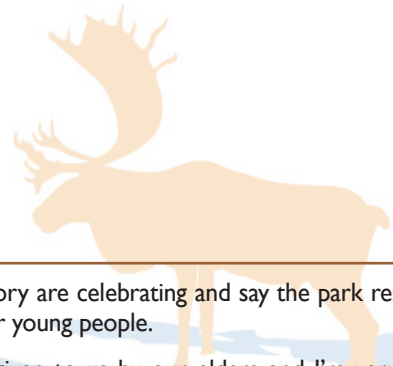


APRIL 21-23, 2020
CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

A mural on a building facade depicting a woman in a yellow headscarf holding a baby in a white blanket. The background features a green, textured sky and a colorful, abstract landscape.

Around the Range



BQCMB Supports Frequent Surveys for Herds

With recent population estimates for both the Qamanirjuaq and Beverly Herds showing significant declines, the BQCMB is supporting the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (GN-DOE) in its proposal to conduct population surveys of each herd within the next three years.

A 2017 survey conducted by the GN-DOE found the Qamanirjuaq herd sitting at about 265,000 animals, down from 344,000 animals in 2008, a slow decline of about 2% per year.

Results of both the 2017 survey and a vulnerability assessment conducted by the BQCMB indicate the herd should be watched closely. Based on the BQCMB management plan, a calving ground survey for the Qamanirjuaq herd should be conducted every 3-5 years. Given increasing concerns about sales of caribou meat from the Kivalliq region and the increasing numbers of subsistence harvesters relying on this herd, the Board recommends survey more frequently than every 5 years.

As for the Beverly herd, the latest survey in 2018 showed a decrease of about 4-5% per year since 2011, from 136,000 animals down to about 103,400. These results, along with the BQCMB's vulnerability assessment of the herd, show there is a need to frequently monitor this trend.

For a highly vulnerable herd like the Beverly herd, the BQCMB recommends obtaining population estimates based on calving ground surveys every 3 years.

The calving ground surveys being proposed include a Qamanirjuaq survey in June 2021 and a Beverly survey in June 2022, according to *Mitch Campbell*, BQCMB member from the GN-DOE. "No stone will be left unturned," Campbell promised. "We are bracing ourselves to see what's happening with the Beverly herd over the next five years."

Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve

The BQCMB congratulates the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Parks Canada, the GNWT, and others for establishment of Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve in the NWT in August 2019.

It took 50 years to finalize this new Indigenous Protected Area, which includes a new National Park Reserve established under Parks Canada legislation and territorial protected areas under GNWT legislation.

With the signing of final agreements on the park reserve in Lutsel K'e, 26,376 square kilometres of land and water are now permanently protected northeast of Lutsel K'e. It includes the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, the deepest freshwater source in North America, and provides habitat for grizzly bears, wolves, moose, and muskox, and critical winter range for barren-ground caribou.

Many across the territory are celebrating and say the park reserve is especially important for young people.

"This was a mandate given to us by our elders and I'm very proud to be the chief that has ensured our future is protected for future generations," Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation Chief *Darryl Marlowe* said.

He encouraged young people to stay in school and said the park reserve will mean new opportunities in tourism and resource management.

"Our future is bright for our youth," he said. "They're the ones that one day are going to be carrying this on. They're the ones we're going to be giving guidance to as they become future leaders."

Thaidene Nëné is one of Canada's few national parks where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are able to fish, hunt, use motorized boats and carry a firearm. The park reserve will be co-managed by Indigenous groups along with the federal and territorial governments.

HOW DO THEY COUNT CARIBOU, ANYWAY?

The Government of NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR) has produced a short video titled "**How We Count Caribou**" that explains the calving ground photo survey method. It can be viewed at:

www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/barren-ground-caribou

"It's an important area for us for hunting area, fishing, water," said Lutsel K'e Dene elder *Albert Boucher*.

"We're doing this for young people. Young people are going to work on it, they're going to stay on it."

