

BQCMB Caribou Workshop

February 2010

Overview Report:

**Challenges Facing the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds
and Some Possible Solutions**

– April 2011 –



**Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Management Board**

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Executive Summary

Around the world today, most caribou herds are shrinking in size. These declines are due to both natural and human-caused factors. In Canada, government surveys have shown that very few caribou are using the Beverly herd's traditional calving ground, and the herd may be very small, or most of the herd may have changed its seasonal movement patterns. While the neighbouring Qamanirjuaq herd is still plentiful, a recent population survey found that it may be one-third smaller than the last time these caribou were counted. Hunters from about 20 communities in Manitoba, Nunavut, NWT and Saskatchewan depend on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds to feed their families. The annual harvest from these herds has a net value of at least \$20 million, according to 2005–2006 statistics. The social and cultural importance of caribou is priceless.

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) decided it should work more closely with communities that have depended on the Beverly herd to figure out how everyone can help the herd. The BQCMB also wanted to prevent the Qamanirjuaq population from going through a major decline. As a result, the BQCMB held a Caribou Workshop in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from February 23 to 25, 2010. It drew more than 75 elders, hunters, government staff, scientists and others from Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut, Manitoba, Alberta, Yukon, British Columbia and Ontario. The workshop began with informative presentations about caribou, and then participants broke into small groups to identify the main factors affecting the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. Later, they shared knowledge to better determine what can be done to aid caribou. From the participants' wealth of comments and suggestions came numerous recommendations (see "5. Recommendations").

In March 2010, the BQCMB distributed a very brief summary of the Caribou Workshop (available from www.arctic-caribou.com) and has since started community visits to provide information about the herds, and to ask people for their ideas on what everyone can do to help the caribou.

Doug Urquhart



*Searching for solutions.
BQCMB Caribou
Workshop facilitator
(and talented illustrator)
Doug Urquhart of
Whitehorse, Yukon
drove points home for
participants by sketching
concepts that marked the
progress of the three-day
workshop*

Once community meetings have been completed (likely by the end of 2011), the BQCMB will publish a report in spring 2012 summarizing discussions from these meetings, and making recommendations to governments and others based on comments provided.

The BQCMB is grateful to many people for making the Caribou Workshop a success, including workshop facilitator Doug Urquhart, organizer Tina Giroux and translators Rosanna Good and Elaine Hay. The BQCMB also thanks the Workshop's sponsors: NWT's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Nunavut's Department of Environment, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (NWT and Nunavut regional offices), Manitoba Conservation, the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), the Athabasca Land Use Office, the Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, WWF–Canada, AREVA Resources Canada Inc. and Cameco Corp.

Marion Soublière of M.E.S. Editing and Writing Services worked in collaboration with BQCMB biologist Leslie Wakelyn, the Workshop's lead organizer, to create this report along with its companion publication, the *BQCMB Caribou Workshop February 2010 – Detailed Report*. The BQCMB thanks Marion and Leslie for all their hard work and assistance.

Tina Giroux



BQCMB members, alternates, staff and friends. Standing, left to right, are Mitch Campbell, Dennis Larocque, Allicia Kelly, Earl Evans, David Vetra, Thomas Elytook, Daryll Hedman, Laurent Angalik, Ross Thompson, Tim Trottier, Jerome Denechezhe and Archie Catholique. Seated, left to right: Albert Thorassie, Jan Adamczewski and Pierre Robillard. Missing are BQCMB members George Tsannie and Peter Kusugak

Introduction

This overview report contains a summary of information provided in the *BQCMB Caribou Workshop February 2010 – Detailed Report*, a comprehensive report about a caribou workshop held by the BQCMB in February 2010. It contains numerous recommendations for conservation and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds made by the BQCMB and workshop participants to address the Board's overall goal to safeguard the herds for current and future generations of traditional caribou harvesters and other Canadians. Both the **detailed report** and this **overview** are available electronically from the BQCMB's website or as printed copies from the Secretariat:

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David Vetra

Drummers Matthew Mercredi of Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan (left) and David Joseyounen of Hatchet Lake, Saskatchewan performed during the BQCMB Caribou Workshop's opening ceremony

1. Background: Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds

For more detailed background information about the caribou herds and their ranges, please see the *Detailed Report*.

Status of the Caribou Herds

Like most barren-ground caribou herds around the world today, the Beverly herd of northern Canada is decreasing, and possibly the neighbouring Qamanirjuaq herd is, too. Nobody knows why the herds have declined, but a combination of natural and human-caused factors is the likely cause.

The “**traditional calving ground**” is all areas known to be used for calving by that herd over many years; “**traditional range**” includes all areas used throughout the year by that herd over many years. Each year a herd may use only part of its traditional range and traditional calving ground

