

**SAFEGUARDING  
CARIBOU**  
*since 1982*

**Beverly and Qamanirjuaq  
Caribou Management Board**



# Around the Range

## Kivalliq Harvest Reporting Project

One of the three main messages in the BQCMB's "You Can Make a Difference – Caribou for the Future" campaign is the importance of harvest reporting. Thanks to funding from the Nunavut General Monitoring Program, BQCMB staff recently kicked off discussions about a harvest reporting project in four Kivalliq communities in Nunavut.

Although the project is in its very early stages, the BQCMB is proposing a project that will be modeled after the successful Athabasca Denesuline Harvest Reporting Project, now in its fifth year in Northern Saskatchewan. Each year, the ADNLC's Tina Giroux oversees the collection of information from local harvesters. One of the reasons for the project's success is that the information is collected from community members, by community members.

The same will hold true of the Kivalliq project. In early December, the BQCMB's Leslie Wakelyn met with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove to talk about the project. But it wouldn't be BQCMB staff who would hire the interviewers or conduct the interviews—it would be the HTOs themselves. Only basic information would be shared with the BQCMB and strict data sharing agreements would be followed. Interviews would be confidential, with the HTOs both owning the information collected and controlling any sharing of information.



Photo credits: Leslie Wakelyn



Pictured top to bottom, board members and managers participating in BQCMB meetings with HTO Boards in Whale Cove (Dec. 5), Arviat (Dec. 7), Baker Lake (Dec. 11) and Rankin Inlet (Dec. 12).

*One of the reasons for the project's success is that the information is collected from community members, by community members.*

The BQCMB knows requesting harvest information is a sensitive issue for many, and the only information the BQCMB would use is a high-level summary per community. The priority is to gather basic caribou harvest information every year from all communities that harvest from the Qamanirjuaq herd so that can be used to identify subsistence harvest needs and determine the economic value of the herd.

## Proposed Addition of Barren-ground Caribou to List of NWT Species at Risk

The NWT Species-at-Risk Committee (NWT-SARC) has conducted an assessment process and produced a report recommending 'Not at Risk' for the Porcupine caribou herd, and 'Threatened' for all other herds of barren-ground caribou in the NWT including Beverly and Qamanirjuaq. The NWT Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) has accepted these recommendations and its parties are now conducting public consultations on them.

To explain this process, Claire Singer from the NWT Species at Risk Secretariat and NWT Wildlife Director Brett Elkin attended the November Board meeting at the request of the BQCMB. Singer presented an overview of the NWT *Species at Risk Act*, explaining the Act's purpose is to "find out which species are at risk in the NWT and do something about it". More information is available at [www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca).

Singer explained that assessment recommendations range from 'Not at Risk' to 'Extinct'. 'Endangered' means "there is a 50% chance that barren-ground caribou could disappear from the NWT in our lifetimes" and 'Threatened' is defined as "there is a 10% chance caribou could be gone in our children's lifetimes." A final decision is expected by April 2018; if a threatened listing is established a recovery strategy is required within two years.

Continued on p. 3



# BQCMB Encouraged by Pledge

Photo credit: Lynne Bereza



*“Manitoba is only as successful as its Indigenous communities are.”*

Rob Olson, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Sustainable Development

The BQCMB's latest meeting in Winnipeg (November 14-16, 2017) was hampered by low attendance. While Board members from caribou-using communities and members or representatives from governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories (NWT), and Manitoba attended, the Board was missing almost half of its members. None of the appointed members or alternate members from Saskatchewan were approved to attend.

However, the BQCMB was encouraged to hear the government of Manitoba's pledge to work toward reinstating full funding for Board operations via guest speaker, Sustainable Development Deputy Minister Rob Olson (pictured).

As a former president of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Olson is no stranger to the work of the caribou co-management board. He pledged to do whatever he can to ensure the Board remains strong, stating “Manitoba is only as successful as its Indigenous communities are.”

Similarly, the BQCMB can only be successful as a multi-jurisdictional co-management Board if all government parties contribute funding and support board member participation in BQCMB meetings.

These commitments were made in the 10-year Caribou Management Agreement that five Ministers signed on behalf of their governments (Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut).

Given the continued decline in the herds, the Board needs support now more than ever. “It is puzzling that we are not on solid footing with all governments,” commented Ernie Bussidor, from Sayisi Dene First Nation in Tadoule Lake, Manitoba. “There is a world-wide awakening in humanity that these resources (caribou) are in trouble.”

