

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

27TH ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009



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Cover photo: Caribou running through a blizzard. Photo by Devon Killulark of Baker Lake, Nunavut.

Board Meetings Held 1982 to 2008

#1	August	1982	Saskatoon	SK	#34	January	1994	Winnipeg	MB
#2	January	1983	Edmonton	AB	#35	April	1994	Baker Lake	NU
#3	March	1983	Lutsel K'e	NT	#36	September	1994	Winnipeg	MB
#4	June	1983	Yellowknife	NT	#37	January	1995	Prince Albert	SK
#5	September	1983	Black Lake	SK	#38	April	1995	Black Lake	SK
#6	January	1984	Winnipeg	MB	#39	September	1995	Thompson	MB
#7	April	1984	Rankin Inlet	NU	#40	February	1996	Whale Cove	NU
#8	August	1984	Fort Smith	NT	#41	June	1996	Lutselk'e	NT
#9	November	1984	Saskatoon	SK	#42	November	1996	Winnipeg	MB
#10	April	1985	Baker Lake	NU	#43	June	1997	Wollaston	SK
#11	August	1985	Whitehorse	YK	#44	November	1997	Thompson	MB
#12	November	1985	Edmonton	AB	#45	May	1998	Tadoule Lake	MB
#13	April	1986	Thompson	MB	#46	November	1998	Fort Smith	NT
#14	August	1986	Arviat	NU	#47	May	1998	Arviat	NU
#15	April	1987	Saskatoon	SK	#48	November	1999	Winnipeg	MB
#16	August	1987	Winnipeg	MB	#49	May	2000	Churchill	MB
#17	November	1987	Fort Smith	NT	#50	November	2000	Winnipeg	MB
#18	April	1988	Winnipeg	MB	#51	June	2001	Black Lake	SK
#19	August	1988	Stony Rapids	SK	#52	November	2001	Yellowknife	NT
#20	November	1988	Winnipeg	MB	#53	May	2002	Baker Lake	NU
#21	April	1989	Baker Lake	NU	#54	November	2002	Winnipeg	MB
#22	August	1989	Lac Brochet	MB	#55	May	2003	Fond du Lac	SK
#23	December	1989	Winnipeg	MB	#56	November	2003	Winnipeg	MB
#24	April	1990	Fond du Lac	SK	#57	May	2004	Fort Smith	NT
#25	August	1990	Lutselk'e	NT	#58	November	2004	Winnipeg	MB
#26	December	1990	Winnipeg	MB	#59	May	2005	Rankin Inlet	NU
#27	March	1991	Yellowknife	NT	#60	November	2005	Winnipeg	MB
#28	August	1991	Prince Albert	SK	#61	May	2006	Prince Albert	SK
#29	December	1991	Fort Smith	NT	#62	November	2006	Winnipeg	MB
#30	April	1992	Arviat	NU	#63	June	2007	Thompson	MB
#31	December	1992	Uranium City	SK	#64	November	2007	Winnipeg	MB
#32	April	1993	Winnipeg	MB	#65	May	2008	Fort Smith	NT
#33	September	1993	Prince Albert	SK	#66	November	2008	Winnipeg	MB

Glossary

BQCMCB:	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
CARMA:	CircumArctic <i>Rangifer</i> Monitoring & Assessment network
CIMP:	Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT)
ENR:	Environment and Natural Resources, Department of (GNWT)
GN:	Government of Nunavut
GNWT:	Government of the Northwest Territories
HTO:	Hunters and Trappers Organization
INAC:	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MVEIRB:	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
MVLWB:	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
NIRB:	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NLCA:	<i>Nunavut Land Claims Agreement</i>
NPC:	Nunavut Planning Commission
NWMB:	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT:	Northwest Territories
PAGC:	Prince Albert Grand Council

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Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
House of Commons
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The Hon. Stan Struthers, Minister
Manitoba Conservation
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Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

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Ministry of Environment, Saskatchewan
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Department of Environment and Natural
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Department of Environment, Nunavut
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Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

As requested by the provisions of the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement*, I am pleased to submit our annual report for 2008-2009.

Unfortunately, bad news prevailed this past year. In November 2008, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) confirmed that the Beverly barren-ground caribou herd – whose population was last estimated in 1994 at 276,000 – has suffered a major population decline, based on evidence from the GNWT's June 2007 and June 2008 reconnaissance surveys. The situation worsened in June 2009, when a third reconnaissance survey revealed that fewer than half the number of breeding cows counted on the Beverly calving ground in 2008 – 93 – were observed this year. This compares to 5,737 breeding cows counted during the 1994 survey.

Coupled with this is the Government of Nunavut (GN) preliminary draft 2008 population estimate for the Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herd of 345,000, down from the last population estimate of 496,000 in 1994. These declines echo the already documented population declines of five other barren-ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

These are extremely troubling developments for Northerners. A 2007 socio-economic report produced by InterGroup Consultants of Winnipeg estimated that the annual economic value of the Beverly caribou harvest was about \$4.9 million for 2005-2006, with five northern Saskatchewan communities accounting for most of the harvest. The estimated annual economic value of the Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest, meanwhile, was about \$15 million for 2005-2006, with the majority of the harvest taken by Nunavut communities, and some harvest by communities in northern

Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Clearly, though, with few Beverly caribou around now, hunters in recent years have been harvesting more caribou from the neighbouring Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq herds, whose ranges overlap with that of the Beverly herd.

In the face of this past year's revelations, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) assumed a leadership role. In November 2008, it issued a press release and conducted numerous media interviews in order to alert the public to the Beverly herd's dire situation. The Board held a special technical session in February 2009 and is now drafting a "Recipe for Recovery" action plan that will focus on improving the status of the Beverly herd, and strengthening efforts to conserve and manage the Qamanirjuaq and Ahiak herds. Governments, the BQCMB and other stakeholders would carry out the action plan.

Protecting the Beverly herd calving ground, obtaining accurate harvest statistics, reducing wastage, encouraging hunters to select bulls over cows, and ensuring that the Beverly herd, as well as the Qamanirjuaq and Ahiak herds, continue to be monitored are all key ingredients. The BQCMB also urges governments to implement the caribou management strategy for declining herds with low numbers, as prescribed in the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan (2005-2012)*.

At the same time, the BQCMB is seeking funding to host a stakeholders workshop after its regular fall 2009 Board meeting (likely to be held in February 2010). Once input on the draft action plan is received from stakeholders, the plan will be finalized and sent to governments and other organizations as recommendations for further action.

Given the perilous situation with the Beverly herd and, to a lesser extent, the Qamanirjuaq herd, the BQCMB continues to be very concerned about the cumulative impacts of land use activities on caribou. As of April 2009, there were 714 prospecting permits, mineral claims and mineral leases on the Beverly calving ground, and 239 on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground. The BQCMB believes there should be no mineral exploration or development on the herds' traditional calving grounds, a position the Board has long publicized. However, the BQCMB is not against mining – another position the Board frequently reiterates. The BQCMB is actively working with industry as well as non-government organizations that have come forward to help. WWF-Canada and AREVA Resources Canada have provided funding for years to help the BQCMB carry out caribou management initiatives such as gathering and circulating information, and monitoring caribou, while Cameco Corporation provided funding in 2008-2009.

Many mining companies want to operate sustainably and co-operatively to preserve the environment and resources. But they cannot do that unless governments carry out their responsibility to protect the caribou. Section B-2 of the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement* states that "[s]upport shall be provided by the parties hereto to the Board in its efforts to achieve coordinated management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds by responding promptly to recommended measures." The governments of Canada,

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NWT and Nunavut – the signatories to this Agreement – have still not implemented the BQCMB's recommendations to protect the herds and their habitats as outlined in the position paper, *Protecting Calving Grounds, Post-Calving Areas and Other Important Habitats for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou*, **published five years ago in 2004**.

The position paper's most important recommendation is to designate traditional calving grounds and post-calving areas as legally protected areas. Had this recommendation been implemented when the BQCMB's position paper was released years ago, perhaps the embattled Beverly caribou herd would not be in such a vulnerable state today.

The BQCMB, now in its 27th year of operation, continues to provide help and support to caribou-range communities, hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs), and other groups that may not have the resources or expertise to speak out on caribou-related matters. Communities ask the BQCMB for such assistance and the Board is honoured to carry out this key responsibility.

Again this year, most of the BQCMB's resources were directed towards technical review in land use processes to help protect the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their habitats. Our Board commented in detail on land use applications submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on applications that had impacts for caribou in sensitive habitats and/or during vulnerable periods such as calving (for more details, turn to "Summary of Board Activities, Recommendations and Responses" on page 16). The BQCMB also made a presentation to the NIRB's scoping and guideline development workshop on Uravan Minerals Incorporated's precedent-setting Garry Lake proposal, held in Baker Lake, Nunavut in November 2008. Not only is the Garry Lake property on the core Beverly calving ground, but during the GNWT's June 2008 reconnaissance survey, the few cows that were found were all directly south of Garry Lake. Opposition to the Garry Lake proposal has been widespread and strong. The BQCMB is indebted to supporters everywhere who spoke out.

Other major BQCMB initiatives in 2008-2009 included ongoing efforts to involve youth in caribou management, an objective that is blossoming under the BQCMB's three-year-old community caribou hunt program. Meanwhile, the BQCMB's annual Caribou Management Board Scholarship Fund award, in place since 1988, provides funding and helps fan interest in caribou research among post-secondary students.

In 2008-2009, the migration route of the Qamanirjuaq herd deviated somewhat from patterns of past years. Caribou arrived in Nunavut from their winter range in late April and May, 2008. But while they first headed back to Manitoba in late August, they made an about-turn and returned to Nunavut briefly. By late September/October, the caribou had returned to Manitoba for a second time, and stayed in northern Manitoba until June 2009. On the other hand, what few caribou remain of the Beverly herd never ventured into their Saskatchewan winter range in 2008. Instead, they spent much of the summer south and east of the calving ground in Nunavut and NWT, and

never journeyed much further south. Satellite collaring location data for other barren-ground herds indicated that many caribou wintered north of the treeline in 2008.

The *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement* stipulates that the BQCMB provide a summary of caribou harvests by jurisdiction and community. Resident and commercial harvest is recorded by governments. However, harvest data for Aboriginal hunters have been difficult to obtain in recent years, as there is no territory- or province-wide systematic recording of Aboriginal harvest.

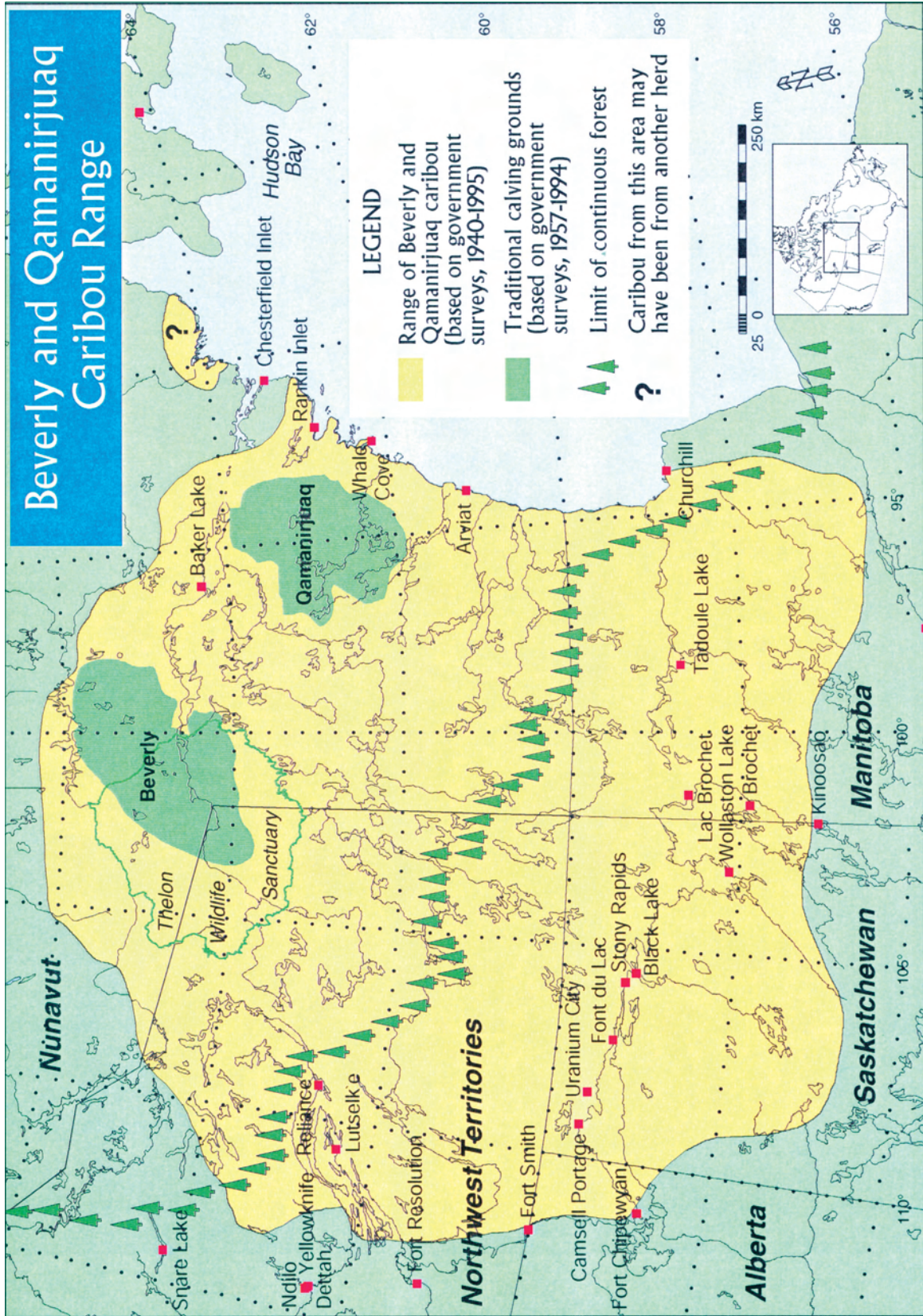
For 2008-2009, the BQCMB decided not to publish Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates for the Beverly herd. This is because evidence from three consecutive GNWT reconnaissance surveys conducted on the Beverly calving ground in 2007, 2008 and 2009 points to a serious and continuing population decline of the Beverly herd. Biologists with the governments of NWT and Saskatchewan have advised the BQCMB that there is not enough information to reliably estimate Aboriginal domestic harvest for 2008-2009 for communities in their jurisdictions that traditionally hunted Beverly caribou.

