

CARIBOU NEWS

in Brief

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



BQCMB Meeting #100
June 11-14, 2026
Łutsël K'é, NWT

Beverly herd increasing

Caribou Board cautiously optimistic about recent estimates

Board members, guests, and observers from Nunavut, northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories gathered in May in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board's (BQCMB) 98th meeting.

The three-day gathering from May 6-8 marked 20 years since the Board's last meeting in Rankin Inlet, and included updates and presentations from government representatives, youth, Elders, and board members.

Elder **Peter Two Aulatjut** opened the meeting with a ceremonial drum dance, and emphasized the importance of having all peoples at the table to discuss caribou conservation. "It's about working together, no matter who we are. Working together is always the best way."

Biologist **Mitch Campbell** with the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (GN-DOE) shared survey data which showed a rise in the Beverly herd's population estimate from 103,400 in 2018 to 152,000 in 2023. Campbell noted that this bodes well for the Beverly herd, which has been in decline since the 1990s.

Though the Qamanirjuaq herd is still experiencing a slow decline, it too is showing some signs of stabilizing.

What's inside

- People and caribou
- Around the range
- Youth and caribou
- BQCMB: Looking ahead
- Projects and pressures on the range
- Heard around the BQCMB table

Below: BQCMB board members and staff in Rankin Inlet, NU: Joanie Kennah, Dennis Larocque, Gilly McNaughton, Fiona Rettie, Peter Gazandlare, James Hodson, Tina Giroux-Robillard, Atuat Shouldice, Matthew Tokaruk.

Photo by Henri Giroux



People and Caribou

While the Board is cautiously optimistic given these encouraging signs, attendees highlighted the continued need to assess and mitigate disturbances that affect caribou, such as roadway activities and development.

“We all know that roads are detrimental to caribou,” noted BQCMB Chair **Earl Evans**, “but we also know they are essential – we need roads to build economies, so people can have jobs and support their families. We have to find ways to lessen the impact as best we can.”

These comments follow reports from the Government of Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) and the Tłı̨chǫ Government detailing the significant wastage along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road in 2025.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government, among many communities, expressed their concern, and made several recommendations to minimize wastage.

Caribou parasites are another growing concern. Evans emphasized that fear of parasites can lead to unnecessary wastage.

“When people see parasites in their caribou, they’re reluctant to use the meat.”

Earl Evans, BQCMB Chair

BQCMB is working with government organizations, wildlife veterinarians, harvesters and community members to better understand parasites and disease to support the safe harvest, handling, and consumption of caribou, an important step in minimizing waste.

On the final day of the meeting, Elder Helen Iguptak lit the Qulliq – a traditional Inuit lamp that provides light and warmth to the earth, and the BQCMB urged communities and organizations to remain proactive in caribou management practices.



Earl Evans and Elder Helen Iguptak in Rankin Inlet, NU



Elder Peter Two Aulatjut shares a drum dance to open the 98th BQCMB meeting

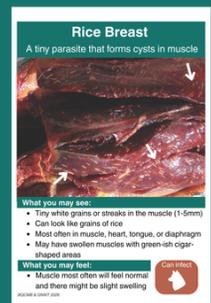
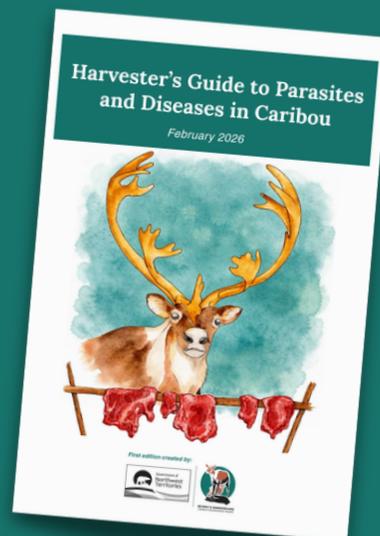
Harvester Field Cards coming in 2026!

