

CARIBOU NEWS

in Brief

Keeping people in touch with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB), and with issues affecting caribou.



Volume 21 No. 1 • Summer 2018

BQCMB MEETING #86

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2018

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Barren-Ground Caribou Species at Risk

During the spring meeting of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan from May 8-10, 2018, Board members and guests heard two presentations about proposals for Species-at-Risk (SAR) status of barren-ground caribou.

NWT Species at Risk (SAR)

First, Michele Grabke from the NWT Wildlife Division presented an update on the NWT Species at Risk consultation and recovery planning processes. In February 2018 the NWT Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) approved a recommendation by the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) to list eight NWT barren-ground caribou herds (excluding the Porcupine herd) as a species at risk with "threatened" status under the Species at Risk (NWT) Act. The NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has until July 11th to decide if the listing will go ahead.

Grabke explained that numbers have declined by more than 85% for most NWT herds over the last 25 years due to climate change, predation, industrial development and habitat changes resulting from forest fires. Thus barren-ground caribou may become Endangered

if no further action is taken to support recovery of the herds. If listed, a recovery strategy would be developed within a 2-year period. The NWT-SAR legislation applies everywhere in the NWT except national parks.

Board members expressed concern with the Threatened designation, as some fear a recovery strategy could impact traditional harvesting rights.

Grabke emphasized that "no automatic prohibitions" would result from listing under NWT legislation.

Brett Elkin, Wildlife Director for the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) added that work on NWT species at risk by the SARC and CMA has been done with co-management boards like the BQCMB for many years and there is no interest in reinventing the wheel. Existing management plans would be fully referenced and used during recovery planning when applicable.

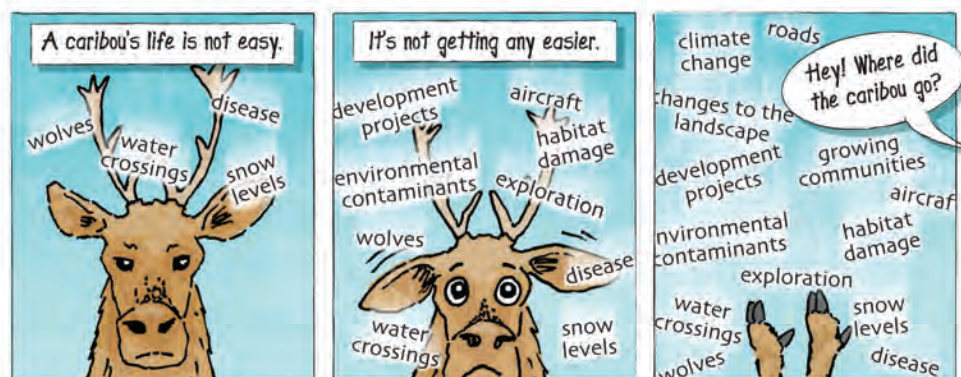
Former BQCMB Chair David Kritterdlik of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) stated that 25-30 years ago the BQCMB "used to talk about the herds becoming threatened. We had a list of things to follow when initiating a recovery plan for caribou."

Continued on page 3

- The NWT Species at Risk Committee (NWT-SARC) is a group of independent experts with Indigenous traditional knowledge (TK), community knowledge or science about NWT species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation.
- The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) consists of members from the four wildlife co-management boards established through land claims and three governments that share management responsibility for species at risk in the NWT.

Options for NWT SAR listing:

- NWT species are assessed, and if determined to be at risk are recommended for listing under NWT legislation in one of five categories:
 - ◊ **Extinct:** no longer exists anywhere in the world.
 - ◊ **Extirpated:** no longer exists in the wild in a particular region (Canada or NWT), but exists elsewhere.
 - ◊ **Endangered:** facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
 - ◊ **Threatened:** likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
 - ◊ **Special Concern:** may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.



*Do you know someone who should be mentioned in "People and Caribou?"
Email us at caribounews@outlook.com!*

People and Caribou

Special Guest

A surprise visitor attended part of the BQCMB spring meeting in Prince Albert. Chief *Louis Mercredi* of Fond du Lac First Nation took the opportunity to remind those in attendance that "the Dene people have been sharing long into the past and it is part of how they survive."

He also reflected on changes taking place across the range. "There are changes related to climate that will affect our way of harvest in years to come. In the past old people used to go far, far out on the barrens to harvest muskox with dog travois (two-poled sled pulled by dogs) to haul their supplies and poles would wear down to half their length. Young people don't realize that changes are occurring."

