



# Importance of Harvest Reporting

The well-being of northern peoples and communities is related closely to the well-being of the caribou herds, and the recent drop in the size of most caribou populations across northern Canada is of great concern. It is generally agreed that over-harvesting has not been the cause of herd declines. However, if the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds continue to decline, harvesters will experience increasing difficulty in meeting the needs of their families and their communities for caribou.

Reporting caribou harvest is very important for telling us the number of caribou that hunters and their families need for food and other uses. The total number of caribou needed by traditional caribou-using communities is known as the “subsistence needs level”. Having this information will help the BQCMB to help the communities protect their subsistence needs. This will also help the BQCMB to make recommendations which recognize both the value of caribou to people and the need to protect the herds from disappearing. We need the most complete information we can get on harvest to help everyone make wise decisions about caribou use.

When caribou herds are small, hunting can have a greater impact on the herds than when they are large. This happens when hunters continue to have good access to caribou even when their numbers are low. It may take many years for a caribou herd at low numbers to recover and become plentiful again if hunting pressure is too heavy. No one wants this to happen. Reporting caribou harvest is needed to tell us if hunting pressure is too heavy.

By reporting accurate information about the caribou harvest, hunters can help to:

- **Support** caribou monitoring programs.
- **Provide** key information to improve decision-making about caribou.
- **Involve** caribou-range communities in decisions about caribou.
- **Determine** how many caribou communities need.
- **Recognize** the importance of traditional uses of caribou.
- **Define** the economic value of caribou.

The BQCMB will work to maintain opportunities for traditional caribou harvesters to continue to hunt caribou and preserve their Indigenous cultures. The use of caribou for food and other subsistence needs by Indigenous peoples is the highest priority of use recognized by the BQCMB.

***Share harvest information today to help make sure there will be caribou for tomorrow.***

**You Can Make a Difference -  
Caribou for the Future**

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*To find out more about the BQCMB and this issue, please contact us at:*

BQCMB Secretariat: Box 629, Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0

E-mail: [caribounews@outlook.com](mailto:caribounews@outlook.com) Website: [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com)