

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) [WMAC(NWT)]
Kendra Tingmiak	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) [WMAC(NWT)]
Allissa Sallans	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)
Leon Andrew	ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Catarina Owen	ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Cory Fournier	ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Rhona Kindopp	Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Kelby Ogryzlo	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Orna Phelan	North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Joslyn Oosenbrug	Species at Risk Secretariat

## 1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Roundtable introductions*

### CMA Roundtable Introductions

Notify Secretariat of necessary changes to contact/distribution list information.

## 2. Agenda – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Review of draft agenda*

Agenda approved.

[Decision 20251205-01: Agenda approved.](#)

## 3. Minutes – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Review and approve draft minutes from May 2025*

Minutes approved.

[Decision 20251205-02: Minutes approved.](#)

### CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

PO Box 1320 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Tel: (867) 767-9237 Ext. 53216 • Toll Free: (855) 783-4301

Fax: (867) 873-0293 • Email: [sara@gov.nt.ca](mailto:sara@gov.nt.ca)

[NWTSPECIESATRISK.CA](http://NWTSPECIESATRISK.CA)

#### 4. Review of action and decision items – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

*Review of action items from previous meetings and earlier outstanding items*

All Actions/decision items from May 2025 have been completed.

##### **Past action to bring forward:**

- We continue to bring the vacancy of **alternate chairperson** of the CMA forward.
- Management/Recovery Actions Classification continues to be a bring forward item.
  - Provide an update on this for the May 2026 meeting.

#### 5. CMA Alternate Chairperson – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Designating an Alternate Chairperson (bring forward from May 2024)*

Continue to bring the vacancy of alternate chairperson of the CMA forward.

#### 6. Red-sided garter snake – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Review draft CMA and SARC annual reports. Update on ECC annual report.*

#### Letter RE: Conference of Management Authorities Listing Decision for Red-sided Garter Snake (received August 18, 2025)

The CMA received a letter from Johanna Stewart (M.Sc. student) and Dr. Karl Larsen (Professor) from Thompson Rivers University. The letter is in response to the CMA listing decision for red-sided garter snake.

The management authority for red-sided garter snake is the GNWT. Red-sided garter snake was assessed by SARC as a species of Special Concern. The decision by the CMA was to not list this species.

#### Management Authority Response Letter (dated September 26, 2025)

GNWT responded to the Thompson Rivers University letter noting that the information and feedback provided will inform future management and monitoring of red-sided garter snakes in the Northwest Territories (NWT). It will also inform any future consideration of the species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, should the species be re-assessed. And that the GNWT

looks forward to learning more about snakes in the NWT from their current research. GNWT committed to working with partners to decide how to address the recommendations.

One concern raised was that not listing red-sided garter snake would decrease the likelihood that work on the species could be funded by the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF). GNWT asked the SCARF sub-committee to review the SCARF funding priorities and consider whether they appropriately address species that have been assessed as at risk but not listed.

The GNWT also noted that the CMA will review the Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories in 2027. This review presents an opportunity to make changes to the management plan if needed. GNWT recommended to other CMA partners that the plan be broadened to include red-sided garter snakes, with objectives and approaches for the management of snakes in the NWT.

### Discussion

**GNWT:** We continue to work with the researchers and consider how to address threats like road mortalities. Work is ongoing and we will have more information once that work is complete. Just because they were not listed does not mean that we won't be working on them.

Regarding adding snakes to the amphibian management plan – the GNWT will bring this up when we discuss the management plan during the 2027 review.

### 7. Species Conservation and Recovery Fund – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

*Call for applications, update on changes to the program, subcommittee membership.*

### SCARF Call for Applications current year updates

The Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) subcommittee met on November 17, 2025, to review and approve materials for the 2026-27 year application intake. Applications will be accepted starting January 15 until March 1, 2026. Advertising will be placed in newspapers, on radio (CKLB and Radio Taiga), websites (Cabin Radio and MédiaTénois) and on Facebook. Posters and brochures are being mailed out to CMA members, schools, and

regional ECC offices. CMA members are encouraged to put up posters, share brochures, forward emails about the program and spread the word.

