

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board



28th Annual Report 2009–2010



www.arctic-caribou.com

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Cover Photo: (From left to right) Tassie Lockhart, Sweetgrass Casaway, Alayna Catholique and Kathy Almond learn how to make dry meat with the elders during a BQCMB-sponsored caribou hunt at Artillery Lake near Lutselk'e, NWT.

Photo by Sheila Cavanagh

Board Meetings Held 1982 to 2009

#1	August	1982	Saskatoon	SK	#35	April	1994	Baker Lake	NU
#2	January	1983	Edmonton	AB	#36	September	1994	Winnipeg	MB
#3	March	1983	Lutsel K'e	NT	#37	January	1995	Prince Albert	SK
#4	June	1983	Yellowknife	NT	#38	April	1995	Black Lake	SK
#5	September	1983	Black Lake	SK	#39	September	1995	Thompson	MB
#6	January	1984	Winnipeg	MB	#40	February	1996	Whale Cove	NU
#7	April	1984	Rankin Inlet	NU	#41	June	1996	Lutselk'e	NT
#8	August	1984	Fort Smith	NT	#42	November	1996	Winnipeg	MB
#9	November	1984	Saskatoon	SK	#43	June	1997	Wollaston	SK
#10	April	1985	Baker Lake	NU	#44	November	1997	Thompson	MB
#11	August	1985	Whitehorse	YK	#45	May	1998	Tadoule Lake	MB
#12	November	1985	Edmonton	AB	#46	November	1998	Fort Smith	NT
#13	April	1986	Thompson	MB	#47	May	1999	Arviat	NU
#14	August	1986	Arviat	NU	#48	November	1999	Winnipeg	MB
#15	April	1987	Saskatoon	SK	#49	May	2000	Churchill	MB
#16	August	1987	Winnipeg	MB	#50	November	2000	Winnipeg	MB
#17	November	1987	Fort Smith	NT	#51	June	2001	Black Lake	SK
#18	April	1988	Winnipeg	MB	#52	November	2001	Yellowknife	NT
#19	August	1988	Stony Rapids	SK	#53	May	2002	Baker Lake	NU
#20	November	1988	Winnipeg	MB	#54	November	2002	Winnipeg	MB
#21	April	1989	Baker Lake	NU	#55	May	2003	Fond du Lac	SK
#22	August	1989	Lac Brochet	MB	#56	November	2003	Winnipeg	MB
#23	December	1989	Winnipeg	MB	#57	May	2004	Fort Smith	NT
#24	April	1990	Fond du Lac	SK	#58	November	2004	Winnipeg	MB
#25	August	1990	Lutselk'e	NT	#59	May	2005	Rankin Inlet	NU
#26	December	1990	Winnipeg	MB	#60	November	2005	Winnipeg	MB
#27	March	1991	Yellowknife	NT	#61	May	2006	Prince Albert	SK
#28	August	1991	Prince Albert	SK	#62	November	2006	Winnipeg	MB
#29	December	1991	Fort Smith	NT	#63	June	2007	Thompson	MB
#30	April	1992	Arviat	NU	#64	November	2007	Winnipeg	MB
#31	December	1992	Uranium City	SK	#65	May	2008	Fort Smith	NT
#32	April	1993	Winnipeg	MB	#66	November	2008	Winnipeg	MB
#33	September	1993	Prince Albert	SK	#67	May	2009	Prince Albert	SK
#34	January	1994	Winnipeg	MB	#68	November	2009	Winnipeg	MB

Abbreviations

BQCMB:	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
CARMA:	CircumArctic <i>Rangifer</i> Monitoring & Assessment network
DOE:	Department of Environment (GN)
ENR:	Environment and Natural Resources, Department of (GNWT)
GN:	Government of Nunavut
GNWT:	Government of the Northwest Territories
INAC:	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MVEIRB:	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
NIRB:	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NWMB:	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT:	Northwest Territories
NWTMN:	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
PAGC:	Prince Albert Grand Council
WRRB:	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
WUC:	Western Uranium Corporation

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House of Commons
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Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

The Hon. Bill Blaikie, Minister
Manitoba Conservation
Legislative Building, Room 330
450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

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Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, NWT
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9

The Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister
Department of Environment, Nunavut
P.O. Box 1200
Legislative Building
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

As required by the provisions of the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement*, I am pleased to submit our annual report for 2009-2010.

Concern about the dwindling numbers of caribou using the traditional Beverly calving ground intensified as a June 2009 reconnaissance survey of the calving ground conducted by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) revealed that the previous year's disappointing downward trend had continued. Less than 100 adult caribou were counted during the 2009 survey, and fewer and fewer cows and calves have been observed on the Beverly calving ground in each successive survey since 2002. According to satellite collar movements, some collared Beverly cows that previously calved on the traditional calving ground have shifted their calving location north to an area near the coast of Queen Maud Gulf. Meanwhile, preliminary findings of the 2008 Qamanirjuaq population survey conducted by the Government of Nunavut (GN) estimated that herd at 345,000. This is 30 per cent lower than the last population estimate in 1994 of 496,000, but it is unclear whether this indicates a real population decline due to statistical variances.

Faced with such uncertainty about the herds, the BQCMB organized a caribou workshop with the help of numerous sponsors. The BQCMB Caribou Workshop, the centrepiece for much of the Board's efforts and activities in 2009-2010, was held February 23 to 25, 2010 in Saskatoon.

About 75 elders, hunters, government staff, scientists and concerned others from Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories (NWT), Manitoba, Nunavut, Alberta, Yukon, British Columbia and Ontario attended to contribute valuable knowledge and resources for identifying priorities for conservation of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq populations. Further action will include ongoing visits by the BQCMB to caribou-range communities to talk with residents about caribou issues. These community meetings will permit many more people who rely on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds to hear from the BQCMB about the caribou, and to give people the chance to share their knowledge and to provide input on ways to help caribou. In spring 2012, the BQCMB will publish a report summarizing discussions from community meetings conducted in 2010 and 2011 that makes recommendations to governments and others based on comments provided.

While caribou herds can recover from very low numbers, everything possible has to be done

to give the embattled herds the opportunity to recover. The BQCMB continues to be extremely concerned about the cumulative impacts of land use activities on caribou. As of November 2009, there were 625 prospecting permits, mineral claims and mineral leases on the Beverly calving ground, and 259 on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground. The BQCMB maintains its long-standing position that there should be no mineral exploration or development on the herds' traditional calving grounds. At the same time, as the BQCMB constantly reiterates, it is not against mining. The BQCMB strives for balance between caribou conservation and economic development.

