

To: Nunavut Planning Commission

From: Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

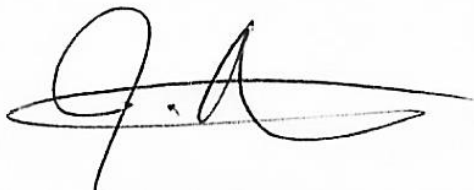
Re: Aviqtuuq Protected and Conserved Area

February 8, 2023

To whom it may concern,

This letter, from the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (SBHTA), is regarding the submission to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) of the proposed Aviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for the final Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). The SBHTA continues its commitment to the Aviqtuuq Project and approves of its current status as a limited-use and protected area in the 2021 draft NLUP. We emphasize an updated boundary line of additional terrestrial areas and the inclusion of the surrounding marine areas of the Boothia Peninsula represented in the map (Annex C) and the Geographic Information System file (Annex D). The SBHTA's Aviqtuuq project has received Letters of Support (Annex A) from the Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Association, the Kugaaruk Hunters and Trappers Association, and the Hamlet of Taloyoak. A supplementary summary (Annex B) of Taloyoarmiut caribou Inuit *Qaujimaqatuqangit* (IQ) from Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) supports the SBHTA's position on the Limited-Use Area designation of Aviqtuuq in the final NLUP. Additionally, SBHTA has been named the winner of the Arctic Inspiration Prize of \$451,000 for the Niqihagut (Our Food) Project which will provide food security and full-time employment to the community all while preserving the land, waters, and wildlife of Aviqtuuq for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Ullikatalik  
Manager, SBHTA

## [ANNEX A]

HTA Gjoa Haven  
P.O. Box 162  
Gjoa Haven NU X0B-1J0  
Ph. 867-360-6028  
Fax. 867-360-6913

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**January 13, 2023**

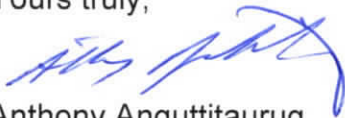
Jimmy Oleekatalik  
Manager, SBHTA  
Taloyoak, NU

**Re Support for Avigtuuq Project.**

Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trapper Assoc. held a meeting on August 25, 2022 and reached a decision to support The Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers Assoc. in creating the Avigtuuq Project and furthermore, have decided that this topic be put forward to the GHHTA AGM to seek approval or objection from the delegates.

The GHHTA held their AGM on October 8, 2022 and did not receive any objections from any delegates towards the Avigtuuq IPCA so therefore, accept this as Letter of Support for your ongoing project to create Avigtuuq IPCA.

Yours truly,



Anthony Anguttitauruq  
Manager, GHHTA

**January 23, 2023**

Jimmy Ullikatalik  
Manager, SBHTA  
Taloyoak, NU

**RE: Support for Avigtuuq Project**

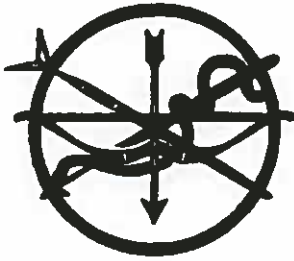
Kugaaruk Hunters and Trappers Association (KHTA) held a meeting among Board members on January 13, 2023, and agreed to support the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (SBHTA) in their ongoing efforts to establish the Avigtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area. Recognizing that these are shared lands and waters and the proposed boundaries of Avigtuuq are in draft, the Board would like to be continually consulted as the project moves forward.

Please accept this as a Letter of Support for the SBHTA and their continued efforts in the Avigtuuq IPCA project.

Yours truly,

Barnaby Immingark  
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Immingark', written over the printed name and title.



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Hamlet of Taloyoak  
PO Box 8  
Taloyoak, Nunavut

Tel: 867-561-2300  
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X0B 1B0

February 18, 2019

Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association  
Taloyoak, NU

Dear Members:

The Hamlet of Taloyoak Mayor and Council appreciate the Hunters and Trappers Association's (HTA) attendance at our meeting and the presentation regarding the HTA proposal to develop an Indigenous and Protected Area (IPCA) on the Boothia Peninsula. The information provided to the Mayor and Council was informative, and clearly explained the HTA's proposal and potential impacts and benefits of an IPCA for the community of Taloyoak.

As you heard through comments raised by our Councillors, we strongly believe that the wildlife, and the lands supporting the health and abundance of our wildlife, are essential to our people. We agreed, via unanimous consent during our recent meeting, to support the Boothia Peninsula project and development of an IPCA.

