

Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement

This agreement made on the 26 day of October, 1985 between:

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of the Environment, (hereinafter referred to as "Canada");

- and -

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON, as represented by the Minister of Renewable Resources, (hereinafter referred to as "Yukon");

- and -

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, as represented by the Minister of Renewable Resources, (hereinafter referred to as "GNWT");

- and -

THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS, (hereinafter referred to as "CYI");

- and -

THE INUVIALUIT GAME COUNCIL, (hereinafter referred to as "IGC");

- and -

THE DENE NATION AND THE MÉTIS ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, (hereinafter referred to as the "Dene/Metis*").

WHEREAS the Porcupine Caribou Herd within Canada historically migrates across the boundary between Yukon and the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the continued well-being of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the maintenance of its habitat require co-ordinated management, good will and co-operation between Governments and the traditional users of these caribou;

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto recognize the value of these caribou to Canada generally and that a special relationship exists between native users and these caribou.

NOW THEREFORE this Agreement Witnesseth that the Government parties hereto, under their respective authorities to enter into agreements of this kind, agree to act within their legislative authorities for the management of Porcupine Caribou and the protection and maintenance of Porcupine Caribou habitat, in a co-operative manner together with the other parties to this Agreement, to give effect to its terms as follows.

A. Definitions

In this Agreement:

1. **“Allowable harvest”** means that level of harvest of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada as set pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
2. **“Board”** means the Porcupine Caribou Management Board established herein.
3. **“Conservation”** means the management and use of Porcupine Caribou and its habitat which best ensures the long term productivity and usefulness of the Herd for present and future generations.
4. **“Habitat”** means the whole or any part of the biosphere upon which the Porcupine Caribou Herd depends, including all of the land, water and air that it inhabits, crosses or utilizes at any time.
5. **“Harvest”** means to shoot, kill, harm, capture, trap, or collect for any purpose, or to attempt to engage in such activities.
6. **“Management”** means the methods and procedures which are necessary to ensure the health and protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the maintenance of its habitat, which may include but are not limited to the following activities associated with wildlife and land management: law enforcement, research, census-taking, monitoring, public information, education and functions provided for in this Agreement.
7. **“Minister(s)”** means the appropriate responsible Minister of the Government of Canada, Government of Yukon or Government of the Northwest Territories.
8. **“Native user”** means a person whose entitlement to the subsistence harvest of Porcupine Caribou has been recognized by a native user community and who is:
 - (a) an aboriginal person who is a traditional user of the Porcupine Caribou or the descendant of such a person; or
 - (b) an aboriginal person who is a current user of the Porcupine Caribou at the time of signing this Agreement and meets a reasonable residency requirement satisfactory to his native user community; or
 - (c) A Canadian aboriginal person who has not traditionally or currently harvested the Porcupine Caribou but meets a reasonable residency requirement satisfactory to the Board.
9. **“Native User Community”** means any one of the communities of Old Crow, Dawson, Mayo, Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Aklavik, Inuvik or Tuktoyaktuk and may also include such other new communities as may be determined through native user agreements in effect from time to time. The native users within these communities shall be represented by a Chief and Council, a Hunters and Trappers association or other appropriate native leadership body, including those bodies defined through the comprehensive land claims process.

10. “Parties” means the parties to this Agreement and may include their successors or assigns, as defined through the comprehensive land claims process or otherwise.

11. “Porcupine Caribou” means members of that herd of barren ground caribou which regularly bears its young in north-eastern Alaska and north-western Yukon and historically moves southward within Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories for the winter. Its Canadian range, the limits of which are defined within Yukon by current Yukon game management subzones, is generally depicted for Yukon and the Northwest Territories on the map attached as Appendix I to this Agreement.

12. “Preferential Right” means the right to harvest Porcupine Caribou for subsistence usage and to be allocated, subject to conservation and the terms of this Agreement, quantities of Porcupine Caribou sufficient to fulfill the native users requirements for subsistence usage before there is any allocation for other purposes, such right of allocation being provided for by the establishment, when necessary, of the allocation hereinafter referred to as the “native user allocation.”

B. Objectives of the Parties

1. To co-operatively manage, as a herd, the Porcupine Caribou and its habitat within Canada so as to ensure the conservation of the Herd with a view to providing for the ongoing subsistence needs of native users;
2. To provide for participation of native users in Porcupine Caribou Herd management;
3. To recognize and protect certain priority harvesting rights in the Porcupine Caribou Herd for native users, while acknowledging that other users may also share the harvest;
4. To acknowledge the rights of native users as set out in this Agreement; and
5. To improve communications between Governments, native users and others with regard to the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd within Canada.

