



Credit: Jean Polfus

Consensus of the Aboriginal Caucus

~~Bathurst and~~ Bluenose East Management Actions
Presented to Minister Michael Miltenberger
Northern United Place, November 28, 2014

Overview

- ▶ Five principles
- ▶ Two key messages
- ▶ Six key areas of action



Principles

1. Aboriginal leaders and wildlife management authorities share a **common vision** to have caribou for future generations.
2. A **package of recommendations**, not just harvest management, is needed to address declining trends.
3. Includes immediate actions and also supports **collaborative** long term processes already underway.
4. Approach is consistent for **both herds**.
5. Assumes that GNWT and GN will commit **funding and capacity** to implement the broad range of recommendations.

Key Messages

1. The majority of the Aboriginal Caucus does not believe that emergency measures to further restrict aboriginal harvest is required at this time for either Bluenose East or Bathurst herds; the Caucus agreed to revisit harvest limits once a photo survey of both herds is complete in 2015.
2. Development is one of the key drivers of the decline of caribou that is not being managed appropriately at this time.

Key Areas of Action - Consensus Reached

1. Land use
2. Long term management and action planning
3. Environmental monitoring
4. Education and communication
5. Predator control
6. Harvest management

1. Land Use

- i. Prioritize **land use planning**.
- ii. Implement interim **moratorium on development** in key caribou habitat.
- iii. Send strongly worded letter to Nunavut Environment and NWMB - **management planning, land use planning, commercial harvesting** and face-to-face meeting.
- iv. Complete report on **range management plan and cumulative effects program** by March 31, 2015.

2. Long term management and action planning

- i. Continue and prioritize the long term planning process for the Bathurst herd and finalize terms of reference for a **Bathurst caribou management board** as soon as possible.
- ii. Continue ACCWM (**Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management**) process, including action planning.
- iii. Establish working group to identify key caribou habitat for priority **fire management** in 2015.

3. Environmental Monitoring

- i. Develop **vegetation mapping and monitoring** protocols and partnership agreements.
- ii. Conduct TK and science literature review on the potential **impacts of insects** on caribou and insect control methods.

4. Education and communication

- i. Organise voluntary “sight in your rifle” events.
- ii. Collaboratively develop communication tools to promote reducing harvest.
- iii. Continue and increase meetings and activities in the communities and on the land to encourage responsible harvesting practices.

5. Predator control

- i. Increase the wolf incentive program payment to \$800, reinstitute the carcass collection program.
- ii. Form a Working Group and Terms of Reference with input from Aboriginal groups to develop approach to wolf control.
- iii. Coordinate program with Nunavut Environment.
- iv. Develop a method to immediately report and record wolf sightings\caribou sightings and interactions.

6. Harvest management

- i. Prioritize **collection of harvest information**; no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest.
- ii. **Majority bulls** harvest, emphasizing young/small bulls, not big breeders.
- iii. Recommend harvest of **alternate species**, encourage sharing and barter of traditional foods.
- iv. Increased enforcement, including **community monitors**.

Sahtú - Délı̨ne First Nation Perspective

- ▶ The Bluenose East herd travels through the Délı̨ne District, and we also harvest in Tłı̨cho territory; we're closely related to Tłı̨cho people.
- ▶ We have a management process underway for the Bluenose East herds.
- ▶ We have not been hunting as much in the fall; rather we've been hunting in the Hottah Lake area in spring.
- ▶ November 3 Annual General meeting of the Délı̨ne Renewable Resources Council; elders spoke about the importance of caribou to the people.
- ▶ Need to start hunting like our grandfathers did, with respect. We need to teach the caribou law.
- ▶ Sharing is a huge part of our traditions for caribou, and helps to build good relationships. We can harvest other species, like muskox.

Tłı̨chọ Government Perspective

- ▶ We live right in the Bathurst caribou range, where the mines are, where the city of Yellowknife is, where the GNWT is.
- ▶ The Tłı̨chọ agreement tells us how we can deal with caribou; we have a co-management process in place, and are in the midst of preparing a revise management proposal.
- ▶ Agree with voluntary harvest target for Bluenose East herd put forward by ACCWM.
- ▶ Predator control through Tłı̨chọ community-based wolf harvest.
- ▶ Increase collars on Bathurst cows and bulls.
- ▶ Comprehensive education and training for hunters and monitors.
- ▶ Industry needs to be brought into discussion.
- ▶ Written agreement with Nunavut Government.
- ▶ We are working through co-management process to address the caribou issue; and have had special gatherings where elders have expressed their concern.

ACCWM-Minister Miltenberger Dialogue fall-winter, 2014

Letter dates	ACCWM Letter	Minister's Letter
November 19	ACCWM letter - BNE in orange zone - no evidence to support emergency measures; priority on action planning for BNE.	
December 4/ December 17	Request to take BNE off agenda for continued discussion regarding emergency measures.	Reduce voluntary limit to 1,500 from 1,800; mandatory harvest reporting.
January 9/ January 21	Continue status quo including voluntary harvest limit, and enforce bull-majority harvest.	553 harvested/308 cows; tags/authorization cards and bulls-only harvest; Bathurst mobile conservation area; request input on regional allocations; authorizations in certain zones; increased radio collars (by 50).
January 26	Not appropriate for ACCWM to establish allocations; Minister should meet with user groups; emphasis on education.	Immediate meeting with Aboriginal leadership to determine harvest allocations among regions.

Considerations

- ▶ Past harvesting patterns
- ▶ 553 Bluenose East harvested, and more than half (308) have been tsída.
- ▶ Most harvesting in S/BC03 and R/BC/01 - how can the impact be managed?
- ▶ BNE migration patterns
- ▶ Land claims
- ▶ Beverly-Ahiak herd
- ▶ Harvesting other country foods
- ▶ How people will survive

Interim Emergency Actions for BNE now being implemented by the Minister

- ▶ Interim means this harvest season only - reconsider after photo census with co-management partners
- ▶ Status quo on overall harvest limit (2,800, 1,800 in NWT) - but now a tag/authorization system **1,247 left to be shared - probably less (as of last week)**
- ▶ Bulls-only harvest
- ▶ Predator (especially wolf) control measures (still finalizing details)
- ▶ Monitoring, enforcement and compliance agreement
- ▶ Aboriginal parties will be part of deciding allocations
- ▶ What other principles should be considered? Need an answer by tomorrow.

Déłı́ne ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne perspective

- ▶ If harvesters are asked to leave the caribou alone to support recovery of the herd,
- ▶ Then ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne ask that ENR leave the caribou alone too.

Sharing the harvest

- ▶ Tłı́cho
- ▶ Yellowknives Dene
- ▶ Sahtú
- ▶ Dehcho
- ▶ NWT Métis Nation
- ▶ Inuvialuit

- ▶ Kugluktuk 1,000