



SAHTÚ RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

ʔEHDZO GOT'INE GOTS'E'NÁKEDI

SAHTÚ RAGÓʔA

AND APPROACHES TO WILDLIFE HARVESTING

PUBLIC HEARING

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HELD IN:

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Day 2 of 3

1

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1 --- Upon commencing

2

3 (OPENING PRAYER)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Well, after
6 our first day, today we're trying to get back to the
7 main question, what is the best way to manage
8 harvesting of caribou?

9 So -- and after each presentation, if
10 anybody has questions, then they ask questions.
11 Otherwise, we're going to go too long again, and
12 people are -- don't want to see us going till 6:00
13 again, I think.

14 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Thank you. And
15 the first people on the agenda are the Norman Wells
16 panel. They requested to speak this morning, and to
17 have their time slot moved to this morning.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So this was
22 our last one from yesterday. We'll finish off and
23 carry on from there. Anytime you're ready.

24

25 PRESENTATION BY NORMAN WELLS:

1 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Okay, guys. Good
2 morning. Thank you. I'm going to go through the
3 presentation we've got real quick after -- after we
4 get Edward to say what he wants to say, and Jaz might
5 want to say something, too. After they say what they
6 want to say, then we'll go through this really quick.
7 And there are copies of the presentation on the table
8 back there. Edward, do you want to say anything?

9 MR. EDWARD OUDZI: Yeah.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. EDWARD OUDZI: I -- I started to
14 travel from right here in Colville Lake, and I
15 travelled all the way over to Island Lake, and I
16 stayed overnight right there. The next day, I went
17 and I went up to -- way up at the (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE
18 SPOKEN), and they -- they call that -- that name.

19 And then from -- from there I went, and
20 then I got to Fort Good Hope just right before
21 Christmas. And it was -- it was my birthday on the
22 24th, and I was in Fort Good Hope for -- for
23 Christmas.

24 And on the 27th, I left. My brother-
25 in-law brought me way up to Stella's (phonetic) cabin.

1 And one (1) of my dog got off, and then he -- he got
2 killed. And from there, I took just three (3) dogs,
3 and I was walking ahead of them all the way -- all the
4 way to look -- long stretch. On the other -- the long
5 stretch I stayed overnight.

6 And then from there, I left -- I left
7 there, from seven o'clock at -- in the morning. And I
8 was going, going. I was getting pretty tired, and I
9 don't know how far it was. And then there's a Skidoo
10 came -- came behind me. And then they -- they told me
11 -- they told me I should come with them. And then
12 that -- they -- they said Norman Wells is not too far.

13 So I loosen all my dogs, and then we
14 just took off. And they dropped me off just close by.
15 And then I was right at Norman Wells.

16 And when I got to -- when I got to
17 Norman Wells, I walked. I don't know where to go, but
18 I walked to the big bar. And I walked in, and
19 everybody started yelling. And then I -- I got -- I
20 don't know what was going on.

21 And then the -- the game warden bought
22 me a room, and he bought me supper. And they said,
23 This is the first time somebody ever done that. And -
24 - and then -- and then I just -- just ate, and then I
25 went back to my room, and then I just went to sleep.

1 The next morning I got up and went up
2 to -- to my dogs. And then there was a big barrel
3 just full of fish. Somebody brought it -- brought
4 them there for my dogs.

5 And then I just fed my dogs. I keep on
6 feeding them, and then the -- late -- then I started
7 looking for a house, and I couldn't find any --
8 anything. And then four (4) days later, it -- four
9 (4) days later, I -- I found it -- I found a house,
10 and I moved all my stuff in, and -- and then the -- I
11 stayed -- I stayed with the one (1) friend of mine.

12 And -- and then I -- I was looking
13 around for a house. That's -- that's when I found a
14 job, too, at the North-Wright. And then I was looking
15 for a house, and I found a house, and I just went to
16 work. And I was working, working, and then later on
17 at -- at night, I -- I got all -- all -- everything
18 all fixed up, and then I packed all my stuffs, and
19 brought them to my -- my house.

20 And then it was -- it was pretty good
21 there. And then that's the time my girlfriend came
22 back, and -- and then -- and then that -- and then the
23 -- she -- she went to work, too, and I was working
24 too, but then there is -- there is somebody who was
25 just -- just sound like the -- they were my boss.

1 They were trying to break me up.

2 But anyway, I just kept on staying.

3 And then after -- after a year and a half, we -- we
4 broke up, because -- because her husband wants to kill
5 me. That was really hard.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about
7 caribou?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about
9 caribou?

10 MR. EDWARD OUDZI: And -- yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not to your
12 love life.

13 MR. EDWARD OUDZI: And he -- and then
14 I went over to -- I went over to Trophy Lodge. And I
15 was working at Trophy Lodge, and I work all summer.
16 And then I went -- after I -- I started working, I
17 came back to Norman Wells at the end of August, and
18 then my house -- there was nobody in my house. And
19 then I don't know where to go. And then -- and then I
20 went down to Doug Whiteman (phonetic), and then they
21 let me to -- pitch up a tent out -- out of their
22 house. So I done that.

23 And I was staying there, and then all
24 year -- all year round, I was just living in a tent.
25 And the town -- town was asking, the -- and there's no

1 -- nobody can live in a tent. But I told them, Nobody
2 can, but I -- myself, I could, because that's the way
3 I was born. I grew up, and -- and then I don't know
4 what to do, so I just went back -- went back to Lennie
5 Lake and stay over there.

6 And I -- I was -- I was happy over
7 there, and then one night -- one night, I was sitting
8 in the -- in the cabin, and one night I hear -- I
9 heard a whole bunch of wolves been howling just down
10 below this -- on the shore.

11 And I -- I couldn't do anything, but I
12 just left my gun, and I opened the door, and I talked
13 to them little bit, and then I closed the door. Then
14 they just stopped. Maybe -- maybe they moved
15 somewhere.

16 And -- and then -- and then I -- yeah,
17 I was there until -- until I got -- I got there
18 sixteen (16) martins. And I just want to go back to
19 Norman Wells. So I packed up my sleigh, and I --
20 everything was good, and I went back to Norman Wells.

21 And while going on the winter road,
22 there was -- there was a wolverine running on -- on
23 the road. And I just speed up, and I -- I ran over
24 it. And there was sixty (60) fish on the -- on the
25 sleigh. That one went over them too.

1 But -- and then I -- I just stopped. I
2 thought he -- he was going to be dead. But then there
3 is nothing happen to him. He just jump -- jump up on
4 the -- on the -- on the snow pile, and then he started
5 -- he started running. And I just left him, anyway.

6 And then I got back. I sold my
7 martins, and then I got a letter. And they said that
8 -- that was from Trophy Lodge. They said they would -
9 - they wanted me to come back down to Great Bear, but
10 I don't want to, so I -- I just stayed there.

11 So -- and when -- yeah, after I sold my
12 martins, I went back to Lennie Lake, and it -- it was
13 good. And I had -- I had a good time out there.
14 There's nobody around, and -- and there was -- there
15 was a -- a couple of wolves running along the shore.
16 And I was cha -- I was running after them, and I shot
17 two (2), and I brought -- I brought them home, and I
18 skinned them all. And then -- and then -- and later
19 on, I pulled out my fish net, and then I -- I went
20 back to Norman Wells.

21 And when -- when I -- when I got back
22 to Norman Wells, I went to get woods, and I load up my
23 -- my sleigh with firewoods, and then I was heading
24 back. Just before I went out, bang, it -- the -- the
25 engine just stopped. And that was the piston. So it

1 -- I just walk -- walk home.

2 And then the -- I -- I told Doug that I
3 wanted to borrow his Skidoo to get my load of woods.
4 And then -- and then he -- yeah, I think -- I think
5 that was it. Yeah. That's all.

6 MS. JAZMINE PLUMMER: Hi. I'm Jazmine
7 Plummer, I'm -- I'm a Board member from the Norman
8 Wells RRC, and I have grown up in Norman Wells all my
9 life.

10 I'd just like to say thank you to
11 everybody, and all the Elders for all your
12 inspirational stories. And back in the day, how you
13 used to live. I really appreciate it.

14 I don't really have much to say, but
15 I'll let Stuart and Jaryd talk. But I'd just like to
16 say Máhsı. Thank you.

17 MR. STUART POPE: Good morning. My
18 name is Stuart Pope, vice president of the Norman
19 Wells RRC. Roger is going to be delivering the bulk
20 of our presentation, but I'd just like to say that
21 we're all honoured to be here. It's a great meeting
22 so far. We're really taking in a lot, which is what
23 we're here to do. We're here to learn from Colville,
24 again, who's leading the way on this.

25 The caribou to us, we're not as closely

1 related as -- as Colville is, and Délıne is with the
2 caribou, but -- but we do have our caribou, and they
3 are vulnerable. So we're, you know, we're -- before
4 our numbers start to really show decline, it -- it's
5 good that we start acting now and get measures in
6 place to protect what we have for our -- our youth.
7 And yeah, that's -- that's where we stand on it.

8 Roger will get into more detail, here, soon.

9 I'd like to thank Edward and Johnny
10 McDonald for accompanying us on this trip. In Norman
11 Wells, we don't have as great a number of Elders as
12 the -- as the surrounding communities do, so, you
13 know, we need to really take advantage of -- of these
14 -- this knowledge, while it's still here.

15 Once again, thank you, Colville Lake,
16 for hosting us. Máhsı.

17 MR. JARYD MCDONALD: Good morning,
18 everybody. My name is Jaryd McDonald. I'm a Board
19 member for the Norman Wells Renewable Resource
20 Council.

21 I just want to say thank you to
22 Colville Lake again for inviting us. It's good to see
23 everybody. It's good to see everybody from all the
24 communities come all the way around, meet together,
25 and talk, and talking about caribou.

1 It's a different -- that's a -- that's
2 one that we always -- it always comes up here. And
3 I know you-- some of you today would like to see the
4 count, like, our -- our -- our harvesting count and
5 how much we harvest, I guess Sahtú Dene harvest, you
6 know, the boreal and the mountain caribou; that's
7 something youth today want to actually see.

8 And another thing I noticed about
9 caribou lately is where we go hunting at Three Day
10 Lake it's usually -- it's a little -- our family's
11 little lake, little island surrounded by water. My
12 Uncle Johnny, me, and all my family, but we noticed
13 that in the past few years that instead of having
14 caribou at the foot of the mountains, caribou are
15 starting to come down to the little lakes, and that's
16 never been -- and they've never stayed -- they've
17 never stayed too long on the lake or the little
18 islands, and now they're -- they're starting to stay
19 right on the islands right till after -- right till
20 after the river -- or the lake unthaws. And so that's
21 something different I've noticed.

22 I'm so tired, sorry, whoo. But, yeah,
23 living in Norman Wells, you know, we hunt -- we hunt
24 moose. We have relationship with caribou but we don't
25 -- we have to go right to the mountains to be able to

1 visit them, hunt, and very few of us do that every
2 year, and we rarely see them down by the river shore,
3 and now we're starting to. We're starting to see them
4 in places that we don't see, starting to see more
5 muskox now appear everywhere, and they're starting to
6 get more aggressive.

7 I think I'll -- I'll let our boss,
8 Roger, here bring it all one. All right. Thank you
9 everybody. I'll talk to you in a little bit.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah, right on,
14 Jaryd. Before I start the presentation, I'm going to
15 say really quickly what Edward told us in Fort Good
16 Hope almost ten (10) years ago at a caribou meeting in
17 Colville Lake. This is what he -- in Fort Good Hope -
18 - this is what he said.

19 My dad told me that caribou were going
20 to cross the Mackenzie River and after that they were
21 going to disappear. Thank you; that's it. That's
22 what he said in Fort Good Hope ten (10) years ago, and
23 they did, they crossed the river and they disappeared,
24 so TK says a lot. Anyway, that's Edward's caribou
25 story ten (10) years ago in Fort Good Hope, and he

1 said it that fast and that's all he had to say. Okay.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I'm going to make
6 it really quick and I'm going to breeze through it.
7 I'm going to breeze through the stuff that's really
8 not too important. I only have, like, ten (10)
9 minutes left, and I'll touch on the most important
10 things.

11 So I'm going to skip right to -- past
12 the table of contents into the summary. And the
13 summary basically says in a nutshell that of course,
14 like everybody else, Norman Wells is proud to work
15 with everybody. We're -- we respect everybody, what
16 they want to do with their own herds, their own
17 caribou, their own initiatives, and -- yeah, okay.
18 And we're proud to work with Tulit'a and Ross River,
19 with the mountain caribou.

20 And the background, of course the
21 background is simple, the caribou started to disappear
22 ten (10) years ago. The caribou were cut off around
23 Yellowknife. Used to hunt caribou around Yellowknife
24 just like Déline and Colville. Every year they would
25 be there, the same place, same time of year. They're

1 gone. Our caribou are gone.

2 In the Yukon, last year to get a tag
3 you had to put in a name for a draw. If you got the
4 draw, you had to pick out moose or caribou. So all
5 these restrictions are bringing more hunting into the
6 mountains, on the NWT side of the mountains. That's
7 what that says.

8 Our principles, pass on traditional
9 harvesting practices, promote education, and help the
10 youth -- steer the youth towards environmental fields
11 of employment, to promote and implement harvesting and
12 monitoring projects, and to work closely with Tulit'a
13 and Ross to protect and pursue concerns for the
14 mountain caribou.

15 The goal number 1 for revitalization:
16 to protect, respect, and educate, that's pretty
17 straightforward. Educate through on-the-land
18 projects, traditional hunting practices, and Dene law;
19 to provide confidence and attitudes for our youth to
20 get educated in outdoor fields such as hydrology,
21 biology; and to provide correspondence and regulations
22 for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal hunting in our
23 traditional areas; to revitalize and get caribou
24 populations and habitats back; to respect all aspects
25 of caribou habitat and each other; and to protect and

1 oversee sensitive areas. Okay.

2 Conservation approach: We're basically
3 saying here that we agree that whatever communities
4 are affected by whatever herds, we support those
5 communities. Our priority is the mountain caribou and
6 the Nló Nę P'ęnę-- the Nló Nę P'ęnę' Begháré Shúhta Gozepe
7 Nareh'á Plan. And education on two (2) levels will be a
8 priority, and the approach to conservation, Aboriginal
9 and non-Aboriginal hunter education.

10 The Norman Wells RRC fully supports the
11 Ross River Dene Council, and the public information
12 initiatives they have been pursuing, voluntary hunter
13 checklists, notice and -- notice and law forms, time
14 line of hunts, and time lines of hunts for non-
15 Aboriginal hunters in the Nló Nę P'ęnę' area.

16 We also believe that this kind of
17 approach should be taken in the Mackenzie Valley as
18 well.

19 Okay, next, Harvest Authorization and
20 Reporting: We support Colville Lake and Déline and
21 anyone else when it comes to their initiatives and
22 their long-term goals of one day being the issuer of
23 licences and tags. We also believe as affected groups
24 -- as affected groups develop management plans and
25 educational processes, these educational initiatives

1 should be combined and promoted with and through the
2 GNWT permitting system within ENR.

3 The boreal caribou: TK and land --
4 land owners, land users, and hunters find that boreal
5 caribou are far and few between in the valley. They
6 are around and they have their own ecosystems, and
7 they -- the boreal caribou are also very volatile and
8 sensitive.

9 We do not agree with collaring and
10 helicopter tagging of the boreal caribou, yet we have
11 approved GNWT highway collaring projects of the boreal
12 caribou so that we don't hamper future construction
13 projects.

14 We do not feel -- we do not feel
15 comfortable being pressured to do these kind of things
16 we don't agree with. At the same time, the RRC does
17 not want to hamper jobs in these tough times.

18 The mountain caribou: Quickly, what
19 we said here about the mountain caribou is we defined
20 it just for this one as mountain caribou south and
21 north, south of the Twitya and north of the Twitya,
22 and what we're saying is south of the Twitya the
23 caribou are disappearing, but north of the Twitya, on
24 Carcajou Lake in that area, there's way more caribou.
25 So there's less caribou on the south side and way more

1 on the north side.

2 And of course, the mountain caribou
3 have been feeling a lot more hunting pressure over the
4 last ten (10) years. I've talked about that, why
5 there's being more caribou hunted there.

6 In the Yukon it's so bad that even the
7 Yukon Dene are coming into the mountains on our side
8 to hunt caribou and get fresh meat, because there is
9 no fresh meat on their side. They have a hard time
10 shooting anything. So -- so we have hunters -- we
11 have white hunters going to the border from Hay River,
12 Fort Smith, Yellowknife, driving around with their
13 resident tags, with grizzly bear tags, moose and
14 caribou tags, and these are -- these are mǫ'las.

15
16 And then we also have big game hunters,
17 our hunters, and Ross River hunters, all going there
18 to the same place because it's the best caribou
19 hunting area in the whole NWT now for everybody, and
20 that's the Nlǫ Nę P'ęnę' area, and that's also one of
21 the biggest issues we got with caribou right now.

22 So the next one (1) is big game hunting
23 issues. Harvest numbers, like the young man said, we
24 feel ENR should be providing harvest numbers of big
25 game every year, not just the big game numbers but the

1 numbers of Aboriginal hunters and resident hunters out
2 there, a yearly notice of how many hunters hunted and
3 what they hunted.

4 Predator population control. We do not
5 agree with predator population control, which is the
6 culling of wolves, bears, wolverines. We don't agree
7 with that. We don't -- it's been brought up about
8 wolf culls.

9 Hiring practice: We -- we believe
10 that the big game hunters should be pressed to -- to
11 hire and train local native guides.

12 New species: New species hunts such
13 as muskox, brown bear, geese, and whatever, we believe
14 any new hunts should be specifically and only the RRC
15 should be doing them, if they ever do come about, kind
16 of like the Eskimos and their grizzly bear hunts -- or
17 polar bear hunts, and grizzly bear now.

18 Anyway, Mile 222 and the Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́
19 area issues. The draft Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ Plan, we support
20 the Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ Plan development process. We have to
21 support the process because the plan's not complete.
22 We totally support it. We know there's a lot more
23 work that has to be done to it and we look forward to
24 working with that.

25 We also believe that the Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́

1 Plan must take a more flexible, workable approach with
2 the mining industry in the area. If there is to be
3 industry development in the area, which is the gold
4 mine, there must also be more attention and more
5 restrictions for the influx and increased number of
6 human activity and the Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ' Plan should
7 accommodate.

8 The Mile 222 check station, the GNWT,
9 ENR, should continue to monitor and regulate hunting
10 activity at Mile 222, with the local RRCs and Ross
11 River. One of the things we also talked about is that
12 Fort Good Hope should start getting a little more
13 involved with it as well, the mountain caribou and
14 headwaters of the Arctic Red Mountain and -- your
15 country as well.

16 The GNWT ENR should also work with Ross
17 River and the Sahtú RRCs to promote local hunting
18 expectations and correspondence, brochures, best
19 hunting practices, notices that need to be shared with
20 all the hunters, coming through the check station,
21 even if they are voluntary.

22 Doi T'oh Territorial Park Corporation:
23 We fully support the development of the park and the
24 draft Development and Management Plan. We believe
25 that the draft Management Plan should be reviewed and

1 revised. Interim measures should be implemented for
2 the proposed park corridor as soon as possible. This
3 would take care of a lot of our problems with the
4 hunting issues around Nio Ne P'ene. So we support the
5 park.

6 And I have one (1) minute left, and I
7 am done here now. Yeah, I'm done.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 QUESTION PERIOD:

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So thank
13 you for the presentation, and I will carry on with our
14 process here, which is questions anybody might have
15 regarding the presentation of Norman Wells. And the
16 first one is Colville Lake Panel. Any questions?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Máhsı. Joseph
21 Kochon, BAFN RRC. Thank you for your presentation,
22 Roger.

23 I guess -- trying to do something
24 there. It's good to see that you're starting to do
25 something about caribou within your area. We thought

1 that nobody was doing anything on the t̥ɔdzɪ within the
2 area.

3 If you don't pay attention, then it
4 gets out of whack, so it's a good start and we
5 encourage you to continue on and start to put it in
6 the things that will -- will leave that responsibility
7 with you.

8 But whatever you do, just don't give
9 your responsibility to somebody else to -- it's your
10 traditional territory, even though there's a lot of
11 different parties involved. It's -- under the Land
12 claims you have quite a bit of authorities within your
13 judicial territory, so.

14 But I just wanted to -- to say that. I
15 don't really have any questions or anything. Maybe
16 later I'll pose some questions regarding t̥ɔdzɪ to ENR,
17 I guess. Máhsɪ.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Wilbert.

22 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: I suppose a --
23 another question, but more a comment then. T̥ɔdzɪ ,
24 ɛədə, they're all pretty well the same, I think, for
25 Aboriginal hunters. When you're hunting it's not

1 wasted. It always comes back to us. But that's --
2 big game hunters, all they do is they're playing
3 around, it's just a game for them. And that's not
4 very respectful.

5 So I just wanted to note that -- that
6 you got a difference among that is that us Aboriginal
7 people, when we hunt, caribou always comes back to us.
8 That's what we're respecting, you know. And other
9 people I know that go way around and -- and think they
10 can play around this all in the mountain, chasing
11 around with quads and that.

12 And the reason why the caribou moves,
13 they're not respecting what -- where they are, and
14 they're not respecting the land. So I think as land
15 owners we have to start making rules for ourselves for
16 other people.

17 The reason why ENR was born was to make
18 rules for other people to -- that are coming in. Even
19 this group had trapping area. It was never to enforce
20 ourself, not Dene. But well, other people coming in
21 that are not Aboriginal. That was 1957, I think
22 that's when they did that, around there, they did that
23 group trapping area. And those Elders were smart the
24 way they done it.

25 So I'm glad that they're doing

1 something and we -- we all got to help each others and
2 -- and the people have always tell us to hunt in the
3 mountain, but the tombo (phonetic) have no permission
4 to do it unless the landowner said yes. And -- but we
5 will never go out there unless we're given permission,
6 just show respect.

7 Same thing we want back if we come
8 around here. You're more than welcome to go hunting.
9 But just come to us. It's all about safety and the
10 respect of the land. And that's how we -- should we
11 all be.

12 And máhsı for presenting.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Roger...?

17 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah. Right on,
18 guys. I just want to say I'm -- I hear you all the
19 way, and as far as I'm concerned, anything I do is for
20 you, meaning everybody in here. You don't need my
21 permission or anybody's to do what you want to do,
22 man.

23 But I do want to say one (1) thing,
24 that I'm learning from you guys and this plan is
25 actually following your guys' direction and it's

1 actually, I -- I followed your guys' plan for this.
2 This is going to -- we talked about it back home --
3 this is a first crack at it. And it's going to be the
4 same thing we work on for the next five (5) years.
5 We're going to try and develop it like you guys.

6 And I just wanted to say that, that we
7 kind -- I kind of -- I mean, I told the Board that
8 where we've -- I followed your guys' advice, your
9 guys' report. And you could actually see it in this
10 report, the format, it's the same format. I followed
11 your guys' format.

12 So I just want to say thank you and
13 I'll do the best to listen to what you say and respect
14 everything the way you said.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: (INDISCERNIBLE)?

16 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you, Roger.
17 Just another note. We're available to you give
18 presentation to your Board if -- if you want to, Sir,
19 to just -- just put in your request. So anybody else
20 that want to -- wants some good insight of how to
21 proceed and make sure that they -- they get prepared,
22 that's good.

23 So this is a public Hearing. I guess
24 Edward made a statement, I don't think I'll ask any
25 question. Máhs1.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Nick...?

4 Deline Panel.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Yeah, máhsl, George.

9 The -- Roger, that was a -- an excellent pres --
10 presentation on, you know, you used species by
11 species. And you know, it -- it's at your area in the
12 mountains that has the most, you know, I think your
13 populations are very well. And you have two (2),
14 three (3) different species of caribou up there and a
15 long history of, Joseph mentioned.

16 And certainly how he puts it, you're
17 not aware of what goes on in your area. You know,
18 sometimes things go too far or there's an issue before
19 we start talking about it.

20 Here you -- you have an excellent
21 opportunity to come up with a plan for yourselves.

22 I -- I'm not going to tell you about
23 the history of hunting in your area, you've got all
24 these outfitters out there. The -- but things have
25 changed. This morning I was talking to -- to David

1 Etchinelle and, you know, he started asking me
2 questions about the Land claims. So I realize that,
3 you know, we need to do a little more about what the
4 situation is today on -- on how -- how our people deal
5 with wildlife.

6 And probably one (1) of the biggest
7 ones is that the Sahtú claims is one (1) claim. It's
8 not the -- you know, the land corporations created all
9 these boundaries, and we call it districts today, but
10 the Land claims itself doesn't have that. You can
11 hunt anywhere, anybody here that's a member of Sahtú
12 Claims can hunt anywhere.

13 And I think one (1) of the biggest
14 things is that now you have a Board. Yeah. You have
15 a Board that -- that can make decisions. Yeah, the
16 main answer in wildlife management here. So I think
17 you -- you have a, you know, an excellent chance to --
18 to work with them and come up with a plan that even
19 before you -- you have issues.

20 You know, one (1) of the things that's
21 so important, and I'm -- that question, I'm going to
22 lead to that question -- you said that everybody in
23 the Territories hunts in your area, resident hunters
24 for caribou.

25 So how -- you have no way of dealing

1 with it at this time. Or do you? I think that was my
2 question. Máhsı, Roger.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah, there --
7 there's a -- there's a few initiatives going on that
8 are dealing with that issue right now. There -- of
9 course, there's the ENR check station, there's the
10 Ross River people that started working with Tuli't'a
11 and Norman Wells and our -- the Renewable Resource
12 Board. The RRC people came up with a voluntary
13 checklist for resident hunters, non-resident hunters,
14 anybody coming across the 222 border.

15 It's a voluntary checklist that tells
16 them how to traditional hunt, how to respect their
17 food, where they can go, where they can't go, if --
18 and just to report what they did, what they shot. And
19 so that initiative is there.

20 I'm -- I'm hoping that ENR continues to
21 build the relationship with the RRCs and continues the
22 monitoring with the RRCs together out there in the
23 fall time. So there's those two (2) initiatives going
24 on to deal with it. Plus there is the Nıó Nę P'ęnę'
25 Plan with the -- with -- with Deb and the -- the

1 Board, and Tulit'a and Ross. That -- that has a lot
2 of options in there to deal with these issues.

3 But it's -- it's a very touchy one and
4 it's going to take some time and some work. And if
5 it's right in the middle of being done.

6 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Máhsı, Roger. That
7 was good.

8 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Just a procedural
9 point, and -- and just further to what George said
10 earlier this morning, we'll keep reminding people to
11 focus on questions for the question period today.
12 Part of the reason for that is one (1) of what we call
13 procedural fairness, which is the main principle of a
14 public hearing proceeding, that's a formal and legal
15 proceeding.

16 So if people are making comments or
17 presenting instead of asking questions, it's kind of
18 unfair 'cause you're actually ending up with more
19 presentation time than other people.

20 So that's why we're trying to focus
21 people on questions. Máhsı cho.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Fort Good
23 Hope Panel...?

24 MR. FRANK T'SELEIE: Máhsı, Mr. Chair.
25 I'm Frank T'seleie, Fort Good Hope RRC.

1 I have a -- a couple of questions,
2 really, one (1) related to, you know, how best to
3 control those that may be working outside of what we
4 say our rules are. And I know there's the old Canol
5 Highway from Norman Wells to the Yukon. And in the
6 past there's been some experience and where I've heard
7 poachers may be coming in from the -- from the other
8 end of the road.

9 And I'm wondering if the RRC from
10 Norman Wells experience anything like that. And if
11 they do, I wonder if they could share it with us. I
12 ask that because ourselves and the -- about
13 twenty-five (25) years ago, when the -- the caribou,
14 the barren-land caribou reach the -- the
15 transportation corridor that is the -- the winter
16 road, there was people who are coming in from other
17 parts of the -- the territory and really took
18 advantage of it.

19 And -- and a lot of animals were abused
20 and we -- we really learned our lesson. And I think
21 we start tightening it up since.

22 And in the future -- you know, there
23 used to be a lot of caribou. I've seen thousands on
24 this lake. I don't think any of the young people ever
25 see that anymore. People from Délı̨nę and Tulit'a are

1 used to coming here and share in -- in the resources.

2 And there were thousands and you know,
3 people from around that time have seen that. And I
4 don't think any of the young people today will ever
5 see that, you know?

6 But as animals go they come and go and
7 I -- I ask that to see if somehow we could control
8 that and if -- if they've experienced any -- any of
9 that.

10 And then I have one (1) more question
11 after that, so.

12 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: As far as the
13 poaching goes, every once in a while we -- we hear of
14 stories or run into something, but nothing really
15 recent. But there -- I don't want to say anything
16 that I don't really know.

17 But I do know that I see trucks with
18 licence plates from BC and Alberta and Saskatchewan
19 out there. And I -- I wonder about them.

20 And those are the resident hunters.
21 Like there'll be two (2) trucks from NWT with one (1)
22 truck from BC; two (2) trucks from NWT with one (1)
23 truck from Alberta; one (1) truck from NWT with one
24 (1) truck from Saskatchewan, in different camps at the
25 same time. I -- I have it on camera, on SD card.

1 But so I wonder about that, too. And
2 we don't check every hunter. The ENR doesn't check
3 every hunter and say, Where are you from, Who are you?
4 It's -- it's kind of voluntary, too. Sometimes they
5 slip through the ropes and they come in and go.

6 But what I do want to say in regards to
7 monitoring and control is, like I mentioned earlier,
8 Frank, I think Fort Good Hope should have more
9 participation out there, should be working with Ross
10 River and Tulit'a and Mayo because it's -- like I
11 said, it's -- it's your country, too, right, out in
12 Dene country out there.

13 MR. FRANK T'SELEIE: Máhsı. Thank
14 you. That -- that really answers my question because
15 it relates to my next question and -- that is really
16 culturally related.

17 And way back when our leaders, our
18 chiefs, went to the Canadian courts to begin their
19 work on our rights within Canada, one (1) of the --
20 the supporting work that people like myself were doing
21 was gathering detailed land use information by our
22 people and -- and to support the -- the leader's case.

23 And the (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) in
24 the traditional territory extends into an area between
25 the continental divide and Mayo, and -- and then to

1 the -- to the southeast into your area.

2 We -- I see no way -- the way we were
3 doing it, we were ke -- gathering all the place names
4 of the lakes, landmarks, hills, major campsites, major
5 habitat sites. And we -- we have to revisit that at
6 some point in time.

7 And I'm really glad you're -- you're
8 saying that you're open to working together with Fort
9 Good Hope. At some point in time, we should engage in
10 that.

11 You know, there's places like that hill
12 behind Norman Wells. I'm told by one (1) of the
13 Elders here it's called (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN);
14 that means to walk down mountain.

15 (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN). That's
16 Oscar Lake. (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN); that's
17 Lookout Lake and site, sentry site. So, those kind
18 of, like, traditional concepts are built into those
19 base names so they're really important culturally, and
20 not only culturally, but linguistically.

21 And at this stage, I think that's the
22 only two (2) questions I have at -- at this time. And
23 thank you for your answers.

24 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: So, we're good?

25 MR. STUART POPE: I'd like to just --

1 just quickly touch on Frank's first question there
2 about asking about the influx of poaching out in
3 mainly the 222 area.

4 You know, obviously, caribou is out
5 main goal, but -- but it's not just the poaching
6 that's -- poaching or over hunting, but it's -- I -- I
7 learned this from an ENR officer who goes out and
8 spends his time there.

9 And the concern he brought to me was --
10 wasn't so much the caribou numbers that are being
11 harvested, it's the -- the habitat -- the habitat loss
12 with the new side-by-side heavier machines out there.

13 And so the bigger the machines they get
14 and the more power, the deeper they're getting off of
15 the main area and into lands that they're not maybe
16 permitted to be on.

17 But -- but in -- in getting there,
18 they're really turning up the muskeg and, you know,
19 des -- destroying vulnerable habitat. So, tha --
20 that's another concern to -- just to keep in mind at
21 all times. Thank you.

22 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Stuart, could you
23 say your name and affiliation? Sorry, we've been
24 forgetting to remind people.

25 MR. STUART POPE: Stuart Pope, Vice-

1 President, Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Roger...?

3 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah, thanks.

4 Yeah, Frank, I think we should do that. We should get
5 together with -- with Norman Wells. I would like to
6 work on exactly what you were talking about, place
7 names and a little more education for myself and the
8 members of Norman Wells.

9 I -- I know I -- I do what I can to
10 pass on what I know. Like, some of our youth now
11 don't even know that Charlie Barnaby's dad's cabin,
12 Barnaby Islands, you know, and Florence Lake, and,
13 like -- like you said, Sucker -- Sucker Creek at one
14 time was Gahcho Camp.

15 And I totally respect that. And I
16 totally respect everybody, and that's how I see us in
17 the region. As, like, Paul Wright (phonetic) said,
18 we're all related all the way up -- down the valley,
19 and I totally respect that, Frank. And I will do my
20 best to promote that and promote the culture and the
21 history. Okay.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does that mean
23 we're all related?

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So, Frank,
25 one (1) more question.

1 MR. FRANK T'SELEIE: Oh, yeah, just a
2 brief comment on the Barnaby's cabin, that it's called
3 in our language (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) which
4 means 'foot creek'. That's what it means. Thank you.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thomas, you had a
9 question?

10 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: Yes, I do.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's Thomas
15 Manuel.

16 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: My name is Thomas
17 Manuel. And I -- I myself, I've been around. In --
18 in my younger days, I was on the river, deckhand,
19 pilot for ten (10) years I was on the river.

20 And at the time I'm talking about, all
21 the sandbars are very strong, never moved. Them days,
22 we had no marker. To be a pilot, we go by the
23 landmark. We go by the sandbar. We travelled day and
24 night, but we all know where the sandbar is.

25 The last time I was on the river when I

1 -- 1960. And I kind of studied. I'm not a scientist
2 or anything, but I look at -- I look at my land. I
3 look at the animal.

4 And the songbird -- 1960 I was on the -
5 - the last time I was on the river. But after that,
6 twenty (20) years ago, the songbirds started moving.
7 And people used to make a living out of the herring.

8 The fe -- people used to make dry fish.
9 It used to be a hundred and twenty (120) to a hundred
10 and fifty (150) a bail. They put that away for the
11 winter.

12 And since the songbirds started moving
13 around, I don't see any more herring. So, it must
14 fill up where it's found or I don't know. So, this is
15 the kind of stuff that they -- I -- I look at.

16 Now I'm going to talk in my language.

17

18 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: When I was born,
21 us -- when I was born many years ago -- in the Norman
22 Wells meeting where I was -- where I attended, many
23 times there, there's islands that are there.

24 The trucks twenty-four (24) hours are
25 travelling on it. And here the gas pipes are leaking

1 oil; that's poison. And that, too, that I see when
2 I'm in Norman Wells, Imperial Oil, I've talked to them
3 many times, but -- but they never -- they never follow
4 the advice.

5 It's all of us to -- that -- that are
6 below them, all of us that live below them. These --
7 and we have two (2) peoples here from the ocean. Many
8 times I said people's from the ocean, our ri -- river
9 that flows into the ocean, it flows into the ocean.

10 And with that, I used to tell them from
11 Norman Wells, those islands that are made that are --
12 that have trucks on them, and there's pipes -- there's
13 pipes in there.

14 And with that, today, here, all the
15 peoples here, you're listing to me. And so, the --
16 the outfitters, when I'm at the wells, and they said
17 they were going to build a long-term care -- the long-
18 term care and the hospital is attached.

19 And so, they're -- when I talked to the
20 peoples, Norman Wells, today, we don't have a lab. We
21 don't know what kind of dri -- water we're drinking.
22 And so, I want a lab in there. And that's what I
23 mentioned to them.

24 Then one (1) of the Caucasian persons
25 said to me, I don't -- other peoples out there don't

1 know -- know that you're talking about something
2 that's very expensive.

3 And so, here in Norman Wells, in one
4 (1) day, how much money the oil they are extracting
5 for money.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: They extracted
10 money for all the oil that you have taken. We are
11 rich peoples on our land. We never -- we don't dig
12 around for money. We don't scratch around for money,
13 but whatever money's taking out from our land is
14 south.

15 And so, with that, the -- I'm talking
16 about lab today. Me, for thirty-two (32) years I've
17 worked in Inuvik. There was a lab in Inuvik. And so,
18 with peoples from Colville Lake, I used to send
19 samples of water to there and Good Hope and here in
20 Colville Lake.

21 The water -- I stock water from their
22 barrel -- water barrels. There's nothing. There's no
23 -- nothing visible. But in Good Hope, when you look
24 at their water bar -- barrels, the mud in the bottom
25 of the barrel is visible, and it was in -- the same in

1 Bear Lake. And that's what we're drinking today.

2 There's -- cancer is rising. Cancer is
3 rising, it seems. So, you have the water -- we have
4 to have a lab to check our waters, to check what kind
5 of water we're drinking.

6 At that time, I used to send samples of
7 water into Inuvik as soon as they know there's any
8 signs of other chemicals. And then I used to advise
9 peoples to clean their water barrels.

10 And the outfitters, also, I used to
11 tell them that they don't have monitors, they don't
12 have monitors. And so, when they harvest something,
13 are they being monitored and that, too?

14 And the other thing is whatever is the
15 -- the -- if you make the -- if you build a long-term
16 care, I advised them to start bringing in traditional
17 -- traditional food to them. And they should have a
18 tipi in front of the long-term care in Norman Wells,
19 and an ice house should be out there. A freezer
20 should be in -- outside of their doorstep.

21 And so here we're sitting, all of you.
22 We are one. Whatever we want, we have to -- we have
23 to have one (1) voice with that in the future for our
24 Indigenous. For us, we're just here for today, but
25 for the future, the ones that are walking into the

1 future, we want to make it a better future for them
2 today. We want to build a better future for them for
3 the ones that are walking into the future, because we
4 don't want them to suffer with worry, be stressed,
5 into the future.

6 At that time, when I used to talk at
7 this land, I wanted a hospital built in our region.
8 Now people start going to Edmonton only, and that in
9 there, everything that they work to heal peoples to --
10 is there, but on our land, we have nothing. I asked
11 for a high school, a huge university. That's what I
12 wanted to build -- to be built here in our region, but
13 to date -- today, there's nothing yet. And for all of
14 us for the future, think of it. Think our children --
15 we'll want -- we'll want to make a better life for
16 them.

17 So we think -- we should think about
18 it, making a concerted effort. If we work together,
19 we are -- we strengthen ourselves and Colville Lake
20 peoples, all of us, with paper, with documents. Let's
21 -- they've done a good job for themselves. Many years
22 ago, in Good Hope, I've told many peoples, Don't talk
23 -- don't talk. Whatever you want to work with, build
24 it. Make it yourself. Establish it yourself, and --
25 and make your documents, and present it to the

1 government.

2 This is our -- when our -- when ours
3 are visible, then we strengthen ourselves. Look at
4 the -- that's what the Colville Lake peoples are
5 doing. That's what they're working on, and so with
6 that, their words is -- will be strong. In the Sahtú,
7 there's five (5) communities in the Sahtú. For sure,
8 we should be working together to strengthen ourselves.

9 And so here, yesterday, that long work
10 I've mention in Good Hope with children, girls I used
11 to talk to. Alcohol -- alcohol is into your system,
12 and so suddenly, if you need surgery, this -- this num
13 -- this -- the anaesthetics will not work to make --
14 put you to sleep. It's not going to work. And so the
15 doctors, in front of them, a person can die. They
16 could die. Their life could end.

17 Me, I don't -- I never went to school,
18 but many years -- many things I've taught myself. I'm
19 self-taught, and that's what I am. That's who I am.
20 My people, my relatives, thank you, Colville Lake
21 people. We are here. They work this way for us.
22 Thank you.

23 I say thank you to Colville Lake
24 people. Here are all the peoples. From the ocean,
25 we're here together. We have to make things better

1 for ourselves. We have to take over things for
2 ourselves. We're -- we can't rely on others to make
3 things better for ourselves. It's ourselves that have
4 to -- ourselves.

5 Long time ago, when I was a child,
6 Elders that brought up -- that raised a child, they
7 said, That child is strong. That's because the Elder
8 -- the child -- the child never sat still in front of
9 that Elder, and that's what -- they keep you moving.
10 They tell you, Do this. Do that. Every minute.

11 (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

12

13 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

14

15 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: -- out here
16 worker. Yeah. Thanks, all you people are here around
17 the table. Let's -- let's make one (1) voice. Máhsı.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
19 That's it for Good Hope.

20 So we'll move to Tulit'a. Any
21 questions on the presentation?

22 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: No question. No,
23 I just -- Frank Andrew, from Tulit'a Dene band, sit on
24 the table here for the Renewable ro -- Resource
25 Council and also for Tulit'a.

1 Looking at all this and listening to
2 people for les -- yesterday and today, there's lots of
3 information that's coming out. I think as -- you
4 know, as I was growing up, this is how I learned, by
5 listening to an Elder speaking. So I -- I think it's
6 really good that the Elders still talk to us. It's
7 good. Because the land claim was set up for all of us
8 here, it's a -- had submitted land claim agreement.
9 So everybody should have a voice in it.

10 But my question here is about the
11 mountain caribou, and you were talking about inviting
12 -- for Good Hope to be part of the group. I think if
13 -- I think that's good, so we'd love to be a part of
14 the information session too on those ones.

15 And -- but when you talk about Twitya
16 River south caribou and the north caribou, about the
17 north is getting more and the south is sort of going
18 down, you're saying. Something like that? So how did
19 you get that information?

20 You know, a lot of people talk about
21 outfitters today. The outfitting thing is very
22 different today than how it used to be when we used to
23 guide back then, 1970, '72, somewhere around there,
24 way back. But when we started, that time we had
25 horses, so we tried to do the best we can to haul all

1 the meat in with the horses and everything. We packed
2 the horses and did everything. So we're -- for ten
3 (10) years, and we did everything by horses.

4 And by that time, after that, today,
5 they have no horses. I don't know if they haul all
6 the meat out, because the way you're supposed to keep
7 your animal is way different from the way we -- we
8 splin -- we skinned caribou or a moose or a sheep.
9 You know, you just got to take the head part off.
10 That's all, and everything's always left behind in the
11 Mackenzie Mountain outfitter.

12 So sometime, I think about that when --
13 from the day we went -- we went hunting, guiding.
14 Today, I believe it's really different. There's
15 probably a lot of -- a lot of things left -- left
16 behind, I think, for sure. So I just wanted to share
17 that.

18 But the -- the caribou from the south
19 to the north, that's the one -- I want to know that
20 information on it and see how -- because the south is
21 just about right around the moun -- Drum Lake, where
22 everybody always went long ago, and David always
23 talked about that. When the people used to go across
24 there, there used to be a whole bunch of caribou back
25 then. So máhsı. That's my question.

1 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Yeah, George?
2 George? Sorry, I have a procedural thing to -- sorry.
3 This has to -- so yeah, somebody is on
4 the phone right now but without their mute button on,
5 so we're hearing background conversations -- or, the
6 people who are -- the other people who are listening
7 in are hearing a private background conversation. So
8 please put your phone on mute unless you are wanting
9 to ask a question, if you're on the phone. Thank you
10 very much.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Roger...?

12 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Okay, Frank. I
13 guess I should maybe bring it in a little smaller.
14 Instead of saying, like, Twitya south and Twitya
15 north, what -- what I'm really talking about is only
16 what I know. Like, I don't know about Shell Strip and
17 Drum Lake. What I'm talking about is, like, from God
18 -- Twitya south would be like around the Canol, from -
19 - from Godlin to -- to the border, that area.

20 From -- from what I've been told and
21 from what I've seen, those -- those caribou aren't
22 there anymore. There's not as many caribou around
23 that area anymore as -- as there used to be. And --
24 and I know that from the people I've talked to and
25 from people like you and the guides and -- and my own

1 experience being on that end and talking to people
2 like Keith Hickling, who grew up there, and Norm and
3 you. That's -- that's how I know how it used to be,
4 because I -- I listen.

5 And it's not like that anymore. Now,
6 for this side, Twitya south, well, that -- that's --
7 that's again on the Canol to -- to Mountain River. I
8 can't say about Drum Lake and -- and the Keel -- the
9 Keele. But I -- I know from what I'm -- the area I
10 just mentioned, from Twitya south, there's a heck of a
11 lot more caribou around McClure Lake and Carcajou Lake
12 in the fall time and wintertime now then there ever
13 have been in my day. Hundreds in the fall time.
14 Hundreds in March. Literally hundreds.

15 Me and my daughter and your cous', Jaryd?
16 Edward? When we went there with my daughter and Jaryd?

17 MR. EDWARD OUDZI: Yeah.

18 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Hundreds. And I -
19 - I take pride in that because I -- I listen, and when
20 they keep coming back more and more, I know we're
21 doing things right. Maybe not everybody, and maybe
22 not all the time, but there's a heck of a lot more
23 caribou in our end of the country.

24 Stuart's an avid hunter. He says the
25 same thing, and that's how we know is from -- we know

1 from the past from people like you, and we know the
2 future and we know right now from ourselves and our
3 friends and people like you. And that's how we know.
4 But I can't say for the -- for Keele River, Drum Lake.
5 Like I said, the areas I'm talking about are basically
6 south and north Canol.

7 But yeah, Frank, there's a heck of a
8 lot more caribou than I've ever seen, and -- and we
9 talk about it. Maybe it's because of all the activity
10 at the border. I don't know. That's -- that's all I
11 can say.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, Frank...?

13 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Yeah, it's good
14 information just to share some information like that,
15 because when I used to guide is all along the -- the
16 Canol road and also around Carcajou and McClure Lake
17 and Mountain Lake and Mountain River and all those
18 places. I don't know all the Slavey names, but I want
19 to hire Frank. He's good at it, you know?

