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# NBCKC

## Newsletter

### Special Edition: Annual Report

*The National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC) 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

It's incredible to think that four years have passed since the inaugural NBCKC June meeting in 2018! Commemorating the NBCKC's 5<sup>th</sup> 'birthday', this year's June meeting celebrated what we have learned and achieved together, as well as generated indicators to help measure our ongoing success. At the meeting, Chief Robert Charlie of the Inuvik Native Band shared his reflections on how far we've come and can eventually go. He spoke of relationship-building, partnerships, inclusion, and the need to focus on the broader boreal ecosystem to deal with the things that are most impacting caribou, including, for example, climate change. Through the diverse working groups that share knowledge, the NBCKC is breaking down silos and facilitating the rapid sharing of lessons learned. By identifying the need for, and developing key tools to support caribou conservation, the NBCKC is translating knowledge into action.

We also celebrated the ongoing success of the CCLM Knowledge Portal, one of the impactful ways we are able to mobilize our knowledge, getting it into the hands of those who need it. With four years of hard work, the NBCKC network has watched ideas become realities, we have witnessed partnerships form and flourish, and we've seen the way we do things begin to change for the better. As we enter into our 5<sup>th</sup> year, we look forward to continuing this important work with each of you!

In this Annual Report you will find summaries from the NBCKC and its many components. Successes from the past year and next steps for the coming year are highlighted throughout.

- *The NBCKC Secretariat*



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### News & Events

May 8-12 2023: [North American Caribou Workshop \(NACW\)](#) in Anchorage Alaska! Abstracts due December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

WINTER 2022-23: Caribou E-Lecture series hosted by the Canadian Institute of Forestry. [Find these events and more on the CCLM Portal.](#)

NEW! [AI camera trap analysis tool INFOGRAPHIC](#) on CCLM.

NEW! ARCKP releases 5<sup>th</sup> edition of [The Exchange](#) newsletter.

LAUNCHED! The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership recently launched their [IPCA Knowledge Basket](#) ... future home of the NBCKC IKC's Toolkit.

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# NBCKC: In Action



## Management



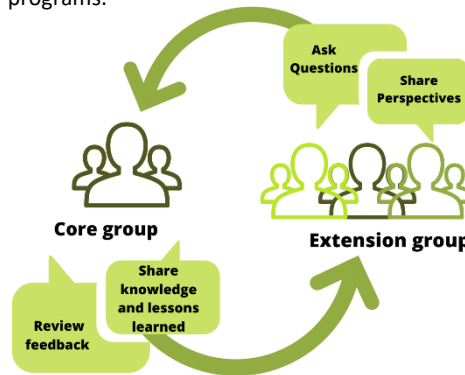
## Restoration



## Monitoring

Established in September 2018, the [Monitoring Working Group \(MWG\)](#) brings together the best available information to help inform actions by those involved in monitoring programs. It does this by investigating caribou population monitoring priorities, methods, constraints, and best practices. Since June 2021, the MWG has made progress on the [Boreal Caribou Monitoring Toolkit](#), including completing and launching three more guidance documents, which delve into the advantages and disadvantages, resource considerations, and practical examples for caribou monitoring methods. Also as a part of the toolkit, the MWG launched an interactive decision tree, intended to help users discuss and select the boreal caribou monitoring methods that are most suitable for their project or program. By applying the selection criteria in the Decision Tree, the user can consider the relative advantages of various methods to their specific monitoring goals. Finally, a manuscript about the MWG has been written: "Expanding the circle- meaningful collaboration toward caribou conservation in Canada" will be submitted for publication in the fall of 2022. In the coming year, the MWG will continue to develop additional tools in collaboration with the IKC and other caribou monitoring experts. These include a health monitoring tool, a modeling tool, and a multi-lingual glossary of monitoring-related vocabulary. To learn more about the MWG or to get involved, contact [Melanie](#).

The [Population Management Working Group \(PMWG\)](#), established in August 2020, is a forum for generating and sharing new knowledge regarding population-based management actions for boreal caribou across Canada. The PMWG brings together the best available information and helps inform actions by management practitioners across Canada to best support caribou conservation and recovery programs.