Courtesy of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

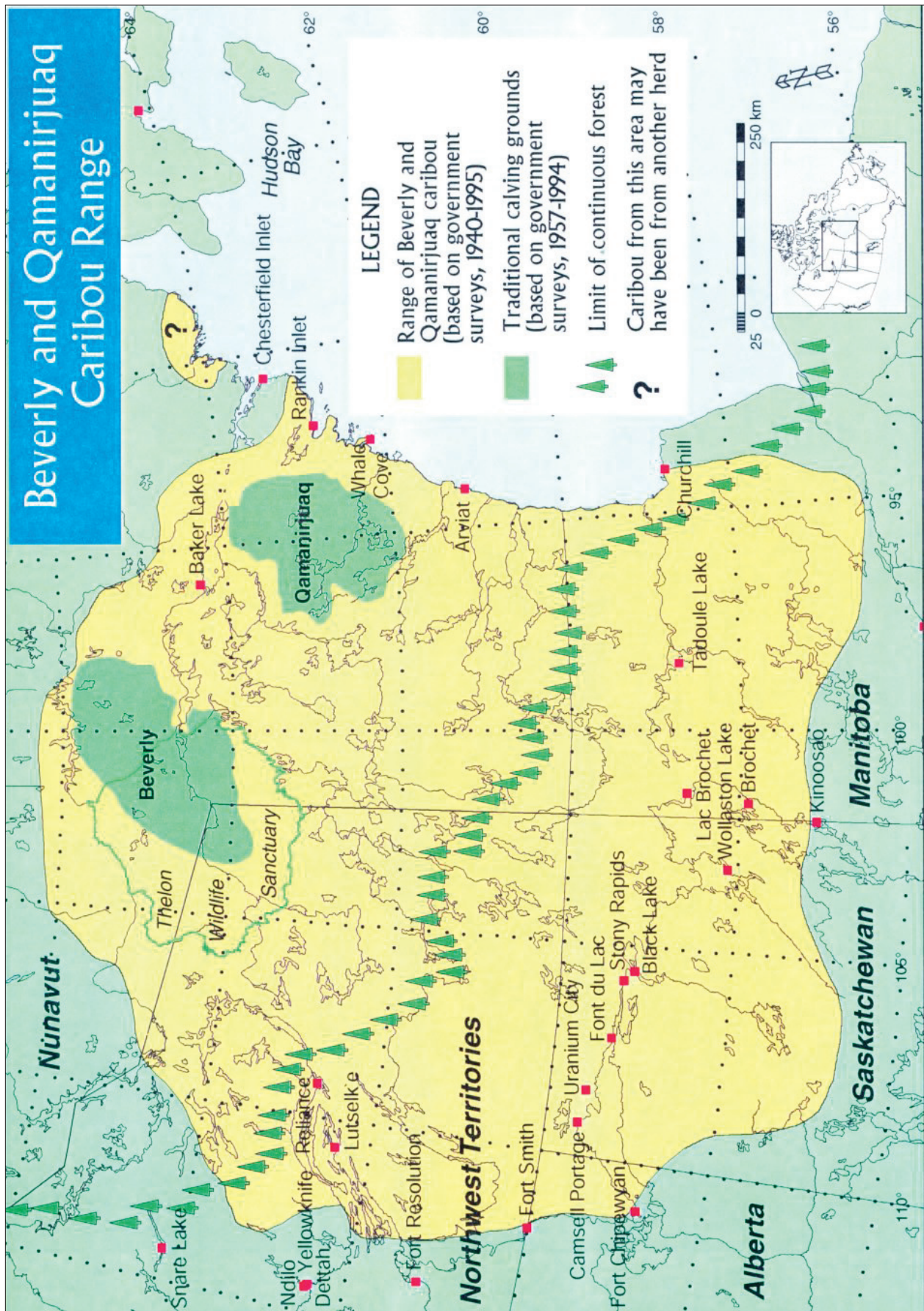


A caribou cow and calf on the Beverly range

The NWT government conducted reconnaissance surveys on the Beverly traditional calving ground each June from 2007 to 2010, and each time it has found fewer and fewer caribou there during the calving period – to the point where almost no caribou were seen on the calving ground in 2010. They decided that this means the herd has undergone a drastic decline, a major shift, or a combination of the two, and may be greatly reduced in size. Nobody knows what size the herd currently is, however, since the last population survey of the Beverly herd was in 1994, when its size stood at around 276,000.

Although the neighbouring Qamanirjuaq herd is still plentiful, results from a 2008 Nunavut government population survey show that this herd may also be shrinking. In 2008 it numbered around 348,000 caribou, possibly down by about one-third from its last population estimate of 496,000 in 1994. (Statistical issues mean the decline is not certain.)

Regardless of what interpretation people choose, the BQCMB is concerned about these trends in population and movements, and what they mean for the communities traditionally dependent on caribou. Additional pressures from a number of sources on both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds is also a concern.



Historical ranges of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds, based on government surveys, 1940-1995. Approximate size of the combined year-round range of both herds is 918,330 km²

The Caribou Ranges

Each year, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou roam across a variety of land, water and habitats – from the forests of northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba north to the taiga and tundra of the NWT and Nunavut. The map on the previous page shows the historical ranges of the herds up until 1995, based on government survey data.

More than 20 communities normally harvested from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. Most residents from these communities are Aboriginal, and have hunted caribou in order to feed, clothe and provide shelter for families. These communities are located in Nunavut (6), Manitoba (7), Saskatchewan (6), NWT (3) and Alberta (1).

The report
*Economic Valuation and
Socio-Cultural
Perspectives of the
Estimated Harvest of the
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Herds*
was published by
InterGroup Consultants of
Winnipeg in 2008

Value of the Caribou Herds to Communities

The BQCMB estimated that about 14,000 caribou were harvested from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds in 2005–2006. (This harvest may also include caribou from other herds, since the ranges of neighbouring herds overlap.) According to a 2008 report contracted by the BQCMB and prepared by InterGroup Consultants of Winnipeg, the total net economic value of this harvest was at least \$20 million. It would cost communities on or near the Beverly or Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges about \$15 million every year to buy meat for their families if there were no caribou to hunt.

Sheila Cavanagh



From left to right: Tassie Lockhart, Sweetgrass Casaway, Alayna Catholique and Kathy Almond learn how to make dry meat with the elders during a BQCMB-sponsored caribou hunt at Artillery Lake near Lutsel K'e, NWT. Caribou are the main source of food for many communities on or near the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges

2. Why the BQCMB Organized This Workshop

The BQCMB: History and Role in Caribou Management

The BQCMB is an Aboriginal-led co-management board of hunters, biologists, and land and wildlife managers. It has advised governments, communities and others since 1982 on ways to safeguard the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. The Board was, and still is, a way to get people who care about caribou to talk to each other.

