

**Application for Participant Status – Nunavut Planning Commission**

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**Preferred language:** English

**Summary of reasons of interest:**

Many of the barren ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are currently in decline or stable at low numbers, which requires collaboration in the conservation and protection of these herds. Of particular concern is that several barren ground caribou herds in the NWT have a part of their range (and particularly their calving grounds) in Nunavut and therefore require shared approaches to management. Calving and post-calving are time periods when the demands on the lactating cows are particularly high and the calves have yet to develop the strength and resilience of more mature animals. Additionally even with the harvest restrictions in place on the NWT side of barren ground caribou range, the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds have shown a declining trend in recent years with relatively poor calf recruitment, and the Bathurst has declined to very low numbers, thus any additional stresses that could impede herd recovery are of great concern. ENR is concerned that the 2014 DNLUP does not go far enough to ensure the protection of caribou at a time when they are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

**Nature and scope of participation:** We wish to submit written and oral submissions at Technical and Public Hearings