The 'core group' of the PMWG consists of individuals directly engaged in management activities and/or evaluation, while the 'extension group' includes a broader membership that extends beyond solely management practitioners. Since June 2021, the PMWG has held 5 meetings of the core group. This exchange of information between practitioners expedites ongoing research on boreal caribou population management actions, by enabling a smoother flow of information among those who have "boots on the ground." The PMWG also held a meeting of the extension group, which set the stage for the ongoing development of the 2022/23 Workplan, a roadmap of priorities for the PMWG. Also since last June, the PMWG launched a [Range-wide map detailing caribou management programs](#), and released the an [informative population management factsheet](#). Next, the PMWG will focus on centralizing resources specific to population management, including PMWG-led resources in a single place hosted on the CCLM Portal. To learn more about the PMWG or to get involved, contact [Melanie](#).

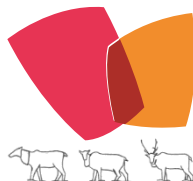
The [Habitat Restoration Working Group \(HRWG\)](#) serves as a community of practice for members to share lessons and insights from their restoration experience. This year, the HRWG publicly launched the [Boreal Caribou Ecological Model](#) on the CCLM Portal, including the [Technical Report](#) and [Infographic](#). These tools provide users with a conceptual framework to approach habitat restoration. Additionally, the HRWG drafted a report titled "Boreal Caribou Habitat Restoration Practices: Applications and Outcomes". This report synthesizes learnings from restoration projects into the model framework. This work highlighted some interesting next steps that the group could take to help better communicate lessons learned in the field and assess restoration efficacy. Finally, this year the HRWG began to assemble the pieces for a 'Habitat Restoration One-Stop-Shop' to be hosted on the CCLM Portal (see below). This tool will provide users with quick access to key resources from across Canada to support restoration planning, actions and monitoring.



Habitat Restoration One-Stop-Shop

- Provincial / Territorial Frameworks
- Indigenous Frameworks
- Applied Toolkits & Guides
- Restoration Practitioners / Contractors Resources
- Restoration Funding Sources
- On-the-Land Opportunities

To learn more about the HRWG or to get involved please contact [Tatyana](#).



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

# NBCKC: In Action (cont ...)



**Indigenous Knowledge Circle**



**Annual "F2F"**

Since its public launch in April 2020, the [Canadian Conservation and Land Management \(CCLM\)](#) Knowledge Portal has welcomed over 18,700 users! This year the [CCLM partners](#) completed the Phase 2 website development upgrades previously identified by site users, improving the search facets and page navigation, upgrading [contact pages](#) to allow for more details and created a batch upload feature. In less than two years since its launch, the CCLM has grown to include [new partnerships](#), banked forward funding to safeguard longevity, and shared more than 2000 resources with users. This past year the partners outlined a long term "vision for impact" by developing a knowledge mobilization strategy. To date the CCLM has completed 2 [webinars](#), 2 [infographics](#) and 1 [briefing note](#) as part of the knowledge mobilization strategy pilot. Users are actively accessing CCLM content, the top resources viewed or downloaded from the boreal caribou subportal include several components of the NBCKC's [Boreal Caribou Monitoring Toolkit](#), the IKC's [Guiding Principles for Cross Cultural Collaboration](#), and the [Boreal Caribou Action Plan](#). Keep your eyes on the [www.cclmportal.ca](http://www.cclmportal.ca) to catch new and exciting information added weekly!



➤ [The number of first-time visitors to the CCLM since launch \(April 2020 – September 2022\)](#)

To learn more about how to become a partner or to contribute resources to the CCLM Portal please contact the [NBCKC Secretariat](#).

The Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC)'s membership includes representation from ~40 Inuit, First Nations, and Métis organizations, communities, regional governments, and co-management boards who are actively involved in the conservation, recovery, and management of caribou. The IKC finalized its Terms of Reference this year, and has been meeting regularly to fulfill its mandate of advocating for the use of Indigenous Knowledge in caribou conservation and recovery by contributing Indigenous perspectives to the development of NBCKC products such as the boreal caribou monitoring methods toolkit.

With the goal of improving understanding and respect for Indigenous People and their Knowledge Systems, the IKC plans to complete its own toolkit, "Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Achieving Reciprocity in Stewardship" this year. This project seeks to enable genuine, respectful, and productive cross-cultural collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups working to protect and restore lands, waters and all living beings. The IKC shared the [Guiding Principles for Cross-cultural Collaboration](#) that form the core of this toolkit in May 2022, and continues to work on the practical guidance that will support the implementation of those principles.

