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Clear potential to impact caribou

The BQCMB feels there is clear potential for Anconia's exploration activities to result in significant impacts to Qamanirjuaq caribou through disturbance and cumulative effects on both the caribou and the herd's crucial habitat. As well, if Anconia's exploration work is favourable and they decide to pursue advanced exploration and development of a mine, impacts on the caribou herd could escalate.

The BQCMB submitted the following recommendations to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in January, 2012 during screening of Anconia's application for exploration in the Victory Lake area:

- No exploration or development activities should be permitted on the calving ground of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. The BQCMB does not agree with permitting exploration activities on calving and post-calving areas, and recommends Anconia's application not be approved.
- Regulatory and other territorial and federal government agencies should be taking action to identify and mitigate potential cumulative effects of human land use activities, including mineral exploration, on barren-ground caribou.

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



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www.arctic-caribou.com

Around the Range

In August 2012, the BQCMB sent comments to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regarding a proposal from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for an amendment to their research license for an aeromagnetic survey of the area around Garry Lake, between the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary and the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. These comments were based on details summarized in NRCan's poster "Aeromagnetic Surveying in Nunavut - Pelly Lake Area."

The BQCMB was concerned about this amendment because the new survey areas cover a portion of the Beverly traditional calving ground, as well as areas used regularly by caribou during post-calving and summer periods and during spring and fall migration to and from calving areas further north.

The Board's primary recommendation was that there should be no airborne geological mapping of the new survey blocks due to:

1. the importance of these areas as caribou habitat,
2. the potential impacts of extremely low-level flights on caribou in the area, and
3. the increasing disturbance and cumulative impacts to caribou that would result from numerous mineral exploration and mining projects in the area based on information from the project.

Although the Proponent outlined a Wildlife Impact Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and committed to "coordinate the survey schedule and location with caribou collar information from Nunavut Department of Environment", the Board believed caribou would still be disturbed and that this could lead to significant negative impacts, both to calves and to herd productivity.

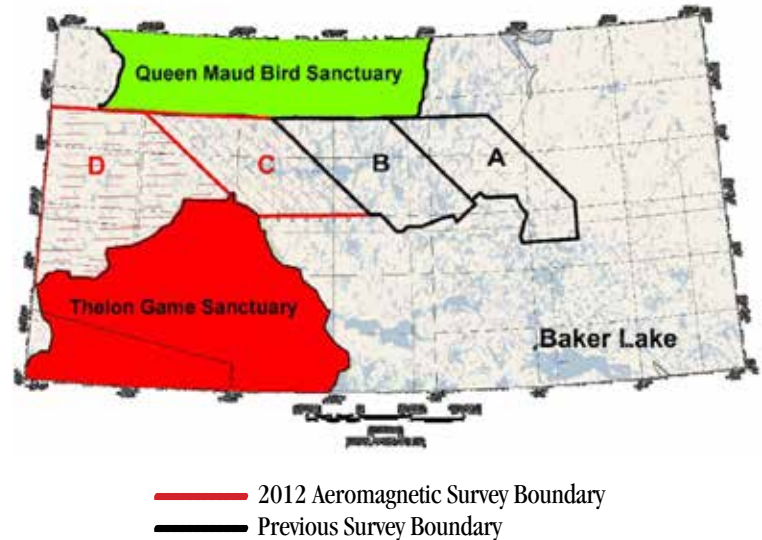
One thing the Board and NRCan agree on is that land use planning needs to be implemented in Nunavut, and that decisions need to be made by Nunavummiut about what types of land uses they want to allow in areas such as the Garry Lake area. However, as the Board indicated in its submission to the NIRB, "It is abundantly clear that this area is very important to the region's caribou populations, and allowing an aeromagnetic survey to occur with the intention of promoting mineral exploration in critical caribou habitat is

not in the best interest of caribou or the people who depend on the caribou."

"The BQCMB realizes that the NIRB is not mandated to make land use decisions, but it can and should be promoting land use planning to appropriate Nunavut organizations and territorial and federal governments."

While the BQCMB's comments stressed there should be no airborne geological mapping of this area, it also recommended that if the project was allowed to proceed, it should be subject to terms and conditions similar to Caribou Protection Measures but extended to the entire survey period.

The Board also suggested a more explicit monitoring plan should be in place that can detect caribou groups moving into the survey area so a survey can be stopped or re-located before caribou are close enough to be subjected to disturbance from these flights. •



Board will Continue to 2022

With its mandate ending in April 2012, the BQCMB passed a resolution in October 2010 recommending to governments that the Board continue as a single window of caribou management advice for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds for another decade, until 2022.

Governments have endorsed a series of 10-year mandates for the BQCMB since the Board was founded in 1982. Many important tasks that go beyond 2011-2012 await the BQCMB. These include:

1. continuing to provide analysis and caribou related recommendations in the Kiggavik environmental review;
2. following up on the February 2010 BQCMB Caribou Workshop by assisting with community meetings to give, and receive, more information about the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and ultimately recommend to governments and others how to conserve the caribou, and;
3. producing a new caribou management plan and action plans by 2013.

With five governments funding the Board's core operations —Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba and Canada—it was essential to obtain commitments well before the current agreement expired.

Continued on page 4

What's new?

For the BQCMB's fourth ten-year Agreement, most of the changes recommended are minor, such as updating department names and contemporary functions of the Board.

The BQCMB recommended however, that the parties share administrative costs of \$125,000 annually (\$25,000 each), compared to the previous annual total of \$75,000 (\$15,000 each), an amount that had not changed since the Agreement was initiated in 1982.

"The Board felt it cannot fulfil its core duties and meet expectations from governments, community stakeholders and cooperating organizations—especially with challenges facing the herds—on its existing administrative budget," said *Ross Thompson*, BQCMB Executive Director. "Nor can it always depend on annual outside funding grants from cooperating organizations to help ensure priorities for caribou conservation and management are met."

This modest adjustment will offset increased costs for core functions as well as expanded roles in facilitating data and information collection and participating in environmental impact assessments. With plans for more community consultations across the range, and many communities only accessible by air travel, these costs are expected to increase as well.



BQCMB Board and Staff members at the November, 2011 meeting.

