

# Caribou Meeting Record

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Colville Lake, April 22-23, 2015



## Acronyms

ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
BCMP	Bluenose Caribou Management Plan
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the NWT
RRC	ʔehdzo Got'ine (Renewable Resources Council)
SDC	Sahtú Dene Council
SRRB	ʔehdzo Got'ine Gotsé Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
SSI	Sahtú Secretariat Inc.

## Contents

- Agenda/proceedings
- Participants
- Meeting documentation
- Resource binder contents
- Flip chart notes
- Resolutions

## Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was twofold: to share information about caribou stewardship in the Sahtú Region past and present; and to discuss the Sahtú approach to caribou stewardship and management moving forward.

## Summary of Proceedings

### Day 1: Sharing Background Info and Discussion on Sahtú Vision for Caribou Management

The meeting commenced at approximately 9:30 am.

- **Welcome and Opening**
  - Opening Prayer
  - Welcoming remarks (Chief Ryan Kochon, David Codzi, Ethel Blondin-Andrew)
  - Overview of agenda (Lorraine Land)
- **Factual Background – Past and Current Caribou Management**
  - Walter Bayha – historical background
  - Michael Neyelle – meeting in Colville Lake
  - Walter Bayha – introduced Chief Leonard Kenny

- Chief Leonard Kenny – Bathurst and BNE discussions with Minister – authorization tags.
- Walter Bayha – ENR caribou surveys
- Deborah Simmons – three key facts as understood by the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Talking Circle: Brief Opening Comments from Each Community (starting with Colville Lake)
- Continuing to Develop the Sahtú Specific Approach to Caribou Management
  - Discussion of ENR caribou range map
  - Talking Circle: Evolving roles in the Sahtú region re caribou management
    - What role should the various parties (harvesters & community members, RRCs, Land Corporations, SSI, SRRB, ACCWM, GNWT, Canada) play?
    - What does / should self-government over caribou management in the Sahtú look like?
  - Talking Circle: Ideas for an Evolving Sahtú Process
    - How are the different Sahtú communities approaching community-based monitoring, harvesting planning and conservation? Are there models that can be used in other communities?
    - What are other Aboriginal groups doing (eg. UPCART and the Northern Tutchone) and is the Sahtú interested in using some of those ideas?

## Day 2

Meeting commenced at 9:25 am.

- Checking In and Starting to Take Next Steps
  - Opening Prayer
  - Facilitator Check-In: Identifying the key themes in Wednesday's discussion (Lorraine Land)
  - Next steps within the Sahtú Region:
  - Next steps for connecting outside the Sahtú Region
  - Summary of approaches and action items (Lorraine Land and Ethel Blondin-Andrew)
  - Closing Talking Circle

## Participants

*In addition to SSI/SDC and SRRB delegates, community Land Corporations, ?ehdzo Got'ine and First Nation councils were invited to send delegates. The individuals listed here represents individuals who recorded their names on the meeting participation list.*

## Facilitator

Lorraine Land, Olthuis, Kler, Townshend

## Interpreters

Jane Modeste and Laura Tobac

### Sahtú Secretariat Inc. Board and Sahtú Dene Council

Ethel Blondin-Andrew, President  
Grand Chief Frank Andrew, Sahtú Dene  
Council (also Tulít'a Chief)  
David Little, Executive Director

Edwin Erutse  
Gina Dolphus  
Joseph Kochon  
Sally Horassi

### ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gotsé Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)

Michael Neyelle, Chair (also Délıne  
ʔehdzo Got'ıne President)  
Deborah Simmons, Executive Director  
Camilla Rabisca

George Barnaby  
Leon Andrew  
Leonard Kenny (also Délıne Chief)

### Colville Lake

Chief Ryan Kochon  
Alvin Orlias  
Charles Gully  
David Codzi  
Dennis Blancho

Richard (Saydene) Kochon  
Terry Eddibar  
Terry Kachur  
Wilbert Kochon

### Délıne

Chief Leonard Kenny (also SRRB)  
Alfred Taniton  
Fred Kenny  
Jimmy Dillon  
Leon Modeste

Michael Neyelle (also SRRB Chair)  
Morris Neyelle  
Raymond Tutcho  
Walter Bayha

### Fort Good Hope

Brenda Ts'eleie  
Charles McNeely  
Charlie Barnaby  
George Barnaby  
Isidore Manuel

James Caesar  
Jamie Masuzumi  
Murial McNeely  
Roger Boniface

### Norman Wells

Margaret McDonald

### Tulít'a

Chief Frank Andrew  
Boniface Ayha  
Cecile MacCauley  
Frank Andrew  
Gordon Yakeleya

Michael Etchinelle  
Ricki Andrew  
Rocky Norwegian  
Wilfred Lennie Sr.

## Meeting Documentation

Notes identifying speakers were taken by Deborah Simmons, and the meeting was audio recorded. Flip charts were posted with key messages, and the resolutions were typed on the spot and presented for review by meeting participants on a digital projector.