Sources: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/thaidene-nene-young-people-1.5257085 and <http://landoftheancestors.ca/>

Species-at-Risk Updates

The BQCMB heard two updates about barren-ground caribou as a Species-at-Risk at its November meeting—one from the NWT Conference of Management Authorities (NWT-CMA), and the other from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Although the NWT and federal Species-at-Risk processes for barren-ground caribou are at different stages, conducting them at the same time is causing confusion.

This prompted *Tim Trottier*, BQCMB member from the Government of Saskatchewan, to note "everyone seems to be asking for the same thing – something short and clear that people can take back to the community. We have to remember we can't expect any community members to go back and be an advocate for these changes. But a simple list of Q and A's would be helpful."

NWT Threatened Designation: In July 2018 eight herds, including the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, were listed as Threatened under the NWT Species at Risk Act. The Threatened classification means that a NWT recovery strategy is required within two years. The strategy will not set up automatic prohibitions or protections for species or habitat, or any harvesting restrictions. The BQCMB is a participant in the process and has reviewed the Draft Recovery Strategy and submitted several rounds of comments to the NWT-CMA.

Continued on p. 8

Parasites and Diseases of Caribou

Brian Stevens, Wildlife Pathologist, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) ON/NU region

Many parasites and diseases can infect caribou without affecting the well-being of that animal or other wildlife. And most parasites or diseases in caribou are not dangerous to people who handle or eat that animal. Some of the more common parasites that can infect caribou include the following:

Warbles: Caused by the larvae of the warble fly, which mature under the skin of the caribou and appear as a number of small bumps over its neck and back. Although the flies will bother the caribou when laying the eggs, the larvae under the skin typically don't cause a problem. The larvae can affect the quality of the hide, but **the meat is completely safe to eat.**

Nasal bots: Similar to the warble fly, when the bot flies are laying their eggs, it can be quite disturbing for the caribou, but once the eggs have hatched they don't tend to bother it. The larvae are cylindrical and yellow to brown and can be found within the nose and the back of the throat of infected caribou. **These larvae do not affect the meat of the caribou and it is safe to eat.**

Besnoitia: Often invisible but in severe infection may cause pin-point raised white lumps under the skin. When you run your hand over areas with lots of these parasites it can almost feel like sandpaper. Occasionally a bit of hair loss occurs on the legs or over the nose, but **the meat is safe to eat.**

Lungworms: Most commonly seen at the very tip of the caribou's lung (the portion that sits next to the diaphragm) but can be anywhere in the lung. They appear as either little white worms or little grey lumps in the airways. The caribou remain unaffected if the number of parasites is low, but in severe infections they can cause breathing problems for the caribou and cause these animals to lag behind the herd. **Lungworms are not dangerous to people and will not affect the meat.**

Tapeworms: Usually seen as cysts in the liver, lung, or muscles. You will see a small clear cyst with a central white spot or white scar in the liver, a cyst with a thick wall in the lung, or small white to yellow lumps throughout the meat. **Cysts should be cut out and meat thoroughly cooked** if cysts are noticed. It is dangerous to feed undercooked infected organs or meat to dogs, as they will become infected and pass the eggs in their feces. **These eggs are dangerous to people** as we can accidentally ingest them and develop similar cysts to those seen in the caribou. If you suspect a caribou is infected, only feed well cooked organs or meat from that caribou to your dog.



Normal caribou knee (l) compared to caribou infected with brucellosis (r). (Photo: Dr. Ian Barker)

A Field Guide to Common Wildlife Diseases and Parasites in the NWT

is found at

www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/wildlife-diseases

Brucellosis: The disease potentially most dangerous to people is caused by a bacterium that can cause abortions, swollen testicles, or swollen joints in infected caribou. If you suspect a caribou is infected with brucellosis, be very cautious when handling the carcass. Do not cut into infected tissue and properly disinfect your knives and other instruments that come into contact with the caribou. The meat is *supposedly* safe to eat if it is cooked thoroughly, but I recommend avoiding it if possible. People infected with brucellosis can develop a high fever and other symptoms consistent with a bacterial infection. **If you suspect you have been exposed to brucellosis, contact your health care professional as soon as possible.**

These are the most common diseases and parasites found in caribou. If you have any questions about anything you find in a caribou or other wild animal, please contact your regional CWHC office (Western/Northern office in Saskatoon or Ontario/Nunavut office in Guelph).

