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WEK'EEZHII RENEWABLE
RESOURCES BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
ON JOINT PROPOSAL ON CARIBOU
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN WEK'EEZHII

Panel Members:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Co-Chairman | Grant Pryzynk |
| Co-Chairman | Joseph Judas |
| Member | Bruce MacDonald |
| Member | Charlie Rabesca |
| Member | Ray Case |

HELD AT:

Cultural Centre
Behchoko, NT
August 6, 2010
Day 7 of 7

1 APPEARANCES

| | | |
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| 4 | Allice Legat |) WRRB Staff |
| 5 | Jody Snortland |) WRRB Staff |
| 6 | Dr. Anne Gunn |) Independent Expert |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | Grand Chief Joe Rabesca |) Tlicho Government |
| 9 | Chief Edward Chocolate |) |
| 10 | Chief Alfonz Nitsiza (np) |) |
| 11 | Chief Charlie Football |) |
| 12 | Chief Clifford Daniels |) |
| 13 | Bertha Rabesca Zoe |) Counsel |
| 14 | Arthur Pape |) Counsel |
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| 16 | Amanda Peterson |) Peterson's Point Lake |
| 17 | Margaret Peterson (np) |) Lodge |
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| 19 | Barry Taylor |) Arctic Safaris |
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4)First Nation
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6 Gordon Van Tighem (np)) City of Yellowknife
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8 Joyce Rabesca) Rabesca Resources
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10 Martin Knutsan) NWT Wildlife Federation
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12 Karen McMaster) self
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14 Robert Turner (np)) self
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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:22 a.m.

2

3 (THROUGH THE INTERPRETER INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH JUDAS: Before --
6 at this time, before any meeting begins, we usually begin
7 with a morning prayer. We will continue on as we did
8 yesterday, in that order.

9 And so what we are doing is we're
10 questioning each other on the importance. And as we work
11 like this today, we always remember our -- our people
12 from the past. We always remember God. Ask him for help
13 because this is such an important -- because our people
14 have sustained themselves for many years.

15 We are all people here. We're all
16 related. We're all somehow family members. We are here
17 to inform each other as best as we can and decide what we
18 can do in the future, and this is what we will be looking
19 for.

20 At this time, we will be doing an opening
21 prayer. Yesterday morning we had many Elders with us,
22 and many of our resident hunters here, as well. When we
23 have meetings like this, we always travel by airplane as
24 well as vehicles.

25 We don't live nearby each other, so we

1 always try to remember our families and loved ones at
2 home and travel back home safely to them.

3 Some days our people are ill. Because
4 they are ill, they cannot be with us, but in their heart
5 and mind they're still here with us, and so we -- when we
6 pray, this is all the people we remember.

7 There's some -- there are some people who
8 are not here because they're employed, because they're
9 working. But we're representing all those people who are
10 not able to be here. Because we're working within the
11 time -- timelines, we have to watch the time and -- and
12 continue on. So we'll do a prayer before the...

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 (OPENING PRAYER)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Joseph.
19 Welcome again, everybody, to day 2. It's August 6th,
20 2010. We're back in Behchoko. I'm Grant Pryznyk, the
21 Co-chair. Joseph Judas is my fellow Co-Chair. And we're
22 going to be continuing on with closing comments this
23 morning.

24 The first one up that we have on here from
25 yesterday's list is the North Slave Metis Alliance.

1 North Slave Metis Alliance, is anyone here from that
2 organization? North Slave Metis Alliance? North Slave
3 Metis Alliance?

4 There is no one identified from that
5 group. We move on to Petersen's Points -- Point Lake
6 Lodge. Each -- one (1) moment, madam. Before we get
7 started, each organization has twenty (20) minutes to
8 present.

9 There will be no questions or comments on
10 the presentations. Thank you.

11

12 CLOSING COMMENTS BY PETERSEN'S POINT LAKE LODGE:

13 MS. AMANDA PETERSEN: Hello. Good
14 morning. I'm Amanda Petersen. I'm here representing
15 Petersen's Point Lake Lodge. So I actually didn't
16 prepare -- write down closing comments probably because I
17 had a hard time actually getting here.

18 And I went through a thought process about
19 the purpose of my attendance at these hearings,
20 particularly the last two (2) days. And I say this, I
21 guess -- well, I came to the conclusion to come today.

22 I think the thought process I had was, was
23 there a point? Was my voice and perspective valued and
24 heard? And, obviously, I thought, yes, so I've come
25 today. But I also question that because the proposal

1 that's before the Board, it's my interpretation that some
2 of those variables are already predetermined prior to
3 hearing my perspective.

4 And this is important for me to, I think,
5 speak about. There's a few things I -- I'm learning in
6 the process and I continue to learn. One (1) of them
7 that I think I see is, and admire, is that there seems to
8 be, when I look at the two (2) governments, and I see the
9 Tlicho Government working with their people, supporting
10 their people to be present, I -- I see the value in that
11 and hear that the -- there's an evolutionary process in
12 regarding to collaboration between parties and groups.

13 And I suppose I don't see that from my own
14 government, from the Government of the Northwest
15 Territories, in that I had to sign up independently as an
16 Intervenor because my perspective was not being heard by
17 the -- by the very government that's supposed to
18 represent my interests, my perspective.

19 And so as part of this process at the last
20 public hearing, I had heard recommended by, as -- if I
21 remember correctly, Mr. John Donihee had suggested that
22 there be accommodation or funds available to Intervenors
23 to attend public hearings, and correct me if I'm wrong.

24 And so I've asked for support to come to
25 these meetings from the Board and from the GNWT, and my

1 requests have been denied, and I still show up because
2 it's important that -- it's important that my story be
3 told.

4 So in March -- in March this year, you
5 heard me speak about our family business, about how we've
6 owned and operated a hunting lodge on the tundra for
7 almost thirty (30) years and that we, as well as I'm sure
8 all Northerners, have a deep respect and interest in
9 protecting our caribou herds.

10 And I think in saying that, we're -- I
11 speak of all caribou, not particularly one (1) caribou
12 herd. And these hearings seem to appear -- the proposal
13 that's before the Board is particularly surrounding the -
14 - the health and well being of the Bathurst caribou herd,
15 and somewhat of the adjoining herds.

16 Probably you also might recall ENR saying
17 that over the last couple of years that our family
18 business harvests predominately from the Bluenose East
19 herd and takes a limited number of bulls from that herd.

