

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:

Comments:

I before a policy should be developed, we need to consult and work with indigenous people especially the ones who would be affected by the construction and the herds. We need to look at the impact of any construction or development will have on the herds. We need to look at the scientific information and traditional knowledge before doing anything. If it is negative, then we should not be doing this.

Once all this information is collected, the GNWT and indigenous groups need to co-write the policy and work together to enforce it.

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'èhodì (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:

Comments:

These areas are very important to all northerners especially the indigenous people of the area. This is their traditional territory and it needs to be protected for future generations.

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, however the programs need to be taught and ran by the Indigenous Governments / Groups. The GNWT does not need to be involved with the development or running of the program. I look at the Guardians program offered in the Dehcho and I am amazed at the quality of work they have done. We need to respect what the Indigenous Governments can bring to the table and the work they can do. So, we should provide contributions to the process but let them develop their program as they see needed.