20 I -- I like his presentation about when
21 you put a question about all the traditional name, you
22 know. And I've always talked about that because
23 traditional name is what our -- our people used to
24 travel by, okay? That's a landmark for them. So I --
25 I think it's very important for all our people,

1 because as I travel the winter roads, even to Déline,
 2 I see (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN), but they're saying
 3 Rosie's Creek now. So how did they arrive at that?
 4 You know, jungle -- Jungle Creek or something, between
 5 Tulit'a and Norman Wells. How do they come to Jungles
 6 Creek?

7 And then there's some more coming this
 8 way. (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN)? There's no -- no
 9 traditional name of our -- our country. There's
 10 nothing now. You know, I think we should really look
 11 at that, but thank you for sharing those kind of
 12 things.

13 Because, you know, as -- as you listen
 14 around the table here, it's not only caribou, but some
 15 of the things that's moving into their territory here,
 16 like wolverine and that, they talked about yesterday.
 17 So we -- I think about those things too. How come all
 18 the animals are sort of moving differently?

19 And I hear moose at Kugluktuk? Moose,
 20 I don't think they had that before, but the moose is
 21 going that way too, and muskox is coming to us. Wha -
 22 - what's happening? We might get cold weather, or
 23 what? I don't know, but something is happening.

24 But thank you anyway. Máhsı.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Before we
4 proceed, just a reminder that we're now fifteen (15)
5 minutes over time on the question period. And so this
6 is really important, and also the rest of the day's
7 proceedings are very important as well. So just a
8 reminder to keep to questions because otherwise we're
9 -- there's an issue of fairness with this hearing.

10 Máhsı.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Fred -- Frederick...?

12 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW JR.: My name is
13 Frederick Andrew Jr., and I'm Board director for RR --
14 Tulit'a RRC. I had a question for Roger, but I want
15 to ask -- I want to say it in my own language.

16

17 (TRANSLATION FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

18

19 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW JR.: Two (2)
20 summers ago, I've -- we were talking with Jim Walker
21 and with RWED. And across the way in the mountains,
22 there are outfitters, and they hunt with helicopters,
23 and they travel -- they travel around with a chopper.

24 And we did tell them not to, but they
25 did, okay. But they still continue to do that, and

1 they hunt with choppers, helicopters. And for us, it
2 is not in our way of doing things. When we hunt in
3 our own law, we walk and we follow by how the wind
4 tells us, and that is how we hunt.

5 And the Renewable Resources -- and they
6 -- when the people go flying, they go very low, and
7 they go really loud. And so -- and they -- they go
8 run everywhere. And so -- and we did report this to
9 the wildlife officer, but -- but they still -- they
10 still do that.

11 I was wondering if you have known
12 anything like that, Roger?

13

14 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Roger...?

17 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I don't know what
18 to say, Frederick. The twelve (12) hour rule in the
19 mountains, yeah, they -- six (6) of the big game
20 outfitters are using helicopters, six (6) of the seven
21 (7), which is only one (1) using horses now. And the
22 regulations say they can do that and they just have to
23 sit on the ground for twelve (12) hours.

24 On this side of the river, they can --
25 they're hunting muskox on top of the mountains behind

1 Norman Wells with helicopter, and they could legally
2 circle the -- circle muskox, look for the muskox, land
3 in the chopper, jump out of the chopper, and shoot it
4 legally.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not anymore.

6 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: On this side of
7 the river?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

9 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Is that right?
10 Okay. Well, I guess they changed the rules on this
11 side now. You -- you have to wait twelve (12) hours
12 on this side, but I didn't know that.

13 Up until I guess recently, like -- like
14 your dad did and other people did, it was legal to
15 jump out of the chopper and -- and shoot a muskox or
16 whatever you want, caribou or moose, on this side of
17 the Mackenzie River.

18 So the law did change, I guess, so
19 maybe we can change the law out there. And that's
20 what these meetings are for is to put that kind of
21 thing on paper. I'd gladly support that and do that
22 with you guys, whatever.

23

24 (TRANSLATED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

25

1 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW JR.: Roger,
2 Tulit'a RRC and -- Norman Wells RRC, and also Fort
3 Good Hope and Colville Lake, all the RRCs. Let us sit
4 together and discuss this -- this particular issue.
5 And we want -- we don't -- we can -- we don't want
6 them to continue to hunt with -- with helicopters, and
7 maybe we can discuss that amongst each other. Máhsı.

8

9 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

10

11 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I just -- Fred, I
12 really like that, and I want to throw something else
13 out there because I think it comes a little closer to
14 home to all of us out here because I believe everybody
15 here except for Délinę own a big game outfitter,
16 right? So it's -- it's time to start thinking like
17 that, too.

18 And I think you're right up -- you're
19 looking the right way when you say we should be
20 sitting together and we should be talking about all
21 the big game hunting out issues, as well as ownership.

22 I -- I mentioned jobs and training for
23 big game outfitting. Well, we -- we own -- we own
24 one, too, so we -- we should sit down and talk the
25 whole talk of big game outfitting. And every issue

1 we've got, I think you're dead on.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: One more?

3 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW JR.: No. I just
4 wanted to say thank you, Roger, and that's what we
5 should do within Sahtú region because -- a way of life
6 -- our traditional way of life. And we can't let it
7 go by like that.

8 We have to really stand firm and do
9 something about it because we are the last frontier,
10 the Northwest Territories. It's a vast area and it's
11 a beautiful country. I would say it's more beautiful
12 than Hawai'i, but it's colder but it's good. Máhsı.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
14 And we'll move to Norman -- oh, that's Norman Wells --
15 Inuvialuit Game Council.

16 MR. JIM ELIAS: I am Jim Elias, with
17 the Inuvialuit Game Council. And I just want to point
18 out to Roger that we all -- all us groups here come
19 with respect for each other and that. And one (1)
20 word of what you just said and that, if it was
21 somebody else sitting in my spot, would have probably
22 walked right out.

23 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah.

24 MR. JIM ELIAS: We don't go and use
25 these old names. We all got our names changed. Like

1 same with the Dene and the Sahtú and that. We're not
2 Eskimos no more, and a lot of people get offended.
3 Same with -- a lot of Sahtú get offended if you say
4 Indian or whatever.

5 So, I mean, one little word like that
6 could hurt a whole -- a whole meeting, and I wanted to
7 say that, but also one (1) of my questions is that --
8 or advice, like you, like us and the ISR, we do a lot
9 of big game hunting up there and that.

10 But us, we have straight locals do
11 that. They get their own -- they apply for their own
12 licences, big game licences, guiding licences and
13 stuff, and it's all because you could give everybody a
14 big game licence outfit and that, but you as an area
15 are in control of your tags. The tags that are given
16 is your tags and that to distribute between your
17 membership.

18 And so even a big game outfitter came
19 and move into Tuk, for example, he could go there and
20 set up his big business, all he wants and that, but
21 what is he going to be hunting? Because he's not
22 going to be getting no tags from -- from our people,
23 yeah. Thank you. And my colleague wants a question
24 after.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Go ahead.

1 MR. DOUG ESAGOK: Good morning. Doug
2 Esagok, Inuvialuit Game Council. I have a question.
3 When you mentioned before about Yukon First Nations
4 hunting caribou on the NWT side, do you guys have an
5 overlap agreement, or is there something in place
6 along those lines?

7 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Okay. Yes. Yes
8 and -- yes and -- yes and yes, yes and no. Yes,
9 there's an agreement with Ross River from the '80s,
10 overlap -- overlap agreement. We -- we agreed to
11 share hunting on both sides of the border.

12 I'm not sure how to answer the -- the
13 second part of it in re -- I -- I just know that, in
14 my own experience up there, I've -- I've ran into the
15 Chief from Whitehorse and his son hunting up in there,
16 Watson Lake people, Dene.

17 But that -- that issue is a multi-
18 jurisdictional issue. It's -- if we're getting legal,
19 as far as I'm -- I'm aware, anybody with a Treaty card
20 that goes to Alberta can hunt on Crown land if it's
21 not -- if it's not fenced off.

22 Same law applies up here. So somebody
23 with the Treaty, Yukon exam -- example, Yukon Dene,
24 can come into the NWT and hunt on Crown land with
25 their Treaty card, yup, as long as it's not on private

1 land. Yes, sir.

2 It's the same with us when we go to
3 anywhere else. Different -- different provinces have
4 different rules, but our rules, that's how it applies,
5 and that's the law out there when it comes to Treaty -
6 - Treaty Indians from -- from the Yukon hunting on our
7 side of the border.

8 We have an overlap agreement with Ross.
9 Other than that, there's a lot of Crown land in the
10 mountains. It's like 90 percent Crown, so once they
11 get through, they have a lot of places to go legally.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Oh, yeah, hey. I
16 wanted to apologize for anything I said. I don't even
17 know what I said, but I'm sorry if I offended, and I -
18 - I don't mean to.

19 MR. DOUG ESAGOK: Yeah. Thank you.
20 Yeah, yeah. Well, that word Eskimo came up.

21 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Okay. Oh, yeah.
22 Straighten me out for sure, man.

23 MR. DOUG ESAGOK: Thanks.

24 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Sorry.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Any more

1 questions? Okay. We'll carry on then. ENR...?

2 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
3 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. Thank you, Norman Wells,
4 for your presentation. Roger, you spoke about a
5 couple of things that you'd like to work -- work on
6 with ENR.

7 So can ENR expect an invitation to a
8 Norman Wells RRC meeting?

9 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I -- I just want
10 to say definitely. And -- and ENR's been -- Jeff and
11 everybody's been pretty good, and -- and I'm not sure
12 if the -- the working relationship and the ENR officer
13 and the monitor fell apart, but we should get it back
14 on track and get that working relationship going
15 again. That -- that's...

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That's it
17 then. Indigenous Leadership Initiative...?

18 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Thank you.
19 My name's Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and, Roger, I want to
20 first of all thank you for always being involved.

21 At one (1) point, you were the
22 president of the Norman Wells Land Corporation, and I
23 worked with you very closely, so I know from my
24 experience with you that you're like Dr. Seuss: you
25 say what you mean and you mean what you say.

1 And I really appreciate the fact that,
2 ever since I've known you, since you were a kid, you
3 always fed our people. And even when I worked with
4 you at the land corporation, you made sure you went on
5 hunts, community hunts, to feed all the people in the
6 community. And -- and you still do that with your
7 friends and with our other beneficiaries.

8 I'm really proud of that because I know
9 your mom had a lot to do with it, your family, and the
10 other Elders. I know Johnny McDonald is here, too,
11 and he's played a big role in that, Edward. And I'm
12 glad to see new faces like Jazmine and Stuart, and
13 where's Jaryd? There he is, yeah.

14 I -- I'm really happy to see your
15 participation. I always say that, when people love
16 the land and respect the animals and work on the land
17 the right way, it's not an accident; it's by design.
18 It's because your Elders taught you. It's because you
19 went out there, and you know you can't mess around
20 when you're out there. This is a matter of life or
21 death. It's a matter of eating or going hungry
22 sometimes.

23 So I'm really proud of what you guys
24 presented. I think you represented my interests well,
25 and I think we're all fighting for the same things.

1 I travelled also with you over to -- we
2 saw you over in K'á Tə', and for the last two
3 (2) -- two (2) years solidly, Leon and I have been
4 travelling to every camp, every leadership meeting,
5 every hunting and -- and meeting on animals. We both
6 do our share.

7 We can't do the things we used to do
8 when we were younger, but we can participate, and
9 there's a role for everybody.

10 I want to mention to you guys, my
11 auntie is over there, Gabe and Sarah Kochon. I said
12 to her yesterday -- I was really -- I wanted to bring
13 her a gift, and I thought there's no way she'll be
14 here, so I didn't bring it. And I should never doubt
15 the Elders.

16 Here she is, and I said to her, Auntie,
17 you beat a lot of people. You came here. I said,
18 that road is pretty rough. And she said, well, you
19 know, that's who we are. That's the kind of people we
20 come from. And I say that to all of us. We're tough.
21 We can't be beaten down. We could win the battle.

22 And Roger, I know one (1) thing, you
23 spent a lot of time in Carcajou with other hunters and
24 that, off and on. And there was caribou there. And I
25 know you said that the -- the southern group is weak

1 but the northern part -- are you talking about that
2 Carcajou area where there was...

3 But I want to ask you something: When
4 people find out there's a block of caribou somewhere,
5 it's just like a magnet? Everybody just wants to go
6 there.

7 How do you think we can work on that to
8 control it and manage it?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I think, probably
13 the same way that Tulit'a wants to look after the Kiel
14 (phonetic) and monitor the Kiel (phonetic), start
15 getting people out there at the right time of year,
16 working with ENR, maybe. Kind of like the two-twenty
17 thu -- two-twenty-two thing, doing the same kind of
18 thing as this end. Maybe that's just enough.

19 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Roger, do
20 you think that the program that we're working with,
21 Neo Napene, and ILI, which is the guardians program,
22 do you think that would be part of the answer? Do you
23 think we could develop guardians for caribous?

24 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: They should be the
25 same people. Yeah. In the -- they should be the same

1 people, actually.

2 MR. STUART POPE: Just --

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

4 MR. STUART POPE: Can I just touch on
5 that really quickly?

6 Like I think just Roger even knowing
7 these facts by being boots on the ground in the
8 mountains is -- is showing a proactive measure, you
9 know? Roger is finding this out. He's -- he's coming
10 back to his people and he's reporting it.

11 So -- so I think, you know, some
12 measures are in place. And the guardianship is a --
13 it's a great plan, but it needs to be -- it needs to
14 start happening. There needs to be more Rogers out,
15 coming back with this information. Hope that helps.

16 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Thank you --

17 MR. STUART POPE: Stuart Pope, RRC
18 Norman Wells.

19 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Thank you,
20 Stuart. Anybody else?

21 I wanted to also mention. It's very
22 informative working with Roger, and you get
23 opportunity to do things but you also get to have some
24 pretty funny experiences.

25 One (1) day I was in the office and

1 working on something, oh, we were building that Ed
 2 Hodgson (phonetic) building, and Roger was in a
 3 meeting and he said, Do you want to join me? He said,
 4 This guy is here for coal bed methane liqu -- what do
 5 you call it? Hydrofe -- something about separating
 6 coal and getting the gas from it, coal bed methane.

7 And so anyways, I said, No, it's okay,
 8 you go ahead. And I thought, well, I don't know that
 9 much about it so I won't bother.

10 So I'm listening and I hear Roger, that
 11 guy is selling his goods to Roger, saying, This is the
 12 cleanest technology, this is the best thing you can
 13 do. If you extract that, it's clean energy. And
 14 Roger's voice said, You're the only person in the
 15 whole damn world who thinks that.

16 I just held my mouth but I just about
 17 -- and I ran to the door. I just wanted to be in that
 18 meeting so bad.

19 But anyways, thank you so much. I -- I
 20 really like the way you care for our people, feed our
 21 people, and you bring people along with you. So
 22 that's -- that's what it's all about. Máhs1.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Sahtú

2 Youth...?

3 MS. HANNAH TANETON: Hi. My name's
4 Hannah Taneton, representing the Sahtú Youth Network.

5 The question that the Sahtú Youth
6 Network came up with is: Are you guys focussing on
7 the Youth just in Norman Wells or outside working
8 along with Tulit'a and Ross River and how do you plan
9 involving youth in your plan?

10 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Do you want to
11 touch on being youth? I -- I can say a little bit and
12 then turn it over to Jaryd.

13 MR. JARYD MCDONALD: Yeah.

14 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: I think, for me,
15 best way to tackle it is being done right now with Deb
16 and your crew. I -- I really do, I -- I think you
17 guys are doing a great job and if it wasn't for Deb
18 and the Resource ladies that you bring in, who are
19 very cool and always have been cool, I don't think
20 we'd even get this far.

21 But thanks to everybody, yeah. Of
22 course, we'd do anything we can to help.

23 MR. JARYD MCDONALD: Hello everybody.
24 I'm Jaryd McDonald, RRC Board member and Youth.

25 Yeah, we do -- I do want to get youth

1 involved and we are, we are going to get youth
2 involved. Like Roger said, without Deb and the
3 research girls and everything happening, we wouldn't
4 be here today. Or without Roger and Stuart here, me
5 and my cousin Jazmine wouldn't be here. We're still
6 youth.

7 And yes, we're -- we want to get one
8 (1) more on the land harvesting with the youth, we
9 want to bring more youth out to show them how to do it
10 properly, you know? Some kids today, you can talk to
11 them about knowing -- they can talk to you all they
12 want about knowing what to do on the land and
13 everything and all that, but then when you actually
14 bring them out to it and put them right where they're
15 -- tell them to do it with their own hands, and they
16 don't know how to do it, I don't like hearing that; I
17 don't like seeing that.

18 I do like to get youth that are really
19 interested in wanting to do it. That one (1) thing I
20 -- that the -- the right aspect of it, me too, I'm
21 still learning of how to do things the right way.

22 And monitoring, too, like I want to get
23 more youth involved in monitoring, want to -- want to
24 partner, yes, Tulit'a, Délı̨nę, it don't matter, you
25 know. We got to teach all the kids today about how to

1 do things. Want to teach them the right way.

2 But for Norman Wells, it's kind of --
3 it's just -- so it's got a little bit of a struggle
4 here for Norman Wells. We're a very diverse
5 community, I guess we could say. You know, we got
6 lots of different people coming in and out, lots of
7 kids, people from all over the world coming to Norman
8 Wells. So it makes it a little bit difficult.

9 But -- here, what else should I say
10 here? You know, you want to ask me anything else?

11 MS. HANNAH TANETON: Another question
12 that they came up with is: How do you -- they plan on
13 the -- revitalizing the caribou's population and their
14 habitats?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: That -- that one's
19 a big one. We're -- it's -- the -- we're -- like I
20 said, it's still a work-in -- a work-in-progress. And
21 under revitalization, all -- all those other ticket
22 items -- and they're supposed to bullet points, but I
23 didn't put them in bullet points -- are supposed to
24 help to revitalize all those things to -- to protect
25 and to educate.

1 MR. STUART POPE: Just to touch on
2 that, too, Hannah, is like -- like I say, our -- in
3 Norman Wells we're -- our numbers aren't so much in
4 decline, you know, they're -- where we more need the
5 -- the solid evidence to -- to see where our numbers
6 are at, but definitely through getting the youth
7 involved is a -- is a good initiative of...

8 But yeah, like our -- we're not really
9 -- of course, saving the caribou is the thing. But
10 right -- right now we're in the preliminary stages.
11 We need to -- to get the background information.

12 Thank you. Stuart Pope. Norman Wells
13 RRC.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. STUART POPE: One (1) -- one (1)
18 last thing. I -- I think the number one answer for --
19 for me is to work together with Tulit'a. I -- I don't
20 see no -- no progress or nothing really positive being
21 done unless we do it together with Tulit'a and Ross
22 River. And -- and that's a big one.

23 MS. HANNAH TANETON: Máhsı for your
24 presentation.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Any question
4 from the Board members? Go ahead.

5 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Yes. Quick
6 question from me, Samuel Hache, SRRB. And so thanks,
7 thanks again for the presentation, for sure.

8 I'm just thinking about maybe taking a
9 bit of a step back in caribou status. I guess I might
10 have heard a few different messages. I'm not quite
11 sure about like the take home, talking about Boreal
12 caribou, what you guys thing about the status. And
13 there was like the amount of caribou like north and
14 south, I guess, as you kind of brought up.

15 But I guess most specifically, so yeah,
16 just a general question about the status for these
17 three (3) groups, we could say. But also, Roger, you
18 used the word "disappear." And I wonder what you mean
19 by disappear, if you can kind of clarify that.
20 Because we -- I used to think a lot about like
21 declining or fewer. And disappearing is like gone in
22 my mind. So I just want to make sure and clarify.

23 Sorry, so yeah, just -- maybe just an
24 overall assessment of the three (3) groups. And yeah,
25 clarify -- clarification about disappear.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. STUART POPE: Yeah, I think Roger
4 just meant --

5 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Yeah.

6 MR. STUART POPE: -- that that -- like
7 I think that was just a mis -- the wrong word you
8 used, basically. Or is --

9 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: Yeah. I -- I got
10 that on the declining versus disappeared --
11 disappeared so I'll look at that.

12 Did you want to touch on the --

13 BOARD MEMBER: Just a little bit --

14 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: -- the health,
15 like of --

16 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Sorry, sorry,
17 yeah, I just want to make sure that disappearing was
18 not like that they were like gone, necessarily. And
19 also just boreal caribou, would you say that they are
20 more common? Or did you say that they are just like
21 kind of as-usual.

22 MR. ROGER ODGAARD: In -- in the
23 report I -- I put that they're -- the Boreal caribou
24 are scarce and far and few between. There -- there's
25 not like lots of them. The -- the point about them

1 being sensitive and volatile is that they can get --
2 they're small, little herds, like anywhere from two
3 (2), three (3) to twenty (20), right? And they can
4 get wiped out pretty quick, just like --

5 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Okay. Thanks.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Camilla...?

7 BOARD MEMBER RABISCA: So --

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: The other
9 Camilla...?

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: No more questions?

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So that's the
18 end of our presentation for Norman Wells. Go ahead.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: So we're going to
23 have -- before we have a quick break, I just wanted to
24 note that there are these beautiful graphic recordings
25 on the walls. And we request that the parties take a

1 look at their graphic recordings and start to work on
2 any correction -- or sorry -- any improvements that
3 you would like to see made -- sorry -- improvements.

4 And there is stickies that you can
5 write your improvements on that Kyanna and Hannah will
6 be helping with. And Kirsten and Sam are available as
7 well to help.

8 So have a five (5) minute break.

9

10 --- Upon recessing

11 --- Upon resuming

12

13 PRESENTATION BY Sahtú YOUTH NETWORK:

14 MS. JEANETTE KAKFWI: Hi. I'm
15 Jeanette Kakfwi. I'm from Fort Good Hope, and I just
16 -- this is my first year with the SYN, Sahtú Youth
17 Network.

18 Yesterday, during our caucus, we had
19 come together and came up with different topics that
20 we can all discuss today with you guys, just for --
21 from our point of view.

22 So my few topics. One (1) was train
23 beginner hunters. So, like, say young men and women
24 who have young families, like, teaching them the --
25 how to determine what kind of caribou to shoot. Like,

1 for example, don't shoot a caribou with a calf. So
2 some kind of teachings like that. What to do -- what
3 to do on your first -- on your first kill, and
4 guidance for -- guidance in changes in land that
5 aren't like they used to be, because places are a
6 little more dangerous to go because of climate change,
7 and the ice thinning, and stuff.

8 The next one I got is water. Water is
9 life. I think we should talk about protecting more of
10 our fresh water sources. I want to get more involved
11 with protecting now instead of doing it later, when we
12 said we should have. There is big changes in water
13 since European -- pean contact, and there's water
14 levels that are dropping.

15 The next one was climate change. Back
16 in the day, compared days -- the land's been changing
17 for quite a number of years, decades, centuries.
18 There's been landslides because permafrost is
19 decreasing. Water level's dropping. There's
20 different bugs coming up, diseases, different animals,
21 and -- are coming up. So like, for example, this
22 summer, there was a pigeon in Fort Good Hope. So,
23 like, drastic things that are changing.

24 I got wildfires. I didn't know much to
25 say about that. Okay. Sorry, I'm nervous. So

1 wildfires, warmer and hotter summers. I think a way
2 that we could get youth involved is by taking on more
3 fire smart courses, so we can help people be more
4 aware of the causes of fires.

5 Revive old trails and hunting areas,
6 teaching the youth how to get there, and the do's and
7 don'ts about it, travelling. And I know right now, in
8 Fort Good Hope, they are working on a project at
9 Tulit'a to -- they're slashing out old trails that our
10 ancestors used. I think that's something to really
11 look forward to this group to bring everybody to our
12 communities to teach about these trails, because we
13 all once travelled to each community through these
14 trails. So we could do more initiatives through that
15 way.

16 And -- but we want to become more
17 involved with SYN initiatives around the Sahtú and
18 help. We want to get more youth together, get to know
19 each other. And when we came together in Tulit'a,
20 this group brought in all kinds of connections from
21 each of our communities. When we come together, we
22 have so much similar ideas and goals for our
23 communities, traditionally, strategically, and on what
24 we can do and come together.

25 So I think when we come together as

1 communities, and especially being youth, we become
2 stronger, and the one (1) voice that's -- I've heard
3 an Elder talk about. So, yeah. I'm going to pass it
4 on to Lacey now.

5 MS. LACEY WRIGLEY: Hi, my name is
6 Lacey Wrigley, and I'm from Tulit'a. I'm part of the
7 SYN, Sahtú Youth Network, and something that I wanted
8 to talk to you about is creating something similar to
9 a national park, because national parks protect sacred
10 and historical sites, animals, the land and water, but
11 that's implemented by the Governments of Canada. And
12 I was wondering if us as Indigenous people can create
13 something highly similar to a national park.

14 And I'll pass it on to Jaryd, now.

15 MR. JARYD MCDONALD: Good day, good
16 day, everyone. My name is Jaryd McDonald, and I'm --
17 I come from Tłegqǫłı. Growing up from -- I didn't
18 just grow up around Norman Wells. I grew up around
19 all Sahtú communities, all my people. I could say
20 that fair enough. I grew up going to each community,
21 learning different talents and skills from everybody.
22 I could say I know my people fairly -- fairly well.
23 Everyone's pretty much family. Like, hi.

24 What I wanted to -- since I been
25 working with the Sahtú Youth Network, when we first

1 started this back when I was about eighteen (18) years
2 old, when we first started this, and I like when we
3 all got together in Tulit'a, and we all -- we all had
4 our voice, one (1) voice as a youth, and everyone
5 talked about their differences and everything. Yes,
6 we have many differences, but we all talked as one
7 (1), and we all got to hear each other and what our
8 problems were.

9 And yes, I got a big list of stuff that
10 we could talk about and all that, but me, I'm just
11 going to talk on what I feel is right, here.

12 So one (1) of the things I'd like to
13 talk about is the mining that's going on in the
14 mountains, you know, and you're going to pull all that
15 riches and stuff out of the ground, and it's going to
16 create more hell for us. It's going to chase our
17 caribou farther away. And as the next generation --
18 as we are the next generation, we're going to -- we --
19 we don't want to see more of our land go away. We
20 don't want to see more of our caribou go away, and
21 still wonder why, you know. We're still puzzled of
22 why.

23 And that's a question of everything.
24 Why is this happening? Why can't we do this? Why --
25 why can't we? It's a question of anything nowadays.

1 Another thing I -- I just wanted to
2 talk about was medicine, how strong traditional -- how
3 strong traditional and natural medicine can be. And I
4 learned that from a first-hand experience, you know.
5 I was sick out at the cabin. My grandma didn't want
6 me taking all that -- that medicine like Tylenol and
7 all this stuff. She made me drink spruce gum juice,
8 straight from the tree. Holy, God, I tell you, it
9 ever worked. I was coughing up that stuff in a day.
10 It made me realize how powerful our people knew what
11 to gather, what they knew about the land, how strong
12 it is, and just naturally, too.

13 It makes me proud to come from where I
14 am, and to see all the land that -- that we have. We
15 are so rich. We're billionaires on our own land, and
16 we have no access to it, almost, as youth, you know.
17 And since the Guardian Initiative took off, I guess
18 all we have more activities, I guess, we could say, I
19 don't know what you'd say, for the Guardian Program.
20 We have something coming up in February I heard with
21 the Guardianship Program, so I've been told, and we
22 want to get more -- I want to get more youth out on
23 the land. I want to -- I want to teach youth. I love
24 to teach. I love to see other kids learn in different
25 ways, you know.

1 And there's no right or wrong way, you
2 know. Just like kids today, they think they mess up
3 on something, they think it's all gone downhill after
4 that, you know. If a kid messes up and all that,
5 that's okay. Teach them that it's okay to mess up.
6 That's what they're going to do in life. They need
7 get the wrong answer in order to get the right answer,
8 you know. And a lot of kids put that on their back
9 today that if they get the wrong answer, they're going
10 to have the wrong answer forever. I don't like seeing
11 that.

12 But -- okay, here. What -- talk about
13 this mining that's going on in the mountains. I
14 haven't heard one (1) thing about it yet, you know. I
15 heard they take this gold out of the ground and all
16 that. It's going to -- it's going to kill everything,
17 man. It's going to chase away everything. I don't
18 want to see that. I still want to go to my mountains.
19 I still want to go hunting and everything.

20 Now, why haven't I heard one (1) -- one
21 (1) person in this room talk about the mining that's
22 happening in the mountains? It's not to be rude or
23 anything, but it's just -- just straightforward.

24 You know, it -- we want -- us, as
25 youth, this youth group right here now, we want to

1 kind of be more involved in what's happening around
2 the Sahtú , not just because Good Hope does one (1)
3 thing and all that, and they get youth from Good Hope
4 involved in there. I want to be part of there too,
5 because it's -- it's my land, too. It's all of our
6 land. We share it. We share the animals.

7 And I want us all to work a little bit
8 more better together to get youth -- to get our youth
9 -- my youth -- I'm not that young. I'm not as young
10 as I used to be, but I'm still a youth. And -- okay.
11 I'll hurry up. Geez. Okay.

12 But yes, we would like everybody to
13 encourage there more -- the youth today to get more
14 out, to notice the purpose of the land, to see that
15 they are billionaires in their own land, just because
16 we have this land, because we share it, you know.
17 That makes us a powerful people today.

18 And I can guarantee you, the youth
19 today will not -- are not the same as they were back
20 then. We are caught between the past and the future.
21 We're caught between knowing what our grandparents
22 taught us and know -- to knowing -- to teach what is
23 coming up in the future, and that's a hard thing to
24 realize, that we don't want to go this far and ahead
25 in the future, but we're going to have to if we want

1 our people to move ahead for our
2 future.

3 Okay. Now, I better stop here before I
4 -- before I keep going, here. Okay. I'm going to
5 turn it over to Roseanne. I'm Jaryd McDonald, from
6 Tłegqǫ́łı, Máhsı cho.

7 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: Hi. My name is
8 Roseanne Taneton, from Délıne. I'm representing the
9 Sahtú Youth Network.

10 And I just have a few concerns. The
11 highway that's going to be built through the Sahtú
12 region, like, the animals -- I was wondering if, like,
13 the government or whoever plan on making the highway,
14 if they ever plan, like, thinking about the caribous,
15 the animals, you know, all the disturbance with, like,
16 trucks, and whatever they use to make the highway, and
17 all those chemicals and stuff. I don't know.

18 But if that comes through., there is a
19 99 percent chance that we're going to lose our
20 caribou, and our animals, most of them. And, like,
21 what I'm concerned, like, if that happens, and our --
22 our future kids, like, you know, our kids, our
23 grandkids, you know, what if they didn't -- they don't
24 have the chance to eat caribou meat, like, hunt these
25 animals and stuff, you know.

1 So I just had a concern about that.
2 The traplines, too, you know, the -- they're -- like,
3 there's a trapline through Wrigley -- Tulit'a to
4 Wrigley, and, like, they're going to, like, mine
5 through -- or they're going to, like, make a highway
6 through that. And that's like, the -- muskrats, or
7 whatever it's called -- no -- the -- it's going to be,
8 like -- it's going to gone -- it's going to be gone,
9 you know. That's where they go. That's where their
10 home is, you know. And if that -- if that highway
11 goes through there, it's going to be gone. So we've
12 got to think about that.

13 And the highway -- the most important
14 is drugs and alcohol, you know. Drugs and alcohol is
15 a big thing. It's tearing us -- tearing our youth
16 apart, you know. We lost a couple of our friendships
17 last year just from drinking, you know. It's -- it's
18 a big thing. I don't know, like, if basically ban
19 booze, or something. You know, it's -- drugs and
20 alcohol can take a life away, and will be nice if you
21 guys think about that, and just let the government
22 know.

23 And another thing is stop just
24 stressing over -- or stop just stressing our animals
25 is the -- Skidoos, you know. If you want to go out

1 hunting, and, like, you kind of scare away the
2 animals, like, it -- that's kind of -- has a stress
3 like a human on them.

4 Like -- and then helicopters, too,
5 like, in the mountains, I know, like, I went to the
6 Flats last year, and, like, we went by the plane, and
7 we landed, and, like, the -- the sheeps and that, they
8 probably got scared, and then a couple days later,
9 they came near -- they came near.

10 But mining, too, if there's mining, and
11 things happening on the land, like, in mile 222, they
12 said they're going to do a mine -- mining, sit there,
13 and, you know, they've got to think about the animals,
14 you know, because in the future, what if there's,
15 like, no animals left to eat? What are we going to
16 live on?

17 And then tagging, the tagging -- we got
18 together last night with the youth caucus, and I came
19 up with tagging. Like, I said, You -- do you guys --
20 in the future, do you guys want our -- our moose, our
21 caribou, or whatever, want -- like, to be tagged? And
22 we're like, no.

23 And then, like, they're just like
24 humans. Like, we want our own privacy. I think the
25 caribou and animals should have their own privacy, you

1 know, instead of tagging them -- tagging them and
2 monitoring them. That's all I have to say. Máhsı.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. DAKOTA ORLIAS: Hi. I'm Dakota
7 Orlias. I'm from Colville Lake and I'm also involved
8 with the Sahtú Youth Council, and I just wanted to
9 talk a bit about the youth also.

10 Just with our traditional practices and
11 lessons, and also revitalizing the language, because
12 now it is fading and all the kids are just distracted
13 with technology and TV, cell phones, and they're all
14 getting lazy and they all -- they all seem bored and
15 are struggling, like, with the new communities, with,
16 like, for example, depression or post or past trauma.

17 And I don't know, I guess we just like
18 -- started getting more involved with the youth and,
19 like, communicating with them also, because they feel
20 like their leadership may not support them or listen
21 to them or hear what they have to say.

22 So I encourage all leaders from each
23 community to get more involved with their youth and,
24 like, try to teach them our traditional ways and take
25 them more -- take them out on the land more and just

1 teach them the practices and lessons.

2 And, like, even with the school, like,
3 we could get the -- for example, slavey class, they
4 have slavey. They could get -- like, bring Elders in
5 to talk about stories and lessons and, like, try to, I
6 don't know, teach them the language, because it's --
7 we're losing it, and also just to -- also with the
8 education, because here in Colville, the education is
9 probably the lowest in the NWT, I know, but I don't
10 know about Canada.

11 And also just to get traditional
12 culture camp, like, what's in schools and just, like,
13 taking kids out more, and also just, like, being there
14 for them, and also supporting them in their education.

15 Like, for example, if they want to
16 finish school, what they're going to pursue
17 afterwards, and just supporting them. And just, like,
18 making more opportunities available for them just to,
19 like, get out of their communities and experience new
20 things and meet new people and just let them know that
21 you don't always have to be home and you can also
22 travel and just, like, pursue your interests, like,
23 which career path you want to take, like, with the
24 education system or law or leadership, health care.

25 Just be always there and just to

1 acknowledge their achievements or accomplishments that
2 they've made and just to be there for the youth and
3 just help them with our culture and language.

4 That will be our main priority because
5 it's fading and just to, like, to preserve our culture
6 and language, we have to give more effort into doing
7 it with the youth.

8 So -- and, yeah, and also teaching them
9 all the traditional campsites and all the fish lakes
10 and the hunting spots and how to skin caribous and how
11 to trap and how to just be Dene, and -- and -- I
12 forgot what else I was going to say. I was just going
13 to wing it. I think I'll say that for now.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. HANNAH TANETON: We're kind of
18 concerned how much time we have. Okay. So my name is
19 Hannah Taneton. I'm from Délı̨nę. I've been living in
20 Tulit'a since June.

21 I started working with SRRB and with my
22 position with SRRB I was the -- I'm the Youth Wellness
23 Coordinator intern, and part of my position was to
24 work with the Sahtú Youth Network and create the Sahtu
25 Youth Network regionally with our Sahtu youth

1 communities, all the five (5) communities.

2 The Sahtú youth gathering happened in
3 November 23rd. At first all these were being planned
4 to get all the youth together and we're trying to
5 figure out a way to get it going. A lot of concerns
6 that were always brought up was that youth should be
7 more involved, youth should be here, youth should be
8 at this meeting, but then there is not a lot of youth
9 that was getting involved in all types of workshop,
10 projects, and things like that.

11 So we talked about it and we asked to
12 get this gathering going and we asked Frank Andrew if
13 it was okay to have many youth to come to Tulit'a and
14 plan, envision in how we want the Sahtú Youth Network
15 to be.

16 Once we got his approval, we started
17 planning and it took only one Facebook post to post on
18 Facebook to gather youth, and this is how much we got.
19 There's more of us here. There is -- these five (5)
20 people: Fayth Baton, Shaylynn Mackeinzo,
21 Cody Orlias, Kyanna Ladee, Ty Teckbelkshawn
22 (phonetic), and more other youth in Norman Wells,
23 Délı̨nę, Tulit'a, Fort Good Hope, and Colville Lake.

24 We still want more youth to be involved
25 in our network. We want to create a bigger, stronger

1 leadership program for our youth in each community and
2 how we want to build and plan our future and how we
3 want to get involved in many meetings and what's going
4 to happen in the Sahtú and what's going to happen for
5 our future and for the next generations to come. We
6 would like to learn a lot about the caribou and what -
7 - about on the land, the water, and many concerns
8 that's happening in our communities.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 QUESTION PERIOD:

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That was the
14 presentation. No more? Okay. So we'll carry on and
15 go to questions, follow the same process, starting
16 with Colville Lake.

17 GRAND CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: I don't
18 know where to start but -- see, although this is kind
19 of a legal proceeding and you kind of open up yourself
20 to certain questions but I don't want to go there and
21 -- one (1) question is that, are you -- you think
22 you're in the right organization, and as chiefs I
23 wouldn't mine that youth would be working with us, and
24 I think someone else is taking our position, and I
25 think, as chiefs, would love to help youth among us

1 and start using networking, and -- and the other thing
2 about -- people always talk about guardianship. The
3 way it's set up, it really spoils people.

4 People go out there, people never hunt.
5 They don't get their own wood. They don't get their
6 own water. There's a cook for them. There's someone
7 to cut the wood for them.

8 The way we want to set it up is you go
9 out there, you take care of yourself, do all these
10 things yourself; that's the only way you're going to
11 learn. The way we seen the guardianship going is
12 spoiling our youth more. They get paid, and that's
13 all they're out there for.

14 And so that's the one (1) thing I
15 didn't like about the guardianship, but right now as
16 chiefs we got some money through guardianship. And we
17 kind of want to set it up a little differently and --
18 and so that the youth can be out there to really learn
19 our culture.

20 Last year when they did that rabbit
21 skinning but we're not happy with it. I wasn't happy
22 with it. Last two (2) youth. They were there.
23 They're gone now. They went through the program, lots
24 of money. That's where they all got their alcohol
25 from and drugs.

1 You -- you open up yourself. And now
2 is -- there just through pictures on there. That's
3 why I'm saying that. All that money paid to them, all
4 they did was get drunk when they come back. That's
5 something we don't want, and it hurts to speak about
6 things like that but it's -- it's reality.

7 And certain people are taking
8 responsibility. Maybe it's not theirs. We should
9 really look at that and -- but as youth, lucky you got
10 youth. You're lucky to -- everything that you do but
11 to work with us as Indigenous people, as leaders. We
12 don't know what to call ourselves now because they
13 change our names so many times.

14 But Colville, that's what we're -- we
15 didn't really like the way it was set up at first, and
16 I told them to change it but nobody want -- don't want
17 to listen to me. And I wish that the guardianship
18 would change the rules a little bit and get more youth
19 out there. The only time they want to go there is
20 they're going to get paid.

21 And we always bring youth out but they
22 learn themselves, they know how to survive right from
23 when they're around 12 years old. And it's just the
24 way the -- some people do the system. It kind of
25 buggers up a lot of things for us.

1 So this is kind of a question. I don't
2 know -- I'm just saying that, you think you're in the
3 right organization. That's -- that's one (1) question
4 and -- but would love to work with you. Máhsı.

5 MS. HANNAH TANETON: I get where
6 you're coming from and all the youth and the Sahtú
7 Youth Network knows like what happen into the
8 community and we were all affected. It hurt a lot of
9 us and it hurt, like, their community, but we're also
10 trying to support the youth.

11 Like, as youth together we're really
12 strong and helping and supporting one another, and we
13 just want -- need the help and guidance to get the
14 strength and be strong as our ancestors were, and how
15 we want to be, like -- take a stronger role and be
16 great leaders to our own community and be also good
17 role models.

18 Since the Sahtú Youth Network happened,
19 we're getting a lot of support, and when it affected
20 us during the gathering was that one (1) of the photos
21 came up and it affected most of us that were at the
22 gathering, but then we also had people to talk to. We
23 had counsellors to talk to, and then there's Elders
24 and the community that reminded us, like, we come from
25 strong people. We have strong family. And, like --

1 and since then, like, we've been trying to find
2 healthier ways to get things going.

3 We had Wellness talk -- Wellness to
4 talk to us. We also took mental health, first aid,
5 and we're doing all these different things to work
6 around to how to build us to be stronger people.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any more questions?

8 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Not really a
9 question. Just like to commend you guys, that it's
10 been a -- I guess we didn't see any youth council
11 forever. I just -- not since the '80s when -- in Fort
12 Good Hope we -- we seen one (1).

13 So I guess overall just encourage you
14 to continue on. The more voice we hear, we can find a
15 way to -- to support you in any way possible, because
16 today's day and age we're -- we're having a hard time
17 try to communicate with our youth. Families are not
18 communicating with their youth, so it's really
19 important that you continue on.

20 I -- I guess the other thing that, you
21 know, you mentioned was -- one of you mentioned about
22 all the drugs and alcohol. There's new drugs and
23 everything that's coming in and it's trickling into
24 the community. It's right here in the community.

25 And you're right that you're going to

1 have to help us, and we have to find a way to make
2 sure that awareness is out there. It's scary that
3 some of these hard drugs are coming right to here. So
4 we encourage you just continue doing what you -- what
5 you're doing. You're doing the right thing, and we're
6 behind you a hundred percent. Máhsı.

7

8

(BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. The next --
11 Déliné...

12 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Máhsı, George,
13 Chair. The -- I'm -- you know, I -- we in Déliné, and
14 I guess in my experience with -- with youth and -- I'm
15 really glad that we do have, you know, youth at our --
16 at our table today.

17 And I love all of your comments and I
18 think one of the things that, you know -- and just
19 going back to my experience in Déliné, what we're
20 doing is trying to support youth. In fact, oh gosh, I
21 think -- I think in the next -- before March we're
22 going to have a youth representative on Déliné Got'ıne
23 Council -- or Déliné Got'ıne Government, and that's
24 wonderful, and that shows that we really need -- what
25 Joseph said, we -- you know, and I'm going to ask that

1 question.

2 We need the youth to tell us, you know,
3 how to do things with them, how to communicate with
4 them, you know, what -- what do you want the leaders
5 to do. And tell us. You know, leaders should be
6 doing things that you think maybe get done better.
7 That has to happen.

8 And I'm not talking about coming to a
9 meeting and talking about it. I'm talking about you -
10 - you and -- Hannah, you guys in Délı̨nę, tell us what
11 you need, go to the Elders Council, go to the
12 leadership.

13 You have Sidney on -- on the Council.
14 Sidney is a full-fledged member. He's here somewhere.
15 And I wish -- Sidney, you would probably have a better
16 understanding of youth than I would ever.

17 I'm an old guy and that -- you know, I
18 -- I live in Délı̨nę and sometimes I -- I go out and
19 visiting and talk to youth. I have no idea what goes
20 on with youth. They tell me. You know, he's talking
21 about drugs here. I have no idea what kind of drugs.
22 I mean, I even -- I had this thing about drugs and I -
23 - and I didn't even know it was legal. I had no idea.

24 I thought that's -- and that's the way
25 that, you know, I looked at the -- the response that

1 our government did, and I thought that's the way it
2 was. Well, it isn't. So I know I have a lot to
3 learn. I need to -- to really listen to youth and --
4 and I'm talking about everyone, children as well. So
5 Máhsı.

6 So that question, you tell us. I like
7 Ethel's question. You tell us what do you want us to
8 do, how we can be supportive.

9 And I'm really glad that, you know,
10 Roger mentioned at the last panel that SRRB has a lot
11 to do with it. They -- they showed us how to be
12 supportive, how to get youth involved, how to get them
13 to talk. So tell us some more. Máhsı.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Response...?

15 MS. HANNAH TANETON: Yeah. Déliṇę has
16 a lot of youth, like you said to me in the past couple
17 of meetings that we met up, that you -- Déliṇę as DGG
18 are building their own youth council, and everyone on
19 that youth council is also a part of our Sahtú Youth
20 Network, like Shaylynn Mackeinzo, Roseanne Taneton,
21 Brendan Takazo (phonetic), Hannah Beyonnie, and Fayth
22 Baton.

23 These youth are really strong leaders
24 in the community and -- but before all youth were
25 starting to get involved, it was said by many youth --

1 like, we all talk to get -- we all talk to each other,
2 how there's, like, so much complaints in the youth and
3 -- but there's no one to talk to.

4 We have problems where leaders were
5 saying that they're going to go to the school or
6 they're going to get more youth involved, but -- or
7 talk to the youth workers, but it's just working
8 around their communities.

9 And it's the idea of the Sahtú Youth
10 Network that we had small voices but now I feel like
11 together -- being together made us really stronger
12 than we are today.

13 And I'm going to pass the mic to
14 Roseanne.

15 MR. ROSEANNE TANETON: Máhsı. I
16 really like what you guys said. The questions are
17 really good.

18 Wilbert's one really triggered me, you
19 know. Like, I didn't even realize until now and,
20 like, we -- like, I just don't want to go back to --
21 Wilbert is like -- the guardian programs, like, we get
22 paid. I know we get paid. And I think after he said
23 that I think, oh, that's kind of a problem.

