

The Right Honourable Joe Clark noted that "The quality of the environment, particularly the fragile northern environment, is a high priority for all Canadians. Canada is not against development in the North or elsewhere, but firmly believes that northern development must be sensitive to the environment." The Honourable Marcel Masse further emphasized this point by stating that "the United States should ensure, in whatever decision it takes about development of the 1002 lands, that the critical habitats of shared wildlife resources are maintained."

On July 17 of this year Canada and the United States signed the Agreement on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd to manage and protect this transboundary herd. The Honourable Tom McMillan has noted that "The agreement we signed in July sent a strong message to the U.S. Congress that both countries value the Porcupine Caribou Herd. We attach an enormous amount of importance to its continued preservation and survival. Full development of the area would have significant effects on the caribou, snow geese and polar bears of the region."

"These shared resources are important to the sustainable economy of the native people of the northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta area of the Northwest Territories. Their long-term protection is essential to the development of a balanced northern economy," commented the Honourable Bill McKnight.

In the Comments Paper Canada reiterates an invitation to the United States to recognize the international significance of the region by twinning protected areas on both sides of the border.

The Canadian Embassy in Washington has been directed to make available the Canadian Comments Paper to interested members of the United States Congress which is currently considering the matter.

For further information:

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