“We have investigated all options for meaningful and effective participation from all regions and members, but there is simply no substitute for in-person discussion,” added Ross Thompson, BQCMB Executive Director. “This Board was created to bring people together to discuss sensitive caribou-related issues. We still have lots of work to do and we need everyone at the table.”

“Like the caribou, the BQCMB needs a long-term sustainable game plan.”•

Saskatchewan NDP environment critic, Cathy Sproule, says the lack of provincial funding prevented members of the BQCMB from attending a semi-annual meeting in Winnipeg.

Long-time Saskatchewan board member Joe Martin was disappointed he could not attend the meeting. “It's really important to us,” he said. “I usually go every year, and I wanted to go, but this year there was no money.”

Environment Minister Dustin Duncan says the province is not backing away from its commitment to the board. He says the lack of funding for one meeting does not indicate a lack of interest or participation on the part of the provincial department.

Sproule says this is a lot more than just missing one meeting. She says it is an indication of the government's lack of concern. “This is a huge concern,” she said. “Because as you know, caribou in the north are kind of like the canary in the coal mine. They are in a critical part of the ecosystem, and the drop in numbers is staggering and alarming.”

The environment minister says Saskatchewan's herd management plan is one of the most advanced in Canada, and he plans to maintain provincial representatives at board meetings, but says other avenues like teleconferencing could be looked at.

Source: Manfred Joehneck, Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation

*“Around the Range” continued from P. 2*

The BQCMB submitted comments on NWT-SARC's draft status report on barren-ground caribou in the NWT in January 2017 and sent a letter to NWT-CMA in July (available at [arctic-caribou.com/library/comments-on-issues/](http://arctic-caribou.com/library/comments-on-issues/)) on the proposed listing of NWT barren-ground caribou (excluding the Porcupine herd) as ‘Threatened’. It will notify the Government of NWT whether it supports the listing by the end of January, 2018.

## Healthy Caribou Herds mean Healthy Northerners

The health of barren-ground caribou is intrinsically tied to the health and wellness of Northern communities. BQCMB Chair Earl Evans teamed up with Monte Hummel of WWF Canada last spring to co-author an article on this subject for Northern Public Affairs magazine's Arctic Conservation Series. The article, “Healthy Caribou Herds mean Healthy Northerners” is available at <http://bit.ly/2A8Pce3>.

# Poster & Prose Contest Winners: Grades 10-12

## 1st Place

**William Campbell**

**Grade 10, John Arnalujuaq High School, Arviat**

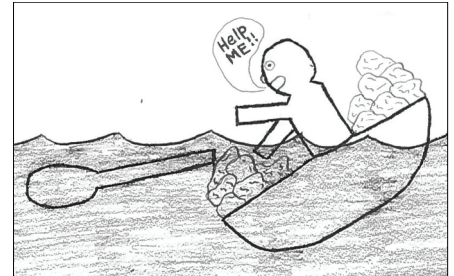
**Essay: Cumulative Effects: How Much is Too Much and What Can We Do About It?**

Cumulative effects refers to many different things that individually would only cause small negative effects, but when combined would cause much larger negative effects. For this essay I will be looking at cumulative effects as they apply to caribou. As an example, one development project on a caribou range may have a small disturbance effect on caribou, while the same type of development on an important caribou range may have a much more damaging effect. The two combined may then have an even greater impact on caribou health and productivity than the sum of their independent effects.

The use of a boat helps me to visualize cumulative effects. A practical example of cumulative effects on caribou is like a boat that you keep adding rocks to. A boat, like anything else, can only withstand so much weight before it starts to become unstable. At one point the boat slows down more and more, then it will eventually sink. This is the same general problem caribou face in the modern world. In this example, we can use the rocks as examples of individual effects on caribou.

The first rocks could represent seasonal range shifts from high quality range due to disturbance by eco-tourists, sport hunters and other commercial tourism and sport hunting activities.

When on important ranges, these activities can push caribou into poorer quality ranges. This shift from better range, resulting from this kind of disturbance will and can cause increased predation and reductions in foraging and overall health. This could also mean caribou would have to travel farther to find food and avoid predators.