The BQCMB continues to furnish regulatory boards and others with technical reviews of key development projects, land use planning and additional caribou management issues that could affect the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. (For more details, please see "Summary of Board Activities, Recommendations and Responses.") A key concern presently is AREVA's Kiggavik mine and mill proposal west of Baker Lake, Nunavut – a major project that may cause significant adverse effects on caribou, caribou habitat and caribou harvesting activities. The BQCMB will participate in the regulatory review of this project proposal, which will be conducted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and could take several years.

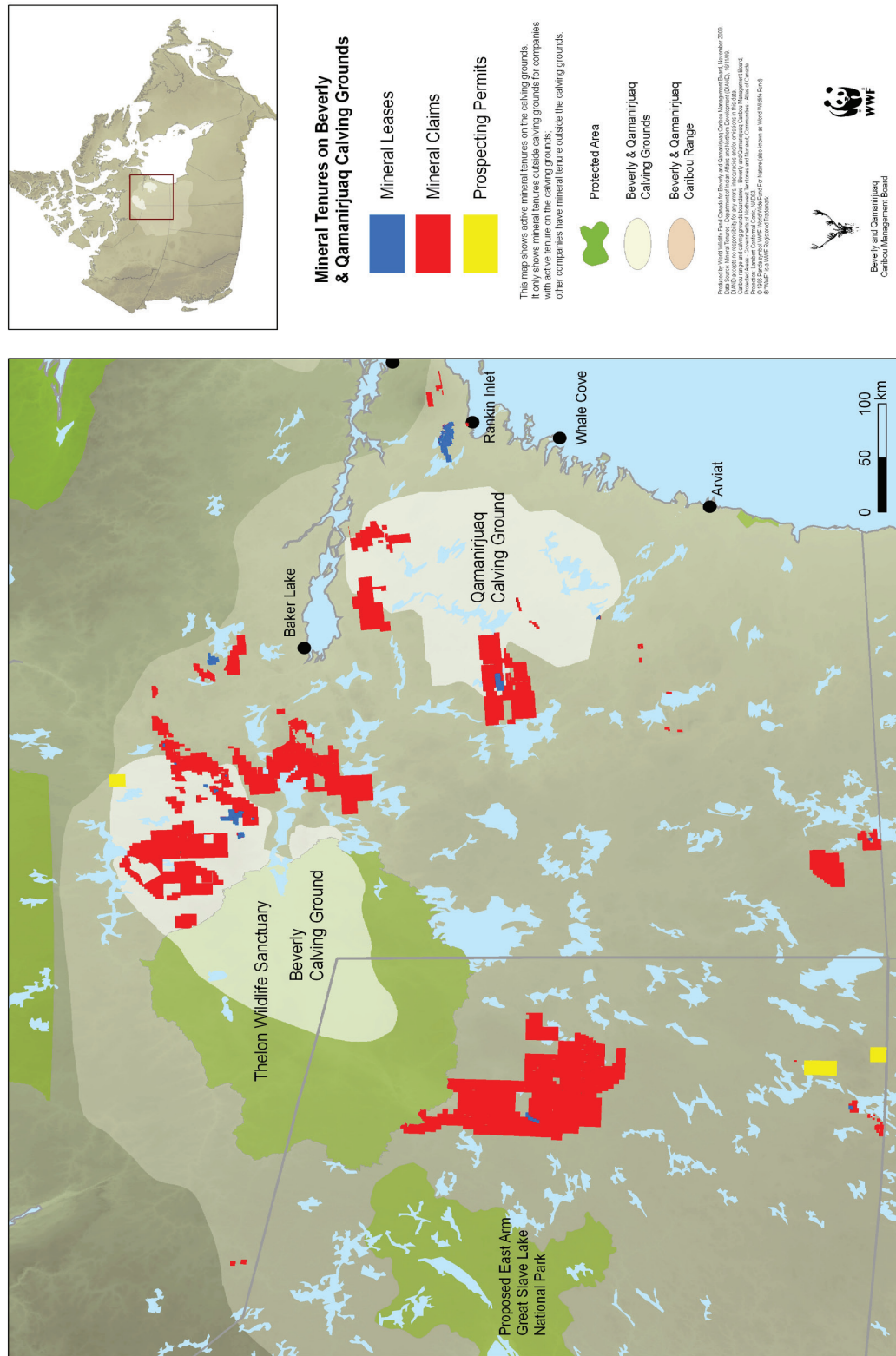
Other major BQCMB initiatives in 2009-2010 included the BQCMB community caribou program for youth, which moved its focus away from hunting caribou to general experience provided on the land by seasoned hunters, trappers and elders. The program, now in its fourth year, approved five applications during the year. The BQCMB's newsletter *Caribou News in Brief* was also published in the summer of 2009. It included stories on the apparently shrinking Beverly herd, the BQCMB's upcoming Caribou Workshop and draft "Recipe for Recovery."

Reliable harvest estimates for 2009-2010 were not available for any communities on the traditional Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges. The ability of the BQCMB to report on caribou harvest has always been limited, and additional circumstances this past year have further constrained Board efforts. There are serious implications regarding the ability of the BQCMB to determine whether the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds can continue to provide for the subsistence needs of traditional caribou harvesters. The Board is concerned that harvest levels for both herds may not be sustainable. For the Beverly herd, the key issues relate to whether or not the herd has drastically declined and to which communities it continues to be accessible for harvesting. For the Qamanirjuaq herd, the key issues involve possibly opposing trends in population size and harvest, as the Qamanirjuaq herd may be declining, while the harvest is likely increasing. Adequate monitoring of both the caribou herds and their harvest levels is crucial for clarifying the status of the herds and the sustainability of ongoing harvest.



Albert Thorassie
Chair
December 29, 2010

Mineral Tenures on Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Calving Grounds (November, 2009)



As of November 17, 2009, companies and individuals held 625 active mineral tenures (prospecting permits, mineral claims and minerals leases) on the Beverly calving ground and 259 on the Qamanirjuaq calving ground

The Annual Caribou Cycle

Most caribou of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds have traditionally wintered in the subarctic forests of the Northwest Territories (NWT), Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with Beverly caribou using range in Alberta in some years and a portion of the Qamanirjuaq herd regularly wintering on the tundra along the coast of Hudson Bay. However, in recent years, few caribou have wintered in northern Saskatchewan or the southern NWT, and reconnaissance surveys conducted since 2002 have found a major downward trend in the number of cows using the traditional Beverly calving ground. Meanwhile, satellite collar movements have indicated that some collared Beverly cows that previously calved on the traditional calving ground (which is primarily in Nunavut, with a small portion in the NWT) have shifted their calving location north to an area near the coast of Queen Maud Gulf. These alterations in the Beverly herd's pattern of seasonal range use may have resulted entirely from changes in movements and habitat selection, from a major decline in the size of the herd, or from a combination of these factors.

