Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [IIAS 002 2017]

On June 9, 2017, the Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat (Indigenous Affairs) received your request for access to the following records/information:

"Any briefing notes, and drafts of briefing notes, dated or likely to be dated between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2015, regarding the George River caribou herd."

Please be advised that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for Indigenous Affairs to provide access to some of the requested information. Due to file size, the information has been provided in 3 attachments, parts one through three. Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with Sections 27(1)(i), (27)(2)(a), 27(2)(b), 29(1)(a), 30(1)(a), 31(1)(e), 34(1)(a)(i), and 34(1)(a)(v) of the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act (the Act). A full list of the relevant legislation is enclosed.

As required by section 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is exempt from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Please note the full pages outlined in the below table have been redacted as non-responsive and will not appear in the attached records. These redacted pages do not contain information respecting the George River Caribou Herd and are not responsive to your request. As you will note the majority of the redacted pages were contained in notes that were prepared for meetings/events in which it was necessary to provide information on multiple topics. These included attendance at signing ceremonies, announcements, pre-budget consultations, Combined Councils of Labrador, Expo Labrador and meetings with Nunatsiavut Government President Sarah Leo.

| Part 1   | Pages 6, 8-11, 18-21, 23-26, 28-31, 33-36, 38-41, 43-46, 50-55, 78, 81, 83-84, 86-87 |

*Page numbers provided in the above table refer to the consecutive page numbering (ie. Pages 1-10) located on the top right of each page in the attached referenced files.

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A I B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you require any further questions, please contact me by telephone at (709) 729-7487 or by email at RCarter@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Ruby Carter
ATIPP Coordinator

Enclosures
Cabinet confidences

27. (1) In this section, "cabinet record" means

(a) advice, recommendations or policy considerations submitted or prepared for submission to the Cabinet;

(b) draft legislation or regulations submitted or prepared for submission to the Cabinet;

(c) a memorandum, the purpose of which is to present proposals or recommendations to the Cabinet;

(d) a discussion paper, policy analysis, proposal, advice or briefing material prepared for Cabinet, excluding the sections of these records that are factual or background material;

(e) an agenda, minute or other record of Cabinet recording deliberations or decisions of the Cabinet;

(f) a record used for or which reflects communications or discussions among ministers on matters relating to the making of government decisions or the formulation of government policy;

(g) a record created for or by a minister for the purpose of briefing that minister on a matter for the Cabinet;

(h) a record created during the process of developing or preparing a submission for the Cabinet; and

(i) that portion of a record which contains information about the contents of a record within a class of information referred to in paragraphs (a) to (h).

(2) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant

(a) a cabinet record; or

(b) information in a record other than a cabinet record that would reveal the substance of deliberations of Cabinet.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Clerk of the Executive Council may disclose a cabinet record or information that would reveal the substance of deliberations of Cabinet where the Clerk is satisfied that the public interest in the disclosure of the information outweighs the reason for the exception.

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to

(a) information in a record that has been in existence for 20 years or more; or

(b) information in a record of a decision made by the Cabinet on an appeal under an Act.

Policy advice or recommendations

29. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or
(b) the contents of a formal research report or audit report that in the opinion of the head of the public body is incomplete and in respect of which a request or order for completion has been made by the head within 65 business days of delivery of the report; or

c) draft legislation or regulations.

(2) The head of a public body shall not refuse to disclose under subsection (1)

(a) factual material;

(b) a public opinion poll;

(c) a statistical survey;

(d) an appraisal;

(e) an environmental impact statement or similar information;

(f) a final report or final audit on the performance or efficiency of a public body or on any of its programs or policies;

(g) a consumer test report or a report of a test carried out on a product to test equipment of the public body;

(h) a feasibility or technical study, including a cost estimate, relating to a policy or project of the public body;

(i) a report on the results of field research undertaken before a policy proposal is formulated;

(j) a report of an external task force, committee, councilor similar body that has been established to consider a matter and make a report or recommendations to a public body;

(k) a plan or proposal to establish a new program or to change a program, if the plan or proposal has been approved or rejected by the head of the public body;

(l) information that the head of the public body has cited publicly as the basis for making a decision or formulating a policy; or

(m) a decision, including reasons, that is made in the exercise of a discretionary power or an adjudicative function and that affects the rights of the applicant.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to information in a record that has been in existence for 15 years or more.

Legal advice

30. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information

(a) that is subject to solicitor and client privilege or litigation privilege of a public body; or

(b) that would disclose legal opinions provided to a public body by a law officer of the Crown.

(2) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that is subject to solicitor
and client privilege or litigation privilege of a person other than a public body.

Disclosure harmful to law enforcement

31. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to

(a) interfere with or harm a law enforcement matter;
(b) prejudice the defence of Canada or of a foreign state allied to or associated with Canada or harm the detection, prevention or suppression of espionage, sabotage or terrorism;
(c) reveal investigative techniques and procedures currently used, or likely to be used, in law enforcement;
(d) reveal the identity of a confidential source of law enforcement information or reveal information provided by that source with respect to a law enforcement matter;
(e) reveal law enforcement intelligence information;
(f) endanger the life or physical safety of a law enforcement officer or another person;
(g) reveal information relating to or used in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion;
(h) deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication;
(i) reveal a record that has been confiscated from a person by a peace officer in accordance with an Act or regulation;
(j) facilitate the escape from custody of a person who is under lawful detention;
(k) facilitate the commission or tend to impede the detection of an offence under an Act or regulation of the province or Canada;
(l) reveal the arrangements for the security of property or a system, including a building, a vehicle, a computer system or a communications system;
(m) reveal technical information about weapons used or that may be used in law enforcement;
(n) adversely affect the detection, investigation, prevention or prosecution of an offence or the security of a centre of lawful detention;
(o) reveal information in a correctional record supplied, implicitly or explicitly, in confidence; or
(p) harm the conduct of existing or imminent legal proceedings.

Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations

34. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to
(a) harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between that government and the following or their agencies:

(i) the government of Canada or a province,

(ii) the council of a local government body,

(iii) the government of a foreign state,

(iv) an international organization of states, or

(v) the Nunatsiavut Government; or

(b) reveal information received in confidence from a government, council or organization listed in paragraph (a) or their agencies.

(2) The head of a public body shall not disclose information referred to in subsection (1) without the consent of

(a) the Attorney General, for law enforcement information; or

(b) the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, for any other type of information.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to information that is in a record that has been in existence for 15 years or more unless the information is law enforcement information.

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.
(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;
(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;
(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or
(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or
(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45 (2).
Title: Montreal meetings on George River Caribou Management

Issue: Meeting with Quebec officials and Quebec Innu (QI) on February 22 in Montreal related to George River Caribou Herd (GRCH) management. NL Participants: Ross Firth, ADM Natural Heritage, ENVC; John Blake, Director wildlife division, ENVC; Aubrey Gover, ADM, Aboriginal Affairs, IGAA; and, Herb Simms, Senior Policy Analyst, IGAA.

Background and Current Status:
QC Officials Meeting
- Participants from QC included: Nathalie Camden – ADM, Wildlife (Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, Province of Quebec); Denis Vandal – Director, Energy Wildlife Forestry Mining (MNRW); and Yvon Boilard (Native Affairs Division).
- NL officials provided an overview of action items regarding conservation measures for the GRCH for 2011/12 and 2012/13 which included: the continuation of 2010/11 harvest restrictions; additional measures effective December 19th 2011; an Aboriginal consultation process to establish Total Allowable Harvest (TAH); the formation of a Provincial advisory Committee; the continuation of bi-lateral engagement with QC; and new research and monitoring initiatives. For more detail see the attached annex.
- NL indicated there were several questions that needed to be answered with respect to aboriginal consultation: should there be a TAH, and, if so, what is the basic needs level of the respective aboriginal groups? NL further indicated that if a TAH was indeed established, it would likely be less than a thousand animals, which will all go to aboriginal peoples for food, social and ceremonial purposes.
- QC officials asked if the information packages to be sent to aboriginal groups as part of NL’s consultation process would contain information on sedentary (woodland) caribou. NL officials indicated that the Province had worked hard to establish sedentary and migratory caribou as distinct populations with distinct regulatory approaches. In NL’s view, there should be no directed hunt for woodland populations and NL had, as a consequence, directed harvest away from that population towards GRCH to take pressure off of endangered populations such as the Red Wine Herd.
- QC officials indicated that they are ending the sport hunt for GRCH for 2012/13 and will need to then establish a TAH and develop a strategy to approach users and engage in consultations. In their view, how such a TAH is implemented in the field is critical and will require buy-in by all user groups to be effective. QC also indicated that they were considering closing the aboriginal hunt but had received significant pushback on this matter.
- QC officials indicated that the QC Inuit and Naskapi are ready to accept a TAH. QC is working on a management plan with the HFTCC, which could include a TAH for the GRCH, but the plan is still about a
year from completion. NL asked if the delay related to the development of a management plan meant that there would end up being a season for GRCH in QC for 2012/13. QC said it depended on action taken by the HFTCC. In QC, a TAH is synonymous with the term “upper limit of kill”. In NL’s view, however, none of those aboriginal groups on the HFTCC are taking significant numbers from the GRCH.

- NL asked if there were figures for the Schefferville (Matimekush) hunt. QC said that they had been told that the Naskapi had probably taken more animals from GRCH than the QI and that discussions with Chief McKenzie were largely dominated by other issues including minerals. NL figures indicate about 300-500 animals have been taken in Schefferville area.
- NL is not engaging QC Inuit because they do not hunt caribou in Labrador. If they hunt in Labrador at all, their rights are confined to the Torngat National Park.
- QC officials suggested that the caribou workshop being organized by the HTFCC and proposed for May in Montreal would provide an opportunity to obtain buy in from aboriginal groups for the need for a TAH. NL officials, however, questioned if such a workshop would allow for a workable TAH process. Concern was expressed by NL officials regarding the ability for QC to reach a decision by August. NL also took the position that the establishment of a basic needs level would require a series of bi-laterals. QC officials suggested that the workshop could provide an opportunity for aboriginal groups to express their opinions and that aboriginal groups in QC see GRCH as a co-management (with aboriginal groups) issue. It is not clear as to the meaning of joint management in this context or if they see it as range-wide management by all affected groups in both provinces.
- NL officials provided a description of the current approach to consultation to QC officials (different letters to different groups) and indicated that letters would be sent in the near future. NL officials indicated that QC would be copied on the letters. QC officials had some concerns that if aboriginal groups received the consultation letter before the workshop they may not engage in the workshop, or wonder how the workshop relates to the letters.
- NL officials argued that such a workshop would not meet consultation requirements, but may be useful as an information sharing opportunity. QC officials noted that they would be reconsidering the scope of the workshop. QC would like NL to encourage NL users of the GRCH to participate, but NL officials indicated a clearer understanding of the purpose of the workshop was required before encouraging such participation.
- QC officials noted (supported by NL) the importance for the harmonization of QC’s and NL’s approaches and that the current interprovincial informal group is helpful.
- The duty to consult, however, is not a recognition of such rights. The QI groups have asserted harvesting rights previously before the Lower Churchill Joint Review Panel. The CAM claim extended into Labrador.
- QC inquired about further information gathering planned in NL this year and NL said a new survey may only be needed if TAH was to be set at zero for 2012/13, which is scientifically defensible in NL’s view. QC officials suggested that a TAH of zero would be difficult to implement in QC, but they expected there would be some TAH for next year. QC asked if NL was considering compensation to caribou users and NL officials indicated that this was not part of the Province’s plans at this point.
- Both QC and NL agreed that further bilateral discussion needed to occur on the identification of critical population thresholds that would trigger specific harvest restrictions.
- There will be another meeting through conference call in March.
Meeting with QC Innu (QI) Counsel

- Participants included: Ken Rock – Counsel for Uashat; Nadir Andre – Counsel for Matimekush; and, Armand McKenzie and Patricia Ochman – Counsels for ITUM. Chief Gregoire and Chief McKenzie made a brief appearance but did not participate in the meeting.

- NL opened the meeting with the case for a curtailed harvest of the GRCH and the need to set a TAH. NL officials asked aboriginal counsel (Ken and Nadir) for advice on how best to carry out consultations in order to minimize the number of required meetings. NL specified that there was a desire to engage QI groups and that biological information points towards the fact that the GRCH is in danger and action is critical. NL asked what would be best approach to take.

- Ken Rock indicated that he envisions two levels of consultation:
  - Information on the NL management actions that led to the GRCH decline and why the QI had not been consulted before now?
  - What actions NL is planning to complete to ensure that communities continue to access caribou and there is a way to improve future management of the herd between Innu communities and NL?

- Nadir Andre (Counsel for Matimekush) said that he had been in contact with elders who are quite surprised by the decline and asked if there may be a better way to coordinate on the GRCH. Consultation was not enough in their view. They want to be part of the decision making process. Matimekush counsel said that they had been participating with the QC government in a co-management plan and they would seek QC’s permission to release the proposed MOU as a possible template for NL. This is a collaborative effort based in Schefferville between QC Department of Natural Resources and the Matimekush Band. NL officials indicated they would be interested in reviewing the agreement. Nadir indicated he would follow-up on this request.

- QI denoted that there would be a need for measures taken by NL and QC to match. Counsel for Uashat (Ken Rock) said that he would be willing to facilitate meetings but that NL would need to provide funding to offset costs. NL suggested they would be willing to defray some travel costs. Uashat Counsel further indicated that a single meeting could be arranged in Sept Iles and there would need to be a concrete proposal produced at that meeting. QI would like to see the announcement of joint measures that could be announced at that meeting.

- QI suggested that NL should consult with Innu Nation (IN) and QI at the same time in a parallel process and not consult IN first and then QI. QI said they were not sure, however, if incorporating Naskapi into the meeting was feasible due to issues related to the James Bay Agreement. They also were adamant that measures must be taken first to restrict non-aboriginal hunt and that QI needed information on that hunt to bring back to their people to support TAH.

- Innu counsel expressed an interest in having the Innu take on a greater role in monitoring of the harvest and asked how NL might assist the Innu in this capacity? NL did not commit to such a role or any capacity funding for such a role.

- NL was appreciative for the help organizing the meeting and committed to getting back to the QI with more details as developed. Such a meeting will be planned for the end of March, early April. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th of April in Sept Iles were discussed as potential dates with perhaps three or four people from each community. QI suggested that QC should cover some of the costs as well and said they would inform Chiefs of the meeting and set up process.

