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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

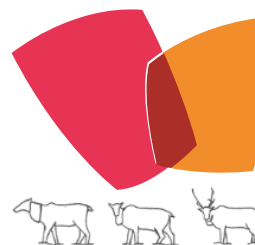
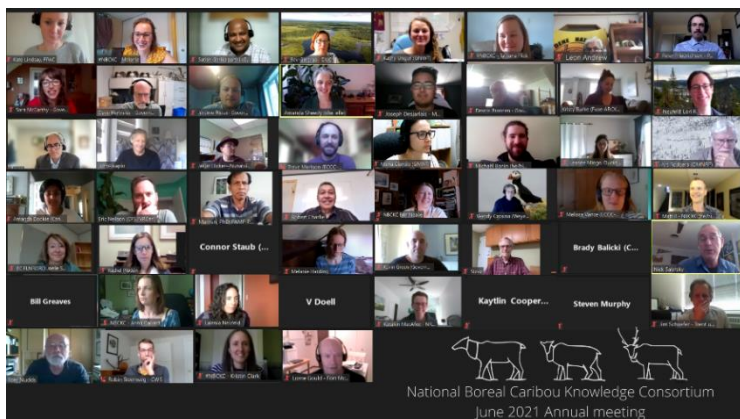
Working together to support boreal caribou recovery

This June, the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC) held its 4th annual 'face-to-face' meeting. Despite being virtual for a second year in a row, the NBCKC Secretariat prepared an engaging agenda that set the stage for a productive and impactful meeting, using tools for collaboration such as jamboard to deliver an 'in-person' feel for the 50+ participants. The theme *Systems Thinking to Protect Caribou* built on the work of the June 2020 meeting *Getting Strategic with Knowledge Mobilization*. Given the diversity of organizations involved in working towards boreal caribou recovery, a systems approach is needed to develop, agree upon and coordinate strategies to achieve caribou recovery goals. Keynote presentations from Dr. Eric Abitbol, Dr. Deborah McGregor, and Nick Salafsky challenged participants to consider our collective opportunity when working together to leverage our unique strengths for caribou conservation action and prepared us to advance a *Theory of Change* for boreal caribou (discussed in more detail on p. 4).

Meeting participants collectively developed the 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"* (DRAFT 2021). We look forward to continuing our work with our incredible partners and collaborators to turn this vision into reality!

In this Annual Report you will find brief summaries of the the NBCKC and its related groups' work. Successes from the past year and next steps for the coming year are highlighted throughout.

- The NBCKC Secretariat



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium



Management Working Group

The Population Management Working Group (PMWG), established in August 2020, consists of about 30 members from across the boreal caribou range. The *core* group consists of individuals directly engaged in management activities and/or evaluation, while the *extension* group includes a wider array of individuals and organizations engaged in caribou conservation, or those knowledgeable about caribou. Across the core and extension groups, members represent governments, Indigenous organizations and communities, industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, and academic researchers.

This year, the core group met five times to coordinate, share, and generate new knowledge about population-based management. Over the course of these meetings, the core group developed a community of practice on population management, and in doing so, has established Phase 1 of the National Adaptive Management Network, which was called for by the 2018 federal action plan, in order to facilitate ongoing research on boreal caribou population management actions. In addition, discussions have begun on the development of two communication tools: an interactive map layer, and an 'infographic'- type communication tool, both of which are focused on current population management actions for caribou in Canada.

In the coming year, the PMWG will continue its progress on these tools, and will hold the first meeting of the extension group. Please reach out to [Melanie](#) if you are interested in learning more or attending the meeting!

NBCKC: In Action

Monitoring Working Group

The Monitoring Working Group (MWG), established in September 2018, consists of over 40 members from across the boreal caribou range, who, like the other working groups, represent a broad spectrum of caribou experts and knowledge holders from a variety of sectors. This year, the MWG has made significant progress in the development of best practice guidance documents (referred to as *tools*) for the [Boreal Caribou Monitoring Methods Toolkit](#), which was launched on the boreal caribou portal in December.



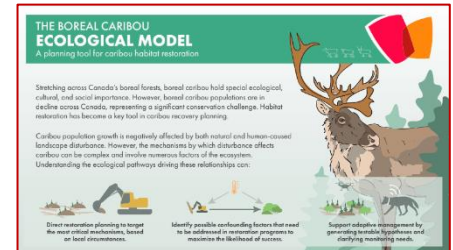
- [The Monitoring toolkit is accessible on the boreal caribou portal](#)

Several tools have been developed and are ready for use. The Comparative Tables provide a rapid assessment of alternative caribou monitoring methods and include considerations such as resources available, skill levels, and data needs; the Fact Sheets summarize each method; and, finally, the Detailed Method Descriptions delve into the advantages and disadvantages, resource considerations, and practical examples of each method.

In the coming year, the MWG will continue to develop additional tools in collaboration with the IKC and other caribou monitoring experts. These tools include a Decision Tree to help users determine suitable monitoring methods; guidance concerning Indigenous Ways of Knowing Boreal Caribou; and a Multi-lingual Glossary of monitoring-related vocabulary.