BQCMB is developing Harvester Field Cards in partnership with the Government of Northwest Territories in response to concerns from harvesters about parasites and diseases in caribou.

These Field Cards will help harvesters:

- Identify common parasites and diseases
- Know when meat is safe to eat
- Determine when extra care is needed while butchering, and if meat should be avoided

Field cards are designed as a source of clear, practical information for harvesters on the land. These cards will be piloted in March 2026, with a broader rollout scheduled later in 2026 alongside complementary social media resources.



People and Caribou

Merci, Joanie!

In January 2026, **Joanie Kennah**, Vice Chair–Administration, stepped down from the Board following her relocation from Thompson, MB back east to her home in New Brunswick.

During her time with the BQCMB, Joanie brought dedication, thoughtfulness, and a deep respect for barren-ground caribou and the people who depend on them. As she shared,

“Although my time with the BQCMB



Joanie Kennah and Tina Giroux-Robillard at a BQCMB Board meeting

has been relatively short, it has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career... Barren-ground caribou are so important.”

“It has been a privilege to get to know the land users who share so much devotion towards caribou conservation, and the preservation of the cultures that caribou people hold.”

Joanie Kennah

“Thank you to the Board and staff for making this such a positive and collaborative environment — I will miss it greatly,” she said.

We are grateful for Jo’s leadership, generosity, and the care she brought to her role, and we wish her all the best in this next chapter as she takes on a new position with the Government of New Brunswick.



Tina Giroux-Robillard and Johnny Clipping share a laugh at a Seal River Watershed meeting in Winnipeg, MB

Welcome, Johnny Clipping

The BQCMB extends a warm welcome to our newest Board member **Johnny Clipping** of Sayisi Dene First Nation.

Johnny grew up in Dene Village on the outskirts of Churchill, MB after the forced relocation of the Sayisi Dene from their home territory in 1956.

Now residing in Tadoule Lake, Johnny is a protector of his homelands and of Sayisi Dene traditions. He is also a proud member of the Seal River Watershed team.

BQCMB: Looking Ahead

BQCMB’S 100TH MEETING

The 100th meeting of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board will be held in Łutsël K’é Dene First Nation, NWT.



BEVERLY & QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Open to the public:

June 12 & 13, 2026

JOIN US AT NACW

BQCMB Staff and Board members will be in attendance at the 20th North American Caribou Workshop in Yellowknife, NWT.



NACW takes place:

June 15-19, 2026

People and Caribou

Carrying the story forward

A farewell to our longtime storyteller, Lynne Bereza

Lynne Bereza joined the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board in 2012, initially to produce a single edition of Caribou News in Brief.

Fourteen years later, she leaves behind a legacy as the Board's storyteller, archivist, and a constant presence — the person who helped turn decades of meeting notes, photographs, and shared moments into a living record of care, collaboration, and stewardship.

What began as a casual, temporary role became a deeply meaningful part of her life, shaped by dozens of Board meetings, publications, and conversations over tea, where she found joy and connection.

“Being part of the BQCMB... It just felt right.”

Lynne Bereza

“It was really the honour of my life to have those years with the Board,” she stated. “I felt like an equal part of a collective working towards something, and I felt truly respected as a professional.”



Tina Giroux-Robillard, Lynne Bereza, and former BQCMB bioglist Leslie Wakelyn

Over the years, it was the relationships—and moments of honest connection—that stayed with her most. One of her favourite memories took place in Tadoule Lake, during a visit to the late Ernie Bussidor's home.

“Tina [Giroux-Robillard] and I went for a walk one evening and dropped in at Ernie's to have tea with him. We just sat there and talked for a couple of hours; relaxed and listened.”

“I loved everything about Tadoule, and that moment was so comfortable and peaceful. Ernie always came up with the most beautiful and powerful words,” Lynne recounted.

She also recalls interviews with other late Board members, including Joe Martin and Albert Thorassie, that were full of stories and laughter.

