourteen (14) months. But they still brought in dry
24 meat and stuff like that.

25 And now we are at a point in our lives

1 where we've got some independence. We've got some
2 autonomy. We have some authority. We have land,
3 money, jurisdiction, and we want to run our own
4 affairs. We want to make up our own mind about what
5 we want to do.

6 But there are some things we don't want
7 to let go of. We were told we would have free
8 education. We're not stupid. We value that. A lot
9 of our kids have graduated. A lot of our kids -- like
10 you, you're a lawyer -- a lot of our kids -- Leonard,
11 you're a Chief, and you graduated. George, you've
12 always been working everywhere. You went to school.
13 You're not stupid. That's the one (1) thing I know.

14 A lot of people out of the Sahtu have
15 been educated and have come down -- come out of here.
16 We haven't done too badly. We're not that stupid. We
17 know a few things. And we've got our land claims, our
18 modern treaty. It prescribes how we will live.

19 Now they've got self-government in
20 Deline. That says you have jurisdiction, resources,
21 and you have land. You have those things to -- to
22 make you self -- how would you say? Self-governing.
23 But, you know, we have conflict all the time because
24 we have that, but we're not -- we -- we have pressure
25 from all sides. We have pressure from the federal

1 government. We have pressure from the territorial
2 government. We have what we have, but we still have
3 to broker a process every time we want to do
4 something.

5 And this issue with caribou is the
6 same. Wildlife. How many times have I asked the
7 government, because our people, always when things go
8 bad, when there's nowhere to turn, our people can feed
9 themselves. They at least can feed themselves from
10 the land and from the water.

11 They can do that. They can hunt and
12 trap. Peop -- some of the people in this room here
13 trapped this year. And that's, to me, just like the
14 inherent right to govern yourself, to feed yourself,
15 to be self-sustaining. It's a right that you have.

16 And if you start giving the authority
17 to different levels of government to impose on you
18 their will and their way, it's the beginning of the
19 slippery slope. Good intentions, the road to hell are
20 paved with good intentions.

21 Our people -- our people know that if
22 they do something for themselves and they make
23 mistakes, it's their mistake. They can live with it.
24 But to live generation after generation, somebody else
25 making mistakes for you, I think it's more than what

1 the Dene people can bear. I think the Dene people
2 want to make those decisions themselves.

3 No one can tell me that Aboriginal
4 people are not -- don't know how to conserve, don't
5 know how to balance nature. That's what they've done.
6 That's how they've lived it. Why is it at this day
7 and age, we still have all those things, all those
8 species? It's not because they went and slaughtered
9 everything. I think we have to really look at the
10 question. We're at a point here where the -- where
11 the caribou is said to be depleting, that the -- the
12 population of caribou. And we've seen it in other
13 herds and that.

14 But you know what's an interesting
15 thing that I -- that I see? What I see is that we're
16 talking about half of the picture. Let's be honest,
17 okay? We've had lots of development. We've had lots
18 of traffic. We've had gold, oil. We've had intrusion
19 from modern technology. People going over our land
20 doing all kinds of things. That all happened.

21 All of a sudden, it becomes a
22 harvesting issue. How could it be a harvesting issue
23 when so much has changed already because of technology
24 and because people did not have -- not the guts, but
25 did not have all the information to say, or didn't

1 think they could say no? Because nobody asked before.
2 They just did whatever they wanted.

3 And yet now we talk today, like, Hey,
4 you people, you're eating too much caribou. Thirty-
5 five (35) ben -- thirty-five hundred (3,500)
6 beneficiaries, if you each take a caribou, there's
7 going to be no caribou left, and it's your fault.
8 It's not the fault of the environment and climate
9 change. I don't hear that. It's not the fault that
10 things have progressed for decades under development.
11 Nobody said anything.