## Binder Contents

*This resource binder was intended as a long term resource for community leadership organisations.*

1. Bluenose Caribou Management Plan Briefing Note
2. Bluenose Caribou Herds Management Plan (BCMP)
3. BCMP Community Engagement
  - 3.1 Community Engagement Themes Table
  - 3.2 Community Engagement Report – “We have been living with the Caribou all our lives ....”
4. BCMP Technical Report
5. ENR Overview of Bathurst and Bluenose East Population Trends 2009-2014
6. Aboriginal Dialogue with ENR
  - 6.1 Aboriginal communications
    - 6.1.0 Aboriginal Caucus, November 28, 2015 – Key Messages (Bluenose East caribou only)
    - 6.1.1 Deline Caribou and Harvesting Workshop - Key Themes
    - 6.1.2 SRRB Letter to ENR Minister re Délı̄nę Caribou Gathering, January 2015
  - 6.2 ENR Letter to Aboriginal Parties re Bluenose East Caribou, 15-02-06
  - 6.3 ENR Letter to Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got’ı̄nę (Renewable Resources Council) 15-03-08
7. Caribou Management History
  - 7.1 Caribou Summit Report 2007
  - 7.2 Bluenose West Hearing Final Report 2007
  - 7.3 Caribou Resolution, ʔehdzo Got’ı̄nę Gathering, Fort Good Hope, September 2015
  - 7.4 Bathurst Gathering Report 2013
8. Community Stewardship - ʔekwé ʔezah K’é Áít’e / Living by Caribou Law: Délı̄nę discussion document October 15, 2014
9. Other models
  - 9.0 Bayha, Walter - Notes on Northern Tutchone May Gathering May, 2012
  - 9.1 Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART)
  - 9.2 Health Country Planning Overview (Australia)

## Key Messages (from flip charts)

### Topics

- Key quotes

- Factual background
- Facts
- Community engagement – listening to the communities
- Fort Good Hope RRC Gathering
- Caribou stewardship – Key themes
- ʔehdzo Got'ine Gotsé Nákedı (SRRB)
- Actions

### Key Quotes

- “We have to stand strong together. Let us make ONE VOICE! We are the Dene and Métis people.” – Elder Thomas Manuel
- “We’ve got to figure out our mandate and then kick their ass.”

### Factual Background

2007 (January) Caribou Summit, Inuvik

2007 (November) BNW Hearing, Fort Good Hope

2013 Bathurst Gathering, Behchokò/Yellowknife

2014 (August-December) Bathurst and BNE discussions

2014 (October) SRRB meeting, Colville Lake

2014 (November) Bluenose Management Plan submitted to Minister

2015

- (January) Délıne Caribou Gathering
- (February) ENR letter re BNE authorization cards
- (March) ENR letter re BNW tags
- (April) SSI SRRB caribou meeting

### Facts

1. ENR did *not* implement BNW recommendations from 2007 Hearing
2. BNE *not* in crisis and no reason for new harvest restrictions
3. *No* new data re BNW and no reason for new harvest restrictions

### Community Engagement – Listening to the Communities

- RRC Gathering FGH Caribou Resolution September 2012
- Caribou TK and poop study
- TK Guidelines Working Group
- Colville Lake community-SRRB meeting October 2014
- Caribou Gathering Délıne January 2015 – letter to ENR

Fort Good Hope RRC Gathering  
September 2012

Caribou Resolution

- Traditional knowledge
- “Non-invasive” research
- 13.8.40 “directly involve RRCs and harvesters” in research
- Youth participation

Caribou Stewardship – Key Themes

Themes

- Governance
- Health of Land and Caribou
- Caribou and governance
- Research and monitoring
- Management framework questions

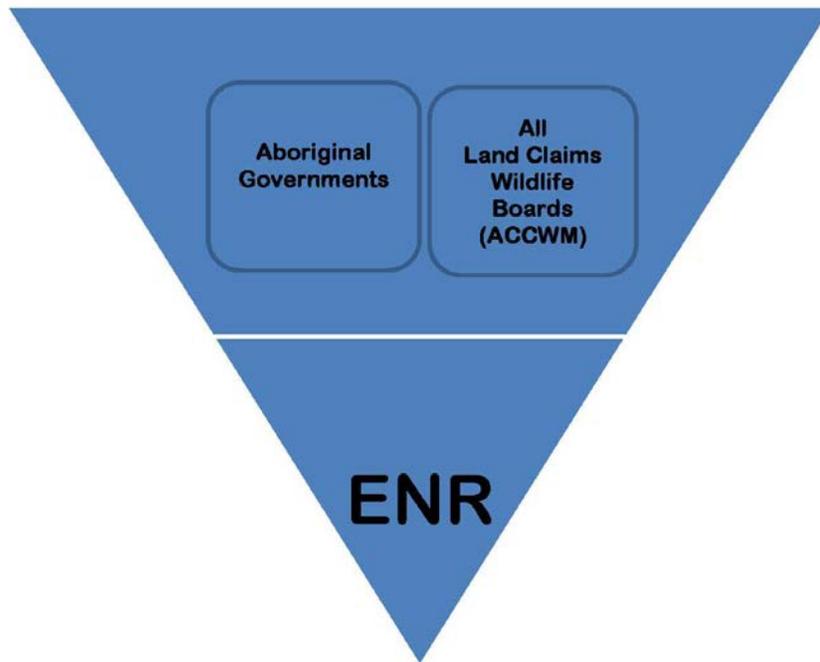
Governance

*The following diagrams are based on ideas presented by George Barnaby.*

Inside the Sahtú



## Outside the Sahtú



### Health of Land and Caribou

- Caribou populations go up and down
- Caribou depend on the wolves
- Climate is changing
- Traditional conservation methods
- Development impacts
- Our peoples used to love to eat muskox
- Caribou are telling us “we are okay”