This also affects estimates for Qamanirjuaq harvest, as some communities that traditionally hunted Beverly caribou instead hunted Qamanirjuaq caribou in 2008-2009. Harvest estimates for Qamanirjuaq caribou in this annual report are only partial estimated harvests, based on incomplete data. The total is 9,460 to 9,960 caribou, which compares to an estimated 9,070 Qamanirjuaq animals harvested in 2007-2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Thorassie', with a stylized, cursive script.

Albert Thorassie
Chairman
September 23, 2009

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Range



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The Annual Caribou Cycle

Up until to 2008-2009, Beverly herd caribou were thought to be using their traditional range, which is in Saskatchewan and NWT, with portions in Nunavut, Manitoba and Alberta. However, recent reconnaissance surveys of the calving ground and satellite collar monitoring have raised serious questions about this herd's distribution and abundance.

Traditionally, though most caribou in the Beverly herd, and part of the Qamanirjuaq herd, winter in the subarctic forests of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and NWT. A very small portion of the Beverly range is in Alberta, too. In spring, the cows and yearlings are the first to migrate north to calving grounds on the tundra in Nunavut (and, for part of the Beverly calving ground, in NWT), followed by non-pregnant cows and young bulls. Adult bulls follow up to a month later. After calving in early June, the caribou begin to form larger groups. By mid-July, aggregations of many thousands, including adult males, may be found on calm days. This behaviour is a response to mosquito harassment, and it also reduces predation by wolves, concentrating the caribou in a small area. Beginning at the end of July, a rapid migration back to the vicinity of the treeline occurs. Then in August, the caribou disperse in response to warble flies and nose bot flies. In some years, a migration back towards the calving grounds takes place. The timing of the fall migration from tundra to taiga varies from October to December. The rut occurs in late October, usually within the forest-tundra ecozone. Mature bulls separate from the cow-calf-young bull groups soon after the rut. By November, most of the Beverly herd is in the forest once again but travel can still be rapid until snow accumulation deepens to 50 centimetres or more in February and March.

The "traditional calving grounds" are the same general areas that have been used for calving over the years. However, specific areas used for calving in a given year, known as "annual calving areas," vary from year to year. Caribou range used during other periods is less consistent and less predictable in space and time. The general area and specific habitats used by Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou are determined by a combination of many factors, including weather, snow melt, plant phenology, predator avoidance and traditional use of the range.

Given that the Beverly herd is now in a serious decline and that preliminary draft estimate from the June 2008 Qamanirjuaq population survey shows that the herd may have declined in size by almost a third, it's likely that a mix of factors are affecting these caribou, factors both human-caused and natural.

Population declines may be part of a natural cycle. Herd populations may also have been affected by exploration and development, hunter harvest, changes in habitat (including winter range being lost to forest fires), parasites and diseases, predation and climate change, as well as some mixing between caribou herds.

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

The Year in Review

2008–2009

Mission Statement

To safeguard the caribou of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds for traditional users who wish to maintain a lifestyle that includes the use of caribou, as well as for all Canadians and people of other nations.

Annual Report

The *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement* (2002) requires the Board to submit an annual report which shall include:

- a) a summary of Board activities, recommendations and responses by governments and traditional users;
- b) a review of the state of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their habitat;
- c) a summary of harvests by jurisdiction and community; and
- d) a financial statement for the operation of the Board.

The Board met twice during the year under review:

May 2008	Fort Smith, NWT
November 2008	Winnipeg, Manitoba

Board Officers

Up to November 2008:

Jerome Denechezhe	Chairman
Daryll Hedman	Vice-Chairman
Ross Thompson	Secretary-Treasurer

November 2008 - present:

Albert Thorassie	Chairman
Daryll Hedman	Vice-Chairman
Ross Thompson	Secretary-Treasurer

Board Contact Information

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E-mail: rossthompson@mts.net
Web site: www.arctic-caribou.com
BQCMB charitable registration number: 86620 7574 RR00

Board Members**Date Appointed**Manitoba

Representing the communities of Northern Manitoba:

Jerome Denechezhe (Lac Brochet) 03.06.82

Albert Thorassie (Tadoule Lake) 22.08.91

Alternate is Adam Nalge (Lac Brochet).

Representing the Government of Manitoba:

Daryll Hedman (Thompson) 15.02.04

Saskatchewan

Representing the communities of Northern Saskatchewan:

Dennis Larocque (Camsell Portage) 07.11.06

George Tsannie (Wollaston Lake) 04.06.07

Alternates are Pierre Robillard (Black Lake), Joe Martin (Fond du Lac), Daniel Augier (Uranium City) and Billy Shott (Uranium City).

Representing the Government of Saskatchewan:

Tim Trottier (La Ronge) 04.06.95

Alternate is Shawn Burke (Regina).

NWT

Representing the Northwest Territory Métis Nation:

Earl Evans (Fort Smith) 27.11.03

Alternate is Arthur Beck (Hay River).

Representing the Dene Nation:

Archie Catholique (Lutselk'e) 01.04.08

Alternate is Camilia Zoe-Chocolate (Lutselk'e).

Representing the Government of the Northwest Territories:

Up to May 2008: Deborah Johnson (Fort Smith)

15.03.02

May 2008 - present: Vacant

Alternate is Jan Adamczewski (Yellowknife).

Nunavut

Representing the Kivalliq Wildlife Board:

Thomas Elytook (Baker Lake)

23.05.06

Laurent Angalik (Arviat)

23.05.06

Alternates are Simeonie Sammurtok (Chesterfield Inlet)
and Peter Suwaksiork (Arviat).

Representing the Government of Nunavut:

Up to May 2008: Dan Shewchuk (Arviat)

02.05.02

May 2008 - present: interim member David Vetra (Arviat)

Alternate is Mitch Campbell (Arviat).

Canada

Representing the Government of Canada:

Up to May 2008: Carl McLean (Iqaluit)

22.11.06

May 2008 - present: Vacant

Alternate is Peter Kusugak (Iqaluit).

Summary of Board Activities, Recommendations and Responses

Activities

During the year under review (April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009), the BQCMB conducted the following activities.

Caribou Monitoring and Management

The BQCMB provided community observers in the air and funding on the ground to help two important caribou surveys take place this past year – the Qamanirjuaq calving ground population survey and a reconnaissance survey of the Beverly calving ground. Generous contributions from BQCMB partners made the funding efforts possible.

• BQCMB member Dennis Larocque of Camsell Portage, Saskatchewan and alternate member Pierre Robillard of Black Lake, Saskatchewan were among the community observers who participated in the GNWT's June 2008 systematic reconnaissance survey of the Beverly caribou calving ground. The two hunters were part of a team that surveyed flight lines over extensive areas around the Beverly calving ground to the west, east and south (as far as Lutselk'e, Baker Lake and Kasba Lake) to determine that caribou were not using other areas to calve. The GNWT's second consecutive reconnaissance survey observed even lower densities of caribou on the calving ground than in 2007 – only 93 breeding adult female caribou (cows) were counted along flight lines compared to 189 in 2007 and 5,737 in 1994 – indicating that the herd's decline had continued. While reconnaissance surveys don't estimate population sizes, they do provide information about the number of caribou on calving grounds during the calving period, which can be used to determine the population trend (increasing, decreasing or

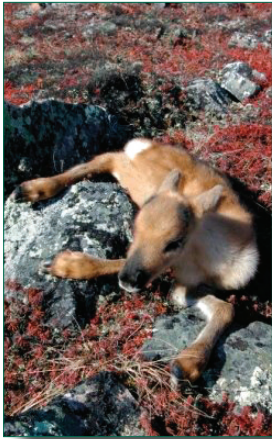
Photos by Karen Hunter



BQCMB member Dennis Larocque (left) and alternate member Pierre Robillard took part in the GNWT's June 2008 reconnaissance survey of the Beverly calving ground

stable). A calving ground photo survey could not be conducted in 2007 due to bad weather, so a population size for the herd could not be estimated. The last successful population census of the Beverly herd, conducted in 1994, estimated the herd's population at 276,000.

• In the months leading up to the June 2008 Qamanirjuaq calving ground population survey – the first census of that herd since 1994 – the BQCMB worked behind the scenes to help broker funding and logistical support



A calf seen during the June 2008 Qamanirjuaq population survey

for the \$314,000 undertaking. The survey was headed by Nunavut's Department of Environment under the direction of Kivalliq regional biologist and BQCMB alternate member Mitch Campbell, and the survey team comprised experts from Nunavut, Manitoba and NWT,

including Manitoba Conservation wildlife manager and BQCMB vice-chairman Daryll Hedman. A systematic reconnaissance survey was flown in advance over caribou migration corridors to determine that Qamanirjuaq cows had reached the calving ground. Official results of the survey have not yet been announced but the GN has stated that the preliminary draft 2008 population estimate for the Qamanirjuaq herd is 345,000. When the

Qamanirjuaq herd was last censused in 1994, its population was estimated at 496,000, so these preliminary 2008 results indicate that the herd may have declined. Spring composition surveys conducted in the three years prior to the 2008 calving ground survey found that the ratio of calves to cows had been falling, also suggesting that the herd might be declining.

- The BQCMB spent \$150,000 on caribou monitoring (research, collaring and surveys), information gathering, information sharing, and community relations and development of best practices and operations on the caribou ranges, drawing on the second year's annual allotment of \$25,000 from a five-year \$125,000 funding agreement with AREVA Resources Canada Inc., a \$25,000 first-time contribution from Cameco Corporation, and \$100,000 from the Government of Manitoba.
- Funding of \$7,500 from WWF-Canada continued to support BQCMB efforts to protect caribou and habitat.

Board Initiatives

With evidence of the Beverly herd's major population decline, the BQCMB launched a media campaign and demanded governments better protect both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. Other BQCMB initiatives this past year were not new but continued to be strongly embraced – the youth-elders caribou hunt program, the Caribou Management Board Scholarship Fund, and the Board's efforts to furnish maps and summary data on land use activities on the caribou ranges.

- In November 2008, upon learning of the major population decline in the Beverly herd, the BQCMB drafted a communications strategy demanding beefed-up protection for Beverly, as well as Qamanirjuaq, caribou and their habitats. The Board urged the governments of Nunavut, NWT, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada to follow the principles and goals of the *Beverly*

and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan (2005-2012). It gives direction on how to manage dwindling herds, supports caribou conservation and encourages people to use caribou wisely. Governments haven't necessarily followed the plan. In order to protect the Beverly caribou, the BQCMB also recommended the following:



Students from Peter Yassie Memorial School in Tadoule Lake, Manitoba (left) and Father Megret High School in Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan (below) learned important hunting and butchering skills from elders, hunters and others this past year during outings funded by the BQCMB's community caribou hunt program

Kirsten Rivard



1. Governments, regulators and others should use a "precautionary approach" on caribou-related decisions.
2. The federal government should reject Uravan Minerals Incorporated's permit application for uranium exploration at Garry Lake, Nunavut, on the core Beverly calving ground.
3. No additional mineral exploration on the Beverly traditional calving ground should be allowed.
4. The Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan should be implemented, now that the plan has been fully approved.
5. The Beverly calving ground should receive long-term legislated protection. (In its 2004 position paper, the BQCMB urged governments to make Beverly and Qamanirjuaq calving and post-calving areas permanent, legislated protected areas. This hasn't happened yet.)

