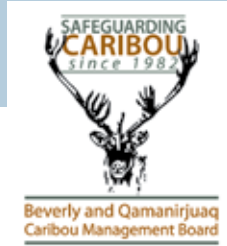


# CARIBOU NEWS

## in Brief

Keeping people in touch with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB), and with issues affecting caribou.



Volume 23 No. 1 • Spring 2020

**BQCMB MEETING #89**

*T.B.A.*

## COVID-19 sends people

## Back to the Land

Over the past several months, lives across the globe have changed dramatically. In urban areas, the closure of stores, restaurants, and other services and calls to self-isolate to stop the spread of COVID-19 have been an eye-opening experience. In rural areas, lack of reliable Internet has made home-schooling difficult, if not impossible.

In the north, many people took the advice of Elders and have moved closer to the way things used to be – back to the land.

Earl Evans, Chair of the BQCMB, and his family from Northwest Territory Métis Nation (Fort Smith, NWT) spent almost a month self-isolating at their cabin this spring. “We hunted moose and did some work cutting out trapping trails and working on our cabin,” Evans says. “It was very peaceful.”

Evans says more people from the community were also out on the land on day trips or longer stays to self-isolate. He noticed “more people out with families and spending time together as opposed to working from an office.”

*“A lot of good change is happening. It makes me realize how strong we are together.”*

*Ian Robillard, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation*

Glen Guthrie, Łutsël K’è Dene First Nation’s Director of Wildlife, Lands and Environment, noted that more people are going out on the land than usual, with many setting up camps along the treeline. “The people are mainly hunting ducks, geese, muskrats, and swans,” said Guthrie, adding “there are more youth out on the land with their families because of school closure.”

In Manitoba, Chief Shirley Ducharme of the Ojibwa-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation on South Indian Lake called on members to hunt and fish, and to share their bounty. She said during goose and duck season the community was excited to boil the birds in an open fire pot to get tender meat and soup. “We crave those when it’s not the season to hunt.”

The First Nation formed a pandemic committee and one of its projects is to arrange for kids and their families to connect with Elders to learn traditional skills from their backyards.

*Continued on p. 5*

“Diseases and viruses have plagued Indigenous communities in the NWT for centuries,” said Dene National Chief Norman Yakeleya.

Elders still speak about the 1928 flu epidemic that decimated the region, he said. That summer, a Hudson’s Bay Co. supply ship sailed down the Mackenzie River and spread a virulent strain of influenza to Dene and Inuvialuit along the route. It’s estimated to have killed up to 15 per cent of the Indigenous population of the Northwest Territories.

Yakeleya recalls his grandmother telling him stories of burying up to 15 bodies a day. What helped the communities heal was reconnecting with the land, and the chief said he’s seeing that again now.

“We will keep ourselves connected by staying apart—family is the foundation of the Dene people.”

*Source: CBC North*



Photo by Chris Hovey / Shutterstock

Do you know someone who should be mentioned in  
“People and Caribou?”

Email us at [caribounews@outlook.com](mailto:caribounews@outlook.com)!

## People and Caribou

### Farewell

The retirements of two longtime members of the BQCMB have resulted in some changes on the Board.

Tim Trottier is the BQCMB's former Vice-Chair, Administration and also the Board's longest-serving member. Tim represented the Government of Saskatchewan on the BQCMB since its inception in 1983. He retired February 28, 2020.

Daryll Hedman vacated the role of Vice-Chair, Operations, after representing the Government of Manitoba on the BQCMB for 18 years. Daryll retired March 31, 2020.

Although the cancellation of the BQCMB's Spring 2020 meeting means Board and staff were unable to celebrate Tim and Daryll's retirements in person, we hope to see them both again at a future meeting. In the meantime, the BQCMB commissioned Daryll, a talented wood craftsman, to make a sled for Tim, an avid dog sledder (see photo).



Tim and Daryll will be missed by their BQCMB colleagues and friends.

