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NBCKC

Newsletter

Special Edition: Annual Report

The National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium is a forum for collaborative knowledge generation, sharing and mobilization to support conservation and recovery of boreal caribou.

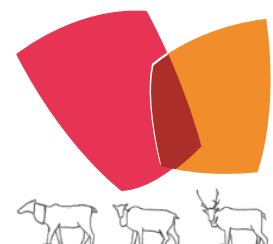
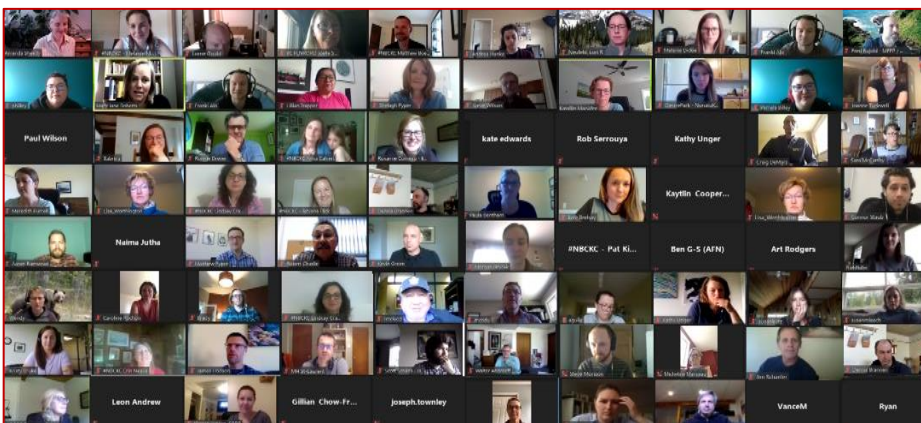
Working together to support boreal caribou recovery

This June, the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC) held its 3rd annual 'face-to-face' meeting. The meeting was to take place in Ottawa; however, current restrictions on travel and large gatherings due to COVID-19, led the NBCKC Secretariat to challenge themselves to orchestrate a virtual face-to-face meeting that would be productive, meaningful and impactful but also have an 'in-person' feel for nearly 75 participants. The meeting sessions took place virtually in 3-hour sessions on June 10, 11, 17 and 18 and capitalized on advanced video conferencing and document sharing features to achieve meeting objectives. The overall theme was 'Getting Strategic with Knowledge Mobilization'. NBCKC Working Groups presented new knowledge products including communication and decision-making tools and sought guidance to ensure information would be useful. A presentation from experts in the field of knowledge communications opened a series of workshop discussions where members identified critical shifts in thinking as well as actions

required to achieve desired future states in working together for boreal caribou conservation. Virtual breakout sessions gave participants an opportunity to express what was important or challenging for them personally or within their organization. Individual members also shared stories of their own work, highlighting the strength of collaborations and partnerships, as well as lessons learned.

This meeting reinforced among its diverse membership the notion that the NBCKC is playing a key role in identifying and addressing remaining knowledge gaps; in bringing together best practices and data; and mobilizing Indigenous Knowledge and science to inform decision makers. This 'Annual Report' edition of the newsletter, includes exciting updates for the many initiatives underway at the NBCKC and lays out the path forward for the coming year.

Sincerely, *The NBCKC Secretariat*



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

© Gerry Racey



Management Working Group

Establishment of the Population Management Working Group (PMWG) began following the direction of the NBCKC in June 2019. In the past year the NBCKC Secretariat has secured co-chairs for this group, who undertook the initial scoping activities. The purpose of this group is to coordinate, share and generate new knowledge among jurisdictions regarding population-based management actions, and in a format that is more rapid and nimble than typical scientific journal publication processes. The primary focus of this group will be to inventory the scope and outcomes of population management actions across Canada in an effort to better understand i) what actions have been attempted? ii) what actions have been successful? and iii) what actions have not benefited caribou?

© Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild



➤ Caribou calf and cow in Revelstoke BC.