Prepared by: Herb Simms
February 28, 2012
Information Note
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (IGAA)

Title: Planned protest of Québec Aboriginal Groups with asserted claims in Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may arise during the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) where Quebec Aboriginal Groups are planning to protest.

Background: Non-responsive
Quebec Aboriginal Groups with asserted Land Claims

George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)
- The GRCH of Quebec and Labrador is harvested by several Aboriginal governments/organisations in both QC and NL, with both jurisdictions sharing responsibility for management. In 1993 the population was estimated at 775,000; biologists estimate the current population at 53,000.
- During February 2012, an Aboriginal consultation process was developed jointly by staff and lawyers from the Departments of Environment and Conservation and Justice and IGAA [redacted] to engage Aboriginal people on the management of GRCH [redacted].
- In a letter dated March 12, 2012, ENVC requested consultation with Aboriginal groups in Labrador and Quebec. The letter outlined the Province’s concerns over the current status of the GRCH and
the need for further management actions to include consideration of a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for 2012-13.

- Consultation meetings with the QC Innu and Naskapi were held in Sept Iles, QC in May 2012.

  Consultation Non-responsive  
  
  Schefferville 2010 and 2012 Blockades Non-responsive
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>NL Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Issues that may be raised by Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation (SIFN) Chief Andrew Penashue and/or Mushuau Innu First Nation (MIFN) Chief Simeon Tshakapesh at November 2012 signing ceremonies</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)**

- ENVC consulted the Innu Nation (IN) through the “Atik Committee”, established in 2012 by ENVC and IN pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the management of caribou in Labrador. The Committee, composed of two representatives from each party, advised ENVC and IN with respect to issues surrounding caribou management and conservation. Funding was provided to IN for activities carried out under the MOU.

**Non-responsive**

**IGAA contributed $118,000 over Fiscal Years 2011-12 and 2012-13 from its 3-year, $300,000 Aboriginal consultation funding approved in Budget 2011.**
dialogue with the NG will continue. The issue of NL financial support for community freezers in Inuit communities was recently raised by the NG at a meeting with the provincial ENVC and IGAA Ministers.
Quebec Innu Meetings and Consultations

- January, 2011 provincial officials from ENVC, LAA and Justice met with Quebec Innu bands in Sept-Iles to discuss GRC management and conservation.
- November 22, 2011, ENVC officials met with members of Quebec Innu in HVGB. ENVC provided a presentation on & discussed issues of GRC herd status with band members.
- In March, 2012 letters were sent to Aboriginal groups in Labrador and Quebec requesting consultation regarding management of the GRCH, including consideration of a TAH. Timelines for both aboriginal and government response were provided.
- Information packages were sent out to all Aboriginal groups providing a summary of the GRC status.
- Meetings to discuss GRC management were held in Sept-Iles on May 7, 2012 with representatives from the Naskapi Nation and on May 8 with representatives from four Quebec Innu communities.
- Aboriginal groups were requested to provide a written response, including a proposal for an appropriate TAH and information on their community’s Basic Needs Level, within 45 days of the consultation.
- Reminder email seeking reply sent to six Quebec Innu communities May 28, 2012
- Due to the lack of responses received, a further request for comment was sent to five Quebec Innu communities in early September, 2012.

- Consultation response status is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Date of Consultation</th>
<th>TAH Recommendation received</th>
<th>Gov’t Response</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWPCB</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Original reply received 4 July. Revised recommendation rec’d 28 November</td>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>TAH recommendation 220 (revised from original submission of 350)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NunatuKavut</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>No recommendation provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innu Nation</td>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naskapi</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>TAH recommendation 1,727 for Naskapi Nation only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekuantishit</td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>No recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional correspondence sent September.</td>
<td>provided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natashquan 8 May No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITUM 8 May No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unamen Shipu 8 May No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakua Shipu 8 May No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matimekush – Lac John 8 May No response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- On September 12, 2012 a meeting was held in Montreal to discuss future management of the GRCH. This meeting was hosted by the Government of Quebec, the Hunting Trapping Fishing Coordinating Committee, and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co Management Board and represented Quebec-aboriginal consultations. Participants included the Nunavik Inuit, Makavik, Cree of Eeyou Istchee, Nunatsiavut government, NG Beneficiaries, Naskapi Nation, Ekuaniitshut, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Nutashkuan, Innu Nation, and NunatuKavut, Torngat Wildlife Plants Co-Management Board and officials from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. ENVC presented on GRCH population monitoring/projections.
Meeting Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

Issue: Update on the status of GRCH management in advance of a meeting between Minister Hedderson and Minister Shiwak

Background and current status:
- The GRC population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 24,300 animals in July 2012.
- Population projections based on adult mortality of collared animals, age and sex ratios collected during fall classification surveys, indicate that the GRCH will continue to decline and reach less than 22,500 animals by October 2012.
- The October 2012 projection represents a 70% population decline since the 2010 census and a 97% decline since 1993.
- The census projection is supported by other biological indicators of herd health; including low calf recruitment, low adult survival measured from collared caribou, and reduced size of the calving area.
- Reasons for the decline remain unknown. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting. However, as the population becomes smaller, hunting adds to natural mortality, leading to a faster decline and impeding recovery efforts. This, along with the historically low recruitment and adult survival, suggests that from a biological perspective all human harvest must be eliminated.
- Continued harvest, even in the short term, significantly increases the risk for extirpation of this herd.
- As part of the 2011/12 budget process, the Labrador Caribou Initiative was approved with funding of $1.9 million over 3 years.
- The objectives of this initiative are to enhance monitoring and conservation efforts for the herd to include: increased biological monitoring and research efforts, increased harvest monitoring, enhanced licensing administration, education and stewardship programs, the formation of stakeholder working groups, advisory and technical committees, and the development and implementation of a management plan for both the short- and long-term conservation of the GRC.
- [Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)]
- [Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)]
- [Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)]
- Provided direction to maintain harvest restrictions implemented for the 2010/11 hunting season including:
  - the limiting of one caribou per resident licence,
  - no transfer of licences,
  - no commercial or outfitter harvest.
- Additional conservation measures for the 2011/2012 hunting season included:
  - a reduction in the season length for resident harvest,
  - limiting license sales to government offices only,
  - mandatory herd health monitoring program where successful hunters were required to collect and submit biological samples from their animals.
On December 13, 2012 the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) issued a press release recommending that Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of George River caribou for a period of two years. It also called on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately restrict non-aboriginal people from harvesting George River caribou.

NG also requested that all other aboriginal groups suspend harvesting for two years.

The Nunatsiavut Government urged both the governments of Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador to expedite the establishment of a George River caribou management plan. As well, NG stated that more financial resources need to be set aside for increased research to gain a better understanding of the causes of the decline.

On December 20, 2012 the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) issued a press release stating that, due to the rapid decline in the GRCH population, it will not issue hunting permits for a period of one year. The measure will be reviewed annually, in consultation with NunatuKavut hunters and elders.

The NunatuKavut Community Council joined with the Nunatsiavut Government in respectfully asking other aboriginal groups to also suspend their harvests of the herd.

NG is coordinating an Aboriginal only meeting for NG, Labrador Innu, Quebec Innu and Quebec Inuit to be held in Kuujjuaq in January, 2012. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the role of Aboriginal management of the GRCH.

Action being taken:

- For information purposes only.

Prepared/Approved by: R. Firth
Approved by:
January 4, 2013
Information Note
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Title: Pre-Budget Consultations

Issue: Aboriginal issues which may be raised in pre-Budget consultations in Labrador.

Background:
- In February 2012, the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) made a formal budget submission to Government, which requested or recommended provincial funding for a variety of initiatives:
  i. Suicide Prevention / Intervention;
  ii. Medical Transportation Assistance Program;
  iii. Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program;
  iv. Torngasok Cultural Centre;
  v. Provincial Minerals Strategy;
  vi. Strange Lake Exempt Mineral Lands;
  vii. Voisey's Bay Mine;
  viii. George River Caribou Herd; and,
  ix. Lake Melville Environmental Baseline Study.

- The NG met with the Deputy Ministers of Finance (FIN) and Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (IGAA) in August 2012, where it is understood similar issues were raised.

- Moreover, on 16 January 2013, Randy Edmunds, MHA for the District of Torngat Mountains, wrote to Minister Peter Penashue, cc'ing Minister Collins, the President of the NG, the Grand Chief of the Innu Nation, and the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Mr. Edmunds' letter touched on a variety of issues in respect of the North Coast communities [Natuashish, and the five Inuit Communities (Hopedale, Makkovik, Nain, Postville and Rigolet), most of which were related to the cost of living, and Long Term Care for senior residents.

- Finally, IGAA has identified several issues which are currently of interest to one or more Aboriginal stakeholders:
  i. Aboriginal Consultation Agreements re: Forestry Management District Plans;
  ii. First Nations Policing for Sheshatshiu and Mushuau (Natuashish) Innu First Nations;
  iii. NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) request for Lower Churchill Project Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA);
  iv. Aboriginal Consultation Capacity Funding; and,
  v. Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership.

- Each of these issues is discussed in further detail, below.

Current Status:
1. Suicide Prevention / Intervention
   - Non-responsive
8. **George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province and IN related to the conservation and management of caribou was signed on 30 March 2012. The MOU provided for provincial funding to the Innu Nation for the creation of four Innu Wildlife Guardians to undertake activities to further the objectives and purposes of the MOU. Funding totaled $236,000 for activities between 01 January 2011 and 01 September 2012. The MOU terminated on 01 September 2012.

- The NG asked for additional funding for research on the GRCH; however, a request from the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) for further research funding for the GRCH was recently rejected. However, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board has allocated some funds to caribou research.
Title: Pre-Budget Consultations

Issue: “Hot Issues” which may be raised in pre-Budget consultations in Labrador

Background:

- In February 2012, the NG made a formal budget submission to Government, which requested or recommended provincial funding for a variety of initiatives:
  i. Suicide Prevention / Intervention;
  ii. Medical Transportation Assistance Program;
  iii. Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program;
  iv. Torngâsok Cultural Centre;
  v. Provincial Minerals Strategy;
  vi. Strange Lake Exempt Mineral Lands;
  vii. Voisey’s Bay Mine;
  viii. George River Caribou Herd; and,
  ix. Lake Melville Environmental Baseline Study.

- Moreover, on 16 January 2013, Randy Edmunds, MHA for the District of Torngat Mountains, wrote to Minister Peter Penashue, cc’ing Minister Collins, the President of the NG, the Grand Chief of the Innu Nation, and the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Mr. Edmunds’ letter touched on a variety of issues in respect of the North Cost communities [Natuashish, and the five Inuit Communities (Hopedale, Makkovik, Nain, Postville and Rigolet], most of which were federal matters. However, one matter is within the purview of the Province:
  i. Long Term Care for senior residents.

- Finally, the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (IGAA) has identified several issues which are currently of interest to one or more Aboriginal stakeholders:
  i. Aboriginal Consultation Agreements in re: Forestry Management District Plans;
  ii. First Nations Policing for Sheshatshiu and Mushuau (Natuashish) Innu First Nations;
  iii. NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) request for Lower Churchill Project Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA);
  iv. Aboriginal Consultation Capacity Funding; and
  v. Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership.

- Each of these issues is discussed in further detail, below.

Current Status:

1. Suicide Prevention / Intervention
   • Non-responsive
8. **George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)**
   - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province and IN related to the conservation and management of caribou was signed on 30 March 2012. The MOU provided for provincial funding to the Innu Nation for the creation of four Innu Wildlife Guardians to undertake activities to further the objectives and purposes of the MOU. Funding totaled $236,000 for activities between 01 January 2011 and 01 September 2012. The MOU terminated on 01 September 2012.

   - The NG asked for additional funding for research on the GRCH; however, a request from the Department of Environment and Conservation for further research funding for the GRCH was recently rejected.

9. **Lake Melville Environmental Baseline Study**
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   -
Information Note
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Title: Pre-Budget Consultations

Issue: Aboriginal issues which may be raised in pre-Budget consultations in Labrador

Background:
- In February 2012, the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) made a formal budget submission to Government, which requested or recommended provincial funding for a variety of initiatives:
  i. Suicide Prevention / Intervention;
  ii. Medical Transportation Assistance Program;
  iii. Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program;
  iv. Torngâcâk Cultural Centre;
  v. Provincial Minerals Strategy;
  vi. Strange Lake Exempt Mineral Lands;
  vii. Voisey's Bay Mine;
  viii. George River Caribou Herd; and,
  ix. Lake Melville Environmental Baseline Study.

- The NG met with the Deputy Ministers of Finance (FIN) and Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (IGAA) in August 2012, where it is understood similar issues were raised.

- Moreover, on 16 January 2013, Randy Edmunds, MHA for the District of Torngat Mountains, wrote to Minister Peter Penashue, cc'ing Minister Collins, the President of the NG, the Grand Chief of the Innu Nation, and the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Mr. Edmunds' letter touched on a variety of issues in respect of the North Coast communities [Natuashish, and the five Inuit Communities (Hopedale, Makkovik, Nain, Postville and Rigolet), most of which were related to the cost of living, and Long Term Care for senior residents.

- Finally, IGAA has identified several issues which are currently of interest to one or more Aboriginal stakeholders:
  i. Aboriginal Consultation Agreements re: Forestry Management District Plans;
  ii. First Nations Policing for Sheshatshiu and Mushuau (Natuashish) Innu First Nations;
  iii. NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) request for Lower Churchill Project Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA);
  iv. Aboriginal Consultation Capacity Funding; and,
  v. Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership.

- Each of these issues is discussed in further detail, below.

Current Status:
1. Suicide Prevention / Intervention [Non-responsive]

...
8. George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)
   - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province and IN related to the conservation and management of caribou was signed on 30 March 2012. The MOU provided for provincial funding to the Innu Nation for the creation of four Innu Wildlife Guardians to undertake activities to further the objectives and purposes of the MOU. Funding totaled $236,000 for activities between 01 January 2011 and 01 September 2012. The MOU terminated on 01 September 2012.

   - The NG asked for additional funding for research on the GRCH; however, a request from the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) for further research funding for the GRCH was recently rejected. However, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board has allocated some funds to caribou research.

9. Lake Melville Environmental Baseline Study
   - 
   - 

Section 29(1)(a)
George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GNL is concerned and committed to the protection of the GRCH, evidenced by the GNL’s January 28, 2013 announcement to impose an immediate ban on the hunting of GRCH throughout Labrador.

- Continued harvest, even in the short term, significantly increases the risk for extirpation of this herd.