### New Vice-Chairs on BQCMB Executive Committee

The retirements of Trottier and Hedman resulted in the appointments of two of the BQCMB's existing members to three-year terms on its Executive Committee.

Vicki Trim, a Wildlife Manager with Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development in Thompson, will serve as Vice-Chair, Administration. Vicki has served as the alternate BQCMB member representing the Government of Manitoba since 2014.

Jan Adamczewski, a Wildlife Biologist with Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources in Yellowknife, will serve as Vice-Chair, Operations. Jan was appointed to represent the Government of Northwest Territories on the BQCMB in 2019. He also previously served as an alternate member on the BQCMB from 2008-2013.

Both bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their roles. According to BQCMB Chair Earl Evans, those qualities will help the Board immensely as it prepares to navigate a new 10-year



Pictured above: The BQCMB commissioned Daryll Hedman to make this sled as a retirement gift for Tim Trottier. The sled includes a plaque commemorating the signing of the Beverly-Kaministiquia Barren-ground Caribou Management Agreement in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1982.

Pictured at left, top to bottom: Tim Trottier, Daryll Hedman, Vicki Trim, and Jan Adamczewski

Management Agreement set to begin in early 2022. “This Board has been in existence for almost 40 years, and as caribou herds decline all over the north, it is needed now more than ever.”

“Vicki and Jan are both experienced biologists with extensive knowledge of barren-ground caribou and conservation and management issues, and also close working relationships with the caribou using communities in their regions,” he said.

“I look forward to working with them both in their new roles as we navigate the challenges in the years ahead.”

### New BQCMB Member for Saskatchewan

Replacing Tim Trottier as Government of Saskatchewan representative on the BQCMB is Katherine Mehl from Saskatchewan Environment. Katherine is the Manager, Habitat Unit, Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch in Saskatoon.

Welcome, Katherine!•

“Vicki and Jan are both experienced biologists with extensive knowledge of barren-ground caribou and conservation and management issues, and also close working relationships with the caribou using communities in their regions.”

“This was the first time in 40 years I was not able to supply my family and community with any caribou.”

*Earl Evans, BQCMB Chair, Fort Smith, NWT*

## Around the Range

### BQCMB Cancels Spring Meeting

For the first time in its 38-year history, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board did not have a spring meeting. The meeting, originally scheduled to be held in late April at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BQCMB members were disappointed; with only two in-person meetings each year, these events are an invaluable opportunity to bring government and Indigenous people from four jurisdictions together to discuss a common goal.

That goal, to safeguard the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds for present and future generations, is more important than ever before.

BQCMB members all live in northern Canada, coming from Kivalliq, Nunavut; southern Northwest Territories (NWT); northern Saskatchewan; and northern Manitoba. They are the BQCMB's “eyes and ears” on the ground.

People are returning to the land to fish and hunt due to travel restrictions, high food costs, and safety concerns resulting from the pandemic. This is a good thing. But it also highlights the need for information-sharing across the range, since both herds have been declining for years.

COVID-19 has changed lives around the globe, and like everyone, the BQCMB has been communicating only by phone or online. Our community and government members often talk about the importance of working together, and we know firsthand how much harder it is when we cannot meet face-to-face. We look forward to the opportunity when BQCMB members can again come together in a shared space.

### Kivalliq Harvest Reporting Project

News of the BQCMB's work on a harvest reporting project with Kivalliq hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) reached the Nunavut legislature recently as John Main, MLA for Arviat North-Whale Cove and his colleagues discussed the need for tracking of caribou sales.

The importance of balancing Inuit rights and sustainability of caribou herds was being discussed when Main highlighted the BQCMB's

Kivalliq Harvest Reporting project from the last issue of *Caribou News in Brief*. “I note that they achieved great success in Arviat and they particularly thanked HTO board chair Thomas Alikashuak and the involved staff,” he said.