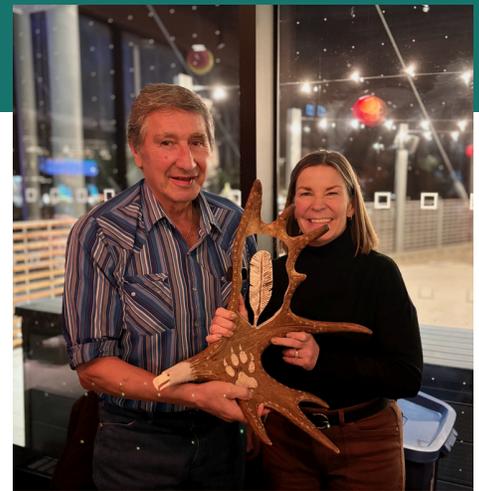


Rob Harmer, Tim Trottier, Lynne Bereza and Mitch Campbell in Arviat, NU (2019)

“Meeting all these people that I wouldn't have had a chance to meet otherwise — it was such a gift,” she said

Many impactful moments, Lynne noted, happened around the Board table.

“There are times at meetings when someone stands up to speak and it just hits you... You realize you are



Dennis Larocque gifts Lynne Bereza a hand-carved antler at her retirement

hearing something so important and timely. You just have to stop, listen, and bear witness to it.”

Through her years with the Board, Lynne was deeply influenced by the stories, teachings, and relationships between people, caribou, and the land. She witnessed the Board grow in stability and capacity, as conversations shifted toward long-term stewardship, youth involvement, and new programs.

Communications became a key part of that growth. “When I first started, it was so hard to find things,” she said. “Now it's all on the website. That's our library.”

From newsletters and Annual Reports to posters and educational tools, Lynne takes pride in having made the Board's work visible and accessible. The Caribou Edu-Kit activity book, she noted, was a particular labour of love.

After more than a decade of shaping how this work is recorded and shared, Lynne's connection to the Board remains. “Once it's part of you,” she said, “it's always a part of you.”

The BQCMB extends deep gratitude to Lynne for the care, creativity, and integrity she brought to this work — and for helping ensure the Board's story will continue to be carried forward for generations to come.

People and Caribou

Welcome to Fiona Rettie

As the BQCMB turns a page in its communications story, we extend a welcome to new Communications Specialist **Fiona Rettie**. She steps into her role grounded in respect for what's come before — and with a desire to centre land users, harvesters, and storytellers.

“In the two meetings I've attended, I have already heard so many powerful speakers,” she shared. “In my role, I want to do justice to the people who speak up to share their knowledge and passion about caribou — and to those in community who spend time teaching and learning on the land.”



Fiona Rettie on the Churchill River

Raised in northern Ontario and Winnipeg, Fiona now works from her home in Churchill, MB, where she has lived for six years. She brings a background in programming, communications, and tourism, with previous roles at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Parks Canada, and the Canadian Sport Centre Manitoba.

Fiona has worked with both arts and

science-based organizations to translate complex ideas into clear, engaging content across strategies, social media, publications, and design.

She understands that the knowledge shared through the Board belongs first to the communities and land users who carry it, and sees her role as supporting and uplifting those voices with care, honesty, and clarity.

“Communications isn't just about being open and listening to stories — relationships are the most important,” Fiona shared. “I want to help create environments where trust, learning, and sharing can happen organically.”

Fiona feels privileged to help convey the Board's understanding of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou through the BQCMB website, publications, and online channels. She resides in Churchill with her partner and their two dogs.

You can get in touch with Fiona by email at: frettie@arctic-caribou.com

Congratulations, Alexandra

Alexandra Kanters is the recipient of the 2025 Gunther Abrahamson Caribou Research and Management Award. She is a PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary.

Her research focuses on caribou and muskoxen, and the diseases increasingly being observed in Arctic wildlife.

Working alongside Inuit harvesters, she brings together Inuit *Qaujima-jatuqangit* and western science to better understand these changes and support safe, respectful harvesting practices.



Gilly McNaughton and Alexandra Kanters in December 2025 at Arctic Net

Supported in part by the BQCMB's GACRM Award, her work has helped the North — including in Ekaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay), where she has now relocated in order to continue her community-based research and grow the relationships she has made during her time there.

Alexandra's project, *Kiudjutigiblugit Ilihimaayut uvalu Naluyayut* (Responding to Knowledge and Uncertainties) focuses on a One Health approach which examines emerging wildlife diseases in the Arctic and their practical implications for community members who rely on country foods.

Through her fieldwork in Ekaluktutiak, Kugluktuk, and Ulukhaktok, Alexandra has worked closely with community partners to support culturally-grounded approaches to food safety, wildlife health, and sustainable harvesting.

She believes strongly in trans-disciplinary and community-based approaches to health, and considers it a great privilege to work closely with community members and partners in the Inuit Nunangat.

Alexandra hopes to complete her PhD in 2026.

Youth and Caribou



Youth Maya Muckpah and Redsun present at the 99th BQCMB meeting in Winnipeg, MB.

Protecting Qamanirjuaq *tuktu* and Inuit lands

Maya Muckpah, from Arviat, Nunavut, grew up around on the edge of the Qamanirjuaq calving grounds. As a young person, she spent her time out on the land with family and community members, learning deeply about the land and the *tuktu*.

Now in her second year of the Environmental Technology Program at Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit, Maya is exploring ways to ensure extraction does no harm to her homelands.

At the BQCMB December meeting, Maya shared a research project examining mining expansion and its impacts on barren-ground caribou, the proposed road extension at the Meladine mine near Rankin Inlet.

Maya walked Board members, guests, and observers through key parts of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) process, explaining how cumulative effects can pose

serious risks — and why, in this case, the NIRB ultimately recommended the proposed expansion not proceed due to uncertainty about lasting impacts on caribou.

A central piece of Maya's project was an interview she conducted in Inuktitut with Alex Ishalook, a hunter, BQCMB Board member, and fellow Arviatmiuk.

She translated his words into English for the room:

“Calving grounds have special plants to feed cows so they can produce milk for calves,” Alex recounted in his interview.

“These calving grounds must not be disturbed at all. The protection needs to get stronger, so the mines do not damage these lands. After all,” he said,

“The calving grounds act like a hospital for the caribou.”

Alex Ishalook



Understanding IQ, Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit*

Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) refers to Inuit ways of knowing, and the values and principles that guide how Inuit live, learn and make decisions.

These include:

- respect for people and relationships
- care for the land and wildlife
- shared decision making
- generational ways of teaching, and
- collective responsibility to steward Inuit Nunangat

Maya explained that any amount of roads, dust, and industrial activity can alter calving grounds, migration routes and water crossings over time, causing caribou to avoid areas used for generations.

Drawing on both her studies and lived experience as an Inuk community member, Maya emphasized that Inuit Elders and hunters must be central to all decision-making about roads and mines, with Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) guiding development across Nunavut.

She advocated for stronger land use planning to safeguard calving grounds and migration routes, and policies that formally embed IQ and Inuit leadership in caribou management.

Through her work, Maya is bridging science, community research, and Inuit knowledge.

She reminded listeners that development discussions and decisions must always start with those who have protected the lands and *tuktu* since time immemorial; only through this method can there be real care the land, for *tuktu*, and the people who depend on them.

Youth and Caribou

Etthén: caribou as our relatives

Redsun, who also goes by Victoria Inglis, is a Two-Spirit Denesų́liné and Nehitho artist and storyteller whose work is rooted in their family lines, traced from Łutsel K'e, NWT to Southend, SK, all the way to their home community of Lac Brochet, MB.

An artist and historian, Redsun honours their grandmothers, aunts, and family members through visual art, film projects, defense of Indigenous lands and waters, and through a staunch dedication to learning the Dene language.

Redsun spoke at the December BQCMB meeting about *etthén* (caribou) as more than animals: they are relatives, like the stars in the universe, part of a living cycle where people and caribou transform into one another over generations.

