

INTERVIEWER/COMMUNITY MONITOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY FORM #: \_\_\_\_\_

ID # FROM ONLINE DATA ENTRY SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM MONITORING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE  
**2020 SEASON**  
ON THE LAND

Date of Interview (DD/MN/YR): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Community & Population:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. Inuvik - Gwich'in)

Name of person being interviewed (Interviewee):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gender:  Male  Female

# Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society 2020/21 Community-Based Monitoring Program

CONSENT FORM FOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print Interviewee Name & Community)

This is the 24th year of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society (ABEKS) monitoring program. Participants and members are from the communities of Old Crow, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Information is being collected to learn what is changing in the environment. It is part of an ecological monitoring system that records what people are seeing on the land. Having this information recorded can bring local knowledge together with scientific research for future study. Access to this information is provided by Arctic Borderlands only by community consent.

The Community Monitors will interview knowledgeable people in the community. Questions are about what you have seen on the land this past year – the plants, animals, and weather in traditional homelands. Your observations will be recorded on the survey question form and then entered into a secure, online database. The monitor will present a summary of what was heard at a Community Gathering or meeting at the end of the season if possible. A summary will also be sent to you in a report which will also be shared with partner organizations and made available on the ABEKS website.

You will be provided a gas voucher which can be redeemed at your local gas bar in exchange for completing the survey.

There may be some degree of social risk associated with publishing the names of people who participated. Not all community members agree with sharing local observations and, while the co-op has a good reputation in each community, not all community members are comfortable with the program.

**Your name will remain confidential and will not be used beside any quotes in the report unless you give your permission. If you consent, we will include your name in the final report.**

This survey will take about 1 to 2 hours to complete and includes questions on weather, berries, fish, caribou, and other animals. There are also general questions about what changes you are seeing on the land and in the community. You can end the survey at any time if you so wish. The information recorded until that point would then be destroyed. **If, after you have completed the survey, you change your mind about participation, you have 14 days to inform the monitor who did the survey with you that you wish to withdraw.**

If any of the survey questions are upsetting and you wish to speak with a counsellor, please refer to the list of phone numbers below, or visit the following url: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/contact/community-counsellor>

**If you have concerns about how this study is conducted, please contact the Aurora College Research Ethics Committee at 867-872-7084 or [chairREC@auroracollege.nt.ca](mailto:chairREC@auroracollege.nt.ca)**

**I understand that:**

- My name will remain confidential unless I give permission for its use.
- A copy of the information I provide will be available at the local RRC or HTC office.
- Results from the surveys in all the communities will be summarized and widely distributed.
- A copy of the summary report from this year's survey will be made available to me.
- I have 14 days after completing the survey to withdraw my participation this year.

**I am willing to be interviewed:**  Yes

**My name can appear in the “thank you” section of the report:**  Yes  No

**My name can appear beside quotes in the report:**  Yes  No

**If consent was received in person:**

Name of person consenting \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**If verbal consent has been provided:**

Name of local expert \_\_\_\_\_ Monitor' Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Community	Counselling services phone number	Fax Number
Aklavik	(867) 978-2941	(867) 978-2160
Fort McPherson	(867) 952-2245, ext. 2 (867) 952-2245, ext. 3	(867) 952-2133
Inuvik	(867) 777-8101	(867) 777-8049
Tsiigehtchic (via Fort McPherson)	(867) 952-2245, ext. 2 (867) 952-2245, ext. 3	(867) 953-3408
Tuktoyaktuk (Child, Youth and Family Counsellor)	(867) 977-2511, ext. 3	(867) 977-2237
Tuktoyaktuk (Wellness Worker)	(867) 977-2511, ext. 5	(867) 977-2237

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**ARCTIC BORDERLANDS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY (ABEKS)  
COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM MONITORING**

**Survey Contents**

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## Introduction

The objective of the Community Ecosystem Monitoring Interviews is to engage local experts who hunt, fish, gather berries, and observe wildlife to relay observations about their local ecosystem. These recorded observations are an essential component of long-term monitoring, management planning, and conservation.

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society (ABEKS) has organized this long-term data gathering since 1996. The data is securely stored in the ABEKS database for community and scientific study. ABEKS is comprised of and partners with Inuvialuit and Gwich'in organizations and governments, co-management groups, scientists and other government agencies.

