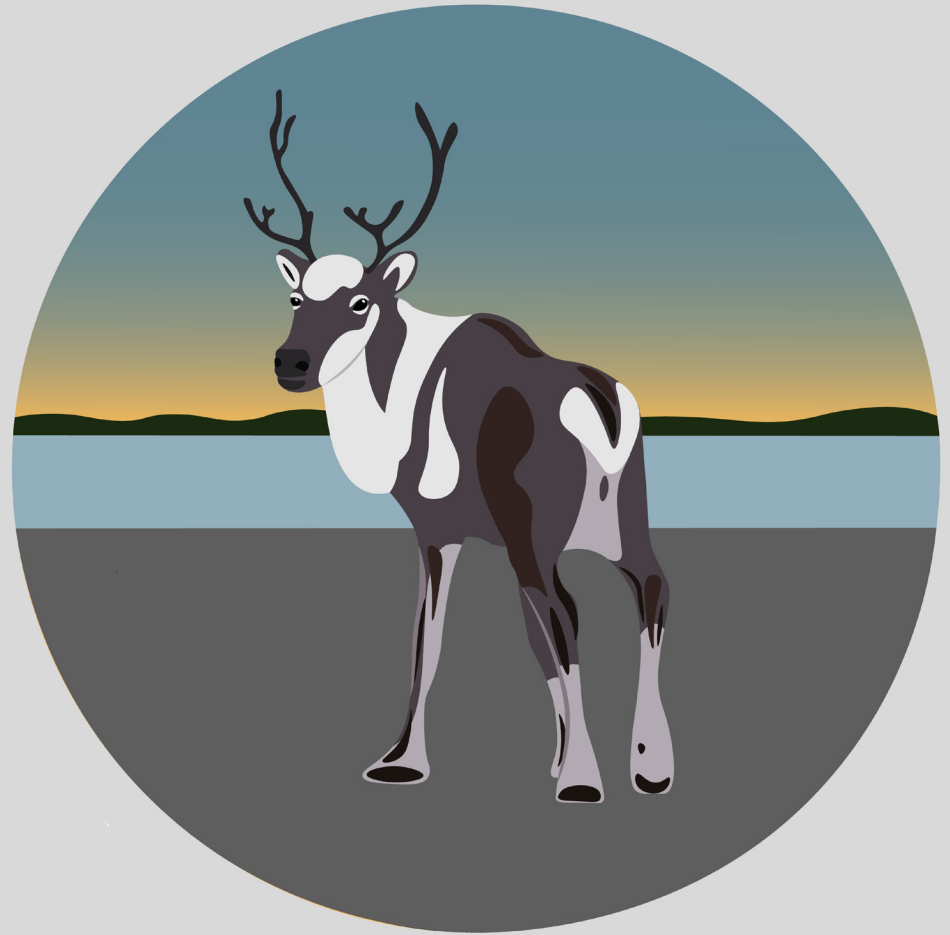


20th North American Caribou Workshop

Yellowknife, NT, CANADA

June 15-19, 2026

UNITED BY CARIBOU



2026 North American Caribou Workshop

UNITED BY CARIBOU

June 15- 19, 2026
Chateau Nova Hotel / The Explorer Hotel
Yellowknife, NT, CANADA



Access the conference website,
program & abstracts online

Welcome

Quana Qaigaffi

Shòh Hàh Aanàii

Tungasugit

Quvianaqtusi Qaigapsi

Welcome

Mársi Ją Nuwe Ghą Núhdël

tawaw

Máhsı Hejọ Raxets'é Ráwədə

Sı̀nà, Jọ Naxıghaèhda

Bienvenue

Máhsı Ejọh Nahxe Tah Anet'ı



We are pleased to welcome you to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, for the 20th North American Caribou Workshop!

Yellowknife is located on the northern shore of Great Slave Lake on Chief Drygeese territory, traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and traditional territories of the Tłı̨chǫ Peoples and North Slave Métis. We thank them for being the caretakers of this beautiful and rich land, and are grateful to all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit for their shared knowledge and ongoing stewardship of caribou in the Northwest Territories and beyond.

This year's conference theme, United by Caribou, reflects our shared interest in healthy and thriving caribou populations, now and in perpetuity. In a time of uncertainty, it has never been more important for all of us to come together to share; listen; learn; and work closely together for and with caribou.

Our Organizing Committee strived to create a conference program and environment reflective of the diverse ecological and cultural roles that caribou play in society today. We encourage you to take the opportunity to immerse yourselves in the range of experiences provided, including themed sessions and symposia, workshops, cultural spaces, art, and traditional activities.

In the spirit of the conference theme, we ask that all delegates be respectful and courteous, and engage in conference activities with an openness to all ideas and viewpoints. Everyone has valuable contributions to make and an opportunity to stretch their thinking about what it means to be United by Caribou.

We are very grateful to our sponsors and vendors for the financial contributions that have made hosting this conference possible. We extend a special thank you to our conference volunteers for helping to create a welcoming and vibrant event.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, thank you for joining us for the 20th North American Caribou Workshop.

Mársı, Kinanāskomitin, Thank you, Merci, Hą́', Quana, Qujannamiik, Quyanainni, Máhsı, Masi

Brad Woodworth  Kathy Unger 

Co-chairs, 2026 North American Caribou Workshop Organizing Committee



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Mársi, Kinanāskomitin, Thank you, Merci, Haq', Quana, Qujannamiik, Quyanainni, Máhsi, Masi



DE BEERS GROUP



HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION



Conference Organizing Committee

Brad Woodworth (Co-Chair) | Government of the Northwest Territories

Kathy Unger (Co-Chair) | Government of the Northwest Territories

Ainsley Dempsey (Event Coordinator) | Event Rentals Yellowknife

Jody Pellissey (Treasurer) | Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board

Alyce Straub | Burgundy Diamond Mines

Brandon Laforest | World Wildlife Fund

Bruno Croft | Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Charlene Liske | Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Heather Sayine-Crawford | Government of the Northwest Territories

Jan Adamczewski | Government of the Northwest Territories (Retired)

Janelle Nitsiza | Tłı̨cho Government

Jessica Norris | Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT)

Karin Clark | Government of the Northwest Territories

Kendra Tingmiak | Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

Laura Meinert | Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board

Leigh-Ann Williams-Jones | Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Manisha Singh | Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