We understand that to be successful with this proposal and to establish the IPCA and move forward with the conservation economy initiatives outlined, you need the support of interested stakeholders including the Hamlet. We are happy to support this initiative and to provide this letter, and we hope that other organizations will recognize the importance of protecting habitat for the wildlife species that are central to Inuit culture and life, and that protecting our traditional lands is also a means to protecting our cultural history and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The Hamlet is also encouraged by the HTA's plans for developing ecotourism and commercial fish/meat processing, as well as the training and employment opportunities these would bring for our residents.

I have attached Hamlet Motion No. 19-02-27 supporting the HTA's Boothia Peninsula Project. If there is anything further you should require of the Hamlet as this process moves forward please be sure to reach out to us. We wish you continued success with the application process.

Sincerely,

  
Simon Qingnaqtuq  
Mayor

Encl. Motion No. 19-02-27

## [ANNEX B]

### **Summary of Taloyoak Caribou Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) Data in Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board's Database**

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The information in this report should not replace Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ), traditional knowledge or community input and engagement for any research and/or process seeking input from the community of Taloyoak. In other words, this report is not meant to replace any consultation process and is meant to provide information specific to the Nunavut Planning Commission for consideration in the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Examples of how to interpret and/or use this document include:

- As a record of additional information for the Nunavut Land Use Plan when considering input from the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (SBHTA)
- In examining these themes as a starting point to meet and discuss land use processes with SBHTA
- To provide additional information for consideration to the Nunavut Planning Commission
- To be reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission in future iterations of the Nunavut Land Use Plan, not to be selectively cited, understanding that this information is captured at a specific point in time and will need to be validated by SBHTA according to new contexts (e.g., new points in time)

IQ and traditional knowledge are considered intellectual property, and the community information reported below should not be used outside of this report without written consent and permission of the originating knowledge holders or SBHTA. The information in this report is also not considered valid if it is reinterpreted, republished, referenced and/or summarized in any way without their consultation and approval.

#### **Background**

Since 2018, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) has led a Kitikmeot caribou Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) monitoring program in the region to develop an IQ-based database on caribou (as well as other relevant wildlife) for the region using a combination of interviews, monitoring data (collected by active land users using a mobile app), and online surveys. KRWB and their Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) have also developed a data management strategy as part of this work, to enable data sharing while protecting regional ownership, control, access, and possession over IQ-derived data, including interpretations of that data.

Below we report summaries of the information collected to date as part of the KRWB caribou monitoring project. In September 2019, November 2021, and June 2022, elders in Taloyoak were interviewed by a community researcher staffed by the Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (SBHTA) as part of this research program. This information supports SBHTA's current position on protecting the Aviqtuuq area (Boothia Peninsula) using a Limited Use designation. The information reported below demonstrates the importance of caribou to the community of Taloyoak and their independent support for the SBHTA position.

## **Importance of caribou**

Caribou is a critical part of Inuit identity.

There's an elder many years ago before the white people came around. She was an elder, and she use that caribou skin to keep covered over. And that's not known for Inuit people. But she kneeled down and keep warm. And it was covered over. And that is how they got that name. *Oleekatalik*. It is not a real name. It's just more like a saying, a representation of how she's covered with the caribou. And that's how that name came around. (Interpreter translating for Simon Oleekatalik, 10 September 2019)

He talks about mainland caribou, *iluiliq*, is mainland. And there are distinctive people that are called *Iluliqmiut*. The people of the mainland used to live around this area and the *Kii'liniqmiut* people around Cambridge Bay and the island. And we have the distinctive *Netsilikmiut* people with the King William Island area. And they call this island in Inuktitut *Qikiqtaq*. And that's what he's referring to *iluiliq* caribou, mainland caribou. He doesn't have the borderline or anything. He doesn't know about Baker Lake area, but he knows that this area's called *iluiliq* and he's referring to that *iluiliq* caribou, mainland caribou. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Taloyoak was named after the "caribou blind", which was how people in the area hunted caribou in the past. This blind remains in place today.