The local land use experts access land encompassing the Porcupine Caribou Herd range and adjacent Mackenzie Delta area in NWT, Yukon & Alaska. Interviewers and local land use experts live in the communities of Arctic Village, Old Crow, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Community interviewers conduct interviews annually, recording observations about berries, fish, birds, caribou, unusual animal sightings, weather conditions, and other aspects of the environment and community.

One of the benefits of the interviewing exercise is that it allows people to engage with those who spend time on the land or who have local ecological knowledge about the ecosystem. Another main benefit is that the data gathered can be analyzed and used to monitor changes in hunting and gathering activity. Data gathering results may determine whether changes observed over time are directly related to extreme changes in weather or are because of other observed changes in the ecosystem.

The ABEKS interview survey captures indicators that can demonstrate strong trends and extreme events as well as unusual sightings. The survey is also designed to illustrate long term trends in the amount of time people spend hunting, fishing, and gathering, as well as climate, wildlife, and other environmental changes observed over time. This survey also includes indicators for measuring variables of health and distribution of individual caribou, the caribou population and other local animals including predators to young caribou, and other birds and mammals.

## SECTION A: Time on Land

I would like to start by asking a couple of questions about you.

- A1.** In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
- A2.** First, I'd like to get a sense of how much time you spent on the land and what things you were doing.
- In the last winter (January to March), how many days did you spend out on the land hunting, berry picking, fishing or doing other activities?
  - How many days in the spring (April to June)?
  - How many days in the summer (July, August, September)?
  - And how many days in the fall (October, November and December)?

**\*INSERT "0" IF NO DAYS – DO NOT LEAVE BLANK.**

(Max. = 90 days/ per season)	Fall 2019 (Oct-Dec)	Winter (Jan-Mar)	Spring (Apr-June)	Summer (July-Sep)
Total days on Land	#	#	#	#

- A3.** For each season, how many of those days included: (*read each activity*)  
 Note: Enter "0" if none. Do not enter ranges. Number of days should match A. 2.

Type of Activity:	# of days spent at activity:				Did not do this activity (in any season)
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	
Hunting					<input type="checkbox"/>
Trapping					<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing					<input type="checkbox"/>
Berry picking					<input type="checkbox"/>
Hauling wood					<input type="checkbox"/>
Harvesting bark, sap, etc. (not berries)					<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping					<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking					<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					
Other: _____					



## SECTION B: Weather

**B1a. Now think about unusual, extreme or rare weather events.**

**Can you recall any such events during the year?**

(Circle yes or no for each season. If all “No” skip to B.2)

Fall (Oct-Dec) 2019	Yes	No
Winter (Jan – March)	Yes	No
Spring (April – June)	Yes	No
Summer (July – Sept)	Yes	No

**B1b. Please tell us the month(s) when you observed any of the following unusual, extreme or rare weather related events:**

Check ✓ each weather event under the month it occurred, or ✓ “No unusual” if none.  
Each month should have one or more option checked.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Colder than normal												
Hotter than normal												
More snow than normal												
Less snow than normal												
Torrential Rain												
More Thunder storms												
Icing Event (rain that freezes on snow/ makes crust)												
Really Frosty												
More Wind												
Drought - Very dry conditions												
Other (Specify): _____												
Other (Specify): _____												
Other (Specify): _____												
No unusual, extreme or rare weather this month												

**B2a. Are there any other particular things that you noticed about weather this past year?**

- Yes                     
  No → Go to C1                     
  Don't know

**B2b. IF Yes → Specify:**

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## SECTION C: Berries

### BERRIES

**C1. Did you go berry picking this year?**

- Yes → Go to Table C2.
- No → Go to D1.

