

## *Nunavut Land Use Plan in Jeopardy*

# Perfect Storm Brewing

Concern for protection of key caribou habitats in Nunavut prompted the BQCM to issue a news release following its spring 2014 board meeting. The message was strong: If caribou calving grounds and post-calving areas aren't protected from mining exploration and development, caribou herds may suffer irreversible damage, and this will lead to hardship for traditional caribou harvesters.

“This is nothing new,” stated BQCMB Chair *Earl Evans*. “Protection of caribou calving grounds was the highest priority action recommended by participants at the NWT Caribou Summit in 2007, and the BQCMB has strongly recommended permanent protection of calving and post-calving areas for more than a decade.”

In February 2014 the BQCMB made extensive comments, which included recommendations for protection of calving and post-calving areas, to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) on its 2012 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP). (See “BQCMB submits comments on Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan” in Spring 2014 issue of Caribou News in Brief.) The BQCMB intended to follow this up by reviewing the next version of the Draft Plan, discussing it at its fall board meeting, and then taking its comments and concerns to the NPC’s public hearing in Iqaluit, which was scheduled for late November

The BQCMB is not against development, but stresses that no mining exploration or

development should be permitted in caribou calving and post-calving areas. In the press release, Evans called on communities, organizations and individuals with an interest in caribou conservation to join the effort and urge the NPC to include protection for caribou and key caribou habitats in the final Nunavut Land Use Plan. The Board encouraged people to “speak up” for caribou by writing letters to the BQCMB and NPC, participating in the NPC’s public hearing and asking their organizations to present to the hearing on the need for protection of calving and post-calving areas.

“More exploration projects and mines are popping up and we are very concerned about the calving grounds and what is going to happen to the caribou,” said *Dennis Larocque* of Camsell Portage, who represents the communities of Northern Saskatchewan on the BQCMB. “We have to stop development of any kind on calving grounds, that is where life begins.”

It is also where the most important aboriginal food supply begins, according to Larocque. "We the Aboriginal people rely on caribou for what it provides us, mainly food."

## NPC's Recommendations

The NPC released a revised Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan in late June, which incorporates the results of 18 months of extensive consultation. This included meetings with the 25 communities in Nunavut as well as 5 Inuit communities from northern Quebec and

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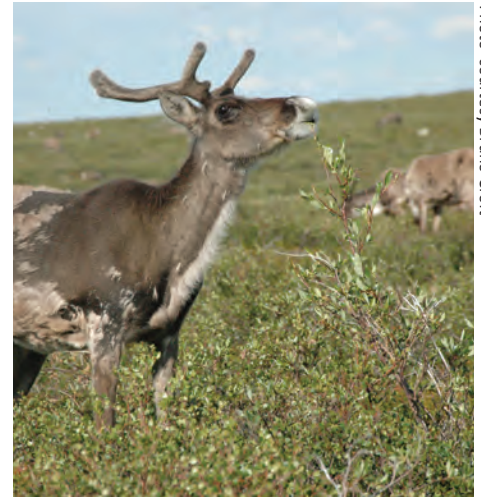


Photo courtesy Bruno Croft

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## BQCMB MEETING #78

**NOVEMBER 18-20**  
**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**



# Around the Range

The summer of 2014 will be remembered in the Northwest Territories as one of the worst fire seasons ever. In early July, CBC North reported that 123 forest fires had been reported in the NWT and at least 92 were still burning. A week later, 137 wildfires were reported to be burning, with smoke travelling as far away as southern Saskatchewan, Churchill, and even North and South Dakota. By mid-August 368 fires had been recorded and 302 were still raging, having burned more than 35,000 square kilometres of wilderness. It cost the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) more than \$55 million to fight the record-setting wildfires - the original fire-fighting budget was \$7 million.

The cause of most of the fires was lightning striking hot, dry forests that were experiencing extreme drought conditions created by a combination of very little snow melt, virtually no spring precipitation and the driest June and July in the NWT in 40 years. Very few of the fires were caused by people.

Thankfully, no lives were lost.

## Too close for comfort

BQCMB Chair *Earl Evans* has been fighting forest fires for over 40 years, but even he got too close for comfort on July 14 when he was forced to flee a raging fire near Fort Providence, NWT.

Evans told Northern News Services' Cody Punter that the situation got out of hand while he was operating a Caterpillar bulldozer to dig a perimeter around a burning section of forest. Known as a backburn, the pit creates a buffer zone that allows firefighters to attack the flames. As he was digging the ditch, spruce trees next to him caught fire. Evans didn't realize how fast the fire was moving until his foreman yelled at him to get out of the pit. He had to quickly jump out of his caterpillar and jump into the foreman's truck. "That's the closest I've come to getting singed," added a relieved Evans

## Massive burns pushing caribou north

GNWT wildlife biologist *Jan Adamczewski* told the Northern Journal's Meagan Wohlberg that wildfire seasons like 2014 could limit the amount of winter range available to barren ground caribou herds. More than 2.5 million hectares of winter habitat on the range of the Bathurst and Bluenose East herds was devastated by the NWT's record-setting fire season. "We haven't seen anything on that scale for a very long time," Adamczewski said. "Short-term, the odds are that the caribou are going to stay away from those newly burned areas... They're going to be looking elsewhere."

And although wildfires are required to renew boreal forest, the fear is that continued drought and massive fires in the North will impact winter ranges negatively over the long-term.

## Alarming declines continue for Bathurst, Bluenose-East, George River caribou

June 2014 surveys of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou calving grounds in Nunavut found both of those herds still in decline despite conservation measures which have been in place for the two herds for a number of years. According to reconnaissance surveys led by NWT Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), the size of the Bathurst herd has continued to decline to well below 2009-2012 levels (about 35,000), a dramatic change from about 350,000 in the mid-1990s. ENR believes that the Bluenose-East herd numbers are much reduced from about 68,000 estimated in 2013 and more than 100,000 in 2010. Population surveys for both herds are scheduled for June 2015. ENR and Aboriginal groups are in discussions about what can be done to help the herds recover.

The George River caribou population also continues to plummet at an alarming rate. A July photo survey by biologists from Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec found there were about 14,200 caribou, down from 27,600 in 2012. In just four years, the herd's numbers have dropped by more than 80 per cent. The herd numbered 700,000-800,000 in the 1980s. The Newfoundland and Labrador government imposed a five-year ban on hunting caribou, including the aboriginal hunt, in Labrador in 2013 to try to slow the decline.

## New Collars for Caribou

Thanks to funding secured from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, more caribou are wearing new collars. *Mitch Campbell*, BQCMB member representing the Government of Nunavut, says that 30 collars are currently in use on Qamanirjuaq caribou and 15 on the Ahiak herd. These are the "breakaway" style collars that are half the weight of older collars (that weighed almost 2 kg) and since the caribou don't have to be captured for collar removal, cause less stress for the animals. Even better, the new collars last four years and record the caribou movement up to four locations per day, as opposed to one location every 4-5 days with the old style collars.

There is great value in the information gathered, noted Campbell, but with their use comes the need for education. Local hunters need to be reminded to avoid harvesting caribou with collars. And while in the future satellite imagery and drone technology will make collars obsolete, right now collars remain the best and only option to get the information needed. •





# People and Caribou

*“It always comes back to that champion who can spearhead things and keep things moving.”*

The BQCMB is about collaboration, and that was highlighted during the spring, 2014 BQCMB meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan. Since funding restrictions had kept long-time BQCMB member *Tim Trottier* from attending several previous meetings, members from the other jurisdictions made the trek to Saskatchewan to ensure he and other Saskatchewan Board members could take part.

The location of the spring meeting also gave the Board the opportunity to invite the Honourable *Ken Cheveldayoff*, Minister of Environment, Government of Saskatchewan to address the Board and guests.

After Trottier welcomed the Minister, Chair Earl Evans explained the Board has been in existence for more than 30 years and highlighted its diversity.

The Minister acknowledged that northern development is very important - but so are barren ground caribou. He pledged continued support but noted “annual funding will vary depending on priority wildlife issues.” The Minister also stressed the “delicate balance of managing resources and respecting environment in a way that recognizes all stakeholders.”

When asked about calving ground protection, the Minister said it “made sense” and pledged to take this issue to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME). Chair Evans and Executive Director *Ross Thompson* also brought up travel restrictions and lack of funding for board members to attend

BQCMB meetings. The Minister committed to having senior management review this issue and also promised to bring this up to the CCME.

The Minister said his department appreciates the efforts of the BQCMB and looks forward to ongoing participation. “Thank you for the time you are putting in today, it is well recognized by the Ministry of Environment and the Government of Saskatchewan.”

## Champion for Athabasca Communities

Another highlight of the spring Board meeting was a review by *Tina Giroux*, biologist with Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation, of the Joint Caribou Monitoring Project. This community-based monitoring project has taken place over the past five years through a partnership between Athabasca communities and the Government of the NWT (GNWT). The Province of Saskatchewan contributed from 2009-2011 also, but has since withdrawn funding, even though the majority of Tina’s work takes place in Saskatchewan – a point stressed to Minister Cheveldayoff.

Tina explained the priorities are education and awareness. She helps to identify resources for schools, purchasing books and teaching aids. Culture camps are a highlight of the year for students. Rangers help out by teaching skills. Things like school lunches, elder gatherings, dry meat preparation, shelter construction, traditional teachings, cultural

sites, and respect are all benefits that happen around programs like these.

Other priorities are monitoring, information sharing, management, and harvest data collection. Tina participates in BQCMB meetings as an observer and does community visits several times per year. She also described a harvest data study which has yielded two years of data for Fond-du-Lac and Black Lake and three years for Hatchet Lake. Door to door visits provided good information, with 170 hunters interviewed.

Tina’s presentation prompted Board alternate for GNWT *Bruno Croft* to comment “It always comes back to that champion who can spearhead things and keep things moving. I think you’re doing a great job.”

## Northern Contaminants Study

*Mary Gamberg*, a research scientist from Whitehorse who works with the Northern Contaminants Program, gave a presentation to the BQCMB on contaminants in caribou. Samples are taken from Qamanirjuaq animals every year for assessing cadmium and mercury levels.

Gamberg explained that lichens take up many contaminants from the air so they can get into caribou, but levels are low compared to marine mammals. People would have to eat 32 caribou kidneys per year for this amount to impact human kidneys. Smoking has much worse effects on people’s health!•



Tina Giroux



Minister Cheveldayoff and Tim Trottier

Photos courtesy Lynne Bereza

## Kiggavik Review:

# One Step Further

It has now been more than four and-a-half years since the review by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) of AREVA Resources Canada's proposed Kiggavik Project began. The project consists of:

- Five individual mines (four open pit and one underground) at two sites (Kiggavik and Sissons) joined by a road
- A mill at the Kiggavik site
- A winter access road from Baker Lake, with a possible all-season road
- An airstrip for transportation of personnel and yellowcake, and
- An on-site accommodations complex.

AREVA has estimated construction will take 3-4 years and create 750 jobs, with a minimum 14 years of production and 400-600 jobs. Decommissioning is projected to take 10 years followed by 5 years of monitoring. However, the life of the project may be extended if additional reserves are identified.

The BQCMB has actively participated in the NIRB's review throughout the process, due to concerns around the effects of the proposed project on caribou and those who rely on caribou for their livelihood.

### What is on the horizon?

The project is now one step further in the review process with AREVA's submission of its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to NIRB on October 1.

NIRB has begun the technical review of the FEIS and invited written submissions by January 16, 2015. The technical review period will allow interested parties, like the BQCMB, to determine whether they agree with AREVA's conclusions regarding the Kiggavik Project's potential impacts, whether the mitigation and monitoring measures they've proposed are adequate, and ultimately, whether they support the approval of the project. (Interested parties will need the 80 days allotted for reviewing the FEIS – it consists of 11 volumes and thousands of pages!)