The caribou blind, what he heard from a respected elder that passed away years ago, shared a story. And we were related to her...her name's Bibian Marqniq. She shared how the hunters used to hunt in that area, which is right beside the Northern store. And it's a pile of rocks. It's a caribou blind and it funnels through. You have a hill, a mountain hill area. You have the ocean, and they go right by where the Northern store and all those buildings are. Of course, there was nothing there years ago and the caribou start to come in, and there's a narrowing and there's two round pots of pile of rocks. And it's just enough for one caribou to pass through there. And they start to pass through one by one, and right at that narrowing they use a spear with a sharp tip at the end. And they would force it in and pull it out right away. As soon as that caribou feels that, it's going to start to run away, it will go only so far and run away and die, and it's made like that purposefully for the narrowing. So they

have just enough room, just to thrust their spear. And there's two guys doing that. The first guy might go for the caribou, and the other guy might go for the second one. There's always two guys and there are other hunters behind, up there if they are missing the caribou that pass through there. Use their bow and arrow. And it's our harvesting area. (Interpreter translating for Simon Oleekatalik, 10 September 2019)

*Inukshuks* were also used for caribou hunting, which are still in areas around the community today.

The way he knows is he hear a lot of stories and knowledge passed on from his parents and his uncles. And you don't even have to go a ways from town. Some of them, you only have to go a mile out of town, and you'll see a pile of rocks, *inukshuks*, and they use those for the caribou when they're start to come around. And the caribou are thinking these *inukshuks* are people, and the actual hunters go on the other side where the caribou is going to run towards the hunters, and they harvest them there. And there are caribou trails where they wade in a certain river, a creek or a lake. And the caribous have a passage way, they're found going into the water. They swim across the lake and then they would harvest them there, whether it would be with a *kayak* or with the spears, or bow and arrows. And there's evidence all over around Taloyoak of those areas. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

The community of Taloyoak is situated along an important and old caribou migration route.

This traditional migrating route, Taloyoak, which is a big caribou blind from south around April, May, they start moving up north. At this time, mid August until September, they start migrating back south. (George Aklah, 11 September 2019)

Caribou started coming around mid '80s and they've been migrating to here every year since then. But my ancestors and my parents told me they used to be caribous here all the time, that's why it's called *Taluqruaq*, you know, the caribou blind past there. That's why it has that 'cause the caribous used to migrate through here all the time, but they said that the time it stopped was when there was too much muskox around Boothia Peninsula area, that's when they said long ago, they slaughtered a whole bunch of muskox because they know where there's a lot of muskox, and caribou won't go near them, they won't have this area for caribou anymore because there too much muskoxes, that start to happen again. (Sam Tulurialik, 12 September 2019)

Continued persistence of caribou and being able to access them is necessary for survival in a way that manufactured goods cannot replace.

She cannot stress enough to share more about the importance of the caribou on how it can be used...she has a grandson and a relative over in Gjoa Haven. There was an incident that happened many years ago. They were out on a hunting trip and her grandson had caribou skin *kamiks* and a caribou skin parka. However, his uncle had only material clothing. Before they took off on the trip, his father asked him, 'you need to use caribou skin clothing to go out hunting,' and the son replied, 'no, I don't need that. I don't want to touch any caribou skin. I'm going my way. We're going out hunting.' And it so happened that he froze to death, but her grandson survived...this is important. She cannot stress enough. We are from the area where we reached minus 50 and 60 below. We're from an extreme part of the earth. And this caribou skin and everything else should not be forgotten. We need to go back and teach this. This is important. It's our livelihood. (Interpreter translating for Mary Ittunga, 12 September 2019)

Conservation of caribou (as well as all wildlife in general; Nunavut Agreement Article 5.1.2) requires one to think not only about caribou but necessarily the relationships between Inuit and caribou. It is perhaps these relationships that have allowed caribou—and the knowledge about them—to persist for millennia.

### **Caribou herds around Taloyoak**

Different types of caribou could be found close to Taloyoak. These groupings may not necessarily correspond to scientifically-derived Peary and barren-ground (ahiak) caribou herds. The three caribou that are known to Taloyoak community members are: *kingailak*, or Peary caribou from Prince of Wales Island; *aqviqtuuq* caribou, which are unique to Boothia Peninsula; and *iluilik* caribou, from the mainland.

This whole area didn't have any, much caribou back then...that Boothia Peninsula have its own distinctive caribou up in this area. And Prince of Wales have its own type of caribou. Peary caribou. And then he knows that the mainland caribou has their own caribou. And they were all separate caribous at that time. And he was about 16, 15 years old, and that's when he caught his first caribou...There are three totally different caribou. There was the Peary caribou up in Prince of Wales Island and the Boothia Peninsula, *aqviqtuuq* caribou, as well as the mainland caribou, *iluilik* caribou. They are all caribou, but they're all different in their own ways. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Elders have described caribou according to where they originated.