- The success of the BQCMB's community caribou hunt program, now in its third year, is snowballing, with \$25,000 having been allotted in 2008-2009 to hunts in South Indian Lake and Tadoule Lake in Manitoba, Lutselk'e and Fort Smith in NWT, Wollaston Lake in Saskatchewan, and Arviat in Nunavut. Funding is available annually for communities in each of the four caribou range jurisdictions for projects ideally targeting school-age youth. The program is intended to give youth a chance to experience and learn from a caribou hunt. This includes learning from elders while out on the land. The hunts also furnish the

BQCMB with some general information about caribou body condition.

- Another BQCMB initiative that involves youth in caribou management is the Board's annual Caribou Management Board Scholarship Fund award for post-secondary students, in place since 1988. In 2008-2009, two scholarships worth \$1,500 each were awarded. One went to University of Alberta biological sciences student Liv Vors. The PhD candidate has been zeroing in on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds to examine the link between population fluctuations and factors like predation, disease, availability of summer food, human harvest, and the depth and hardness of snow. For the Beverly herd, Vors is studying body condition, size and other traits before and after a population peak, and for the Qamanirjuaq herd, how habitat use and migration times shift during the same periods. Computer models are helping her predict the influence of hunting, predation, weather, forage and disease on the health of the herds. The second BQCMB award went to veterinary medicine and biological sciences student Bryanne Hoar of the University of Calgary,

another PhD candidate. Hoar is studying how climate change affects the parasite *Ostertagia gruehneri*, which can cause decreased food intake, weight loss and reduced pregnancy rates.

- The BQCMB continued to monitor and inform others of land use activities taking place across the caribou ranges by co-ordinating the preparation of a map (current to April 2008) that shows mineral tenure and land use activities across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges in Saskatchewan, NWT, Nunavut and Manitoba. The map was created for the BQCMB by the Yellowknife office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). BQCMB members had been reviewing maps at each Board meeting to monitor changes in permitted land use activities (number, type and extent) and interest in minerals across the caribou ranges. This gives BQCMB members an indication of the potential cumulative effects of these activities on caribou and caribou habitat. The April 2008 map can be viewed on the Board's Web site at www.arctic-caribou.com.

Photos courtesy of ACUNS

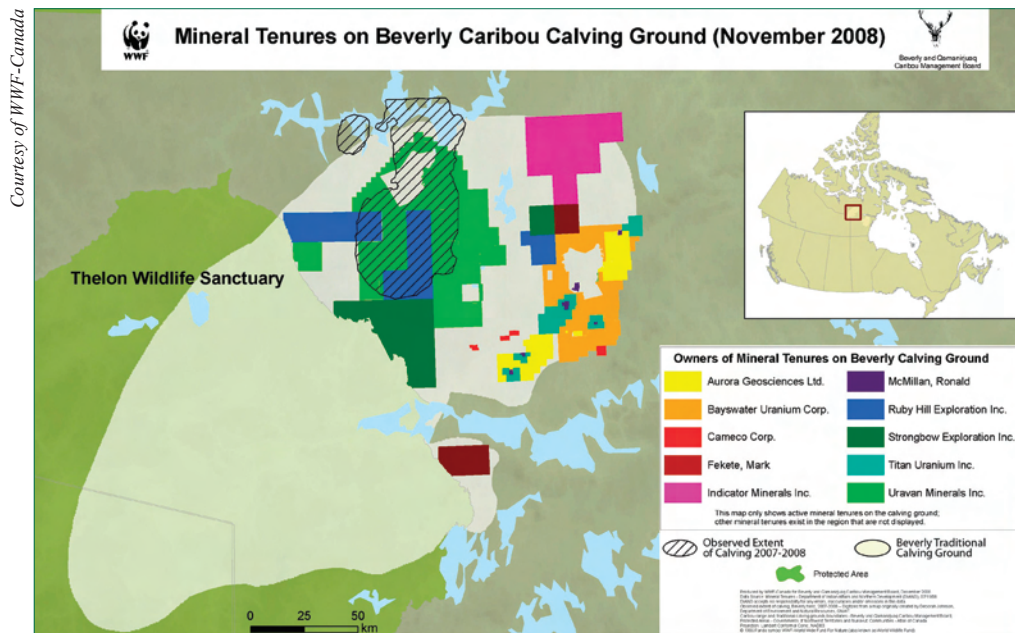


Caribou Management Scholarship Fund award winners Liv Vors (left) and Bryanne Hoar

- The BQCMB also worked with WWF-Canada's Toronto office to produce updated versions of three maps revealing companies and individuals with mineral tenure – prospecting permits, mineral claims or mineral leases – on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq traditional calving grounds in Nunavut. Maps showed tenures current to April 2008 and November 2008. Accompanying the maps were summary tables prepared by the BQCMB with details for each of the three types of mineral tenure, the year tenures were issued, the length of time they remain valid and the number of each type of mineral tenure that companies and individuals own. As of November 2008, there were 727 prospecting permits, mineral claims and mineral leases on the Beverly calving ground, and 255 on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground. Uravan Minerals Incorporated held the most mineral tenures on the Beverly calving ground, with 357 mineral claims. Fifty-seven new mineral tenures were issued by INAC on the Beverly calving ground

in 2008 – 49 mineral claims to Ruby Hill Exploration Inc., and 8 prospecting permits to Indicator Minerals Inc. Starfield Resources Inc. held the most mineral tenures on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground, with 125 mineral claims. This included 19 new mineral claims issued by INAC in 2008.

- Another map was created for the BQCMB by WWF-Canada showing the 2007 and 2008 Beverly calving areas identified by the GNWT through reconnaissance surveys, as well as mineral tenures held on the Beverly calving ground. This served to clearly illustrate which mining companies (in this case, Uravan Minerals Incorporated and Ruby Hill Exploration Inc.) hold mineral tenures on the core Beverly calving ground, including areas used most recently by the herd for calving. All WWF-Canada maps, along with the BQCMB's summary tables, are uploaded to the Board's Web site at www.arctic-caribou.com.



The areas with black lines show where GNWT reconnaissance survey team members observed calving in June 2007 and June 2008

Consultations and Presentations

The declines in the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq populations injected great urgency into BQCMB efforts, as with its presentation to the NIRB scoping and guideline development workshop on Uravan's Garry Lake proposal on core Beverly calving ground, and the BQCMB technical meeting held to find ways to help the Beverly herd recover. The Board also hosted a special session on cumulative effects research, consulted on land use planning issues, attended the 5th annual CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring & Assessment (CARMA) network meeting, and much more.



Photos courtesy of NIRB



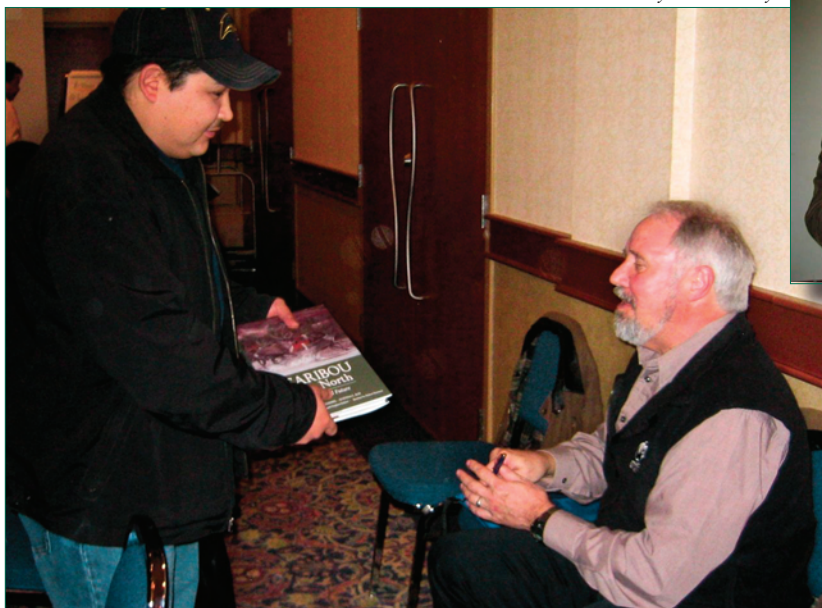
BQCMB secretary-treasurer Ross Thompson (right) speaks during the November 2008 NIRB scoping and guideline development workshop in Baker Lake, Nunavut for the environmental review of Uravan Minerals Incorporated's application for a land use permit for uranium exploration on the Beverly calving ground south of Garry Lake. Left: workshop participants check out maps

- The BQCMB held a special session at its May 2008 meeting as part of its role to gather, co-ordinate and convey information on cumulative effects studies, workshops and other initiatives. The session was intended to encourage discussion and identify how the BQCMB could promote monitoring and assessment of the cumulative effects of human land use activities on caribou, and support existing programs addressing the issue. At the special session, BQCMB members learned about projects in NWT and Nunavut that will determine how to monitor and assess cumulative effects. These

included:

- the NWT Environmental Stewardship Framework (formerly NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Framework and Environmental Management Framework). The framework's design and implementation has been co-ordinated by INAC, Environment Canada and the Environmental Stewardship Framework Steering Committee
- the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), created by INAC in

- 1999 and implemented by INAC and a CIMP working group, with caribou as one of 14 priority valued components
 - a Caribou-Cumulative Effects Modelling Project (created and co-ordinated by the GNWT's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or ENR)
 - the Thelon Cumulative Effects Study (led by INAC with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and other partners)
 - the Cumulative Impacts Management Framework for Nunavut being created by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), and
 - Caribou Impact Assessment and Monitoring Guidelines, being developed by University of Calgary graduate student Steve Lines.
- The BQCMB attended the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies Program Day event in October 2008, in part to find ways to raise the profile of the BQCMB's Caribou Management Scholarship Fund and to encourage more caribou-range community students to apply for the award.
 - At the request of WWF-Canada president emeritus Monte Hummel, the BQCMB reviewed the draft manuscript of *Caribou and the North: A Shared Future*, written by Hummel and Wildlife Conservation Society-Canada executive director Justina C. Ray. The book, geared largely to a southern audience, details the importance of caribou, including the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, and the threats they face today from climate change and widespread oil, gas and mineral exploration and development. The book includes forewords by actor/director Robert Redford and former



Photos by Leslie Wakelyn



BQCMB member Laurent Angalik (standing) receives a copy of *Caribou and the North: A Shared Future* from co-author and WWF-Canada president emeritus Monte Hummel. The BQCMB was asked to review the book's draft manuscript. At the book's Yellowknife launch in October 2008, BQCMB member Earl Evans (inset photo, far right) was one of several invited speakers. Former NWT premier Stephen Kakfwi (beside Evans) wrote a foreword to the book and emceed the book launch

NWT premier Stephen Kakfwi, and sketches by Canadian artist Robert Bateman. All royalties from sales of the book have been going toward caribou conservation. Hummel presented a book to each BQCMB member at the Board's November 2008 meeting and left more complimentary copies for distribution. In October 2008, BQCMB member Earl Evans of Fort Smith, NWT was one of several invited speakers at a book launch held in Yellowknife, which was emceed by Kakfwi. BQCMB staff in Yellowknife attended the launch.

- The BQCMB appeared before the November 2008 NIRB scoping and guideline development workshop in Baker Lake, Nunavut for the environmental review of Uravan Minerals Incorporated's application for a land use permit for uranium exploration on the Beverly calving ground south of Garry Lake. The BQCMB presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation explaining why the Board opposes Uravan's proposal to continue its exploration program on the core Beverly calving ground.

- In November 2008, the BQCMB attended a conference on cumulative effects assessment in Calgary, organized by the International Association for Impact Assessment. The BQCMB is researching the latest perspectives on measures that could shield caribou against environmental impacts that continue to pile up over time and space.

- In December 2008, CARMA – a circumpolar caribou/reindeer monitoring and assessment network – paid the travel costs of two BQCMB representatives to attend its fifth annual meeting. BQCMB member Earl Evans and BQCMB biologist Leslie Wakelyn made the trip to Vancouver, British Columbia for the CARMA meeting, where Evans attended both

the Aboriginal representatives' pre-meeting as well as the main annual meeting. The main meeting brought together scientists, caribou managers and Aboriginal people from across the circumpolar North to discuss caribou sustainability and the resilience of today's human-caribou systems in North America. During the pre-meeting, a small group of Aboriginal leaders discussed:

- common concerns about caribou sustainability and Aboriginal uses of caribou
- their experiences with caribou management, research and monitoring, harvest planning, traditional knowledge, and development activities
- what Aboriginal communities need from CARMA, and more.

Evans took notes for the pre-meeting meeting and these, along with all submissions from the main CARMA annual meeting, were later posted to the CARMA Web site, www.carmanetwork.com. During the main meeting, Wakelyn described the status of the Beverly herd and the Board's call for action. As part of this presentation, she submitted the BQCMB's November 2008 press release and background, which CARMA also posted on its Web site, along with a summary of the Beverly herd decline on the home page.

- Over the past year, the BQCMB also provided ongoing advice and assistance to CARMA's *Voices of the Caribou People* video project, with two Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou-range communities consequently being featured in the video – Lutselk'e and Arviat. As well, CARMA is establishing baseline information for indicator herds. The Qamanirjuaq herd was selected as one of 14 "reference" herds across the circumpolar north, and is being intensively

monitored for four years to see how global changes affect large migratory herds.