Courtesy Leslie Wakelyn

"Board," continued from page 3

In June, 2011, the board proposed a revised caribou management agreement for 2012-2022.

The process of obtaining commitment from five governments is no easy—or quick—task. As of the November,

2011 meeting of the BQCMB, two of the five governments had sent the Board letters of support. These letters of support are required before the BQCMB members appointed from their respective governments can forward the new Agreement to their Ministers for signature.

"Making a case for the Board to continue based on its many accomplishments was the easy part", said *Ross Thompson*, Executive Director. "Nonetheless, we were concerned that governments might be gun-shy for long term commitments in tough economic times. However the governments came through for us and in many cases complimented the BQCMB for its impressive work over the years!"

As of the May, 2012 Board meeting, all governments had pledged support for the new Agreement but signed letters—and the accompanying funds—remained in various states of approval. The Government of Canada appointed a new representative to the board, *Jeff Mercer*, and confirmed its funding commitment. The government representatives will brainstorm at the next BQCMB meeting in Winnipeg in November, 2012 on how best to get signatures on a common document for Ministerial approval. •

What governments are saying:

"We will continue to support the Board's operating budget with \$25,000 annually subject to annual funding."

The Honourable Dustin Duncan, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment – June 13, 2011

"...the BQCMB has accomplished many significant tasks related to its core responsibilities since 1982...These are very important to the overall management of both herds to meet the board's expanded role and responsibilities for the next 10 year period. My staff will work with the board staff on a timely renewal of our agreement for next April 1 and the board's request of \$25,000."

The Honourable Bill Blaikie, former Manitoba Minister of Conservation – June 23, 2011

"I recognize the importance of the work of the Board and agree that the funding adjustment proposed is warranted. Therefore, I support this increase and have instructed Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada officials in the Nunavut regional office to proceed with the review of the Management Agreement and increase the funding level to a total of \$25,000 per year for 2012-2022"

The Honourable John Duncan, Canada Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development – August 23, 2011

"We will continue to participate on the BQCMB, and I can confirm that I am in support of increased core funding, subject to available funding and budgetary approval processes."

The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Nunavut Minister of Environment - November 4, 2011

Under certain conditions, "...the GNWT is supportive of a ten year renewal of the Agreement and increasing its annual core contribution to \$25,000."

The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Northwest Territories Minister of Environment and Natural Resources – December 5, 2011

Beverly Caribou: Why didn't we know sooner?

Annual reconnaissance surveys by the government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) from 2007-2010 spotted fewer and fewer caribou on the herd's traditional calving ground between Beverly Lake and Garry Lake, Nunavut. Two theories have been offered to explain this situation: either the herd has decreased drastically in size to extremely low numbers; or it has shifted its calving area farther north, and has experienced a moderate decline in size (see "Looking for answers about Beverly caribou," *Caribou News in Brief*, Summer 2011).

The following questions have often been asked over the past 5 years—why wasn't the Beverly situation recognized sooner, and what factors should be addressed to help the Beverly herd

recover and prevent the Qamanirjuaq herd from experiencing a similar fate?

The BQCMB has considered these questions during its meetings and has identified the following contributing factors:

- politics and the lack of political will to address factors that may cause caribou declines;
- limited resources (funds and people) to conduct expensive and time-consuming monitoring programs;
- the transitional state of governments in general and wildlife agencies in particular.
- increasing mineral (especially diamond) exploration and development

activity on the Bathurst range resulting in increasing focus by GNWT on Bathurst caribou, and lower priority (compared to Bathurst caribou) on Beverly caribou;

- focus by the Government of Nunavut (GN) in the Kivalliq region on Qamanirjuaq caribou, particularly during start-up of the new government, meant relatively low priority (compared to Qamanirjuaq caribou) was placed on Beverly caribou;
- assumption by th GN that GNWT would continue to conduct and pay for monitoring and research on Beverly caribou;
- communities located mostly on the fringes of the historic Beverly

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Qamanirjuaq caribou in Lac Brochet in front of Band Office, Winter 2012

Pierre Bernier

Kiggavik Review: What's new?

Since the last issue of Caribou News in Brief, much has happened regarding review of uranium mining giant AREVA Resources Canada's Kiggavik Uranium Mine proposal.

Last summer the ball was in AREVA's court. The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) had given AREVA the final guidelines for creating an environmental impact statement for the hotly debated mega-project near Baker Lake. This venture would create five mines, a mill, a new transportation network and more (see sidebar). It would also pave the way for other uranium mining companies to set up shop in Nunavut, and possibly open the door for other developments on or near important caribou habitats.

The BQCMB has repeatedly said that the precedent-setting Kiggavik project could cause significant impacts on caribou, habitat and hunting activities. This includes numerous short and long-term potential impacts and cumulative impacts associated with disturbance, radioactive materials and other environmental contaminants.

In August 2010 the Board was allocated the most participant funding for the Kiggavik review of the ten stakeholders who applied, thanks to an agreement with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. "We appreciate the support and credibility the funding committee gave to the BQCMB", said Executive

Working together

The BQCMB has limited funds and human resources, and thus entered into an agreement with the Prince Albert Grand Council – Athabasca Land Use (PAGC-ALU) for improving participation by Athabasca communities in the BQCMB's review. The Board has provided funding to the PAGC-ALU to document and provide input from Athabasca Communities (SK) on components of AREVA's proposed Kiggavik project.

Over the summer, the PAGC-ALU held community meetings from Prince Albert to Wollaston Lake, Stony Rapids and Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan. The information gathered as a result of this partnership will add to the BQCMB's knowledge base going forward. Additionally, the Board is taking a lead role on the prospect of collaborating with a number of key organizations, including AREVA, for a more effective approach to cumulative effects analysis across the caribou ranges.

Director, *Ross Thompson*. "With that comes a huge responsibility to do a thorough job, look at all factors and implications of this proposed project and speak strongly and loudly for the caribou and communities."