To date, the co-chairs have conducted 22+ phone calls with prospective members representing federal and P/T governments, Indigenous organizations, academia, industry, and ENGOS to gain a better sense of what is currently happening across the country and discuss potential objectives and deliverables for this working group. Based on these conversations, a draft Terms of Reference is currently being developed in advance of their first meeting planned for September 2020.

NBCKC: In Action

Monitoring Working Group

The Monitoring Working Group (MWG) was formed in September 2018, and consists of over 40 members from across a broad range of organizations who have extensive experience with and knowledge of boreal caribou. This year the MWG produced their first report [*'Boreal Caribou Monitoring in Canada Part I: Perspectives from the NBCKC Monitoring Working Group'*](#). In Part II of their work, the group has focused on developing a series of 'tools' to be added to the Caribou Monitoring Toolbox, providing a suite of best practices and decision-making tools. The first tools being developed include:

1. A **decision tree** which uses monitoring objectives to identify potentially suitable monitoring methods;
2. **Comparative tables** which provide users with a rapid assessment of alternative methods and considerations including resource, skill level, and data needs;
3. **Fact sheets** which are one-page graphical summaries for each method;
4. **Detailed method descriptions** which outline the advantages/disadvantages, resource considerations and examples of use for each method; and
5. **Indigenous Ways of Knowing Boreal Caribou** product(s) from the IKC.

© Fort McKay First Nation



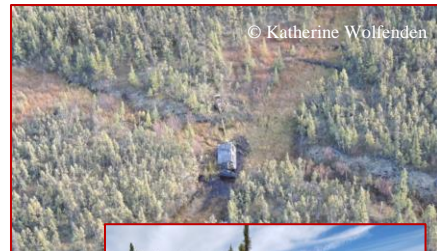
➤ Presence of young caribou observed using trail camera monitoring by Fort McKay First Nation.

In the coming year, the MWG will continue to develop these tools in collaboration with its members, the IKC and other caribou monitoring subject experts based on feedback heard at the annual June NBCKC meetings.

Habitat Restoration Working Group

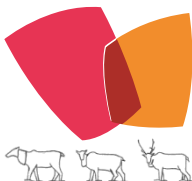
The Habitat Restoration Working Group (HRWG) was established in March 2019 and consists of about 40 members from across the boreal caribou range, representing FTP governments, Indigenous organizations and communities, industry, ENGOS and academia.

© Katherine Wolfenden



➤ Caribou habitat restoration project underway by Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) in their Traditional Territory.

In the past year the HRWG has been working towards developing the Boreal Caribou Conceptual Ecological Model as well as providing a forum for members to share about lessons learned from their restoration work with each other. While still under development, the key objective of the model is to provide a visual framework depicting the interacting pathways and mechanisms that mediate the well known disturbance-recruitment relationship. Following feedback received during the annual NBCKC meeting in June, the HRWG will continue to refine the model and consider how to present this model to different audiences who will benefit from using it to support their work. The HRWG is guided by an understanding that to ensure self-sustaining boreal caribou populations in the future, we must invest in actions now to protect remaining habitat, encouraging regeneration and undertake active habitat restoration in disturbed areas.



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium



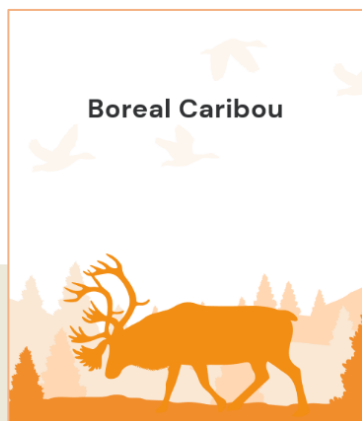
© Cole Burton

CCLM Portal

The Canadian Conservation and Land Management (CCLM) Knowledge Network, a partnership of the NBCKC Secretariat, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Innotech Alberta and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, successfully launched the cclmportal.ca in April 2020. The purpose of this knowledge portal is to provide a centralized location for resources on boreal caribou conservation, wetland best practices, and land restoration and reclamation. With knowledge mobilization as a key goal, the CCLM portal was built to facilitate knowledge exchange and grow communities of practice around the site's three key themes. You can get involved with the work of the CCLM Knowledge Network by contributing projects to the [Caribou Interactive Map](#), contributing content to the CCLM Portal, sharing news/events and by financially supporting the ongoing development of this site. Contact the [NBCKC Secretariat](#) to learn more!



