



Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

22 May 2015

Sharon Ehaloak,
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission

Via e-mail: sehaloak@nunavut.ca

Dear Ms. Ehaloak:

BQCMB Application for Standing for Nunavut Land Use Plan

Thank you for providing the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) with the opportunity to apply for standing to participate in upcoming meetings about the 2014 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP). As you know, the mandate of the BQCMB is to make recommendations for the conservation and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and their habitats. This involves making recommendations about land use planning across the multi-jurisdictional caribou ranges, which includes portions of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut.

The BQCMB plans to continue to provide input about important areas and issues related to caribou during development of this land use plan and to participate in the Public Hearing. Therefore the BQCMB is making this application to ensure it will be able to receive further notices of the Public Hearing, be consulted on technical and procedural matters, and provide evidence and submissions on the 2014 DNLUP at the Public Hearing.

Our application for standing is attached.

If you have any questions about our application, please contact the BQCMB's contract biologist Leslie Wakelyn (wakelyn@theedge.ca) or BQCMB Executive Director Ross Thompson (rossthompson@mymts.net).

Sincerely,

Earl Evans
BQCMB Chairperson

Attachment

BQCMB Application to Participate in the Nunavut Land Use Planning Process

Name: Ross Thompson, Executive Director, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

Address: P.O. Box 629, Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0

Telephone: 204-467-2438

E-mail address: rossthompson@mymts.net

Address for service of documents: wakelyn@theedge.ca

Language in which we wish to be heard: English

Reasons for interest in the proceeding:

The BQCMB's position on the need for protection of important caribou habitats (including calving grounds, post-calving areas and key migration routes) was described in a widely-circulated position paper in 2004. We have consistently reiterated this position to NPC and others on numerous occasions since that time. Most recently, we provided extensive initial comments on the 2012 DNLUP by your February 2014 deadline with the expectation that the BQCMB would be invited to meet with NPC staff in May 2014, as outlined in your guide for engagement document, to elaborate on our position. This opportunity was not provided. The Board has subsequently focused on participation in further steps in the process, especially the Public Hearing.

We are aware that the Government of Nunavut and other participants have recommended multi-level protection for caribou calving grounds, post-calving areas and key migration routes, and that the NPC has offered some protection for these important habitats through the DNLUP. We are also aware that some parties do not believe this approach offers suitable protection for caribou, while other parties believe that it unnecessarily restricts land use activities in some areas.

It is the BQCMB's position that the approach outlined in the DNLUP is a strong step in the right direction, but that it will not provide adequate protection for caribou and caribou habitat over the long-term, and therefore will not be sufficient to provide for a future in which caribou herds continue to flourish; continue to play a major role in food security for Inuit and other Aboriginal peoples who share the harvest of the caribou herds; and support the strong traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship that is crucial for maintaining Aboriginal cultures for current and future generations.

We wish to be granted standing in the remainder of this planning process so that we can explain our views to the NPC Board, to parties to this process, and to representatives of Nunavut communities who will participate in the Public Hearing. The BQCMB's views are grounded in more than 30 years of board-level discussions on these issues by community and government representatives from across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges. The BQCMB would like to contribute its knowledge and experience to NPC's deliberations to help resolve this fundamental issue and help ensure that the final land use plan for Nunavut achieves its objective to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and that it also helps to protect the well-being of communities outside Nunavut that share the caribou herds with Nunavummiut.

Please note that the BQCMB is not against mining or other forms of economic development. But the Board believes that it is essential that key caribou habitats should be protected to ensure that caribou herds can obtain their essential ecological requirements and continue to function as free-ranging herds. This means that there are some places that should be closed to some human land uses. These places should include caribou calving and post-calving areas.

Nature and scope of intended participation:

The main issue of interest to the BQCMB is protection of important caribou habitats (especially calving grounds, post-calving areas and key migration routes) from disturbance and habitat modification resulting from commercial land use activities, especially mineral exploration and development.

As a result of funding issues it is unclear whether the BQCMB will be able to participate in the in-person technical meeting or pre-hearing conference. However, the Board definitely plans to send a representative to the Public Hearing, likely the Chair or Executive Director. The Board plans to participate by making written submissions and possibly also making an oral submission.

Technical Meeting, June 23 – 26, 2015 - If funding permits, the BQCMB would be interested in participating in the roundtable discussion on technical concerns, including definitions, flow of content, data, information gaps, and planning concepts being considered.

Pre-Hearing Conference, July 14 to 16, 2015 - If funding permits, the BQCMB may propose issues to be addressed in the Public Hearing and also participate in discussion of procedural matters.