

By email to: [aehrlich@reviewboard.ca](mailto:aehrlich@reviewboard.ca)

AUG 31 2015

Mr. Alan Ehrlich  
Manager, Environmental Assessment  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
PO BOX 938  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P1

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

**EA1314-01 Jay Project – request for current Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and schedule for updates**

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I am writing in response to your letter dated August 24, 2015 requesting the most recent planning or management documents for the Bathurst caribou herd from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). As you noted in your letter, management of the Bathurst herd is a co-management responsibility. A number of parties in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut, and Saskatchewan are actively involved in ongoing work for the long-term management planning for the Bathurst herd.

In their response to your letter the WRRB has provided a summary of the planning process and three supporting documents for posting to the registry. The GNWT can confirm that those documents provide the most recent information about the Bathurst herd management planning process and the GNWT supports posting these documents to the registry. Although there is a lot of ongoing work to develop a long-term plan for managing the Bathurst herd, currently there is no specific Bathurst caribou management plan in place. Attached with this letter is the GNWT's *Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories 2011-2015* for posting to the registry. This strategy provides the GNWT's overarching approach to management of barren-ground caribou, which includes the Bathurst herd.

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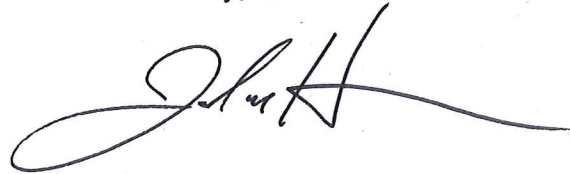
In addition, the GNWT has responded to a number of information requests during this environmental assessment (EA) regarding the management of the Bathurst herd and the GNWT would like to direct the Review Board to the following items already posted to the public registry:

- GNWT responses to information requests (registry item #304), specifically:
  - IEMA IR #52 for Barren-ground caribou
  - MVEIRB IR# 105
  - YKDFN IR #19
  - YKDFN IR #23
- GNWT round two IR responses (registry item #454):
  - LKDFN IR #6
- BCRP Planning Status Report (registry item #594)

The GNWT will also be providing a response to the Review Board's August 21, 2015 request for the 2015 survey results and population estimate for the Bathurst herd by September 8, 2015.

I trust this information satisfies your request. Staff from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Wildlife Division will be present at the upcoming public hearings and available to respond to questions. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Kate Witherly at 867-873-7482 or [kate\\_witherly@gov.nt.ca](mailto:kate_witherly@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Holder', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Holder, Director  
Conservation, Assessment and  
Monitoring

Attachment

c. Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, WRRB