### SCARF Program Update

Following the letter from Thompson Rivers University on the red-sided garter snake listing decision, GNWT-ECC asked the subcommittee to review the SCARF funding criteria to consider whether they appropriately address species that have been assessed as at risk but not listed – for example red-sided garter snake, American white pelican and grizzly bear.

The subcommittee discussed and concluded that species assessed at risk **should** be considered for funding under SCARF. It was noted that species assessed in a not-at-risk category of Data Deficient are eligible for funding. Species assessed as at-risk by COSEWIC, regardless of the outcome of the listing decision, are also eligible for funding under the current criteria. Subcommittee members agreed that research on species assessed as at-risk and conservation actions for these species and their habitat should continue to be promoted and supported.

The criteria for ***eligible species without a recovery strategy or management plan*** were simplified to the following:

- Species scheduled for assessment by the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC).
- Species assessed by SARC as at risk (category of Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered) or Data Deficient.
- Species legally listed under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* but without a recovery strategy or management plan.

### SCARF Subcommittee Member Update

As per the CMA rules of conduct, the regular membership of the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund subcommittee is composed of four representatives designated by the CMA, including one representative from the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate

Change. A regular member may designate an alternate from their organization where the regular member is unable to take part in a meeting. The term shall be designated by the CMA to a maximum of two years and can be renewed.

Current members of the subcommittee are:

- Catarina Owen / Alternate Melanie Harding (SRRB) (exp. May 21, 2027)
- Aimee Guile (WRRB) (exp. May 22, 2026)
- Brett Elkin (GNWT) (exp. May 22, 2026)
- Kendra Tingmiak (WMAc-NWT) (exp. October 9, 2026)

GNWT requested a change of membership from Brett Elkin to Joanna Wilson, effective immediately.

[Decision 20251205-03: CMA designated Joanna Wilson as GNWT-ECC representative on the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund subcommittee, effective December 5, 2025 \(exp. December 5, 2027\).](#)

### 8. Engagement Results – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

*Results/outcomes from consultation and engagement. Secretariat also provided draft consensus agreements in the meeting binder to complete in the coming months.*

#### Summary of Engagement Results

##### Northern leopard frog and Western toad (listing)

- **GNWT:** Public engagement on the potential relisting of western toad as threatened. Western toad occurs in south-western NWT in the Liard River valley. The other potential decision is the uplisting of Northern leopard frog from Threatened to Endangered.
- The public engagement period for proposals to re-list **western toad** as Threatened and to up-list **northern leopard frog** to Endangered on the NWT List of Species at Risk launched on August 15, 2025 to solicit opinions. Newspaper ads were placed for August 18-Oct 22 (News/North, Hay River Hub and L'Aquilon); 25 radio ads ran on CKLB between Aug 15 and Nov 15; and Facebook ads were placed for Aug 15-Nov 15. In

In addition, a trial of programmatic advertising (ads that appear on various commercial websites being accessed by NWT users) was piloted. There was also a fact sheet developed. Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations were invited to comment on the listing decisions through formal letters from the Minister of ECC sent on August 15, 2025. Information about western toad and northern leopard frog and these listing decisions was also provided through organic Facebook posts on the [NWT Species at Risk Facebook page](#) and the [GNWT-ECC Facebook page](#), as well as through the Species at Risk mailing list for the NWT. Management partners and other partners (Ecology North) distributed information about the engagement through their own channels.

### Highlights

- 8 surveys completed (3 on **northern leopard frog** /5 on **western toad**) – **overall support for listing both species**
- 11 Facebook comments – mix of support and criticism
- 30,441 people saw the Facebook ads for the listing decisions
- 1,450 people (912 for **northern leopard frog**; 538 for **western toad**) clicked on the links for the ads (NWT Species at Risk website)
- 1 email inquiry: Acho Dene Koe First Nation sent an email inquiring whether northern leopard frog or western toad occur within the ADK Territory. Secretariat confirmed western toad is within ADK Territory (Liard River valley) and included the range map of known occurrences, a link to the NWT Species at Risk website, and a fact sheet about the listing decision. Secretariat encouraged input from ADK on the listing and offered to answer questions about the species at risk or the listing process.
- No response to French surveys

### Northern leopard frog re-listing timelines

- **August-November 2025:** Consultation/engagement period (earlier for GNWT).
- **December 2025:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.

- **January 23, 2026:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in anticipation of the February 2026 CMA meeting.
- **April 27, 2026:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 27, 2026:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on listing.
- **May 2026:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for listing northern leopard frog as an Endangered species.
- **August 27, 2026:** Northern leopard frog legally listed as an Endangered species. News release.

Action 20251205-04: Management Authority (GNWT) will review the draft Consensus Agreement to uplist northern leopard frog from a Threatened species to an Endangered species and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to uplisting northern leopard frog) to the Secretariat by January 23, 2026, and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

### Western toad re-listing timelines

- **August-November 2025:** Consultation/engagement period.
- **December 2025:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 23, 2026:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in anticipation of the February 2026 CMA meeting.
- **April 27, 2026:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 27, 2026:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on listing.
- **May 2025:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for extending the listing of western toad as a Threatened species.
- **August 27, 2026:** Western toad legally relisted as a Threatened species. News release.

Action 20251205-05: Management Authority (GNWT) will review the draft Consensus Agreement to relist western toad for another 10-year term as a Threatened species and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to listing western toad) to the Secretariat by January 23, 2026, and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

### 9. Dolphin and Union Caribou Recovery Strategy – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

*Update on recovery strategy development and public engagement period. Update on the User-to-User working group meeting.*

Dolphin and Union caribou were listed as an Endangered species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* on August 1, 2024, triggering the requirement for a recovery strategy within one year of listing. The CMA discussed the feasibility of this timeline and determined that an extension on the development of the recovery strategy for Dolphin and Union caribou was required. The Act has provisions allowing the completion date of a recovery strategy to exceed one year. The completion date was extended to August 1, 2027, and the reasons for exceeding the one-year completion date were made available to the public.

Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou in the NWT (WMAC-NWT and GNWT) recommended adopting the management plan as the recovery strategy with an addition that points to updated information published since the 2018 management plan. While the completion date for the recovery strategy was extended to August 1, 2027, the CMA is working towards completing the recovery strategy by August 1, 2026, rather than waiting another year.

#### Dolphin and Union Caribou Recovery Strategy Update

An initial draft of the NWT Addition was circulated to the CMA in July 2025. Comments were accepted until August 29, 2025. A draft for partner engagement (HTOs, HTC, GN, ECCC) was provided to Management Authorities in September 2025.

Background on the recovery strategy and the draft NWT Addition was presented to the User-to-User working group for Dolphin and Union caribou in November 2025. Management Authorities (WMAC-NWT and GNWT) presented together with the NWT Species at Risk Secretariat. Comments from the working group were addressed and the current draft will be

released for public engagement on **Monday, December 8**. Engagement will run until February 15, 2026, and will include a mix of paid advertising (newspaper and Facebook) and organic advertising (social media, email distribution, community posters, WMAC-NWT community meetings).

### Dolphin and Union Caribou User-to-User Working Group

WMAC (NWT), GNWT and Secretariat provided a presentation at the November meeting of the Dolphin and Union caribou working group.