Still more rocks could represent excessive harvest above sustainable levels as well as poor harvesting practices. Taking too many females, taking more caribou than we need, or wasting meat, all can lead to increased harvesting. If too many females are harvested, that will also impact how many calves will be born during calving season. Hunting with rifles that aren't sighted in will lead to wounding animals and further wastage of caribou.

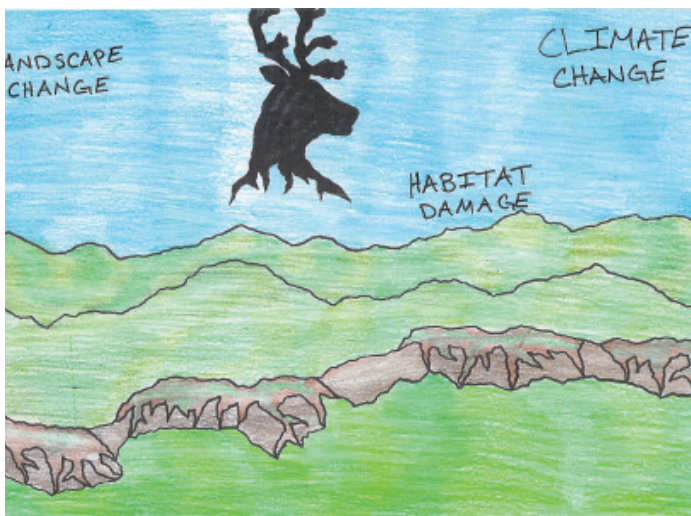
**Read more of William's essay at:**  
[arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/william.pdf](http://arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/william.pdf)

## 2nd Place

**Aulajuq (Raymond) Iqqaat**

**Gr. 10, Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, Baker Lake**

**Poster: Landscape/Climate/Habitat Change**



## 3rd Place

**Lindsay Aksawnee**

**Gr. 12, Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, Baker Lake**

**Essay**

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq are a huge deal for Inuit. Inuit love caribou meat. When caribou are passing by after awhile, we have to leave the first group in order to get to their migration grounds and being disturbed, they will get a new route.

Barrenground caribou are a medium size cervids that can adapt to a life spent in the cold. On mainland of Nunavut, adult males weigh an average of 150 kg in fall. Adult females weigh an average of about 90 kgs. Caribou feed on grasses, sedges, forbs, willow leaves, twigs and mushrooms. Caribou lives on barrenland or tundra of Northern Canada.

They travel in herds of 10-50 animals, or loose bands of thousands on mainland. They always move from one season to another, travelling as far as 1200 km.

**Read more of Lindsey's essay at:** [arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/lindsey.pdf](http://arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/lindsey.pdf)

# Poster & Prose Contest Winners: Grades 7-9

## 1st Place

**Johnathan Campbell**  
Grade 7, Qitiqliq Middle School,  
Arviat

**Essay: Respecting Caribou**

Treat caribou with respect, always thinking about future generations of harvesters. That is the proper thing to do and is also what I am going to talk about in this essay. I recommend you read this essay, it has a lot of useful information that you can use if you are serious about respecting caribou.

Respecting caribou should start with being as informed as possible. As with any activity, always ask questions that will help you be more respectful of caribou and a better harvester.

Try to get as much information from elders and other experienced caribou hunters as possible before you go on a hunt. They can teach you a lot of things. They can teach you things like where to shoot the caribou for a clean kill and how to harvest it properly and how to skin it. Listen to the elders, they have a lot of experience and can help you to learn how to respect caribou and properly and respectfully harvest and conserve caribou. Elders are experienced in harvesting caribou and are your most valuable resource.

Here are some ideas for respectful hunting I have learned from my elders. Be sure your rifles are sighted in before you go hunting. Be sure of your target to reduce wounding other caribou, but if you do wound a caribou be sure to try your best to harvest the one you injured, so it doesn't die in pain and the meat

is not wasted. Try to take as much meat, skin, and parts of the caribou as you can. Try not to leave anything behind as it is not respectful to take only part of the harvested animal. Try not to hunt caribou in sensitive areas, like while they are breeding, also while they are in their calving ground where they have their calves. The caribou might never go back and these areas are very important to caribou. Don't sell caribou when there are few caribou around as it will reduce their herd and with too much harvesting going on, that will take a lot of caribou away from families that rely on them.