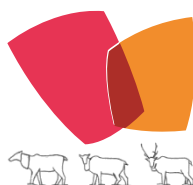
The group wishes to increase its membership to include more diverse representation so that Indigenous voices from across the country can help guide the work of the NBCKC and its members. To learn how your community can become involved, please visit the [IKC's webpage](#) or contact the NBCKC Secretariat by [email](#) or phone (343-809-2748).

Over 80 individuals from across Canada participated in the annual NBCKC June meeting. Discussions centred on where we started, where we are, where we will go in our next five years, and how we plan to get there. If you would like details on the meeting activities and discussion please contact the [NBCKC Secretariat](#).



**Caribou Health**

This year the previously named NBCKC "Chronic Wasting Disease Knowledge Network" broadened their scope and was rebranded as the **Caribou Health Knowledge Network (CHKN)**. This new name better captures its goal of sharing knowledge on the full spectrum of issues impacting boreal caribou health. They met in May 2022 for a presentation and discussion on the potential risks of exposure and impacts from brainworm to caribou. A second presentation updated network members on a collaborative project using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and science to better understand the risk from Chronic Wasting Disease to woodland caribou and deer in Northern Saskatchewan. The group plans to meet again in the fall to hear from invited speakers, and continues to welcome new members to its open forum for knowledge sharing. To learn more about the CHKN please email [Erin](#).



**National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium**



# NBCKC: Next Steps

## From Critical Shifts to Theories of Change for Boreal Caribou Recovery

In June 2020, the NBCKC started down a path of developing a Theory of Change for Caribou Conservation and Recovery. To begin, we identified 5 desired future states for caribou and caribou work in Canada. In December 2020, we transformed these into critical shifts. At the June 2021 meeting, participants further transformed the 5 critical shifts into critical objectives and identified some key barriers that are currently preventing us from reaching those objectives, and some strategies to overcome them. Since then, the NBCKC has used the barriers and strategies to develop draft 'results chains' for three key strategies of particular relevance to the NBCKC: topical working groups, knowledge mobilization, and an NBCKC State of Caribou Knowledge Report. The results chains developed for each strategy map out the smaller actions (and their associated results) that comprise the broader strategy. The NBCKC Secretariat will be reviewing and using the results chains and ideas from the June 2022 meeting to inform our next steps.

### Strategy 1:

#### Topical Working Groups

*To fill knowledge gaps and connect actors across sectors and geographies on key caribou action areas.*

### Strategy 2:

#### Knowledge Mobilization

*To enhance awareness and uptake of NBCKC knowledge products (best available information and guidance for caribou).*

### Strategy 3:

#### NBCKC State of Knowledge Report

*To release an annual NBCKC State of Caribou Knowledge Report and Synthesis.*

## NBCKC – The Next Year and Beyond

At 5 years old, the NBCKC is a collaborative model to be celebrated! It continues to be a leading example of how great things can happen when we come together to SHARE, GENERATE, and MOBILIZE knowledge for the purpose of caribou conservation and recovery. For the year to come, the NBCKC finds itself well-positioned with a strong foundation of relationships built over time and key processes in place to propel us into our next phase of work together. But how do we influence and measure real change? The NBCKC's vision (below) is an ambitious one given the scale and complexities of boreal caribou conservation – it is a vision that can only be achieved collaboratively. By working together, lifting each other up, leveraging each group's strengths, and 'pushing' in the same direction, we are collectively moving toward this vision. This past June, NBCKC members spent time identifying indicators to measure our collective impact and exploring how we can expand that impact beyond our immediate network. As the NBCKC grows and flourishes, we will increasingly turn our focus to understanding where we can have the most impact.

### NBCKC Vision Statement

"A future where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada have the opportunity to live in relationship with boreal caribou, where caribou populations are self-sustaining across Canada, and the critical habitat to support these populations is available."