- The hunting ban will apply to all user groups, including Aboriginal harvesters, and will be in place for a period of five years with a review after two years.

- The GNL’s Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers will work with the RCMP and the RNC to monitor and fully enforce this ban.

- The GNL is committed to conservation and management of the GRCH toward the shared goal of recovery and eventual resumption of a sustainable harvest.

- The GNL will continue to work in collaboration with relevant Aboriginal organizations and other partners to share information on herd status, consider management requirements and prepare a long term Caribou Management Plan.

Background

- The GRC population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 27,000 animals in July 2012. The October 2012 projection represents a 70% population decline since the 2010 census and a 97% decline since 1993.

- Reasons for the decline remain unknown. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting. However, hunting leads to a faster decline and impedes recovery efforts.

- As part of the 2011/12 budget process, the Labrador Caribou Initiative was approved with funding of $1.9 million over 3 years to enhance monitoring and conservation of the herd. GNL has worked in collaboration with Labrador and Quebec Aboriginal organizations, the Government of Quebec, outfitting and hunting associations, and other relevant stakeholders to determine appropriate conservation and management strategies for the GRCH.
Information Note
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Title: Combined Councils of Labrador – Annual General Meeting

Issue: Overview of issues which may be discussed at the Annual General Meeting

Background:
- Minister Collins has been invited to speak at the Annual General Meeting of the Combined Councils of Labrador, scheduled for 10 April in Happy Valley – Goose Bay. This Note provides an overview of current issues in Labrador which may be discussed, as identified by Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (IGAA) officials.

Current Status:

Aboriginal Consultation Policy (the “Policy”)
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Government) has a duty to consult Aboriginal organizations whenever it contemplates a decision which may adversely impact credibly asserted Aboriginal rights of those organizations.
- As a result, Aboriginal organizations in Labrador and Quebec are consulted whenever appropriate on such Government decisions as mineral exploration, quarry, and lands applications, environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting.
- Concerns raised by Aboriginal organizations during Aboriginal consultation are given full and fair consideration by Government, and where appropriate, action is taken to address such concerns.
- Government is updating its Policy to clarify its approach to Aboriginal Consultation for Aboriginal organizations, industry proponents, and Government regulators. That is, the Policy will define general principles, expectations, roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in Aboriginal consultation related to provincial land and resource development decision making.
- The Policy requires proponents to provide Aboriginal organizations with detailed information on their project and to ensure Aboriginal organizations have the capacity to engage in meaningful consultation. Aboriginal organizations are obligated to provide relevant information to the Proponent on potential adverse impacts of the project on their asserted Aboriginal rights.

George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)
- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to 27,000 animals in July 2012.
- Government is committed to the protection of the GRCH and is concerned with the present status of the herd, as evidenced by Government’s January 2013 imposition of an immediate ban on the hunting of GRCH. The hunting ban applies to all user groups, including Aboriginal harvesters, and will be in place for a period of five years with a review after two years.
Reasons for the decline remain unknown. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting; however, hunting may contribute to a faster decline and impede recovery efforts. Continued harvest significantly increases the risk for extirpation of this herd.

Government’s Enforcement Officers will work with the police to monitor and enforce this ban.

Government will continue to work in collaboration with relevant Aboriginal organizations and other partners, including the Government of Quebec, to share information on herd status, consider management requirements and prepare a long term Caribou Management Plan.

Government wrote the ten Aboriginal organizations to advise of the ban and request that leaders advise their members Government would be enforcing the ban. Government also proposed a Round Table approach to continue dialogue around conservation and management of the herd with all relevant Aboriginal organizations.

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) and the NunatuKavut Community Council have taken a leadership role in the conservation of the GRCH by supporting the ban and requesting that their respective memberships suspend hunting of the herd for two and one years, respectively.

The NG continues to seek assistance in mitigating the ban on seniors and low-income persons in the Inuit Communities who formerly could avail of community freezers. Government is reviewing information of such needs supplied by the NG.
Title: Joint Meeting between the Executive Councils of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) and the Nunatsiavut Government (NG).

Decisions Required:

The Minister of IGAA recommends NL propose the following items to the NG for inclusion on the May 16th, 2013 Joint Meeting Agenda of NL and NG:

a. Implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA)
b. Arctic Opportunities Initiative
c. Inuit Housing Needs Assessment
d. George River Caribou Herd
e. Suicide Prevention / Intervention

Background:

- On 28 October 2010, Cabinet hosted a first-ever historic joint Cabinet meeting with the NG Executive Council. Topics discussed at that meeting included natural resources, the environment and climate change, education, health care, housing, and LILCA.

- The meeting was productive and cooperative, and provincial and NG officials have continued to collaborate in these and many other areas since that first joint meeting.

- In April 2013, the Secretary to the NG Executive Council, Ms. Isabella Pain, contacted the Clerk of Executive Council to propose a second joint Cabinet meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest to the two governments. The NG has not yet indicated which issues it would like to discuss at any such meeting, but has indicated the NG would be unavailable to meet until Fall 2013 if a meeting cannot proceed in May.

- There are several current issues which would benefit from discussion by Ministers of both governments and which would be appropriate for a joint meeting's Agenda:

  i. Implementation of LILCA

  ii. Arctic Opportunities Initiative
George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

• The recently announced five-year ban on hunting the GRCH has resulted in calls for Government assistance with acquiring a suitable dietary replacement for caribou, given the news release from the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) announcing the ban stated, “Given the importance of caribou to the dietary requirements of the Aboriginal peoples of Labrador, the Provincial Government will help ensure their sustenance requirements are being met.”

• The Labrador Affairs Office (LAO) advises it has received a request from the NG for $105,000 to support community freezers in the Inuit Communities. LAO has asked the NG for further information, and is assessing the request.

• ENVC’s Wildlife Division has also received requests from the NG for additional moose licences, or access to Island moose. At present, ENVC has been unable to meet
these requests due to the closed hunting season and due to the costs of transporting fresh meat from the Island to the North Coast of Labrador.

- The NG has also made a request for additional funding for research on the GRCH. The Wildlife Division was unable to satisfy that request, but understands the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board, comprised of and funded by Government, the NG and the federal government, has allocated additional funds for research on the GRCH.

- The NG has been supportive of the hunting ban, announcing in December 2012 it was recommending that Labrador Inuit suspend harvesting of George River Caribou for two years, and urging the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec to expedite the establishment of a George River Caribou Management Plan.

- To that end, following the provincial announcement of the hunting ban, the Minister of ENVC wrote to all Aboriginal governments and organisations, including the NG, inviting their representation on and participation in a Round Table to discuss long-term management of the GRCH. The NG has not yet responded.

Prepared by: B. Harvey, IGAA
Reviewed by:
Approved by:
Date: 11 April 2013
Meeting Note
Department of Environment and Conservation
17 April 2013, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
ENVC Boardroom - Confederation Building
4th Floor West Block Wildlife

Attendees: Ross Firth, ADM, Natural Heritage Branch - ENVC (phone-in); John Blake, Director, ENVC-WD; Katherine Mehl, Sr. Manager, ENVC-WD; Laura Brown-Laengle, Solicitor; Brian Harvey, Director, Policy & Planning - IGAAS, Herb Simms, Sr. Analyst – IGGAS, Sheldon Anstey, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement - DoJ; Justin Mellor, Solicitor, Civil Law-DoJ

Absent: John Pisapio, Sr. Biologist, ENVC-WD; Aubrey Gover, ADM, IGAAS; Taracetta Galgay, Sr. Negotiator, IGAAS; Jim Maloney, Chief Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement - DoJ

Purpose of Meeting:
Provide and update on the GRCH herd status/current issues and to discuss a path forward for Aboriginal engagement and development of the management plan.

Background:
- This group serves as an informal, inter-governmental working group for the GRCH file.
- The date of the previous meeting for this group was 26 January 2012.
- The GRC population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 24,300 animals in July 2012.
- In March 2012 a letter was sent to Aboriginal groups in Labrador and Quebec requesting consultation regarding management of the GRCH, including consideration of a TAH. Timelines for both aboriginal and government response were provided.
- Aboriginal groups were requested to provide a written response, including a proposal for an appropriate TAH and information on their community’s Basic Needs Level, within 45 days of the consultation. Responses include:
  o Ekuanitshit regarding lack of consultation (22 May 2012)
  o TWPCB – recommending TAH 350 (4 Jul 2012)
  o Naskapi Nation – recommended TAH 1,727 for Naskapi members only (18 June 2012)

  o No other responses were received

Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)
• On December 13, 2012 NG announced their recommendation that all Labrador Inuit suspend hunting of George River caribou for two years and requested that all other Aboriginal groups do the same.
• On December 20, 2012 in recognition of the continued drastic decline in the population of the George River caribou, the NunatuKavut Community Council joined with the Nunatsiavut Government by recommending their members not hunt caribou for a minimum of one year and requested other Aboriginal groups to suspend hunting on the herd.
• A total harvest ban for all Labrador Caribou was implemented by the Government of NL on 29 January 2013.
• Despite the harvest ban, harvest by Innu in QC and Labrador continues.

Agenda #1: The GRCH continues to decline. Hunting by Innu continues despite a ban on all harvest. An effective path forward that takes into consideration the above challenges,

Potential Speaking Points:
• An overview of the current status of the GRCH, current issues to include harvest, and proposed path forward was provided by the WD (see attached slide deck).
• Sheldon Anstey provided a brief summary of the current enforcement issues and process. Both DoJ and ENVC estimated harvest numbers for 2013 are similar, estimated at approximately 500 animals.
  o Innu Nation stated that they would harvest 150 caribou/community with harvest not to extend beyond 31 March 2013.
  o The current harvest ban and enforcement actions have resulted in increased tensions in both of the above communities.
• It was agreed that despite the current tensions – dialogue with all Aboriginal groups is viewed necessary and important.
• Approach for moving forward with the Aboriginal Round Table include the following:
  o Creation of a government and Aboriginal Round Table
    • Round Table to include 2 persons per group
    • Participation in the Round Table was considered at both the Executive and technical level (non-Executive). It was decided that given the nature of topics to be discussed (Management Plan) that a technical representation would be most effective. Participation may include invited speakers (eg., presentations by additional biologists, population modelers etc.). Invited speakers would not count as one of the 2 representatives. If invited, such speakers would be expected to leave the meeting following the presentation. A minimal number of observers will be considered. If observers
are allowed, these individuals will not be allowed to participate in the meetings.

- Terms of Reference (TOR) to be drafted and distributed to the internal working group prior to an invitation.
  - TOR to include discussion and representation but not resolution or majority voting.
  - If voting approach is used for the Round Table to make recommendations to the Minister, the decision making should be by consensus.
  - TOR to include reference to communities need to consult at the community level and respond back to the Round Table.
  - A follow-up meeting was suggested, that would allow time for community consultation followed by dissemination back to the group.
  - TOR would be based on the current TOR recovery teams.
- It was acknowledged that the outcome of the April elections for Innu groups may influence participation in the Round Table.

Proposed Actions
- ENVC—WD agreed to draft the TOR and circulate to the group. WD agrees to have a draft prepared for circulation to the group by mid-May.
- Draft invitation to the groups will be considered after the TOR have been drafted and agreed upon.

Prepared / Approved by: K. Mehl, J. Blake

Approved by: K. Mehl, J. Blake

April 19, 2013
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: Torngat Mountain Caribou Herd

Issue: Provide a background on the status of the Torngat Mountain caribou herd (TMCH) and recent harvesting of this population by Nunatsiavut Government (NG) beneficiaries.

Background and Current Status:

- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is a committee of experts that assess various wildlife species that are in danger of disappearing from Canada.
- To facilitate the long-term foundation for conservation and management of caribou in Canada, COSEWIC established separate Designatable Units (DUs) at which future status assessments of caribou would occur.
- Separate DUs were established based on a combination of information to include: phylogenetics, genetic diversity and structure, morphology, movements, behavior, life history strategies, and distribution.
- NL contains the following 4 DUs (Figure 1):
  - Eastern Migratory Caribou (George River Caribou): These caribou aggregate during calving. Individuals travel very long distances (>1000 km) to calving grounds and other summer habitats.
  - Newfoundland Caribou: Range is restricted to the Island portion of the province. Use both clumped and dispersed calving strategies.
  - Torngat Mountain Caribou: Comprised of a single population. The population undertakes altitudinal migrations and disperses to calve alone in the sub-alpine and alpine areas. Migration distances are much smaller than that of the GRCH. Population occurs primarily within the Torngat National Park.
  - Boreal Caribou (Non-migratory herds): From pre-calving to late summer, females are generally solitary and space away from one another. They form groups of about 20 caribou during other portions of the year. Females return to the same general location each year to calve. This DU is currently federally and provincially listed as Threatened.
- The TMCH is recognized as a distinct population by the research community as well as by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- This population has traditionally been harvested by Inuit from Labrador and northern Quebec.
- Population size of the TMCH is not well understood. A 1980 survey estimated the herd at approximately 5,000 individuals. Anecdotal evidence, supported by recent small group size observations as well as known patterns in other herds (ie GRCH) suggests the current population is likely less than 1,000.
During the 1980’s and early 1990’s, the GRCH (and likely the TMCH) was experiencing unprecedented population growth and the ranges of both GRCH and TMCH overlapped considerably, and obtaining population estimates of TMCH at that time were challenged by this fact.

Management unit boundaries established by NL have the boundary of the GRCH zone extending to the southern boundary of the National Park. However, it is acknowledged that TMCH do occur within this northern GRCH boundary.

The current documented range (Fig 1) of the TMCH is based on local knowledge and a small number of satellite-collared caribou. There were just 6 caribou collared between the years 1988 and 1997 by NL and QC Governments, 4 collared by QC Government and Makivik in 1997, 10 collared in 2011 by Torngat Secretariat, QC and NL Government, and another 15 by the same parties in April, 2013.

In 2009-2010 reports from local residents and hunters from Nain suggested that caribou south of Hebron fjord were declining.

In 2009 the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-Management Board held a Torngat Mountains Caribou Workshop in HV-GB. It was noted that there had been a major decrease in the TMCH since 1979, and that there were fewer sightings of big stags.

Concerns raised by the Quebec Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) in September 2012 included high adult mortality, a dynamic and changing distribution and group size, fewer stags, and a low and declining population. Current and historic population size and harvest estimates were identified as knowledge gaps, along with estimates of calf survival, body condition, and pregnancy rates.