The BQCMB is entering the fourth year of harvest reporting work with Kivalliq communities, thanks to continuing funding provided to the BQCMB by the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP) and WWF-Canada. Project leader and BQCMB biologist Leslie Wakelyn will work with Kivalliq HTOs to further test and refine an approach for obtaining information about Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest. Five Kivalliq communities were invited to participate in the project (Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove), and several HTOs have expressed interest and made efforts to start caribou harvest reporting.

Arviat made big strides in the last two years, conducting 2 sets of interviews with 30 HTO members each time, and is looking to build on that success. Plans for work in Arviat, Baker Lake and Whale Cove this spring and summer have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The BQCMB will again distribute a harvest calendar—funded by project partner WWF-Canada—for 2020-21 to HTOs to help project participants record information about their caribou harvest.

### New Northern Caribou Website

A new web resource brings together the full picture of the challenges facing northern caribou and the people who rely on them. The website, created by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC) with help from other organizations (including the BQCMB) highlights the conservation challenges facing migratory caribou across northern Canada.

The website pulls together plain language information from governments, northern management boards, media sources and academic publications. It also includes links to more specialized information if people want to dig deeper, and it will be regularly updated with new information.

Clive Tesar, who co-ordinated creation of the site for CARC, stated that “Our hope now is

### Where are the caribou?

BQCMB Chair Earl Evans reports that community members in Fort Smith, NWT had to go without caribou this winter. Due to COVID-19 restrictions local hunters could not travel to other regions by road, and “it was too far and expensive by air and too far and too much overflow by snowmobile,” to reach the caribou, he said. “Record amounts of snow east of us combined with all the fallen trees from forest fires made it impossible to go more than 90 kms from the community.”

“The end result was this was the first time in 40 years I was not able to supply my family and community with any caribou.”

It was a different story in Tadoule Lake, Manitoba, where BQCMB member Ernie Bussidor of Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN) estimates 80,000 to 100,000 animals stayed the whole winter along the treeline about 30 miles north of the community. Approximately 500 were harvested by local hunters to provide for the community throughout the winter, but many hunters from elsewhere accessed the animals, too, until a snowstorm closed the winter road.

Hunters from Saskatchewan's Athabasca region had to travel further to access the caribou this year. But Derek Cook, a Community Land Technician from Fond du Lac, says “leadership was able to get hunters to hunt one caribou per household and many local hunters also hunted for their own families,” he explains. “The caribou seem to get further and further each year, but with every hunter helping each other and notifying each other, it is a way to help everyone find caribou.”

that once people understand the scope and scale of the conservation challenge, they'll step up either as individuals or organizations to take the necessary actions to ensure that caribou remain part of the northern landscape.”

Visit [www.northerncaribou.ca](http://www.northerncaribou.ca) to learn more.

*Continued on p. 6*



# Watching Nuhenéné



**W**e live in uncertain times. The world is quickly changing, and it is important now more than ever that we ensure our place in it is not swept away on the current.

Since time immemorial, the Athabasca Denesuliné (AD) of northern Saskatchewan have developed a close, deep connection to the land. The AD territory is referred to as “Nuhenéné” (our land), and the well-being, cultural identity, way of life and spirituality of the Denesuliné are connected in the land.

Barren-ground caribou are intrinsically linked to the Denesuliné, who often refer to themselves as caribou people.

When talking to Elders about what protection means in reference to the land, they often talk about future generations, and the responsibility of caring and “watching” the land and water for them, to enable the traditional ways of the Denesuliné to continue for many more generations.

The establishment of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) is the perfect way for the AD to reinforce their place as guardians of Nuhenéné.

IPCAs are usually defined as conservation areas whose creation and management are Indigenous led, with Indigenous Peoples having the primary role in determining what is important to that specific IPCA. This includes things like:

1. *Values/objectives: the values and priorities that will guide and direct all work being done to develop the protected area.*

2. *Boundaries: where the protected area will be located and its size.*
3. *Management Plans: what rules will need to be followed inside the protected area.*
4. *Governance Structures: who will give the protected area the legal protection it needs.*

Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office (YNLR) has secured funding over multiple years to assist the AD in developing and implementing Protected Areas within Nuhenéné. The communities of Camsell Portage, Uranium City, Stony Rapids and Wollaston Lake are involved along with the First Nations of Fond du Lac, Black Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuliné .

In partnership with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the provincial and federal governments, and with the guidance of the Athabasca Denesuliné, the YNLR will develop a path forward to a successful project.

It has created an Athabasca Denesuliné IPCA Development Framework to ensure that AD communities will accomplish these four key objectives over the coming years, in a way that ensures complete participation and transparency by the members.

Elders, youth, leadership and land-users will be involved every step of the way. By working together with our communities and our partners, we can make great and lasting change. •

*For more information, contact:*

Tina Giroux, IPCA Contract Project Manager,  
Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office  
[tina.giroux@yathinene.com](mailto:tina.giroux@yathinene.com) or (306) 930-7776, or visit [www.Yathinene.ca](http://www.Yathinene.ca). •

## Community Land Technicians

The Athabasca Denesuliné have a vision to continue the proud Denesuliné tradition of “watching” the land, so there is always a Denesuliné presence within Nuhenéné.

To carry on this vision, four new Community Land Technicians (CLT's) were hired through Ya'thi Nene Land & Resource office (YNLR). The CLTs will:

- monitor land and water to gain data on culturally important species, critical habitat, numbers and potential impacts
- observe impacts of forest fires
- monitor sacred areas for impacts/encroachment
- monitor industrial developments and conditions of permits
- document impacts to boreal forest and water
- document and follow-up on industry or other issues that may impact land/water
- collect and document Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- ground-truth protected areas (confirming locations of known burial sites, caribou crossings, overnight sites, spiritual sites)
- participate in scientific studies and research

The CLT's will also work within the Athabasca Basin communities to keep community members up to date on their activities, specifically with the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) development.

The CLT's are all fluent in Denesuliné to ensure communication will be understood by all community members, but specifically Elders. They will be engaging Elders (once it is safe to do so) by holding gatherings to ask questions and discuss topics that will help guide the activities of the YNLF.

They will also be working with youth as mentors to promote careers in science and resource management, working in schools in the Denesuliné language, and bringing youth out on the land to learn important skills firsthand.

Pictured, L to R: Community Land Technicians Nathan Lidguerre (Uranium City/Camsell Portage), Jean Tsannie (Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Lake), Ian Robillard (Fond du Lac/Stony Rapids), and Derek Cook (Fond du Lac),



Photo by Tina Giroux

## Update on the

# Seal River Watershed

During its fall 2019 meeting in Arviat, NU, the BQCMB passed a motion to support the establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs). The Seal River Watershed IPA Initiative was the first to be supported.

Project leader Ernie Bussidor, of Sayisi Dene First Nation (Tadoule Lake, MB) says the project is slowly gaining momentum. "Five communities are working together to preserve the Watershed from industry and hydro and to promote eco-tourism and cultural tourism."

Representatives from Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN), O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN), Inuit of Kivalliq, Barren Lands First Nation (BLFN), and Northlands Denesuliné First Nation (NDFN) came together in Winnipeg in February 2020 for a historic meeting. From there, the Seal River Watershed Alliance of Dene, Cree and Inuit peoples was born.

"We are now incorporated and taking advantage of the pandemic shutdown to build an organizational structure that is acceptable to all" says Bussidor.

For more information visit <https://sealriverwatershed.ca/>.



## LKDFN gets UN award

Lutsël K'è Dene First Nation, N.W.T., has been named as one of 10 winners worldwide of a prestigious prize from the United Nations.

The First Nation is being recognized for decades of work put into establishing Thaidene Nënë or "Land of the Ancestors" National Park Reserve on the east arm of Great Slave Lake. The Indigenous Protected Area spans 26,376 square kilometres of boreal forest and tundra with lakes, rivers, and waterfalls.

The Equator Prize recognizes Indigenous peoples and local communities innovating nature-based solutions to climate change and for sustainable development. LKDFN was selected from among nearly 600 nominations in more than 120 countries. It's the first time a Canadian group has won the award.