Canadian
Conservation
and Land
Management



NBCKC: Communications

Webinar Series

Launched in October 2018, the bi-monthly NBCKC Webinar Series is a forum for those working on caribou conservation and recovery to share their work. In May 2020, the NBCKC joined forces with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institutes Caribou Monitoring Unit (CMU) to co-host the new 'Caribou Ecology and Recovery Webinar Series', which is supported by funding from the Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration (RICC). This partnership has expanded the capacity to host more frequent bi-weekly webinars. To date, participants have learned about topics relating to restoration efficacy, braiding Indigenous ways of knowing and western science, the risk of chronic wasting disease and caribou population dynamics. We invite you to register for the many [upcoming webinars](#) in this series!



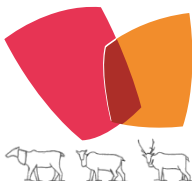
NBCKC Bi-Monthly Newsletter

The NBCKC bi-monthly newsletter is a tool that we, the NBCKC Secretariat, use to communicate updates, news and important information to the NBCKC, its working groups and others interested in this initiative. Each edition features updates on our key areas of focus which include the working groups, the knowledge sharing portal and the Indigenous Knowledge Circle. Past and future editions of the NBCKC Newsletter are featured on the cclmportal.ca, visit today to learn more! If you have suggestions on updates you would like to receive let us know! You can email us at cnsb-nbckc@canada.ca

Collaborations and Other Initiatives

Connections made through the NBCKC have been a catalyst for several other noteworthy avenues of work undertaken by representatives within this diverse network. Some key initiatives underway include:

- The 'Caribou Range Planning Project' which aims to connect planning and implementation leaders across the country to support learning and the development of plans rooted in Indigenous-western collaboration.
- Ronnie Drever, NBCKC representative for Nature United, is currently preparing a 2-3 page summary document of the ['Boreal Caribou Monitoring in Canada Part I: Perspectives from the NBCKC Monitoring Working Group'](#) report which came out in December 2019. This summary document aims to increase understanding by natural resources staff, Guardian Watchmen staff, land users and other community members about monitoring approaches for woodland caribou.
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), in collaboration with the Prince Albert Model Forest and University of Saskatchewan, is developing a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Protocol Document grounded in community and culture, which aims to provide guidance to groups interested in approaching Indigenous communities represented by PAGC to learn about their TEK.
- Supported by Nature Legacy Funding, members of the IKC have been leading several projects to monitor boreal caribou, gather Indigenous Knowledge/perspectives on boreal caribou from their communities and engage Indigenous youth in learning about their culture and boreal caribou conservation.
- Have something that you are working on that would benefit from collaboration with the NBCKC? [Contact us!](#)



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge
Consortium



Indigenous Knowledge Circle

In the past year, the IKC has made considerable progress working towards their objectives during monthly meetings. During meetings IKC members share updates from their regions, information and experiences with each other to support caribou recovery. This year, the IKC focused their efforts on the Indigenous Ways of Knowing report and updated database of Indigenous-led caribou projects across Canada. The group also spent time refining their mandate, developing a Terms of Reference, and discussing the possibility of adopting the “Indigenous Calls to Action for Caribou” principles that came out of the 2018 North American Caribou Workshop. The members of the IKC have played a foundational role in beginning the conversation with other NBCKC representatives on how we effectively bring Indigenous and western ways of knowing together to support caribou recovery. If you would like to find out how your community can become involved in the NBCKC, please contact the NBCKC Secretariat by [email](#).