He emphasized that traditional knowledge is lost when elders are unable to attend BQCMB meetings. "The Board needs to start lobbying for funding to send members to these meetings," he said. "When meetings come up they are always down south and should be up in the north. If meetings are held in the north there will be more input from elders who are not able to travel south."

Contaminants Monitoring in Qamanirjuaq Caribou

Mary Gamberg has been leading studies of contaminants in the Porcupine caribou herd funded by the Northern Contaminants Program for a number of years. With the help of Arviat hunters, Gamberg and her team have been taking kidney, liver and muscle samples of Qamanirjuaq caribou since 2006. They collect these samples to study changes in the levels of contaminants in kidneys and livers of caribou, and to try to better understand how and why they build up in caribou the way they do.

In fall 2017 samples from 17 caribou (10 bulls; 7 cows) were collected from Arviat. Kidneys were tested for a range of contaminants including mercury, cadmium, copper, arsenic, selenium and lead (as they are every year) while livers are being tested for new contaminants. They learned that mercury levels are lower in 2016 than they were in 2015.

Contaminant data from the Qamanirjuaq, Ahiak, Bathurst, Beverly, Southampton Island, and Dolphin and Union caribou was also submitted to Health Canada last November. Based on its assessment, the GN (Department of Health) has determined that no health advisory is required for caribou in Nunavut.

"This means, of course, that caribou continues to be not only pretty tasty, but also a very healthy food choice," says Gamberg.

The report is available in English and Inuktitut. For more information, contact Mary Gamberg at 867-334-3360 or mary.gamberg@gmail.com.

"This means that caribou continues to be not only pretty tasty, but also a very healthy food choice."

Mary Gamberg



BQCMB member Napoleon Denecheze, Northlands Denesuline First Nation, Lac Brochet, MB (l) and guest Chief Louis Mercredi, Fond du Lac First Nation, SK.

Photo by Lynne Berera

Passing of an Elder

The BQCMB was saddened to learn of the passing of *Angus Tsannie* of Wollaston Lake, SK on June 12. Angus was an elder that attended several BQCMB meetings. BQCMB member *Tim Trottier* says "I cannot remember a community meeting in Wollaston that Angus did not attend. He was always there, and a welcoming sort of person. His wisdom and advice was much appreciated." Trottier also acknowledged former BQCMB member *George Tsannie*, who made it possible for Angus to attend some past board meetings through his own resources. "It was a privilege to have the elder present. He will be missed."

Farewell

Ron Robillard, BQCMB member representing the communities of Northern Saskatchewan, resigned from the Board effective May 2018. Ron was appointed in 2015.



Photo by Tina Giroux

Tim Trottier noted that Robillard "has been working behind the scenes to highlight the importance of the BQCMB and stress the need for the Board to be funded fully." He expressed appreciation for Robillard's dedication.

Chiefs from the three Athabasca Denesuline communities are planning to meet soon and recommend another representative.

Status of

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Herds

The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (GN-DOE), with support from Manitoba Sustainable Development (MB-SD) and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), conducted a Qamanirjuaq calving ground photo survey in June 2017.

While the 2017 population estimate is slightly higher than the 2014 estimate, it still indicates a continued slow decline. The survey points to a decline of about 2% per year since 2008. This rate of decline is less than expected given the stresses the herd is dealing with, including meat sales. As a herd declines it also becomes less resilient to all of the effects that threaten it.

According to *Mitch Campbell*, BQCMB member representing the GN-DOE, “The GN is being proactive with its surveys in part due to the experience of the Bathurst herd, which was at similar levels as the Qamanirjuaq herd and then dropped off drastically.” An added complication is that some Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), as well as the GN, believe the herd has had some Lorillard caribou mix in with it, which would result in a slight increase in numbers.

As for the Beverly herd, Campbell says there is enough information to be extremely concerned that the herd is not doing well. “All the indicators point to a steep decline.” The GN is conducting another population survey on the Beverly herd this June.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Caribou is a renewable resource for people of the caribou ranges. Nunavut accounted for about 60% of the harvest of the Qamanirjuaq herd in 2005/06. The economic value of the total annual harvest from both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds that year was estimated at \$20 million, with Nunavut's harvest accounting for almost half of that total value (\$9.5 million). The GN-DOE estimates the economic value of the current caribou harvest in Nunavut to be closer to \$15 million each year.



