



MEETING EDE 64-20-25

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY / ZOOM
6:30 PM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. In Camera Matters
 - a) Caribou Population Update
6. Public Matters
 - a) Public Briefing with ECC Minister Macdonald on Caribou Harvesting
7. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) SCEDE Workplan
8. New Business
 - a)
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - a) Thursday December 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
10. Adjournment



Barren-ground Caribou Herds

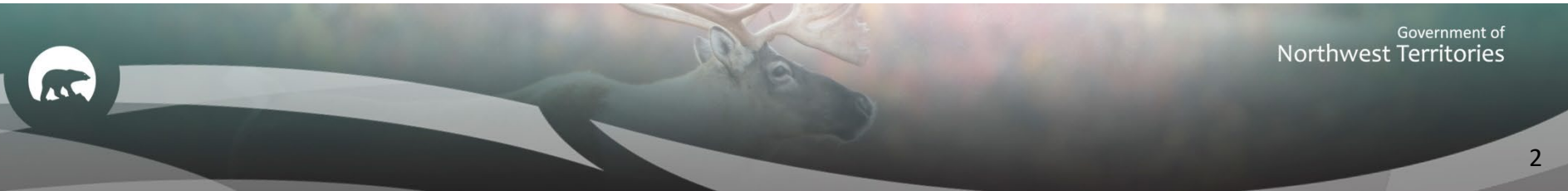
Management and Harvest

SCEDE – December 2025

Government of
Northwest Territories

Outline

- Current Caribou Conservation and Recovery Actions
- New Population Estimates:
 - Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou Herds
- Bathurst No-Hunting Mobile Zone
- Winter Road Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Caribou Guardian Coalition
- Respected Harvester Meeting
- Next Steps



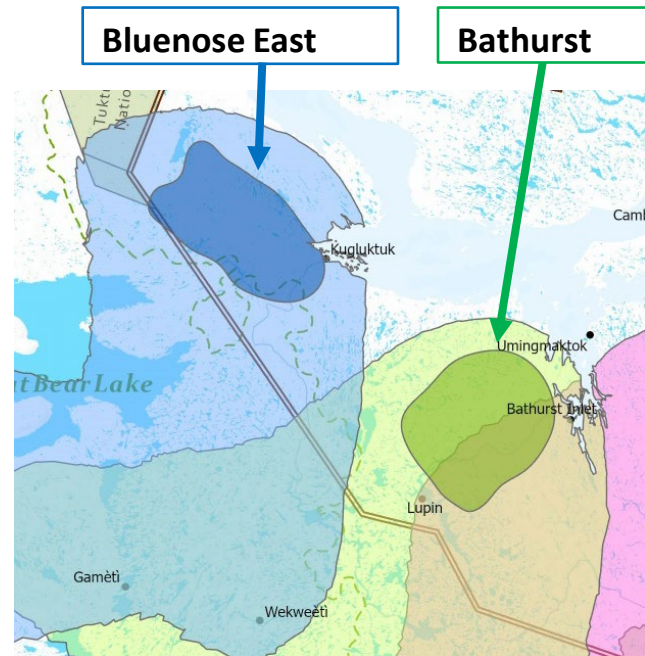
Co-Management Actions to Support Caribou Herd Recovery

- Harvest Management
- Predator Management
- Habitat Protection
- Enhanced Research and Monitoring



2025 Calving Ground Surveys

Aerial count of female caribou on calving ground (visual and photo surveys)