20 So I find that I'm -- the process is quite
21 complicated when it comes to users of the herd -- harvest
22 -- people who harvest from the herd, from caribou, and
23 they might do so from a variety of different herds. It
24 makes the Board's job, I'm sure, quite a bit more
25 difficult on determining and providing recommendations.

1 On fundamentally things we can control --
2 there's a lot of variables we can't control -- but things
3 we can control, pressures from harvest groups, outfitters
4 being one (1) of them.

5 I think I -- I see that we're all looking
6 for something concrete and this process certainly doesn't
7 provide a lot of concrete -- like, it doesn't provide a
8 concrete foundation, but I believe the venue here does.

9 And it's an opportunity for myself to
10 express -- and you've heard before, I'm not going to go
11 into my presentation, you have that on file. This venue
12 provides a collection of people to come together to
13 provide data, to show our respect for wildlife and
14 communicate what's happening. Right now I think we have
15 the pressure of time that's before us, and time in regard
16 to the health and wellness of our caribou, people's way
17 of life and culture and living.

18 And I brought up in my question --
19 questioning yesterday, I'd asked ENR if they thought that
20 the caribou outfitting industry was once a sustainable --
21 a renewable resource type of industry, and they said --
22 what I recall them saying, Yes, it was.

23 However, during the certain conditions
24 that apply from the last survey results, this no longer
25 is the case. And I think it's valuable to look at why

1 we're in this situation we're in. I believe and I know
2 that, in 2006, management action plans were proposed and
3 very few of them were followed through.

4 I believe that the GNWT has had capacity
5 to hire staff, to follow through with action plans, and
6 they have not done so. And the results are -- the
7 results are not only serious for our own family business,
8 losing our primary source of revenue, jobs, and really
9 our -- our way of life that we've known, and also, like,
10 it also effects, as we know, the caribou and harvest
11 levels and pressure on the caribou.

12 So I have to say that there's value in
13 going back and looking at why we're in the situation
14 we're in. And I agree and I believe that there is an
15 evolutionary process in place where there is meaningful
16 and collaborative communication amongst groups.

17 I'll say this before and -- I've said this
18 before and I'm sure I'll say it again that I want to be
19 part of that process. And -- and meeting with our
20 government representatives after they've already
21 predetermined what it is that they're going to do, well,
22 it doesn't sit well with me. So -- so that's the rules
23 based approach that I heard speak of yesterday, or I
24 heard someone talk of yesterday that it not necessarily
25 works very well.

1 So if we take a community based approach
2 where there's involvement and meaningful collaboration on
3 the very foundation level amongst people, I think that's
4 -- that's what -- that's what we can learn from. I think
5 that's what the GNWT can learn from, and that maybe the
6 implications of their rules based approach will not be so
7 detrimental to the people that they govern.

8 So I think our balance -- fundamentally, I
9 think our balance between people and the relationships
10 people have with wildlife, the concrete need for data,
11 whether it be research, planning, and the communication,
12 we need to look and evaluate to see if we're indeed
13 willing and we want to bring those together and work with
14 each other, not under crisis management, but on a
15 visionary process. And maybe that's what's beginning to
16 happen.

17 Unfortunately, I think for our business
18 and our family, that this has come too late. And I'd
19 only hope for better change.

20 That's it. Thank you. Oh, I'd like to
21 thank Behchoko, too. Thanks for the great meal yesterday
22 and for having us here.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
24 Amanda.

25 Yellowknives Dene First Nations. Todd...?

1 CLOSING COMMENTS BY YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION:

2 MR. TODD SLACK: Todd Slack, YKDFN. I
3 want to start off by sending Chief Sangris's regrets. He
4 would have preferred to be here, but he's out in Fort
5 Reliance, probably wind bound again today. And Chief
6 Setta's (phonetic) scheduling he -- he couldn't be here,
7 as well.

8 The Yellowknives Dene is pleased to see
9 that the government has adopted a much more inclusive
10 process with this current proposal. Recognition of the
11 links and impacts to the people and culture that depend
12 on the caribou for survival and identity form an
13 important part of the foundation.

14 This new proposal works from the reality
15 that management of caribou cannot be separated from the
16 people. In years past GNWT has attempted to manage the
17 caribou on a unilateral basis and this lack of
18 collaboration and feedback led to an absence of action
19 during the herd's decline, followed by the imposition of
20 extreme measures when the situation simply could not be
21 ignored. It is reassuring to see that the positive
22 attitude and efforts arising from the March Hearing were
23 converted into tangible results.

24 While the Revised Agreement represents a
25 significant step forward in terms of management for the

1 Bathurst caribou, it is a very complex proposal in its
2 early days and the largest issues remain to be addressed.

3 The Yellowknives Dene have noted the
4 limited scope of their participation, but wish to
5 highlight the significant and long term issues facing the
6 herd. Especially given the lack of flexibility that
7 accompanies such low population numbers. It is these
8 types of management actions, the big picture items, that
9 the GNWT has had such difficulty implementing in the
10 past. Though many of the issues have already been
11 identified in previous caribou workshops, there has been
12 little achieved in terms of progress.

13 In their intervention, the YKDFN have
14 reiterated the priority issues, recommending actions
15 which could be taken.

16 Understanding the broad scope, immediate
17 results are unlikely and we accept the government will
18 need time to develop their response, but we strongly
19 suggest that the Board require regular reporting on the
20 scope and undertakings with tentative deadlines for
21 results.

22 In the past, the GNWT has had no
23 commitments to complete these measures and has been
24 somewhat delinquent. However, if they are required to
25 report and the Board can meaningfully assess their

1 progress, then all parties can feel much more confident
2 that the GNWT will stay on target in terms of delivering
3 results.

4 For example, as has been previously
5 brought up, the development of calving ground protections
6 are essential and simply cannot be shuffled off to a
7 long-term issue.

8 There are already mine proposals in the
9 environmental assessment process in Nunavut, along with
10 many exploration programs. Every other NWT caribou herd
11 has protection for their calving grounds, and the
12 Bathurst should be no different, else the Dene hunters
13 who are sacrificing to help the herd recover may, in the
14 end, be suffering for nothing.

15 These are the types of issues that will
16 require the Federal Government to be involved. Remember,
17 until last year the GNWT had not undertaken meaningful
18 management actions, which is one (1) of the reasons that
19 we are all here today. Watching the Federal Government,
20 the Crown, adopt this same attitude is most
21 disconcerting.