“Species at Risk” - Continued from page 1

Tim Trottier, BQCMB member representing Saskatchewan Environment (SK-ENV), explained that a list of harvest allocation priorities established by the BQCMB is included in its current Management Plan. “It gives first priority to making sure caribou are first available and sufficient to meet the needs of caribou people for sustenance. Commercial use is at the bottom of the priority list,” he explained.

Proposed Federal Listings

Board members were also concerned with a proposed Species-at-Risk “Threatened” designation by the Government of Canada for all barren-ground caribou herds in Canada, presented by *Shannon Stotyn*, from Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS). (The federal definition of “threatened” is “likely to become endangered unless threats are addressed”, and “endangered” as “likely to disappear from Canada if immediate action is not taken”.

Stotyn presented an overview of the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and explained the assessment process followed by COSEWIC

(Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), an independent advisory panel, as well as the federal consultation and recovery planning processes.

She explained that most Canadian herds have declined dramatically – estimated at 56% over the past three caribou generations (27 years). Currently there are 800,000 barren-ground caribou in Canada, down from over two million in the early 1990s. “Population levels naturally fluctuate,” she explained. “However, there is no sign of recovery at this time.” COSEWIC assessed barren-ground caribou in 2016 and recommended listing as “threatened” under SARA to the federal Minister of Environment. The federal pre-listing consultation process has begun and comments will be accepted until October 2018.

ECCC-CWS is going to meet with individual communities to get input on their concerns. Both Trottier and *Drikus Gissing*, Wildlife Director for the Government of Nunavut (GN) recommended that ECCC staff talk to territorial and provincial wildlife departments first and ask their biologists with established

relationships with the communities to accompany them to community meetings. Having people along whom community members are used to talking to about barren-ground caribou and who have knowledge of the herds in their regions would help add credibility to the process. “Community members in caribou-using communities will only listen and agree if they are consulted so they understand each step of the process,” said *Napoleon Denechezhe*, from Northlands Denesuline First Nation in Lac Brochet, MB.

Stotyn emphasized that SARA recognizes the essential role of traditional knowledge in wildlife conservation, and that Aboriginal TK is included in COSEWIC assessments.

Louis Josie, from Hatched Lake First Nation, SK agreed the need for traditional knowledge in any decision-making is paramount. “Back in the old days the elders knew the caribou was declining, even without technology,” he said. “Elders all used to say that caribou is our livelihood. We are the caribou eaters. We’ve lived on it all our lives. Don’t give our traditional way of life away.”

Continued on page 8

“Community members in caribou-using communities will only listen and agree if they are consulted so they understand each step of the process.”

Napoleon Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation, Lac Brochet, MB

Around the Range

Exploration Projects Raise Concern

The Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) has lifted a temporary ban on issuing exploration permits on calving and post-calving areas in Inuit-owned land, and is instead planning to issue permit conditions that include Mobile Caribou Conservation Measures (MCCM) that include seasonal restrictions on activities. This has opened the door for companies to apply to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) to conduct exploration projects in Nunavut.

North Country Gold Corp. (owned by Auryn Resources) has applied to NIRB for a permit amendment to expand the exploration project that they started last summer into the Qamanirjuaq calving and post-calving area (at the north side of the area, between Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet).

The BQCMB's position is that no industrial development activities should be allowed on calving and post-calving areas—period. The Board believes it is critical that the NIRB apply a precautionary approach and not allow this project to conduct mineral exploration activities on the core calving and post-calving areas of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd.

Another project causing concern for some is the Agnico-Eagle Huckleberry Exploration Project, at the eastern edge of the Qamanirjuaq calving ground. Concerns result largely because this area has been used regularly by the herd as an access route to the calving ground, and also because a road will likely be planned between Whale Cove and the project site should a mine be feasible. There were, however, different reactions from communities in the region, with some opposed and some in favour. As a result

the NIRB recommended that the project proposal be permitted.

One community that is in favour is the Hamlet of Whale Cove, which is trying to work closely with Agnico-Eagle. David Kritterdlik told the BQCMB “the Hamlet Council and HTO are in favour because we believe we now have organizations in Nunavut to protect the land and wildlife.” He stressed that all governments and Inuit know there are conditions that mining and exploration companies have to work under when the caribou come through.

The BQCMB's position is that no industrial development activities should be allowed on calving and post-calving areas—period.

Other organizations responded to NIRB's request for comments on the proposal as follows:

- **Baker Lake HTO:** asked for a moratorium on exploration until the herd was in better shape.
- **Athabasca Denesuline:** requested the NIRB not issue a permit for this proposal or any other that could impact calving grounds, and recommended the project be subject to full review, rather than just a screening process.