C. Establishment of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board

1. The Government parties to this Agreement shall establish a Board, to be known as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, to provide advice and recommendations to the Ministers.
2. Subject to paragraph 3(f) of this Part:
 - (a) The Board will always include representation from each of the parties to this Agreement.
 - (b) The Board will always contain equal Government and native representation and equal representation of native users from Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

3. Eight voting members shall be appointed within a reasonable time to the Board, as follows:

(a) Canada shall appoint one member to represent Canada;

(b) (i) Yukon shall appoint two members to represent Yukon;

(ii) CYI shall nominate two members to represent the native users of Old Crow, Dawson and Mayo;

(c) (i) GNWT shall appoint one member to represent GNWT;

(ii) The Dene/Métis* shall nominate one member to represent the Dene/Métis* native users or Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River;

(iii) IGC shall nominate one member to represent the Inuvialuit native users of Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk;

(d) Upon receipt of notification from the parties, the Ministers shall confirm the nominations and appointments as required;

(e) The members of The Board shall be appointed for a term of five years, subject to the right of the parties to terminate the appointment of their respective appointees at any time and have Board members reappointed in accordance with the above terms of reference

(f) If, within a reasonable time, nominations or appointments are not made as provided for in this paragraph, the Board may discharge its responsibilities with those members who have been nominated or appointed.

4. (a) A majority of the members of the Board shall nominate from outside the membership of the Board a Yukon resident as the first Chairman and shall notify the Ministers accordingly;

(b) The Board shall determine criteria for the nomination of subsequent Chairmen;

(c) If agreement on nomination of a Chairman cannot be reached within a reasonable time, any party to this Agreement may refer the matter to a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Yukon Territory acting as an arbitrator under the provisions of the Arbitration Ordinance and if the Court shall not provide a Judge, then to an arbitrator under the provisions of the Arbitration Ordinance;

(d) The majority of the members of the Board shall confirm the acceptability of the Chairman as nominated and shall notify the Ministers of its confirmation;

(e) The Chairman shall have tenure for a term of five years and may, with the approval of the Board serve additional terms;

(f) Upon receipt of notification from the Board, the Ministers shall confirm the appointment or dismissal of Chairmen as required.

D. Duties of the Board

1. The Board shall establish and maintain communication with the native users of the Porcupine Caribou, between the native users of the Porcupine Caribou, between native users and Governments, among Governments and with other users, in order to assist in co-ordinated management and conservation of Porcupine Caribou and its habitat.
2. The Board shall determine the actions that are necessary to achieve the objectives described herein and shall recommend them to the Minister.
3. The Board shall hold such public meetings as are reasonably necessary to report on and discuss with native users and others its findings and recommendations and, in any event, shall inform the native user communities in writing of the Board's recommendations to the Minister.
4. The Board shall review technical and scientific information relevant to the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and its habitat and may advise the Minister of its adequacy.
5. The Board shall encourage native users and other harvesters of Porcupine Caribou to participate in the collection of statistics and biological information.
6. The Board shall maintain a list of eligible native users for each native user community and up-to-date information on the suballocation of the native user allocation among communities all of which shall be made available to Governments for management purposes.

E. Recommendations of the Board

Without restricting the generality of Part D of this Agreement, the parties agree that the Board may do the following:

1. The Board may make recommendations to the Minister on any matter affecting the Porcupine Caribou and its habitat, including recommendations related to the making of policy, legislation and regulations regarding:
 - (a) management strategies for the Porcupine Caribou Herd;
 - (b) a herd management plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd;
 - (c) guidelines for native users' participation in Porcupine Caribou Herd management plans;
 - (d) training required to enable native users to participate in the management or the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the conservation of its habitat;
 - (e) a predator management plan in respect of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, provided that no such plan shall be put into effect until the Minister has consulted with the Board;

2. The Board may also:

(a) review and recommend development of Porcupine Caribou research proposals:

(b) review available information and recommend further research where there appears to be a need;

(c) review and recommend methods of data collection and presentation;

(d) review the conservation and management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and its habitat and make appropriate recommendations so as to ensure that productivity is maintained; and,

(e) recommend criteria according to which non-native subsistence users may qualify to share in the native user allocation from the Porcupine Caribou Herd, if the affected native user community approves.

