

# **Caribou Resource Committee**

Activity Plan 2011-14



**Environment and Conservation**



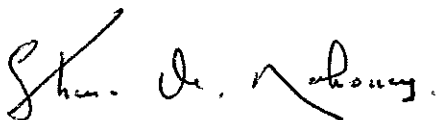
# Message from the Chair

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The Caribou Resource Committee is a body 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. As a Category 3 government entity, the Caribou Resource Committee is required, under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, to establish an activity plan, which outlines its mandate and progress towards specific achievements, for the purpose of communicating with the public and legislature.

This 3-year plan (2011-2014) covers the planning requirements set out in the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, and was developed in consideration of the strategic directions of government. Given its current mandate, the Caribou Resource Committee provides for, but does not contribute directly to, the Department's strategic directions.

As chair of the Caribou Resource Committee I attest that the Committee is accountable for the preparation of this plan, and for accomplishing the objective contained herein.



Shane P. Mahoney

Chair

Caribou Resource Committee

# Government Entity Overview

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Woodland caribou on the island of Newfoundland have declined dramatically over the last decade. As a result, government has provided funding to carry out a five-year scientific and management strategy that addresses the contributing factors in the decline, and subsequently strives to improve our ability to effectively and appropriately manage the island's caribou herds.

To assist in this endeavor, the Department requested the participation of associated provincial departments and other appropriate groups. The Caribou Resource Committee was formally established in 2008, to function as a mechanism for stakeholder input on the social, economic, and ecological aspects of the Caribou Strategy.

Members of the Committee include internal representation from:

- Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
- Department of Natural Resources
- Executive Council- Rural Secretariat
- Wildlife Division- Department of Environment and Conservation

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

The Terms of Reference for the Committee has established a meeting frequency of twice annually; however, at the request of the Committee members, the Chair has given approval to meet quarterly. The secretariat for the Committee operates out of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science offices in Corner Brook and St. John's,

and functions as an administrative body, and a conduit for two-way exchange between Committee members and the Senior Project Team<sup>1</sup>, responsible for the Caribou Strategy.

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

## Mandate and Scope

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The Caribou Resource Committee will participate in the implementation of the Caribou Strategy by representing the interest of relevant government departments and various stakeholder groups which are impacted or have a contributory role in the Caribou Strategy. In addition, the Caribou Resource Committee will act as a conduit taking information from the Committee to the representative stakeholder groups, while also providing a focus for comment from these same groups.

## Values

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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. The value statements further expound on the core values in order to provide additional clarity on the expectations related to each core value.

### **Core Values**

#### **Accountability**

### **Value Statements**

The Committee is dedicated to providing accurate and timely information to stakeholders, and follows through on requests and commitments.

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<sup>1</sup> The Senior Project Team is composed of Departmental Executive, Department of Environment and Conservation.

<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.
<u>Collaboration</u>	The Committee is open to sharing ideas and knowledge with others and actively seeks the opinions and ideas of others.

## Primary Clients

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The primary clients of the Caribou Resource Committee are:

- General public (non-consumptive and consumptive wildlife users, outfitters, guides, and others involved in the wildlife industry)
- Other provincial departments

## Vision

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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 Statement

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The mission statement of the 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

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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.