

June 11, 2019

Mr. Ross Thompson,  
Executive Director  
Beverly/Qaminiriak Caribou Management Board  
P. O. Box 629  
Stonewall, Manitoba R0C 1Z0

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Sayisi Dene people, I am shocked and alarmed by the actions of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for opening up the sacred calving grounds of our caribou herd for exploration! Apparently this is the second summer that it is allowed to happen!

The Sayisi Dene people were once relocated and almost destroyed by the actions of the federal and provincial governments, by accusing us of killing too many caribou. The current actions of your territorial government and its institutions are very disturbing, reckless and totally detrimental to the existence of caribou or other wildlife.

We all live in a fragile natural world with weather-related disasters and pollution that is threatening all living creatures. At a time when most countries of the world are scrambling to make necessary changes to curb this downward slide, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is ready to give up on the delicate existence of caribou? For short-term gain? This disruption, added to the extreme misery of their existence due to longer summers, predators, disease, heavy industry and overhunting will be a deathblow to caribou, to us and all other First Nation in this region who depend on this annual migration to supplement our existence.

We've lived in this area for thousands of years, living closely with the herds for many generations. What gives them the right to do this unilaterally? Especially during sensitive times? We are all aboriginal people, and we all rely on this herd to feed us!

This is very alarming, and we cannot take this kind of action lightly! I'm sure the world media would love to hear about this!

As Dene people, we are shocked by the actions of industrialists, and the people who support them. They have to realize the consequences. This is serious, and it affects more people than they imagine. I'm sure this is not the last you'll hear from us about this, and protest we will!

Sincerely,



Chief Tony Powderhorn, SDFN

cc. Athabasca Dene Chiefs