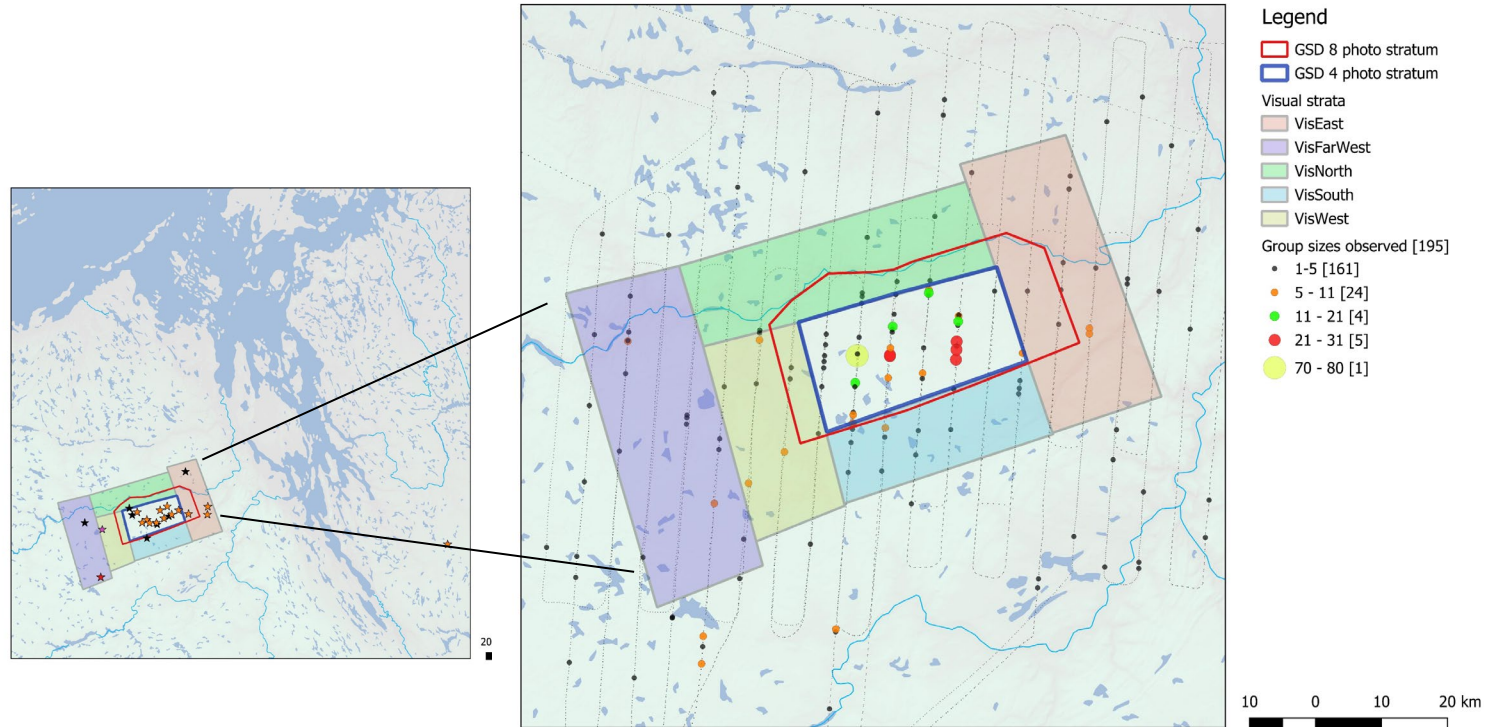


<https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/barren-ground-caribou/population-surveys>