22 Despite the clear responsibilities flowing
23 from treaty, INAC's land administration mandate, internal
24 staff recommendation and briefing notes, indicating that
25 INAC and the Crown have an important role to play in

1 caribou management, INAC-NWT is firmly behind their
2 Minister's statement, that INAC only manages the land and
3 water and, consequently, is not involved in wildlife
4 management.

5 It is not clear how the Minister or his
6 regional director general have determined that caribou
7 are not affected by how land or water is used. Unless
8 they get over this and begin to fulfill their duties,
9 caribou and their habitat will continue to be divorced.

10 The people cannot eat rock and the Dene
11 culture is not based on diamonds or gold. The time has
12 come for the Crown to acknowledge that they have a mixed
13 mandate, and rather than just encouraging development,
14 the promotion of healthy caribou herds is more important
15 than minerals and the balance must be reset to this fact.

16 If the caribou are at risk, then so too
17 are the Yellowknives' treaty rights, and the YKDFN will
18 be forced to try and enact habitat and caribou
19 protections through other less regulatory means. This
20 will no doubt have a ripple effect as these processes are
21 less suited to achieve the desired types of results.

22 Though the Yellowknives are not bound by
23 the decisions of this Board, they have offered numerous
24 recommendations that they feel would help strengthen the
25 proposal.

1 YKDFN have provided evidence in their
2 written intervention, and as well as submitted affidavits
3 to the Federal Court, on how Elders, leadership and
4 experts believe that there is a definite link between
5 development and caribou behaviour.

6 The simplest steps of establishing best
7 practices or in limiting access created by winter roads
8 have not been taken. There is no equivalent of the
9 caribou protection measures on the Northwest Territories'
10 side of the border.

11 One (1) of the cornerstone issues within
12 the Yellowknives intervention has been partially
13 addressed with the Revised Proposal. The introduction of
14 a section cons -- considering adaptive management
15 measures, particularly as outlined in Table 4, shows the
16 proposed monitoring actions and the desired response.

17 What is absent is a sufficient level of
18 detail indicating the thresholds and triggers that would
19 cause further management actions to be taken, either more
20 stringent or the easing of management. The review as
21 outlined in figure 5 can already be reasonably argued to
22 be in action, but without the clarity provided by
23 improved metrics and thresholds, it will always lack
24 transparency.

25 The first step towards adaptive management

1 is there, but ENR needs to finish their framework. With
2 the development of this framework it should make year-to-
3 year reporting to all parties and communities much easier
4 for ENR. The tracking of these monitoring targets
5 annually should allow ENR to develop and publish a
6 caribou report to help the people of the NWT understand
7 herd trends and see the benefits that their sacrifices
8 are providing to the caribou.

9 Finally, we would ask the Board to set out
10 requirements to remedy the data deficient nature facing
11 the Ahiak herd. This requirement will begin -- or pardon
12 me, will help ENR begin to target the research required
13 to ensure that the herd will have an appropriate level of
14 data available when future management planning commences.

15 As in the long-term management issues, ENR
16 has already accepted that there is work to be done, and
17 has committed to rectify this, but in the absence of
18 formal requirements there is no mechanism to compel their
19 action. And it would be far too easy to allow the
20 required work to slip yet another year.

21 We trust the Board has reviewed our
22 intervention, provided to help hold the GNWT and Crown
23 accountable on one (1) hand, while ensuring that the
24 future management actions will be constructive towards
25 caribou health.

1 The majority of the information,
2 suggestions and recommendations contained within that
3 document remain unaltered by the Revised Proposal. And
4 we have highlighted some of the most relevant issues from
5 our intervention, and hope that the Board, the GNWT and
6 the Tlicho Government have found it to be helpful and
7 constructive.

8 Lastly, I'd like to thank the opportunity
9 to come to Behchoko and address the Board, and we hope
10 that our limited participation has helped make your
11 decisions easier, and wish you luck with your final
12 report.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Todd.
14 Rabesca's Resources, Joyce, it's your
15 turn.

16
17 CLOSING COMMENTS BY RABESCA'S RESOURCES:

18 MS. JOYCE RABESCA: Good morning,
19 everybody. I had the opportunity to leave the North for
20 a week and take my eye away from what was happening to
21 our personal situation and participate in a conference on
22 looking at the global issues that are happening around
23 the world.

24 And I have some speaking notes here. I
25 wasn't sure what I was going to say, but when I thought

1 about it, I thought, well, I -- I think I need to -- to
2 let everybody see through what I saw with both eyes this
3 time.

4 I'm just going to read from my notes here,
5 and -- and partially speak too, but...

6 The rapid disappearance of animal and
7 plant species was ranked as one of the planet's greatest
8 environmental issues at the start of the 21st century.

9 It surpasses pollution, global warming,
10 and the thinning of the ozone layer, according the survey
11 of four hundred (400) scientists commissioned by New
12 York's American Museum of Natural History.

13 Nearly all attributed the losses of -- of
14 animal species and plant species to human activity,
15 especially the destruction of plant and animal habitat.
16 The obstruction of migration routes used by land animals,
17 such as roads, human population growth, over hunting, and
18 other manmade barriers, can critically disrupt animal
19 species.

20 United Nations reports have shown that 70
21 percent of species around the -- of plants around the
22 world are endangered, 70 percent. Thirty-five percent of
23 freshwater fish are endangered globally. Twenty percent
24 of mammals are endangered, including our caribou.

25 Ocean species are also endangered and

1 other changes are being observed globally. Sea turtles
2 are being killed in drift nets. More -- more sea turtles
3 are being killed in drift nets than are being born.

4 Sharks are diminishing in ever greater
5 numbers. Record numbers of jellyfish are dying on the
6 beaches of Scotland, believed to be a result of the
7 warming waters of the ocean.

8 Two hundred and fifty percent more fish
9 are being caught than oceans can produce in a sustainable
10 manner. Fish stocks have collapsed by 30 percent over
11 the last twenty (20) years.

12 Eyewitnesses from our own region have told
13 us that arctic glaciers are melting faster each year.
14 Unusual tropical plant species natural to the Amazon are
15 now seen grown -- growing in the North Sea.

16 The human race consumed more in the last
17 fifty (50) years than in the preceding 1 million years.
18 Earth's people are consuming at an unsustainable rate
19 around the planet.

20 Loss of Mother Earth's habitat, animals,
21 and fish are accelerating at a pace that goes beyond the
22 scenarios and models scientists have been -- have been
23 using, according to experts of the United Nations'
24 environmental programs. We just don't have the models
25 anymore that -- that this fits into.