3. (a) Because of the dependence of caribou on its habitat, the Board may make recommendations to other boards and agencies, as well as to the Minister, on land use planning and land management throughout the Canadian range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd or any portion of it. Recommendations of measures to ensure the conservation and protection of habitat shall include, but are not limited to, measures related to specific projects, plans or activities which may:

i) impede, delay or disrupt Porcupine Caribou movements, affect behavioural patterns or reduce productivity;

(ii) affect Porcupine Caribou habitat; or

(iii) affect interactions between native users and Porcupine Caribou;

(b) The Board may also identify sensitive habitat areas requiring special protection and recommend measures to protect such areas.

F. Minister's Responsibilities

1. The Minister shall consider the recommendations of the Board and report his decisions or comments in a timely manner. The Minister shall, within thirty days of receipt of recommendations, either provide the Chairman with his response or, where he is not able to respond fully, he shall so inform the Chairman and advise him when his full response will be provided. When advised by the Board that an emergency situation has arisen and that a decision on a recommendation is necessary forthwith, the Minister shall govern himself accordingly.

2. The Minister may consult with the Board on any matter related to the Porcupine Caribou and its habitat.

3. Recommendations of the Board shall be submitted in writing to the Minister.

4. If the Minister disagrees with a recommendation or any part thereof, he shall refer the matter back to the Board for reconsideration with due consideration for any time schedule imposed by any statutory or regulatory requirements.

5. Where, as the result of a matter being referred back to the Board recommendations are submitted, the Minister may accept or reject the recommendations in whole or in part.

6. Where the Minister rejects a recommendation in whole or in part, he shall provide the Board with reasons therefore.

7. Where it appears to the Minister that an emergency situation has arisen which affects the well being of the Porcupine Caribou or its habitat, and where time does not permit consultation with the Board, the Minister may take such action as is necessary before consulting with the Board.

8. Where emergency action has been taken pursuant to paragraph 7 above, the Minister shall forthwith inform the Chairman and solicit the continuing advice of the Board.

G. Proceedings of the Board

The Board shall establish and make known, from time to time, rules and procedures for its functioning, provided however, that:

(a) thirty days' notice of meetings shall be given by mail, telephone, telegram or other appropriate means;

(b) the Board shall establish its own quorum;

(c) decisions of the Board shall be by consensus wherever possible, and shall always require a majority vote in favour, with each member having one vote;

(d) the Board may decide that alternates be appointed to represent members when they are unable to attend Board meetings and shall establish the terms and conditions of the appointments. If it is decided that alternates are necessary, the parties shall each appoint alternates forthwith according to the terms provided for the appointment of Board members in Part C of this Agreement;

(e) the Chairman shall, in the event of a deadlock or tie vote, be responsible for resolving the disagreement of the Board and shall, where necessary, cast the deciding vote on any issue which cannot otherwise be resolved;

(f) the Board shall hold formal meetings at least twice yearly unless it decides otherwise;

(g) the Board shall keep summary minutes and records of all its meetings and circulate them to its members;

(h) the Board may establish and instruct such committees as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

H. Board Secretariat

There shall be a secretariat to administer the operations of the Board which shall be responsible to the Board under the direction of the Chairman. The secretariat shall receive and distribute information, prepare and circulate minutes of Board meetings and perform such other functions as the Board requires.

I. Finances

1. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to funds being appropriated by legislative authority on an annual basis the Government parties shall fund reasonable costs of the Board and Secretariat in equal portions and in such amounts as agreed annually, to ensure the Board and Secretariat functioning in a manner herein stated.

2. For further clarity, particular expenditures of the Board which are to be shared by the funding parties may include:

(a) any salary or honorarium, and all travel, accommodation and related expenses incurred while working on Board activities, paid to the Chairman, provided that same is in accordance with Treasury Board guidelines;

(b) the production of an annual report and its distribution;

(c) a modest technical review capability in respect of primary research conducted by Governments and other sources;

(d) the production of information or educational material, such as newsletters; and

(e) such other costs as the funding parties may agree upon.

3. The Government parties shall be responsible for any salary or honorarium, and all travel, accommodation and related expenses of their Board members. In addition, Yukon shall be responsible for these expenses related to the participation of the Board members for CYI and GNWT shall be responsible for these expenses related to the participation of the Board members for IGC and the Dene/Metis.

4. The Board shall prepare and submit annual budgets for all expenditures under its control to the appropriate Government parties and shall be accountable for the expenditures of the Board and secretariat.

