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SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

BLUENOSE-WEST MANAGEMENT HEARING

Panel Members:

Facilitator	Walter Bayha
Member	Robert Kelly
Member	Camilla Rabisca
Member	Paul Latour
Member	Keith Hickling
Member	Rosa Etchinelle

HELD IN:

Fort Good Hope, NWT

November 23rd, 2007

Day 3 of 3

APPEARANCES

1
2 John Donihee) Board Counsel
3
4 Susan Fleck) ENR
5 Alasdair Veitch)
6 Marsha Branigan)
7 Boyan Tracz)
8 Jan Adamczewski)
9
10 Chief Richard Kochon) Behdzi Ahda' First
11 Joseph Kochon) Nation
12
13 Wilbert Kochon) Ayoní Keh Land
14 Alvin Orlias) Corporation
15
16 David Codzi) Behdzi Ahda'
17 Renewable
18) Resource Council
19
20 Harry Harris) Fort Good Hope
21 Tammy Proctor) Renewable Resource
22) Council
23
24
25

1 Elder Mary Rose Drybone)Colville Lake
2 Elders
3 Elder John Blancho Sr.)And Community
4 Members
5 Elder John B. Gully)
6 Elder Marie Kochon)
7 Elder Simone Kochon)
8 Elder Sarah Kochon)
9 Hyecinthe Kochon)
10
11 Roger Odgaard)Norman Wells
12 Renewable
13 Edward Oudzi)Resource Council
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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:37 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning,
4 everybody.

5 I see everybody's, you know, rearing to go
6 here, so as soon as I go over -- I'm just gonna -- just
7 go -- what we're going to be doing to -- we have a number
8 of presentations that -- mainly all of the RRCs in the
9 Sahtu are going to be making, and we go through the same
10 procedure. They make their presentation, and then gives
11 time for people to ask some questions, and then the
12 Boards would make their comments on that or their
13 questions, and then -- we go through that today with all
14 of the RRCs.

15 We had the Fort Good Hope Renewal Resource
16 Council; the Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council as
17 well; and then Tulita. As far as I know, Tulita is --
18 they put in some information, and they're one (1) of the
19 registered parties, but they're not here, so I'm going to
20 leave that for a while and see what happens with that.

21 So I don't want to delay this hearing any
22 more this morning. We've been here since 9:00 already.
23 So I saw Roger come in here, so if -- Roger Boniface, if
24 he wants to come up to the mic.

25 Roger? Unless you want to get some coffee

1 before you sit down, or water. Now, maybe while Roger's
2 doing that --

3 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: Can you give me a
4 couple of minutes.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah.

6 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: I think Harry --

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Just settle in
8 there. Get coffee there, or water, or whatever you need,
9 and -- we have a whole bunch of students here. Certainly
10 we'd like to welcome them.

11 I know somebody mentioned to me yesterday
12 that these students were very interested, and I see their
13 teacher here with them. So glad you guys are here.

14 While we're waiting here, you know, just
15 for the -- the information for the students, this -- the
16 Hearing is a product of your land claims. The Boards up
17 here -- that are sitting up here are nominated, half by
18 the government of the GNWT and the Federal government;
19 the other half is from First Nations.

20 And your Board has a mandate in -- that is
21 written right in the claims. I think that would be good
22 information for you. There's a lot of information on
23 that. We have web sites, if you're interested in that.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll just give
2 a few more minutes to Roger here.

3 During the course of the day here, I'm
4 also going to allow some more of the Elders to talk.
5 Some of them couldn't make it yesterday because they --
6 some of them were ill, or -- but we've gone through most
7 of the Elders yesterday, so I think there's just going to
8 be a few.

9 So, Roger, whenever -- I sent -- I talked
10 to Harry there, and I told him that -- to, you know,
11 maybe find out where you guys were, and maybe he's out
12 doing that right now.

13 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: Maybe I'll just do
14 the presentation myself. Harry and Tammy were supposed
15 to be here with me, but, I don't know where they are.

16 Anyways, I -- I don't want to repeat all
17 what the other people said, so -- why are they just --

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can you just say your
19 name, and say you represent the RRC, that way, for our
20 records, so.

21 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: My name? I'm Roger
22 Boniface. I represent the Fort Good Hope Renewable
23 Resource Council. So I'll be speaking on behalf of them,
24 I guess.

25 I think -- I don't want to repeat all what

1 they took twelve (12) caribou. I think that was it. A
2 number of hunters went out the other week, and -- past
3 Colville I think, and they only got twelve (12), so.

4 Every year we rely on Colville for in --
5 information on the whereabouts of the caribou, so I think
6 they should decide. They should play a big part in the
7 decision making, I mean -- I should say.

8 Some of the trappers up north of here have
9 always complained about the low helicopter flying.
10 They're even staking on the trap lines. I think --
11 really I think the -- our leaders should be doing
12 something with the mineral companies. There should be
13 some guidelines set up.

14 There should be no flying -- months set up
15 -- like maybe September or January, there shouldn't be
16 any flying anywhere on the migration route; for an
17 example, survey aircraft. They fly at a hundred (100)
18 feet above ground level. A couple of years ago were out
19 flying trying to spot caribou at five hundred (500) feet.
20 Then they were way down, a hundred (100) feet. Some of
21 the trappers were -- didn't like that, so they pull out
22 their traps. So we think the biggest impact on caribou
23 is the low flying aircraft.

24 And maybe one (1) of the reasons the slow
25 birth -- like Alasdair says, some of the birth were right

1 into July. And I think there should be some research
2 done into why they're decline -- why the caribou are
3 declining.

4 I think that Alasdair said in nineteen
5 (19) -- if I'm correct -- or ten (10) years back, it must
6 have been a hundred thousand (100,000), now, it's twenty
7 thousand (20,000). And I don't think I ever heard any
8 hunters reporting dead caribou anyplace. There gotta be
9 something that's -- either the count is wrong, or the
10 caribou are going some other -- some other place. I
11 don't know.

12 And then again, a couple of old Elders
13 told me that the caribou are like the rabbits. They're
14 gone one (1) year, but they come back in great numbers
15 the next year.
16 They said they have seen that before.

17 And I guess that's about it. What I had
18 to say. I think everybody else said what I was thinking
19 to say, so.

20 Unless Harry's here? I think he wanted to
21 say something on behalf the RRC from Good Hope.

22 Tammy, you want? Tammy is one (1) of the
23 younger, active advocates for the hunters and trappers,
24 so maybe she has something to say.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Roger, just -- you

1 know, we have the information that you gave us. What you
2 call a written submission for caribou hearings.

3 I know there was quite a bit of stuff that
4 you highlighted in here, and one (1) of the things --
5 maybe -- I don't know who's going to speak here, but you
6 mentioned outfitters here on your submission.

7 Maybe just give us a -- just in your own
8 words, what you're recommending there.

9 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: I think -- somebody
10 mentioned this. It was put on there because of the big
11 game hunters in the mountains. It wasn't -- I don't
12 think there's any outfitters right now doing the -- I'm
13 not sure, but maybe there's past Colville. I don't know.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Roger.

15 Tammy, you wanted to add anything to what
16 Roger was saying?

17 MS. TAMMY PROCTOR: I just wanted to ask
18 one (1) question.

19 For the record, I'm not that young, but --
20 my -- I know this public hearing came really fast and
21 whatnot. It was just discussions about caribou
22 declining, and then all of a sudden we're having a
23 hearing about quota.

24 Why weren't other measures put in place
25 before having this public hearing?

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, Tammy, that's an
2 excellent question, and I wish I can go over and
3 elaborate on all that stuff, but the whole -- and I've
4 mentioned that over the course of the Hearing, that the
5 Hearing is for the Board's information.

6 See, the Board is -- has an issue in front
7 of them and it has to decide what it's going to do. It's
8 gotta make some kind of decision. And you know, I
9 mentioned again -- I think it was yesterday. I mentioned
10 that there's certain rules and certain legal obligations
11 of the Board. We have to do those things.

12 And whenever we look at -- and I -- you
13 know, this keeps up -- coming up many times, and I'm
14 really glad you're asking, because maybe it gives some
15 latitude to the Board to just give more information as to
16 why they do certain things.

17 The Board has never, you know, as far as I
18 know, has never said anything about putting any quota on
19 anything. It's the public. It's the RRCs -- certainly
20 the other Boards across the territories. So here's the -
21 - the Board is usually the people that will decide what
22 to do. You know, the information would come back.

23 And again, like I said, going back to the
24 procedures, and certainly the legal obligations of the
25 Board, we do have to -- whenever we look at, you know,

1 the cutting back harvesting, or looking at numbers, or
2 changing certain things that have happened, then we're
3 obligated to have a hearing, and this is -- and I'm
4 really glad you mentioned how quickly things can happen.

5 I know -- I think it's thirty-five (35)
6 days or something from the day that we advertise, or we
7 call for a Hearing, and we hold a Hearing. And yes, we
8 grapple with it a lot, but that's how things progress.

9 I didn't -- you know, you -- over the
10 course -- maybe towards the end of the Hearing, you'll
11 see, maybe, some timelines as how the Board is going to
12 make its decision, and that might help give you a little
13 more time as to think about what sorts of things, you
14 know, that you may want to continue looking at the ways
15 that you guys want to do your -- deal with this -- the
16 issues that are in front of the Board today here.

17 I see Harry is here, so maybe -- Harry, I
18 don't know if you heard Roger go over his presentation,
19 but ...

20 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Yes. I'll just
21 briefly summarize what Roger Boniface presented today.

22 It's pretty sad that Imperial Oil is not
23 here, because according to the land claims, they're
24 supposed to compensate us for a loss of animals.

25 It will be to their interest that they're

1 here, you know. Like right -- right now, the last three
2 (3) years, we, you know, we had no caribou. I don't know
3 how they're going to compensate us for that.

4 That -- that brings me to my -- what I was
5 going to talk about. Like nobody talks about the -- the
6 development that's happening on land.

7 The -- up to 2004 -- I think last year,
8 they work up towards Colville Lake; the Paramount -- the
9 oil comp -- subcontractors of the Imperial Oil.

10 And according -- I was wishing that you
11 guys bring up your -- your slide presentation on the
12 trends of the Bluenose -- West Bluenose -- caribou herd
13 on your PowerPoint machine there.

14 That's on the -- on the -- on the trends -
15 - like from 2000 -- or 2000 to 2005, there's a -- there's
16 a drop of about forty thousand (40,000) caribou, and --
17 that we used to -- we hunt -- we hunted in those years,
18 and like -- the last year is 2004 when they worked out in
19 Colville Lake.

20 In 2005, there was no caribou. I guess
21 that we have to make some rules for them to follow. Like
22 in the -- like the Colville Lake Road, there's an old
23 Indian trail that leads right from -- from here right
24 down to Ander -- Anderson. I guess it really shows that
25 the people really coevict -- existed with the caribou,

1 and followed the caribou right to their camping ground.

2 During -- the last year, they worked up
3 towards Colville Lake, they went right in the -- the
4 heart of the migration route.

5 We -- I guess we have to find different
6 routes. I'd even go as far as to note the -- that these
7 camps and rigs -- the drill rigs, I'd even go as far --
8 as far as creating a buffer zone.

9 Like even as far as a fence. Like a --
10 just to keep the -- you know, the big game animals out of
11 there. They won't -- they won't be exposed to that
12 noise.

13 All -- also I'd like -- on the -- the
14 calving grounds; I was going to ask the question; like
15 any -- do you have any estimate on how much calves are
16 born, and how much the mortality rate is by the time they
17 got off -- into the calving grounds?

18 Because I was wondering where, like --
19 like brings -- bring us -- brings us to ESSO -- Imperial
20 Oil. They're supposed to compensate us, and I was
21 thinking, they should have some ground base and monitor,
22 I mean, like quads, skidoos, to watch the caribou while
23 they are tapping. Make sure that, you know, most of the
24 young are -- have a chance at, you know, going on their
25 migration route.

1 It's pretty sad that Imperial Oil is not
2 here as to their interest. Thank you. That's all I have
3 to say.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Harry. That
5 was good. That was excellent.

6 The -- I guess if that's the end of your
7 presentation, then we can -- you know, we've noted all
8 those questions there, myself as well, Harry, so -- and I
9 think you've directed some questions to, I guess, ENR,
10 but I'm -- you know, I don't want to delay these things.
11 I'm sure the public would want to hear some of these --
12 some of the responses.

13 So I'm going to go through -- like I said
14 this morning, go through the -- you know, your
15 presentation is -- you've done with your presentation, so
16 we'll go and get -- you know, starting with ENR for
17 questions.

18 So while Susan is here, we can ask her.

19

20 QUESTION PERIOD:

21 MS. SUSAN FLECK: Susan Fleck. No
22 questions.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, go ahead. No
24 questions? Okay.

25 Going through the list again -- I know

1 sometimes this is sort of boring, but we have to do this
2 for the record.

3 Chief Richard Kochon, Sahtu First Nations?
4 No questions for Harry and for Good Hope RRC? Okay.
5 Thank you.

6 Wilbert -- no? Yeah, Wilbert's got a
7 question.

8 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: Can you put up --
9 can you put up their slide, their submission? That --
10 that letter they wrote to the RR -- RRP? Do you have a
11 slide of that? There was some things in there I wanted
12 to ask questions on that, so ...

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That's the
14 submission to the -- to our Board he's talking about.

15 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: Well, maybe I'll
16 just ask a question before that, because I don't know if
17 both of them were here for all the presentation, but
18 there's some things that were said before they were here,
19 so if -- if they heard the Elders about the -- our
20 presentation and that. So I don't know if they seen
21 that.

22 If they just have a look at our...

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: And the Horton Lake?
2 And the migration route, yeah. I need glasses. I can't
3 see.

4
5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6
7 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: Well maybe I'll --
8 I'm not going to put them on the spot. Maybe I'll just
9 say that -- that I don't know if the Renewable Resource
10 Council should sit down with Colville and talk -- really
11 talk about this.

12 We don't have to go through public
13 formalities to talk about these things, so I think --
14 instead of asking that question, I think I'll just say
15 that the RRC should sit down with Colville and really
16 talk about this instead of going through public forum.

17 There's some things in there that we don't
18 really agree with so; on the numbers and the migration
19 route, and we have said that before.

20 We never really agreed with ENR's numbers,
21 but we're willing to work together, and tell you why we
22 think that way. We can't tell all our secrets, so...

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, thanks, Wilbert,
24 and I think -- you know, Roger and Harry, I think you
25 have sort of an idea what -- what Wilbert is talking

1 about.

2 They've mentioned that a few times
3 yesterday, so they said they -- they'd rather deal with
4 some of this stuff, you know, on one-on-one, and -- but
5 we still have it here.

6 I think it's good information. We'll
7 certainly take it, you know -- that will be part of our
8 decision-making information.

9 We -- yeah, go ahead.

10 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: I guess one (1) of
11 the reasons the Horton Lake hunt was put on there was a
12 lot of the hunters in the community have said that if you
13 shoot the first bunch, then they'll scatter all the rest.
14 So even the Elders have stated that. I guess that's one
15 (1) of the reasons it was put on there.

16 It was not -- it wasn't coming from the
17 RRC. It came from some of the more active hunters in the
18 community or what I should say, all the recommendations
19 on here came from more the -- the hunters themselves.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Thanks, Roger.
24 I'm -- yeah, go ahead, Wilbert.

25 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: I just remembered

1 that -- on that predators -- I don't think there should
2 be a bounty on the predators like the RRC is saying.

3 That there's a lot of predate -- predation
4 from wolves, but I think that's natural, and the wolf is
5 part of caribou. It keeps it healthy.

6 So the question I have is why would you
7 put a bounty on wolves? When I'm out there every day,
8 24/7, and I never see no wolves, or four (4) to fifty
9 (50) wolves.

10 But where did this come from? Maybe some
11 -- some rumours came around saying the wolves are killing
12 all the caribou, but it's part of the cycle. So I don't
13 think they should bother wolves.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, Harry?

15 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Hi, my name's Harry.

16 I guess what -- like Roger said, we -- we
17 had -- I've got to give some background.

18 We had a meeting with the committee
19 members about this meeting; like they could bring their
20 suggestions.

21 Those are just suggestions, not really -- you know, not
22 recommendations but suggestion.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, thanks.

24 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Like, I also informed
25 them that we were going to get into a whole bunch of shit

1 if, you know, we start doing that, and so -- but I'll
2 just finish it there, and just something that the review
3 panel should think about that.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I think, you
5 know, like putting it all on there is -- you know, I
6 realize how the public is, and so that's good. That's
7 there.

8 I mean, that's part of information, and it
9 makes only good for the Board to look at all the options
10 and all the information. Thanks.

11 So we have any more questions for -- I
12 guess we'll keep going down the list here.

13 We also -- you know, we have Behdzi Ahda'
14 Renewable Resources Council here. If -- do we have any -
15 - I know Richard is also -- no comments or questions for
16 them?

17 So there probably isn't -- there is -- oh,
18 Richard, go ahead. This is for Behdzi Ahda' Renewal
19 Resources Council.

20 CHIEF RICHARD KOCHON: I just want to say
21 I no like -- we hear this -- like Tulita, Horton Lake for
22 about one (1) year. We talk about that kind of things
23 among ourselves to our own in Colville Lake, and -- and
24 we were thinking about it. Because when the other people
25 think like that, from other community, we'll respect them

1 and -- and some of them will -- will do in our -- and on
2 our -- our land, no like some of the words I hear.

3 It -- it doesn't have to go over to
4 another -- another jurisdiction like that. Not like I
5 hear around Inuvik one (1) person I -- is saying that if
6 you over hunt like that, I see them as poachers, they
7 said.

8 You know that's -- that -- that a way of
9 life, and I no like -- like that kind of thing, like
10 where -- wherever they -- they talk like in the Delta.
11 Just the words stay in Delta.

12 And then us, we talk on our -- protect our
13 -- our caribou like in the Sahtu. And then they just
14 stays there; that -- that good like that.

15 And like caribou -- whichever way it's
16 going to go, we -- we're not the boss of it. That's what
17 our Elders say too. They move wherever they -- wherever
18 it -- wherever it has good food like that. It can't go
19 one (1) -- one (1) place all the time.

20 And a couple of years ago, when asked, we
21 went to that -- Northern Quebec. We see some Crees
22 there, and I was talking with some of those Crees there.

23 And they said a couple of years ago, they
24 said there were -- they -- they don't really see caribou.
25 And they said since just -- not too long ago -- a couple

1 of years ago, around 2000, around there, they said the
2 caribou are going closer to their -- their community.
3 They said they never seen that before. So I think some
4 of -- some of the -- the caribou, probably they go out
5 the other way, that way.

6 No like -- like I said -- I heard Roger
7 state that Elders say that some years they -- they --
8 they come lots of caribou. I really believe that.
9 That's -- that that's the way our Elders say too. I
10 really believe that.

11 And yesterday they were talking about that
12 -- that one (1) place you said there was a hundred
13 thousand (100,000), then suddenly just went down to
14 twenty thousand (20,000).

15 Well, we never seen no -- no dead caribou
16 out there. They're probably exploring all over,
17 wherever. We don't know -- we don't know -- we don't
18 know where it goes.

19 When our Elders said the -- the caribou
20 makes its own living, and they grow itself up, and we
21 don't know it too.

22 That -- that -- that's how it is. That's
23 we just do a little bit of study on it. There's just a -
24 - maybe just a couple day. Whatever, we stay out on the
25 land, and then we -- there you could really see -- see

1 how it -- how it is.

2 So I just wanted to say that. And
3 whatever other communities they say then, I really
4 respect what they say. And then -- like in the other
5 community, like, when one -- our way of life is, like, to
6 go on the land, like, out there, that's how God made it.
7 The caribou that's there for -- to -- when we're hungry.
8 And that's our way of life.

9 And I don't think -- I don't think the
10 caribou can live by our care. We're just only -- like,
11 if I say myself -- if I say just, you're allowed to shoot
12 only one (1) caribou a person, probably there's about
13 fifty thousand (50,000) caribou. They're all going to be
14 hunted by one (1) person care. I don't -- I don't think
15 that's -- they are dying like that.

16 So -- so thank you. I just wanted to say
17 that. I mean, I'm on the RRC, and I really respect from
18 the other RRC, from the communities, we have a lot of
19 channel -- challenges to face. So I hope that Sahtu
20 Renewable Resources Board, I hope they hear us really
21 good.

22 When we say something, just listen to us
23 and try to -- try to work the way we want -- we want to -
24 - the caribou how to work, how to -- how to involve us in
25 the decision when you are going to make a decision.

1 Governments, too, they should be all like
2 that. They've got to listen to us. You know, some of
3 them -- some of them -- government, they're just hired,
4 and they -- sometimes just one (1) of them make a
5 decision for the whole territory. That too, they have to
6 ask the people which -- how -- how is this, we should go
7 like -- like this, they should ask the people like that.

8 And then that -- that would -- things work
9 good. So I just wanted to say that. Thank you for
10 listening.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Richard. That
12 was -- okay, I have, I am just going down the list of
13 questions. Unless, I do not know if I picked up any
14 questions for -- for the Good Hope RRC but there's always
15 -- you pick one and you want to respond to some of things
16 that Richard made comments on.

17 If not, then I will just go down the list.
18 Roger, you do not -- I think all the submissions are
19 there, and I think we are very clear as to what Richard
20 is talking about. Okay. Colville Lake community. I
21 think that -- no, I went over the other RRCs already.

22 I guess if the other RRCs, Roger, no
23 comments? Okay. I know Wilfred is not here unless Frank
24 wants to make a comment there for the RRC there, but I do
25 not -- we usually just go through all the other RRCs, but

1 I know Wilfred is not here, so and I do not really want
2 to put you on the spot.

3 I know -- you do? Okay. Thanks, Frank.

4 GRAND CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: Hello. My
5 name is Frank Andrew. I'm the Chief of Tulita Dene Band.
6 Also, representing the region as a Grand Chief. Mahsi.

7

8 (NORTH SLAVEY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 GRAND CHIEF FRANK ANDREW: I'm Frank
11 Andrew, and I'm from Tulita. And I'm also the Chief for
12 Tulita, and I am the Grand Chief for the region.

13 Now, that we are talking about this
14 caribou, in the past, for a long time, our ancestors have
15 lived off of this caribou. What we are talking about
16 today is something that we are trying to set for
17 ourselves for the future. This land claims -- that was
18 established, it was made to help us.

19 I went to Ottawa and had a meeting with
20 Fisheries and Oceans, and this -- and they were talking
21 about harvesting. They were talking about the fishing
22 areas where you can harvest, and Deline, they had a
23 really hard time with it.

24 They -- they wanted to know why we had a
25 land claim settlement if -- if we still have White people

1 making regulations for us. The government -- we're
2 talking to them and asking them, Why is it so difficult
3 to make these changes, and this is what they said.

4 Under your land claims agreement, there is
5 some -- there is some provisions under there that -- and
6 these provisions said you have made for yourself, and you
7 are the ones in the region that are the ones that make
8 the -- these regulations for yourself, so you have to
9 talk to the RRC if you want to make any changes.

10 If you bring up your concerns to them,
11 they are the ones that will be able to deal with it. And
12 they said as government, we can't deal with it and make
13 any changes for you. It's up to your RRCs to make these
14 changes. Anything that you have -- if what you're
15 talking about now -- this is something that's very
16 important to us.

17 The -- in Dillon, they are talking about
18 they -- they said -- after they have discussions with
19 other groups and they'll be able to talk with us and see
20 what their con -- what our concerns are. It could be
21 four (4) or five (5) concerns, and -- and it could be
22 dealt with.

23 This is how government talked when we had
24 our discussions with them. And here, I'm going to be
25 leaving this morning, so I just wanted to say thank you

1 to you all. This is a very good meeting that's going on
2 here. What you are talking about now is for the future
3 of our children, and you that are sitting on the RCC, you
4 have to, like, continue to have discussions on these
5 important issues.

6 This Hearing that's happening -- we don't
7 know if there's going to be any more happening in the
8 future, but what you are talking about now; this is
9 something very important, but as well, we have to listen
10 to your people, too, because they live the life and they
11 have concerns, as well.

12 This is something that's very important
13 that you have to make decisions on. There is -- now,
14 there is another issue that -- that has been brought up -
15 - is the protected area. We have government people and
16 officials coming into our communities and coming in and
17 having meetings with us.

18 They -- they talked to us about all of the
19 activities that are going to be happening, and then
20 businesses that -- that are going to be happening. Now,
21 you are expering -- experiencing it here in your own
22 community with this helicopters and companies coming onto
23 your land. Around Edmonton there used to be a lot of
24 wildlife, but because of the overpopulation of -- of
25 people that the wildlife has depleted. So what you are

1 discussing here, think about it and -- before you make
2 some decisions. If you make quotas, it could be closed
3 for so long and then reopened.

4 These are the kind of things that you
5 could make decisions on. Maybe in five (5) years the
6 caribou could increase again, and then you could open the
7 -- the -- I just wanted to thank you. What you are
8 talking about here is something very important.

9 And the peop -- and the Elders in Tulita
10 have been talking about the same issue too, and so you
11 are talking about here, I wanted to thank you for that.
12 We are talking about the Creator, too. He is the one
13 that guides us and takes care of us.

14 So this is what I wanted to say for now.
15 Thank you.

16

17 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Frank. There is
20 a lot of good advice there, I think. You know, just
21 going down the line here again, we are still in a
22 question period for the presentation that Good Hope RRC
23 made. General public basically means that we, if there
24 is people that are out there that want to ask questions
25 to the presentation, they could at this time.

1 I do not hear anybody. I guess,
2 Joseph...? Yes, go ahead.

3 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Joseph Kochon. I
4 just wanted to ask a simple question on the migration
5 route. There's a -- they're asking to -- that
6 exploration should be -- should avoid the migration
7 route. Exactly which migration route that -- which area
8 they're talking about?

9 To date, there's that -- the migration
10 route is starting to change, so I wanted to ask specific,
11 which area they're -- they want off the zone?

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Joseph. Go
13 ahead, Roger.

14 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: I guess when we were
15 meant to protect the migration route, we were talking
16 about the low-flying aircraft. It wasn't meant for the
17 seismic or the oil companies. People have got to
18 remember, ever since the first diamond was discovered in
19 NWT that's when the caribou start declining.

20 Prior to that, there was a lot of oil
21 companies in the region. There is -- I didn't think it
22 had any affect on the caribou, but I think it is the
23 mineral companies that's having the biggest impact on the
24 caribou herds. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

1 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Speaking about the
2 migration route I presented before, like, what I was just
3 saying, Colville Lake -- there's an Indian trail,
4 traditional trail right from here to -- right to
5 Anderson. And people used to follow; that's the heart of
6 the migration route.

7 And, like, I was talking about 2004, the
8 oil exploration out there. They had trucks out there by
9 the hundreds. They -- like it was just crazy on that
10 road. And it -- it does have some affect on the caribou
11 like that. 2005, after that, there is no caribou.

12 They -- what I was suggesting that we
13 should find a different route off the migration route.
14 I'm pretty sure they could spend a few bucks to build
15 another road, some place other than the -- through the
16 heart up there; you know, migration route. That is what
17 I was suggesting.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Harry.
19 Joseph...?

20 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: On that letter there,
21 it says that it's referring to -- that exploration stay
22 away from migration routes, so I guess I just wanted it
23 clear, specifically, you know, like, on there it says --
24 it says the routes of the caribou.

25 Now, I hear that it's talking about

1 traditional trails. I'm hearing two different responses
2 but, for the record, I just wanted to make sure if
3 they're talking about the migration route of the caribou,
4 then on there that's specifically stated that it's the
5 caribou -- the migration of the caribou route, so that's
6 what that's referring to. So that's why I just wanted
7 that clarified.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: We've got it here,
9 yeah. I -- I know if, thanks to the -- if Roger or Harry
10 or -- sort of have an idea where Joseph is going with
11 this. He sort of just wants to make clear that, you
12 know, which expl -- which routes or which areas you guys
13 are talking about so ... I think I have it both here.

14 You've got the survey. But you've got the
15 helicopter no-flying during the month, and then you have
16 certain areas you've talked about. And then Harry, you
17 mentioned the traditional routes all the way down to --
18 yeah, go ahead.

19 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Like I took -- between
20 1992 to 1995, I took the Renewable Resource course in
21 Fort Smith College there. And when -- from that
22 training, I know any, you know, disturbance on land where
23 it will affect the wildlife. That's why I'm, you know,
24 sort of concerned about the development that's happening
25 there. I'm just trying to find out ways to lessen the

1 impact of, you know, these -- this exploration.

2 I guess me and Roger, we had different,
3 you know, viewpoints, like you know, who -- but my main
4 concern is the oil and gas people doing all kind of work
5 there. Like each -- if they're going to do any, you
6 know, development, they should, you know, access the --
7 where they're gonna put the rigs or camps or any off, you
8 know, not on the -- not go on the Colville Lake Road.
9 That's all I'm suggesting there.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Harry. Okay,
11 we're still in the general public. I think we've pretty
12 well exhausted that. We're gonna go to -- still on the
13 question period for the presentation from Fort Good Hope,
14 the RRC. We'll go to our -- you know, at this time
15 usually we go to our st -- our staff, our -- our legal
16 counsel.

17 We'll start with them. I always gonna ask
18 John if we -- and again you know, I'll remind people
19 before John -- you know, John is a legal counsel. Well,
20 John only legal counsel for us as a Board. You know,
21 like, John advises us to make sure that we follow, you
22 know, the claims and understand and follow the
23 requirements and the obligations that the board has under
24 that -- and including our mandate. Yeah, go ahead John.

25 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. I don't have a question, but I believe Jody
2 does.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Jody.

4 MS. JODY SNORTLAND: Good morning, Jody
5 Snortland with the SAHTU Renewable Resources Board. Just
6 a quick question related to your letter about monitors.
7 I just wanted clarification on what sort of program
8 you're looking at putting in place; if there was funding
9 available for the calving grounds.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, go ahead.

11 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Just an idea. Like I
12 was thinking, to make in a -- and to really simple terms,
13 I was thinking about, you know, employing people. The
14 local people, you know to -- I guess you'd ask or -- ask
15 the cont -- contribute to, like a compensation. Like, I
16 don't know how they're gonna compensate us.

17 I was thinking about employing a few
18 people with quads and skidoos, just to watch that caribou
19 herd or for calves, they reach the tree line after they
20 start migrating back here. Just something to think
21 about, that will take up the population like in the...

22 Like most people think this Hearing is,
23 like, to place a quota, but the goal of this Hearing
24 isn't it to form management plans to, you know, to regain
25 that population of the Blue Northwest Caribou herd. I

1 wanted to clarify that with the people.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, thanks, Harry.
3 Jody...?

4 MS. JODY SNORTLAND: Thanks, Harry.
5 That's my question. No further questions from the staff.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, no further
7 questions from the staff at this time, so I'll go to our
8 Board members, and as usual, we'll start with Rosa at the
9 far left here. Go ahead, Rosa.

10 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Rosa Etchinelle,
11 SRRB member. The question I had was relating to the
12 migration route.

13 We talk about exploration companies, and I
14 would like to know who deals with these companies?

15 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: When I said
16 "exploration," I meant the mineral companies; the people
17 that are staking the aerial survey. There should be a
18 moratorium on air time; like September to January.
19 That's all I'm asking. I'm not trying to stop
20 development.

21 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Yeah, my question
22 was I'd like to -- like -- like who deals with them,
23 like, in the regions?

24 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: Can you say that
25 again?

1 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: No, who deals with
2 the companies, like makes -- makes agreements with these
3 companies to work in the region.

4 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: Like right now, I
5 think the staking and the aerial survey; they don't have
6 to go through no permit system like the oil companies do.
7 So my suggestion is that they should go through the
8 permit system, like the oil companies do.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Kyle -- you got -- what
10 Roger's trying, I --

11 MR. HARRY HARRIS: I guess, what do you
12 call that? Roger can get that Rosa's question -- I guess
13 the Land Corp. deals with all the exploration stuff
14 that's happening on that. Like I'll say this -- like
15 basically there are -- they limit it -- they limit us to
16 taking care of the land.

17 Like it's their environmental stuff; the
18 way things are going, I think, you know we're -- we're
19 sort of involving ourself by being, you know -- being
20 involved, I should say; being told, you know, to be
21 involved. Heard that Land Corp. has all say.

22 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Okay, --

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Harry. Yeah,
24 go ahead.

25 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Rosa again. Yeah,

1 cause with these migration routes, and interference with
2 helicopters, so do they impose any aircraft restriction
3 during this time when the caribou are migrating?

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead, Harry.

5 MR. HARRY HARRIS: I believe we alre --
6 we've informed the, you know, Land Corp. of the, like you
7 know, the disturbance by aircraft on the caribou. I -- I
8 -- there's no real thing set on that. There's no real
9 legislation or when we inform them of -- at certain times
10 of the year they shouldn't be, you know, flying around
11 the -- I think it went as far as that.

12 I guess we better set some sort of
13 legislation on the aircraft that are low-flying aircraft.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Harry.

15 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Okay. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, thanks, Rosa.
17 The a -- the a -- we're just going to keep going here.
18 Keith...?

19 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chair. Keith Hickling, Board member. I'd just like to
21 thank the Renewable Resource Council Fort Good Hope for
22 their written submission, and appreciate the work that's
23 gone into it.

24 I'd also like to acknowledge comments from
25 our Grand Chief. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Keith. That
2 was good. Paul?

3 MR. PAUL LATOUR: Yeah. Paul Latour
4 here, Board member. I guess we're sitting here as a
5 Board listening to the two (2) major -- and I notice a
6 lot of Colville Lake people have left here already, so
7 make -- but I'll at least address this to Good Hope
8 members in front of us here.

9 We're listening to two (2) -- the two (2)
10 main user Caribou communities for this herd, telling us
11 quite different stories. Fort Good Hope, if I'm hearing
12 correctly, seems to be telling us that they believe
13 there's been a decline in the herd. Whereas Colville
14 Lake, seems to be telling us that they don't think the
15 numbers have gone down or, they may have gone somewhere
16 else and -- and might -- could be back.

17 But, as a Board, we have to come up with
18 some sort of a decision here about quotas or total
19 allowable harvest; they're basically the same thing. So
20 you can imagine what kind of a difficult situation this
21 puts us in. And this is probably -- before we make our
22 decision, this is going to be the last time we have
23 everybody together in the same room and I'm wondering:
24 Is there anything somebody can tell me here to make my
25 job easier in terms of what our decision might be? How

1 we can make our decision?

2 When you have two communities that are
3 quite far apart it seems, on this issue, is there some
4 sort of middle ground here? I heard the Grand Chief make
5 comments about temporary quotas perhaps that could be
6 lifted based on better information or when the herd
7 numbers start going up. That's maybe a possibility.

8 But while we have bo -- the both
9 communities here in front of us, I'm just wondering if
10 there's anything somebody can tell us, me, that's going
11 to make our job any easier. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks Paul. I guess
13 this is, you know, again question period. We're still on
14 question period for the presentation by Fort Good Hope
15 RRC. I don't know if -- Harry or Roger, you want to
16 respond to that?

17 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: If I can remember, a
18 few years ago, Fort Good Hope used to take a couple of
19 hundred caribou by Christmas, but it's not like that
20 anymore. Last year, throughout the whole year I think
21 Fort Good Hope hunters took maybe less than fifty (50)
22 animals.

23 One of the reasons I don't recommend a
24 quota is I don't think that's the answer, because the
25 hunters are not to blame for the decline in the caribou.

1 I have talked to other hunters in the community, but it's
2 their words, their not the ones to blame for the decline
3 they said.

4 I'm speaking for Fort Good Hope. I don't
5 know how much Colville took; not -- not much more than a
6 hundred I guess. Cause the caribou is just too far away
7 from us to go hunt them anymore, so I think a quota would
8 be out of the question. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks Roger. Okay,
10 thanks Paul. We'll just continue with Board member
11 questions on the presentation from RRC. Robert...?

12 MR. ROBERT KELLY: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairperson. Robert Kelly, SRRB Board member. I just had
14 a question regarding one of the recommendations in one of
15 the written -- on the muskox. I think there was a lot of
16 comments, and a lot of questions raised regarding the
17 muskox and there's a lot of belief about muskox does have
18 impact on the caribou.

19 There's some other comments made that
20 maybe there should be more tags provided for people to
21 hunt muskox. I just wanted to know if you had any
22 comments regarding that?

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, okay. Yeah, go
24 ahead, Roger.

25 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: I guess the -- some

1 of the hunters they believe that the -- the muskox eat
2 all the what the caribou eats and so I guess that was why
3 I was putting in there and that -- as for right now
4 they're thinking of putting an outfitting business
5 together so we can make use of the muskox tags, if that's
6 good enough an answer.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Roger.

8 Robert...? No follow-ups? Oh, Harry.

9 MR. HARRY HARRIS: Yeah.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, sorry there,
11 Harry.

12 MR. HARRY HARRIS: In response to -- I
13 have brief comment on the -- the muskox. Like, as a
14 people we -- we believe that, you know, the, what Roger
15 has said there that the muskox ate off the caribou food,
16 like a lichen sup -- and we should see that's really
17 true; what kind of ben -- effects they have on each
18 other.

19 If it -- I believe we have people here,
20 you know, to check on that to see if they -- they -- to
21 see if that's the cause of the -- of the decline in
22 caribou.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Harry. Follow-
24 ups on that, Robert?

25 MR. ROBERT KELLY: That's good.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Robert. And
2 Camilla? Yeah. Cam is just telling me that all the
3 questions have been answered and really happy with
4 everything here so far.

5 We have -- we've got -- I do not know if
6 it is worth taking a break here, we have only got an hour
7 until noon. Everybody is fine for a break?

8 How are the Interpreters doing?

9 Okay? Jody, they are okay over there? I
10 cannot see them from here.

11 MS. JODY SNORTLAND: They're okay.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Good stuff.

13 Okay, I just learned that the next
14 presentation, you know just -- I thank Harry and Roger
15 for doing their presentation. Thank you. Mahsi.

16 MR. ROGER BONIFACE: Mahsi.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: I just learned that the
18 Normal Wells are, I see disappeared on us here, so, they
19 are still -- remember, even if they are not here the
20 presentations they make is part of the information that
21 we have here.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I stand

1 corrected on that. Jody tells me there is no submission
2 from the Norman Wells RRC.

3 The next registered group I think it was
4 also Tulita Renewable Resource Council. They have a
5 submission -- I think I see that here -- they have a
6 submission here so -- and they do not have really anybody
7 to do their presentation so I think maybe it would good
8 for a break at this time.

9 I will have to re-look at my schedule here
10 and see how the rest of the day is going to go. So can
11 we take a quick break here and come back maybe in fifteen
12 (15) minutes or so? Mahsi.

13

14 --- Upon recessing at 10:48 a.m.

15 --- Upon resuming at 11:15 a.m.

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we've got our
18 boys back in their seats here.

19 We have a few more, you know, more like
20 housekeeping items and we also have some Elders and I am
21 going to give them a chance to speak.

22 I am going to start off with our Legal
23 Counsel; he has got some housekeeping items that he
24 wanted to bring up, so.

25 Yeah, go ahead, John.

1 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 John Donihee for the Board. I -- I just have one request
3 of ENR. Yesterday during your presentation you mentioned
4 that the Inuvialuit HTCs from the communities that
5 harvest the Bluenose-West caribou have passed their
6 bylaws under their land claim to address their own
7 harvesting activities on the herd, and also that the
8 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has made a decision
9 with respect to their harvesting as well.

10 And I'm -- I'm just wondering if ENR would
11 be able to file those documents with the Board so that we
12 could have them on the record for this proceeding?

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, go ahead, Marsha.

14 MS. MARSHA BRANIGAN: Marsha Branigan,
15 from ENR. Not a problem.

16 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Do you have them here
17 or do we have to take it as an undertaking?

18 MS. MARSHA BRANIGAN: I have copies of
19 the HTC Bylaws and I have the letter that Gwich'in
20 Renewable Resource Board sent to the Minister. I do not
21 have the regulation changes for the Gwich'in.

22 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: John Donihee again,
23 Mr. Chair. If Ms. Branigan could file copies of the --
24 the bylaws and the letter from the Gwich'in Board, that's
25 acceptable and we can just get that done right away and

1 we don't have to take an undertaking.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: That is fine.

3 Marsha...?

4 MS. MARSHA BRANIGAN: Just pulling them
5 out of my binder.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks then. Thanks.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: And Mr. Chairman, if I
11 may, we have a -- a letter from the -- John Donihee
12 again. We have a letter from the Gwich'in Renewable
13 Resource Board to Minister Michael McLeod, dated February
14 the 14th, 2007. I would ask that that be entered as
15 Exhibit number 1.

16

17 --- EXHIBIT NO. 1: Letter from the Gwich'in
18 Renewable Resource Board to
19 Minister Michael Macleod
20 dated February the 14th, 2007

21

22 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: And then we have -- if
23 you could just give me a minute, sir.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Now, thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. I had some document I wasn't supposed to get.

3 And then we have the -- the Hunters and
4 Trappers Committee Regulations that resulted from the --
5 from the bylaw changes by Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and
6 Trappers Committee, the Sachs Harbour Hunters and
7 Trappers Committee, and the Inuvik Hunters and Trappers
8 Committee, as well as Aklavik.

9 So perhaps we could just enter all four
10 (4) of those, sir, as one (1) exhibit, as Exhibit 2, and
11 that -- that would complete the documentation that we
12 requested.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, John. Yeah, we
14 will enter all that as Exhibit 1 (sic), as you suggested.

15 And those are documents and bylaws from
16 the changes that will be the HTCs of mainly in the
17 Inuvialuit, I guess, and the Gwich'in, or Inuvialuit.
18 Okay, Thanks.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: I apologize for the
23 confusion. Exhibit 2 also includes a bylaw for Paulatuk
24 as well, so that's all the communities that are affected.
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, that is good,
2 okay. Okay, we will enter those exhibits. Thanks, John.

3
4 --- EXHIBIT NO. 2: Hunters and Trappers
5 Committee Regulations that
6 resulted from the bylaw
7 changes by Tuktoyaktuk
8 Hunters and Trappers
9 Committee, the Sachs Harbour
10 Hunters and Trappers
11 Committee, the Inuvik Hunters
12 and Trappers Committee,
13 Aklavik and Paulatuk

14
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: We have one of the
16 Elders that was here yesterday but got tied up with other
17 things, so he is here today, so I am going to allow him
18 to come up and do his presentation; is John Blancho
19 Senior. Richard, if you can help him get to the -- yeah,
20 he wants to -- thanks, Richard.

21 John Blancho is an Elder from Colville
22 Lake and I think he's -- thanks.

23
24 (NORTH SLAVEY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

25

1 ELDER JOHN BLANCHO SR.: Hello. I didn't
2 think it was time yet. Thank you.

3 And I'm just going to -- what I'm going to
4 speak about, long ago when I was a child, I want to talk
5 about back then.

6 From the time I came able to think for
7 myself, whenever the caribou start migrating they'd go
8 all over the land from then on and that's how it used be
9 long ago. And today when the -- and when the caribou
10 used to migrate when one person would see a caribou
11 track, and by that evening all the dogs would be howling
12 and people would all be around there.

13 Back then nobody had skidoos. Everybody
14 travelled by dog teams. And once the caribou would start
15 migrating, it would go all over in the forest on the land
16 there.

17 And when you walk -- when you see the
18 caribou tracks -- all the sticks -- it'll be so much
19 activity that it would be broken sticks and -- and
20 sometimes the spruce boughs would be scattered all over
21 because of the amount of activity on the land. That's
22 what I remember.

23 And back then there was many Elders living
24 back then, and they talk about all the different wildlife
25 and the caribou. They would talk about them. I would

1 hear that.

2 And they always said to not bother it, and
3 just leave it and whenever, we trapped with it -- trapped
4 for animals that's when it was -- it was like that then
5 too. And they didn't really hunt at that time when they
6 were trapping.

7 And when the -- when they -- you go
8 hunting for caribous that sometimes the numbers decrease
9 and so they said to just leave it for a while until the
10 trapping was done and then to go hunting for caribou
11 after that.

12 And back then that we are talking about
13 and I'm hearing what is being said and when I was
14 eligible to go trapping, I had the hunting tags to go
15 hunting -- or trapping. The game warden start coming out
16 towards Colville Lake amongst us.

17 And they did good work -- those people;
18 the people were assisting them too. And I wanted to
19 mention that as well. And long ago the people, they
20 really managed the wildlife well.

21 The -- all the animals there, the fish,
22 everything; they never threw a fish away for no reason.
23 They never threw bones away. They just looked after
24 everything. They would gather all the bones, and when it
25 was almost time to leave that campsite, they would chop

1 it all down and boil it and -- and they'd make a lot of
2 bone grease from that, and they'd have it all in a big
3 pot.

4 That's how they used to work. And they
5 would get all the kids and gather them together. And
6 once the kids -- once they were done -- the kids, they
7 used to pour it on the snow, and they let their children
8 eat whatever they could off those bones. And once they
9 were done, there was just like nothing left.

10 I caught a cold yesterday so I'm not able
11 to speak too well today. And I just wanted to say that -
12 - that also one time when they was talking about the
13 calving of the caribou; I was thinking about that.

14 And they talk about the caribou having
15 their young only out on the barren. Sometimes they have
16 it in the -- the tree-line area too. Wherever they are
17 ready to have their young, they have it there.

18 And I know -- I saw one time where we
19 worked on a -- a forest fire -- I noticed caribou having
20 its young, and it was not able to go past the tree-line.
21 And it was walking around by where we were.

22 And the helicopter used to fly around
23 there and, then the mother used to take off on its young
24 calf. And that's the behaviour of animals. Whenever
25 they hear the noise of aircraft or helicopters, it moves

1 caribou but finally, that helicopter landed in that area.
2 And across where you saw all that snow that was flying
3 about, that's where they were bothering all these caribou
4 with the helicopter. And I don't know what they did with
5 them.

6 And where we were, three (3) of the
7 caribou came running out to us and we shot three (3) of
8 them and once it saw us, they took off, and the
9 helicopter flew away.

10 And then after that we never saw that
11 helicopter again. And the caribou that were in that
12 area, they all took off. It's like they really suffered
13 the wildlife. And I -- I saw that, and then I was
14 surprised that I witnessed that while I was hunting.

15 And that's one of the things that I was
16 really concerned about. And they talk about people
17 suffering animals and when I talked about back when there
18 was so many caribou that there broken sticks once they
19 migrated.

20 And since the time the White people
21 started coming in the last few years, it seems to me that
22 the caribou behaviour has changed. And it was like
23 caribou used to be happy, but it's no longer like that.
24 All the cow caribou and the bull caribou, they used to --
25 to walk around after one another, and you see them move

1 quite quickly, and it doesn't seem like that now.

2 The way it is, around Christmas, it just
3 seems like their behaviour's so like what they would be
4 doing in the fall time. In the past few years, that's
5 how it seems to me, and now they're talking about the
6 caribou in the fall.

7 Way down around Anderson River -- one of
8 my sons -- there was some people working; some white
9 people working down that area. And back when we used to
10 be there when the -- the white people were in that area,
11 there were no caribou then around there, he said.

12 And then about halfway -- he went halfway
13 to Colville Lake by skidoo -- when he finally got close
14 to Colville Lake, he finally saw caribou tracks. But
15 further north from there he said there was nothing.

16 And one place close by Anderson River, one
17 of my other sons was trapping nearby where we were, and
18 they used to fly over him with an airplane. And he
19 didn't manage to get very many fur that time. And that's
20 one of the concerns that I have too.

21 This is what I -- what I was worried about
22 or thinking about; that's what I wanted to talk about.
23 We are not the ones that are suffering. These animals --
24 when we wound an animal, we'll go after it until we kill
25 it.

1 really take care of the animals, and you can't suffer
2 them. And now you hear about the way people putting the
3 collars on the wildlife and the caribou.

4 And when you -- when you -- there's
5 something that's attached to it or touching it, it's not
6 -- it doesn't like it. And I'm -- I'm almost over sixty-
7 nine (69) years old, but I still remember all the things
8 that I was told when I was young by me Elders and my
9 grandfather.

10 And now I listen to what they've said, and
11 I still live by their words and thank you. I just want
12 to say that for now and if I remember something else
13 later, I'll come back and talk about it. Thank you.

14

15 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, John. Okay, we
18 also have on our -- Michel? Saw Michel there for a while
19 but I guess he's gone. Oh, no Michel. Oh, there's
20 Michel. Michel, you're up next. John just finished his
21 -- John Blancho was there. Yeah, Michel Lafferty with --
22 maybe go through that your name and organization.

23 ELDER MICHEL LAFFERTY: Hello, I'm Michel
24 Lafferty. Sit on the Board of -- for Renewable Resource
25 Council.

1 I'd like to talk about my experience on
2 the land over the years where I go way back to the '60's.
3 My dad and I -- we went out to Aubry Lake; it was
4 '63/'64. We left here in November. There was not much
5 caribou on our -- the start of our journey to where we
6 were going towards Aubry Lake.

7 In December, I think, we seen some
8 caribou. Caribou was coming from Aubry Lake, and we
9 spend the winter there. There was caribou around but not
10 that many. But we managed to get some every now and
11 then, over the winter months.

12 We came back to Good Hope in the middle of
13 March. There was no sign of caribou from Colville Lake
14 to Good Hope. The following year, we went to Burnt Lake.
15 There, too, the was caribou but very scarce.

16 We went -- we worked our way over to Canoe
17 Lake, set up camp there and some traps and there was --
18 caribou was very scarce. We managed to get six (6) big
19 bulls that year -- that winter.

20 And then the following year, we were back
21 at Carcajou and there again, there was not very many
22 caribou and my dad shot four (4) and later on, I shot a
23 couple. And then '60, '70, '71, I think, we went over to
24 Emmanuel Lake; had a family who then -- by then.

25 We spend four (4) or five (5) six (6)

1 years there. And from the time we got there in September
2 until December, all we lived on was fish. There was no
3 moose around. There was no caribou.

4 By the fifth or the sixth year, we finally
5 seen caribou there. And there was a lot of talk about
6 the declining of caribou. And then another fall we went
7 over to Carcajou again. There was a few caribou around,
8 but we did a lot of fishing. We had dogs -- the family
9 to feed; so go mostly where there's fish lakes. And then
10 another time we went out there again to Carcajou. There
11 we, finally, seen a whole bunch of -- the migration
12 caribou coming from, I believe, Aubry Lake, Telji Lake
13 and that area.

14 There was quite a few caribou then. We
15 seen quite a few so we called it "lots". But in those
16 days, there was no counting of caribou or anything like
17 that. So I don't know if they go on a cycle or what.

18 And later on, we went to this cabin I got
19 at a little fish lake called -- we called it Trout Lake.
20 We lived around there for a few years, and there was
21 always caribou around. We trapped from there and north
22 towards Stink Lake. There used to be a lot of caribou
23 and a lot of wolves on the trail too. And then we stayed
24 at Burnt Lake; there was caribou coming there too --
25 enough for us to live; the meat, fish -- we had dog teams

1 and a family.

2 And then we moved back to town, and I
3 never went back out on the land but since last year, I've
4 been trying to go back out but we used skidoos. I have
5 old skidoos. They keep breaking down so ... But this
6 year, right now, we're in the process of getting back to
7 that little Trout Lake.

8 So I got a cabin with two (2) of my boys.
9 And between those years; that was about fifteen (15),
10 twenty (20) years. It's hard to get caribou around here.
11 Get a moose every now and then.

12 And the other thing I want to mention is
13 people going to Horton Lake. I think it's something good
14 they're doing, taking the young people out there to learn
15 their traditional culture, be something good.

16 The -- what else I wanted to say? So I
17 -- I really don't know what to say about the caribou.
18 Maybe they go in a cycle because way back I didn't see
19 any caribou when I was staying at Emmanuel Lake.

20 Now we have to wait and see, maybe. I
21 don't know. And so now I'm going to probably go back out
22 to my little Trout Lake and observe what's out there.
23 Going out there on the cut-lines I seen a lot of moose
24 tracks, and I think there's Woodland caribou in there
25 too, but we never bother hunting right now.

1 the land, about twenty (20) years, fifteen/twenty (15/20)
2 years I wanted my kids to go to school so we move into
3 town.

4 So that when a person is out on the land
5 they observe everything. What's out there. You see fox
6 tracks or marten tracks, rabbit tracks, wolves, moose,
7 caribou, everything. You could see it on the snow.

8 And when you shoot a moose, you always
9 check the inside to see if it's in good health; the
10 lungs. So we do that with caribou. I do that with
11 caribou too. Every now and then we shoot one (1) or two
12 (2) and check the inside and see how -- if they're in
13 fat. Us Dene people will like fat stuff. We want our
14 moose to be fat; want our caribou to be fat; want our
15 fish to be fat; want our rabbits to be fat too.

16 So in that way we observe things as we
17 take it. And my wife will go fishing on the river and we
18 observe the fish too. All -- all during the summer
19 months and we try fishing -- there's some -- some of the
20 fish that its inside is kind of deforming and we keep
21 track of stuff like that; even the geese when they come.

22 We just don't go out there and harvest.
23 But we observe all the time. And I guess -- I'm not
24 really sure about the caribou because I haven't been
25 active on the land for quite a while. But now I'm going

1 to -- on my way back out there and try to take my boys
2 out there, teach them what little bit I know about the
3 land, how to respect the animals and things like that.

4 And for us up here the last few years, we
5 haven't seen too many caribou but we got moose. Guys
6 have been shooting moose here and there and once in a
7 while I get a chunk of it -- share -- got a sharing
8 system and most of the Dene people are.

9 And what else? I think that's about it.
10 I'd like to mention to the Board, something to think
11 about. Thanks for listening to me. That's about it, I
12 guess.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, thanks, Michel.
14 That fits in with all our closing remarks here. Mahsi.

15 We also have George I guess on -- on the
16 list here, so George Grandjamb.

17 George...? There you go. Okay.

18 MR. GEORGE GRANDJAMB: Hello. Everybody
19 seems to grab this pen every time they come up here and
20 talk, well I might as well hold it too, I guess. Some
21 form of encouragement, I guess.

22 I'd like to just --

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just for the record,
24 George -- George, mention your name so that we can tie it
25 into the record.

1 MR. GEORGE GRANDJAMB: Yeah. My name is
2 George Grandjamb, I'm a resident of Fort Good Hope. I
3 belong to the Band in Fort Good Hope. I'm a treaty --
4 treaty.

5 I've spent a good part of my life in the -
6 - in the educational section of -- of the Territories.
7 From high school I've gone straight into the -- the wage
8 economy so I wasn't as fortunate as some of our people
9 who have had opportunities to learn from their fathers
10 and their mothers out on the land, to live out on the
11 land and stuff like that. So just for the record I'd
12 like to state that I'm not a hunter, I'm not a trapper
13 and I'm not a fisherman.

14 But I feel that it's important enough
15 issue that we need to address what can we do about it.
16 What can we do to -- to come up with programs that will
17 allow more of our people to get -- get back to the land
18 to -- to -- to utilize their traditional values.

19 I mentioned yesterday that we need to come
20 up with incentives. Every time you mention incentives,
21 right away people think of dollars. Well I'm not
22 talking about dollars. I'm not talking about money.

23 What I'm talking about is incentive
24 programming where -- where we start teaching our people
25 about how to trap, how to fish, how to do traditional

1 things that would allow us to be out there and to enjoy
2 the luxuries of our ancestors.

3 One of the ways that I talked to the
4 gentleman over here about it yesterday and one of the
5 things that we could start doing is that I know that -- I
6 know for a fact that Renewable Resources have some people
7 in RWED that are Renewable Resource officers who are good
8 hunters, good trappers, good fishermen who -- who do
9 nothing but train -- train trapping programs, fishing
10 programs and maybe even hunting programs.

11 They do -- they do workshops in -- in a
12 setting such as what we're in right now for maybe two (2)
13 days and then implement what they teach out on the land
14 with the -- with the students that they work with. And
15 we talked about something like that, me and the gentleman
16 over here, and I think it's a really good idea.

17 For years -- for years our leaders -- our
18 people have talked about we need to get back on our land.
19 We need to -- we need to -- to get back our traditional
20 values. Even though I'm not a hunter, I'm not a
21 fisherman, I'm not a trapper, I have -- I have always
22 felt that that was -- that it's an important issue with
23 me.

24 I'm fortunate. The only thing that I -- I
25 managed to end up with is that I'm fluent in my language.

1 I can speak my language just about as good as anybody.
2 That's the only thing I -- I've managed to preserve that
3 -- that is given to me and handed down to me by my fam --
4 my grandfather or -- yeah, my grandfather, my -- my
5 uncles, my mom and all my relatives who speak the
6 language good.

7 I managed to keep that. That's the only
8 traditional thing that I have of value that I can safely
9 and honestly say that I know and I'm proud to have. So
10 what I would like to recommend to the Board that this --
11 incentive programming that I'm talking about -- could be
12 one (1) or could be made a priority issue where we start
13 encouraging these workshops and designing programs to
14 help design programs that would allow us to do that.

15 We need help. My Friend, over there, he's
16 apparently involved -- has been involved in that kind of
17 stuff for -- for a while, and he's getting really tired;
18 he was telling me. And I believe him. It's a chore and
19 a half. It's not like just sweeping the floor and then
20 leaving it for a little while.

21 You have to do it all the time, and it's
22 tiring, and we need help. So we need the Board -- you
23 guys have umpteen power in doing all kinds of things
24 because you're -- you're a Board; you're -- you're a
25 regional Board. And I'm sure the government would be

1 more than likely to -- to listen to you guys rather than
2 a couple of us from the public.

3 So we need the Board -- I'd like to
4 recommend to the Board to help us design some kind of
5 program that we could utilize in all our communities in
6 the Sahtu region, so that more of our people can be --
7 can -- can -- and can start living their traditional
8 values.

9 And that's, basically, what I wanted to
10 say. I don't really have anything else to add to it
11 except to say thank you for allowing me to speak here
12 today. But one (1) and -- one (1) and foremost thing is
13 that we have to start looking at what I'm talking about
14 as an important issue.

15 You can almost count on your fingers the
16 amount of people right now -- our people right now --
17 that are out on the land -- that are actually utilizing
18 their traditional values -- right now. In fact, I can
19 count on my fingers right now exactly how many families
20 that are out in the bush right now. You know.

21 So it -- it's telling me, and I -- and I
22 hope it's also telling you that it's an important enough
23 issue that it warrants somebody to look into it. So I
24 hope -- I hope what I'm saying warrants -- or that's it's
25 important enough for you people to -- to start helping us

1 des -- to design programs that we could utilize and --
2 and maybe even help us get funding from the government to
3 allow us to implement these programs in our communities.
4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, George. The --
6 my list keeps longer here as I go on. But we do not have
7 to question that -- this is not a part of a presentation
8 -- it is mainly just to add on to names that we did not
9 get a chance to go over during our process here.

10 We also have James Ceasar and Jim Tobac,
11 and I think we are going to -- our dinner is going to be
12 coming soon here, so ... but I am going to allow him to
13 speak. I do not think they are going to go on there too
14 long. Our dinner is not here yet, so if one (1) of you
15 maybe, James Ceasar?

16 Just mention your name here and who you
17 represent, for our record.

18 MR. JAMES CEASAR: James Ceasar, member
19 of the Sahtu land use -- or Sahtu Land Claims. I also
20 sitting next to Vice Chair for the Sahtu Secretary
21 Incorporated. And that's the Director for the Yamoga
22 Land Corp. But I wish to speak today as a private member
23 of the -- the Sahtu claims.

24 Listening for the last couple days,
25 there's a number of things that I was hoping to hear from

1 -- from the presenters and from the individuals. And I
2 wish to speak on those -- those issues.

3 The very first thing that -- that I want
4 to say is -- is that all our harvesting rights and the
5 provisions and the land claims are quite clear. And to
6 put a quota or restrictions on those rights, they -- they
7 should not be pursued; it's too dangerous at the
8 moment. Once we put a quota on -- on the wildlife, it
9 makes it easier for other animals to be -- to be
10 restricted.

11 And in -- and in doing that, our
12 harvesting rights will be restricted. The other things,
13 too, that we question right now is the numbers that --
14 that -- the data collected pertaining to caribou counts
15 and stuff, it's in -- in doubt. The other thing, too, is
16 the value that's been placed on caribou is -- it has
17 nothing to do with economics.

18 It's not like fur -- fur-bearing animals
19 where there's an economic value attached to it. And for
20 those reasons, I -- I want to -- to make sure that our
21 harvesting rights are not restricted. I guess the
22 overwriting factor on -- on these hearings here is to do
23 the -- with the population of the Bluenose caribou.

24 And barren -- barren-ground -- barren-
25 ground caribou. So, like instead of asking the members

1 to -- to cut back on their -- on their hunting, I think
2 that's kind of like a -- a violation of our rights under
3 the Sahtu claims. If we're going to do that then we
4 should negotiate some other aspects of -- of the impacts
5 on this caribou.

6 And that's mainly to do with -- with
7 impacts costs by -- by development, both oil and gas
8 development and mining. You know, like, if you're going
9 to ask us to do something to manipulate the population of
10 caribou then you should also ask the companies to cut
11 back on their -- on their programs.

12 And maybe also ask the other -- other
13 wildlife people, like big game hunters, to do the same.
14 So having said that, I guess -- I guess, we're asking
15 that -- that you find a -- a different way or a different
16 method of -- of putting the numbers back up on these
17 caribou. 'Cause asking us to put a quota on -- on
18 caribou is not right for me.

19 We should be the last people to -- to be
20 asked to do that. So anyway, I -- I'd just like to leave
21 that with you guys.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, James. That was
23 James Ceasar and, yes, those -- it is on the record now,
24 and we certainly will look at them. I am really glad
25 that you did bring, you know, this whole issue of

1 harvesting rights, the exclusive harvesting rights of the
2 participants of the Sahtu claim -- very important.

3 I am not going to get into that. I think
4 I have mentioned that many time. Those are issues that
5 our Aboriginal governments would have to deal with. We,
6 you know, here, we are focussing mainly on the whole
7 issue of whether we want to put a total of allowable
8 harvests.

9 So I think that is what we are going to
10 concentrate on, but I'm glad that was brought up because
11 it is part of our evidence for our decision-making
12 process here. So here we have got -- our food is not
13 here, so maybe we can go to Jim Tobac?

14 State your name and who you represent.
15 Yes, go ahead.

16 MR. JIM TOBAC: Jim Tobac, Fort Good Hope
17 hunter. In the past three (3) days I've listened,
18 observed. My hand goes out to Colville Lake. They spent
19 a lot of money to come here. And some Boards should
20 think of helping them out a little. I'll get back to the
21 point here. I know we're talking about quotas. Colville
22 Lake doesn't want a quota. We don't want a quota.

23 The thing is, we don't know what's the
24 healthy number for caribou. We say we're down to twenty
25 thousand (20,000). I say we're twenty thousand (20,000)

1 strong. And on the past, we've heard of thousands of
2 rats. People got thousands of rats.

3 Nowadays, you don't hear of anybody
4 getting one (1), two (2) -- there's nothing -- nobody
5 bothers it. As I was growing up, I used to hear Elders
6 talking, (NATIVE TONGUE SPOKEN) there's no caribou,
7 (NATIVE TONGUE SPOKEN) no moose. But we still survived
8 with rabbits.

9 The thing we keep bringing up with Horton
10 Lake is in the '70s and '80s as I was growing up, there
11 used to be caribou on all these lakes: Rory (phonetic)
12 Lake, Carcajou Lake, Burnt Lake. And sixteen (16) years
13 ago, I believe, it's -- they started this Horton Lake
14 hunt.

15 It's a good thing they teach their
16 children. We're not telling them to stop all together;
17 we just want to experiment; leave it for a couple years.
18 I know in the past -- I mean, I've talked it over with
19 Roger about this low-flying staking they're doing and
20 stuff like that, and he said that he's brought it up to
21 DIAND.

22 They never listened to us; when these --
23 when they tell us they're not going to do it. So if you
24 guys got the power to stop them, stop them. Like I said,
25 you know, when you put a quota on this caribou, we don't

1 know how hard is it -- going to be -- it's going to be
2 when we want to lift it and becomes laws, it might be
3 hard to lift it.

4 They talk of migration. Look at the
5 geese. Some years we don't see nothing yet there's
6 thousands out there. They just go different routes. So
7 then it's a --damned if we do and damned if we don't --
8 put a quota on it. So I see the decision you guys are
9 faced with.

10 But deep down I believe putting a quota on
11 it would be wrong. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Jim Tobac. That
13 was Jim Tobac there.

14 Now, I do not know how long I am going to
15 wait for my food here, but it should be here pretty soon.
16 I think we are going to break now. The food will be here
17 pretty soon. I hope you guys stay for the food there.

18 We had excellent food yesterday. And then
19 right after lunch, we will start into the closing stuff.
20 You know, the remarks, all the people that made
21 presentations, the registered people, the parties on
22 their -- can make their presentations on closing remarks.

23 So, I'd like to leave it with that and
24 wait for our lunch, get a bit of a break and we'll try to
25 get back at 1:00 cause I think all we're going to deal

1 with is mainly closing remarks. So, no more questions,
2 it will be more of a people -- last things people want to
3 say and this is a heads-up for, you know, especially the
4 Colville Lake people if they want to say something as a
5 closing remark I would allow that right in the afternoon.

6 So, at 1:00 we'll get back here. Enjoy
7 your lunch and, you know, get a good break. Mahsi.

8

9 --- Upon recessing at 12:10 p.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 1:10 p.m.

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: This afternoon we get
13 into the closing remarks section of our hearing. So I am
14 going to use the same format I used for the presentation
15 and ask each of the presenters if they have, you know, an
16 opportunity to do quick closing remarks.

17 Well, no, we have not got rolling yet, I
18 am just giving you the information on what we are doing
19 this afternoon. You know, I am not going to go in any
20 order here, whoever is available here for the closing
21 remarks and I'm not seeing -- I was going to start off
22 with Richard but he might be at the bathroom yet.

23 We have got Richard, Wilbert, Behdzi Ahda'
24 Renewable Resource Council, and then we go through the
25 Colville Lake Elders, Colville Lake community members and

1 then any of the Renewable Resource Boards that want to
2 make closing remarks. And then we get into ENR and Board
3 Members and then, lastly, myself as the Chair here.

4 Wilbert is here. Wilbert and Joseph and,
5 you know, here is an opportunity for closing remarks. So
6 Wilbert, do you want to start? It doesn't matter, you
7 can all go to the table there and share your closing
8 remarks if you want, if it is easier that way.

9 Right, Joseph? Richard should be back
10 pretty soon? He is just around here somewhere.

11 Well, we can start with Wilbert and Alvin,
12 I guess, Alvin, oh yes. That will be the Ayoni Keh Land
13 Corporation. Yes, go ahead Wilbert.

14

15 CLOSING COMMENTS BY AYONI KEH LAND CORPORATION:

16 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: I forgot what I was
17 going to say. I was going to...

18 MR. ALVIN ORLIAS: I can start. Good
19 afternoon. I never spoke in the last couple days because
20 I just wanted to listen to what everybody was saying and
21 everybody is of the same opinion as we are that it's
22 probably a natural cycle as you can see in your numbers
23 you have on your presentation there.

24 From the years they started tests -- they
25 started doing surveys on caribou, it's been declining.

1 But you also look on the harvesting side. The harvesting
2 side was also declining, and it's not because of a
3 decline in the caribou, it's just because the needs
4 weren't as -- as great now as they were back then for
5 caribou meat.

6 And for people with large families the
7 only way they can raise -- raise and feed their children
8 is to go hunting for caribou. Myself, I don't think I
9 can feed my family just on my wage alone. I would be
10 working paycheque from paycheque. So basically I -- I
11 feed my family just almost strictly by hunting caribou or
12 moose, whatever they -- we got -- we got out there, fish,
13 everything. Because food in -- in Colville is very
14 expensive and in order to feed your kids right you got to
15 get some wild food from the land because that's what
16 makes them stronger.

17 We've always shared whatever we got from -
18 - from the land, be it caribou, moose, whatever and if
19 there's no food here they call down to Colville and we
20 always bring meat in or people go down there to get meat,
21 fish, whatever they need. We don't turn anybody away, we
22 share what we have with everybody.

23 And if there is a decline that we notice,
24 you know, certain measures will be taken to mitigate the
25 -- you know, mitigate what -- what we're doing out there.

1 A lot of times even if you do put a -- you -- you decide
2 on a quota and you go out hunting and you shoot your
3 quota all right but then in the meantime you -- you've
4 wounded two (2) or three (3) other caribou.

5 What are you supposed to do those? Leave
6 them...? You know, you're going to have to kill them, if
7 you wound an animal, you're going to have to go after it
8 and kill it, otherwise you're just -- letting the animal
9 suffer needlessly.

10 Everybody's not a crackshot, you know,
11 somebody might shoot a caribou, wound it, and then hit
12 another one and then now you got two (2) caribou because
13 you shot four (4) that's your quota. All of a sudden now
14 you got -- you got two (2) more that's out there.

15 And then you think, well, I better leave
16 it, maybe I might get charged for shooting more -- more
17 than my quota. In the meantime you left two (2) wounded
18 animals out there. Now who's to enforce it, where's the
19 money to come to enforce all this?

20 It's not only the caribou you got to worry
21 about, it's the -- it's the people that live off of it.
22 And believe you me if there's -- if there's -- if there's
23 a -- there's numbers -- or decreases in numbers of the
24 caribou and we notice it, you know, we're going to switch
25 our patterns to hunting moose, or more fishing or go to

1 and rights to hunt and fish but, you know, this is
2 actually a food on our table, it's like they're shutting
3 down our supermarket if you say, okay, well you're only
4 allowed to shoot so much caribou.

5 This is how a lot of us sustain ourselves
6 over there; can't afford to buy chicken and steaks and
7 pork chops all the time. So, that's all I have to say on
8 my side.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi. Thank you.

10 MR. WILBERT KOCHON: Ayoni Keh. But I
11 want to speak on my -- by myself too. I think Alvin said
12 lot of the things for Ayoni Keh but from the experiences
13 I have on the land, so, really hard to speak on caribou
14 because we're not really the boss of it and I really
15 can't tell where to go, so.

16 It's kind of scary if you talk about
17 something that you can't control 'cause the -- the
18 Creator put it there for us and I can't tell somebody
19 else what to shoot and what not, so I can't go tell Alvin
20 he could allow only one (1) caribou.

21 Like, the way you're using that model,
22 they Inuvialuit model, they're trying to use that one.
23 They have two (2) choice -- two (2) different herds they
24 can hunt from. So I don't think they should use that
25 model. They have that Porcupine and Bluenose-West and I

1 think there's another herd that they -- they can hunt
2 from so. Bathurst, I think. And they easily put a quote
3 on their -- their numbers so that's -- you shouldn't used
4 that model on the Sahtu.

5 And I hear you're using that -- trying to
6 use that model and I just wanted to bring it out saying
7 that you shouldn't use that model and really speak to the
8 people because we're all -- we're all -- we all got
9 different lives, different lifestyle but all depend on
10 caribou. Because right now I'm out there on the land and
11 I feel good because the caribou is good.

12 It's not really the same but like the
13 Elders said, they're not as happy as they used to be.
14 And it's the same as me, like, I feel sad because you're
15 talking about caribou that you can't control there. It
16 really kind of hurts me, like, just like you're talking
17 about me because I'm living on the land and I live off
18 the land.

19 So I really want the Board to listen and,
20 like, the Elders told you stories and some of the stories
21 are really touching. Listen to those words they told
22 you, plus it's dangerous to make a decision on something
23 that you don't know because a lot of people talk --
24 listen to rumours and say things they don't see. All
25 they hear is something and then they think it's -- they

1 should be out there themselves and see for themselves on
2 the land.

3 A lot of people say, well this person said
4 this. Well, why don't you go out there and see for
5 yourself with your own eyes and experience what we
6 experience on the land, what we feel on the land. It's a
7 really great feeling, like, that's why I always go there.

8 And even right now when they elect me
9 president I still went out, I saw my -- just like what I
10 want to do and then -- and that's what I did. I think
11 that's what lot of the leaders should do, take a break
12 and go out there and recuperate your mind and re-energize
13 your body out on the land.

14 I was living in town, a lot of things --
15 too much things you're thinking about. But out there it
16 -- I wanted to kind of see how the caribou are doing and
17 they're healthy and they go wherever they want.

18 And I'll tell you a little story. Like,
19 one spring I was on the -- out on the land but I was on
20 the Winter Road and then I met about forty (40) caribou
21 and they didn't want to go on the side, they wanted to go
22 straight. So I just went to the side to the Winter Road.
23 I was standing there, the caribou run right beside me.

24 Winter Road is not very wide, eh. I
25 thought they were going to go around me but it's

1 springtime, they want to go back to the barren land and I
2 couldn't stop -- I was just standing there and there were
3 thirty (30) caribou right beside me, some of them even
4 hitting my skidoo.

5 But I was standing on the other side and I
6 -- I was looking at it, oh, they sure want to get where
7 they want to go and can't stop them. Even when I was
8 standing there they went right by me. And I wasn't
9 hunting but the -- and the caribou were not scared of me.

10 So there's a lot of things that you see on
11 the land and you're part of the land. Sometimes the
12 animals they take care of you very well if you respect
13 them. So that's for a lot of the young people, that's
14 what they should know, really respect it because it's a
15 big thing.

16 We don't know how things, where it's going
17 to go, the migration route, we don't -- we don't tell it
18 where to go but maybe because of the noise, sometimes it
19 would change.

20 Like this fall they said that -- that
21 there's some diamond mine going -- happening and the
22 Elders talked to them and told them that if -- if you
23 meet caribou what would you do, and they said they're
24 going to shut down their -- their mining or staking. And
25 they are to listen to the Elders, so we like that, that

1 people should -- before they come on our land they should
2 talk to these people, and they'll listen to you.

3 If you don't say nothing, they're going to
4 think it's all right, so. We hear a lot of people
5 talking about the exploration and that, but if you could
6 sit down and talk to them, and they'll listen to the
7 people of the land and the regulators.

8 Sometimes all the mining happens right
9 from Ottawa or DIAND, but we have talked to people from
10 DIAND, so now people from DIAND know what we think, so.
11 I'm kind of going all over the place, but -- but I wanted
12 you guys to hear.

13 And I want to thank you guys for
14 listening, and listening to the Elders. It'll help you
15 in the long run. A long time they work with the people.
16 It's going to help you. But if you make the wrong
17 decisions on the people, it's not going to be very nice.
18 But because of the claims, you guys have to listen to us,
19 the people of the land.

20 And it'd be nice to work with the -- ENR
21 more down the road. A more -- more better management
22 plan where we're all involved not only Colville, there's
23 Good Hope, there's Dillon there and Tulita, and Norman
24 Wells. Like when I lived in the Wells, I used to hunt
25 just toward Telji Lake and I usually get caribou before

1 the barren lands and with the Woodland.

2 And there's lots there, like, those kind
3 of things that people don't know of. And I used to hunt,
4 and Ros says, where you getting meat from? Oh, go to
5 Telji Lake. So there's a lot of things that people have
6 to go on the land and see for themselves and then you
7 know where the animals and you know where the good
8 feeding areas are, but those kind of things I don't
9 really talk about.

10 Ever think like the animal, you'll know
11 where they are, listen to the land, you'll know where
12 they are and you respect it. A lot of people think that
13 caribou is always going to go down our road, but caribou
14 is not -- not stupid, they -- they know where they were
15 treated bad, so.

16 I know a lot of people saying why there's
17 no caribou around here, there's hardly anybody used the
18 land, that's why. All they do is go out once in a while.
19 If they use the land all the time, I'm sure there's going
20 to be some animals around there 'cause they're part of
21 the land. And if you use the land, the land is alive.

22 And that's all I have to say.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Alvin and
24 Wilbert. Okay. We have got the Chief Richard Kochon
25 and, you know, Joseph, if, you know, for closing remarks,

1 you have the floor.

2

3 CLOSING COMMENTS BY BEHDZI AHDA' FIRST NATION:

4 CHIEF RICHARD KOCHON: Thank you for --
5 for letting us say these closing remarks. And I really
6 thank to the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board for putting
7 this Hearing here in Good Hope. And I thank Jody for
8 organizing all the meeting.

9 And I hope -- I hope in the near future,
10 they -- they have another Hearing like you be in other
11 community because this -- this Hearing is just like only
12 Colville Lake and Good Hope was here, like, and we can't
13 -- can't make a division like that.

14 If we're going to make a division, you
15 need all the five (5) communities together. And I want
16 to share -- share a little bit on my -- my experience
17 when on the land. In the past, I -- I went on the land
18 with -- with my parents, that's over forty (40) years.

19 It's like I -- I worked -- I worked for
20 them. And only -- only after forty (40) years, forty-two
21 (42) year, forty-three (43) or forty-five (45) years,
22 that's how long I work on the land and finally --
23 finally, the land kind of communicate with me just a
24 little bit - even that is so big for me.

25 And a while ago, I -- just a while ago

1 when I caught up to -- up a leadership and a chief, and I
2 was way out on the land and the -- the land -- they ask
3 me -- he ask me to -- to try it on the leadership again.
4 It came to my -- my dream.

5 I never ever wanted to go back to the
6 chief. I was thinking that not even my own people can
7 change my mind to go back on. But -- but the land, he --
8 that's the one he asked me about. I'm very honoured to -
9 - to do what he wishes for me, that's why I went on
10 again.

11 And -- and that for me is really -- you
12 know, like, to judge another community, I can't -- I
13 can't judge another community to try to feel this way.
14 It's really hard for me to say that that's not -- that's
15 their own territory. And when they -- I hear some young
16 people that's here from Good Hope, they're talking about
17 Horton Lake that, us, we go down that way.

18 I think they should look towards the
19 mountain, too. There's a lot of caribou up there and
20 lots of good moose up there. And I really encourage the
21 young people to go on the land that -- that -- out on the
22 land, it's made for -- the Creator made it for everybody
23 or whoever wants to go on it.

24 And then I just like -- if I'd -- myself,
25 if I don't go on the land, I feel like I -- I feel like

1 I'm -- if I never went on the land, it just like I feel
2 like I don't believe in God, like; that's the way it's to
3 me.

4 And a while ago -- a while ago when I --
5 it's kind of hard for me to talk about some things, but
6 maybe some days I'll talk about it. So -- so I just
7 wanted to share that and -- and that path there around
8 Colville Lake, sometimes there's university they -- for
9 out their own in Winnipeg, like, they come visit us and
10 they go out on the land.

11 They go on the land with us, oh, they --
12 they really like that, boy. It's a really good
13 experience for -- for other people to learn. And I -- I
14 wish they will only encounter -- and then we just, like -
15 - we just worry about money like that, like -- just like
16 we're fearful, poor.

17 And in our own country, there's so much
18 out there. And if I go out there, if I set a nets up or
19 something like, catch a lot of fish, could do things for
20 yourself out there.

21 So -- so I think that -- you know, the way
22 the native people's way of life, I think it should be
23 encouraged. Us, we could do that, to make it -- make it
24 -- keep it alive all the time. We can't -- we can't live
25 one (1) way of life all the same. We can't be all the

1 same. We're all different.

2 If we start all living off oil or
3 something like that and then we're -- then the oil run
4 out, there's going to be no more money; if you throw your
5 way of life away and just like you're up there with
6 nothing. So -- so I -- I'm really happy that you
7 listen to us, and I know -- I know some of the White
8 people; they like it on the land, too. Some of -- some
9 of the White people; they are really smart in the bush,
10 too. And they really like it out on the land.

11 One (1) time, one (1) of them stayed out
12 there with me for fall time. Oh, he really enjoyed
13 himself. He had a dog team -- me too, I had a dog team -
14 - and we never had no skidoo. I think we never worried
15 about breaking down with it. We had a -- we had a lot of
16 big pile of fish there, too.

17 So -- so I just wanted to share that kind,
18 and there some of my Elders they still wanted to -- they
19 forgot to say something, so they want to say their -- a
20 closing remark probably to hear from -- from them more.

21 And I really thank you for putting up this
22 hearing here in Good Hope. Maybe try to have one (1) in
23 each community -- be good; that this is only the start.
24 We got lots of time, so we don't have to rush to
25 something. This land claim happened only around 1993.

1 I don't know how many -- maybe a thousand
2 years ahead. We don't really have to rush to anything.
3 And -- and I know we all -- we all have a good way of
4 life. And us, we're native; we're -- we're happy to be
5 native. And then it's good -- good to be white man, too.

6
7 Be good if they're happy who they are.
8 When you really find yourself and then you'll really
9 understand clearly. So I really thank Jody for having
10 this Hearing here; that -- that's the proper way to go
11 and then when -- whatever the people say, listen to them
12 really good.

13 Try to work that way. And I -- I hear
14 some of the people. I don't like what they say, but I've
15 got to respect them. And I really I -- I heard them and
16 I'm not -- I don't got any hate -- anything towards them.
17 So -- so that's all I have to say, and thank you, and I
18 hope we have another hearing in another community.

19 So I just wanted to say that, and Mahsi.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Richard.

21 Joseph...?

22 MR. JOSEPH KOCHON: Thank you. I'll try
23 to make mine nice and brief, too -- my closing remarks.
24 Just wanted to mention that we're here pretty well with a
25 full force: our land corporation, our Board, our -- our

1 band, and our Renewable Resource Councils, and our
2 Elders.

3 We brought in some of our -- the people
4 that are actually out on our land; we brought them in to
5 be here 'cause it's -- it's really important to us when -
6 - when you talk about -- or when there -- there may be
7 some deliberations about setting limits on how much they
8 can shoot and that.

9 So it's almost like setting the limit on
10 the supermarket, if -- for the general public. If one
11 (1) day we decided to set a limit on how much steak or
12 chicken you can buy in the stores, I'm sure a lot of
13 people will have a lot of disagreement on that. Today,
14 that's pretty well, basically, what -- what it's --
15 what's this discussion about, that -- I know if -- if we
16 set a limit it's going to have huge impact on some of the
17 -- some of the larger families.

18 So you meant -- heard Alvin earlier, he's
19 got a lot of kids, and running from paycheck to paycheck
20 wouldn't cut the -- make him feed all his -- his family.
21 You heard yesterday from my mother. She raised eleven
22 (11) childrens and everything is just right on the land.

23 And we really rely on the -- the things
24 that are out there to -- to survive. But then if one (1)
25 day, a restriction would come upon something that they

1 live off daily, it's going to be like a cloud over your
2 shoulder; that it's going to be something that they're
3 going to be awa -- aware of and it's going to go right
4 into their, you know, -- they're going to feel it, you
5 know, should I or should I not?

6 So that's kind of really what I wanted to
7 mention. You know, that this is a bit of an educational
8 trip for us, too, 'cause it's a first type hearing. Some
9 of our Elders, you know, they're not used to this type of
10 a thing, but then I guess -- the Chairman, you know, you
11 did a good job by -- today, keeping it in order.

12 One (1) of the other things I wanted to --
13 to ask about is that, you know -- everything about this
14 caribou and everything that's going to affect us big time
15 -- lot of discussions have been held. But in order to --
16 to get this Hearing, we had to -- to do some things;
17 strategies.

18 And we had to do our own count, and we
19 spent money. It's not cheap to -- to hire a chopper to
20 fly around. And it's not cheap to bring people here. If
21 you don't have the dollars to pay for that kind of stuff;
22 we're -- we're taking it out of our spending costs
23 amongst our organizations, but then those -- you know,
24 it's not recoverable.

25 For yourself, as a Board and government,

1 you know, you have dollars to -- that may accommodate
2 that kind of stuff, but I'm sure you're going to have to
3 make some budget adjustments to accommodate this type of
4 hearings. So I'm hoping that if -- if during your Board
5 meeting you can, maybe, consider thinking about either
6 reimbursing us or, maybe, if you're going to have more
7 Hearings then consider finding money so that people can
8 participate.

9 I did mention that we're always at a
10 disadvantage whenever there's any type of a formal or any
11 type of public forums where we don't have the dollars and
12 the resources to -- to back us up in -- in whatever
13 responses or arguments we have to bring forward.

14 But today, we are accumulating costs, and
15 -- and no -- you know, we're going to have to keep a -- a
16 lawyer on staff, and you know, we're going to probably
17 hit the mark pretty soon then -- that's why we're --
18 we're asking that -- because it's a public forum, it's
19 going to -- if any decisions are made, it's going -- it's
20 going to require more answers and -- and questions so.

21 But everything you've heard over the last
22 two (2) days, it's not based on research or things that
23 you just collected from books or from a satellite; these
24 are actual facts. People -- we live out there.

25 We did mention that we live with the

1 animals. We pretty well have the same kind of feelings.
2 If they hurt, we hurt, too. If you ever -- if you had
3 the time to -- to listen to further stories, you'd
4 understand where we're coming from. So everything you
5 hear from these Elders and ourselves are facts.

6 You hear that a lot of them don't really
7 want to set a limit. It has to do with a lot of respect.
8 We respect the people that want to do certain things, but
9 then we kind of lose that respect if we're not asked
10 properly. We have a really strong land claims that
11 specifies a lot of stuff that we have certain rights.

12 And we have a right to protect our rights.
13 We're no longer in the old age where -- in the old days -
14 - where things are done for us. That whole era is -- is
15 gone. Today we want to be involved in everything that
16 happens on our land; with our animals -- whatever species
17 that are -- are happening there.

18 Almost on a regular basis, we get a
19 research paper, Hey, sign this off, we want to study your
20 -- we want to study your birds; we want to study
21 everything. Like, not one (1) of them ever asked that,
22 Okay, we -- we do it together.

23 I'm sure those research paper is what goes
24 to -- to Sahtu Renewable Resources Board or whomever
25 funds that type of stuff. You really have to rethink

1 some of this stuff that -- these are our animals that we
2 live with on a regular basis; even to the smallest
3 insect.

4 Maybe another question should be asked
5 then -- have you sat with the communities and -- so that
6 Elders to -- to do these things together. 'Cause all
7 that knowledge that they collect, I don't know where it
8 goes -- into a data or it goes into a book probably
9 sitting in somebody's shelf.

10 And I'm not sure what -- what the end
11 results are for but those are things that we can learn
12 together. Now today, we have a land claims, and that
13 allows for us to work cooperatively. We're willing to
14 work cooperatively; willing to work together with the --
15 whether it's the GNWT or whomever wants to do anything in
16 our -- in our area.

17 It's a simple little request. If our
18 rights are going to be infringed upon then it's going to
19 lead to an area that we don't want to get into. And
20 that's probably going to be our last resort is taking
21 legal action that our rights are been -- not respected.

22 But we are very humble people, you know.
23 It's simply just to go ask us that this is what we want
24 to do. It goes for anybody in Canada. If you want to do
25 something in their front yard, it's good to sit down and

1 -- and talk with the people that -- wherever it's going
2 to happen.

3 It's simple as that. Instead of using a
4 modern system where a -- we have a research application,
5 and it's sent to the Renewable Resource Board, Here sign
6 it off. You know, doing a caribou count, it's pro --
7 almost on the same process -- it's asking for that same
8 thing, so that's the simplest way I can put it so.

9 That's all I wanted to say for my closing
10 remarks. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Joseph. That
12 was good.

13 The -- I wonder if we have any other --
14 all of the Renewal Resources Boards are not here, except
15 Good Hope. Thanks. There really is no questions, so I'm
16 just thinking out loud, trying to get the -- see if
17 there's anybody else that would want to do their closing
18 remarks here for -- Harry?

19 Harry, you guys want to do some closing
20 remarks? Yeah, go ahead, Harry.

21

22 CLOSING COMMENTS BY FORT GOOD HOPE RENEWABLE RESOURCE
23 COUNCIL:

24 MR. HARRY HARRIS: My name is Harry. I'm
25 from the Renew -- Fort Good Hope's Renewal Resource

1 Council.

2 Like I have to refer to -- you -- the
3 Chief Richard Kochon from Colville Lake, his remarks
4 about getting a person, the region for the district or
5 work on this and process managing these caribou.

6 And also I have to refer you to Wilbert
7 Kochon. His remarks about the -- you have to live the
8 land in order to understand the animals.

9 I -- again, I will refer to whoever is
10 going to work on the, you know, process of this
11 management; should have a person that -- that has hunted
12 and has lived the land, and also can read and write.
13 Like, have some sort of post-secondary education to --
14 working with the -- the people that are, you know, trying
15 to set up this management plan.

16 I had a whole bunch of things that I had
17 in my head, but then I seem to have forgot, and I guess
18 the -- why I say I'd like to -- like I said, when a
19 person goes to a University -- four (4) years University,
20 and like a -- like especially being a biologist. And --
21 and you get a whole bunch of training on how the animals
22 exist, and like in a -- in their environment, but -- but
23 then you just get taught the -- like not the real thing.

24 Like -- like our lifestyle is a complete
25 different education. You have to learn that. Like I'm

1 sure you couldn't even learn it in the outside way, like
2 educated, but then you have to live the land in order to
3 knowing that you understand the animals; their -- their -
4 - their behaviour. But you get taught that in school,
5 but then it's -- you have to live the land.

6 I guess -- I guess I have to refer you to
7 like -- like Imperial Oil. They should have been here;
8 like they should have been -- you know, it's to their
9 interest that they're -- like -- like I said before. How
10 are they going to compensate us for the loss of caribou
11 according to the Land Claims?

12 Like in the -- according to your numbers
13 there from 1987 to 1993, there was like thirty thousand
14 (30,000) drop in the population, that's five (5) years.
15 Like that's not -- numbers don't -- it's like the people
16 don't believe the numbers. I guess, obviously, they went
17 some place else, you know. Like, these caribou come down
18 the -- through the Mackenzie to associate with the other
19 caribou herds.

20 Part of their reasons they do that is to
21 -- delete inbreedings. Like if a population -- a group
22 of animals get -- you know, stay among each others
23 there's going to be inbreeding, and the offspring is
24 going to be -- wouldn't produce babies, I should say.

25 It really sad though that, you know,

1 Imperial is not here. Those are my closing remarks.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ka, mahsi, Harry. Very
4 good.

5 We have some more closing remarks from the
6 Elders.

7 Marie...?

8

9 (NORTH SLAVEY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 ELDER MARIE KOCHON: I'm the mother of
12 the Kochon's from Colville Lake, Marie Kochon. Thank you
13 for having us here.

14 I spoke yesterday, but I wasn't feeling
15 well so I forgot to say something. so I just wanted to
16 say some of those things that I forgot to say yesterday.

17 I'm originally from this community of Fort
18 Good Hope. I grew up in Fort Good Hope and I was also in
19 the residential school. 1951, that's when I came back to
20 this community And I was -- when I was 24 years old;
21 that's when my husband married me and that's when I moved
22 down to Colville Lake, and from that time on I've lived
23 down in Colville Lake and Colville Lake area has become
24 my land.

25 When we used to live up in this area, the

1 Mackenzie region, we only saw moose, and when I -- we
2 moved to Colville Lake, that's when I finally saw
3 caribou.

4 And we always go out in the bush. We used
5 to go with dog team out in the fall to the bush and one
6 (1) time I saw so many caribou in one (1) place -- in
7 this area that's called Duta, which is along -- Among The
8 Islands. And that time, my father -- they were still
9 alive, and we crossed from Colville Lake, there's a big
10 point there that was just like a string of caribou right
11 across and we were so amazed. We watched it all day
12 long.

13 And back then, sometimes in that area you
14 see many caribou. And there was no Cat roads back then
15 and there was caribou all over the land back then. But
16 it seems as soon as the white people started doing oil
17 exploration work in that area above us -- up in that area
18 where people used to go for wood, they used to shoot
19 caribou, and they used to see caribou down on the lake as
20 well -- and from the time that the -- the oil companies
21 put the road in and they started doing their work in that
22 area, it just seems like from that time on, the caribou
23 have kind of -- you don't see it as much as you used to.
24 They don't really come around the way they used to.

25 One time, we were out chopping wood along

1 the Cat road and -- and even along that Cat road you
2 could really smell the fumes from the fuel that was
3 spilled on the road there. And maybe because of things
4 like that, maybe the caribou don't like that, that's why
5 they moved away from that area. And I wanted to mention
6 that.

7 And also when the caribou are wounded;
8 there was one Elder that spoke from the Community of Fort
9 Wrigley, he said that animal -- They all speak to me, he
10 said. When we are wounded we really suffer, the animals
11 have told me, he said. When we are wounded, our -- the
12 rest of our relatives, they leave us behind and we just
13 cry after them. And the animals are just like people.

14 I just wanted to say that. Thank you.

15 They have fed us well while we have been
16 here, and also the interpreters have really done a good
17 job. And whatever we have to say you have given us the
18 opportunity to speak. And there's many of us that travel
19 from Colville Lake and we have come by skidoo and we've
20 come here to say what we are thinking and I'm just
21 thankful for coming here to be with you.

22 And we are very determined when it comes
23 to caribou, because it's a food that we survive on. If
24 we didn't have caribou, we don't know what we would do.
25 In Colville Lake, every thing is brought in by airplane,

1 so every thing is very expensive there.

2 And maybe through the Creators help the
3 people there -- there is not anyone that is too bad off.
4 Everyone helps one (1) another, so we're okay. So thank
5 you, and if we ever have a meeting again, hopefully I'll
6 be with the people again. I want to say thank you again.

7

8 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Marie. I have
11 on the list here, Alexis.

12

13 (NORTH SLAVEY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

14

15 ELDER ALEXIS BLANCHO: I just wanted to
16 say one (1) more thing that I remembered that I wanted to
17 bring up.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 ELDER ALEXIS BLANCHO: This quota they
22 want to put on the caribou, it causes me a lot of
23 concern. I think back to my elders long ago, back when
24 George Kotakin (phonetic) was the chief, at one (1) time
25 I witness him speaking and he talked about how that if

1 they were ever going to put a quota on the wildlife in
2 our land, it's just like somebody put a lock on our
3 warehouses where we couldn't have access to them. And
4 when we talk about a putting the quota on the caribou,
5 it's just like someone is locking up our warehouse on us.

6
7 And also long ago, back -- long ago a lot
8 of animals were under a quota system -- the beaver were
9 under quota -- and when I used to live in the Good Hope
10 area sometimes -- and we were only allowed to kill
11 fifteen (15) beaver and sometimes Elders didn't have
12 their quota so they would go hunting for them as well.
13 And we didn't get anymore then what we were allotted.

14 It was so pitiful back then. And it was
15 the government that made these decisions for us.

16 And one (1) time we got -- came to town,
17 my father set a net at the Rabbit Skin river and he shot
18 a beaver and he skinned it right there. And he came to
19 town and he was hiding with this beaver that he had shot
20 and they boiled it right outside the -- people used to
21 hide so much that they were sitting under the mosquito
22 board eating the beaver meat. That's how pitiful we --
23 we grew up.

24 And if you think that we were raised in a
25 rich way, it's not the way it was. It was a hard life.

1 And if we put a quota on this caribou like this, maybe
2 we'll resort to hiding. Maybe we'll become sneaky.
3 That's one (1) of the things that I'm thinking about.

4 And so, I hope that they can keep things
5 the way they are. I just wanted to mention that.

6

7 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Alexis. We have
10 Jonas. You had your hand up there, eh? Jonas Kakfwi.

11 ELDER JONAS KAKFWI: Well, I'm back here
12 again and I'm Jonas Kakfwi. Just an elder.

13 Never used to go to meetings that much,
14 you know, but -- but the last three (3) days I've been
15 listening to the hunters and trappers. What I think to
16 myself is, why the choppers like Imperial Oil and all
17 those -- Esso, De Beers, all those companies, to come to
18 this meetings -- meetings like this, because it's part of
19 their fault that the caribou's are kind of scared out
20 now.

21 I hope this could be set up -- meeting
22 could be set up some other time again and invite all
23 those people there to listen to the trappers -- how much
24 they love their land.

25 Some say caribou are getting less. How

1 they know that much anyway? The peoples of Colville
2 Lake, they been with the caribou for years and years.
3 Could we listen to them and...

4 But I think to myself, it's -- we should
5 set another meeting with all this -- oil companies. It's
6 what they're going around -- seismic with choppers and
7 all. 'Cause for the last three (3) days I've been
8 listening -- and I used to be a hunters -- I used to be a
9 hunter too -- trapper -- listening to all this peoples in
10 Colville, and also from here. I wish our word could be
11 heard, to invite those -- oil companies to a meeting like
12 this.

13 Is there any way that we can set up
14 another meeting?

15 And I thank all of you for listening. And
16 all the people from Colville, thanks very much. Thank
17 you.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Jonas. We had
19 Joseph Kochon there, or Charlie? I'm getting all my --
20 it's about -- I hope my closing remarks are not that bad.

21 Okay, Charlie?

22 Let's try to keep it to, you know,
23 thanking people. I know you've mentioned a lot of the
24 things already that you wanted to mention, so I'm going
25 to allow for, you know, a lot of the thanking but I'll

1 remind you that, you know, (Native tongue spoken).

2 Barthy, you're next. Barthy. Okay,
3 Charlie, go ahead.

4

5 (NORTH SLAVEY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MR. CHARLIE KOCHON: Thank you, my
8 people. We're -- what we are talking about here is very
9 important to us. Whenever we attend meetings we worry
10 and we think about, and we are trying to fight for what
11 we want or believe is ours.

12 We are from Colville Lake, I've already
13 mentioned that. We're the one's that stayed behind. We
14 were reluctant to leave that area, that's why we stayed
15 there. And I want to say another thing in front of you
16 too.

17 The Tahshine Lake area, they found some
18 kind of metal there, and they said diamond mineral. And
19 that area from which the helicopter left, that's locked
20 up oil area. And -- and it's been about a week or so
21 when I left to Coville Lake I -- there was a Twin Otter
22 coming to Coville, and it had wheels on it, and I was
23 wondering what was going on?

24 And I told Richard about it. Maybe
25 they're building an airport down on that area because

1 that plane has wheels on it, that Twin Otter. And maybe
2 behind the people's back, they're doing this kind of
3 activities, and I just wanted to mention that to my
4 people.

5 When we do this -- whenever there's a
6 hardship for the people, when there's game wardens
7 present, they're the ones that look after the wildlife
8 for us, and if it wasn't like that maybe anyone could do
9 whatever they want with the animals.

10 And I worked in Norman Wells for many
11 years myself, and a lot of times the choppers would go
12 across to the mountains and they would come back and they
13 would kill many grizzly bears and -- and now they have
14 monitors that go out with them.

15 And now the bears are quite dangerous
16 animals, and whenever we see them we report it. And it's
17 good if we support one another. And this caribou that we
18 are talking about now, and what my relatives have said,
19 it's not too good to talk too much about the caribou, and
20 I feel like that too.

21 My father used to really talk to us. He
22 told us many things, he was a very wise man. And lot of
23 times I talked about the things that he told me at Dene
24 Nation Assembly Meetings. And one (1) of the
25 interpreters, Mary Wilson (phonetic) -- and when the

1 terminology would become too difficult for her, I would
2 help her out.

3 And some of the elder's terminology in the
4 Dene language is very difficult. It's almost like a
5 university-level English. That's how it is, and you as
6 white people, you don't all speak the same level.

7 And we of Coville Lake, we really depend
8 on caribou for our survival, and when we talk about it
9 too much, it kind of -- we really don't care too much for
10 that. And I don't want to repeat what has already been
11 said.

12 What's been said has all been recorded
13 already, and they're talking about putting a quota on the
14 caribou. That -- we really don't agree with that.

15 Maybe if the caribou numbers were in a
16 critical state, maybe then that would help them. But
17 caribou go through cycles too, where they rebound in
18 numbers, and sometimes the numbers go down as well.

19 And the caribou -- it's something that is
20 used for survival, so it's really hard to talk about.
21 That's what you're talking about right now, and yesterday
22 I said that as well.

23 And you put these collars on its necks,
24 and I really don't agree with that. If a human person
25 had a collar like that on their neck, I'm sure that would

1 cause them a great deal of stress, and that's probably
2 the same for the animals.

3 And thank you for having this opportunity
4 to speak to one another about how we feel, and it's all
5 been recorded. And about how we feel, and in Coville
6 Lake people -- we live amongst the caribou, and when you
7 talk about it, we really don't like it.

8 And they're talking about the oil
9 companies coming back down to that area, and that's one
10 (1) of the things that -- it's really bad. When they put
11 that road out to the rigs, just like twenty-four (24)
12 hours they are going, and it's quite noisy.

13 In the past, I -- I work with a company
14 and whenever the choppers land beside us, you could just
15 feel the vibration on the -- the ground, and how could a
16 caribou come near an area like that? I'm sure it causes
17 them great fear.

18 And the companies come onto a land -- this
19 is the type of activity that they do, and when we ask
20 them not to do any work on our area, they still don't
21 listen. They just go ahead and work anyway.

22 How hard head -- headed can anyone be?
23 I've worked for oil companies for a long time myself.
24 How many times do you have to tell them no, and they
25 still continue to do whatever they want.

1 And I just want to say thank you. It's a
2 -- I'm thankful to have the chance to be able to see one
3 another here again. And you white people, you've already
4 got your path set for you, and that's what your
5 following.

6 And we just have to sit with one another
7 and try to educate one another about what we are
8 thinking, what we are concerned about. And the elder
9 that was here before me is -- that person mentioned that
10 they should continue this kind of discussion, and I -- I
11 agree with that.

12 I'm thankful that person said that. And I
13 came to the community here with a skidoo and when you
14 talk about being your own boss you don't go by the time,
15 and today you only travel by skidoo. Nobody travels with
16 dogs teams anymore. And me too, I travel by skidoo.

17 And I just wanted to say that much. Thank
18 you.

19 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to
20 speak once more. Thank you. And, hopefully, we get to
21 see one another again in the future. Mahsi.

22

23 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Jimmy...? Or James?

1 Or Barthy, yes, okay. You'll have to keep your hands up
2 a little longer. My eyes are not as good as when I first
3 got...

4 ELDER BARTHY COTCHILLY: Okay. Before I
5 -- I give you my thank you that already stated, but
6 something that I had in my mind. There's too much talk
7 about caribou out there -- don't have caribou out -- but
8 when you're trying to help out the Coville Lake people
9 there -- Colville Lake there is that what -- the main
10 people that have their caribou down that way and up -- up
11 to them to do what the -- what they think.

12 And they -- but can't make no -- no rule
13 for them from Good Hope, having to go way over 120 miles
14 to go for hunting for caribou.

15 Who have caribou around here? Well, maybe
16 -- who could say something about it, but have a quota --
17 one (1) of the thing that a -- people they took -- try
18 and hire some monitors. They really need a monitor to --
19 to look after all the caribou and wildlife, but which --
20 which monitor and people -- lots of people out netting
21 their lakes and that kind of people that need monitor
22 too.

23 I wonder wildlife people could look into
24 that. See if they could hire people for fish and caribou
25 and moose, anything. They need a that monitor for that.

1 From there they could monitor, could write everything
2 down and then take it back to them and see how people are
3 working with all this animals.

4 That's what we really need. But you can't
5 -- for me it's pretty hard to talk about something that
6 we don't have. And cari -- like caribou, at Colville
7 Lake they have the right. The right -- and we have to
8 listen to them and see what's going on down there. Few
9 caribou come up this way. There lot of -- whatever.

10 So I'm kind of thinking about a monitor.
11 I think that's what I wanted to bring up. So maybe
12 that's all. I want to thank you people to come down here
13 to have meeting with us. About this kind of thing. They
14 very important to people for Fort Good Hope and Coville
15 Lake. They all said what they want, and we -- you people
16 tell what they wanted to know, and it's really nice for
17 both people, I think.

18 So I just want to thank you again for
19 coming back, and maybe you could come back again, maybe
20 next time. Okay.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Barthy.

22 Jimmy...?

23 And I'm going to keep reminding people,
24 let's keep it to the closing remarks.

25 MR. JAMES CEASAR: Thank you, Walter.

1 James Ceasar, for the record.

2 Again, I just want to summarize what I've
3 said in my opening remarks. And -- and my recommendation
4 right now, I think to the Board, and to ENR and to the
5 other affected groups, we should take our time.

6 We should take our time for a lot of
7 reasons. One (1) of them is -- I said before that the
8 data that we were using -- we were going to use that data
9 -- that means we're losing about two thousand (2,000)
10 animals per year.

11 And -- and I said those -- those numbers
12 are not really -- they're really conservative numbers, I
13 think, from people that are using those numbers.

14 And also, there's a lot of contention on
15 whether or not we're using just the Bluenose-West,
16 because the total number we should be looking at is the
17 total and to include the Bluenose-East.

18 So those are all just one (1) big group of
19 animals, and then if some go to the east without coming
20 back this way, then we're losing a whole bunch of caribou
21 to the east.

22 So we might just have a small little
23 population in our area here. So those are all
24 contentious issues, and we should take our time and do a
25 more comprehensive count. And we should do that in

1 conjunction with other groups, and -- like Tli Cho, and
2 maybe the Gwich'ins.

3 And so for -- for that we should take our
4 -- our time. And we should take our time because I know
5 the Board could impose a quota, and they have the right
6 to do that, but only in the case of conservation
7 purposes.

8 I think a lot of you guys know that
9 already. So the other thing that you should do is to
10 review what the conservation -- to -- to define what
11 conservationists and we -- we need that too. We need
12 that for our own management plans too -- in our area
13 here.

14 The other thing, too, is to -- to limit --
15 I guess to limit the permitting and licencing of -- of
16 oil and gas permits, minerals. Just yesterday the SSI
17 had passed a motion where the permitting system for --
18 for this year is going to be put on hold.

19 To withdraw all -- all permitting for --
20 for mines and minerals. And that goes directly to the
21 Department of Indian Affairs. And we -- we done that on
22 our own in order to stop any further permitting of -- of
23 mines and minerals.

24 So my recommendation are those two (2);
25 just to take our time to deal more comprehensive numbers

1 count, also to -- to define what conservation is. So
2 it's pretty well straightforward about what you guys'
3 position should be.

4 So just take your time; don't -- don't
5 rush into it. And -- and the other thing too, I guess,
6 is to consult with everybody; all the stakeholders. Too
7 many times we get information too late and we have very
8 little time to respond, so this -- this another thing.

9 Thank you very much.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, thanks James.
11 James, just to clarify for the record, just for myself, I
12 know -- if you can still hear me -- the motion you're
13 talking about is for mineral exploration. That would be
14 the -- what would they call those; those would be
15 exploration permits, right?

16 Or no, the prospecting permits. Is that
17 the one's you're talking about James?

18 MR. JAMES CEASAR: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Those would be
20 prospecting permits you're talking about?

21 MR. JAMES CEASAR: Yes. On December 1st,
22 just next week, Indian Affairs -- sorry about that,
23 Walter. James again, response to Walter's question.

24 This -- the Indian Affairs -- Department
25 of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is going to

1 open up bids, I guess, land bids for exploration
2 companies -- minerals -- mines and minerals.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, I see.

4 MR. JAMES CEASAR: And -- and they're
5 going to put out these -- land bids out, and that's going
6 to be on -- on December 31st -- or December 1st. And our
7 resolution insist that we wouldn't allow it at -- in
8 Sahtu Settlement area. And that's the motion that was
9 put forward by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, James. I got
11 that now. Thanks.

12 The -- you know, we're still on closing
13 remarks here. The -- you know, I want to go to I guess -
14 - ENR, I guess would be.

15 Alasdair, you'd be preparing for your
16 closing remarks?

17

18 CLOSING COMMENTS BY ENR:

19 MR. ALASDAIR VIETCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
20 It's Alasdair Vietch with ENR, and I'm going to be
21 reading from a prepared document that's gone to the
22 translators and to -- to Jody.

23 We'd like to thank you for the opportunity
24 to provide these closing comments on behalf of the
25 Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

1 We would like to express our appreciation
2 for the opportunity to be here in Fort Good Hope with so
3 many other people who care so much about the future of
4 caribou.

5 We were asked by the Sahtu Renewable
6 Resources Board in our closing comments to provide our
7 advice and priorities on any management options other
8 than restricting harvest for beneficiaries that would
9 help the Bluenose-West caribou herd to recover its
10 numbers. But before we talk about this, we would like to
11 review some of the commitments we have made at this
12 public Hearing in response to concerns raised by
13 participants.

14 We heard people ask to be more involved in
15 the studies that we do. We make the following
16 commitments:

17 1. We will provide the opportunity for
18 people from the Sahtu to see for themselves how the July
19 2009 photo census of the Bluenose-West heard is done.

20 2. We will look at more ways for young
21 people to work with biologists, and learn about what
22 biologists do. The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, and
23 ENR, will continue to hire summer students from Sahtu
24 communities. We always appreciate ideas on possible
25 young people to hire, and we always encourage you during

1 our annual winter road tour to visit students in all five
2 (5) schools in the Sahtu.

3 We will meet with leaders, Elders, and
4 youth in Colville Lake to go over how we do our various
5 studies, and how they can become more involved in what we
6 do.

7 We have also heard people express their
8 concerns about exploration and development activities.
9 Like the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, and the RRCs,
10 we will continue to provide suggestions to the Sahtu Land
11 and Water Board on ways for companies to reduce
12 disturbance to caribou.

13 We will continue to work with the Sahtu
14 Land Use Planning Board on the Sahtu Land Use Plan, and
15 with the NWT Protected Area Strategy.

16 We are currently working with the Deline
17 RRC, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Sahtu
18 Renewable Resources Board on a pilot project to see if
19 mobile caribou protection measures can be based on our
20 satellite collars. This project is an initiative of the
21 Deline RRC.

22 Although this public Hearing has been
23 focussed on the Bluenose-West caribou herd, concern has
24 been expressed about increasing numbers of muskox in the
25 Sahtu.

1 ENR will work with the RRCs and the Sahtu
2 Renewable Resources Board to recommend changes to the
3 current regulations for muskox.

4 People also spoke about the need for an
5 updated management plan for the Bluenose-West herd. We
6 will work with the RRCs, and the Sahtu Renewable
7 Resources Board, to bring together the groups that share
8 the Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, and Cape Bathurst herds
9 to update the management plan that was done for these
10 same herds.

11 We have funding available, and we are
12 prepared to help the wildlife co-management Boards in the
13 Sahtu, Gwich'in, and Inuvialuit claim areas to organize a
14 meeting to get this process going as soon as possible.

15 As recommended by the Sahtu Renewable
16 Resources Board earlier, we are working with the Board to
17 increase Public Education Initiatives, and to monitor
18 harvest.

19 Back to the question asked of our
20 Department by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board on the
21 first day of the Public Hearing regarding management
22 actions.

23 We reviewed suggestions that were made
24 over the past two and a half (2 1/2) years in meetings
25 with communities -- with students in the schools -- that

1 priority management actions proposed by delegates at the
2 NWT Caribou Summit in Inuvik, the previous Bluenose and
3 Cape Bathurst Caribou Co-management Plan, and what we've
4 heard at this public Hearing over the past three (3)
5 days.

6 In review, our population surveys
7 estimated that the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd declined
8 between 2006 -- 2000 and 2006. The estimated herd size
9 in 2006 was about eighteen thousand (18,000) caribou, not
10 including calves.

11 Upon recommendations of the Wildlife Co-
12 Management Boards laws were changed in 2006 so that this
13 herd can only be harvested by land claim beneficiaries.
14 Estimates suggest that the total annual harvest of the
15 Bluenose-West Caribou Herd in the last two (2) years has
16 been between nine hundred (900) and twelve hundred
17 (1,200) caribou.

18 This is between 5 and 7 percent of the
19 estimated herd size in 2006. We suggest this level of
20 harvest is too high for a declining herd. For a caribou
21 herd to increase in numbers, it needs to have lots of
22 calves born, survive their first year, and become adults.

23 The survival of adult cows must also be
24 good, and they must be healthy and fed. Information
25 collected on the calving grounds of the Bluenose-West

1 Herd from 2000 to 2005 documented that fewer calves were
2 born than in earlier years, for which we have data.

3 We do not know why this was occurring --
4 sorry. We also saw that calves were being born later, in
5 June, and even into July. We do not know why this was
6 occurring, but it is known that late-born calves have a
7 less chance of survival.

8 During this Public Hearing, people have
9 said that caribou numbers go up and down naturally - we
10 agree.

11 While there are many reasons for this, human influence
12 and activity now plays a role. Disturbance by aircraft,
13 development activities, habitat changes and harvesting
14 all affect the rates of decline and recovery.

15 We suggest that management actions should
16 be scaled to the level of the decline herd size, and to
17 the level of risk or threat to population recovery.

18 Based on the information we have
19 collected, when the number of caribou in the Bluenose-
20 West Herd is low, our advice on the most important thing
21 we can do in the short term is to lower the number of
22 animals taken, particularly cows. This will help more
23 caribou, especially adult females, live so that the herd
24 can increase in size when conditions improve.

25 There are several actions that could be

1 taken to lower harvest. These are:

2 1. People can voluntarily agree to take
3 fewer caribou for a few years. We have heard during this
4 Hearing that this is already occurring.

5 2. People should reduce wastage and
6 wounding loss as much as possible.

7 3. People can take young bulls rather
8 than cows.

9 4. Areas could be identified where there
10 should be no hunting, such as along winter roads.

11 5. A limit could be set as to how many
12 caribou should be taken, such as has already been done in
13 the Inuvialuit, and Gwich'in areas.

14 If actions are taken to lower harvest,
15 then we suggest the following actions should be
16 considered:

17 1. The Barren-ground Caribou management
18 zones within the Sahtu should be modified so it may fit
19 with the ranges of the Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East
20 herds.

21 2. Patrols by Wildlife Officers should be
22 increased.

23 Sahtu harvesters share the Bluenose-West
24 herd with Gwich'in and Inuvialuit harvesters.

25 We encourage the SAHTU Renewable Resources

1 Board to consider management actions recommended by the
2 Wildlife Management Advisory Council NWT, and the
3 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

4

5

(BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. I wasn't paying
8 attention there. Alasdair, maybe you can help me by
9 looking over there once in awhile so that --

10

MR. ALASDAIR VIETCH: Okay. Actions have
11 been agreed to in Gwich'in and Inuvialuit land claim
12 areas to limit their harvest to their share of 4 percent
13 of the Bluenose-West herd.

14

If recommended the Sahtu portion of the
15 total allowable harvest would be three hundred and forty-
16 seven (347) caribou per year. This is about the level of
17 harvest taken by people from Colville Lake, Fort Good
18 Hope and Norman Wells during the last two (2) years of
19 the harvest study in 2004 and 2005.

20

If the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
21 recommends that a harvest limit be set for the Bluenose-
22 West herd, it will be up to the RRCs to decide how to
23 allocate that harvest. If the approach is taken that
24 tags are required, then we suggest that those tags should
25 be given to the RRCs to provide to harvesters.

1 yeah, I'd to -- the interpreters. I, sometimes I look
2 the other way and I'm not paying attention. Thanks for
3 screaming at me and wake me up.

4 The -- the -- at this time, our staff,
5 we're getting to our staff for closing remarks. I'm
6 gonna give some -- you know, it doesn't matter who starts
7 here with the staff. I think you can organize yourself.
8 And Jody could start there.

9 MS. JODY SNORTLAND: I believe we'll just
10 -- I'll be speaking. I wanted to make a couple of points
11 today.

12 This is in response to a comment that
13 Joseph Kochon made about funding. I wanted to let you
14 know that the Renewable Resources Board has secured
15 additional funding for the Renewable Resource councils.
16 I just found out that I had secured the money so nobody
17 knew about it. So there's fifteen thousand dollars
18 (\$15,000) that'll be coming your way and you should be
19 able to use those funds to help offset some of the costs
20 of getting your people here.

21 Secondly, the Renewable Resources Board
22 will be -- for future researchers who will be applying
23 for funding to the Renewable Resource Board, we're going
24 to be requiring written permission from all affected
25 communities. So that should help make sure that

1 communities are aware of the research that is anticipated
2 for the area and they can make comment before people come
3 in.

4 Finally then, to the thank yours. Dora,
5 Lucy Ann, Sean, and Pat -- the translators, our
6 transcription and our sound engineer -- thank you very
7 much. You have made this go very smoothly and we
8 couldn't have done it without you.

9 Thank you to John Donihee, our legal guru,
10 who has helped us get through these last few weeks
11 preparing -- and in the last few days here at the meeting
12 -- the Hearing.

13 To the Board members, you're doing a great
14 job.

15 Thank you to staff, Lori Ann and Glen.
16 They're -- they do whatever I ask, so they're an awesome
17 team.

18 Thank you to the Fort Good Hope Renewable
19 Resource Council, especially Tammy Proctor who helped to
20 organize the drum dance last night. It was really nice
21 to break away from sitting in a formal setting all day to
22 let our hair down and have some fun.

23 And finally, thank you to the communities
24 of Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake, and some of the
25 other communities who were able to be here. Thank you

1 for speaking from your heart. And it's going to be a
2 difficult decision, but with your words it -- we'll do
3 our best.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Jody.

6 John, you -- do you want to add anything?
7 You're part of the staff too, so.

8 MR. JOHN DONIHÉE: Well I thank you for
9 that, Mr. Chairman, but I think Jody said it all so well
10 that I'll jut leave it at that.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, John. What
12 I'm going to do at this time and it comes -- you know,
13 time now -- the Board can make closing remarks, but I
14 think I'll make it a little easier for the rest of the
15 Board members. I'll do my closing remarks and then the
16 rest of members can add something, or it might even spark
17 something that they want to say anyway.

18 The -- you know, I'm going to start by
19 thanking everybody again. It's always -- it doesn't
20 matter how many times you thank people, it's always
21 something that -- the Dene people has always -- you
22 know, the first thing they say is to thank people; you
23 know, thanking the community as a whole.

24 The first time I started to look at more
25 information and probably the first time the First Nations

1 seems like it's even a bigger challenge for caribou.

2 But I look at it this way. Sometimes when
3 the communities -- and then many times I go to meetings
4 and we talk about animals, and I know what my Elders have
5 said in -- same way in Deline as in Colville Lane, as it
6 in the mountains, that is, it's not respectful to be
7 talking about caribou so much.

8 But let me remind all of us here that
9 every day we deal with people. You know I -- I used to
10 be -- when I first joined the Board here as a Chair, I
11 was really looking forward to dealing with animals. You
12 know, not -- I thought that's what I was going to do.
13 Very quickly I learned that's not the case. I look -- we
14 look at more managing people than we do animals. And I
15 think you find that today. You see that throughout our
16 hearings today.

17 Another thing I'd like to bring up is that
18 -- and I brought it up again at the beginning -- but this
19 is a milestone, a milestone in our history, in our
20 history of our claims, in the history of our
21 implementation of our claims; that this Board has a
22 mandate to manage wildlife in the Sahtu.

23 You know, it takes a long, long time for
24 people to understand that. You know, it's taken -- this
25 is the first time I've heard it, you know, from

1 governments, from some other people, that it is -- this
2 Board has that mandate and I'm really glad that it comes
3 out, because it is the wishes of the claims and I hope we
4 live up to it.

5 Now, I've got a whole bunch of things that
6 I have to go over, and sometimes these things are not as
7 pleasant to hear, but it's part of the records of our
8 Board, so.

9 The other thing that I should mention at
10 this time is the -- you know, Jody has mentioned funding.
11 I'd like to make, for the record here, the funding that
12 we have to hold are hearings comes from Department of
13 Indian Affairs; in this case, I think through the
14 Implementation Director in Ottawa. I don't know exactly
15 where the funds come from, but that's how we manage to
16 hold our hearings. The -- so again, thanks to them.

17 And then just to continue with my thank
18 you's. You know, offering a special thanks to the Elders;
19 certainly to all of our First Nations here; the Renewable
20 Resource Councils; you know sharing their information and
21 wisdom.

22 Thanking all of the GNT Department of
23 Environment and Natural Resources for their assistance as
24 well.

25 It's always nice to thank our translators,

1 Dora Grandjambe, Lucy Ann Yakeleya, our court reporter,
2 Sean Coleman, and the PIDO technician, Pat Braden, for
3 their work.

4 And finally, you know it's such an
5 experience to work with Jody and the staff. Many hours
6 of work. You know, without Jody I probably wouldn't look
7 very good up here. There is a lot of things that she
8 does for me to make sure that I stay on the road that
9 supports our Board through this process here.

10 You know, the Board has listened to all of
11 the information, opinions, recommendations, from all of
12 the people here. You have given us a lot to think about
13 and I really thank you for that. You know, as you might
14 expect, we have to take some time to consider all the
15 evidence.

16 The record for this proceeding would be
17 closed and the transcripts are filed and we have the
18 information from the undertakings made by ENR in hand.

19 Once the records are closed -- that is the
20 information or the evidence that the Board will consider
21 in making a decision. You know, Chapter 13 of the Sahtu
22 Land Claims sets out the framework for the Board's
23 decision making process.

24 It is also mandatory for the Board to hold
25 a public hearing if it is going to consider studying a

1 total allowable harvest. This does not mean that we will
2 make the band recommendation. It is simply one (1) of
3 the options that the Board has available to it.

4 The Sahtu land claim in a -- and that's
5 going to keep coming up, you know -- the Sahtu land
6 claims make sure that the Board hears directly from any
7 affected communities -- harvesters, RRCs and bands --
8 before it makes its decision. This is very important to
9 the Board.

10 Sections 13.8.24 to 13.8.30 of the Sahtu
11 Land Claims set out decision making process between the
12 Board and the GNWT Minister of ENR. Simply what that
13 means is the Board will deliberate and make its decision
14 as soon as possible and we hope that this decision will
15 be before Christmas.

16 The land claims then requires the Board to
17 submit its decision and any draft regulations to the
18 Minister. We have to keep this decision and the report
19 we write confidential at this stage.

20 The Minister may take sixty (60) days or
21 more to consider the Board's decision. He may accept it,
22 vary it, or reject it.

23 If he does not simply accept it, he must
24 explain to this Board here and ask the Board to make a
25 final -- or explain why to this Board, and ask the Board

1 to make a final decision. The Minister then must
2 consider that decision and make a decision on behalf of
3 the GNWT.

4 This process will take some time and the
5 Board is not able to say exactly when a final decision
6 we'll make. We can say that we are going to act quickly
7 on these matters and that we expect that the GNWT will as
8 well.

9 The Board is able to make its decision
10 public after it has heard from the Minister and we will
11 do so.

12 Considering the way the decision making
13 process works, it seems likely to the Board that any
14 recommendations accepted by the Minister will affect
15 harvesting of the Bluenose-West herd this winter.

16 That's probably about all that we can tell
17 you at this time on our decision making process. We
18 thank you again for your help, and for being here. I
19 think I said that this was my first hearing but I've
20 learned a lot and I'm -- I really -- I'm really glad that
21 I came here. Mahsi.

22 Now, I have, you know, all of my Board
23 members here. I'm going to allow for them to also thank
24 the process here or bring up anything that they wish at
25 this time.

1 We'll start with -- with Rosa then, and
2 come down this way. Thanks Rosa.

3 MS. ROSA ETCHINELLE: Rosa Etchinelle,
4 SRRB Board member. I would to thank everybody that came
5 in to attend this hearing and thank you for sharing your
6 information as well. I'd like to thank the translator
7 staff and ENR. Mahsi.

8 MR. KEITH HICKLING: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. Keith Hickling, Board Member. I'd like to thank
10 our hosts, the Community Members of Fort Good Hope for
11 allowing our Board to proceed with this hearing process.
12 I remember the welcoming remarks from Mr. Barnaby.
13 Mahsi.

14 Many of you have left your homes and your
15 daily chores to come here and share your concerns and
16 your knowledge of caribou with us. I want to thank you
17 for that.

18 Thanks to our staff who have worked so
19 hard to attend to all the finer details of making sure
20 that such a process works.

21 I'd like to thank the delegates from
22 Environment and Natural Resources Government Northwest
23 Territories, who as well shared their knowledge and their
24 work these past days. As well as the dedication to the
25 weeks of work to ensure that all our requests with regard

1 to the requested reports have been given to us in such a
2 timely manner. Thank you. And to all the Board Members.
3 Thank you very much. Mahsi.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Keith.
5 Paul...?

6 MR. PAUL LATOUR: Paul Latour, Board
7 Member. Not much to add to all the thank yous that have
8 been said most eloquently by Jody and our Chairman,
9 Walter, for sure. Just a wrap up thank you to all the
10 people that contributed to putting this together.

11 A special thank you to the community of
12 Fort Good Hope for welcoming us to your community and
13 making us feel at home here, once again.

14 Thanks to the other communities for coming
15 to Fort Good Hope and sharing your information. As I've
16 tried to put forth earlier, this Board has very difficult
17 decision to make, but certainly the information provided
18 by the Communities, by the GNWT, by private citizens, has
19 certainly helped us and given us a lot of information to
20 think about.

21 And I look forward to getting down to the
22 hard work and hopefully coming up with a decision on this
23 matter in the not to distant future. So just thanks
24 again, and look forward to being back in Fort Good Hope
25 again. Mahsi.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mahsi, Paul. Cam?

2 MS. CAMILLA RABISCA: Camilla Rabisca,
3 SRRB. I think the Board has done a good job of thanking
4 everybody. So I'll just -- I just want to add on that I
5 would like to thank the Trappers of Colville Lake that
6 have come a long ways just to get here to the meeting.
7 Marie and Hyecinthe, they've -- they're not young
8 anymore.

9 They've travelled with Skidoo from their
10 camp to Colville Lake and they've travelled it -- quite a
11 distance just to get here. I would like to thank them
12 and their kids that have -- are going trapping and just
13 took time out just to come here to this meeting. Thank
14 you very much.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Camilla.
16 Robert...?

17 MR. ROBERT KELLY: Robert Kelly, Board
18 Member. I want to thank all the organizers that made it
19 possible for this hearing to happen. I want to thank all
20 the presen -- presenters: ENR, RRC Boards, Elders,
21 hunters, trappers. I'm extremely touched by a lot of the
22 Elder's story. I can relate to it. I'm thankful for my
23 relative, Wilbert, who made a presentation and said he's
24 trying to be nice.

25 I like a lot of stories that I heard, and

1 I hope that we will make a good decision. And I want to
2 especially thank our Chairman, Walter, for doing a
3 wonderful job. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I'm not finished
5 yet, so you're gonna have to bear with me a few more
6 minutes.

7 The -- you know at this time, you know,
8 it's always a good time for me too, to reflect on the
9 last three (3) days.

10 I'm going to ask Marie Kochon to do a
11 quick closing prayer for us. Marie, (Native tongue
12 spoken). We'll get that done.

13

14 (CLOSING PRAYER)

15

16 --- Upon adjourning at 3:02 p.m.

17

18

19 Certified Correct,

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21

22 _____

23 Sean Coleman

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