

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

**Project Number:** 2-14-10

**Applicant:** Jaylene Goorts

**Title:** Community-Based Caribou Health Monitoring on Baffin Island and the Melville Peninsula, Nunavut

**Funding Requested:** Single Year Funding - \$16,000 for 2014-2015

**Rank:** 11 / 18

**Total Score** 73.00 / 100  
(no deductions)

**Scoring Breakdown:** NWMB Priority: 1.50 / 17.50  
Regional Priority: 7.50 / 7.50  
Quality: 30.00 / 35.00  
Consultation: 13.50 / 15  
Funding: 20.50 / 25

## Project Summary:

The purpose of this project is to establish a hunter-based sample and information collection program that will contribute to the monitoring of caribou health and genetics in the Baffin Region. The objectives of this project are to: 1) establish baseline values for health related information and genetic variation of caribou; 2) undertake long-term monitoring and detect future changes; and 3) increase the capacity of community members, including youth, in research.

## Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$16,000	50%
Other Contributions	<u>\$16,000</u>	<u>50%</u>
Total	\$32,000	100%

## NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: Not identified as an NWMB priority but will provide information that will contribute to wildlife management in Nunavut.

Regional Priority: #1 Baffin – Increase community involvement in wildlife management.

## Project design:

This project proposes to train hunters to collect samples and information from their freshly killed caribou. Through consultations and public meetings, making use of videos and pictures of visibly recognizable caribou diseases, Hunters and Trappers Organizations and harvesters will be given an overview of the project, sample requirements, and collection methods. Samples include an information sheet about the harvest, a skin sample, fecal pellets, blood, and a back fat measurement to indicate body condition. Hunters will receive \$60 if these samples are provided. Hunters will also have the option to provide the lower left hind leg and the lower jaw for an additional \$40. Sample kits have also been modified so that hunters can choose to complete the kits while out on the land or when they return to the community. The samples and data collected will be analyzed (either by the Department of Environment or by specialized

labs if necessary) to evaluate caribou health. Analysis will provide information on disease, parasites, diet, genetic structure, and overall body condition.

Application of results:

The information that will be generated by this project can be used to help interpret existing abundance data and overall trends in population size. This will aid in developing effective management plans aiming to promote recovery of the populations. Additionally, ongoing collection and analysis will allow monitoring of long-term trends and future changes, and inform adaptive management strategies or initiatives.

Community involvement / consultation:

Community consultations for this project occurred in December 2013 and January 2014. Additionally consultations will be undertaken throughout the year to train hunters in sample collection. The results of the various sample analyses will be reported back to the communities where hunters, elders, and other local experts will have an opportunity to assist researchers in interpreting the observation and information obtained. The proposal indicates that support has been obtained from all affected communities with 8 of the 10 Hunters and Trappers Organizations having provided letters of support thus far.

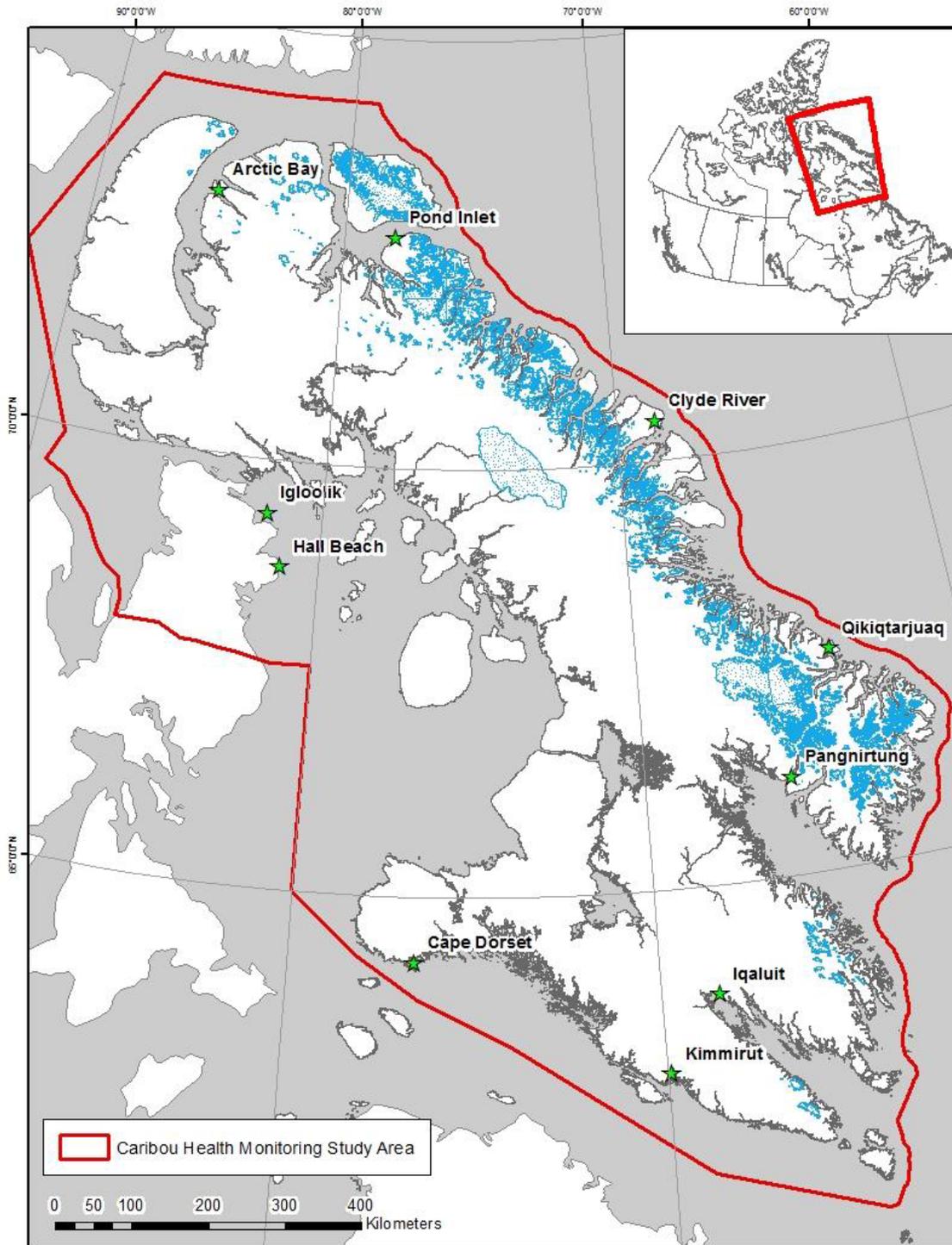
As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the project is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and provide evidence that the research has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Recommendations:** If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on other funding, as identified in the proposal, being approved. This should be confirmed in writing; and
2. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

**Prepared By:** Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

**Consultations:** Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB  
Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB



**Figure 1.** Caribou Health Monitoring study area within which harvester sampling will occur.