INFORMATION REQUESTS

The NIRB declined AREVA's December, 2011 draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and asked that various deficiencies be addressed in a revised statement. AREVA re-submitted and on May 4, 2012 the NIRB initiated the technical review period. Review parties were invited to submit initial questions to AREVA or other parties before the full technical review of the DEIS would begin. The original due date for Information

Requests (IR) of June 4th was extended to June 29 in response to calls from review participants, including the Government of Nunavut (GN) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) who suggested more time was needed to evaluate the DEIS in order to prepare IRs. Back in February, 2011 the BQCMB requested that more than the standard 30 days be provided to develop IRs, and the NIRB responded that they would not change the 30-day time period.

On July 3, the NIRB uploaded the 415 IRs received from 14 different organizations to the NIRB's on-line public registry. Many submissions were highly critical of AREVA's EIS. The sheer number of IRs submitted certainly

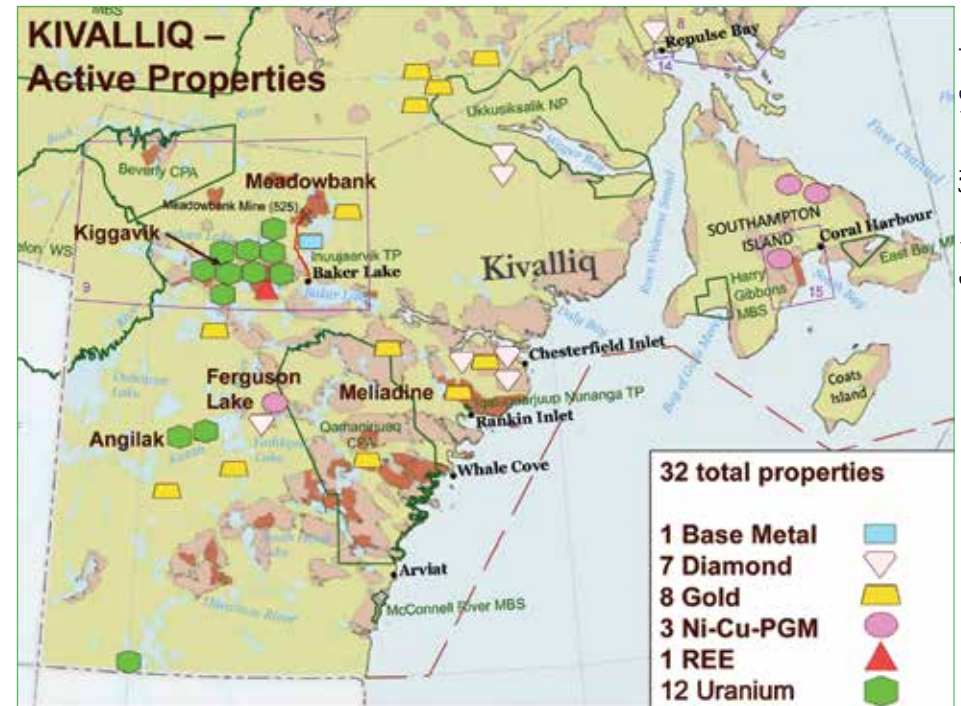
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supports that. The GN submitted 86 IRs, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) were also critical of the draft EIS and jointly submitted 32 IRs. Other IRs came from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (BLHTO), Nunavummiut Makitaganarngit (Makita), the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LDKFN), the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC), the CNSC, and six federal government departments.

The BQCMB submitted 25 IRs, most comprised of multiple questions, regarding AREVA's assessment of potential project impacts on caribou and caribouharvesters. Dozens of additional IRs from numerous government and non-government organizations asked for more information about AREVA's assessment of impacts related to caribou. Deficiencies in AREVA's approach to cumulative effects assessment (CEA) were outlined by the BQCMB and others, including the GN, BLHTO, NTI/KIA, LKDFN, and CARC. All of the submitted IRs can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/MqWuFD>. The BQCMB has subsequently offered to lead a collaborative CEA for the project and is currently discussing options with potential collaborators.

NEXT STEPS

The NIRB reviewed the IR submissions and forwarded those they considered appropriate to AREVA, requesting that AREVA review the IRs and indicate on or before July 31, 2012 when it expected to have responses prepared. On September 28th, 2012 AREVA



In 2010 Kiggavik was one of 13 active mineral exploration and mining projects near Baker Lake - 9 of which were uranium exploration.

Constructive criticism

Perhaps the strongest criticism of AREVA's draft EIS comes from the Government of Nunavut. The GN's cover letter to their 105-page IR submission states "...there is consensus across the government departments reviewing the Draft EIS that the documentation has not met the GN's expectations in term of level of detail regarding commitments to project design and mitigation nor analysis." According to the GN, in some sections of the draft EIS, the data, the methods and the analyses used by AREVA "are not sufficient to allow the GN to conduct a technical review of the Draft EIS at the moment." The GN's cover letter further suggests that the information requests submitted are "priority items" and do not "reflect the full range of questions that remain unanswered".

Source: Letter from GN Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the NIRB (June 29, 2012)

confirmed that it intended to submit its IR response package to the NIRB by January 31, 2013, and requested an extended 30-day period to respond to technical review comments. On October 15th the NIRB issued a revised anticipated timeline for the review that

incorporated AREVA's requests. The new timeline includes approximately 5 months for technical review that will include a meeting of review parties' technical experts. AREVA will develop its final EIS following the technical review.

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"Potential," continued from page 1

- Should the NIRB not yet be convinced that denying this permit is warranted, then at a minimum a Part 5 Review of the project proposal should be conducted by the NIRB that includes a full and transparent public discussion in which all interested parties have the opportunity to present their views.

PROTECTING CALVING GROUNDS

The BQCMB has a long-standing position against mineral exploration and development on calving grounds. To formalize and publicize this position, in September 2004 the Board widely distributed a paper titled "Protecting Calving Grounds, Post Calving Areas and Other Important Habitats for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou" that provided the Board's position on actions needed to provide adequate protection for important habitats of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, including the calving and post-calving areas. The BQCMB's position paper was intended to inform caribou management, environmental assessment and land use planning efforts across the caribou ranges in Nunavut, NWT, northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba.

The first recommendation made by the Board in this position paper was for protection of calving and post-calving areas:

"The traditional calving grounds and post-calving areas of these two

caribou herds should be provided with long-term legislated protection that prohibits any type of activity that would cause serious or irreversible negative effects to caribou or habitat."