Read more of Johnathan's essay at: [arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/johnathan.pdf](http://arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/johnathan.pdf)

## 2nd Place

**Cayla Kablutsiak**  
Gr. 8, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat

**Poster: Keep our Caribou Populations Sustainable**



## 3rd Place

**Irena Komak**  
Gr. 7, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat

**Essay: 12 Facts About Respectful Caribou Hunting**

1. Don't just shoot caribou you might waste food.
2. Don't shoot female caribou.
3. When you're going out hunting always remember to look for polar bears you might get hurt.
4. Remind yourself to dry the caribou skin.
5. Don't waste caribou antlers.
6. Keep the land clean.
7. Clean your mess.

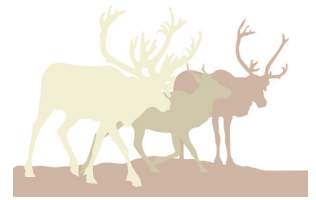
Read more of Irena's essay at: [arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/irena.pdf](http://arctic-caribou.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/irena.pdf)

## Honourable Mentions

- Garreth Anoe, Gr. 7, Qitiqliq Middle school, Arviat  
Poster: Caribou Uses
- Reanne Gibbons, Gr. 8, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat  
Poster: Caribou Uses
- Kenia Pike, Gr. 8, Inuglak School, Whale Cove  
Essay: Respectful Caribou Hunting

View the honourable mentions at: [arctic-caribou.com/bqcmmb-2017-poster-prose-contest/](http://arctic-caribou.com/bqcmmb-2017-poster-prose-contest/)





# People and Caribou

BQCMB meetings are not for members only. There are often many observers and guest presenters. During the November meeting, we heard from the following:

## WWF-Canada

Brandon Laforest gave a presentation on the work of WWF-Canada in the North and reviewed some of its successful collaborations with the BQCMB, including funding the “You Can Make A Difference – Caribou for the Future” campaign through the WWF Arctic Species Conservation Fund. He encouraged HTOs to apply for projects through this and other WWF funds as well. He also applauded the BQCMB for its work promoting calving ground protection in Nunavut, and urged it to continue that effort. Barren-ground caribou are the number one priority for the WWF Arctic program.

## Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)

David Lee explained the NTI’s role in Nunavut and provided a brief update on key recent issues for NTI and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) relevant to the BQCMB, including a Kivalliq regional hearing for the Nunavut land use plan, issuance of federal land use permits on calving grounds and sales of caribou.

## Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (FWEF)

John Williams gave a presentation explaining the FWEF and gave examples of successful projects. He also noted the BQCMB’s application to the FWEF for a Poster and Prose Contest in Manitoba.

## Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB)

Denis Ndeloh gave a presentation on the NWMB’s mandate and responsibilities, funding opportunities and the Community-based Monitoring Network, which has been underway for about five years in several communities, including Arviat.

*“The message from our elders is don’t sell it (caribou meat). You got it for free; don’t sell it.”*

David Kritterdlik, NWMB member and former BQCMB Chair

David Kritterdlik, a NWMB member, elder, and former BQCMB Chair also attended the meeting. He spoke about the importance of collecting information from local people to use in decision-making, and the problem of predators on the caribou population.

He also addressed the issue of selling of caribou meat: “The message from our elders is don’t sell it. You got it for free; don’t sell it.”

## Chronic Wasting Disease

Retired biologist Vince Crichton gave an informative presentation on chronic wasting disease in domestic livestock and big game, which has spread from the USA into Alberta and Saskatchewan, and efforts being made to stop it from spreading to Manitoba.

## Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association (MLOA)

Paul Turenne brought greetings from MLOA, and stated that they wanted to participate in “solving the caribou issue”. They would also like their license fees to be earmarked to go toward caribou management. They understand that use of caribou by Indigenous peoples is the first priority, but believe that outfitters should be second priority.

## Farewell to Peter Thorassie

Wayne Wysocki sent word of the passing of Peter Thorassie on September 18, writing “Although Peter struggled with health issues recently, he remained deeply committed to getting the deal done. He longed for the day he would see his signature on a modern Treaty acknowledging Sayisi Dene First Nation’s rights North of 60. Unfortunately, that day will not come to pass. Peter’s passing should be a stark reminder to us all that we cannot wait forever to do the right thing.”

Below left: David Kritterdlik, NWMB  
Below right: David Lee, NTI (l) and Brandon Laforest, WWF-Canada



Photo credits: Lynne Bereza

Meet the BQCMB Member:

## Napoleon Denechezhe

Winnipeg's Charleswood Rotary Club wouldn't be the place you'd expect to learn about the importance of teaching youth how to hunt caribou, but that is exactly what they heard during a recent meeting.