24 So I'm wondering if, like, we can all
25 come together and meet up. Like, you know, if youth

1 want to go on programs and -- and -- you know, learn
2 about the land and stuff, I think -- I really agree
3 with Wilbert there. Like, we shouldn't get paid, We
4 shouldn't hire cooks, we shouldn't -- we should get
5 woods on our own. That's -- that's -- yeah, do it
6 ourselves, you know. It's -- that's hard work, you
7 know.

8 If we -- if we go out there and if we
9 get paid, you know, we're there for -- to -- just the
10 money, but I just really -- I really like what he
11 said, is, like -- you know, we lost a couple of
12 buddies and -- and it really triggers us youth.

13 But I think we should do the -- we
14 shouldn't get paid but I think we should follow up
15 with that as a -- you know, -- yeah, that's a issue,
16 like. Like, if we want to do programs on the land, I
17 think money shouldn't be involved. Máhsı.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Fort Good
19 Hope Panel, any questions for the Youth?

20 MR. FRANK T'SELEIE: Not so much a
21 question, but I think the -- the youth have brought
22 forward some really interesting points, and that
23 brings me back to the question, how did we get here.

24 Yesterday, in our opening remarks, we
25 stated that Délıne kó' is -- is one (1) of

1 the oldest communities in western Canada, and some of
2 the historical events that has a traumatic impact on
3 our people was when the missionaries and the
4 Government put residential schools together, and Fort
5 Good Hope in this region has the largest number of
6 survivors from the residential school era, and that
7 started in Good Hope in the 1870s. So it was over a
8 hundred years before anybody did anything about it.

9 Our legal -- we've had to go through
10 the legal system to -- to get an apology from the
11 Canadian Government to our people. And one (1) of the
12 rules that was really damaging that we're still
13 suffering from today is how the rules then were to
14 replace our language with another one. That was
15 beaten into us. And a lot of us are now reluctant to
16 even speak our own language even though we know, and
17 instead speak in -- in English.

18 I first became aware that of -- my
19 mother also went to residential school in the 1920s,
20 and she relayed to me -- she never did talk about it
21 much, but she relayed to me that she was taken to
22 residential school when she was five (5) years old and
23 returned -- didn't return home until she was a
24 teenager, and by that time she had forgotten who her
25 parents were. Imagine living your whole life not

1 really knowing if you are given back to the right
2 parents.

3 So those kind of traumatic, historical
4 events that we went through in Délı̨nę kǫ'
5 and the result is we're having a hard time
6 communicating with our youth. And I wanted to make
7 that -- that clear, the reason why we're here, and --
8 because it relates to our culture and language. And
9 I'm really encouraged and you really give me hope for
10 the future, that you're really anxious and eager to
11 learn, and I like that.

12 And at the moment, like, myself, I
13 work with youth also. Once in a while I get a call
14 from the Department of Education to talk to youth on
15 Indigenous knowledge in schools. I say, well, I work
16 out on the land with young hunters, probably your age,
17 maybe a little older, that already have a real good
18 grasp on working on the land but want to learn more.
19 They want to learn how to trap. They want to learn
20 how to use snowshoes. And that's what I do in my free
21 time and will continue to do so.

22 Like, they wanted me out there. Not
23 right now -- there's some of them out there right now.
24 So there's, you know, different ways of -- of passing
25 on that information.

1 But I think that effects of the
2 residential school system, we all have a common
3 experience on that. I went to residential school with
4 some of the people from their community. I recognize
5 names they -- they mention, and I'm -- we -- we
6 experienced the same thing, and I wanted to make you
7 aware of that. And thank you very much for your time.

8 MS. JEANETTE TOBAC: I'm really glad
9 you brought that up, Frank. At the gathering we had
10 in November, there was quite a bit of topics that we
11 had throughout the -- throughout the week. We were
12 there for six (6) days. So residential schools --
13 actually one of the -- one (1) of the topics is
14 Indigenous colonization -- under -- understanding
15 colonization.

16 And, like, we, like, kind of all, like,
17 had our little -- like, our -- like, our hearts
18 dropped, like, and just knowing, like, everything
19 that's happened then too.

20 And, like -- and your question, what
21 was it, how did we get here, that's, like, so, like --
22 like, such a big question and, like, the way that you
23 think about it, being a youth. And, like, the
24 language gap, like, it's just getting further and
25 further, and, like, I think that's part of the reason

1 why -- that's, like, part of, like, why we wanted the
2 SYN and really grateful for Hannah for doing this for
3 us.

4 And it's just, like, we want to get
5 involved and, like, the question, how did we get here
6 is just, like -- could be taken in so many ways, and,
7 like, where our communities are, where do we fit in
8 that youth -- like, there are different age groups.
9 And, like, how do we help.

10 And you guys want us to be a part of a
11 lot of things, and it's just the communication barrier
12 that just, like, really, like, separates us, and it's
13 like the time -- like, I really liked what Jaryd said
14 about, like, the -- we're growing up in two (2)
15 different worlds, but we're still trying to fit into
16 two (2) different worlds, and, like, that's one of the
17 hardest things of...

18 I'm sorry, this is, like, really
19 emotional. Like, that's -- I'm just like so
20 passionate about it. It, like -- like, trying to
21 bridge that gap, like trying to build bridges and,
22 like, understand the residential school part, the new
23 world, and how things are, and, like, help us to
24 figure out how did we get here but how can we use this
25 time and day and age as, like, Indigenous people to

1 come back stronger because we are now in, like, the --
2 we got the pull, we got the pull.

3 Like, we were once taken -- taken away
4 that, like -- like, our grasp. And that's where we
5 are, lost with our identities. We're -- we're, like,
6 trying to tie in to, like, gain back our identities,
7 our language, our cultures, our traditions.

8 So, like, help us help us, and you help
9 us while we're helping you, if that makes any sense,
10 but... And, yeah, I really think, like, we -- we're
11 growing to understand the old ways.

12 And we can't just go back, like, how it
13 was, but we can modernize it, as much as we don't want
14 to say that. Like, it is what it is and I really hope
15 we can find a balance and come together in all aspects
16 and all walks of life and be a part of, like, what --
17 what we're doing here.

18 And just help us fit in where we're
19 supposed to fit in, I guess. Show us how to help you
20 guys and, yeah. Thanks.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Any more from
25 Good Hope?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: There's one (1)
6 here. There's so -- there's one (1) woman -- a long
7 time there's -- in Good Hope there's a Caucasian
8 person that arrive -- accident -- and so -- in Good
9 Hope area. He wanted to build a road. And so, nobody
10 said anything.

11 And me, I said to him I don't -- if
12 it's going to be past my doorsteps (INDIGENOUS
13 LANGUAGE SPOKEN). On the -- the denser... For me, at
14 that -- I want a checkpoint. Like, a building like --
15 a building like this should be located in that area.
16 And the -- and the trucks that pass through -- and if
17 I pass through, how many peoples are with me?

18 I want all their names written down in
19 these checkpoints and to -- the drugs and -- these
20 drugs should be identified. Alcohol and that should
21 be documented when the trucks pass through these build
22 -- checkpoints. And that's the only way I'll want
23 that highway to be built.

24 Today, over there, in Mayo, in Dawson,
25 Whitehorse, McPherson, those people in Tuk that have

1 the highways, those Elders are not -- are not calmly -
2 - are not feeling secured.

3 And so, when the peoples are travelling
4 on these highways they don't know where they disappear
5 to. When I listen to the radio, there's many people
6 that have died, that have disappeared. They don't
7 know where they disappeared to; we don't know.

8 And that's why -- with that, another
9 thing that I told him, if you're going to build the
10 highway, the road -- on the road -- on path of the ro
11 -- road, look at the soils, the soils that are good;
12 identify it, I told him.

13 This -- this way, in the future, when
14 it's -- when this happens, identify the good soils.
15 And that's where we -- gardens could happen. Then we
16 can have our own gardens, from these good soil.

17 And so, my people today, they used to -
18 - we -- it's hard to talk to them. You said, it's
19 true communication with all of us, in Good Hope, too.
20 We know how it is. There's many of us in Good Hope.
21 We are talking, we're addressing it, but still these
22 kids, they're occupied with TV, Facebook. Facebook is
23 in their way.

24 All -- many -- all -- there's many
25 things that are wrong. And our kids are -- are

1 learning by viewing all this. And, at that time,
2 whatever they see, their mom, their -- their dads,
3 they -- if they -- if they see it, we -- that's how
4 they learn to live.

5 Yesterday somebody said, wi -- with
6 kids, you have to talk to them gently. It's a good --
7 it's a huge, powerful word. Me, my mother, my father,
8 they both went to residential school. When I was a
9 child, my mom, my dad, they called me my child. They
10 never kissed me. They never said my child and kissed
11 me. They never -- my mom, my dad, they always shouted
12 at me. They were all sarcastic to me.

13 My grandma -- my grandma used to tell
14 my mom, that little boy, are you -- he's in the -- for
15 his future, are you thinking about your future, you're
16 always spanking him and -- and addressing him mean.
17 That is wrong, she -- he -- she told my mom.

18 If he does wrong, tell -- if he does
19 wrong, tell him to come, hold him. Whatever he did
20 wrong, address it to him properly, gently. And that's
21 what's going to carry him into the future. That's
22 what -- that's what he's going to carry in his mind.

23 And for me, my children, my daughters,
24 too, they're like this. If they're angry, it's not
25 because of me. My mom, my dad, that's how they raised

1 me, and I passed on to them.

2 My sons, my daughters, they're getting
3 older. As they're getting -- whatever I work with,
4 one (1) of it -- I'm having problems. Then my face,
5 my -- it shows on my face. My anger appears on my
6 face, my eyes. I -- they see it on my -- in my body
7 movements.

8 With that, I don't know what happened
9 with -- I got angry and far. I went for wood in the
10 far distance. With a chainsaw I was cutting down
11 trees -- or wood. With a truck -- I put my chainsaw
12 back into the truck.

13 After that, the wood -- three (3) wood
14 -- I picked up the three (3) wood. And then they were
15 said -- there was wood into the snow that I didn't
16 see, so I fell. I stumbled right into the snow,
17 covered right to my head, and my snowshoes was tangled
18 up. And I stayed like that.

19 To come out -- had -- I had problems
20 coming out. And I just left myself because I had a
21 difficult time coming out of that deep snow. And I
22 was thinking --

23

24 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: There's a lot of
2 feedback. If you could take the earphone out of your
3 ear, then everybody will be able to hear better.
4 Máhsı. Is that better now?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or that -- or
6 if you --

7 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: I need your
8 attention here.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or if there's
10 one (1) sitting there on the table there, it's going
11 to be making that.

12 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Can you please
13 check the -- your -- those of you who are not
14 listening to the interpreting, turn off your
15 receivers.

16

17 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

18

19 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: And so, I was
20 thinking. Why am I with my children? Whatever they
21 do, then I get angry when they do something. If there
22 is something that I don't like, I shouldn't be talking
23 to them in anger.

24 And here I am stuck in the snow. If
25 one (1) of them was with me, they would have helped me

1 to get out. And once -- once I started thinking that
2 way, my legs just seemed to have strength and I was
3 able to get out of it.

4 And today -- from that today -- until
5 today, my sons, my daughters, my grandchildren, I
6 never talked to them in anger again. And today,
7 they're talking our Indigenous language in Fort
8 Norman, Tulit'a, where I go. In the Sahtú , the same.

9 There's many of you with your children.
10 I do hear them talk our language, and I'm happy for
11 you. But in Good Hope none of our children talk our
12 language.

13 For me, I tell them there's many people
14 that talk and write both languages. They should be
15 writing ta -- write down the Indigenous words. And
16 then in the schools, the teachers should be teaching
17 them both languages in school, and that's not happened
18 today.

19 And so, my people, for this today, in
20 Bear Lake in the future, maybe do they want a road?
21 Is that hampering, and here in Colville Lake, too?
22 So, if that happens, we need to have a checkpoint.

23 And so, if we have a checkpoint, only
24 with that, maybe they would approve a highway. And
25 that's what I'm ta -- why I'm talking today, to

1 address that; it's very important for your future.

2 This road they're talking about,
3 there's -- things are so expensive. Here in Colville
4 Lake things are very expensive. Over in Good Hope, if
5 the come over there, they buy many -- a lot of things
6 for us. Things are expensive, too.

7 But when they go to Good Hope, their --
8 their truck -- their truck are just loaded when they
9 come to Good -- when they leave Good Hope, and that's
10 how it is. We should help each other more.

11 And for that, I'm saying this. Maybe
12 me -- I may never see that again in my lifetime. But
13 my people -- this way -- with -- with this way, we can
14 help each other. Our strong -- our words have to be
15 strong.

16 And so with that, what I'm saying about
17 checkpoint, it has to be our way. We have to make
18 sure. But today the highways are just wide open. And
19 so, whoever talk about this checkpoint, I'm thankful
20 to the person. And so, my peoples, I'm thankful to
21 you.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. FRANK T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. (TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH DELAY) ...behind. I
3 think one (1) of the game officer was ahead of me.
4 Plus, there was some vehicles coming north, from the
5 other way. And when I came around the corner, they
6 were stopped by a muskox on the road.

7 And they couldn't get around it because
8 it was ramming the trucks because the -- the snow
9 banks are too high and -- and the -- they muskox
10 couldn't get over it.

11 And I wanted to point out all this
12 general information, that we should monitor that. And
13 there's natural paths that this wildlife use to cross
14 those areas. And those responsible for roads should
15 be aware of that and somehow mitigate that, because
16 I'm sure that -- that whoever the game officer was
17 ahead of me, I think he got rammed too by the muskox.
18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, so that was
20 Good Hope. Next panel, Tulit'a, any questions for the
21 Youth?

22 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: And -- and just
23 an alert for everyone in the room that it's just
24 before noon now, and so we had hoped for at least a
25 couple of the Elders who haven't had a chance to speak

1 yet to be able to speak before lunch. So we've asked
2 for the lunch to be brought at 12:30, so just so
3 you're aware.

4 So once the questions are done,
5 hopefully, there's a little time for a couple of
6 Elders to speak. Máhsı.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Tulit'a...?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Good morning. I
15 wanted to thank you guys for a -- a good presentation.
16 When you guys had a meeting in Tulit'a, you know, the
17 first workshop you guys had there in Tulit'a?

18 And I was listening to you guys on the
19 last day, and the last day is so important because you
20 guys were talking about what's been affecting your
21 life at that time. Alcohol has did something to you
22 guys at that time. You guys were sharing that
23 thought.

24 To be honest with yourself is a
25 wonderful thing, I'll tell you that. It's going to

1 make you stronger. It's going to bring you a long
2 way. So you guys -- and when I was listening to that,
3 I said, You know, these girls and these young people
4 are on a good road to recovery. That's what I
5 thought.

6 And today, you guys are all here
7 sharing with the -- all the Elders, all the whole
8 public here. There's a lot of people here. And you
9 guys are speaking well. That's a good practice. I
10 wanted to thank you guys for that. You guys are
11 coming a long ways. That's just only two (2) months?
12 Two (2) months, you know.

13 So -- and then I was thinking about
14 when Roseanne was talking about a highway, what it
15 might do for the future for the young people, he was
16 talking about that, and it brings me back to the young
17 lady that's talking about climate change across the
18 whole world. What is the leader doing about climate
19 change now, because it's going to be no future for us?
20 she was saying.

21 It's just like that's what you're
22 saying. What's a highway going to do for us? Is it
23 going to bring us good things, or is it going to bring
24 us bad things? And I think you guys are on the right
25 track about thinking for the future, at the same time

1 trying to take care of yourself. I love that, I'll
2 tell you that, you know?

3 As a young people, you guys are doing a
4 wonderful job. When I was your age, I was in alcohol
5 and drugs -- not drugs, but just alcohol at that time.
6 And I was crazy, you know, much crazier than you guys,
7 you know? You know? You don't know what life is
8 going to bring you in the future, you know. You never
9 know that, you know.

10 As I was growing up, you know, I -- I
11 was out on the land, like you guys talk about, want to
12 be out on the land. That's where my father -- he used
13 to be out on the land, so that's where I was. That's
14 how I grew up.

15 But when the lifestyle change, when I
16 come to Tulit'a, living in Tulit'a, things got
17 different. We had running water. We don't have to
18 get water. Go to my lights, click, that's it. Don't
19 need to put gas in the gas lamp no more, you know?

20 I thought it was a good life, but that
21 really change us, you know. And one -- once I got
22 into alcohol -- me, Frank Andrew -- I don't talk about
23 anybody else, Frank Andrew, you know -- and that
24 really changed my life, I'll tell you that. I was no
25 more Indian. Sometime, I was cowboy, you know? That

1 -- that's what it does to you, this alcohol thing, you
2 know.

3 And sometime, we're sorry because we --
4 we lose people, but eventually, we know about these
5 things. That's what it does to our people, but we're
6 not saying anything on it. That's why I'm saying you
7 guys are talking about the things that -- that bother
8 you guys. Now you're moving above that.

9 So be as honest as you -- you want to
10 be to yourself and to your people. Honestly, you're
11 going to get there. So I'm so proud of you guys, you
12 ladies. You know, when you guys started, I didn't see
13 no smile, but now I see something, you know. That's
14 the change that you got to bring it upon yourself, you
15 know.

16 You might fall, but then look at it
17 again and say, You know, this is not what I want to
18 be. I've been sober for maybe twenty-seven (27),
19 thirty (30) years now, you know. That's a while, but
20 I don't miss it. I don't miss it because for the
21 twenty-three (23) years I live with my parents out on
22 the land, it was so nice. No alcohol, no drugs. Just
23 fish, meat, and tho -- those kind of things. That's
24 all.

25 But twenty-three (23) years after that,

1 my father and my mom, they passed away. I move into
2 Tulit'a, twenty-three (23) maybe. For eighteen (18)
3 years, I drank. Just a loss of time, that's all.
4 Nothing. Just regrets, loss of time. Nothing. I
5 didn't make nothing out of it. I don't know, just a
6 lot of pain in my head, a lot of pain in my heart, my
7 body. That's all I built for myself at that time.

8 So I'm glad that you guys are being so
9 honest about yourself to become good leaders. I pray
10 for you, all of you. I will pray for your guys, for
11 you ladies too, you know?

12 And when the Grand Chief is talking
13 about the -- the loss of the -- a couple of young
14 people, back then, when I was a Grand Chief, when the
15 -- the whole Northwest Territories, they lost the
16 treatment centre because the people within the region
17 were talking about having on -- on-the-land project.
18 That's what they were talked about. That's why they
19 close all the treatment centre and gave the money to
20 the community, so that's what we were supposed to do.
21 That's what we're supposed to do -- teach our own
22 people about how to live the life the way we used to
23 live it.

24 But -- but when we got the money at
25 that time, the first project we were going to do out-

1 on-the-land project with it -- with Délı̨nę. We want
 2 to start in Délı̨nę. That time, your mom, Frieda
 3 (phonetic), was working with me, executive director
 4 for SDC. So I was thinking the same thought as the
 5 Grand Chief just talked about, that we do the project,
 6 and everybody just live one (1) tent, like we used to
 7 live in the bush. Everybody do their own work.
 8 Everybody do their own cooking. That was my thought.

9 But when we got our contribution
 10 agreement, the guidelines and everything else with it,
 11 it's talking about you got to hire a -- a counsellor
 12 in the bush. Counsellor's got to go with you, hire
 13 this much people, hire this much skidoo, and these
 14 people will get paid as camp attendant and cooks and
 15 stuff like that. That's the way the contribution
 16 agreement was. So we went with it that way.

17 But that wasn't what my thoughts were.
 18 My thoughts were what, like, the Grand Chief was
 19 talking about. So it sort of went the way government
 20 want us to go. It's not the way we wanted to go.

21 So when the guardianship program came
 22 in, it probably has the same guidelines that they
 23 follow, so that we had to pay each people to go out
 24 there, you know. So if we could change that, talk
 25 about that, trying to make that change, you know.

1 We all need money, but we have to make
2 choice, okay? You have to make the right decision as
3 a young person for yourself. If Frank never made that
4 decision, I don't think anybody would vote for me as
5 Chief. No, you go home. Thank you. Máhsı.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, no more from
10 Tulit'a? Doug?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we just say
12 something? Hello?

13 Just like to say thank you, Frank,
14 well, for welcoming us in your community and also that
15 you just warmed our hearts and almost made all of us
16 cry. Lacey just wants to say something here.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, go ahead.

18 MS. LACEY WRIGLEY: Okay, my name's
19 Lacey Wrigley, and -- where'd he go? Oh, I just
20 really like to say thank you to Frank because you, as
21 a leader, saying that to us, mentioning the things
22 that we've done wrong and not getting mad at us, is a
23 really good thing. Because usually, us as teenagers
24 and youth, when we do something bad, we get criticized
25 or put down for it, and you just letting us know that

1 doing wrong happens is so reassuring, and it's really
2 positive to us.

3 And something else I'd like to say is
4 that -- oh, my gosh, my mind just went blank. Oh, as
5 a lot of us were saying, that we don't get involved as
6 youth, I don't think that we notice that in order to
7 get involved, we have to meet the leaders halfway
8 instead of expecting them to give us everything.

9 And we don't really realize that times
10 are much, much easier now than they were back then,
11 like -- and I think that the depression that the
12 teenagers are feeling now is because we have
13 everything easier now. It's not like we have to wake
14 up, get wood, get water, and go hunting to feed
15 ourselves to live.

16 Like, now we have running water. If we
17 wanted to eat but didn't want to cook, we can just
18 order something. We can lay in bed all day and still
19 survive.

20 But back then, we had to go out and get
21 everything by ourselves, and I think that the reason
22 we're depressed and everything now is because we're
23 not doing anything. We don't have anything to do.
24 And that's all I'm going to say for now. Thank you.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.

4 We'll continue with Tulit'a questions. Dougie?

5 MR. DOUGLAS YALLEE: Hello? Hello.

6 My name's Doug. I'm with Tulit'a Renewable Resource

7 Council. I just want to encourage you guys to go --

8 keep on going on what you're doing so far. Like Frank

9 said, you guys have been there for a couple of months.

10 I know you guys did have a workshop in

11 Tulit'a. I went to one (1) or two (2) of them and

12 listened in for a while on one of the topics. And

13 some of the topics we're talking were you got some

14 facilitators in to -- to speak to you people, to the

15 young people here, on industry and other -- other

16 aspects of -- of -- and part of the land claim

17 agreement was spoken.

18 But, you know, coming from the

19 Renewable Resource Council, you know, I sit on the

20 board for the Renewable Resource Council, and I -- I

21 encourage you guys to keep on going what you're doing.

22 I support you guys a hundred percent, you know.

23 And like Chief Frank said is -- he

24 brought up his past of drinking. I have -- I had a

25 issue with drinking too, myself. You know, I've been

1 sober for about sixteen (16) years now. And, you know
2 --

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. DOUGLAS YALLEE: It's hard. I
7 know it's hard to go -- you guys are -- are sitting up
8 there. I know it's hard for you to make a -- a speech
9 in public, like -- just like Frank was saying, with --
10 among all the people that are here. But, you know, I
11 encourage you guys to keep on going.

12 And whoever's in Tulit'a -- is working
13 in Tulit'a, I -- I encourage you guys to call the
14 offices in town and ask if you -- if there's any
15 meetings that you can attend on your youth behalf --
16 Youth Network. And go -- go to the office. Phone
17 them. If there's any meetings, go to the meetings.
18 Be part of it. Only way you can -- you can meet your
19 leadership at the same time, and then the boards are
20 all there. So I suggest you guys go to make these
21 calls. Call to the offices and tell them if there's
22 any meetings coming up and be part of it. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So next is
24 Norman Wells.

25 MR. STUART POPE: Hello. Stuart Pope,

1 vice-president of the Norman Wells Renewable Resource
2 Council.

3 Well, first off, I'd just like to -- to
4 thank the Youth Network for sharing their presentation
5 with us. It's always great to see you guys all out.
6 There's even better numbers than the last caribou
7 meetings, and that's great to see.

8 A lot of my points have been brought
9 up. You know, how do you follow these guys? That's
10 again some pretty powerful leaders, so it's -- I'll --
11 I'll try to keep it as short as I can.

12 First off, I'd like to thank Deb and
13 the SRRB for realizing the need for the youth to have
14 their -- their equal -- and I say that equal spot --
15 at the table with us. It's -- it's good to see.

16 I'd like to thank the -- the Youth
17 Network for -- for sharing their voice. You know, I
18 know it's hard to stand in front of people. I don't
19 like it, but you guys are up there doing a great job.

20 Rosie and Shaylynn and the young lady
21 in the pink shirt -- I -- I didn't get your name --
22 but Rosie brought it up at the last meeting and
23 Shaylynn at this one, that, you know, sometimes they
24 get distur -- discouraged. And sometimes that
25 discouragement is handed down from the Elders.

1 Rosie touched on wanting to -- to learn
2 her language and -- and actively pursuing it. But
3 she's been -- she's been put down by people laughing
4 because she mispronounces or -- you know, or just says
5 the wrong word. And that's too bad.

6 I know that the Elders don't mean to
7 just -- I use the word "Elder" pretty broadly. You
8 know, anyone that's older than you is your Elder. But
9 don't be discouraged is what I'm getting to. You
10 know, you -- you voiced your concerns, but you're
11 still at the table, and that's good. You know, you've
12 got a lot of -- a lot of good resources here, a lot of
13 -- a lot of knowledge in this building, and it's all
14 here to be shared.

15 You know, dealing with the youth of
16 today, it's a challenge. There's a lot of things
17 coming to light, and I know Ethel touched on mental
18 health. There's a lot of mental issues that -- that
19 are coming up in the youth, and may -- you know, some
20 of it is biological. A lot of it comes from our
21 Elders and the -- the trauma they endured.

22 But it's good that we're all working
23 together. You know, that's -- that's how you heal,
24 the -- the goods and the bads. You can't -- we can't
25 just all have good in your life 'cause where's the fun

1 in that, eh? You need a little adversity.

2 And, yeah, I think that's about all I
3 really got to say. It's -- it really is a breath of
4 fresh air to see you guys up there and -- and to see
5 the -- the interns that the SRRB has, you know, the
6 pride they're showing helping put on these -- these
7 hearings. It's -- it's really great, and I think
8 everybody should recognize that.

9 To end, same as what Walter and Ethel
10 and everybody up here has said: we're -- we're here,
11 you know. The -- you touched on the onus has to be on
12 the youth as well. You can't just sit back and wait
13 for the Elders to show you.

14 If you don't -- if you don't find
15 you're getting the answers you need, then definitely
16 pursue them. Get out there, you know, make some
17 noise. There's nothing wrong with that. Use your
18 voices.

19 And from the Norman Wells RRC, if you
20 don't -- if you don't feel comfortable talking to your
21 -- your people, we're here. As it's been said, we're
22 all one people, you know. We're all here for the same
23 greater good. Máhsı.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So we'll carry
2 on. Inuvialuit Game Council...?

3 MR. JIM ELIAS: Yeah. I am Jim Elias,
4 with the Inuvialuit Game Council. Glad to see youth
5 here. I don't really have any questions for you guys,
6 but I just wanted to give you a few ideas.

7 Like up in the ISR, we have six (6)
8 communities just like Sahtú where you guys have all
9 your communities. And like take -- I'm from Tuk, and
10 you could take Tuk for example. We have a -- through
11 our IR -- our IFA, our Inuvialuit Final Agreement and
12 that, we have our own organizations. Like Tuk has a
13 community corporation.

14 And so we -- we have our own funded
15 youth centre, and then -- it's not just a youth centre
16 where kids go hang out and staff. Well, it's that,
17 too, but they have a youth council on there. And then
18 we have them sitting on the school boards, and -- and
19 then we have a youth representative in the Hamlet
20 Council to that.

21 And then they -- they get maybe half of
22 an honorarium. Like it's like an incentive so they
23 could go out there and learn, half an honorarium on
24 that, and then that -- they don't get that money. It
25 gets set aside.

1 If they want to pursue further
2 education for going to college or something, they have
3 that money put away. And then once you're on youth
4 council, you're basically there for two (2) years as a
5 youth -- youth representative to the hamlet. And then
6 in two (2) years, you have that money built up in
7 that, and it'll give you the first good start at -- at
8 the college that you choose.

9 And same with all our other management
10 plans. We -- we have a youth representative sitting
11 on a -- sitting on a lot of the boards through --
12 through different organizations. And those -- those
13 youth like from the -- our Tuk area, it comes from the
14 -- the youth council picks the person.

15 So we have good speakers like we've got
16 here right now, like how you guys are speaking very
17 good because we know a lot of us Natives are timid and
18 shy to speak and that. But then you have the certain
19 voices there that really knows how to get -- get what
20 they want out there.

21 And so you guys talked about mining and
22 stuff like that. Like it's all foreign to you guys.
23 Like you guys don't know nothing -- no -- no knowledge
24 about that, whatever, because nobody's going to you.

25 But then if you have a youth council or

1 youth representative sitting on these boards, it goes
2 back to that youth council and they know what's
3 happening in our -- in the area that they don't have
4 to come and sit with a whole bunch of people and that
5 here. Just from your own organization or community,
6 you know what's happening there 'cause you have
7 somebody at all these organizations like the Tuk
8 Community Corporation, the Tuk Hunters and Trappers,
9 the Hamlet office.

10 We have people sitting on there as
11 youth, and we're trying to promote that 'cause me and
12 -- me and Doug here were -- we came in here and all we
13 saw was -- the first day with all we saw was, like,
14 all Elders and that. Like who's going to take over
15 when all these Elders are passed on and gone?

16 We need -- we need the middle -- middle
17 -- middle-aged people and the youth to keep following
18 in the footsteps so we don't lose all that stuff
19 'cause we -- we feel it and we see it that all our
20 Elders are passing on, and they're not just once a
21 year or twice a year. Sometimes they're -- our Elders
22 are passing on really fast.

23 That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: ENR...?

2 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
3 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. Thank you for your
4 presentation. It's really great to see so many youth
5 sitting up here and -- and talking to everybody in the
6 room, and you're doing an amazing job.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Ethel.

11 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Máhsı. I
12 think we all -- my name's Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and I
13 work with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative which
14 does the Guardian Programs across the country. And
15 also I work with Indigenous Fisheries Board and work
16 on a number of different areas, and I see young people
17 everywhere. Everywhere I go, I see organizations
18 trying to -- trying to deal with a lot of the issues
19 that you guys were talking about.

20 I think you did a really good
21 presentation. You're well spoken. You have some idea
22 of where you want your organization to go. I don't
23 think you should be discouraged, you know.

24 Young people grow up to be adults.
25 Pretty soon you'll be us and we'll be our Elders.

1 Nobody stays young forever, even though we think we
2 might, but we don't.

3 And I want you to know something. We
4 have -- we come from a society that has lots of
5 challenges. We faced colonization. We faced the
6 changes in our lifestyle and our community. The world
7 in a sense has come to you, but they don't give you
8 all the things that go along with it.

9 On TV, they show you a modern world
10 where you have streets and you have entertainment, you
11 have everything that society has to offer. But you go
12 outside your door, you don't have that.

13 So expectations are built up for you.
14 It makes you want to travel, makes you want to see
15 things. That's a good thing, but sometimes some of
16 our young people get depressed, get upset because
17 their expectations fall -- the reality falls short of
18 the expectations, and it's depressing.

19 As a young person, I went through a lot
20 of issues with alcohol. I am so absolutely against
21 alcohol 'cause of my childhood. And my husband and I
22 both decided when we got married -- and I know exactly
23 the day that my brother-in-law, Chief Andrew, quit.
24 It was the day after our wedding. That's like August
25 22nd, August 23rd, 1992, you quit drinking. Good for

1 you.

2 And that was the day that I quit
3 drinking. Twenty-seven (27) years I've been married
4 to Leon, and the other day Leon woke up and he said,
5 I'm so grateful. I was coming here, and I'm going to
6 be gone for a month, so I stayed up all night. I
7 slept for one (1) hour.

8 And he got up, made me coffee, and he
9 said, thank you for twenty-seven (27) years. And
10 every day he -- not every day, but he says to me a lot
11 of times, I'm so glad that I'm sober. I'm so glad
12 that you're sober, that we made the choice together,
13 we supported each other.

14 And you guys, you can help each other.
15 We can't help the two (2) kids that we love so much,
16 can't do it, but we can help each other.

17 We as adults that went to residential
18 school, that dealt with a lot of issues, we need to
19 take the responsibility, too. When Leon and I went to
20 Bellwood (phonetic), we did a week for family. And in
21 that week, they said honesty is the main thing. You
22 have to be honest with each other.

23 You have to stop blaming each other,
24 and you have to stop pointing fingers. Nobody but
25 nobody will heal and find the right direction to go in

1 until you accept responsibility, until you say this is
2 my responsibility. This is what I did. This is what
3 I own.

4 Every one of us, even if we're a granny
5 or a baby or a young child or a chief or just a
6 teacher, we all own part of what happens to our
7 community. Every one of us is a builder in that
8 community, and none of us can heal if we're not
9 honest, if we don't accept the responsibility.

10 So I'm saying to you I feel responsible
11 for the things that happened in my community. What am
12 I doing to help? What am I doing to help people, you
13 know? My grandmother taught me generosity. My mother
14 taught me generosity.

15 I know I hear these days -- I get very
16 upset when I hear people are hiding meat from each
17 other because I try not to do that. I work on meat
18 all summer, and I give -- I'm a giver. I've -- I
19 learned how to give from a young age.

20 Be generous. You'll never be sorry.
21 You'll never do the wrong thing by giving to people,
22 by helping them, and by not blaming them and pointing
23 fingers and saying, you did this, you did that. Don't
24 do that. Hold each other up, don't pull each other
25 down.

1 I want to ask you one (1) thing: If we
2 as adults were to do one (1) thing for you, what would
3 it be?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MS. JEANETTE TOBAC: Okay. I don't
8 know how to put this. And I guess I'm just going to
9 say it, whatever.

10 If it would -- to do something I think
11 it would be to have a proper -- have all the support
12 and encouragement and the recognition (sic) to
13 create a Sahtú Youth Council. So then we can, like I
14 said, bridge the communication gap and that way the
15 idea that -- that you -- you brought in, of like
16 having like someone on each -- a youth rep on each
17 Board and stuff.

18 So that would actually be really
19 something we want as a Sahtú Youth council and that
20 could start -- that could start a legacy for future
21 youth that are coming up right now.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That brings

1 us to the end of the questions.

2 No more -- any questions from the
3 Board? Nothing from the Board?

4 One (1) more remark from Wilbert.

5 GRAND CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: Just,
6 they said to be honest, so I'm going to be honest.
7 Like -- that to criticize?

8 But it's just -- I'm a little bit
9 jealous of Debby for what she's doing, that's -- that
10 youth, and it's the right track. And I'm really
11 thinking now, 'cause as the leader, I think we can
12 start a youth consul. And it seems sometimes we don't
13 know what to do with certain money.

14 And I'm not saying money was negative.
15 It's just like how he said it. And one (1) of the
16 teachers was saying to me that you probably could put
17 it in a trust, something. That means you earned it.
18 Do whatever you want with it, I'm saying, but just be
19 wise of it.

20 And you have to -- whatever you go you
21 have to get paid for what you do. That's what I do.
22 And I get paid a certain amount. I'm on six (6)
23 different Boards.

24 And -- and I start thinking about it,
25 what you guys are talking about. And you earned it,

1 you can do whatever you want with it, you can even
2 start a trust for your own education down the road. I
3 know a couple of you we sponsored that were trying to
4 go to school, but it was kind of hard.

5 I think one (1) of the sisters, there,
6 and I was really disappointed because the last couple
7 years, they want to support you more to pursue your
8 careers some more. And we're there, that's what we're
9 there for and for our youth in the Sahtú to be strong.

10 And I'm not -- I love youth. I've --
11 when I lived in Norman Wells, there's about four (4)
12 or five (5) youth that had no fathers. Now I -- I
13 used to play hockey with them, I talked to them all
14 the time. And now they all have good jobs, all have
15 good lifes. Whenever I see them, they hug me. That's
16 a really good feeling because I supported them. And
17 -- and so I intend -- let you youth know that we'll
18 support you and we'll nourish you, like.

19 And I love that guy there, that little
20 one (1) there, since he was small. And he's really
21 good, talkative, and not shy, so...the certain youth
22 that are lad (sic) with me.

23 And I'm just trying to show that I'm
24 not negative about things, I'm just saying the truth
25 and sometimes the truth hurts. But I'm glad what

1 you're doing. And little bit jealous of what Debby's
2 taken it on. So I want to take it back.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That's the
7 end of our presentation.

8 Last remark...?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Debby knows how
10 to hire good people. I'm just kidding. I just -- oh,
11 --

12

13 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

14

15 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: Wilbert's sitting
16 next to me. He's travelling from Norman Wells, saw a
17 truck sitting on the road, and he -- he sees something
18 in a distance and here it was a muskox standing in his
19 way, blocking his way.

20 And so when I caught up to him after
21 that I -- here -- here is a snowbank. I don't know
22 how it is, but the muskox was standing there. And
23 here another truck arrived from Good Hope. And
24 suddenly the -- the muskox just rammed into the --
25 rammed his head into the truck. And so from there I

1 saw this vacation person coming with a truck and the
2 same thing happened.

3 And so me from that land, I wonder if
4 there's anything -- I was asked -- I was questioning,
5 he had a brown paper, he had in his possession, this
6 vacation person. And that's what that muskox, they
7 told me, do not like anything yellow coloured.

8

9 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

12

13 BOARD MEMBER TUTCHO: I would like to
14 say thank you to them. These young people...

15

16 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 BOARD MEMBER TUTCHO: I'm very
21 grateful for the young people to -- for speaking.
22 They really, really want to speak on certain things
23 like drugs and alcohol. I am thankful that they
24 brought it up. And they -- they were talking about
25 their own future. That is what they were talking

1 about. And we are here to support each other -- all
2 of us. We are all related.

3 And especially those young people. We
4 love them, too, from the bottom of our heart. And all
5 the Elders, also. We want them to live well.

6 One (1) of the things, when we are
7 orphans, you have to foc -- support them, when they
8 have no parents. Love them from the bottom of your
9 hearts. I'm thinking of myself. My mother and
10 father, my brothers -- and there was about eleven (11)
11 of us, they're all gone, and my grandparents. I was
12 the -- I'm the only one (1).

13 Sometimes like it's really hard for me.
14 When it gets -- becomes very difficult, who do I to --
15 speak to? I go to the Elders and I fol -- I go to all
16 their Elders and fol -- and go talk to them. And it
17 gives me strength in my heart.

18 And I still continue to do this. I
19 talk to Alfred Taneton, Leon Modeste, and when they
20 talk to me I listen to them. And when you -- when we
21 find that we are in difficult point of our life, we
22 talk to our Elders and we become strong. But
23 sometimes it -- it gets so difficult.

24 I'm sitting here. You probably can see
25 me, and everybody knows me in Délı̄nę.

1 I -- I know that I'm ill all the time
2 and there -- I've been having operation for thirteen
3 (13) times, and look at me. I couldn't walk, mine --
4 I was paralyzed from the neck down. And my children,
5 my grandchildren had -- they gave me exercise for
6 three (3) -- about three (3) months, I decided to
7 walk.

8 When they say there is a Creator, there
9 is a Creator. I've prayed and prayed. And a Creator
10 had helped me. And one (1) day he gave me one (1)
11 day. That is why I'm here in front of you talking to
12 -- and I am thankful. I wonder how many more years
13 he's going to give me? I don't know.

14 But when I -- when I talk to you young
15 people, help each other, whatever you want to pursue,
16 you go and ahead -- go and let -- go ahead and do it.
17 Do not let it go. Whatever we want to achieve, we
18 will make it.

19 Those of us that sit on the Board, how
20 would you want us to help you? Ask us. We will help
21 you to work on it. We will help you.

22 So from the bottom of my heart, I thank
23 you very much. Thank you.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, that's it.

3 The lunchtime.

4 MS. HANNAH TANETON: I just wanted to

5 say two (2) things: First, before everybody rush up

6 and run to the food, can we do a prayer?

7 And the second thing, I'd just like to

8 say that the Sahtú Youth Network thanks everyone for

9 welcoming us into the community and having us on the

10 table, and all the Elders and everyo -- all the

11 leaders for teaching us some life lessons and learning

12 so much about the caribou these past couple days.

13 And you guys, hopefully in the future

14 we can work with everybody to plan our next

15 on-the-land gathering. Máhsı.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thanks for

17 offering to do the prayer. Go ahead, say the prayer.

18 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Okay. Before we

19 do prayer, can we just have agreement from the room

20 about our start time after lunch, 'cause that --

21 'cause we do have a long lineup of presentations after

22 lunch. So can we start at quarter after 1:00?

23 Okay. Máhsı, everyone. And don't forget to review

24 your graphic recordings. Máhsı.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: You were offering to

1 do the prayer? Go ahead.

2

3 (PRAYER)

4

5 --- Upon recessing

6 --- Upon resuming

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Order. Order,
9 order.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Everybody back and
14 get to order, please.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Our next
19 presentation by the -- next presentation, Indigenous
20 Leadership Initiative. Please go ahead.

21

22 PRESENTATION BY INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE:

23 MR. LEON ANDREW: Hello. Máhsı. My
24 name's Leon Andrew. I'm a -- I'm a mountain Dene,
25 Shúhta Dene, the central Mackenzie Mountain. That's

1 where I was born and raised.

2 My hometown is Tulit'a, but I live in
3 Norman Wells. And I want to speak a -- a little bit
4 about the Plan that we've been working on is within
5 Mile 222, in -- on -- along Canol Road.

6 Between O'Grady, and Twitya -- or are
7 Caribou Cry headwater, we're looking at that area. So
8 we want to talk about that area.

9 So that's -- that's who I am, and maybe
10 Ethel's going to introduce herself.

11 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: Okay,
12 just...

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: We have a
17 presentation on -- we have a presentation for the area
18 that we're talking about, and I wanted to go follow
19 the slide presentation. This area is in Caribou Flats
20 area, (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

21 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Can you
22 introduce yourself, Ethel?

23 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: My name is
24 Ethel Blondin Andrew, and I am originally from
25 Tulit'a, and I'm with the Indigenous Leadership

1 Initiative.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. LEON ANDREW: I've got to go by
6 the paper, here, so bear with me. I'm -- I am Leon
7 Andrew. I'm Shúhta Dene. I come from a generation of
8 Shuhta Got'ine. The mountain are my ancestor
9 homeland. I believe people talk about their ancestor,
10 and so do I. I have ancestor that was in the central
11 Mackenzie Mountain that raised me to be who I am.

12 I walk into the mountain. I have
13 dogsledded through the mountain as well. And I have
14 travelled through the mountain river by mooseskin boat
15 with my family as a child, and a young man, and adult.
16 When we talk about evidence, my history was my land,
17 and my people speak to it all.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. LEON ANDREW: I hope I'm not going
22 too fast. Being Shúhta Dene, being Shúhta Dene means
23 having a close relationship with your people, your
24 land, and the wildlife. In this case especially, the
25 caribou. The mountain are a place of peaceful

1 coexistence with the land here, the animal, and every
2 living things.

3 Introduction to the Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ Plan.

4 Nio Ne P'ene is the backbone that holds everything
5 together. Got'ıne is the Willow Flat -- we call it
6 Willow Flat -- is the headwater where the water is
7 born and began to flow and divide. Got'ıne is part of
8 Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ Plan. We say that Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ had
9 preserved nature for us. If Got'ıne dries up, mean no
10 Nio Ne P'ene, is broken down.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: Leon and I
15 have been working -- we travelled to Got'ıne last year
16 to the -- it's the border of the NWT and also the
17 Yukon. We spent time there with the students from
18 Dene Nahjo, and we had a guy named Glen
19 Coulthard, who was -- grew up in Norman Wells. His
20 dad owned a store there with Leo Hardy (phonetic).

21 And that young guy is a professor at
22 the University of Victoria. And his mother is Chris -
23 - is Christine Horsey (phonetic) from Wrigley, I
24 think. And -- or no, no. She's from -- she -- sorry,
25 she's -- George -- she's from Dettah, sorry, Dettah.

1 And she's Rachel Crepo's (phonetic) sister. She's a
2 Crepo. Angel Crepo is her name. Sorry, I got my
3 people mixed up.

4 Anyways, we spent time there with the
5 young people, too. When I talk about training from
6 the from -- from a ILI perspective, we were over there
7 with guardians. And we had people from the Yukon. We
8 had people from Yellowknife. We had people from --
9 yeah, Yellowknife Dene, and we had some people from
10 the small communities in the Yukon as well, and from
11 Tulit'a, and Délı̨nę.

12 Hannah was there with us, and it was a
13 -- it was a very interesting experience. That land
14 identified in there -- maybe I'll go show it to you.

15 This area here is -- this area inside
16 the circle, the one inside this boundary is the one
17 we're talking about for Indigenous protected area.
18 That's the Got'ı̨nę area. That's ?eda for caribou.
19 That's where the caribou go, often through the...

20 Sorry. I'll just talk to it. So...

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: That --
25 that area that I identified for you is the area that

1 we're looking at as Indigenous protected area. It's
2 part of the Nio Ne P'ene.

3 And on this Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ'-- Nio Ne
4 P'ene concept, it's a really interesting concept.
5 It's just -- it's as old as our people are. Nio Ne
6 P'ene is more than a map. It's nature itself. It's
7 an existing ecosystem, and ancient trail.

8 There is an anc -- anc -- kind of an
9 existing spiritual power about it. It's called Nio Ne
10 P'ene. Scientists say it's sonar, it's radar, or
11 maybe it's the magnetic -- medic -- magnetic poles
12 that make the animals travel like that.

13 We don't try to figure that out. We
14 know it is Nio Ne P'ene. We accept that. We live
15 with it. We accept that. We don't try to explain it
16 away.

17 And I know the Inuits have similar
18 concepts, you know. They just accept certain things
19 that their people have always done, and that -- that's
20 the way a lot of people that live on the land are.