“We are made out of stardust, and we become the caribou, and the caribou become us. When we hunt, that’s part of why we respect them — because they are our relatives.”

Redsun

This transformation is honoured through the relationships and respect held between Denesų́liné and caribou including Dene ceremonial practices, and the traditionally nomadic lifestyle of the Denesų́liné.

Redsun shared what it was like growing up as a young Denesų́liné person, and shared the lessons taught by their uncle: how to hunt, jig, cut fish, and travel on the land, insisting that Redsun deserved to be taught “not as a woman or a man, but as a relative.”



Redsun speaks to Board and guests about their ongoing film project.

Redsun's ongoing film project, *Etthén*, tells stories in their own voice, sharing traditional Dene practices and modern relationships with caribou through images of artwork, video clips and pictographs from their ancestors.

Some of the teachings shown in the film are meant to be spoken about openly, while other Dene knowledge was omitted – as some lessons are meant to be held within families and on the land itself.

The film includes descriptions of traditional caribou harvesting methods using fences and spears, and is shot on a 16mm Bolex camera made in the 1950s – a choice Redsun made because it is mechanical.

“My camera uses no lithium, and



Photo by Redsun, shot on 16mm film

right now in Manitoba there are a ton of lithium mines being proposed,” they said.

Over five years, Redsun has filmed, photographed and documented caribou knowledge visually as a method of understanding and sharing relationships with caribou in lands that are threatened by mineral exploration.

Redsun's voice, imagery, and years of work convey the concept that land and *etthén* are relatives of Denesų́liné—whose lives depend on one another—not resources for dividing.

Despite Redsun's growing knowledge of past ceremonies and traditions, they shared how important it is for Dene to actively shape what comes next.

“The stories we tell today will shape how communities live with caribou 100 years from now.”

Artists, youth, and Elders must stand together in caribou work as they did in earlier generations, but with an understanding of the changes that have occurred in the era of colonization.

We cannot simply “go back to the past,” shared Redsun.

“Relationships with caribou must be renewed for the world we live in now.”

Youth and Caribou

On the Land Fund adopts new name

The BQCMB's On-the-Land Fund has a new name: the **Caribou Connections Fund**. This change reflects a broader understanding that caribou knowledge lives on the land — and also in language, stories, artwork, and relationships across generations.

Applications for the 2026-2027 Caribou Connections Fund are now open.

Hatchet Lake Denesųliné First Nation Youth Camp

The Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation – Prevention and ADCFS Youth Caribou Hunt was held April 6–13, 2025 at Pimutik Lake, Saskatchewan.

The week-long camp brought together 20 youth alongside Elders, parents, chaperones, and community members, for a land-based learning experience centred on barren-ground caribou. A scouting flight identified caribou presence north of Wollaston Lake, and youth were flown into camp by Twin Otter to begin the gathering.

Throughout the week, each youth participated in at least one hunt alongside experienced hunters, learning to properly harvest caribou, and butcher and prepare meat. They also harvested one moose.

Caribou were brought back to camp for shared meals and for making dry meat, with families able to take caribou home. Additional caribou were harvested to share at the Treaty 10 Gathering, which occurred in July. Youth also learned essential land skills, including how to build a smoke signal and start a fire using only flint, guided by experienced Rangers and knowledge holders.

Weather challenges required participants to return home by snowmobile, offering youth firsthand experience navigating trails and travelling safely on the land with loaded boggans. Participants and community members felt the camp was successful, and strengthened knowledge and connection between generations.

Hatchet Lake offered a “Marsi Cho” to the Province of Saskatchewan and BQCMB's Caribou Connections Fund for making this gathering possible.



Photos:

1. Youth learn to make a fire using flint
2. Amy Joseyounen holds up moose meat she cut up
3. Smoking and drying meat
4. ADCFS Coordinator Jolene Tsannie sits at camp
5. Jean Tsannie shows her grandson SJ Joseyounen how to butcher caribou

Apply for the Fund!



