

## News Release

## "Talk Tuktu!" Invitation Extended to Nunavummiut

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (**September 3, 2010**) – The Nunavut Department of Environment, along with wildlife co-management partners is inviting Nunavummiut to provide their thoughts and input on caribou management. The Department is gearing up for regional consultation meetings on its Draft Nunavut Caribou Strategy Framework, to be held in late September and early October.

The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, wants to make sure that all voices with something to say about Caribou in Nunavut are heard. "We hope that Nunavummiut will take this opportunity to speak to their HTO representatives in order to put forward their most pressing concerns or ideas about Caribou" said Minister Shewchuk. "This will not be the only opportunity, however. We hope to continue the dialogue and collaboration well into the future, for ongoing cooperation in caribou co-management."

Through the regional meetings, the Department of Environment, in partnership with Regional Wildlife Boards and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, seek community input and feedback towards the completion of a Nunavut-wide strategy for Caribou management. The Draft document has been presented to every HTO in Nunavut, and HTO and RWO representatives have been invited to one of three Caribou Strategy regional meetings, being held in Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit.

"Caribou are an extremely important cultural, economic, and ecological resource to all Nunavummiut" said the Minister. "An effective plan for caribou management in Nunavut should include all relevant stakeholders and should recognize that this is not simply a wildlife management issue."

Concurrent with these regional consultations, the Department of Environment is working to engage other Government Departments, Industry representatives, and other key stakeholders on the strategy. Input from all stakeholders and community members will be considered in working toward the final caribou strategy document.

The regional caribou strategy meetings take place September 20-21<sup>st</sup> in Yellowknife, September 28-29<sup>th</sup> in Iqaluit and October 5-6<sup>th</sup> in Rankin Inlet. The draft caribou strategy documents are available at local HTO or conservation offices or on the Department of Environment's website, at <a href="https://www.gov.nu.ca/env">www.gov.nu.ca/env</a>.

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Communications 2010-46-C