21 But we know -- we know the system is
22 Nio Ne P'ene. Animals like migratory birds and whales
23 that travel from the south to the north have their own
24 Nio Ne P'ene. And here in the mountains, it is the
25 ancient trails of the caribous. It is an incredible

1 place embedded in the land. It is made by nature, and
2 it's a gift from the Creator, and it cannot be erased.

3 We're not the only people on planet
4 Earth that believe in Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́. The Africans in
5 East Africa, they have Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ too. They have
6 these mass migration of animals at a certain time of
7 year, in Tanzania, in Eastern Africa, in Kenya, they
8 have that. And what they have in there is -- it's
9 called the Serengeti and the Maasai Mara.

10 And it's all water and grasslands, and
11 when the animals start moving, nothing can stop it.
12 It just moves. When we were in -- one (1) year when I
13 was an MP, Parliament started late in September, so we
14 were up there really late, me and Leon, and Ricky
15 (phonetic), and our two (2) nephews, William
16 (phonetic) and Kyle (phonetic). We stayed late,
17 really late, and there was snow on the mountains,
18 (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

19 And what happened there was we're
20 having breakfast, and Leon said, The animals are going
21 to start moving, because there's snow on the
22 mountains. Ricky went outside, and we hung up some
23 meat and -- outside on -- on those lean-tos.

24 And so we went out to look, and there
25 was a -- a moose right in the water near the tent,

1 just on the other side. We looked to the other side,
2 there's moose over there, down at the end of the
3 point.

4 And then there's caribou, and then
5 there's moose, and there's bears, and we were leaving.
6 We got packed up, and we left. Every corner we came
7 to, a caribou was trying to get up the cliff. Bears
8 running up the mountain. Caribou swimming across,
9 trying to run up to.

10 And -- and we even seen -- at one (1)
11 point, we seen a -- we seen a wolf chasing a caribou,
12 and it just didn't even seem real to me. It just
13 seemed out of this world.

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: There are -
18 - this -- it was snowing here. They went to the lake
19 drink what -- water. And then when they -- we
20 travelled by boat, we seen lots of wildlife.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN ANDREW: The Flats,
25 right down by the camp, the -- by the -- the strip, we

1 seen fifteen (15) caribou there. Then we went across,
2 and we seen seventeen (17), then we seen five (5).
3 And, I mean, you just don't see that every day.

4 When you go to Africa and you get in
5 these -- I've heard people -- I've always wanted to go
6 to Africa to see the -- the great migration, where
7 everything moves. I want to see that, because I know
8 what that is.

9 And -- and so we share that with them,
10 but it's interesting, you know, the whales --

11 MR. LEON ANDREW: I just want to talk
12 to the map here for your information. This is the
13 area we talk about here, and Norman Wells up there,
14 Tulit'a is up there, and Ross River is down here, and
15 we're talking about this area.

16 Why this area is important is because -
17 - because this is the headwater of a divide is what
18 I'm talking about. The divide is the headwater, where
19 the water is born. This is just like a big sponge,
20 where it produces all the water flow to Mackenzie to
21 the north and the south into the Yukon. So I want you
22 to take note of that. It's very important when you
23 come to water.

24 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Okay. When
25 we work -- because of our land claims, when we work on

1 -- when we work on the -- anything to do with wildlife
2 and that, we work together with the Métis. We have
3 one (1) claim and they're under our claim. It's their
4 claim as well. So the Shúhta and then the Métis
5 continue to peacefully co-exist with Shúhta go ɛeɛé,
6 the mountain caribou, in an ecologically diverse and
7 healthy mountain landscape as they have for thousands
8 of years.

9 Travelling, the way we do by plane and
10 by boat, has made it easier. It used to be done by
11 dog team like Leon said, and by walking up into the
12 mountain in the fall, or by coming out by moose skin
13 boat in the summer -- late spring, summer.

14 Shúhta Dene and Métis are travelling,
15 harvesting, and sharing, and gathering throughout
16 their territory, keeping Dene -- Dene kədə́,
17 Dene ts'ı́ı́. way of life, and
18 Dene ɛeɛá, our law and respect strong.

19 The pictures in -- Maurice Mendo aychu
20 on'a (phonetic). We learned a lot of our language
21 from our granny, big granny there. She was Chief Saul
22 Blondin's wife, and there's Maurice Mendo, as a young
23 man, my dad, my mother, Jane Etchinelle, Betty Takazo,
24 my late brother, Charlie, my sister, Elsie, and me as
25 a baby.

1 That is in Birch Creek (INDIGENOUS
2 LANGUAGE SPOKEN), and it shows that the families used
3 to live on the land. Go ahead, you're next.

4 MR. LEON ANDREW: The population of
5 people going in -- sorry. The population of people
6 going into the mountain is getting too great. It has
7 an effect on wildlife and why we think it's important
8 to have some land set aside for the caribou starting
9 with Indigenous protected area.

10 The influx of people could also be much
11 aided by repealing the one (1) year residency permit
12 and replace it with three (3) year residency permit.

13 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: We follow
14 the traditional hunting practices and teachings of our
15 ancestors. That's Leon's mom and Leon's grandpa, ʔehtsə'
16 Hatachille, his mom Margaree (phonetic).

17 Our -- our people hunt seasonally.
18 They hunted when there was plenty to eat. They don't
19 hunt out of season. Late season hunting is a no-no.
20 It's absolutely a taboo. You shouldn't do it; not
21 even big game hunters should do it.

22 It isn't good because the animals are
23 in rut. Maybe only in the really hard times would
24 they ever think of eating it. The evidence of our
25 trusted stewardship is that we are still here and the

1 caribou are still here. That to me is real evidence.

2 I don't know if you can count that or
3 measure it or whatever, but we're here and the animals
4 are still here, and we have seen many challenges over
5 the centuries and generations, however, we have
6 survived. And part of that is how we live in harmony
7 with the land, water, air, and animal species. That
8 all fits into Nio Ne P'ene.

9 Eighty (80) different species are
10 harvested in the Sahtú . Paul Wright told Leon, he
11 said one day, you know, we eat twenty-seven (27)
12 different -- we use twenty-seven (27) different
13 species, he said, but that's just what he was counting
14 in his head. He just said that casually one day.
15 He's an Elder. He's not a biologist but he knows what
16 he uses and what he, you know, harvests. Go ahead.

17 MR. LEON ANDREW: The number of animal
18 going extinct globally -- Australia example -- one
19 billion animal, example of the paddlefish in China.

20 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Maybe I can
21 speak about this, Leon. We're not saying that caribou
22 are going extinct or anything, but animals do go
23 extinct, and this paddlefish in China is a fish that
24 grows to be twenty-three (23) feet. That's a very big
25 fish.

1 And if you ask the Elders, they say an
2 old fish like that, b'henna natsee (phonetic) the
3 earth was created with it, because this paddlefish is
4 a fish that's older than turtles, older than
5 dinosaurs. It was here at the time of dinosaurs and
6 it still existed, so it's older than the dinosaurs.

7 And in -- and you know the sad thing
8 is, in 2003 was the last time they saw a paddlefish.
9 And Deborah and I checked yesterday and two -- was it
10 Deborah or Kirsten -- two thousand -- and -- and
11 yesterday, the Chinese say that the paddlefish is now
12 extinct. It's kind of sad because the b'henna nagola
13 b'henna natsee (phonetic), the earth was created with
14 it.

15 This is no longer available to
16 humanity. It's gone. They haven't seen it in 2003
17 and, you know, they leave the door open but who knows.

18 You have to try and seek information
19 from other Indigenous communities and look for best
20 practices, so I phoned my friend Norma Cassey
21 (phonetic). She worked for many years on caribou in
22 the 10-02 lands where the American government tried to
23 put a pipeline through the calving grounds, and she
24 was a huge warrior on that.

25 I asked her, Norma, why, when all the

1 caribous are faltering in numbers, the Porcupine herd
2 is doing well? What is -- what do you sub -- what do
3 you attribute that to? She said that was predicted by
4 our forefathers.

5 We only took what we needed. Protect
6 the cows to maintain the herd balance, long-term
7 conservation of the calving grounds, keep oil and gas
8 out of their habitat, and total respect for the
9 caribou. This is helpful information and we need to
10 reach out to each other.

11 MR. LEON ANDREW: Build -- build up
12 the -- on the land experience of our young people so
13 that they value the history of those animals, and also
14 surviving here in the Sahtú , our homeland.

15 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: This is a
16 picture -- sorry. This is a picture of my mom and dad
17 in the early '60s on Great Bear Lake near Saushoo
18 (phonetic). They were on a caribou hunt with a bunch
19 of Elders. Your Grandma and Grandpa Joseph and Madeleine
20 Bezha were part of that hunt, Walter, and (INDIGENOUS
21 LANGUAGE SPOKEN) and a lot of the Elders that are gone
22 now were part of that. That's what they used to do.

23 And -- and the reason I put this
24 picture up there is because that's what they ate.
25 They had no store, nothing, they bring supplies with

1 them, but they live off the land. They ate off the
2 land, and that -- that's -- that kind of demonstrates
3 that.

4 MR. LEON ANDREW: What can we do?
5 Late season hunting has to be monitored and
6 controlled, rotating land relief replenished and
7 restored. Hunt in rhythm with the animal cycle. Be
8 conscious what the world -- be conscious that the
9 world is changing. We need to manage ourself as well.

10 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: We need --
11 in this respect, when I talk about monitoring and
12 controlling, we're talking about guardians, developing
13 and training our young people to look after our land.

14 Rotating land relief, if you use a
15 river or a creek and there's no more fish, then it's
16 all fished out. If you go to a place and there's no
17 more animals there, give it a break, change around,
18 eat other mammals, eat like rabbits instead of
19 caribou, eat fish instead of ducks, or whatever the --
20 whatever the animals are, kind of do -- do --
21 replenish the land. You don't have to starve
22 yourself. You can manage it in the way that your
23 ancestors did, and then you want to hunt in rhythm
24 with the animal cycles.

25 You know, it's -- if it's calving

1 ground or calving time, if they're in -- whatever --
2 whatever their cycle is, when they start migrating,
3 that's when we -- we hunt, but we make sure it's not
4 too late in the fall, and we use everything we get.

5 Be conscious that the world is
6 changing. Yes, look at Australia. One billion
7 animals died in the fire, because somebody dropped the
8 ball. Not good planning, whatever. It happened and -
9 - and it's something we need -- climate change is
10 something we need to be prepared for.

11 This little girl here is from Tulit'a.
12 Why do we care and fight so hard? Why do we never
13 give up? Because it's about the future of our land,
14 our animals, and our people. See this little girl
15 will some day be a full grown woman with children of
16 her own. Her name is Kissanendy (phonetic), Sunshine.
17 She's my niece's daughter, Kara -- Kara Campbell --
18 Kara Menacho -- Bradley Menacho
19 and Kara's daughter.

20 And always think about it like that.
21 We're taught in the Indigenous way to think, seven (7)
22 generations. We have to or else we wouldn't have any
23 animals left. We wouldn't have any land that we
24 travel on. We have to think carefully about these
25 things.

1 MR. LEON ANDREW: Máhsı cho, Mahsi
2 cho. Thank you very much.

3 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Thank you.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 QUESTION PERIOD:

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll -- any
9 questions for the presentation? We'll start with
10 Colville Panel. Any questions?

11 MR. DAVID CODZI: I see a lot of
12 similarities about our approach and your approach. As
13 you're talking about all these, what -- what are the
14 time lines you're looking at?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. LEON ANDREW: We're -- we're still
19 in the works. We've still got a lot of work to -- to
20 do. We still have a lot of work to do, so we're going
21 to regroup and make plan again to approach our leaders
22 again and go from there.

23 So hopefully, we get an answer by the
24 end of the winter. So that's my hope anyway. And
25 from what I hear from RRC Norman Wells, they're

1 willing to help us out, so, you know, that's -- that's
2 good. So we hope -- we hope to get something going
3 here soon.

4 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I'd like to
5 say something about that. The deadline was yesterday.
6 The deadline was ten (10) years ago. We're late.
7 We're late. We're very late, but it's never too late
8 to do the right thing. We need to -- we need to put
9 all our effort into it.

10 I'm dedicating myself to -- to the work
11 that I'm doing. I could do other things, but I want
12 to do this because I see the urgency on the animal
13 populations, and I see that food security is an issue.
14 Our people are not wealthy people. Our people need to
15 eat. We need to be able to feed our people, and we
16 need resources.

17 Money is an issue. Money works both
18 ways. Money makes things possible. They're not the
19 answer to everything if you use it wrong, but money --
20 we're going to get three hundred and fifty thousand
21 dollars (\$350,000) for Nió Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ from the Nia Taro
22 (phonetic). We're getting that money to do the work
23 on -- on Nio Ne P'ene.

24 And we did a lot of work, eh? How many
25 years, Deb? Three (3), four (4) years? Three (3)

1 years we've been begging and -- we've been begging and
2 I've been babysitting people from Nia Taro, travelling
3 with them on the plane, bringing them to Tulit'a,
4 making them meet Frank, going to Délıne to meet them -
5 - anything.

6 When you believe in something, no job
7 is too -- too big or too small. You do everything,
8 feed them. I didn't know I was feeding a woman from
9 Nia Taro at my house when I cooked for her. I had no
10 idea, but she went back and talked to her people and
11 said how well she was treated.

12 So we need to -- we're going to get
13 money to do this work, and we're going to really
14 dedicate ourselves to it. We want to train young
15 people and we want to work with our animal species.

16 MR. LEON ANDREW: I just want -- I
17 just want to add a little bit more, too. I believe --
18 I believe it's important that we watch over our
19 homeland. It's about ancestors. It's their homeland.

20 And we're -- in my mind, like my
21 homeland, the mountain Dene, they're great people,
22 very experienced people. They travel the Mackenzie
23 and the -- the Keele River many times just by pole and
24 paddle. They go down the -- the fast water, but they
25 manage because they think things out.

1 And it's important that we think about
2 what's -- what's value out there on the land for us,
3 what we value. The land is -- without land or water,
4 where do we go? And that's where it's coming to.

5 You know, when we talk about our food,
6 our wildlife, we have to be on the same page, you
7 know. We can't -- we cannot ignore -- if there's
8 change that's happening, we cannot ignore it. We must
9 address it, and that's our job. That's something we
10 have to do. There's no way around it.

11 When we talk about Got'ine, you know,
12 it's a very important area. There's -- there's a
13 place there, too. We call it Xah Chuh,
14 moulting -- moulting geese area. And those birds, too
15 -- birds, too, geese, they want to survive. You know,
16 they've got their nesting area there, et cetera, et
17 cetera.

18 It's all about wildlife. It's about
19 where the water flow that drain into Mackenzie that we
20 live off. We drink water. It's a chain reaction. So
21 bear with me and bear with yourself. You know, we
22 have to recognize those issues and work with it and
23 find a way forward, and that's -- that's how I feel.
24 And -- and máhsı.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: David...?

1 MR. DAVID CODZI: Thank you. Thank
2 you. I just wanted to say that, you know, we feel the
3 same way about our area. You know, this is a deep
4 responsibility that we have, and we try to make sure
5 that we get other people to see and understand it with
6 our own eyes and with our own perspective.

7 You know, it's all hallow ground.
8 Every one of our families are buried out there, so,
9 you know, we got to make sure that -- that that
10 connection is felt. So, you know, I just wanted to
11 say thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Máhsı, George.

17

18 (TRANSLATED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Leon and Ethel.

21 When we talk about our land, we don't look after it.
22 It is something that is our -- the wording ?eda is --
23 and you talk about Nio Ne P'ene. (NO TRANSLATION).

24 And when they build the Canol road, the
25 Elder Frank Andrew, George Blondin, and -- and George

1 Blondin had told me about this story, and a key -- and
2 also all the -- we have gone up that way, and -- and
3 if you are going to name and stuff, you have to ask
4 us.

5 We have to help each other. And they
6 want us each other to support, and we need to support.
7 When we talk about the land claims, we also have to --
8 we have to support each other. Because of that, we're
9 kind of separated, and this is the way we do to
10 support each other.

11 And Nih̓tla is -- is his son,
12 and he's about ten (10) years old. And he had lived
13 with me in this area, in Got'ı̨ṇṇṇ area. And one day
14 the plane lands, and he'll run out to meet the plane.
15 And he -- he's very, very pleased.

16 And so, because of what you're asking,
17 we will support you, and because that is what we're
18 going to be doing. And we have made also a plan for
19 the caribou and a caribou point and -- and in that
20 area. And we also want to protect the caribou in that
21 area.

22 When we talk about those kind of
23 issues, we like to support each other. When you name
24 things, you name it from our ancestors. And they're
25 probably thinking if -- then this is -- in the past,

1 this is what they wanted and this is what you're --
2 when I get home, all these Got'ıñę and -- and the
3 Sahtú and Délıñę, they want to go there because, for
4 us, there is no caribou in Délıñę.

5 So -- and when they say there is
6 caribou, if they go there, then I would be pleased.
7 But maybe next year they would -- they might be able
8 to go. So when we discuss things like this and we
9 have to think the same way. I am thankful. Máhsı.

10

11 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

12

13 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Walter --

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

15 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: -- oh,

16 sorry. Walter --

17

18 (TRANSLATED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: -- I want
21 to ask you one (1) thing. When we say Nıó Nę P'ęñę'
22 and the -- Great Bird (phonetic) Lake, they have the
23 same thing. They call it Tudzə, the water
24 heart. And -- and in Saoyú area in the
25 mountains. And they also have water, all the water

1 that -- from where it -- where it flows towards. And -
2 - and it has its own story.

3

4 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

5

6 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: So what --
7 and other groups have it, too. (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE
8 SPOKEN).

9

10 (TRANSLATED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: And there
13 are various stories of special and sacred place in all
14 our areas. It's not only in one (1) area; it's all --
15 all. They have their own. And for that reason, we
16 want to protect our land. And when we say Nio Ne
17 P'ene, we have to really think about it.

18 And Arctic Ocean and -- and also there
19 the -- the frozen area and where they had -- when they
20 -- there is -- there is warmth area, and the whales
21 would travel all -- and it says it -- it has its own
22 sacred things. And then...

23

24 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Go ahead.

2 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: I understand
3 that there's a problem with the phone again. I think
4 that there's maybe people forgetting to put their
5 phones on mute when they're calling in, so just a
6 reminder on that. Thanks.

7 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I was just
8 checking to see if it's mine 'cause I have kids all
9 over the place. Cool.

10 But Taz'a (phonetic), my friends, the
11 Inuvialuits here, Jim Boy (phonetic) -- I shouldn't be
12 calling you that. I'm calling you like when I knew
13 you when you were just a little kid. That's 'cause I
14 love you so much. That's why, 'cause you're family.

15 The polar bears, they've been affected
16 by this thing we call Nio Ne P'ene. They have their
17 own -- something inside of them that makes them do
18 what they do. You understand that better than us.

19 They go and they -- they eat and they
20 feed, and -- and their -- their cycle has been
21 disrupted by climate change, you know. They're losing
22 weight. If they lose so much weight, they can't
23 reproduce or they reproduce less. They can't --
24 instead of having two (2), they have one (1). And if
25 they reach a certain level of weight, it's gone.

1 So they need to go on the ice. They
2 need to go out there and eat the seals and that. And
3 if the weather has changed, then that doesn't always
4 happen the way it used to. So polar bears have Nio Ne
5 P'ene) in it, too.

6 So it's really interesting what you see
7 in salmon. Leon was telling me about salmon. Salmon
8 came across from -- from Alaska -- from Russia, and
9 they came all the way around the top of -- the top of
10 Alaska, the Yukon, up the Mackenzie, up into Great
11 Bear Lake, I heard. They caught salmon. Can you
12 believe that?

13 And someone said -- it's what kind of
14 salmon? Farmed salmon. How does the farmed salmon
15 know where to go? Like the closest thing to a salmon
16 is a trout, I guess. They -- they find similar --
17 it's interesting.

18 So I'm just saying that this concept of
19 Nio Ne P'ene) is not just ours. It belongs to -- every
20 culture has their own.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Port Good Hope
22 panel? Nobody there. We'll carry on. Tulit'a...?
23 Tulit'a.

24 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Thank you. My
25 name's Frank Andrew, from Tulit'a. (INDIGENOUS

1 LANGUAGE SPOKEN). We're talking about this plan here
2 for quite some time. I heard about it. And there's
3 been presentation made at Tulit'a.

4 And, you know, just listening to the
5 young girl that was talking about how we should own
6 our land, our own park, because the Park Canada with
7 (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) belonged to Canada, he
8 says, so we should own our own park (INDIGENOUS
9 LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

10 I think this is a good move here
11 because you hear about the young guy also talking
12 about mining. Mining is going to destroy everything
13 for us he was saying.

14 You know, so I think part of that --
15 that place is where somebody found gold I think is
16 part -- is right within that mark where you put it, so
17 we should really look at that because that's -- that -
18 - that place where we talk about Got'ine is where my
19 father, he talk about everything there, you know.

20 This is like the reefer (phonetic)
21 everything's in there, not only caribou but the whole
22 work of it, other species of animal, birds, and
23 everything. It's all there.

24 And the mine is somewhere within that
25 circle there somewhere, but I don't know which part of

1 it. I just heard about it on the news now about there
2 might be a big goldmine there one day.

3 So, I think they're under from
4 listening -- from hearing other people talking about a
5 mine. And there's a company that's been working out
6 there. So, I think it's good that we should most
7 faster on it if we want to protect that, or else the
8 mining is going to take -- take over.

9 They always talk about grandfather
10 clock, so I think we should really move on it. That's
11 all I wanted to say. Máhsı.

12 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Just one (1)
13 more alert. I think there's still voices happening in
14 the background on the phone, so I'm trying to alert
15 people who are on the phone to please turn on their
16 mute button.

17 Maybe, Heather, if you could also keep
18 me posted if there's any quality issues for your team.
19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Oh, go ahead.

21 MR. DOUGIE YALLEE: Hi. My name is
22 Dougie Yallee, with the Renewable Resources Council in
23 Tulit'a.

24 I understand you were saying that you
25 still got a lot of work to do on this Nıó Nę P'ęne'

1 project here. But I was -- I was listening to the
2 chief here, and -- and we're talking -- I know we --
3 we have a park in the area which is called
4 Naats'jhch'oh Park. And it's not -- it's not really
5 run by us -- us people, it's -- it's all run by
6 Government of Canada.

7 And if -- would you do something like
8 this in -- in the area that you're talking about,
9 Frank has mentioned the -- the mining company. And --
10 and I have a big concern about that, also, that's --
11 what's going on in there.

12 When we -- when they negotiated the
13 Naats'jhch'oh Park, they negotiated a park where was a
14 reason was for -- to protect the headwaters. That's
15 why we -- that's why Naats'jhch'oh Park was
16 established. From what I understand when -- it's part
17 of the land -- land corporation at the time, when --
18 when this was going on.

19 And so, now, from what I know on this -
20 - on this mining iss -- mining company here, somehow
21 the land use plan was -- was opened up just to
22 accommodate this mine. That's what I under -- that's
23 what I know so far.

24 There's a lot of other issues there.
25 And I don't know if this is the place to bring it up,

1 but, you know, but if this is to go and if it's to --
2 it's to protect something, then I'm all for it. You
3 know, let's go -- let's go continue with it. Thank
4 you.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Leon...?

9 MR. LEON ANDREW: Thank you. Thank
10 you, Chair. I want to just go back and say thank you
11 to everybody. I forgot to say thank you everybody
12 that was here when we begin.

13 Thank you, Frank. And then, I know,
14 like, we talked about this plan quite a while back,
15 and we're still -- we're still at it. I think it's a
16 good idea to pursue in my mind because that's
17 something that provide water for us, that area, on,
18 like the Kiel River (phonetic), Twitya, most of the
19 river, even -- including Nahanni River, so it mean a
20 lot.

21 So, that's what we're talking about.
22 The mining -- the mining is just something that I
23 think just came up recently, is -- was in that
24 vicinity of area where you were talking about, and it
25 -- it has the position for -- for a go ahead there, I

1 believe, if I understand the regulation right.

2 So -- so, you're right. Yeah, I think
3 we need to pay attention to see what's -- what's
4 happening there and, you know, be mindful and try to
5 accomplish something that may -- may help our
6 headwater, plus the caribou.

7 You know, the caribou is very important
8 to us; not only the caribou. There's a lot of moose
9 there, too, you know. That's why you have all those
10 hunters come in.

11 Anyway, thank you very much for your
12 question. Máhsı.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Norman Wells
14 -- or Tulit'a. Yes, go ahead.

15 MR. DOUGLAS YALLEE: Yeah. I know
16 these -- to protect something -- and I believe we --
17 even caribou. There's a lot of other things could be
18 -- is around us -- is surrounded, what you're trying
19 to do here.

20 And it's not only the -- to protect the
21 caribou and the water. There's other -- other things
22 there that play -- comes into play that -- that can be
23 helpful and useful for -- for our people.

24 And I know the people of Tulit'a use
25 the area quite a bit, so -- which is good. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Máhsı.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Doug, the
6 idea is that there's lots of issues that are coming
7 together because a lot of things have happened and
8 lots of changes, the land claims, land use planning.

9 And then out of the blue came
10 Naats'jhch'oh. They wanted to expand the headwaters
11 thing. And -- and we didn't ask them. They asked us
12 to do it, so we did it. We -- we were part of that
13 process. And the Elders, your dad and people like
14 that were part of it.

15 But I think that, instead of dividing
16 us, it'll bring us together. We'll have to try to
17 find solutions. When there's mining and stuff
18 involved, you're putting jobs and the environment
19 against each other, and those are complicated issues.

20 I heard this morning Normal Wells
21 saying that they wanted for us to be flexible on the
22 whole issue of development, I think it was. And I
23 call that walking be tall between -- walking between
24 the tall trees.

25 You got to -- there's no way around.

1 You can't climb over it. You've got to go through it,
2 and -- and it's not easy, it's very difficult. So,
3 what I'm thinking is we have to work together. All of
4 us have to put our minds together and try to come to
5 some resolution.

6 If we fight each other -- and we got to
7 try to get the maximum benefits for our people. If
8 we're not doing it for our people, who are we doing it
9 for? What are we doing it for, for other people to
10 get rich off of us? We've done that all our lives.
11 Are we going to keep doing that?

12 We got to think really hard about this.
13 It's something we need to seriously meet about and use
14 that money that we're getting to -- to assess it, ay,
15 and to make the right decisions.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Frank...?

17 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: You were talking
18 about mining and stuff like that. You know, you just
19 listen to people that's been talking about you. You
20 know, the Canol Road is just a sad road; it's low just
21 like this, so it's not like a highway.

22 You know, when -- when you listen to
23 people in McPherson, the Elders this fall are telling
24 them don't shoot the caribou until they pass the road
25 for some reason, to get on this side of the road, and

1 then start shooting after that.

2 So, I think the road has to do a lot
3 with caribou migration. So, if ever a mining or
4 something comes about this place here, it's going to
5 be a road someday for sure because the Canol Road just
6 runs right through there.

7 I've been on that Canol Road. I've
8 been all the way to Ross River on that road, all the
9 way to (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) on that road and
10 on the other side of it, so I've been all on that
11 road, ay.

12 So, right at the border there, 222, way
13 back then, because there's that mine there, that
14 Tungsten Mine, I think it was, or -- and back then,
15 that airstrip was just a small airstrip. Those of you
16 are there should know that. It was just a little
17 gravel bar at that time, when we first got there.

18 But they wanted to develop that
19 airstrip so that they could take all that stuff out of
20 that -- that mine there, so they started to develop
21 that airstrip at that time.

22 And there was talks -- at that time, we
23 were working for Perry Linton. And Perry
24 was saying that they want to develop this because they
25 want to take all that rock out, that ore that they're

1 getting up there. And they wanted to land a 737 there
2 to haul the stuff out for them at that time, you know.

3 So, all these things will happen if we
4 let the mine go ahead and -- and then it's going to be
5 a big disturbance then, you know. I don't know if
6 we're going to get any money off it, you know, so we -
7 - we're going to have to do something here because
8 there was nothing there like when we started the plan.

9 When you guys started the plan there
10 was no mine or anything within there. So, we took our
11 time. But now we got to move a little faster. Máhs1.
12 I just wanted to share that. Máhs1.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Frederick...?

14 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: My name is
15 Frederick Andrew, RRC Board member. I had a question
16 for Leon and maybe Ethel. But I want to talk in my
17 own language because I just love talking in my own
18 language.

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: That mile 222
23 and that is -- from that point -- and everything flows
24 to there. When you say Got'ine, that area -- and from
25 the past, when we -- and when we know the names of

1 certain area, Frank -- and he named all these areas in
2 his language.

3 Those naming of the areas, remembering
4 the names of the areas is very important. And -- and
5 we have to re -- and remember. And for us that are --
6 when we think about the area about the north of --
7 it's -- they call it Hi'est'g (phonetic) and -- and at
8 the point of the mountain. And then the -- and then
9 there is a flow out, and then there's another creek
10 and another river, and around that area, and it is
11 just beautiful.

12 Not only that area, and also in a
13 different area, and Mirage Mountain, and -- and also
14 close to the border, they call it Soopeh (phonetic),
15 but in -- in English, it's called Glacier Mountain,
16 they call it. And it's -- they use it as a landmark
17 because there's a -- a moun -- a rock sticking out.
18 If you know the name of the area, it is something that
19 is really important.

20 And they -- the Got'ıne -- Got'ine
21 register -- registered mountain about close to the
22 ocean around this area, and -- and also close to
23 Alberta, Cal -- up through that way. All those Rocky
24 Mountains, they call it Backbone Mountain, and for us,
25 and then -- and it's called -- where all the

1 migration, including where all the geese flies.

2 Right now, and they have -- now that
3 they -- they found that -- we call -- it in English,
4 it's called gold, and it's close to that area. And my
5 -- we call it Fred Andrew Mountain, and -- and he's
6 the one that found that gold, and -- and close to the
7 headwater where....

8 And so we have to be really strong
9 about not -- for them not to create the mine. And --
10 and sometimes, if they have become really, really
11 strong for us. Ethel had mentioned it. She's right,
12 and sometimes, it is -- if it's -- when we -- when we
13 look at our land, we have to find a way to protect it.
14 And we do live a -- we do live by money, but once it's
15 gone, it's gone. Once we destroy our land, it's
16 destroyed, and -- and when we -- and same with people.

17 So -- so we have to discuss this among
18 each other so that we can come up with some kind of
19 recommendation. So how -- for -- in my opinion --
20 maybe Leon had spoke about it. And it is something
21 that's very important where the flats are, and there
22 are all kinds of names for it.

23 I'm just going to -- certain -- certain
24 things, but what I want to say is -- and I wanted to
25 direct this to Leon -- in that area where the water

1 flows above Mile 222 and where they found the gold, if
2 it does happen and -- what do you think? This is
3 directed at Leon. It is -- and money is also
4 important, but for me, I -- I -- they should just
5 leave it alone. And if we do say yes to them, it's
6 also a very difficult. So we should discuss this
7 among each other.

8 And there -- there are different areas
9 where all the water flows, so we -- we should -- would
10 like to recommend some recommendations and see where
11 we come up with things. In -- and this is all what
12 I'm going to say. Máhs1.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we'll move on
19 to Inuvialuit Game Council. Or Norman Wells? Anybody
20 from Norman --

21 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Oh, it --
22 response. Response.

23 MR. LEON ANDREW: Can I respond to
24 your --

25 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Frederick.

1 MR. LEON ANDREW: Frederick.

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

4

5 MR. LEON ANDREW: It is what it is,
6 and when we look for money and when we're looking for
7 funding and so forth, and sometimes, they -- they go
8 to different areas to the districts, to different
9 corporations, and they make recommendations to them,
10 if it's very hard, when they agree with each other.

11 So when we talk about our land, they
12 have to respect that. If they respect that, and we
13 can do something about it. We can't really just agree
14 because we don't really know all the information.
15 Thank you.

16

17 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Inuvialuit Game
20 Council.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MR. DOUG ESAGOK: Good afternoon.

25 Doug Esagok, with Inuvialuit Game Council. It's good

1 to see that you're setting up protected areas to
 2 protect your caribou. In the -- in the ISR,
 3 Inuvialuit Settlement Region, we have three (3)
 4 national parks set up to protect caribou calving
 5 grounds, as well as four (4) MPAs to protect sensitive
 6 beluga aggregation feeding and calving areas. So we
 7 have a lot of experience with setting up these --
 8 these protected areas.

9 We're currently working on another one
 10 on the Yukon's north slope. It's going to be set up
 11 adjacent to Ivvavik National Park, which is going to
 12 further protect the calving grounds for the Porcupine
 13 caribou herd, and I just wanted to put that comment
 14 out.

15 That's not really a question, just a
 16 comment that, you know, we have lots of experience
 17 working with -- setting up IPAs and things like that,
 18 so maybe if you reach out to us, we could help you
 19 guys out if you need it.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah --

21 MR. LEON ANDREW: Thank you very --
 22 oh, sorry. Sorry.

23 Yes, thank you very much. Really
 24 appreciate any information. I think Ethel mentioned
 25 that earlier in the presentation that, you know, if

1 people would provide some information that we could
2 use. And thank you very much.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, more question
4 or comments? Go ahead.

5 MR. JIM ELIAS: Yeah, I am Jim Elias,
6 with the Inuvialuit Game Council, and like what Ethel
7 mentioned, like, our waters and that, it's very
8 important that, like, especially with the erosion and
9 that.

10 But I still see, like, even when Ethel
11 mentioned bears and they use the water and that, the
12 people in the south from the Arctic circle still --
13 they look at too mu -- from the media. They get all
14 the different -- different input. Like, you see --
15 see a starving bear on the Facebook page or something
16 by the -- by National Geographic or something.

17 And -- and animals, like we talk about,
18 they're all like humans. Not -- not all of them are
19 healthy. We might get one (1) sick animal and that,
20 and then this one is -- this one was filmed, and then
21 all of a sudden, all the bears are starving and stuff.

22 And then the first thing when climate
23 change is coming around, they talked about no sea ice,
24 no more bears, the polar bears. I'm talking about
25 polar bears. And then -- and then, like, maybe on

1 Nunavut side, it might be a little bit different than
2 us and the western Arctic. We have sandy beaches and
3 low shorelines and that.

4 And us, and as a western Arctic person,
5 we see the hauled up seals. They got no more --
6 sometimes the ice went out too early, and we have no
7 more ice floes and that for the seals to come and
8 sunbathe and sunbathing on the ice floes. So they're
9 sunbathing up all over the -- all over our shores.

10 And to me -- to me, if a human being
11 could go up -- sneak up to a seal and grab it by its
12 flip -- hind flippers and that, I think a polar bear
13 could do that ten (10), fifteen (15) times easier than
14 a human being trying to sneak up to a seal that's
15 having a nap on a sandy beaches and then.

16 But the global media -- Oh, yeah, we've
17 got no more -- no more sea ice. The polar bears are
18 starving. And the bears on our western Arctic side
19 are basic -- to me, are having a -- a buffet. They
20 all there -- everything's right there, warmed up to
21 eat. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.

23 No more. We'll move on to ENR.

24 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
25 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. I did just want to say

1 that -- thank you for your presentation, both Leon and
2 Ethel. ENR has been invited and has come to a lot of
3 meetings back since 2014, when the SRRB first invited
4 ENR to come along and -- and talk about mountain
5 caribou out in that area, and we're happy to continue
6 to work with you moving forward. Thank you.

7 MR. LEON ANDREW: Thank you very much.
8 Appreciate that. Máhsl.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: No response? Okay,
10 we'll carry on, then. Sahtú Youth Network...

11 MS. HANNAH TANETON: Hannah Taneton,
12 with the Sahtú Youth Network. We have no questions.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Yeah, any
14 question from the Board? Keith...?

15 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Keith
16 Hickling, Board member. I'm going to ask Leon if you
17 could go to the map and just show us where the
18 proposed Evrim Resources is doing the
19 drilling for the proposed mine, and the -- do you know
20 where -- and the Tungsten mine site, just so we could
21 see it from here on the map.

22 MR. LEON MODESTE: Not -- no, not
23 really. I know where the site -- they -- they been
24 exploring in the area in general.

25 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Okay, thank you.

1 But show us where the -- where Mactung is.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. LEON ANDREW: You're talking
6 Mactung, the -- on the headwater of Keele? Okay.
7 Here's Mile 222 right here. That's where the -- we
8 talked about. There's an airstrip here, and the Yukon
9 has Canol Road come right through here on this border,
10 and Mactung is up in this area. And -- and this --
11 this is the main river that flows out to Norman Wells
12 starts here, right in this area.

13 And the new people -- the new people,
14 exploration people, we're talking about are -- was in
15 this area here. See, the Caribou Cry starts here
16 someplace. You can't tell by this map, but Caribou
17 Cry start here. It's within this vicinity. And then
18 there's one more here and another one up here that
19 they're going to work on, potentially.

20 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Máhsı, Leon, and
21 just one more. Could you show everybody where
22 Naats'ihcho'oh is and then Howard's Pass? The --
23 Selwyn Chihong minerals at Howard's Pass?

24 MR. LEON ANDREW: Naats'ihcho'oh, this
25 is a park that they been created back here a while by

1 Tulit'a district, and this is Naats'ihcho'oh, this
 2 green here, this area. This is Naats'ihcho'oh, and
 3 what happened here a while back was the -- the federal
 4 government, when they established the boundary for
 5 Naats'ihcho'oh, and the mira -- the mineral people and
 6 the environmental group in Ottawa, they started come -
 7 - come head to head about minerals, I guess.

8 So the end of the day, they withdrew a
 9 lot of lands for -- for the mineral reasons. So
 10 Naats'ihcho'oh got shrunk. So this green part was a
 11 pink part that's all been withdrawn because of a
 12 mineral potential, even down here. And here's another
 13 piece too. So our -- the potential park was about in
 14 this area and it all got small.

15 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Máhsı, Leon,
 16 thank you for showing us that very -- very special
 17 area. Máhsı.

18 MR. LEON ANDREW: Yeah. You're
 19 welcome. Máhsı

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Go ahead.

21 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Okay. Samuel
 22 Hache, SRRB. Just a -- just a quick question.

23 Because when you're using Indigenous
 24 protected and conserved area, you know, and the Dehcho
 25 First Nation are using kind of a similar terminology

1 for co-management of their new protected area that
2 they call Edézhíe on the Horn plateau.

3 So is -- is that like a hundred percent
4 Indigenous base protected area that's being proposed?
5 Or is it something in co-management? Or does that fit
6 like that same Indigenous protection conservation area
7 concept at this point? Or...

8 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I know that
9 this is a fairly new program, right? We're still
10 learning about it. What we want to do is -- what we
11 want to do is we want to work at identifying -- we've
12 already been to GNWT with this proposal and had our
13 asses kicked severely. They kicked us out and threw
14 us out.

15 Anyways, so they -- they didn't want
16 that, they just dismissed us outrightly. So we got to
17 start all over again.

18 But it's identified by the Feds as
19 Indigenous protected area. Everything we've done
20 under the Claim is under co-management. That's what
21 we've done. We've co-managed things. That's what
22 we're used to. But if it's a hundred percent
23 Indigenous owned, I think that would have been
24 identified under the Claim. I think this is a
25 program, right? It's a program.

1 And I think the negotiations would be
2 fairly complex. I don't think it'd be -- I think the
3 other thing that's happening in Edehzhie (phonetic)
4 Horn Plateau and all that area, I think there, too, it
5 was part of a bigger scenario. It was part of the
6 Dehcho negotiations. It was one (1) of the olive
7 branches extended to try and complete the claim in
8 that area.

9 And under those circumstances almost
10 anything's possible or impossible.

11 I wanted to thank -- we did this work
12 here -- I wanted to thank Kirsten Jensen, she really
13 helped us with the stuff, and Deborah, too, poking her
14 nose into our business here and there helping us. So
15 we really want to thank them both. And thank
16 everybody for teaching us so much today. It was
17 really good yesterday and today. Thank you so much.
18 Máhsı.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That brings
23 us to the end of our presentation.

24 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Can I just ask a
25 question? Or --

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good enough then.

2 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: On behalf of the
3 Board.

4 For one (1) thing, Camilla Rabisca has
5 asked that I ask a question on her behalf. She was
6 wondering about that concept of Nio Ne P'ene. And if
7 you could talk a little about what that means.

8 MR. LEON ANDREW: Try it anyway. The
9 -- you know, I've been -- I've been struggling with
10 this word with my colleagues since 2014, perhaps. So
11 it -- it's pretty hard to explain. It's -- I think
12 that Colville talk about it and ts'ıduwe, ts'ıduwe
13 meaning like ancestor, they got their own
14 words. One (1) word identify everything. It
15 encompasses everything, is wha -- wha -- what -- what
16 it mean.

17 For us, for me, Nıó Nę P'ęnę́ talks to
18 -- to the -- the earth as it meant to be for wildlife
19 to roam on in different area, in their own ways.
20 That's what Nıó Nę P'ęnę́ means to me.

21 Why -- why is it important? It's
22 important because -- because if Nıó Nę P'ęnę́ ever gets
23 shifted, it won't be the same, same as wildlife won't
24 be the same. And I think since 1990, we know things
25 have changed, and it won't be the same. If Nio Ne

1 P'ene cannot move a bit, it won't be the same. So
2 that I know.

3 So Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ is kind of -- holds
4 things together for us in terms of wildlife in the
5 Dene mountain Dene perspective. And that's the way we
6 understood and that's what we live by. So since --
7 since the late -- early '90, there's something
8 happened out there and I -- I don't think I need to
9 explain that. I think people experienced it.

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

12

13 MR. LEON ANDREW: And when you say Nio
14 Ne P'ene, the creation lives, survives, wildlife, and
15 there -- there -- if there's a trail on it, it knows,
16 and if wherever wildlife lives, it knows, and that's
17 what you mean, Nio Ne P'ene, it's alive. It's a
18 living thing.

19 When I looked at Níó Nẹ P'ẹnẹ́ and when
20 she told -- and the Elders they say, when there'll be
21 many -- there's many wildlife, but if there is
22 changes, something would happen. But 19 -- from 1990,
23 from there, all the Elders that are still living, they
24 say you -- if -- there's disturbance.

25 But I didn't know what they were

1 talking about -- about, and to see the sun -- you see
2 the sun, the sun is rising, the sun is not doing its
3 work. It -- the sun is not doing its -- or following
4 its pattern. And because of that, today this -- today
5 it gets warm, the environment is affected; there's lot
6 of snow. Last -- last March there was -- there was
7 rain, there was -- it's just seems to be many
8 disturbance.

9 So the Elders, when they Nio Ne P'ene,
10 the earth lives, the creati -- the wildlife lives, and
11 that's what they were talking about. It's like it has
12 its own way of life directed from this Nio Ne P'ene.
13 It is a living direction for all wildlife environment.

14 The -- this -- what's Leon's talking
15 about is -- is very important for the Indigenous --
16 the Indigenous language, Dene language. When you say
17 -- if you -- to try to translate in English, it's --
18 it gets lost in -- in English words. There's -- the
19 -- 'cause the -- the Caucasian peoples don't think
20 like we do. Them, they have to see things. Only if
21 they see something that's visible to -- they smell it,
22 they touch it, they chew it, they measurement -- they
23 measure it.

24 But with Indigenous, our Elders, they
25 tau -- they teach us. One (1) day, one (1) day it's

1 going to change one (1) day. And what -- you know
2 what we're talking about. And then in (TRANSLATION
3 SWITCH - NO ENGLISH).

4

5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

6

7 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: (NO
8 TRANSLATION - SWITCH DELAY) How on earth do our
9 people know about (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN)? The
10 same way they think about Nio Ne P'ene. It's a
11 concept that's part of their oral tradition. It's a
12 concept that's part of their oral history. You cannot
13 find it in a book. You can't find it in a library.
14 No Government made a law that said there's going to be
15 something known as (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) or Nio
16 Ne P'ene.

17 It is a concept that is in our
18 language, in our mental process of how we accept
19 things on this earth. (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

20

21 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: When our
24 Elders gives us their language, we know if they know
25 what they're talking about. My grandma that raised

1 me...

2

3 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

4

5 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I was raised
6 by an Elder. You can tell the people that are raised
7 by Elders. They have no problem accepting concepts
8 that are abstract, that are almost mystical, almost
9 mythological. They're very different.

10 And we don't spend all our time
11 thinking, why, why, why. What we do is we take it as
12 a gift, we receive it, and we live with the
13 consequences of receiving it. We try to protect the
14 earth, we try to understand our circumstances.

15 So how did they know about polar
16 reversal? They're not scientists. They're not
17 physicists. They're not geographers. They are people
18 who understand the concept that the earth will change
19 and that things will shift. And when that happens, it
20 will affect animals, it will affect plants, it will
21 affect birds, whatever.

22 And it's -- it's just the way you think
23 as a Dene, if you were a real speaker. The concept
24 works like that for me, anyways.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: I think -- thank
4 you very much. I think it's time for just a
5 transition to our next presentation. But big thanks.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we'll have a
10 break, then carry on with the next person.

11 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Five (5) minutes
12 only for ENR.

13

14 --- Upon recessing

15 --- Upon resuming

16

17 PRESENTATION BY ENR:

18 MR. BRETT ELKIN: ... Elders,
19 community members, and all participants in this
20 hearing. We would like to start by thanking Chief
21 Wilbert Kochon and the Behdzi Ahda First Nation for
22 hosting us. My name is Brett Elkin. I'm the director
23 of the Wildlife Division with the Department of
24 Environment and Natural Resources. I'd like to
25 introduce our ENR's panel here today.