The BQCMB has since submitted numerous recommendations to the NIRB opposing issuance of permits for exploration work on the calving and post-calving areas of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds.

These recommendations have been applied in some cases, most notably following a proposal in 2008 by Uravan Minerals Inc. to conduct mineral exploration on the traditional Beverly caribou calving ground south of Garry Lake, 235 km northwest of Baker Lake. The BQCMB and others shared their concerns about the potential impacts of the proposed exploration activities on the Beverly herd to the NIRB during their screening process, and the NIRB subsequently initiated a full review of the project.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Unfortunately, the precedent set for review of Uravan's proposed exploration

Arviat and Baker Lake HTOs oppose project

In January 2012 the Arviat Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (HTO) passed a motion opposing Anconia's project and submitted their concerns to the NIRB, stating "Arviat HTO does not agree with permitting exploration activities on the calving and post-calving area, and recommends Anconia's application not be approved."

In June 2012, the Baker Lake Hunters' and Trappers' Organization passed a motion opposing Anconia's project and calling for a ban of exploration activities in caribou calving and post-calving grounds. The motion noted the Baker Lake HTO strongly opposed the proposed project going ahead without full consultation with communities affected, adding "the Caribou Protection Measures alone should have been sufficient to reject the proposal".

work on the Beverly calving ground was not followed during the NIRB's screening of Anconia's applications for exploration on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground. Instead, in March and April 2012 the NIRB recommended that Anconia's applications for work on Inuit-owned and federal Crown lands be processed without further review.

In a May, 2012 letter to the NIRB, the BQCMB called on the NIRB to "immediately review its decision regarding permit issuance for Anconia's proposed Marce project in the Victory Lake area." The letter also reiterated the Board's earlier recommendation for the NIRB to make no further decisions allowing processing of permit applications for land use activities on

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Arctic Ungulate Conference

Several BQCMB members participated in the Arctic Ungulate Conference (AUC), held from August 22-26, 2011 in Yellowknife NWT, which was organized by Board alternate *Jan Adamczewski* and other staff of the NWT government, with assistance from the Nunavut and Yukon governments. The AUC is an international conference held every four years. The theme for the conference — Challenges of Managing Northern Ungulates—addressed the difficulties of managing ungulate populations that are faced with the unpredictable effects of climate change and an ever-increasing human presence on the land. The conference also focused on the challenges associated with developing recovery actions for declining caribou and reindeer populations that are an integral part of Aboriginal cultures and ways of life.

During the conference, *Earl Evans* presented the BQCMB's poster "Conservation Strategies for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou in an Era of Decline and Uncertainty" and participated in the Aboriginal Talking Circle. *Thomas Elytook* gave the closing prayer and participated in the Aboriginal Talking Circle. He remarked how interesting different views were from places like Greenland, Germany, and Russia. *Archie Catholique* stated that many participants enjoyed a story-telling workshop. *Allicia Kelly* participated in research sessions and presentations from areas like northern Quebec and Alaska. Board alternate *Vicki Trim* also attended and felt that the AUC was excellent. Also, *Joe Tetlich*, Chair of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB), presented two posters for the PCMB in the poster session as well on the Porcupine CMB and harvest strategies. •

What they're saying about

CARIBOUNEWS *in Brief*

George Tsannie: "Good in schools."

Thomas Elytook: "People pick it up at Baker Lake airport."

Dennis Larocque: "Good; share it with Uranium City."

Archie Catholique: "Good overall pictures and photos."

Mitch Campbell: "Extremely useful; HTO's use it; good for getting info about Board out there."

Daryll Hedman: "Great outreach, including industry, mining."



L to R: BQCMB Chair Earl Evans, Board alternate Vicki Trim and PCMB Chair Joe Tetlich with the BQCMB poster "Conservation Strategies for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou in an Era of Decline and Uncertainty."

"Beverly" continued from page 5

- caribou range, so hunters not able to monitor caribou or habitat across most of the range;
- changes in availability of Beverly caribou to communities masked by extensive range overlap with other herds, as caribou from one or more other herds (e.g., Bathurst, Ahiak, Qamanirjuaq) have been available to most communities;
- increased ability of hunters to move around the caribou range to access animals for harvest because of roads, high-speed snowmachines, subsidized aircraft charters etc.
- inadequate enforcement regarding wastage and wounding;
- lack of information about harvest levels, including harvest along roads;
- low priority of land use planning in all caribou range jurisdictions;
- management plans and strategies not fully implemented;
- lack of monitoring of effects of forest fires on winter caribou habitat in NWT and SK, and effects of mines and roads on winter range in SK;
- lack of information about numerous factors affecting Beverly caribou, and the long-term cumulative impacts of those factors, including human-caused disturbance to caribou and habitat, habitat loss from forest fires and development, predation, parasites, diseases, and harvest levels.



Courtesy of Albert Thorassie

Poster Contest Winners

In 2011 the BQCMB held "Respect the Caribou" poster contests for middle schools and high schools across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Ranges. Congratulations to the following winners:

Kaytlyn Niego
Grade 8, 1st Place
Baker Lake

Shirlena Cheekie
Grade 4, 1st Place
Tadoule Lake

Pictured at left:
former BQCMB Chair
Albert Thorassie
with contest winner
Shirlena Cheekie.



Caribou Wastage

Chief *Joe Antsanen* from Northlands Denesuline First Nation attended the May, 2012 BQCMB meeting. The Chief brought greetings from his community and pointed out concerns about apparent caribou wastage possibly after the sport hunting season closed. “This is not the way First Nations hunt,” he said, adding that hunters who litter, drink and perform other dangerous practices make matters worse.

Vice-Chair *Daryll Hedman* responded that Manitoba Conservation is also concerned, but noted the department received the information days after the media reported the incident and while officers investigated immediately once they got notice, it was difficult to determine if wastage is the issue as several days had already passed. In response to First Nations concerns about disrespect for the animals, Manitoba Conservation advised that the brains and jaws were salvaged by their staff for analysis.