In an effort to better understand population dynamics of this herd, in April 2013, the Torngat Secretariat and the Governments of QC, NL and Nunatsiavut deployed 22 collars on Torngat Mountain caribou (14 females, 8 males). One female died 2 days after collaring. The cause of mortality is unknown at this date.

TMCH Management Bodies

The following governments/organizations are engaged in the management of the TMCH. Duties may include research and monitoring activities, stewardship and education initiatives, data compilation and analysis:

- **Government of Newfoundland and Labrador** – For caribou outside of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, the ENVC Minister has the power to establish the Inuit Harvest Level for conservation purposes, outlined in part 12.5 of the LILCA.
- **Nunatsiavut Government (NG)** – The TMCH are within the Labrador Inuit Lands and Settlement Area (LISA) for NG and beneficiaries have the right to harvest caribou throughout the year, subject to Inuit laws, a restriction on seasons imposed for purposes of conservation under Laws of General Application, and federal firearms controls. Chapter 12 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement specifies at great length the official process for limiting the Inuit Domestic Harvest if limitations should be deemed necessary.
- Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board (TWPCB) - makes recommendations to the Minister of ENVC regarding total allowable harvests and harvest restrictions in the LISA. If a total allowable harvest is established, the Minister is required to establish an Inuit Harvest level, which constitutes a first demand.

- Government of Quebec – The TMCH range shares lands within QC. Government of QC continues to have interest in the health of the TMCH as Nunavik Inuit have traditionally harvested from this herd.

- Nunavik Inuit – Inuit of northern Quebec have traditionally used the lands of the Torngat Mountains. In 2005, the Nunavik Inuit, represented by Makivik Corporation, and the Labrador Inuit Association signed the Agreement Relating to the Nunavik Inuit/Labrador Inuit Overlap Area which sets out a commitment of both parties to share equally in the resources, benefits and management of the Torngat mountains National Park Reserve.

- Parks Canada - The range of the TMCH falls almost exclusively within the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. The Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (PIBA) committed to a co-operative management regime that recognizes both Labrador and Nunavik Inuit. The PIBA also establishes that an Inuk may exercise domestic harvesting needs in the National Park Reserve without a licence or permit issued by the Parks Canada Agency.

- Torngat Mountains National Park Co-operative Management Board (TMNPCB) – seven-member co-operative management board established to advise the federal Minister of Environment on all matters related to the Park management. Parks Canada, Makivik Corporation and NG each appoint two members along with an independent chair appointed by all three parties. Recommended management actions may or may not be accepted by the Minister.

Harvest Monitoring

- No official harvest monitoring is in place for the TMCH. This has been identified as a knowledge gap necessary to manage the herd.

- A commercial caribou harvest was initiated from Kangiqsualujjuaq by Nunavik Arctic Foods during the winters of 1994-95 (25 caribou harvested) and 1995-96 (689 caribou harvested). There were concerns that this harvest focused on the TMCH rather than the planned GRCH.

- In 2011-12, prior to the GRCH hunting ban, NG recommended that beneficiaries limit their caribou harvest to two caribou per household. The NG then requested that NG beneficiaries not hunt GRCH caribou during the 2012-14 seasons. No specific harvest restrictions were implemented by NG on the TMCH.

- On 28 Jan 2013 a ban on caribou hunting for GRCH in Labrador was implemented for conservation purposes. This ban included the full extent of the GRCH hunting zone. Hunting beyond the extent of GRCH management boundary would fall under the authority of Parks Canada.

- In April 2013, 21 caribou were harvested within the closed GRCH hunting zone, but outside the Park boundary. Based on differences in wintering ranges between the TMCH and the GRCH herds and recent/concurrent collar deployments on the
Harvest occurred during collar deployment for the herd.

- During an interview with CBC, the president of Nunatsiavut, Sarah Leo, stated that the 21 caribou that were harvested by NG beneficiaries belonged to the TMCH.
- Aboriginal concerns raised for all caribou herds in Labrador and QC resulted in an Aboriginal Round Table co-chaired by Ms. Sarah Leo (NG) and Mr. Adamie Deslile Aluku (Makivik Corporation). All members of the Round Table agreed upon the uncertain future of the herds, to include the Torngat Caribou Herd.

**Actions Being Taken:**

- GONL management jurisdiction includes only those areas outside of the National Park. No TMCH specific management action has been proposed for the 2013/14 season.

Prepared / Approved by: J. Blake, S. McCarthy, K. Mehl
Approved by: April 29, 2013

![Legend](image)

Figure 1. Range of the three Designatable Units of Caribou found in Labrador. Ranges based on current and historical telemetry locations, which are much more comprehensive for some herds (ex/ GRCH) than others (ex/TMCH).
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: George River and Torngat Mountain caribou

Issue: Status of the George River (GRCH) and Torngat Mountain (TMCH) caribou herds

Background and Current Status:

- The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador contains four designated and distinct caribou units:

  1. **Eastern Migratory Caribou (George River Caribou):** These caribou aggregate during calving. Individuals travel very long distances (>1000 km) to calving grounds and other summer habitats.

  2. **Newfoundland Caribou:** Range is restricted to the Island portion of the province. Use both clumped and dispersed calving strategies.

  3. **Torngat Mountain Caribou:** Comprised of a single population. The population undertakes altitudinal migrations and disperses to calve alone in the sub-alpine and alpine areas. Migration distances are much smaller than that of the GRCH. Population occurs primarily within the Torngat Mountains National Park.

  4. **Boreal Caribou (Non-migratory herds):** From pre-calving to late summer, females are generally solitary and space away from one another. They form groups of about 20 caribou during other portions of the year. Females return to the same general location each year to calve. These animals are currently listed under both federal and provincial endangered species legislation as Threatened.

George River caribou herd

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 24,300 animals in July 2012.

- The population is currently estimated at less than 20,000. This represents a decline of more than 70 per cent since the July 2010 estimate of 74,000.

- The census projection is supported by other biological indicators of herd health; including low calf recruitment, low adult survival measured from collared caribou, and reduced size of the calving area.

- Reasons for the decline remain unknown. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting. However, as the population becomes smaller, hunting adds to natural mortality, leading to a faster decline and impeding recovery efforts. This, along with the historically low recruitment and adult survival, suggests that from a biological perspective all human harvest must be eliminated.
• Continued harvest, even in the short term, significantly increases the risk for extirpation of this herd.

• As part of the 2011/12 budget process, the Labrador Caribou Initiative was approved with funding of $1.9 million over 3 years. The Province remains committed to continued funding of the Labrador Caribou Initiative for 2013-14 with continued biological monitoring and research.

• Expenditures related to the 3 Year Initiative include: 2011/12, $1.1 million for monitoring and research. 2012/13, $522,000 for July census, fall classifications, predator collaring and monitoring and adult caribou collaring and monitoring. In 2013/14, $382,000 is committed for ongoing work.

• The objectives of this initiative are to enhance monitoring and conservation efforts for the herd and include increased biological monitoring and research efforts, increased harvest monitoring, enhanced licensing administration, education and stewardship programs, the formation of stakeholder working groups, advisory and technical committees, and the development and implementation of a management plan for both the short- and long-term conservation of the GRC.

• On January 28, 2013 as a result of the continuing decline of the George River caribou herd, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador announced an immediate ban on all caribou hunting in Labrador for conservation purposes for a period of five years, with a review after two years.

• The hunting ban included the hunting of all George River caribou throughout Labrador by all user groups, including Aboriginal harvesters. The ban will be effective until March 31, 2017 with the closure beyond March 31, 2015 pending review of herd status and health.

Torngat Mountain caribou herd

• This population has traditionally been harvested by Inuit from Labrador and northern Quebec.

• Population size of the TMCH is not well understood. A 1980 survey estimated the herd at approximately 5,000 individuals. Anecdotal evidence, supported by recent small group size observations as well as known patterns in other herds (ie GRCCH) suggests the current population is likely less than 1,000.

• During the 1980’s and early 1990’s, the GRCH (and likely the TMCH) was experiencing unprecedented population growth and the ranges of both GRCH and TMCH overlapped considerably, and obtaining population estimates of TMCH at that time were challenged by this fact.

• Management unit boundaries established by NL have the boundary of the GRCH zone extending to the southern boundary of the Torngat Mountains National Park. However, it is acknowledged that the range of the TMCH overlaps with the GRCH within this northern GRCH boundary.

• In 2009-2010 reports from local residents and hunters from Nain suggested that caribou south of Hebron fjord were declining. In 2009, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board held a Torngat Mountains Caribou Workshop in
It was noted that there had been a major decrease in the TMCH since 1979, and that there were fewer sightings of big stags.

- Prior to 2005, responsibility for management of the Torngat Mountain caribou herd rested with both the Province of Quebec and NL. In 2005, the establishment of the Torngat Mountains National Park and the signing of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement significantly altered existing wildlife management jurisdiction.

- Entities that currently have an involvement in the management of the Torngat caribou herd includes the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Province of Quebec, Parks Canada Agency, Nunatsiavut Government, Makivik Corporation, Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and the Torngat Mountains National Park Co-operative Management Board.

- At this time, there is no single management entity that records all harvest monitoring for the TMCH. This has been identified as a knowledge gap that is considered necessary to manage the herd effectively.

- In April 2013, 54 caribou were harvested within the closed GRCH hunting zone, and south of the National Park boundary. NG has indicated that they considered the caribou harvested to be Torngat animals and that this harvest is viewed as subsistence hunting. Furthermore, NG indicated that they saw no need for any punitive action on their part towards beneficiaries who participated in the hunt.

- Meetings between NL and NG officials to discuss Torngat Mountain caribou collaring and research have been held annually since 2009.

- NL currently has no dedicated funds for TMCH monitoring but has provided limited financial support in the form of helicopter fuel associated with collar deployments. Purchase of collars has been through the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board Secretariat with in-kind support for collar deployment provided by the Governments of QC and NL.

- Because the primary range of the TMCH is contained within the Torngat National Park, Federal funds may be available to assist in future research and monitoring efforts. To date, no formal request for federal funding has been submitted.

- In April 2013, in an effort to better understand population dynamics of this herd, the Torngat Secretariat and the Governments of QC, NL and NG deployed 22 collars on Torngat Mountain caribou (14 females, 8 males).

- An ad hoc technical committee was established in 2013 with an initial teleconference held May 1. Participants included Governments of NL and QC, Caribou Ungava, Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, Parks Canada and the Torngat Mountains National Park Co-Operative Management Board.

- The focus of these initial discussions was to identify an appropriate methodology to quantify population health and status, identify costs and potential sources of funding.

Aboriginal Round Table

- Aboriginal concerns raised for all caribou herds in Labrador and QC resulted in the creation of an Aboriginal Round Table co-chaired by Ms. Sarah Leo (President, NG)
and Mr. Adamie Deslile Aluku (Makivik Corporation). The Aboriginal Round Table met on January 17 in Kuujjuaq and 17 April, in Sept Iles, QC.

- All members of the Round Table were in agreement concerning the uncertain future of both herds.
- The next meeting of the Round Table is scheduled for September 2013 in Nain.
- Officials from the Province and Newfoundland and Labrador and the Province of Quebec have not been invited to participate in either the Aboriginal Round Table or the Aboriginal Technical Committee.
- No formal communication has been made by the Aboriginal Round Table to provincial government officials to advise the latter on Round Table discussions and collaborative management proposals.
- The Province will need to consider means of integrating the views of the Aboriginal Round Table into future management and recovery of caribou on the Ungava Peninsula.

**Actions Being Taken:**

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador management jurisdiction includes only those areas outside of the National Park. No TMCH specific management action has been proposed for the 2013/14 season.
- Efforts to collaborate on technical science based data gathering will continue with respect to the TMCH.
- Officials from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Province of Quebec have scheduled a meeting in Quebec City on June 11, 12 to discuss management issues related to the George River caribou herd.

Prepared / Approved by: J. Blake / K. Mehl / R. Firth, ADM / J. Chippett, DM

Approved by: May 11, 2013
Figure 1. Range of the three Designatable Units of Caribou found in Labrador. Ranges based on current and historical telemetry locations, which are much more comprehensive for some herds (ex/ GRCH) than others (ex/TMCH).
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: George River Caribou (GRC) Management Plan

Issue: Discussion on a possible path forward with the writing, delivery, consultation and implementation of a Management Plan (or Conservation Strategy) for George River Caribou.

Background:

Status
• The GRC population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 24,300 animals in July 2012.
• Population projections based on adult mortality of collared animals, and age and sex ratios collected during fall classification surveys, indicate that the GRC declined further to approximately 22,000 animals by October 2012 and is now approximated at under 20,000.
• The current population projection represents a 70% population decline since the 2010 census and a 97% decline since 1993.
• Population demographics indicate that the decline will continue into the near future.
  o A Fall 2012 classification indicated the percentage of calves was just 5%; the lowest ever recorded for a northern caribou population. Observations from aerial surveys and collar deployments conducted January and February 2013 confirm this very low calf recruitment.
  o Annual adult survival, measured from collared caribou, remains low, at only about 69%. In order to maintain a stable or growing population, a minimum adult survival of about 90% is required.
• As the population becomes smaller, the effect of even limited harvest becomes a measurable magnified and significant contributor to the population decline, acting to further impede and delay recovery of the herd. Section 27(2)(a). Section 27(1)(i)

• NL lead Aboriginal Consultations occurred during the spring of 2013.
• On 13 December 2013, the Nunatsiavut Government announced their recommendation that all Labrador Inuit immediately suspend hunting of George River caribou for a period of two years. The Nunatsiavut Government also requested that all other Aboriginal groups suspend hunting for two years. On December 20, the NunatuKavut Community Council joined with the Nunatsiavut Government by recommending their members not hunt caribou for a minimum of one year and requested other Aboriginal groups to suspend hunting on the herd.
On 29 January 2013, ENVC announced an immediate closure on harvesting animals from GRCH by all users for a period of five years.

The aboriginal groups of the QC-Labrador Peninsula recently formed an Aboriginal Round Table in order to address concerns of the steep decline of the GRCH and increased concern over the status of the Leaf River and Torngat Mountains caribou herds. The Round Table was formally established at a meeting in Uashat, QC, April 16-18, 2013. The meeting was preceded by an Aboriginal only meeting in Kuujjuaq in January 2013. The next Aboriginal Round Table meeting is scheduled for September 2013 in Labrador. Representation by NL and QC government has not been allowed at any of the Aboriginal Round Table meetings.

