

## Questions and Responses to Questions Posed by CPAWS

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Q1. Working with Aboriginal organizations and the federal government to establish and permanently protect key conservation areas in advance of major development in the Mackenzie Valley?

A1. I support a balanced approach to development and an integrated land use process that identifies and prioritizes land. For legislators to make decisions about protecting key land they need to full knowledge of the land they are protecting. The Federal Governments Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment process seems to do just that. Key conservation areas need permanent protection but it needs to be a fully informed decision.

Q2. Do you support the establishment of protected areas across the NWT?

A2. Yes, I support the establishment of protected areas across the NWT when we have done the advance research to ensure we have accurate and complete knowledge of the land and what it contains.

Q3. Supporting completion of land use planning in advance of major development projects in the Mackenzie Valley such as the Mackenzie Gas Project, highway or other major industrial projects are constructed?

A3. I support the efficient completion of land use plans for areas of the NWT that may receive major development projects. However, the development of a land use plan should not go on for year after year to the future detriment of major projects. The Mackenzie Valley Highway has been dreamed about since Diefenbaker's time, and the Pipeline for nearly as many years. An effective land use plan would complement other planning work done on these and other major projects.

Q4. Supporting permanent protection of important boreal woodland caribou habitat including movement corridors, calving areas and important winter ranges throughout the Northwest Territories?

A4. I think that the Government needs to have all of the information regarding the habitat and lands which it may protect before making decision such as this. However, in general, I would support the protection of this important land.

Q5. Supporting strengthening the territory's economy by establishing and financing managed protected areas and encouraging conservation-based economic development across the territorial landscape?

A5. A diverse economy is an important part of our future. We can't rely on any single industry or region to provide for future revenue and jobs. Investment that develops sustainable local community infrastructure and economic development leading to long term jobs is a priority for me.