The caribou that came from Prince of Wales Island are called Peary caribou, *kingailak* caribou and this place is called *Kingaila*. And the southern part of the caribous, what he heard before, are mainland caribou. So they're two totally different caribous...It's Prince of Wales Island, the whole island and the little island surrounded around it would have their own caribou, just their own



distinctive caribou, its own caribou before they cross over this way. (Interpreter translating for Abe Ukuqtunnuaq, 10 September 2019)

The caribou that come from the mainland caribou is what they call them. They come from not very far, from all those mine sites, Lupin...all those mine sites south of Cambridge Bay and Coppermine and Yellowknife area, the tree line area. They come from that area and south of Baker Lake, and that's all that same caribou that you see coming up this way... he said this is just a general area and he's just using it as an example, the caribou, where they're coming from. And they go all the way up in our area to the calving ground and Boothia Peninsula. And there's a known fact that they cross over to Somerset Island and they go back down the same way. So you see Baker Lake over here, they come from south of Baker Lake and they come from toward Yellowknife area and go up this general area and that's their migration pattern. And he talked about Prince of Wales Island, Peary caribou. There, once in a great while, once every few years, you might see a caribou or two around our general area, but we don't see them as much as we used to. (Interpreter translating for Abe Ukuqtunnuaq, 10 September 2019)

The caribou that migrate up for the spring and summer months are like mainland caribou and they're a little different from King William Island and south of Gjoa Haven mainland...from what he knows through his experience, the island caribou south of Gjoa Haven, seems like the female caribous are slightly smaller and they have more points on the antlers and their bone marrow is easier to break...there have more bone marrow in it and they're more greasy, as if they're nicer to eat than the caribou that we have here. The caribou that we have here, the bone is harder to break when we're trying to have the bone marrow. That's how he sees the difference in them, it seems like the island and south of Gjoa Haven caribou are a little more tastier. (Interpreter translating for Isaac Paningayak, 11 September 2019)

Caribou can also be distinguished by size and colour; *iluiliq* (mainland) caribou are known to be large.

That's where he caught his very first big mainland caribou. And it was a bull caribou, it was huge compared to what he's used to seeing. And the caribou that he talked about on Boothia Peninsula is, we call this place, *Aqvigtuuq*. *Aqvigtuuq* caribou. Its own distinctive caribou. And then you have your Peary caribou that are lighter in color. Almost all white. They're smaller, they have shorter limbs. And seems like our caribou are the medium-sized. But their own type of caribou. But the mainland caribou are huge. And you compare the *aqvigtuuq* caribou to the mainland caribou, they're smaller in size, they have a smaller head area is shorter. It's they're all their own distinctive different caribou from each other. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Peary caribou are white and the caribou from this side are darker...the Peary caribou legs are white and the caribou from down, more south, are dark coloured. (Interpreter translating for Inuk Aiyout, 29 November 2021)

Elders indicated *kingailak* (Peary) and *aqviqtuuq* (Boothia Peninsula) caribou began to mix in the late '70s to early '80s.

Right around late '70s and early '80s seems like the Boothia caribou start to move east right around the coastline, and they start to hunt caribou late '70s and early '80s and as if moving southeast, the caribou that belong to *aqviqtuuq* caribou. And that was around the early '80s. And they start to see the Peary caribou, *kingailak* caribou crossing over. And start to be part of the Boothia Peninsula caribou, but you can totally tell the difference, because the *kingailak* caribou is a lot smaller and it's very white and they have the shorter limbs and vice versa with the Boothia Peninsula caribou, are a lot darker in color, brown and bigger caribou. You can totally tell the difference even though they are standing beside each other. That was right around the beginning of '80s. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Elders also reported mixing of *aqviqtuuq* (Boothia Peninsula) and *iluiliq* (mainland) caribou during the '80s.

Right around beginning of '80s, 1980s when all this was happening, that we talked about, the Peary caribou coming into Boothia and Boothia's own *aqviqtuuq* caribou were coming closer towards town in the beginning of 1980s. The mainland caribou started to come up, and there were abundance of caribou, and they came around Taloyoak area for probably about five years. And they stayed here the four seasons. Winter, spring, summer and fall for about five years. And seemed like they were working their way up to Boothia Peninsula on the north side. And when that happened, it was harder to see the Peary caribou and the *aqviqtuuq* caribou. And it seemed like the *aqviqtuuq* caribou, and the mainland caribou are interbred. It's hard to see the distinctive caribou that we used to see from Boothia Peninsula. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

The caribou that are encountered on the Boothia Peninsula are known to be distinct from caribou found in other areas and we have evidence of their using sea ice to move from one area to another. This makes the Boothia Peninsula and its surrounding marine waters a unique and important area requiring protection.