Proposed Path forward: GRCH Management Plan

- Long-term Management Plans (or Strategies) are used by all other jurisdictions that manage for caribou.
- There is currently a shared goal among ALL parties to recover the George River caribou herd to a population level that would allow for a sustainable harvest. A shared goal is important, as caribou management challenges elsewhere are characterized by a divergence of goals and objectives among stakeholders.
- Wildlife Division is positioned both legislatively and in terms scientific findings to offer a constructive and cooperative path forward. Preparing a draft management plan framework and inviting the participation of others will be an important step.
- It is recommended that NL and QC collaborate to draft a long-term management plan for presentation to Aboriginal groups for input and consideration, with the final management plan to be co-authored by both Aboriginal groups and government.
- The Aboriginal Round Table is well positioned to speak for all aboriginal groups and provide focused and timely input into a management plan.
- It is suggested that a "liaison" committee be established comprised of government representatives from QC and NL and the Aboriginal Roundtable to further develop the management plan.
- In general, it will be most efficient for all groups to review, comment and participate in the completion of a draft management plan, rather than duplicating efforts by preparing plans individually.
- In order to increase communication and efficiency of efforts, it is recommended that the intent of government drafting and subsequent co-authoring of the document be communicated to all Aboriginal groups prior to the next Aboriginal Round Table meeting. Delay in doing so will likely result in duplication of efforts and act to impede forward progress in reaching the shared goal. For example, production of a management plan for the GRCH is the goal Aboriginal Round Table. Furthermore, the Torngat Wildlife Plants and Co-management Board are purported to have recently begun drafting, through a consultant, the framework of a GRCH Management Plan.
- The draft management plan would address comprehensive issues facing GRCH and include opportunities / suggestions for engagement and participation in
decision making (e.g. decisions on caribou harvest facilitated by use of caribou calculator and opportunities for Aboriginal people to participate in population surveys).

- Buy-in by all aboriginal groups will be essential to ensure that the caribou heritage of Labrador Aboriginal peoples is to be safeguarded into the future.

**Actions Being Taken:**
- Population monitoring and collaboration with partners on research work continues.
- Continue to compile, analyze and prepare data / findings for inclusion in the plan.
- Finalize table of contents and proceed with writing sections of the draft MP for eventual review by stakeholders

Prepared / Approved by: J. Pisapio, K. Mehl, J. Blake

Approved by:

August 23, 2013
Title: George River Caribou (GRC) Management Plan: A Proposed Approach

Issue: Discussion on a possible path forward with the writing, delivery, consultation and implementation of a Management Plan (or Conservation Strategy) for George River Caribou.

Background:

Status
- The GRC population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to 385,000 animals in 2001 to 74,000 animals in 2010 and to 24,300 animals in July 2012.
- Population projections based on adult mortality of collared animals, and age and sex ratios collected during fall classification surveys, indicate that the GRC declined further to approximately 22,000 animals by October 2012 and is now approximated at under 20,000.
- The current population projection represents a 70% population decline since the 2010 census and a 97% decline since 1993.
- Population demographics indicate that the decline will continue into the near future.
  - A Fall 2012 classification indicated the percentage of calves was just 5%; the lowest ever recorded for a northern caribou population. Observations from aerial surveys and collar deployments conducted January and February 2013 confirm this very low calf recruitment.
  - Annual adult survival, measured from collared caribou, remains low, at only about 69%. In order to maintain a stable or growing population, a minimum adult survival of about 90% is required.
- As the population becomes smaller, the effect of even limited harvest becomes a measurable, magnified and significant contributor to the population decline, acting to further impede and delay recovery of the herd. \textit{Section 27(2)(a), Section 27(1)(i)}

- NL lead Aboriginal Consultations occurred during the spring of 2012.
- On 13 December 2012, the Nunatsiavut Government announced their recommendation that all Labrador Inuit immediately suspend hunting of George River caribou for a period of two years. The Nunatsiavut Government also requested that all other Aboriginal groups suspend hunting for two years. On December 20, the NunatuKavut Community Council joined with the Nunatsiavut Government by
recommending their members not hunt caribou for a minimum of one year and requested other Aboriginal groups to suspend hunting on the herd.

- On 29 January 2013, ENVC announced an immediate closure on harvesting animals from GRCH by all users for a period of five years.

- The aboriginal groups of the QC-Labrador Peninsula recently formed an Aboriginal Round Table in order to address concerns of the steep decline of the GRCH and increased concern over the status of the Leaf River and Torngat Mountains caribou herds. The Round Table was formally established at a meeting in Uashat, QC, April 16-18, 2013. The meeting was preceded by an Aboriginal only meeting in Kuujjuaq in January 2013. The next Aboriginal Round Table meeting is scheduled for September 2013 in Labrador. Representation by NL and QC government has not been allowed at any of the Aboriginal Round Table meetings.

Proposed Path forward: GRCH Management Plan

- Long-term Management Plans (or Strategies) are used by all other jurisdictions that manage for caribou.

- There is currently a shared goal among ALL parties to recover the George River caribou herd to a population level that would allow for a sustainable harvest. A shared goal is important, as caribou management challenges elsewhere can be characterized by a divergence of goals and objectives among stakeholders.

- Wildlife Division is positioned both legislatively and in terms of scientific findings to offer a constructive and cooperative path forward. Preparing a draft management plan framework as a starting point for discussions and seeking the input and support of others will be important first steps.

- It is recommended that NL and QC collaborate to prepare a proposed framework for a long-term management plan for presentation to Aboriginal groups for by-in and consultation, with the final management plan to be co-authored by both Aboriginal groups and government.

- The Aboriginal Round Table is well positioned to speak for all aboriginal groups and provide focused and timely input into a management plan.

- It is suggested that a "liaison" committee be established comprised of government representatives from QC and NL and the Aboriginal Roundtable to further develop the management plan.

- In general, it will be most efficient and workable for all groups to review, comment and participate in the completion of a draft management plan (prepared by QC and NL), rather than groups duplicating efforts by preparing plans individually.

- In order to increase communication and efficiency of efforts, it is recommended that the intent of government drafting and then subsequently co-authoring the document be communicated to all Aboriginal groups prior to the next Aboriginal Round Table meeting. Delay in doing so will likely result in duplication of efforts, entrenchment of positions, and act to impede forward progress in reaching the shared goal. For example, development of a management plan for the GRCH is the goal Aboriginal Round Table
• The draft management plan would address comprehensive issues facing GRCH and include specified opportunities / suggestions for engagement and participation of stakeholders, particularly Aboriginal groups, in decision making (e.g. decisions on caribou harvest facilitated by use of caribou calculator and opportunities for Aboriginal people to participate in population surveys).
• Buy-in by all aboriginal groups will be essential to ensure that the caribou heritage of Labrador Aboriginal peoples is to be safeguarded into the future.

Actions Being Taken:
• Population monitoring and collaboration with partners on research work continues.
• Continue to compile, analyze and prepare data / findings for inclusion in the plan.
• Finalize table of contents as the framework for the MP and proceed with writing draft sections to be available for review and input from stakeholders.

Prepared / Approved by: J. Pisapio, K. Mehl, J. Blake

Approved by:

August 29, 2013
Title: Meeting with President Sarah Leo, Nunatsiavut Government (NG)

Issue: On October 10, 2013, Premier Dunderdale will meet with President Leo. While no agenda has been set, this Note provides information on several issues which may arise.

1. Land Use Plan
   - Non-responsive

2. Hopedale Remediation
   - Non-responsive
6. **Caribou**

- On January 28, 2013, Government announced an immediate ban on all caribou hunting in Labrador by all users for five years with a review after two years. In December 2012, the NG recommended that Labrador Inuit suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of two years.
- In the News Release announcing the caribou hunting ban, Government noted, "[g]iven the importance of caribou to the dietary requirements of the Aboriginal peoples of Labrador, the Provincial Government will help ensure their sustenance requirements are being met."
- The NG has asked NL and Parks Canada to discuss the possible harvesting of moose in Gros Morne National Park to supply meat to NG beneficiaries in lieu of caribou. Parks Canada has
agreed to meet to discuss the proposal, although NL will play an observer role, as the issue of harvesting in a national park is one of exclusive federal jurisdiction.

- NL has agreed to provide $30,000 for the NG’s community freezer program to provide meat for NG beneficiaries. Minister McGrath communicated the commitment to President Leo during his recent visit to Hopedale.

- Aboriginal concerns raised for the Ungava Peninsula caribou herds, most notably the GRCH, Leaf River Caribou Herd, and Torngat Mountain Caribou Herd (TMCH), resulted in the formation of the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (ART) in 2013, co-chaired by President Leo and Mr. Adamie Deslile Aluku, from the Makivik Corporation. The ART, comprised of Aboriginal governments and organisations from throughout the Ungava Peninsula, including all Labrador and Quebec Aboriginal governments and organisations with asserted or proven Aboriginal rights in Labrador, has met three times already in 2013.

- The ART has not been communicative with NL or QC, save requests for funding assistance (granted by QC; NL response subject to receipt of a detailed proposal), and officials have not been invited to participate in either the ART or its supporting Technical Committee.

- Given the dual responsibilities in respect of the GRCH, and the respective legislative responsibilities to develop management plans for threatened species such as the GRCH, NL and QC have agreed to a planning process designed to produce one Management / Recovery Plan (“Plan”), which could be implemented as appropriate by each government within their respective jurisdictions. If this process is to be successful, the participation and collaboration of Aboriginal organizations is essential.

- As such, NL and QC intend to propose the ART play an active role in the development of the Plan, and to propose a standing Liaison Committee amongst the parties to ensure consistent and open communication and information sharing, if not planning. NL has drafted a joint letter from NL and QC to the ART, which QC officials are currently reviewing.

- Although the recent focus on caribou in Labrador has been on the GRCH, the TMCH is also an emerging issue.

Potential Speaking Point

- We hope to work with the Government of Quebec, NG, and the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table to ensure the health and recovery of the caribou herds.

7. Nain Family Resource Centre and Potential Hopedale Group Home
Meeting with President Sarah Leo, Nunatsiavut Government (NG)

On February 12, 2014, Premier Marshall will meet with President Leo. While no agenda has been set, this Note provides information on several issues which may arise.

1. Land Use Plan

2. Hopedale Remediation
6. Caribou

- On January 28, 2013, Government announced an immediate ban on all caribou hunting in Labrador by all users for five years with a review after two years. In December 2012, the NG recommended that Labrador Inuit suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of two years.
- In the News Release announcing the caribou hunting ban, Government noted, "given the importance of caribou to the dietary requirements of the Aboriginal peoples of Labrador, the Provincial Government will help ensure their sustenance requirements are being met."
- The NG has asked NL and Parks Canada to discuss the possible harvesting of moose in Gros Morne National Park to supply meat to NG beneficiaries in lieu of caribou. Parks Canada has agreed to meet to discuss the proposal, although NL will play an observer role, as the issue of harvesting in a national park is one of exclusive federal jurisdiction.
- NL has agreed to provide $30,000 for the NG’s community freezer program to provide meat for NG beneficiaries. Minister McGrath communicated the commitment to President Leo during his recent visit to Hopedale.
- Aboriginal concerns raised for the Ungava Peninsula caribou herds, most notably the GRCH, Leaf River Caribou Herd, and Tomgat Mountain Caribou Herd (TMCH), resulted in the formation of the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (ART) in 2013, co-chaired by President Leo and Mr. Adimie Desile Aluku, from the Makivik Corporation. The ART, comprised of Aboriginal governments and organisations from throughout the Ungava Peninsula, including all Labrador and Quebec Aboriginal governments and organizations with asserted or proven Aboriginal rights in Labrador, has met three times already in 2013.
- The ART has not been communicative with NL or QC, save requests for funding assistance (granted by QC; NL response subject to receipt of a detailed proposal), and officials have not been invited to participate in either the ART or its supporting Technical Committee.
- Given the dual responsibilities in respect of the GRCH, and the respective legislative responsibilities to develop management plans for threatened species such as the GRCH, NL and QC have agreed to a planning process designed to produce one Management / Recovery Plan ("Plan"), which could be implemented as appropriate by each government within their respective jurisdictions. If this process is to be successful, the participation and collaboration of Aboriginal organizations is essential.
- As such, NL and QC intend to propose the ART play an active role in the development of the Plan, and to propose a standing Liaison Committee amongst the parties to ensure consistent and open communication and information sharing., if not planning. NL has drafted a joint letter from NL and QC to the ART, which QC officials are currently reviewing.
- Although the recent focus on caribou in Labrador has been on the GRCH, the TMCH is also an emerging issue.

Potential Speaking Point

- We hope to work with the Government of Quebec, NG, and the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table to ensure the health and recovery of the caribou herds.

7. Nain Family Resource Centre and Potential Hopedale Group Home

Non-responsive
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: George River Caribou Herd

Issue: Update on management of the George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

Background and Current Status:

- The GRCH has been used by Aboriginals, residents, non-residents and businesses in Labrador and Quebec as a source of country food, recreational activity, and economic benefit. Caribou on the Ungava Peninsula have important social, and dietary and...ties to Aboriginal groups. Management of the GRCH is the responsibility of the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993, to 385,000 in 2001, to 74,000 in 2010, and to 27,000 in 2012. Ongoing population monitoring suggests the herd is now less than 20,000 animals and is continuing to decline in number.

- This projection is supported by other biological indicators of herd health; including low calf recruitment, low adult survival measured from collared caribou, and reduced size of the calving area. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting; however, as the population becomes smaller, hunting adds to natural mortality, leading to a faster decline and impeding recovery efforts.

- Continued harvest, even in the short term, significantly increases the risk for extinction-extinction of this herd.

- Despite the closure, limited harvesting by Aboriginal groups continued in 2013. An estimated 500 caribou were harvested.

- In December, 2012 the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) announced that it was recommending that the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of two years. It also requested that all other Aboriginal groups suspend harvesting for two years. Recent communication from NG indicates that they are receiving requests from beneficiaries to commence immediate harvest of the GRCH in light of actions by the Innu Nation to continue hunting and what is perceived as a lack of enforcement of the hunting moratorium by the Province.

- In December, 2012 the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) announced that it was placing a 1-year moratorium on hunting the GRCH. In January, 2014 the NCC announced a further 1-year moratorium. In December, 2013 the Innu Nation announced that it would harvest 300 male only caribou from the GRCH; 150 animals for the community of Sheshatshui and 150 animals for the community of Natuashish.