The general areas and specific habitats used by Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou from year to year are determined by a combination of many factors, including weather, snow melt, plant phenology, predator avoidance and traditional use of the range. However, the general cycle of seasonal movements traditionally followed by these herds can be described as follows. In spring, the cows and yearlings are the first to migrate north to the calving grounds, followed by non-pregnant cows and young bulls. Adult bulls follow up to a month later. After calving in early to mid-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. 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. Traditionally by November, most of the herds are in the forest once again, although travel can still be rapid until snow accumulation deepens to 50 centimetres or more in February and March.

The "traditional calving grounds" are the cumulative general areas that have been used for calving over the years. However, specific areas used for calving in a given year ("annual calving areas") vary from year to year. Use of range by caribou during other periods is generally less consistent and less predictable in space and time.

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

The Year in Review: 2009–2010

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: in May 2009 at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; and in November 2009 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Board Officers

Up to November 18, 2009:

Albert Thorassie, Chair; Daryll Hedman, Vice-Chair; and Ross Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer.

November 19, 2009 – present:

Albert Thorassie, Chair; Daryll Hedman, Vice-Chair (Operations); Tim Trottier, Vice-Chair (Administration); and Ross Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer.

Board Contact Information

P.O. Box 629, Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0. Phone: (204) 467-2438. E-mail: info@arctic-caribou.com.
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

Alternates are Adam Nalge (Lac Brochet) and Geoff Bussidor (Tadoule Lake).

Representing the Government of Manitoba:

Daryll Hedman (Thompson) 15.02.04

Alternate is Vicki Trim (Thompson).

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 (Yellowknife).

Representing the Government of the Northwest Territories:

Up to August 31, 2009: Vacant

September 1, 2009 – present: Allicia Kelly (Fort Smith)

01.09.09

Alternate is Jan Adamczewski (Yellowknife).

Nunavut

Representing the Kivalliq Wildlife Board:

Up to November 20, 2009: Thomas Elytook (Baker Lake)

23.05.06

November 21, 2009 – present: Vacant

Laurent Angalik (Arviat)

23.05.06

Alternates to be determined.

Representing the Government of Nunavut:

David Vetra (Arviat)

15.10.08

Alternate is Mitch Campbell (Arviat).

Canada

Representing the Government of Canada:

Up to October 9, 2009: Vacant

October 10, 2009 – present: Peter Kusugak (Iqaluit).

10.10.09

Alternate to be determined.

Summary of Board Activities, Recommendations and Responses

Activities: During the year under review (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010), the BQCMB conducted the following activities.

Caribou Monitoring and Management

For the third consecutive year, the GNWT conducted reconnaissance surveys of the Beverly caribou range during the 2009 calving period. Reconnaissance surveys map the location of annual calving grounds and provide information about the number of caribou on calving grounds during the calving period; they do not estimate population sizes. The last successful population survey of Beverly caribou in 1994 estimated the herd at 276,000. Surveys in 2007 and 2008 indicated that fewer and fewer caribou have been using the traditional Beverly calving ground for calving, leading the GNWT to conclude that the herd has suffered a major decline.

In June 2009, BQCMB member Dennis Larocque of Camsell Portage, Saskatchewan and BQCMB alternate member Pierre Robillard of Black Lake, Saskatchewan were part of a crew that surveyed an area along the migratory route of Beverly caribou from the Saskatchewan-NWT border about 500 km north to the traditional Beverly calving ground, which straddles the NWT-Nunavut border. A set path was laid out in advance similar to other surveys in recent years. Comparable to the previous year, the survey team did not find any large groups of caribou between the Saskatchewan-NWT border and the calving ground, thus ruling out a migration delay.

A second survey crew, led by GNWT staff and assisted by BQCMB contract biologist Leslie Wakelyn, conducted the systematic reconnaissance survey of the traditional Beverly calving ground in early to mid-June. The survey results showed a further decrease from 2008, with only 78 adult caribou (including 49 cow caribou) counted on the survey transects, and a calf:cow ratio of just 15:100, which is considered to be quite low. For comparison, the numbers of adult caribou observed on transects in previous surveys include: 148 in 2008; 2,629 in 2002; and 5,737 in 1994.

The GNWT's reconnaissance survey of the Ahiak calving ground, which is north of the traditional Beverly calving ground, counted fewer caribou on its calving ground in June 2009 compared to 2008 as well. Meanwhile, preliminary results of the 2008 Qamanirjuaq calving ground survey conducted by the GN estimated the herd at 345,000, which is about 30 per cent lower than the 1994 population estimate of 496,000.

During 2009-2010, the BQCMB's caribou monitoring and related activities were aided by contributions of \$25,000 each from AREVA Resources Canada Inc. and Cameco Corporation. AREVA's funding represents the third allotment from a five-year \$125,000 funding agreement with the BQCMB, while this is the second year that Cameco donated \$25,000 to the Board.

Funds from AREVA and Cameco aided additional BQCMB priorities of obtaining community-

based information and providing media and information (including briefing and conservation messages) and “On the Land” camps for youth. Additional contributions also assisted the February 2010 BQCMB Caribou Workshop (see “Board Initiatives”).

Funding of \$30,000 annually for three years from WWF-Canada supported BQCMB efforts to protect caribou and habitat. This was the last year of the organization’s financial commitment to the BQCMB.

Board Initiatives

The BQCMB Caribou Workshop, held February 23 to 25, 2010 in Saskatoon, was the Board’s major undertaking of 2009-2010. The recommendation for a workshop arose a year prior in February 2009 during a BQCMB technical meeting that focused on sombre findings about the declining Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. The Caribou Workshop was planned to provide an opportunity for caribou-harvesting communities and others to contribute their knowledge and resources in finding ways to reverse the situation.

A total of \$58,000 from governments, industry and other organizations was raised for the workshop, and the BQCMB committed significant cash and in-kind contributions to organize, co-ordinate and report on the meeting.