12 Think about it. We're just talking
13 about -- maybe we did reference climate change and we
14 did reference harvesting. But we didn't talk about
15 development. Before we get people to stop eating
16 caribou, we'd better stop producing things for money
17 and gold and for the wealth of resources. We'd better
18 start looking after our water, too. There, too, you
19 know, in other places. And not only that, we don't
20 care if we compensate native people for the loss of
21 their livelihood. It's not even thought of.

22 And -- and don't mention welfare,
23 because that's what happened to the Inuit people.
24 They took their sailing industry away, whatever
25 dignity they had, and put them on welfare. That's not

1 -- that's not the way to treat people. What you want
2 to do is you want people to be able to make up their
3 decision about their future, and to take their
4 traditional knowledge that's served them for
5 generations, and put it out there.

6 You know, it's really difficult right
7 now for me because I -- my communities are divided
8 here. And I can't -- I represent everybody. And so I
9 say to industry, and I say to the government, you
10 know, we're having the discussion after the horse is
11 out of the gate. We're -- we're already down the road
12 quite a ways on this whole issue.

13 What's to say that the way of the
14 government and government conservation is -- is going
15 to save the day? I don't know about that. Show me
16 where it's worked. Where has it worked? I'd like to
17 see examples. I just don't know.

18 It's happening, though. What's
19 happening is we're not letting the people do what
20 they're good at. And not only that, when the
21 Atlantic, all the fish disappeared, the government set
22 up the Atlantic -- the -- the Atlantic Groundfish
23 Strategy, TAGS, and they paid people to go to school,
24 to work, to do whatever.

25 Is anyone offering to pay you for the

1 loss of your livelihood? I don't think so. We can't
2 even get them to give us money so that our RRCs can be
3 more empowered. We're asking these people who are
4 with the Renewable Resource Councils to do ten (10)
5 times the job they were intended for. They never --
6 they were never trained.

7 They were never brought in to -- to
8 look after parks. Now, in our area, we have a new
9 park, and the Renewable Resource Council has to look
10 after that. When something happens with the
11 environment, the Renewable Resource people have to do
12 the monitoring for the oil, and gas, and everything
13 else. They're the ones that are doing it.

14 So I guess my big thing here today is -
15 - and I said this in Ottawa to a group of people that
16 were doing land claims. They want to give their --
17 their work to a Deputy Minister's committee. My
18 feeling is, I'm going to give my rights that we fought
19 hard for under the Sahtu claim to a Deputy Minister's
20 committee to look at land claims implementation? No
21 way.

22 Be jealous, and guard your authority
23 carefully. I'll tell you once: Once you let it go,
24 we'll never get it back. Once you let government
25 control your life and take your authority, they'll

1 never give it back to you. You are on a slippery
2 slope. You have to be careful.

3 I guess I'm just an old warrior. Maybe
4 I'm just a wounded old dog whose been through too many
5 battles to just let this go. I really believe that
6 our people have to come together and find the
7 solution. We have to be trusted. You don't trust us.
8 We don't trust you. We got a problem.

9 How do we bring that together? Well,
10 part of what we're asking you to trust us with is what
11 we know. You can't measure what we know. We're not
12 scientists. We can't measure what you know. Maybe
13 some of our people can, but what we're saying to you
14 is, this is how we live. This is who we are. And
15 this is what we do. So allow us, allow us to do that.

16 And know if we eat three thousand five
17 hundred (3,500) caribou, it's not going to be the end
18 of caribou. But if we keep polluting the Earth, if we
19 keep doing the things we're doing that are deleterious
20 to the survival of the animal species, it will
21 disappear. I can guarantee you that. It will
22 disappear. It won't be from us eating it, eating it
23 for thousands of years, our ancestors.

24 So I'm just saying, I don't have the
25 answers, but I have a lot of questions. I've been

1 listening to you today, and what I'm saying is I don't
2 want my people to be divided and against each other.
3 I feel some bad things right now, and I don't want it
4 to be that way. I want my people to come together.