***Interested parties will need the 80 days allotted for reviewing the FEIS - it consists of 11 volumes and thousands of pages!***

According to the NIRB, AREVA will submit its written responses to these final submissions prior to the Final Hearing. NIRB has said it expects this will take 15 days, but since AREVA took over six months to submit their responses to information requests in the earlier stage of the review process, and a month to submit written responses to comments on the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement, it is the BQCMB's view that this timeline is not realistic.

As a result, the BQCMB is uncertain when the Final Hearing will be held; it could be as early as mid-February or as late as during the following fiscal year.

The Final Hearing will be held in Baker Lake and will take place in Inuktitut and English (and possibly French upon request) with simultaneous translation. NIRB is planning to provide further details and a notice of the Final Hearing in the coming weeks.

### Next steps for the BQCMB

The BQCMB will provide the NIRB with written comments on the FEIS and also present at the public hearing. Although review work will be funded by the BQCMB (since less funding was received from the federal government than was requested in 2010, and also because the review process has taken several years longer than originally anticipated), travel costs for the hearing will be paid from federal participant funding.

The BQCMB will also hold a workshop with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) wildlife committee to present information and obtain input on the proposed project. This workshop will be similar to those held with the Baker Lake and Arviat HTOs in March 2014 and will also be funded by the BQCMB's federal participant funding for the Kiggavik review.

***Questions about the Kiggavik review should be directed to Tara Arko, NIRB Technical Advisor, by telephone at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).***

### AREVA's Conclusions:

NIRB has invited interested parties to submit comments indicating whether they agree with AREVA's conclusions regarding the Kiggavik Project. Although it will take time for the BQCMB to comb through the complete FEIS, a preliminary review has noted a number of important statements by AREVA:

- *"The Project will have effects but there will be no significant adverse effects on the biophysical environment."*
- *"The development of the Kiggavik Project can be completed in an environmentally and socio-economically sustainable way..."*
- *"AREVA will not construct a road within 10 km of a designated caribou water crossing and will give caribou the right-of-way where possible and safe."*
- *"Direct and indirect loss of available habitat will be small at the scale of the caribou herd ranges."*
- *"Caribou will be unable to move through some areas (e.g. mine site, airstrips) that were previously available but few satellite collared caribou from migratory herds have been documented within or crossing the mine and access road areas."*
- *"Uranium exposure to caribou and muskox will not exceed exposure levels associated with adverse effects..."*
- *"Should the all-season access road be required and approved, AREVA will work with caribou stakeholders in determining how to control and manage public access on a potential Kiggavik access road in ways that respect safety, the environment and company use of the road."*
- *"AREVA will continue working collaboratively on caribou issues during the environmental assessment and when the Project proceeds."*



## *Caribou Research and Management Award*

# Wolf-Caribou Dynamics

Each year, the BQCMB helps post-secondary students learn more about the management and conservation of barren-ground caribou and their habitat through the Caribou Research and Management Award, sponsored by the Board's Caribou Management Scholarship Fund.

This year's recipient is Mike Klaczek, a Masters Candidate (Biology) in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. Mike's research focuses on studying wolf-caribou dynamics on the summer range of the Bathurst caribou herd in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Specifically, Mike is investigating the numerical and behavioural responses of tundra denning wolves to changes in the abundance and distribution of caribou.

Mike has spent the last two summers monitoring wolf packs and counting pups at wolf dens across the summer range of the Bathurst caribou herd. He writes: "Wolves are the main predator of barren-ground caribou, however, the extent that they influence the decline and recovery of migratory caribou populations is unclear. With the decline of the Bathurst caribou herd in recent years, this relationship would depend largely on whether (or how) the wolf population responds to potentially fewer caribou within their summer ranges/territories. I'm investigating for different factors that influence the location of where wolves den (i.e. distribution) within barren-ground caribou range. I then assess whether caribou densities have changed in these areas over time, and if so, do these changes influence wolf pup survival. The survival of wolf pups strongly influences how wolf numbers can change at the population level. Such information can support the management of barren-ground caribou herds across Canada's central Arctic."