The Caribou Workshop drew 75 elders, hunters, government staff, scientists and concerned others from Saskatchewan, NWT, Manitoba, Nunavut, Alberta, Yukon, British Columbia and Ontario. Presentations

and smaller break-out groups where participants discussed key issues and proposed possible solutions marked the three-day event, and helped to build a platform for further action. This



APTN (seen here interviewing BQCMB Chair Albert Thorassie) and other media covered the BQCMB Caribou Workshop

Photo by David Vetra



Participants at the February 2010 BQCMB Caribou Workshop in Saskatoon talked about issues affecting caribou today during one of many smaller group discussions

Photo by David Vetra

included a two-page plain language summary of the workshop (issued in March 2010), a detailed plain language report summarizing workshop discussions and presentations (to be circulated in early 2011), and visits by the BQCMB to caribou-range communities to talk with residents about caribou issues (to be conducted in 2010 and 2011). The first meeting was slated for May 2010 in Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

These community meetings will allow many more people who rely on the herds to hear from the BQCMB about the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou and give people the chance to share their knowledge and provide input on ways to help the herds. The BQCMB will publish a report by spring 2012 summarizing discussions from these meetings and will make recommendations accordingly based on input received.

The BQCMB thanks Caribou Workshop sponsors for their financial and logistical support: NWT's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Nunavut's Department of Environment (DOE), the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, the NWT and Nunavut regional offices of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Manitoba Conservation, Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), Athabasca Land Use Office, Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), WWF-Canada, AREVA Resources Canada Inc. and Cameco Corporation.

The BQCMB community caribou program, now in its fourth year, moved its focus away from hunting caribou to general experiences provided on the land for youth by seasoned hunters, trappers and elders. The BQCMB approved applications for program funding for Father Megret High School in Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan; Oscar Blackburn School in South Indian Lake, Manitoba; Lutselk'e Dene School in Lutselk'e, NWT; Father Porte Dene Memorial School in Black Lake, Saskatchewan; and Father Gamache School in Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan. Partial funding for the program came from the Board's five-year funding agreement with AREVA Resources Canada and from Cameco Corporation.

The BQCMB again worked with WWF-Canada to produce updated maps of mineral tenures on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq calving grounds for distribution and discussion with Board members at the May and November 2009 meetings and posting on-line at www.arctic-caribou.com/mining.html.

Community resource instructor Kyle Enzo stretches and cleans a caribou hide during a BQCMB-sponsored school caribou hunt at Artillery Lake near Lutselk'e, NWT

Photo by Sheila Cavanagh



Consultations and Presentations



BQCM member Earl Evans gave presentations about the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and the work of the BQCM during CARMA's November 2009 Vancouver meeting as well as the BQCM Caribou Workshop in February 2010

Photo by David Vetra

Delivering as well as observing relevant presentations continued to be an integral part of the activities to raise the BQCM's profile and create greater awareness of caribou conservation issues and tools available to address them.

At the request of BQCM member Thomas Elytook of Baker Lake, Nunavut, BQCM contract biologist Leslie Wakelyn prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the BQCM, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou and concerns about the changes that may result from increasing mineral exploration and development in the Baker Lake area that may affect caribou. Elytook delivered the presentation to high school students at Baker Lake's Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School in April 2009.

Wakelyn attended a workshop held in Yellowknife in May 2009 organized by the GNWT-ENR and the Sahtu and Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources boards. The workshop centred on caribou population modelling and its use as a tool to better understand declining caribou herds and the role that harvest may play in the decline and recovery of those herds, including the dwindling Bathurst herd.

A June 2009 Bathurst calving ground survey conducted by the GNWT confirmed a faster rate of herd decline than anticipated. In response, the GNWT held two separate workshops in early October 2009 to address the status of the Bathurst herd and to discuss management options to assist in its recovery. Wakelyn represented the BQCM at the first two-day session, which included participants from the overlapping Bathurst and Beverly caribou ranges. Other attendees included BQCM member Earl Evans and alternate member Arthur Beck (representing the Northwest Territory Metis Nation), past BQCM members August Enzoe (Lutsel K'e) and Richard Mercredi (NWTMN) and representatives of the Prince Albert Grand Council (Saskatchewan).

In early December 2009, BQCM member Earl Evans of Fort Smith, NWT delivered a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Wakelyn entitled, "The Shrinking Beverly Caribou Herd" to the CircumArctic *Rangifer* Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) network's annual meeting in Vancouver. To raise the profile of the Beverly herd's situation and to learn about other caribou herds and CARMA's work, BQCM Vice-chair Daryll Hedman attended the CARMA meeting and participated in various group discussions along with Evans and Wakelyn.

Also in early December 2009, Wakelyn prepared and gave a presentation to the NWMB in Yellowknife on the status of both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, the Board's concerns about mineral exploration and development on important caribou habitats in Nunavut, and plans underway by the Board to address this situation. Wakelyn also briefed the NWMB and meeting observers on plans for the BQCM's February 2010 Caribou Workshop in Saskatoon, and thanked them for their financial contribution.

During the February 2010 Caribou Workshop, BQCMB Chair Albert Thorassie presented on the purpose of the workshop and the role of the BQCMB, and Evans delivered a presentation on the status of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. These and other presentations by several guest speakers served as the major focus for the workshop information session and set the stage for the group discussions that followed.

Analysis and Comments

The BQCMB continues to provide detailed submissions to regulatory boards and others on key exploration and development projects, land use planning and additional caribou management issues that could affect the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds.

Due in part to the slowdown in mineral exploration activities, only two mineral exploration proposals were reviewed in 2009-2010.



Caribou on the fall tundra in the Thelon, a cultural sanctuary for the Akaitcho Dene

© Tundra Tom (<http://www.thelon.com>) - all rights reserved

- In April 2009, the BQCMB provided input to the NIRB on Western Uranium Corporation's (WUC) requested land use permit extension for its Thelon Basin project on the traditional Beverly calving ground northeast of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in Nunavut. The BQCMB reiterated its primary recommendation for the project that no exploration or development activities be permitted on the traditional calving ground of the Beverly caribou herd, urged the NIRB to recommend that territorial and federal government agencies take action to identify and mitigate potential cumulative effects of human land use activities, including mineral exploration, on barren-ground caribou at a regional scale and asked the Review Board to recommend more stringent permit conditions for any future work on the project.
- In a July 2009 submission to the NIRB on Uranium North Resources' request to extend its Amer Lake permit to explore for uranium close to the Beverly traditional calving ground in Nunavut, the BQCMB asked the NIRB to notify INAC and Uranium North about the crucial need to avoid impacts from mineral exploration on both caribou and caribou habitat on their property. The BQCMB also called for some modifications to the terms and conditions of the August 2007 screening decision to avoid impacts on caribou and habitat.