It is the BQCMB's job to make recommendations to safeguard the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds for traditional users of caribou, and for other Canadians. The Board's current management agreement, the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement*, will expire on March 31, 2012, and the Board is proposing to governments that its mandate be renewed until 2022. The Board's goal is to make sure that there are healthy caribou populations for present and future generations.

The BQCMB Caribou Workshop: Purpose, Objectives and Structure

The purpose of the BQCMB's Caribou Workshop was to bring elders, hunters, government staff, scientists and others who value the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds together, in a spirit of co-operation, so that they could provide input on ways to conserve the herds.

The BQCMB Caribou Workshop was held in Saskatoon from February 23 to 25, 2010. More than 75 participants from Saskatchewan, NWT, Manitoba, Nunavut, Alberta, Yukon, British Columbia and Ontario came because of their concern for caribou, and their desire to make sure that the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds are strong and healthy in the future. A list of workshop participants is provided in Appendix A.

The three-day workshop began by giving participants information about the status and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and their ranges, and the economic value of the herds to communities.

Other presentations described different perspectives on caribou cycles and declining herds. Then, over a period of two days, participants broke into small groups for a more intimate exchange of ideas, reporting back to the whole group after each discussion period. For a summary of the presentations and results of small group discussions, please see "3. Presentations" and "4. Group Discussions."

For more details about the BQCMB and the workshop results, please see the *Detailed Report*.



David Vetra

People travelled from eight provinces and territories to take part in the February 2010 BQCMB Caribou Workshop in Saskatoon

3. Presentations

Verbal Presentations

Verbal presentations were provided by BQCMB members on the purpose of the workshop, the role of the BQCMB, and the status of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. Other invited presenters examined the decline of barren-ground caribou herds worldwide, traditional knowledge about caribou declines, and strategies for managing declining herds. Summaries of the

presentations are provided in the *Detailed Report*.

- 1) **Welcome and Purpose of Workshop** – Albert Thorassie, BQCMB Chairman
- 2) **Introduction to the BQCMB** – Albert Thorassie, BQCMB Chairman
- 3) **Status of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Herds** – Earl Evans, BQCMB Member
- 4) **Status of Caribou Herds around the World** – Anne Gunn, CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network
- 5) **Traditional Knowledge of Caribou Cycles** – Danny Beaulieu, Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- 6) **Porcupine Caribou Management Board's Approach for Managing a Declining Herd** – Joe Tetlich, Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) Chairman

David Vetra



PCMB Chairman Joe Tetlich of Whitehorse, Yukon spoke of the ways his board dealt with the Porcupine caribou herd's declining population

Poster Presentations

A poster session was also held as part of this workshop. For details about poster presentations, please see the *Detailed Report*.

Danny Beaulieu described generations of traditional knowledge about caribou cycles based on his family's experiences in the area of Rocher River, NWT



David Vetra

4. Group Discussions

Workshop participants worked in smaller groups for about two days, reporting back to the whole group after each discussion period. Groups ranged in size from six to about 25 people. The largest group included Dene-speaking participants and their interpreters. Each group had a discussion leader/facilitator and a note-taker.

What's Happening?

Many workshop participants agreed that the caribou herds are decreasing in size, even though actual population numbers are sometimes not known. They also said that this decline is due to **multiple factors**, not one single factor, and that the cumulative effects of these factors are of great concern. (**Cumulative effects** are the combined environmental effects from a series of similar or related activities that accumulate over time and space.) Everyone must work together to reverse this situation, and more consultation by governments and the BQCMB with communities has to be part of this.

Participants said fewer calves were being born and that survival rates were low. Some participants thought the caribou were going through a natural decline, and that the age-old cycle of caribou populations increasing and decreasing was still in effect. Diseases, including chronic wasting, may be a factor, too, some people said, with new diseases being introduced to the North by climate change fostering the spread of diseases. Even the existence of other species, such as muskoxen or buffalo, could impact caribou.

Other participants, though, felt that caribou populations will increase again in a few years. Others mentioned seeing an abundance of calves, or hundreds of caribou at a time walking on thin ice. Still others asserted that there are no diseased animals.

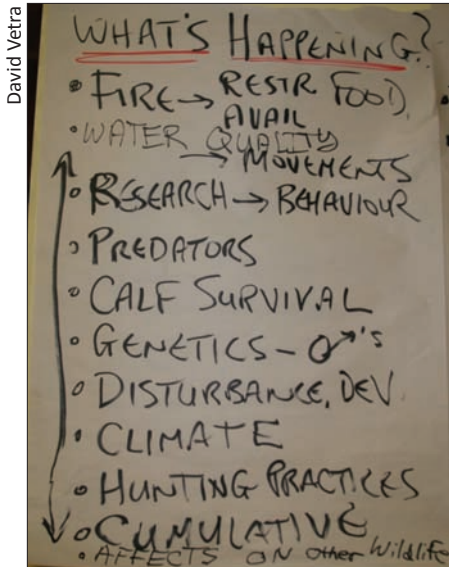
Another worry voiced by participants was the change in genetics among male caribou. Outfitting prizes trophy males and once they have been killed, breeding is left to less prime males.



After each small group discussion, participants all gathered together to summarize their talks and exchange views

What are the Main Factors?

After discussion, workshop participants identified five factors as among the main issues affecting Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou today:



Participants reported back to everyone on their discussions within small groups

1. Climate change
2. Loss of habitat due to forest fires on the winter range
3. Disturbance from human land use activities
4. Harvesting
5. Predators (especially on the calving grounds).

Climate change has taken a toll on caribou, predators and habitat, participants said. It is warmer now than in the past across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges, with more flooding and freezing rain. This unusual weather may be altering caribou movements, encouraging disease and resulting in more drownings at river crossings.