Their guest speaker? BQCMB member Napoleon Denechezhe, from Northlands Denesuline First Nation in Lac Brochet, Manitoba.

"Nap", as he is called, in Winnipeg for the BQCMB's November Board meeting, was as surprised as the Rotary Club Members. "It was something that I didn't expect," he says. "Ross (BQCMB Executive Director Ross Thompson) just came up and asked me to be the guest speaker which was kind of a surprise. But it turned out pretty good."

"It was surprising for them to know how important caribou is for the people, the caribou users."

According to Thompson, Nap was a very effective presenter, which should come as NO surprise. Nap has long been a community leader in Lac Brochet, a community formed in 1971 just north of Brochet, a small community on northwest Manitoba's Reindeer Lake. While most residents of Brochet are Cree, Lac Brochet is made up of Dene, and when the community was created, it needed a spokesperson. For the next two or three years, that person was Nap. "I like helping out" he says simply.

It is that same helping spirit that brought him to the BQCMB three years ago. One of the things he really enjoys is learning about what is happening in other jurisdictions. "You know it's interesting...I'm a hunter and fisherman and I trap...I'm an outdoorsman and I've gotten to know more about what's happening (across the range)."



*"This is the way we live our lives and we want to pass it on to our young people."*

BQCMB Member Napoleon Denechezhe

Photo credit: Lynne Bereza

He is a strong believer in the BQCMB's work and believes its "Caribou for the Future" messages—about respectful hunting, cumulative effects and the importance of harvest information—need to be heard far and wide. "Not enough people know what has to be done," he says. "It's not only Lac Brochet and Wollaston and Fond du Lac and Tadoule Lake...there's other caribou users and these people are hunters also. Whatever they kill we don't know about. And that's what we're missing—knowing what others are doing."

It's a message Nap brings to every meeting—the need for outspoken people that can do the job and spread those messages. And he leads by example, stepping up as needed. As noted earlier, he served as community spokesperson in the early years, and was a band councillor for six years. Today, he continues giving back by helping with community hunts and "On-the-Land Camps" for youth. These youth camps are designed to give kids a chance to gain new knowledge, learning from seasoned hunters, trappers and elders like Nap. They are funded by the BQCMB with assistance from some of its partners, including the Charleswood Rotary Club. (For more information about On-the-Land Camps, visit [arctic-caribou.com/projects/education/](http://arctic-caribou.com/projects/education/).)

Before Nap's presentation, Club members really had no clear idea what effect their contribution

to the camps was having. Thompson had achieved an initial donation by appealing to the Club's preference for funding youth activities, but he felt hearing about the camps from a northerner would be more effective. And it was. "They were amazed," Nap says. "It was good for them to hear, some of them had no idea and wanted to learn more about it. But they've got to hear it from us."

Nap and fellow BQCMB member Ernie Bussidor, from Tadoule Lake, Manitoba teamed up for the presentation and in addition to talking about the program, showed a slide show of youth participating in some recent camps. Nap feels that seeing pictures of knowledge being passed from generation to generation had a strong impact on the Rotary members.

"This is something that people need to be enthusiastic about," Nap explains. "This is the way we live our lives and we want to pass it on to our young people."

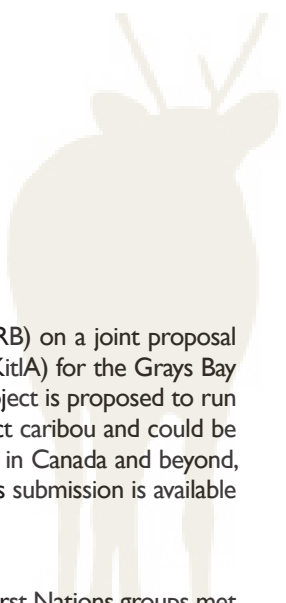
Nap has spent his life passing on his hunting, trapping and fishing skills to his own small family, and he is an experienced and sought-after guide. But by sharing his extensive knowledge with others, he is ensuring youth right across the range will benefit from these teachings.

And as for reaction from the Charleswood Rotary Club? After Nap and Ernie's presentation, they promised to make another donation toward BQCMB youth education programs!•



Photo courtesy of Napoleon Denechezhe





## Heard around the BQCMB Table

"We need this [Caribou] Board more than ever so I hope it will continue."

