

To; Members of the commissioning Committee and Peoples of Quebec

From: Gerald Hunter, member of Long Point First Nation

“Indigenous peoples created the world’s first protected areas centuries ago. Their sacred places--- sacred forests and mountains, sacred springs, rivers, lakes, caves and countless other hallowed sites and areas—were regions removed from everyday access and resource use, the abodes of nature spirits and powers with which people communed but did not interfere. Traditions of honoring and respecting such sacred ground may well go back millennia. On a larger scale, entire indigenous homelands could be considered to be equivalent of what we now call national parks and protected areas, territories whose forests, grasslands, and other habitats, and the wildlife within them, have been used, managed, and conserved in accordance with cultural knowledge and values, customary systems of tenure, and local management institutions”. **Quoted from Conservation through cultural survival—Indigenous peoples and protected areas by Stan Stevens**

My people have lived on this land for generations, it has always provided us with the ability to sustain ourselves and is the main source that allows us to maintain our cultural and spiritual beliefs. It is my honest belief that, had industry and governments not impeded us from our daily practices, the whole of what is now before us would not have been so dire. Extinction, Really? Why is it that something must be lost forever for us (People) to do what is required to try and reverse the effects of so many years of destruction to these natural areas, sensitive habitats and now these disappearing soon to be extinct species of caribou