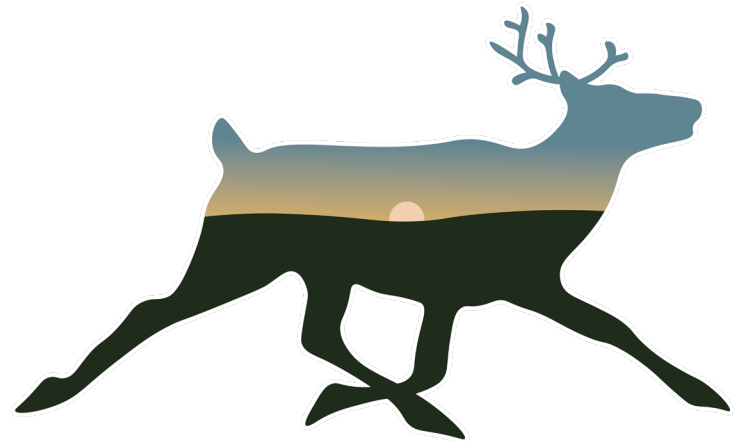
Mason Elwood | DeBeers Group

Missy MacLellan | World Wildlife Fund

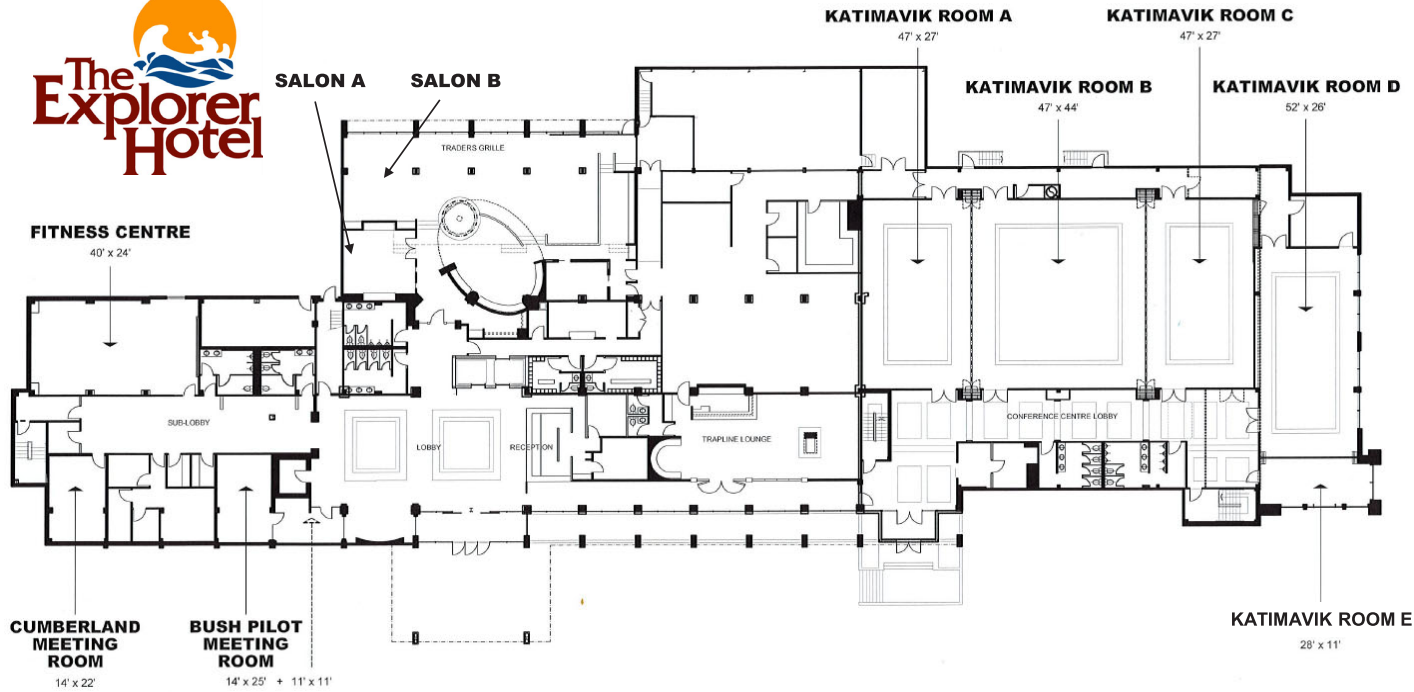
Orna Phelan | North Slave Métis Alliance

Sarah McLean | DeBeers Group

Stephanie Behrens | Tłı̨cho Government





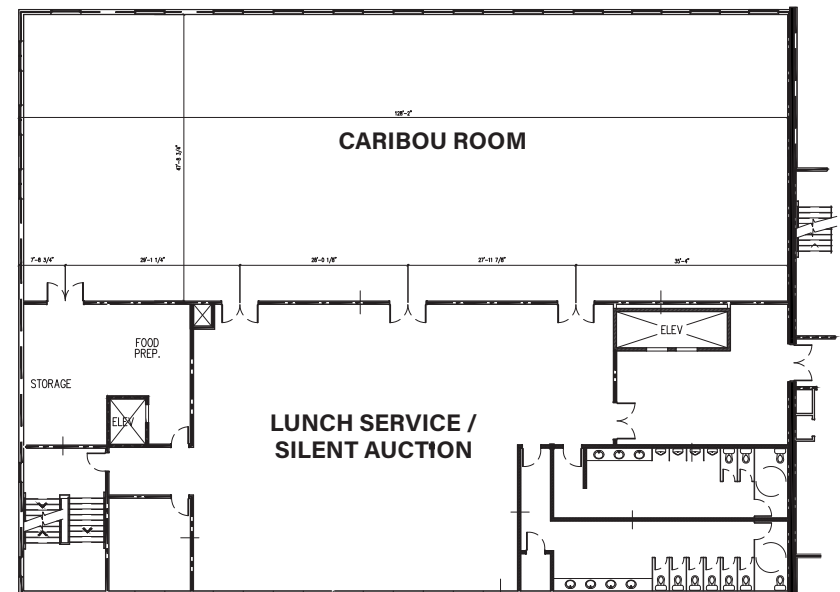


Conference sessions
will be held in
the Katimavik Rooms



The Caribou Room is located on the 3rd floor

Lynx Room is on the 4th Floor



Schedule at a Glance

	Monday 15 June Workshops					Tuesday 16 June			
	Katimavik A	Katimavik B	Katimavik C	Katimavik D / E	North Slave Lab	Katimavik A	Katimavik B	Katimavik C	Katimavik D / E
8:00am	Welcome Desk Opens (Explorer)					Doors open			
8:30am	Bringing Together Different Knowledges of Northern Mountain Caribou	On the Land Disease Investigation Workshop		Hı́dó Gogha Sénégots'ı́a - Planning for the Future in the Sahtu		Announcements			Nahots'eezi k'ee
8:40am						Guardians and Hide Tanners Honouring Ekwó			
10:00am						Health Break			
10:30am			Caribou Recovery Plan Treaty Simulation		On the Land Disease Investigation Workshop	Conservation & Management I	Interspecific Interactions	Habitat Change & Restoration	
12:00pm						Lunch Break			
1:30pm						Robust and Nimble Caribou and Landscape Modelling Using SpaDES			
3:00pm									
3:30pm					Behaviour	Combining Values and Knowledge Systems II	Population Estimation & Monitoring		
5:00-11:30pm	Welcome Reception - Willı́deh / Yellowknife River, 5-8pm (buses begin at 4:45pm)					Break			
						A Night at the Yellowknife Historical Museum, 6-9pm (buses begin at 5:45pm)			

	Wednesday 17 June					Thursday 18 June			
	Katimavik A	Katimavik B	Katimavik C	Katimavik D / E	Lynx Room	Katimavik A	Katimavik B	Katimavik C	Katimavik D / E
8:00am	Doors Open					Doors Open			
8:30am	Announcements					Announcements			
8:40am	Caribou, Communities, and Co-Management			Nahots'eezi k'ee	NWT SARC Mock Assessment	Movement, Memory, and Management			Nahots'eezi k'ee
10:00am	Health Break					Health Break			
10:30am	Response to Landscape Change	Leveraging Genetic Data	Co-management			Nutrition & Foraging Ecology	CARMA Network in 2026	Population Ecology & Genetics	
12:00pm	Lunch Break					Lunch Break			
1:30pm	Conservation & Management II	Communicating Through Change	Habitat Use & Movement			Habitat Quantification	Understanding and Mitigating Infrastructure Impacts on Migratory Caribou I	Methods & Synthesis	
3:00pm	Health Break and Film				Health Break and Film				
3:30pm	Apparent Competition	Caribou Conservation Using Ex-situ Approaches	Habitat Management and Planning			Landscape Ecology	Understanding and Mitigating Infrastructure Impacts on Migratory Caribou II	Conservation & Management III	
5:00-11:30pm	Poster Session (Chateau Nova, Caribou Room), 5-7pm					Break			
			Taste of Yellowknife -Somba K'e Arts and Food Market, 6-9pm			Closing Banquet (Chateau Nova, Caribou Room), 6:30-11:30pm			

Workshops

All workshops will be hosted at The Explorer Hotel | Prior registration is required

Telling the Story of Medzih: Bringing Together Different Knowledges of Northern Mountain Caribou in the South-West NT

This workshop is being led by Colleen Murchison and Sarah Arnold of Parks Canada (Nahanni National Park Reserve).

8:30am - 5:00pm | *Katimavik A*

On the Land Disease Investigation Workshop: How To Deal With a Sick Caribou

This workshop is being led by Fabien Mavrot (University of Calgary), Olivia Hee (University of Calgary), and Naima Jutha (Government of the NWT).

8:30am - 12:00 pm | *Katimavik B*

Caribou Recovery Plan Treaty Simulation

This workshop is being led by Molly Stollmeyer, Tarren Impey, and Steven Showalter of the Gordon Foundation.

8:30am - 5:00pm | *Katimavik C*

Robust and Nimble Caribou and Landscape Modelling Using SpaDES

This workshop is being led by Eliot McIntire (Natural Resources Canada) and Julie Turner (University of Alberta).

1:30am - 5:00pm | *Katimavik B*

Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'ıa- Planning for the Future in the Sahtu

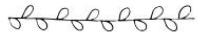
This workshop is being led by Melanie Harding and Leon Andrew of the ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Walter Bezha (Délıne Renewable Resources Council), and Fred Andrew Jr (Tulit'a Renewable Resources Council).

8:30am - 12:00pm | *Katimavik D*



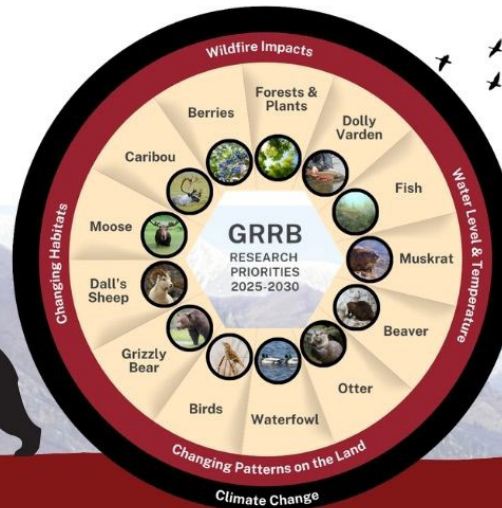
GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

WHO WE ARE

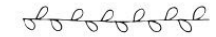


The GRRB is the **main instrument of wildlife, fish, and forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area**. The Board acts in the public interest, representing all the parties to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) – the Gwich'in, the people of the Northwest Territories, and all Canadians

OUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES



OUR MISSION



The GRRB works in cooperation with the Gwich'in people, governments and stakeholders, and in accordance with the GCLCA to effectively **protect, conserve, and manage renewable resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area**. It does this in a respectful, transparent, communicative, and inclusive manner, **using the best available traditional and scientific knowledge**.

WWW.GRRB.NT.CA



**CELEBRATING OUR SHARED CONNECTION
TO THE LAND
AND THE CARIBOU.
WORKING TOGETHER
TO PROTECT WILDLIFE
AND SUPPORT HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES ACROSS
THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION.**

www.jointsecretariat.ca/inuvialuit-game-council

Plenary

Caribou Guardians and Hide Tanners Honouring EkwóꝤas an Intervention in Caribou Management Featuring Amos Scott, Janelle Nitsiza and Angela Code

¹ Caribou Guardians Coalition; ² Tłı̨chǫ Government; ³ Sayisi Dene Hunter and Hide Tanner

8:40 - 10:00am | Katimavik A, B, C



Amos Scott is a member of the Tłı̨chǫ Nation, and is the Executive Director for the Caribou Guardians Coalition. In his years as a journalist and filmmaker, Amos focused on Indigenous perspectives of governance and traditional knowledge that informs policy. Amos brings his years of storytelling and interviewing into this work with Indigenous organizations.

and youth to help document, protect, and strengthen Tłı̨chǫ knowledge related to ekwò and the land.

Raised by her late grandparents, Janelle's work is deeply influenced by their teachings, which guide her commitment to respect, reciprocity, and cultural continuity. She is dedicated to creating spaces where Elders and youth can learn from one another, ensuring that traditional knowledge is carried forward with integrity.

Through her leadership, Janelle supports meaningful research, strong relationships, and the ongoing revitalization of Tłı̨chǫ language, culture, and land-based knowledge within her community and beyond.

Janelle Nitsiza is a Research Coordinator with the Tłı̨chǫ Government's Department of Culture and Lands Protection, where she plays a central role in advancing community-driven research grounded in Tłı̨chǫ values and ways of knowing. As one of the lead researchers with the Ekwò Nàxoède Kè Program, Janelle works closely with Elders, harvesters,





Angela Code is a member of the Sayisi Dene First Nation (the most eastern nation of the northern Dene). She was born in Churchill, MB. She spent her childhood in the Tadoule Lake reserve - the most northern community in Manitoba. Her parents are Allan and Mary Code. Angela and her family moved to Whitehorse, Yukon when she was ten years old. After high school, Angela graduated from UBC with a major in First Nations studies and a minor in First Nations languages and linguistics. Angela has worked within the non-profit sector as well as the territorial, First Nations and federal governments within various fields including filmmaking, archives, healthcare, community outreach, project management, highways and public works, and diversity and inclusion.

Angela is also an entrepreneur- she owns her own business called Denecha'niyé - Indigenous Cultural Contracting, where she teaches hunting education and ethics development, big game field dressing, hide tanning, tool making and other land based skills from a northern indigenous perspective. Angela is also a Handgames player, a hidetanner, an artist and most importantly- a mama to her toddler son Edziye Natsed.



Themed Sessions & Symposia

10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT I	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B INTERSPECIFIC INTERACTIONS	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C HABITAT CHANGE & RESTORATION
Caribou Advocacy in an Alberta Sub Regional Planning Landscape from an Indigenous Perspective Jaymie Campbell	Winter Distribution Overlap of Migratory Barren-ground Caribou Reduces Effectiveness of Wolf Management Abbey Wilson	Well, How's It Growin'? Wildlife Response to Wellsite Reclamation and Restoration in Caribou Ranges Laura Finnegan
Societal Drivers and Barriers for Caribou Conservation Measures: Integrating Governance, Local Knowledge, and Social Acceptance in the Dovre-Rondane Region, Norway Marianne Singsaas	Assessing the Influence of Wolf Removal on Bathurst Barren-ground Caribou Population Dynamics in the Northwest Territories Amelia Cox	Bringing Back Boreal Caribou Habitat: Restoring the Landscape Across the Southern Northwest Territories Mélanie Routh
Management Focus on Caribou Threats Provides Uneven Protection for Canada's Other Species at Risk Rosemary Hohnen	Predators Without Preference: Grey Wolf Movement in Relation to Overlapping Barren-ground Caribou Herds Robin Abernethy	Advancing Indigenous-led Caribou Habitat Restoration through a Multifaceted Communications Approach Kate Broadley
Disconnect Between Scientific Evidence and Policy Decisions Leads to Further Endangerment of Species at Risk: Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Planning as a Case Study Tara Russell	Fire History as a Driver of Muskox Habitat Selection in Boreal Forests: Implications for Coexistence With Caribou Jan Adamczewski, Frances Stewart	Evaluating Habitat Restoration to Meet Caribou Recovery Goals in Alberta Melanie Dickie
Beyond the 65% Threshold: Environmental and Human Factors Shape Boreal Caribou Survival and Population Trends in the NWT Chloe Beaupre	Grizzly Bear and Wolf Activity During Caribou Calving Assessed With Broad-Scale Camera Trapping Benjamin Larue	Development of the Tłı̨chǫ Highway Caribou Habitat Offset Implementation Plan, A Collaborative Approach Paula Bentham
Wildlife as Research Partners: Connecting Land Relationships to Wildlife Data Governance Erin Tattersall	Forest and Fire Drive Moose (Deníe) Detections Near Their Northern Range Limit Claudia Haas	The Effects of Mine Disturbance on Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) Habitat Selection in Eastern Ontario Brenna Mervyn

*Only the lead presenter and co-presenters are listed. For a full abstract and authorship list, see the online program schedule or abstract volume.

Themed Sessions & Symposia

1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A HEALTH & DISEASE	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B COMBINING VALUES AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS I (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C CHANGING CLIMATE AND FIRE REGIMES
Diagnosis of Meningeal Worm (Parelaphostrongylus tenuis) in Northeast Alberta Boreal Caribou Owen Slater	Ethical Pathways in the Co-Production of Knowledge for Species and People Cheryl A. Johnson, Susie Memogana	Climate Change Mitigation Through Woodland Caribou (Rangifer Tarandus) Habitat Restoration in British Columbia Gregory Rickbeil
Meningeal Worm in Northeast Alberta Boreal Caribou: Observations From the Field Troy Hegel	Endangered but Not Extirpated – A Case Study of the Kwun-Tse (Burnt Pine) Southern Mountain Caribou Herd Mateen Hessami	Recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou Habitat Following Wildfire in Ulkatcho Territory, British Columbia, Canada Olivier Jumeau
A Decade of Community-Based Caribou Health Surveillance in the Central Canadian Arctic Olivia Hee	Ways of Knowing: A Dual Approach to Species at Risk Assessment in the Northwest Territories, Canada Michele Grabke	Cutting Through the Noise: What Can Habitat Selection Models Tell Us About Caribou-Fire Space Use Dynamics? Geneviève Degré-Timmons
Health Survey of Caribou Ecotypes and Muskox in Québec and Labrador, Canada Joëlle Taillon	What Does a Peary Caribou See Here? Weaving Pictures, Participatory Mapping, Aerial Surveys, Bayesian Models, and More to Co-produce Habitat Distribution Maps Carlos Alberto Arnillas	Woodland Caribou Use of Burned Areas in Northeastern Alberta Eric Neilson
Harvesters Uncover a Climate-Linked Emerging Disease in Barren-ground Caribou (Rangifer tarandus) Rachele Vada	Co-developing Arctic Research: Inclusive Partnerships, Youth Engagement, and Knowledge Sharing in the North Emmelie Paquette	The Role of Top-Down and Bottom-up Controls on Fire Refugia in Northern Boreal Ecosystems: Implications for Caribou Management Christine Kuntzemann
Community-Based Monitoring of Caribou Health: Integrating Local Knowledge and Body Condition Indicators Fabien Mavrot	Addressing Misinformation, Disinformation and Racism in Caribou Recovery Jean Polfus	Strengthening Our Understanding of Wédzey (Caribou) Climate Change Adaptation in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory Aidan Burghardt

Themed Sessions & Symposia

3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A BEHAVIOUR	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B COMBINING VALUES AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS II (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C POPULATION ESTIMATION & MONITORING
Anti-Predator Behaviors of Captive Boreal Caribou Exposed to Predator Cues Gabrielle Brochu	From Averting Extirpation to Recovering the Landscape and Treaty Rights - Campfire Talk Naomi Owens-Beek	Confronting the Challenge of Movement Between Caribou Herds John Boulanger
Mosquito and Oestrid Fly Harassment of Barren-Ground Caribou: Environmental Predictors and Caribou Responses Michael J. Sutor		Documenting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and Observations of the Southampton Island Barren-Ground Caribou (Rangifer tarandus) Herd Andrew Kadykalo
Sex Matters: Multi-Population Analysis Reveals Consistent Sex Differences in the Behaviour and Spatial Ecology of Caribou Margaret M. Hughes		Inferring Caribou Population Trends From Hierarchical Habitat Selection Julie Turner
Considering Sociality When Estimating Caribou Distribution and Abundance Quinn Webber		Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è: Being Caribou Guardians With 'Boots on the Ground' Jocelyn Zoe
Listening to Barren-Ground Caribou (Ekwò, Tuktu): Using Animal-Borne Audio to Monitor Fine Scale Behavior Megan Perra		Estimating Cow:Calf Ratios Using a Minimally Invasive Trail Camera Network Along the Hudson Bay Coast Kimberly Lebel
		Fitness on the Line: How Disturbance Shapes Survival and Reproduction in a Northern Boreal Caribou Population Philip D. McLoughlin



View full



View full
abstracts online



WWF-CANADA SUPPORTS BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT



Apply to the
Arctic Species Conservation Fund
with your project ideas

wwf.ca/ascf



WWF® TRADEMARK AND ©1986 PANDA SYMBOL ARE OWNED BY WWF ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
PHOTO © JOHN MARRIOTT / WWF-CANADA

Plenary

Caribou, Communities, and Co-Management: More than 40 years of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Stewardship
Featuring Tina Giroux-Robillard, Earl Evans, Stephanie Behrens, James Hodson, and Boris Eyakfwo

¹²⁴Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board; ³ Tłı̨chǫ Government; ⁵ Tłı̨chǫ First Nations

8:40 - 10:00am | Katimavik A, B, C



Tina Giroux-Robillard is a wildlife biologist, advisor, and leader in Indigenous rights and land stewardship, with more than 20 years of experience working alongside First Nation communities. Her work focuses on barren-ground caribou stewardship and land protection, grounded in strong community relationships and with a strong emphasis on the use of Indigenous Knowledge as a primary source of information in research, monitoring, decision-making, and policy.

She holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science in Wildlife Biology from McGill University and a Master of Science from the University of Saskatchewan.

From 2009 to 2019, Tina worked with the Athabasca Denesūliné Né Né Land Corporation, contributing to land claim negotiations and advancing Indigenous leadership in land and resource governance. Since 2019, she has worked with Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources, supporting the establishment of Etthén Nene Stewardship Areas—community-led protected areas.

In April 2022, Tina became Executive Director of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, where she continues to promote collaborative, Indigenous-led approaches to caribou conservation across northern Canada.



Earl Evans is a lifelong resident and land user of the Fort Smith, NWT area, and has been hunting, trapping, and travelling the land since childhood.

Earl has been the Board Chair of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board for 14 years, and has represented the communities in the South Slave region (Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Fort Smith) on the Board since 2003.

Earl is known across the North as a strong voice for caribou stewardship, and is deeply committed to keeping traditional ways of life alive and passing on knowledge to the young people of his region.

Stephanie Behrens is the Manager of Lands Protection & Renewable Resources with the Tł̨chq Government. She is a strong advocate for responsible harvest practices that reflect traditional laws and accountability on the land.

Stephanie was appointed to serve as Vice-Chair, Operations in 2026 and is the first Indigenous woman to hold a Vice-Chair position on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.



James Hodson is the Regional Biologist with the North Slave Region office of Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife.

He brings expertise in wildlife science, environmental assessment, and cumulative effects management to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board. James was appointed to serve as Vice-Chair, Administration for the BQCMB in 2026.

Boris Eyakfwo is a youth member of the Tł̨chq First Nations, from Gamètì, NT.

Deeply connected to his culture and community, Boris enjoys spending time on the land hunting, fishing, trapping, and learning through his experiences on the land. He values time with his family, especially his father, and enjoys traditional activities including hand games, drum dancing, drumming, and singing. Boris is passionate about working with caribou because he wants to help protect them for future generations. He believes that caribou have always taken care of people, and now it is our turn to care for them.



Themed Sessions & Symposia

10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A RESPONSE TO LANDSCAPE CHANGE	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B LEVERAGING GENETIC DATA (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C CO-MANAGEMENT
Quantifying the Behavioural Response of Barren-ground Caribou to Arctic Mines and Supply Roads: The Case Studies of the Meadowbank and Meliadine Mines Mitch Fennell	Following Trails of the Mountain Caribou: Conservation Guided by Indigenous Knowledge and Genetic Sampling Cory Fournier	Using Traditional Knowledge and Camera-Trapping to Understand the Relationship Between Boreal Caribou and the Deninu Kue First Nation in Response to a Changing Environment Marc d'Entremont
Northern Development and Rangifer Risks: A Review of the Impacts of Resource Extraction for Caribou and Reindeer Éloïse Lessard	Unraveling the Genetics Behind Boreal and Eastern Migratory Caribou in Ontario and Quebec M. Lisette Delgado	The Caribou Collaboration Project: A Knowledge Hub for Collaborative Conservation David Borish
Altered Spatial Strategies in Increasingly Disturbed Landscapes Dominic Noce	Case Studies in Estimating Population Size & Trends Using Capture-Recapture Analyses Applied to Non-invasive Genetic Sampling Data w/ Recommendations for Optimal Outcomes Arni Neil Arnason	Integrating a Decade of Aerial Surveys and Inuit Knowledge for Collaborative Monitoring of the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd Katrien Kingdon
Migration of Woodland Caribou Through an Open-Pit Gold Mine Philip Walker	Mapping Boreal Caribou Density and Critical Habitat Using Spatially Explicit Capture Recapture Models Jayna Bergman	Joining Forces to Protect Woodland Caribou on the Lower North Shore: An Agreement Between the Nutashkuan Innu First Nation and the Government of Québec Jean Mestokosho, Alexis Brodeur
Exploring the Effects of Linear Features on Caribou When Interactions Are Limited Kerman Bajina	Assessment of Vulnerability Due to Genetic Diversity and Inbreeding Extent in Rangifer Rebecca Taylor	Two-Eyed Seeing in Practice: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science to Understand Boreal Caribou and Woodland Buffalo Dynamics in Treaty 8 Territory Darren Epperson
	Conclusion: Insights Into Emerging Methods To Improve the Cost-Effectiveness and Efficiency of Genetic Monitoring Tools, Advancing Conservation Science and Management Strategies Micheline Manseau	Seeing Snow Through the Eyes of Caribou: How Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping Methods Can Be Used to Inform Snow Modelling Josée-Anne Langlois

Themed Sessions & Symposia

1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT II	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B COMMUNICATING THROUGH CHANGE (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C HABITAT USE & MOVEMENT
For the Protection of Caribou in the Nitassinan of the Innu of Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam André Michel	On Balancing: The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Jody Pellissey	Context-Dependent Site Fidelity in Boreal Caribou During Periods of Insect Outbreaks Clément Couloigner
Quantifying Forest Disturbance Regimes Within Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) Range in British Columbia James Maltman	How To Share Good News Tina Giroux-Robillard	Flexible Movements and Resource Use Drive Fitness Tradeoffs for Barren-ground Caribou Experiencing Rapid Environmental Change Molly Caldwell
Inuit Knowledge in Motion for Migratory Caribou Conservation in Nunavik Rachel Guindon	Managing Caribou in Nunatsiavut Jason Dicker	Peary Caribou Movements in the Northwest Territories Tracy Davison
What Would My Grandfather Think if I Let Those Caribou Disappear? Biigtigong Nishnaabeg's Plan to Protect and Recover the Gchigmiing Dikwag (Lake Superior Caribou) Allie Mayberry	Communications Through Co-Management Deana Lemke	Geographic Space Use Sharing by Two Caribou Ecotypes in Northern Ontario Rachael Derbyshire
Evaluation of a Mobile Conservation Zone for Bathurst Caribou Harvest Management and Recovery H. Dean Cluff	PANEL DISCUSSION	Causes and Consequences of Switching Calving Grounds by Migratory Barren-ground Caribou Benjamin Larue
Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans: A Tool to Manage and Protect Caribou and Other Wildlife Greg Look		Mechanism of Plasticity in Site Fidelity as a Rewarding Tactic in Changing Environments Varvara Vladimirova

Themed Sessions & Symposia

3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A APPARENT COMPETITION	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B CARIBOU CONSERVATION USING EX-SITU APPROACHES (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C HABITAT MANAGEMENT & PLANNING
Apparent Competition Affects Woodland Caribou Habitat Use as Well as Demography: The Role of Refugia Steven F. Wilson	Lessons Learned from 13 Years of Southern Mountain Caribou Maternity Penning Carmen Richter, Clayton Lamb	Estimating Climate and Forest Management Impacts on Future Trade-Offs Between Wildfire Mitigation and Caribou Habitat Quality in West Central Alberta Kelsey Gritter
Apparent Competition in Ontario's Far North Margaret M. Welsh	Conservation Breeding for Caribou Populations: Québec's Experience, Expertise, and Vision Michaël Bonin	Evaluating Land-Use Planning in Wild Reindeer Mountain Areas: A Mixed-Method Assessment of Policy Implementation, Spatial Change, and Multi-Level Governance Marianne Singsaas
Predator-Prey Dynamics of Cougar, Caribou, and Feral Horse: An Apparent Competition Hypothesis Julie Thomas	Addressing the Everyday Challenges of Reintroduction Work Sakari Mykrä-Pohja	Evidenced by Indigenous and Western Science: An Arctic Nation Building Project Threatens Caribou and Inuit Harvesting Rights Andrea Hanke
The Alternative Alternative Prey: Beaver Are the Main Prey Item for Wolves in Northeast British Columbia Jesse Tigner	Conservation Breeding for the Recovery of Caribou in Jasper National Park Layla Neufeld, Leanna Parker	Mapping Traditional Knowledge for the Boreal Caribou Range Plan Petter Jacobsen, Stephanie Behrens
Considering Complexities of Caribou Ecosystems to Inform More Effective Recovery Cole Burton	PANEL DISCUSSION	Boreal Caribou Range Plans: Tools for Wildlife Managers and Industry Pete Cott
Non-Consumptive Effects of Apparent Competitors Nicola Love		Inuvialuit Woodland (Boreal) Caribou Traditional Knowledge and Habitat Classification Study Gilly McNaughton

Arts, Culture & Tradition

NACW 2026 weaves together research, culture, tradition, language, and art to create a gathering that is as much about connection and reflection as it is about science.



Communicating caribou responses to wildfire through visual art (Geneviève Degré-Timmons, Emmanuelle Gendron)

Nahots'eezi k'eh, a Tłıchq Yatıì concept meaning “to rest or take a break”, is a space for grounding and engaging with touches of northern life, including traditional medicines, teachings, and caribou hair tufting



Pencil on paper by Jan Adamczewski

Travel to Wiilideh and Behchokò allows participants to experience the **cultures and traditions** of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Tłıchq Peoples

Art, storytelling, and film create space for voices and narratives that connect people, land, and caribou, often translating and communicating lived experiences and complex relationships with caribou.

Meaningful inclusion of **language** reflects the understanding that language carries world-views, knowledge systems, and identity.



Centerpieces crafted from antlers collected respectfully from Gwich'in lands (Clifford Vaneltsi)

Poster Session

5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. | Caribou Room, 3rd Floor, Chateau Nova

A Disconnect Between Legislation and Endangered Species Protection: Provincial Protective Measures Are Insufficient at Protecting Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>) Lindsay Watson	Charting a Path for Respectful and Collaborative Mapping and Modelling of Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) Between Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Western Science Approaches: A Systematic Map of Global Best Practices Amanda Dookie
Collaborative Caribou Management in Action Gilly McNaughton	Demographic Response of Southern Mountain Caribou to Maternity Penning - Investigating the Factors Influencing Sex Allocation of Calves Zana Everett
Collaboration Opportunities at University of Alaska's Large Animal Research Station Todd J. Brinkman	Working Together Towards Applied Outcomes for Caribou and Sustainable Forestry in Alberta Terra Lottermoser, Tom Habib, Nicole Galambos
Cause-Specific Mortality of Sympatric Caribou and White-Tailed Deer in West-Central Alberta Leonie Brown	Seasonal and Spatial Drivers of Muskox (<i>Yutthéjéré</i> ; <i>Ovibos moschatus</i>) Occurrence on the Southern Edge of Their Range Christine Dunbar
Creating New Models - And Updating Old Ones - To Assess Boreal Caribou Habitat Suitability in Québec and Ontario Mathieu Leblond	Cree-Led Approaches to Caribou Conservation: Adaptive Management, Youth Involvement and Knowledge-Sharing Adèle Michaud, Jane Voyageur, Maya Longpre-Croteau
Why Didn't the Caribou Cross the Road? Angus Smith	The Reindeer Hypothesis and the De-Extirpation of Dawson Caribou Douglas Heard
The Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee: Using Traditional Knowledge and Science To Understand Project Effects on Caribou in Northern Manitoba Rachel Boone	"If there's one or two, take them but if there's three, leave them": Inuit Cultural Norms and Traditional Knowledge Regarding Sustainable Harvest Leading Contemporary Species Management Planning Jason Dicker
Caribou Monitoring at the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Sandra Scott	Traditional Use of Caribou by Ktaqmkuk Mi'Kmaq and Implications for Resource Governance Zechariah Childs
Indicators of Nutrition and Reproduction in Female Woodland Caribou Receiving Supplemental Feed in British Columbia Lauren Elviss	Holding the Edge of Southern Mountain Caribou: A Collective, Connected Path Forward Colin Bergeron
Community-Based Monitoring in Chief Drygeese Territory - Tłìchàdii Kq "Our Wildlife House" Carmen Hamel, Charlene Liske	Quantifying Apparent Competition Dynamics on an Abandoned Road Network in Northern Ontario Using Camera Traps Mate Misir
Unlocking Ice Patch Archives: Ancient DNA Metabarcoding Reveals Caribou Diet Across 4,000 Years Carson Hedberg	



Impact of Roads on Arrival of Barren-ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) at the Calving Grounds Sagnik Nandy	Using Acoustic Methods to Map Insect Relief Areas for Barren-ground Caribou Megan Perra
Exploring the Changing Availability of Western Arctic Caribou and Community Implications Caitlin Luby	Investigating the Relationship Between Shifting Vegetation Seasonality and Migratory Caribou Movement Jordan Seider
Tracking Winter Movements: Spatial Strategies of Ontario's Co-occurring Caribou Ecotypes Amaan Leacock	Caribou Co-Management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area Alissa Sallans
Promoting a Sustainable Future for Wild Reindeer; Action Plans and Dialogue Processes Dealing With CWD Measures Roy Andersen	Reducing Caribou Mortality by Vehicle Collisions on Highway 40: Pilot Project of a Virtual Fence in West-Central Alberta Stephanie Leonard
Influence of Shrub Expansion on Caribou Movement Claire Ethier	Criteria and Indicators for Boreal Caribou Habitat Restoration Success Jesse Tigner
Tɔ́dzı Néné - Boreal Caribou Range Planning in the Sahtu: Process, Learnings, and Reflections Melanie Harding	Understanding Drivers of Adult Female Survival in Barren-Ground Caribou Across the North American Arctic Chloe Beaupre
Insect Outbreaks as a Key Driver of Habitat Selection in Boreal Caribou Emy Maltais	Lichen Regeneration Rate Responses to Post-Fire Conditions in Central Yukon Claire Bandet
Ni'ó Nę P'ęñé- Trails of the Mountain Caribou: A Living Plan for Caribou and Community Well-being Manisha Singh	Mapping the Menu: How Prey Distributions Influence Wolf Habitat in Northern Ontario Samantha McFarlane
From Field to Freezer: Insights From Non-invasive Sampling to Establish a Caribou Cryobank Paula Mackie	Mapping Climate Vulnerability Pathways for Woodland Caribou Joseph Molina



Plenary

Movement, Memory, and Management: Rethinking Caribou Conservation in a Rapidly Changing Arctic

Featuring Dr. Eliezer Gurarie and Dr. Cheryl Johnson

¹ State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; ² Environment and Climate Change Canada

8:40 - 10:00am | Katimavik A, B, C



Dr. Eliezer Gurarie is a professor at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where he leads the Animal Movement and Spatial Ecology Lab and the Fate of the Caribou Project, a multidisciplinary effort to understand how migratory caribou are responding to the pressures of climate change and industrial development.

His research develops novel approaches to understanding how animals move, use space, and respond to environmental change, with a particular interest — mixed with amazement -- at the strategies and mechanisms, like sociality and collective memory, by which caribou manage to adapt, survive and, in places, thrive in the Arctic. Key to much of his work is the centering of traditional and local knowledge, and the pursuit of research questions driven by the immediate needs of the communities whose knowledge is deepest and most direct and to whom these questions are most vital.

Dr. Cheryl Johnson has studied the behaviour and population dynamics of wildlife across diverse ecosystems in Canada from the mountains in British Columbia, to the boreal forest and the Arctic tundra. Cheryl joined Environment and Climate Change Canada as visiting postdoctoral fellow in 2009 to work on the identification of critical habitat for boreal caribou.

Caribou has been the unifying element to her research supporting sustainable wildlife management practices in Canada since that time. She has developed recommendations for sustainable management practices to deal with the major drivers contributing to species' extinction, namely land use change, resource extraction and climate change. Her research evolved from being focused on a single-species to multi-species management and ecosystem-based solutions for the conservation of biodiversity.

More recently, her research has shifted to a social-ecological model where she weaves and braids Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit with academia to guide wildlife conservation and management. The approach embraces linkages between people and nature and bridges the gaps between ecological knowledge, education, culture, economics and conservation policy in the Arctic.



Themed Sessions & Symposia

10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A NUTRITION & FORAGING ECOLOGY	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B CIRCUMARCTIC RANGIFER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT NETWORK (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C POPULATION ECOLOGY & GENETICS
Seasonal Nitrogen Selection Aligns With Diet Shifts in Woodland Caribou Jack Hendrix	CARMA 10: What's Happening Around the Circumarcctic World to Migratory Tundra Caribou Anne Gunn	Functional Connectivity of Arctic Island-Dwelling Caribou-Where Melting Sea Ice and Human Trails Increase Isolation Deborah Jenkins
Examining the Gut Microbiome of Southern Mountain Caribou Kim Hinz		Doomed From the Start: Consequences of a Harsh Early Life on Migratory Caribou Life-History Traits Mattis Pelletier
Successional Development of Caribou Forage Resources in Montane and Boreal Habitats of Canada John Cook	Coordinated Monitoring and Reporting of Circumpolar Caribou and Wild Reindeer to Unite Circumarcctic Peoples Courtney Price	Range Dynamics of Barren-Ground Caribou Implied by Historical Population Cycles Eric Bongelli
Are Nutrition and Disease Important Factors Limiting Population Recovery of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd? Kristin Denryter		Performance of High Throughput SNP Tools on Non-invasively Collected Caribou Fecal DNA Samantha Barrette
Landscape Drivers of Trace Element Imbalances in Dolphin and Union Caribou William Justus	SHARING CIRCLE	Leveraging Genomics to Improve Captive Breeding Outcomes in Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) Samuel Deakin
Greenlandic Caribou Have Two Different Physiological Strategies to Sustain Pregnancy Mathilde Le Moullec		Parentage Analysis Reveals Variation in Sex-Specific Reproductive Success in the Kennedy Siding Caribou Herd Mackenzie Askin

Themed Sessions & Symposia

1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A HABITAT QUANTIFICATION	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS ON MIGRATORY CARIBOU I (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C METHODS & SYNTHESIS
To Eat or Not to Eat, That Is Selection: Examining the Seasonal Dietary Niche of Boreal Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) Rose Myatt	The Kivalliq Inuit Association's Experience With Mine Traffic Monitoring and Mitigation on the Ranges of Migratory Tundra Caribou Jakob Voisey	Transparency: An Online Tool To Track Changes in Caribou Habitat Robert Serrouya
The Impact of Permafrost Thaw on Caribou Lichen Biomass Across the Northwest Territories, Canada Katerina Coveny	Fine-Scale Behavioural Responses of Migratory Caribou to Roads and Traffic in Nunavik Caroline Deslongchamps	Using Structural Topic Models to Synthesize Caribou Science since 1943: Where Have We Come From, And Where Might We Think About Going Eric Vander Wal
Peatlands and Northern Climate Shape Woodland Caribou Winter Habitat in Northern Ontario Samantha McFarlane	Investigating the Cumulative Effects of the Ice Road to Barren-Ground Caribou in the Northwest Territories - A Guardian-Led Initiative Orna Phelan	A Management Tool to Quantify Offset Requirements for the Restoration of Boreal Caribou Habitat in Eastern Canada Marilou Lepage
Validating Caribou Habitat Classifications in Ontario's Managed Boreal Forest Jennifer Shuter	Encountering Infrastructure, How Disturbance Affects Migratory Tundra Herd Productivity: A Sensitivity Analysis Anne Gunn	Seeing Change Through Indigenous Science: Emerging Themes on Caribou Health and Environment Amish Dua
A Recurring Fragmentation Process: Integrating Long-term Trends in Connectivity and Habitat Availability in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago Carlos Alberto Arnillas	Visualizing and Estimating the Effects of Roads on Caribou John Boulanger	Combining Remote Sensing and Social Approaches to Study Vegetation Changes in the Peary Caribou Habitat Estéban Hamel Jomphe
Decades of Logging Have Eroded Functional Connectivity of Boreal Caribou Habitat, and Its Restoration May Be Compromised by Climate Change Martin-Hugues St-Laurent	Quantifying the Permeability of Roads for Barren-ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) Populations in the Northwest Territories, Canada Nicole Barbour	The Long Winter's Choice: A Combined RSF-SSF Approach using Novel Snow Information to Assess Porcupine Caribou Habitat Selection Mike Suitor

Themed Sessions & Symposia

3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Explorer Hotel - Katimavik A LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik B UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS ON MIGRATORY CARIBOU II (SYMPOSIUM)	Explorer Hotel - Katimavik C CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT III
The Relative (Un)Importance of Natural Disturbance for Woodland Caribou Robin Steenweg	Tłı̨chʼo Caribou Guardians on the Winter Road Petter Jacobsen, Stephanie Behrens	Evaluating the Success of Mitigation Measures to Limit Disturbance to Caribou: A Case Study of the Meliadine Mine, Kivalliq Region, Nunavut Greg Sharam
Caribou Habitat Selection and Forest Management in Northern Ontario Jake O'Flaherty	Identifying Caribou Movement Responses to Alaskan Roads Using the Barrier Behavior Analysis Timothy J. Fullman	Evaluating the Evidentiary Base of Mitigation for Caribou in Environmental Impact Assessment Emilie Cameron, Rosemary Collard
Mapping Caribou Forage Lichens Under Changing Climate and Fire Regimes in the Northwest Territories, Canada Andres Caseiro Guilhem	Testing the Efficacy of Industrial Mitigation Measures for Barren-Ground Caribou in the Arctic Heather Johnson	From the Land, For the Land: A Path Toward Aqviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area Jimmy Ullikatalik
Impacts of Changing Lichen and Shrub Cover on Barren-ground Caribou Across Northern Canada Hana Travers-Smith	Developing a Simulation Model for Caribou Response to Roads Kayleigh Chalkowski	Assessment of the Production or Protection Benefits of a Maternity Pen in Conserving Endangered Caribou in Northeastern British Columbia, Canada Clayton Lamb
Microclimatic Refugia: A Framework for Mapping Fine-Scale Thermal Landscapes Used by an Endangered Caribou Population Timothee Nozieres	PANEL DISCUSSION	Adapting Management of Woodland Caribou in the Face of Uncertainty Melanie Dickie, Tom Habib
An Indigenous-led Wildlife Monitoring Program Provides Opportunities to Examine Caribou Responses to Anthropogenic Disturbance and Wildfire Ryan Cheng		Listening to Caribou: Notes from the Barrenlands Caitlin Scarano

