# 20th NORTH AMERICAN CARIBOU WORKSHOP

# UNITED BY CARIBOU



YELLOWKNIFE, NT

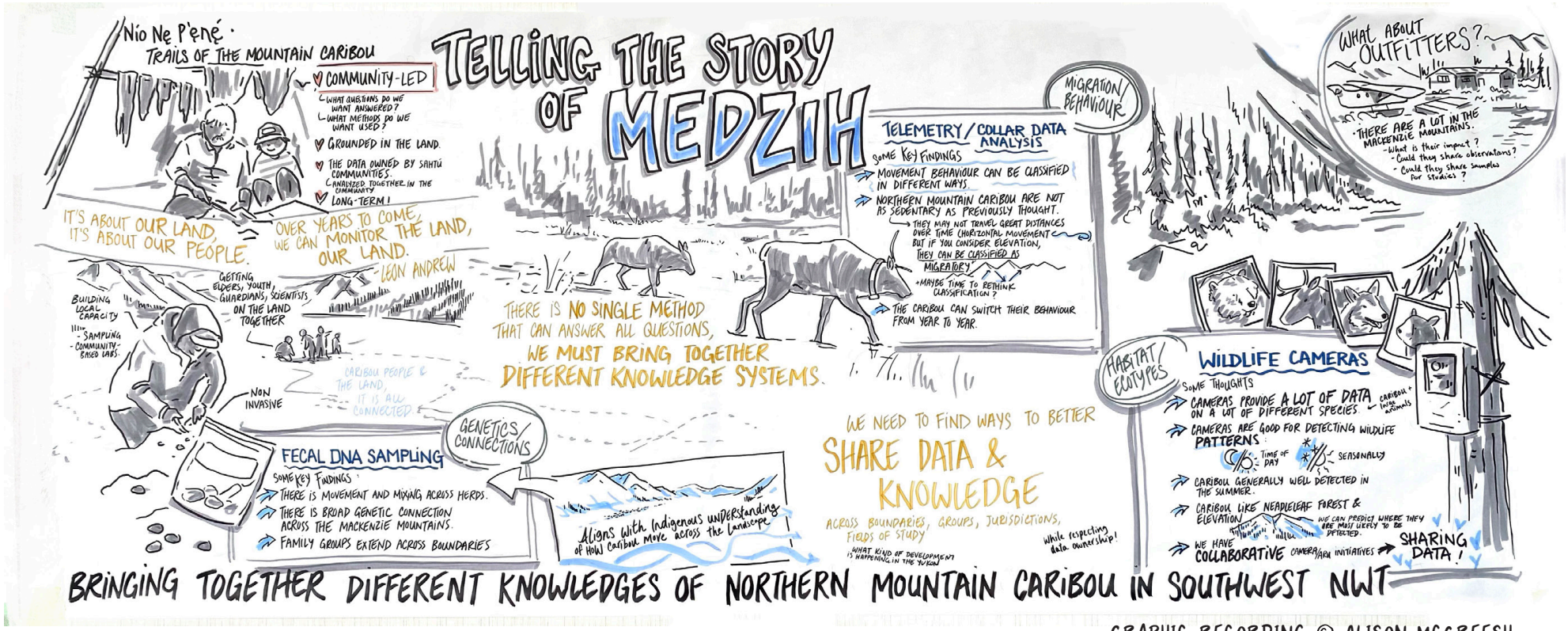
JUNE 15-19, 2026

COMPILATION OF GRAPHIC RECORDING AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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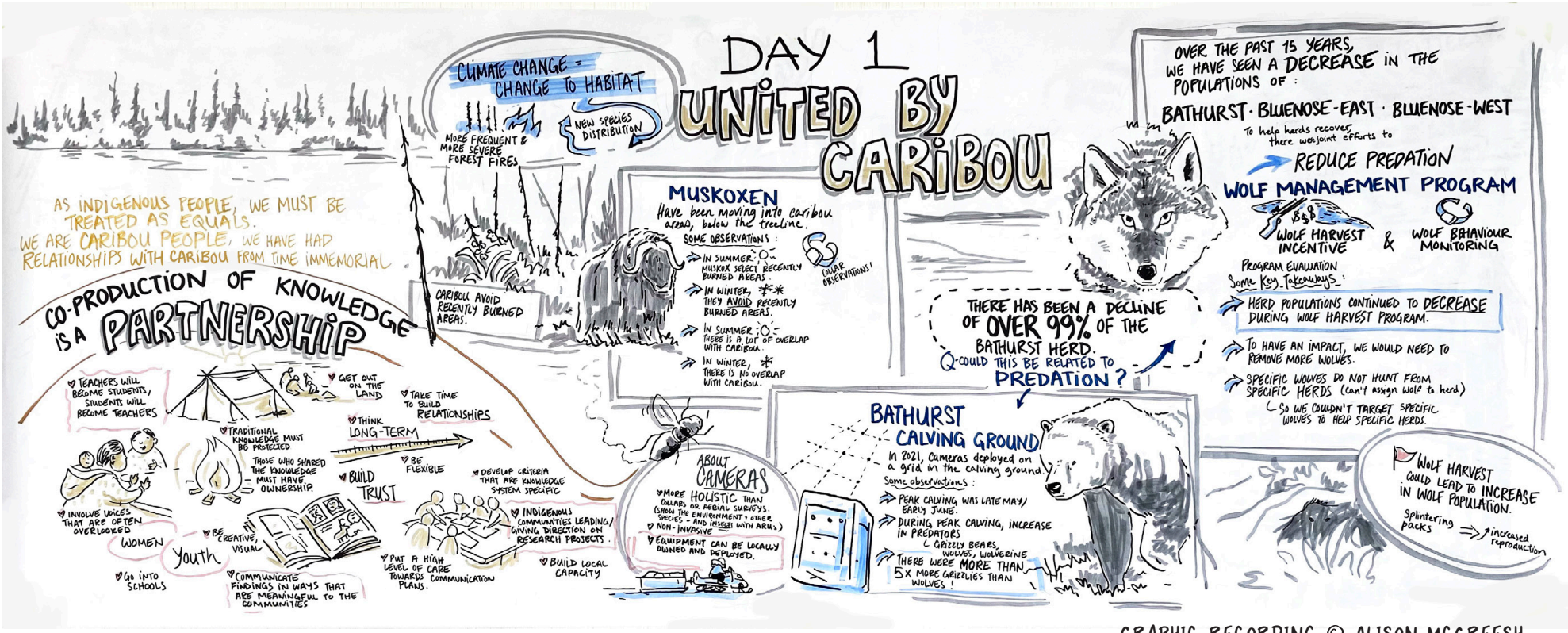

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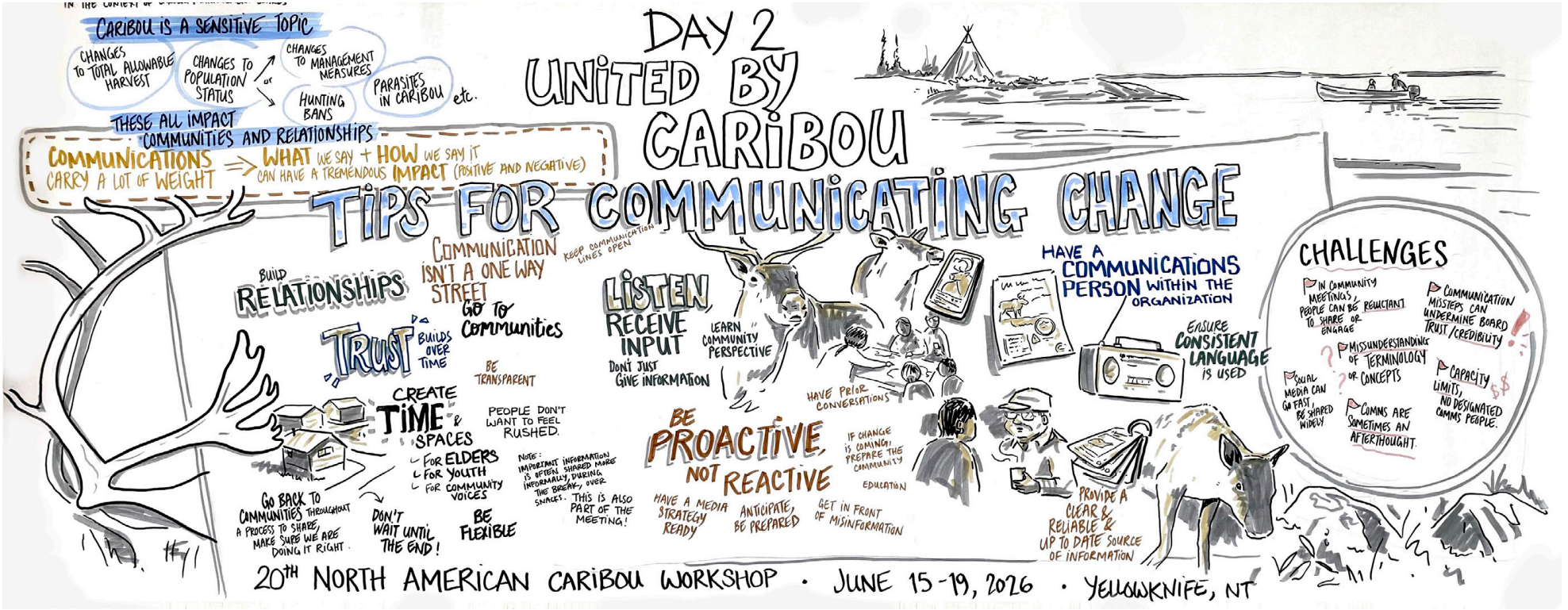