*Stanley Adjuk, Kivalliq Wildlife Board Chair, Whale Cove, NU*

"It's not only about function and efficiency of the Board; it's about survival. We still have lots of work to do."

*Ross Thompson, BQCMB Executive Director*

"If you impact caribou, you impact my way of life. When you do that, you're taking food off my plate. There should be stronger legislation and more attention to the problem of roads."

*Ron Fatt, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, NWT*

"If it wasn't for my grandmother boiling a caribou skin, and feeding that to my mother and her siblings, I wouldn't be here today. That is how she kept us alive. We don't have the luxury of seals or whales; our main diet is caribou."

*Richard Aksawnee, Kivalliq Wildlife Board Vice-chair, Baker Lake, NU*

"If there was no more caribou it would be a dismal life for Dene people. It is very important that this Board exists. This is my first meeting, and after seeing the problems the organization is having staying afloat at a time when it is so important to support it, it seems to me it's going the wrong way."

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

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**Editor's note:** In the Spring issue of Caribou News in Brief, we misquoted Sayisi Dene First Nation's Geoff Bussidor. Geoff's quote should have read: "My grandparents were raised with caribou skin clothes, and had caribou hide beds, and they needed a lot of caribou. It's different now, but the past shouldn't be forgotten."

# Beyond the Range

## Grays Bay Project Proposal enters Environmental Screening

The BQCMB submitted comments to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on a joint proposal from the Government of Nunavut (GN) and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA) for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. While not on the BQCMB caribou range, the mega-project is proposed to run across Bathurst caribou calving and post-calving habitat. This will negatively affect caribou and could be precedent-setting for all mining and road projects that follow on caribou range in Canada and beyond, including those to come on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges. The BQCMB's submission is available at [arctic-caribou.com/library/comments-on-issues/](http://arctic-caribou.com/library/comments-on-issues/).

## Inuit, First Nations sign 'historic' pact to protect Quebec caribou

In an attempt to preserve Quebec's two largest caribou herds, seven Inuit and First Nations groups met in Montreal in October to sign an unprecedented conservation agreement. The agreement, signed by Inuit, Innu, Cree and Naskapi leaders, formalizes steps to study population trends, restrict hunting and manage the herds' 1.5-million-square-kilometre habitat.

After previously managing to halt sport hunting on the George River herd—whose population dropped from 770,000 in 1993 to just 9,000 in 2016—the group's four years of lobbying has now resulted in the province agreeing to put a stop to sport hunting of the Leaf River herd next year.

The combined population size of the two herds peaked at around 1.3 million in the late 1990s, but has since dwindled by over 90 per cent to 209,000. Global warming and an increase in mining and other human activity is thought to be amplifying the problem.

For the 10,000 Inuit living in or near the Ungava peninsula, meat harvested from caribou and other wildlife accounts for up to 75 per cent of a family's meals.

## Zoo plan scrapped for Quebec caribou

The Quebec government's decision to move a herd of 15 woodland caribou to a zoo almost 400 km away drew such sharp criticism the zoo rescinded its offer.

The issue gained attention last spring when Quebec's environmental review agency refused a proposed gold and copper mine near Val-d'Or in northwestern Quebec, saying the woodland caribou in the area are too vulnerable. Boreal woodland caribou have been designated as a threatened species in Quebec since 2005. Between 6,000 and 9,000 remain in the province, but the number near Val-d'Or has dwindled to about 15.

The government's plan to save the herd by relocating it to the Saint-Félicien zoo was criticized by biologists and environmental groups who said the government should focus on preserving the caribou's habitat instead. And although activists applauded the zoo's decision not to accept the herd, loggers, sportsmen and ATV-riders have so encroached on the herd's habitat that it is unlikely to recover.

*Information sources: CBC Montreal, National Post, Christopher Curtis, Montreal Gazette*

## 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](mailto:rossthompson@mymts.net)  
or  
Editor: Lynne Bereza, E-mail: [caribounews@outlook.com](mailto:caribounews@outlook.com)  
Website: [arctic-caribou.com](http://arctic-caribou.com)



## BQCMB 2016/17 Annual Report

The BQCMB Annual Report is now available online! Visit [arctic-caribou.com/library/annual-reports/](http://arctic-caribou.com/library/annual-reports/) to download.