

## Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society –NWT Chapter

### Three (3) questions total -

#### 1. Barren Ground Caribou:

A number of factors are contributing to the decline of barren ground caribou populations across the north. One recovery action that could be championed by the GNWT is to approve a policy that protects caribou calving habitat from the negative impacts of human land use activities.

It would be necessary that the scope of this policy would oppose development on caribou calving grounds in all political jurisdictions because most NWT caribou herds are shared with other jurisdictions including most calving habitat. Although the GNWT has no mandate beyond our borders, the government makes recommendations to other jurisdictions (such as Alaska and Nunavut) in cases where environmental reviews and land use planning processes involve calving habitat of NWT caribou herds.

***Would you support a GNWT policy that directs the territorial government to oppose the construction of infrastructure corridors (including roads) or any other industrial developments on caribou calving grounds?***

**Yes, I would support this: X**

**No, I would not:**

**Comments:**

The caribou calving grounds are sacred and considered the most sensitive area of the Bathurst range by both Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) holders and scientists. Restricting these areas from development will ensure the caribou are protected from sensory disturbance and the habitat is not altered or destroyed.

Outside of the calving grounds, the Cumulative Land Disturbance Framework (CLDF) outlined in the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan (BCRP) should guide land and resource decision-making until land claims are settled and Land Use Plans are completed. Indigenous communities across the Bathurst range have a critical role in deciding the best path forward for the Bathurst caribou. I would lobby to ensure Indigenous Guardianship programs are properly resourced to monitor the overall wellbeing of the caribou and the impacts of industrial development and road use on caribou health and behavioural response.

#### 2. Candidate Protected Areas:

Over the past two decades a number of NWT communities have identified lands and waters of significant cultural and ecological value for nomination as candidate protected areas. The GNWT now has a legislative tool to sponsor this work through the NWT Protected Areas Act which provides an opportunity for the GNWT to enter into innovative Nation to Nation

partnerships for co-managing and governing protected areas. Two proposals - Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts) and Dinàgà Wek'èhodi (North Arm) could be ready for establishment early in the upcoming 19th Assembly, others could move forward within the term.

***If elected will you support the establishment of the previously nominated candidate protected areas?***

**Yes: X**

**No:**

**Comments:**

I support the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) and community-led efforts to secure ecological and cultural values in protected areas across the NWT. Protected areas can support regional economic diversification into tourism, and local opportunities rooted in cultural activity and on the land stewardship programs.

**3. Planning Ahead - Investing in Local Environmental Stewardship Capacity:**

There are a number of innovative and exciting land-based programs evolving in regions of the NWT, for example "Guardians" which have objectives related to environmental stewardship and could include training for participation in the many facets of land, water and resource management.

***Do you support that the GNWT should have a focus on collaborating, promoting and contributing to proposals that bring new investment into innovative programs that increase the local capacity of Indigenous Governments and regional land and resource management departments?***

**Yes: X**

**No:**

**Comments:**

I am supportive of community-led environmental stewardship initiatives and in particular the Guardianship program. The GNWT should collaborate, promote and contribute to the initiatives, but take a back seat.