

Pangnirtung Hunter's and Trapper's Organization

Public Consultation on Caribou

January 22, 2015

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Directors: | Noah Mosese | Chairperson |
| | Patrick Kilabuk | Vice-Chairperson |
| | Peter Kilabuk | Director |
| | Leopa Akpalialuk | Director |
| | Jacopie Maniapik | Director |
| | Simeonie Keenainak | NWMB member |
| | Eena Alivaktuk | Minute Taker |

Present:

Billy Audlakiak, Tony Angmarlik, Stevie Akpalialuk, Jaypotee Akpalialuk, Manasa Evic, Abraham Arnakaq, Lasaloosie Ishulutaq, Mosese Nowdlak, Sakiasie Sowdloopik, Jimmy Uniushagak, Abraham Keenainak, Geeold Kakee, Tommy Papatsie, Mary Kunilusie, Mosese Akpalialuk, Jaco Newkinga, Mosese Qappik, Peterosie Qappik, Manasie Noah, Johnnylee Nakashuk, Peter Kanayuk, Jarloo Akulukjuk, Matthewsie Maniapik, Jaco Ishulutaq, Tony Nauyuq, Philiposie Kunilusie, Moe Akpalialuk, Sim Akpalialuk, Norman Mike, Tommy Nakashuk, Danny Etuanagat, Davidee Nauyuk, Limee Nakashuk, Jackie Nowdlak, Tommy Nowdlak, Hezekiah Oshutapik, Joavie Alivaktuk, Charlie Qumuatuq, Semeonie Kunilusie, Robbie Diallya, Alan Shoapik, Michael Kisa, Solomonie Nauyuq

The Public Consultation started at 7:00 p.m. with the Director's introduction and the Chairman explaining what tonight's meeting is about.

Simeonie Keenainak explains that he was appointed by the government to sit on the NWMB; his term is for three years. The NWMB makes recommendations to the Minister for approval. He explains that for the Caribou, they were given the information but they felt that they didn't have enough information from the communities and the surveyors that they gave it to the Minister, so he placed the temporary ban on caribou for Qikiqtaaluk. They will be meeting on March 11th and a decision will be given to the Minister and he will have 60 days to make a decision.

NWMB cannot make a decision before hearing from the communities.

Chairperson Noah Mosese explains again that they will be writing down all the concerns brought up tonight and present them at the meeting held in March. They will not be resolving anything tonight but

they will collect concerns tonight and anyone who would like to write their concerns can bring them to the HTO office and the letter would have to be done in both languages and submitted by February 13, 2015. They will also be collecting names of interested people that would like to attend the meeting in March as observers.

Peterosie Qappik

Thanks the Board for doing the Consultation meeting and he believes that he is the eldest person attending the meeting tonight. He is 82 years of age right now but he remembers when he was about 5 or 6 years old, during the summer months, they were not allowed to harvest caribou for three months. They could start harvesting in August when the caribou hides could be used to make clothing. Maybe they could practice this again? They would close the caribou harvest in April and re-open it in August. This worked out and sometimes someone would harvest a caribou off-season. He himself has not eaten any caribou meat since the 1990's, he hasn't gotten sick from not eating any caribou meat. He feels that the ban should be in effect for the whole year of 2015 or have it closed until 2017 or open for short periods of time.

Back then they had much less to live off then we do nowadays but they always tried to abide by whatever was set in place. We do what we want now that we can even order caribou meat from other communities and we will not get sick from not consuming it either and can place orders. If we would like to see the caribou regrow it's population, we will have to abide by what is set.

He feels that the ban should be in place for the whole year of 2015 and open for a short period in 2016.

They also used to plan for 5 years and set a number of how many one can harvest. This has been practiced and we had no trouble with it.

He caught his first caribou during the summer at the end of the Word War when there was a decline in the caribou. He wanted to bring these to the hearing.

Mosese Qappik

He said that the notice was too short on the ban as the survey did not cover all of Baffin, he is sure that they missed some due to the weather. He also asked if the surveyor were met with? He says the same thing happened in Pond Inlet, the caribou was plentiful before the ban. They have migrated elsewhere and will probably migrate back to Baffin. He would like the panel informed that they didn't provide enough time before enforcing the ban.

