



Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

#21, 4910 - 50th Ave., YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES X1A 3S5
Street Address: 3rd floor - 4921 - 49th Street
Tel. (867) 920-4944 Fax: (867) 920-4640
Website: www.ykchamber.com

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Executive Director**

**Breanne Fancy
Administrative
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**Website
www.ykchamber.com**

Summary YK Chamber of Commerce position on the WRRB Hearing February 3, 2010

- The Information was not shared about the hearing in a prompt matter with Members of the Public as well as organizations/industry directly involved.
- The timing of the hearing and submissions has been changed and was not well communicated from the onset.
- The data used has been reported by some to be possibly biased and not independent enough.
- The issues of socio economic impacts were not well investigated and if so not communicated well enough.
- The documents prepared were not posted for public review until very late on the WRRB web site.
- The Chamber feels strongly that more study, investigation and research is required.
- The Chamber feels there are still a large number of organizations wishing to intervene and in the interest of justice and the best decision making possible they should be allowed.

Sincerely;

Patrick Doyle;
President, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

*The voice of
Yellowknife
Business for 60 years*





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Written Submission WRRB Hearing February 3, 2010

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce represents over 375 members and has been the voice of Yellowknife business since our inception in 1946.

We have received support in the most part for our intervener status from our Membership due to the lack of information made available to them and the general public on the matter of the WRRB hearings with respect to the Caribou heard.

The Chamber at the time of registering as an intervener expected that we would see some economic impact statements from industry included, and socio economic impacts reflected with data provided and shared. This has not been the case and the Chamber is questioning if this has even been considered; and if so, to what extent and by who? We feel strongly that with out this information many groups, organizations and individuals of the public were ill prepared to consider whether to become involved. We feel this may have been the reason many members of the community did not come forward as interveners.

As this is a public hearing with wide spread ramifications, we believe it is prudent to allow the public to participate in a meaningful way regardless of where we are in the process.

Decisions regarding the caribou can have significant impacts on the members of the YK Chamber of commerce. We believe that a thorough review, based on sound data and process is critical. We have had several concerns about the data and the process and our members are hearing much uncertainty about the status of the caribou in the NWT. We believe that a thorough assessment needs to be done and this assessment needs to be presented to the public so that the public understands all the facts. ENR has done some of this and the information being put forth in the hearing with respect to the scientific studies etc., are only being produced late and as part of this hearing, not in the general public consultations. We feel the public is still very uncertain about the status of the caribou in fact some members believe that the decline stated by ENR is not accurate.

We note that ENR has communicated with several organizations but we have been informed that the presentations have changed from one meeting to another. We do not consider those meetings to be adequate consultation given the lack of notice of meetings, the timing of those meetings, the lack of opportunity to provide constructive input and the lack of input to comment in a meaningful way.

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We still believe that as a matter of justice, that any additional interveners should be allowed to participate in this hearing such as the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, who's members will potentially be affected by these decisions.

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce does feel strongly that ENR has not reviewed and or considered the economic impact of this decision. If there has been some study or review of economic/socio-economic impacts performed it has not been communicated. The Chamber registered as an Intervener with respect to the economic impact on the City of Yellowknife in every matter from outfitters, to tourism operators, suppliers and air charter services.

It is known in the north that wildlife decisions have much effect on business development. We feel strongly that there needs to be independent study, more consultation and consideration before decisions are made.

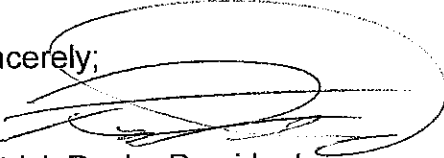
The Chamber has been informed that the Caribou Industry is a 24 million dollar a year industry in the north with much of that money flowing through Yellowknife for tourism, supply and services.

We need to make sound decisions and the only way to do that is with sound independent non biased data.

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce thanks you all for the opportunity to present our information today and thank you for your consideration.

For further information contact Ellie Sasseville, Executive Director at generalmanager@ykchamber.com or at 867-920-4944

Sincerely;



Patrick Doyle, President
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce