

Caribou Research Resolution

Whereas

1. The Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) of the Sahtú Region are concerned that knowledge and stewardship role of our people is not being properly respected and accommodated in caribou research and management – traditional knowledge is the missing piece.
2. As Sahtu Dene and Metis harvesters, our relationship with caribou is part of who we are.
3. There are many questions that need to be worked on about caribou populations and health and community harvesting practices, especially in the context of increasing resource development.
4. Sahtu Dene and Metis elders and harvesters do not support caribou collaring as a research method, since it is disrespectful to the caribou and affects caribou health.
5. According to Section 13.9.6 of the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, Renewable Resources Councils “shall participate in the collection and provision, to government and the Board, of local harvesting data and other locally available data respecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.”
6. According to Section 13.8.40 of the land claim, “wildlife research or harvesting studies conducted in the settlement area by government or by the Board or with government assistance shall directly involve Renewable Resources Councils and participant harvesters to the greatest extent possible.”
7. The SRRB and NWT Environment and Natural Resources must renew their commitment to fulfill the land claim responsibility to directly involve RRCs and

participant harvesters in caribou and other wildlife research, since we've been pushed aside for a long time.

Be It Resolved That

1. The Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) adopt traditional knowledge and Dene law as the leading edge of caribou and harvesting knowledge and law that will guide all efforts to protect the animals.
2. The SRRB and RRCs should jointly support caribou traditional knowledge and harvesting research as well as appropriate scientific research that does not disrespect the animals or harm them in any way, benefits both the caribou and the communities, and helps to maintain and strengthen our relationships with caribou.
3. The SRRB, ENR and RRCs develop a joint memorandum of understanding about our collaborative role in designing (including development of funding proposals), implementing and interpreting caribou and harvesting research.
4. Caribou and harvesting research activities must involve youth to ensure that they are able to use knowledge well as our future providers, caribou stewards and leaders.