1 I'll start with Heather Sayine-
2 Crawford, who is the manager of wildlife research and
3 management with the wildlife division. Kevin Chan,
4 regional biologist in ENR's Sahtú regional office.
5 Jan Adamczewski, caribou biologist with the -- with
6 ENR, and Rohan Brown, our legal counsel. I'd like to
7 start by saying we really appreciate the opportunity
8 to speak to the Board here today.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. BRETT ELKIN: This presentation
13 will cover a number of different subject areas. We'll
14 start in the first part of the presentation with an
15 overview of wildlife management and the co-management
16 process, the NWT Wildlife Act, how it was developed,
17 and what it contains, an explanation of the NWT
18 Species at Risk Act, and a section on harvest
19 monitoring.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MR. BRETT ELKIN: In the second half
24 of the presentation, we will go over the status and
25 management of caribou in the Sahtú based on both

1 traditional and scientific knowledge. This will
2 include information on mountain caribou, boreal
3 caribou, and barren-ground caribou, both Bluenose West
4 and Bluenose East herds.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BRETT ELKIN: ENR shares
9 responsibility for stewardship and management of
10 wildlife and wildlife habitat with Indigenous
11 governments and renewable resources boards, often
12 called wildlife co-management boards, in the areas
13 where land claims have been settled.

14 The Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive
15 Land Claim Agreement established the Sahtú Renewable
16 Resources Board, which we heard yesterday has been
17 established as the main instrument of wildlife
18 management in the Sahtú .

19 Each land claim agreement lays out the
20 process for the GNWT and co-management boards to work
21 together to introduce, modify, or remove regulations.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MR. BRETT ELKIN: The GNWT has two (2)

1 laws that provide tools to help conserve wildlife and
2 its habitat, the Wildlife Act -- a new version of the
3 Wildlife Act was introduced in 2014 -- and the NWT
4 Species at Risk Act. Both of these laws were
5 developed collaboratively with Indigenous governments
6 and renewable resources boards established under land
7 claims.

8 Both SSI and the Sahtú Renewable
9 Resources Board were involved in developed both of the
10 -- in developing both of these laws. Both laws also
11 explicitly recognize Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

12 It's important to note that ENR
13 officers can only enforce the regulations of the
14 Wildlife Act or Species at Risk Act. If something is
15 not in those regulations, our officers cannot enforce
16 it.

17 The Wildlife Act provides tools to
18 conserve and manage wildlife and their habitat for
19 current and future generations. The Wildlife Act
20 include six (6) principles that are related to the
21 conservation, collaboration, and recognition of
22 Indigenous values and practices. The Wildlife Act
23 also formally recognizes the roles and
24 responsibilities set out in land claim agreements.

25 The Wildlife Act has a set of rules to

1 manage wildlife harvest to support three (3) key
2 objectives: ensure sustainable wildlife populations,
3 support the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty
4 harvesting rights, and offer harvesting opportunities
5 to those without Indigenous harvesting rights. These
6 objectives are similar to those found in the wildlife
7 harvesting and management chapter of the Sahtú
8 Dene/Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

9 The Wildlife Act recognizes Aboriginal
10 and Treaty rights, and any person with an Aboriginal
11 or Treaty right to harvest does not need a licence.
12 An Aboriginal or Treaty rights holder harvesting in
13 the NWT outside of the area where they have rights
14 needs to have a general hunting licence. Anyone
15 without an Aboriginal or Treaty right in the NWT
16 requires a hunting licence. And there are three (3)
17 types that apply to people without Aboriginal or
18 Treaty rights: resident, nonresident, and nonresident
19 alien.

20 When there is no conservation concern
21 for species, there are no limits on the numbers of
22 animals harvested by land claim beneficiaries within
23 their land claim areas. When there is a conservation
24 concern, harvest limits may be put in place following
25 the processes laid -- set out in land claim

1 agreements. The GNWT, co-management boards, and
2 renewable resource councils work together to determine
3 the actions that should be taken.

4 In most cases, limited harvest is
5 managed through the use of tags or authorizations and
6 mandatory report. These authorizations are
7 distributed by communities, hunters and trappers
8 committees, or renewable resource councils.

9 At this point, I would like to turn
10 over the presentation to Heather, who will present the
11 next part.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Trans-
16 boundary issues. So many wildlife populations cross
17 between more than one (1) claim -- land claim area or
18 traditional harvesting area. When this occurs,
19 wildlife management is more effective or works better
20 when the affected co-management boards work to --
21 together to agree on management actions, such as
22 harvest management approaches.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: The GNWT
2 fully understands that each board must follow its own
3 process, but there needs to be coordination to ensure
4 population-wide management.

5 Up here, we have the Advisory Committee
6 for Cooperation on Wildlife Management, which is a
7 really large term, for a group called the -- sometimes
8 called the ACCWM, which is estab -- which was
9 established to exchange information, help develop coop
10 -- cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations
11 regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that
12 cross land claim boundaries.

13 The ACCWM consist of the Chairpersons
14 from the Wildlife Management Advisory Council, so this
15 is the co-management board in the Inuvialuit, the
16 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Sahtú
17 Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable
18 Resources Board, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife
19 Board, and the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management
20 Board.

21 The ACCWM developed a Management Plan.
22 The cover is shown up on the screen. This Management
23 Plan is for the Bluenose -West, the Bluenose East, and
24 Cape Bathurst caribou herds. The recommendations from
25 this Management Plan and the Herd-specific Action

1 Plans guide management of those three (3) herds. The
2 Plan -- the Management Plan, taking care of caribou,
3 and the recommendations are fully supported and
4 endorsed by ENR on behalf of the GNWT.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: In the
9 last day and a half of meetings, we had heard a lot
10 about respect and how important that is.

11 During the development of the Wildlife
12 Act, we heard this from every community and everyone
13 who -- who was in -- involved in the development of
14 the Wildlife Act. They talked about the importance of
15 safe and respectful conduct on the land, and even more
16 importantly, respectful hunting.

17 As of January 1st, 2020, so January 1st
18 this year, the -- the hunter education course is -- is
19 a legislated requirement for new hunters in the NWT.
20 The course is online. It's free, and it's available
21 right now.

22 Anyone with Aboriginal or Treaty rights
23 does not have to take the course, but we have heard
24 from communities, including communities in the Sahtú ,
25 that they would like their youth and new or

1 inexperienced hunters to take the course. The hunter
2 education course can be tailored to communities, and
3 can be adjusted to include region-specific hunting
4 values and practices.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: The
9 Species at Risk NWT Act. The purpose of the NWT
10 Species at Risk Act is to prevent species from
11 disappearing from the NWT.

12 Like the Wildlife Act, the Species at
13 Risk Act is based on principles of co-management that
14 are in the land claim agreements. And just like the
15 Wildlife Act, the Species at Risk Act was developed in
16 a collaborative way with full participation and
17 approval by Indigenous governments, including SSI and
18 the SRRB.

19 The Species at Risk Act describes three
20 (3) major steps in the conservation of species at
21 risk. The first is the assessment of a species. The
22 second is listing a species. And the third is
23 recovery and management.

24 There are two (2) committees
25 established which help perform these functions. The

1 NWT Species at Risk Committee, which is also sometimes
2 called SARC, is an independent body with expertise in
3 both traditional and scientific knowledge. Leon
4 Andrew is currently the Chair of SARC. So SARC
5 assesses species and produces status reports based on
6 both traditional and scientific knowledge.

7 The other committee is the Conference
8 of Management -- Management Authorities, which is also
9 called the CMA. The CMA makes decisions on listing
10 species and develops recovery plans.

11 Each co-management board has a process
12 they follow to prepare for this decision, including a
13 process for consulting affected communities. During
14 the listing and recovery planning stages, the co-
15 management boards, like the SRRB, consult with
16 communities and renewable resource councils, while the
17 GNWT consults with the public and Indigenous
18 government, or organizations in unsettled areas.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Harvest
23 has a direct impact on wildlife numbers, including
24 caribou. Accurate numbers on harvest levels by all
25 users is very important. Good communication and

1 sharing of information between communities, regions,
2 and wildlife managers help support co-management dec -
3 - decisions.

4 The harvest by NWT resident hunters is
5 collected annually. For Indigenous harvesters, long-
6 term harvest monitoring programs required under land
7 claim agreements are important for establishing
8 harvest levels and patterns. Any approach that is
9 used to -- for harvest reporting needs to be accurate,
10 consistent, reliable, and complete.

11 In the Wek'eezhii region, Indigenous
12 harvesters who are hunting the Bluenose East caribou
13 herd use authorization cards. In the Déliné Caribou
14 Conservation Plan, harvesters use kits to assess
15 health and condition, and report to the local RRC.
16 ENR has funds available to support community
17 monitoring of wildlife harvesting.

18 In summary, collaborative co-management
19 working together is the foundation of the Wildlife
20 Act, the Species -- the Territorial Species at Risk
21 Act, and the land claim agreement. ENR is committed
22 to working together for conservation and management of
23 wildlife.

24 I'll now hand it over to Kevin for the
25 next portion of the presentation.

1 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Don't forget to
2 introduce yourself, Kevin.

3 MR. KEVIN CHAN: Hi. Kevin Chan, ENR.

4 In the next half of our presentation,
5 we will cover the status and management of caribou in
6 the Sahtú , specifically mountain caribou, boreal
7 caribou, and barren-ground caribou.

8 There are five (5) types of caribou in
9 the Northwest Territories, the Peary caribou, the
10 Dolphin Union, the Northern Mountain, the boreal, and
11 the barren-ground caribou. Three (3) of these are in
12 the Sahtú , the Northern Mountain, the boreal, and the
13 barren-ground. And more specifically, the Bluenose-
14 West and Bluenose East herds. There are differences
15 in how they look, how they behave, and where they
16 live. Each type of caribou is also subject to
17 different stresses and threats.

18 The Northern Mountain caribou are found
19 in BC, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. The
20 estimate of mountain caribou in the Northwest
21 Territories is twenty-one thousand eight hundred
22 (21,800), but this estimate is -- includes some
23 information that is quite old.

24 The herds that spend at least some of
25 the year in the Northwest Territories are the Bonnet

1 Plume, the Tay River, the Redstone, the South Nahanni,
2 Coal River, and La Biche. The ranges of all mountain
3 caribou herds in the Sahtú crosses into the Yukon and
4 extends across traditional harvesting areas of other
5 Indigenous groups.

6 Current and long-term population trends
7 for most mountain caribou herds in the Northwest
8 Territories are unknown. Shúhta Dene indicate that
9 some caribou herds in the Mackenzie Mountains have
10 declined or moved over the last several decades.

11 Mountain caribou have been
12 traditionally harvested by Shúhta Dene and Métis of
13 Tulit'a and Norman Wells, and the Gwich'in, the Kaska
14 Dene, the DehCho First Nations, Acho Dene Koe First
15 Nations, and other Indigenous groups with overlapping
16 rights. There are no limits to the harvest of
17 mountain caribou by the Shúhta -- the Sahtú
18 beneficiaries or other Indigenous groups with rights
19 to harvest in the Sahtú settlement area.

20 Total resident harvest of mountain
21 caribou in the Northwest Territories is estimated to
22 be about forty-five (45) animals each year between
23 2011 and 2015. Nonresident harvest of mountain
24 caribou throughout the entire Mackenzie mountain range
25 averaged a hundred and sixty-five (165) bulls per year

1 from 1991 to 2017. Outfitters are required to report
2 their harvests. ENR summarizes the outfitters harvest
3 information in an annual report.

4 Local hunters have recently reported
5 that the number of hunters seen in -- no -- number of
6 hunters has increased in the Macmillan pass in the
7 Mile 22 -- 222 area on the Keele River and Caribou
8 Flats. There are also concerns about disrespectful
9 hunting practices, safety, and habitat destruction,
10 particularly those as a result of ATV use. Access
11 management is therefore integral to harvest
12 management.

13 A lack of research and information
14 about mountain caribou makes management difficult.
15 ENR is willing to meet with communities to discuss
16 research plan for northern mountain caribou in the
17 Sahtú .

18 Northern mountain caribou in Canada
19 were assessed by COSEWIC as a species of a special
20 concern and 2002, and were listed under the Federal
21 Species at Risk Act in 2005. The status of Norton
22 Mountain -- Northern Mountain caribou in the Northwest
23 Territories will be assessed by the Northwest
24 Territories Species at Risk Committee at their next
25 meeting in April 2020, so April of this year.

1 A draft status report which contains
2 the best available information from traditional
3 community and scientific knowledge is currently being
4 finalized. If the mountain caribou are assessed and
5 listed under SARA of NWT, so the Territorial one, a
6 Territorial recovery strategy will be developed.

7 Boreal caribou, also known as t̥d̥z̥l̥ ,
8 live in the boreal forests across Canada. In the
9 Northwest Territory, their range extends from the
10 border of Alberta and British Columbia up to the
11 Beaufort Delta region. We estimate that there are
12 between six thousand (6,000) and seven thousand
13 (7,000) caribou in the Northwest Territories -- boreal
14 caribou within the Northwest Territories.

15 The traditional and -- and community
16 knowledge compiled in 2012 tells us that boreal
17 caribou trends in the Sahtú are stable or increasing.
18 Boreal caribou tend to live in small groups, and
19 prefer to stay within the forest year-round, and do
20 not migrate.

21 Boreal caribou populations have
22 undergone significant declines across Canada linked to
23 natural and human caused loss of critical habitat and
24 predation. Boreal caribou are listed as threatened
25 species under the Federal Species at Risk Act and the

1 Species -- and the Territorial Species at Risk Act.

2 National and territorial recovery strategies guide the
3 conservation of boreal caribou.

4 Under the Federal Species at Risk Act,
5 there is a legal requirement to protect critical
6 habitat. For boreal caribou, critical habitat is
7 defined at least 65 percent undisturbed habitat for
8 each boreal caribou range. The majority of habitat
9 disturbance across the range is caused by fire, but
10 human disturbance is higher in the southern Northwest
11 Territories.

12 While boreal caribou population in the
13 Northwest Territories is currently considered self-
14 sustaining, there are still concerns. Boreal caribou
15 are incredibly difficult to survey, and ENR estimates
16 are -- ENR estimates trend based on collared t̥odzı and
17 composition surveys. Currently, there are no collared
18 t̥odzı in the Sahtú .

19 There is no outfitted harvest of boreal
20 caribou, and residents -- harvesters take on average
21 twenty-two (22) t̥odzı per year in the Northwest
22 Territories. The SRRB harvest study that was run
23 between 1998 and 2005 tells us that around thirty-six
24 (36) t̥odzı are harvested by Sahtú participants each
25 year.

1 Although ENR does not have up-to-date
2 information on Indigenous harvest in all areas, we
3 estimate that the animal -- annual harvest of boreal
4 caribou in the Northwest Territories is approximately
5 3 percent of the entire population.

6 Because ṯodzi are a federally listed
7 species at risk, and range plans have not been
8 developed, the GNWT has signed in what is called a
9 Section 11 agreement with the Federal Government.
10 This made in the North agreement is based on three (3)
11 key approaches that have been developed
12 collaboratively with our co-management partners: a NWT
13 boreal caribou recovery strategy, a NWT boreal caribou
14 implem -- implementation agreement, and a framework
15 for boreal caribou range planning.

16 Under the agreement, the GNWT is
17 committed to develop five (5) regional range plans to
18 meet critical habitat protection targets. As a part
19 of this agreement, the GNWT receives federal funding.
20 The Sahtú will begin its own regional work -- regional
21 range plan for boreal caribou later this year.

22 The GNWT and our co-management partners
23 are currently working together to implement both a
24 national and territorial recovery strategies. This
25 work will strike a balance between conservation and

1 sustainable development, and includes boreal caribou
2 range planning, which I spoke about in the last slide.

3 Protected critical habitat. The GNWT
4 is working with co-management partners to identify
5 important boreal caribou habitat patches through the
6 range planning process.

7 Harvest management. The new
8 regulations were recently put in place to support
9 local -- to support boreal caribou conservation.
10 There are no changes for Indigenous harvesters in
11 their rights areas.

12 Enhanced research, monitoring, and
13 management actions. Increased boreal caribou research
14 and monitoring using scientific local and traditional
15 knowledge.

16 I will now hand the presentation over
17 to Jan to talk more specifically about barren-ground
18 caribou.

19 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Good afternoon,
20 Mr. Chairman. My name is Jan Adamczewski. I work in
21 Yellowknife with the Wildlife Division. My title is
22 ungulate biologist, and if you don't know what that
23 is, that's anything that has hooves, but I spent the
24 vast majority of my time on barren-ground caribou, so
25 I'll be talking about them a little bit.

1 So we'll talk a little bit about the
2 status and management of barren-ground caribou in the
3 Northwest Territories. There are nine (9) barren-
4 ground caribou herds that spend all or part of their
5 annual cycle in the Northwest Territories. The map
6 shows the historical ranges of all nine (9) herds, so
7 each coloured blob is a different caribou range. And
8 then at the north end, there's a smaller blob, which
9 is the calving ground.

10 Were you going to point to something
11 there, Heather? Okay.

12 The Bluenose West and the Bluenose East
13 herds are the ones that are particularly important in
14 the Sahtú settlement area, so that's the purple with
15 the calving ground, west of Kugluktuk, and the sort of
16 red, there, the Bluenose West, with their calving
17 ground mostly in Tukturn Nogait National Park.

18 Bluenose West herd calves west of
19 Bluenose Lake, and mostly within the park, which
20 protects most of their calving ground. They migrate
21 towards the tree line for the rut in October, and they
22 winter, to a large extent, in the Colville Lake area.

23 The range of the Bluenose West herd
24 includes part of the Sahtú settlement area, as well as
25 the Inuvialuit settlement region, and a small corner

1 of the Gwich'in settlement area. So it ranges across
2 those three (3) land claim areas.

3 The Bluenose East herd calves east of
4 Bluenose Lake, and just west of Kugluktuk, on the
5 Nunavut side. This herd migrates towards the tree
6 line for the rut in October. They tend to rut and
7 winter near Great Bear Lake -- excuse me, near Great
8 Bear Lake. And this herd ranges through the Sahtú ,
9 Inuvialuit, and Wek'eezhii settlement areas in
10 Northwest Territories, also down a little bit into the
11 Dehcho, and on the Nunavut side, the calving grounds
12 and part of the summer range.

13 We know from both traditional knowledge
14 and science that these migratory bearing ground
15 caribou herds undergo large natural fluctuations in
16 numbers over time, often measured in -- in cycles that
17 last decades.

18 This is the same herd range map, but
19 now it shows the population trend of each of the
20 herds. Should -- herds shown in red are declining
21 rapidly. Orange represents herd in a -- herds in a
22 slow decline. Yellow indicates a stable herd, and
23 green herds are the increasing ones.

24 Unfortunately, many barren-ground
25 caribou herds in the Northwest Territories and across

1 the North have experienced significant declines in
2 recent years, since the late '90s/early 2000s.
3 Overall, barren-ground caribou in the Northwest
4 Territories have declined by more than 85 percent.

5 You can see from the map that the
6 Porcupine, the big blob on the west, there, and the
7 Cape Bathurst herd are much smaller range, there, and
8 the Inuvialuit settlement area are increasing. But
9 these are not the result of caribou moving in from
10 other populations, other herds. We track those
11 things.

12 The Bluenose West herd was previously
13 declining, but is now stable for about the last ten
14 (10) years. The rest of our herds are still
15 declining, with the most dec -- dramatic declines in
16 the Bathurst and the Bluenose East herds, the ones
17 shown in red in the middle.

18 So little bit more now on the Bluenose
19 West herd. This herd has been surveyed using post-
20 calving surveys in July, starting in the -- about
21 1992. And they showed a long-term decline in the
22 herd, with an estimated high of about a hundred and
23 ten thousand (110,000) caribou in 1992 to about
24 twenty-six thousand (26,000) in 2005, and twenty-eight
25 thousand (28,000) in 2006. So the big drop happened

1 between 2000 and 2005/2006. This herd has since then
2 remained roughly stable. See, the bars are all about
3 the same size between 2005 and 2018.

4 After reviewing all the community-based
5 and scientific knowledge available in 2018, the ACCWM,
6 this group of co-management boards, assessed the
7 Bluenose West herd in 2019/'20 as being in the orange
8 zone, meaning intermediate and decreasing. So the red
9 zone is the absolute low, and the orange is just above
10 it. So there's still a lot of concern over this herd.

11 For the Bluenose East herd, we started
12 doing surveys on the calving grounds for this herd in
13 2010, so that's why this bar chart only starts in
14 2010. In that year, the herd was estimated at about a
15 hundred and twenty thousand, and in -- after that,
16 steady decline, and the last estimate in 2018 was
17 about nineteen thousand (19,000) caribou.

18 After reviewing all the community-based
19 and scientific information available in 2018, the
20 ACCWM, the co-management boards, assessed this herd as
21 being in the red zone, which is the low -- which is
22 the highest degree of concern.

23 Talk a little bit now about harvest in
24 relation to these two (2) herds. Bluenose West herd
25 migrates through three (3) settlements, or land claim

1 areas, in the Northwest Territories and is typically
 2 harvested by thirteen (13) communities. The Bluenose
 3 East herd migrates through four (4) settlement areas,
 4 three (3) in the Northwest Territories and into the
 5 western portion of the Kitikmeot Region in Nunavut,
 6 and the herd is typically harvested by nine (9)
 7 communities. The herds may also be accessed by people
 8 from other communities with rights or priv --
 9 privileges to harvest the herds.

10 There has been no resident, non-
 11 residents -- non-resident alien or commercial hunting
 12 of barren-ground caribou in the Sahtú Region on either
 13 of these two (2) herds since 2006.

14 And I will now hand the presentation
 15 back to Heather to finish off the ENR presentation.
 16 Thank you.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Because
 21 the Bluenose West herd travels through the Inuvialuit
 22 Settlement Region, the Gwich'in Settlement Area, and
 23 the Sahtú Settlement Area, responsibility for this
 24 herd is shared by WMAC, which is the Wildlife
 25 Management Advisory Council, the GRRB, the Gwich'in

1 Renewable Resources Board, the SRRB, and the GNWT.

2 People here remember, and they spoke
3 yesterday, about the public hearing that was held in
4 2007 in Fort Good Hope, and as Walter pointed out,
5 that was the first hearing held by the SRRB. In 2007,
6 there was agreements between the SRRB, the GRRB, and
7 the Wildlife Management Advisory Council that the
8 harvest of the Bluenose West herd should be limited to
9 4 percent of the population. This was in response to
10 that decline that Jan pointed out between 2000 and
11 2005.

12 After that hearing, and the
13 recommendation for a Total Allowable Harvest in the
14 Sahtú -- sorry, that -- the recommendation was made to
15 the Minister of ENR to put in a Total Allowable
16 Harvest for the Sahtú , and that was placed at three
17 hundred and fifty (350), as you can see up on the
18 screen. That Total Allowable Harvest was split
19 between the communities of Colville Lake, Fort Good
20 Hope, and Norman Wells.

21 As a result of the recommendation, ENR
22 implemented and made changes to the Wildlife Act and
23 regulations. In 2019, the Minister of ENR received a
24 recommendation from the GRRB, which was supported by
25 the Wildlife Management Advisory Council and the SRRB,

1 that a harvest threshold for the Bluenose West herd be
2 updated based on the 2018 population estimate. ENR
3 has now implemented that recommendation, which means
4 that the harvest threshold for the Bluenose West herd
5 is four hundred and three (403) for the Inuvialuit,
6 four hundred and three (403) for the Sahtú , and
7 thirty-four (34) for the Gwich'in.

8 So this is one (1) of the conversations
9 that happened at the ACCWM meeting in 2018 -- in
10 November of 2018, and this is the recommendation that
11 came from each of the boards after that -- there was
12 agreement.

13 Because the Bluenose East herd travels
14 through the Wek'eezhii Region, the Sahtú Settlement
15 Area, and Nunavut, responsibility for this herd is
16 shared by the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board,
17 the SRRB, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the
18 Government of Nunavut, and the GNWT.

19 In 2015, a population estimate was
20 obtained, and as Jan pointed out, the population was
21 estimated to be thirty-eight (38,000) animals. In
22 2015 that represented a decline of about 50 percent
23 from the last survey.

24 In order to help the herd and try to
25 reduce the rapid decline, the GNWT proposed to the

1 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board and the Sahtú
2 Renewable Resources Board that a Total Allowable
3 Harvest be set for the herd. Both her -- both boards,
4 the WRRB and the SRRB, held public hearings in 2016 to
5 consider that proposal.

6 After the WRRB's public hearing, they
7 made a determination to implement a Total Allowable
8 Harvest of seven hundred and fifty (750) bulls only in
9 Wek'eezhii. This Total Allowable Harvest was
10 allocated to the traditional Indigenous users of the
11 Bluenose East herd.

12 The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
13 also held a public hearing in 2016 and their board
14 decided on a Total Allowable Harvest of three hundred
15 and forty (340) Bluenose East caribou, which was in
16 line with Kugluktuk's Community Conservation Plan.

17 In 2018, another population estimate
18 was obtained for the Bluenose East herd, so we done
19 another survey, and the results showed that the
20 Bluenose East herd had continued to decline by
21 approximately half since 2015.

22 The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the GNWT
23 jointly submitted a new management proposal to the
24 WRRB in a public hearing was held in Behchokǫ̀ in April
25 2019. That public hearing resulted in the WRRB

1 determining a new Total Allowable Harvest of a hundred
2 and ninety-three Bluenose East caribou, bulls only.

3 In 2019, the Government of Nunavut
4 submitted a management proposal to the Nunavut
5 Wildlife Management Board to reduce the Total
6 Allowable Harvest of Bluenose East caribou from three
7 hundred and forty (340) to a hundred and seven, bulls
8 only.

9 The Nunavut -- Nunavut Wildlife
10 Management Board, sorry, will hold a public hearing in
11 Kugluktuk in March of 2020.

12 So after the 2016 public hearing that
13 was held in Déline, here in the Sahtú , the SRRB took a
14 slightly different approach. The SRRB decided that
15 the Déline Community Conservation Plan, with a harvest
16 target of a hundred fifty Bluenose East animals and a
17 sex ratio of eighty (80) bulls to twenty (20) cows,
18 had the best chance of achieving -- achieving conservation
19 success.

20 The SRRB also committed to assessing
21 the success of community conservation planning and
22 whether harvest was being adequately monitored and
23 authorized.

24 Déline has revised their Community
25 Conservation Plan as was discussed yesterday and

1 updated their harvest targets to reflect the 2018
2 population estimate.

3 ENR is supportive of community
4 conservation plans as an effective approach for
5 wildlife and harvest management. We are willing to
6 assist communities to develop and, where appropriate,
7 implement those plans.

8 It is important to note that ENR
9 officers can encourage compliance but can only enforce
10 actions if they are also in GNWT's legislation.

11 So I've already introduced the ACCWM,
12 but they are quite an important group and it's a very
13 important place where all of the co-management
14 partners come together to discuss the status and
15 management actions for each of the herds -- so each of
16 the three (3) herds that are within the Management
17 Plan, the Cape Bathurst, the Bluenose West, and the
18 Bluenose East herds.

19 That Management Plan, the Taking Care
20 of Caribou Plan, was the result of more than four (4)
21 years of engagement and con -- consultation with the
22 communities that were affected by the plan.

23 Every November, the ACCWM holds an
24 annual status meeting where the member boards sit to
25 discuss and determine the herds -- each herd's status

1 and management actions. The participating boards
2 share the information they have observed on each of
3 the herds and they discuss what the herd status should
4 be. They also discuss what management actions should
5 be implemented and which of those actions should be
6 prioritized, so which ones should be done first.

7 As a result of those discussions, as
8 Jan pointed out, they determine the herd status and
9 then they -- they write herd-specific action plans.
10 So that's the action plan that shows which management
11 actions are going to be taken in the next year and all
12 of those actions are based on the herd status.

13 The management actions are not just
14 related to harvest. They can include actions related
15 to education, habitat, land use activities, and
16 predation.

17 It is important to work together when
18 discussing management actions for a shared herd, like
19 the Bluenose West and Bluenose East herds. This is
20 one (1) of the main reasons for creating the ACCWM.

21 If at the ACCWM meeting, all of the
22 boards decide that there should be an overall herd
23 harvest limit, that goes back to each member Board.
24 Each member Board then consults with their
25 communities, and they do that according to their land

1 claim agreements, and that could include public
2 hearings, if needed.

3 Under the federal species at risk
4 process, barren-ground caribou in Canada have been
5 assessed as threatened. A decision on whether to list
6 barren-ground caribou under the federal Species at
7 Risk Act has not been made yet. The Federal
8 Government is still completing their consultation and
9 engagement.

10 Here in the NWT, barren-ground caribou
11 were listed as a threatened species under the
12 Territorial Species at Risk Act in July 20. The GNWT
13 is currently working with the Conference of Management
14 Authorities to develop an NWT recovery strategy for
15 barren-ground caribou.

16 In closing, caribou management is a
17 shared responsibility. The wildlife co-management
18 system in the NWT acknowledges this shared
19 responsibility. The GNWT also recognizes that working
20 together takes time and commitment from all parties.
21 We are committed to ensuring we do everything we can
22 to promote conservation.

23 Thank you. We will be happy to respond
24 to any questions that anyone has.

25

1 QUESTION PERIOD:

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Questions to
3 the presentation, Colville Panel?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Colville, any
8 questions?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. DAVID CODZI: Yeah. I got a
13 couple of questions and my buddy here has questions
14 too. We're just trying to firm up and get some
15 answers, those sort of things.

16 In 2016, I heard you mention that
17 before, the decisions that were made in Délı̨nę,
18 Decision Number 32, which the Sahtú Renewable
19 Resources Board recommends that the big game hunting
20 regulation be amended to simply -- simply provide for
21 the ʔehtso Got'ı̨nę Renewable Resources Council
22 authorizations for any harvest rather than the current
23 requirements for tags or for bull only harvest.

24 As an alternative, the regulation could
25 be amended to provide for ʔehtso Got'ı̨nę

1 Renewable Resources Council authorizations for ?eda
2 harvest specifically.

3 As per the Board's 2016 final report,
4 the goal was to complete the amendment to the big game
5 hunting regulation by 2017.

6 The question related to the Board's
7 decision on Number 32: What is the status of the
8 amendment to the regulation? Has amendment been
9 completed?

10 Number 2 is: If the amendment was not
11 completed, why not, and will -- when will the
12 amendment be -- to the regulations be completed?

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Answers?
14 Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: I
19 apologize. So after talking, this is one (1) of the
20 questions I believe the SRRB asked in their
21 Information Requests, the first round.

22 So in 2016, when we got the formal
23 recommendations from the SRRB, we replied to all of
24 those recommendations, and that is on the public
25 registry -- the SRRB's public registry. It's a letter

1 dated September 26th, 2016. That response indicated
2 support for the Déliné plan as -- as a guiding
3 document for the Bluenose East.

4 We also provided some specific
5 responses to each of those hearing decisions that were
6 included in the SRRB's final report, and ENR indicated
7 that we are prepared to review authorizations for
8 barren-ground caribou harvest under the Wildlife Act.
9 We have begun those processes and we're continuing to
10 -- continuing to consider this issue in discussions
11 with our co-management partners.

12 MR. BRETT ELKIN: The only thing I'll
13 add, that's our formal record to our IRs. I think
14 that's part of the discussion now that we've engaged
15 with -- we've been having a series of discussions with
16 Déliné and as well with Colville as well of how we
17 move forward on -- we have the interim agreement that
18 you spoke to in your presentation of what those next
19 steps are.

20 Just one (1) other piece of
21 information, I think the answer Heather gave you
22 covers it well, one (1) of the challenges, at least
23 from the Déliné side on the Bluenose East, is during
24 that period, while we were doing some of that
25 evaluation, is when we saw a further major decline in

1 the Bluenose East, not in the Bluenose West where the
2 -- that became part of where our attention went and to
3 figure out how we dealt with that change in that
4 context. So just a little extra context to it.

5 MR. DAVID CODZI: Yeah. Just -- just
6 going from memory, I remember that there was an issue
7 related to, you know, the distinguishing between
8 Bluenose East and -West, and then there was another
9 letter that went out to say, okay, well all caribou
10 was going to be -- the same method was to be done.
11 I'm just remembering a letter that was sent a while
12 back.

13 So I got some more questions that I'm
14 going to ask. The GNWT responsibilities -- given the
15 responsibility that GNWT has with Indigenous
16 Government, the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board for
17 co-management under the land claim, the previous
18 decisions of the SRRB in 2016 to implement community-
19 based conservation plan as preferred conservation
20 mechanism, what further direction does the GNWT need
21 from the Sahtú Renewal Resources Board to follow these
22 hearings to do away with the tagging system, and the
23 Sahtú recognize that community-based conservation plan
24 is the preferred means of harvest management in place
25 of a TAH, see support to implementation of Sahtú

1 Community Management Plans?

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Thank you for your
6 question, David. Brett Elkin speaking. I forgot to
7 say that last time.

8 I'll start with -- we have a good
9 formal answer, and I'll start with a -- a bit of a
10 personal bend to the answers, I think.

11 The GNWT, certainly in my tenure there,
12 has really embrace co-management. I think the new
13 Wildlife Act in 2014 really strives to respect and
14 implement that.

15 The only other thing I'll add before I
16 get to the rest of the formal answer is, I think the
17 strength to me, good decisions take good information
18 and they take collaboration. I think that -- I think
19 we need to use various forums to get together and we
20 talked about it in our presentation.

21 I'm getting to the community plans. I
22 think it's part of a big picture. I think what you
23 heard and what we tried to lay it out why we gave the
24 presentation the way -- sorry, I talk too fast -- the
25 way we did, is I like -- we have kind of three (3)

1 levels of ways we come together in co--management.

2 I'm pretty proud of the species at risk
3 process we set up, which is really a co-management
4 process. Together all Indigenous governments and co-
5 management partners look at caribou across the NWT and
6 that's what the recovery strategy we're doing -- looks
7 at the species across the NWT.

8 Then we have -- we heard about ACCWM,
9 another -- bringing together co-management bodies to
10 collectively say what do we need to do across the
11 range of the herd.

12 And the third level which the GNWT has
13 embraced is community plans, which are another
14 important -- so I think we're viewing them as these
15 all play vital roles and important roles and that
16 we're pursuing it.

17 And I think -- we've been working with
18 Délı̨nę for a few years and I think that -- we think
19 we've made some great progress, and I think it's a
20 great forum. We've started down that path with
21 Colville and we really look forward to lots of
22 community discussions. Appreciate the interim
23 agreement we came to in December on keetat (phonetic)
24 talks. And I hear there's -- the spirit and intent
25 from the other communities in the Sahtú to move down

1 that path.

2 A long way to say yes, we endorse them.
3 In addition to these other plans, I think together
4 that's your strength. It brings everyone together
5 across the range of the species and they're all
6 important. So the challenge becomes how do we make
7 them all work.

8 I'll turn to my more technically-
9 oriented people than me to see if they want to add to
10 the answer.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. DAVID CODZI: I forgot to give my
15 name, but my name is David Codzi.

16 The reason we -- we go around this is
17 that, you know, we have always had a problem with this
18 jumping right to the back end of the management issue
19 and the land claims. Went right to enforcement rather
20 than all these steps that we could have tried before,
21 and the community plans are -- are -- are that.

22 I'll ask some more questions. Colville
23 RRC is now issuing authorizations for Deline Got'ine
24 and Ayoni Keh members and non-participants to hunt in
25 accordance with our local rules. We want to be able

1 to issue authorizations to participants from other
2 communities.

3 Assuming that there is a decision from
4 the Sahtú Renewable Resource -- Renewable Resources
5 Board, the Sahtú participants should follow the
6 Community Conservation Plan and the local RRC
7 harvesting rules in each area under an approved
8 management plan.

9 Is there anything else that the GNWT
10 needs to recognize the authority of the local RRCs to
11 grant authorization to visiting hunters?

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
16 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT.

17 So David, in all of the discussions
18 that we've been having over the last year, we've been
19 doing a lot more digging and looking into things, and
20 so this one is -- is a larger question than -- than we
21 can answer right now, and so we have to take this one
22 as an undertaking.

23

24 --- UNDERTAKING NO 2: ENR to advise if there
25 anything else that the

1 GNWT needs to recognize
2 the authority of the local
3 RRCs to grant
4 authorization to visiting
5 hunters.

6
7 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Do you have a
8 time line for responding? I guess we're supposed to
9 ask that.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
14 Sayine-Crawford, GNWT. One (1) week.

15 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Okay.

16 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
17 The only other thing I'll add is, we'll give you the
18 response to that specific question, but we also view
19 the continued discussions with Colville Lake.

20 I mean, a lot of those discussions,
21 we're trying to move this forward together, and I
22 think I've been very pleased with the progress. So a
23 lot -- some of these discussions, I think we'll give
24 you the formal answer at the table, but I think that's
25 a great opportunity for us to work together

1 bilaterally to move this forward 'cause I think it's
2 going to take -- we all want good things at the end,
3 so we just want to work together and move it forward.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: One (1) more.

5 MR. DAVID CODZI: Now, I just want to
6 make sure that we're -- you know, this thing is
7 rolling forward. We've been doing this for almost,
8 what, twelve (12) years now. You know, we're just
9 getting to this point, so I just want to make sure
10 that we -- we have progress going and it's just not
11 one side doing everything.

12 You know, we have a role to -- to fill,
13 and we want to make sure that our responsibilities are
14 -- are done here. I have one (1) more question, and
15 then I'm going to give it to Joseph.

16 Monitoring and -- and enforcement on
17 the ground are huge issues. ENR and RRCs need to work
18 together on the ground to address these issues.

19 Is GNWT willing to enter into interim
20 agreement on monitoring and enforcement with the RRCs
21 so the hunters can be educated if necessary or rules
22 can be enforced by the GNWT underneath the Wildlife
23 Act?

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
2 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. So we've -- we've started
3 discussions about how we work together on monitoring,
4 and some of those -- those ways of working together
5 are in the interim management agreement. So we're
6 happy to continue to talk to you about further ways
7 that you see us working together.

8 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Really nothing to
9 add. This is more -- she'll give the good answers,
10 I'll give the personal touches at the end. But I
11 agree. I think that we -- there's a real passion and
12 commitment now that there hasn't been before to really
13 make some of these happen. So how do we do that?

14 So as Heather said, we're open to those
15 discussions. It may land on interim agreements. It
16 may land on final plans. It may land on final
17 approaches.

18 But I -- I agree with you that we need
19 to keep this issue moving forward, and how do we -- I
20 think we're all -- when I've had the meetings -- come
21 along to meetings as either all the groups or with
22 SRRB and Colville Lake, I'm always amazed how much of
23 what we're talking about we all share.

24 It's just we each have a different
25 role, responsibility, and some details that we've got

1 to make sure we're doing it the right way for -- to
2 meet each of our needs. But I've been really
3 surprised how much we share in common at those tables.
4 So just to echo your desire to move this forward.

5 MR. DAVID CODZI: I just bring that
6 question out since, you know, the other decisions that
7 have been made by SRRB we're still waiting for, you
8 know, the things to come back. And so I just want to
9 make sure that, when we receive the decisions for this
10 meeting that's hearing right now, we're not waiting
11 that much longer for anything to come back. I just
12 want to make sure that, you know, we have that going.

13 I'll give it to Joseph now.

14 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Joseph Kochon,
15 BAFN RRC. Thank you, ENR, for your presentation. I
16 guess this is kind of an educational thing for all our
17 members. You know, all our members are -- some of
18 them are new to this, but for some of us who've been
19 at this for -- for quite some time, so, you know, we
20 try to make it as informative as possible.

21 Chan mentioned that he could tell the
22 difference between the different herds. You know,
23 like that kind of -- so I guess this question is to
24 Chan.

25 Could you tell me the difference

1 between the Porcupine, the Bluenose West, and the
2 Bluenose East? Could you tell me a distinct
3 difference?

4 That's -- I have five (5) questions, so
5 that's just one (1). You said there's a
6 characteristic you could tell the difference of how
7 they look and what-not, so could you specify that?

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MR. KEVIN CHAN: Kevin Chan, ENR. So
12 when I said that you can distinguish the different
13 types of caribou, I was referring to the different
14 eco-types, which are the differences between the
15 mountain caribou, the boreal caribou, and barren-
16 ground caribou. I did not specifically mean you can
17 distinguish the different herds, and I'm sorry for the
18 confusion there.

19 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you. Just
20 want to make sure it's clear. You know, even for us,
21 it's -- we can't really tell the difference between
22 what's a Bluenose East and a Bluenose West, so that
23 you have to be really clear on.

24 You're saying there's Bluenose East,
25 Bluenose West, Porcupine, there's Bathurst and -- you

1 know, I guess my next question's leading to, you know:
2 in the last three (3) years or four (4) years, they're
3 saying there's a huge increase in northern
4 Saskatchewan.

5 Can you tell me where that came out of?
6 Did it just come out of the air or something? Like
7 could you say that some of the herds from up this way
8 have moved down that way? Maybe could you tell me
9 that?

10 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
11 for ENR. If you don't mind, I'll -- I'll address that
12 question.

13 There is still a fairly large herd
14 called the Qamanirjuaq which is primarily in Nunavut,
15 has its calving grounds over towards Hudson Bay. And
16 that herd is still estimated at well over two hundred
17 thousand (200,000) caribou.

18 Because it's quite large, its winter
19 range is also quite large. So it often winters in
20 northern Manitoba and sometimes into northern
21 Saskatchewan and sometimes into the eastern Northwest
22 Territories.

23 So the last estimate I think was about
24 two hundred and seventy thousand (270,00) caribou, so
25 in some years in northern Saskatchewan, if the herd

1 comes that far south, they will see many caribou. In
2 other winters, based on the collared caribou, they may
3 not go into Saskatchewan at all.

4 So there is quite a bit of variation
5 year to year, but that is one (1) of the rather large
6 herds. It has declined somewhat, but it does range
7 into northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and that is
8 the herd they would likely have seen in recent years.

9 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you. You
10 know, caribou is almost like human. You know, we move
11 around here and there, and you can't really tell the -
12 the difference what's a Bluenose East, Bluenose West.
13 And now you've got a name for the caribou herd in the
14 south.

15 So, you know, caribou migrate.
16 Sometimes they move to new area, and I heard Chan kind
17 of talking about the boreal, that -- kind of blaming
18 humans for the decline. But maybe that's not the
19 case.

20 The one (1) thing that you're kind of
21 silent on is the development, industrial development.
22 I don't hear nothing on that. Your presentations were
23 -- was lengthy, so we have a lot of questions, and so
24 maybe -- so I'll have a couple of questions to...

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
4 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT -- or ENR -- both. So
5 today we focussed -- we could have given you a much,
6 much longer presentation. Actually, this is -- is a
7 short and -- and pretty high-level overview, and --
8 and one (1) of the things we're trying to be mindful
9 of is -- is the topic for this public listening, which
10 is Rago ?a, right?

11 And so when we -- when we give you this
12 information, we haven't gone into the reasons for
13 decline for -- for each of the eco-types because --
14 just because of time limits. And -- and a lot of that
15 information is in a lot of our other documents, so we
16 can have a fulsome discussion about that, but I think
17 it would take a lot more time to go over that for each
18 of the caribou types and each herd.

19 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: And just a
20 reminder: we hope that in -- in next year, that there
21 will be a lot more discussion about that.

22 MR. BRETT ELKIN: The only other --
23 Brett Elkin here, with ENR. The only other thing I'll
24 add, I think, because you raise an important point:
25 caribou -- changes in caribou size are -- it's

1 complex. There's many factors including landscape
2 disturbance.

3 When you look at the herd-specific
4 plans, like the taking care of caribou you heard about
5 the co-management partners wrote together, they
6 address all these factors including habitat
7 disturbance. Other herd plans, like the Bathurst plan
8 which is under development, they also all address
9 this.

10 So it is an important factor. It's
11 just we -- it's in the plans and we'll -- we'll bring
12 it to the next public listening that is on this topic.

13 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you. This
14 is a public hearing, so I just want to make sure that
15 some of this thing goes out into the universe and it's
16 heard. In 2016, the Board concluded:

17 "...a Total Allowable Harvest should
18 be a consideration mechanism of a
19 last resort -- of last resort and,
20 moreover, as a conservation
21 mechanism that has less potential of
22 successfully achieving conservation
23 goals based on the evidence provided
24 in the hearing. For these reasons,
25 the SRRB in its reporting said --

1 instead decided to adopt a community
2 conservation plan and approach."

3 In the 2019, the Board wrote to ENR and
4 clearly stated there is no Total Allowable Harvest in
5 the Sahtú. The Sahtú land claims in section 13.5.2
6 sets out that only the Sahtú Renewable Resource Board
7 can establish or medif -- modify or remove Total
8 Allowable Harvest level from time to time, and only if
9 required for conservation according to ENR as the herd
10 population is stable.

11 Given the 2016 SRRB decision and the
12 legal process to establish or modify a Total Allowable
13 Harvest on the basis, does ENR maintain that a Total
14 Allowable Harvest exists in the Sahtú?

15 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Just one (1) second
16 and we'll quickly confer. We'll try not to take too
17 long.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
22 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. So I -- during the -- the
23 slide in the presentation about the Bluenose West
24 hearing back in 2007, we have not received a
25 recommendation rescinding the Total Allowable Harvest

1 for Bluenose West in the Sahtú , so it is still
2 considered in effect.

3 We -- in the letter from -- from the
4 SRRB, what we understood that as is that all of the
5 boards at that November 2018 ACCWM status meeting
6 agreed for the conservation of the Bluenose West herd
7 that a harvest -- a 4 percent harvest level of the
8 entire herd was -- was kind of like the maximum or
9 sustainable limit for that herd.

10 And so that's why we've implemented the
11 new TH -- the new Total Allowable Harvest. And -- and
12 I understand that that terms is -- is not one that
13 people necessarily like to hear here in the -- in the
14 Sahtú , but it is one that's under the land claim
15 agreements, and it's one that is used by the other co-
16 management boards, which is why I keep -- I keep using
17 it.

18 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: A final question.
19 This one is a really serious one. Okay. In your
20 presentation, you stated that the Bluenose West herd
21 is stable, but that the ACCWM still has a lot of
22 concerns.

23 What are the -- what are the ACCWM
24 concerns, and what is the legal status of the ACCWM?
25 We don't see any reference to ACCWM in the land claim

1 agreement. Is the ACCWM a decision-making body, or
2 does it just make recommendations and provide advices?

