

KATRINA NOKLEBY

FOR **MLA GREAT SLAVE**



Thank you CPAWS for taking the time to raise your concerns and pose your questions.

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?

I would be committed to designing and siting roads or other infrastructure in such a manner as to avoid sensitive calving grounds even if this comes at a greater cost to the project and government.

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?

I would honour any commitments already made by the 18th Assembly towards protected areas. Without reviewing the specifics of the proposals mentioned in the question I couldn't comment on them. However, if elected I am committed to maintaining a balance between the protection of culturally significant areas and sustainable economic development.

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?

Absolutely, innovation will be key in adapting to the uncertainty of our increasingly changing environment. Developing the capacity for the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge and placing stewardship of the land into the hands of the people that live within the region allows for better informed decisions to be made.

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