



Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

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January 31st, 2014

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

RE: Protecting Caribou in Nunavut - Nunavut Land Use Planning

Mr. Kabloona,

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) has a strong history of survival off of the great abundance the barrenlands has to offer. The Lutsel K'e Dene are the caribou-eaters from the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, and as an isolated community, our survival depends heavily on the survival of our main food source, the barrenground caribou. On behalf of the LKDFN, I would like to express our concern to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) regarding the lack of consideration to caribou calving and post-calving areas in the recent draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP).

Though we have historically respected each other's territory and decision-making authority, we urge the NPC to include caribou habitat protection in the NLUP, as the survival of our way of life, and the future of our children is at stake. LKDFN does not view caribou in terms of the Beverly herd, the Ahiak herd, or the Bathurst herd; to us, they are the Caribou, and right now, across the north, Caribou are threatened by development, and declining in populations. The herds that we survive off of all travel into Nunavut for calving and post-calving seasons, and decisions made in your territory to develop, or to protect these priority areas will affect the survival of the Caribou and ultimately, the health of the Lutsel K'e Dene.

A caribou summit held in Inuvik, and a West Kitikmeot caribou workshop, both in 2007, identified the necessity of protecting calving grounds and post-calving grounds from development to avoid disturbance to caribou. We understand that the NLUP acknowledges the vulnerability of caribou during the calving and post-calving periods, but without restriction to land use activities during these times, the NLUP is leaving these areas open to exploitation and almost certain losses of caribou populations in the near future. There are significant disturbances along many of the migration routes of

the caribou already, and with projects moving forward in the calving grounds, LKDFN feels we must urge the NPC to make wise decisions for the sake of the caribou.

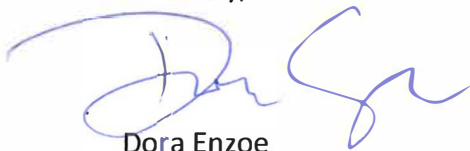
With mineral exploration and mining potential continually encouraged by the Canadian Government, protection of these vulnerable areas falls to the shoulders of the territorial, Aboriginal and Inuit Governments. LKDFN has been encouraging the Government of the Northwest Territories to be more vocal during environmental assessments that relate to these important areas, especially considering the trans-boundary nature of the potential impacts. We would encourage the same from the NPC and the Nunavut Government. There are projects moving through the environmental assessment process with the Nunavut Impact Review Board (i.e. Sabina, Glencore, Areva...) that represent significant public and environmental concern for the Lutsel K'e Dene, and without the protection of the priority caribou habitat in the NLUP, we fear that more exploitation and development could threaten the livelihoods of the caribou.

Our recommendation is that all land use activities be restricted in these vulnerable calving and post-calving areas. We hope that more protection can also be applied to important caribou crossings, and along the entire migration route, but understand the NPC must balance land use activities. The Caribou travel across political and territorial boundaries and it takes a concerted effort on all parties to protect various range areas. We believe the calving and post-calving areas are priority protection areas and therefore recommend its consideration.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite the NPC to the community of Lutsel K'e for consultation, feedback, and discussion of the NLUP. Please contact Michael Tollis, Wildlife, Lands and Environment Manager, by phone at 867-370-3197, or by email at lkdfnlands@gmail.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to your consideration in this matter. We would like a response to our request at your earliest convenience, preferably before the end of February so that we can review our follow-up and look at our options.

Sincerely,



Dora Enzoe
Chief LKDFN

CC via email:

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

Ian Gray, 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