

PARTNERS:



Kugluktuk Angoniatiit Association



Tradition of the Tundra: Learning About Caribou Through Traditional Knowledge

COMMUNITY-BASED CARIBOU HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM ACTIVITY UPDATE – JULY 2024

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Traditional Knowledge and community-based sampling are critical for us to better understand caribou ecology and make the best proactive stewardship decisions for caribou populations.

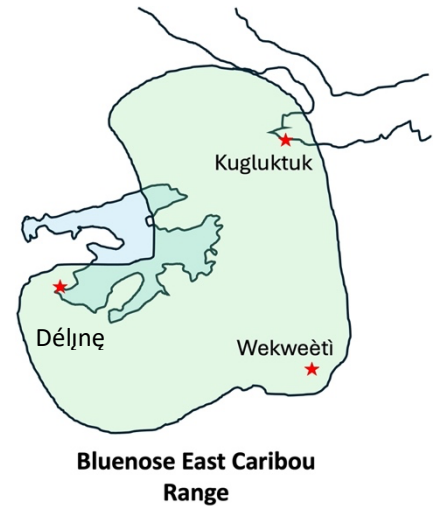
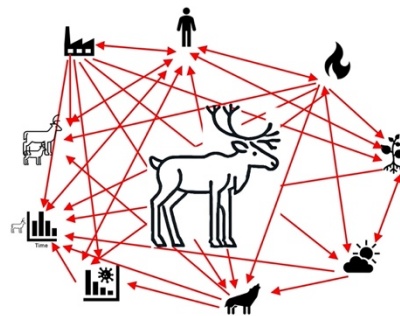
PhD student Amish Dua is **documenting Traditional Knowledge (TK)** surrounding the **Bluenose East (BNE) caribou** herd by gathering written sources and speaking with Elders of **three communities** in different parts of the BNE herd range.



Amish Dua
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Key Questions:

- ◆ How are caribou/the land doing, present and past?
- ◆ How does BNE caribou health affect the communities?
- ◆ How does caribou health connect to health of the land?



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- ◆ Community TK data-sharing agreements are drafted, ethics approvals are pending
- ◆ Summer 2024: visiting Kugluktuk, Wekweèti, and Déłjñę for study input
- ◆ Summer 2024: month-long internship with Déłjñę Renewable Resources Council
- ◆ Winter 2024: in-community interviews

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Traditional Knowledge-derived information, including “indicators” of caribou health, will add to Western science to create ways we can identify concerning population changes more quickly (i.e., sooner than aerial surveys). This is very important, especially for threatened populations, as it will enable timely and effective wildlife management decisions.



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



Polar Knowledge Canada

Savoir polaire Canada



NWT CIMP

Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

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 if you have any questions about this program.