1 Environmental degradation occurs at the
2 flow of goods, services, people, technologies, and
3 workers expand, even to our more isolated regions, here.
4 It's coming. It has happened.

5 We are all torn between the way things are
6 now and how they have been. We have been blessed to have
7 experienced such an abundance of nature's gifts.

8 However, we are now faced with the loss of
9 a species so precious to us here in the North, caribou.
10 The conflict exists between short-term personal gain and
11 the long-term survival of our own well-being. We have
12 the choice, it's in our hands. How will we choose?

13 Rabesca Resources' position regarding the
14 protection of the Bathurst caribou herd remains the same
15 as stated in our original presentation, only in ever
16 greater urgency with the determination to move forward,
17 communicate, organize, mobilize, and implement the
18 protective measures recommended here. We will work
19 together to save caribou and we may come together to save
20 ourselves. These are sacred times, let us act in a
21 sacred way.

22 I'd just like to end with a prayer once
23 again.

24 Bless Mother Earth, bless the caribou,
25 bless us all. May the Creator protect us and keep our

1 bodies and spirits strong.

2 The sources of my information come from
3 the Internet and various reports of -- from the United
4 Nations on biological diversity estimates of species
5 extinction rate and other United Nations programs.

6 I just urge everyone to work together
7 here. Trust that this is not foolish science, this isn't
8 conspiracies, it's nothing of the kind. It really is a
9 serious matter that we can all contribute to in a
10 positive way. Thank you. And I wish you all the best of
11 luck in putting all this together.

12 And I -- I just wanted to recommend one
13 (1) thing too, that I think our -- our -- the young men
14 that we have going to the mines these days working are
15 somewhat desensitized about what's happening. They come
16 back in -- in their two (2) week periods and they may --
17 they may over hunt because that's what they've always
18 done and they -- they're not aware of maybe what we're
19 doing and what's going on.

20 It might be something the Tlicho
21 Government might consider is having an educational
22 program for a couple of days. Maybe it can be done at
23 the mine, that shares with -- with those workers some of
24 the information that we're learning here. I just wanted
25 to put that recommendation forward so -- as something to

1 consider, that we have educational programs going on at
2 the mine for Tlicho workers and other people who have
3 hunted caribou all their life. It's changing.

4 Thanks. Thank you. I really am finished
5 this time.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH JUDAS: Thank you,
7 Joyce.

8 Let's go with GNWT's closing remarks and
9 then we'll take a break.

10

11 CLOSING COMMENTS BY GNWT:

12 MR. GARY BOHNET: Gary Bohnet, Deputy
13 Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

14 Thank you, Board members and Chairs, for
15 the opportunity to provide closing remarks from the
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We
17 thank the Board and the people of Behchoko for their
18 hospitality throughout the hearings.

19 We have listened closely to the statements
20 made by the Elders, the Tlicho Government, the
21 Yellowknife Dene First Nations, the Intervenors, members
22 of the public. We would like to thank everyone for being
23 open and sharing their views honestly.

24 We are confident that the information that
25 we have presented about the caribou is accurate. This is

1 the story the information tells. First, the movement of
2 the collared cows tells us that most cows from one (1)
3 herd uses the same calving grounds and the same fall and
4 winter range. This has not changed in the past fifteen
5 (15) years.

6 The movement shows that almost all caribou
7 in Wek'eezhii are from two (2) herds, the Bluenose East
8 herd and the Bathurst. In winter, the Bluenose East is
9 usually found close to Gameti and Whati. The Bathurst is
10 usually found around Wekweeti and north and east of
11 Yellowknife.

12 Secondly, people have asked that we survey
13 all the herds at the same time. We have done this twice.
14 In 2007 and 2008, the entire tundra from the Mackenzie
15 Delta to Hudson Bay was flown and for two (2) years all
16 the calving ground areas were surveyed at the same time.

17 In June, collared cows were on the calving
18 grounds as expected. The rate of collared cows switching
19 from -- switching between herds is low. In addition,
20 there have been no increases in the neighbouring herds.
21 It is this information that tells us caribou have not
22 moved elsewhere.

23 Third, we do have an explanation on how
24 the decline is happening. ENR believes that most of the
25 decline of the Bathurst is due to a natural cycle which

1 has happened many times in the past. We also know that
2 the caribou and reindeer across their global range are
3 not doing very well. Most populations are in decline.

4 In particular cond -- in particular -- in
5 particular, conditions in the early 2000s were poor in
6 the Northwest Territories. Low pregnancy rates, poor
7 calf survival, and late calving all point to herds that
8 would have declined regardless of harvest levels.

9 We know that development, like diamond
10 mines, has some effect on caribou, but in other herds,
11 where there are no mines, caribou numbers also have
12 declined. For the Bathurst herd, we know between 2000
13 and 2005, cari -- calf survival was low, which means
14 today we have few caribou that are between the ages of
15 five (5) and ten (10) years. If we have mostly old and
16 young cows, then you do not have many that are producing
17 calves.

18 Fourth, harvest information was collected
19 in the past few years from winter road check stations,
20 hunter interviews in Tlicho communities, and outfitters.
21 By looking at collared locations in fall and winter, we
22 can say that the majority of the harvest in the winter of
23 2008/'09 came from the Bathurst herd. The harvest was
24 between five thousand (5,000) to seven thousand (7,000)
25 caribou, mostly cows.

1 contribute to higher survival in cows. Harvest
2 management in other NWT herds, Cape Bathurst and Bluenose
3 West herds, have been effective. These are currently the
4 only herds monitored by GNWT that are showing a stable
5 trend. Actions for those herds were recommended by co-
6 management boards, Sahtu, Gwichin, and Inuvialuit.

7 We agree that making good decisions
8 requires the best information available, both from
9 science and from traditional knowledge.

10 ENR has used the recommendations from ARC
11 -- from the ARC report to improve the information
12 available. We are confident this information tells a
13 story that caribou numbers are low and actions are needed
14 to help cows survive and increase in number. We, in this
15 room, have the power to take those actions.

16 From time to time during the hearings,
17 there's still been the question of the science. And I
18 think, Co-chairs, I would suggest to you and to
19 Intervenors, and everybody else, it's time to get beyond
20 that point and start to work on the solutions rather than
21 continue to bicker over the science, which, undeniable,
22 has been accurate and correct.

23 ENR has worked with the Tlicho Government
24 on a government-to-government basis to come to agreement
25 on actions that were not agreed to in the original joint

1 proposal submitted in November 2009.