3 ENR said that the -- there was an
4 agreement on -- with the IRC and Gwich'in, Sahtú on
5 the Total Allowable Harvest in 2014. Is that
6 agreement a recommendation or a decision?

7 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
8 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. So the ACCWM does not
9 have a status or a legal status. And so when I'm
10 speaking about the ACCWM, I'm taking a lot of the
11 wording that's in the Management Plan that has been
12 approved by all of the co-management partners and --
13 and is accepted as guidance by the GNWT.

14 The -- I think all of the member boards
15 acknowledge that the ACCWM does not have any
16 recommendation-making authorities or power, and which
17 is why when I spoke a little bit about the ACCWM
18 coming together to make decisions, that's really
19 important for the overall herd management 'cause all
20 of -- as we've said multiple times today, everybody
21 has wildlife authority.

22 And so -- but if there is a decision
23 there, it still has to go back to each member board,
24 and they have to follow their own process as -- as set
25 out in their land claim agreement.

1 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
2 with ENR. Just to add a little bit about that
3 Management Plan because you mentioned, Joseph, that
4 the ACCWM still has concerns about this herd.

5 And if you look at the Management Plan,
6 it has four (4) colour phases for each herd. So the
7 red is kind of low numbers where you're most
8 concerned. The green is the high numbers when
9 everything is really good. Yellow is in between but
10 increasing, and orange is in between but going down.

11 And so part of the assessment for the
12 ACCWM boards is herd size and trend, but they also try
13 to take account into (sic) any other information from
14 the communities or any other monitoring, predator
15 observations, and things like that.

16 So based on the overall assessment,
17 it's very good to see that that herd is approximately
18 stable, but it is still not growing and it is still
19 far below the high numbers that were recorded back in
20 the 1990s. So there is still a lot of concern about
21 the status of the herd.

22 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Just on that note
23 there, you know, when -- when you make your -- when
24 you present the status, et cetera, is there Aboriginal
25 groups involved in that decision, or it's just ENR

1 biologists make that decision themselves for that
2 presentation?

3 MR. BRETT ELKIN: I'll jump at the
4 high level, and I'll turn to the technical experts if
5 they can add in. But I think to your point, ACCWM I
6 think, to bridge the two (2) questions you raise, I
7 think is a very important forum.

8 No, it's not a decision-making body,
9 but it brings -- brings together decision-making bodies
10 under land claims, so it's a good forum to share
11 information. So Heather explained that well.

12 ENR goes to present information.
13 Because ACCWM is a group of boards set under land
14 claims, we are not a member to ACCWM. We come to
15 present our technical information, but it's a great
16 forum. I think David's been there a few times to
17 present whatever information we have.

18 It's a great forum, and I would really
19 encourage everyone to, if you have information, go
20 there: traditional, local knowledge. Really, all of
21 us go and share what we know, and then, at the end of
22 the day, it's the boards together without ENR in the
23 room who look and say, we're -- I've heard everything.
24 What do we think it is? And then make a
25 recommendation back to the SRP -- SRRB.

1 I'll put one (1) last plug in. For us,
2 all these processes, the boards are key. They are the
3 main instrument of wildlife management working with
4 the RRCs. So I think the key for ACCWM is going back
5 to each of those member boards.

6 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: If I could maybe
7 just add a little bit, Mr. Chairman. Jan Adamczewski,
8 with ENR. I've been to the last three (3) status
9 meetings. They've been held in November each of the
10 last two (2) years, so the last one was just a couple
11 of months ago.

12 And you'll see in the documents there's
13 a status assessment table for each herd, and there's a
14 column for kind of the scientific knowledge and then a
15 column for the -- the community-based knowledge.

16 So we fill in what we have about say
17 calf-to-cow ratios or, you know, any population
18 information that we have.

19 And then, for each of the member
20 boards, they have the opportunity to say, you know, we
21 saw lots of calves or we didn't, or we shot some
22 animals and they were really fat or they were really
23 skinny, so that that table then is compiled with the
24 scientific and community-based knowledge basically
25 side by side.

1 And then that table is important in
2 terms of the -- the overall status assessment for the
3 -- for the ACC -- ACCWM. We are not part of that
4 organization. We provide technical information, but
5 we are not formally part of the ACCWM.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, go ahead,
7 Wilbert.

8 GRAND CHIEF WILBERT KOCHON: This is
9 more one (1) comment than one (1) question, I guess.
10 You're talking about the ?eda. This year, I've seen a
11 lot of calves, and it's good to see. And I see a lot
12 of two (2) year olds running around, too, so it kind
13 of pushed out, I guess. But -- and it makes me happy.

14 And when you was talking about accurate
15 harvesting data, when you're doing your surveys, you
16 should do it accurately, just like when I went out
17 with a chopper with biologists. There's three (3) or
18 four hundred (400) caribou they never counted but just
19 the twenty-one (21) -- twenty (20) on the lake.

20 Those kind of things, you should really
21 -- you should have talked to us. We could have tell
22 them, hey. So when you're saying 'accurate,' you have
23 to be accurate, and your numbers -- we'll give you
24 that number. The reason why that trust still has to
25 be built.

1 And the other comment I was going to
2 make is that a lot of people are going to leave hungry
3 now because we can't give them any meat. And -- and
4 right now, they're asking, and I'm kind of
5 disappointed because I think a lot of people came a
6 long ways, and now, because of certain rules, it seems
7 like we can't help them.

8 And as a leader, I would love to help
9 them. A lot of these people came a long ways, and I
10 was hoping that we could probably shoot some caribou,
11 but it seems authorization can't be given, and that
12 kind of hurts me.

13 But we come as Dene people. We like to
14 share our -- what we have. Even a piece would be
15 good, but not everybody has it here. But I would have
16 went out on my way to go hunting for them, but it
17 seems that I think we need some certain authorization
18 just to do that. And hopefully we can come up with
19 something right away, like I said maybe a week.

20 So that's my comment and the -- the
21 accurate counting of caribou has -- this is a hearing,
22 our young people here, and all got to work together
23 and really look at something that's important to us.
24 It's our livelihood. For you, it's just a job. Big
25 difference.

1 And -- and just to be clear on that, a
2 lot of young people are probably wondering why are
3 they talking about this caribou when they don't even
4 live here? That's what the Elders are saying.

5 So just to be clear to young people
6 that it's part of our livelihood and everyday life,
7 and I just went out the other day and I think that's
8 what the people are eating now. And -- and I'm happy
9 for that, and that's what I want to continue doing
10 down the road.

11 I know you're saying they're always in
12 decline. I don't like the word, but the land has
13 changed a lot. The caribou has changed a lot. The
14 last time I seen the biggest herd in my life was 1980,
15 probably over a hundred thousand (100,000), two
16 hundred thousand (200,000) caribou in one spot.

17 From there, my grandpa said the land
18 changed and the animals are going to change, and sure
19 enough, right now, the way caribou migrates or -- they
20 act differently. They're a lot smarter, too. And
21 when you're out there, if you're not a very good
22 hunter, you're going to be going in circles all day.

23 So I just wanted to say that. Máhsı.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So we'll --
25 oh, go ahead.

1 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
2 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. The importance of caribou
3 to people in the Sahtú , to people in the NWT is not
4 lost on me. It's not something that ENR takes
5 lightly.

6 As someone who is from the NWT, who is
7 a Dene, but I haven't been as immersed in my
8 traditional culture as other people have been, I'm
9 currently re-learning some aspects of my culture.

10 I understand where you're coming from.
11 I understand how much this means to everybody in this
12 room. I understand the importance of wildlife and the
13 land and how close that is to everyone's heart.

14 Being -- living in the Sahtú for seven
15 (7) years, it was a wonderful experience. I was able
16 to go with you, Colville Lake to Horton Lake, and --
17 and see the fall hunt and be out there with people and
18 see just how -- how different it is to be out on the
19 land with people and -- and connect in that way.

20 You mentioned the surveys, so this is
21 my job, as you said. I stand behind our survey
22 numbers. I know that we get questions sometimes, but
23 I stand behind those. I've -- I've been on surveys.
24 I do that. That is my job, as I said, and I wouldn't
25 -- I couldn't stand here and tell you all of this

1 without standing behind those numbers.

2 You had mentioned the -- the calf-to-
3 cow ratio, that survey that you came out with us on.
4 And that's a composition survey is what we call it.
5 We'd done that in the spring, so, as you mentioned,
6 you're seeing lots of calves. That's the kind of
7 thing that we want to know about as one of the -- the
8 indicators for a caribou herd.

9 And what we do as biologists is go out
10 in a helicopter to -- to have an estimate of how many
11 calves there are in the herd. We don't go out and
12 look at every single caribou in the herd. And it was
13 one (1) of the things when we'd done the last
14 composition survey that we wanted to do jointly,
15 right, so that we go out and we're looking in this
16 area, and Colville Lake harvesters, people who are out
17 on the land, can look at -- at other areas, and then
18 we join that information together.

19 So I do want to point out that I
20 understand that we did not go and look at every single
21 caribou that was out there during that survey, but it
22 -- that's not how we normally do it.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: For --

24 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: If I could add,
25 Mr. Chairman -- I just wanted to add a little bit if I

1 could on that -- on that point.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Go ahead, and
3 then to -- to --

4 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Yeah. I'll be -
5 - I'll be short. Jan Adamczewski, with ENR. I just
6 wanted to mention, I think Deb's aware of this, but we
7 produced a couple of videos last year. One is on the
8 calving ground population survey; the other one is on
9 the post-calving survey which we use for the western
10 herds.

11 The one is about six (6) minutes, the
12 other's about five (5) minutes, and they were -- they
13 were kind of our attempt to make them easy to
14 understand. There's not a lot of math or there's no
15 graphs. There's none of that stuff. And we -- we
16 think -- we think they look pretty good, and we
17 actually have translated versions in several
18 languages, including North Slavey.

19 So at some point, we'd be more than
20 happy to make those available. You know, rather than
21 me standing here with a lot of graphs and figures,
22 it's -- it's kind of this approach to making the
23 surveys more understandable.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Joseph...?

25 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you. Joseph

1 Kochon, BAFN RRC. Just a supplementary to the
2 questions that was posed earlier regarding -- you said
3 the -- the Board set a Total Allowable Harvest in
4 2006. How did it change in 2014? How did it change
5 in 2018?

6 You say that, based on 4 percent ACCWM.
7 Who changed it, and when was this commitment committed
8 -- or communicated to us? Did you -- did you get a
9 letter from SRRB that said there is a Total Allowable
10 Harvest, and here it is? So that's the question.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
15 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. So I apologize if I -- if
16 I -- I made a mistake earlier. So for the Bluenose
17 West, what happened was there was a population
18 estimate that was done in 2005. At that time, that
19 showed the decline from 2000 to 2005, and maybe I'll
20 just go back to that.

21 So you can see there was that decline
22 between 2000 and 2005. Once the results of that
23 survey were given to co-management partners: WMAC,
24 GRB, SRRB. It was asked that the GNWT repeat the
25 survey to see if we got it right. That is why there

1 is another bar in 2006.

2 In 2006, WMAC and GRB gave
3 recommendations to the minister of ENR asking for a
4 Total Allowable Harvest for the Bluenose West herd.
5 And as we spoke about earlier, the SRRB held their
6 public hearing in Fort Good Hope in 2007 in order to
7 make that decision.

8 So coming out of that hearing came the
9 recommendation to the minister to put in the Total
10 Allowable Harvest which is 4 percent. That has not
11 changed.

12 And when I talk about 2019, I do want
13 to make it clear that it's not -- it's not a change in
14 the Total Allowable Harvest. So it still remains at 4
15 percent of the -- of the herd's population.

16 But because things have changed a
17 little bit, they just asked that we update the TAH to
18 reflect the 2018 population estimate. So the TAH
19 still remains at 4 percent of the Bluenose West
20 population estimate. It just -- it was -- it now
21 changes the numbers that are actually out there for
22 harvesters.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll carry on
2 to Déliné, questions about the presentation.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Máhsı, George.
7 This is Walter Bezha, with the Déliné Got'ıne
8 Government, ʔohdakə Council and also
9 Déliné Renewable Resources Council. I have all of
10 those groups here, and I think maybe tomorrow they'll
11 probably all (TRANSLATION SWITCHED - NO ENGLISH).

12 We have -- you know, like I mentioned,
13 Déliné has -- we had these plans, you know, started in
14 2015, so we still have a lot of implementation to do.
15 And it's -- it's not only the fact that -- you know,
16 this is what I -- I was telling -- I think I -- I tell
17 Jan that people almost, like -- you know, it's a
18 learning process for everybody.

19 So, I think, you know, the -- I have --
20 what I'm going to do is I have five (5) probably
21 questions, so I'm going to put it all in. And if you
22 want to take it as an undertaking, that would be just
23 fine as long as eventually we get some kind of answers
24 like Colville Lake are saying.

25 And I -- I like that idea, if, you

1 know, an undertaking, and then you have a record
2 rather than just me bringing this up. The first one
3 (1) is, and I think Colville Lake mentioned that, as
4 well, how do we make it work. I -- I want to use that
5 instead of say 'enforcement'.

6 There's a section in the Wildlife Act
7 that provides for -- I guess -- I don't know what they
8 call it in the Wildlife Act. I can't just recall.
9 It's alternative justice or -- so we need to work on
10 that.

11 I think in November we brought it up.
12 And Jeff said they're going through -- through an
13 election, so they -- they really didn't want to go
14 there. But it's the justice department that has to
15 provide the -- the changes in the legislation to
16 provide for that.

17 Okay, number 2 is a big one for D  lin  .
18 You know, we're going to implement -- we're going to
19 make this work. Then we have to harvest resources
20 that are available. And we need all the help there we
21 can.

22 And ENR has done that. Look in your
23 records. We've been doing that a long time. ENR has
24 been doing that a long time.

25 Okay. Another big one that we don't

1 really talk very much about, and, again, it helps
2 implement our (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPOKEN) Plan. It
3 is the traditional trade that the land claims has.

4 We've never really looked at ways to --
5 I'd love to see -- you know, I've been hinting at the
6 -- at the ACCWN with Gwich'in about, you know, we'll
7 give you fish, you give us caribou, and we'll -- we'll
8 do that.

9 You might have a better -- you know, I
10 think we all have to do it together. And we -- you
11 know, I would have loved it, and -- and Wilbert just
12 talked about it. It is sad when he can't give caribou
13 meat to people but somebody else can. The Gwich'in
14 can. We can certainly make that part of the -- and I
15 think that all helps.

16 That helps when in -- certainly in the
17 Dene conservation, that the -- what's available we
18 share. So, traditional trade is going to be something
19 that we're going to be looking at, as well.

20 But we'd like to see what ENR thinks of
21 that because you provide -- ENR -- or the Wildlife Act
22 provides the -- what do you call the -- you give them
23 permits for -- for sending out the -- the wildlife.

24 And then Jan is ahead of me. He said
25 we'll use the graphic recording for our youth in

1 education because we need that. We -- you know,
2 there's so much confusion.

3 I have a bunch of Elders here, and they
4 have absolutely no clue about this process. So, they
5 come here -- you've seen one (1) of my Elders come
6 here and he started talking. He thought it was a
7 public meeting. But I -- I'm not going to tell him
8 anything. If he wants to talk, he can do that.

9 But graphic recording for youth as part
10 of the education programs. And then I'm going to make
11 -- I have some -- I guess these are more something
12 they want happening, as well, the Elder comments.

13 We -- you know, we have to -- and I've
14 said it, you know. I'm not going to say it again. We
15 have to understand this process. When go re -- when I
16 go back to -- when I -- when I'm in front of my
17 government, I got to tell them this is what I
18 understand. And when I say that, I want everybody
19 here to understand the same thing.

20 I don't want somebody coming back to me
21 later and say, well, I thought this is what we were
22 agreeing to. So, I think the Elders are very
23 concerned about that.

24 And, you know, they're talking about
25 implementation. And they said we have a plan. I

1 understand that. And again, this one, its goes on.
2 And the same -- DGG, our government, is constantly
3 being reminded of this and they remind us the
4 recognition of the co-management system, the approach,
5 community-based approach, community decisions.

6 I don't know how we can make -- and
7 maybe we can do a little more of those graphic things
8 and really agree and say, yes. And I think maybe even
9 our leadership -- you know, I'm talking about the
10 political leadership in GNWT. They have to -- some --
11 those decisions that we're talking about here.

12 You know, tomorrow we have a chance to
13 talk some more about that. But like I said, for --
14 for time, you can take all this as undertaking. And
15 then I got the challenge of going back to my community
16 and saying all this in -- in my own language.

17 You -- one (1) of the other things is,
18 with our -- our government, all of us that sit on DGG
19 speak our language. So, pretty soon, when you go to
20 Délı̨nę, you're going to have to bring your own -- I
21 would love the answers in our own language, but that's
22 not going to happen, right? Máhsı.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any response to
2 that?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Good afternoon.
7 Brett Elkin, ENR. Thank you for the questions,
8 Walter. We're just debating how to approach. And I
9 think maybe the tact we'll take is there's some things
10 we'd like to share now on some of these topics and a
11 couple unifying thoughts.

12 And there will be more that we maybe
13 want to follow up with you directly, but I think we
14 can -- I'll start with several of them. And Heather's
15 looking up a couple, as well.

16 If I could start on the traditional
17 trade and practices of sharing. As you note, there is
18 some -- the Wildlife Act does speak to this but, also,
19 I think a key place to look is in the land claims.

20 Each of the four (4) subtle land claims
21 actually speak to traditional trade and barter and, to
22 some degree, lay out what has been traditional
23 practice and what can be done.

24 In the short-term, one (1) thing I --
25 we can share is we -- through working with the four

1 (4) lan -- land claims and the four (4) co-management
2 boards, we have a nice -- some summary information
3 that shows what's contained in each the four (4) land
4 claims in terms of trade and barter to give some
5 information, but we can have some further discussions.

6 I think one (1) of the leaders on that
7 field has been the Gwich'in through their claim.
8 They've held a number of recent workshops amongst
9 themselves to figure out how they best implement that
10 traditional practice with what's allowed within their
11 land claim.

12 So, I can take a look and get back to
13 you and to see if they have anything written up from
14 that. I don't know if they do, but we'll provide you
15 what we have in terms of -- because certainly a lot is
16 spoken to. It's not uncertainty. It's not a
17 restricted. It's -- the land claims do say what you
18 can do. So, we'll try to get you as much information
19 as we can.

20 On the graphic reportings and
21 presentations, we're with you. I think -- we've been
22 in-house. We've been fortunate. We've had some
23 really good -- and we're only one (1) of many players.
24 We've had some very good public information people
25 trying more visual tools, whether it's videos or some

1 -- I'm too old.

2 I don't know what an infographic is. I
3 know what they wrote for me, these pictures and things
4 that were -- this is another great tool. We're
5 absolutely with you that this is collective, the whole
6 topic, not necessarily a specific line to something to
7 pursue.

8 What I would suggest on some of these -
9 - I guess my overarching response to these is we could
10 give you a written response in theory of what ENR
11 thinks should be done on this. I don't think that's
12 the way to go.

13 We can provide input on what we know.
14 But the whole spirit of co-management -- I think the
15 thing is we need to work with you through the Délinç
16 plan, through the Colville plan, through SRRB, through
17 ACCWN.

18 I think we need to work together and
19 say how are we going to improve information sharing
20 and how do we bring these together. So, we -- I think
21 we need to do that at multiple levels.

22 And I -- and we -- we can certainly
23 commit in our discussions with Délinç and Colville
24 because those are the two (2) community plans on the
25 table that -- let's discuss how we do a lot of the

1 things you just raised within those plans, how do we
2 get that information, how do we bring in language in a
3 better way.

4 That's where the Board can really help
5 us, as well as the communities. That's not ENR to say
6 how to do it best, but we'll be there with you talking
7 about best way to do it.

8 I'll maybe stop now for a minute and
9 turn to Heather and see what she has to add on some of
10 these.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: So,
15 Heather Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. Walter, back in
16 2015 and 2016, when we were talking about the Délinç
17 plan, this is where that first -- we first started
18 talking about the alternative measures.

19 And I remember committing to people in
20 the room that I had to do more research, that I had to
21 talk -- talk to people in justice that -- because this
22 is not what -- I don't understand all of the things
23 that have to be done.

24 But it is in -- in one (1) of our IR
25 responses there's a lot of information about

1 alternative measures and how it's used. And -- and
2 during the presentation, one (1) of the things that I
3 kept pointing out is that ENR officers can only
4 enforce our legislation.

5 So, if there's something that's not in
6 our legislation, we can't enforce it. So, that's --
7 that's the first step. But there's a lot more steps
8 that have to be taken before alternative measures can
9 be used. And those, as I said, are laid out in the --
10 in the Information Request response.

11 And so, just to go through it in -- in
12 maybe a little bit higher level is, basically, when we
13 were talking about anything -- any offences, so the --
14 a lot of the discussions that we were having back in
15 2015 and 2016 is that ENR had to be involved right
16 from the beginning, right, and that we could never
17 enforce anything if we did not do an investigation
18 when we're involved right from the get-go.

19 And so, what we learned from justice is
20 that, in order to use alternative measures, we
21 actually have to -- to lay charges against someone and
22 that it has to go through that process where,
23 basically, the -- there -- there's a whole -- like,
24 there's a whole process laid out with justice.

25 And I think I -- I wouldn't do it -- I

1 -- I don't want to just read out what's on the page.
2 But maybe if -- if you look to that, that's -- that
3 cover is what alternative measures -- when they can be
4 used and -- and where they're appropriate.

5 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: And --
6 and that response is on the public registry. I can
7 point it out to you if you like, Walter, if you want
8 to dig it up.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

13 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
14 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. I'm sorry, Walter, can you
15 just tell me what your -- your last -- I think you
16 said you had five (5) questions.

17 So, that cu -- touched on the
18 alternative measures and our -- and our responses in
19 the IR. And then -- and Brett talks about the
20 traditional trade.

21 And so, can you just clarify for me
22 what the -- the other three (3) questions are?

23 MR. WALTER BEZHA: Thank you. Walter
24 Bezha, with DGG, Délı̨nę, or Deline (INDIGENOUS
25 LANGUAGE SPOKEN). Elder comments. Okay. And I think

1 I said in there that there has to be a good
2 understanding here.

3 You know, if -- if I talk to my Elders,
4 Alfred and Leon, and they're talking the same language
5 as me, in Délı̨nę, the same with RRC because they're
6 going to be talking to the RRC, we need to have that
7 clear, so.

8 And I like -- you know, when I talked
9 to the Elders, Al -- Alfred tells me -- he said, you
10 know, we got to make a motion so that we all follow
11 it. I said, yeah, it's okay, I'll tell them that.
12 That's what I'm saying.

13 So, that's what he's saying, that the
14 understanding has to be clear amongst all of us. And
15 I think that the part that I'm going to be maybe
16 talking about them a lot is that -- and I like that.

17 You know, like Brett said, it is
18 communication. It is talking. And I think you heard
19 it from Colville Lake because you -- you got to tell
20 us before you make a decision. You got to tell us
21 more about ACCWN, which goes back to George because
22 he's got to say, well, this is what they're talking
23 about and this is how we made our decision.

24 He's talking about the other co-
25 management boards, and -- which is good. But the

1 basic thing is we -- we do understand that we do
2 things together. I mean, it'll be different. We're
3 all in different areas. But we're try -- all we're
4 doing is trying to implement and make those plans
5 successful.

6 And then the -- the -- and this -- this
7 is a hard one because sometimes it doesn't seem like -
8 - just like a co-management board, finally, you know,
9 here in the hearing -- I remember the -- the first
10 hearings and where we don't -- we don't -- you know,
11 we'll say we recognize co-management boards or co-
12 management board, community-based boards, but you
13 don't see it.

14 You know, you don't -- it's only now.
15 And this is why my -- my -- I've been sort of pushing
16 that, you know, trying to get people to say co-
17 management board is the -- the main instrument of --
18 of Sahtú and they make the decision.

19 I've been saying that for the last ten
20 (10) years, and there's still people -- I mean, George
21 came to Délı̨ne and I said -- I tell people, George, he
22 makes big decisions for you guys. They still don't
23 believe me.

24 So, I think those things -- and, again,
25 you know, it re -- it falls back to DGG because DGG is

1 only three (3) years old. So, that government has to
2 be recognized.

3 And it starts even here because --
4 because this is -- you know, this is a -- this is a
5 big thing in Sahtú, this hearing and the public
6 listening approach where we understand each other
7 about who are the ones that are going to make
8 decisions.

9 So, I think that I'm going to bring
10 that message back. But that question -- you ask
11 yourself that question, are -- do we recognize Déliné
12 Got'ıne Dene Government as a government. Say that --
13 ENR, because we are a government.

14 Anyway. And I think that really helps
15 in the community, when you -- when you do things.
16 Like, say -- take an example, one (1) of your officers
17 come into Déliné, checks with DGG, I'm here, you're a
18 government, I'm just checking -- I'm just telling you
19 that we're in town, you know, something as simple as
20 that. And I think Colville Lake has said that.

21 And it -- and it's so simple. I think
22 we forget that we should do that because that really -
23 - that says to them, oh, they -- they know that we're
24 a government, they know that we're band council, RRC.

25 So, I think that's all I'm saying

1 there. And that's coming back from our Elders. They
2 -- they really want to see that. Máhsı. So, the
3 rest, you know, like you said, if you -- you've
4 answered most of it you can take at this and
5 undertaken.

6 And Debby is going to show me the site
7 so I can follow up on the alternative measures that
8 we're talking about. And I don't want to say
9 enforcement. I want to say to make the plan -- we
10 have a plan in Den -- or whatever I say, agree on what
11 to do, or to make the plan work. I think that's the
12 term I use which fits very well with the way that our
13 Elders thing. Máhsı, Chair. Máhsı, ENR.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll carry
18 on. Fort Good Hope panel...?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No questions at
20 this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Tulit'a.
22 Gordon...?

23 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: Yeah. My name's
24 Gordon Yakeleya. I'm the President of Tulit'a RFC. I
25 have a few questions I wanted to ask, but I wanted to

1 make clear how Tulit'a operates.

2 You know, I sat through here and
3 yesterday made a presentation about how the management
4 plan is going to come about in Tulit'a.

5 Sort of before the land claim, we had
6 one (1) organization that's called Hunters and
7 Trappers Association. And they picked a delegate that
8 speaks on behalf of all trappers in the community.
9 That's how it's been operated. But since after the
10 land claim, we kind of have two (2) organizations. We
11 call it Dene and Métis.

12 So, in Tulit'a, we have two (2)
13 organizations, the land claim court organization made
14 of two (2) bodies, the Dene and the Métis and where at
15 RC we have both reputation.

16 Today I have two (2) of my partners
17 here that represent Tulit'a Land Corporation, Dene
18 side. Now, we don't have other side here. This is
19 sort of how hard to me to decide on some of the things
20 that you asked me to support because I got to watch
21 myself. I got to be fair to the other party, too.

22 This is why the information, what I was
23 going to gather here today, I have to bring to our
24 communities where I can sit at the board. If both
25 party agree to it, we proceed. That's how we're going

1 to be working closely together.

2 So, I guess that's why I wanted -- just
3 wanted to point this out to the people here, because
4 there was some thi -- good things came out. And they
5 want me -- like, I can't say I'm going to do this
6 because I have to respect the other side, so this is
7 where I am today.

8 So, I just wanted to let you guys know.
9 Thank you anyway. We come from a small organization,
10 like I said yesterday. We're underfunded. But I'm
11 very happy that now we have a director high up where
12 I'm just going to ask them some questions.

13 Heather, I know Heather. Kevin I just
14 met. And I don't know the other. But I'm very happy
15 to be here asking you guys questions. Your questions
16 are going to help me get our people to understand what
17 we're talking about.

18 Some of this stuff we don't know
19 because we can't afford to jump on a plane, go to
20 Yellowknife and start meeting with you guys because we
21 don't have that money.

22 So, one (1) of the questions I wanted
23 to ask is, it's so important to us that the new
24 hunters that you're talking about, I don't know if
25 it's in the new Wildlife Act that comes into

1 territories that needs to take training.

2 I guess that's quite one (1) -- my
3 first question. What are you talking about new
4 hunters? Does that mean new teachers coming in or new
5 bay managers, or what is that?

6 So, that way, we fully under -- would
7 fully understand what -- what that means. So, I just
8 wanted to ask that first question. So, if you want me
9 to ask all the questions and you can answer them all,
10 or we'll go one (1) by one (1). I don't know. One
11 (1) by one (1)? Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
13 Thanks for doing it one (1) at a time. I -- Heather
14 will tell you I haven't got a very good memory, so
15 that'll work better.

16 Yeah, Heather gave me a quick overview
17 of the new hunter education. I think we're prite --
18 quite proud of it. It took -- I don't know how many
19 years, but quite a few years to come to put together.

20 And we heard -- under the Wildlife Act
21 we created, I think, all the Wildlife Act working
22 group. It was all the Indigenous governments and co-
23 management boards to help identify new regulations,
24 new things we wanted to do under the Wildlife Act.

25 And one (1) of the things we heard a

1 lot either through that group or through community
 2 consultations was -- for many communities is we need
 3 to have a tra -- hunter training program which exists
 4 in other jurisdictions for two (2) things. One (1) is
 5 to make sure people hunt safely but also respectfully
 6 and -- and recognize the unique things about the NWT
 7 or our region or our communities.

8 So, that's -- so we heard quite widely
 9 that we should develop it. The other thing we heard
 10 is we -- it doesn't apply to Indigenous rights holders
 11 to -- but we heard from communities that for -- and
 12 where we're using the term 'new harvesters' is people
 13 who really haven't hunted before.

14 So, those people that are legally
 15 required to do it in terms of new hunters, those are
 16 people who have never had a hunting licence before or
 17 haven't had one (1) in the last two (2) years or are
 18 coming from another jurisdiction and have not had
 19 hunter training.

20 So, as a high level -- I -- I can get
 21 you a list of the details, but it's those people who
 22 have not hunted before, haven't had a licence before,
 23 or haven't had training before.

24 But what we heard from communities is
 25 also make it available to kids who haven't hunted.

1 So, legally, some of them don't have to take it, but
2 they want it available to the youth just to make sure
3 hunting is done safely and respectfully.

4 We offer -- I should -- one (1) more
5 time. Sorry, I'm putting a plug in for the hunter
6 education. There's two (2) ways it can be delivered
7 for some of the youth. They make like it that you can
8 do it online as of January 1st of this year.

9 Apparently, I just got an update today,
10 we've had forty-three (43) people complete it so far
11 since January 1st or we can arrange a regional or
12 community basis. We just have to have a discussion of
13 having in-persons delivery. Thank you.

14 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: M-hm. Okay.
15 Thank you, anyway. Another question I have, I don't
16 know whose responsibility, but I know it was mentioned
17 here, and is -- it's a good question to ask, is the
18 species at risk. We never heard years ago what the
19 'species at risk' means.

20 And I remember back, I think, about a
21 year -- a year or so, we -- Canadian wildlife --
22 actually, Canadian Wildlife had come to Tulit'a, just
23 wanted to talk about boreal caribou that's considered
24 a species at risk, and the meeting didn't turn out the
25 way we were hoping it would because, I think, people

1 went -- they came and said, okay, spe -- because the
2 boreal caribou numbers are down, and they're --
3 they're saying the caribous are low.

4 But what -- when I learned a little bit
5 about it, that 'species at risk' means across Canada.
6 If some areas are low, then it's considered a species
7 at risk for all the area.

8 So, that's -- one (1) thing I did
9 mention to me -- again -- I'm mentioning it again. It
10 sure would be nice to host kind of a workshop in the
11 community that our Elders would understand what does
12 'species at risk' means so they can get the full
13 picture instead of having a meeting that you don't
14 want to see -- so, I -- I guess that's one (1) thing -
15 - I wanted to bring this out to you guys, if that
16 would be looked at, so.

17 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
18 Thanks for the question. I think you raised a good
19 point whi -- which I think a lot of people either
20 don't understand or haven't heard before.

21 For species at risk in Canada, we do it
22 at two (2) different levels. And you're absolutely
23 right. Sometimes we look and say how is this species
24 doing across Canada, so that's the Government of
25 Canada.

1 We also have our own Act in NWT. We
2 decided sometimes things might be different here.
3 Species might be doing well elsewhere but poorly here
4 or vice versa. They might be doing poorly in the rest
5 of Canada but okay in the NWT.

6 So, we -- fairly recently, 2010, we
7 made our own species at risk process, an Act and --
8 and some bodies. So, we actually have one (1) that
9 does just for the NWT and says how our species is
10 doing in the NWT.

11 Here's a really little thing but I
12 thing I really like. When you assess of a species at
13 risk it can get very technical. I like our
14 definitions we use in our Species at Risk Committee
15 and our Conference of Management Authorities that
16 George sits on on behalf of SRRB.

17 Is the way they describe it, if it's a
18 species that we're going to say is threatened, could -
19 - this -- if it's endangered, it's a species that
20 could disappear in your and my lifetime. If it's
21 threatened, it could disappear in our children's
22 lifetime.

23 We get into detail and science, but
24 that's kind of what they're saying, is if we don't do
25 anything different than we're doing today, they'll

1 disappear.

2 Long way around to say, I think, our
3 new species at risk process was set up in this co-
4 management framework. And all of the renewable
5 resource boards are part of it, so SRRB is part of it.

6 And I think what we can commit to is
7 we'll work with the SRRB to figure out how do we best
8 share that information with our communities. And I
9 think I'd want to have a dialogue with the Board and
10 their Board staff and say -- because this is a great
11 idea.

12 When we do go out, I think we need to
13 share more information, so I think we need to have
14 that dialogue, how does it work best. I don't want to
15 commit to a specific without talking to the Board
16 because I don't know what is best, so maybe we'll
17 commit to following up with the Board.

18 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, if
19 I could just add a little bit on this because I've had
20 some involvement with the -- the draft recovery
21 strategy for barren-ground caribou, which is -- that's
22 the NWT strategy.

23 And we -- we've seen meetings where the
24 Federal Government, Environment and Climate Change
25 Canada is what they're called, they've gone to

1 meetings in Nunavut. They've gone to meetings all
2 across the range, and some of those meetings have been
3 -- have not gone very well because we don't have that
4 history of working with our communities.

5 And the expectation is that the Federal
6 Government will list barren-ground caribou as
7 threatened, but that might be a year or two (2) down
8 the road. They're already holding meetings on it.

9 I see it as an opportunity. You know,
10 if we have a really good recovery strategy for the
11 Northwest Territories, that should satisfy any federal
12 requirement.

13 You know, they can look at that and say
14 you have a good plan, you're on track, and they don't
15 need really to do much of anything. With the boreal
16 caribou, there's a longer history there. There's a
17 federal recovery strategy of 2012.

18 And basically, what they said is every
19 jurisdiction in Canada that has boreal caribou has to
20 come up with a plan for how they're going to try to
21 turn around the declines.

22 Now, in this case, our boreal caribou
23 population in the territory is generally quite
24 healthy, except for maybe the south end towards
25 Alberta. Alberta's populations are in deep trouble,

1 but I -- I see it again as the same sort of thing.

2 If we develop plans for species at
3 risk, whether it's boreal caribou or bar -- barren-
4 ground or something else, and we do a good job through
5 our process, then we will satisfy any -- any federal
6 requirements.

7 So, I'd -- I'd rather see us have our -
8 - our kind of made-at-home solutions and plans rather
9 than having the Federal Government say you must do
10 this, this, or this.

11 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: Yeah, okay. I
12 have another one (1) that actually about -- happened
13 about two (2) years go. Actually, talking about the
14 grizzly bear that wanted to do a study up in the
15 mountain. I -- I don't know -- first guy's named Ed.
16 I don't know his last name.

17 But I guess he had met with the people
18 of -- the Elders of Tulit'a, but, I guess, you know,
19 in our culture, that Elder said do not talk about this
20 big boy especially this time of year.

21 So, we thought that it was going to be
22 waved off until the summertime, but it really never
23 happened. But we did participate. So, I guess I just
24 wanted to let you guys know respect us on those.

25 So, if it comes to those terms, that

1 you wanted to talk about grizzlies, maybe kind of wait
2 for -- for the spring when it gets warmer. So, this
3 is one (1) thing that we're told by our Elders not to
4 proceed with any discussion on it.

5 I just wanted to let you guys know you
6 guys can honour that word -- that -- respect us for
7 that.

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
9 Sayine-Crawford, for ENR. Thank you, Gordon. That's
10 -- that's really important. I know that there was a
11 little bit of confusion when we were put -- that --
12 talking about that project, and so that -- that really
13 clarifies things for me. Thank you.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: Okay. I still
18 have some -- a few questions yet. I know it's so
19 important to us that -- that we need to work on, but
20 we don't know where to start.

21 Another -- another one that we have
22 outstanding since the land claim -- this is about
23 what, twenty-six (26) of land claim.

24 And what is designated in Tulit'a
25 district is two (2) special harvest area. One (1) is

1 in the Old Fort Point area, and I believe it's for the
2 moose, that they want to have control of the moose
3 hunting in that area, and another one (1) is for
4 fishing at Bennett Field. It's between Délı̨ne and
5 Tulit'a where -- people used to go there for fishing,
6 that anybody have access today with jet boat.

7 And we don't know if it's out --
8 everybody's over fishing that area or we don't have no
9 information about Old Fort Point, if we're over
10 harvesting the area, but people -- that's not a
11 beneficiary. We don't know.

12 So, I guess those kind of things I
13 don't know where to start. I know I've been asking
14 this question, but I don't know where I can get an
15 answer to get the resource to implement it so, that
16 way, we have a guardianship program that could play a
17 role in that area where they can be the eye and ear of
18 the area.

19 So, this is one (1) thing -- I just
20 wanted to bring this up, you guys. This is an
21 outstanding issue for us.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather

1 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. Gordon, I -- I'm a little
2 bit unclear of exactly what you're asking. Can you --
3 can you rephrase it again so that I can -- I can hear
4 it one (1) more time?

5 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: I guess, one (1)
6 time when the land selection was happened, and I guess
7 people were asked to look at land, what is so
8 important to them. This is why they said, okay, Old
9 Fort Point, bring the history back to the people that
10 come down, you all are hunting and whatever they do
11 around that area.

12 So, they said, okay, we're going to put
13 -- we want to have it in the protection area --
14 protected area, special harvest area they call it,
15 where we can control -- like, the moose population's
16 very good, high, in that area.

17 And another area that we're talking
18 about is the Bennett Field area where it's fishing for
19 grayling. People used to be there at one (1) time.
20 And I know this is our -- two (2) outstanding issue I
21 know under the land claim still outstanding yet.
22 And I know have never been implemented yet. So I just
23 -- that's the question I wanted to ask is: Where do
24 you get resource to implement a special harvest area?
25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
4 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR.

5 So under the new Wildlife Act, which
6 came into force in 2014, ENR officers can now enforce
7 the -- the rights of -- of participants on -- on
8 private lands. So having -- if there's no one with
9 overlapping Indigenous rights in -- in an area with
10 Sah -- of Sahtú private lands, our -- our ENR officers
11 can -- can enforce that nobody else should be on those
12 lands harvesting, right? Like, that's -- that is one
13 of the things that we've talked about with Tulit'a
14 about Mile 222, for example. So that's -- that's
15 currently a power that our ENR officers have right
16 now.

17 In terms of the -- the guardian program
18 and the support for guardian programs, because that's
19 not entirely ENR, I'm going to have to -- I'm going to
20 have to go back and do some talking and -- and get
21 back to you.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Are you taking

1 that as an undertaking, so to speak?

2 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Yes.

3 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: And so the
4 timing of that will be...

5 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: The --
6 the same as the -- the last one, the one (1) week or
7 five (5) business days, whatever.

8 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Okay.

9

10 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 3: ENR to advise where do
11 you get resource to implement a
12 special harvest area

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Gordon.

15 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: Okay, thanks.

16 I guess another one is that -- you
17 know, yesterday, one of my colleagues -- one of the
18 Board members didn't mention about the tags, and I
19 guess one (1) thing that when we came to this meeting
20 that -- how do you regulate caribou?

21 And I guess one of the thing that he
22 did mention, all the tags have been issued out, I
23 guess, from Fort Simpson. That is what we understand.

24 And one (1) thing that I know, we'd
25 sure like to control that tagging, because we're not

1 saying no to people, but it's very important when you
2 know how much people are going through the gateways to
3 get into the mountain, whatever they're going.

4 And I guess one (1) thing -- one (1)
5 reason I'm ask -- saying this also ties into safety,
6 because sometimes people are get lost. We don't know
7 where they are. We don't have -- if we have a tag,
8 you know where the people are going, or you can say
9 this party's going up this way, so they can have --
10 whatever happens up in the river or whatever, then --
11 then we understand.

12 And also there is a question that I'd
13 sure like to see happen too is to licence to people
14 that -- like, teachers are coming out asking for a
15 licence and that. We don't know who gets licensed in
16 our community too. That's something that we'd sure
17 like to see too, because we're not saying no to
18 people, but we want to make sure where they go,
19 because you don't want to mistake people for ?eda,
20 whatever they do out there, hunting for moose or
21 whatever.

22 So I guess those -- I'd sure like to
23 see that, if that could be turned over to RRCs, that
24 we manage or start controlling what we are trying to
25 regulate the caribou, so the moose. And that'd be

1 great because the information would come back to us
2 and say, Oh, this is how much moose are taken out by
3 people. So I guess it's -- I just wanted to raise
4 that with you, so.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Thanks. Brett
9 Elkin, with ENR. Yeah, we were just making sure we
10 understood your question, and that we can follow up
11 with you for more details later offline.

12 But I think as a high-level, depending
13 on which type of tag or licence you're talking about,
14 if we're talking about a resident tag for a species --
15 and I'm not sure what your -- what this particular
16 case is -- there are restrictions in the Wildlife Act
17 where resident harvesters can harvest, what sex, what
18 -- what period.

19 What we don't specify, when you -- if
20 you get a moose tag, you can use -- if you buy it in
21 Yellowknife or Fort Simpson, you can use it anywhere
22 where you're legally allowed to harvest. So that
23 information -- it doesn't have to be issued out of
24 Norman Wells or Fort Simpson or Yellowknife, that a
25 tag could be issued.

1 What we do try to do is track resident
2 harvest so we can say how many were taken. We can't
3 always say where they were all harvested. We can with
4 non-resident. So outfitters and people from outside
5 the NWT -- we can tell you how many and where they're
6 harvested. So we can share that information with you
7 of how many are issued for those type of licences.

8 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: Okay, thank.
9 I guess just a last thing I wanted to say is -- a
10 short comment I wanted to make is, I guess I wanted to
11 thank Heather for coming into Tulit'a and met with us,
12 the right corporate body. You're asking about
13 collaring the caribou on the right-of-way, and that's
14 something that we haven't decided yet, but shortly,
15 that's going to be decided by both party.

16 Like I said, back home, we all come to
17 agree, and I think that's one (1) thing that we talk
18 about over a year ago to, I think, Canadian Wildlife
19 Service, asking this question, if we can do a study on
20 fire with caribou, how impact it is, and then the
21 muskox. But still today, nothing has happened.

22 So I think this would kind of help us
23 understand what the fire impact would have on -- if
24 there's any boreal caribou around those areas, because
25 I think the fire had really done the damage for the

1 caribou habitat, and I think for me, when I look at --
2 but I could be mistaken -- but hopefully, we can look
3 at that and see if it -- the community's willing, and
4 I think it would give us a study report back.

5 So I just wanted to say that. I just
6 got that. Thank you, George, and that's all the
7 question I have. Thank you, anyway.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Oh, Frank?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Frank Andrew,
13 from Tulit'a. I wanted to ask a question about --
14 2007, there was a meeting in Fort Good Hope about
15 total -- what do you call it? -- harvesting tags,
16 anyway. And under then -- I look at it because we're
17 from Tulit'a. We're -- we're right in the Sahtú
18 region too, but it seemed like there's no tags
19 allocated for us down here.

20 You see, it's such a small world now.
21 We're down here right now. So what it means for us,
22 if my boys are here and wanted to shoot a caribou
23 right now just down here, for example, do they get
24 charged because we have no tags?

25 I'd like to know that because we have

1 the right to hunt within the Sahtú settlement area,
2 but it seems like we're forgotten or -- or we have
3 just the right to shoot any amount we want here -- for
4 example, three hundred and fifty (350).

5 I have another question, but can you
6 answer that to me first?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
11 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. So in 2007, the public
12 hearing was held by the SRRB. It is -- it is their
13 process, and -- and just like today, ENR went to that
14 hearing and presented the information.

15 What came out of that was a
16 recommendation to implement a Total Allowable Harvest,
17 which I -- under the -- there -- there's a specific
18 definition of the Total Allowable Harvest under the
19 claim, and I'm not going to speak to that right now.

20 But it was also -- sorry -- it was also
21 the SRRB's decision about the allocation, so who got
22 the tags in the Sahtú . That -- that was -- once ENR
23 got those recommendations from the Board, we
24 implemented them. Thank you.

25 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: So what it means

1 for us? That's what I want to know. Is my boys going
2 to get charged if they shoot any caribou around here?
3 That's the thing I want to know.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Okay, Brett Elkin,
8 ENR. I'll take a stab, and then we'll see if either
9 our legal counsel or Heather would like to add.

10 I think as Heather laid out the
11 process, there is an allocation. It was determined
12 through the SRRB. So I think your community could
13 approach either the Board or Colville Lake to see,
14 because there -- a TAH does exist.

15 So I think the key thing is -- or as we
16 work through either the regional plan or the
17 community-based plan, I think those are the
18 discussions. How do we deal with that? What we have
19 right now is a TAH and an allocation that was made by
20 the Board, so I guess the discussions become from your
21 community -- is talking to the Board and to Colville
22 Lake.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Okay. Then I
2 want to ask another question about, you know, we have
3 the rights to hunt here, and we don't need a hunner --
4 a hunting general licence to do that here. But you
5 said on the other basis, you need a general hunting
6 licence, you said.

