

WRRB Adjournment Ruling – March 26, 2010

- The Board has carefully considered the application and all submissions.
- We recognize that there are real risks associated with further delay before the Board makes a final decision.
- If the Board adjourns, the caribou hunting ban will remain in place longer. The removal of this restriction is not within the power of the Board. This is a decision for the Minister of ENR.
- The Board recognizes, however, that this is a co-management process and the importance of encouraging collaboration, particularly between the GNWT and Tlicho Government.
- It is also clear that if a Total Allowable Harvest is imposed that difficult questions of allocation will result.
- A collaborative revised proposal may simplify these allocation questions and save some time.
- On balance, the Board has decided to grant the application for adjournment until May 31, 2010.
- In so doing, the Board would like to point out that both GNWT and Tlicho Governments bear some measure of responsibility for the current state of affairs.
- Speaking bluntly, this adjournment will allow these parties to address these problems and fix them.
- The adjournment comes with some conditions:
 1. The Tlicho Government and ENR must provide an interim report on progress by April 30, 2010.
 2. This report shall include a summary of consultations conducted with other parties and sufficient detail to enable the Board to determine whether substantial progress has been made.

3. Board staff and independent expert will participate in the process as observers and report to the Board on an ongoing basis.
 4. If the Board concludes that substantial progress has not been made by April 30th, it will reconvene for final argument and proceed with its decision.
 5. The Board expects that any new proposal filed by May 31, 2010 will address
 - Harvest numbers
 - Allocation of harvest for both Bathurst and Bluenose East Caribou within the Wek'eezhii Management Area.
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- The Board also strongly recommends that the parties make any new technical reports or analyses prepared available to the parties by filing them with the Board for the public registry.
 - We also recommend that the Government consider providing assistance to intervenors so that they can participate in this process.
 - This means that final argument is postponed pending the outcome of this process.
 - We are adjourned.