Apply online at
[arctic-caribou.com/
caribou-connections-fund](https://arctic-caribou.com/caribou-connections-fund)



Applications due
September 30, 2026

**Projects must be
completed by March 31, 2027**



SCAN ME!

Youth and Caribou

Gratitude to the Government of Saskatchewan

The BQCMB sends a “Mahsi Cho” to Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Environment for providing an additional \$14,250 to our Caribou Connections Fund in 2024-2025.

This unexpected and very welcome contribution provided funding for culture camps in Fond du Lac and Hatchet Lake, featured in this issue of Caribou News in Brief.

Fond du Lac Denesųłin  First Nation Culture Camp

The Fond du Lac First Nation Prevention Program hosted a land-based culture camp at Lake Athabasca from June 27-30, bringing together 33 participants including 15 children and youth, along with Elders, facilitators, and families.

The camp focused on cultural awareness and connectedness, creating space for youth to reconnect with the land, strengthen identity, and learn directly from knowledge holders.

Throughout the camp, youth participated in hands-on cultural activities such as dry meat making, fishing, bannock making, harvesting caribou and moose, filleting fish, beading earrings, and playing traditional hand games.

Elders and facilitators guided the youth in learning about the importance of Dene culture, sharing knowledge about harvesting, preparing traditional foods, and spending time together on the land. Canoe races and shared meals also strengthened relationships among camp participants.

Despite some logistical challenges including limited gasoline supply in the community, transportation of supplies by barge, last-minute facilitator changes, and windy weather conditions, the camp was viewed as a success and created many opportunities for youth and knowledge holders to share experiences.

Youth harvested woodland caribou on the island, enjoyed fishing, and made the most of their time on the land.

By bringing children, youth, families, and Elders together in a land-based setting, this program aids community wellbeing and helps prevent children from



Fond du Lac community members butcher caribou, dry meat, and gather at Lake Athabasca, SK

coming into care by strengthening cultural identity, practical skills, and family bonds. Funds from the BQCMB Caribou Connections Fund helped Fond du Lac Prevention Program to deliver this culture camp.

Projects and pressures on the range

Development can bring benefits to northern communities, but land is central to culture, knowledge, and caribou health.

The BQCMB tracks proposed projects across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges to ensure caribou concerns are considered. As pressures from development and climate change grow, even small projects can have significant cumulative impacts on caribou habitat, migration, and herd health.

Wildlife Biologist **Gilly McNaughton** shares up-to-date information on proposed projects across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq ranges:

Around the Range

Grays Bay Road and Port Project (GBRP) Nunavut and Northwest Territories

What it is: A proposed deep-water port at Grays Bay and a ~230 km all-season road, connecting the coast to the former Jericho diamond mine site. Project is currently undergoing full environmental review.



Why it matters: The project is part of a larger concept called the Arctic Security Corridor, which could eventually link roadways from Yellowknife, NT to the abandoned Jericho mine site, NU. With mineral potential in the region, increased access and all-season roadways raise concerns for barren-ground caribou.

What BQCMB is doing: BQCMB has submitted comments highlighting potential impacts, and will attend future hearings. BQCMB is also conducting a technical assessment to better understand what the impacts from GBRP on barren-ground caribou could look like.

Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project Nunavut and Manitoba

What it is: A hydroelectric transmission line and fibre link—up to 1200 km in length—connecting Manitoba and Nunavut, currently in the planning phase.



Why it matters: Development and maintenance of hydro-fibre link infrastructure could disrupt important Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou migratory corridors, calving, and post-calving areas.

What BQCMB is doing: BQCMB has submitted comments to the NIRB, the Proponent and the Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission to communicate concerns, and has made recommendations of alternate routing to minimize impacts on caribou.

Nut Lake Project Nunavut

What it is: A uranium exploration project.



