

## Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc.

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February 28, 2022

Minister David Piccini  
5th Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

Minister Steven Guilbeault  
Fontaine Building 12th floor  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

### **RE: ERO Posting 019-4995, Conservation Agreement for Boreal Caribou in Ontario**

Minister Piccini and Minister Guilbeault,

LNFM is a forestry co-operative comprised of four local First Nation Communities: Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek and Red Rock Indian Band, who hold the Sustainable Forest License on the Lake Nipigon Forest. The organization is responsible for all forest management activities that occur on the ~1,000,000 ha landbase. In addition to the responsibilities that coincide with tenure of the Sustainable Forest License, LNFM is a motivated and progressive company that is constantly seeking opportunities for economic development.

The proposed *Conservation Agreement for Boreal Caribou in Ontario* is viewed with some concern as caribou policies enacted by Ontario have identified that they would use First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge, but in practice have not collected it, and worse, continued to ignore information presented by communities. LNFM's experience with the lack of consultation regarding the impacts of caribou policies has resulted in all First Nations resigning from the 2021 Lake Nipigon Forest Management Planning Team, and a large protest on the TransCanada Highway (<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/first-nations-and-municipal-leaders-plan-a-protest-on-the-nipigon-river-bridge-1477751>).

Optimism and support will be given to the *Conservation Agreement for Boreal Caribou in Ontario* if meaningful consultation is conducted. LNFM defines meaningful consultation as the ability facilitate change through their local knowledge of where and how to manage for caribou on the traditional land(s) that they have stewarded for centuries. Some aspects LNFM is planning to address through this consultation process are the elimination of the "Discontinuous Caribou Distribution" and properly mapping the southern boundary of the Continuous Caribou Distribution (Nipigon Range). Much of this area is made up of rich soils that are not favorable to pure conifer stands but tends to be more mixed conifer/hardwood forests that are conducive to high moose populations. Efforts to lower moose populations in these areas for a potential reintroduction of caribou has negatively affected local communities that depend on the yearly harvest of moose.

There are some areas where caribou persist on the landbase and LNFMI would propose an adaptive and intensive management regime for caribou in these targeted areas. Some options have been included below along with past caribou management zones. In contrast, the current approach has reduced economic development, reduced traditional hunting resources and does not effectively support caribou recovery.

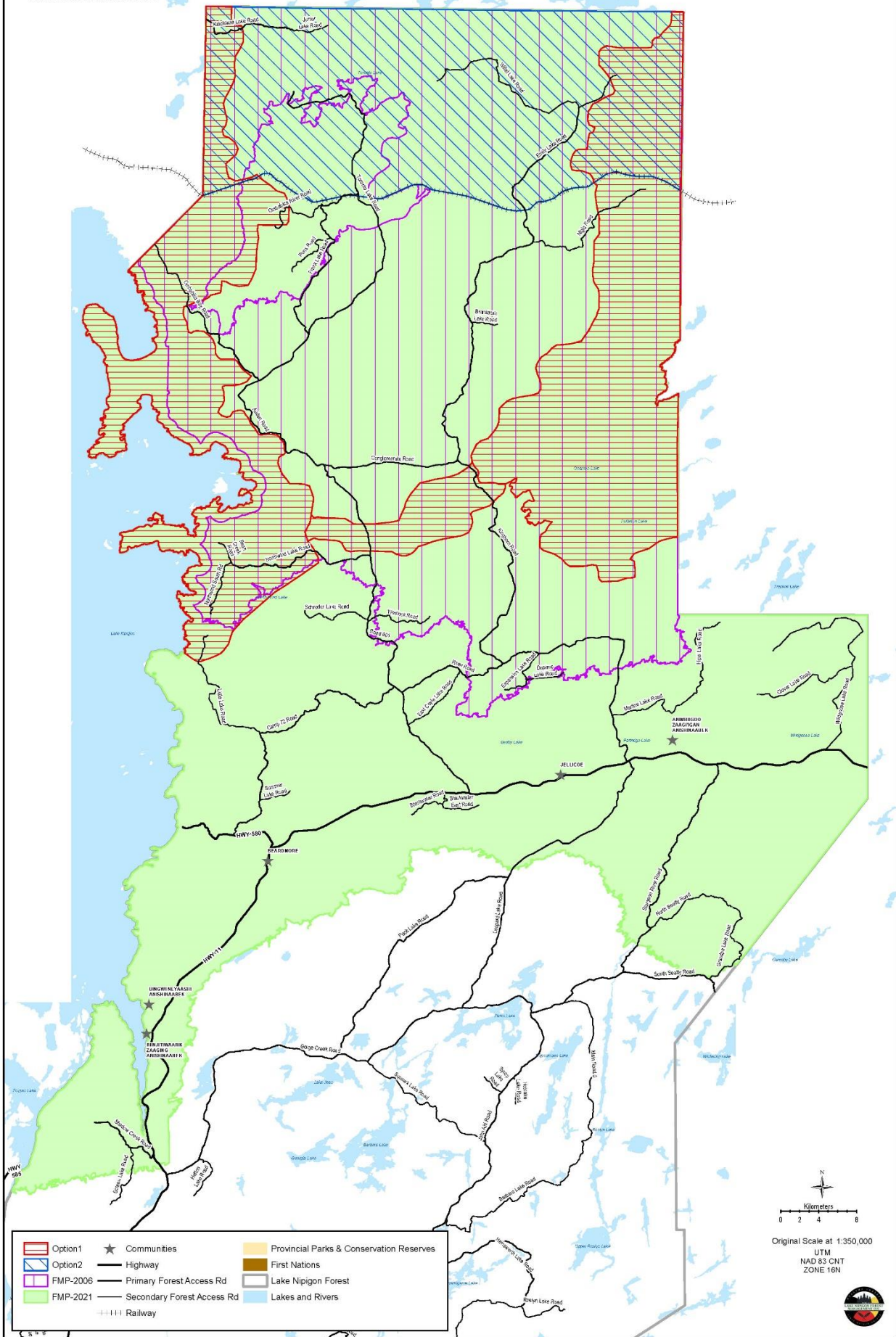
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scot Rubin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scot Rubin R.P.F.

General Manager – Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc.

# Lake Nipigon Forest Caribou Discussion



- |  |          |  |                            |  |  |
|--|----------|--|----------------------------|--|--|
|  | Option1  |  | Communities                |  | Provincial Parks & Conservation Reserves |
|  | Option2  |  | Highway                    |  | First Nations                            |
|  | FMP-2006 |  | Primary Forest Access Rd   |  | Lake Nipigon Forest                      |
|  | FMP-2021 |  | Secondary Forest Access Rd |  | Lakes and Rivers                         |
|  |          |  | Railway                    |  |  |

Original Scale at 1:350,000  
UTM  
NAD 83 CNT  
ZONE 16N