### Timelines

- **August 1, 2024:** Dolphin and Union caribou listed as an Endangered species. News release issued.
- **November 2025:** User-to-User working group meeting/presentation on recovery strategy to partners in NWT and NU.
- **December 8, 2025-February 15, 2026:** Public engagement period.
- **May 1, 2026:** Consensus Agreement on accepting recovery strategy signed and provided to Minister of ECC.
- **August 1, 2026:** Recovery strategy completed and released to the public.
- **August 1, 2027:** Extension date for recovery strategy.

### 10. Progress Reports and Reviews – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

*Update on progress reports/reviews as per the Species at Risk (NWT) Act sections 73 & 74.*

### Update on Progress Reports and Reviews

A progress report and review are required every five years under sections 73 and 74 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* after an implementation agreement is signed. The implementation agreements for the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy and the NWT Bats Management Plan were signed on April 9, 2021. A progress report and review must be completed by April 9, 2026.

The second progress report for hairy braya (2022-2026) is also due in 2026. Work on this report will begin following the February 2026 CMA meeting. The progress report and 5-year review of the recovery strategy must be completed by November 17, 2026.

### Update on the Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy Progress Report and Review

Work on the barren-ground caribou recovery strategy progress report and review follow the approved workplan. The first draft (with implementation actions from 2021-2024; not including text on 5-year review) was circulated to the Conference of Management Authorities and other partners in July 2025, including BCAC, BQCMB, ACCWM and Government of Nunavut. A second draft was provided to the CMA and other partners (BCAC, BQCMB, ACCWM, GN, YG, PCMB, KRWB) in October 2025. Implementation actions for 2025 were required from CMA members in November so they could be incorporated into the final draft of the progress report. Comments on the latest draft are due Dec. 8, 2026.

The 5-year review required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* was conducted by the CMA (including observers and participants) on November 14, 2026. The review summary was circulated to participants for verification and will be provided to the CMA with the final draft of the progress report in **January 2026**.

### Bats Management Plan Progress Report and Review

Work on the bats management plan progress report and review follow the approved workplan. The first draft (with implementation actions from 2021-2024; not including text on 5-year review) was circulated to the Conference of Management Authorities and other partners in September. A complete and final draft will be provided in **January 2026**, which will include actions for 2025 and text on the 5-year review.

The review, which is required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, was conducted by the CMA on November 21, 2026. The review summary was circulated to participants for verification and will be provided to the CMA with the final draft of the progress report in January 2026.

### Update on the Hairy braya Recovery Strategy Progress Report and Review

Work on the second hairy braya recovery strategy progress report and review will begin in February, following the approval of a workplan. The first draft will be circulated to the CMA

once 2025 implementation actions are received. Implementation actions for 2026 will have to be provided early (in July 2026) so they can be incorporated into the progress report.

The CMA's 5-year review required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is tentatively planned for **May 2026**.

### 11. Summary of Implementation Activities Reminder – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Implementation activities are due ahead of the February meeting.*

#### Implementation activities due to the Secretariat ahead of the February meeting

The CMA provides annual/periodic reviews on implementation actions on management plans and recovery strategies. This information informs the 5-year progress reports and reviews (which are legally required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*).

Management Authorities provide verbal high-level updates on implementation activities during the February CMA meeting. Management Authorities provide 3-4 highlights for each species for which they have management responsibilities (visual aids or presentations are optional). Management Authorities also provide written progress updates to the Secretariat, which are used to inform and populate species progress reports. The Secretariat then produces a summary of the annual implementation actions as a PDF for the May CMA meeting.

Updates for bats and barren-ground caribou were due early for inclusion in the progress reports. Secretariat has received all updates for these species with the exception of TG. Reminder to submit comments and 2025 progress on implementation ASAP. Templates for other SAR progress reporting will be provided to Management Authorities and partners following the meeting (week of December 8, 2025).