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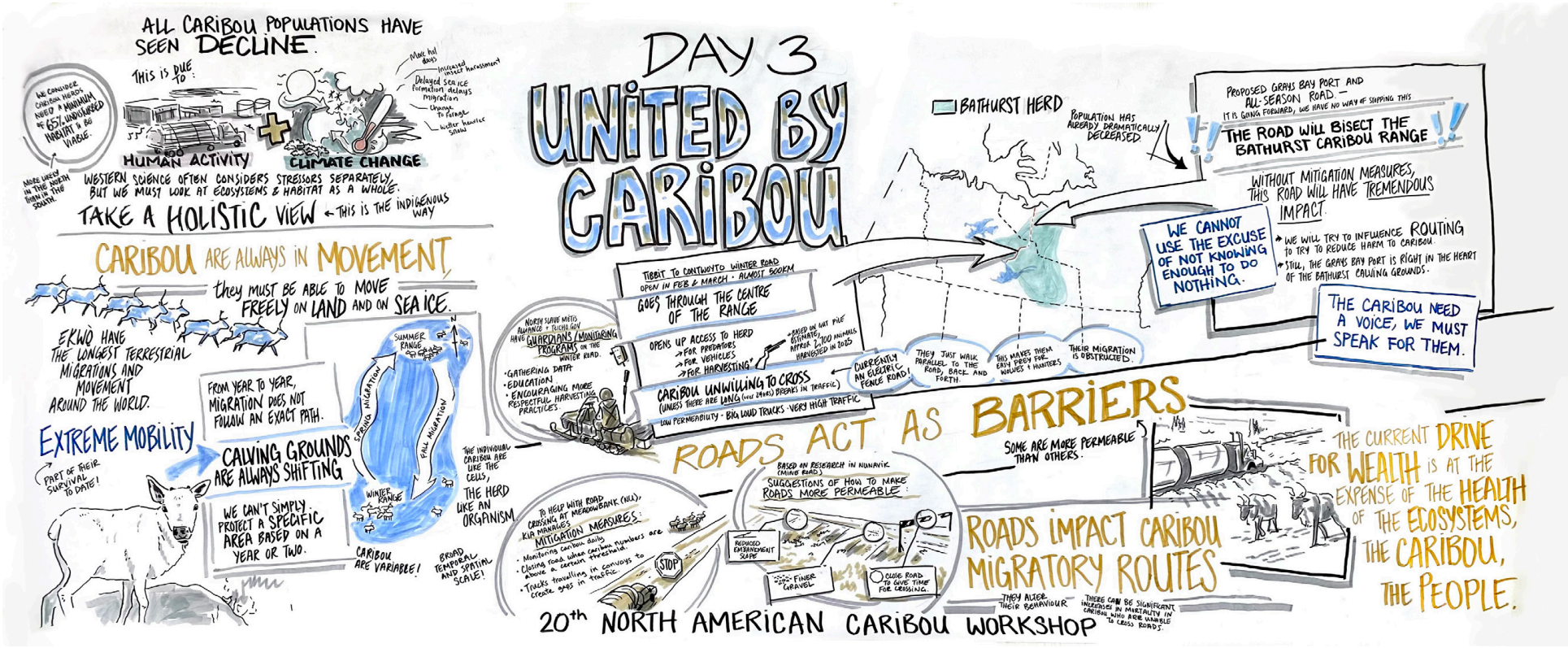

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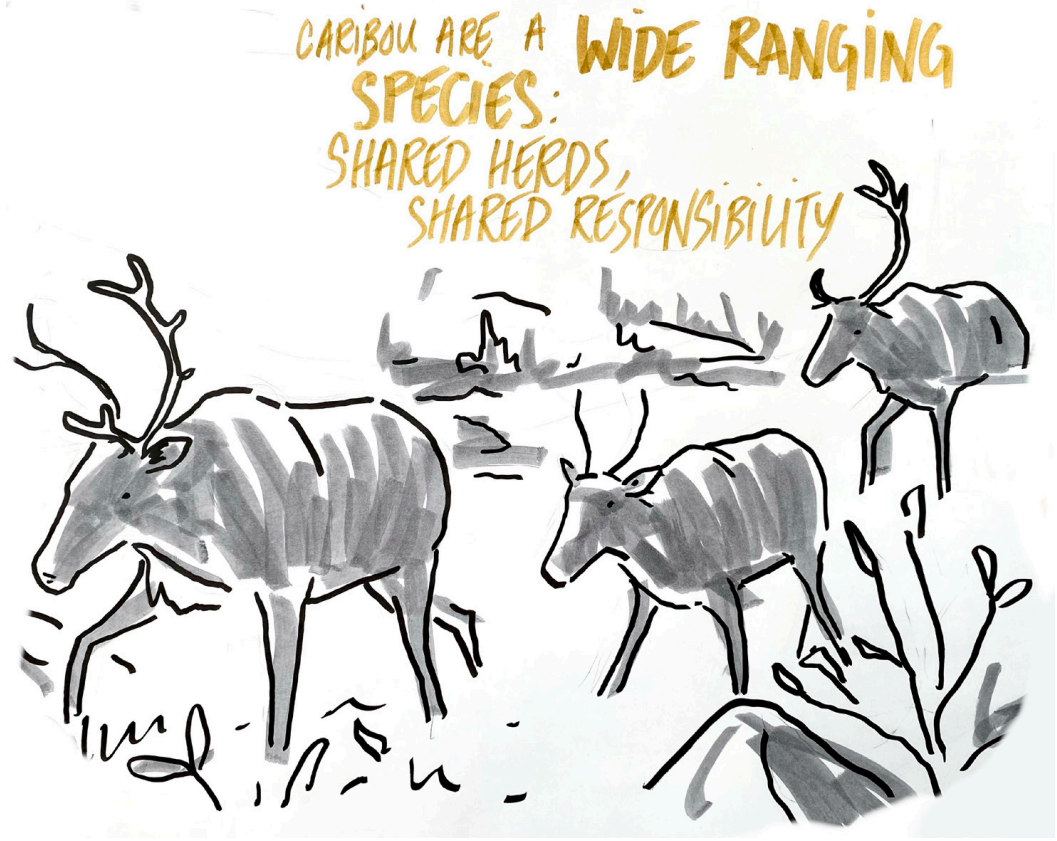



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NORTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU IN THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS HAVE OFTEN BEEN OVERLOOKED,
THEY HAVE RECEIVED LESS ATTENTION THAN OTHER HERDS.

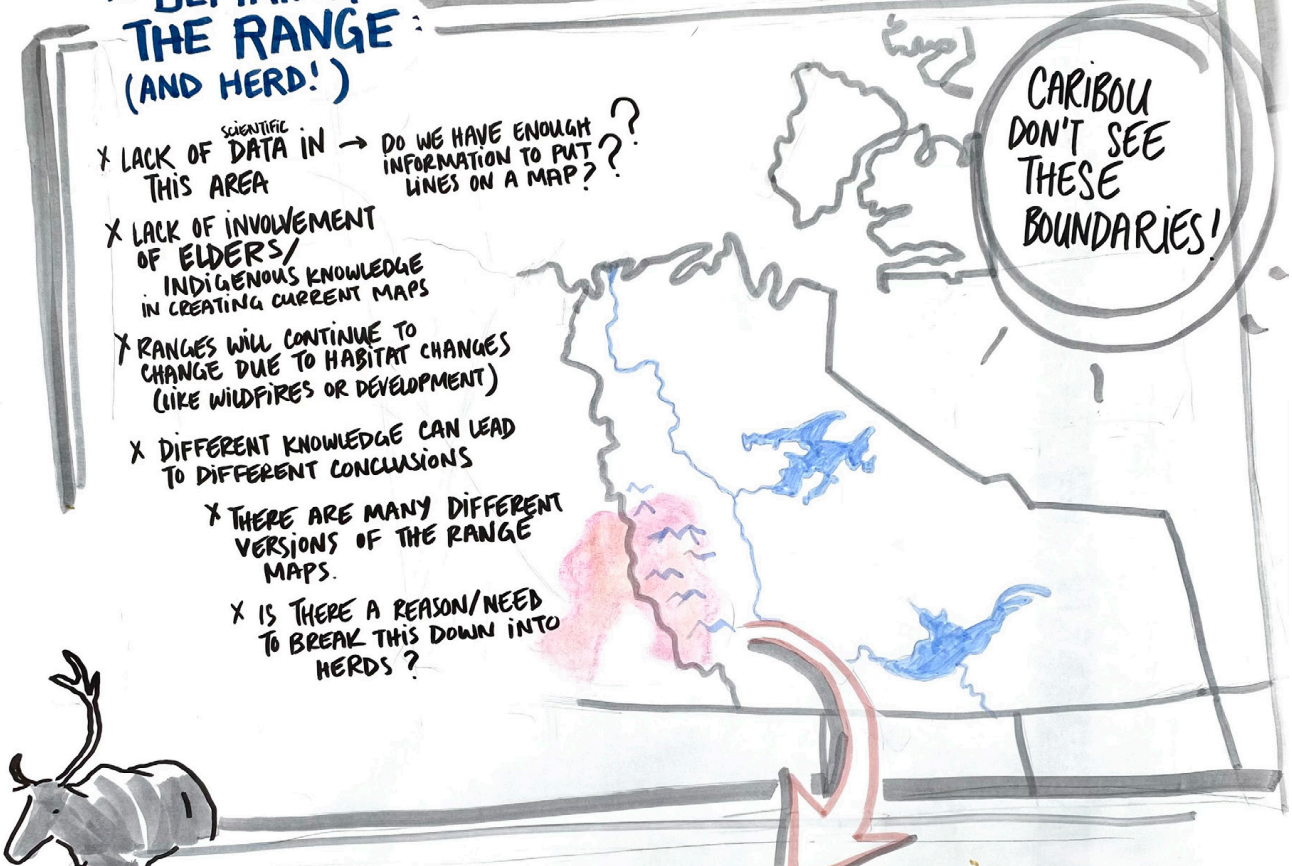

CARIBOU ARE A WIDE RANGING SPECIES:
SHARED HERDS,
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

# HERD BOUNDARIES SHAPE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS & ACTIONS

→ BUT CURRENT BOUNDARIES ARE OUTDATED.

