



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WILD LIFE FEDERATION

Dear Sirs:

The importance of the decision you are undertaking cannot be understated. Your decision will impact the lives of all people of the NWT. Peoples lifestyle and there reason for living in the north will be impacted. Should the current emergency measures be upheld businesses that support hunting activities will suffer and some will fail of move away as we are already seeing. Families that have worked their entire lives to build businesses and support the economy of the north are being forced into bankruptcy. Each and every person in the north is going to be affected by your decision either directly or indirectly.

The NWT wildlife federation stands behind good decisions based on sound scientific fact. We are seeing very bad decisions and recommendations from ENR and the Tliche Gov. based on very poor science. The information provided leaves a lot of room for "reasonable doubt" in the science and conclusions presented by ENR. If there is reasonable doubt in the information presented then I urge the board to error on the side of caution and reinstate hunting for the resident hunters. There is no scientific argument that supports resident hunting impacts future herd size of Barren Ground Caribou. We must also remember that the precautionary principle works both ways. We need to be cautious as a society that we are making the right decisions for all members of society and we are not succumbing to the wishes of a few. The shutting down of resident and outfitter hunting has a great impact on all of our society and the decisions to shut down hunting will have a drastic and long term affect on the north. People come to live in the north for the lifestyle. Hunting and the use of outdoors is a very large part of that lifestyle.

There are many Caribou on the Barren grounds. The emergency measure called by the Minister is unwarranted and an abuse of power. The science behind this decision is being challenged by biologists across the country. There is more than reasonable doubt that the science and conclusions drawn from this science can substantiate a shut down of Caribou harvesting. The WRRB is to base their decision on the best possible science available. If the science available is flawed does that mean that the decision of the WRRB must be flawed as well? The WRRB has a responsibility to society to make good decisions based on good undisputed science. The science you are using from ENR is in serious dispute as shown by many of the interveners.

In closing I urge the WRRB to reinstate the tags to the resident hunters as the number of bulls we harvest has no impact on future herd size. Any decision that does not reinstate the resident hunter's tags must be based on politics and not science. If the WRRB is to base decisions on science then the resident hunters must get their tags back.

Martin Knutson
President
NWT Wildlife Federation