In March 2010, the BQCMB submitted comments and recommendations to the Wek'ëezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) for consideration during its review of a management proposal for the declining Bathurst herd submitted jointly by the Tlicho and NWT governments. Recommendations submitted by the BQCMB to the WRRB included the following.

- Management actions within Wek'ëezhii should not shift problems to neighbouring herds (such as the declining Beverly herd) and communities that depend on them.
- Thorough consultation with potentially impacted communities and co-management boards outside Wek'ëezhii should take place.

- A comprehensive monitoring program should be conducted.
- Northerners should receive information about the need for harvest monitoring, the value of harvest data in management and its role in herd recovery efforts.

Also in March 2010, the BQCMB submitted preliminary comments and background information to INAC-NWT in response to its draft Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan. INAC had requested input from the BQCMB and provided some funding for the preliminary review. In addition to providing numerous comments on specific sections of the draft Plan, the BQCMB stated that the document required improvement to provide:

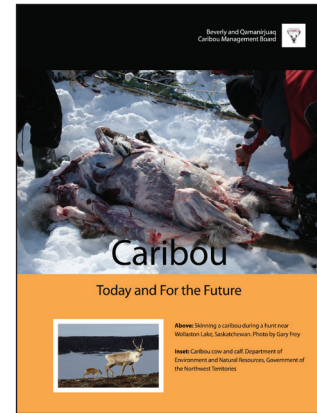
- an “Interim Land Use Plan” for the region
- options for excluding exploration or development from key portions of the Plan area
- assessment of cumulative effects of human land use activities across the caribou range.

The BQCMB also submitted a background report providing information about barren-ground caribou range use and previous recommendations submitted by the BQCMB for permitting mineral exploration and development in the Upper Thelon region.

Communications

The major thrust of BQCMB communication activities during 2009-2010 focused on promoting the February 2010 BQCMB Caribou Workshop. Communications vehicles created for this event included a two-page backgrounder of main issues (distributed to delegates prior to the workshop), six 18" x 24" laminated posters that visually reflected daily caribou usage by people living in Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou-range communities, and a banner of all workshop sponsors and their logos.

A DVD version of the 1995 video *The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board: A Model of Co-Management* was also produced for screening during the workshop. Liaising with the media before, during and after the Workshop helped to garner public attention as workshop proceedings unfolded. A one-page concluding statement was presented at the end of the workshop. In the following month, a two-page plain language summary was created and sent by post and e-mail to workshop participants and others. It was also uploaded to the BQCMB's website, www.arctic-caribou.com.



The BQCMB produced posters to underscore the importance of caribou to Northerners, such as this one showing Wollaston Lake students skinning a caribou

The BQCMB interacted with the media regularly throughout 2009-2010. The Board issued press releases with detailed backgrounders on July 6, 2009 and March 1, 2010. These were distributed to over 40 reporters to underscore the urgency in addressing declines in caribou populations and the BQCMB's efforts to bring all parties together to achieve this goal.

Concurrently, BQCMB representatives made themselves available to the print and electronic media by participating in numerous interviews with reporters. Coverage resulted from CBC North in Yellowknife, the *Slave River Journal*, the Canadian Press, APTN, CBC Saskatoon, Mississippi Broadcasting Corporation and others. References to the BQCMB and its caribou management efforts also appeared in the U.S. magazine *Orion* and in an Associated Press story picked up by such media outlets as ABC News and the *Los Angeles Times*. Throughout the year, the BQCMB also wrote letters to several newspapers to commend them on their coverage and also to correct factual errors where necessary.

Due to budgetary shortfalls, just one issue of the BQCMB's 16-page colour newsletter *Caribou News in Brief* was published in 2009-2010 instead of two issues. Main stories in the Summer 2009 issue included a feature on the shrinking Beverly herd, the BQCMB's proposed Caribou Workshop and "Recipe for Recovery" draft action plan, actions underway for other declining herds and the news from the GN-led 2008 population survey that the Qamanirjuaq herd may be declining.

The BQCMB's Web site was updated with new content following publication of the Summer 2009 issue of *Caribou News in Brief*. This included maps and supporting tables of companies and individuals with mineral tenures on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq traditional calving grounds current to November 2009. In addition to answering occasional e-mail queries, the BQCMB kept more than 400 recipients updated regarding ongoing Board work through e-mail announcements in May and November 2009. Finally, the BQCMB produced and distributed 25 copies of its 66-page *27th Annual Report: 2008-2009*, and uploaded the document to www.arctic-caribou.com.

Board Recommendations and Responses by Governments, Regulatory Boards and Caribou-range Communities

Recommendations Submitted and Responses Received in 2009-2010

(see “Analysis and Comments” for details on submissions #1-3)

1. The BQCMB made recommendations to regulatory agency NIRB on two permit applications for activities on key Beverly caribou habitat in Nunavut:
 - WUC’s application for a second one-year extension to its land use permit for its “Thelon Basin” uranium exploration project on the traditional Beverly calving ground
 - Uranium North Resources’ application for a one-year extension to its land use permit to explore for uranium at its “Amer Lake” project east of the traditional Beverly calving ground.
 - After the BQCMB submitted comments, the NIRB concluded that the applications from both WUC and Uranium North were exempt from screening since they did not change the general scope of original project activities. For both projects, activities remained subject to the terms and conditions issued by INAC in the previous land use permits.
2. The BQCMB submitted recommendations to the WRRB regarding the November 2009 Tliche and NWT governments’ joint proposal on Bathurst caribou management in Wek’èezhii. The BQCMB opposed proposed actions to divert caribou harvest from Bathurst range to Ahiak caribou range.
 - The WRRB’s legal counsel and independent expert both raised this issue during the public hearing on the joint proposal held in Behchoko, NWT in March 2010. The hearing was adjourned on March 26 and the review continued beyond March 31, 2010.
3. The BQCMB provided preliminary comments to INAC-NWT on the draft Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan, pointing out that much remained to be done to develop an appropriate approach to resolving land use issues. The BQCMB requested further meaningful involvement in the planning process, including a review of subsequent Plan drafts and the Plan Atlas, which had not yet been provided for review.
 - No response regarding this submission was received from INAC as of March 31, 2010.
4. In July 2009 and March 2010 press releases, the BQCMB reiterated some long-standing recommendations to help caribou populations recover, and introduced additional recommendations developed in response to June 2009 Beverly caribou surveys and discussions at the February 2010 Caribou Workshop regarding:
 - a) protecting areas that are very important to caribou, starting with the calving grounds
 - b) doing more to help protect caribou from disturbance and habitat loss resulting from mineral exploration and development