2 The Revised Joint Proposal contains
3 actions to reduce harvest and wolf numbers -- to reduce
4 harvest and wolf numbers to increase the survival of
5 caribou. ENR believes that wolf numbers in the Bathurst
6 range have decreased substantially.

7 However, ENR will invest in further
8 studies to determine wolf numbers and predation -- predation
9 rates. ENR will also work with the Tlicho Government and
10 the other aboriginal governments and organizations to
11 increase support to hunters and trappers that hunt
12 wolves.

13 ENR has held workshops in the regions to
14 review the forest fire program this spring, and will
15 continue to do it throughout the summer and fall, to
16 obtain views on prioritizing the values at risk that
17 peoples want protected.

18 We've heard from many of the people in
19 Tlicho and the Yellowknife areas that there's certain
20 corridors that we've got to protect for -- for the sake
21 of the caribou.

22 We agree we must do a better job to keep
23 people informed. And in the -- and in the Joint Proposal
24 ENR commits to involve in the Tlicho Government and
25 citizens and management and monitoring actions. However,

1 we do not have much time to make decisions. We believe
2 actions must be agreed on before the next hunting season.

3

4 The whole issue around communications in
5 doing -- ENR being -- doing a better job on
6 communications and engagement with all folks is a
7 commitment everyone has, Tlicho, the Yellowknives, the
8 aboriginal governments, including the Intervenors.

9 The third-party review by the Alberta
10 Research Council of ENR data was the department's
11 approach to accommodate and comply with those who
12 required additional assurance that ENR's methods were
13 valid.

14 Mr. Roy from the Alberta Research Council
15 clearly stated that ENR data confirm a decline in caribou
16 number and ENR has imple -- implemented most of the
17 recommendations.

18 ENR has met with the outfitters many times
19 since 2003 to discuss survey results, share information,
20 and identify recovery options. We ask the Board to
21 review how ENR -- ENR's information has been interpreted
22 by some of the other parties.

23 When ENR has examined these presentations,
24 we find that statements made by ENR staff have been taken
25 out of context and not all informa -- ENR information has

1 been used in the analysis. We are concerned that some
2 interpretations are misinformation aimed at delaying
3 management actions.

4 There continued to be comments ENR has not
5 been transparent or forthcoming with information. Since
6 November 2009, Intervenors had several opportunity to
7 make requests to the Board for information. ENR has
8 responded to all requests from the Board for information.
9 ENR has provided hundreds of pages of documents and raw
10 data. As well, Intervenors have been provided additional
11 information for the Board to consider. ENR is confident
12 the Board has the best information available to make its
13 decision.

14 In reviewing the statements provided by
15 Intervenors, ENR notes that no one has provided any new
16 information to document caribou numbers are strong. No
17 one is saying they see as many caribou as they did twenty
18 (20) years ago. This is an important point for everyone
19 to think about.

20 ENR agrees with statements made at this
21 Hearing by Elders and others that there is no one (1)
22 cause for the caribou decline. Our environment is
23 changing, and we should be careful so we have caribou for
24 our children.

25 ENR agrees all aboriginal people have the

1 right to hunt caribou as long as caribou are abundant.
2 When caribou are abundant, all people should be able to
3 benefit and use caribou. However, now is not the time.
4 There are not many caribou.

5 Elders talked about times when there were
6 restrictions on beaver, martin or even caribou, but a few
7 years later these animals become plentiful again and
8 there were no more restrictions.

9 Elders talk about how their parents taught
10 them how to take only what was needed and to leave seed
11 for the future. In the old days, when caribou went away
12 for a few years, people survived by fishing and hunting
13 other animals. All Elders also know stories about times
14 when the caribou went away.

15 ENR agrees that we must respect the
16 caribou. No one owns the caribou. EN -- ENR is prepared
17 to do their part. ENR will work with the Tlicho
18 Government and the other aboriginal organizations and
19 members of the public to increase use of trish --
20 traditional knowledge in management and help -- help
21 people pass on traditional laws about caribou.

22 Elders spoke about some such as sharing
23 your harvest with your family and widows, to not hunt
24 until the leaders of the caribou have passed and to give
25 your first caribou to El -- Elders to taste.

1 The revoy -- the revised Joint Proposal
2 submitted by the Tlicho Government and ENR is asking the
3 Board to consider the following:

4 ENR has presented biological evidence that
5 there has been a steep and rapid decline of the Bathurst
6 herd.

7 2. The Revised Joint Proposal recommends
8 an adaptive management approach that can be adjusted at
9 intervals as additional information is gained.

10 3. The Revised Joint Proposal recommends
11 three (3) objectives for the Bathurst herd over the next
12 three (3) years.

13 Take immediate actions to stop the
14 decline. From a biological perspective, the best option
15 for recovery of the Bathurst herd would be no further
16 harvest until the herd can again sustain it.

17 However, to strengthen the Tlicho culture,
18 language and way of life, some harvest of caribou must
19 continue. ENR and the Tlicho Government have suggested a
20 limited harvest of around three hundred (300) for the
21 entire Bathurst herd, focussing on young bulls. This is
22 about the level of harvest taken this past winter. This
23 harvest would be shared among aboriginal groups both
24 inside and out the Wek'eezhii area.

25 Mandatory reporting of all harvesting,

1 this is a fundamental requirement for management. There
2 are several options to implement this measure.

3 C. Develop a long-term management plan by
4 2012 that is done cooperatively and allows for input by
5 all people. This recovery plan should be for the entire
6 range of this herd.

7 4. For the Bluenose East herd, the Sahtu
8 Renewal Resource Board limited all resident and
9 outfitting hunting of the Bluenose East herd in the Sahtu
10 because of the decline. The Joint Proposal asks
11 Wek'eezhii Board to do the same for this herd in
12 Wek'eezhii. Aboriginal hunters should try to reduce
13 their harvest also, and the harvest levels should be
14 reviewed when the new herd estimate is available this
15 fall. The collaborative management planning process for
16 this herd should continue.

17 5. For the Ahiak herd, the revised
18 proposal recommends a long-term management plan that is
19 done cooperatively with all governments and allows for
20 input by all people. There are -- there should be a
21 focus on increasing cow and calf survival.

22 ENR recognizes the duty to consult. ENR
23 commits to work with aboriginal groups outside of
24 Wek'eezhii on developing actions for management --
25 managing shared caribou herds. In deve -- in developing

1 the Revised Joint Proposal, ENR also provides
2 opportunities for input -- input for other interest
3 groups and stakeholders, and consider their advice.