Forest fires have increased, too, damaging much of the Beverly caribou herd's winter range. This loss of high quality habitat has meant less food available to caribou, and less chance that vulnerable calves can survive their first winter. Some people felt that today's fires are more extreme because

forests were overprotected in the past. Participants said that because of fires, caribou are changing their migration routes, which ultimately affects their body condition.

Caribou are moving to different areas because of poor water quality as well as human-caused and natural **disturbances**, people said. Some of the main human-caused disturbances for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou are increasing mineral exploration and mining (especially uranium exploration), new roads being built, more motor vehicles and snow machines, blasting (and resulting dust on vegetation), utility corridors and aerial surveys. It has led to too much activity on calving grounds, some participants said, with numerous low-flying aircraft over the calving grounds. Disturbing pregnant cows during migration or on calving grounds harms caribou herds the most when population numbers are low.

Key habitats – especially the calving grounds – must be protected, with a ban on all exploration and mining activity there. One participant said that people should think of the calving ground as being like a fragile bird's nest, and treated with great care.

There is concern about the cumulative effects of development. Others wondered if scientific research such as satellite/radio collaring and the handling of caribou affect the animals' movements and behaviour. All sorts of disturbance caused by humans, participants said, cause more problems for caribou than predators or insects.

Many workshop participants were concerned about managing **harvesting**, because hunting affects caribou herds the most when their populations are low. It was commonly agreed that youth need to be taught good hunting practices and values, learning from elders. In general, more hunting is taking place because there are more roads leading to the caribou ranges, giving southern hunters (including Aboriginal hunters from outside the caribou range) and outfitters greater access. Overhunting and wastage are more commonplace these days because new technology – like hunting by plane and with fast snow machines – makes it easier. Hunters are not following wounded animals as they should. Lots of cows are being taken as a traditional practice. As well, growing communities may increase hunting pressure on caribou, although workshop participants acknowledged that people in communities rely more on the wage economy these days and less on harvesting caribou.

Predators are another threat. (Wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, wolverine, coyotes, bobcats, cougars, eagles and foxes were among the predators discussed, with most talk focusing on wolves and bears.) Some people felt that caribou kills by predators occurred largely in post-calving areas. The behaviour of some predators seemed odd to people who observed predation of caribou when they did not appear to be killing for food.

Workshop participants stressed repeatedly that everybody needs to work together, recognizing the importance of caribou to communities. This is vital because a hunting ban can destroy goodwill – especially in communities that depend on caribou. The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds range across four provinces and territories, and these jurisdictions all need to co-ordinate and collaborate. More and better research is needed, people said. There should be more information about caribou range use and movements. More satellite collars on caribou may be required to obtain this information. Participants said that caribou monitoring should be assessed to see if it is affecting certain factors that have negative effects on caribou and resulting in changes for caribou. Another way for people to work together is to really use traditional knowledge (known among Inuit as *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*) together with science – and not just talk about doing it. This way, everyone gains more knowledge in order to understand what is happening with caribou and to make good management decisions.

Examining the Issues – What Can We Do?

Each small group was asked to examine two of the five main issues affecting Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou, focusing on what can be done and how soon these things can be done.

The following is a summary of discussions. For a more detailed account of discussions, please see the *Detailed Report*.

Issue #1: Climate change

Everybody – individuals, communities, governments and industry – should limit the amount of energy they consume and reduce their use of fossil fuels. Communities should develop energy conservation plans. Governments need to share information with communities, stakeholders and the world, and individuals should tell non-Northerners about changes to the land and challenges that caribou face. Individuals should report changes they have seen in habitat and wildlife, and communities should discuss these reports, perhaps doing a harvest of “invasive species” like the white-tailed deer (invasive species are plants or animals that come from somewhere else and are harming caribou by taking over their habitat). Governments should work with communities and individuals to conduct long-term monitoring and predict the arrival of new species, diseases and parasites. Governments should involve communities in research and tell residents how to stay safe despite unpredictable weather. Industry could create partnerships for monitoring changes to habitat and wildlife, and share information with communities and governments. Mining companies should consider future changes when designing mine site clean-up plans and put money aside now to deal with unexpected results of climate change.

Issue #2: Loss of habitat due to forest fires on the winter range

Scott Hale. Reprinted from *Caribou News in Brief*, July 2006



Forest fires have damaged much of the Beverly herd's winter range in recent years. Here, a fire edges dangerously close to Stony Rapids in June 2006

Individuals, communities and industry should build fire guards around residential buildings like cabins, around community-owned buildings, and around exploration camps and developments. Companies could also provide funding for fire guards to be built around communities. Everybody – individuals, communities, government and industry – should get involved in fire management discussions and solutions. People can learn more about threats caused by fires, make others aware

of such threats, and participate in ways to reduce forest fires. Governments should ensure that communities are involved in forest fire management decision-making, and they should be involved in land use planning, too. Governments should ask residents to identify priorities for land use planning (such as caribou migration routes and other key habitats for zoning purposes) and when to fight fires.

Governments must make sensitive caribou habitat top priority, and review firefighting policies to better protect caribou habitat and Northerners. Streamlining the chain of command for firefighting approvals would be an immediate improvement. They should also do a better job of sharing information with people on the caribou ranges. Governments should review dwindling firefighting budgets, applying for money from wildlife conservation programs and climate change programs. As well, governments should create more fire protection districts and have provincial/territorial governments create multi-jurisdictional plans and bilateral/multilateral agreements on forest fire management. Governments should make sure that regulatory agencies and other organizations that issue permits are involved in forest fire management, to better understand effects of permitting decisions. Aboriginal organizations should be part of the permitting process as well.

Lastly, the BQCMB should make the public more aware of the effects of fire on caribou, as vast stretches of valuable feeding grounds and other valuable caribou habitats have been damaged. The BQCMB should write to governments, urging them to re-consider fire management strategies. The BQCMB should also host a workshop on forest fire management.