- The Province of Quebec closed its sport hunt of the GRCH in 2012/13. Currently, Aboriginal harvest of GRCH by the Naskapi, Cree and Inuit continues under the terms and conditions of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee as per the 1975 James Bay Agreement.
In September, 2013 Aboriginal groups of the Ungava Peninsula initiated an Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) to discuss Aboriginal management of the GRCH. The group has not sought the participation of government officials from either the Province of Quebec or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Furthermore, it has indicated its intent to develop its own management plan for GRCH. The Round Table has two Co-chairs: Sarah Leo (President of Nunatsiavut), and Adamie Deshille Alaku (Makivik Corporation), as well as an executive committee composed of representatives from each Aboriginal group, namely Réal McKenzie (Innu of the Quebec region), George Guanish (Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach), Todd Russell (NCC), Prote Poker (Innu Nation) and Isaac Masty (Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee/Cree Regional Authority).

NL and QC are preparing to engage Aboriginal groups in participating in the development of a caribou Management Plan. NL and QC are collaborating to draft the plan for presentation to Aboriginal groups for input and consideration. This approach envisions a final management plan co-authored by both governments and representatives from UPCART.

In 2011/12, Government approved the Labrador Caribou Initiative; a $1.9 million investment over 3-years designed to enhance data collection of the GRCH and help better understand the factors affecting the caribou population. Funding for this initiative will conclude March 31, 2014.

Action Being Taken:

- The Department plans to complete a population census in the summer 2014 in collaboration with Quebec. The Department advises that up-to-date scientific information, and research and census data about the GRCH is necessary in order to proceed with prosecutions and obtain convictions against hunters who choose to ignore the hunting prohibition.

- On January 22, 2014, the Minister of ENVC spoke with the Nunatsiavut Government Minister of Lands and Natural Resources (Honourable Darryl Shiwak). Minister Shiwak expressed concern with the GRCH 5-year hunting ban and noted a perception that aboriginal groups are being treated differently when it comes to enforcement. He requested immediate an aggressive enforcement against all who violate the ban.

- On January 22, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that charges were laid by officers of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division of the Department of Justice related to allegations of illegal hunting of caribou that took place in Labrador in March 2013. Following a lengthy investigation into allegations that members of the Innu community individuals were violating the GRCH hunting ban in the Shipispkan Lake region, officers charged 12 individuals (10 aboriginal residents of Labrador, 2 pilots from Ontario) with violations under the Wild Life Act. One corporation has also been charged (pilots' employer). The Department of Justice remains active in conducting land based patrols in Labrador to assess compliance with the hunting ban. Helicopter surveillance will be resuming shortly. Current intelligence indicates that Innu and Inuit hunters are engaged or plan to engage in caribou hunting this season. [CONFIRM]
Title: George River Caribou Herd

Issue: Update on management of the George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

Background and Current Status:
- The GRCH has long been used by Aboriginals, residents, non-residents and businesses in Labrador and Quebec as a source of country food, recreational activity, and economic benefit. Caribou on the Ungava Peninsula have important social, dietary and ties to Aboriginal groups. Management of the GRCH is the responsibility of the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993, to 385,000 in 2001, to 74,000 in 2010, and to 27,000 in 2012. Ongoing population monitoring suggests the herd is now less than 20,000 animals and is continuing to decline in number.

- This projection is supported by other biological indicators of herd health; including low calf recruitment, low adult survival measured from collared caribou, and reduced size of the calving area. Biologists believe the current decline was not caused by hunting; however, as the population becomes smaller, hunting adds to natural mortality, leading to a faster decline and impeding recovery efforts. Continued harvest, even in the short term, significantly increases the risk for extirpation of this herd.

- Despite the closure, limited harvesting by Aboriginal groups continued in 2013. An estimated 500 caribou were harvested.

- In December, 2012 the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) announced that it was recommending that the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of two years. It also requested that all other Aboriginal groups suspend harvesting for two years. Recent communication from NG indicates that they are receiving requests from beneficiaries to commence immediate harvest of the GRCH in light of actions by the Innu Nation to continue hunting and what is perceived as a lack of enforcement of the hunting moratorium by the Province.

- In December, 2012 the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) announced that it was placing a 1-year moratorium on hunting the GRCH. In January, 2014 the NCC announced a further 1-year moratorium. In December, 2013 the Innu Nation announced that it would harvest 300 male only caribou from the GRCH; 150 animals for the community of Sheshatshui and 150 animals for the community of Natuashish.

- The Province of Quebec closed its sport hunt of the GRCH in 2012/13. Currently, Aboriginal harvest of GRCH by the Naskapi, Cree and Inuit continues under the terms and conditions of the Hunting,
In September, 2013 Aboriginal groups of the Ungava Peninsula initiated an Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) to discuss Aboriginal management of the GRCH. The group has not sought the participation of government officials from either the Province of Quebec or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Furthermore, it has indicated its intent to develop its own management plan for GRCH. The Round Table has two Co-chairs: Sarah Leo (NG President of Nunatsiavut), and Adamie Deslittle Alaku (QC InuitMakivik Corporation), as well as an executive committee composed of representatives from each Aboriginal group, namely Réal McKenzie (QC Innu of-the-Quebec region), George Guanish (Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach), Todd Russell (NCC), Prote Poker (Innu Nation) and Isaac Masty (QC Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istihee/Cree Regional Authority). NL and QC are preparing to engage Aboriginal groups in participating in the development of caribou Management Plan. NL and QC are collaborating to draft the plan for presentation to Aboriginal groups for input and consideration. This approach envisions a final management plan co-authored by both governments and representatives from UPCART.

In 2011/12, Government approved the Labrador Caribou Initiative; a $1.9 million investment over 3-years designed to enhance data collection of the GRCH and help better understand the factors affecting the caribou population. Funding for this initiative will conclude March 31, 2014.

On January 22, 2014, the Minister of ENVC spoke with the NG’s Nunatsiavut Government Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, who (Honourable Darl Shiwak). Minister Shiwak expressed concern with the GRCH 5-year hunting ban and noted a perception that all Aboriginal groups are being treated differently when it comes to enforcement.

On January 22, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that charges were laid by officers of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division of the Department of Justice related to allegations of illegal hunting of caribou that took place in Labrador in March 2013. Following a lengthy investigation into allegations that individuals were violating the GRCH hunting ban in the Shipiskan Lake region, officers charged 12 individuals with violations under the Wild Life Act. One corporation has also been charged. The Department of Justice remains active in conducting land based patrols in Labrador to assess compliance with the hunting ban. Helicopter surveillance will be resuming shortly. Current intelligence indicates that Innu and Inuit hunters are engaged or plan to engage in caribou hunting this season.

Prepared by: J. Blake/D. MacKenzie/R. Firth, ADM, ENVC
Information Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO)

Title: Meeting with the Nunatsiavut Government

Issue: Minister McGrath is scheduled to meet the Nunatsiavut Government’s (NG) President Sarah Leo and First Minister Darryl Shiwak on 12 February 2014. This Note is intended to provide information on certain issues related to caribou which may arise.

Background and Current Status:
NG participation in Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table

- In April 2013, numerous Aboriginal governments and organisations created the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) following meetings in Sept-Iles, QC. All 10 Aboriginal governments / organisations with settled or asserted Aboriginal rights in Labrador, including the NG, are members of the UPCART, as are other QC-based Aboriginal communities (e.g., QC Cree).

- The express mandate of the UPCART is to “respond to the decline of the migratory caribou and [...] strive to develop a conservation and management system in a way that respects all cultures and traditions.” The UPCART, which is co-Chaired by President Leo and the President of the QC Inuit’s Makkivik Corporation, met a further time in Nain in September 2013, and intends to meet at least quarterly.

- On 31 May 2013, the President of the NG, the Grand Chief of the Innu Nation, and the President of NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. wrote NL’s then-Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs to request funding support for their participation in the UPCART process. On 11 July 2013, NL responded to indicate it would consider a formal budget request or submission of expenses for potential reimbursement, noting that the financial climate in the Province remains austere.

- In September 2013, QC and NL officials met in Quebec City to further discuss collaboration on the management of the George River Caribou Herd (GRCH). Those discussions concluded with agreement to prepare a joint NL-QC letter to the UPCART, which would invite UPCART participation in the section-by-section drafting of a management plan for the GRCH which could be implemented by each government as appropriate in their respective jurisdictions. Officials also agreed to propose the formation of a Liaison Committee, comprised of one NL official, one QC official, and two UPCART officials, in order to ensure the free and open exchange of information and ideas amongst the two governments and the UPCART.

- The joint letter, to be signed by the Deputy Minister of NL’s Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) and his QC counterpart, is currently before the deputies for their final approval and subsequent transmittal to the co-Chairs of the UPCART.

- On 10 October 2013, the NG, IN and NCC wrote again to request funding, and attached a breakdown of expenses incurred for the UPCART’s meetings in Sept Iles in April 2013 and Nain in September 2013. However, in light of the pending joint letter to the UPCART, NL determined it would be most effective to await the UPCART’s reply prior to determining whether NL could support the three NL-based Aboriginal governments / organisations.

- With the joint letter due to be sent imminently, NL intends to then send a brief response to the NG, IN and NCC’s letter of 10 October 2013, indicating the transmitted joint letter and...
undertaking to consider the funding request following receipt of the UPCART's response to the NL and QC governments.

NG Advocacy for easing of hunting ban

- In particular, First Minister Shiwak noted the NG's perception of intermittent and inconsistent enforcement, and suggested it was not fair for the NG to advocate for its members to abide by the hunting ban, whilst other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal harvesters seemed able to violate the ban with impunity. It is notable NCC recommended to its membership to abide by the ban for 2012-13, and recently, did so again for 2013-14. Meanwhile, the Labrador Innu have announced their intention to harvest from the GRCH again this year.

- The Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) collaborated with LAAO and the Department of Justice on a proposed response, which is currently before Minister Shea for approval and signature. That draft response reiterates NL's position that any level of harvest of the George River Caribou Herd (GRCH) is not sustainable from a scientific or conservation perspective, and NL will not vary the universal application of the ban. The draft response also notes that NL is enforcing the ban at every opportunity, and notes the January 2014 charges brought against 12 individuals and a company, all alleged to have been involved in the illegal harvest of GRCH animals in early 2013.

Action Being Taken:
- N/A - this Note was prepared for the information of the Minister.

Prepared by / Reviewed by: B. Harvey, LAAO
Approved by: A. Gover, LAAO
Date: 11 February 2014
Title: George River Caribou Herd Information Forums

Issue: At the request of the Nunatsiavut Government, information forums will be held in Inuit communities to discuss the status and management of the George River Caribou Herd (GRCH).

Background and Current Status:
- The GRCH has long been used by Aboriginals, residents, non-residents and businesses in Labrador and Quebec as a source of country food, recreational activity, and economic benefit. Management of the GRCH is the responsibility of NL and QC.

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993, to 385,000 in 2001, to 74,000 in 2010, and to 27,000 in 2012. Ongoing population monitoring suggests the herd is now less than 20,000 animals and is continuing to decline in number.

- In January 2013, an announcement was made ending legal harvesting of GRCH by all users for a period of five years (until March 31, 2017) with a review after two years.

- In December 2012 the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) announced that it was recommending that the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of two years. It also requested that all other Aboriginal groups suspend harvesting for two years.

- Recent communication from NG in light of actions by the Innu Nation to continue hunting and what is perceived as a lack of enforcement of the hunting moratorium by the Province.

- Despite the closure, limited harvesting by Aboriginal groups continued in 2012/2013. An estimated 500 caribou were harvested, The 500 caribou harvested is a rough estimate based on anecdotal reports to Conservation Officers and Wildlife Biologists.

- On January 22, 2014, the Minister of ENVC spoke with the NG’s Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Darryl Shiwak, who expressed concern with the GRCH 5-year hunting ban and noted a perception that Aboriginal groups are being treated differently when it comes to enforcement.

- On January 22, 2014, the Department of Justice announced that charges were laid by officers of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division (FWED) of the Department of Justice related to allegations of illegal hunting of caribou that took place in Labrador in March 2013. Following a lengthy investigation into allegations that members of the Innu community were violating the GRCH hunting ban in the Shipiskan Lake region, officers charged 12 individuals (10 aboriginal residents of Labrador and 2 pilots from Ontario) with violations under the Wild Life Act. One corporation (pilot’s employer) has also been charged.

- The Department of Justice remains active in conducting land based patrols in Labrador to assess compliance with the hunting ban. Helicopter surveillance resumed on January 29, 2014 and some
additional seizures have occurred. Current intelligence indicates that Innu and Inuit hunters are engaged or plan to engage in caribou hunting this season.

- In early February, 2014, Minister Shiwak raised matters pertaining to GRCH in a meeting with Minister Shea. This followed a request by NG for the Province to hold information sessions in the Inuit communities to share the results from the past year’s research and monitoring efforts and discuss regulations and enforcement. It was requested that the forums be facilitated by senior representatives from both the Wildlife Division and the Department of Justice. Minister Shiwak noted the importance of engagement with the Inuit communities and hunters on the activities/methodologies to be employed in the future to monitor the herd.

- ENVC biologists generally make themselves available to discuss caribou status and health with any group or community requesting same. Prior to the announcement of the ban, consultations were held with all ten aboriginal groups in Labrador and Quebec with an interest in GRCH. In addition, information sessions have been held with the Innu Nation, Labrador Hunting and Fishing Association, Outfitters, and the Torngat Wildlife and Plant Co-Management Board.

- On February 4, 2014, ENVC biologists provided Nunatukavut Community Council members with an update on herd status. Following the meeting community leaders expressed their intent to respect the ban on hunting.

**Action Being Taken:**

- Public information forums have been arranged for the evenings of March 10-14, 2014 in each of the five Inuit communities: Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Rigolet and Postville. Representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation will include John Pisapio - Senior Biologist in Labrador, and Ross Firth – Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Heritage. The representative from the Department of Justice will be Hayward Taylor – Chief of Enforcement for FWED.

- On March 5, 2014, NG’s Department of Lands and Natural Resources circulated a public notice to inform Beneficiaries of the information forums and inviting their attendance.

- Biological information to be disseminated will focus on the recent population estimate (modelling shows projected population of less than 17,000 animals), and findings from the annual fall classification (including calf recruitment, male to female ratio, and % of large males). Other topics include calf weights, adult survival, pregnancy rates, and general condition of GRCH animals.

- Wildlife Management topics to be discussed include how a photo census is conducted, past, present, and future factors in the population decline, compensatory vs. additive mortality, the notion of a male only hunt, and plans for an inter-provincial George River Caribou Management Plan.