Community representatives voiced hurtful feelings when animals are not respected and requested that if there is sampling or other research going on, the government should let the communities know. As roads come north and provide greater access to caribou range, this issue will intensify. Chair *Earl Evans* emphasised this point: “Winter roads bring big problems,” he said. “Animals are too easy to access and if there is no effort put in to get to the animals, there is no effort to make full use of the animal and there is more wastage,” he explained. “If hunters are not using the entire animal, then they should alert the communities for parts that can be used and appreciated by the communities.”

The BQCMB agreed to send a letter to Ministers pointing out concerns about hunting with increased access from roads, and urging extra monitoring and enforcement during critical times. Maintenance and promotion of hunter safety training will be recommended as well, along with providing information via radio to increase awareness of issues and solutions.

Both parties agreed closer communication between the communities and government departments is needed. All parties agreed to continue to work together to promote good hunting practices, eliminate wastage and promote respect for caribou and the land. •

**“THIS IS NOT
THE WAY
FIRST NATIONS
HUNT.”**

**CHIEF JOE ANTANEN,
NORTHLANDS DENESULINE FIRST NATION**



Albert Thorassie

Meet the New Chair

Earl Evans, who has lived in Fort Smith, NWT all his life, has been the Metis representative for the South Slave NWT communities on the BQCMB since 2001. As of May, 2012, however, he is wearing a bigger hat on the Board—he is now the Chair.

Taking over from previous Chair *Albert Thorassie* was no easy decision for Evans, who felt he did not have the time to dedicate to the position. This year, he says, “I felt like I’d have more time but it seems like I have less time.” A serious forest fire situation—including two fires very close to town—meant over the summer Evans was busy operating machinery on the firelines in Wood Buffalo Park (just south of Fort Smith), a job he’s held for the past 25 years.

But that is only one other position Evans holds. After hearing about all his other responsibilities, it’s no wonder he retired from his supervisor’s position with the GNWT Department of Transportation in 2011.

Evans also represents the Northwest Territory Metis Nation on various caribou working groups, sits on various wildlife committees (as a result of having done extensive work with the Canadian Wildlife Service in the 1980s and 1990s), does caribou collections and sampling for the GNWT and others, and instructs at the NWT Aurora College renewable resource camp. He also sits on the Bathurst Caribou Management Planning Committee.



Leslie Wakelyn

BQCMB Chair Earl Evans (left) with board member Dennis Larocque

Having lived and worked in the area his entire life, Evans has an extensive background in hunting and trapping and is working hard to keep alive many of the traditional ways by passing on knowledge to the young people of the region. However, he calls this an “uphill battle” and worries about the changes he sees taking place. “From what we’re seeing with all the economic development and mining growth happening in Nunavut, I see an all out battle in the future for the caribou. We have mining development completely surrounding and inside of the caribou range.”

“People are going from a traditional way to a wage economy and there’s no

possible way for a person to live the traditional lifestyle and survive with the fur prices and the expenses it takes to trap.”

In Evans’ mind, the BQCMB’s role isn’t to stop development, but to find ways to prepare for what is coming to reduce the impact on the caribou. “What we’re trying to do is slow down some of the development in these areas and get a better handle of what’s really happening out there...we really don’t know enough about the caribou. We’re getting more collars on them which is good but with all these different stress factors influencing the herd, we don’t really know what is going to happen in the future.

Continued on page 13

“We are trying to get a better handle on where this development is going...the range is shrinking day by day. In our area the caribou have moved 300 miles further away over the past 60 years. If you look at a range map, the caribou are moving away from the communities and developed roads...they’re moving into a core and pretty soon there’s going to be no habitat there for them to survive in.”

Although the situation “doesn’t look good”, it is reassuring to know people like Evans continue to work hard to protect the traditional way of life. He lives it every day, along with wife Marlene who was also born and raised in the area. Son Trevor lives nearby and also traps and hunts.

If Evans has a motto going into his job as Chair of the BQCMB, it is the need to constantly keep learning. “We need to learn from past experience, and there has to be a balance found between the wage economy vs. traditional practices and environmental protection. It’s all about scale...we need to be proactive and predict what’s coming, rather than try to correct what’s already happened.

Our job is to protect caribou and their habitat in balance with peoples’ livelihoods.”•



Courtesy of Earl Evans

Having lived and worked in the area his entire life, Earl Evans has an extensive background in hunting and trapping and is working hard to keep alive many of the traditional ways by passing on knowledge to the young people of the region.

**“OUR JOB IS TO PROTECT
CARIBOU AND THEIR HABITAT
IN BALANCE WITH PEOPLES’
LIVELIHOODS.”**

BQCMB CHAIR EARL EVANS

Caribou Management Plan

With a new 10-year agreement to continue the BQCMB's work, comes the need for the Board to prepare an accompanying Management Plan for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou herds. Simply put, the Management Plan is what the Board feels needs to be done for caribou and habitat conservation. The process of drafting such a plan is very time-consuming, however, and the new 2013-2022 BQCMB Management Plan has been in the works since late 2011. At that time the Board struck a committee to oversee the process. The first working session was held February 2012 in Saskatoon SK, facilitated by SK government's *Alison Biese*.

Government of the Northwest Territories contributed funding to allow the BQCMB to spearhead this important task, coordinated by Board contact biologist *Leslie Wakelyn*.

Having a long-term management strategy to guide the Board throughout the next decade is important, and similar plans have governed the BQCMB since its beginnings in 1982. As time goes on things change, and the need for careful planning only grows stronger.

Also growing stronger is the economic value of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest. The current (2005-2012) Management Plan estimated the value of the harvest to be \$17 million annually, based on a 1990 evaluation, and a recent socio-economic analysis has pegged it closer to \$20 million (see sidebar).

This growth makes the mandate of the Board, to safeguard the caribou herds in the interest of the people and communities that rely on them, more important than ever. The Management Plan simply puts into place a framework for the Board to achieve this mandate. It does this by both identifying the goals to be achieved, and developing action plans with specific instructions for what needs to be done, when and by whom.

The current Management Plan identified a number of primary goals in four main areas: co-operative management; the provision of information, education and communications about caribou ecology and conservation; population management; and protection of caribou herds and their ranges. The current plan also made it a high priority to enhance and increase community involvement in monitoring and managing the caribou herds and their habitats.