## some CHALLENGES IN DEFINING THE RANGE (AND HERD!)

- ✗ LACK OF SCIENTIFIC DATA IN THIS AREA → DO WE HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO PUT LINES ON A MAP??
- ✗ LACK OF INVOLVEMENT OF ELDERS/ INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN CREATING CURRENT MAPS
- ✗ RANGES WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE DUE TO HABITAT CHANGES (LIKE WILDFIRES OR DEVELOPMENT)
- ✗ DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE CAN LEAD TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS
- ✗ THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE RANGE MAPS.
- ✗ IS THERE A REASON/NEED TO BREAK THIS DOWN INTO HERDS?






WE NEED **CONNECTED STEWARDSHIP & COLLABORATION** ACROSS

- ✓ JURISDICTIONS
- ✓ ORGANIZATIONS
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
- ✓ MANAGEMENT AREAS
- ✓ BOUNDARIES

WE MUST **WORK TOGETHER** FOR CARIBOU.

# Nio Nę P'ęnę́ ·
## TRAILS OF THE MOUNTAIN CARIBOU



- COMMUNITY-LED
  - WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE WANT ANSWERED?
  - WHAT METHODS DO WE WANT USED?
- GROUNDED IN THE LAND.
- THE DATA OWNED BY SAHTÚ COMMUNITIES.
  - ANALYZED TOGETHER IN THE COMMUNITY.
- LONG-TERM!

IT'S ABOUT OUR LAND, IT'S ABOUT OUR PEOPLE.

OVER YEARS TO COME, WE CAN MONITOR THE LAND, OUR LAND.
- LEON ANDREW

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY
- SAMPLING
- COMMUNITY-BASED LABS.

GETTING ELDERS, YOUTH, GUARDIANS, SCIENTISTS ON THE LAND TOGETHER

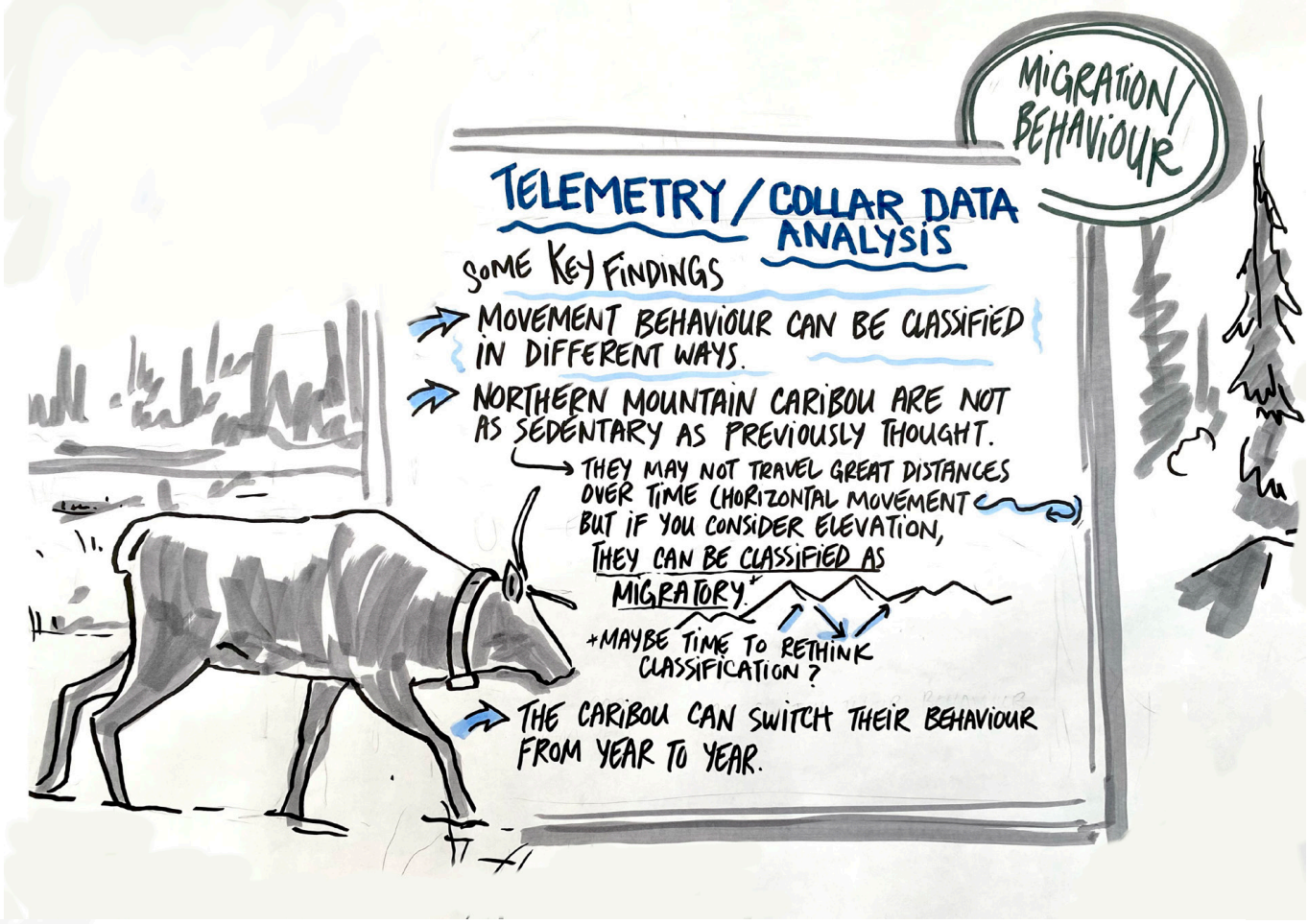
NON INVASIVE

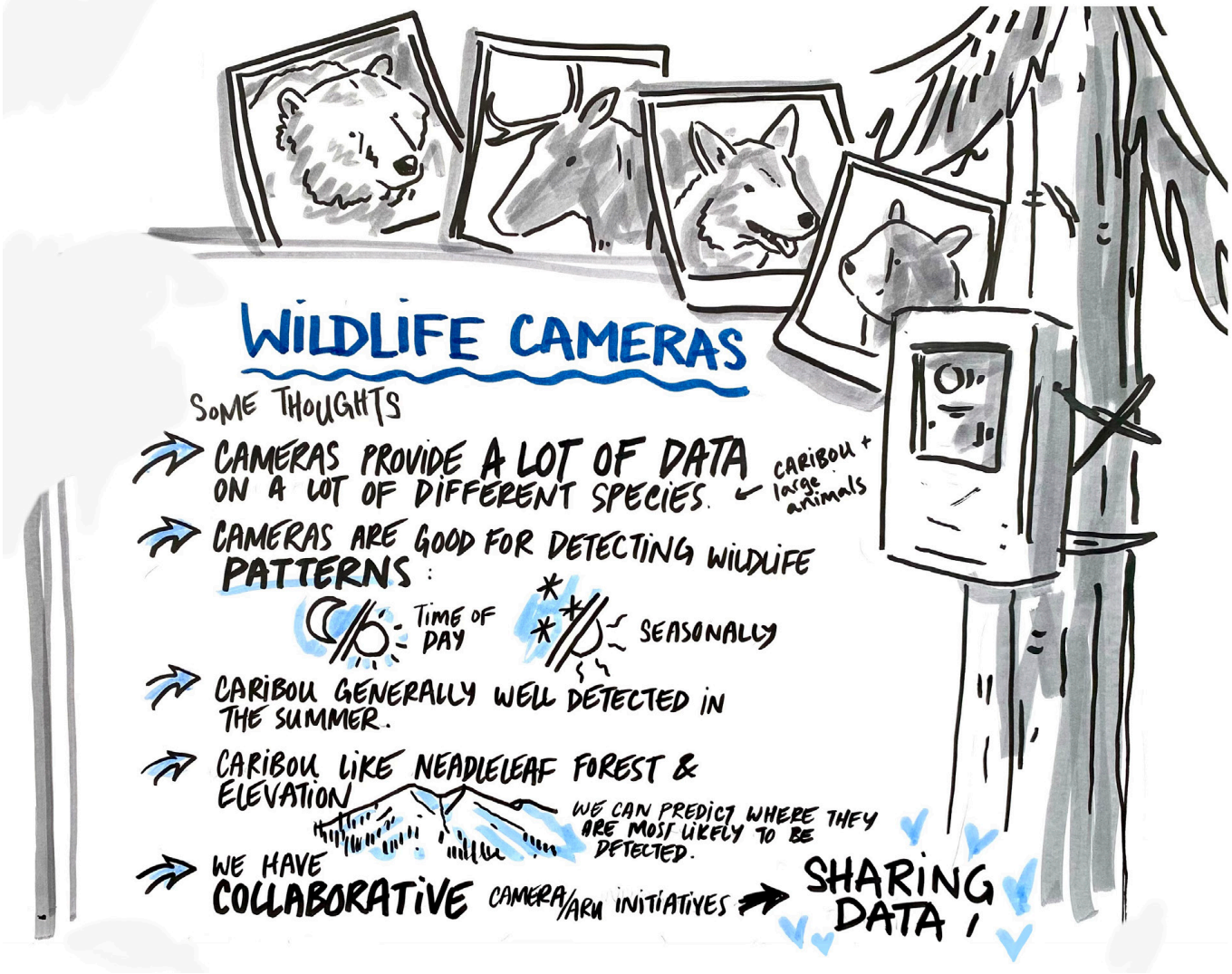
CARIBOU PEOPLE & THE LAND, IT IS ALL CONNECTED.