- Enforcement staff is preparing a short presentation. Topics to be discussed include an overview of FWED mandate, inter-agency partnerships for enforcement (ie, RCMP/ RNC, Forestry, DFO etc) and commitment to continue Labrador patrols and enforcement of caribou hunting ban.

- Any feedback from the sessions will be recorded for consideration during future monitoring and management planning.

- ENVC biologists and Justice officials will be available to any other groups who would like to avail of information sessions.

Prepared/Approved by: J. Blake, S. McCarthy/ J. Chippett in consultation with JUS and LAAO

Approved by:

March 10, 2014
Information Note
Department of Environment and Conservation

Title: George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

Issue: GRCH community information sessions

Background and Current Status:

- During the week of March 10 – 14, 2014 officials from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Justice traveled to the communities of Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet to conduct community information sessions on the George River caribou herd.
- Provincial officials were accompanied by officials from the Nunatsiavut Government (NG), Department of Lands and Natural Resources.
- The community information sessions were undertaken at the request of the NG and were intended to provide NG beneficiaries with an update on the current status of the GRCH (current population estimate, research and data collection, herd demographics, etc) and an overview of provincial enforcement actions.
- Attendance at each community session included:
  1. Nain – 58
  2. Hopedale – 29
  3. Postville – 16
  4. Makkovik – 17
  5. Rigolet – 10
- Most participants did not express disagreement with the Department’s current estimate of the GRCH population.
- MHA Randy Edmunds and Darryl Shiwak, NG First Minister and Minister of Lands and Natural Resource (A), attended the Rigolet information session.
- Predominant themes emerging from the sessions included:
  o A high level of interest about the current management approach being taken by the Province of Quebec and the need to ensure that both QC and NL are working collaboratively and are taking similar management actions.
  o There exists a high level of frustration towards what is perceived as a lack of enforcement action by the province against the Labrador Innu and their continued harvest of GRCH.
  o NL should consider placing Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers in coastal Labrador communities or requiring Officers to make more of a presence in each community (possibly on a rotational basis) in order to more effectively enforce the existing hunting ban and to enhance community engagement.
  o General dissatisfaction that seized caribou meat could not be donated to community freezers. Request to consider changing the existing policy to allow the distribution of seized meat to communities.
  o There is a strong level of interest in many communities to harvest the Torngat Mountains caribou herd and, in Rigolet, an interest to harvest caribou from the
Mealy Mountains caribou herd, listed as threatened under both federal and provincial species at risk legislation.
- Clarification was sought on the geographic extent of the hunting moratorium (i.e., not inclusive of the Torngat Mountains National Park)
- The need for long term funding to continue research into the George River caribou herd and the development of a single management plan for the herd.

Action Being Taken:

- A population survey of the Torngat Mountains caribou herd will be completed during March, 2014.
- NL officials committed to work with the NG to organize a community information session in Rigolet in order to present the most recent Mealy Mountains caribou herd population information to community residents.
- A population survey of the GRCH will be completed in the summer, 2014.
- NG indicated that a letter will be forthcoming to the respective NL and QC Ministers responsible for GRCH management, with a request to engage with the provinces in the development of the summer 2014 population survey methodology.

Prepared / Approved by: R. Firth, ADM
Approved by: March 18, 2014
Title: Questions that may arise during release of the Many Voices One Vision
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the latest on the George River Caribou?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In January 2013, due to significant decline of the George River Caribou Herd, the Province initiated an immediate closure of the caribou harvest in Labrador and ended legal harvesting by all users for a period of 5 years with a review after two years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Province is currently drafting a Conservation and Management Plan for the George River Herd, and has been engaging with Aboriginal users of that herd through the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Province sees the involvement of Aboriginal organizations in conservation and management of this important resource as essential and is endeavoring to draft conservation and management plans in collaboration with the Round Table.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
January 2013, an announcement was made ending legal harvesting of GRCH by all users for a period of five years (until March 31, 2017) with a review after two years. The Nunatsiavut Government announced that it was recommending that the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of 2 years. The NunatuKavut Community Council has supported the ban, however the Innu Nation of Labrador have not given their support. Enforcement of this ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.

Information sessions were held in early 2014 to discuss caribou status and management of the herd with Innu and Inuit community members.

George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to currently less than 20,000.

In January 2013, an announcement was made ending legal harvesting of GRCH by all users for a period of five years (until March 31, 2017) with a review after two years. The Nunatsiavut Government announced that it was recommending that the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend harvesting of GRCH for a period of 2 years. The NunatuKavut Community Council has supported the ban, however the Innu Nation of Labrador have not given their support. Enforcement of this ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.

Information sessions were held in early 2014 to discuss caribou status and management of the herd with Innu and Inuit community members.

Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (Upcart)

Membership is: Inuit of Nunavik, Inuit of Nunatsiavut, the NunatuKavut community Council, the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, the Grand Council of the Crees of...
Eeyou Istchee/Cree Regional Authority (GCCEI/CRA), the Innu Nation of Labrador and all the Innu communities from the Quebec region.

- Aims to develop conservation measures and actions while ensuring the cultural and spiritual relationship with caribou and the food security of members are respected. These efforts have resulted in a reduction of hunting pressure from UPCART members on George River Caribou Herd.

- UPCART first met in January 2013, and the most recent meeting was held in Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuarapik on May 21 and 22, 2014.
The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to currently less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The Nunatsavut Government recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Enforcement of the ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.
- LAAO has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.

Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART)

- The UPCART is comprised of all Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH, including Cree, Inuit, Innu and Naskapi from both Labrador and Quebec. The UPCART was formed by the Aboriginal governments/organisations in recognition of the imperiled status of many of the caribou herds of the Ungava Peninsula, and the GRCH in particular.
- The UPCART intends to develop a management plan for the caribou herds of the Ungava Peninsula. Given NL's and QC's legislative responsibilities in this area generally, and to develop a management plan for the GRCH within their respective jurisdictions, NL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART seeking collaboration on a unified management plan for all parties. A response is pending.
- LAAO has supported Wildlife Division throughout not only its initial interactions with the UPCART, but also through the bilateral collaboration and coordination between NL and QC that led to the joint letter to the UPCART. LAAO will continue to support Wildlife Division on this issue, particularly any future multilateral collaborative efforts on a management plan.
George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)  

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 in 1993 to currently less than 20,000.
- In January 2013, Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The Nunatsiavut Government recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Enforcement of the ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.
- LAAO has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.
- Information sessions were held in early 2014 by representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Justice to discuss caribou status and management of the herd with Innu and Inuit community members.
- The Aboriginal groups of the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members. Representatives from NL and QC have not been invited to participate at these meetings.
Question and Answer Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office

Title: Potential topics that may arise during the Premier’s attendance at Expo Labrador

Issue: Premier Marshall will be the luncheon speaker at Expo Labrador on June 24, 2014.

Background and Current Status:
- Expo Labrador is an annual resource conference and trade exhibition that is held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This year’s expo is being held from June 22-25, 2014 with the theme “Empowering Our Future”
- Event speakers confirmed this year include Mr. Ed Martin, President and CEO of Nalcor; Mayor Jamie Snook, Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay; Ms. Yvonne Jones, Member of Parliament of Labrador; The Honourable Nick McGrath, Minister of Transportation and Works and Minister Responsible for Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs; Mr. Keith Russell, MHA for Lake Melville; Mr. Dwight Ball, Leader of the Official Opposition; Mr. Chris Henderson, President of Lumos Energy; and, Mr. George Kean, Manager of Labour Relations, Muskrat Falls Astaldi.
- In addition to the above noted speakers, conference sessions highlight the many opportunities that exist in a variety of Labrador resource development industries and topics including: Empowering Communities; Building Regional Industrial Capacity; and, Labrador Mining- From Discovery to Production.
- Below are some current issues that may arise during the Premier’s attendance as Expo.
George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- In January 2013, Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The Nunatsiavut Government recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Enforcement of the ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.
- Information sessions were held in early 2014 by representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Justice to discuss caribou status and management of the herd with Innu and Inuit community members.
- The Aboriginal governments/organisations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.
- Representatives from NL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but NL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH, which NL and QC are each required to prepare in their respective jurisdictions, and to propose a Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties.
In a joint census conducted by the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in July 2014 it was confirmed that the herd continues to decline, down to 14,200 animals. This is approximately a 98 percent drop in the past 20 years.
In January 2013, the Provincial Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.

The Aboriginal governments/organisations of the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.

The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH that NL and QC could each implement in their respective jurisdictions. NL and QC also proposed striking a tripartite Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties. UPCART has responded favourably, welcoming this opportunity for engagement, and officials are now preparing to engage in that collaborative process.
Aboriginal consultation with UPCART and working with QC on the GRCH management plan.

Innu round table and planning circles; Non-responsive

three new projects plus new liaison position; Non-responsive

Inuit Housing Needs Assessment and investments in housing (NL Housing’s $300k, etc.) and the call from Premiers’ meeting for a sustainable housing strategy. Non-responsive

Section 29(1)(a) In a joint census
conducted by the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in July 2014 it was confirmed that the herd continues to decline, down to 14,200 animals. This is approximately a 98 percent drop in the past 20 years.

- In January 2013, the provincial government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years.
- The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.
- The Aboriginal groups of the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.
- The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have jointly written to the Round Table to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH and to propose a Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties. The Round Table has responded welcoming this opportunity for engagement.
Meeting Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office
Meeting with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG)
Thursday, 06 November 2014, 09:00 AM
Premier’s Boardroom – 4th Floor, East Block

Attendees:
The Honourable Paul Davis, Premier
The Honourable Keith Hutchings, Minister
President Sarah Leo
Ms. Isabelle Pain, Deputy Minister – Nunatsiavut Secretariat (by phone)
Bert Pomeroy, Director of Communications

Purpose:
• The President of the NG, Ms. Sarah Leo, has requested a meeting with Premier Davis. President Leo will be joined by Ms. Isabella Pain, the senior-most NG public servant. Please see Biographies for President Leo and Ms. Pain appended hereto as ANNEX I.

• The NG has proposed the following issues for discussion; a brief overview of each Agenda item follows, below.
  i. Provincial funding for Illusuak Cultural Centre;
  ii. Land Use Plan;
  iii. Transportation (marine services, RFP for new vessels);
  iv. Housing;
  v. Lower Churchill (downstream effects on Inuit);
  vi. Ban on harvesting George River caribou; and,
  vii. Possible joint meeting of the provincial Cabinet and the NG’s Executive Council

Background and Current Status:
  i. Provincial funding for Illusuak Cultural Centre (the “Centre”)
vi. Ban on harvesting George River caribou

• In a joint census conducted by the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in July 2014 it was confirmed that the herd continues to decline, down to 14,200 animals. This is approximately a 98 percent drop in the past 20 years.

• In January 2013, the Provincial Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. LAAO has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.

• The Aboriginal governments/organisations of the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members. President Leo is one of the co-Chairs of the UPCART.

• The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH that NL and QC could each implement in their respective jurisdictions. NL and QC also proposed striking a tripartite Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties. UPCART has responded favourably, welcoming this opportunity for engagement, and officials are now preparing to engage in that collaborative process.
In 2013, in the wake of the GRCH ban, NL and Parks Canada supported the NG’s hunt of some 24 moose in Gros Morne National Park. A similar such hunt is taking place in early November 2014; Parks Canada will issue licences to Inuit hunters for up to 50 moose. LAAO recently received a request from the NG for a financial contribution. In 2013, LAAO contributed $30,000 to the NG to support the purchase of food for community freezers, and contributed $3,300 to support the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne to Labrador. In 2014, the NG has again requested financial support for the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne; LAAO recently responded to this request by providing $5,000 in financial support.

Potential Speaking Point
- We look forward to cooperating on a management plan for the George River Caribou Herd.
- We are happy to have provided $5,000 this year to support the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne National Park.

vii. Possible joint meeting of provincial Cabinet and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council

Prepared by/Reviewed by: B. Harvey, LAAO/U. Hanson, Ex CL, R. Bowles and A. Gover, LAAO
Approved by: 04 November 2014
Sarah Leo was raised in Nain by her parents, Abel and Isabella Leo. It was from her parents she learned firsthand the importance of selfless and, at times, passionate public service.

President Leo attended Jens Haven Memorial School in Nain, and graduated from there in 1982.

Following high school, President Leo worked at various positions in Nain. In 1984, she acted on a long-held dream and joined the Canadian Forces. Her career in the Forces exposed her to a wide range of people, politics and fields of operation.

After 21 years in the Canadian Forces, which included one overseas tour as a UN Peacekeeper and a second with the UN Stabilization Force, she returned to Nain to care for her father, who was in failing health.

After her father passed away, President Leo sought and obtained the position of town manager, a position for which the administrative and leadership experience gained in the Canadian Forces proved valuable. The position of town manager also fit well with her long-held ideal of effective public service.

In 2006, President Leo ran for and was elected to the office of AngajukKak for the Nain Inuit Community Government. As AngajukKak, she also served as Vice-President (North) on the Combined Councils of Labrador. Here she expanded her knowledge of the issues and concerns of Nunatsiavut and its beneficiaries in general, proving a strong voice and advocate for all.

In 2010, President Leo took up the position of Executive Director of the 0KalaKatiget Society, a position she held for two years.

Then, in the early spring of 2012, President Leo took a leave of absence from her position to undertake her ultimately successful campaign for President of Nunatsiavut.

President Leo currently volunteers as Chair of the Nain Heritage Committee, Chair of the Nain School Council and assists with the school Breakfast Program.

President Leo has 2 children, Isabelle and Barry Wiseman.
Isabella Pain is a beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims agreement. She was born and raised in Nain, Nunatsiavut. Upon completion of high school in Nain she went on to attend Memorial University of NL. She received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science and a minor in Business.

In 1991 Isabella returned to Nain and was hired by the Labrador Inuit Association as a member of the land claims negotiation team. In 2000, she was appointed as the co-chief negotiator of the land claims team and in 2001 also became the chief negotiator of the Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company (VBNC). The IBA was completed and ratified by members of LIA in 2002. The Labrador Inuit Land Claim agreement came into effect on December 1, 2005.

Isabella went to work for VBNC in 2004 as the Aboriginal Affairs Superintendent. She was part of the team responsible for ensuring that the Inuit and Innu IBAs were being implemented and that the obligations of the company were being met.

In 2008 Isabella took on the role of senior negotiator with the Nunatsiavut Government and in 2012 became the Deputy Minister for the Nunatsiavut Secretariat and the Secretary to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. Isabella also serves on the Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust, the Implementation Trust, the Tasiujatsoak Trust and the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust.