- In February 2009, BQCMB government members and staff along with selected GNWT and GN wildlife staff convened at a special BQCMB technical meeting in Yellowknife to hash out ways that all stakeholders and agencies – not just the BQCMB – could help the embattled Beverly caribou population recover. The meeting pinpointed current gaps in knowledge, and recommended initiatives needed in 2009 and beyond. Suggestions were to be presented to all BQCMB members in May 2009. Two key goals dominated: to assess and minimize disturbance to Beverly caribou and their habitats, and to assess harvest levels and management options. While many of the factors thought to be behind the Beverly herd decline are caused by nature, two factors are human-caused and can be managed – human disturbance and hunter harvest.

- The BQCMB presented at the Manitoba Wildlife Federation convention in Winnipeg in February 2009.

- As part of NPC efforts to gather information to be used in developing a single Nunavut-wide land use plan, the BQCMB provided information to the consulting firm compiling the information for a project on Nunavut Wildlife Resource and Habitat Values on behalf of the NPC. Information about the BQCMB map atlas and position paper recommendations on protecting caribou and habitat, the consultant's report to INAC on Caribou Protection Measures, and the BQCMB response to that report were furnished

to the consultant working on the caribou portion of the habitat values contract. Creating a territory-wide land use plan is expected to take about five years, with regional planning starting after that. Until then, the *Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan* remains in effect for the Kivalliq Region.

- On other land use planning fronts, the BQCMB regularly asked INAC how the BQCMB could participate in the upper Thelon resource management planning process. Progress to date has been slow. INAC is preparing a resource management plan for the upper Thelon basin following INAC Minister Chuck Strahl's decision in October 2007 to reject Ur-Energy's application for uranium exploration in the upper Thelon. The BQCMB also wrote to the GNWT, urging it to approve the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan so that implementation could begin. In August 2008, the GNWT finally endorsed the plan.

- The BQCMB distributed several documents key to the Board's work to numerous resource and wildlife co-management boards and other interested parties in NWT, Nunavut, Yukon and Alaska. These include the 2008 report prepared by InterGroup Consultants of Winnipeg for the BQCMB, *Economic Valuation and Socio-Cultural Perspectives of the Estimated Harvest of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds*, the 2007 report, *Assessment of Caribou Protection Measures*, commissioned by INAC and produced by Anne Gunn with co-authors Kim Poole, Jack Wierzbowski and Mitch Campbell, and BQCMB comments on the Caribou Protection Measures report.

Analysis and Comments

The BQCMB constantly works to gain increased protection for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their habitats, providing important information and recommendations on caribou-related concerns during regulatory reviews of proposed exploration and development projects on key seasonal caribou habitats. Find all BQCMB submissions to regulatory agencies at www.arctic-caribou.com/publications_reports.html.

Courtesy of INAC



A uranium exploration crew north of Baker Lake. Most mineral exploration projects in Nunavut's Kivalliq Region in 2008 were searching for uranium, and most were either near or on the Beverly calving ground

- As usual, the BQCMB provided comprehensive comments to Nunavut and NWT regulatory agencies (the NIRB, MVLWB and MVEIRB) on land use applications for mineral exploration activities, particularly land use applications that affect sensitive areas of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges, such as calving and post-calving areas, and migration routes. The BQCMB outlined its increasing concerns about the potential impacts – including cumulative impacts – of these proposed activities on caribou and important caribou habitats. Evidence from reconnaissance surveys point to a major decline in the Beverly herd population. As well,

the neighbouring Ahiak herd's population has likely dwindled, and the preliminary results of the 2008 Qamanirjuaq population survey show a drop in herd size. Given the increasing urgency for greater caribou herd and habitat protection, the BQCMB responded to land use applications as follows:

- **Uravan Minerals Incorporated's proposed uranium exploration project south of Garry Lake** on the core Beverly calving ground in Nunavut, northeast of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. The Garry Lake property, which accounts for more

than half of all mineral tenures on the Beverly calving ground, sits in the heart of INAC's Caribou Protection Area, as well as in a special management area recommended by the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan to help protect the Beverly herd and its habitat. During the NWT government's June 2008 reconnaissance survey of calving Beverly caribou, the few cows that were found were all directly south of Garry Lake. The BQCMB recommended to the NIRB that this exploration project be rejected, or if the NIRB was not convinced that rejection was warranted, that a full review of the proposal be conducted to ensure a full and transparent public discussion. Based in part on the BQCMB's recommendations, the NIRB recommended to the Minister of INAC that Uravan's application be subject to environmental review. The Minister accepted this recommendation. The BQCMB subsequently provided submissions on the draft scope and the draft guidelines for Uravan's environmental impact statement required by NIRB's Part 5 Review.

- **AREVA Resources Canada's Kiggavik-Sissons uranium exploration project** in Nunavut, west of Baker Lake. The BQCMB submitted comments to the NIRB on AREVA's request for an extension to its permit to continue uranium exploration, once again reiterating that disturbance to Beverly caribou from AREVA's project activities must be kept to an absolute minimum at all times given the vulnerable state of the herd, and recommended conditions to be applied should a permit extension

be granted.

- **AREVA Resources Canada's Kiggavik uranium mine and mill proposal** in Nunavut, west of Baker Lake. This major project is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socioeconomic effects, including effects on caribou, caribou habitat and caribou harvesting activities. The Kiggavik project is majority-owned by AREVA with partners JCU Exploration (Canada) Co. Ltd. and DAEWOO Corporation. The project calls for four open pit mines, an underground mine, a mill, a 300-man camp, a road from Baker Lake to Kiggavik, a 20-kilometre road between Kiggavik and Sissons (the second property in this proposal), fuel storage facilities at Kiggavik and Baker Lake, an airstrip and airport facilities to transport employees and materials such as drums of uranium, and more. With the Beverly caribou herd in serious decline, impacts from the proposed project on caribou could harm residents not only of Nunavut, but of Saskatchewan and the NWT as well, since communities there traditionally harvest Beverly caribou. The BQCMB recommended to the NIRB that a formal environmental review be conducted. The NIRB subsequently recommended to the Minister of INAC that the proposed project be subjected to a public review.
- **Titan Uranium Incorporated's application for a one-year extension to its land use permit for its Thelon uranium exploration project**, which lies on the traditional calving ground of the Beverly caribou, northeast of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in

Nunavut. Although no field operations were proposed for 2009, the BQCMB provided information for use by the NIRB to develop and recommend improved permit conditions, and to notify INAC and Titan about the need to minimize impacts on both caribou and caribou habitat in Titan's project area. This was done because the BQCMB did not have the opportunity to provide comments on Titan's original December 2005 land use permit application, or to recommend conditions for the permit issued by INAC or a previous permit extension.

- **Pacific Ridge Exploration Limited's application for an extension and amendment to its land use permit for mineral exploration on its Baker Lake project** near the north end of the Kazan River in Nunavut. Proposed activities were to occur on important habitats used by Qamanirjuaq caribou during sensitive periods – including continuing exploration on the herd's calving and post-calving areas, and near important water crossings used for millennia by the herd. The BQCMB recommended that Pacific Ridge's application not be approved, that regional cumulative effects assessment be conducted, and that various specific conditions be included in any permit issued.
- **Forum Uranium Corporation's proposed uranium exploration for its North Thelon project**, in the Schultz Lake area, Nunavut, west of Baker Lake. This area can provide important habitat to barren-ground caribou from the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq, Wager Bay and Lorillard herds throughout

most of the year, including spring migration, post-calving, late summer, fall migration and rut, and winter. The BQCMB recommended to the NIRB that regional cumulative effects assessment be conducted, and that various specific conditions be included in any permit issued. Among conditions cited were that diamond drilling should not occur from June to August if caribou cows and calves are using the area, and that all feasible efforts should be made to prevent damage to the vegetation along the routes used for overland transport of fuel. These conditions were in addition to the conditions previously recommended by the BQCMB in June 2007 for this project.

- **Kivalliq Energy Corporation's Angilak project proposal** west of Whale Cove and southwest of Baker Lake in Nunavut. This area can provide important habitat to barren-ground caribou from the Qamanirjuaq herd and possibly also the Beverly and Ahiak herds, throughout most of the year, including spring migration, post-calving, late summer, and fall migration/rut periods. The BQCMB recommended to NIRB that regional cumulative effects assessment be conducted, the Caribou Protection Measures be applied, and other specific conditions be included in any permit issued for this project.
- **Uranium North Resources Corporation's proposed uranium exploration near Dubawnt Lake** in Nunavut, about 320 kilometres southwest of Baker Lake. Activities were proposed during periods when Qamanirjuaq and perhaps Beverly and Ahiak caribou could be using

the project area. This includes spring migration, post-calving, late summer, and fall migration/rut periods. Of greatest concern was that cows with young calves could be using the area during the proposed operating period, specifically during the post-calving period through late summer. The BQCMB recommended permit conditions to address potential disturbance effects of proposed activities on caribou (including Caribou Protection Measures), maintaining minimum flight altitudes of 610 metres, and a caribou monitoring program that included an independent caribou monitor from a Nunavut community.

- **Ur-Energy Inc.'s proposed Nowleye Lake/BUGS uranium exploration project** in Nunavut, mid-way between Baker Lake, Nunavut and Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan. Concerns arose because caribou cows may be in the area during spring and fall migration, and Ur-Energy may encounter bull caribou throughout their operating period. Caribou in this area are expected to be primarily from the Qamanirjuaq herd, although Beverly and Ahiak caribou may also use the area as well. Of greatest concern was that Ur-Energy planned to conduct uranium exploration on its NWT properties in the upper Thelon basin from its BUGS camp in Nunavut, a move that would have been met with opposition from the Akaitcho Dene of the NWT, the Athabasca Denesuline of northern Saskatchewan and many others, including the BQCMB. Ur-Energy should have been fully aware of issues related to uranium

exploration and caribou as a result of the company's experience with its Screech Lake, NWT proposal and the environmental assessment by the MVEIRB. The BQCMB recommended permit conditions to address potential disturbance effects of proposed activities on caribou (including Caribou Protection Measures), maintaining minimum flight altitudes of 610 metres, and a caribou monitoring program that included an independent caribou monitor from a Nunavut community.

- **Uravan's South Boomerang and North Boomerang projects, and Bayswater Uranium Corporation's Crab Lake and El Lake projects**, all of which proposed uranium exploration in the upper Thelon basin of the NWT, and were proceeding through environmental assessments by the MVEIRB. As the previous environmental assessment for Ur-Energy's Screech Lake proposal made clear, plans for uranium exploration were premature since land use planning for the upper Thelon region has not been conducted, Aboriginal rights and land claims issues have not yet been resolved for Aboriginal peoples who have traditionally used the Thelon region, and the GNWT has only started considering how to conduct cumulative effects assessments for caribou. The BQCMB provided input to MVEIRB concerning transfer of evidence from the past Ur-Energy environmental assessment file and scoping of the four new upper Thelon EAs, as well as detailed comments on the four uranium exploration proposals.

- At the request of the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office, the BQCMB prepared comments on the Golder Associates Ltd. report on the cumulative effects of Ur-Energy's proposed uranium exploration project in the upper Thelon basin. The Golder report was submitted to the MVEIRB in February 2007

on behalf of Ur-Energy after the Ur-Energy public hearing in Lutselk'e.

- All BQCMB submissions can be downloaded from www.arctic-caribou.com/publications_reports.html.

Communications

An ambitious campaign to alert the public to the Beverly herd's steep decline led to numerous interviews and widespread coverage, not only in media but on blogs and specialty Web sites. The BQCMB kept caribou issues in the public eye with letters to newspaper editors, a newly expanded and full-colour newsletter, Web site updates, e-mail announcements, and a comprehensive annual report. It also provided narration and more for a GNWT educational DVD on caribou research and co-management.

- The BQCMB continues to be pro-active in contacting media outlets in order to quickly and consistently provide the public with important information about caribou management issues. In late November 2008, with support from several GNWT-ENR staff members, the BQCMB issued a press release and five-page backgrounder to almost 40 Canadian reporters in an effort to alert the public to the now-confirmed population decline of the Beverly herd, and BQCMB plans to help the herd recover. BQCMB representatives spent many hours doing numerous interviews. More than 20 newspapers, radio stations, magazines and news Web sites across Canada covered the story: from CBC North, the *Slave River Journal* and *Nunatsiaq News* to *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, Saskatoon's *The StarPhoenix*, *The Winnipeg Free Press* and CTV.ca. U.S.-based *Orion* magazine also carried a lengthy feature about the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and uranium mining in the Kivalliq Region. A number of Canadian and international Web sites dedicated to

Arctic issues, canoeing, backpacking, uranium mining and more picked up the Beverly herd story as well. The press release was part of a bigger communications plan calling for stronger conservation measures for both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds.