Contact information can be found at www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report_submit.php.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE UPDATE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease that affects species in the deer family (cervids). Neurological disorders are diseases of the brain, spine, and the nerves that connect them. CWD is a sister disease of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or 'mad cow' disease, but more virulent because it is **highly contagious between living animals.**

CWD proteins (prions) likely spread between animals through body fluids either through direct contact or indirectly through environmental contamination of soil, food or water.

Recent scientific evidence suggests that CWD transmission to humans may be possible. To date however, there have been no reported human cases of CWD; further studies are being conducted to better understand potential risks. It is also not yet known whether there are human health effects associated with consuming meat from animals infected with CWD. Therefore, so long as risks to humans are not fully understood, **it is recommended that all animals harvested in areas where infection is known to occur be tested prior to consumption, and that any tissue from an infected animal not be used or consumed by humans.**

Many First Nations communities rely on hunting for food, as well as for social and ceremonial practices. This puts First Nations at increased risk of exposure to CWD. Moreover, the threat that CWD poses to wildlife populations puts the food and nutritional security of First Nations disproportionately at risk.

Voluntary testing of animals is available in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, NWT and the Yukon. Information on CWD testing in each region is available through provincial and territorial government websites.

Sources:

Assembly of First Nations
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

BQCMB Arviat Meeting and Caribou Workshop



Top to bottom, L to R:

BQCMB members Erik Allain, Jan Adamczewski and Simon Enuapik.

BQCMB Vice-Chair Tim Trottier, Chair Earl Evans and Executive Director Ross Thompson.

David Kritterdlik (Agnico Eagle) and Nick Arnaalujak (Constituency Assistant to MLA Joe Savikataaq).

Rob Harmer (GN), Tim Trottier, Lynne Bereza (BQCMB Communications Specialist), and Mitch Campbell (GN BQCMB member).

RECIPE

One of the delicacies served at the Community Feast was Tinguk pate spread.

INGREDIENTS

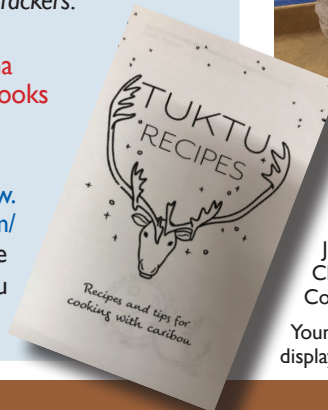
- 1/3 of a caribou liver
- 1 package of bacon
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup olive oil
- 3-4 tablespoons all spice
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon parsley
- 2 teaspoons salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the bacon into smaller pieces, fry in a large pan on medium high. Set aside when cooked, but keep the fat in the pan.
2. Slice the liver into 1 inch pieces and fry with the onion in the leftover bacon fat, add oil if needed. Add the allspice and garlic and cook until the liver is browned. Remove from heat.
3. Using a food processor, blend the cooked liver, bacon, onion and the thyme, parsley and salt while adding olive oil until it reaches a smooth and spreadable consistency.
4. Taste and add more of the allspice if the liver flavour is too strong. Add more salt or other spices if you feel it is needed.
5. Scrape into a bowl and serve spread on crackers.

Recipe by Emma
Kreuger and Nooks
Lindell.

Visit <https://www.aqqumavvik.com/recipes> for more delicious caribou recipes!



Top to bottom, L to R:

BQCMB member Jimmy Laban tries his hand at a game.

A large crowd gathers for the Community Feast.

Jeremy Brammer (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and Mary Gamberg (Gamberg Consulting), organizers of the Caribou Workshop.

Youngsters especially enjoyed checking out the many displays.