Isabella has served as a councillor on the Inuit community government and was a member of the Nunatsiavut Government Transitional Assembly.

Isabella resides in Nain with her husband Sid and daughter Kendra.
Meeting Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office
Meeting with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG)
Thursday, 06 November 2014, 09:00 AM
Premier's Boardroom – 4th Floor, East Block

Attendees:
The Honourable Paul Davis, Premier
The Honourable Keith Hutchings, Minister

President Sarah Leo
Ms. Isabelle Pain, Deputy Minister – Nunatsiavut Secretariat (by phone)
Bert Pomeroy, Director of Communications

Purpose:
• The President of the NG, Ms. Sarah Leo, has requested a meeting with Premier Davis. President Leo will be joined by Ms. Isabella Pain, the senior-most NG public servant. Please see Biographies for President Leo and Ms. Pain appended hereto as ANNEX I.

• The NG has proposed the following issues for discussion; a brief overview of each Agenda item follows, below.
  i. Provincial funding for Illusuak Cultural Centre;
  ii. Land Use Plan;
  iii. Transportation (marine services, RFP for new vessels);
  iv. Housing;
  v. Lower Churchill (downstream effects on Inuit);
  vi. Ban on harvesting George River caribou; and,
  vii. Possible joint meeting of the provincial Cabinet and the NG’s Executive Council

Background and Current Status:

Non-responsive
i. Provincial funding for Illusuak Cultural Centre (the “Centre”)

Non-responsive
In a joint census conducted by the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec in July 2014 it was confirmed that the herd continues to decline, down to 14,200 animals. This is approximately a 98 percent drop in the past 20 years.

In January 2013, the Provincial Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. LAAO has supported the Wildlife Division throughout the recent management of this herd, including Aboriginal consultations prior to the moratorium, and on an ongoing basis since.

The Aboriginal governments/organisations of the Quebec-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members. President Leo is one of the co-Chairs of the UPCART.

The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH that NL and QC could each implement in their respective jurisdictions. NL and QC also proposed striking a tripartite Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties. UPCART has responded favourably, welcoming this opportunity for engagement, and officials are now preparing to engage in that collaborative process.
In 2013, in the wake of the GRCH ban, NL and Parks Canada supported the NG’s hunt of some 24 moose in Gros Morne National Park. A similar such hunt is taking place in early November 2014; Parks Canada will issue licences to Inuit hunters for up to 50 moose. LAAO recently received a request from the NG for a financial contribution. In 2013, LAAO contributed $30,000 to the NG to support the purchase of food for community freezers, and contributed $3,300 to support the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne to Labrador. In 2014, the NG has again requested financial support for the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne; LAAO recently responded to this request by providing $5,000 in financial support.

Potential Speaking Point
- We look forward to cooperating on a management plan for the George River Caribou Herd.
- We are happy to have provided $5,000 this year to support the transportation of harvested moose from Gros Morne National Park.

Non-responsive

vi. Possible joint meeting of provincial Cabinet and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council

Prepared by/Reviewed by: B. Harvey, LAAO/LL- Hanson, Ex CL, R. Bowles and A. Gover, LAAO
Approved by: 
Date: 04 November 2014
President Sarah Leo

Sarah Leo was raised in Nain by her parents, Abel and Isabella Leo. It was from her parents she learned firsthand the importance of selfless and, at times, passionate public service.

President Leo attended Jens Haven Memorial School in Nain, and graduated from there in 1982.

Following high school, President Leo worked at various positions in Nain. In 1984, she acted on a long-held dream and joined the Canadian Forces. Her career in the Forces exposed her to a wide range of people, politics and fields of operation.

After 21 years in the Canadian Forces, which included one overseas tour as a UN Peacekeeper and a second with the UN Stabilization Force, she returned to Nain to care for her father, who was in failing health.

After her father passed away, President Leo sought and obtained the position of town manager, a position for which the administrative and leadership experience gained in the Canadian Forces proved valuable. The position of town manager also fit well with her long-held ideal of effective public service.

In 2006, President Leo ran for and was elected to the office of AngajukKak for the Nain Inuit Community Government. As AngajukKak, she also served as Vice-President (North) on the Combined Councils of Labrador. Here she expanded her knowledge of the issues and concerns of Nunatsiavut and its beneficiaries in general, proving a strong voice and advocate for all.

In 2010, President Leo took up the position of Executive Director of the OKalaKatiget Society, a position she held for two years.

Then, in the early spring of 2012, President Leo took a leave of absence from her position to undertake her ultimately successful campaign for President of Nunatsiavut.

President Leo currently volunteers as Chair of the Nain Heritage Committee, Chair of the Nain School Council and assists with the school Breakfast Program.

President Leo has 2 children, Isabelle and Barry Wiseman.
Ms. Isabella Pain  
Deputy Minister - Nunatsiavut Secretariat

Isabella Pain is a beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims agreement. She was born and raised in Nain, Nunatsiavut. Upon completion of high school in Nain she went on to attend Memorial University of NL. She received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science and a minor in Business.

In 1991 Isabella returned to Nain and was hired by the Labrador Inuit Association as a member of the land claims negotiation team. In 2000, she was appointed as the co-chief negotiator of the land claims team and in 2001 also became the chief negotiator of the Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company (VBNC). The IBA was completed and ratified by members of LIA in 2002. The Labrador Inuit Land Claim agreement came into effect on December 1, 2005.

Isabella went to work for VBNC in 2004 as the Aboriginal Affairs Superintendent. She was part of the team responsible for ensuring that the Inuit and Innu IBAs were being implemented and that the obligations of the company were being met.

In 2008 Isabella took on the role of senior negotiator with the Nunatsiavut Government and in 2012 became the Deputy Minister for the Nunatsiavut Secretariat and the Secretary to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. Isabella also serves on the Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust, the Implementation Trust, the Tasiujatsoak Trust and the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust.

Isabella has served as a councillor on the Inuit community government and was a member of the Nunatsiavut Government Transitional Assembly.

Isabella resides in Nain with her husband Sid and daughter Kendra.
In respect of caribou management, Government has collaborated with the Government of Quebec to engage the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART), comprising all those Aboriginal communities which harvest caribou on the Ungava Peninsula (including Pakua Shipi), in order to discuss and develop a management plan for the George River Caribou Herd that would meet the requirements of both governments, and the expectations of the Aboriginal governments/organisations comprising the UPCART. The two governments have reached out to UPCART, and are nearing agreement to collaborate on a management plan on a working level. Once a plan is drafted, Government will consult with Aboriginal governments/organisations directly and bilaterally, as appropriate.
• It is also significant to note that in respect of caribou management, Government has collaborated with the Government of Quebec to engage the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART), comprising all those Aboriginal communities which harvest caribou on the Ungava Peninsula (including Pakua Shipli), in order to discuss and develop a management plan for the George River Caribou Herd that would meet the requirements of both governments, and the expectations of the Aboriginal governments/organisations comprising the UPCART. The two governments have reached out to UPCART, and are nearing agreement to collaborate on a management plan on a working level. Once a plan is drafted, Government will consult with Aboriginal governments/organisations directly and bilaterally, as appropriate.

Action Being Taken:
• N/A – this Note was prepared for the information of the Premier in preparation for the July 2015 meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Organisation Leaders in Labrador.

Prepared by / Approved by: B. Harvey, LAAO / A. Gover, LAAO
Ministerial Approval: 10 July 2015
Information Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO)

Title: Lieutenant Governor's Visit to the North Coast of Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may be raised by the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) or Inuit Community Governments during the Lieutenant Governor's visit to the north coast of Labrador.

Background:
- The Lieutenant Governor (LG) is visiting the five (5) Inuit communities (Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet) and Natuashish on the north coast of Labrador from September ??, 2015.

The following issues may be raised for discussion during the LG's visit to the Inuit communities:

Issue #1 – Hopedale Remediation

Issue #2 – Marine Ferry Services
Issue # 8 - George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, GNL announced a five year moratorium on harvesting of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The NG recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Charges have recently been brought against an alleged illegal harvest by several Labrador Innu hunters in 2013.

- Aboriginal governments/organizations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.

- Representatives from GNL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but GNL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, GNL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. GNL and QC continue to advocate for involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.
• GNL consulted relevant Aboriginal groups in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as a part of the review process. Also, ENVC travelled to Inuit communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRC and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

Proposed Actions:
• N/A – This note was prepared for the information of the Lieutenant Governor.

Prepared/approved by: R. Carter, LAAO/
Ministerial Approval: August 14, 2015
Information Note
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO)

Title: Lieutenant-Governor's (LG) Visit to the North Coast of Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may be raised by the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) or Inuit Community Governments during the LG's visit to the north coast of Labrador.

Background:
- The Lieutenant Governor (LG) is visiting the five (5) Inuit communities (Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet) and Natuashish on the north coast of Labrador in September.
- The following issues may be raised for discussion during the visit to the Inuit communities:

Issue #1 - Hopedale Remediation

Issue #2 - Marine Ferry Services
Issue # 7 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TCR)  

Non-responsive

Issue # 8 - George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, GNL announced a five year moratorium on harvesting of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The NG recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Charges have recently been brought against an alleged illegal harvest by several Labrador Innu hunters in 2013.

Section 29(1)(a)
• Aboriginal governments/organizations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.

• Representatives from GNL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but GNL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, GNL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. GNL and QC continue to advocate for involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.

• GNL consulted relevant Aboriginal government/organizations in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as a part of the review process. Also, ENVC travelled to Inuit communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRC and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

Proposed Actions:
• N/A – This note was prepared for the information of the Lieutenant Governor.

Prepared/approved by: R. Carter, LAAO/
Ministerial Approval: August 14, 2015
Title: Lieutenant Governor’s Visit to the North Coast of Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may be raised by the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) or Inuit Community Governments during the Lieutenant Governor’s visit to the north coast of Labrador.

Background:
- The Lieutenant Governor is visiting the five (5) Inuit communities (Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet) and Natuashish on the north coast of Labrador in September 2015. The following issues may be raised for discussion during the visit to the Inuit communities:

Issue #1 – Hopedale Remediation

Issue #2 – Marine Ferry Services
Issue # 8 – George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, GNL announced a five year moratorium on harvesting of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The NG recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Charges have recently been brought against an alleged illegal harvest by several Labrador Innu hunters in 2013. Section 29(1)(a)

- Aboriginal governments/organizations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal
Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.

- Representatives from GNL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but GNL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, GNL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. GNL and QC continue to advocate for all parties’ involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.

- GNL consulted relevant Aboriginal government/organizations in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as part of the review process. Also, ENVC travelled to Inuit communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRCH and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

- The NG have called on GNL to enforce its ban on GRCH fairly and equally.

**Issue #9 – Subsurface Resource Revenue Sharing**

- Non-responsive
Title: Lieutenant Governor’s Visit to the North Coast of Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may be raised by the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) or Inuit Community Governments during the Lieutenant Governor’s visit to the north coast of Labrador.

Background:
- The Lieutenant Governor is visiting the five (5) Inuit communities (Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet) and Natuashish on the north coast of Labrador in September 2015. The following issues may be raised for discussion during the visit to the Inuit communities:

Issue #1 – Hopedale Remediation

Non-responsive
Issue # 7 – George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, GNL announced a five year moratorium on harvesting of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The NG recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Labrador Innu and QC Innu have not accepted the ban on hunting, and charges have been brought against several Labrador Innu and an aircraft company.

- Aboriginal governments/organizations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population.

- Representatives from GNL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but GNL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, GNL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. GNL and QC continue to advocate for all parties' involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.

- GNL consulted relevant Aboriginal government/organizations in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as a part of the review process. Also, ENVC travelled to Inuit communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRC and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

- The NG has called on GNL to enforce its ban on GRCH fairly and equally, and GNL has reiterated its determination to enforce the ban.

Issue # 8 – Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

Non-responsive
Title: Lieutenant Governor’s Visit to the North Coast of Labrador

Issue: To provide information on issues that may be raised by the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) or Inuit Community Governments during the Lieutenant Governor’s visit to the north coast of Labrador.

Background:
- The Lieutenant Governor is visiting the five (5) Inuit communities (Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet) and Natuashish on the north coast of Labrador in September 2015. The following issues may be raised for discussion during the visit to the Inuit communities:

  Issue #1 – Hopedale Remediation

[Non-responsive]
Issue # 7 - George River Caribou Herd (GRCH)

- The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

- In January 2013, GNL announced a five year moratorium on harvesting of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The NG recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Labrador Innu and QC Innu have not accepted the ban on hunting, and charges have been brought against several Labrador Innu and an aircraft company.

- Aboriginal governments/organizations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population.

- Representatives from GNL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but GNL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, GNL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. GNL and QC continue to advocate for all parties’ involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.

- GNL consulted relevant Aboriginal government/organizations in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as a part of the review process. Also, ENVC travelled to Inuit communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRC and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

- The NG has called on GNL to enforce its ban on GRCH fairly and equally, and GNL has reiterated its determination to enforce the ban.

Issue # 8 – Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
The GRCH population has declined from an estimated 775,000 animals in 1993 to its current level of less than 20,000.

In January 2013, Government announced a five year moratorium on harvest of the GRCH, with a review after two years. The Nunatsiavut Government recommended the Labrador Inuit immediately suspend their harvest for 2 years, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. also recommended a one year suspension, since extended for another year. Enforcement of the ban has been active through land and helicopter based patrols.
charges have recently been brought against an illegal harvest by several Labrador Innu hunters in 2013.

- The Aboriginal governments/organisations representing Aboriginal harvesters of the GRCH from throughout the QC-Labrador Peninsula have formed the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) in order to address concerns about the caribou population and the cultural relationship of caribou for members.

- Representatives from NL and QC have not been invited to participate at UPCART meetings, but NL and QC have jointly written to the UPCART to propose that all three parties collaborate in the development of a Management Plan for the GRCH, which NL and QC are each required to prepare in their respective jurisdictions, and to propose a Liaison Committee for ongoing discussions, collaboration, and information-sharing amongst the three parties. UPCART replied with willingness to form partnership in the drafting of the Plan, however, NL and QC have since found that UPCART is moving forward without engaging either province. NL and QC continue to advocate for involvement on the development of such a Management Plan.

- NL consulted relevant Aboriginal groups in Labrador and QC in 2015 regarding the continuation of the ban as a part of the review process.

- ENVC travelled to NG communities in June 2015 to present on the status of GRC and seek input on the ban from community members and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

- The NG have called on the province to enforce its ban on GRCH fairly and equally,