- The BQCMB also responded to media coverage (and in certain cases, corrected factual errors that had been published) by writing letters to editors of various publications, including *Kivalliq News*, *The Slave River Journal*, *Nunatsiaq News* and the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

- As usual, the BQCMB published two issues of its newsletter, *Caribou News in Brief*, but this past year saw two exciting developments. For the first time, the newsletter appeared in full colour with the Summer 2008 issue. The Winter 2008/2009 issue also doubled in size, going from eight pages to sixteen pages in length. Feature stories in the two issues included:



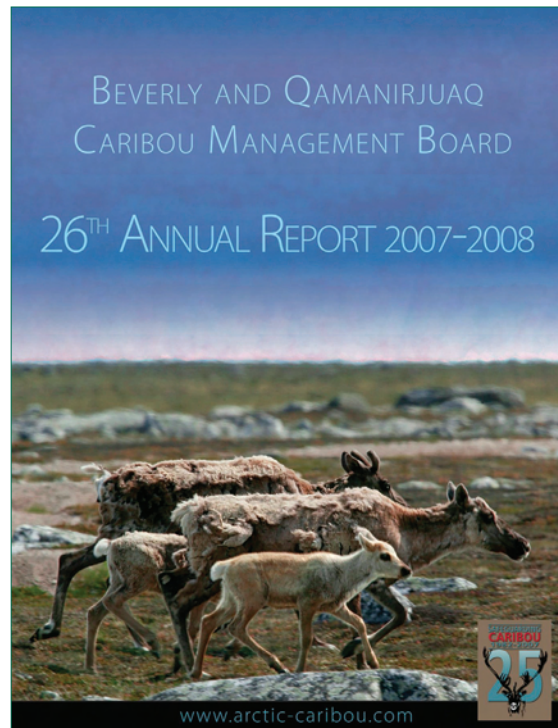
Caribou News in Brief: now twice as big, and in full colour

- the June 2008 Qamanirjuaq population calving ground survey – the first since 1994 – with a short human-interest sidebar on the experiences of community observer Leo Ikakhik of Arviat, Nunavut
- a special feature examining the potential impacts of cumulative effects on caribou, the BQCMB's May 2008 special Board meeting session examining current programs and projects regarding monitoring and assessment of cumulative effects in NWT and Nunavut, and a sidebar of facts and figures that gave an overall glimpse of mining activity across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges
- updates on land use planning processes underway or gearing up across the

caribou ranges, including the NWT's Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan, the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan, the Nunavut Land Use Plan and northern Saskatchewan's Athabasca Land Use Plan

- extensive coverage of the Beverly herd's major population decline, as documented by evidence from the GNWT's 2007 and 2008 reconnaissance surveys of caribou on the Beverly calving ground during the calving period, with three stories that detailed: 1) the 2008 reconnaissance survey findings, 2) the BQCMB's communications plan/media strategy and calls for the governments of Nunavut, NWT, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada to follow Board recommendations on ways to protect both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their habitats, and 3) the BQCMB's special February 2009 technical session that identified ways that all stakeholders – not just the BQCMB – can help the embattled Beverly herd recover
- a look at Uravan Minerals Incorporated's proposal to continue exploration for uranium on the core Beverly calving ground south of Garry Lake, Nunavut, the efforts of the BQCMB and others who opposed the proposal, and an accompanying article on the almost 200 messages of opposition registered with the NIRB by Canadians and others around the world, featuring excerpted quotes from a handful
- an examination of AREVA Resources Canada's large-scale Kiggavik uranium mine and mill proposal near Baker Lake as the regulatory process got

- underway, the BQCMB's position on the proposal, and opinions – both for and against – already being voiced by Nunavummiut and others on what could possibly become Nunavut's first uranium mine, and
- the BQCMB's call for stronger enforcement of INAC's Caribou Protection Measures to ensure that land use permit holders are actually following the rules, after complaints were made to the BQCMB about incidents such as low-flying planes or helicopters, and rare visits by officials to check up on mining camps.
- The BQCMB issued two e-mail updates on the work of the Board, sending announcements to more than 400 recipients. E-mail messages are now .html coded rather than text only, and are more visually attractive, including graphics, colours and built-in hyperlinks. The BQCMB also answered 12 e-mail queries received via its Web site.
 - The BQCMB Web site was updated with new content following the publication of each issue of *Caribou News in Brief*, and also included the addition of:
 - updated maps of land use activities across the ranges of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds (current to April 2008)
 - updated maps and supporting tables of companies and individuals with mineral tenure on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq traditional calving grounds (current to April 2008 and November 2008)
 - two new individual maps of companies and individuals with mineral tenure on the traditional Beverly calving ground and the traditional Qamanirjuaq calving ground, and a map showing the 2007 and 2008 annual calving areas as well as mineral tenures on the Beverly traditional calving ground, all courtesy of WWF-Canada
 - 15 BQCMB files of written comments and presentations submitted between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 to regulatory agencies and workshops on exploration and development proposals for important Beverly and Qamanirjuaq habitats such as calving and post-calving areas, and migration routes, and
 - the Board's November 2008 press release and backgrounder.
 - The BQCMB produced and distributed 25 copies of its 55-page *26th Annual Report: 2007-2008*, and posted the report on the Board's Web site.



Online and in print: the BQCMB's 2007-2008 annual report

- The Board approved several new communications initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year, including providing BQCMB members with a briefing kit containing a one-page history of the BQCMB and a one-page summary of current important issues, sending out updated information packages to newly elected MLAs and MPs, and BQCMB Web upgrades, including a media centre complete with press releases, backgrounders and photos, and elsewhere in the site, a new page that regularly summarizes progress on mining activities across the ranges.

- The BQCMB supplied information for a draft statement for NWT MLA Tom Beaulieu in support of recommendations to protect the

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their habitat, at the request of the MLA's executive assistant. The Beverly herd range lies in MLA Beaulieu's Tu Nedhe riding.

- The BQCMB played a role in helping GNWT-ENR to produce *Caribou and People: A Shared Future*, a new DVD for high school students that explores caribou research and co-management. The BQCMB provided educational material and narration for the joint BQCMB-GNWT presentation made by the BQCMB to the Ur-Energy uranium exploration hearing in Lutselk'e in 2007. The Ur-Energy environmental assessment is a case study illustrating the NWT's environmental assessment process and the importance of land use planning.

Board recommendations and responses by governments, regulatory boards and caribou-range communities

1. The BQCMB made recommendations relating to Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou and habitat protection to regulatory agencies NIRB, MVLWB and MVEIRB, and to the federal government, on permit applications for activities on key caribou habitats, such as calving grounds, post-calving areas, and primary migration routes. In some cases, the BQCMB recommended actions more limiting to applicants than attaching conditions to the permit.
 - a. The BQCMB and other groups called on NIRB to recommend rejection of Uravan Minerals Incorporated's application to explore for uranium south of Garry Lake, Nunavut. A full public review was the BQCMB's fall-back recommendation. The primary issue for the BQCMB is that the proposed project is located on the core Beverly calving ground and there is clear potential for Uravan's proposed activities to impact caribou and important caribou habitat.
 - The NIRB recommended to INAC Minister Chuck Strahl in June 2008 that a public review be conducted of Uravan's project proposal (under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement [NLCA]*).
 - In September 2008, Minister Strahl instructed the NIRB to conduct a Part 5 review (as per Article 12.4.7 of the *NLCA*).
 - b. The BQCMB and other groups asked the NIRB to recommend that AREVA Resources Canada's proposed Kiggavik uranium mine and mill 80 kilometres west of Baker Lake, Nunavut undergo a public review (as per Article 12 of the *NLCA*). The BQCMB's primary concerns are that the proposed project:
 - * is precedent-setting in terms of magnitude, type of activities, and potential environmental impacts.
 - * is located on caribou post-calving habitat.
 - * has clear potential for project activities to impact caribou and important caribou habitat in multiple ways. These include loss of habitat, obstruction of caribou movements, disturbance to caribou – especially from frequent low-level flights – contamination of water, soil and vegetation, and increased hunting access to caribou.

Some parties specifically called for a Part 6 review, which would be conducted by a federal environmental assessment panel rather than by the NIRB.

- The NIRB recommended in March 2009 that Minister Strahl ensure that AREVA's project proposal undergo a public review (as per Section 12.4 of the *NLCA*).
 - A decision from Minister Strahl was still pending as of March 31, 2009.
- c. The BQCMB provided input to four environmental assessments being conducted concurrently by the MVEIRB, and recommended rejection of four permit applications for uranium exploration in the upper Thelon region of the NWT – namely Uravan's South Boomerang Lake and North Boomerang Lake projects, and Bayswater Uranium Corporation's El Lake and Crab Lake projects. The BQCMB's primary concerns were that these proposed projects are on the primary spring migration route of the Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds and that there is clear potential for the activities proposed for all four projects to impact caribou and important caribou habitat, and to contribute to cumulative impacts of these and other projects across the range of the Beverly and Ahiak herds.
 - In September 2008, the MVEIRB recommended to Minister Strahl that the South Boomerang Lake, North Boomerang Lake and El Lake proposals be rejected without an environmental impact review (as per Section 128 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*). These three proposed projects are all located in the upper Thelon watershed. The MVEIRB recommended that Bayswater's Crab Lake proposal, based in the Dubawnt watershed, be approved with conditions intended "to prevent project-specific harm to barren ground caribou and to heritage resources" (as per Section 128 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*).
 - A decision from Minister Strahl was still pending as of March 31, 2009.
- 2. In its November 2008 press release, the BQCMB reiterated its long-standing recommendation that the Beverly calving ground should receive long-term legislated protection.

The GN and INAC, which are the agencies responsible, have not yet initiated any action to provide this protection.

- 3. In its November 2008 press release, the BQCMB reiterated its recommendations to relevant governments and regulatory agencies to take action to protect Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou and important habitats. These recommendations were originally made to NWT's ENR, Nunavut's Department of Environment, Manitoba Conservation, Saskatchewan Environment and INAC in the 2004 BQCMB position paper, *Protecting Calving Grounds, Post-Calving Areas and Other Important Habitats for Beverly and*

Qamanirjuaq Caribou. The position paper recommendations have repeatedly been described in presentations at BQCMB board meetings and various meetings of NWT and Nunavut organizations, including the November 2008 NIRB scoping and guideline development workshop on Uravan's proposal to explore for uranium south of Garry Lake, Nunavut on the core Beverly calving ground.

Among progress achieved to date is the following:

- a. Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic, sent a letter to INAC Minister Chuck Strahl asking for INAC's position on the BQCMB position paper.
 - b. The NIRB used information provided by the BQCMB to help scope issues for its Part 5 review of Uravan's Garry Lake proposal, identify potential impacts associated with the project, and develop the environmental impact statement guidelines for the project's review.
 - c. In 2008, AREVA Resources Canada Inc. and Cameco Corporation publicly stated that their exploration activities in Nunavut (and for Cameco, in NWT as well) are currently outside traditional calving grounds, a statement influenced by BQCMB position paper recommendations and a WWF-Canada campaign that successfully lobbied major mining companies to promise not to conduct mining on calving grounds. AREVA and Cameco company representatives have heard BQCMB recommendations for protecting calving and post-calving areas while attending Board meetings. However, AREVA and Cameco have not yet promised to continue to avoid calving areas or to avoid post-calving areas. Moreover, Cameco still holds mineral claims and mineral leases on the Beverly calving ground. (In October 2008, WWF-Canada issued a press release describing De Beers Canada's commitment to not conduct exploration or development activities in traditional caribou calving areas.)
4. The BQCMB recommended to NWT's ENR that the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan be implemented. The Plan includes establishing boundaries and regulations for two special management areas called for in the Plan, including an area intended to protect the Beverly calving ground outside the Sanctuary.

The Minister of ENR endorsed the Plan in August 2008. The GNWT and the GN, INAC, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Baker Lake and the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation are partners in the Plan.

5. The BQMCB reiterated a recommendation through its November 2008 press release to NWT's ENR, Nunavut's Department of Environment, Manitoba Conservation, Saskatchewan Environment and INAC that they follow the principles and goals of the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan (2005-2012)* in light of the major population decline of the Beverly herd and the preliminary draft estimate of a somewhat smaller Qamanirjuaq herd. The Plan gives direction on how to manage dwindling herds, supports caribou conservation and exhorts people to use caribou wisely.

Governments haven't necessarily addressed all goals outlined in the Management Plan. However, it should be noted that the GNWT has been monitoring Beverly caribou over the past several years through annual reconnaissance surveys of caribou on the calving ground and migration route and other monitoring programs, including spring composition surveys to determine over-winter calf survival and the new jointly funded community-based monitoring project with the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and Saskatchewan communities. The GN's Department of Environment has conducted monitoring programs for the Qamanirjuaq herd in recent years that include spring calf survival surveys, a 2008 population census and an ongoing program to track seasonal movements of collared caribou. The GN's proposed Nunavut Caribou Management Strategy also includes a monitoring plan in which all of the components in the current draft are consistent with and/or exceed the research and monitoring outlined in the BQCMB's management plan.