- *Participants of the 2019 Caribou Camp organized in part by Prince Albert Grand Council, member of the IKC.*

NBCKC: Next Steps

Critical Shifts in Caribou Conservation

Critical shifts are a shift in the state of a situation from how it is now, to how we would like to see the situation in the future. At the annual June meeting this year, the NBCKC worked together to identify and discuss critical shifts in the context of caribou conservation. The group was challenged to think about the question “What are we trying to change for boreal caribou, their ecosystems and the people who depend on them?” as it pertains to their work both within and outside the NBCKC. The purpose of this exercise was to collectively map out the desired future we are working towards for boreal caribou. Five key critical shift themes identified by the NBCKC are:

- Caribou habitat is conserved/restored to recover populations and halt range contraction;
- Indigenous knowledge is considered equally and incorporated in caribou conservation, research and management;
- Knowledge is shared/accessible, valued and utilized in conservation actions/decision making;
- Multi-species/ecosystem-based management approaches are adopted that consider cumulative effects including climate change; and
- Caribou conservation frameworks balance other values on the landscape including natural resource extraction and economic decisions.

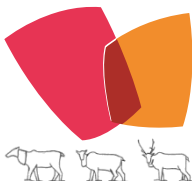
One of the strengths of the NBCKC is the diverse network of those involved. In the coming year, the NBCKC will discuss steps that can be taken to collectively move towards these future states as well as ways in which participants of this network can collaborate, facilitate or support each other as we work towards these desired outcomes.

NBCKC – Year 3 and beyond

The NBCKC is a forum for collaborative knowledge generation, sharing and mobilization to support boreal caribou recovery, with diverse representation from academia, Indigenous organizations, wildlife co-management boards, industry, ENGOS, as well as federal, provincial and territorial governments. The NBCKC has made considerable progress in its second year and the Secretariat wishes to thank all of our members for their hard work and dedication, to-date. In year three, the NBCKC will continue to build on the progress made in this past year. Specifically, the NBCKC will be working towards the following next steps in 2020-2021:

- Reflect upon how critical shifts identified from the June meetings can be used to shape, guide and inform our work;
- Refine the Boreal Caribou Conceptual Ecological Model and prepare audience specific communication products;
- Finalize several tools for the Caribou Monitoring Toolbox and seek guidance from the IKC concerning additional tools rooted in Indigenous methodology;
- Convene the newly established Population Management WG and work toward a State of Caribou Management report;
- Continually improve the Interactive map of Caribou Projects by adding many new projects and resources;
- Continue to develop guidance from the IKC on Indigenous Ways of Knowing Boreal Caribou.

We look forward to our next year and wish to thank all those involved in the NBCKC this year for your work, commitment and contributions!



NBCKC Annual Milestones At-A-Glance

A forum for collaborative knowledge generation, sharing and mobilization to support boreal caribou recovery



1st Annual IKC Meeting

JUNE 2019

2nd Annual NBCKC June Meeting

NBCKC Webinar

Chronic Wasting Disease – an emerging threat for caribou populations in Canada

Indigenous Knowledge Circle

Hired facilitator and commenced monthly meetings

NBCKC Webinar

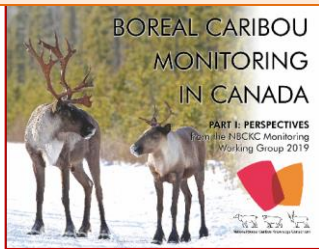
Conquering the Caribou Conundrum – A First Nations initiative to implement caribou recovery measures

Population Management Working Group
Scoping initiated and leads secured

2nd Annual NBCKC & IKC December Teleconference

DEC 2019

Monitoring Working Group
Report Published: *'Boreal Caribou Monitoring in Canada Part I: PERSPECTIVES'*



NBCKC Webinar

HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou

NBCKC Secretariat On-the-Road
2020 Beyond Borders Caribou Workshop in Churchill, MB

Indigenous Knowledge Circle
Indigenous Ways of Knowing work underway



Monitoring Working Group
Development of the Caribou Monitoring Toolbox

Habitat Restoration Working Group
Development of the Boreal Caribou Conceptual Ecological Model