5 I want government to know that I trust
6 my people. I trust the Elders. I know that they can
7 do the right thing. One (1) thing government can do
8 that they don't want to do is give us money and
9 resources. Give us the resources to do what -- what
10 we want to do. There's good people in government. I
11 know these guys.

12 I saw -- Brett (phonetic) -- I saw you
13 feeding a baby bison years ago, what, twenty-five (25)
14 years ago. I know the work that you guys do. You're
15 not bad people. You want to do the right thing. But
16 we're different. The difference is what puts us where
17 we are today. We are very different. We know your
18 intentions are good, but we really need to look at our
19 people.

20 Michael, I think you're regretting
21 asking me if I wanted to speak. But I just want to
22 say that's why they pay me what they pay me, to think
23 about these big questions and to think about the
24 future of our people.

25 Long after people retire and are gone,

1 these people are going to be living on this land. Our
2 children are going to live on this land. They're
3 going to bury us on this land. This our home. We're
4 not visitors. This is our land. This is our home.
5 This is who we are.

6 And, you know, I'm just -- I'm just a
7 voice that tries to represent the issues. I don't
8 want to pick sides. But I want to make sure that if
9 we make a choice, that we're in it together and we
10 know what we're doing.

11 Anyways, thank you very much and masi
12 cho.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Ethel.

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: It's been a very
18 long day, so this is all what we're going to do if
19 there isn't anybody that want to speak.

20 Gordon Taneton...?

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: I was thinking
25 sancho (phonetic), tomorrow we're looking at hand

1 games and our organizer got sick and his mother got
2 medivac, so I don't know if we're going to have hand
3 games tomorrow, but we're going to try. Go ahead,
4 Gordon.

5 MR. GORDON TANETON: Hello. My name
6 is Gordon Taneton. I'm from Deline here. You know
7 how I felt today right now, like, I -- I'm a hunter.
8 I -- I feed my Elders. Like, I go -- I go hunting all
9 the time for caribou. And I got a full-time job here,
10 but if I get the chance, I go out all the time. Boy,
11 I don't know how you guys do it. I'm just shaking.

12 But the -- I feel like I got to -- and
13 they -- they put -- really put a big collar on me and
14 a leash, tell me not to eat -- what to eat, you know.
15 I feel that way. But the declining of the caribou,
16 they said, when the big number went down back in the -
17 - 2010/'11, when we -- on the -- the lake -- I go
18 around the lake every summer I get. And when they had
19 the number down, they spot the same herd on the
20 Grizzly Bear Mountain.

21 We -- we don't go back at the calving
22 ground anymore, because there's too much disturbing
23 over there, trappers, wolf, bears, all the activities
24 that are going on. You know, the calving ground area
25 is supposed to be peaceful. Let -- let the caribou do

1 whatever they -- they want to do.

2 Us human being distracting all this
3 animals that we don't own. It's owned by God. What
4 are we to say, like, Hey, caribou, we've got to make a
5 law for caribou? And I keep my -- my people have --
6 I've got five (5) kids of my own. And this is the
7 first time I'm talking in public, because I'm hurt
8 right now, because people are talking about my food.

9 I have no money to go to the store and
10 buy whatever I want to get. And what the Elder tells
11 me that, Well, we're going to protect the caribou.
12 Well, how am I going to feed my kids? Well, the big -
13 - the food trucks's going to come into town. Look at
14 the ice. They can't even come across. We've got to
15 think about that, too.

16 And I was sitting back there and
17 listening to all you guys. It's, like, I know we want
18 to protect all the caribou, but as well we've got to
19 feed our kids, our family. And a lot -- a lot of
20 Elders that I feed, that all was -- they're all gone.
21 And I just lost my mom back in September. And I
22 thought when I went out hunting in December, Well, why
23 I'm going out? Because I've got -- I -- I was
24 thinking about my mom and I -- I was crying out in the
25 bush.

1 As soon as my first kill, what did I
2 do? I kneel down and pray and thank the Lord that I'm
3 going to have food on my table. And what's going on
4 over here, like, it seems like you guys are going to
5 put the food away from my table from me -- on me. So
6 it hurts right here to feed my Elders.

7 And when I went out hunting in the
8 summertime I -- I boat around all the time. I see the
9 same herd, like, Russell Bay (phonetic), Frozen Bear
10 Mountain (phonetic). They should be back in the
11 calving ground, but they don't go back anymore. Like
12 I said, there's too much disturbance over there. They
13 went all over the land to feed the calf.

14 And then the other one (1) I sat right
15 there and not talking. But I want to say that --
16 thank -- thank you guys to all coming to Deline and
17 talking about the caribou. But I feel ashamed talking
18 about the caribou because no soul in the world owns
19 the caribou. Only one God that owns the caribou. The
20 whole world has been put out for us, the caribou,
21 moose, everything. For us Dene people to feed on, you
22 know.

23 There's no -- there's no, like, cows
24 and chickens out on the land. It's too cold out here
25 for that. Like, soft people, sure. You go to the

1 store and buy chicken and stuff like that. Over here
2 we're having a hard time. Like, there's -- if the
3 trucks not coming in this year, if they're buying all
4 their food, like, a lot of people don't have money.
5 And, you know, what they do? They go drinking. They
6 give up, you know. We don't want to think about that
7 anymore. So what can we drink? So don't think about
8 those kind of stuff anymore.

9 But people are hurting out there
10 because we're having a hard time getting money around
11 here. And the food -- the caribou we can't -- we
12 can't go hunting anymore. I give all my food to my
13 people. Now I feel I can't say no. Because a lot of
14 my Elders they taught me what my brother said earlier.
15 We share. One last little piece, I can't keep it for
16 myself. I give it out. And then tomorrow will be
17 more giving.

18 And -- and earlier I was here for ca --
19 for the wolf. They said, Slaughter the wolf. And we
20 could shoot a lot of wolf. There's lots of -- at the
21 dump, all over the place. But we need a place to work
22 on the wolf. Like, say the RRC, what if they build us
23 a garage to -- we -- we don't want to bring wolf into
24 our house and skin it, right? And we need a place to
25 work on the -- like, skinning the wolf, drying the

1 pelt, and all that. And why can't the -- the RRC, or
2 whatever or whoever they build us a nice little garage
3 to work on the pelt like that, you know? A lot of
4 people don't have places to work on stuff like that.

5 Like, I skin, like, wolf, like, all the
6 time if I sh -- if I shoot it. And that's no problem
7 for me because I -- I do it all the time. Each --
8 each time I get a Saturdays I got out on my trap line.
9 I -- I've got at least forty (40), fifty (50) martens
10 on the side on the weekends. Because I get money in
11 for my -- my kids to go to school.

12 And I don't want to talk lots, but I'd
13 like to thank my leaders and you guys that hear me out
14 that what I wanted to say because -- masi. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Gordon. Kusi
16 (phonetic), anybody? Da dida kaliso (phonetic)? Hey,
17 masi, masi, masi, everybody. I wanted to say --

18

19 (INTERPRETED FROM NORTH SLAVEY INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- those that have
22 spoke, it's all recorded. And we are going to report
23 -- make a written report tomorrow. We're going to
24 start at 9:00, breakfast here at 8:00.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: ...Deline plan
4 tomorrow morning at 9:00. And then Good Hope is
5 coming in I think at ten o'clock. So thank you very
6 much for attending today's process, and hope to see
7 you tomorrow morning. Masi.

8 Masi, and have a good night.

9 And maybe we'll have a closing prayer.
10 Joe, Joe, Joe, can I get a closing prayer and...

11

12 (CLOSING PRAYER)

13

14 --- Upon adjourning at 8:57 p.m.

15

16

17 Certificate of Transcript

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21 _____

22 Robert Keelaghan, Mr.

23

24

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