### **Effects of disturbance on caribou**

Elders recalled a time in their past when caribou were scarce, and increasing caribou encounters began between the '60s to '80s.

When I was growing up around the '70s and maybe mid '80's, I can't really remember which year that would be, I would guess around mid '80s. There was never any caribous had come through. Later on they started using their—our traditional migrating route. So since I would guess mid-80s until now, there's

been caribous every year migrating north and then back south. (George Aklah, 11 September 2019)

Elders indicated that it is commonly known for caribou to be found in areas where vegetation is abundant; when vegetation becomes scarce, caribou will move to other areas and return when vegetation grows back. The increase in caribou abundance in and around Taloyoak in the past was in part attributed to disturbance and mining activities in the south and west.

The migration didn't really start then. 'Cause we had to go way up there and way up down south. I didn't see much caribou going through this channel, going north and south until I don't know, somewhere around '80s...That could be some reason of mineral exploration in the south, going north. I think that's what started the migration up north further. The planes and the helicopters, the explosion of the mine around the soil between Baker Lake and Kugluktuk. Between Repulse Bay and Cambridge Bay around that area and south. They did a lot of exploration of gold, diamond. And then from there on, they seemed to be going further north. When the experience of gold mining started. (George Totalik Sr, 11 September 2019)

Community members noted health issues are more prevalent in caribou today than in the past. Elders described pus and white spots in caribou meat, changes in meat texture (less fat), and brittleness of hides. Elders attributed poor health to increases in caribou abundance, but also pollution and stress from human disturbance.

What he thinks might be contributing to that is we have all kinds of motorized vehicles, snowmobiles, ATVs, side-by-side. There's planes, choppers, there's all these motorized equipment and they create a lot of noise. And he sees a lot of garbage like plastic bags, garbage bags out on the land. That might be one of the reasons why. And they hear motorized vehicles all the time. And that might be one of the reasons why this is happening. (Interpreter translating for Isaac Paningayak)

He has his thoughts, right around springtime, after a long winter. And they're walking miles and miles distance away, mainly in the springtime. They would see those spots in the meat and it's probably from malnourished and doing a lot of walking. And seems like they would fade away during the summertime when they start to fatten up. And he thinks it might have something to do with further south, their vegetation is just a little different from further north. And it might have something to do with the vegetation that they eat from the south, and then going up north, and they start to fatten up and get healthy. And they start to get healthy, they get the new skin under, and they start to look very healthy and have the very nice fur. And you rarely ever see the white spots in the meat. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Elders also reported caribou in the past were more sensitive to noises.

He talks about how caribou hear a sudden sound, when he was a boy or a young man. And they would just run right off. Or if they smell something right away, they're run right off right away. They're very shy animals. Nowadays you don't see that. They can smell, they could hear and seems like they're not alert and he said he know that's a total different from way back then...When he was young man they go out, they're walking, tracking down caribou whether it would be by walking or ski-doo or dog team, once that caribou hears something right away it takes off. But today if you go for a quad ride, he can pretty much drive right up to a caribou. Seems like it doesn't smell anything or it sees you and that's totally the opposite on how they used to be. (Interpreter translating for Simon Oleekatalik, 10 September 2019)

Around 1950s, they are hunting caribou only with a dog team. And he shared with the other elders that once they hear something, smell or see, they get spooked right away and run away. And there were not very many caribous back then. Nowadays, they use motorized equipment, ATVs, snowmobiles, and seems like they don't spook as much and he doesn't know why is that reason. It's totally different today. And he said it's hard to tell the future. He said from now and in the future, he know that migration patterns might change, but we cannot predict exactly what change is evident. And he said if the exploration companies come around, and all that, it's going to affect the caribou migration patterns and all that. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

Even though caribou are less sensitive to noise today, they still avoid disturbance.