CCLM Portal Launched

APRIL 2020



NEW Co-Hosted Webinar Series Launched



Population Management Working Group
Exploratory calls with prospective members

2nd Annual IKC Meeting

JUNE 2020

3rd Annual NBCKC June Meeting

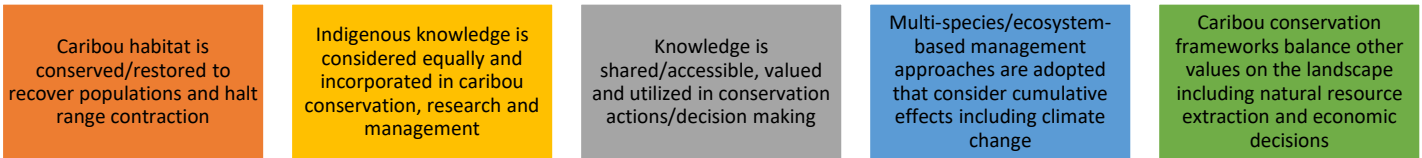


National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC)

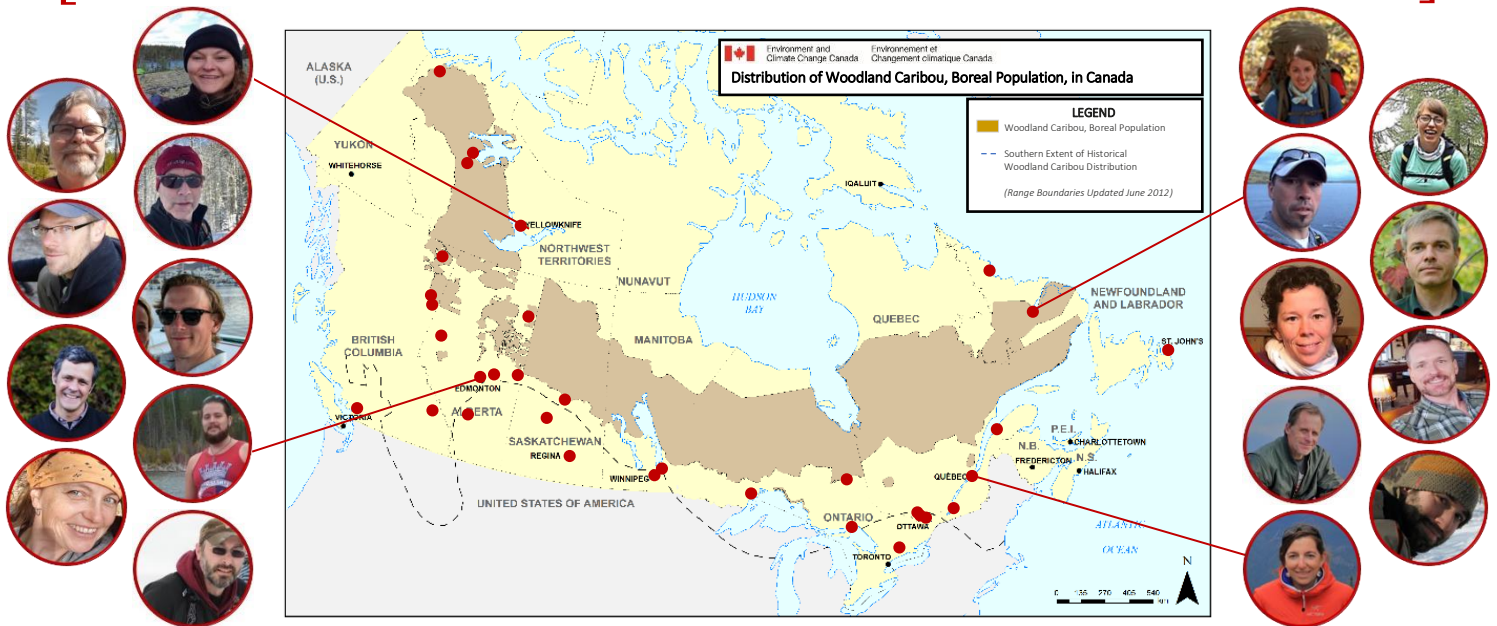
Big Picture - Supporting Boreal Caribou Conservation & Recovery

Collective Desired Future



Diverse Network of People

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS | INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES/ORGANIZATIONS | WILDLIFE CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS | ACADEMIA | INDUSTRY | ENGOs



How we Work

Where we Connect

How we are Informing Action



National Boreal Caribou
Knowledge Consortium