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## **Province continues to turn a 'blind eye' to illegal caribou hunting**

Reports of illegal caribou harvesting in southern Labrador is prompting the Nunatsiavut Government to once again call on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to step up enforcement efforts.

"It is extremely disturbing when you hear reports of hunters willfully harvesting endangered caribou herds," says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. "It is equally disturbing when the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador turns a blind eye by allowing such activity to take place and continue."

The caribou harvested in southern Labrador are likely from the Mealy Mountain herd that migrate into Nunatsiavut. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's unwillingness to take action isn't surprising, says President Lampe.

"We've received multiple reports of individual, including Labrador Inuit, illegally hunting George River caribou, and have called on the provincial government, on numerous occasions, to take action," says Lands and Natural Resources Minister Greg Flowers. "They tell us it's illegal to harvest from the George River herd, but they don't do anything to stop those that do."

"Caribou is a part of who we are as a people. It has helped to sustain Labrador Inuit as a source of food, clothing and tools," adds President Lampe. "Caribou herds in Labrador are struggling to survive, and we all have to do our part to help make sure they do."

President Lampe is again encouraging Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement to continue adhering to the hunting ban, and is also calling on other Indigenous groups to encourage their members to do the same.

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