

To: WRRB

From: Gordon Van Tighem, Mayor, City of Yellowknife

Date: Monday, August 9, 2010, 9:09 a.m.

RE: City of Yellowknife response to Joint Proposal on Caribou Management – REVISED Speaking Notes

The City of Yellowknife is pleased to participate in the Wek'ezzhi Renewable Resources Board's review of the Joint Caribou Management Proposal. We respect the jurisdiction and the recommendations you have received.

We strongly encourage responsible management of our natural resources, to ensure a healthy lifestyle for today's residents and future generations.

With any decision, the cumulative impacts of the decision need be part of the consideration. The social and economic viability of the Northwest Territories should be part of the consideration.

Many of our residents have depended on caribou as part of their diet. Sport hunting is a significant contributor to our ability to attract and retain workers.

The outfitting industry has drawn tourists from around the world to the NWT, and contributes millions of dollars annually to the territorial economy. This includes charter airlines and food stores but not taxidermy and food bank donations, which are additional.

Other regions have demonstrated that a male only harvest has minimal effect on population if combined with regulated quotas. Selection of this option would allow the traditional hunt, the resident hunt, and outfitting industry to continue; support the continuity of a wild species; and encourage a vital interest in scientific game management.

At the last session I spoke about management practices in neighbouring jurisdictions where we might learn from their success. In northern Quebec when the herds peaked and die off was witnessed – the government immediately sought out the outfitters to develop a joint strategy.

Across northern Alaska, Yukon and NWT the Porcupine herd management plan adopted this year provides a great model involving all impacted jurisdictions and a means to ensure all participate and a population based method to regulate harvest.

Respecting and recognizing the boards authority and the resultant overlaps: we encourage the board to ensure their ultimate decision (in our ongoing attitude of cooperation and coexistence) is inclusive of all impacted groups including our other aboriginal residents, our industry and out resident hunters; encourages active programs to accurately determine recovery levels and provides consideration of when the other management actions can be re-instated.

In our regulatory framework we look to certainty and predictability and encourage the Wek'ezzhi board to set an example in their forthcoming rulings.

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