- **BQCMB:** urged the NIRB to either recommend that the proposed exploration activities not be permitted or conduct a full and transparent public review of the project, and also recommended that cumulative effects assessment be conducted at a regional scale.

At the spring BQCMB meeting members reviewed a GN map of the routes that collared caribou have followed over the past 20 years during the spring migration and calving. Based on this information it appears likely that any potential road and other infrastructure established to support a mine at that site may impact caribou calving grounds and the herd's access to this crucial habitat.

The BQCMB's submissions on these two projects can be viewed at arctic-caribou.com/library/comments-on-issues/.

Kivalliq Meat Sales Update

Social pressures against people using the Internet for selling caribou meat have increased. People who are traditional hunters and those who are aware that the Qamanirjuaq herd is declining are reproaching those selling meat, and that may be helping to take the pressure off the herd.

“Most people don't believe in selling caribou meat,” said Mitch Campbell. “Giving away meat to family and friends is a more acceptable practice.” At the same time, people are allowed under the Nunavut land claim to sell it, so small numbers of Inuit continue to do so.

According to information provided by Calm Air, the number of people using their airline to ship



Photo by Bruno Croft, GNWT

“If a hunter can’t go out and put meat on the table fairly, he shouldn’t be out hunting.”

Earl Evans, Chair, BQCMB

caribou meat has declined. Airlines that continue to offer free or subsidized shipping rates contribute to the problem.

Other sources have expressed concern not only about the amounts being shipped, but also that meat quality declines when meat sits in warehouses for considerable time.

The HTOs, the GN and the BQCMB need to have an accurate figure for the amount of caribou meat being shipped each year in order to make recommendations for harvest.

Hunters Using Drones “Cheating”

Proposed legislation that would ban NWT residents from using drones while hunting only makes sense, according to BQCMB Chair *Earl Evans*. Drones can be used to find where animals are roaming over large areas, giving hunters an edge. Evans told CBC news in a recent interview that “It’s an unfair advantage to the hunter. The animals wouldn’t have a chance.”

He said if the drone ban proposal doesn’t go through, “wildlife populations will be dramatically reduced because it’s so much easier for people to locate animals.” Evans is in favour of fair chase, and wants to see everyone banned from using drones, including those with Aboriginal treaty rights.

“If a hunter can’t go out and put meat on the table fairly, he shouldn’t be out hunting.”

Full story: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/wildlife-legislation-nwt-input-1.4660360

Study Argues Caribou Decline due to Impacts from Mineral Exploration

A new study argues that the cumulative effects of mineral exploration, not Indigenous hunting, is the cause of declining caribou populations. “The scapegoat is the Indigenous person who depends on caribou for subsistence,” says the paper’s author, *Brenda Parlee*, an Associate Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta.

Parlee and her co-authors found peaks in the amount of mineral staking in the 1990s and 2000s corresponded with falling caribou num-

bers. “It’s easier to point the finger at somebody with a gun than it is to look at the more complicated problem of habitat disturbance.”

“The amount of caribou being harvested today is a fraction of what it would have been 20, 30 years ago. We’re distracting people from what is a more central or problematic issue.”

Noise, dust, roads and seismic lines from exploration camps all linger and add up, she says.

“You have a very fragmented landscape as a result of exploration. Elders say it can be over 100 years before caribou habitat recovers.”

Instead of restricting a vital food that lies at the heart of Dene culture, the territory should focus on land-use planning to protect caribou ranges, suggests Parlee.

Full story: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/caribou-hunting-quotas-scapegoat-1.4557488

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Government of Canada has vocally opposed opening an area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska to oil drilling. The BQCMB supports this position for protection of the Porcupine caribou herd, one of the largest and healthiest herds in North America.

However, members are concerned with the inconsistency of the federal government’s position on caribou calving ground protection. The government’s position is for protection of the calving ground of a healthy herd like the Porcupine caribou, but for herds that are believed to be in decline, like the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, it has opposed protection being proposed through the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

Half of the Bathurst historic range overlaps with the historic Beverly range, so any impact on this portion of the Bathurst range will impact the Beverly range also. The BQCMB has been attending meetings regarding the Plan as an observer. The final draft Range Plan was circulated in January with a request for comments by March. A meeting of the Working Group was held in May, and the final document will likely be reviewed over the summer.*

Caribou Harvest Reporting

The BQCMB has been developing a caribou harvest reporting project since late 2016 in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut in partnership with several HTOs. The BQCMB is grateful for financial support from the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan and WWF-Canada.