"I am very grateful to have been selected to receive the Caribou Research and Management Award and would like to thank the BQCMB for supporting my research and helping to make this unique experience possible," Mike says. "Over the past few years I have learned a lot about the ecology and management of both wolves and caribou from biologists, hunters, and local community members. I hope my research will provide some new insights into wolf-caribou dynamics in Northern Canada."

I'm thankful for the support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, for sponsoring my research, helping with logistics, and securing funds for the project."•

*"I hope my research will provide some new insights into wolf-caribou dynamics in Northern Canada."*

*Mike Klaczek*



*Mike Klaczek monitoring a wolf den east of Contwoyto Lake, Nunavut, in early July 2014. Den surveys were conducted during early and late summer to document pup survival over the wolf denning period. A total of 27 wolf packs were monitored across the summer range of the Bathurst caribou herd in 2013 and 2014.*

**You could be the next student to win an award of up to \$1,500 for your college or university studies on barren-ground caribou! The deadline for applications for the BQCMB's Caribou Research and Management Award is January 31, 2015. Apply today! Visit:**

**<http://acuns.ca/website/awards>**

*A wolf pup observed during a den survey in late August, 2014, north of Point Lake, Northwest Territories.*



5 Denesuline communities from northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Other parties that provided written submissions calling for protection of caribou calving and post-calving areas included the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, 14 organizations representing Inuit and other Aboriginal harvesters, World Wildlife Fund Canada, and MiningWatch Canada.

NPC considered all of the input received and developed ways to deal with different perspectives and opposing advice. As a result, the 2014 Draft Plan *does* include recommendations aimed at providing some protection for caribou calving and post-calving areas.

1. Protected Areas (Option 1) that exclude specific land uses, such as mineral exploration and production and all weather roads, "for caribou calving and post-calving areas that have not been identified for high mineral potential". This option was recommended "given that these areas have been identified by planning partners and communities . . . as areas requiring protection."
2. Special Management Areas (Option 2) that may restrict access to some land uses and provide other terms and direction "for caribou calving and post-calving areas that overlap with high mineral potential". This option was chosen "to ensure that the integrity of calving and post-calving areas is maintained", however, the extent or types of access restrictions and conditions were not specified.

The NPC emphasizes food security as justification for providing protection for caribou calving and post-calving areas, at the request of communities across the North. Specifically, NPC states that the Inuit, Dene and Métis of Nunavut, Nunavik, Northwest Territories, northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba have all voiced their concern that the Plan must "protect our food".

## NPC's Dilemma

NPC needed to find a way to achieve a "balance" between recommendations from conservation and development viewpoints. The likely result is that those who believe conservation of wildlife and traditional ways of life should receive high priority will view NPC's proposals as being too pro-development, while parties who consider resource development as the highest priority for Nunavut may believe there is too much conservation in the 2014 DNLUP.

From the BQCMB's perspective, NPC's proposed plan will not be adequate, as it will not provide protection for all caribou calving and post-calving areas, or for caribou while they are using some of these areas. For instance, the area identified by the BQCMB as Qamanirjuaq calving ground in its new management plan would be designated partly as protected area and partly as special management area, with the remainder as multiple use area. The Board will need to assess the 2014 Draft Plan in more detail to determine what to recommend for improving the final plan for caribou and caribou harvesters.

## Nunavut Land Use Plan in Jeopardy

Following release of the revised DNLUP in June, the NPC expected that the public hearing would take place this fall, final revisions responding to comments provided at the hearing would

## Potential Consequences

The NPC also sent a letter to the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, federal Minister of AANDC, describing its bleak perspective on the future given the inadequate funding for land use planning. Some of the potential ramifications of not completing the Nunavut land use planning process that were noted in the letter were:

- *The regulatory system will be slow and cumbersome. Industry will lose millions as legislated timelines are missed.*
- *Growing concerns of Inuit, First Nations and Métis around development in areas they rely on for food will slow and eventually stall the environmental assessment process.*
- *Legal challenge will be brought to the NPC's door by Aboriginal groups exasperated by projects being approved in their dwindling hunting grounds.*
- *Key habitat will be lost and unique species will be at risk.*
- *Discontent over the management of resources in Canada's Arctic will come from the Circumpolar and International community.*
- *There will be limited investment, jobs, and economic spin offs, and regulatory improvement for 65% of Canada's Arctic will remain an unfulfilled dream.*

be incorporated, and the plan would be completed and approved for implementation in 2015.