5. The Board shall account annually for all monies received and disbursed by the Board and secretariat and records of this accounting shall be made available to any of the parties to this Agreement for inspection upon thirty days written notice to the Chairman.

J. Allocations of Annual Allowable Harvest in Canada

1. Any of the parties to this Agreement may provide the Board with information that will, in the opinion of the submitting party, assist the Board in determining its recommendation of the annual allowable harvest from the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

2. (a) After the Board has considered all relevant information, the Chairman shall submit its report to the Ministers to facilitate the enactment of any necessary regulations.

(b) The report of the Board may include, but is not restricted to, recommendations related to the following:

- (i) annual allowable harvest;
- (ii) categories and priorities of harvest allocations;
- (iii) methods of harvest;
- (iv) areas of harvest;
- (v) means of access;
- (vi) seasons;
- (vii) age and sex of Porcupine Caribou to be harvested; and
- (viii) research study requirements related to the harvest.

(c) In determining the native user allocation the Board shall take into account, among other things, the following criteria:

- (i) food and clothing requirements of the native users;
- (ii) usage patterns and levels of harvest by the native users;
- iii) ability of caribou and other wildlife populations to meet the subsistence requirements of the native users; and
- (iv) projections of changes in caribou populations.

(d) The Board may also include in its report the appropriate principles, considerations and procedures that should be used in order to calculate a total annual allowable harvest and its allocations, and more generally to define the conservation limit for the harvest of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

(e) If the Porcupine Caribou Herd is healthy and of sufficient numbers to satisfy all reasonable completing needs, the Board may recommend that the setting of an annual allowable harvest is not required.

3. The territorial Governments shall, upon taking into consideration the recommendations of the Board and consistent with the preferential right of native users to harvest:

- a) establish the total annual allowable harvest of Porcupine Caribou in Canada; and
- b) determine the allocation of the annual allowable harvest in Canada for native users, taking into account the criteria set forth in paragraph 2(c) of this part and the reservation of two hundred and fifty (250) Porcupine Caribou referred to in paragraph 4 below.

4. Taking into consideration the interests of other users, the territorial Government shall allocate as they see fit from that portion of the annual allowable harvest not allocated under paragraph 3(b) of this Part, which shall consist of no fewer than two hundred and fifty (250) Porcupine Caribou, and shall regulate harvesting pursuant to their respective legislative authorities.

5. (a) The native users shall sub-allocate native user allocation among themselves on a community basis.

(b) The details of the sub-allocation shall be provided to the Board annually by CYI, IGC, and the Dene/Métis* on behalf of the native user communities represented by them respectively so that the necessary information will be available for management purposes.

(c) The respective hunting areas for native user communities are identified on the map attached as Appendix II to this Agreement.

(d) When access to its community hunting area has been granted by a native user community to a native user or users from another community, notice in a form acceptable to the appropriate Governments shall be provided.

6. Where a sub-allocation of Porcupine Caribou is made to the native users of Dawson and Mayo, the Yukon Wildlife Management Board (that is referred to in the Yukon Indian Agreement-in-Principle) and Yukon shall be so informed by the Board.

7. The parties recognize the respective responsibilities of the Yukon Wildlife Management Board for all wildlife south of 65°30' in Yukon and of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board as set out in this Agreement. Therefore, in territorial game management subzones or parts thereof, where the Hart River and Wernecke Caribou or other herds in Yukon mix with the Porcupine Caribou, Yukon may, on the advice of and in consultation with the appropriate board(s), take the necessary measures to protect these herds that mix with the Porcupine Caribou Herd for such periods of time as are required.

8. The parties recognize the special dependence of all native users on the Porcupine Caribou and in particular, the unique dependence of the native users of Old Crow on the Porcupine Caribou.

K. The Rights of Native Users

1. The rights of native users as set out in this Agreement are subject to laws of general application with regard to conservation and public safety.

2. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, native users shall have a preferential right to harvest Porcupine Caribou.

3. Native users shall have the right to harvest Porcupine Caribou without being required to pay fees or obtain licenses, permits or tags except that licenses, permits or tags may be required for conservation and management purposes. In such circumstances any such licenses, permits and tags will be issued locally and without cost.

4. The Government parties to this Agreement shall use their best efforts to enact any laws and regulations to allow native users the right to transport lawfully harvested Porcupine Caribou across any jurisdictional boundary within the Canadian range of the herd.