Habitat Restoration Working Group

The Habitat Restoration Working Group (HRWG) serves as a community of practice for members to share lessons and insights from their restoration experience. Established in March 2019, it consists of about 25 members from across many sectors.

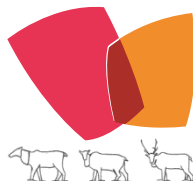


- [NEW! Infographic for the Boreal Caribou Ecological Model](#)

This year the HRWG prepared communication pieces for the Boreal Caribou Conceptual Ecological Model including an Infographic and detailed Technical Report. The Model is a visual framework depicting the interacting pathways and mechanisms that mediate boreal caribou's disturbance-recruitment relationship. Learn more on the [Boreal Caribou Portal!](#)

Recognizing the importance of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge on habitat restoration, this past year the HRWG launched a 5-part Indigenous Perspectives Round Table, in which Indigenous HRWG members discussed their perspectives on habitat restoration, the potential for additional HRWG products to support Indigenous-led habitat restoration, and ways to improve collaboration. We'd love to connect with more Indigenous communities involved in habitat restoration. Please email [Tatyana](#) today to join us!

In November 2021, a Visioning Workshop will develop the HRWG workplan for the year to come. To learn more please contact [Tatyana](#).

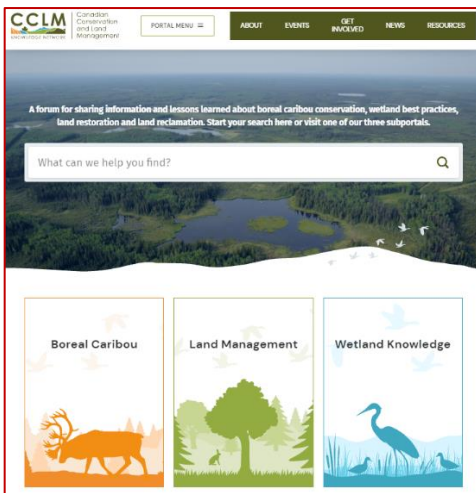


NBCKC: Communications

Canadian Conservation and Land Management Knowledge Portal

Since its public launch in April 2020, the Canadian Conservation and Land Management (CCLM) Knowledge Portal has welcomed nearly 9000 users. It houses over 1200 resources ranging from peer-reviewed publications to technical notes, webinars, field guides, and more. Led by [five founding collaborators](#), the CCLM continues to successfully pull in new resources, engage new partners, and ensure long-term viability by securing financial/capacity commitments for the next several years.

With the intent to create a portal 'by the people, for the people', the CCLM engaged our target audience in an extensive user experience evaluation process in 2020-2021, which provided feedback on what was working well and what could be improved. With Phase II developments launched this month, the CCLM Portal continues to progress towards helping people make the best conservation and land-use planning decisions, using the best available information. Click on the CCLM Portal image below to explore NBCKC related resources on the site today!

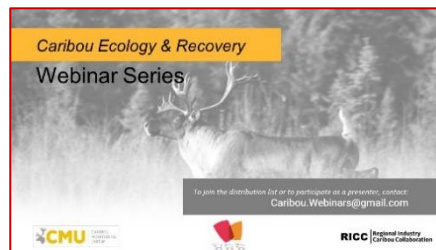


To learn more about how to become a partner or to contribute resources to the portal please contact the [NBCKC Secretariat](#)

Webinar Series

The Caribou Ecology and Recovery Webinar Series has completed its first full year, featuring 24 engaging presentations from a diverse group of speakers. Co-hosted by the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute's Caribou Monitoring Unit and the NBCKC, and supported by funding from the Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration, the series shared knowledge about the latest research and Indigenous ways of knowing caribou ecology and recovery in Canada—from the mechanisms of caribou declines to potential recovery options. With an overwhelmingly positive response to our end-of-year audience survey, the webinar is back for another year of knowledge sharing! Below are three ways you can participate:

- [Submit an abstract to present](#)
- [Register for upcoming webinars](#)
- [Watch past webinars here](#)



NBCKC Bi-Monthly Newsletter

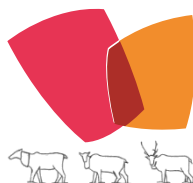
The NBCKC bi-monthly newsletter is a tool that the NBCKC Secretariat uses to communicate updates, news, and information relevant to our members and others interested in this initiative. Each edition features updates on our key areas of focus, which include the working groups, the knowledge sharing portal, and the Indigenous Knowledge Circle. Visit the [CCLM Portal Boreal Caribou Sub-portal](#) to find past and future editions of the NBCKC Newsletter and to learn more! If you have suggestions for Newsletter content, please let us know at cncsb-nbckc@canada.ca

Collaborations and Other Initiatives

Relationship building remains a cornerstone of the NBCKC's work. As members become connected, collaborations and partnerships flourish. Below are some of the initiatives underway:

- Stirred by the 'Sticky Knowledge Mobilization' and 'Critical Shifts' conversations at the June 2020 meetings, NBCKC member Sara McCarthy and her partner Jessica Dahn created the inspiring book ['Caribou and You'](#) to engage young 'sticky' minds to be the next leaders of change for caribou conservation
- Supported by Nature Legacy Funding, members of the IKC have been leading projects to monitor boreal caribou, gather Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives on boreal caribou from their communities, and engage Indigenous youth in cultural learning with a focus on boreal caribou conservation
- The ongoing 'Caribou Range Planning Project' aims to connect planning and implementation leaders across the country to support learning and the development of plans rooted in Indigenous-Western collaboration.
- The [Northern Caribou Canada](#) website has partnered with the CCLM Portal to bring a full suite of rich content to a broader audience while leveraging the powerful CCLM search engine
- Take a tour of the NBCKC and its many facets by visiting our [NBCKC Story Map](#)
- A ['Guide to Classification Based on Aerial Photography'](#) was developed by Franki Alo and members of the NBCKC Monitoring Working Group, and aims to help users classify caribou from aerial photographs

Have something that you are working on that would benefit from collaboration with the NBCKC? [Contact us!](#)



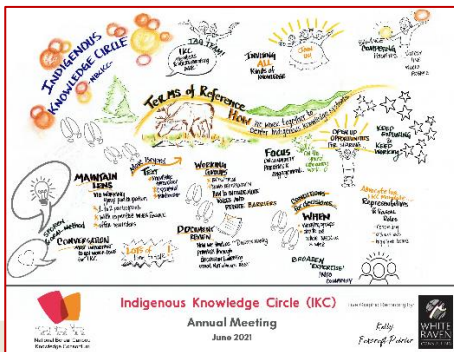
National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium



Indigenous Knowledge Circle

The Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC) continues to advocate for the use of Indigenous Knowledge in caribou conservation, and to support Indigenous-led projects. IKC members meet to share regional updates, information, and experiences to support caribou recovery. This year, the IKC has focused their efforts on developing a toolkit to facilitate cross-cultural collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups working to conserve caribou. At the annual IKC meeting, the group drafted a set of ten guiding principles for collaboration that will form the core of this toolkit. The IKC is working to refine these principles with input from their community members, and compile steps and resources to support putting those principles into practice.

The IKC is always seeking to grow its membership and to gain more diverse representation. If you would like to find out how your community can become involved please contact the [NBCKC Secretariat by email](#) or [phone](#).



- Graphical recording of IKC annual June meeting discussion on the IKC Terms of Reference.

NBCKC: Next Steps

From Critical Shifts to Theories of Change for Boreal Caribou Recovery

Change is hard. We often identify changes we would like to see in our current state, but it is difficult to know how to achieve a desired future state without a well thought out roadmap. Last year, the NBCKC collectively identified five 'critical shifts' from the current state to desired future states that would support boreal caribou recovery. This year we took that work a step further by using a Theory of Change framework to imagine a roadmap to the future states.

A Theory of Change is a framework that allows organizations and collaborative networks like the NBCKC to define and achieve change by identifying: common objectives and milestones; strategies required to achieve those milestones; and indicators to gauge whether we are reaching the milestones. Ultimately, this creates a theory about how we seek to make change, and identifies ways to test the theory (e.g. are our strategies working to restore and protect caribou?) By taking a systems approach to boreal caribou recovery together, the NBCKC is leveraging the strength and unique capacity of its members to take action in a coordinated and agreed upon way towards our collective goals. NBCKC members began to build five theories of change by:

- Transforming each desired future state into a critical objective which could be attained within 5-10 years
- Identifying barriers to reaching each critical objective
- Reworking the barriers into goals that could be reached in 3-5 years
- Identifying national-level strategies or actions to reach these goals
- Brainstorming activities that would support these strategies

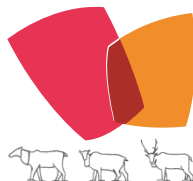
Looking ahead, the NBCKC Secretariat will continue to structure meetings to provide the environment in which these big concepts can continue to be tackled by our diverse National body of dedicated members.

NBCKC – The Next Year and Beyond

"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." Each organization and person involved in the NBCKC works hard to ensure their work will contribute to making this shared vision a reality. In the past 3 years, the NBCKC has established itself as the space for national knowledge sharing, generation and mobilization for caribou conservation and recovery. The NBCKC aims to be a forum that transcends historic barriers and brings all the voices together at one table to collaborate for the sake of this culturally important species at risk. In year four, the NBCKC will tap into our impressive momentum to:

- Continue to develop the Theories of Change for the 5 critical objectives
- Engage new Indigenous communities and organizations leading or involved in caribou conservation
- Engage Indigenous Elders on practical aspects of Reconciling Ways of Knowing Boreal Caribou
- Nurture new and existing collaborations and partnerships
- Continue to finalize tools for the Caribou Monitoring Toolkit
- Work toward understanding the methods and perspectives concerning caribou management
- Capitalize upon our newly enhanced online portal to include, for example, member pages
- Grow the caribou portal by adding new resources, projects and layers for the interactive map

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!



National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

2020-2021 NBCKC Annual Milestones At-A-Glance

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