7 So we still have 1921 Treaty rights
8 within the -- the Dehcho region, okay, because they're
9 -- they're part of the Treaty 11 and they're not a
10 settled region as we all know. So we have the right
11 there, so -- as with our Treaty rights. So I'm just
12 wondering if we need it -- a general hunting licence
13 there.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Thank
18 you for your question, Frank. Heather Sayine-
19 Crawford, with ENR.

20 So I'm just going to talk about ENR's
21 legislation, and that's -- that's the Wildlife Act.
22 And so under the Wildlife Act -- we talked about how
23 that -- it -- it respects Aboriginal and Treaty
24 rights. And -- and specifically, when we start
25 talking about a GHL, it has always been ENR's view

1 that once all of the NWT has settled land claims, that
2 a GHL would no longer be needed because it's -- it's
3 clear in everyone's agreements where there's rights
4 and -- and that's all been worked out.

5 But currently, right now, anyone who
6 holds a GHL can harvest throughout the NWT. So -- and
7 I just do want to note, I'm a GHL holder. There's --
8 so you have -- it's -- it's a licence. In -- in the
9 Wildlife Act, there's some things under the big game
10 regulations that -- that put some limits on GHLs in
11 certain places where there's a conservation concern,
12 for example.

13 ENR also promotes respectful hunting,
14 which would include people who are harvesting outside
15 of their -- we -- we would recommend that people who
16 are harvesting outside of their traditional rights
17 area would talk to the -- to the local group.

18 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: One (1) more
19 small one. This one is because, you know, when -- in
20 the land claim, it talks about RRC, you know, and it
21 talks about seven (7) people sitting on the board as
22 residents of Tulit'a, the residents of wherever you
23 are from within our -- in our region, okay? So as we
24 always talk about representing the Dene and Métis , so
25 people has to be represent -- some represent has to

1 come from the Métis -- some has to come from.

2 But in the land claim book, it talks
3 about residents of -- I'll just use my community,
4 Tulit'a -- the residents, you're living in, okay,
5 seven (7) people res -- representing.

6 So for me, I think that -- that has to
7 be -- be clarified with us, because we always talk
8 about -- we don't speak for other people than that's
9 living within Tulit'a if we're just representing the
10 Métis and the Dene. But under the -- if you look
11 under the land claim, it'll tell you who you're
12 supposed to represent as an RRC board. I just wanted
13 to share that.

14 But I still didn't get my answer, but -
15 - because it's -- it's a scary situation for Tulit'a,
16 you know, because we have rights to hunt within the
17 settlement region, but because we don't have tags,
18 then we're going to go to jail. I think that's the
19 way it looks for us today, and it has to be clear to
20 my people that if you shoot caribou, because you got
21 no tags, you going to go to jail.

22 People, we have to know that. That's
23 why I'm talking about the tags. What it all means to
24 have a tag -- we have to know that. If we don't have
25 it, then we're hungry like people, you know? We -- we

1 live -- we live with that caribou, ourself too.

2 You see, that -- that's why I'm always
3 bringing this up. Same place with my friend in
4 Déline. What kind of rights we have within the Déline
5 region? Do we need tags to shoot caribou within
6 there, not only us, but the K'áhsho Got'ine people, if
7 they go there. You know, we have to protect our
8 people within the Sahtú region. That's why we have a
9 comprehensive land claim agreement is for all of us
10 within our region.

11 So that, I really would -- would want
12 to know about that. Without no tags, we can't do
13 nothing then. I want to know that. Thank you.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Oh, you want to
18 ask a question while they're conferring, or make a
19 comment?

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Gordon.

21 MR. GORDON YAKELEYA: That was one (1)
22 thing I did mention yesterday to the groups here when
23 I was talking about the management plan. One of the
24 areas I'd sure like to get help is cut this trail so
25 we can be self-sufficient, independent for our area

1 where we get caribou.

2 But today, like, the count I was
3 telling you? This is why I asked him this question
4 about -- if the funding we can get and cut this trail,
5 then these kind of things that we wouldn't have,
6 because we could be self independent and get our own
7 caribou to Drum Lake, so that kind of thing. So I
8 just wanted to bring it up. It would be nice to get
9 help, though.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just wait.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: So Colville
18 would like to make a point of clarification.

19 MR. DAVID CODZI: I think after the
20 2016 hearing and the 2017 letters and stuff like that,
21 we decided that we're not going to do any tagging. We
22 all agreed that we were going to send all our tags
23 back, and then we were going to work on our community
24 plans. So yes, you could go hunting, but, you know,
25 do it respectfully.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can we get some order
2 here? What's going on?

3 You're going to have a response?

4 MR. BRETT ELKIN: You'll have to pick.
5 Now we have three -- three (3) questions on the table.
6 Maybe -- the most recent one with the Colville, the
7 point that was just raised.

8 I think an important thing to raise
9 there, that's why we have an interim agreement with
10 Colville is to work on the tags and authorizations. So
11 we have a process. We have an interim agreement for -
12 - with Colville to move forward and have those
13 continued discussions.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, David, go
15 ahead.

16 MR. DAVID CODZI: Just to explain
17 myself, when we decided that and, you know, the
18 decisions that were reached on the -- the last
19 hearing, and we know that decisions that came out of
20 the Board, you know, should be going to the ENR
21 minister, and it should have come back by now.

22 You know, the decision was that we were
23 not going to take any tags and the Total Allowable
24 Harvest wasn't going to go; therefore, you know, we
25 decided we didn't want to -- like, the decision was

1 reached already.

2 And so the community plans were put in
3 place so that we could take the place of those Total
4 Allowable Harvest, and management systems would be put
5 in place. Total allowable harvest is right at the
6 back end. You go there to enforce, but then you have
7 all these measures that you never tried, so that's....

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, so that
9 explains that, then. What else you have?

10 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: It's
11 Heather Sayine-Crawford, with ENR.

12 So coming out of the 2016 SRRB Bluenose
13 East hearing, what was accepted by ENR was the Deline
14 Caribou Conservation Plan, and I'm really sorry, I
15 cannot -- I can't ex -- I can't pronounce it properly,
16 so I'm not going to try. And under that, we had
17 agreed to a form of authorization for the Bluenose
18 West animals, which are here.

19 Like I said before, that TAH is still
20 in place until we get a recommendation that it isn't
21 in place anymore, and this is the reason that we've
22 been having these discussions with Colville Lake and -
23 - and talking about all of these issues and -- and
24 working on the Co-Management Agreement, which we're
25 really happy to have signed.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, so that's --
4 back to Good Hope.

5 Oh, you had that question, Frank?

6 CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Yeah, just a
7 short one. I -- I find the discussion very
8 fascinating, but I try to put a context on it for
9 myself so that I can understand it better. And I -- I
10 try to look at -- think in the long term.

11 If you recall our history, most of us
12 here were wards of the government at one time, up
13 until 1960. We had no rights in Canada, absolutely
14 zero. We got the right to vote around 1960, and
15 governments and ourselves have been struggling to
16 define what those rights are, and we're still doing it
17 to -- today.

18 And these discussions and -- and
19 understandings that the parties use between each
20 other, what does that mean for my inherent rights? I
21 wonder -- like, you don't have to answer it now, but,
22 you know, I think it's a real critical question,
23 because if a government that is going to be
24 responsible for this, then I think we have to know
25 what that means.

1 And it seems like across the country,
2 the only way that we can get -- move forward or -- or
3 get clarity is only if we go to the judges. And I'm
4 just wondering -- perhaps, maybe there's legal counsel
5 in the room -- if there's any case law that relates to
6 -- to matters that we're discussing today. Thank you
7 very much.

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Thank
9 you, Frank, for your comment and question. So maybe I
10 should take a step back as well and just come back to
11 -- to our presentation.

12 And what we talked about is that the
13 Total Allowable Harvest was ultimately put in place to
14 help conserve the Bluenose West caribou. It was
15 decided among three (3) man -- co-management boards --
16 WMAC, GRB, and SRRB -- back in 2006, and then out of
17 the hearing in 2007 here in -- or, here in the Sahtú ,
18 that there should be a Total Allowable Harvest to help
19 conserve the Bluenose West, because people were
20 worried about that herd and how -- how things had
21 declined between 2000 and 2005.

22 So that is -- that is the ultimate
23 reason for a TAH, and -- and we followed all of the
24 processes that are -- are outlined in the land claim
25 in order to put that in place. And -- and I -- when I

1 say 'we,' I mean the collective 'we' as co-management
2 partners. This is not simply an ENR decision, as I
3 have said before. The -- the hearing that was held in
4 2007 was an SRRB hearing, and there was
5 recommendations that came from the Board to the
6 minister of ENR, which we then implemented.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we'll carry on
8 to Norman Wells.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we're still in
13 Tulit'a. Go ahead, Fred.

14 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: Hello, my name
15 is Frederick Andrew, member RRC and also a Shúhta
16 Dene. I -- I just want to touch on that species at
17 risk regarding the bor -- the boreal caribou and
18 Mackenzie Mountain caribou, because I'm Shúhta Dene
19 caribou, I know my caribou really well, and I grew up
20 with them, and I live with them.

21 And I know that northern -- as far as
22 northern Québec, all the boreal forest, I know the
23 caribou come right up to here in Northwest Territory.
24 But when I heard of the species-at-risk registry
25 across Canada, to me, and up here, I don't believe it,

1 because -- but first of all, I want to talk in my own
2 language.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: But first of
7 all, I want to talk in my own language because I know
8 some of the Elders from Délı̨nę, I want them to hear
9 exactly what I'm talking about.

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

12

13 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: When they're
14 talking about the boreal caribou and the mountain
15 caribou, the federal government said that they've
16 talked -- they -- they've -- they have put them on the
17 -- in the species at risk. I don't know who had said
18 this or where it came from.

19 And then people from Saskatchewan, BC,
20 Alberta, I can -- they do -- when they say species as
21 -- at risk, because there's a lot of things that are
22 happening in their areas. And in the Northwest
23 Territories, we have not -- we have not -- those
24 things do not happen up here. And so the federal
25 government had mentioned the species at risk.

1 For me and for the boreal caribou, I
2 don't think it is right. It is like they're
3 frightened people, and -- and they said -- they
4 mentioned that there is no -- not enough caribou in
5 the mountains. And so in my opinion, who -- who told
6 them that there was less caribou? And so they told us
7 that species at risk, I want to know who told you.
8 Thank you.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Thank you. Brett
13 Elkin, with ENR. I guess we got two (2) species at
14 risk, the federal and NWT. And we got two (2) types
15 of caribou; we've got mountain and boreal. I'll just
16 give it a high-level.

17 Heather -- I can't remember who gave it
18 when we were going through the presentation. For
19 boreal caribou, the Government of Canada reviewed
20 their information first. They have a process to
21 decide if they think it's at risk.

22 For the NWT, where we get our advice on
23 species at risk comes from something called the NWT
24 Species at Risk Committee. So it's got members
25 appointed by all co-management boards and Indigenous

1 governments and has both science and traditional
2 knowledge. So there's actually a couple people in
3 this room that sit on the Species at Risk Committee,
4 so they look at all available scientific and
5 traditional and local knowledge.

6 So the NWT, when they said boreal
7 caribou were species at risk, the advice came from the
8 Species at Risk Committee and was recommended to a
9 thing called the Conference of Management Authorities,
10 which is the co-management boards. So that process of
11 evaluating and determining was done through that
12 process.

13 MR. FREDERICK ANDREW: Back to me, I
14 said I'm going back -- going back to the Elders'
15 traditional knowledge, and the scientific and
16 traditional, we should work in hand in hand in order
17 to come out with really correct information.

18 Right now -- I don't want to say this -
19 - but right now, I really don't believe you guys are -
20 - what you guys are saying, that boreal forest and
21 Mackenzie Mountain caribou are at risk.

22 I know I see that in Alberta and BC,
23 Saskatchewan, yeah, there's lots of people logging and
24 all that, but not up here yet. So I want to thank you
25 anyway. I just need -- need more -- more information.

1 Máhsı.

2 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
3 Thanks for sharing that. I -- I guess one (1) other
4 thing -- very short -- that I will throw out is one
5 (1) thing with the NWT species-at-risk process is
6 there's a review process where a species doesn't stay
7 on the list forever.

8 We need to do a reassessment, so that
9 Species at Risk Committee we were talking about with
10 TK and science holders will review it and see what new
11 information do we have. Science, traditional, local
12 knowledge.

13 So I think the one (1) nice thing we've
14 built in the NWT system is, as you suggest, if there's
15 additional information -- did we miss something; did
16 we get it wrong? -- we have that chance to review it
17 and say, Did we make a good decision? Have things
18 changed, and what -- and do we want to reconsider it?
19 So we have that opportunity -- the NWT process.
20 Thanks.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, are we done
22 with Tulit'a? So -- oh.

23 Okay, go ahead.

24 MR. THOMAS MANUEL: My name is Thomas
25 Manuel. I'm from Good Hope, and I -- I was in the

1 wilds about three (3), four (4) years ago, that I
2 remember, at the time when I was there, they were
3 going to give us a tag and I said no. I said no
4 because I think about the -- the young people's
5 future. We have about a hundred and forty (140) kids
6 going to school.

7 And next twenty (20) years if they have
8 to live by the tag, then I don't want that. We
9 already live the way we wanted to be, that's the way
10 we should be. We should be happy the way we are. You
11 know, today the cancer is is getting stronger because
12 there's not enough meat, wildlife from the -- from the
13 land. Our people were healthy people.

14 So this is all -- that's all I want to
15 say. But -- but just to let you guys know, we don't
16 want the tag in Good Hope. And I think all the Sahtú
17 regions should feel the same way. We -- we killed
18 over what -- over the tag, we're going to be charged
19 and we don't want to see that. So Máhsı.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Norman Wells
21 Panel...?

22 MR. STUART POPE: Good afternoon.
23 Stuart Pope, Vice-President, Norman Wells Renewable
24 Resource Council. I got three (3) questions, and I'll
25 try to keep them short.

1 The first one (1) kind of touches on a
2 -- something that Joseph had brought up earlier
3 regarding, you know, differentiating between the --
4 the sub-species of caribou. The caribou, where I'm
5 from in Norman Wells, we have the north mountain
6 caribou and the Boreal caribou now. I say now,
7 because when I was a kid it -- we -- we had woodland
8 caribou and that was it.

9 Now -- now it's become two (2) distinct
10 subspecies and it's been recognized by ENR. And
11 correct me if I'm wrong, now there's a tag issued for
12 boreal caribou -- this I'm talking non-beneficiary
13 hunters, there's a tag issued for boreal caribou as
14 well as a tag issued for the North Mountain caribou.
15 And I'm -- I'm correct with that, yes?

16 The -- that really, really concerns me.
17 To me that's a -- that's quite a huge gaff. We're
18 here to protect the animals. And basically, you've
19 given unsavoury folk the -- the tools to buck the
20 system, find the loophole, and shoot what is
21 essentially the same caribou, in -- in my books
22 anyway, I know that they might have a separate DNA
23 string.

24 But the -- that -- that comes across as
25 terribly harmful, especially when you're talking about

1 the -- the boreal caribou with numbers in the six (6)
2 to seven thousand (7,000) animal range. There's --
3 there's a lot of non-beneficiary hunters in the NWT.
4 And as of right now, each one (1) of them is offered
5 two (2) tags. That really concerns us in Norman
6 Wells.

7 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
8 Thanks for the question.

9 When we went through a -- what we call
10 the Phase 2 Wildlife Act process, it was during when
11 we had the new Wildlife Act in 2014, it was done
12 collaboratively. It took fifteen (15) years. I think
13 -- the -- the Wildlife Act Working Group with
14 Indigenous Governments and co-management boards, they
15 agreed on many, many things.

16 There was a few other ones they said we
17 need more thought. For example, I think one (1) is
18 wild pigs, one (1) is the use of drones. And they
19 said, We're not ready to make a decision yet, let's
20 keep working on those. So that -- what we called them
21 is a package of Phase 2. And that's where we did --
22 associate with that is where we did the split.

23 And during those discussions we looked
24 -- got a look at all factors and we absolutely looked
25 at what you talked about: What's the risk of someone

1 taking two (2) rather than one (1). One (1) of the
2 big reasons people wanted to move that way is they --
3 a lot of similarities with two (2) types of caribou.
4 They're in different locations; where people harvest
5 is different.

6 At the end of the day when all the
7 people around the table met from all sorts of groups,
8 IGOs, other stakeholders, co-management boards, they
9 said being able to separate them gives us additional
10 flexibility. The concern you had raised is right but
11 allows more flexibility if one (1) of the populations,
12 if there's a problem in the mountains, but not down
13 below, we're worried that we can't -- we can't target
14 our -- our management actions.

15 So by separating them out, you can
16 apply different management actions, as required,
17 depending on the conservation need.

18 What has already happened in parallel
19 with that is for the boreal caribou, because of the
20 low numbers, in partnership with that we actually
21 reduced the season for resident harvesters to take
22 boreal caribou and we made it bull only. So by
23 separating them out, we were actually able to put more
24 restrictive restrictions on boreal caribou, just to
25 make sure a harvest was sustainable.

1 So it is a trade-off and, yeah, the
2 decision of the collective group was, we think this
3 will give us the best way to try to protect when
4 there's an issue in one (1) or the other. And we can
5 use different tools as necessary for the mountain
6 versus the boreal.

7 So and that was the discussion that was
8 held at that Wildlife Act Working Group. Thanks.

9 MR. STUART POPE: Okay. Thanks for
10 that. Okay. So you said this -- this is in the Phase
11 2 of the -- of the Wildlife Act. So this means this
12 is not set in stone. This is -- this is still a
13 work-in-progress, correct?

14 MR. BRETT ELKIN: No, the Wildlife Act
15 Phase 2 regulations took an extra four (4) years, but
16 they -- five (5) years to, but -- but they came into
17 effect July 1st of 2019.

18 MR. STUART POPE: Okay. So the' -- so
19 these are set in stone.

20 Okay. Is this something that can
21 perhaps be improved upon because as of right now the
22 difference between the -- the boreal and north
23 mountain is it is an imaginary line on the map. And
24 you know, I know the chances of running into the herd
25 right on that imaginary line is slim, but -- but you

1 see our concern.

2 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
3 with ENR. Just a little bit of clarification of where
4 those ecological kinds of caribou came from.

5 There was a report about 2011, was done
6 by a committee on the status of endangered wildlife in
7 Canada, and what they did is they wanted to figure out
8 how many different kinds of caribou there are all
9 across Canada.

10 So they got a bunch of experts
11 together, they looked at genetics, they looked at
12 seasonal movements, basic ecology, and they came up
13 with, I think, they called them designatable units,
14 which is kind of an awkward term, and we prefer to
15 just say a different kind of caribou.

16 So there's a map that they came up with
17 for Canada that says, "These are the eleven (11)
18 different kinds." And we've kind of adopted that and
19 that in our presentation we talked about having five
20 (5) of those kinds of caribou. So the Peary caribou
21 up on the Arctic Islands, Dolphin union migrates
22 between Victoria Island and the mainland, the boreal,
23 the mountain, and the migratory barren ground.

24 So those designations came out from
25 genetics, from movement patterns, from all kinds of

1 studies that were available. So we've kind of
2 followed those designations and that's -- that's where
3 those come from.

4 I would also mention there was some
5 very nice genetic work that was done in the Sahtú
6 region by Jean Polfus. She was collecting poop
7 samples and then looking at DNA. And she found those
8 three (3) types of caribou for the Sahtú .
9 Genetically, they're not that far apart, but they do
10 live in different ways, and they are recognized in the
11 Sahtú by Indigenous people as being three (3)
12 different kinds of caribou.

13 So just a little bit of background on
14 where those designations came from.

15 MR. BRETT ELKIN: And I don't want to
16 give you too long an answer, but I'll add on the
17 management side on top of that. So that's how they
18 were identified.

19 Then as we highlighted, we want tools
20 to focus on the needs of each designatable unit, each
21 group. That was the consensus after a lot of hard
22 work with all these co-management partners. So I
23 think with the new Wildlife Act, using this
24 co-management system so.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. BRETT ELKIN: So -- so that's what
4 we ended up with the Wildlife Act Work Group with the
5 -- following in the co-management system. That was
6 the decision.

7 I think -- or the important thing to
8 note is that while Legislation itself Acts take a long
9 time and can be difficult or slower to change,
10 regulations are more fluid. And that's where we put a
11 lot of these type of things, whether it's seasons or
12 numbers, we put them in regulations because relatively
13 speaking, it's easier to use that co-management
14 system.

15 So that was the consensus of the
16 co-management partners of the day. If something
17 changes or we see a problem, we can use that
18 co-management system to say, We think, actually, this
19 would work better, so it is fluid.

20 So yes, that regulation is put in
21 place. The Inuvialuit particularly, through their
22 land claim, we change regulations quite frequently.
23 They're driven often by -- at the community level or
24 from WMAC or Inuvialuit Game Council, we're really
25 regularly -- and they probably can speak better to me

1 -- we change regulations as we learn more, as things
2 change.

3 So it's a fairly fluid, it's more fluid
4 than one (1) might imagine as we learn more. And if
5 there's concerns, as we have better information, we
6 can make new decisions.

7 MR. STUART POPE: Okay. Thank --
8 thanks for your guys' answers.

9 I -- like I'm not going to play the
10 dumb card, I got my university of grade 9. I just,
11 you know, like sometimes tha -- that's great. I -- I
12 understand that there is the genetic diversity amongst
13 them.

14 But sometimes it just comes across that
15 ENR is smarter than the caribou. That, like -- the --
16 the I don't know if that is -- is fair. But it's a --
17 I don't know, it just really concerns me tha -- that
18 the two (2) tags is -- is the main thing.

19 But I -- I'm not going to beat this to
20 death here. I think you guys have answered my
21 question. I'll get on to my next one (1) here.
22 People are hungry.

23 Okay. The -- the hunter education
24 online course now that I -- that we just looked up and
25 see is available now, where -- where did this come

1 from? Like who designed it? That's -- 'cause --
2 'cause I -- I think the -- the -- what the people want
3 here is for non -- non-beneficiaries, non-traditional
4 harvesters to adopt some traditional practises.

5 So, oh, where -- where did this
6 brochure come from? 'Brochure' is not the word,
7 but...

8 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Yeah. Thanks for
9 that question. I'll give the high level and we can
10 follow up and try -- more additional information.

11 When we were preparing for Wildlife Act
12 during extensive consultation, working through that
13 Wildlife Act Working Group, that's where we heard the
14 need from communities and Renewable Resources boards
15 to have this.

16 What was established -- and I can get
17 you the details, depending how much detail you want --
18 we setup two (2) working groups with representation at
19 two (2) different times.

20 It took over a period of almost ten
21 (10) years. There were some pauses to get this
22 developed. But we had local hunters, we had reps from
23 certain IGOs, certain Renewable Resources Boards. So
24 they're basically -- we try to get front-line people
25 who actually knew what wildlife to contribute.

1 Whenever you have working groups of ten (10) or twelve
2 (12) people, you're -- you're not going to get a
3 hundred percent diversity of the view, so they helped.

4 We've gone to on the line -- on the --
5 online to try help facilitate easy access. So we've
6 tried to include that community-base, the ethics.
7 It's harder to get on there, admittedly. So what we
8 also offer is face-to-face or in on -- in person. We
9 have some people trained up if communities or regions
10 ask us to come.

11 And the way we did the fewr -- first
12 few that we've piloted, we actually brought in --
13 bring in community members. So not only are you
14 getting -- you're getting the local values, knowledge,
15 expertise. So when people hear it it's not just
16 general, it's what happens in the Sahtú or what
17 happens in Fort Good Hope or what happens in Norman
18 Wells?

19 So the on the land, the -- the in
20 person gives us that much more to actually get a
21 little more. We've tried to incorporate the best we
22 can on the online.

23 MR. STUART POPE: Okay. Thank you.

24 Yeah, like I -- I wasn't -- I wasn't
25 trying to pick apart the thing. I think it's a great

1 tool. I -- I really -- I believe in it. And I -- I
2 just -- our membership wanted to know where -- where
3 the design come from. And thanks for that. You
4 answered that clearly.

5 Last question: Okay, yes. The species
6 at risk. And just again, some -- some of my members'
7 concerns is when an animal is added to the
8 Species-at-Risk list, do you -- do you typically
9 consult the -- the land groups that could potentially
10 be affected? Like you know, obviously, we're not out
11 harvesting boreal frogs or anything, but you know?
12 But yeah, but are -- are we consulted?

13 MR. BRETT ELKIN: How about I -- 'cause
14 everyone is getting hungry. I'll give you the
15 shortish. Heather will kick me 'cause I never give
16 short answers.

17 But the short answer is, yes, this
18 process of -- it -- it's done by the conference of
19 management authorities which has all the wildlife
20 co-management boards, it has a Can -- a Government of
21 Canada, it has the Government of NWT. That's the
22 group that decides, based on the advice of that -- we
23 talked about that advisory group independent of TK and
24 science experts, they make a recommendation. The CMA
25 makes that decision whether or not to list.

1 --- Upon recessing

2 --- Upon resuming

3

4 QUESTION PERIOD CONTINUED:

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. While we're
6 waiting for the other guys, how about Indigenous
7 Leadership Initiative, any questions for ENR?

8 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Okay. We just
9 need a minute to shush people. Kie -- Kirsten, can
10 you -- can you help with some shushing?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Order.
15 Quiet, so we can carry on our meeting and wrap up.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. ILI...?

20 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I want to
21 ask the officials from ENR what -- what evidence do
22 you use -- does ENR use that makes it -- that makes
23 them think that total allowable harvest of caribou
24 will replen -- will replenish the herds? What -- what
25 evidence is there that that will happen?

1 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.

2 Thanks for the question. I'll try to keep it short,
3 because I do tend to give long answers.

4 I think we've heard -- and I -- and I'm
5 going to start my answer quite high. I think we've
6 heard it from people around the room over the last
7 couple days, caribou declines are complex. There's
8 multiple factors, and we need to address all of them.

9 And when you look at management plans
10 for herd...

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Yeah. And we -- so
15 you -- so we -- you need to look at all factors. When
16 we develop co-management -- or herd-specific
17 management plans collaboratively, we look at all of
18 them, and we say, what can we do to help with the
19 conservation concern?

20 Addressing harvest is one (1) of the
21 tools -- not the only tool. We turned to a TAH
22 because in the process, through the land claims,
23 that's what has been established. Are there other
24 ways to manage harvest? There may be, but that's the
25 tool with the Sahtú Renew -- Sahtú land claim, to

1 manage harvest.

2 If -- if you -- if collectively, when
3 we get together and say, we think there's a
4 conservation concern, that's what the process lays
5 out.

6 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: It's been
7 twenty-five (25) years or twenty-six (26) years since
8 the claim, and so much has happened in the world, and
9 in the Sahtú world, and with our environment, and our
10 animal populations.

11 The world is a changing place, and
12 climate change has provided us with more than one (1)
13 challenge. Is it possible that maybe the government
14 might take it upon itself, with the advice from ENR,
15 to look at other factors like mining, oil and gas,
16 repealing faulty or inappropriate legislation, like
17 the permitting residency clause for the Wildlife Act?

18 Is it possible? You say -- I read when
19 you were going through your thing, that your final
20 decision that took four (4) years to finalize the
21 Wildlife Act, that stuff took you four (4) years, and
22 it was done on a collaborative incorporation of what
23 you heard from all the different groups.

24 If that is the case, why is it that
25 every meeting I went to, people said, We don't want

1 the one (1) year residency. I remember that so
2 clearly. We don't want it. We don't think it works.
3 It's not for us.

4 And in the end, the Minister went ahead
5 and did that. What kind of collaboration is that?
6 And -- and what can you do to change that?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Thanks for the
11 question. Brett Elkin, ENR.

12 You had many points in there, so I
13 undoubtedly will forget some, and you can remind me.
14 I think I would start again. And I'm going to -- I
15 always jump in the weeds, just start at a high level.

16 I think we all recognize -- well, we
17 all have a role and a responsibility in wildlife
18 management, and -- and we think we have to emphasize
19 first that these decisions are done through a co-
20 management process, whether they're through Renewable
21 Resources boards, whether or not they're the Species
22 Act Committee.

23 So I think I would start with all of us
24 need to ask all those questions you answered,
25 absolutely. And we need to come up with solutions

1 together.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Yeah. So I won't
6 repeat that. I think -- I -- the first start is we do
7 this collaboratively. So I think all those questions
8 you asked are good, and we need to do them together,
9 because we aren't the only decision-maker. We're --
10 we do this together.

11 One (1) of the early things you raised
12 is are we willing to consider other factors? And I --
13 I would say absolutely. We need to, and we do, and
14 I'm -- by "us" again, I don't mean ENR. I mean
15 through the co-management system. We need to --
16 whatever species you're looking at, you need to look
17 at all the things affecting it.

18 You look at some of the herd plans,
19 taking care of caribou for Bluenose East, Bluenose
20 West, and Cape Bathurst. It considers habitat
21 disturbance. It can considers development. It clin -
22 - considers climate change. It considers predators.

23 So we do need to do it. Do we -- do --
24 does the collective we have everything right? I think
25 that's the challenge. Things evolve, and we have to

1 learn, and we have to adapt. So I think we can't just
2 put anything in place. As a collective, we need to
3 keep revisiting these.

4 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I have
5 another one. Poverty is a really big issue in the
6 North. Income support, welfare, unemployment
7 insurance because of the high seasonal employment, and
8 the fact that there are limited jobs, you're off the
9 grid, and -- and the cost of living's, like, 40 to 60
10 percent, maybe even 80 percent sometimes. So
11 expensive for people to live.

12 I have a pension. I have a government
13 pension, and I work all the time, and my husband and I
14 are two (2) people. We live in one (1) household, and
15 it's expensive to live in the North.

16 How do people live? Do you consider
17 when you put on Total Allowable Harvest, and that
18 means the community that accepts that can't -- have to
19 live under a restriction? And if there's no caribou,
20 they have nothing to give to their family to eat.
21 They have to go to another jurisdiction, or another
22 neighbouring First Nations, or region within the
23 region, to -- or another district to basically go and
24 get what they can't get at home.

25 What's the -- what's the logical

1 thinking, here? I don't see it as being logical. You
2 are doing to solve a problem, not create other
3 problems for other people. And then doing what you do
4 with the Total Allowable Harvest, what you're doing is
5 you're displacing poverty from one (1) area to the
6 other. You're putting the responsibility on the
7 neighbours to feed their neighbours.

8 You guys have the supreme authority,
9 because I don't believe for one (1) second that the
10 decision on the Wildlife Act was co-management -- co-
11 managed. There were a lot of things that there were -
12 - there was agreement on, but ultimately, when it came
13 to -- right down to residency -- and we -- we based
14 our protests on the fact that our lands were being
15 overrun on the Yukon -- Yukon border.

16 The land was being damaged by all those
17 all-terrain vehicles. And the people there that live
18 there, too, in Ross River were being stressed out by
19 the people coming in and -- and just willy-nilly -- I
20 guess I shouldn't say extorting, but just taking
21 whatever they want, in any way they want. It's like a
22 free-for-all.

23 So my question is: Did you reconcile
24 poverty with renewable -- with poverty, with the lack
25 of land's food security? And also, did you consider

1 in there legislation that might work? Did you think
2 about that?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Great. Thank you.
7 Brett Elkin, from ENR.

8 I approach -- appreciate the question.
9 I was deciding if I start from the large lens or the
10 small lens, and I'll maybe start from the -- the small
11 lens, or -- I think over my career, and I think --
12 coming places like this, I -- to meetings like this,
13 or to working with our co-management partners, working
14 with hunters, I think I could -- even after thirty
15 (30) years, I continue to feel and learn that while
16 I've put particularly caribou, and I listened to
17 Walter, and I listened to the Codzi -- David, and I
18 think -- I listen to people, and I just hear the
19 passion, and what it means to them.

20 Absolutely. And I think when we as --
21 collectively make these decisions, which is what we do
22 in co-management, that absolutely is one (1) of the
23 things we have to consider.

24 And that's the hard balance, I think,
25 when all of us get together and trying to work. And I

1 think of some of the stuff from the Déliné Plan, when
 2 they have to look and say, We're concerned about
 3 caribou. It's that important to us now, but for those
 4 of us who are not young, it's that important to our
 5 grandchildren, that import -- important to our great
 6 grandchildren.

7 Do we think we have to do something now
 8 to have it for our grandchildren? And if we do, of
 9 course it's going to have food security. It's going
 10 to have social. It's going to have culture. That's
 11 got to be part of what we do.

12 I like what things like the Déliné Plan
 13 have done, where they've said, Yeah, of course, we
 14 want to be getting caribou, but maybe we'll use other
 15 species in our area. And Walter speaks way better
 16 than me, so I won't try to repeat what Walter says,
 17 but maybe we find because food security is so
 18 important, and we want to make -- have it culturally
 19 appropriate.

20 So absolutely, that's the complexity
 21 with this. It's -- it's very difficult issue.

22 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Well, I see
 23 you're avoiding the issue of displacing poverty from
 24 one (1) area to the other, but it's -- it's got to be
 25 a really bedeviling situation for you guys.

1 You -- you -- your department has been
2 in control for so long, it doesn't know how to deal
3 with this creature called Empowerment. Empowerment is
4 giving the people the tools, the means, the authority,
5 and the resources to fend for themselves, to do for
6 themselves what governments can't do for them.

7 So how do you reconcile what you guys
8 are doing with self-government and with -- with our
9 land claims? You talk about co-management. I hear
10 that. I know what you're saying, but I don't see the
11 reality of that on the ground. I don't see how that
12 translates into empowering, and making our people have
13 more authority, and -- and making their situation
14 better. I don't see it.

15 Maybe you can explain it a bit better?

16 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. BRETT ELKIN: I would view -- the
21 way I view it is there's been an evolution of wildlife
22 management, even in my career, and I think -- I think
23 many of us are taking to heart that evolution. To --
24 what is true co-management? What is everyone making
25 decisions? What's making decisions as close to where

1 they impact people as possible?

2 And that's why I think what we're
3 collectively doing for co-management is trying to get
4 there. I -- at least from my seat, it has been a road
5 and a process, and I think -- I look at where we are
6 now versus when I started as a young man thirty (30)
7 years ago.

8 So you're right. That's the process
9 we're on. I guess I look at the successes and the
10 promises, and I see places now where we work with the
11 Délı̨nę, work with the Tłı̨chǫ Government through their
12 co-management board. They put forward the proposal to
13 the board that says caribou for some of their
14 communities are as important as Colville Lake. And
15 they said, We want them there for the future.

16 This is a hard choice. When we put in
17 a joint management proposal to the Wek'eezhii board
18 with the Tłı̨chǫ Government, the Tłı̨chǫ Government
19 actually made the first draft and made -- through --
20 put on the table what they thought the hard choices
21 were.

22 And they are hard. I totally get you.
23 So I don't know the answers to you, and I -- but I --
24 and -- and I -- I probably shouldn't give you the
25 answers. The answers are through this process

1 together. I'm hoping we're moving towards that.

2 How we get there, I don't know. It's -
3 - as we have the discussions with Colville, have -- as
4 we have discussions with others collaboratively, I'm
5 hoping that's where we're going.

6 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: I think the
7 people are desperately trying to find some resolution
8 that won't divide them, that won't -- I heard Colville
9 talking and reaching out, saying, We want to have a
10 common -- some commonalities that we sit down together
11 and work on. And to me, the real sense of empowerment
12 is when the government gives you the tools and the
13 resources.

14 But in the end, we're talking about
15 just one (1) thing. We're talking about caribou.
16 Nothing means more to our communities than the food
17 security that we need for our people; nothing. I
18 can't think of anything else that means this much;
19 maybe their health, but that's tied to food security.

20 I -- I'm unconvinced that the approach
21 the Government has taken and has basically planted on
22 the people and said you have to accept it, this is --
23 this is where it's at.

24 Those groups that choose not to accept
25 it and find their own way and find -- well, not find

1 their own way, but practice the way that they've
2 always done things, they're not getting that extra
3 support that they need from you.

4 Maybe you have to change things as
5 well, maybe you have to look at amendments to
6 legislation, maybe you have to look at an augmentation
7 of budgets, because the situation is different than it
8 used to be. It costs so much for our people to hunt.
9 It's ridiculous.

10 I was talking to someone today and that
11 person said, well, my kids want to hunt but we don't
12 have the money right now to buy -- our skidoo is too
13 old. We just don't have the money to buy that, to
14 provide for ourselves right now, so we have to depend
15 on other people, and there's a lot of people like
16 that.

17 So I'm wondering, is there something
18 that the Government can do with regards to helping
19 people with the cost of providing for themselves,
20 because it's just so expensive, it's just ridiculous.
21 There's got to be something you offer. I mean, you're
22 asking the people a lot, to accept the fact that their
23 caribou are disappearing, we're not really sure why.

24 Nobody has provided to me any
25 information, any information about why you're going

1 from a hundred thousand or whatever it is down to
2 fifteen thousand (15,000). I don't -- I haven't heard
3 it yet. I haven't heard one thing that tells me.

4 If somebody said they drowned or they
5 were poisoned or something, I could believe them, but
6 it's like they just disappeared into thin air, and I -
7 - I can't believe our people shot -- what would it be?
8 Yeah, from a hundred and fifty thousand to -- I can't
9 believe they -- they shot a hundred thousand -- over a
10 hundred thousand caribou that they've harvested.
11 That's why they've disappeared.

12 Essentially, that's what you're saying
13 when -- when you have no other explanation that the
14 caribou are gone. There was a hundred thousand when
15 you counted them. Now there's only fifteen (15,000).
16 So where did they go? Where are they? And the -- I
17 don't hear it, so I'm looking for answers. That's
18 what I'm looking for.

19 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR. I
20 appreciate the comments and I thank you, because I
21 think the passion and the concern, I think we all feel
22 it. I think -- and I know this doesn't give concrete
23 answers. All I can say is we're committed to working
24 with partners, that we recognize we're all in this
25 together. We've all taken some good steps. I think

1 there's a lot more steps to take.

2 We have some programs to try to help
3 with -- realizing this is hitting people in their
4 fridge. This is dinner. How do we get food? I mean,
5 it's hard to deal with the cultural impacts, but we
6 have some programs.

7 But I think rather than me throwing
8 ideas at the table, I think what we need to commit to
9 is work with our co-management partners because it's
10 not up to us just to come up with that.

11 It's -- what we need to do is commit to
12 come to the table with our co-management partners and
13 listen and say, what are those ideas and moving -- I
14 totally get you, so there -- we all want to get there,
15 so we're not there yet. How do we get there? We made
16 some great strides.

17 Just on the caribou numbers, I just
18 want to make it clear, I think all of us -- when I
19 ever -- whatever co-management forum I'm in, we all
20 recognize there's multiple factors. We know what they
21 are.

22 Where the complication is, is that they
23 all work together, at different times each one will be
24 a bit more -- so saying exactly what role fire plays
25 versus predators versus other things.

1 We know what the main things are.
2 We're not blaming just one (1). We're not just
3 blaming wolves, we're not just blaming hunting, we're
4 not just blaming development. They all have an impact
5 together, so what we have to figure collectively
6 around these tables is say what can we do? There's
7 multiple things. So I totally get you.

8 And I think we can commit to trying to
9 work with people. That's why I want to get back to
10 the table with Colville and say, what's the next step
11 in our -- to help support what you're doing. Let's
12 get back to the taking care of caribou with all our
13 co-management partners. What do we need to do
14 different in the herd plan, what do we need to do with
15 caribou across the north?

16 So all I can commit is the process
17 because we don't have all the answers on the next
18 step, where all we can commit we should do it, because
19 I think we all agree it's important.

20 MS. ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW: Well, I
21 don't have any other questions, but I do have an
22 observation from what I've heard.

23 My observation is that all the other
24 factors that come into play haven't made big
25 concessions. They haven't been asked to do this,

1 that, or the other thing that I know of. I haven't
2 heard anything. But what I've heard is telling our
3 people not to hunt anymore or to limit your hunting,
4 limit your capacity to provide food security for your
5 community, your region, and your family. That's what
6 I've heard.

7 But I haven't heard any of the other
8 factors being addressed, the government saying you
9 guys are going to do this because that's going to help
10 to replenish the herd, this is what we're going to do
11 for climate change because it's going to help
12 replenish the herd. I haven't heard that.

13 The only thing I've heard is that total
14 -- total allowable harvest recommendation and that the
15 things that -- that are in play like the residency are
16 there and they're written in stone. That's all I
17 know. That's the observation I -- I -- I make.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
19 With that then, we'll go back to Inuvialuit Game
20 Council.

21 MR. JIM ELIAS: Hi. I'm Jim Elias,
22 from Inuvialuit Game Council. I have some -- I have
23 some questions and then Doug will also have a few
24 questions and that.

25 And since we're -- we're talking about

1 the caribou here and that, and then I listened to some
2 of the panels there and one of the panels that was up
3 there was Norman Wells and they don't believe in the
4 culling -- culling and that of our wolves, because the
5 wolves are being culled for -- to help with the
6 managing of our -- our caribous, and we see it all the
7 way from Yellowknife, right to up the coast, and now
8 we're seeing the wolves right -- right within our town
9 limits.

10 Back in the day we only heard them
11 coming into Fort Good Hope, the homes or close to
12 their homes in these other places, but now I live
13 right in the coast and that and we do a lot of wolf
14 harvesting and we take care of a lot of those wolves,
15 but they're still coming from some place and they're
16 coming right -- right -- right within five (5) miles
17 from town where we're harvesting these wolves now.
18 Before that we had to go up in a -- in a bush.

19 And one (1) of those things is like
20 when they -- all these co-management boards from
21 Yellowknife all the way down to Sahtú and that, to the
22 ISR, we -- we put a -- a thing on there. We get --
23 we're taking sample from the wolves and we're getting
24 incentive to ship our wolves to the auction and that.

25 And then us up in the coast, we have

1 the calving grounds, a lot of -- where, like, all the
2 caribous are calving in that area and there, and then
3 the Yellowknife area they have a -- they call, like, a
4 wintering range, wintering grounds.

5 And so we get six hundred dollars
6 (\$600) for our wolves. Like, we skin them properly
7 and -- and take the samples properly, and then we'll -
8 - we'll get that advance before the fur sales. And
9 you -- you come back to Yellowknife area, then they're
10 getting the nine hundred dollars (\$900) incentive for
11 getting the samples and handling their pelts property.

12 And I really want to ask ENR, what's
13 more important, the calving grounds or the wintering
14 range? I mean, I think when that was brought up, it
15 should have come right across from ISR right to the
16 Yellowknife area and that and had one (1) -- one (1)
17 management zone right through the thing there for --
18 for this incentive for having the people come out and
19 harvest these animals, because I know there's a lot of
20 them there and I saw -- the Norman Wells Board there -
21 - to me as a full-time harvester, I think maybe one
22 (1) was a full-time harvester on the Norman Wells
23 Board, and the other ones were young coming up --
24 young, upcoming people and that, and one might have
25 been a part-time harvester, just from my observation.

1 So that's where we're getting ideas and
2 directions from and that and then you get -- a Board
3 like that comes in and then, say, oh, we -- we don't
4 want no culling or no killing of our wolves and that,
5 but they don't know the extent of what's happening
6 with the -- the wolf population, the -- the predator
7 population.

8 So that's one (1) of my questions for
9 now. You can answer that one about the wolf.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
14 Thanks for the question. We -- we do hear that
15 question fairly often.

16 In trying to address the multiple
17 things in effect here, but as you pointed out, wolves
18 and predators are one (1) of the factors that we know
19 impact caribou populations. So we know that we have a
20 lot of good wolf harvesters out there.

21 We know if it's a difficult -- what
22 we're told, I'm not a wolf harvester, it's a difficult
23 -- it's -- in the trapping/hunting world, it's a
24 difficult thing to do. It's hard on equipment, it's
25 expensive. Depending on what people are getting in

1 the market, it may not be economical to go out.

2 So a number of years ago, and I wish I
3 could remember the exact date but about ten (10) years
4 back, we did put in some -- additional support for
5 harvesters across the NWT to help them get out.

6 You are correct, in the last couple of
7 years, because the two (2) herds in particular, where
8 that program is focused, the Bathurst and the Bluenose
9 East, are continuing to decline at an alarming rates.
10 Some of the other herds have had not that -- have not
11 had that alarming rate or now are stabilized.

12 Jan -- can't remember who showed you
13 the caribou populations, but some of them have now
14 stabilized. Cape Bathurst is starting to go up a
15 little bit. So it's simply a matter of trying to take
16 our resources, to know that these two (2) herds need
17 additional help, so we've increased the harvest there
18 -- increased the incentive there.

19 If we had enough money, we could
20 consider up yonder, but we want to prioritize (sic)
21 which herds perhaps need the most support, so
22 unfortunately that means putting it on those two (2)
23 herds.

24 MR. JIM ELIAS: So are you going to
25 level that off somewhere or straight across the board

1 for this wolf harvesting stuff or -- or it's just
2 going to sit the way it is, because it's not set in
3 stone. It's what you guys decided.

4 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR. I
5 think right now, based on what's happening in these
6 herd, that's the decisions that have been made.
7 Depending what happens in any of these herds, it's
8 always open to re-discussion.

9 One (1) of the things Ethel got to,
10 which I think we're always aware of, is things change
11 all the time. Different factors happen, climate
12 change, other factors. So of course I think what --
13 we try to use -- I hate the big words, but we use
14 adaptive management.

15 You need to say, okay, we try
16 something, what happened, it worked, it didn't work.
17 Something happened, change in the environment, we got
18 to do some different, so what -- as things change, we
19 can always revisit those decisions.

