

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
10<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**

**TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 21-84(1)**

**TABLED ON FEBRUARY 20, 1984**



Northwest  
Territories Minister of Renewable Resources

Tabled Document No. 21 - 84(1)  
Tabled Feb 20 1984

FEB 17 1984

The Honourable Bob Pickering,  
Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources,  
Room 303, Legislative Building,  
REGINA, Saskatchewan.


Dear Mr. Pickering:

I was dismayed to see a recent article in the Globe and Mail (February 13 edition) under the banner headline "Overhunting Threatens Caribou" which appears to rely heavily on information from a member of your staff. Although the reporter may well have seized upon one or two statements out of context, the resulting discussions have caused some unnecessary embarrassment for my Department and our Government.

In establishing the Beverly-Kaminuriak Caribou Management Board, one of our joint objectives was to provide a mechanism where wildlife agencies would work cooperatively to provide good management of that valuable resource. The above article creates an atmosphere of crisis, unfairly singles out overhunting as the cause of population decline and challenges the validity of surveys conducted by my department. This does little to promote that spirit of cooperation.

I am not overly concerned that Mr. Runge is apparently out of date. I am more concerned about the unilateral approach taken in the statement. Can I assume that this is a temporary anomaly and we will jointly revert to using the Board as the forum for such releases?

Yours sincerely,

  
Nellie J. Cournoyea,  
Minister.



Northwest  
Territories Minister of Renewable Resources

FEB 17 1984

The Editor,  
Globe and Mail,  
444 Front Street,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M5V 2S9.

Dear Editor:

I was surprised to note the headline "Overhunting Threatens Caribou" in your February 13th edition. However, as I read the article, I became more dismayed to note that the overhunting mentioned in the bold headline occurred in 1979/80, and that your sources of information appeared to have come from places far removed from the caribou range.

Caribou management is of vital interest to Northerners since many depend upon the resource, not for a "recreational experience", but rather for their day-to-day food. We have acknowledged this fact by assisting in the establishment of the Beverly-Kaminuriak Caribou Management Board to involve people depending on those herds from the Northwest Territories, northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba. The Board's prime responsibility is to provide management advice to appropriate agencies including my own Department. It is in that forum that survey techniques, harvest figures and other management information are discussed and reviewed.

Given the importance of that Board and its recent public profile, I am surprised that your reporter did not see fit to talk to the Board's chairman, Jim Schaefer. The article might then have been able to deal with current information and events, rather than having to attempt to justify hysterical headlines.

Yours sincerely,

Nellie J. Cournoyea,  
Minister.