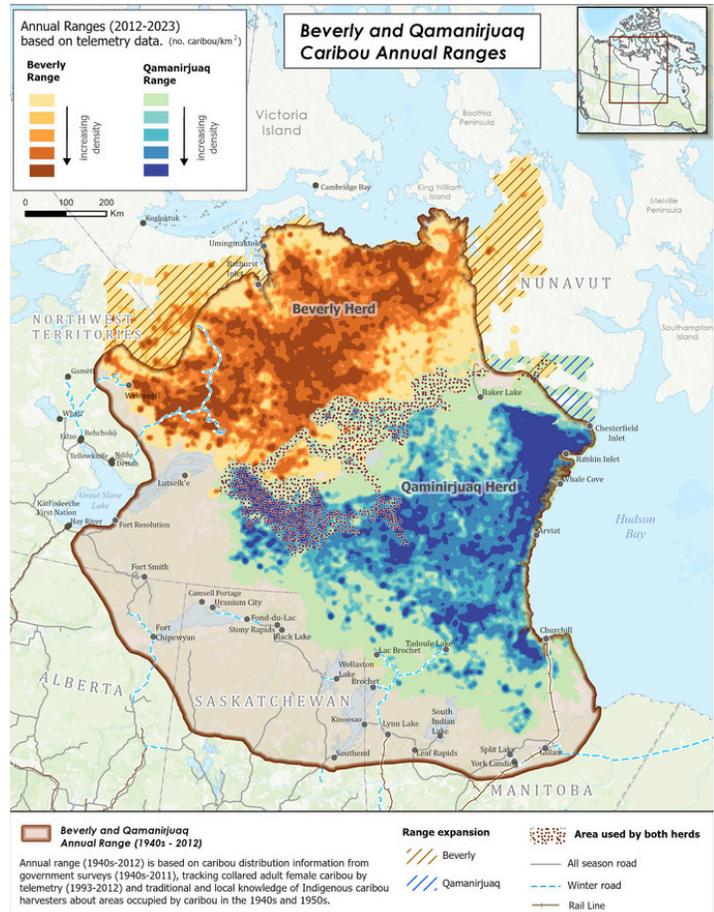
Why it matters: This project location overlaps a critical spring migration corridor to Beverly and Qamanirjuaq calving grounds.

What BQCMB is doing: BQCMB has raised concerns with the project's regulators and will monitor any upcoming hearings.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) reviews proposed developments in Nunavut to assess their environmental, social, and community impacts before projects are approved.



For more information, visit nirb.ca



Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Nunavut

What it is: A potential 725 km road connecting Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake in its preliminary design phase.



Why it matters: This roadway could disrupt important Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou migratory corridors and calving grounds. Roads can also enable harvest access for people, which can increase the risk of over harvest, illegal harvest, or wastage.

BQCMB involvement: BQCMB has submitted comments to the NIRB, the Proponent and the Nunavut Land Use Planning Commission to communicate concerns, and has made recommendations of alternate routing to minimize impact on caribou. The Board will continue monitoring this project.

Around the Range

BQCMB Board and staff in action

Board members and staff attend conferences, workshops, and meetings year-round in the name of caribou stewardship. In 2025, here is where BQCMB staff and Board members were spotted:

BQCMB Meeting #98 Rankin Inlet, NU - May 2025

BQCMB Board and staff gathered in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut for the Board's 98th meeting.

Mitch Campbell, Atuat Shouldice, and Dennis Larocque, pictured top right

ICCE National Conference Vancouver, BC - May 2025

The Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE) National Conference is designed to empower communities to take action while strengthening Indigenous leadership relative to cumulative effects.

Ete Zoe, Petter Jacobson, Stephanie Behrens, Tina Giroux-Robillard, Gilly McNaughton and Katie Rasmussen pictured right, second photo down.

KWB meeting Winnipeg, MB - Oct 2025

Matna to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board for inviting BQCMB staff to attend their annual meeting.

BQCMB shared updates on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou

Management Plan, heard from HTOs about projects happening across the range, and listened to their concerns regarding caribou.

Andrea Ishalook, Tina Giroux-Robillard, and Nicole Issakiark at the KWB meeting, pictured right, third photo down.

