

## 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: See below**

**No, I would not:**

**Comments:**

The GNWT historically has opposed industrial development on calving grounds and should continue to do so. We should work across the North to ensure other governments do so as well and make submissions where possible in environmental review processes.

I would extend the opposition of industrial activity to roads in most cases.

This question is obviously indirectly asking if the GNWT should support the Great Slave Geological Corridor, the second half of which is in Nunavut and passes through the Bathurst Caribou calving grounds. Obviously, that portion is fundamental to making the Slave Geological Province Corridor a viable project.

This project requires much greater scrutiny. I have written a rather lengthy blog post on this issue, and the broader issue of making decisions on what to do with our money, [on my website](#).

My position is that there is nuance to this project and I am not committed to complete opposition at this time that answer "yes" to your question would require.

However, I think it's fair to say that this project isn't a priority for me. I think there are better infrastructure investments we could be making.

And more importantly, we need to prioritize settlement of the Akaitcho Land Claim and increasing the population of the Bathurst Caribou herd before we can seriously consider creating a corridor directly through their calving grounds.

## 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:** I had the privilege of working on the territory's *Protected Areas Act* and sitting on the stakeholder advisory group and technical working group which developed this legislation.

I fully support establishing the previously nominated candidate areas. But it's important to recognize that the establishment and agreement of the protected areas is first and foremost the decision of Indigenous governments.

I will work with them to ensure a management system where their rights are protected and these areas allow harvesters to use such areas for generations to come.

### 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:** The biggest hurdle presently in implementing guardianship programs is that the GNWT is not willing to hand over any enforcement positions to Indigenous governments. That means today's guardianship programs are essentially monitoring programs.

I support this as a first step to devolving authorities and building capacity, but ultimately we need to be moving towards giving these programs more teeth, fully devolving authority to Indigenous governments, and getting them the funds they need to administer them properly.

This could also have economic implications as there is an entire economy to be built around collecting and analyzing research in conjunction with universities and other researchers.