Peter Kanayuk

He agrees with Mosese that there was not enough consultation before the ban. He agrees that the caribou seemed to have declined but is sure that they have migrated elsewhere. He feels that the ban was too sudden and not enough time given to them and the hunting route for them was not good to travel on.

If the caribou do not migrate back to Baffin, he would like to be provided caribou feast at least four times a year by the people responsible for the ban. He did not eat caribou all the time growing up but our children and grandchildren are used to eating it more often and he would like that to be considered.

Jacopie Maniapik

He participated in the meetings last year and informs the people that some of the survey was never completed due to weather. They were informed that there is nothing set in concrete, they also said that they would think about the calving season, migration routes and mining. The NWMB will be holding their meeting in March and they will give them their recommendations and from there, they take them to the GN for approval.

Leopa Akpalialuk

We were supposed to inform our communities when we got back from the meeting but our local radio was not working at that time. Before they could go on the radio, they heard about the ban. He feels that calving areas are being bothered by mining companies and the surveying only covers some areas. There is a map showing the surveyed areas but no copies have been made but it's available to be viewed.

Noah Mosesee

Reports that he received a letter today regarding the ban and copies will be available at the HTO office.

Manasa Evic

He is one of the people that does not agree with the ban as the notice was very short that he even went on the CBC radio about it. He is asking how long the ban will be in effect. And sometimes people will more than likely come across caribou by the shore, will they be able to harvest some or not at all?

Noah Mosesee

We cannot respond to your questions as we don't know, the Minister would be the only one who would be able to answer them.

Manasa Evic

He feels that if someone saw a caribou by the shore, he is sure that they would harvest it and that would be breaking what has been set.

Peter Kilabuk

He informs the public that the HTO heard about the ban the same time as the community and like Noah indicated they did not receive the letter until today. They are not keeping any information from the community.

Noah Mosesee

A decision will only be made after the consultations and he expects to hear back from NWMB around May.

The Minister will have to approve the recommendations provided by NWMB. They usually have sixty (60) days to make a decision.

Sakiasie Sowdlooapik

He thanks the Board for this meeting. He feels that they shouldn't be asking too many questions but voicing their concerns. If we want caribou around, we have to start thinking about the future, we conserve our animals. We do not hunt to finish off our animals. In the NLCA it indicates that no one shall stop a hunter from harvesting for a meal.

He also asked if he would be charged for harvesting during the ban. He feels that if the ban is set for too long, the younger hunters will not abide by it and they would forget the migration routes normally used. Survival will get harder for the future generation. Our ice takes longer to freeze up and the in-land hunting routes are not good to travel on. In Iqaluit, they had good hunting routes and were able to hunt before the ban.

He also states that in Kivalliq, they keep the caribou hides and have them available for people. He also states that the Director at headquarters are mainly from South Africa where a lot of their animals are protected. He feels that since our Minister is inuk, he should listen to us, the communities of Baffin and also consider our elders and the cravings they will have. He also feels that if the caribou numbers stay low, that the government should consider teaching students on conservation.

Leopa Akpalialuk

Since we are collecting concerns, he is asking how long they feels the ban should be in place or if there should be an open/off season. Give them ideas.

Break at 8:00 p.m. They will be collecting names during break for people that are interested in being observers at the NWMB meeting in March.

Tommy Papatsie

Thanks the Board for welcoming him and giving him a chance to speak. He is hearing good suggestions and information. He also feels that the survey only covered part of Baffin. He remembers back in the 1980's that a survey done on caribou indicated that the population was around 180,000 and today they say the numbers are down to 5,000. It never used to come to mind that they would start meeting regarding animals. He also feels that the caribou have migrated elsewhere. Looking at the survey map, it shows that the caribou is more plentiful in West Baffin and we have nothing. He was shocked to hear about the ban as it didn't give us time to go hunting for caribou. He would like to keep our tradition

alive and think of our future generation. He also feels that if one harvests a caribou they will keep it to themselves. He would like alternatives looked into such as holding feasts.

Andrew Nakashuk

He was planning to go caribou hunting as he wasn't aware that a ban was being put in place. He also thanks the Board for giving them opportunity to voice their concerns. He would like the HTO to meet with not just NWMB but also with QWB, QIA, NTI and try and come up with solutions together. He would like the hunters to be compensated and also to consider the IIBA. He feels that they were not given time to go hunting before the ban. Consider IQ and not just listen to the scientist. He was shocked to hear about the ban. He would also like to work with the other communities.