Issue #3: Disturbance

Governments should protect important habitats, including calving and post-calving areas, and water crossings. Protecting calving grounds would also help offset extra pressures on caribou that are resulting from climate change – pressures such as drier conditions that may increase the number of fires on the winter ranges. Governments should ban permits in calving grounds and flights over these areas during calving. The BQCMB has long urged governments and regulatory agencies not to issue permits on calving grounds. Governments must create stronger land use regulations – integrating permitting into conservation and land use planning – and do more frequent inspections to make sure companies are carrying out land use permit conditions. Community representatives should be involved in developing land use plans and mapping areas that they want to see protected. Traditional knowledge must be used in management.

Monitoring for disturbance is key. Communities should make sure that people, including residents, are hired to monitor disturbance. Communities should also monitor and discuss caribou migration patterns, and discourage the killing of caribou that lead groups during migration. Governments should consult communities and monitor pollution closely, ensuring that contaminated sites are cleaned up. Although collaring is the only monitoring tool currently available that can track caribou movements across the



David Vetra

Elder Martin Broussie of Black Lake, Saskatchewan shares his views on caribou



Richard Aksawnee of Baker Lake, Nunavut (in cap) makes a point during a small group session

ranges throughout the year, governments must continue to try to find other means of monitoring that disturb caribou less. Industry should assist governments in this goal. Governments should explain through public meetings why it is important to collar caribou, and what data it provides about their seasonal movements and important habitats. Traditional knowledge should be incorporated into collaring programs.

Both industry and governments must do a better job of telling Northerners about local resource exploration and development, and how they will affect caribou. Companies must hold meaningful consultations with communities, and should use information from residents about the land and wildlife. Communities, meanwhile, should partner with companies to help influence activities like drilling and the use of aircraft to help create rules of conduct, and to pressure companies to use best practices. The BQCMB, for its part, should speak out strongly on exploration and development projects.

In order not to disturb caribou, it is important to use proper hunting techniques. Individuals and communities should set up hunter education programs to teach people, especially youth, traditional hunting methods. Communities should create more hunting and trapping organizations. They should also organize a special caribou forum. The BQCMB should meet with communities to ask residents for suggestions to aid the caribou herds. As well, the BQCMB should revisit recommendations previously made to governments in some of its key documents, and send the revised papers to the governments of Canada, NWT, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for their action.

Issue #4: Harvesting

Individuals could hunt fewer caribou while populations are in decline. Voluntary cutbacks should be considered, with communities part of the decision-making process. Governments should conduct a needs assessment to learn how many caribou are needed to support each household. Everyone should also think about choosing sources of food other than caribou at times. Equally as important as reducing the number of caribou harvested is avoiding wastage. Hunters should promote the full use of caribou harvested, and report sightings of wastage and poor hunting practices (including breaking wildlife regulations) to authorities.

Communities and governments could together create hunter education programs with the help of



David Vetra

Participants spoke passionately about their reliance on caribou, and the traditional practice of bringing caribou meat back from hunts to share with extended family and others

hunters and trappers organizations, band councils and conservation/renewable resources officers. Communities should teach best hunting practices, such as taking only what you need and shooting bulls rather than cows whenever possible – although not all workshop participants supported this last idea. People could also consider not hunting during the breeding season. Communities should draft plans to be followed when hunters from nearby communities arrive, so that everyone is aware of who is hunting where and when.

Communities should also make sure that southern hunters understand best hunting practices and submit their harvest data. Outfitters should stop hunting prime bulls that lead groups of caribou. Governments, meanwhile, should make a hunting skills test mandatory as part of applying for hunting licenses. Outfitters and mining firms should help fund hunter education programs and other initiatives. As well, outfitters could offer training on good hunting practices, both for clients and local inexperienced hunters such as young people. To improve shooting skills, communities should set up local facilities such as shooting ranges and gun clubs. They could also establish community freezers with butchering/processing equipment.

Communities should create local boards or committees where residents can gather information and develop action plans to reverse declining caribou populations, working with governments and schools. Governments need to do a better job of relaying information, bringing community representatives together for discussions and consulting with Aboriginal residents to determine how to reverse caribou declines, and how to incorporate traditional laws into wildlife legislation. Governments should also develop long-term action plans addressing such problems as permits being issued to outfitters even while caribou populations are dropping.

Issue #5: Predators (especially on the calving grounds)

People should track and kill more predators while out hunting – especially on calving grounds – and encourage others to do the same, pointing out how predators have traditionally been used for food and clothing. Communities should also make sure that the number of predators observed, as well as harvested, is reported. Communities, governments and industry can help by providing predator control incentives, or increasing existing incentives. They should also encourage traditional uses of predators, and use communication tools to promote hunting predators. Governments should relax regulations to allow resident hunters to hunt wolves as well as other big game species. They should also help market fur products linked with well-known international suppliers to increase fur prices, and add value to the fur-trapping industry by arranging for hides to be processed at a tannery, then returned to communities to allow residents to create products.

Individuals, communities and governments should monitor predators through traditional knowledge and scientific methods, drawing on and compiling existing information. Studies are needed about the impacts of predators on caribou. Industry could help by providing funding, working with communities on predator studies. Companies could also work with government to further investigate the wolf-caribou relationship and the effects of predators on calving caribou, and research changes resulting from climate change and industrial developments. Everybody – individuals, communities, governments and industry – should support the sharing of knowledge about conservation education, especially from experienced hunters and trappers. Finally, governments and regulatory agencies should ensure that permits for development projects include conditions that monitor and discourage the presence of predators (for example, cleaning up sites and scaring problem animals away), and that adequate enforcement exists to ensure that companies follow these conditions. Companies should also include predator safety plans and detailed contingency plans in camp inspection plans.