20 MR. JIM ELIAS: One (1) other question
21 I have here is, when it comes down to our animals,
22 whether these are birds, animals, or our fish, to us -
23 - to me from the Tuk area, it seems like every couple
24 of years the ENR or the COSEWIC people from all over
25 the world pick a -- pick an animal or something out of

1 the hat and then they -- they go with that.

2 And then all my life, as a kid growing
3 up, we had polar bears, polar bear's one group, and
4 then within ten (10), fourteen (14) years ago, all of
5 a sudden, nope, we've got South Beaufort and North
6 Beaufort. They dissect our polar bears, so we lost a
7 couple of tags that way.

8 And then -- and then after -- after a
9 couple of years, they're telling us the po -- polar
10 bears are -- are a special concern, and then through
11 our traditional knowledge and that from the people
12 along the coast, we have opportunity -- options to get
13 some more of those tags back from one (1) of the areas
14 -- from the North Beaufort side, because the
15 population is growing itself.

16 Maybe the population grew because we
17 had a big northwest wind and all the polar bears just
18 -- just washed up on a -- on northwest of Tuk side,
19 and then so you have a population there. If we had a
20 big southeast wind, all that ocean and ice blow that
21 away, the South Beaufort population is going to
22 increase.

23 And the same thing happened with the
24 caribou. We had one (1) -- we had one (1) herd, the
25 Bluenose herd, yeah, and then all of a sudden we had

1 some biologists that come into ENR and that and all of
2 a sudden we had seven (7), eight (8) herds, something
3 like that. Well, we have eight (8) herds because
4 there was one (1) herd they never found -- one (1)
5 area that they never found, so that -- and it's off --
6 off limits to the ENR and -- and the people.

7 And once they dissected our herd, the
8 Bluenose herd that everybody shares, all of a sudden
9 they can't -- they're saying, oh, the Tuk Pen herd,
10 that's the herd that's off up in the CNR, oh, that's
11 dwindling.

12 They're going down and then the Cape
13 Bathurst is -- caribou is rising. And then -- and
14 then -- we tell them to go and do your aerial survey
15 during July. All those caribou are coming up the
16 coast, going up to our sandbars and that, and that's
17 where you -- then the Tuk Pen all of a sudden, oh
18 yeah, we have a few more thousand caribou there, so we
19 -- the population is good now.

20 But then you go across Husky (phonetic)
21 lakes area on -- on -- different area, their
22 population is going down.

23 And I -- we kept telling them that's
24 the way it's always going to be, but the biologists
25 and that, once they're wrong, they won't admit it.

1 When you go to TK knowledge, traditional knowledge, we
2 -- we happy and gladly admit if we're wrong. But the
3 biologists or researchers, they'll never admit they're
4 wrong.

5 And then -- and we told them, you know,
6 you've got tagged caribou, collared caribou on the Tuk
7 Pen and you have collared caribou on the Cape Bathurst
8 site.

9 So we ask them the questions when they
10 do their -- do their aerial survey: some Tuk Pen
11 collared caribou, they're with those other caribou.
12 Oh, they just mingled. They just -- they don't
13 mingle. They just go like this and they come back.

14 That's not true. It doesn't happen
15 that way. They go back and forth. They're the same -
16 - they were the same herd, and now all of a sudden
17 they're going back and forth.

18 And that's what brings up this other
19 question -- not a question, but the other concern I
20 have is that you guys dissected our whole herd of
21 caribou and that. Our grizzly bears -- we had grizzly
22 bears start coming around.

23 We had no grizzly bears in the '70s or
24 very few. Now we've got more grizzly bears than all
25 of Alberta and BC 'cause they got no more habitat down

1 in BC and they want to put them like species at risk
2 down there.

3 And then all of a sudden, when we had
4 the grizzly bears came up, we had mountain grizzly
5 bears, we had the barren-ground grizzlies, we had --
6 and even the brown bears.

7 And then this past year, ENR comes back
8 to -- to our people. We only have one (1) -- one (1)
9 grizzly bear. There's no more mountain grizzly bear,
10 barren-ground grizzly bear. And they even tried to
11 say the brown bear is all of the same species.

12 And we all know the grizzlies bear are
13 all the same, but the brown bear is different. You
14 could see just by their -- by their structure, the --
15 the humps on their back and that and the head sizes.
16 A grizzly bear is totally different than a brown bear,
17 but now -- now under ENR or the biologists, whoever
18 they are, all the grizzly bears are back to one pot.
19 So that's what I'm thinking.

20 In the future now, if you guys will
21 ever admit you're wrong, you're going to come that big
22 full circle and then we're going to have one (1) herd
23 again instead of (7) or eight (8). It's like you guys
24 are just dissecting up.

25 I don't know what -- what species you

1 guys are going to think of next. Maybe the martin.
2 Maybe we only have -- maybe we don't the Canadian
3 sable. We have a pine martin and a barren-ground
4 martin or something that's coming up in the future.

5 Any answer to that about how you guys -
6 - about how you guys draw these lines and that? And
7 can you -- can you tell the animal that he's supposed
8 to be a South Beaufort or a North Beaufort or Bluenose
9 East or a Bluenose West? Do you put names on them?

10 Because we said the Tuk Pen herd,
11 that's off limits to -- to all the stuff here. I told
12 them maybe we should just brand them like cattle.
13 We'll brand them like cattle and put a -- put a fence
14 there, and that's -- that's our herd. It'll be our
15 caribou.

16 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
17 That was a lot of information. You and I need to go
18 for a long coffee. We need like a week of coffee.

19 The only thing I'll throw out at the
20 beginning -- and I think this highlights the
21 discussion we're having and we don't need to get into
22 every point right at this table.

23 But I think the importance of these
24 processes we have working together, the co-management
25 forums -- I'll only use one (1) of your examples I

1 think because the first settled land claim in NWT was
2 in the Inuvialuit settlement region.

3 So that's the longest-standing wildlife
4 co-management board, and I think it's been interesting
5 watching them evolve to be a very effective world
6 leader.

7 And I think a good example is polar
8 bears. The Canadian Management Plan was actually
9 written -- the pen was held by WMAC and IGC with ENR.
10 So they actually wrote the plan.

11 We're sending a group to -- Canada is
12 sending a group to what's called the range states.
13 It's all those countries that have polar bears. They
14 get together every two (2) years, I believe, to talk
15 about management of polar bears. Our contingent, ENR
16 isn't sending one, is WMAC and IGC are -- are part of
17 the Canadian contingent.

18 So that's where we do it. We get
19 together, we share information, we make decisions, as
20 you say, collectively. If WMAC decides something, the
21 Species at Risk Committee, which includes people from
22 across the NWT, we do our best. We learn something
23 new, we've got to be adaptive. You're right, we all
24 collectively -- 'cause it's a co-management system --
25 need to say we learned something new.

1 But I think it's through that forum
2 'cause watching the leadership of the Inuvialuit on
3 the polar bear front, they really -- they sit arm and
4 arm with Environment Canada and a few others at these
5 international meetings advocating for polar bear
6 management.

7 MR. JIM ELIAS: Well, coming back to
8 your polar bear management, I understand the WMAC,
9 NWG, and Inuvialuit Game Council has a lot to do in
10 there. But then, through COSEWIC and that, down
11 through the whole -- or Australia and everybody sits
12 on these boards and that, they're twisting the arm up
13 here.

14 If we don't -- if we don't start doing
15 this thing here and that, we could have no more
16 harvesting rights. The federal government will step
17 in and -- so we've got to kind of like buy it.

18 It's just like -- it's just like -- to
19 me, it's like hiring yourself a nice good lawyer like
20 you guys got right there, and then me getting a Legal
21 Aid lawyer sitting right here. I'm screwed, you know.
22 That's the bottom line, yeah.

23 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Well, thank you for
24 your input. I mean, it's -- these are good
25 discussions. It's -- I'm only to add because I think

1 it was extremely valuable is your point on
2 international lobbying to close polar bear harvest.

3 I think that's early on the game, going
4 back twenty (20) years. That's when the Inuvialuit
5 really joined in, and I think they made a huge
6 difference at the international negotiations. So I
7 think that's where co-management works.

8 It -- each of us steps up and does a
9 part, but I think having them part of that
10 international committee, they went to -- when they
11 were making this decision internationally with studies
12 on trade, they were part of the contingent. They made
13 passionate cases. So I think that's where that really
14 shines where co-management works.

15 MR. JIM ELIAS: I have one (1) more
16 question, and my partner here will have a question,
17 too.

18 One (1) of my other questions to that
19 is like the guy there that call himself the hoof man,
20 he -- well, that's what he said, right? Yeah. That
21 name you gave before, some kind of name.

22 But are you guys -- are you guys
23 looking at the caribou on this side here, the Bluenose
24 West caribou and the Bluenose East, from the Sahtú
25 side? And are you guys keeping the same information

1 from the ISR side where the other part of ENR is also
2 doing the counts and stuff on that end?

3 And then I hear a lot of -- a lot of
4 discussions about, you know, the counts and that and
5 the accuracy and that and numbers. And us, we have a
6 lot of problem with our ENR in our area.

7 It's because they go out when it's a
8 nice day and stuff, not when the caribous are
9 migrating or stuff like that. They pick a -- it's got
10 to be a nice sunny day. They -- they won't do no --
11 no boat taggings, not in the summertime, that's when
12 it was all like flying.

13 And then they give themselves two (2)
14 weeks. I don't know how much you guys give yourself
15 in the Sahtú , but up in my area, I think we have a two
16 (2) week -- two (2) week span. And then if we have
17 eight (8) days of bad weather, they go fly. They go
18 fly maybe like, I don't know, four (4) days instead of
19 the whole -- doing the whole grid.

20 You know, you guys write your grids
21 down and you're flying. And then sometimes one-third
22 of that whole grid -- well, whole -- our area, it's
23 not even -- not even counted in that. And so now --
24 now it's always an estimate. It always comes to an
25 estimate. If you do the whole thing, then you get an

1 estimate, but you're only doing part of an estimate,
2 part of a part. Thank you.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
7 with ENR. So I didn't say I was the hoof man. What I
8 said was my -- my official title is ungulate
9 biologist. So ungulates are any animals that have
10 hooves, so sheep, you know, goats, moose. That's all
11 of them.

12 In terms of your point on the surveys,
13 we recognize our surveys are not perfect. And even in
14 the -- the twelve (12) years or so that I've been
15 here, we're always trying to make them better.

16 The collared caribou, I know people
17 have issues with that, but they are pretty essential
18 to our surveys so we know where to go.

19 In terms of the population surveys, the
20 last few years we have been surveying five (5) herds
21 every three (3) years, you know, because of declines
22 and low numbers and so on. And then with Bathurst and
23 Bluenose East now we've bumped that to every two (2)
24 years because we were so concerned about those herds.

25 In 2010, we did a comparison of the

1 July survey, which is the post-calving survey, with
2 the June survey that we used for our eastern herds.
3 So that was the first time that we had done both on
4 the same herd in the same year. And fortunately, the
5 numbers came out pretty close between them.

6 We also talked to biologists in Alaska
7 because they used the same post-calving survey, that
8 methodology. We're always looking to improve how we
9 handle the numbers.

10 So, you know, if you want to say our
11 surveys are not perfect, you're absolutely right, but
12 we are trying to make them better, more reliable all
13 the time.

14 And the post-calving survey that we use
15 is the same one that is used in Alaska for their
16 caribou herds, also in Québec for their herds. And
17 then the June survey is used in -- in Nunavut. So
18 we're talking to their biologists, trying to learn a
19 bit more.

20 The other thing I would say, that none
21 of our surveys will ever give you the absolute total
22 count. They're just not designed to do that. You
23 very rarely will find every single animal. So it will
24 be a sample and it will be an estimate, but that is
25 true of almost every wildlife survey across the globe.

1 MR. JIM ELIAS: I'm Jim Elias again,
2 with the Inuvialuit Game Council. Just to -- just on
3 that topic there, the Cape Bathurst and the Bluenose
4 West, they collared -- in our ISR, they collared
5 Bluenose West and the Cape Bathurst caribou.

6 And then, when they went to do their --
7 the following year they went and do their aerial
8 survey counts and that, all of a sudden we had a whole
9 bunch of Cape Bathurst caribou.

10 And then they were trying -- they were
11 trying to get -- or drop our numbers on the Bluenose
12 West for our -- for our tags because, oh, there --
13 something's wrong here. The caribou went right down.
14 We told them they migrated. They went with the Cape
15 Bathurst, and we had to argue with the ENR in our
16 area.

17 And then the next year, they come back.
18 Oh, yeah, they're stable out there. About -- they're
19 about the same again. The caribou came back this way.
20 So the Cape Bathurst are back at the same level that
21 they first did it, and then our Bluenose West just
22 about levelled back off to the same that was the first
23 -- the first or second year they started that caribou
24 collaring when they did this. Thank you.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Thanks for your
4 comments.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll carry on
6 with Inuvialuit. Oh, nothing. Okay. Then we're at
7 Sahtú Youth Network.

8 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: Máhsı.
9 Roseanne Taneton, from Deline's youth rep for Sahtú
10 Youth Network. I have three (3) questions. I'll make
11 it quick.

12 Okay. If you know that the caribou is
13 declining, what are other probabilities did you come
14 up with that -- that results in the decline of caribou
15 in the regions?

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
20 Just to make sure we don't give you a long answer to
21 the wrong question, could you repeat -- or rephrase
22 the question for us? We just want to make sure what
23 you want to ask.

24 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: Okay. I'll
25 read it again. Okay. If you -- if you know that the

1 caribou is declining, what are other probabilities did
2 you come up with that results in the decline of
3 caribou in the regions?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Okay. I'm going to
8 give you a bit of an answer and Jan's going to jump in
9 here 'cause I still don't know if you're asking me
10 what are the things that caused the decline or what
11 are we doing to respond to the decline.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Thank you. Sorry.
16 I didn't eat enough supper, apparently. I'll start
17 with a very high level, and Jan, who knows all the
18 technical stuff, will jump in.

19 I think -- the reality is I think the
20 way we message, we all know there's multiple things
21 that affect caribou, so it's not one (1) single thing.
22 And at any given time in any given herd, the amount
23 that each of them affects caribou can change.

24 So sometimes the weather or vegetation
25 might be more. Sometimes climate change or maybe

1 predation. We -- so there's multiple things and they
2 can change over time.

3 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
4 with ENR. I'll maybe just add a little bit.

5 One (1) of the things we noticed with
6 the Bathurst herd, because that's generally had the
7 most consistent monitoring over time -- one of the
8 things that we have done almost annually is look at
9 the calf-to-cow ratio in late winter which gives us a
10 sense of how many of the -- the last year's calves
11 made it through that -- that first year.

12 And what we saw with Bathurst herd back
13 in the 1990s when the herd was high, those ratios were
14 often, you know, forty (40), forty-five (45), fifty
15 (50) per hundred cows. So every second cow still had
16 a calf in -- in the good times.

17 And then we had a period between 2000
18 and 2006 where those -- those calf-to-cow ratios
19 dropped and dropped and dropped. And we had one (1)
20 year when it was down to nine (9) calves per hundred
21 cows. So only one (1) in ten (10) cows still had a
22 calf in the late winter.

23 So most likely that was driven by
24 environmental trends, probably a combination of low
25 pregnancy rates, cows in poor shape in the breeding

1 season, and then those calves not surviving through
2 the first few months. So if you have year and after
3 year of very few calves, then it has to be a decline.

4 For some of the other herds, our
5 monitoring wasn't quite as good, but John Nagy
6 (phonetic), who was working with the -- the herds out
7 of the Inuvik region, he also saw evidence in June for
8 Cape Bathurst and Bluenose West herds of very late
9 calving and very low calf productivity.

10 So, that's three (3) herds over a big
11 area all showing the same signs probably driven by
12 weather, you know, forage conditions in the summer.
13 And it's just common sense, if the calf is not -- if
14 the herd is not producing many young, it's going to
15 decline.

16 So, that's not the only explanation,
17 but that's part of what we understand about what
18 happened in that particular period when it seemed like
19 environmental conditions were poor for many herds
20 across the territory.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: Okay. I think
25 you answered the ques -- this question, but I'm just

1 going to read it out to you guys because I want to be
2 sure. Okay.

3 Why was there such a dramatic drop in
4 Blue -- Bluenose West herd population from 2000 to
5 2005?

6 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
7 with ENR. I think that was probably a big part of it.
8 The Bluenose West herd had that very steep decline
9 over exactly that period. And that was a period of
10 low, low calf numbers. Cape Bathurst herd, very low
11 calf numbers.

12 And the Bathurst herd, which is not
13 related to the Cape Bathurst but further to the east,
14 it had even worse calf numbers, and it declined ever
15 faster.

16 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: Okay. Thanks.
17 Okay, one (1) more question.

18 Has ENR been involved in any decisions
19 with Newmont about the mining in Mile 22 and, if so,
20 what decisions have you been involved with --
21 discussions, sorry?

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather

1 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. So, the short answer is,
2 no, there have been no discussions between ENR and the
3 -- I think you said Newmont, who is a mining company.

4 So, for the most part, ENR doesn't
5 engage in those types of discussions with people while
6 -- while they're -- they're proposing a development.
7 We wait for the regulatory system.

8 And -- and I think yesterday I kind of
9 touched on, like, the Sahtú Land and Water Board. And
10 there's some -- some regulator processes that happen.
11 And so, we -- we are sometimes brought in to -- to
12 give wildlife expertise.

13 But this is -- I think this one (1) is
14 so early that I wasn't aware of it, actually, until we
15 started talking about it here in the last couple of
16 days meetings, so.

17 But through the regulatory process I'm
18 sure people's concerns, concerns about whatever they
19 have concerns about, will come up. And -- and then we
20 usually get engaged at a later stage.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MS. ROSEANNE TANETON: All right.

25 Thank you.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Any questions
4 from the Board?

5 MR. SAMUEL Haché: Yes.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

7 BOARD MEMBER HACHE: Okay. Samuel
8 Haché here, SRRB. So, first I want to acknowledge --
9 or co -- commend ENR for their effort here this
10 afternoon, evening. And we don't know if it's going
11 to finish.

12 But I also want to acknowledge
13 Heather's presentation and how she can speak slowly,
14 so working really hard on trying to mimic that. Okay,
15 one (1) more kind of general question. And then I
16 have two (2) more technical ones.

17 But first off, I just wanted to bring
18 something -- like, there was evidence that was brought
19 up yesterday by Colville Lake and by the other parties
20 -- or panels, and it was about the importance of
21 caribou for them.

22 And we heard about way of life. We
23 heard about in their blood. We heard a question of
24 survival. And no one will ever dispute any of that
25 for sure. But I wanted to just stress a little bit --

1 or expand a little bit on what Heather kind of started
2 to touch base on, the -- just the job portion of it.

3 So, I would like -- and I -- I
4 understand it's quite late in the process to ask these
5 kind of questions. I would have liked to ask that,
6 like, right off the bat, but just the job and kind of
7 some suggestions as -- along the lines of maybe not
8 being qualified for this very important task of
9 helping inform wildlife management.

10 So, I was wondering, in order to
11 clarify for the Board and the audience, if you can
12 speak more about your job beyond the kind of legal
13 obligation.

14 So, what I'm kind of envisioning is
15 that, if you can speak a little bit about, you know,
16 how long you've been biologists and maybe just -- even
17 just a little bit about, out of all possible jobs in
18 the world, why that one and, yeah, maybe never mind,
19 like, that ENR had, but more as an individual,
20 personal, and even professional a little bit,
21 experience and general experience in the air,
22 experience in the community and -- and, yeah, how long
23 you've been working on building your western science
24 knowledge.

25 A long-winded question, but maybe if

1 any -- each of the panel members can speak a bit to
2 that?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
7 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. When I talked earlier
8 about my time here in the Sahtú and learning from
9 people, I guess I talked about my job, as well.

10 And -- and those two (2) have been
11 integrated, my time here in the Sahtú , my learning
12 through my career, and it's never been just a job. I
13 -- I -- but I understand when people -- when
14 communities let me know that, as a biologist, this is
15 my job, but it is much more than that to people,
16 right; it is their life.

17 As you've mentioned, it's their
18 identity, it's their culture, it's their way of life,
19 it's their language. We heard a lot about this, as
20 you said, in the panel's presentations.

21 And being here in the Sahtú for me --
22 so I've started with ENR, I think, almost twelve (12)
23 years ago now. And I graduated from high school in
24 Fort Smith and went to university and went back to
25 Fort Smith and started working there.

1 And quickly thereafter, I moved to the
2 Sahtú . And this is where I really learned a whole lot
3 about barren-ground caribou and -- and a lot of other
4 species, but I'll stick to barren-ground caribou.

5 And it was -- it was the -- it's the
6 surveys. It's -- it's the scientific way of -- of
7 knowing about caribou, but it was also the
8 relationships of people with caribou.

9 And it's -- I could never claim to
10 speak to that completely, but it has been a really
11 important experience for me and it's been life
12 changing for me to come to the Sahtú.

13 And it's -- it's like coming home when
14 I come here and it's really, really nice. That's what
15 I said when I first introduced myself, that I was
16 happy to be back in the Sahtú.

17 So, I do -- this has -- the Sahtú is
18 where I've learned of this, all of -- all of the
19 cultural integration, all of the co-management
20 decisions, how important it is to sit around these
21 tables and talk and make sure that we're all listening
22 to each other.

23 And as one (1) that has always come up
24 with -- is -- is working together; that is a thing
25 that has been said to me so many times. And I -- I

1 really, at the end of the day, want to come back to --
2 keep coming back to the Sahtú, keep working in all of
3 the communities across the Northwest Territories
4 because now that's part of my job, but in -- in order
5 to work together, to start listening to each other, to
6 make sure that we -- we're doing that integration,
7 that we're -- we're coming together and -- and
8 speaking in -- in ways that we both understand.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Yeah. Would it
13 be possible to hear a bit about the three (3) others,
14 as well?

15 MR. JAN ADAMCZEWSKI: Jan Adamczewski,
16 with ENR, not the hoof man. So, I am -- I am the old
17 man at this table. I'm sixty-two (62) years old. I
18 first went North in 1981.

19 I got to watch calving -- caribou on
20 the calving grounds of the Beverly Herd back then.
21 Canadian Wildlife Service was still involved back
22 then, Frank Miller.

23 I had a long master's project looking
24 at caribou on Coats Island, which is the north end of
25 Hudson Bay. And I was having meetings with the Coral

1 Harbour Hunters and Trappers Association before there
2 any land claims.

3 I spent six and a half (6 1/2) years
4 studying muskoxen. That was my PhD study. So, we had
5 a research herd in captivity in Saskatoon but also
6 fifteen (15) trips working with -- with hunters out of
7 Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island, so muskoxen remain
8 my absolute favourite animals.

9 After that, a couple of years with the
10 Province of Newfoundland in St. Johns, a year with the
11 Sahtú Renewable Resources Board. I was the first
12 biologist they hired.

13 Nine (9) years in Watson Lake as a
14 regional biologist, mostly working with mountain herds
15 there. And the last twelve and a half (12 1/2) years
16 here in Yellowknife.

17 So, that goes back now almost forty
18 (40) years. And just to add a little bit to what
19 Heather was saying, and I -- I mentioned this to David
20 on a -- on a break there, it kind of -- it's difficult
21 for me to some -- for somebody to say it's just your
22 job because it's way more than that.

23 And, you know, when we fly the surveys
24 in June, you know, we're -- we're lucky to get to bed
25 by midnight. They're very long days. And we do a lot

1 of extra flying just to make sure we didn't miss
2 anything.

3 And when we get numbers back and
4 they're not good, it's -- it's not -- I'm -- I'm not
5 feeling that as a scientist. I'm feeling that here,
6 especially because we know how much it means to our --
7 our Indigenous cultures and communities.

8 So, it's not just a job; it's -- it's
9 way more than that. And I guess I've been at it most
10 of my life now and this is what I will do until I
11 retire.

12 MR. BRETT ELKIN: I'll go super quick
13 because I think everyone's getting ready for TV time
14 or bedtime. I don't really like talking about me, so
15 I'll make it more about the group in the room, and
16 I'll through it about -- I'll throw myself in.

17 I think why this is so important to me,
18 what we're doing here today, is because everyone in
19 this room is passionate about this. They have
20 different backgrounds. They know different things.
21 They do different things.

22 No one's -- no one comes and sits here
23 for three (3) days for twelve (12) hours for fun or
24 for anything else. We're -- you're all passionate for
25 own reasons and you all care for your own reasons, and

1 that's why I do it.

2 I've spent my whole life in
3 Yellowknife. My kids were born and I'm about ready to
4 have grand kids. I grew up. I got outside. Well, it
5 started when I was really young. My mom would kick me
6 out in the morning and locked the door and said you
7 can come in at dark, which is in the summer I was out.

8 So, I enjoyed being out there. This is
9 the -- this is okay. Yellowknife's the best place
10 ever. Now, we all think home is the best place ever.
11 I love the land we live in. I love the wildlife, so
12 that's why I do it and that's why you guys do it.

13 In my career, I started as a
14 veterinarian, but I worked for the government of
15 wildlife. The first twenty-five (25) years of my
16 career I spent two hundred (200) days a year in the
17 field.

18 I probably wasn't the best husband,
19 that's probably why I'm single now, but that's because
20 I was passionate about it. But I become a desk
21 pusher, and that's why I'm here now. The -- but why I
22 like it is this room here.

23 These are hard discussions, but I think
24 they're critical. And I want to hear emotion. I want
25 to hear anger. I want to hear frustration because we

1 all have it because we all are looking for things to
2 bet better.

3 So, thi -- unfortunately, this is where
4 we do it. It's not out -- it's not me out looking at
5 wildlife. It's not Walter harvesting wildlife.
6 Unfortunately, we got to be in this room to help our
7 future, so I think I'm -- I'm with the rest of you in
8 the room. We're all here because this is really
9 important to us.

10 MR. KEVIN CHAN: Kevin Chan, ENR. So,
11 I'm new to the Sahtú. I just started here in August.
12 I was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Toronto, so I
13 am a city slicker.

14 And -- but I have worked in the North
15 in various capacities as a canoe guide, as a wildlife
16 tech, and a biologist. And my experience -- it is
17 very true that I don't have the experience that you
18 have with -- with wildlife. I grew up in an area
19 where we don't have wildlife, or at least we don't
20 have the area -- the wildlife that you have.

21 And my experience is that I really
22 value the amount of diversity that you have here and
23 the amount of wildlife you have available to your
24 people, and that is something that I envy. And I
25 don't want to see this area become kind of like the

1 places where I come from, where we don't have that
2 connection to wildlife, and that is why it's important
3 to me.

4 It's not -- it's not the -- the reason
5 why this is more than just a job to me is because I do
6 value what you guys have here and I can see the
7 passion that you guys have.

8 I also don't think that this is an
9 issue -- the decline of caribou is an issue that ENR
10 can solve, but I also don't think it's something that
11 Délinç can solve or the SRRB can solve on their own.
12 It's something that we have to get together as a forum
13 together to work with all of our combined resources to
14 make sure that the caribou continue to survive.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Yes. Now, I need
19 to go in the technical, please, if I may, just like --
20 yeah, no, that's -- that's totally fine. I think that
21 puts quite a bit of context, actually. I think that's
22 really useful.

23 So, a question about interim management
24 agreement, so that thing that came out not too long
25 ago, so in terms of the use of Wildlife Act regulation

1 to reflect legal authority for use of local
2 authorizations rather than tags.

3 So, on page 3 of the interim management
4 agreement report was signed between Colville Lake and
5 ENR not tho -- not that long ago, and there was some
6 level of authorization here. And I don't want to go
7 in too much detail, but my question about that would
8 be pretty much along the lines of what Colville Lake
9 and David asked, and even Walter.

10 But just wanted to kind of throw it out
11 there, and we can -- maybe you guys can answer later,
12 but -- so is it ENR's plan to make changes to the
13 wildlife regulations to allow Colville Lake to issue
14 its own authorization under the Wildlife Act?

15 So how would the -- how would these
16 change kind of look like? So -- and I guess, yeah,
17 Heather talk about legal and ENR, so just wanted to
18 kind of throw that one out.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
23 I've got some good advice from our legal expert, and
24 I'll probably make a mistake, so I'm hoping he taps me
25 on the shoulder.

1 To me -- and I'll add a little preamble
2 before what our counsel helped me with -- is I think
3 the intent was here, we want to work together.
4 Whether it's with the plans -- it's -- it's the herd
5 plan, the Colville plan, we want to move forward. But
6 there are some -- some stumbling blocks. We wanted,
7 in the short term, come to a resolution to allow us to
8 move forward and have further discussions.

9 So deal with the question of
10 authorization. Well, the Wildlife Act may say you
11 need a tag attached. We're trying to find a way that
12 meets the spirit and the intent and authorization
13 agreement in the short term while we figure out what
14 is it we're doing long term. Long way to say, we
15 can't tell you the outcome because that's what the
16 ongoing discussions are.

17 What we're hoping is the interim
18 agreement allows us to go back to the table and don't
19 work -- don't spend as much time saying, What happened
20 before, and how do you interpret it, how do I
21 interpret it? Saying, Okay, we know where we want to
22 go. How do we get there?

23 So we can't tell you the outcome until
24 we go back to the table. We're hoping this gets us to
25 the table so we can look forward and not back.

1 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Okay, so -- but
2 maybe would that be -- so would you guys even be in
3 the position right now to -- like, how would that
4 work, irrespective of the details about what would be
5 agreed on in term of the mechanism, in term of
6 implementation? So I guess regarding the Wildlife
7 Act, whether there would be changes made there, other
8 means.

9 And kind of a follow-up question --
10 we're talking about Colville Lake here, but that might
11 have some direct implication with the Déliné plan as
12 well, right, in term of the implementation on that
13 front. So maybe without going into detail about the
14 technicalities of the things that might or might not
15 agree upon, but more the kind of legal approach,
16 maybe, for implementation?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
21 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. So the Interim Management
22 Agreement, as you pointed out, has the Section 4 about
23 authorizations. So this is -- this is the agreement
24 that we've mutually come to, which is a lot of work
25 and a -- and a lot of talking and a lot of back and

1 forth, and we are all so happy that we've been able to
2 come to a mutual agreement.

3 The authorizations would be similar to
4 a Déligne plan, that this is what we're accepting as an
5 authorization in the interim.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 BOARD MEMBER Haché: I have another
10 question, a last question. Just want to move away
11 from Mr. Chair here, but this is the last question
12 after that, I promise.

13 So in the written submission, ENR
14 writes that Section 28 through 38 are legally
15 unenforceable. And in that interim agreement, it
16 seems like now twenty-eight (28) to thirty-two (32)
17 would be enforceable. And I guess my question is:
18 Why cannot -- why can Section 33 to 38 cannot be
19 enforceable?

20 Yeah, that was my question here, and
21 the second question -- the second part of the
22 question...

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Sorry, Mr. Chair.
2 Just a minute. We're making sure we understand it.

3 BOARD MEMBER Haché: And -- and I
4 might just add a little something after.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Oh, can you
9 repeat the question, Samuel, so that people can...

10 BOARD MEMBER Haché: So the idea was
11 just that in the written submission -- like page 41,
12 even, specifically -- Sections 28 to 38 were
13 considered not legally enforceable originally in the -
14 - in the written submission.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Okay.
19 Heather Sayine-Crawford, with ENR.

20 So ENR was -- was aware of the -- the
21 Colville Lake Dehla Got'ıne's Caribou Plan and -- and
22 the law, and so we pointed out many things that we
23 seen that couldn't work for ENR currently under the --
24 the plan and law. And so the Interim Management
25 Agreement was basically what we could agree to.

1 So that's -- that's -- this is why our
2 submission talks about the law, but we have the
3 Interim Management Agreement.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 BOARD MEMBER Haché: Yeah, no, so --
8 and I guess the only question is, yeah, why -- and
9 specifically, for thirty-three (33) to thirty-eight
10 (38), and not twenty-eight (28) to thirty-two (32)?
11 Like, the -- the -- there's twenty-eight (28) to
12 thirty-two (32) that has been kind of agreed in the
13 Interim Agreement, but not thirty-three (33) to
14 thirty-eight (38).

15 That was in the written submission, and
16 they're still legally unenforceable, based on my
17 understanding.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather
22 Sayine-Crawford, with ENR. Sorry, I just had to pull
23 up the law and make sure that I'm giving you a proper
24 answer.

25 So during our presentation, one of the

1 things that we spoke about is that ENR officers can
2 only enforce what's in -- currently within the
3 Wildlife Act or the Species at Risk Act. So that's
4 why some of these just aren't possible.

5 And then it goes to -- we also talked
6 about alternative measures. Walter had -- had a
7 question about alternative measures, and so that was
8 part of the response that I gave him. So that's as it
9 pertains to the justice committee that's laid out in
10 the -- in the Colville Lake law. And then the -- the
11 offences and punishment again go back to the fact that
12 ENR officers can only enforce what's in the Wildlife
13 Act.

14 MR. SAMUEL Haché: So yeah, just for
15 the record, like, a -- a follow-up question was
16 specifically on that, like, what are -- if enforcement
17 could be dealt with as alternative measures, the
18 Wildlife Act -- if an amendment to the Wildlife Act
19 was made. So that was -- just for the record, I
20 guess, that's the thing. You've been touching on that
21 a few times, probably, already, so.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any more question

1 from the Board? Yeah, go ahead.

2 MS. FAYE D'EON-EGGERTSON: Hello, Faye
3 D'Eon-Eggertson, with SRRB. I just have a question
4 about the general hunting licence system. This came
5 up in a previous question, and it's also in the
6 written submission.

7 So what it has in the written one is
8 that the GHLS will be phased out once land claims are
9 all settled and Indigenous governments make their own
10 agreements with other Indigenous governments about who
11 can harvest in their land claim areas.

12 And I was just wondering if ENR could
13 provide some sense of how it sees this process playing
14 out when it does and if that's kind of like a -- if
15 that's a -- going to be like a tren -- trend. Is that
16 -- is that something that's not going to happen? Is
17 it kind of just shelved until all land claims in the
18 NWT are fully settled?

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
23 I'll give the non-legal -- they're looking up some of
24 the details -- but I'll give my understanding of the
25 discussions that happened during the creation of the

1 Wildlife Act. Took fifteen (15) years, and it came
2 into effect in 2014. There was a lot of dialogue.

3 And as I understand, we got the people
4 who helped coordinate all the meetings and all the
5 consultations to kind of write down what they heard,
6 what's the -- what's the story behind what -- in other
7 words, what were people thinking, because sometimes,
8 if you're not a lawyer, you can't understand why they
9 put those words that they put.

10 What I have been told by many peoples
11 who were a part of that process is each land claim
12 will settle rights and where you can harvest, so it
13 will be very clear.

14 In the interim, we have areas where it
15 is not clear, so we needed some way to maintain
16 harvesting for rights-holders and non-rights-holders.
17 The thinking was -- of the people who participated in
18 the working groups -- was once all land claims are
19 settled, where people harvesting outside their rights
20 area is better done land claim to land claim.

21 The Sahtú would talk to the Gwich'in
22 and say, Here's what the best relationship is. If
23 you're Gwich'in and you want to harvest on the Sahtú
24 areas, leave it at that group-to-group negotiations.
25 But we can't get there until we have land claims

1 everywhere.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MS. FAYE D'EON-EGGERTSON: Sorry, I
6 was just also told that the translators wanted me to
7 ask the question again because they missed it. I'm
8 not sure if they still want me to ask the question.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MS. FAYE D'EON-EGGERTSON: Okay, but
13 do -- do you want me to say the question again? Okay.

14 So, sorry, the question that you just
15 got an answer to was about gener -- the general
16 hunting licence system. So that's -- the general
17 hunting licence are the licences that allow Aboriginal
18 people from inside the NWT but outside the specific
19 land claim region to harvest anywhere within the NWT.
20 Is this slow enough? I'm sorry. I'm working on it.

21 And then -- so in -- in the -- some of
22 the stuff the ENR sent, it says that these -- these
23 general hunting licences, so these GHs, will be
24 phased out once land claims are all settled and
25 Indigenous governments make their own agreements with

1 other Indigenous governments about who can harvest in
2 their land claim area.

3 So my question was just about whether
4 ENR could provide some sense of how it saw this
5 process eventually unfolding and whether -- whether it
6 wasn't -- whether anything was going to happen until
7 all the land claims in all of the NWT were settled.
8 That okay?

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, any more?
10 Keith...?

11 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. I got the last guy to give the question, and
13 it's a -- it's, of course, a legislative one. And I'm
14 going to use Ethel's example, and if you could just
15 focus on Sahtú region and -- and you'll see the -- the
16 reason why I say that is because of the consultation
17 process that may be involved.

18 And we'll use -- we'll use the example
19 of changing -- changing the residency requirement from
20 one (1) year, let's say, to two (2) years in an area
21 of interest to us, the Mile 222 area -- I'm just using
22 that as an example -- and what -- what has to be done
23 with regarding changing the -- that regulation or
24 amendments to the Wildlife Act. So we'll use that as
25 -- as an example, maybe, to help us.

1 Question, while you're thinking about
2 that, is: Would ENR be willing to participate in a
3 legislative working group drafting the specific
4 Wildlife Act amendments necessary to integrate
5 components of a community conservation plan made into
6 wildlife regulations in order for them to be enforced?

7 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Only because it's
8 late at night, could you repeat it once more to make
9 sure I got the words? Say it slowly for me.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. KEITH HICKLING: I'll repeat it
14 again, Brett. Thank you.

15 What we're asking is: Would ENR be
16 willing to commit to participate in legislative
17 working group to draft, as the final objective,
18 specific Wildlife Act amendments necessary to
19 integrate components of community protection plans
20 that we've heard and made into regulations in order
21 for them to be enforced -- enforced, I would imagine,
22 by ENR, traditional governments, wildlife guardians?
23 Thank you.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Yeah, thank you.

2 Brett Elkin, ENR.

3 Make sure I put this all in the right
4 order. I think one (1) of the key things I'd want to
5 stress is, I think we've built with our partners, a
6 process by which we develop or change regulations and
7 -- and legislation.

8 So I think if we were talking in a --
9 and this is where the lawyer can jump in and help me
10 here -- if we're actually changing the Act itself, I
11 think we want to -- our starting point would be work
12 with that group, because obviously a change to
13 something in the Act would affect everyone across the
14 NWT. So we would need to have everyone at the table.
15 We have a forum.

16 So should we get a request to consider
17 a regulation change, an Act change, a new forum, we
18 have a good forum where -- the Wildlife Act Working
19 Group, where we can discuss that movement forward.

20 So we could commit if we receive a
21 recommendation from a board, we obviously -- we are
22 going to entertain it, and I would just flip the
23 question that instead of a working group, I -- the
24 only reason I brought it that way is I think we want
25 to use our established forums that have got everyone

1 at the table. We don't want to be doing it
2 bilaterally. So I think we could commit to -- we're
3 going to consider seriously any recommendation and
4 that's the body we would like to -- to take it to.

5 And then we could work on it together
6 'cause a change that may help the Sahtú or the
7 Gwich'in settlement area may have implications in
8 Inuvialuit settlement area -- the -- the settlement
9 region.

10 BOARD MEMBER KEITH HICKLING: Thank
11 you, Brett.

12 Could you give us sort of the -- a
13 quick description of a change, let's we want to change
14 the residency requirement to two (2) years in a
15 certain area within this region, what would the
16 process be? Thank you.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.
21 I get to repeat part of my last question (sic) which
22 is good. And then we'll get in the process.

23 What we have done and what we would
24 follow if there was a request is to convene the
25 Wildlife Act and Working Group, that's where you have

1 those discussions. We're using that process -- I got
2 to talk slower -- use that process for a proposal to
3 change or add some regulations on drones. So we're
4 currently working with our co-management partners on
5 that.

6 So what we need to do is convene the
7 group, discuss it, and I got to make them talk once.
8 Once it hits and we actually agree on how we're going
9 forward, I'll let him explain the actual process to
10 change legislation.

11 MR. ROHAN BROWN: Rohan Brown for ENR.

12 So if there was to be amendment of the
13 Wildlife Act, the Bill would have to be introduced
14 that sets out what the proposed amendment is, and then
15 that would have to go through the full legislative
16 process, which is the first reading, second reading,
17 so on.

18 And the decision on whether to approve
19 of that Bill or not is ultimately in the hands of the
20 Legislative Assembly.

21 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Good. Thank
22 you, Rohan. Thanks for the answer.

23 I'm going to come back again and just,
24 I know it's late, everybody, but I'm trying to get
25 this around. The regulation for the change of

1 residency amendment to the Wildlife Act or to the
2 regulations, 'cause those are -- you gave the example
3 of -- to Mr. Elias with Inuvialuit settlement area
4 that regulation changes are common, they're made from
5 boards and are done rather quickly. Thank you.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. ROHAN BROWN: I hope I didn't over
10 speak, but that is correct in my interpretation. If
11 you have a reg -- regulation change, they can be
12 relatively quickly, depending on how much agreement.

13 If you don't have agreement and -- or
14 if there's infringements, we have to do a Section 35
15 consultation. It's more common. But they are
16 straight forward. Unfortunately, the residency's in
17 the Act and that is a longer process

18 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Good, thank
19 you. And you -- you mentioned the consultative
20 process which, massive for the whole Northwest
21 Territories, but in our region it would be -- would be
22 in a timely manner.

23 Let's use another exam -- where's my
24 Chairman? Could we use another example?

25 If this Board with approval from the

1 Renewable Resource councils, that any caribou hunting
2 by vehicle, like I'm asking, a pickup truck, a truck,
3 motor vehicle, you have to have snowshoes with you and
4 that -- that would be a regulation change. The reason
5 why would be to chase your wounded caribou off the --
6 the lake or, you know, off the side of the road, just
7 as an example. Thank you.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.

12 Sorry about that.

13 I want to make sure we give you good
14 answers. It's difficult with hypothetical questions.
15 But using your hypothetical, and I'm hoping they'll
16 help me if I stray on this, it -- it depends what the
17 regulation is and who it applies to. Is it just
18 Sahtú, people in the Sahtu? Or is it across the NWT?
19 Does it impact Aboriginal rights or does it not
20 potentially?

21 That changes who we need to consult and
22 who we need to engage 'cause if the -- if the Board
23 came with a recommendation in support of RRC's but
24 it's a regulation that impacted everyone across the
25 NWT, we have more work to do. If it infringes on

1 other Aboriginal rights, we have more work to do.

2 So it -- it depends exactly how it's
3 worded, how -- what the process would need to be to
4 push it forward.

5 BOARD MEMBER HICKLING: Brett and --
6 and ENR Team, thank you very much. It's been a long
7 night and I really appreciate your comments. Thank
8 you.

9 Mr. Chair, I'm done my questions.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, Keith. Well,
11 we're just about done. One (1) more question.

12 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Thanks. Just
13 one (1) question that is related to many of the
14 comments that were made about the collaborative work
15 that ENR has been doing with communities, and the
16 involvement that ENR has had in community conservation
17 planning, and the -- the interim agreement that's been
18 entered into with Colville.

19 So it's -- and -- and there was also
20 mention, you know, that there was kind of a shift in
21 approach that was marked by the -- the decisions
22 coming out of the 2016 Hearing.

23 So can ENR speak to the shift -- or the
24 plans that ENR has for training staff in order to be
25 able to appropriately participate in the -- the

1 collaborative processes that are now underway in the
2 region with community conservation planning and
3 agreements like the one with Colville, and the work
4 with Délıne? Máhsı.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BRETT ELKIN: Brett Elkin, ENR.

9 I'll have to give a -- a fairly high-
10 level answer. I think from what I've seen and -- and
11 what the direction we get right now, I think both with
12 the new Legislative Assembly and our own Department,
13 there is a continued or, if not, enhanced desire to
14 take this very collaborative approach and work with
15 our partners, build on co-management, build on working
16 on these new techniques.

17 So what that means, I can't commit
18 we'll take this training or that training, we'll do
19 this with our staff. But all -- the best I can give
20 is -- is my honest belief that we're -- we're
21 committed to this and we're working on trying to take
22 that approach, which means, you're right, trying to
23 train staff.

24 How do we do that? What that training
25 is? I guess we'll have to figure it out. We're open

1 to discussions and advice. Because the spirit and
2 intent is to go that way. We just have to figure out
3 how do you actually do that with a large staff? And
4 what does that training look like?

5 So I can't commit to specifics, other
6 than the fact that is kind of the direction I
7 understand us to be going.

8 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: That's my
9 question, thanks so much.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thanks to ENR
11 for the presentation. We've arrived at the end of our
12 business for the day. So we'll get started again --

13 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Yeah.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- at --

15 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: So we had to
16 defer one (1) of the presentations that were scheduled
17 for today. So and also we don't want to -- to -- we
18 don't want to constrain too much the session for the
19 public that was planned for tomorrow morning.

20 So we're hoping that the room might
21 agree to meet at 8:30 tomorrow morning. So breakfast
22 at 8:00, and -- and then meet while you're finishing
23 up breakfast, so that we can really have a -- a
24 productive day.

25 Is that okay with the room?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Gives us one (1)
4 extra half an hour while we're still fresh. Máhsí.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: I got nothing better
6 to do.

7 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: The Chair agreed
8 to it that --

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: We all have nothing
10 better to do, so.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Everybody's
15 going to be here at 8:00.

16 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: Okay.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, everybody will
21 be here at 8:00 and having breakfast. So the -- by
22 8:30 or so we'll see how much we have, if we can -- if
23 we have enough we'll get going. You'll be up at 7:30,
24 I think, yeah.

25 MS. DEBORAH SIMMONS: So, yeah. Oh,

1 we'll try to start at 8:30. And tonight Isabel's been
2 working on planning for drumming. So we're going to
3 make sure that the tables are cleared out so that
4 drumming can happened. It sounds like it was fun and
5 games last night.

6 So, máhsı. Oh, and have a great rest
7 of your evening.

8

9 --- Upon Adjourning

10

11

12 Certified Correct,

13

14

15 _____

16 Wendy Woodworth, Ms.

17

18

19

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23

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