Long ago, the caribou, when they see people, the caribou would run away right away. But today, it's different now that the caribou doesn't run away...With his knowledge he said he knows that if the caribou are not bothered by anybody or anything, he said the caribou won't move or go away. They'll be. They'll stay where they are and not move from where they. He said that's what he knows...He said it's not only him because probably a lot of people know that. He said probably not all the caribou, but he said he's noticed that when the caribou hears noise it doesn't bother them. The caribou hears noise and then it doesn't bother the caribou but when they see something moving, then they'll run away today. (Interpreter translating for Inuk Aiyout, 29 November 2021)

When caribou are encountered in disturbed areas, they are already stressed.

BHP, it's now Hope Bay. American company. They did a lot of caribou survey there. When the caribou is so scared, It's not scared of a helicopter or a ATV. It's going to go around the town. It's going to stay away from the wolf. It's going to go to a camp. It's going to walk around the camp. So close that you could touch it. That's how it's scared from the wolf. Yeah, I touch about two or three caribous in the camp. That's how scared they were. That's how scared they

were. They weren't scared of the helicopter or the ATV or skidoo but they were scared of the wolf. That's how scared they were. They were walking around the camp. (George Totalik Sr, 11 September 2019)

In the past, caribou left areas where there was human activity from transportation and exploration.

The Peary caribou, *kingailak* caribou cross over to Somerset as well as Boothia Peninsula. The Peary caribou, as if start to go south and move down this way, as well as the caribou from south start to move up, and right around that time he remembered that there was people looking for fuel and for minerals and all that. They were using ATVs, helicopters, and planes and it was from what he thinks that were booted out because of all that activity happening, from the people looking for fuel and whatnot and move over to different areas. That's how he thinks that they're start to go into different areas. (Interpreter translating for Simon Oleekatalik, 10 September 2019)

Avoiding human disturbance of any kind to caribou habitats is critical to ensure community members can continue to access caribou and traditional hunting practices for generations to come.

### **Protecting the Boothia Peninsula for caribou**

Knowledge holders in Taloyoak have mapped and described important caribou migration and calving areas on the Boothia Peninsula.

The calving grounds of our caribou, they go up as far as Somerset Island and she believes as well as in Prince of Wales Island. (Interpreter translating for Bernadette Uttaq, 10 September 2019)

He would like to see the whole area, around Taloyoak as well as surrounding area, as well as Boothia Peninsula and where the caribou migrates north and south has to be protected, whether it's the ocean, water or lakes and rivers. (Interpreter translating for Isaac Paningayak)

The major that I know that can happen is exploration or mining camp. There's a lot of exploration going on within the Boothia Peninsula. And I just stressed this out quite a few times that this area is not large, it's just a small area. And it's a calving ground. It's bad enough as it is that there's too many muskox in that area. And the caribou do go camping in that area and grazing camps and the mining companies that want to start up in that area. That would be a major threat to the caribou, 'cause we got to support there, have a camp where a mining setup, the waterbody always flow any direction. If it's contaminated, that's a threat to the caribou. So a mining company, it's something that we don't want to see certainly in this area. With other areas like they have their land, here is massive compared to this area. You can see mining exploration camp

set up area but not in like small areas like this...the areas I want to see protected is the whole area. (Sam Tulurialik, 12 September 2019)

Taloyoak community members have emphasized that the Boothia Peninsula as a whole should be protected from exploration or mining activity, not just for caribou but for other wildlife and the value of the land in general.

Absolutely no exploration or any of the mining going on in all the areas where he has the red line, all the areas where the caribou come from. And it's not just for the caribou. It's for fish. It's for animals that live on the land, in the water, oceans, and lakes to be untouched by exploration, mining or anything like that. Because those are the areas where they're create toxins and they pollute the air, the land, they disturb the ground, the vegetation, the migratory routes for all those areas. It would be nice that we don't see an exploration coming off in all these areas where he have it outlined. (Interpreter translating for Abe Ukuqtunnuaq, 10 September 2019)

He's always against exploration camps, mining camps, anything to do that, whether it's looking for few in the ocean, on the land, mining companies, and he encourages not to send any choppers or planes up here that are looking for minerals, rocks, and so on because they're harassing the animals. Doesn't matter what kind of it, can be a caribou, it can be right down to a little lemming. It can be anything like that and they're harassing the animals and it's not healthy. (Interpreter translating for Abe Ukuqtunnuaq, 10 September 2019)