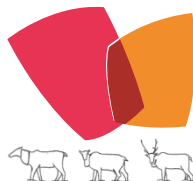
*We look forward to our next year and wish to thank all those involved in the NBCKC this year for your work, commitment and contributions!*

*~ The NBCKC Secretariat*

### The NBCKC celebrates 5 years!

This year, the NBCKC held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual June meeting since inception. Below are some of the key takeaways reflected at the meeting:

- There is an impressive amount of work that has come out of the NBCKC in just 4 short years, from the relationships established and the communities of practice built, to the tools developed to support knowledge generation and mobilization.
- Members continue to value the diverse and collaborative nature of the NBCKC and the open flow of information and lessons learned. The NBCKC allows members to strategically apply limited resources to address existing knowledge gaps and mobilize knowledge through restoration or management actions.
- An objective that many of our members are working towards is Two-eyed Seeing, that is, having Indigenous and non-Indigenous people collaborate in the development of boreal caribou conservation solutions, where decisions are informed by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge. The IKC is currently developing a cross-cultural collaboration toolkit titled "Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Achieving Reciprocity in Stewardship" to support this objective.
- Working together under a Theory of Change framework has enabled the NBCKC to achieve objectives aimed at overcoming significant barriers to conserving and restoring caribou.



# 2021-2022 NBCKC Milestones At-A-Glance

3rd Annual IKC Meeting

JUNE 2021

4th Annual NBCKC June Meeting

NBCKC Annual Report

Caribou Ecology & Recovery Webinar Series  
14 Presentations!

Chronic Wasting Disease Knowledge Network  
2nd Meeting

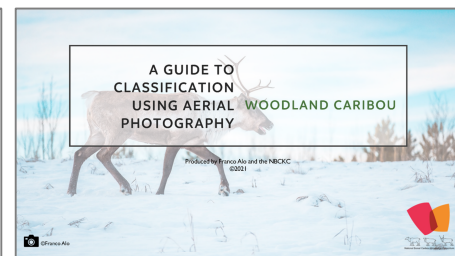
4th Annual NBCKC & IKC December Meetings

**NEW!** IKC Logo & NBCKC WG Icons



**Monitoring Working Group**  
Released: *'Guide to classification based on aerial photography'*, *'Telemetry based monitoring methods Technical Report/Guidance Document'*, *'Indirect monitoring methods Technical Report/Guidance Document'*, *'Harvester-based monitoring methods Technical Report/Guidance Document'*.

DEC 2021



Caribou Range Planning Webinar

**Indigenous Knowledge Circle**  
Terms of Reference - Finalized

APRIL 2022

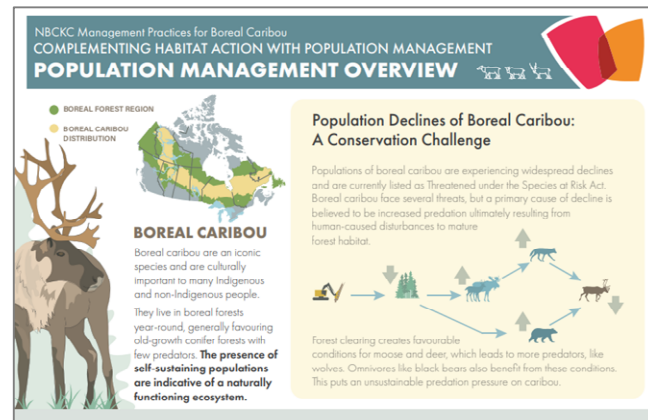
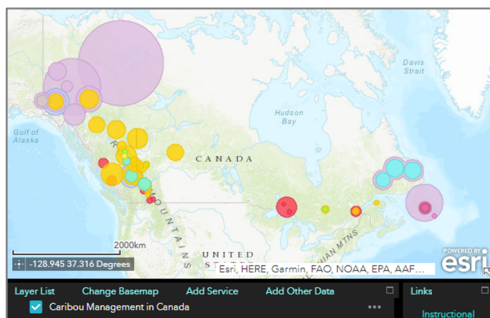
**Habitat Restoration Working Group**  
Released: Boreal Caribou Conceptual Ecological Model *'Technical Report'* and *'Infographic'*

**Caribou Health Knowledge Network**  
3rd Meeting

**Population Management Working Group**  
Released: Interactive map layer of Boreal Caribou Management Techniques

**Monitoring Working Group**  
Released: *'Monitoring Methods Decision Tree'*.

**Population Management Working Group**  
Released: *'Population Management Overview Factsheet'*



**Indigenous Knowledge Circle**  
Released: *'Guiding Principles for Cross-Cultural Collaboration'*

4th Annual IKC Meeting

JUNE 2022

5th Annual NBCKC June Meeting