Several media outlets covered the BQCMB Caribou Workshop, including the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), shown here interviewing BQCMB Chair Albert Thorassie



David Vetra

5. Recommendations

As BQCMB Chair Albert Thorassie explained at the start of the Caribou Workshop, the BQCMB had previously discussed what it felt are the top priorities for helping the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. Those ideas were presented to workshop participants for their reaction. As a result of their feedback, the original five ideas grew to include a sixth recommendation about harvesting predators, and a point was added to emphasize the importance of reducing habitat loss from wildfires. Here are the BQCMB's recommendations for ways that governments, regulatory agencies, communities, hunters and others can help declining caribou herds:

1. Governments and others should protect areas that are very important to caribou, starting with the calving grounds.
2. Governments and regulatory agencies should do more to help protect caribou from disturbance and habitat loss resulting from mineral exploration and development, and from wildfires.
3. Hunters should take only what they need.
4. Hunters should prevent wastage.
5. Hunters should harvest bulls instead of cows whenever possible.
6. Communities and governments should encourage traditional harvest of predators.

As well, participants at the BQCMB Caribou Workshop made the following recommendations.

Issue # 1: Climate Change

Actions recommended:

- 1) Conserve energy.
- 2) Establish an adaptation plan.
- 3) Monitor habitat and species changes.
- 4) Conduct studies.
- 5) Remove or harvest plants and animals that have come from somewhere else so that they do not harm caribou or their habitat.
- 6) Educate: share information with communities, stakeholders, the world.
- 7) Make predictions.

Issue #2: Loss of habitat due to fires

Actions recommended:

- 1) Streamline chain-of-command for firefighting approvals.
- 2) Build fire guards.
- 3) Conduct fire awareness/education.
- 4) Get people (including elders) involved in land use planning / fire management planning.
- 5) Publicize destruction of caribou feeding grounds by fires (BQCMB).
- 6) Pressure governments and regulatory agencies on fire management strategies (BQCMB).



Discussing many issues, and deciding on recommendations

- 7) Communicate better on firefighting policies.
- 8) Do occasional controlled burns.
- 9) Have industry provide money for fire guards, get involved in fire management talks.
- 10) Stage workshop on fire (BQCMB).
- 11) Make caribou habitats top priority in firefighting policies.
- 12) Get regulatory agencies/departments that issue permits involved in fire management (Aboriginal organizations, too).
- 13) Review firefighting budgets, seek funds from climate change / caribou conservation programs.
- 14) Create bilateral / multilateral firefighting agreements across caribou ranges.

Issue # 3: Disturbance

Actions recommended:

- 1) Revisit existing BQCMB reports with recommendations on ways to protect the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and habitat, and send revised papers to governments.
- 2) Compile permit conditions already issued.
- 3) Patrol roads.
- 4) Gate roads to control and reduce access.
- 5) Pressure for protection of important habitat, including calving and post-calving grounds (BQCMB). This includes a ban on permits on calving and post-calving grounds.
- 6) Increase enforcement with more conservation (renewable resources) officers.
- 7) Create more education campaigns (pamphlets/posters) and programs.
- 8) Develop a more effective caribou management plan with action plans (BQCMB).
- 9) Develop strong contemporary protective measures in advance of development.
- 10) Establish an initiation/orientation period for aircraft, tourism, winter road companies.
- 11) Pressure for no disturbance on migration routes.
- 12) Create partnerships between communities and mining companies.
- 13) Report infractions of wildlife legislation to conservation (renewable resources) officers.
- 14) Ensure community representatives are involved in land use planning with governments / regulatory agencies / resource management boards.
- 15) Have residents monitor disturbance.

Issue # 4: Harvesting

Actions recommended:

- 1) Reduce harvest.
- 2) Avoid wastage, and report sightings of wastage to authorities.
- 3) Shoot bulls instead of cows when possible.
- 4) Create hunter education programs (have outfitters assist with hunter training).
- 5) Draft rules for visiting hunters.
- 6) Collect harvest data from communities and southern hunters.
- 7) Have communities self-regulate seasonal quotas, and discourage caribou meat sales.
- 8) Communicate better about caribou declines.
- 9) Pressure for ban on outfitter permits while caribou populations are low.
- 10) Ask industry to financially support hunter education programs.
- 11) Have airlines report landing locations of charter flights with hunting parties (to monitor wastage).
- 12) Set up local boards to help resolve caribou problems.
- 13) Set up community freezers with processing equipment.
- 14) Establish gun clubs / target shooting ranges.
- 15) Incorporate traditional knowledge into wildlife legislation.
- 16) Survey families to find out how many caribou they need.
- 17) Create a long-term action plan.
- 18) Make hunting skills test mandatory to get hunting license.

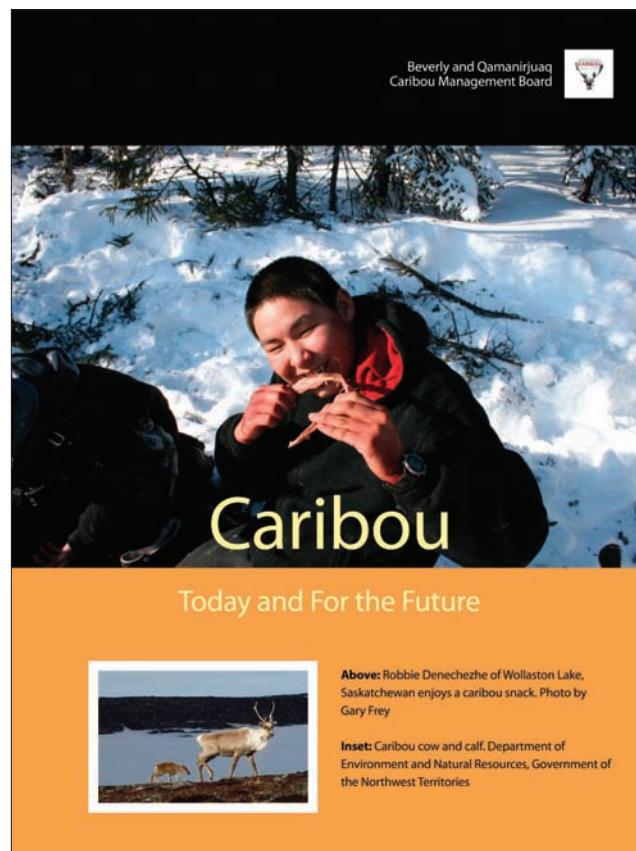
Issue # 5: Predators

Actions recommended:

- 1) Ensure co-management boards publicize the predator control issue.
- 2) Ensure governments support efforts to combat predators, including supporting co-management boards.
- 3) Encourage traditional uses of predators.
- 4) Report predator harvest.
- 5) Collect more information on predators and compile existing information.
- 6) Establish hunting incentives.
- 7) Change regulations to increase wolf hunting.
- 8) Introduce plan to process good quality hides and return them to communities.
- 9) Ensure industry supports efforts to combat predators (for example, by cleaning up sites).
- 10) Have government and industry conduct joint research.

A formal letter of recommendations sparked by the Beverly herd decline was also presented by Mathew Yooya of the Fond du Lac First Nation in Saskatchewan. (Mathew Yooya is one of the founding members of the BQCMB.) The letter urged that traditional knowledge along with scientific knowledge be utilized, that school programs and information sharing continue, and that all Aboriginal user groups be included in all caribou management decision-making processes. In addition, Louis Angalik of the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization in Nunavut provided the BQCMB with a copy of a document entitled “Inuit Elders perspectives on hunting and harvesting wild game.” For details about these submissions, please see the *Detailed Report*.

Caribou herds must be protected for the benefit of current and future generations, as shown here in a BQCMB poster that was part of a series illustrating how communities depend on caribou every day



6. Next Steps

A tremendous amount of valuable knowledge emerged during just three days of intensive and passionate discussions at the BQCMC Caribou Workshop. Participants repeatedly stated that they should work together to make sure caribou continue to be available for future generations. They also underlined that it's important to relay the messages from the BQCMC Caribou Workshop to their own communities.

A concluding statement issued on Feb. 25, 2010 – the final day of the BQCMC Caribou Workshop – succinctly captured the essence of the workshop, discoveries made, and next steps. It said:

At the BQCMC Caribou Workshop, people were respectful, listened to each other, and shared their knowledge. And we agreed that we all have a big job to do.

The next step is that the Board will come to communities to talk about the main issues discussed during the Caribou Workshop.



This summary of the BQCMC Caribou Workshop was published shortly after the event

These issues include climate, fire, disturbance, harvesting and predators. The concluding statement also explained that community meetings were going to take place because the BQCMC wants to work with communities to ensure that caribou survive for current and future generations.

The BQCMC produced a two-page summary of the Caribou Workshop and sent copies to all participants in March 2010. The summary, which includes photos, can be downloaded from the Board's website at www.arctic-caribou.com.

David Vetra



During the workshop's conclusion, facilitator Doug Urquhart (standing) passed the microphone around, encouraging everyone to say a few final words. Holding the microphone is Pierre Robillard of Black Lake, Saskatchewan

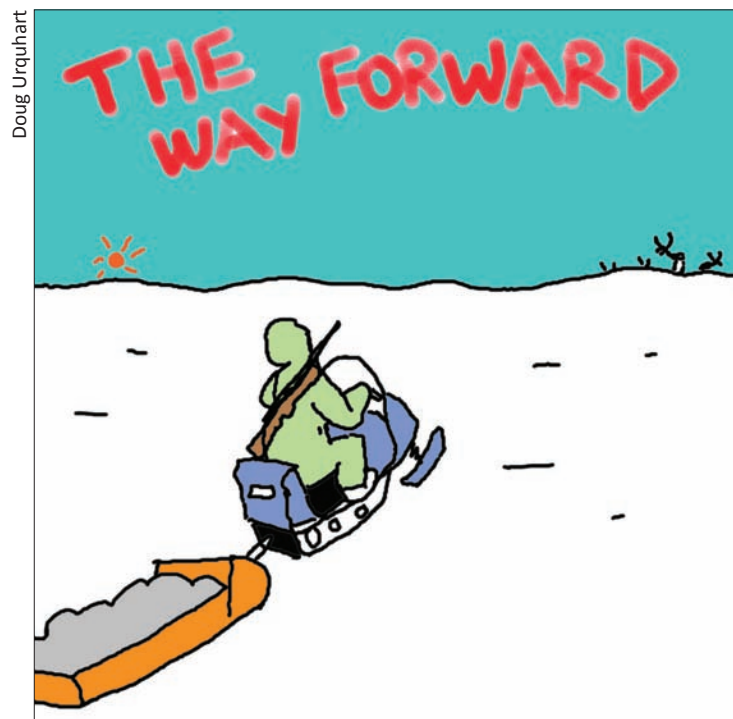
The BQCMB plans to assist with community meetings to discuss the central issues affecting caribou. The Board intends to visit many caribou-range communities as follow-up to the February 2010 Caribou Workshop, and expects that meetings will be completed by the end of 2011. The BQCMB will publish a report in spring 2012 summarizing discussions from these meetings, and making recommendations to governments and others based on comments provided.

Everyone needs to work together for conservation of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. Individuals, communities, companies and governments must all do what they can to take pressure off caribou so that declining herds can recover, and all herds can be healthy and productive.