Harvest worth over \$20 million

A socio-economic analysis conducted in 2007-2008 by Intergroup Consultants of Winnipeg for the BQCMB revealed that the total net annual economic value of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest was more than \$20 million, based on harvest estimates for 2005-06. Nunavut, by far, depends on these herds the most. The jurisdictional shares of harvest are:

- Nunavut – almost \$12 million
- Manitoba – about \$4 million
- Saskatchewan – over \$3 million
- NWT – less than \$1 million.

Most caribou hunted were from the larger Qamanirjuaq herd.

The study also included eight detailed community interviews (two per jurisdiction) to better understand the social and cultural importance of the caribou harvest. "All respondents viewed harvesting caribou as integral to preserving their culture and, where necessary, revitalizing their culture," the authors concluded. Important activities like passing on traditional knowledge and learning outdoor wilderness survival skills take place while hunting caribou.

The report also found that caribou are used mainly to feed northern families – the domestic harvest accounted for more than \$15 million of the \$20 million-plus total net annual economic value—and that the outfitting industry in Manitoba and Nunavut accounts for most of the remaining economic value of the caribou—more than \$4 million yearly.

The report, *Economic Valuation and Socio-Cultural Perspectives of the Estimated Harvest of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds*, can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/OXi20B>.

Continued on page 18

“Potential,” continued from page 8

the Beverly or Qamanirjuaq calving grounds without at least conducting a Part 5 or 6 review and that any such review should include public consultation.

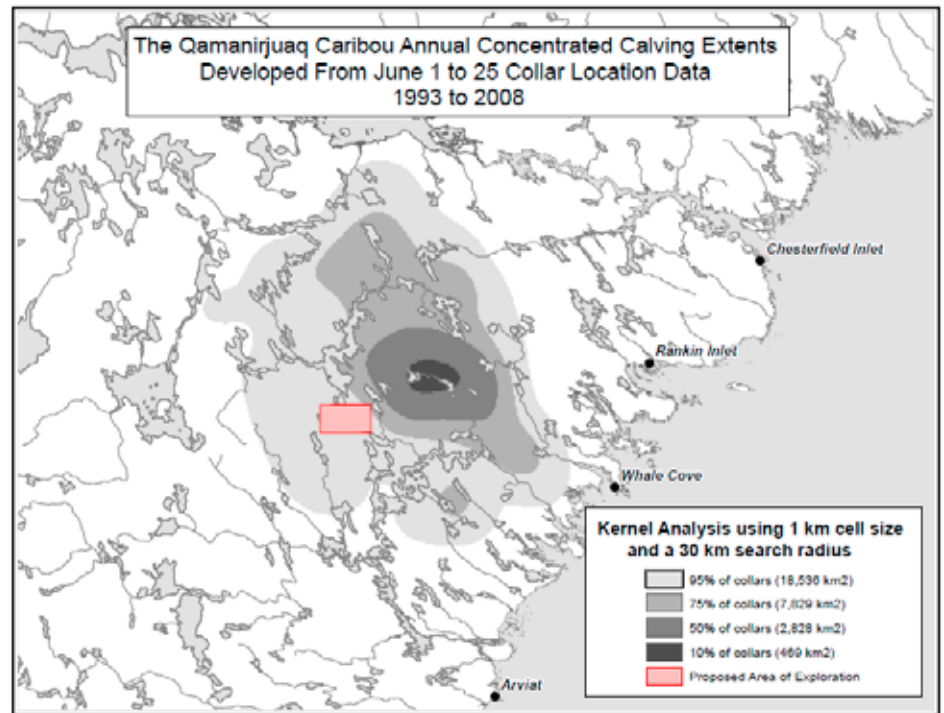
The Board also stressed that “time is of the essence, as the early June calving season is approaching, and protecting the Qamanirjuaq herd requires that the proposed project activities must not be permitted to occur.”

In a June 1, 2012 letter to relevant Ministers for the governments of Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Canada, the Board expressed its concerns and asked for support for its request for the NIRB to review its decision. The Board also asked for long-term legislated protection for calving and post-calving areas. The Board’s submissions previously made to the NIRB were included and the letter was widely distributed.

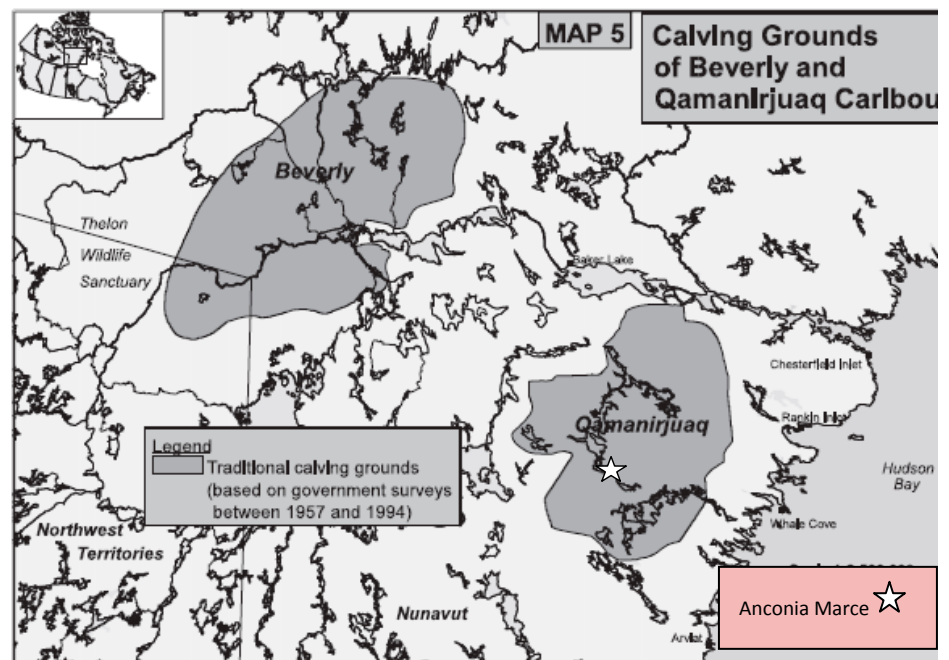
The Ministers, however, took no action, the NIRB and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) refused to reconsider, and a land use license was issued by the KIA allowing Anconia to access Inuit-owned land and to conduct mineral exploration on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground in summer and fall, 2012.