- c) implementing the caribou management strategy for declining herds with low numbers, as prescribed in the *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan (2005-2012)*
 - d) obtaining accurate harvest statistics, or credible harvest estimates where systematic programs for collecting harvest data are not in place
 - e) regular monitoring of the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq and Ahiak herds
 - f) harvesting only what people need
 - g) preventing wastage
 - h) harvesting bulls instead of cows whenever possible.
- Long-standing recommendation “a” has not been addressed, and mineral exploration activity continues to be permitted by INAC on the Beverly traditional calving ground.
 - The GNWT-ENR and GN-DOE planned to conduct numerous surveys and other monitoring activities for the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq and Ahiak herds in 2009-2010 and beyond, addressing recommendations “c” and “e”.
 - The northern Saskatchewan joint caribou monitoring project, operated by the PAGC as a cost-shared program with the GNWT-ENR and supported by Saskatchewan Environment, has developed various programs and plans to address most of these recommendations (except “a”) for northern Saskatchewan communities.
 - Manitoba Conservation staff addressed recommendations “d” and “f-h” by working to develop harvest estimates, posting signs on winter roads and providing information sheets to resident hunters.

Responses in 2009-2010 to Previous Recommendations

(see BQCMB Annual Reports for details of #1 and 2)

1. The BQCMB recommended to the NIRB in February 2009 that the Kiggavik uranium mine and mill project proposed by AREVA Resources Canada near Baker Lake undergo a public review. The NIRB recommended to the Minister of INAC in March 2009 that a review be conducted.
 - In February 2010, Minister Strahl instructed the NIRB to conduct a Part 5 review, stressing the importance of a thorough cumulative effects assessment, and noting that: “Cumulative impacts of particular concern include those to caribou, caribou migration and calving grounds, and related socio-economic impacts to Baker Lake and other impacted communities.”
2. The BQCMB recommended to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) in May 2008 that four land use permit applications for uranium exploration proposed by Uravan Minerals Incorporated and Bayswater Uranium Corporation in the Upper Thelon region of the NWT be rejected. In September 2008 the MVEIRB recommended to the Minister of INAC that three of these applications be rejected, and that Bayswater’s Crab Lake proposal be approved with conditions “to prevent project-specific harm to barren ground caribou and to heritage resources.”

- In May and June 2009, Uravan and Bayswater, respectively, notified the MVEIRB that they were withdrawing all four of their land use permit applications for work in the Upper Thelon region. Bayswater stated that it planned to re-submit applications after further discussion with the Akaitcho First Nation.
3. The BQCMB recommended “Regional land use planning that includes consideration of the value of caribou and caribou habitat” to the MVEIRB during the 2006-2007 environmental assessment of Ur-Energy’s proposal for uranium exploration in the Upper Thelon region. In December 2007, INAC sent a status report on the Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan to “interested parties,” including the BQCMB. During the environmental assessments of the four Uravan and Bayswater Upper Thelon proposals, the BQCMB recommended that efforts to develop a land use plan for the Upper Thelon region be increased, as no progress had been apparent to that point. In its September 2008 reports on the four Upper Thelon proposals, the MVEIRB recommended that INAC develop and implement the proposed UTLARMP as soon as possible.
- In March 2010, the BQCMB received a request from INAC-NWT to provide input on its draft Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan. (See “Analysis and Comments” for information about the BQCMB’s submission.)

Review of the State of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Herds

Nunavut

Spring arrived late in the Kivalliq Region in 2009, even though temperatures during the preceding winter months were warmer than those experienced in the last decade. In summer 2009, Qamanirjuaq caribou calved to the eastern and southern extents of traditional calving grounds, reported Kivalliq regional biologist **Mitch Campbell**, with the bulk of the herd not reaching its core calving areas.

The fall migration was normal in 2009 and hunters reported normal body condition in caribou that they harvested.

Since the Government of Nunavut spearheaded the large-scale calving ground photo survey of the Qamanirjuaq herd in 2008, the 2009-2010 year was a quieter one in terms of Department of Environment activities relating to Qamanirjuaq caribou. Nunavut's satellite collaring program for Qamanirjuaq cows – in place since 1993 – continued to operate with 15 effective GPS radio collars on Qamanirjuaq cows during the 2009-2010 period. The department also partnered with Kivalliq Hunters and Trappers Organizations on a Kivalliq-wide caribou disease monitoring program, which continued through its second year. This program uses blood, organ and muscle tissue as well as lower jaws for age and physical assessment, all collected by hunters, to assess disease and contaminant loading in caribou. Another ongoing project was the labour-intensive Kivalliq Region ecological land classification (vegetation mapping) project that on completion will be used in conjunction with GPS collar data to map areas of importance to caribou and other wildlife across the Kivalliq, including both the Qamanirjuaq and Beverly Nunavut-range extents.

Manitoba

The latter part of August 2009 marked the re-entry of the Qamanirjuaq herd back into Manitoba reports **Darryl Hedman**, Wildlife Manager for Manitoba Conservation. Groups comprised mostly of bulls entered the province on the east side of Nejanellini Lake and migrated westward as far south as South Indian Lake for most of the winter. Hedman reported that there was a substantial number of caribou in Manitoba for the winter months with weather conditions marked by mild temperatures and minimal snow coverage. Due to an abundance of rain during summer 2009, few forest fires occurred. No fires were reported in 2009 on the winter range. During 2009-2010, the main activities conducted on behalf of the caribou included three fall caribou patrols on the fall range. Numerous winter patrols were conducted by truck, aircraft and snow machine. Wildlife related charges regarding caribou infractions were made by Resource Officers. As well, collections of stomach contents and genetic samples were taken for the GN-DOE.

Northwest Territories

South Slave Regional Biologist for the GNWT, **Alicia Kelly**, reported that most collared caribou wintered near the tree line in the NWT in winter 2008-2009. Since few caribou wintered below the tree line, they did not have to travel as far during their spring 2009 migration. Most collared caribou left the NWT during the first half of May 2009 en route to the calving ground. The majority of the collared caribou re-entered the NWT in late summer. During summer 2009, two fires occurred on the caribou range burning approximately 340 hectares.