**C2. Time of year, abundance and quality of berries during berry-picking season**

- a. Circle the months they picked each kind of berries (or circle “none”)
- b. Circle the amount of berries. Scale 1 to 4. (1=Very Few, 2=Few, 3=Many, 4=Very Many).
- c. Circle the quality of the berries. Scale of 1 to 4. (1=Low, 2=Average, 3=Good, 4=Excellent).
- d. Circle description of berry season overall. Scale of 1 to 4. (1= Poor, 2=Average, 3=Good, 4=Excellent)

Berry Name	a. Picked When?	b. Abundance	c. Quality	d. Overall excellent, good, average or bad berry year
<b>Salmonberry</b> (akpik, yellowberry, cloudberry, knuckles)	July Aug Sep None	<b>Few--&gt;Many</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Low--&gt;High</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Poor Average Good Excellent</b> <b>1 2 3 4</b>
<b>Cranberry</b>	July Aug Sep None	<b>Few--&gt;Many</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Low--&gt;High</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Poor Average Good Excellent</b> <b>1 2 3 4</b>
<b>Blueberry</b>	July Aug Sep None	<b>Few--&gt;Many</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Low--&gt;High</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Poor Average Good Excellent</b> <b>1 2 3 4</b>
<b>Other (Circle/ Specify):</b> (e.g. red bearberry, kinnickinnick, crowberry, toad flax, soapberry) <b>Other:</b> _____	July Aug Sep None	<b>Few--&gt;Many</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Low--&gt;High</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Poor Average Good Excellent</b> <b>1 2 3 4</b>
<b>Other (Circle/ Specify):</b> _____	July Aug Sep None	<b>Few--&gt;Many</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Low--&gt;High</b> 1 2 3 4	<b>Poor Average Good Excellent</b> <b>1 2 3 4</b>

**C3. Did you meet your needs for berries in berry-picking season this year?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**C4a. Are there any other particular things that you noticed about berries this past year?**

- Yes
- No -> Go to D1
- Don't know

**C4b. IF Yes → Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION D: Fish

**D1. Did you go fishing this year?**

- Yes → Go to D2  
 No → Go to E1

**D2. About how many of each kind of fish did you catch this year? (Enter all that apply.)**  
 (If given a range, use the mid-point. Enter only a whole number for each. Enter "0" if none)

Type of Fish	Enter the number of fish caught (no range, mid-point # is okay)
Whitefish (broad whitefish)	
Crooked Back (lake whitefish)	
Coney (inconnu)	
Arctic Char	
Lake Trout	
Bull Trout	
Salmon (Record by type)	
Coho	
Chinook/King	
Chum,	
Pink	
Sockeye	
Kokanee	
Unknown type	
Grayling	
Dolly Varden	
Jackfish	
Loche burbot	
Herring	
Other (specify): _____	
Unusual (squid, specify)	

**D3a. Did you meet your needs for fish this year?**

- Yes       No       Don't Know

**D3b. Including yourself, how many people are you providing fish for this year?** \_\_\_\_\_

**D3c. Are you providing fish for dogs this year?**

- Yes       No       Don't Know

## SECTION E: Birds

### GAME BIRDS

**E1. Based on your observations in the past year, are there more, the same or fewer game birds than usual?**

If you noticed a trend in a species not listed, put it in under 'Other'. If you noticed a trend in a group of species overall (e.g. geese as a group), as well as a trend in a particular species in that group (i.e. Snow Geese), indicate the trend for the group in the group's row and fill in the species' trend under "Other". Note that these trends may differ (for example, you may have noticed that there were a lot more dabbling ducks in general but that there were fewer Wigeon than usual.)

**E2. Game Birds Observed in Past Year**

Bird Type	Abundance			
	More	Same	Less	DK
Dabbling Ducks (e.g. Mallard, Wigeon, etc.)	More	Same	Less	DK
Sea ducks/diving ducks (i.e. Scooters, Goldeneye, etc.)	More	Same	Less	DK
Geese	More	Same	Less	DK
Ptarmigan/grouse	More	Same	Less	DK
Sandhill Cranes	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____ (i.e. rails, coots, snipes)	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK

**E3a. Did you hunt for game birds this year?**

Yes – Go to E3b     No - Skip to E4

**E3b. Did you meet your needs for game birds this year?**

Yes     No     Don't Know

**E3c. Including yourself, how many people are you providing birds for this year? \_\_\_\_\_**

### WATERBIRDS

**E4. Based on your observations in the past year, are there more or fewer *non-game waterbirds* than usual?**

If you noticed a trend in a group of species overall, as well as in a particular species in that group, indicate the trend for the group in the group's row and fill in the species' trend under "Other".