To learn more about the BQCMB and **what you, your community, or your organization can do to help Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou**, visit the Board's website at www.arctic-caribou.com. To reach the BQCMB, contact:

Ross Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer
BQCMB Secretariat
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Thank you, mahsi cho, qujannamiik.



Appendix A: Workshop Participants

1. Jan Adamczewski (BQCMB alternate member, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT)
2. Richard Aksawnee (Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, Baker Lake, NU)
3. Scott Andrew (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Stony Rapids, SK)
4. Louis Angalik (Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization, Arviat, NU)
5. Ray Beamont (Great Canadian Wilderness Adventures, La Ronge, SK)
6. Danny Beaulieu (Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT)
7. Joe Beavereye (Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake, SK)
8. Arthur Beck (BQCMB alternate member, NWT Metis Nation, Fort Resolution, NT)
9. Brent Berg (Cameco, Saskatoon, SK)
10. William Bouvier (Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake, SK)
11. Ryan Brook (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK)
12. Martin Broussie (Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake, SK)
13. Mitch Campbell (BQCMB alternate member, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut, Arviat, NU)
14. Archie Catholique (BQCMB member, Dene Nation, Lutsel K'e, NT)
15. Nathan Clements (Canadian Wildlife Federation, Regina, SK)
16. Leon Cook (Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake, SK)
17. Willie Courtoreille (Mikisew Cree First Nation, Fort Chipewyan, AB)
18. Bert Dean (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Rankin Inlet, NU)
19. Jerome Denechezhe (BQCMB member, Lac Brochet, MB)
20. Don Deranger (Vice Chief, PAGC, Prince Albert, SK)
21. August Enzoe (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Lutsel K'e, NT)
22. Earl Evans (BQCMB member, NWT Metis Nation, Fort Smith, NT)
23. Lin Gallagher (Assistant Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Regina, SK)
24. Tina Giroux (PAGC, Prince Albert, SK)
25. Rosanna Good (PAGC, Prince Albert, SK)
26. Anne Gunn (CARMA Network, Salt Spring Island, BC)
27. Tommy Hansen (Hamlet of Stony Rapids, Stony Rapids, SK)
28. William Hansen (Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Hatchet Lake, SK)
29. Elaine Hay (Prince Albert, SK)
30. Daryll Hedman (Vice-chair, BQCMB, Manitoba Conservation, Thompson, MB)
31. Monte Hummel (WWF–Canada, Toronto, ON)
32. Rebecca Hunter (Cameco, Saskatoon, SK)
33. Emily Jones (Fond du Lac, SK)
34. David Joseyounen (Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Hatchet Lake, SK)
35. Louis Josie (Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Wollaston Lake, SK)
36. Allicia Kelly (BQCMB member, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, Fort Smith, NT)
37. Peter Kusugak (BQCMB member, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Iqaluit, NU)
38. Anthony Ladouceur (Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan, AB)
39. Dennis Larocque (BQCMB member, Camsell Portage, SK)
40. Willie John Laurent (Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Fond du Lac, SK)
41. David Lee (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Ottawa, ON)
42. Deana Lemke (Secretariat, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, Whitehorse, YT)
43. Diane Martens (AREVA, Saskatoon, SK)
44. Joe Martin (BQCMB alternate member, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Fond du Lac, SK)
45. Diane McDonald (PAGC, Prince Albert, SK)
46. Celine McIntyre (Saskatoon, SK)
47. Billy Joe Mercredi (Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake, SK)
48. Louie R. Mercredi (Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Fond du Lac, SK)
49. Louie Mercredi (Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Fond du Lac, SK)
50. Matthew Mercredi (Fond du Lac, SK)
51. Yvonne Morin (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Saskatoon, SK)
52. Willie Nakoolak (Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Coral Harbour, NU)
53. Tom Nepetaypo (Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Thompson, MB)

54. Napoleon Pacquette (Fond du Lac, SK)
55. Celine Pearson (Fond du Lac, SK)
56. Pierre Robillard (BQCMB alternate member, Black Lake, SK)
57. Ron Robillard (PAGC, Prince Albert, SK)
58. Arden Rosaasen (AREVA, Saskatoon, SK)
59. Fred Sangris (Dene Nation, N'Dilo, NT)
60. Kim Saraurer (AREVA, Saskatoon, SK)
61. Victor Sayazie (Hamlet of Stony Rapids, Stony Rapids, SK)
62. Brian Scribe (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Saskatoon, SK)
63. Marion Soublière (BQCMB, Ottawa, ON)
64. Joe Tetlich (Chair, PCMB, Whitehorse, YT)
65. Patricia Thomas (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK)
66. Ross Thompson (Secretary-Treasurer, BQCMB, Stonewall, MB)
67. Albert Thorassie (Chair, BQCMB, Tadoule Lake, MB)
68. Vicki Trim (BQCMB alternate member, Manitoba Conservation, Thompson, MB)
69. Tim Trottier (Vice-chair, BQCMB, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, La Ronge, SK)
70. Angus Tsannie (Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Wollaston Lake, SK)
71. George Tsannie (BQCMB member, Hatchet Lake, SK)
72. Doug Urquhart (Whitehorse, YT)
73. Tony Vermillion (Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, Fort Smith, NT)
74. David Vetra (BQCMB member, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut, Arviat, NU)
75. Leslie Wakelyn (BQCMB, Yellowknife, NT)
76. Sean Willy (Cameco, Saskatoon, SK)
77. Matthew Yooya (Fond du Lac, SK)

Appendix B: Abbreviations

APTN:	Aboriginal Peoples Television Network
BQCMB:	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
CARMA:	CircumArctic <i>Rangifer</i> Monitoring & Assessment Network
GNWT:	Government of the Northwest Territories
NWT:	Northwest Territories
PAGC:	Prince Albert Grand Council
PCMB:	Porcupine Caribou Management Board