He does not want the ban to be in place for too long. And he would like some Pangnirtung residents to be sent out to go caribou hunting as he was planning to go and is sure that he wasn't the only one.

Noah Mosesee

QWB has encouraged all communities to do a Public Consultation in Baffin.

Peterosie Qappik

Caribou used to be very plentiful around the Nattilik Area but he now hears that there is nothing there. He remembers going there by boat during summer and there was lots of caribou before they started migrated. The caribou then migrated very far as if running from something. Nothing is set in concrete and they will probably try and set something for the better but they will bring our concerns to the March meeting.

Joavee Alivaktuk

He himself feels that the ban should be in place for a year. He feels that if we don't abide by what has been set by the government, they will really be looking at us. He also feels that having the ban in place will help our future generation.

He has travelled to the Nattilik area over forty times and the last trip he took he noticed that it had the least tracks since he's been going there, as before there used to be so many caribou that they used to travel right by their tents. He would also like to say that if anyone spots caribou by the shore, to just leave them alone as he himself thinks that the ban should be in place for the whole year and be reconsidered after that. They will also be looking at us to see if we are abiding by what has been set and he would also like to see the caribou population re-grow as he would still like to harvest one while he is alive. He thanks the Board for the consultation and for collecting concerns.

Manasa Evic

He doesn't have much more to add. He remembers that there used to be lots of caribou when he was a child especially during winter and that they had to travel far to hunt caribou. One of the reason he did

not agree with was that as a voter, the elected officials didn't consult with the voters before making a decision. As a voter, he didn't agree with the ban when he heard about it.

Limee Nakashuk

He felt that the ban was too sudden and he didn't agree with it. When he is able, he usually hunts for caribou. He doesn't want the ban to be set permanently. He feels that the hunters should be able to harvest at least for months at a time during summer and winter. He had also assumed that the HTO was aware before the community and didn't agree to it.

Noah Mosesee

He informs the public that the HTO heard about the ban the same time as the community. In November, they had 2 representatives attend a meeting and there was no mention of the ban.

Andrew Nakashuk

Just keep the community informed on any new information you receive. He would also like to add that the decision makers should also consider the wolves and mining companies and the surveyors who will be going back and forth.

Abraham Arnakaq

He thanks the Board and would like to tell a story about caribou. Growing up he remembers when hunters were allowed to harvest up to five (5) caribou for a year. The caribou population re-grew after this was practiced. He has seen that after conserving, the population grows back. He is not against the decision makers as he knows they are thinking about conservation. He has also noticed that they seem to be migrating westward.

He adds that we should not over harvest and that the ban should not be permanent.

Sakiasie Sowdloopik

He would like the wolves to be dealt with also. Other regions are also having problems with wolves. We should not just hesitate and just do what we feel is right. He used to work as a Conservation Officer and they used to tag some caribou, some of the caribou with tags have been harvested in the Kivalliq region. He would also like Inuit Qauyimajatuqangit used when making decisions. He has also heard that some cruise ships located lots of dead caribou, he doesn't know at what location but he would like them looked into to see what the cause of death was.

Geeold Kakee

He did not agree with the ban when he heard about it. He would like someone to go caribou hunting for our community as there are still lots of people that do not place orders for caribou meat due to lack of funds. He would like the hunt to take place before the meeting.

Peter Kanayuk

He states that wolves follow their diet so he would like them to be considered.

Pangnirtung residents are not to be blamed for the decline as they haven't harvested any for a few years, they should be thanked.

Charlie Qumuatuq

They are given a chance to voice concerns to bring to the meeting. He would like to ask if the caribou had also declined in the past. What is the cause for the decline? He himself thinks that the ban should be in place for a year. He has some question to the scientist regarding the noise levels.

Mosese Nakashuk

He would like to be able to harvest a few caribou with a set quota as this would not be the first time a quota has been set for them. He didn't agree to the ban when he heard about it as we still had open waters when it was announced. He feels that they should be allowed to harvest males and not the females and calves. He also believes that they have migrated elsewhere. He doesn't want the caribou to just be stories to our grandchildren.