4 Co-chairs, prior to closing, I just want
5 to make a couple other -- other comments, and it's in
6 regards to one (1) particular issue that was raised
7 yesterday and I just wanted to point out that -- which
8 was found somewhat troublesome, was the -- a point was
9 made yesterday, or insinuation that the Government of the
10 Northwest Territories, ENR, may have had ulterior motives
11 for -- for doing, and the approach that has been taken,
12 and in particular, on the way that there seems to be we
13 deal with one (1) group of people versus another group of
14 people. And we found that somewhat troublesome because
15 it would be helpful for the Intervenor on -- on that
16 particular case to understand that there are -- things
17 are different in this territory and that they should
18 actually read the -- the Tlicho Land Claim and Self
19 Government Agreement, take a look at what aboriginal
20 rights and treaty rights mean, and -- and the case law
21 around, you know, subsistence hunting for aboriginal
22 people.

23 So, in fact, it's not an issue of a
24 government, you know, siding or trying to do something
25 for a group of people at the expense of another group of

1 people. It's the laws of the land and it's the way of
2 the changing landscape of wildlife management in -- in
3 these territories, which I know the Board is quite aware
4 of because of the -- or else there wouldn't be a Board.

5 But I just make that point and to the
6 Intervenors in particular that raise that issue. I want
7 to assure them that there is no hidden motives. What we
8 have is an opportunity to -- to work and do things right.

9 In clos -- in closing, Chairs, ENR would
10 like to -- like to thank the Tlicho Government for the
11 oppor -- opportunity to work together, and believe this
12 is the foundation for a strong relationship to help save
13 caribou and increase the caribou numbers and implement
14 the Tlicho Agreement, and to work with the Board in the
15 decisions that have to be made in the Wek'eezhii area.

16 ENR understands the Board must make some
17 difficult decisions, but I think as we've heard from a
18 number of Elders, it's time for the people and leaders to
19 be strong and work together to make the best decision for
20 the caribou, so they -- they too can be strong again.

21 Mr. Co-Chairs, that concludes my
22 statement, and thank you to the Board, Intervenors, and
23 in particular, the Tlicho and Yellowknives and those
24 people we've been working with. Thank you very much.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Bohnet.

1 Let's take a break and come back at twenty (20) minutes
2 to 11:00. That's a twenty (20) minute break. So we'll
3 be back at twenty (20) minutes to 11:00. Thank you.

4

5 --- Upon recessing at 10:20 a.m.

6 --- Upon resuming at 10:47 a.m.

7

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH JUDAS: (DOGRIB
9 SPOKEN)

10

11 CLOSING COMMENTS BY TLICHO GOVERNMENT:

12 MS. BERTHA RABESCA ZOE: Mahsi. First of
13 all we like to thank the Board for continuing this
14 process and involving all the parties again. We also
15 like to, on behalf of the Tlicho Government, the
16 assembly, and the chief's -- the Grand Chief, thank the
17 Board, and -- and to providing -- to -- in providing us
18 an opportunity to work in a true collaborative manner
19 with ENR. We also would like to thank the Intervenors
20 for providing their -- their -- for being involved in the
21 process and for providing input. Whether we agree or
22 disagree on issues, I mean, that's what these hearings
23 are all about.

24 The Tlicho agreement, it's been five (5)
25 years since effective date; the Grand Chief mentioned

1 that yesterday; that yesterday was really when the Tlicho
2 Government started, five (5) years ago. And that Tlicho
3 agreement, as we all know, is about language, culture,
4 and way of life.

5 And the Tlicho Government is responsible
6 for upholding the intents and -- and the contents of the
7 agreement. The agreement also provides certainty. It's
8 also about ownership of land. And it's also about
9 management of resources.

10 It gives also powers to the Tlicho
11 Government; one (1) of them is resource management. But
12 it doesn't say that they work in isolation; they have to
13 work with ENR and harmonize their laws. And so it is
14 under this agreement that the Tlicho Government is
15 enforcing its obligation and its commitment.

16 Now, the proposal -- the joint proposal,
17 as we've heard over and over in the last -- yesterday and
18 today, is -- is a collaborative process. When we say,
19 "collaborative process," it means working together in --
20 in all ways.

21 And the other issue that -- the issue that
22 was brought out yesterday was targets versus total
23 allowable harvest. There seems to be some concern about
24 why one and not the other. What does it mean? What does
25 targets mean? What does total allowable harvest mean?

1 We don't want to create confusion; what one is -- the
2 other --- and why not the other. I think there is some
3 confusion enough already as it is on what we propose,
4 especially for targets. But, we need to be clear why one
5 and not the other.

6 When we say, "target", it's -- you know,
7 we -- we are saying three hundred (300) plus/minus 10
8 percent. Roughly we're talking about between two hundred
9 and seventy (270) and three hundred and thirty (330)
10 caribou, Bathurst caribou. We have to make that point
11 very clear, especially for the Tlicho people, that will
12 bear the brunt of these targets.

13 And out of that we're saying 80 percent
14 bulls. So when we say "target," it's between this number
15 and that number. It's a flexible number. And it's not
16 an arbitrary number that was just taken out of hat.
17 We've said that yesterday. It's based on pro --
18 precautionary principles. The agreement is pretty clear
19 on what those principles are. It's also based on last
20 year's harvest.

21 Page 43 of the proposal lays out those
22 numbers, an estimate of the harvest, the caribou that was
23 taken out of -- out of the Wek'eezhii area. I think
24 people need to understand -- or need to know what those
25 numbers were; how many num -- how many caribou was taken

1 out last year.

2 So the target, as was explained yesterday,
3 gives us flexibility, and we -- we approached this on a
4 collabora -- collaborative adaptive co-management way,
5 because that's what also the agreement calls for.

6 Now, this -- this target, again, is for
7 the Bathurst herd. Now, for the Bluenose, we're
8 suggesting recommending about nineteen hundred (1,900)
9 Bluenose caribou be allowed to be taken, to be harvested;
10 out of that 80 percent to be bull.

11 Again, this is also based on precautionary
12 notes. There was debate -- or discussion yesterday about
13 why that number, based on one (1) number, and whether --
14 what happens once the survey population results are
15 released. But in our discussion, based on the
16 information we had, it was based on the number of
17 Bluenose caribou; I think it was 2006 population numbers.
18 So we used that number in the absence of the numbers for
19 this -- this fall and 4 percent of that. Also, we use 45
20 percent reduction of what last year's harvest was.

