



Respectful Caribou Harvest

There are many ways to show respect for caribou and the land. Elders have passed down teachings about respectful harvesting practices orally through stories and legends for many generations. Guidelines for respectful caribou hunting have been described recently in documents such as the Athabasca Denesuline's "10 Traditional Protocols of Caribou Hunting", Nunavut's "Inuit Elders perspectives on hunting and harvesting wild game" and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's "Hunting Best Practices".

The BQCMB knows that individual communities and cultures have different beliefs about the best ways to show respect to caribou and the land, and not everyone will agree on the specific actions that should be followed to make sure that caribou are harvested and treated with respect. Ways of hunting, handling and storing caribou meat vary among cultures and depend partly on where people hunt and what time of year they harvest caribou. As a result, there are differences in which hunting practices are believed to be the "best" or most responsible and what is considered to be wastage.

However, the Inuit, Dene, Cree, Metis and non-Aboriginal people that are part of the BQCMB have agreed to encourage all caribou harvesters to reduce wastage and show respect for caribou and the land by:

- **Respecting** your neighbour's traditional hunting lands.
- **Sighting** in your rifle and taking careful shots.
- **Shooting** bulls instead of cows, when possible, during periods when caribou herds are declining or small.
- **Recovering** your kill and all wounded animals.
- **Handling** and **storing** caribou meat and parts carefully.
- **Leaving** the land and waters clean and tidy.
- **Making** use of ALL parts of caribou.

The BQCMB asks that all caribou harvesters practice these guidelines whenever they can, and even more importantly, that they follow the rules for caribou hunting that their own Elders and other experienced hunters recommend.

It is very important for hunters to lead by example and to teach youth and other new caribou hunters good hunting practices. The best way is to teach lessons on the land, so youth and new hunters can watch the Elders and experienced hunters and learn how to hunt successfully and respectfully.

Take only what you need, use all that you take, and leave only your footprints behind.

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

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