The fall migration pattern was considered normal. Most caribou remained on the tundra during the rut. A few of the collared cows tracked by GNWT wintered on the tundra in Nunavut for 2009-2010. Many caribou wintered on the tundra near the tree line east of Great Slave Lake. Winter conditions showed minimal snow east of Great Slave Lake and on the tundra, reducing the amount of digging required for caribou to access food. More caribou wintered south of the tree line in 2009-2010 than in 2008-2009. For example, caribou wintered south of Lutselk'e in the Manchester Lake area and as far south as Abitou Lake.

Kelly reported on the main activities conducted by the GNWT-ENR on behalf of the caribou from 2009 to 2010. In April 2009, a spring classification survey was conducted to look at calf survival to 10 months old and calf:cow ratios. A total of 6,502 caribou in 189 groups were classified. There were 31 calves:100 cows (SE=1.4). In June 2009, systematic reconnaissance fixed-wing surveys delineated the calving grounds to determine relative density of caribou on site. The traditional Beverly calving ground was covered as well as the Queen Maud Gulf from Bathurst Inlet to Chanterey Inlet (Ahiak calving ground). A second aircraft was utilized to fly the traditional migration route south and west of the traditional Beverly calving ground to confirm that caribou were not delayed in reaching their calving grounds. No breeding caribou were observed by this second aircraft. On the traditional Beverly calving ground, fewer cows were observed in 2009 than in previous years (49 cows were observed on-transect; 24 of these were breeders with hard antlers). Only four calves were observed in this area (one on-transect and three off-transect). Slightly higher densities of caribou were observed in the Queen Maud Gulf (Ahiak calving ground) in 2009 compared to 2008 (a year with low pregnancy rates). A longer-term trend analysis of the 2006-2009 data was completed, and overall, the number of cows on this calving ground in 2009 was about 40 percent the number in 2006.

In October 2009, the first fall classification survey in several years was conducted to determine adult sex ratio of caribou in the traditional Beverly wintering area with 3770 caribou in 41 groups being classified. There were 54 bulls:100 cows (SE=4.2). A joint survey, GNWT conducted the field work and GN funded most of the survey.

During winter, hunters from various groups provided samples and information about the caribou harvested. A more intensive condition study, examining harvested caribou, was conducted in March 2010 in collaboration with Aurora College's Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program with BQCMB member Earl Evans participating. Overall, health and condition information was collected on 45 bulls and 47 cows. Generally, the caribou in this survey were thought to be healthy for the time of year and 80 percent of the adult cows were pregnant (33/41 records).

Caribou were monitored throughout the year with GPS radio collars. Two new collars were deployed on Beverly/Ahiak caribou in April 2009 as part of the Bathurst herd collar deployment. No other new collars were deployed between April 2009 and March 2010. As of April 2009, GNWT had 40 collars on Beverly/Ahiak caribou. As of March 2010, there were 25 collars (15 mortalities occurred during the year).

Saskatchewan

The sighting of caribou in Saskatchewan occurred in November 2009 by hunters from Wollaston, Saskatchewan who spotted herds along the Manitoba border south of Hasbala Lake. Concurrently, aerial surveillance by an area pilot indicated caribou in the Bonikoski Lake region. **Tim Trottier**, Wildlife Biologist for the Ministry of Environment for the Government of Saskatchewan, reported that caribou followed migration paths from north of 60 in at least two main locations, including Selwyn Lake, which straddles the NWT/Saskatchewan border north of Black Lake, and Dunvegan Lake north of Fond du Lac. Caribou also came into the province from Manitoba along the Cochrane River and locations both north and south. Trottier noted that few caribou crossed the 60th parallel from the north, but reports suggest that numerous caribou came into the province from Manitoba, settling in the Wollaston Lake area.

Local reports indicated that caribou were still in the province at the end of March 2010, and were comprised of mixed sex and age groups northeast of Wollaston Lake and a preponderance of bulls further west in the Selwyn Lake area. While few caribou appeared to spend the winter in the province further west, reportedly there were small groups of caribou lingering to the north in the NWT portion of forested winter range in the Ivanhoe and Manchester Lakes areas.

Winter temperatures were moderate compared to other years. Snow depths were variable across the Saskatchewan range with the deepest accumulations recorded in the more westerly parts of the range, but not rising above normal levels. During summer 2009, there were only a few incidences of fire. The Ministry of Environment participated in various BQCMB activities including attendance by a Ministry representative as well as two community representatives at regular BQCMB meetings. Other activities included support for biological sampling of caribou, collection of traditional knowledge, community consultations, conservation education activities and participation in calving ground distribution surveys through partnering with PAGC and GNWT. Tina Giroux, Biologist with the Athabasca Land Use Office of PAGC, was instrumental in coordinating valuable community-based monitoring in support of BQCMB activities.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Financial Statements

March 31, 2010



Box 1038, Westside Plaza
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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, 2010 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, 2010 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 read 'EPR', is positioned above the title 'CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT'.

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Stonewall, Manitoba
August 20, 2010

An Independent Member Firm of EPR Canada Group Inc.

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Balance Sheet

For the year ended March 31, 2010, with comparative figures for 2009

	2010	2009
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 41,481	\$ 83,107
Accounts receivable	163,500	1,711
Short term investment	26,000	-
Accrued interest	232	-
GST receivable	4,844	2,975
	<u>\$ 236,057</u>	<u>\$ 87,793</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

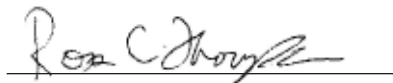
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 12,605	\$ 2,000
Unearned revenue (note 2)	100,000	-
Payable to Scholarship Fund (note 3)	26,213	25,981
	<u>138,818</u>	<u>27,981</u>

Net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	97,239	59,812
	<u>97,239</u>	<u>59,812</u>
	<u>\$ 236,067</u>	<u>\$ 87,793</u>

On behalf of the Board:



Albert Thorassie, 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, 2010

	Budget	2010	2009
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)	-	50,000	-
DIAND - UTLRMP	-	5,000	-
Province of Manitoba	-	-	100,000
World Wildlife Fund	30,000	30,000	-
AREVA	25,000	25,000	25,000
CAMECO	25,000	25,000	25,000
Workshop	-	63,000	-
Other revenue	106,000	-	-
	186,000	198,000	150,000
Total revenue	261,000	273,000	225,000
Expenditures:			
Administration			
Meeting expense	5,000	2,908	3,640
Secretariat fees and travel	28,500	15,723	27,746
Audit and bank charges	5,050	4,619	3,611
Office expense	1,000	454	510
	39,550	23,704	35,507
Programs			
Public relations and education	31,800	14,368	23,700
Caribou habitat monitoring	70,000	58,314	56,925
Community projects	25,000	14,000	6,500
Research studies	-	-	2,929
Workshop	-	72,500	-
Communication, community information and dialogue project (schedule)	44,650	4,025	7,893
Collaring project (schedule)	50,000	48,662	100,000
	221,450	211,869	197,947
Total expenditures	261,000	235,573	233,454
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$	37,427	\$ (8,454)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2010

		2010	2009
Net assets, beginning of year	\$	59,812	\$ 68,266
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures		37,427	(8,454)
Net assets, end of year	\$	97,239	\$ 59,812

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2010

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. Unearned revenue

The Government of Nunavut provided support to Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board for caribou monitoring, caribou information and community information. The project expenditures will occur in the 2010-2011 fiscal year and the support provided by the Government of Nunavut will be recognized as revenue in that fiscal year.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2010

3. Payable to Scholarship Fund

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

4. 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

Statement of Project Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2010

	2010	2009
Revenue:		
DIAND	\$ 50,000	\$ -
AREVA	25,000	25,000
CAMECO	25,000	25,000
World Wildlife Fund	30,000	-
Province of Manitoba	-	100,000
	130,000	150,000
Expenses:		
Equipment	48,662	-
Herd surveys	-	100,000
	48,662	100,000
Public relations and education	1,565	3,886
Community projects	-	1,500
Professional and administration fees	2,460	2,507
	4,025	7,893
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 77,313	\$ 42,107

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Statement of DIAND Core Funding Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 2010

	Budget	2010	2009
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, 2009



Box 1038, Westside Plaza
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Telephone (204) 467-5566
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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, 2009 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, 2009 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
July 28, 2010

An Independent Member Firm of EPR Canada Group Inc.

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Balance Sheet

Year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

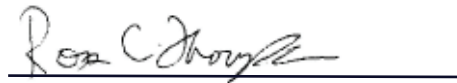
	2009	2008
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 3,694	\$ 3,409
Receivable from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	26,120	25,981
	<u>29,814</u>	<u>29,390</u>
Non-redeemable RBC GIC, 2.85%, due Dec. 31, 2009	-	10,000
Non-redeemable RBC GIC, 1.80%, due Dec. 31, 2014	10,000	-
	<u>\$ 39,814</u>	<u>\$ 39,390</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Payable to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance		
Unrestricted, end of year	39,814	39,390
	<u>\$ 39,814</u>	<u>\$ 39,390</u>

On behalf of the Board:





See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings

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

	2009	2008
Revenue:		
Interest earned	\$ 424	\$ 1,245
Expenses		
Grants distributed	-	3,300
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	424	(2,055)
Fund balance, beginning of year	39,390	41,445
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 39,814	\$ 39,390

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2009

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* for 2002-2012 stipulates that the BQCMB provide “a summary of caribou harvests by jurisdiction and community.” The BQCMB provided summaries of harvest estimates for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds separately up to 2007-2008. In its annual report for 2008-2009, for the first time, the BQCMB was unable to publish Aboriginal domestic harvest estimates for the Beverly herd because there was not enough information available for developing estimates. Reliable harvest estimates for 2009-2010 were not available for any communities on the traditional Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges. The ability of the BQCMB to report on harvest of caribou has always been limited and circumstances outlined below have further constrained Board efforts.

- Resident and commercial harvest is recorded by governments. However, harvest data for Aboriginal hunters have been difficult to obtain, as there is no territory- or province-wide systematic recording of Aboriginal harvest.
- These days, hunters can go where the caribou are, so it is not possible to provide a harvest estimate for a specific herd by community without knowing the details of each caribou hunt undertaken by that community, as well as the distribution of herds at the time hunts are conducted.
- Government biologists advised the BQCMB in 2009 that there was not enough information to reliably estimate Aboriginal domestic harvest for 2008-2009 for communities that traditionally hunted Beverly caribou (five communities in Saskatchewan, three communities in the NWT, one in Nunavut, and one in Alberta). This situation has not changed.
- The lack of harvest data for Saskatchewan communities has also affected harvest estimates for the Qamanirjuaq herd, as some communities that traditionally hunted Beverly caribou instead hunted Qamanirjuaq caribou in recent years. Hunters from additional communities in northern Saskatchewan have travelled east to hunt from the Qamanirjuaq herd, since few caribou were accessible to them in their own region.
- Harvest estimates for communities who traditionally harvested Qamanirjuaq caribou were provided to the BQCMB for 2008-2009 by three HTOs in Nunavut and by Manitoba government staff. None of these data were provided to the BQCMB for 2009-2010.
- Further complicating matters is the fact that it is not known how many caribou are being harvested by people from communities south of the caribou ranges. Estimated harvests by Saskatchewan and Manitoba First Nations members from outside the barren-ground caribou ranges are required to gain a better understanding of total Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest.
- The BQCMB did not receive any information regarding the resident licenced harvest and commercial harvest in Nunavut for 2008-2009, and therefore the BQCMB's reporting of that harvest was deficient. The BQCMB has decided not to provide additional incomplete reports on resident licenced harvest and commercial harvest for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds.
- Wounding loss is an additive factor for estimating harvest levels. Currently, the extent of wounding loss is unknown, but the BQCMB believes it may be significant based on informal reports from communities.

There are serious implications regarding the ability of the BQCMB to determine whether the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds can continue to provide for the subsistence needs of traditional caribou harvesters. The Board is concerned that harvest levels for both herds may not be sustainable. For the Beverly herd, the key issues relate to whether or not the herd has drastically declined and to which communities it continues to be accessible for harvesting. For the Qamanirjuaq herd, the key issues involve possibly opposing trends in population size and harvest, as the Qamanirjuaq herd may be declining, while the harvest is likely increasing. Adequate monitoring of both the caribou herds and their harvest levels is crucial for clarifying the status of the herds and the sustainability of ongoing harvest.

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 materials; and
 - (e) such other costs as the parties may agree upon.
4. Each party shall be responsible for funding the expenses or salaries or honoraria and other incidental travel expenses, such as 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.