However, the federal government disagreed with NPC's proposed plans and withdrew funding support for the public hearing. NPC then suspended the hearing and initiated legal action protesting the Minister's decision. It now appears highly unlikely the hearing will happen this fiscal year.

In a news release issued on June 16, the NPC said it was "astonished" by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC) decision not to fund the public hearing on the 2014 DNLUP.

The release stated "The final Public Hearing now lies in jeopardy of never occurring. AANDC's decision not to fund the November Public Hearing has effectively blocked the Commission's ability to conclude the public review of the DNLUP."

## Next Steps for the BQCMB

The BQCMB will discuss the policy measures proposed for caribou protection and other relevant aspects of the 2014 Draft Plan at its November 2014 meeting, and will determine how to respond

to the NPC. The Board will also discuss whether and how it can help facilitate an end to the impasse between NPC and the federal government, in order to make sure the BQCMB and other parties have an opportunity to provide formal input on the 2014 DNLUP at a public hearing.

"Caribou are essential to our culture and health," said *Leo Ikakhik*, a hunter from Arviat, Nunavut. "We were always taught to respect the caribou, a respect I've passed on to my kids. Development in areas where caribou calve and nurse their young is disrespectful and dangerous, and will hurt the caribou, which will then hurt Inuit."

"We are heading into a perfect storm, so we have to stop development of any kind on caribou calving grounds," stressed Larocque. "We need to protect these calving grounds and the land for our future generations to use for many years."

*"We are heading into a perfect storm, so we have to stop development of any kind on caribou calving grounds."*

*Dennis Larocque*



# In Memoriam

*“He understood what it meant to be a traditional caribou-using person, a hunter, fisherman, trapper and he cherished the land he came from.”*

The BQCMB was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of *David Vetra* on July 20, 2014 in Whale Cove, Nunavut. David lived in Arviat and represented the Government of Nunavut on the BQCMB since 2008 as board member and later as alternate member, where his easy-going, friendly personality endeared him to everyone.

David was often described as a special man, and BQCMB colleagues like *Bruno Croft*, alternate member for the Government of the Northwest Territories, explains why. “Before I joined the board a colleague of mine mentioned that I would enjoy working with David,” Croft remembers. “After I had the privilege to interact with David during a couple of board meetings, I knew why. I was totally impressed with David’s sense of integrity and passion about the caribou and the importance of the role of the BQCMB.”

Most importantly, says Croft, is how David “made me feel welcome and appreciated right from the get-go and I, like others, always naturally waited to hear from David on the issues being discussed.”

“When news of David’s car accident in Whale Cove was announced, the first thought that came to my mind was that the world lost a great human being on that day. He will be missed a lot.”

BQCMB Executive Director *Ross Thompson* shared similar sentiments: “David

was a true professional in words and deeds,” he said. “He related well to all scientific, field personnel and community people alike, bringing forward his passion for natural resources in the arctic and beyond. He will be missed and hard to replace.”

“I always felt that David’s heart was with the people of Nunavut. I saw him do respectful things for elders and others on several occasions,” said *Tim Trottier*, BQCMB member representing the Government of Saskatchewan. “He will be missed but maybe his spirit will still be with us in one of those twinkling stars out there.”

David leaves behind his wife Angela, parents Judy and Peter Vetra, brother Richard Vetra (Donna), five nieces and nephews, three cherished godchildren and many other family members and friends.

The BQCMB was also saddened to learn of the passing of *Billy Shott* on May 20, 2014 at home in Uranium City, Saskatchewan, following a brief struggle with cancer. Billy was the alternate member for the communities of northern Saskatchewan on the BQCMB, originally appointed in 1991.

