



# Kugaaruk Sample Collection Update

COMMUNITY-BASED MUSKOX AND CARIBOU  
HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

ACTIVITY UPDATE – JULY 2025

## PARTNERS



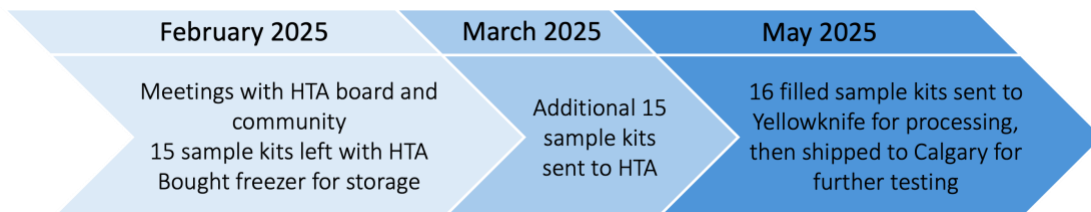
## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

We are a research group based in Calgary working collaboratively with Kugaaruk's Hunters and Trappers Association and the Government of Nunavut to monitor the health of muskoxen and caribou. Our goals are to protect biodiversity and to help ensure that country food is available and safe, today and in the future.



*Sample kit given to harvesters for sample collection*

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?



## WHAT WAS COLLECTED?



Samples from 16 caribou were submitted by harvesters in Kugaaruk. This included 12 females and 4 males. Almost all samples were collected correctly. The return on these kits was awesome and very well-done.

## WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

7/9 adult, female caribou were pregnant, as reported by the harvesters; blood samples will be tested for pregnancy too.

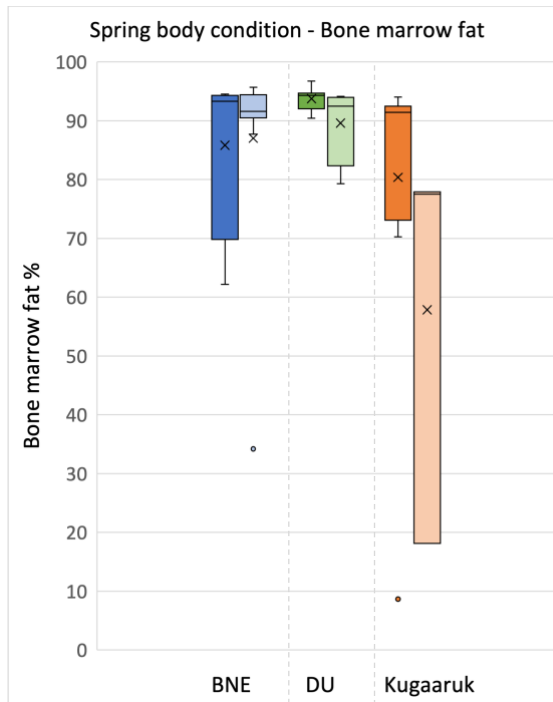
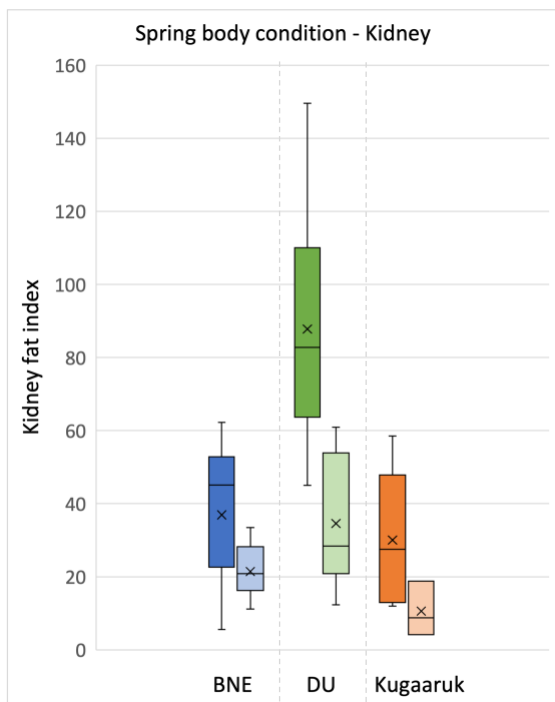
2/15 caribou were really skinny, with watery bone marrow. See the next page for kidney fat and bone marrow fat results.



*Watery bone marrow, after drying*

## WHAT NOW?

The Kutz Research Group will complete lab tests for the remaining sample types, such as blood on filter paper and feces, to learn more about how these caribou are doing. We will also be looking into three abnormalities that were found by harvesters and during processing (see next page). Stay tuned!



Kidney fat index and bone marrow fat percentage (%) of caribou that were harvested from the Bluenose East (BNE) and Dolphin and Union (DU) herds, and by Kugaaruk harvesters during the spring.

- BNE Females
- BNE Males
- DU Females
- DU Males
- Kugaaruk Females
- Kugaaruk Males



## ABNORMALITIES SUBMITTED AS PART OF SAMPLE KITS

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
Adult, pregnant female	Adult male	Young male
Harvester found white/yellow substance around stomach and lower organs	Harvested submitted unknown tissue	Found bone abnormality while skinning leg for sample collection

Caribou leg bone with a swollen and bent section, with a scab on the overlying skin



THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MAKE OUR RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC POSSIBLE

The Kutz Research Group works closely with arctic communities, territorial governments, and industry partners to investigate and monitor wildlife health in the North. The information and results presented here are a direct result of these collaborations. We thank all our collaborators and funders who have made this broader program successful. Please contact Susan Kutz [skutz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:skutz@ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions about this program.

