



Today industrial expansion and a changing climate within our region places food security as a leading issue for our community. Inuit, Denesuline and others have depended upon these areas to reproduce our primary source of protein, for millennia. Without caribou, Inuit in our community do not have access to an equally healthy and affordable protein source.

The HTO acknowledges that the exploration proposal is considered to be low level and short term. In our experience mining exploration is not a temporary land use. Exploration activities can be ongoing for many years as proponents work to identify a marketable resource suitable for extraction. During this time changes to critical caribou habitats as a result of; vegetation disturbance, noise, fragmentation from access roads and trenches, and in some instances long term storage of waste and by-products, have lasting effects on the behaviour and health of caribou. This in turn impacts the health of Inuit; these effects become more pronounced through the accumulation of impacts within these areas critical to caribou. It is for these reasons the HTO continues to call for a total ban on mine exploration and development within the calving and post calving grounds, and near water crossings.

In closing the HTO believes that this application should be abandoned. The HTO does not support the proposal. In the absence of a total ban on industrial development we would like to see a moratorium on mining exploration and development within these critical areas. A moratorium should be in place until there is evidence that the caribou herd populations are no longer in decline.

If you would like additional clarity please do not hesitate to contact Hugh Nateela, Manager of our office.

Respectfully,



Richard Aksawnee  
Chairperson

CC:

Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board  
Kivalliq Wildlife Board  
Baker Lake Hunter and Trappers Organization