BQCMB biologist *Leslie Wakelyn* has conducted two meetings in each of four Kivalliq communities that harvest from the Qamanirjuaq herd—Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove—to ensure the project is based on their suggestions. A harvest calendar and other interview materials have been developed and are being translated into Inuktitut.

HTOs to take the lead

The HTOs will hire local people to help recruit caribou harvesters to participate in the project, provide participants with information (in English and Inuktitut), and conduct two sets of interviews about their community’s harvest and observations about caribou.

The information will be collected anonymously and belong to the HTOs. The BQCMB will use summary information about Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest numbers to conduct its vulnerability assessment of the herd and to show how valuable the herd is to the communities and regions that use it.

Multi-jurisdictional project

Wakelyn explained that this is meant to be part of a project that uses Qamanirjuaq harvest information from across the herd’s range.

Government departments for all four caribou range jurisdictions – Nunavut, NWT, Manitoba and Saskatchewan - will be providing harvest data they collect from resident hunters, outfitted hunts and other commercial harvests where appropriate.

The Athabasca Denesuline and GNWT will provide summary harvest information for the relevant SK and NWT communities.

Look for upcoming poster contests in the Northwest Territories and northern Saskatchewan caribou range schools this fall!

Youth and Caribou

BQCMB Poster & Prose Contest – Northern Manitoba

During the BQCMB's 85th meeting in Prince Albert, Board members were called upon to select the winners of the BQCMB's spring 2018 Poster & Prose Contest.

Like last fall's contest in Nunavut, the theme was again the BQCMB's "You Can Make a Difference – Caribou for the Future" campaign. This time, however, the contest was held in northern Manitoba schools.

Students from grade 7-12 were invited to focus their posters on one of the campaign's three themes: respectful caribou harvest, the importance of harvest reporting, and cumulative effects on caribou.

The BQCMB congratulates all winners, and thanks all students who submitted artwork!

The contest was made possible with generous funding from the Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (FWEF).



Pictured left to right, back row:

Eldrid Bighetty, 1st prize (pictured at top right); Shyanne Beardy, Honourable mention; Ciara Bighetty, 3rd prize (pictured middle right); Izzy Bighetty, 2nd prize (pictured bottom-right); Ms. Eileen Bishop with Jada Brust's art

Front row: Gabriel Linklater, Honourable mention

Inset: Jada Brust, Honourable mention

All students are from Leaf Rapids Education Centre, Leaf Rapids, MB



For more information on these BQCMB educational funding opportunities, visit:

arctic-caribou.com/projects/education/

On-the-Land-Program

Each year, the BQCMB earmarks some funds to caribou-range community-based projects that target school-age youth. This gives kids a chance to gain new knowledge by learning from seasoned hunters, trappers and elders. In recent years, these “on the land” experiences have taken place with youth from Lutsel K’e NWT; Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Hatchet Lake, SK; and Tadoule Lake and Lac Brochet, MB among others.

This year’s grant to a Nunavut organization has already been awarded to the Arviat Young Hunters Program, a community-run initiative that teaches young boys and girls in the coastal Arctic town traditional Inuit hunting techniques.

Many youth in Arviat, as in many northern communities, don’t know how to hunt and instead of eating country food, are more interested in processed food that isn’t good for their health.

That’s why every Young Hunters program has three parts: short hunting trips, shop lessons where participants learn to make tools, and classroom sessions with elders who teach them why they hunt.

The program teaches them traditional cultural practices and instils a better understanding of traditional Inuit values.

Thanks to the Charleswood Rotary Club in Winnipeg MB for funding the Manitoba camps this year, including Lac Brochet’s 2018 Cultural Camp. Funds from this donation have also been set aside for similar youth experiences in Tadoule Lake, MB.

Applications are still being accepted for 2018-19 On-the-Land projects from Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou range communities in the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

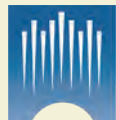
Gunther Abrahamson Caribou Research and Management Award

Since 1988, the BQCMB has helped post-secondary students learn more about the management and conservation of barren-ground caribou and their habitat through its Caribou Research and Management Award, sponsored by the BQCMB Scholarship Fund.

In 2016, the BQCMB renamed the Award the Gunther Abrahamson Caribou Research and Management Award, in honour of a BQCMB founder and long-time Secretary-Treasurer, the late Gunther Abrahamson.

