

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7



March 4th, 2010

Judy Snortland,
Executive Director
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
Suite 102A,
4504 49th Avenue.
Yellowknife, NT.
X1A 1A7
Tel: (867)873-5740
Fax: (867)873-5743
Email: jnortland@wrrb.ca

Re: Intervention of the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) – additional information #2

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) has made two submissions with its formal intervention to the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). The reason for the two submissions was that additional time was allowed, and the second intervention represents that additional information that was gathered together in the interim period of time. The first intervention was on the 20th of January, 2010, and the second was on the 3rd of March, 2010. Both of these letters should be taken together to constitute the NSMA's formal intervention.

In our rush, it appears that one attachment was not mentioned in the March 3, 2010 cover letter. **Attachment #20** is a thesis submitted by Anne E. Kendrick in partial fulfillment of her Doctor of Philosophy Degree, from the University of Manitoba. The title is **Caribou Co-Management and Cross-Cultural Sharing**. This document is 285 pages in length, and will be of great use to anyone with the time to read and understand it. The central purpose of this submission for the NSMA at this time is to emphasize the difference in "knowledge", perspectives, and motives of Aboriginal Peoples as compared to Colonial Governments and reductionist science trained biologists. Significant sections of this document outline the history of Co-Management in the Northwest Territories, and illustrate how **Government has often acted in a manner harmful to Aboriginal Peoples without an adequate understanding of the real situation of the wildlife in question. Restricting aboriginal use of their lands and resources contributes to the displacement of Aboriginal Peoples from their lands, and the destruction of their sustainable, traditional cultures.** Thus, **Government conservation**

Ph: (867) 873-NSMA (6762)

Fax: (867) 669-7442

Email: general@nsma.net

measures often serve the purpose of colonization more than the protection of the caribou.

For support to this conclusion, please refer, for example, to:

- ∞ Page 73. *“There was even a suggestion in the late 1950s that “Indians” were not to be allowed to hunt themselves, they were to do the dressing and skinning while professional hunters, i.e. game officers, did the killing” (Cranston-Smith 1995:18)*
- ∞ Page 74. *“ Government agencies responsible for conservation efforts often played a role in diluting treaty rights in their efforts to assert sovereignty in the North (Fumoleau 1975, Cranston-Smith 1995, Usher 200)*
- ∞ Page 74. *“A prohibition against hunting bison, targeting the wild populations in the present-day area of Wood Buffalo National Park (the park straddles today’s Northwest Territories-Alberta border) was written into the 1894 Unorganised Territories’ Game Preservation Act.*
- ∞ Page 75. *“In retrospect, it is clear that early laws and regulations limiting aboriginal harvesting activities were based on little and/or circumstantial evidence. Contemporary barren-ground caribou census surveys are still grappling with the extreme difficulty of estimating barren-ground caribou numbers in vast landscapes.”*
- ∞ Page 77. In 1914, Vilhajalmur Stefansson of the Canadian Naval Service observed excessive caribou harvesting by whalers in Alaska and the western Arctic. That same year, Canada’s Interior Minister suggested amendments to the Northwest Game Act including prohibitions on the killing of caribou cows and yearlings and the appointment of game officers to enforce caribou hunting restrictions and a closed season. In 1916 an Advisory Board on Wildlife protection (AWBP) was created to advise government on treaty matters and to suggest further changes to the Northwest Game Act. But, *“incredibly, while the Dene were starving in some areas, the government considered over-riding the Game Act to allow the export of caribou as war-time meat supplies.”*
- ∞ Page 77-78. In 1919 a Royal Commission was appointed to look at the potential of the North to produce meat (reindeer) and wool (musk-ox). The recommendations included wolf control programs, harvest restrictions, domestication of caribou, importation of Saami herders and reindeer, and training for Inuit and Indian herders. At the same time, aboriginal harvesters were not allowed to kill a duck.
- ∞ Page 85-86. By the 1930’s, the Canadian government heard evidence that caribou hunting along the Arctic coast had grown so intensive, especially with the introduction of rifles and in order to meet the food supply needs of whaling ships, that caribou migration routes had changed (Porshcild 1929:5-6, C.H.Clarke Correspondence, Oct. 30, 1924, HBCO Archives RG2/4/86, Dragon 2002). **While the Canadian Department of the Interior was alarmed about the shortages of caribou, the northern portions of Alaska and the Yukon Territory were reporting caribou to be exceptionally numerous.**
- ∞ Page 86. In its report, the Royal Commission to Investigate the Possibilities of the Reindeer and MuskoX Industries in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions of Canada refused to recognise the arbitrary and debatable classifications of caribou into discrete herds.
- ∞ Page 87-88. Outlines the wildly fluctuating population estimates of caribou over time, and comments on the problems with methodology.

For the sake of clarity, we may restate our position with regards to the joint ENR and Tlicho Caribou Management Proposal, and add our proposed management actions:

1. **The NSMA supports the following proposed Management Actions:**
 - ∞ Eliminate all outfitting tags for all NWT barren ground caribou.
 - ∞ Eliminate all (non-aboriginal) resident hunting of all NWT barren ground caribou.
2. **The NSMA does NOT support the following proposed management actions:**
 - ∞ **elimination of all commercial meat tags held by aboriginal communities,**
 - ∞ **elimination of all female caribou harvesting by aboriginal people.**
3. **The reasons the NSMA cannot support these management proposals are:**
 - ∞ There has not been adequate consultation with the aboriginal communities that have constitutionally protected rights to harvest caribou commercially, and domestically, specifically the North Slave Métis community.
 - ∞ We have seen no acceptable justification (scientific data or Traditional Knowledge information showing the Caribou are in danger of extinction.
 - ∞ The Traditional Knowledge of the North Slave Métis community has not been sought out, gathered, or used, in the preparation of this proposal.
 - ∞ It is not equitable for Métis harvesting to be restricted while the Inuit continue to harvest the same animals.
 - ∞ Aboriginal harvesting must take precedence over all other harvesting.
 - ∞ Biologists' failure to see and count caribou is not the same thing as an absence of caribou.

The NSMA urges the proposed management actions be taken:

- ∞ Working with Canada, and using whatever emergency funds are necessary, conduct caribou calving ground surveys using air photo census methods for ALL known caribou calving areas, whether collared caribou are known to be there or not, at once (during one calving season), throughout ALL of northern Canada.
- ∞ Encourage Aboriginal People to harvest alternative game with healthy populations by providing adequate funds for transportation and shipping to each First Nation.
- ∞ Resume forest fire control in caribou habitat.
- ∞ Reinstate the Special Aboriginal Harvesters Assistance Program to encourage more Aboriginal (including Métis) People to maintain their traditional land based life styles, including especially the harvesting of fur and the observation of caribou health, behavior, and abundance.
- ∞ Establish (or re-establish) the Bathurst Caribou Management Committee with support for the participation of representatives of all directly affected First Nations. The Government of Nunavut must be involved, and all governments must be committed to implement the recommendations of the re-constituted BCMC.

Please also note, when we say “the caribou” we are referring to all of the barren ground caribou herds (including the NWT, Nunavut, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec,

Newfoundland and Labrador, and perhaps other jurisdictions as well) whose ranges overlap and who are not genetically distinct. Many of our submissions provide support to our position on this.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Grieve

Environment Manager

Phone: (867) 873-6762 extension # 22 (note corrected extension number)

Email: enviromgr@nsma.net or lands@nsma.net

With Attachments, resent: 1-20