



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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November 20, 2006

Eddie Erasmus
Acting Chairperson
Wek'ezhii Renewable Resources Board
Yellowknife NT

Dear Mr. Erasmus

Re: Community Concerns with the Bathurst Caribou Herd

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency recently held a Board meeting in Wekweti where we sponsored an open house on September 21, 2006. Part of our mandate is to bring the concerns of Aboriginal peoples to BHP Billiton and to regulators.

While we were in Wekweti, we presented some information about our Agency and the BHP Billiton Ekati Mine. The community members in attendance were very interested in the health and status of the Bathurst caribou herd. People reported that: (1) there are more frequent signs and reports of sick animals; (2) samples provided to GNWT do not result in timely reports back to the community; (3) there are changes in caribou migration routes; and (4) there are overall reduced numbers and health of the Bathurst herd. There were calls for meetings and/or workshops in Wekweti to discuss the health of the herd, causes for the changes and actions to ensure that the health of the caribou is maintained and improved. Based on the considerable interest in the Bathurst herd and based on the great expertise we found in community members, we believe the idea of holding community meetings would be very wise indeed.

The Agency met recently with your Acting Executive Director and we were very pleased to learn that your Board will soon visit the Tlicho communities. We also understand that GNWT staff will be visiting communities that rely on the Bathurst caribou herd to provide information and details on the Bathurst caribou herd management plan and the Barrenground Caribou Management Strategy. We would appreciate being kept apprised of the outcome of both of these sets of meetings.

We further understand from your Acting Executive Director that the Board will soon have a temporary office in Yellowknife.

We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff again at any time and to assist the Board wherever we can, with regard to wildlife matters as they relate to the Ekati mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Chief Charlie Football, Wekweti
Bob Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Society Members