The BQCMB Scholarship Committee has awarded the 2018 Gunther Abrahamson Caribou Research and Management Award of \$1,500 to *Andrea Hanke* for her project, “Traditional Knowledge in Dolphin and Union Caribou Health Monitoring”.

The annual award is administered by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) and is open to anyone enrolled at a college or university who is studying barren-ground caribou and/or their range in Canada, from either a western science or traditional knowledge perspective.



Association of Canadian
Universities for
Northern Studies



Photos by Pierre Bernier

Pictured top to bottom:

- Looking forward to On-the-Land-camp.
- Students enjoying a snack.
- Elders teach youth how to use all parts of the caribou.
- Pierre Bernier, Principal of Petit Casimir Memorial School in Lac Brochet, helping out at camp.

Funding Still an Issue

During the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) spring meeting in Prince Albert, SK a common refrain was heard around the Board table—why is the Government of Saskatchewan not fulfilling its commitment to bring its community members to meetings? Those who did attend were funded through their First Nations, not the Government of Saskatchewan, and one member was unable to secure funding to attend, therefore missing another meeting.

An additional problem noted yet again is that neither the governments of Saskatchewan or Manitoba have contributed the funding for Board operations that their Ministers committed to provide for ten years, beginning in 2012. While Manitoba has indicated it will contribute its full amount for 2018 as well as the shortfall for 2017, Saskatchewan will again only be providing a portion (\$10,000) of its annual contribution to the Board.

But it is about more than money—Indigenous traditional and local knowledge is missing when community members from Saskatchewan and Manitoba cannot attend. “The caribou are these peoples’ lives,” stressed Chair Earl Evans. “Without caribou they die. Caribou is life for other animals and it’s life for the people. We need to have our funding and we need to have it on time so we can have these people back at the table.”

The Board is thankful for successful funding and collaborative partnerships with a number of other government and non-government organizations, without which the Board would not be able to continue much of its work.*

“Species at Risk” - Continued from page 3

Comments from the NWT, NU, and YU on the federal SAR proposal should be sent to:

ec.sarnt-lepnt.ec@canada.ca

Comments from MB, SK and AB on the federal SAR proposal should be sent to:

ec.leprpn-sarapnr.ec@canada.ca

If barren-ground caribou is listed on the SARA, a recovery plan must be developed and critical habitat defined. Automatic prohibitions on harvest would be put in place, but only on federal lands and protection of existing rights would have precedence.

People attending the BQCMB meeting had many questions about what a listing would mean to caribou harvesters, but the answers were far from clear.

Communities or organizations with meeting requests should submit them as soon as possible to allow them to be held before the federal consultation period ends on **October 22nd**.

Heard around the BQCMB Table:

“The community members are our eyes and ears on the ground, but if they can’t get to the meetings and get the information out, nobody knows about it. The funding is a big stumbling block.”

BQCMB Chair Earl Evans

“80% of my food comes from the land, not the store. The cost of living is very high, especially when you are raising kids. We need to get across to the government that this (funding the BQCMB) is huge. We can’t just sit back and let this happen. ...my traditional knowledge is my religion. That is how I was raised. We are missing out on 50% of the community board members.”

Ron Fatt, Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation
Lutsel K’e, NWT (pictured below, right)

“In the past, local knowledge has sometimes been ignored where it could have been a lot of help. The majority of us are looking at how much better can we do.”

David Kritterdlik
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

“The whole concept of hunters and trappers in each community is really important, to meet regularly and to gather data from the hunters. With the land claims being organized it is becoming more important. I admire the Inuit and how they use the HTOs as a voice for the Inuit people.”

Ernie Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation,
Tadoule Lake, MB

“There used to be a lot of caribou and other animals when there was less disturbance from planes and snowmobiles. But even then the government didn’t talk to people before going ahead and doing things.”

Joe Martin, Fond du Lac First Nation,
Fond du Lac, SK (pictured below, left)

Publisher’s Box



Caribou News in Brief is published by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.
ISSN 1489-3436.

Opinions expressed are those of the editor and contributors.
Back issues available at www.arctic-caribou.com. Comments and suggestions may be sent to:
Caribou News in Brief, c/o Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

Executive Director: Ross Thompson, P.O. Box 629, Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0
E-mail: rossthompson@mymts.net

or

Editor: Lynne Bereza at caribounews@outlook.com

Website: www.arctic-caribou.com



Photo by Lynne Bereza