Her main concern is her worry about the exploration camps' mining companies coming up this way, whether it would be choppers, planes, exploring the area and having to have opened up grounds. The smoke coming out of the heavy equipment and everything else, she's totally against that, she would never want to see any exploration camps or mines coming up around our area, in all the areas where the caribou, animals migrate, all animals in general, whether it be in the lakes, fish in the ocean, would it be seal, caribou, they're are affected in the same way. That's what she would like to make sure, that there's nothing of that happening in this area. (Interpreter translating for Bernadette Uttaq, 10 September 2019)

This whole area should be untouched. Whether it be with exploration camps, mining camps or anything like that, because it's not just the land. It also concerns the ocean, the lakes, rivers and anything in the boundary and around and beyond the boundary should be protected. Because we're not just talking about the caribou. We're talking about the ocean waters to keep it clean. And all those other different things. (Interpreter translating for David Nanook, 11 September 2019)

The mineral exploration camp up north of Boothia, north of Taloyoak. I don't want any mineral exploration or any mining because this is the most northern place of Canada right now. You know, we should keep it. Make it into a park. As long as we could hunt. Make it a park's place. No mining companies should

go here. It's the most northern place in Canada right now. (Geoge Totalik Sr, 11 September 2019)

Probably our other side of our ocean. There's some, I know there's a lot of minerals over there. And stuff like that. Like gold and diamonds and stuff like that. And it's a really, really good hunting ground. I see animals over there. They're really rich. Their meat's really rich. So'd be nice if that area would be protected really good because it's got a really good hunting ground. It's bowhead whales that go over there, narwhals, we hunt our polar bears over there. A lot of good seal. There's lots of nice char up there. So a lot of good game, big game. And it's a really good area. (Andy Aklah, 23 June 2022)

I think the whole Peninsula is supposed to be protected. Not these small areas, not just these small locations where we mainly hunt, but it's the whole peninsula that should be protected because it's the whole calving ground. They go up there for the spring and for the summer to go mate and have their offspring and throughout the summer and winter, summertime, they go all the way up from south, south of Baker Lake, south of Gjoa Haven. They all migrate up to the Peninsula, and that's where they're having their calving grounds. So it's really important to have the whole Peninsula protected, not just these close by areas that are close to town. (Tad Tuluiialik, 15 June 2022)

That question always cross my mind when someone asked me where should we protect land or area? My answer is always the whole area. I would talk about Boothia Peninsula all that land should be protected. (George Aklah, 7 June 2022)

Boothia Peninsula. The whole peninsula. You seen that map there? The whole Boothia Peninsula I would like to protect it and the surrounding water...because calving ground for caribou [where they calve]...along with the whales. Lord Mayor Bay, narwhals, even bowhead, and lots of char, polar bear. (Tommy Aiyout, 7 June 2022)

I pretty much know the whole of being part of the local HTO board and being retired from Conservation Officer for Department of Environment of Nunavut, I was a wildlife officer before I retired here locally, so I know the importance of the whole Boothia Peninsula as to be protected from any mineral or exploration because we really feel strongly about protecting our wild animals in the Boothia Peninsula, mainly the caribou. We're talking about the subject of protecting caribou in the Boothia Peninsula...being a conservation in the past, when I learned that the caribou die off from disease. And with this global warming that is happening to the whole Earth, it's hard to predict, to see if, the caribou are going to be around for very long because comparing it with other eastern and western communities, their caribou numbers are very low, and I don't think we're going to be any different in Boothia Peninsula. But it's hard to say until it happens. But I'm very concerned that I think there should be some kind of control or preservation done hunting-wise to protect the numbers of caribou in the Boothia Peninsula. And therefore we don't want to see mineral and mining exploration on Boothia Peninsula. Because we live in a peninsula, they have to

go through our community and it's a very small area when you look at it. (Joe Ashevak, 7 June 2022)

The Boothia Peninsula is also important for its archaeological sites.

Many times you see *Inukshuks* anywhere that's where Inuit used to live, that's where Inuit were hunting, that's where Inuit went by. So it's not just near the shore or near the lakes it's everywhere on this land. (Sam Tularialik, 12 September 2019)

All over, even though we have the areas where we outlined with the marker and what not. The whole land, Inuit used to move from place to place. They can go anywhere on the coastline, inland. You'll see tent rings that's been there for thousands of years. Even though they're not occupied right now, these are our land, and it will continue to be for many years to come, and you'll see the evidence wherever you go. Tent frames, tent rings, and burial areas for food cache and everything. That's the result. That's the evidence that this is our land. (Interpreter translating for Simon Oleekatalik, 10 September 2019)

It should be protected because people survived long time ago. The ancestors that lived there, they survived from caribou and seal...It's been our land for a long time. People lived there long time ago, so it should be protected. (Interpreter translating for Inuk Aiyout, 29 November 2021)

Community members indicated protected areas should be very broad and vast.