Youth and Caribou

BQCMB Calls for Youth Involvement

The need for youth to become more involved in caribou issues was another strong theme running through the BQCMB's latest meeting. The BQCMB would like to see more youth attend meetings like these because they are the leaders of tomorrow. And more youth will be able to participate more often if meetings are held in their communities.

Elder August Enzoe, of Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation from Lutsel K'e, NWT, often takes young people out on the land with him. "I do a lot of travelling around with the kids in the bush, show them our Dene ways," he said. "I tell them that we've got to respect the caribou that's left now, or in the future, the caribou will be gone."

On-The-Land-Program

This year's BQCMB On-The-Land-Program grant to a Nunavut organization was awarded to the Arviat Young Hunters Program. The Aqqiumavvik Society's Young Hunters Program provides experience and skills development for youth in the community in the areas of sustainable harvest practices. These skills are essential to help youth become capable, confident and contributing community members.

The BQCMB On-The-Land-Program helped cover the costs of taking youth aged 8-18 on hunting trips that taught them about how to travel on land/sea, gun safety, understanding the weather and environment, how to harvest caribou effectively and sustainably, and how to use these skills to provide food security for their families.

More information about the BQCMB On The Land Program is available at <https://arctic-caribou.com/education/>.

BQCMB Scholarship

The BQCMB helps post-secondary students learn more about the management and conservation of barren-ground caribou and their habitat through the Gunther Abrahamson Caribou Research and Management Award, named after the BQCMB's long-time secretary-treasurer.

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 conducting studies that contribute to the understanding of barren ground caribou and their habitat or that would have application to caribou conservation and management. Preference is given to applicants from a caribou-range community and to those examining the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds or their habitat. The annual deadline to apply for the scholarship is **January 31**.

For more information, visit <https://arctic-caribou.com/education/>.

NWT Poster & Prose Contest Winner

Congratulations to Fort Smith's *Mackynnen MacDonald-Taylor*, whose poster (above right) was awarded 1st place in the Fall 2019 BQCMB Poster & Prose Contest! Mackynnen is in Grade 7 at Paul V. Kaiser High School. Chair Earl Evans visited the school to present Mackynnen's prize of a Samsung Galaxy tablet (below right).

Mackynnen's teacher, *Anna McDonald*, also received a prize of \$150 to purchase books for her classroom. •

Saskatchewan Poster & Prose Contest

The deadline for the BQCMB's Poster & Prose Contest for northern Saskatchewan Gr. 7-12 students is being extended. The new deadline is

Friday, February 14

Details are at:

<http://arctic-caribou.com/pdf/Posters/SKPosterContest2020.pdf>

Get your entries in – there are great prizes to be won.

DEADLINE
EXTENDED



Photo courtesy of PMK, Kaiser High School

People and Caribou

BQCMB Harvest Reporting Project

The BQCMB has been working with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut to develop an approach for obtaining information about harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou by HTO members.

To date the project has been successfully implemented in Arviat. In addition to conducting two sets of interviews with caribou harvesters in 2019, the Arviat HTO staff and Board have committed to conduct the next round of interviews in early 2020.

"The BQCMB thanks Arviat harvesters, Arviat HTO board Chair *Thomas Alikaswa* and board members, and staff and contractors *Andrea Ishalook*, *Tamar Mukyunik* and *Lois Suluk-Locke* for their work in making this project a reality," said *Leslie Wakelyn*, BQCMB biologist and project coordinator.

The Arviat HTO's success will also help the BQCMB with further communications and project implementation with the other southern Kivalliq HTOs in Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet.

Perspectives on Caribou Management

Several Inuit Elders came together recently to revisit history and share their knowledge about caribou management then and now.

With support from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (K-HTO) in Rankin Inlet, the HTO's *Clayton Tartak* worked with social science researchers *Ezra Greene* and *Warren Bernauer* to hold an Inuit Perspectives on Caribou Management workshop in Rankin Inlet in August 2019.