5. Native users shall have the right to employ traditional and current methods to harvest the Porcupine Caribou and the right to both possess and use all equipment reasonably necessary to exercise that right.

6. The development of lists of eligible native users shall be made in each native user community with the assistance of the appropriate native leadership body. These lists shall be provided to the Board annually by CYI, IGC and the Dene/Métis* on behalf of the native user communities and shall be updated as required.

7. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 of this Part, native users may be required for conservation and management purposes to show evidence that they are native users.

L. Commercial Harvest

1. There shall be no commercial harvest of Porcupine Caribou in Canada.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, native users may:

(a) barter or trade with other native users for caribou meat; and

(b) subject to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Part, sell caribou meat to other native users who are unable to hunt by virtue of age, illness or other disadvantages or where there is an emergency situation when access for the hunting of caribou is not feasible for a native user community, provided that the money received for the sale does not exceed the reasonable expenses incurred.

(c) The Board shall establish guidelines from time to time on:

(i) the circumstances that qualify a native user as being disadvantaged, for example when a family does not have a provider;

(ii) categories of costs which may be considered reasonable expenses;

(iii) the circumstances that would create an emergency situation when access for the hunting of caribou is not feasible for a native user community.

(d) The Board shall establish procedures for the expeditious consideration of individual situations contemplated by paragraph 2(b) of this Part which do not fall within the guidelines established pursuant to paragraph 2(c) above.

3. Native users shall be permitted to sell the non-edible parts of legally harvested Porcupine Caribou.

4. This part does not apply to commercial guiding or outfitting activities.

M. Information

1. All parties to this Agreement agree to use their best efforts to provide the Board with all available information requested by it that is necessary to carry out its functions.
2. The Board may advise the parties on the adequacy of information provided to it by native users and others.
3. Subject to paragraph 4 of this Part, the Board shall provide available information upon request and may distribute its reports and recommendations to the public.
4. The Board will respect the confidentiality of such information provided to it on a confidential basis.

N. General

1. The parties hereto shall jointly and severally indemnify and save harmless the Board and the individual members thereof, against any and all liability, loss, damage, cost or expenses, which the Board, or its individual members jointly or severally incur, suffer or are required to pay as a consequence of any contract or other obligation lawfully undertaken in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
2. All public reports, summaries or other documentation prepared or otherwise completed by the Board shall become the joint property of all parties hereto and any and all income derived therefrom shall be jointly shared among the parties in proportion to the expenditures incurred by each party generating such income.
3. The parties hereto agree to be bound by this Agreement, notwithstanding subsection 14(2) of the Northwest Territories Act, R.S.C. 1970, and subsection 17(3) of the Yukon Act, R.S.C. 1970.
4. The Government parties to this Agreement will attempt to enact any laws and regulations that may affect the Porcupine Caribou Herd and its habitat in a manner consistent with this Agreement.
5. This Agreement may be amended following unanimous approval in writing by the parties hereto, and the Government parties agree to attempt to secure passage of any necessary legislation.
6. Those parties to this Agreement which are negotiating parties in comprehensive land claims shall act as soon as possible following the signing of this Agreement to incorporate this entire Agreement by reference, by means of sub-agreement or interim agreement, into the completed or ongoing Yukon Indian, Inuvialuit and Dene/Métis* comprehensive land claims respectively. If any consequential amendments to existing sub-agreements, interim agreements or overall agreements are required as a result of the signing of this Agreement, they shall be made no later than the time of incorporation by reference referred to herein.

7. It is the intention of the parties to this Agreement that its provisions not be used to interpret or derogate from the provisions of any comprehensive land claims settlement and that the provisions of any comprehensive land claims settlement not be used to interpret the provisions of this Agreement.

8. In recognition of the fact that the Porcupine Caribou Herd is an international resource with a substantial part of its habitat in Alaska, the parties agree that it is desirable to negotiate a Porcupine Caribou bilateral agreement following the completion of this Agreement. In recognition of the fact that the provisions of a bilateral agreement might involve aboriginal and treaty rights within the meaning of the Constitution Act, 1982, as well as the Legislative and management responsibilities of the territorial Governments and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board in its role, Canada agrees to consult with the other parties to this Agreement prior to and during the course of any such bilateral agreement negotiations.

9. For greater certainty, and pending compliance with paragraph 6 of this Part, as well as final settlement of the Yukon Indian, Inuvialuit and Dene/Métis* comprehensive land claims, it is intended that this Agreement shall come into full force and effect upon signature by the parties and that the Board shall carry out its functions in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.