



## Tłıchǫ Government

Box 412, Behchokǫ, NT X0E 0Y0 • Tel: (867) 392-6381 • Fax: (867) 392-6389 • [www.tlicho.ca](http://www.tlicho.ca)

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Chairperson **Via email: [receptionist@nwmb](mailto:receptionist@nwmb)**  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Ikaluktuutiak Drive  
P.O. Box 1379  
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0  
Email: [receptionist@nwmb](mailto:receptionist@nwmb)

**Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing to Consider a Regional Total Allowable Harvest for the Bathurst Caribou Herd**

Dear Mr. Chairperson

Barren-ground Caribou and in particular the Bathurst play a crucial role in the very culture of the Tłıchǫ people. Caribou is our way of life, it defines our culture, our language and our very being.

It must come as no surprise that the alarming decline of the Bathurst herd is of grave concern for the Tłıchǫ people. We have made sacrifices over years in reducing our harvest and we are happy to see that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is considering the same. The Tłıchǫ People went from an approximate 6,000 harvested caribou annually (80% cow, spread over both Bathurst and BNE, 2009) to 373 caribou (100% BNE bulls, 0 Bathurst, 2015/16). The Tłıchǫ Government painfully realize from past experience that the decision for a complete ban on a herd is an extremely tough one. However, we believe that we have made the right decision; for the Bathurst to recover we need a ban on all hunting activities for all users over the whole range of the Bathurst.

Our late Chief Jimmy Bruneau said that we can only survive on the land and work together if we are: "*Strong Like Two People*". The Tłıchǫ people still want to live by this mantra. All the original subsistence users of this herd are facing the same hardships; however, only by working together can we solve this hardship for our future generations.

If you have any questions please contact Sjoerd van der Wielen, Lands manager, Tłıchǫ Government, at [sjoerdvanderwielen@tlicho.com](mailto:sjoerdvanderwielen@tlicho.com) (our preferred communication method).

Masi,

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus  
Tłıchǫ Government