Abraham Keenainak

He also remembers about the limited harvest that was placed when they could harvest up to five caribou. When this was in place, they used to be reminded that they could only harvest up to five and he remembers his first catch. He was shocked to hear about the ban. He believes that the wolves will always be eating the caribou off so he would like them to be considered as that is their main diet. And they have always been told that the caribou will come back but since the noise level is much higher now they have migrated elsewhere. They don't seem to be anywhere now, you don't even spot them by the shoreline.

Jarloo Akulukjuk

He believes that since hearing about the ban, some people have been thinking about it. The trails were still not useable when they announced the ban. He himself also remembers when they could harvest only five. He would also like the wolves to be considered as someone indicated that that is their main diet.

If the ban will be in place for some time, he would like some hunters to be sent out by charter to another region to go hunt some caribou. It is very difficult for us since our trails were not useable before the ban.

Limee Nakashuk

He feels the same way. It is very costly to order caribou meat. For two caribou and the freight, the cost goes up to \$1000, so he would really like this to be considered.

Our younger generation doesn't follow rules like the older people.

Mary Kunilusie

All the money used for surveys and others should be used to purchase caribou.

Jaco Newkinga

We know that caribou is not almost all gone, they have migrated elsewhere. He took part in the tagging of caribou in the past and there was lots of caribou back then. When caribou with tags were caught, they would bring the tag back and state that they were caught from quite a distance from where they had been tagged. They probably migrate following their food and we are now buying our caribou but from a different region.

He also feels that they should provide bounty for the heads of wolves and believes that that would help. That could also help with the numbers if they are recorded. He feels that the bounty for the heads could be set at \$200 or \$300. If they don't provide this then they will not know the numbers on paper.

Simeonie Akpalialuk

He really believe Inuit Qauyiajatuqangit as they are true. He has also noticed that there are other issues that need to be considered like, we have less snow, less vegetation so they don't grow like they used to, and these are things that he has noticed.

He is encouraging the HTO to apply for funds from CLEY before March 31 for the funds to be used to document IQ as this would help strengthen our voices.

The GN also has funds available to assist hunters. In the south, when a farmer loses money they get aid from the government, he feels that the hunters should receive something similar to what the farmers get.

He feels that we should raise funds to go caribou hunting to Kivalliq and encourage the government to help.

He would also like Nutrition North contacted to let them know that we would like to purchase meat from other communities.

Lasaloosie Ishulutaq

He was shocked to hear about the ban. He thought of his father as he had asked him before what the year had been when they were allowed to harvest only five caribou. The year was 1931 June 25.

Charlie Qumuatuq

He says that looking at the survey results, Prince Charles Island looks plentiful according to the survey, and he would like to know if it is part of Baffin or they can go caribou hunting there, he would like them to be asked.

Tommy Papatsie

He feels that they do not care about the Inuit tradition he feels that they are not considering the mining, wolves and others.

He recalls that an Igloodik elder, Noah Piugatuk had asked that there be a Bowhead Whale hunt while he was still alive even though they had not been hunted or were allowed to be hunted at the time. When it was caught, they distributed the meat to the community. They got charged and fined for doing the hunt. But they also got praised for practicing the old ways. Even if they get charged but are just practicing the old ways, let us just support them as they are just showing us how it used to be in the past.

He would like to get a caribou hunt for the community.

Even if we will get charged, we should just continue to practice our tradition.

Davidee Nowyuk

He supports the people that want to conserve. He feels that the ban should be in place for a year.

Simeonie Akpalialuk

He would like HTO to set-up a Facebook page to keep everyone informed.

Noah Mosesee

He thanks everyone that attended the meeting tonight and reminds them that if they would like more concerns brought to NWMB, that they need the concerns in written form and in both languages and they can be submitted to HTO until February 13, 2015.

Names submitted for Selection

Manasa Evic

Abraham Keenainak

Lasaloosie Ishulutaq

Andrew Nakashuk

Hezekiah Oshutapik

Johnnylee Nakashuk

Mary Kunilusie

Tommy Papatsie

Charlie Qumuatuq

Peter Kanayuk

Stevie Akpalialuk

Jaypotee Akpalialuk

Mosese Qappik

Peterosie Qappik

Sakiasie Sowdloopik