



September 9, 2019

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society –NWT Chapter

NWT Territorial Election All Candidates Questionnaire

Sent Via E-mail: All Candidates

CC: Phil Mercredi - Communications Coordinator CPAWS-NWT

Dear Candidate,

Please consider answering the following questions provided by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT). Our organization is interested in knowing your viewpoint on three (3) questions which are focused on stewardship of our natural environment.

**We will post all responses on our website, [www.cpawsnwt.org](http://www.cpawsnwt.org) with links through or social media and circulated to our NWT membership.**

**Who we are:**

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT)'s mission is to promote the conservation of land, water, and wildlife in the NWT for current and future generations, by working with NWT residents, Indigenous and public governments, communities, and organizations. We are based in Yellowknife where our local staff, members and volunteers have participated in a variety of conservation and resource management initiatives since our establishment in 1996.

Please return your response to [nwtadmin@cpaws.org](mailto:nwtadmin@cpaws.org) by Monday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Thank-you for your time in responding and best of luck with your campaign!

Kris Brekke  
Executive Director  
CPAWS-NWT

### 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:**

**No, I would not: X**

**Comments:** Caribou are part of the fabric of Indigenous culture and heritage and have been for millennia; something we can't take lightly and we have to make some really difficult decisions about how we will support caribou through this natural cycle of declines.

I do think we need to be very careful about how any proposed development projects affect caribou and habitat, and we need to respect the co-management system and not be making unilateral decisions as the GNWT. Actions taken to support caribou conservation need to include Indigenous governments and the authority of our co-management partners.

I think it's really important that we look at all management options across caribou range, not just on the calving grounds, but on all the important parts of caribou range to ensure that we're making smart decisions that balance the needs of the animals with responsible development.

#### 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: yes**

**No:**

**Comments:**

#### 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: yes**

**No:**

**Comments:**