**Action 20251205-06: Secretariat will provide templates to submit implementation activities for 2025. Reporting on implementation activities will be due to the Secretariat on January 30, 2026.**

### 12. Species at Risk Committee – led by Secretariat

*Membership updates and Species Assessment Schedule*

## Membership

Updates to SARC membership include:

- **Dang Dang Gruben** was renewed (by WMAC-NWT) for a five-year term effective September 1, 2025.
- **SRRB** may be proposing an appointment change (**Cory Fournier for Donna Schear**).

There are no vacancies on SARC.

Upcoming term end dates include:

- Petter Jacobsen, December 19, 2025 appointed by ECC-GNWT
- Leon Andrew, May 30, 2026 appointed by SRRB
- Kelby Ogryzlo, March 31, 2026 appointed by ECCC

## Status Report Updates

There are currently four status reports in progress.

- **Currently in public review (until January 9, 2025):**
  - Muskrat – ICK/SK components (scheduled for assessment in 2026)
  - Wood Bison – ICK/SK components (scheduled for assessment in 2026)
- **In progress with contractors:**
  - Barren-ground caribou – ICK/SK components; contracted to Blyth and Bathe Inc. and Deborah Cichowski (scheduled for assessment in 2027)
  - Bats – little brown myotis and northern myotis; contracted to Jesika Reimer and Laura Kaupas (scheduled for assessment in 2027)
- **Upcoming status reports (procurement process to begin in May/June 2026):**
  - Muskox – scheduled for assessment in 2028
  - Rock cranberry (lingonberry) – scheduled for assessment in 2028

### 13. Social Media Calendar – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

*Management Authorities to approve NWT SAR Social Media Calendar January-March.*

Secretariat provided CMA with a calendar of social media posts for the NWT SAR Facebook page for the period of January-March 2026 (in binder). Many are repeats on last year's posts.



CONFERENCE OF  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITIES

## MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2025

MS TEAMS

Note that there are additional posts every Tuesday in Jan-Feb for SCARF (past projects). These posts were approved by the SCARF subcommittee in November 2025.

Revisions were provided and the document was approved during the meeting.

[Decision 20251205-07: CMA approved the social media calendar for January-March 2026 with changes. Secretariat to develop posts for NWT SAR Facebook page according to approved calendar.](#)

### 14. Next Meeting – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

*Overview of upcoming meetings*

- **February 27, 2026 (virtually)** – the February meeting dates were changed due to conflicts. Implementation actions summary, finalizing barren-ground caribou progress report
- **May 13-14, 2026 (face to face Yellowknife)** – SARC assessments, commonality analysis, update on berry project, etc.
- **North American Caribou Workshop** – June 15-19, 2026

#### CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

PO Box 1320 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Tel: (867) 767-9237 Ext. 53216 • Toll Free: (855) 783-4301

Fax: (867) 873-0293 • Email: [sara@gov.nt.ca](mailto:sara@gov.nt.ca)

[NWTSPECIESATRISK.CA](http://NWTSPECIESATRISK.CA)

## Species at Risk Workplan – At a Glance

The table below outlines the CMA/SARC workplan and includes type of activity and species

Year	Activity	Species
2026	Assessment	Wood bison (reassessment)
		Common Muskrat
	Listing Decision	Northern leopard frog (reassessment)
		Western toad (reassessment)
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Dolphin and Union caribou (recovery strategy)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Bats
		Barren-ground caribou
Hairy braya		
2027	Assessment	Northern myotis (reassessment)
		Little brown myotis (reassessment)
		Barren-ground caribou (reassessment)
	Implementation	Dolphin and Union caribou (recovery strategy)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Boreal caribou
		Amphibians
Polar bear		
2028	Assessment	Muskoxen
		Rock cranberry (lingonberry)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Dolphin and Union caribou
2029	Assessment	Dall's sheep
		Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (reassessment)
		McKay's bumble bee (reassessment)
		Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee
	Progress Reporting and Review	Northern mountain caribou
2030	Assessment	Northern mountain caribou (reassessment)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Peary caribou
		Wood bison