6. The BQCMB recommended in its November 2008 press release that governments, regulators and others use a "precautionary approach" on caribou-related decisions in light of the major population decline of the Beverly herd and the preliminary draft estimate of a somewhat smaller Qamanirjuaq herd.
 - a. NWT's ENR has indicated that it is using a precautionary approach on caribou-related decisions.
 - b. The NIRB and the MVEIRB have based major decisions for a few permit applications on the precautionary approach. These include the NIRB's recommendations to INAC Minister Strahl that Part 5 or 6 reviews be conducted on Uravan's Garry Lake proposal and AREVA's Kiggavik proposal, and the MVEIRB's recommendations to INAC Minister Strahl to reject Uravan's South Boomerang Lake and North Boomerang Lake proposals, as well as Bayswater's El Lake proposal, and to impose stringent conditions on Bayswater's Crab Lake proposal. In all cases, the regulatory agencies cited concerns about potential impacts on caribou as key factors in their decisions.
7. The BQMCB reiterated a recommendation to INAC that no additional mineral exploration

on the Beverly traditional calving ground be allowed.

To date, there have been several hopeful developments:

- a. Although INAC has issued extensions and amendments to existing permits, for the first time in many years, no new prospecting permits were issued on the Beverly calving ground in 2009, and no new mineral claims or leases were issued in the first three months of 2009.
- b. INAC Minister Strahl agreed to the NIRB recommendation that a public review be held (as per Article 12 of the *NLCA*) of Uravan's application to explore for uranium south of Garry Lake, Nunavut on the core Beverly calving ground.

Review of the State of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Herds

Nunavut

A well-timed spring 2008 migration and perfect weather during the June calving period helped to spell success for those carrying out the first population survey of the Qamanirjuaq herd in 14 years – just one of a number of Nunavut government initiatives centred on Qamanirjuaq animals and caribou management this past year, reported BQCMB alternate member **Mitch Campbell**, the Kivalliq Region biologist for Nunavut's Department of Environment. Although the GN has not yet released official survey results, the preliminary draft 2008 population estimate is 345,000. The herd's population was last estimated at 496,000 in 1994.

During late April and May of 2008, the caribou arrived from their winter range in Manitoba and western Saskatchewan. Few animals ventured close to Kivalliq communities on their spring migration north to their calving ground. However, Campbell stressed that there were no reports from residents of dead or dying animals out on the land, and that the body condition of caribou harvested was good. According to Arviat hunters, the onset of the spring melt was normal when considering past spring weather.

In 2008, Qamanirjuaq caribou headed south to their winter range in late August, only to double back to Nunavut briefly and then return south of 60 in late September/early October (see the Manitoba jurisdictional report for more details). BQCMB member **Laurent Angalik** of Arviat said caribou were close to his community around the end of September /early October.

They were in their usual good shape, Angalik said – healthy and fat. By mid-November, they left for their wintering ground.

Of the numerous initiatives on Qamanirjuaq caribou conducted in the past year, the June 2008 calving ground photo survey was the largest undertaking. Photos and data gathered during the survey are used to estimate the herd's population, based on the approximate number of pregnant cows on the calving ground. Groundwork for the complex survey was laid many months in advance. Nunavut's Department of Environment carried out the survey with Manitoba Conservation, and the survey team featured experts from Nunavut, Manitoba and the NWT. The survey's \$314,000 cost was shared by the governments of Nunavut, Manitoba and Canada (through INAC), the NWMB and others, such as the BQCMB.

Late in October, the Nunavut government conducted fall composition studies in connection with the spring population estimate. The information collected during this survey helps researchers extrapolate total population size from the estimate of breeding females made in June.

Nunavut's satellite collaring program for Qamanirjuaq cows – in place since 1993 – gave the June 2008 calving ground survey a strategic boost by deploying more collars prior to the survey, in March. That brought the number of animals collared at that time to 35. More location data meant clues to the timing

and whereabouts of the herd during the spring migration. As soon as location data showed that most collared cows had reached the Qamanirjuaq calving ground, a reconnaissance survey was flown to confirm that caribou were there. The break-away GPS satellite collars worn by the cows have batteries that last up to three years. The collars are programmed to drop off on their own and have purposely been placed on animals in different years so that they don't all drop off at the same time, leaving a gap in caribou location data.

In May 2008, the Department of Environment also did spring classification work on Qamanirjuaq caribou. As with the May 2007 classification survey, results pointed to a drop in calf recruitment.

The department's labour-intensive Kivalliq Region vegetation mapping project is nearing the finish line. Joining the map atlas created earlier in this unique mapping project is a resource selection function analysis that uses both satellite collaring data and the habitat data of 5,000 vegetation sites mapped over the past six years to determine how caribou choose habitat.

Another means of figuring out what habitat Qamanirjuaq caribou decide to occupy is through a new two-year dietary study, started in

2009. Department of Environment employees are studying stomach contents from rumen samples brought in by Nunavut and Manitoba hunters. Learning what was digested will point to where the caribou have been.

Several other initiatives focus on caribou health. Department of Environment employees are gleaning more about diseases from caribou blood samples, while a graphics-heavy book chronicling diseases that may afflict caribou will soon be released to the public. Meanwhile, the Department of Environment continues to conduct research through INAC's Northern Contaminants Program to monitor the presence of contaminants in the Arctic, including those found in country food such as caribou.

Due to the significant decline in the Beverly herd population, the GN is aiding efforts to help the herd recover. (Although very few Kivalliq residents harvest the Beverly herd, the herd's calving ground lies largely within Nunavut.) To that end, a planned 2010 population survey of the Ahiak barren-ground caribou herd will reveal important information. There may be more than a half-dozen natural and human-caused factors behind the Beverly herd's decline, and some mixing between the Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds is one of those factors.

Manitoba

In keeping with their departure patterns of the past few years, the Qamanirjuaq caribou stayed in Manitoba until June 2008 before heading north to their calving ground in Nunavut, reported Manitoba Conservation regional wildlife manager and BQCMB vice-chairman **Daryll Hedman**.

After their usual brief hiatus, the caribou returned to Manitoba in the latter part of August – but not for long. In an unusual about-turn, almost all of the animals headed back to Nunavut after only a few weeks in the province, save for a few caribou that remained in the northeastern pocket of Manitoba. As a result, the fall hunt suffered considerably.

By late September/early October, however, Qamanirjuaq caribou had returned to Manitoba a second time. This time, they migrated further south than is their custom, south of Indian Lake. Abundant numbers of caribou fanned out across the Qamanirjuaq range – from Brochet near the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border in the western part of the province, to Churchill on the Hudson Bay coast to the east. Some satellite collared caribou cows were discovered as far east as the Nelson River, in fact.

BQCMB chairman **Albert Thorassie** of Tadoule Lake and BQCMB member **Jerome Denechezhe** of Lac Brochet both reported that there were lots of caribou around their communities in November.

The winter of 2008-2009 was extremely cold, with very little snow cover throughout the

province. Travel conditions were very good, though. Hunters enjoyed a successful winter hunting season, encountering numerous caribou in top-notch health. Thorassie and Denechezhe found the animals to be very healthy, with plenty of back fat on bulls. Some cows that hunters took during the late spring hunt were also fat, Denechezhe related.

Hedman noted that there were no forest fires on the caribou range during the summer of 2008, again mirroring trends of the past few years.

The Government of Manitoba's main caribou management undertaking in 2008-2009 was the assistance that Manitoba Conservation staff gave to the GN-led Qamanirjuaq calving ground population survey of June 2008. Manitoba Conservation staff also flew some flight lines to determine how far south the caribou were distributed.

During the past year, staff retrieved three GPS satellite collars in Manitoba that had automatically dropped from collared Qamanirjuaq caribou cows. Batteries in these new lightweight break-away collars last up to three years, and the collars are programmed to drop off on their own.

Manitoba Conservation continues to monitor both the fall and winter harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou in the province. And the importance of caribou conservation and education are a recurring theme that Hedman touches on when speaking to residents of caribou-range communities.

Northwest Territories

Events of the past year confirmed discouraging news about the Beverly herd. A second consecutive calving distribution survey conducted by the GNWT in June 2008 spotted only 93 breeding cows on the Beverly calving ground, down from the 189 witnessed by survey team members in June 2007, reported BQCMB alternate member **Jan Adamczewski**, ungulate biologist for GNWT-ENR. This compares to 5,737 breeding cows seen in 1994. A calving ground photo-survey in 1994 followed the distribution survey and provided an estimate of 276,000, +/- 106,000 for the Beverly herd overall. As well, only 15 calves for every 100 cows were observed during the 2008 survey – a very poor ratio. And blood samples taken in April 2008 from 28 Beverly and Ahiak cows on which satellite collars were being placed revealed that fewer than half those animals were pregnant. A pregnancy rate of 70 to 80 percent is the norm for barren-ground caribou.

In terms of the herd's migration patterns over the past year, the few Beverly cows that remained collared were on or near the Beverly traditional calving ground in June and into July 2008 – mainly in Nunavut. (The number of collared Beverly cows has dwindled and location data have become increasingly scarce.)

After spending much of the summer south and east of the calving ground in Nunavut and NWT, the caribou spread out and made a late start towards their fall and wintering areas. There was no clear movement south, nor did the animals travel very far. Beverly cows remained in Nunavut and NWT into December. Satellite collaring location data from other barren-ground herds indicated that many caribou wintered north of the treeline in 2008. Adamczewski said this may be due to shallow

snow cover on portions of the tundra. While weather conditions throughout 2008 were similar to previous years, some sections of the tundra had little snow, even well into winter.

BQCMB member **Earl Evans** of Fort Smith, whose community lies far south of the treeline, said people in his area were unable to hunt caribou this past year. Evans himself travelled north to Wekweeti (formerly Snare Lakes) to harvest 50 caribou for his community. While there, Evans discovered widespread wastage of caribou from earlier hunters, and alerted local wildlife officers. In some cases, carcasses of cows were left whole, he said, with only the fetuses removed. GNWT wildlife officers later charged a number of hunters with meat wastage.

For years, Evans has conducted a training course for Aurora College's natural resources technology program and done caribou sampling work for ENR. This year, because no caribou were nearby, the college and government department joined forces to save airfare. In February, they first flew more than 300 kilometres northeast, where the college group harvested nine caribou over three days. Then Evans travelled with the ENR group – which included Adamczewski, regional biologist **Alicia Kelly** and northern Saskatchewan community liaison co-ordinator **Tina Giroux** – north of the treeline to Ford Lake, east of Artillery Lake. Many more caribou were found there, and over the course of three days, the group took samples from 29 animals from the Ahiak and Beverly winter range. According to satellite collaring location data, Beverly cows now share seasonal ranges with much larger numbers of Ahiak caribou, except during the calving period when a few remaining Beverly cows head to their own

traditional calving ground.

The February 2009 assessment of Ahiak caribou showed that most cows were lean – some with no back fat – yet most adult cows were pregnant, said Adamczewski. And, he added, given that the remaining Beverly caribou are now mixed with much larger numbers of Ahiak caribou during winter, it can be inferred that the condition of Beverly cows was similar. The mortality rate among collared Beverly cows has been exceptionally high, for unknown reasons.

With regards to fire activity during the summer of 2008, **Kris Johnson**, ENR's manager of fire science, forest management division, said that there were 110 fires on the portion of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges within NWT. These fires burned an area of 148,795 hectares.

In 2008-2009, ENR continued its quest to uncover much-needed current data about the Beverly herd. In addition to monitoring the movements of satellite collared cows throughout the year, ENR determined the breeding status of collared cows in June 2008, and conducted a systematic reconnaissance fixed-wing survey over the Beverly traditional calving ground the same month. Survey methods almost mirrored those used in June 2007 to ensure results could be compared to previous surveys. The Beverly herd's entire traditional calving ground was surveyed.

A second aircraft also flew flight lines for five days in areas southeast, east and north of the traditional Beverly calving ground to verify that the Beverly calving ground was distinct from other calving grounds, and to confirm that Beverly caribou were not calving elsewhere.

ENR placed satellite collars on 30 more cows in

April 2008. The collaring team targeted animals associated with the few Beverly satellite-collared caribou left from March 2006 and July 2007 collaring events. Biologists had hoped there would be a greater chance that these cows, who were moving in a similar pattern, would also return to the Beverly calving ground in June. However, only three of these cows were found on the Beverly calving ground in June 2008, while 24 were on the Ahiak calving ground.

While ENR staff considered the possibility of deploying additional collars on Beverly caribou in 2008, they did not, on the advice of GN biologists and the BQCMB, the likelihood of these caribou being in poor condition, and community concerns over collaring. The lack of collars makes it difficult to monitor the movements, status and survival of Beverly caribou.

Spring composition surveys were carried out for Ahiak caribou in March and April 2008. (Due to Beverly and Ahiak mixing, however, there is no way to do fall or spring surveys of Beverly caribou.) The calf to cow ratio of 46 to 100 was consistent with other NWT and Nunavut caribou herds and a positive sign, since around 30 calves to 100 cows indicates a stable herd. This recruitment would need to remain high and the calves would need to reach adult size and reproduction in order to reverse population declines.

ENR also worked with Saskatchewan's PAGC to hire a community liaison co-ordinator (Giroux) in northern Saskatchewan during late winter. The position is based in Prince Albert, with regular travel to northern Saskatchewan communities. Giroux helped get information on a community caribou hunt and condition study

in March 2009 in order to compare the health, condition and pregnancy rate of caribou taken by Saskatchewan hunters with other caribou in the NWT, and to follow up on the low pregnancy rate seen in April 2008. Discussions are underway to extend this program as a three-partner effort with Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment joining PAGC and GNWT as

sponsors.

ENR staff contributed to BQCMB meetings in May 2008, November 2008 and February 2009, and shared information and concerns about the extreme vulnerability of the remaining Beverly caribou on their calving ground to additional stresses from development activities.

Saskatchewan

With the exception of the northeast corner of the province and the Wollaston Lake area along the Manitoba border, caribou were not plentiful in Saskatchewan over the past year, reported **Tim Trottier**, BQCMB member and wildlife ecologist for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's Shield Region. In fact, caribou appeared to be completely absent from their range northwest of Fond du Lac through to the Alberta border. (Given the high degree of overlap among Beverly, Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq animals on winter ranges in northern Saskatchewan, only the general reference of "caribou" is used here.)

In late November 2008, BQCMB alternate member **Joe Martin** of Fond du Lac reported that tracks of a few animals were seen near the NWT border north of Fond du Lac. Trottier added that small clusters of caribou were seen on Scott Lake along the NWT border and further east, especially at Selwyn Lake, but no caribou were reported to have even come close to Black Lake, further south into Saskatchewan. BQCMB alternate member **Pierre Robillard** of Black Lake said that many people travelled east to Lac Brochet, Manitoba to hunt. A pilot for a local airline also reported seeing small numbers of caribou on Selwyn Lake in NWT during the last week of November.

Very few caribou ventured into areas north of

Fond du Lac, and there was no word of caribou north of Uranium City or west of that community. BQCMB member **Dennis Larocque** of nearby Camsell Portage confirmed that no caribou came near his community in the fall or winter. Residents in that area had to charter a plane in the spring for a hunt, flying more than 200 kilometres northeast to find caribou.

Meanwhile, in the eastern corner of northern Saskatchewan, hunters from Wollaston Lake were still waiting for caribou as of late November. But in early December, a wave of animals arrived from Manitoba. Caribou also made their way into the province north of Wollaston Lake, and were believed to have arrived from NWT's Snowbird/Kasba Lake area, as well as from Manitoba. In a departure from the previous year, there were no reports of caribou on Reindeer Lake, which straddles the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border.

Wollaston residents were still hunting caribou well into spring 2009. These were likely the last stragglers in Saskatchewan yet to head north on their spring migration. Martin also said that several caribou were spotted south of the Fond du Lac River near his community – an interesting occurrence since, in recent years, caribou have seldom been reported south of the river in that part of Saskatchewan.

There was no news of caribou close to northern Saskatchewan's uranium mines this year – a change from recent years.

Assessments of caribou body condition differed. Caribou harvested by Saskatchewan hunters in NWT north of Fond du Lac were said to be small and thin. However, Robillard said that when he went hunting in December north of Wollaston Lake and north of Black Lake, caribou were in really good shape. Robillard also said that caribou retreated north of the border at that time because of insufficient snow cover.

Northern Saskatchewan experienced a late freeze-up in the fall of 2008 and a similarly late break-up in 2009. While there was little snow early in the winter, a long cold spell and cool spring followed.

The 2008 fire season saw a major jump over the previous year in both the number of fires burned and scale of land damaged. There

were 90 fires on the portion of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges in Saskatchewan, and they burned approximately 792,854 hectares, said GIS analyst **Alan Frank** of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's Geomatics Services Branch. This compares to 58 fires in 2007 that burned 127,000 hectares. Robillard stressed that because wildfires cover such a large area, this greatly affects caribou.

In terms of Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment initiatives in 2008-2009 dedicated to Beverly caribou management, the department helped further a proposal for biological assistance on the caribou range, with a new community liaison co-ordinator position based in Prince Albert. The Ministry of Environment also took part in BQCMB regular and technical meetings. Trottier said his department had been prepared to help finance the June 2008 Beverly calving distribution survey conducted by the GNWT, but no funds were requested.

**BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Financial Statements

March 31, 2009



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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board Members
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

I have audited the balance sheet of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of earnings and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements, based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'EPR', is located above the title 'CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT'.

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Stonewall, Manitoba
August 17, 2009

An Independent Member Firm of EPR Canada Group Inc.

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

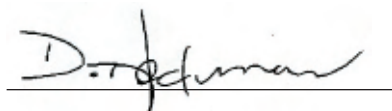
Balance Sheet

For the year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

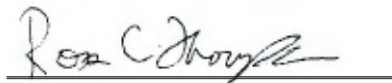
	2009	2008
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 83,107	\$ 57,537
Accounts receivable	1,711	7,500
Prepaid expenses	-	1,500
Receivable from Scholarship Fund (note 2)	-	1,679
GST receivable	2,975	4,131
	\$ 87,793	\$ 72,347

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,081
Payable to Scholarship Fund (note 2)	25,981	-
	27,981	4,081
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	59,812	68,266
	59,812	68,266
	\$ 87,793	\$ 72,347



Darryl Hedman, Vice-chair, BQCMB



Ross Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer, BQCMB

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Statement of Earnings

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	Budget	2009	2008
Revenue:			
Core funding			
DIAND (schedule)	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Northwest Territories	15,000	15,000	15,000
Saskatchewan	15,000	15,000	15,000
Manitoba	15,000	15,000	15,000
Nunavut	15,000	15,000	15,000
	75,000	75,000	75,000
DIAND (schedule)	-	-	30,000
Province of Manitoba	50,000	100,000	-
World Wildlife Fund	7,500	-	30,000
AREVA	25,000	25,000	25,000
Cameco	25,000	25,000	-
Other revenue	6,000	-	7,560
	113,500	150,000	92,560
Total revenue	188,500	225,000	167,560
Expenditures:			
Administration			
Meeting expense	4,000	3,640	5,345
Secretariat fees and travel	22,500	27,746	18,965
Audit and bank charges	4,100	3,611	3,210
Office expense	750	510	767
	31,350	35,507	28,287
Programs			
Public relations and education	20,000	23,700	15,443
Caribou habitat monitoring	50,000	56,925	43,318
Community projects	20,000	6,500	-
Research studies	4,000	2,929	6,700
Communication, community information and dialogue project (schedule)	21,500	7,893	39,735
Collaring project (schedule)	40,000	100,000	43,870
	155,500	197,947	149,066
Total expenditures	186,850	233,454	177,353
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$	(8,454) \$	(9,793)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2009

		2009	2008
Net assets, beginning of year	\$	68,266	\$ 78,059
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures		(8,454)	(9,793)
Net assets, end of year	\$	59,812	\$ 68,266

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2009

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Nature of Business:

The Board was established in June 1982 and is a not-for-profit registered charity. It provides advice on the management of barren ground caribou and their habitat to aboriginal groups and federal and provincial governments. The Board is also involved in providing public education and information regarding these caribou, and monitoring caribou in relation to climate change.

(b) Revenue Recognition:

The Board uses the accrual basis of accounting for revenue and expenditures and follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(c) Financial Instruments:

The Board's financial instruments consist of cash and accounts receivable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Board is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value.

(d) Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Receivable from Scholarship Fund:

The amount consists of the excess of payments made to scholarship recipients less interest deposited for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Scholarship Fund. The amount advanced from Scholarship Fund is non-interest bearing, unsecured and has no specified terms of repayment.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2009

3. Statement of cash flows:

A statement of cash flows has not been provided since the sources and uses of cash are readily apparent from the information included in the financial statements.

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Schedule of Project Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Revenue:		
DIAND	\$ -	\$ 30,000
AREVA	25,000	25,000
Cameco	25,000	
World Wildlife Fund	-	30,000
Province of Manitoba	100,000	-
GST rebate	-	1,514
	150,000	86,514
Expenses:		
Transportation - helicopter	-	36,113
Equipment	-	-
Herd surveys	100,000	-
Holdback adjustment	-	7,757
Professional and administration fees	-	-
	100,000	43,870
Public relations and education	3,886	14,195
Community projects	1,500	10,000
Professional and administration fees	2,507	15,540
	7,893	39,735
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 42,107	\$ 2,909

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Schedule of DIAND Core Funding
Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2009

	Budget	2009	2008
Revenue:			
DIAND	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
		15,000	15,000
Expenditures:			
Administration	15,000	15,000	15,000
		15,000	15,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$	-	\$ -

**BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Financial Statements

December 31, 2008



Box 1038, Westside Plaza
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Telephone (204) 467-5566
Fax (204) 467-9133

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Scholarship Fund

I have audited the balance sheet of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Scholarship Fund as at December 31, 2008 and the statements of earnings and retained earnings for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the fund's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements, based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the fund as at December 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Stonewall, Manitoba
August 17, 2009

An Independent Member Firm of EPR Canada Group Inc.

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Balance Sheet

Year ended December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

	2008	2007
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 3,409	\$ 3,124
Receivable from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	25,981	-
	29,390	3,124
Non-redeemable RBC GIC, 2.85%, due Dec. 31, 2009	10,000	10,000
Redeemable RBC GIC, 3.20%, due Dec. 31, 2008	-	30,000
	39,390	43,124

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Payable to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	\$ -	\$ 1,679
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Fund Balance

Unrestricted, end of year	39,390	41,445
	\$ 39,390	\$ 43,124

On behalf of the Board:



See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings

Year ended December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

	2008	2007
Revenue:		
Interest earned	\$ 1,245	\$ 1,457
Expenses:		
Grants distributed	3,300	1,650
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(2,055)	(193)
Fund balance, beginning of year	41,445	41,638
Fund balance, end of year	39,390	41,445

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2008

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Nature of Business:

The Fund is a not-for-profit registered charity. It provides financial assistance by way of scholarship awards to full-time students enrolled at recognized Canadian colleges or universities whose studies contribute to the understanding of barren ground caribou and their habitat.

(b) Revenue Recognition:

The Fund follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in fund balances. Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

(c) Investments:

Guaranteed investment certificates are recorded at cost.

2. Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities:

The Fund's financial instruments consist of cash and guaranteed investment certificates. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Fund is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value.

3. Statement of cash flow:

A statement of changes in financial position has not been presented as the sources and uses of cash are readily apparent from the information included in the financial statements.



Harvest Estimates

The *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement* stipulates that the BQCMB provide a summary of caribou harvests by jurisdiction and community. Resident and commercial harvest is recorded by governments. However, harvest data for Aboriginal hunters have been difficult to obtain in recent years, as there is no territory- or province-wide systematic recording of Aboriginal harvest.

For communities on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges, governments rely on harvest estimates based on the observations

and experience of departmental staff, or on information recorded by community harvest monitors. In Nunavut, harvest data collection and community reporting is the responsibility of the NWMB, an Institution of Public Government. Since 2005, the BQCMB's annual reports have published harvest estimates provided by government staff across the caribou ranges and by HTOs in Nunavut.

The BQCMB strongly encourages all jurisdictions and communities to gather good harvest data.

2008-2009 Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates – Beverly herd

For its 2008-2009 annual report, the BQCMB decided not to publish Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates for the Beverly herd for the following reasons.

Evidence from three consecutive GNWT reconnaissance surveys conducted on the Beverly calving ground points to a serious and continuing population decline of the Beverly herd. Biologists with the governments of NWT and Saskatchewan have advised the BQCMB that there is not enough information to reliably estimate Aboriginal domestic harvest for 2008-2009 for communities in their jurisdictions that traditionally hunted Beverly caribou. Those communities are Black Lake, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac, Uranium City and Camsell Portage in Saskatchewan, and Lutselk'e, Fort Smith and Fort Resolution in NWT. In Baker

Lake, Nunavut, the Beverly herd is one of four caribou herds that residents hunt. Residents of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta also traditionally harvested Beverly caribou.

Reliable 2008-2009 harvest estimates are not available for any Saskatchewan communities, whether they harvested from the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq or Ahiak herds. With few caribou nearby this past year, hunters from some communities in northwestern Saskatchewan travelled east to hunt from the Qamanirjuaq herd. In addition, several air charters with hunters from northern Saskatchewan flew north of the hunters' communities over the past year. These days, hunters can go where the caribou are, so it is not possible to provide an overall harvest estimate for a community without knowing the details of each caribou

hunt undertaken by that community.

Further complicating matters is the fact that it is not known how many caribou are being harvested by people from communities south of the Beverly caribou range. Estimated harvests by Saskatchewan First Nations members from outside the Beverly caribou range, as well as estimated harvests by First Nations members from outside Saskatchewan, are required to gain a better understanding of total harvest.

The Athabasca Seasonal Road, which connected northern Saskatchewan to the rest of the province for the first time when it opened in 1999, gives Southerners (First Nations members and others) new access to caribou.

Access will increase further, now that the road is being upgraded with an all-weather surface. The issue of increasing access to barren-ground caribou range is a key concern to caribou-range residents and BQCMB members.