GENETICS/ CONNECTIONS

## FECAL DNA SAMPLING

SOME KEY FINDINGS:
- THERE IS MOVEMENT AND MIXING ACROSS HERDS.
- THERE IS BROAD GENETIC CONNECTION ACROSS THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS.
- FAMILY GROUPS EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES


MIGRATION/ BEHAVIOUR
TELEMETRY / COLLAR DATA ANALYSIS
SOME KEY FINDINGS
MOVEMENT BEHAVIOUR CAN BE CLASSIFIED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
NORTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU ARE NOT AS SEDENTARY AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.
THEY MAY NOT TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES OVER TIME (HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT) BUT IF YOU CONSIDER ELEVATION, THEY CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS MIGRATORY*
*MAYBE TIME TO RETHINK CLASSIFICATION?
THE CARIBOU CAN SWITCH THEIR BEHAVIOUR FROM YEAR TO YEAR.


WILDLIFE CAMERAS
SOME THOUGHTS
CAMERAS PROVIDE A LOT OF DATA ON A LOT OF DIFFERENT SPECIES.
CARIBOU + large animals
CAMERAS ARE GOOD FOR DETECTING WILDLIFE PATTERNS:
TIME OF DAY
SEASONALLY
CARIBOU GENERALLY WELL DETECTED IN THE SUMMER.
CARIBOU LIKE NEADLELEAF FOREST & ELEVATION
WE CAN PREDICT WHERE THEY ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE DETECTED.
WE HAVE COLLABORATIVE CAMERA/ARU INITIATIVES
SHARING DATA!



THERE IS NO SINGLE METHOD THAT CAN ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS, WE MUST BRING TOGETHER DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS.

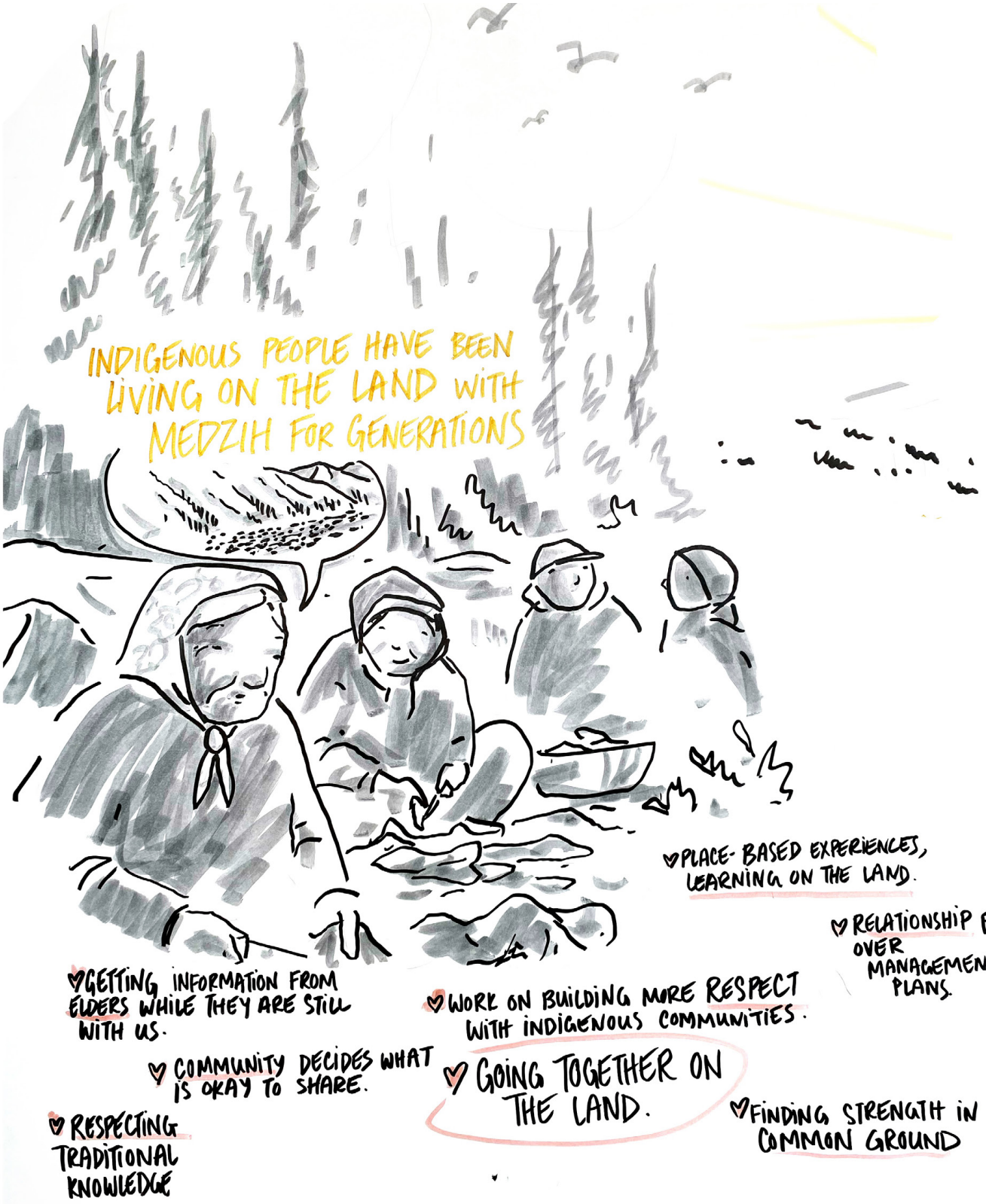
AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, WE MUST BE TREATED AS EQUALS.
WE ARE CARIBOU PEOPLE, WE HAVE HAD RELATIONSHIPS WITH CARIBOU FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

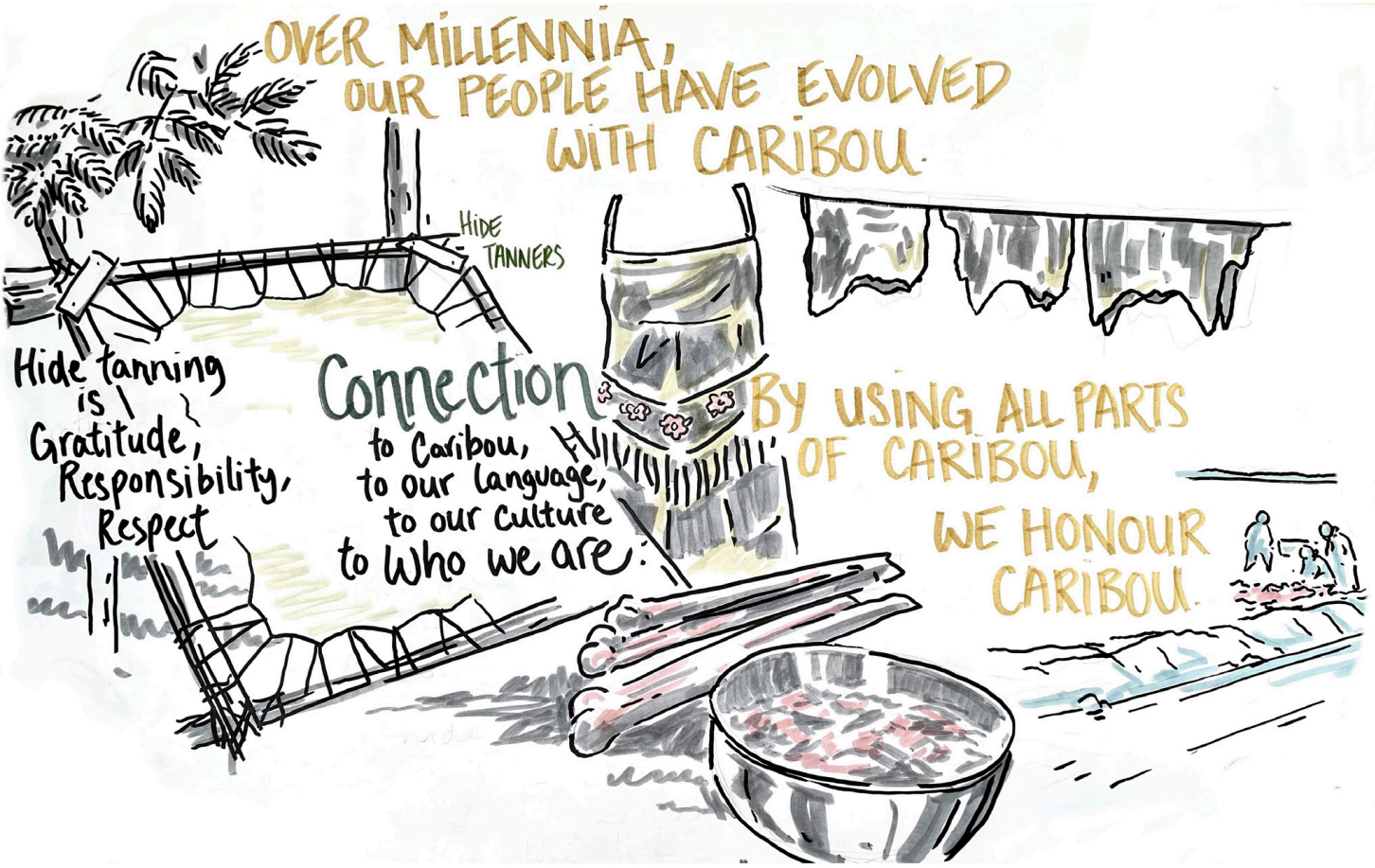
# CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE IS A PARTNERSHIP