21 So we've taken a -- we -- so we've
22 discussed in detail the -- these numbers, and where they
23 came from, and how we -- we approached it.

24 So we need to understand. We need to make
25 -- especially Tlicho people, very clear on what kind of

1 numbers we're talking about, so I'm going to just repeat
2 a little bit of what I said in my own language.

3

4 (THROUGH INTERPRETER INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MS. BERTHA RABESCA ZOE: Yes, we're
7 trying to re -- repeat what -- the number has been taken
8 from the -- the previous estimate and the -- the -- it's
9 -- about three hundred and seventy (370) caribou has been
10 taken out of previous estimates. Yes, we're talking
11 about these two (2) herds from -- yes, one (1) herd is
12 Bathurst herd. Yes, most of the people from Wek'weeti
13 and Gameti -- I guess, this is where all the wintering
14 from the Bathurst herd.

15 So I think there's about -- at least three
16 (300) has been taken out of -- out of that herd through
17 previous years. And most of the hunters from the -- from
18 the Gameti and -- and Wahti, I guess, hunted in the --
19 from Bluenose herd -- yes, I think there's approximately
20 five hundred (500) animals that's been taken out of
21 Bluenose.

22 So in all, I think there's about three
23 hundred (300) and -- seven hundred and thirty (730)
24 caribou has been taken from the two (2) herds, we
25 estimate, I guess. And if you consider it as the number

1 important that we should make that distinction very clear
2 because there seems to be some confusion about three
3 hundred (300). They -- there seems to be a -- a view --
4 some view, not -- not every -- everyone has that view,
5 but three hundred (300) for total, and that's it for --
6 for all of the caribou. I don't think we made that very
7 clear in our submissions yesterday that we're talking
8 about two (2) herds; one (1) where we're allowing about
9 nineteen hundred (1,900) harvest and three hundred (300),
10 10 percent plus/minus on the other one, on the Bathurst.

11 When we were discussing the proposal, it
12 was always with a view of targets. We've never talk
13 (sic) about total allowable harvest, and why -- why we
14 never talked about total allowable harvest? I think Art
15 made it very clear yesterday; he outlined the reasons why
16 it's not total allowable harvest.

17 The Tlicho Agreement makes very clear on
18 when to exercise total allowable harvest. If to -- if
19 there is to be total allowable harvest, then the Board
20 has to make the allocation. Again, this implies a top
21 down approach which is contrary to a what a government-
22 to-government collab -- collaborative adaptive process is
23 all about.

24 It would also make it very difficult to
25 engage communities in a meaningful participatory way. If

1 the Board should impose total allowable harvest, then who
2 will implement it? Who will enforce it? That doesn't
3 mean that maybe at some later time, ENR and the Tlicho
4 Government may recommend total allowable harvest, but
5 this is not the time and we are not there yet.

6 Again, when -- when we first started the
7 work on putting together a proposal in front of the
8 Board, we've come quite a long ways in -- in closing the
9 gap that we were at in March where we had total
10 disagreement on the issue of Aboriginal harvesting. To
11 come before the Board with a Joint Proposal that we have
12 submitted, we feel is quite an accomplishment. Both
13 parties should be commended.

14 Collative -- collaborative process,
15 cooperative process speaks to how issues can be dealt
16 with in a true partnership way. However, this is just
17 the beginning. The difficult and challenging task of
18 implementation begins. There were many questions dealing
19 with issues of how we're going to deal with proposed
20 management actions, process, the framework structure.
21 This is where implementation becomes key to achieving the
22 objectives that was laid out in the proposal.

23 Again, this is a short-term proposal.
24 Again, we've -- we've stated early on that the goal is to
25 stabilize the herd so that there's no further decline.

1 And the long-term objectives would be to try to assist
2 the herd in increasing the population.

3 We've started -- as we've stated that
4 we've started some pre-implementation discussions with
5 ENR. There's some things that we could start working on
6 right away, probably, such as education, communication to
7 the communities, to the Tlicho people. Implementation
8 will require a detailed plan with target dates; who is
9 responsible for what; how we're going to report.

10 The work would be based on the annual
11 cycle as was put in the proposal. The annual cycle is
12 pretty clear on what happens during each season. The
13 information that needs to be gathered: the monitoring,
14 the evaluation.

15 It also requires setting up structures or
16 management framework as outlined in the proposal; how
17 much is all this going to cost; who's going to pay for
18 what. Along with that, the Tlicho Government needs to
19 allow this -- the assembly to make those kind of
20 decisions in terms of cost. Another question that came
21 up was: When will this all happen? What is the timeline
22 in which this can be accomplished?

23 As parties, we're committed to having this
24 in place before the winter harvest.

25 Tlicho Government since effective date has

1 worked hard and diligently to enforce the agreement.
2 This proposal, the joint proposal, is one (1) of the
3 results to try to enforce the agreement.

4 The Tlicho have taken their responsibility
5 very seriously by recommending these targets. It may not
6 be a popular decision, but it's based on the need to
7 stabilize further decline of the Bathurst herd. Again,
8 it's based on what the Tlicho agreement says. And it's
9 also based on the responsibility to preserve for the
10 future generation. It's also based on the ability to be
11 able to continue exercising Tlicho rights to harvest, but
12 can only be done if there is a healthy sustainable
13 population.

14 Some leaders have -- Tlicho leaders have
15 said, if you don't have a herd -- if you don't have --
16 the caribou is in such a decline, what rights -- what --
17 what good are those rights?

18 The other one -- the -- the other thing I
19 touched on, or mentioned is the long-term planning. This
20 is a start -- a beginning to start that work. The
21 agreement is pretty clear on -- on the need to develop a
22 long-term -- a comprehensive Bathurst management plan.
23 Chapter 12-11 of the agreement; it -- it's under that
24 chapter.

25 We've gathered enough ample information on

1 the Bathurst through this process; it's all on the public
2 record. There's work that's going to continue to happen
3 and this process can assist in continuing that work
4 towards developing a long -- a comprehensive management
5 proposal for the Bathurst.

6 As I stated yesterday, the Board is tasked
7 with initiating that work and we started it before, but
8 we kind of put it on hold, so we just need to pick that
9 up.

10 The Board has a challenging task; no doubt
11 about that. It must weigh all the facts, the evidence,
12 the best information, using best information before you,
13 and make recommendation. Tlicho Government fully
14 respects the integrity of the Board and fully res --
15 respects the Board's process.