Steven Nitah, the lead negotiator for Thaidene Nënë, said it is an honour after decades of work. "It feels like all the time and energy that went into the creation has left a mark," he said.

The management deal, signed last summer, gave four local First Nations an unprecedented role in the park's operation. But federal and territorial protection of the area was 50 years in the making.

In 1969, Parks Canada approached the LKDFN with its vision for a national park.

"Canada and the GNWT came to the table with open minds," said Nitah. "This prize will give a platform to speak about the need for respectful relationships all around."

Source: The Canadian Press, CBC North

Back to the Land cont'd from p. 1

That means baking bannock, preparing geese for cooking, gathering traditional medicines, boiling tea and taking part in scavenger hunts.

BQCMB member Ernie Bussidor said fishing has also kept people from Tadoule Lake busy, with two spring fishing derbies included in local social distancing activities. "An 11 pound trout won the first derby" he notes.

Many people from Wollaston Lake Saskatchewan are out on the land, harvesting fish, hunting geese, and hunting caribou until the ice is not safe to travel on. Jean Tsannie, a Community Land Technician (CLT) from Hatchet Lake Denesuliné First Nation, also says "kids have been helping their parents around the house because of the isolation."

Derek Cook, a CLT from Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan notes that local people with cabins out on the land stayed there at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. "Many of them were not in a rush to return to the communities because of the outbreak," he says. "We are hearing a lot of talks about local people building more cabins out on the lands so they can go out there in the future with their families."

Ian Robillard, a CLT from Saskatchewan's Black Lake Denesuliné First Nation, feels the changes in his community have been positive. "More families are spending time together, and more people are wanting to be out on the land. Lots of families have more time to teach their young ones about our cultural traditional ways. More time to build stuff, more time to spend with families."

"I see a lot of young people are out and about on the land providing, harvesting and gatherings. A lot of good change is happening. It makes me realize how strong we are together."

Sources: The Canadian Press, CBC North, denenation.com

Thank you to

## BQCMB Contributors

To these organizations and any we may have missed,  
**THANK YOU** for supporting the Beverly and  
Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board!

The BQCMB's core funding comes from five government partners - Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Canada. But the Board's work is actually supported by many organizations.

We thought it was time we acknowledged our other contributors - those who have provided extra funding in recent years to enable us to do much, much more than our core funding allows. Some have also supported our participation in conservation planning and other processes, because they recognize the BQCMB as a credible organization that provides input from a co-management perspective.

### Communications Products (new website, posters, videos, and fact sheets)

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- WWF-Canada

### General Donations

- Individual donors via <https://arctic-caribou.com/donate/>

### Kivalliq Harvest Reporting

- Nunavut General Monitoring Plan
- WWF-Canada

### Management Planning and BQCMB Evaluation

- Government of Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

### On-the-Land Program

- AREVA Resources Canada
- Cameco Corporation
- Charleswood Rotary Club Winnipeg

### Poster and Prose Contests for Gr. 7-12 Students

- Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund
- Northwest Territories Species-at-Risk Stewardship Program
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board/Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund
- Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

### Participation in Environment Assessment Reviews and Species-at-Risk Meetings

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

### Participation in Nunavut Land Use Planning

- Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
- WWF-Canada

### Participation in National and International Caribou Discussions

- CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment
- North American Caribou Workshop

Around the Range cont'd from p. 3

### Climate Change Affecting Migration

A recent study from the University of Alberta says the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd is adapting as climate change heats up the north and brings with it an earlier spring green-up.

The study compared the Qamanirjuaq herd to Greenland reindeer that arrived at calving grounds before spring green-up. The reindeer missed the high nutrient vegetation that occurs at early green-up, didn't get the nutrition necessary to support calving, and went into decline.

The Alberta study shows the Qamanirjuaq caribou are instead adapting. Over the last decade spring green-up started a week earlier on average. The Qamanirjuaq herd is leaving its winter grounds two weeks earlier and ending their migration six days earlier. Their peak for calving started an average of nine days earlier.

"The actual time taken to migrate appears to have increased, so they're migrating more slowly, as the climate warms," says Dr. Conor Mallory, a biologist with the Nunavut government who

is the lead author of the study. "The longer migration is likely due to changing snow conditions on the herd's winter range and declining snow cover along their route."

However, like most caribou herds in Canada, the herd is threatened by a combination of factors. Climate change, disturbance, habitat loss, harvest, disease, and predation all add up, said BQCMB Executive Director Ross Thompson. "It is a very bad time for caribou all across the Arctic."

Sources: Canadian Geographic <https://bit.ly/2MS4is1>  
CBC North <https://bit.ly/3hhjlcR>

### Contaminants in Arctic Caribou

With the help of local hunters from Arviat, NU, a team led by research scientist Mary Gamberg has been taking kidney, liver and muscle samples of Qamanirjuaq caribou since 2006 to study changes in the levels of contaminants in caribou. The results are used to provide information so Northerners may be better able to make informed choices about food consumption, and to help guide policies that limit contamination of the environment.

Over time, the team has learned:

- Some caribou have mercury and cadmium in their organs, some occurring naturally in the land, but some brought by wind from industry down south, or from forest fires or volcanoes.
- Caribou muscle (meat), marrow and brain have very low levels of contaminants.
- Mushrooms may provide a pulse of mercury in the fall, because they build up large amounts of mercury and are a preferred food when they are available.
- Seaweed does not provide a significant amount of mercury to the Qamanirjuaq caribou.

For more information about this project, please contact Mary Gamberg at:

867-334-3360 or  
[mary.gamberg@gmail.com](mailto:mary.gamberg@gmail.com).





## BQCMB web-based resources

# Youth and Caribou

The BQCMB is committed to providing educational support to help youth understand the environmental role that caribou play, appreciate the natural beauty of the animals, and to help this valuable resource thrive into the future.

Our website is full of education resources and teacher tools, including:



### Teacher Toolkit

With support from WWF-Canada the BQCMB has produced a series of posters, fact sheets, and a video to help to increase public awareness of, and support for, caribou conservation in Canada. These products support the BQCMB's "You Can Make a Difference – Caribou for the Future" campaign by focusing on three themes: Respectful Caribou Harvest, Importance of Harvest Reporting, and Cumulative Effects on Caribou.



### On-the Land Camps

Each year, the BQCMB channels funds to caribou-range community-based projects that target school-age youth. This gives kids a chance to gain new knowledge, learning from seasoned hunters, trappers and Elders.

Over the years our focus has expanded from hunting caribou to providing more general "on the land" experiences.



### Poster & Prose Contests

Since 2017, the BQCMB has held several poster contests for K-12 students in schools located on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou range. Based on the BQCMB's "You Can Make a Difference – Caribou for the Future" campaign, the Poster and Prose Contests require students to focus their essays and posters on one of the three themes. BQCMB members judge the contests during regular Board meetings.



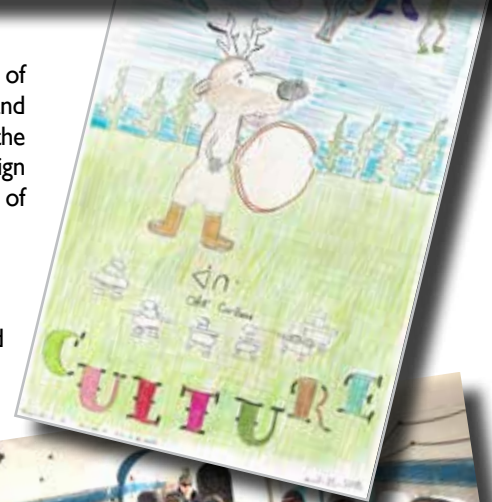
### Scholarships

The BQCMB helps post-secondary students learn more about the management and conservation of barren-ground caribou and their habitat through the Gunther Abrahamson Research and Management Award. The annual award, administered by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, - carries a value of up to \$1,500 and is open to university OR college students studying barren-ground caribou and/or their range in Canada. Students conducting traditional knowledge studies or scientific studies are eligible.



### Caribou Quick Facts

What sound does a caribou make? How long do caribou keep their antlers? How far do caribou walk every year? The answers to these and almost any other question about barren-ground caribou can be found on our Quick Facts page. Caribou have a lot of interesting traits and behaviours and caribou people and scientists have been observing them for a long time!•



Pictured top to bottom:  
Students from Lutsel K'e Dene School show off their poster contest prizes;  
Izzy Bighetty's poster won 2nd prize in the Manitoba Poster & Prose Contest;  
Youth from Northern Saskatchewan on their way to an On-The-Land-Camp; and  
BQCMB 'Caribou for the Future' posters.

Visit [arctic-caribou.com/projects/education/](http://arctic-caribou.com/projects/education/) to learn more!

## BQCMB Looks Ahead

The clock is ticking on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement, which expires in April 2022. That date also marks the Board's 40th anniversary as a leader in barren ground caribou conservation across Canada and beyond.

The 10-year Agreement, signed by the governments of Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Canada, ensures the BQCMB will receive funding each year in order to carry out its mandate.

At its May 2019 meeting, the BQCMB agreed unanimously to an extension to the Agreement beyond 2022. As the first caribou co-management board in North America, the BQCMB has devoted almost four decades to providing governments with a single-window to deal with the multi-jurisdictional nature of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds.

Most importantly, the Board has successfully established a process of shared responsibility for monitoring and management of these two herds and their habitats between governments and the Indigenous peoples who depend on them—socially, culturally, spiritually and economically. (In fact, the total net economic annual value of the caribou harvest to the communities that use them is estimated in 2005/06 to be at least \$20 million!)

The BQCMB's work in support of habitat protection, land use planning, project reviews, caribou harvest reporting, and other caribou-related issues, as well as its role in communicating key information on those issues to a diverse audience, is also well-documented.

### What's next?

In light of current and future developments across the range, the Board believes the BQCMB's voice will be needed more than ever. In anticipation of drafting a new, modernized agreement, the BQCMB has so far:

- Written to all five government parties to the Agreement, emphasizing the need for the BQCMB to continue, and requesting approval in principle for an extension of its mandate. (The Board has received approvals from the governments of Nunavut and Northwest Territories, and expects to soon receive the same from the government of Canada.)
- Met with the Deputy Ministers of Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development and Saskatchewan Environment to discuss current challenges and the future agreement.
- Hired a consulting firm to conduct an independent evaluation of the BQCMB and make recommendations based on its research.

Negotiating a new BQCMB Management Agreement is a significant undertaking and one of the Board's biggest short-term challenges. Watch for updates on its progress over the coming months. •

In light of current and future developments across the range, the Board believes the BQCMB's voice will be needed more than ever in the decade ahead.

### Publisher's Box

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Website: [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com)

### 5 Reasons to follow the BQCMB's Facebook page

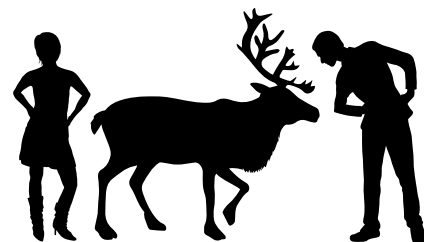
1. To join the crowd! Almost 800 people from across the range follow our page. Help us get to 1,000!
2. To see the latest news, information and photos that the BQCMB shares about caribou and caribou people.
3. To find out when and where BQCMB meetings are being held, hear what is talked about, and see photos and videos from the meetings.
4. To learn about BQCMB contests, youth programs, and scholarships - today's youth are tomorrow's hunters!
5. Because we share great content from other pages – like the image at right from the Yukon Government.



### What does physical distancing look like?

(also known as "social distancing")

← stay one caribou apart →



(or 2 metres/6 feet)

Note: please stay at least 90 metres / 300 feet away from actual caribou.

**Yukon**