Tim Trottier remembers Billy well: “Billy was well-known across the Athabasca Region with many friends and acquaintances,” says Trottier. “He had an easygoing personality and was a fun-loving man. Billy maintained a trapline on Tazin Lake close to the



Photo courtesy Mudjatik Thyssen Mining

NWT border north of Uranium City with a cabin at the east end. He was a worldly sort of person, having worked at various occupations locally and afar including mineral exploration, mining, guiding, etc.”

Trottier describes their friendship: “Billy befriended me as he did with so many others. One time we were travelling by snowmobile from Uranium City to Camsell Portage. I was driving and Billy was hanging on for dear life at the back of a toboggan. Half way there I glanced back and noticed him waving madly. I stopped, he walked up and said, ‘You’re fired, let me drive. You drive too fast and I’m about froze stiff.’ And I thought we were making good time!”

“Billy was chosen as a board member by fellow community members because of his traditional background and connection to the land,” explains Trottier. “He understood what it meant to be a traditional caribou-using person, a hunter, fisherman, trapper and he cherished the land he came from. He brought those values to the board.”

Sadly, says Trottier, “Billy always said his wife was an angel, and she passed away three weeks after Billy.”

Both men will be greatly missed by their BQCMB colleagues and friends. •

*“...the first thought that came to my mind was that the world lost a great human being on that day. He will be missed a lot.”*

David Vetra (left) pictured with his brother Rick.



Photo courtesy Rick Vetra

**Meet the BQCMB Member:**

# Ross Tatty

Located on the west coast of Hudson Bay about 300 km north of Churchill lies Rankin Inlet, described as the “transportation, health services, and business centre of the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut.” It is from this hamlet that Ross Tatty, the newest BQCMB member, hails, and it is the first time the BQCMB has had a board member from Rankin for many years.

Tatty attended his first meeting in May, 2014 after being appointed as one of the two BQCMB members representing the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB). As with most new members, he spent his first meeting carefully listening to discussions regarding the caribou herds, calving grounds, how surveys are done, and other information.

And like all board members, he is concerned with “the survival of the caribou and protection of the caribou so they will still be there for our younger generation.”

Tatty is a soft-spoken gentleman who, like most of the community members on the BQCMB, does “as much hunting as I can.” He hunts caribou, polar bear, belugas, and “pretty much whatever animals we have up north.” Last winter was a long cold one for Rankin, and fewer caribou came close to the community than in the past, so there was less opportunity to hunt for caribou. “Quite a few hunters were doing day and weekend trips,” said Tatty, “and sometimes they would come home without catching anything.”

According to Tatty there are still quite a few elders in his community and of course, many rely on caribou meat, so the winter was especially difficult for them.

Tatty works as the airport maintenance manager in Rankin Inlet. When not hunting or working Tatty can usually be found doing repairs around the house. He does enjoy one other hobby, though: “Sometimes we have small snowmobile races on the weekends, so I work on snowmobiles too.” He is also a busy family man with five daughters (between the ages of 17 and 25) and three grandchildren.

With his work duties, responsibilities to the KWB and BQCMB, time spent with family and on hobbies, Tatty doesn’t have much free time for other activities. It sounds like a lot on one man’s plate, but Tatty isn’t complaining. Does he have any particular way of staying on top of everything? “Not really,” he says. “I guess I just go day by day and see what the next morning brings.”•



Photo courtesy Lynne Bereza

**Now online:**

## 2013-2022 Management Plan

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) is pleased to announce that the BQCMB Management Plan for 2013-2022 is now available on the BQCMB website.

The following three documents have been posted at <http://www.arctic-caribou.com/> (see “What’s New” on right side of page):

- 1 Detailed Plan (5.5 MB, 117 pages) – the complete technical version of the plan with 10 appendices and 20 maps.
- 2 Summary (3 MB, 20 pages) – the plain language version that describes the content of the complete plan and includes photos, illustrations and two maps.
- 3 Overview (1 MB, 2 pages) – an abbreviated plain language description of the plan with photos in a brochure format.

The 20 maps are posted as individual pdfs (about 1 MB each) on the website as well.

Hard copies of the Summary and Overview have been printed and will be widely distributed.

For more information, visit [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com).

### Publisher’s Box

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