

Traditional Knowledge of Caribou and Caribou People

APPENDIX A:

Guiding Questions for Community Traditional Knowledge Reports

Please consider using these questions to guide your interviews or as guide for topics to explore in your Traditional Knowledge Database. If you are conducting interviews, please remember to remind people to consider their personal experiences as well as stories they have heard about from their elders, family members etc. If using a Traditional Knowledge database, suggested search phrases/keywords are highlighted in bold.

1. Industrial development and disturbance to Caribou

- There are several kinds of ways that caribou can be disturbed by industrial exploration and development activities. Can you help us understand some of these ways that caribou are affected by:
 - Mines
 - Roads
 - Trucks
 - Planes
 - Helicopters
 - Tents
 - People
 - Other?
- What **changes** do you know about in the way that caribou **feed (forage), move** and **migrate**? How long might these changes last?
- How far away from these kinds of disturbance do you see a change in the way caribou behave?
- Do you think there are ways to explain how caribou will react to a particular disturbance or stress?
- Where are there important caribou migration corridors?. How do disturbances on these corridors impact caribou migration?
- Does the way caribou behave around a disturbance change through the **seasons** in a year? Does it matter whether the animal is a **cow**, a **bull**, or a younger animal such as a **calf**? Why?
- Do individual caribou react the same way as groups of caribou?
- Can you share examples where caribou don't appear to respond to exploration or developments as well as other types of human disturbances?

2. Important places on the land

- What is it about “the land” that makes an area important for people?
- What is it about “the land” that makes an area important for caribou?
- When you look at a map, what are the clues you consider to find these areas?
- What do people look for on the land when **hunting** caribou? Does this change through the seasons?

- Where are there places **named** for caribou (e.g. **caribou trails** and/or water crossings, traditional hunting areas, **caribou stories** such as caribou fat at Ek'ati)? What does the name mean? What is important about these areas?

3. Protecting and safe-keeping caribou for future generations

- What can people do today to protect caribou and keep the herds **healthy for future generations**?
- What rules would you suggest to protect caribou from the kinds of industrial disturbances mentioned earlier (i.e., from mines, roads, trucks, planes, helicopters, and people)?
- What can people do today to protect **caribou habitat**?
- Which cultural rules/protocols are important to maintain to ensure caribou renewal, and that caribou keep returning to the people?
- Which areas of the summer/fall/winter range are important to protect from disturbances (development/forest fires)?
- What would work best? Why?
- What are the best ways for younger generations to learn proper respectful behaviour towards caribou and the land? How can we best do this in practice?
- What are the ways that your community cares for caribou?
- What might be causing caribou numbers to change?

4. Watching (monitoring) caribou

- In building a monitoring program together, what are the most important ingredients for making it work?
- In traditional times, were there clues that people used to figure out when or where the caribou would come to an area? How did people explain the times when the caribou didn't come and were hard to find?
- What things do you watch for when deciding whether caribou herds are **healthy**?
- What things do you watch for when deciding whether caribou **habitat** is healthy?

5. Forest Fires/climate change:

- How do forest fires affect caribou migration and feeding?
- Have you seen caribou in recently **burned** areas? Why would caribou go into a burned area or avoid it? Does it matter how recently the area had been burned (i.e., 1, 10 or >50 years ago)?
- How does warmer weather/mild winters affect caribou?
 - Migration routes?
 - Feeding?
- How does warmer weather/mild winters affect caribou habitat/forage areas?