BQCMB Meeting #99 Winnipeg, MB - Dec 2025

BQCMB Board and staff gathered in Winnipeg, MB. / Long Plain First Nation for the Board's 99th meeting.

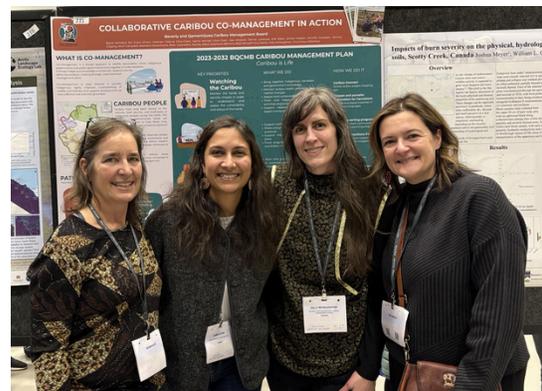
Staff and Board pictured bottom middle. Top row: Nap Denechezhe, Peter Gazandlare, Mitch Campbell, Tina Giroux-Robillard, Jennifer Jonasson, Gilly McNaughton, Dennis Larocque, James Hodson and Johnny Clipping. Bottom row: Alex Ishalook, Fiona Rettie, Joanie Kennah, Katherine Mehl, and Alicia Kelly.

Staff Tina Giroux-Robillard, Gilly McNaughton, and Fiona Rettie pictured bottom right.

ArcticNet 2025 Calgary, AB - Dec 2025

BQCMB staff were joined at Arctic Net by colleagues from across the north to discuss challenges facing wildlife, cultures, and climate in Arctic regions.

Wildlife veterinarians Dr. Sue Kutz and Dr. Naima Jutha join Gilly McNaughton and Tina Giroux-Robillard in front of the BQCMB's poster presentation.



Heard around the BQCMB table

from the December 2025 meeting in
Winnipeg, MB.

“We are the caribou eaters, the voices of the caribou – we speak for them.”

- Jennifer Jonasson, Łutsël K'è Dene
First Nation, Łutsël K'è, NT

“We don't have many true Elders around now, so we are next. We have the knowledge, and we are responsible to carry that knowledge. We are the teachers of the future and of our children.

That is who we are – and I am proud to be Denesųłiné.”

- Elder Simon Samuel, Northlands
Denesųłine First Nation, Lac
Brochet, MB - pictured right



“In our territory, we all share the same caribou. Manitoba, NWT, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan. We respect our caribou and we respect our land, like the Inuit have always respected that land. Our water crossings and calving grounds are very precious to us – they are pristine and clean.”

- Alex Ishalook, Kivalliq Wildlife
Board, Arviat, NU

“Young Denesųłiné nowadays, we have so much power in us... It hasn't been beaten down in residential schools. We are strong, and we have survived a lot.

Youth are ready, we are passionate – we just need the tools and the education. There are no caribou hunters like us anywhere else on Earth.”

- Redsun, Denesųłiné and
Nehitho Youth

“Knowledge can be lost when assessing the vulnerability of a herd. It is too hard to fit Indigenous and community knowledge into numbers. Numbers do not fully reflect what communities are seeing and experiencing on the land – so we need to use alternatives to capture what is happening.”

- Gilly McNaughton,
BQCMB Staff Biologist

“Respect the caribou, and they will respect you back.”

- Johnny Clipping, Sayisi Dene First
Nation, Tadoule Lake, MB

“We were told by our Elders how they managed the caribou, how they respected the animal. If anyone is coming up from the south, they need to know how to respect the caribou and the land like us.”

- Joe Dantouze, Northlands
Denesųłiné First Nation, Lac
Brochet, MB



BEVERLY & QAMANIRJUAQ
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Publisher's Box

Caribou News in Brief is published by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to:
E-mail: info@arctic-caribou.com
Website: arctic-caribou.com

@BQCMB



Find us on Facebook, Youtube,
Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok.