



# Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

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**Website**  
[www.ykchamber.com](http://www.ykchamber.com)

The Wek'eezhi Renewable Resources Board(WRRB)

Suite 102A

4504 – 49<sup>th</sup> Street

Yellowknife , NT

X1A 1A7

January 14,2010.

Attention Grant Pryzynek, Interim Chair, (sent via e-mail original to follow by mail)

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce represents over 375 members and has been the voice of Yellowknife business since or inception in 1946. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we sent out a survey to our membership and the responses received were overwhelming in support of the Chamber of Commerce addressing the WRRB. We have received support in the most part due to the lack of information made available to our members and the general public on the matter of the WRRB hearings with respect to the Caribou herds. This response leads us to request an adjournment of the process and a restart.

At the time of the launch, the proposal was not sufficiently detailed so as to allow members of the YK Chamber to consider whether to become involved. Moreover, the hearing date was January 11, 2009 and on this basis, some members of the community did not come forward as interveners.

As this is a public hearing with wide spread ramifications, we believe it is prudent to allow the public to participate in a meaningful way.

The caribou hearing commenced on November 11/ 12, 2009. We don't feel that our members had sufficient time to respond with only 4 business days to register as an intervener, and numerous deadline dates for the hearing date of January 11, 2009. We understand that the short time frame for each date was initiated due to concerns from ENR about the status of the caribou herds. Since that time, the Minister has initiated emergency measures to protect the caribou as deemed necessary.

We note that ENR has communicated with several organizations but we have been informed that the presentations have changed from one meeting to another. We do not consider those meetings to be adequate consultation given the lack of notice of meetings, the timing of those meetings, the lack of opportunity to provide constructive input.

We encourage you to ensure that all stakeholders have been provided an equal opportunity to provide input into this hearing, and that any additional interveners be allowed to participate. It is because of all these items that we are supporting a move for adjournment and a restart to the process.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Patrick Doyle, President

Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce