



**Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team**

December 11, 2013

Percy Kabloona, Acting Chair  
Nunavut Planning Commission  
P.O. Box 2101  
Cambridge Bay NU X0B 0C0  
Sent by E-mail: [sehaloak@nunavut.ca](mailto:sehaloak@nunavut.ca)

**RE: Protecting Caribou in Nunavut - Nunavut Land Use Planning**

Mr. Kabloona,

Although the Athabasca Denesuline (AD) are located in Northern Saskatchewan, our culture, history and way of life are highly dependent on the health of the Beverly, Ahiak, Bathurst and Qaminirjuaq barrenground caribou herds. On behalf of the AD, I would like to notify the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) that the AD have a very strong interest in the Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP), as any activity that causes stress, or results in a change of usual behaviour and/or diversion of migratory path of the caribou, can impact on the health and condition of these animals. This subsequently impacts on the AD communities that rely on these caribou for sustenance. During our preliminary review of the draft NLUP, we were very concerned that the NLUP contains no restrictions on any land use activities in caribou calving and post-calving areas. We are very concerned about this lack of protection for barren ground caribou herds while they are in Nunavut.

We also find it particularly troubling that the NLUP acknowledges the vulnerability of caribou during calving and post-calving periods, as well as the importance of habitats used during those periods, but proposes nothing to protect the caribou or these key habitats. We are very concerned that unless significant revisions to the NLUP occur, areas of crucial caribou habitat will be unprotected from damage that may result from mineral exploration and development and other commercial land uses. If the NLUP remains unchanged, there would also be a lack of effective protection for the caribou themselves during calving and post-calving periods, when they are most vulnerable to disturbance.

Email: [rrobillard@adnlc.ca](mailto:rrobillard@adnlc.ca) or [tgiroux@adnlc.ca](mailto:tgiroux@adnlc.ca)

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve # 201

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We request that the NPC give highest priority to developing ways to provide protection for caribou calving and post-calving areas during development of the final Nunavut-wide land use plan, as caribou are the lifeblood of the north. This protection should include prohibition of industrial development (including mineral exploration) from caribou calving areas and post-calving areas. We will be sending you a petition via mail, signed by over 300 AD that request *“that the Nunavut government protects these herds through the protection of calving grounds”*.

In addition, restrictions on land use activities should be applied to protect caribou from disturbance effects of land use activities around key water crossings and along seasonal migration routes. We have also noticed that the Caribou Protection Measures are not included within NLUP, which are currently applied through the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

We ask that you incorporate our recommendations in the final land use plan to safeguard caribou while they are in Nunavut for the thousands of users who depend on caribou for sustenance, a traditional reliance that crosses all political boundaries. Nunavut land use planning would be remiss if it did not address caribou conservation issues for all jurisdictions affected.

At this time, we would like to invite the NPC to our communities in order to effectively consult with us on the draft NLUP. Please contact our coordinator, Connie Cheecham to assist in coordinating this consultation at (306) 765-2560 or email [ccheecham@adnlc.ca](mailto:ccheecham@adnlc.ca).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (306) 765-2560 or email: [rrobillard@adnlc.ca](mailto:rrobillard@adnlc.ca).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Robillard', is positioned to the left of a vertical yellow line.

Ronald Robillard  
President, Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation

cc.

Distribution List (attached)

Chief Earl Lidguerre, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation

Chief Rick Robillard, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation

Chief Bart Tsannie, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation

## Distribution List

Honourable Johnny Mike, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut

Honourable George Kuksuk, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation,  
Government of Nunavut

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources,  
Government of the Northwest Territories

Drikus Gissing, Wildlife Director, GN-DOE

Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, GNWT-ENR

Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Biologist, GN-DOE

Elizabeth Copland, Chair, Nunavut Impact Review Board

Ben Kovic, Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Wildlife Manager, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

David Ningeongan, President, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Charlie Evalik, President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Ross Tatty, Chair, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attima Hadlari, Chair, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board

James Qillaq, Chair, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Alain Grenier, Acting Regional Director General, AANDC Nunavut Regional Office

Jeff Mercer, Manager of Land Administration, AANDC Nunavut Regional Office

Alex Ishalook, BQCMB member (Kivalliq Wildlife Board) and Chair, Arviat HTO

Stanley Adjuk, BQCMB member (Kivalliq Wildlife Board) and Chair, Whale Cove HTO

Earl Evans, Chair, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board