Photo courtesy of Ezra Greene

The workshop was based on video recorded as part of the Kaminuriak Caribou Herd Project, which was created back in 1982-83 (during the formation of the BQCMB) as a response to a crisis in caribou management. Meant to encourage communication between Inuit and wildlife biologists and managers, it involved recording interviews with Inuit discussing hunting practices, education about caribou, uses of caribou, impacts of exploration and development, changes in harvesting practices through time, and more.

While these videos are an important repository of Inuit knowledge, the workshop team felt that they needed to share and discuss the videos with Elders living today to better understand what value they might have for contemporary management initiatives.

Elders *Jerome Kupaak Tattuinee*, *Mary-Ann Inuaraq Tattuinee*, *Alain Kumak Kabvitok*, and *Jack Tikiq Kabvitok* (see photo below left) took part in the workshop. After watching the interviews, the Elders discussed the themes and talked about how things are similar today or how they have changed through time.

The Elders emphasized that youth should learn traditional hunting rules and uses of caribou and complimented the K-HTO for starting a Youth Hunting Program. They said that certain caribou habitat, particularly calving areas, should be free of any kind of disturbance.

They also said it is important that hunters today are respectful to caribou and learn and follow traditional guidelines that limit disturbances to caribou such as keeping hunting areas clean and not wasting meat when hunting.

The Elders said they really enjoyed the workshop and appreciated seeing the interviews from long ago.

Dene Carving Finds Home

The BQCMB has a way of connecting people that goes beyond Board meetings. Take, for example, a recent inquiry from *Robert (Bob) Hill*, a retired university professor from Pennsylvania. Bob wrote, "I have a wonderful carved caribou with bone antlers and am seeking further information, and confirmation



Photo courtesy of Sayisi Dene First Nation

that it was produced by *Jim (Jimmy) Thorassie*, Dene Sayisi, Manitoba Canada."

Bob has worked with Native Americans in the U.S. southwest, mostly Puebloan and Navajo, for many years, a journey he describes as "life-transforming." Bob developed an interest in Indigenous art and purchased the carving online from an art dealer from New Brunswick who purchased it from a gallery in Nunavut. "I began my quest looking into Inuit carvings, and found last names ending in "-assie" are VERY common. I went through dozens and dozens of Inuit names with that ending, but none fit the bill."

A museum director in Alaska eventually suggested the name was not Inuit, but Dene. Bob said, "I had never heard of the Sayisi Dene (to my embarrassment)—but have learned much!" Further research unearthed a photo of Thorassie, former Chief of Sayisi Dene First Nation, with the carving (see photo above).

Ernie Bussidor, BQCMB alternate member from Sayisi Dene First Nation in Tadoule Lake, confirmed the carving was indeed Jimmy Thorassie's work. "The stone came from a quarry 15 miles SW of Tadoule," he said.

Bob is thankful that, with the BQCMB's help, the carving mystery has been solved. "I can't begin to tell you what the spirit of the caribou have taught me while on this brief journey," he said. "The "learning tree" to discovery, guided by the caribou's spirit, has many branches and I continue to explore them."

NACW Story-Telling Videos

BQCMB Chair *Earl Evans'* story-telling video is one of many available for viewing online. The interviews were recorded as part of the Indigenous Stream of the 2018 North American Caribou Workshop in Ottawa, ON.

To view the videos, visit: www.isuma.tv/indigenous-leadership-in-caribou-conservation

BQCMB Communications

The post was shared by almost **300** Facebook users and reached over **31,000** people!

Facebook Post Reaches Thousands

When Elders speak, people listen, as seen on the latest BQCMB Facebook post to go viral—meaning it spread quickly and widely.

The comment, from Elder August Enzoe of Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (pictured at right), was this: "We've got to respect the caribou that's left now, or in the future, the caribou will be gone. My grandfather told me, one day you'll go up the hill and look out on the land and see an old caribou trail, and you'll have tears in your eyes."

This post was shared by almost 300 Facebook users and reached over 31,000 people in total! It also generated 1,001 "likes" and 58 comments.

Visit the BQCMB's Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/BQCMB/

BQCMB 2018/19 Annual Report

The BQCMB Annual Report is now available online. Visit our website at <http://arctic-caribou.com/library/annual-reports/> to download.

While you're there, check out our latest news and updates!

BQCMB Video

The BQCMB's latest video is now online. This 7-minute video is about the value of the Board now and in the future, for the caribou and for the communities that rely on the herds. Chair Earl Evans encourages everyone to watch and share this video widely. "It will be used to help governments, and others, understand that the need for the BQCMB is now greater than ever."

Watch the video at: <https://arctic-caribou.com/new-bqcmb-video/>



Photo by Lynne Bereza

"My grandfather told me, one day you'll go up the hill and look out on the land and see an old caribou trail, and you'll have tears in your eyes."

August Enzoe



"This video will be used to help governments, and others, understand that the need for the BQCMB is now greater than ever."

BQCMB Chair Earl Evans



Heard around the BQCMB Board Table

"The road has created a new breed of hunter that was never there before. It's nothing to see between 20 and 40 trucks on one day. Every truck has a couple of hunters in it. You can be three miles away and you can hear them chasing caribou on skidoos."

Chair Earl Evans, Northwest Territory Metis Nation, Fort Smith, NT

"All the things that I've learned on this Board, the kids have to learn too."

Napoleon Deneschezhe, Northlands Dene First Nation, Lac Brochet, MB

"This winter the HTO will do winter fishing, teach the young kids how to set up nets on ice because some have never seen it. On top of that we will be doing some caribou hunting."

Simon Enuapik, Whale Cove, NU

"The sacredness of that animal is lost when you see that kind of hunting. They bring big guns and when they shoot into a herd, they wound about six for every caribou they shoot."

Ernie Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation, Tadoule Lake, MB

"The herds are declining. Our job as a Board is to do what we can to see the herds come up. We need to work together... Manitoba, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and NWT...we can learn from each other."

Jimmy Laban, Black Lake First Nation, Black Lake, SK

Publisher's Box

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Caribou News in Brief, c/o Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

Executive Director: Ross Thompson,
P.O. Box 629, Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0
E-mail: rossthompson@mymts.net or

Editor: Lynne Bereza,
E-mail: caribounews@outlook.com
Website: www.arctic-caribou.com

Around the Range

Continued from p. 2

Following a final CMA discussion at their February 2020 meeting, it is expected that a consensus agreement to accept the final version of the strategy will be sent to the NWT Minister and it will be formally accepted in July 2020. Following that an implementation plan will be developed.

Federal Species-at-Risk Update: The proposed federal Threatened Species-at-Risk listing is still in the consultation stages. BQCMB members learned that the federal Species-at-Risk-Act (SARA) could be used as a tool to protect barren-ground caribou, and would not affect Indigenous harvesting rights. ECCC's consultation plan includes follow-up meetings in Nunavut communities, and in Saskatchewan and Manitoba if required.

SIKU app

A social media app geared toward the outdoor lives of Inuit ties traditional knowledge to smartphone technology. SIKU is a mobile app and web platform by and for Inuit which provides tools and services for ice safety, language preservation and weather. Named after the Inuktitut word for sea ice, SIKU allows users to trade observations about dangerous conditions, document wildlife sightings and trade hunting stories, using their own language.

This "cutting-edge" app was created by the Arctic Eider Society, a not-for-profit charity based in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut. Executive Director *Joel Heath* says the project was born from a desire by Inuit elders to document and share oral history with young people. He quoted *Peter Kattuk*, a hunter who died recently, saying, "It's time for the harpoon and the computer to work together," referring to how hunters will often test ice with harpoons.

SIKU is available as an online platform at SIKU.org, while the mobile app runs on Android and iOS.

Sources: CBC News <https://bit.ly/2Ea3J8T> and SIKU.org

Arctic Caribou Canada Project

A new caribou website will soon bring information about Canada's Arctic caribou together in one place, and the site will also raise the profile of caribou and the peoples who rely on them. The Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC) will oversee the Arctic Caribou Canada website, a resource for everybody from community people to academics, policy-makers, and media.

The site is expected to launch in January 2020. •