Results from the GNWT's 2007, 2008 and 2009 reconnaissance surveys on the Beverly calving ground also call into question harvest estimates attributed to the Beverly herd in recent years. Information from locations of collared Beverly and Ahiak caribou suggest that currently there are no seasonal ranges for Beverly caribou distinct from Ahiak range outside the calving period. This means that recently reported estimates of Beverly caribou harvest are probably mainly Ahiak caribou instead.

2008-2009 Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates – Qamanirjuaq herd

The following estimates were provided by government staff of Manitoba Conservation and the HTOs of Rankin Inlet, Arviat and Whale Cove in Nunavut. For the first time, figures have been provided for estimated harvests by Manitoba First Nations members from outside the Qamanirjuaq caribou range, as well as by First Nations members from outside Manitoba. Manitoba Conservation staff made a concerted effort to gather more harvest data in 2008-2009.

It is important to remember that harvest can be

a factor in caribou population declines, but it is only *one* of a number of human-caused and natural factors that can influence herd size.

The Manitoba and Nunavut harvest estimates shown in the following table represent an incomplete view of the Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest. No figures are available for Saskatchewan communities that hunted Qamanirjuaq caribou in 2008-2009, and estimates were not available for several Nunavut communities.

2008-2009 Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates – Qamanirjuaq herd

Community ¹	Population by Community	Traditional User and Other Aboriginal Domestic Use
Arviat	2,060	3,500 – 4,000
Baker Lake ²	691	N/A
Brochet	306	750
Chesterfield Inlet ³	332	N/A
Churchill	923	45
Lac Brochet	604	1,200
Rankin Inlet	2,358	555
South Indian Lake	857	1,000
Split Lake	1,819	250
Nelson House	2,096	400
Tadoule Lake	330	900
Whale Cove	353	210
Wollaston ⁴	1,106	N/A
Manitoba: Other First Nations		250
Other First Nations Outside of Manitoba		400
TOTAL OF PARTIAL ESTIMATED HARVEST (Based on incomplete data)		9,460 – 9,960

¹ Community population figures are from Census Canada 2006.

² The estimated harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou by Baker Lake was 800 for each of the four previous years.

³ The estimated harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou by Chesterfield Inlet was less than 100 for each of the four previous years.

⁴ The estimated harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou by Wollaston Lake was 1,000-2,000 for the four previous years. Camsell Portage/Uranium City, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids and Black Lake are other Saskatchewan communities that likely also harvested Qamanirjuaq caribou during winter 2008-2009, but harvest numbers are not available.

2008-2009 resident licenced harvest and commercial harvest, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds

In Manitoba, the resident licenced harvest was **600**. The commercial harvest (non-resident) was **300**. In Saskatchewan, the resident licenced harvest is typically very low because there are so few residents of Wildlife Management Zone 76 that require a license to hunt and fewer still that actually do (i.e. **5+**). There is no commercial harvest in Saskatchewan.

harvest (non-resident; meat and local sales) for Fort Smith were issued, but of these, only **9** tags were used. The animals harvested were probably Ahiak or Beverly caribou. For Lutselk'e, **no tags** were issued from the annual allocation of 150 tags in 2008-2009. (This allocation includes Beverly caribou but is not limited to that herd.)

In NWT, **no tags** for resident licenced harvest were issued in either Fort Smith or Fort Resolution. Meanwhile, 15 tags for commercial

The BQCMB **did not receive any information** regarding the resident licenced harvest and commercial harvest in Nunavut for 2008-2009.

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT made on the 1st day of April 2002 BETWEEN:

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development (hereinafter referred to as “Canada”);

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA, as represented by the Minister of Conservation
(hereinafter referred to as “Manitoba”);

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN, as represented by the Minister of Environment and
Resource Management (hereinafter referred to as “Saskatchewan”);

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, as represented by the Minister of
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (hereinafter referred to as “Northwest Territories”);

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT, as represented by the Minister of Sustainable Development
(hereinafter referred to as “Nunavut”)

WHEREAS the Beverly herd and Qamanirjuaq herd of barren ground caribou historically migrate
across provincial and territorial boundaries;

AND WHEREAS the continued well-being of these herds requires coordinated management,
goodwill and co-operation amongst the above governments and the TRADITIONAL USERS of
these caribou;

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto recognize that, as well as the value of the caribou to all
Canadians generally, a special relationship exists between TRADITIONAL USERS and the caribou:

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that the parties hereto under the
authority of:

- (a) The Northwest Territories Act (1985), The Nunavut Act (1993);
- (b) The Manitoba Wildlife Act - section 84;
- (c) The Saskatchewan Wildlife Act - section 9;
- (d) The Northwest Territories Wildlife Act - section 27;
- (e) The Nunavut Act - section 73

agree that:

A. Definitions In this Agreement:

1. “Beverly herd” means that herd of barren ground caribou which utilizes range in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and regularly bears its young near Beverly Lake in Nunavut, and historically migrates into Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.
2. “Qamanirjuaq herd” means that herd of barren ground caribou which utilizes range in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and regularly bears its young near Qamanirjuaq Lake in Nunavut and historically migrates into Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.
3. “TRADITIONAL USERS” means those persons recognized by communities on the caribou range as being persons who have traditionally and currently hunted caribou for subsistence.
4. “HABITAT” means the whole or any part of the biosphere upon which the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds depend, including all of the land, water and air that they inhabit, cross or utilize at any time.

B. The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

1. A joint management board shall be established to be known as the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” having the following objectives:
 - (a) to co-ordinate management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds in the interest of TRADITIONAL USERS and their descendants, who are residents on the range of the caribou, while recognizing the interest of all Canadians in the survival of this resource;
 - (b) to establish a process of shared responsibility for the monitoring of the herds and for the development of management programs between the parties hereto and the TRADITIONAL USERS of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds;
 - (c) to establish communications amongst TRADITIONAL

USERS, between TRADITIONAL USERS and the parties hereto, and amongst the parties hereto in order to ensure coordinated caribou conservation and caribou HABITAT protection for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds;

- (d) to discharge the collective responsibilities for the conservation and management of caribou and caribou HABITAT within the spirit of this Agreement.

2. Support shall be provided by the parties hereto to the Board in its efforts to achieve coordinated management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds by responding promptly to recommended measures.

C. Board Responsibilities

Without restricting the generality of clause B of this Agreement, the parties agree that the Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To develop and make recommendations to the appropriate governments and to the groups of TRADITIONAL USERS for the conservation and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds of barren ground caribou and their HABITAT in order to maintain the herds, as far as reasonably possible, at a size and quality which will sustain the requirements of TRADITIONAL USERS. Such recommendations may include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - (a) limitations on the annual harvest of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and the allocation of that harvest amongst the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba;
 - (b) criteria for regulating the methods of harvest;
 - (c) methods of TRADITIONAL USER participation to assist in the management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds;
 - (d) caribou research proposals;
 - (e) recommended standardized data collection and presentation;

- (f) a herd management plan for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds which will include consideration of traditional knowledge, where available; and will take into account the maintenance of the natural balance of ecological systems; the protection of wildlife HABITAT; and the maintenance of vital, healthy wildlife populations capable of sustaining lawful harvesting needs.
- 2. To monitor the caribou HABITAT over the entire ranges of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds so as to facilitate the maintenance and protection of productive caribou HABITAT.
- 3. To conduct an information program and hold such public meetings as are necessary to report on and discuss with TRADITIONAL USERS its responsibilities, findings and progress.
- 4. To assess and report on the operation of its herd management plan to appropriate governments and TRADITIONAL USER groups.
- 5. To submit to the parties hereto annual reports which shall include:
 - (a) a summary of Board activities, recommendations and responses by governments and TRADITIONAL USERS;
 - (b) a review of the state of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and their HABITAT;
 - (c) a summary of harvests by jurisdiction and community;
 - (d) a financial statement for the operation of the Board.
- 6. To consider any other matters respecting the management of barren ground caribou that are referred to the Board by the parties hereto or Board members. The Board may also consider any other matters respecting the management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds referred to the Board by any other person or organization.

D. Membership of the Board

1. Up to fifteen members shall be appointed to the Board as follows:
 - (a) The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Government of Canada; The Minister of Conservation, Government of Manitoba; the Minister of Environment and Resource Management, Government of Saskatchewan; the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories; and the Minister of Sustainable Development, Government of Nunavut shall each appoint one senior official from their respective ministries for a total of five members.
 - (b) the Minister of Conservation, Government of Manitoba, shall appoint two residents from the communities of Northern Manitoba for a total of two members;
 - (c) the Minister of Environment and Resource Management, Government of Saskatchewan, shall appoint two residents from the communities of Northern Saskatchewan for a total of two members; and may appoint a third resident from the communities of Northern Saskatchewan;
 - (d) the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories, shall:
 - (i) where recommended by the Dene Nation, appoint one resident from the communities in the South Slave Region of the Northwest Territories;
 - (ii) where recommended by the Métis Nation of the Northwest Territories, appoint one resident from the communities in the South Slave Region of the Northwest Territories; for a total of two members;
 - (e) the Minister of Sustainable Development, Government of Nunavut, shall, where recommended by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, appoint two residents from the communities in the Kivalliq [Keewatin] region of Nunavut and may appoint a third resident

from the communities of the southern Kivalliq [Keewatin] region of Nunavut.

2. The members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of five years, subject to the right of the parties to terminate the appointment of their respective appointees at any time and reappoint Board members in accordance with the above.

E. Board Rules and Procedure

1. The Board shall establish in writing from time to time rules and procedures for its functioning, provided however that:
 - (a) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected from amongst the members of the Board by secret ballot;
 - (b) the election and replacement of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be by simple majority;
 - (c) thirty days notice of meeting shall be given by mail, telephone or telegram, as appropriate;
 - (d) eight members shall constitute a quorum;
 - (e) decisions of the Board shall be by consensus wherever possible, and shall always require a majority voting in favour, with each member having one vote;
 - (f) no voting by a proxy shall be allowed;
 - (g) the Board shall hold formal meetings twice yearly or more often as necessary at the call of the Chairman;
 - (h) the Board shall keep summary minutes and records of all its meetings and circulate them amongst its members;
 - (i) the Board may establish or dissolve standing committees as it deems necessary to carry out its functions, and set the terms of reference for such standing committees; and
 - (j) the Board members unable to be present at

Board meetings shall receive notice of Board recommendations thirty (30) days in advance of submission to any minister for action, except where there is consent of all Board members in which case recommendation to the Minister(s) can be made forthwith.

F. Finances

1. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to funds being appropriated by the legislative authority in respect of each party on an annual basis, the parties hereto shall annually provide funds necessary to ensure the Board functioning in a manner herein before stated provided, however, that all costs for the Board shall not exceed \$75,000.00 annually and that all such annual costs shall be shared equally amongst the parties to this Agreement in accordance with section F-2 below.
2. Prior to the administrative costs for the Board being eligible to be shared by the parties hereto, the Board shall be required to submit to each party an annual estimate of the financial administrative costs, not exceeding \$75,000.00 in each year, and each party shall in writing within thirty days of receipt thereof, indicate its approval or disapproval for such budget and provide reasons therefore. In the event that a majority of the parties hereto approve the annual budget for the administrative costs, the budget shall be shared equally by all parties hereto.
3. Administrative costs to be shared amongst the parties hereto shall include expenditures related to:
 - (a) a secretariat to provide for and follow up on meetings, record and distribute minutes, provide members with informational support, maintain the operation of the Board between meetings, and undertake such other organizational arrangements as the Board may require;
 - (b) the production of an annual report and its distribution;
 - (c) a modest independent research review capability;
 - (d) the production of a newsletter, and other

informational and educational material; and

(e) such other costs as the parties may agree upon.

4. Each party shall be responsible for funding the expenses for salaries or honoraria and other incidental travel expenses, including transportation, meals, accommodation related to Board members appointed or confirmed by that party. The provisions for said expenses shall be in addition to the annual administrative costs provided in section F-1 above.
5. The Board shall annually account for all monies received and disbursed and said records shall be available to any of the parties for inspection upon thirty days written notice to the Chairman.

G. General

1. All reports, summaries or other documentation prepared or otherwise completed under the terms of this Agreement shall become the joint property of all parties hereto and any and all income derived therefrom shall be jointly shared amongst the parties in proportion to expenditures incurred by each party in generating such income.

2. The parties are committed to taking all actions under this Agreement in a way that respects any treaty rights or Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples relating to the hunting of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq barren ground caribou.
3. This Agreement shall take effect on the 1st day of April, 2002, and shall terminate on the 31st day of March, 2012, unless sooner terminated, for any reason, by any of the parties hereto upon six month's notice in writing to the other parties.
4. In recognition of the importance of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and their HABITAT, the withdrawal of any of the parties from this Agreement shall not preclude the remaining parties from continuing with the objectives and processes set out in this Agreement.
5. This Agreement may be amended at any time by an exchange of letters following unanimous approval by the parties hereto.
6. This Agreement supersedes the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement made between Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut on the 1st day of April, 1999.