### Caribou and Governance

- We’re all here – we should make a decision
- Our rights need to be protected
- We can come up with a plan for caribou and make history
- Sahtú Coalition for Caribou
- User management
- One voice
- Key word: conservation
- SRRB must listen to knowledge holders
- We do things for ourselves
- We need to look after the animals the way our ancestors did
- We have not been properly consulted and accommodated

- Top-down decision-making doesn't work
- We're talking about how to make sure we have caribou for the future
- The land claim is for me and my children, not the public
- Leaders should always work with the elders

#### Research and Monitoring

- Biologists have a lot to learn from harvesters
- Training for monitors
- Communities involved in research
- Need to document everything for our youth

#### Management Framework Questions

- Wildlife zones: what/how in Sahtú
- Total Allowable Harvest (TAH)
- Traditional knowledge
- New models of wildlife management

#### ᕿhdzo Got'Jnᑦ Gotsᑦ Nákedı (SRRB) Board Members

Michael Neyelle  
George Barnaby  
Leonard Kenny  
Paul Latour

Lesley Allen  
Patrick Bobinski  
Keith Hickling (till May 13)  
Jeff Walker (till May 13)

#### Special Advisors

Leon Andrew  
Camilla Rabisca

#### Actions

##### TAGS

- Don't accept tags
- Convert into commercial tags
- Tag ENR people!

##### BETTER COMMUNICATION

- Better communication between boards and communities
- Another structure for communication?
- Regional caribou meetings with fun, stories, music, dancing
- Communicate with other regions

##### SAHTÚ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT

- Involve the communities
- Self-regulation
- RRC – use their powers
- Harvest other animals
- Stop non-aboriginal harvesters

- Document everything
- Don't accept tags

#### *Funding needed*

- Community research
- Community counting of caribou
- Community traditional knowledge

#### MESSAGE TO GOVERNMENT

- One voice
- Letter to ENR – Joint letter?
- Delegation to meet with ENR
- Do something before more problems
- Motions
- Take ENR to court to stop the interference
- Respect the land claim agreement and treaty
- Protect our rights

## Resolutions

*The following resolutions were approved by consensus of participants present on April 23, as confirmed by signatures (appended to this meeting record).*

### Resolutions 1.1-1.3 – Governance

1.1 Any future caribou conservation decisions or restrictions must go to all the undersigned organizations in a public forum to ensure meaningful consultation. *David Codzi/Charles McNeely*

1.2 That the Sahtú region continue the traditional laws of relationship with caribou through a Sahtú-developed caribou plan including a process of self-regulation, driven by community-based monitoring and decisions. *Joseph Kochon/George Barnaby*

1.3 That the Sahtú communities assemble together regularly to share knowledge and plans related to caribou in the Sahtú region, including celebrating our culture through traditional stories, music, dancing and cultural exchange. *Alvin Orlas/Grand Chief Frank Andrew*

### Resolution 2 - ʔehdzo Got'jñę Funding

That SSI and SRRB seek funds for each of the RRCs to fulfill their mandate under Chapter 13 of the SDMCLCA, including:

- Monitoring based on our traditional laws and knowledge
- RRCs' investigations, monitoring and collection of evidence as a basis for ENR enforcement
- Scientific research and monitoring, including the RRCs conducting herd counts based on traditional laws and knowledge
- Developing and implementing each community's caribou management plan

### Resolution 3 – Caribou Tags

The Sahtú region rejects the current imposition of tags on aboriginal harvesters by ENR under the Wildlife Act Big Game Hunting Regulations for Bluenose West and Bluenose East caribou in the Sahtú Region, as there is no traditional knowledge or science-based evidence of a caribou population level such that conservation measures of this nature are required under the terms of the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. *David Codzi/Michel Lafferty*

### Resolution 4 on proposed Tundra Copper Exploration

We, the undersigned, with the support of the Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated, oppose the proposed Tundra Copper Exploration project until steps are taken to ensure the protection of the Bluenose East caribou calving ground; and that if caribou habitat and caribou are not properly protected, that we oppose this development. *Chief Leonard Kenny/Alvin Orlias*

### Resolution 5 – Caribou Collaring

We the undersigned oppose the use of collars for monitoring wildlife, and instead support the use of the knowledge of the RRCs and the hunters. *Richard Kochon/Charles McNeely*