“The BQCMB continues to be frustrated and seriously concerned when our recommendations and long standing

Continued on page 16



Anconia’s Marce-Victory Lake project area in relation to the recent core calving area of the Qamanirjuaq herd. The calving area was identified by analysis of locations of collared caribou cows during the calving period (June 1-25), 1993- 2008. Map provided by the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment.



Anconia’s Marce-Victory Lake project area in relation to the traditional calving ground of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, which is based on calving ground surveys conducted between 1963 and 1994. Map adapted from BQCMB (1999) Protecting Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou and Caribou Range Part I: Background Information.

"Potential," continued from page 13

positions about the calving grounds are disregarded," said *Earl Evans*, BQCMB Chair. "I'm afraid that by the time the social, economic and ecological importance of the Qamanirjuaq and Beverly Herds are realized, it may be in hindsight. It's not as if the Board is raising these concerns just now. We've been at it since the Board began."

The NIRB has determined that Anconia's application for a federal land use permit, as well as a subsequent permit amendment, were exempt from screening. These decisions were communicated to AANDC in April and September, 2012 respectively.

MITIGATION RECOMMENDED:

The Board was informed that a KIA license had been issued and expected that a federal permit would be issued for Anconia's exploration work on the calving ground. In an attempt to reduce the impacts of the project on caribou in summer and fall 2012, the BQCMB

recommended the following permit conditions in a June 20th, 2012 letter to the KIA and AANDC:

1. Project activities must be prohibited between May 15th and July 15th if caribou are in the project area.
2. All activities must be suspended if caribou approach the area during spring migration prior to May 15th.
3. Activities should be allowed to resume after July 15th only if caribou are not in the area.
4. The proponent should be required to establish a rigorous caribou monitoring program for all project phases, including an independent caribou monitor.
5. The monitoring system should ensure that at least one day's advance notification is received for shutting down project activities if caribou are approaching, to

ensure that potential disturbance is discontinued before caribou reach the project area.

6. There should be regular inspection of project operations, with enforcement of permit/licence terms and conditions and NPC's conformity requirements.

The BQCMB also requested that Anconia recognize the importance and sensitivity of this issue and voluntarily do the utmost to minimize or eliminate disturbance to caribou. Finally, the Board recommended that "No further licences or permits should be issued for mineral exploration on the calving grounds of the Beverly or Qamanirjuaq herds."

As of October 19th, 2012, AANDC had not issued a land use permit to Anconia for the project and had asked the Manitoba Denesuline for comments and recommendations. •

Caribou Protection Measures

More than 30 years ago, the federal government developed Caribou Protection Measures (CPM) for protection of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou during calving and post-calving periods within temporarily designated Caribou Protection Areas. The CPM have been included as conditions of federal land use permits under the Territorial Land Use Regulations, as a criterion in the Nunavut Planning Commission's conformity determination for proposed projects in Nunavut, and as conditions of Inuit land use licenses issued by the KIA. However, CPM were designed to address only exploration impacts on caribou, not impacts on habitat or development impacts. They were also dependent on a caribou monitoring program that was discontinued by the federal government in 1990. Inadequate enforcement has also been an issue. The BQCMB's position is that CPM, as currently applied, are ineffective for protecting caribou and their habitat from the negative impacts of mineral exploration and development.

In the absence of long-term protection for calving grounds through establishment of legislated protected areas, land use planning and improved Caribou Protection Measures, the BQCMB's position is that all proposals for exploration and development on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq calving grounds must be rejected.

People and Caribou

Two BQCMB meetings have passed since the last issue of Caribou News in Brief; the fall meeting from November 1-4, 2011 in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the spring meeting from May 15-17, 2012 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Special Guest, the Honourable **Dan Shewchuk**, then Nunavut Minister of Environment, addressed the Board in November. Minister Shewchuk outlined NU Environment priorities, and confirmed that the BQCMB's new Agreement and additional funding request had the Nunavut government's support and commitment.

It was like "coming home", he said, seeing members who were with the Board when he was the representative for the Government of Nunavut. According to the Minister, "the BQCMB has credibility across the whole country. While it is a challenge to get information and manage so many herds, the BQCMB has proven how to do it successfully, incorporating community,



L to R: BQCMB members Alicia Kelly and Mitch Campbell with the Honourable Dan Shewchuk, Nunavut Minister of Environment.

Inuit knowledge, respecting culture and importance of caribou."

The November, 2011 meeting marked long-time board member **Albert Thorassie's** last meeting at the helm of the BQCMB. Directors agreed Thorassie had served well with dedication. In typical fashion he said he would consider continuing on as Chair if no one else stepped forward, but **Earl Evans** agreed to take on the job, giving Thorassie a much-deserved break. The BQCMB greatly appreciates Thorassie's leadership.

The BQCMB was also pleased to welcome new board member **Jeff Mercer** at the May, 2012 meeting. Jeff is the Manager, Land Administration in the Nunavut Regional Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

BQCMB members were saddened to hear of the passing of **Peter Kritaqliluk**, chair of the Nunavut Implementation Training Committee (NITC), former mayor of Arviat, Nunavut, and a founding member of the BQCMB. Kritaqliluk died on August 25, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. Peter

was described by NITC CEO **Dorothy Merritt** as a "busy man with a big heart, who worked all his life for Inuit."

At the November 2011 meeting, the BQCMB formally recognized the increasing complexities and demands of managing and coordinating the Board, and changed the title of **Ross Thompson's** job from Secretary-Treasurer to Executive Director.

Peter Brook died with peace and dignity at his Prince Albert home on June 28, 2012 at the age of 68 years. Known to the BQCMB since its beginning in 1982, he was instrumental in getting land use planning started on Saskatchewan's portion of the barren-ground caribou range in 1998. As reflected in his actions and efforts in land use planning with the Athabasca Denesuline, Peter shared aspirations of the BQCMB for protection of the caribou, the land and aboriginal cultures dependent on the caribou. According to Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) staff member **Tina Giroux**, "the Athabasca Denesuline and PAGC has lost a wonderful friend and advisor and his absence will be felt by all."