16 As we all know, as institution of public
17 government, the Board is to be fair, transparent. Tlicho
18 Government recognizes this and respects that. As with
19 other Wek'eezhii boards, Tlicho Government has stated
20 that they would hold a board to highest standards in
21 these -- in this regard.

22 Again, in closing, we -- Tlicho Government
23 thank -- would like to thank the Board for the work that
24 they've undertaken. And we'd like to also thank ENR for
25 the ability to be able to work together in a

1 collaborative partnership manner.

2 I'd like to also state that Tlicho
3 Government, as a government, made decisions as a
4 government internally, and the Tlicho Government did not
5 follow ENR around. And there seems to be some impression
6 out there; but Tlicho Government made sure that ENR was
7 able to present what was needed so that they could debate
8 some of the issues before them to be able to come
9 together on a -- on a joint proposal. There's hard
10 questions asked and everything was on the table, and so
11 the leadership were fully aware and make decisions based
12 on what was in the best interests of the Tlicho people
13 and the Tlicho Government.

14 So, with that, again, we -- we thank
15 everybody for being involved in this whole process, to
16 see the Agreement fully alive and being implemented and
17 that -- that's the closing comments for the Tlicho
18 Government. Mahsi.

19

20 (THROUGH THE INTERPRETER INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH JUDAS: Thank you,
23 Bertha. Yes, I think the Hearing is pretty well -- it's
24 underway and we heard from various parties that are
25 concerned about this new proposal and the -- I like to --

1 like to get the Board members to speak and I like to give
2 the first opportunity to Interim Chair to speak. And I
3 think we've been here for a day and a half on --
4 remaining of the Hearing, and we appreciate the public
5 input, and public has been here with us listening to the
6 -- all the interested parties, you know, hearing one
7 another out in a public hearing.

8 Yes, we have listened to the -- to the
9 closing comments from the ENR and including the Tlicho
10 Government and I'd like to have Interim Chair speak to
11 you.

12

13 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Joseph.
16 Well, here we are after almost nine (9) months and six
17 and a half (6 1/2) days of hearings, and I want to thank
18 everyone, especially the two (2) governments for your
19 efforts in preparing the joint proposals. It took a lot
20 of time and hard work to get where we are now.

21 The Intervenors, I want to thank you for
22 your commitment in preparing for this, it took a lot of
23 your time, and for taking part in the six and a half (6
24 1/2) days, in particular.

25 The public, thanks to you again for

1 attending and for your interest and participation. It's
2 always -- it's very important to hear what the public has
3 to say in this process, this type of process.

4 The people of Behchoko, for their
5 hospitality and the use of their cultural centre. It's a
6 great spot for a hearing. Thank you. Especially on a
7 beautiful day like it is today. We should all be outside
8 somewhere anyway, so.

9 And our support staff for running the
10 Hearing, the cultural centre staff, the cooks, our
11 interpreters, Pido Production for our sound, and Wendy
12 for recording our proceedings.

13 WRRB will consider all the information
14 that has been collected to prepare its final report and
15 it will contain recommendations and decisions in
16 accordance with the Tlicho Land Claim Agreement. And we
17 expect that we'll be ready by October 9th, 2010.

18 And the Board thanks you all for your
19 cooperation and participation in making our hearing a
20 success and we look forward to working with everybody
21 again in the future to make management actions for the
22 Bathurst caribou and other caribou herds very successful.

23 Lunch is twelve o'clock, so we have 45
24 minutes to stand around and talk and have a coffee.
25 Please stay and eat. It's going to be another good

1 lunch. The public record is closed and we are adjourned.
2 Mahsi cho.

3 Joseph, can someone say a closing prayer
4 for us?

5

6 (THROUGH INTERPRETER INTO ENGLISH)

7

8 THE CO-CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes,
9 I'm Joseph Judas. As Chair, I'd like to make an offering
10 to say a closing prayer. According to Interim Chair, I
11 think we -- we have a lot of food here to share for the -
12 - for the general public.

13 But we, as the Board members, I guess --
14 and we might have to go and deliberate sometime right
15 into the afternoon, so on behalf of the Board, I'd like
16 to thank the -- the Behchoko community to make all the
17 facilities available to us, to organize such a hearing.

18 And these things are -- take a lot of
19 work, a lot of coordinations. Yes, as Board members too,
20 I guess, you know, we have a lot of work to do yet. We
21 know that the -- the caribou are very important. The --
22 we know the history of the -- how our ancestors used to
23 handle caribou and how they used to live with it. And
24 it's a very important subject, but yet -- but according
25 to my Co-chair, I think you might our final report

1 sometime in the first week of October 9, and I think it's
2 -- it's a good -- it's not that far away.

3 But I'd like to thank all the general
4 public to -- have a lot of interest. That shows that --
5 they're present today -- every day. And I'd like to ask
6 both level of government, Tlicho Government and
7 Territorial Government representative be with us, to make
8 a good -- make the Hearing quite possible.

9 And we had a lot of resource people here
10 with us that have help us make a productive hearing, and
11 including our communications, such as the Pido
12 Productions and interpreters.

13 Making that note, I'd like to say my
14 prayer. And when I -- when I first opened up a prayer
15 this morning, I reminded you that we came here by means
16 of various ways of travelling. And some of us came in by
17 vehicles. Some of them from out-of-town; I guess, we
18 have to travel by air. So to have a safe journey home.
19 I guess we might have to ask the Creator to -- to make
20 all that possible for us to make it home safely.

21 And certainly we'd like to ask the Creator
22 to make a good sound deliberations and make a final
23 report on behalf of the -- all parties interest (sic).

24 Yes, that leading up to the Hearing I
25 think a lot of research has been taking place, a lot of

1 little group discussions that make this Hearing quite
2 possible. This, to us, I guess -- you know, the type of
3 public hearing that we're going through here is kind of
4 new to us, because of the -- Tlicho agreement has
5 specified had to make that all possible too.

6 Yes, we pretty well have to remember in
7 our prayers where we come from, and some of our
8 communities we have noticed some Elders are -- couldn't
9 get around. I hope they'll be able -- Creator to help
10 us. The closing prayer.

11

12 (CLOSING PRAYER)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: I forgot one (1) other
15 point; was I'd like to thank our Board staff over here.
16 They did a lot of work preparing for this starting back
17 in November, and they've made our job much easier. Thank
18 you.

19

20 --- Upon adjourning at 11:20 a.m.

21

22 Certified Correct,

23

24 _____

25 Wendy Warnock, Ms.