

Caribou Resource Committee

Annual Report 2013-2014



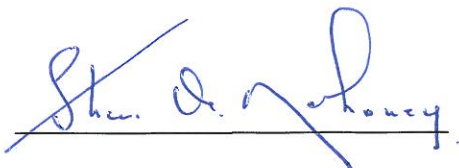
Environment and Conservation

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Caribou Resource Committee, I hereby submit the Annual Report which outlines the activities of the committee during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The Caribou Resource Committee was formed at the outset of the Caribou Strategy to establish a formal channel for information exchange between the Department and key stakeholders, thus supporting considered decision-making with respect to Caribou Strategy activities and providing an avenue for interdepartmental and public reporting on the progress and outcomes of Caribou Strategy projects. As such, it is a body comprised of government members and public organizations, which provides comment to executive of the Department of Environment and Conservation on matters that encompass biological, social, economic and operational considerations related to the Caribou Strategy. The mandate of the Committee is concluded and, as such, this will be the final Annual Report for the CRC.

This engagement has allowed for the participation of relevant government departments and various stakeholder groups by representing the interests of those organizations. As such, it is a valuable mechanism for the integration of many viewpoints. I would like to acknowledge and show appreciation to members of the committee for their interest and commitment to this process, and to the protection of the island's caribou population. As chair of the CRC, I attest on behalf of the entire committee that we are accountable for the results reported herein.



Shane P. Mahoney
Chair, Caribou Resource Committee

Committee Overview

The Caribou Resource Committee functions as a mechanism for stakeholder input on the social, economic, and ecological aspects of the Caribou Strategy. Members assist and support the Senior Project Team¹ by providing comment on biological, social, economic and operational considerations, and through forwarding inquiries, views and concerns from stakeholder groups through their committee representative. This may include advice on proposed activities, and/or comment on the progress and success of the Strategy's ongoing efforts. The committee also serves to assist and support in the dissemination of relevant information from the Senior Project Team to stakeholder groups.

The following core values represent the disposition that embodies the Caribou Resource Committee in all its deliberations, and the fundamental principles that guide behaviour and decision-making.

Core Values	Value Statements
<u>Accountability</u>	The Committee is dedicated to providing accurate and timely information to stakeholders, and follows through on requests and commitments.
<u>Participation</u>	The Committee members participate in a proactive and productive manner.
<u>Integrity</u>	The Committee uses due diligence with the information given, and evaluates it to ensure accurate assessments of the data.
<u>Responsibility</u>	The Committee will work to ensure that the interests of the public are taken into account, and accurately spoken for.

¹ The Senior Project Team is composed of departmental Executive, Department of Environment and Conservation.

Collaboration

The Committee is open to sharing ideas and knowledge with others and actively seeks the opinions and ideas of others.

Members of the committee include internal representation from:

- Department of Environment and Conservation – Sustainable Development & Strategic Science Branch
- Department of Environment and Conservation - Wildlife Division
- Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
- Department of Natural Resources
- Executive Council- Office of Public Engagement - Rural Secretariat

and external representation from:

- Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association
- Newfoundland and Labrador Trapper's Association
- Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Federation
- general hunting public
- academic community.

2013-2014 Membership

Name	Represented Group	Role
Mr. Shane Mahoney	Department of Environment and Conservation – Sustainable Development & Strategic Science	Chair
Mr. Ross Firth	Department of Environment and Conservation - Wildlife	Member
Ms. Juanita Keel-Ryan	Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation	Member
Mr. James Evans	Department of Natural Resources - Forestry	Member
Mr. Bruce Gilbert	Executive Council – Office of Public Engagement	Member
Mr. Wayne Holloway	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association	Member
Mr. Ken White	Newfoundland and Labrador Trappers Association	Member
Mr. Brad Leyte	Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Federation	Member
Mr. Bruce Porter	General Hunting Public	Member
Dr. Ted Miller	Academic Community	Member

The Terms of Reference for the committee has established a meeting frequency of twice annually or at the call of the Chair. The secretariat for the committee operates out of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science (SDSS) offices in St. John's, and functions as an administrative body, and a conduit for two-way exchange between committee members and the Senior Project Team responsible for the Caribou Strategy.

Committee members serve on a volunteer basis, with travel, accommodations and related costs covered under the Caribou Strategy budget within the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Branch.

Vision

The vision of the Caribou Resource Committee is a healthy and sustainable population of woodland caribou on the island of Newfoundland that meets the social, cultural, ecological and economic needs of its residents at present, and in the future.

Mission

The mission of the Caribou Resource Committee reflects the intent of the Department, which is the reduction of adverse impacts of human activities on the environment and the improvement of the health of our ecosystems. By supporting the deliberations of the Caribou Strategy, the committee will enhance the Senior Project Team's ability to effectively and sustainably manage an integral species in our ecosystem, which in turn will promote a more robust environment.

Objective and Activities

The following objective identifies the priorities of the Caribou Resource Committee for fiscal years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Committee's main purpose is to participate in the Caribou Strategy process by way of expressing the concerns or suggestions of various stakeholder groups. Further to this, the Committee will advise on ways in which to increase public knowledge with respect to the Caribou Strategy.

Objective 1: The Caribou Resource Committee will continue to provide meaningful input to the Senior Project Team on a wide array of factors, encompassing biological, social, economic, cultural, and operational considerations.

Measure: Provided input to the Senior Project Team.

Indicators:

- The Caribou Resource Committee will advise on ways to increase public awareness and efficiently disseminate information on the activities and progress of the Caribou Strategy to a wider group of stakeholders.
- Members' points of view, and hence stakeholder interests, are considered in the development of recommendations for caribou management on the island.

The Caribou Resource Committee did not meet during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Individual members of the Caribou Resource Committee contacted the secretariat informally with information requests on behalf of their represented group.

The Caribou Resource Committee supported the Caribou Strategy by providing meaningful input and comment to the Senior Project Team during the development and implementation of Caribou Strategy activities. These activities ended in March 2013, thus advice, feedback and formal information exchange was not required in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

During 2013-2014, the Caribou Strategy project team compiled and analyzed data, interpreted results and drafted reports. The Caribou Resource Committee has concluded its mandate; however it is scheduled to have one final meeting in early 2014-15.