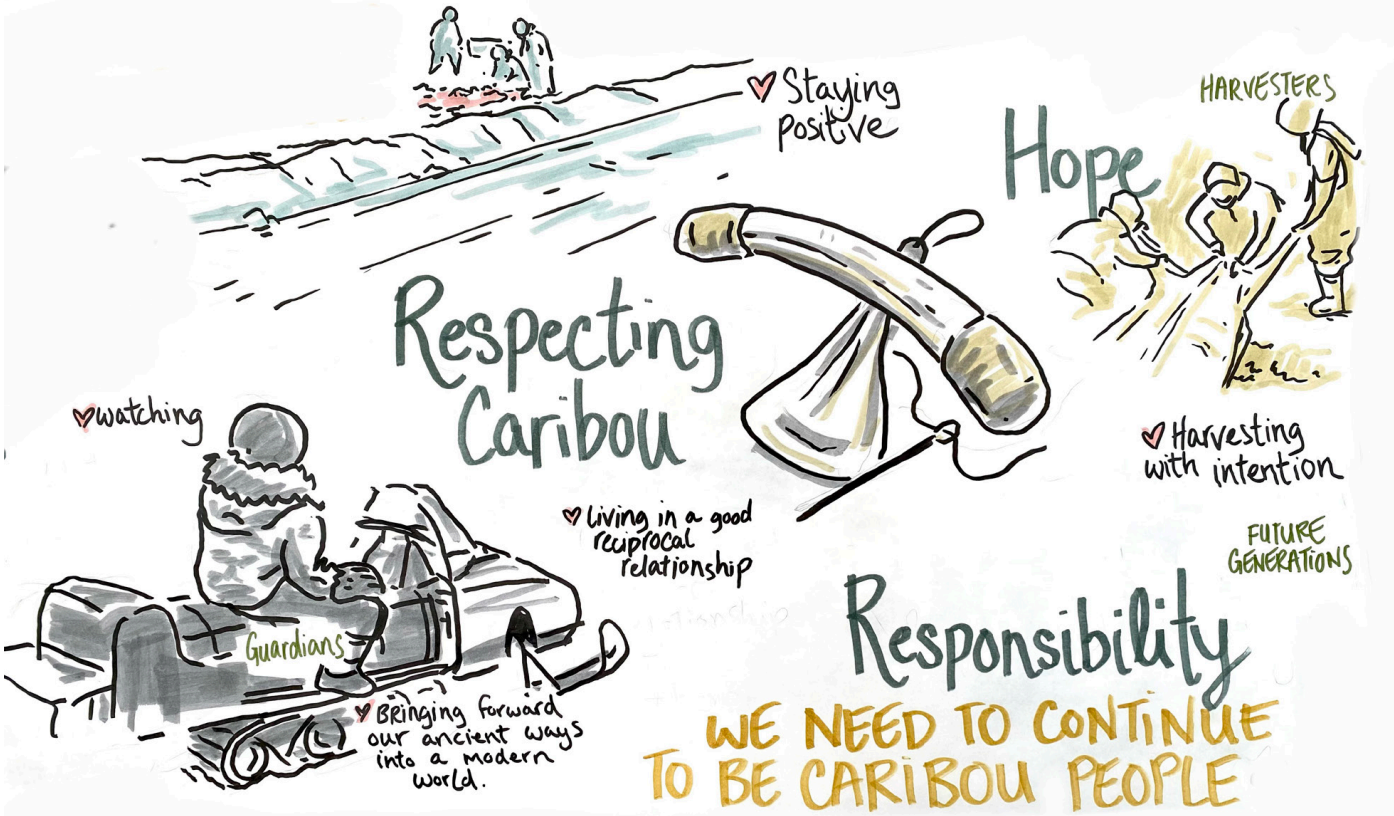




- TEACHERS WILL BECOME STUDENTS, STUDENTS WILL BECOME TEACHERS
- GET OUT ON THE LAND
- TAKE TIME TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
- THINK LONG-TERM
- BE FLEXIBLE
- TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MUST BE PROTECTED.
- THOSE WHO SHARED THE KNOWLEDGE MUST HAVE OWNERSHIP.
- BUILD TRUST
- DEVELOP CRITERIA THAT ARE KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM SPECIFIC
- INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES LEADING/ GIVING DIRECTION ON RESEARCH PROJECTS.
- BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY
- PUT A HIGH LEVEL OF CARE TOWARDS COMMUNICATION PLANS.
- INVOLVE VOICES THAT ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED
- WOMEN
- Youth
- GO INTO SCHOOLS
- BE CREATIVE, VISUAL
- COMMUNICATE FINDINGS IN WAYS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL TO THE COMMUNITIES


INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LIVING ON THE LAND WITH MEDZIH FOR GENERATIONS
♡PLACE-BASED EXPERIENCES, LEARNING ON THE LAND.
♡RELATIONSHIP PLANS OVER MANAGEMENT PLANS.
♡GETTING INFORMATION FROM ELDERS WHILE THEY ARE STILL WITH US.
♡WORK ON BUILDING MORE RESPECT WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.
♡COMMUNITY DECIDES WHAT IS OKAY TO SHARE.
♡GOING TOGETHER ON THE LAND.
♡FINDING STRENGTH IN COMMON GROUND
♡RESPECTING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE


OVER MILLENNIA, OUR PEOPLE HAVE EVOLVED WITH CARIBOU.
HIDE TANNERS
Hide tanning is Gratitude, Responsibility, Respect
Connection
to Caribou, to our language, to our culture to Who we are.
BY USING ALL PARTS OF CARIBOU, WE HONOUR CARIBOU.


♥Staying positive
HARVESTERS
Hope
Respecting Caribou
♥watching
♥Harvesting with intention
♥Living in a good reciprocal relationship
FUTURE GENERATIONS
Guardians
♥Bringing forward our ancient ways into a modern world.
Responsibility
WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO BE CARIBOU PEOPLE

# CARIBOU ARE PART OF WHO WE ARE.




including **Youth** in everything we do



## WE WANT THERE TO BE CARIBOU FOR THE GENERATIONS OF TOMORROW.

uplifting the voices of WOMEN & YOUTH

A strong herd means STRONG PEOPLE

# Relationships with Family, Language, Culture, teachings

- Learning
- Knowledge that has been passed down for generations




- Listening

Our relationship with Caribou is everything that we are as people.

OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN A **DECREASE** IN THE POPULATIONS OF:

**BATHURST · BLUENOSE-EAST · BLUENOSE-WEST**



To help herds recover, there were joint efforts to

## REDUCE PREDATION

## WOLF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM




WOLF HARVEST INCENTIVE

&



WOLF BEHAVIOUR MONITORING

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Some Key Takeaways:

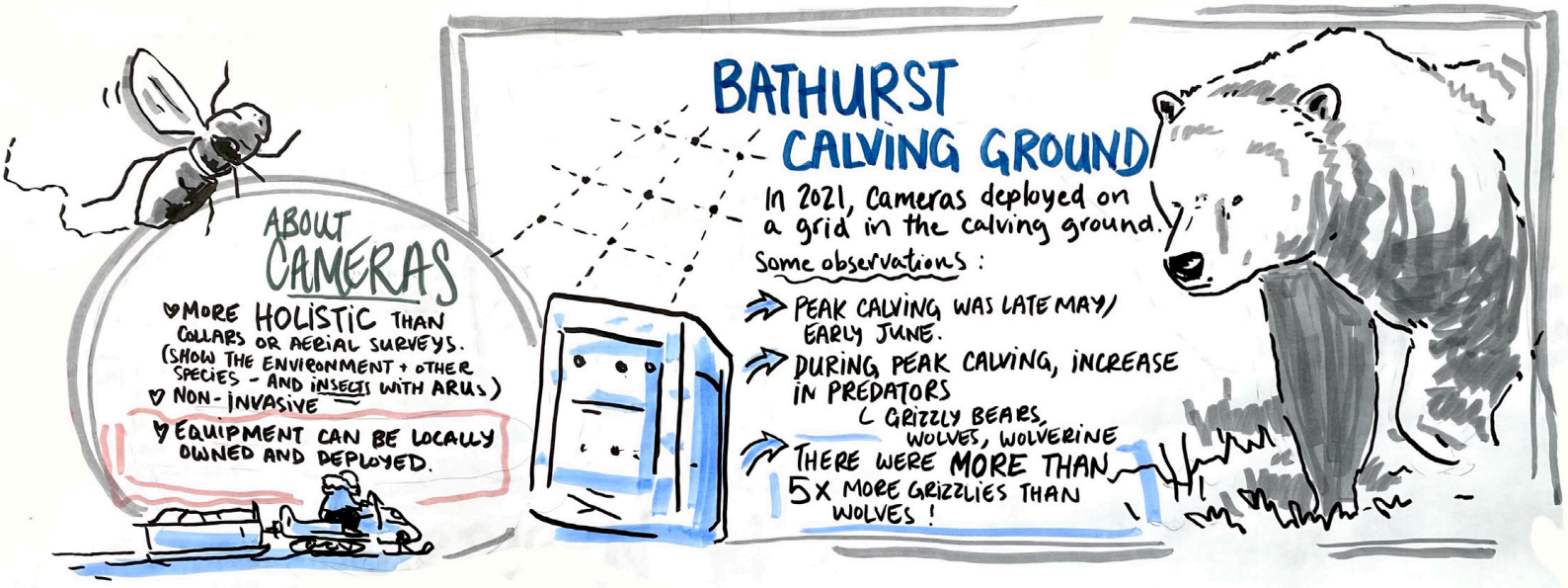
- HERD POPULATIONS CONTINUED TO **DECREASE** DURING WOLF HARVEST PROGRAM.
- TO HAVE AN IMPACT, WE WOULD NEED TO REMOVE MORE WOLVES.
- SPECIFIC WOLVES DO NOT HUNT FROM SPECIFIC HERDS (can't assign wolf to herd)
  - SO WE COULDN'T TARGET SPECIFIC WOLVES TO HELP SPECIFIC HERDS.

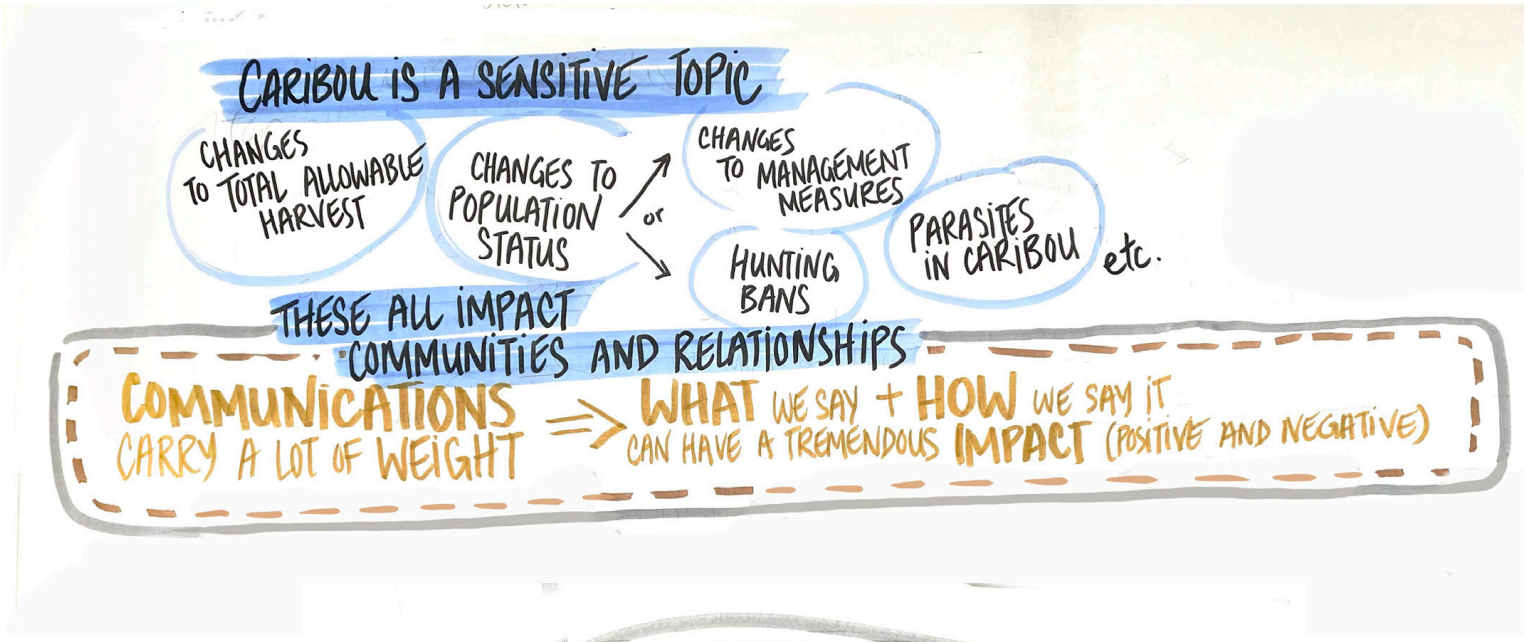


WOLF HARVEST COULD LEAD TO INCREASE IN WOLF POPULATION.

Splintering packs ⇒ increased reproduction

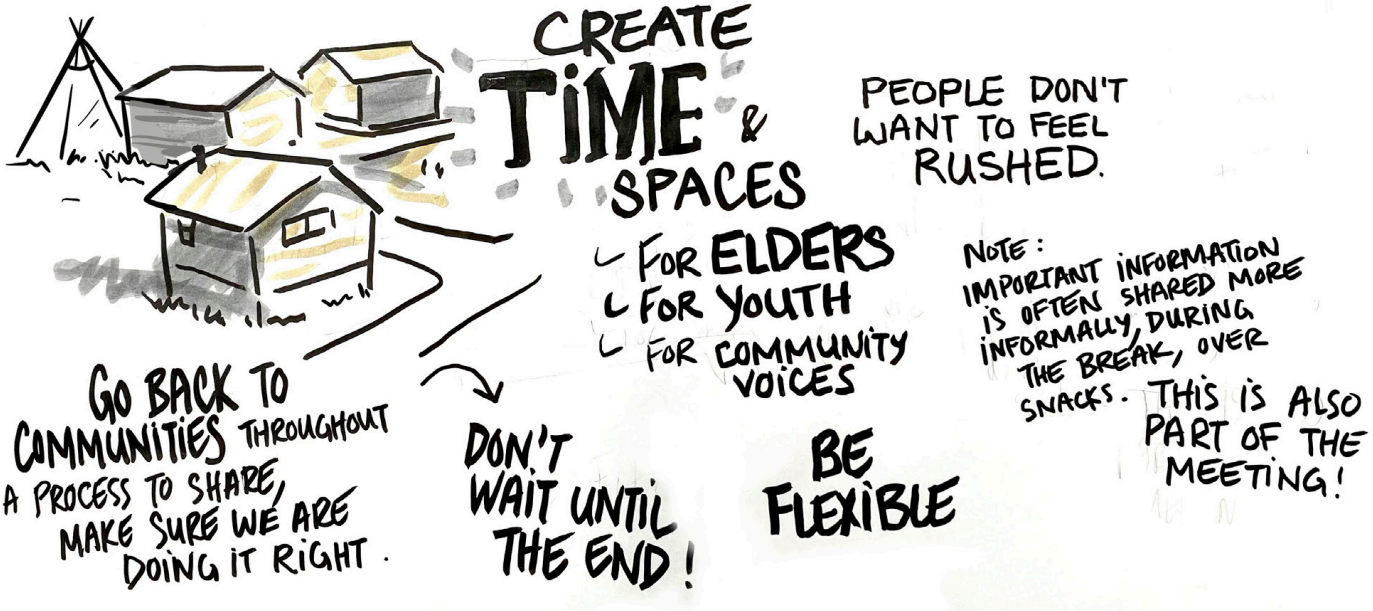

MUSKOXEN
Have been moving into caribou areas, below the treeline.
SOME OBSERVATIONS:
IN SUMMER: MUSKOX SELECT RECENTLY BURNED AREAS.
IN WINTER, THEY AVOID RECENTLY BURNED AREAS.
IN SUMMER: THERE IS A LOT OF OVERLAP WITH CARIBOU.
IN WINTER, THERE IS NO OVERLAP WITH CARIBOU.
COLLAR OBSERVATIONS!


ABOUT CAMERAS
♥ MORE HOLISTIC THAN COLLARS OR AERIAL SURVEYS. (SHOW THE ENVIRONMENT + OTHER SPECIES - AND INSECTS WITH ARUs)
♥ NON-INVASIVE
♥ EQUIPMENT CAN BE LOCALLY OWNED AND DEPLOYED.
BATHURST CALVING GROUND
In 2021, Cameras deployed on a grid in the calving ground.
Some observations:
PEAK CALVING WAS LATE MAY/ EARLY JUNE.
DURING PEAK CALVING, INCREASE IN PREDATORS
GRIZZLY BEARS, WOLVES, WOLVERINE
THERE WERE MORE THAN 5X MORE GRIZZLIES THAN WOLVES!


CARIBOU IS A SENSITIVE TOPIC
CHANGES TO TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST
CHANGES TO POPULATION STATUS
or
CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT MEASURES
HUNTING BANS
PARASITES IN CARIBOU
etc.
THESE ALL IMPACT COMMUNITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS
COMMUNICATIONS CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT
WHAT WE SAY + HOW WE SAY IT CAN HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT (POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE)

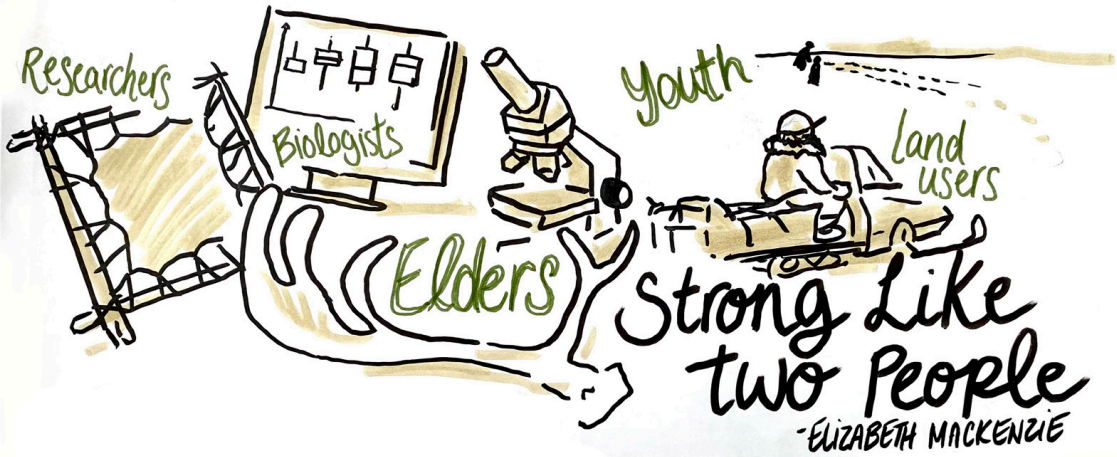

CHALLENGES
IN COMMUNITY MEETINGS, PEOPLE CAN BE REMCTANT TO SHARE OR ENGAGE
COMMUNICATION MISSTEPS CAN UNDERMINE BOARD TRUST/CREDIBILITY
MISSUNDERSTANDING OF TERMINOLOGY OR CONCEPTS
SOCIAL MEDIA CAN GO FAST, BE SHARED WIDELY.
CAPACITY LIMITS, NO DESIGNATED COMMS PEOPLE.
COMMS ARE SOMETIMES AN AFTERTHOUGHT.


LISTEN
RECEIVE INPUT
DON'T JUST GIVE INFORMATION
LEARN COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE
HAVE PRIOR CONVERSATIONS
HAVE A COMMUNICATIONS PERSON WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION
ENSURE CONSISTENT LANGUAGE IS USED
BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE
IF CHANGE IS COMING, PREPARE THE COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
HAVE A MEDIA STRATEGY READY
ANTICIPATE, BE PREPARED
GET IN FRONT OF MISINFORMATION
PROVIDE A CLEAR & RELIABLE & UP TO DATE SOURCE OF INFORMATION


CREATE TIME & SPACES
FOR ELDERS
FOR YOUTH
FOR COMMUNITY VOICES
PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO FEEL RUSHED.
NOTE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS OFTEN SHARED MORE INFORMALLY, DURING THE BREAK, OVER SNACKS. THIS IS ALSO PART OF THE MEETING!
GO BACK TO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT A PROCESS TO SHARE, MAKE SURE WE ARE DOING IT RIGHT.
DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE END!
BE FLEXIBLE


Nikhwanankak
Our Land
We do not see the land as property,
WE ARE STEWARDS OF THE LAND

BRINGING TOGETHER TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND WESTERN SCIENCE IN A RESPECTFUL AND EQUAL WAY.




COMING TOGETHER TO HELP CARIBOU.




IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY to ENSURE THERE ARE CARIBOU IN THE FUTURE, FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN TO EXPERIENCE LIKE OUR ANCESTORS



## Connection

when we are among
the Trees,
the Rivers,
the Mountains,
the Wildlife

## Healthy Habitat, Healthy Caribou, Healthy People

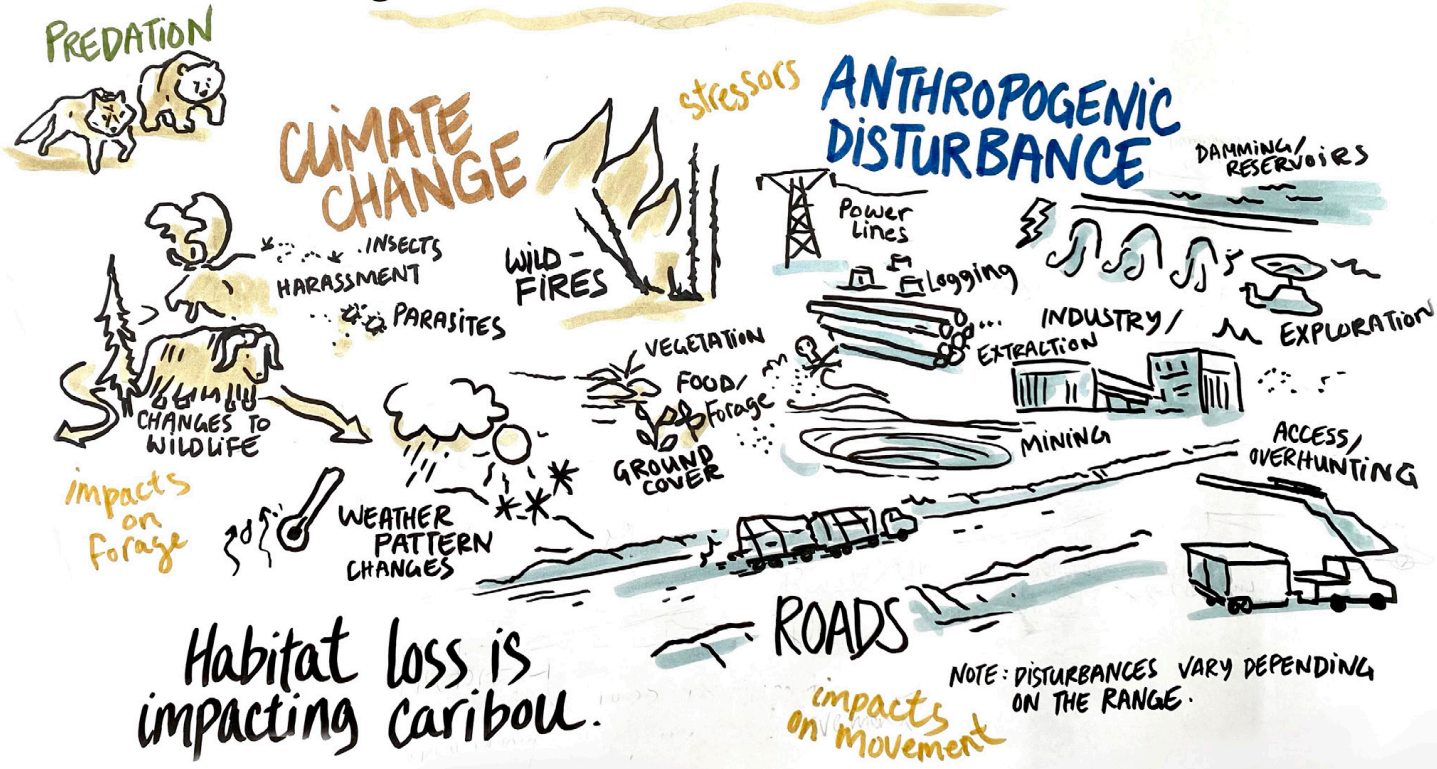
Habitat loss is impacting caribou.

CARIBOU NEED A LOT OF SPACE,

THEY NEED TO BE ABLE
**TO GRAZE,**
**TO MIGRATE,**
TO BE UNDISTURBED IN THEIR
**CALVING GROUNDS.**

# Look at the Big Picture

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

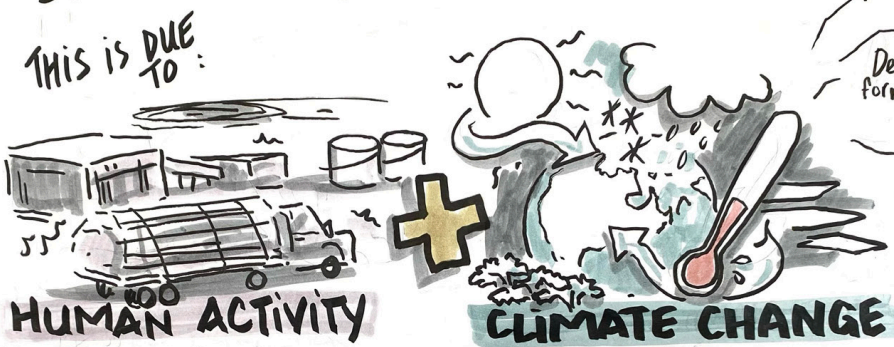



Habitat loss is impacting caribou.

NOTE: DISTURBANCES VARY DEPENDING ON THE RANGE.

## ALL CARIBOU POPULATIONS HAVE SEEN DECLINE.

THIS IS DUE TO:




WE CONSIDER CARIBOU HERDS NEED A MINIMUM OF 65% UNDISTURBED HABITAT TO BE VIABLE.

MORE LIKELY IN THE NORTH THAN IN THE SOUTH.

WESTERN SCIENCE OFTEN CONSIDERS STRESSORS SEPARATELY, BUT WE MUST LOOK AT ECOSYSTEMS & HABITAT AS A WHOLE.

TAKE A HOLISTIC VIEW ← THIS IS THE INDIGENOUS WAY

THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE OF **OVER 99%** OF THE BATHURST HERD.

# CARIBOU ARE ALWAYS IN MOVEMENT



they must be able to move FREELY on LAND and on SEA ICE.

EKWÒ HAVE THE LONGEST TERRESTRIAL MIGRATIONS AND MOVEMENT AROUND THE WORLD.

## EXTREME MOBILITY

PART OF THEIR SURVIVAL TO DATE!

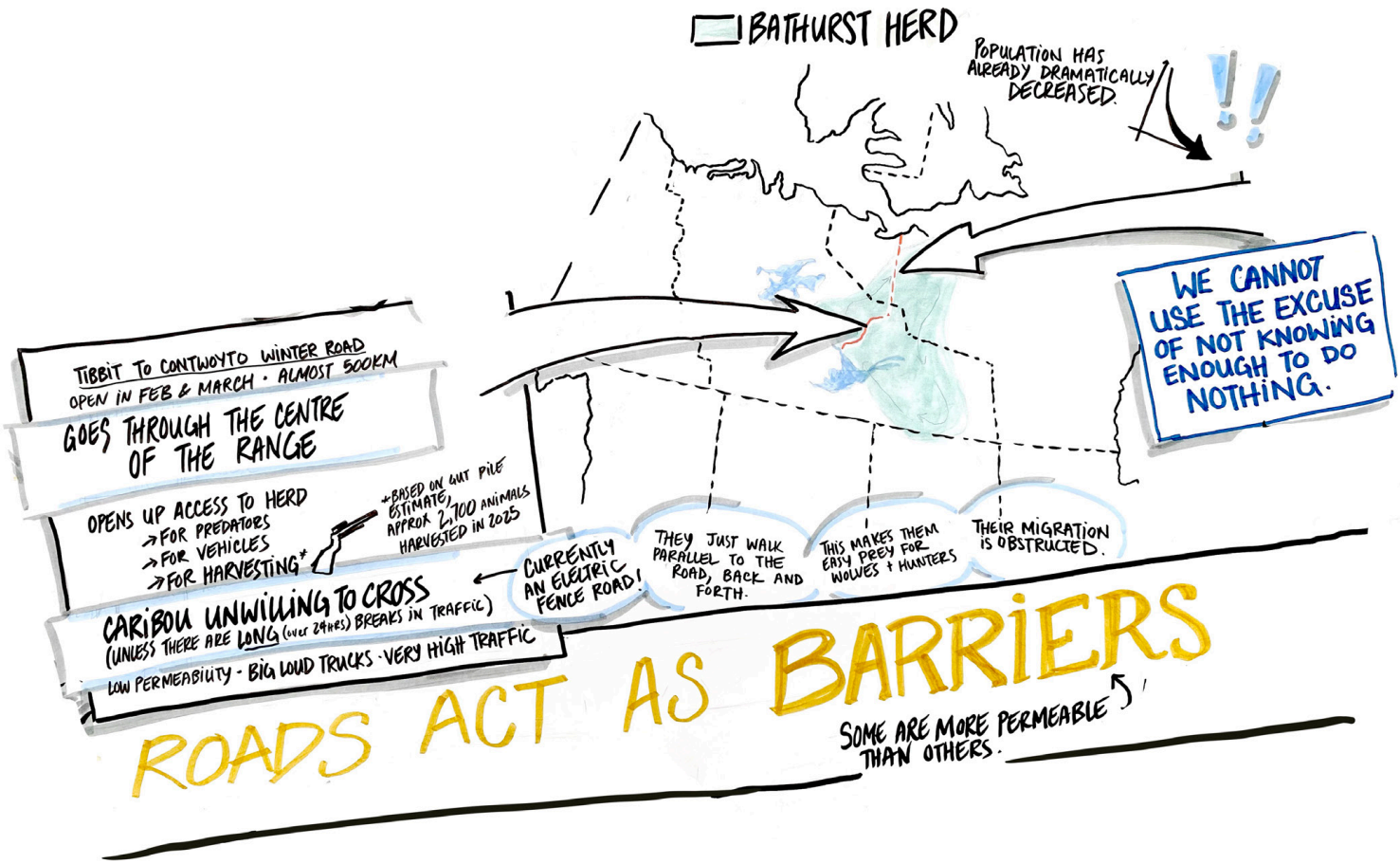
FROM YEAR TO YEAR, MIGRATION DOES NOT FOLLOW AN EXACT PATH.

CALVING GROUNDS ARE ALWAYS SHIFTING

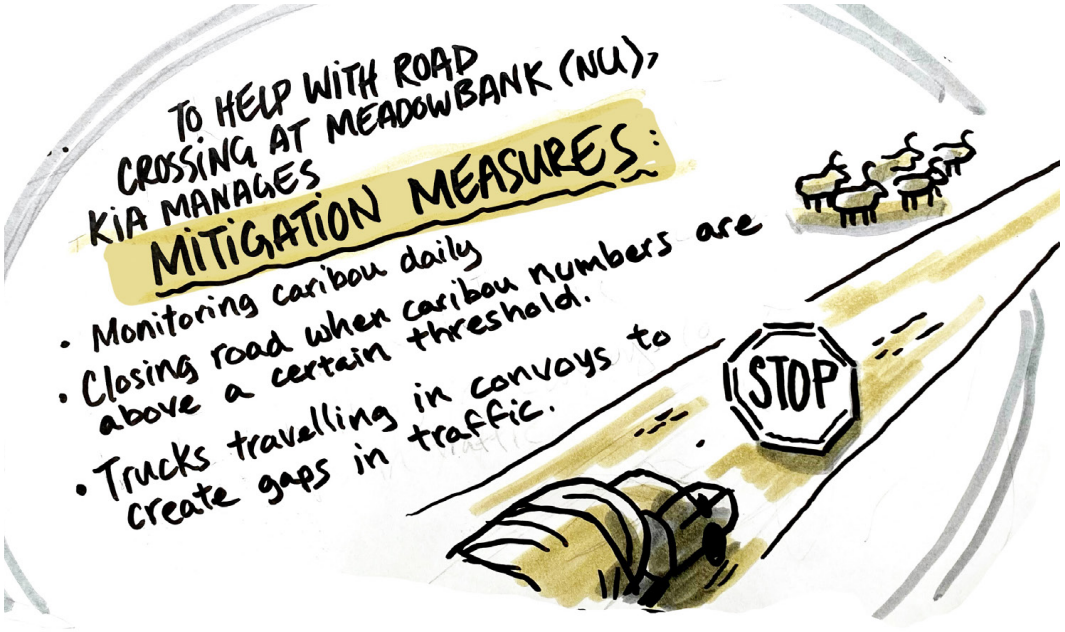
WE CAN'T SIMPLY PROTECT A SPECIFIC AREA BASED ON A YEAR OR TWO.

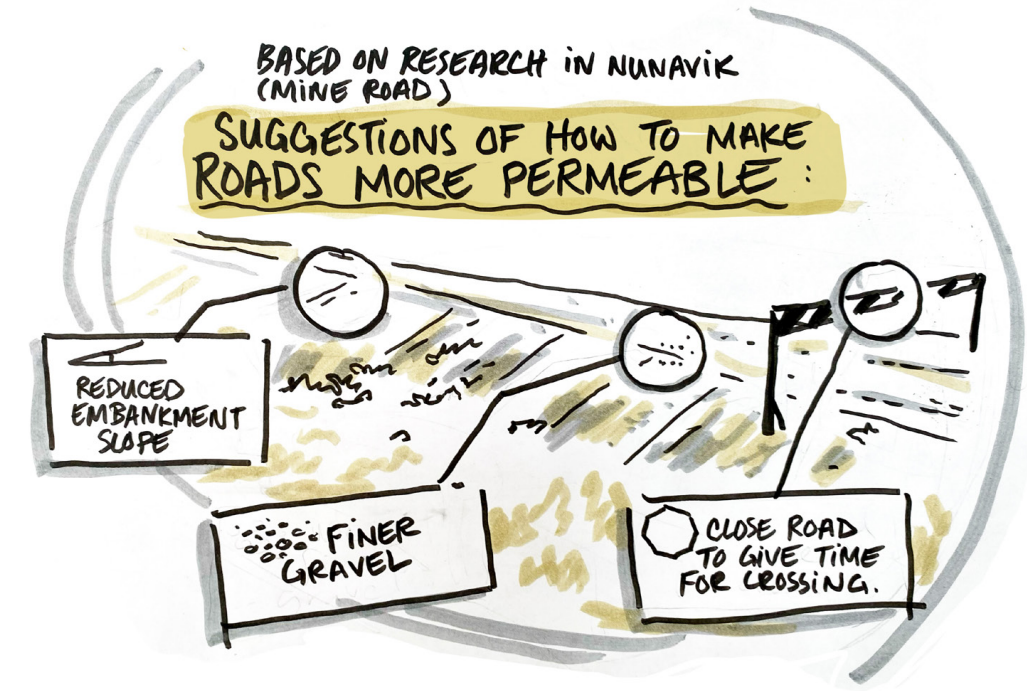


CARIBOU ARE VARIABLE!


BATHURST HERD
POPULATION HAS ALREADY DRAMATICALLY DECREASED.
!!
WE CANNOT USE THE EXCUSE OF NOT KNOWING ENOUGH TO DO NOTHING.
TIBBIT TO CONTWOYTO WINTER ROAD
OPEN IN FEB & MARCH · ALMOST 500KM
GOES THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE RANGE
OPENS UP ACCESS TO HERD
→FOR PREDATORS
→FOR VEHICLES
→FOR HARVESTING*
*BASED ON GUT PILE ESTIMATE, APPROX 2,700 ANIMALS HARVESTED IN 2025
CARIBOU UNWILLING TO CROSS
(UNLESS THERE ARE LONG (over 24HRS) BREAKS IN TRAFFIC)
LOW PERMEABILITY - BIG LOUD TRUCKS · VERY HIGH TRAFFIC
CURRENTLY AN ELECTRIC FENCE ROAD!
THEY JUST WALK PARALLEL TO THE ROAD, BACK AND FORTH.
THIS MAKES THEM EASY PREY FOR WOLVES + HUNTERS
THEIR MIGRATION IS OBSTRUCTED.
ROADS ACT AS BARRIERS
SOME ARE MORE PERMEABLE THAN OTHERS.


NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE + TŁĮCHO GOV HAVE GUARDIANS / MONITORING PROGRAMS ON THE WINTER ROAD.
•GATHERING DATA
•EDUCATION
•ENCOURAGING MORE RESPECTFUL HARVESTING PRACTICES.


TO HELP WITH ROAD CROSSING AT MEADOWBANK (NCL), KIA MANAGES
MITIGATION MEASURES:
• Monitoring caribou daily
• Closing road when caribou numbers are above a certain threshold.
• Trucks travelling in convoys to create gaps in traffic.
STOP


BASED ON RESEARCH IN NUNAVIK (MINE ROAD)
SUGGESTIONS OF HOW TO MAKE ROADS MORE PERMEABLE:
REDUCED EMBANKMENT SLOPE
FINER GRAVEL
CLOSE ROAD TO GIVE TIME FOR CROSSING.

PROPOSED GRAYS BAY PORT AND ALL-SEASON ROAD. —
IT IS GOING FORWARD, WE HAVE NO WAY OF STOPPING THIS.

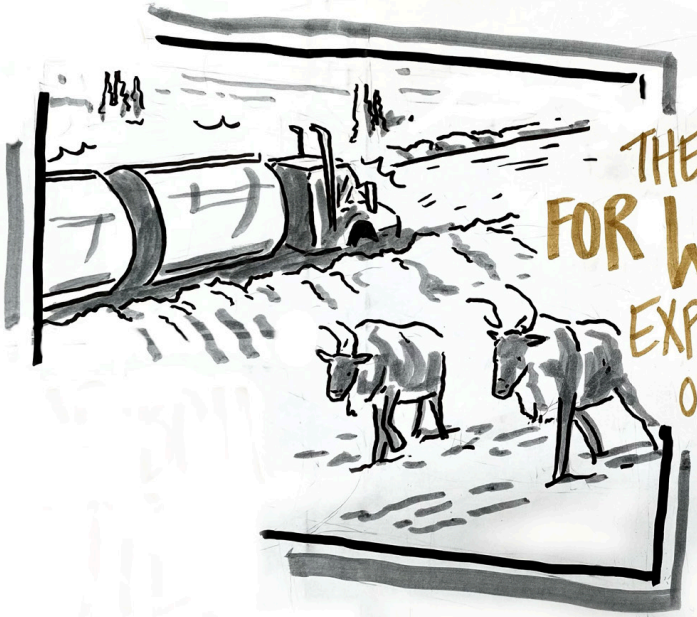
# THE ROAD WILL BISECT THE BATHURST CARIBOU RANGE

WITHOUT MITIGATION MEASURES, THIS ROAD WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS IMPACT.

WE CANNOT USE THE EXCUSE OF NOT KNOWING ENOUGH TO DO NOTHING.

- WE WILL TRY TO INFLUENCE ROUTING TO TRY TO REDUCE HARM TO CARIBOU.
- STILL, THE GRAYS BAY PORT IS RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE BATHURST CALVING GROUNDS.

THE CARIBOU NEED A VOICE, WE MUST SPEAK FOR THEM.



THE CURRENT DRIVE FOR WEALTH IS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HEALTH OF THE ECOSYSTEMS, THE CARIBOU, THE PEOPLE.