Nunatsiaq online



Peter Kritaqliluk

"Review," continued from page 7

The review process, while certainly complicated and drawn out, is necessary as the question is not "will the mine and operations wipe out the caribou." The issue is not as simple as that.

The BQCMB's involvement in the Kiggavik Review is being led by Board contract biologist *Leslie Wakelyn* with support from contractor *Anne Gunn*, a former GNWT Caribou Biologist with extensive experience in environmental review. To date the focus has been on identifying long-term widespread effects to caribou, their habitat, and caribou harvesters, rather than addressing short term simplified questions. The BQCMB will be an active participant in the technical review and public hearing and will continue to concentrate on information gaps and what needs to be assessed for a responsible critique. Proper cumulative effects analysis is one of the most important issues to be addressed. •

Leslie Wakelyn



At the May 2012 meeting of the BQCMB Board, long-time community organizer *Joan Scottie* of Baker Lake shared her experiences with developments that happened on the range over many years from her first-hand experience as a caribou monitor and land use inspector. "There have always been issues between the communities and governments" concerning Caribou Protection Measures, enforcement, regulations and other matters she said. Regulations and permit conditions have lapsed over the years. For example, road use previously was restricted after May of any year. She noted it is not only elders who are voicing opposition to developments like the Kiggavik proposal, it is the youth as well. Communication is sometimes difficult and it is hard to get clear and effective points across about impacts. Many HTO members have limited experience in this regard.

Joan added, "There are situations where traditional practices are being disrupted, not only the land and caribou." She explained that it is difficult to provide accurate documentation of aircraft disturbing wildlife, and often effects aren't readily visible. Aircraft may not be visibly affecting animals, but the NOISE also disturbs wildlife. Helicopters are everywhere, and camps are springing up over a large area. The result? "It is frustrating and annoying to have carefully planned hunts completely ruined by low-flying aircraft spooking the caribou!"

"Plan," continued from page 14

Priorities of the 2005-12 Management Plan included:

- monitoring and protection of caribou herds and ranges
- environmental assessment of proposed development activities on the caribou ranges
- incorporating local and traditional knowledge into caribou management programs
- implementing school programs about caribou ecology and conservation, and
- communications.

The Board's management plan committee determined in February that the main categories for the 2013-2022 Management Plan will be similar to the current plan, with new sections added as necessary. For instance, a new section on "Risk Assessment" may be included to address risk to the caribou, using information around population levels, mortality, weather, climate, food, access, activities, seasonal distribution and habitat protection.

The work continues and will be reviewed at the November, 2012 BQCMB meeting in Winnipeg. •

2013-2022 Management Plan
Committee members include board
members and alternates:

Allicia Kelly
Archie Catholique
Daryll Hedman
Dennis Larocque
Earl Evans
Florence Catholique
Jan Adamczewski
Mitch Campbell
Tim Trottier
and

contract biologist Leslie Wakelyn.

Youth and Caribou

Pierre Bernier



Youth and Instructors, Lac Brochet On the Land Camp, March 2012

On March 23, 2012, a few Elders, 5 Canadian Rangers and several locals and teachers took 15 students from Petit Casmir School in Lac Brochet for a traditional hunt to Antsanen's Lake, 50 kms northeast of Lac Brochet. The hunt was funded through the BQCMB's "On the Land" program, which is intended to expose school youth in Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou range communities to hunting, trapping and land skills, passed on from experienced hunters and trappers, and/or elders. The group shot 23 caribou. The Elders and Rangers showed the students how to harvest the caribou, and the Elders told them the body parts names in Dene and what they were used for.

Students from the Head Start Program all the way to grade 12 experienced a variety of traditional activities like dog mushing, snow shelters, snowshoeing, sliding, dry meat making, meat cutting, bannock making, fishing, net setting and checking, fish preparation, wood cutting and fire making. Overall, more than 260 students and over 100 community members got to enjoy their experience at the camp.

Pierre Bernier, Vice-Principal of Petit Casmir School wrote to the BQCMB: "Thank you very much for the funding, it made a huge difference in our kids' lives as you can see in the pictures. We are hoping we can keep this partnership for the years to come."

During the November, 2011 Board meeting members reported a number of caribou sightings and resulting harvests. Some reports were encouraging and others, less so. One positive aspect of many reports, however, were stories of hunts involving youth.

- **George Tsannie** reported that a school hunt camp in the Cochrane Lake, SK area went very well, with games, meat handling, snowshoeing, and hunting, involving over 60 people from Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Wollaston Lake, including elders who taught "do's and don'ts" to the youth. The caribou harvested went to the lunch program.
- Seven students were also involved in a winter camp for sampling caribou 200 miles northeast of Fort Smith NWT in early March, 2011, **Earl Evans** reported. They learned about caribou biology, meat handling, and hunting practices. Earl helped set up camp and did early reconnaissance for trails, ice conditions, snow depth and condition, and 27 animals were harvested. Meat was provided to elders in Ft. Smith, where caribou are scarce.
- **Archie Catholique** reported community hunt activity from Lutsel K'e, NWT where the community wildlife committee coordinated hunting, involving the school and elders in the Artillery

Continued on page 20

"Youth," continued from page 19

Lake vicinity for one week. Fall hunt took place near Campbell Lake; 20 caribou harvested, hides collected for community elders who made drums. "Good to see youth learning proper handling techniques," said Catholique. There was also a family hunt, involving 7 families for 1 week.

- **Albert Thorassie** reported that although caribou were at the north end of Tadoule Lake MB in the fall of 2010, with 37 harvested, very few caribou were close to Tadoule last fall. However, the local school asked Albert to make a presentation on the BQCMB and caribou management. •



An Elder demonstrates proper handling techniques

Smoked meat preparation demonstration



Kids from Lac Brochet enjoying the outing, March 2012

Publisher's Box

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Meat preparation and handling instruction



Pierre Bernier