Bird Type	Abundance			
	More	Same	Less	DK
Loons	More	Same	Less	DK
Swans	More	Same	Less	DK
Shorebirds (e.g. sandpipers)	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK

**BIRDS OF PREY**

- E5. Based on your observations in the past year, are there more or fewer *birds of prey* than usual?**  
 If you noticed a trend in a group of species overall (e.g. owls as a group), as well as in a particular species (e.g. Great Horned Owl), indicate the trend for the group in the group’s row and fill in the species’ trend under “Other”.

Bird Type	Abundance			
Falcons (e.g. Peregrines, Kestrels)	More	Same	Less	DK
Eagles	More	Same	Less	DK
Hawks	More	Same	Less	DK
Owls	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK

**SONGBIRDS**

- E6. Based on your observations in the past year, are there more or fewer *songbirds or other birds not covered in the categories above* than usual?**  
 If you noticed a trend in a group of species overall, as well as in a particular species in that group, indicate the trend for the group in the group’s row and fill in the species’ trend under “Other”.

Bird Type	Abundance			
Woodpeckers	More	Same	Less	DK
Nighthawks	More	Same	Less	DK
Kingfishers	More	Same	Less	DK
Other (Specify): _____	More	Same	Less	DK

- E7a. Have you noticed any unusual birds around this year (i.e. hummingbirds or other)?**  
 Yes       No → Go to E8

**E7b. If Yes, Describe:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRD MIGRATION**

**E8. Did birds arrive or leave at the normal time this past year?**

**Songbirds:**

**Arrived**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**Left (departed)**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**Waterfowl:**

**Arrived**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**Left (departed)**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**Other birds:**

**Arrived**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**Left**

- noticeably early
- noticeably late
- no change from usual
- don't know

**E9a. Are there any other particular things you noticed about birds this year?**

- Yes
- No → Go to F1.

**E9b. If Yes, Describe:**

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## SECTION F: Caribou

**F1. Based on your observation for each season, were there more, equal or fewer Porcupine Caribou over the last year than usual? (Please do not leave a section blank, just circle "Don't know": DK)**

Porcupine Caribou	Fall 2019 Abundance (Oct-December)				Winter Abundance (Jan-Mar)				Spring Abundance (Apr-June)				Summer Abundance (July-Sept)			
	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Male Bulls	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Adult Female	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Calf	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Young Male	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Young Female	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK

**F2. Was there anything in particular you noticed about caribou abundance in the past year?**

- Yes → Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

**F3a. Were your households' needs met for caribou this year?**

- Yes → Go to F3b.
- We had enough caribou or did not want any
- No → What prevented your Porcupine caribou hunting needs from being met? (Check all that apply)
- Not enough Caribou  Availability/Location of caribou  No Time  Cost of Gas/Equipment  Not enough shared caribou
- Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**F3b. Did you go out to hunt for caribou this year?**

- Yes → Go to F3c.
- No → Main reason why not? (circle only ONE)
- No Time  Cost of Gas/Equipment  Not enough caribou  Caribou too far/bad location  Illness/health  Had enough caribou
- other people shared with me  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_ **Go to F5a.**

**F3c. If Yes – Did you get any (harvest) caribou on any of those hunts?**

- Yes
- No → Go to F5a.

**F3d. Which herd did you harvest caribou from?**

- Porcupine
- Bluenose
- Hart River
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



**CARIBOU CHARACTERISTICS**

**F4. The following questions are about body condition and health of caribou you observed in each season over the past year. Please select ONE overall condition OR “don’t know” for each season.**

<b>Overall Condition</b>	<b>Fall 2019</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Excellent (E)				
Good (G)				
Mixed (M)				
Fair (F)				
Poor (P)				
Don't know				

**Please select ONE size rating OR “don’t know” for each season**

<b>Size</b>	<b>Fall 2019</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Muscular/Fit/Strong				
Skinny/Lean				
Average				
Fat				
Don't know				

**Please select ALL abnormalities seen OR “don’t know” for each season**

<b>Physical Abnormalities</b>	<b>Fall 2019</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Cysts, white spots in meat				
Sores & puss				
Wounded/limping				
Swollen joints, testes or glands				
Bad liver				
None of these				
Don't know				

**F5. What were the mosquitoes, black flies and other biting insects like last summer?**

- Worse than other years
- About normal/average
- Fewer mosquitoes than usual
- Don't know

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**F6a. Was there anything unusual you noticed about insects last summer?**