All the areas, pretty much the same general area what Abraham was talking about, in between Baker Lake, Yellowknife, south of Baker Lake and all the migratory routes going up to Boothia Peninsula, Somerset Island, and Prince of Wales Island, all those areas, it'd be nice not to see any exploration, any mining happening in those areas, whether it be on land, water or the sea, because it's very essential, it's very important that those areas are not touched. And she cannot stress it enough, in that area. (Interpreter translating for Bernadette Uttaq, 10 September 2019)

That question always comes to me a lot of times, and when I'm asked that question it's pretty much the whole Nunavut area. Again, I can't say this caribou likes going to this area. Goes all around Nunavut area. By saying that, the whole Boothia, you know, that's their home. (Interpreter translating for George Aklah, 11 September 2019)

Elders stressed the importance of protecting the land to ensure access to country food for generations to come, even though ways of living are changing.

She's grateful for the fact that times has changed and we live in houses and so on and to a point where we can just flick a light and we have light, dramatically changed from years ago. But again, she cannot stress enough about not having any exploration and mining camps happening in all these closed areas



within our community because we live off the land, we live off the country food. She cannot start her day without eating country food and she's ready for the day. And country food is the most essential and most important thing to have, and for years to come. (Interpreter translating for Bernadette Uttaq, 10 September 2019)

Community members also recognized that Inuit communities vary in their perspectives.

She's speaking her view on her behalf on how what she thinks this outlined area and within is the area where it's mostly sacred for her, not to be touched for any kind of explorations or mining or research of other than having caribou or animals being researched. Just as long it's outside of that border, and not too close to the border. Because we have other communities, have their own views, their own political ways, whether it be near Cambridge Bay or Baffin Island. (Interpreter translating for Bernadette Uttaq, 10 September 2019)

Communications between industry and HTOs are also lacking, creating lack of trust.

When they set up camp, they're looking for stones and rocks because they're actually looking for minerals. And I work at the airport, I'm airport maintainer. So I see them fly in, fly out, fly in, fly out. From that camp and the area of Boothia Peninsula, they took 50 pails of samples south and I start following that lady and I sit down, I do good geographic mapping, how come you're taking stones out, 50 pails. I was following her around, [she] didn't want to talk, kept walking away. I said how come you're taking stone samples? You said you're just gonna do geographic mapping. I kept following, but she didn't want to speak. So something should be looked into that, because it's not great. The HTO board here at the time agreed to them, just geographic mapping. But instead they took samples of stones, stones out. And I heard they found gold and diamonds and that. So exploration camps are here. And if sold to the mining company, we've got no say in it, mine company is going [to be] coming. (Sam Tulurialik, 12 September 2019)

The HTO is representing the community. But they're not being given full information of what's happening. So your question I can't really answer it 'cause, yes the HTO is representing the community in this area, and activity that's going on with the exploration camp. They are being informed, but they're being formed in a way that they're being told that these guys are planning on this, but they're actually doing something else. So you mentioned KIA. When I was a chair person we've tried talking to KIA, but they are in support of these groups. They are business oriented, So they ain't helping the community. They're doing their job, but in a way that is not a real interest to the locals. Locals do need job that interest in a way, but not in a way to get mining companies up here. (Sam Tulurialik, 12 September 2019)

## **Conclusion**

The interviews in Taloyoak that have occurred since the last draft Nunavut Land Use Plan in 2017 indicate that caribou IQ knowledge holders feel strongly about the protection of Boothia Peninsula as an important habitat for caribou. Rather than identifying specific areas of the Boothia Peninsula, community members prefer the protection of the entire area for generations to come. We would like to note that the current boundary for Aviqtuuq was provided in an earlier submission to the NPC. The HTA Board requests that the NPC adjust the boundaries to reflect the GIS files enclosed with this submission, which we note are slightly larger and include the surrounding marine areas - this is the area that we ask to be represented in the Land Use Plan. Community members have also acknowledged the mineral potential and Inuit Owned Lands in this area and, still, prefer to designate the entire area as Limited Use.

# [ANNEX C]

