



**Yellowknives Dene First Nation**

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March 2, 2016

Nunavut Planning Commission

P.O. Box 1797

Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

RECEIVED APR 03 2017

**RE: Submission to Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan**

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing as the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) in regards to your proposed draft Nunavut Land Use Plan because we have deep concerns about our shared Bathurst caribou and their calving grounds.

Like the Inuit, the Dene in the Northwest Territories rely on the Bathurst caribou for our culture, way of life as well as our food. We have always taken good care of the caribou so that they will be around for future generations. We have great respect for the caribou.

We understand that the calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou are located within your territory. We know the calving grounds to be the hospital or the nursery for the Bathurst caribou and we understand how sensitive both cows and calves can be during the calving period.

For these reasons, we feel very strongly and urge you to do the right thing to protect the caribou of today and tomorrow so that you also safeguard our peoples today and tomorrow. Our ancestors have always worked together, in peace and friendship, and we are confident that you will do the right thing and protect calving grounds for mineral exploration and development.

We have prepared several videos (and the accompanying transcript) from our esteemed caribou experts for you to consider. We will also be preparing a presentation for your public hearings.

We have great respect for the Inuit and we understand your economic and environmental struggles, but we urge you to make the right choice for our caribou.

**In peace and friendship, Mahsi Cho (Thank-you),**

Chief Edward Sangris, Dettah  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

- c. **Johanne Black, Director, Land and Environment, Yellowknives Dene First Nation**  
**Alex Power, Research & Regulatory Specialist, Yellowknives Dene First Nation**