



**Sahtu Renewable
Resources Board**

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File: ENR Cor.

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23 September 2005

Honorable J. Michael Miltenberger
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Government of Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Re: Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herd Recommendations

Mr. Miltenberger:

At our September 2005 Board Meeting, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), all Sahtu Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Sahtu Region, discussed the recent Bluenose Caribou Herd photo-census results. Everyone agreed that the decline in both the Bluenose-West & East caribou populations is cause for concern as barren-ground caribou are one of the most important renewable resources in the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA). Over the coming months, the wildlife co-management organizations in the SSA plan to develop a Sahtu-specific list of recommendations to be forwarded to your office in early 2006.

However, in the meantime, the SRRB and RRCs have two (2) recommendations that should be considered immediately to allow ENR enough preparation time:

1. Repeat photo-census in 2006 with the deployment of additional satellite and VHF collars to increase sample size of collared animals on each herd, and
2. Establish check stations on roads between Tulita/Deline and Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake during 2006 winter road season to promote caribou conservation and collect harvest data. Stations to be manned by both ENR Wildlife Officers and RRC Wildlife Monitors.

The Board and RRCs looks forward to working with ENR to address this important wildlife issue. If there are any questions, please contact our office at (867) 588-4040. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Bayha', with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Walter Bayha
Chairman

Cc Steve Hannah, Superintendent, ENR – Sahtu Region
SRRB Board Members & Alternates
Behdzi Ahda' Renewable Resource Council
Deline Renewable Resource Council
Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council
Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
Tulita Renewable Resource Council