- Yes       No → Go to F7

**F6b. If Yes, Describe:**

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**CARIBOU PREDATORS**

**F7.** In your observations, would you say there were more, the same, or fewer caribou predators present in the past year than usual? (Check box that applies)

Presence of Predator	Fall 2019				Winter				Spring				Summer				
	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	
Golden Eagles <sup>1</sup>	More	Same	Less	DK					DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Grizzly & Black Bears <sup>2</sup>	More	Same	Less	DK					DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK
Wolves <sup>3</sup>	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	
Lynx	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	
Wolverine	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	
Other- Specify: (e.g. coyote)	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	More	Same	Less	DK	

**F8.** How many caribou predator kill sites or caribou predation events have you seen in the past year? Please use only numbers (no ranges).

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Golden Eagles are the primary main predator of Porcupine Caribou calves  
<sup>2</sup> Grizzly & Black Bears are secondary the main predator of Porcupine Caribou calves  
<sup>3</sup> Wolves are the tertiary main predator of Porcupine Caribou calves

## SECTION G: Mammals

**G1. In your observations, would you say there were more, the same, or fewer of the following mammals in your area in the past year than usual?**

Animal	More, fewer, or same # than usual? Or Don't know? Please circle one answer				Did you trap or hunt this animal? Circle one answer		
Beavers	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Muskrats	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Squirrels	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Rabbits	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Marten	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Mink	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Weasel	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Coyote	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Wolverine	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Red Fox	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
White Fox	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Lynx	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Wolves	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Caribou	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Moose	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Muskoxen	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Mountain/Dall Sheep	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Black Bears	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Black Bear Cubs	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Grizzly Bear	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Grizzly Bear Cubs	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Polar Bear	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Polar Bear Cubs	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Otters	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Beluga whales	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A
Other: _____ (e.g. bowhead whale)	More	Same	Fewer	Don't Know	Yes	No	N/A

**G2a. Did you observe any unique, rare, unusual or special wildlife or wildlife habitat occurrences (including unusual birds, fish or insects or excessive erosion of land)?**

Yes       No → Go to H1

**G2b. If Yes, Describe:**

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## SECTION H: Concluding Remarks

H1. Was this interview a good experience for you?

- Yes  No  Somewhat  Don't know  Refused to answer

H2. Would you do this survey again in the future?

- Yes  No  Maybe  Don't know  Refused to answer

H3. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding this community monitoring survey for our future reference?

- Yes → Summarize:

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- No comments at this time.

(Survey comments can also be directed to [arcticborderlands@gmail.com](mailto:arcticborderlands@gmail.com))

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE  
ARCTIC BORDERLANDS  
COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM MONITORING INTERVIEW!

## **A Note on the ABEKS Indicators and the Community Ecosystem Monitoring Interview Survey**

Community Ecosystem Monitoring Interview questions derive from indicators that identify strong trends and extreme events.

Questions and indicators were also derived from the list of survey topics reviewed in analysis based on community interviews (2000-2007) by Don Russell and Michael Svoboda in their paper presented at the 2010 Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society Review Meeting (pp. 3-11). The indicators of caribou condition, availability and harvest were derived from this study in order to preserve the capacity for consistent use of good indicators used in the previous Community Ecosystem Monitoring Interview survey instrument and to carry forward relevant, tangible data stored within the ABEKS database. The authors have worked with these data in the past in order to render data that is meaningful to co-management bodies, stewards and communities.

The main indicators addressed in the questions within this survey are: time spent doing activities such as fishing and hunting, unusual and extreme weather events, observations of environmental change by people who work on the land including fishers (collection, health and abundance of berries, fish, birds and caribou), environmental indicators, individual level wildlife population indicators, caribou population level indicators (caribou predators and kill sites observed in an area), and mammals. Content within these main indicators was developed in cooperation with the ABEKS working group on the Community Ecosystem Monitoring Survey.

Community-based local knowledge about the Porcupine Caribou herd gathered from interview survey results may be analyzed in comparison with scientific data gathered on the annual caribou population estimates where available as well as other variables such as monthly weather patterns over the year in order to provide a more thorough, long-term picture of the state of local ecosystems and the caribou population.

For questions, comments and suggestions regarding the interview survey form, please contact:

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