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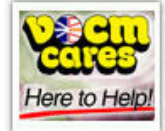
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Liberals Want More Action on Illegal Caribou Hunt April 1, 2009

The Liberals feel more should be done to save the Joir River caribou herd from extinction. Government says wildlife officers have been monitoring the situation, but it has been too dangerous to take action against Quebec Innu hunting the endangered herd in Labrador. Natural Resources Minister Kathy Dunderdale told Opposition House Leader Kelvin Parsons safety is the priority for conservation officers as they attempt to protect the threatened animals. Dunderdale says government has never had an issue with Quebec Innu coming to Labrador to do a traditional caribou hunt, as long as it was not the threatened herds. A pair of snowmobiles have been seized by conservation officers, but Dunderdale says charges have yet to be laid.

A federal official says the provincial government has the jurisdiction and the lead in dealing with Quebec Innu hunters. Environment Canada's Wayne Eliuk says they cannot get involved unless invited by the provincial government.

A former Quebec Innu lawyer says he does not agree with the illegal Caribou hunting going on in Labrador. Armand MacKenzie has been advocating for aboriginal rights for years. He believes hunters are trying to prove a point about their right to hunt, but MacKenzie says no one is above the law. He says hunting an endangered species is not the way to go about seeking support. MacKenzie says there is no aboriginal law or principle that justifies the killing of an endangered caribou herd. MacKenzie says he doesn't agree with what's going on in Labrador, and he thinks more people need to speak out.



Caribou