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Photo D.Cluff, GNWT

Bathurst Herd: 2025 Calving Ground Survey

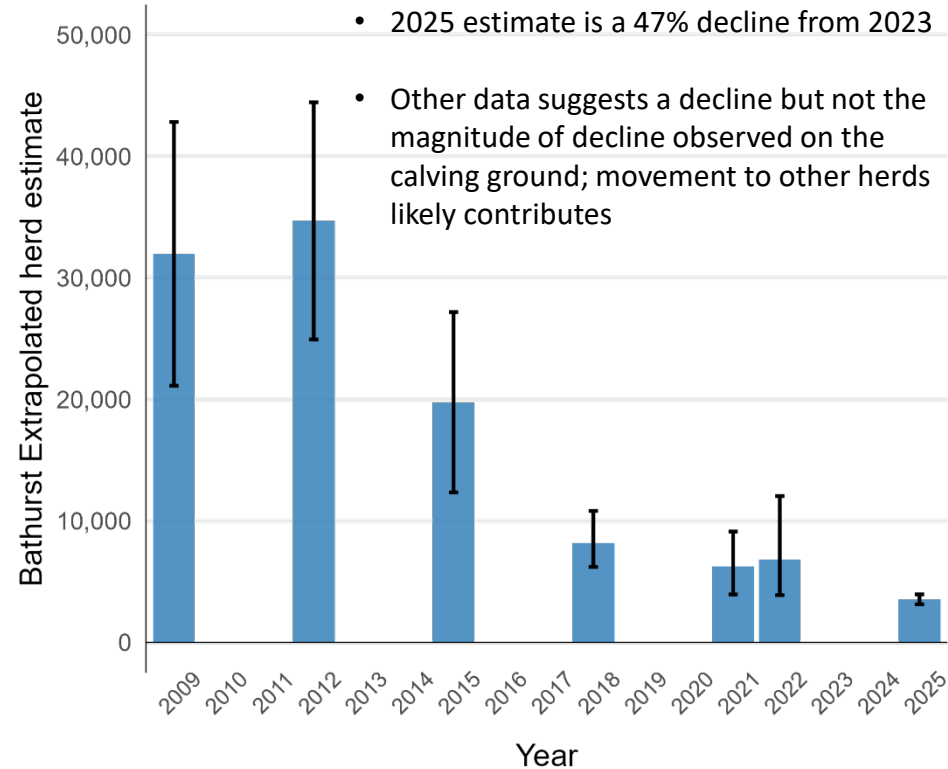


Bathurst Herd: 2025 herd estimate



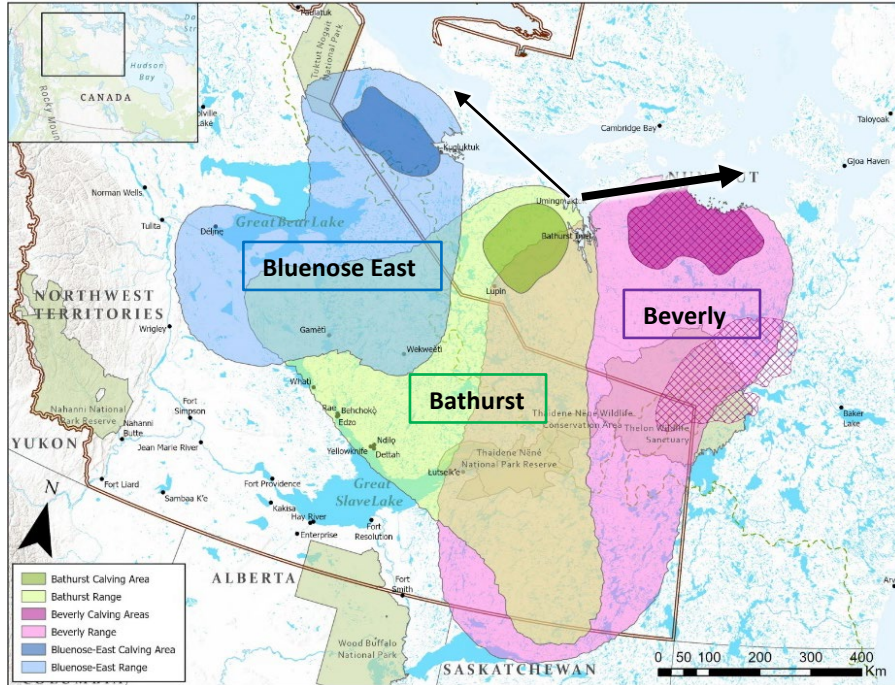
Year	Estimate	95% CI
2021	6,243	(3,950-9,134)
2022	6,851	(3,895-12,050)
2025	3,609	(3,203-4,067)

CI - confidence interval



Herd estimates do not include yearlings and calves

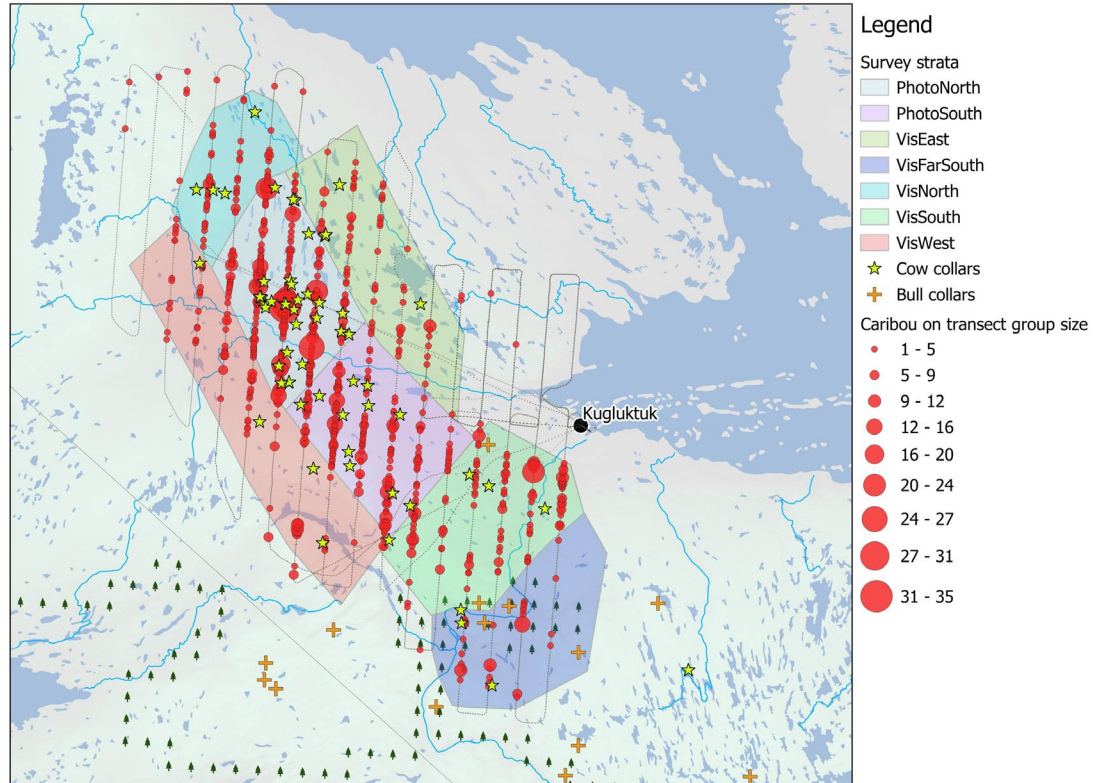
Bathurst Herd: Other Key Information



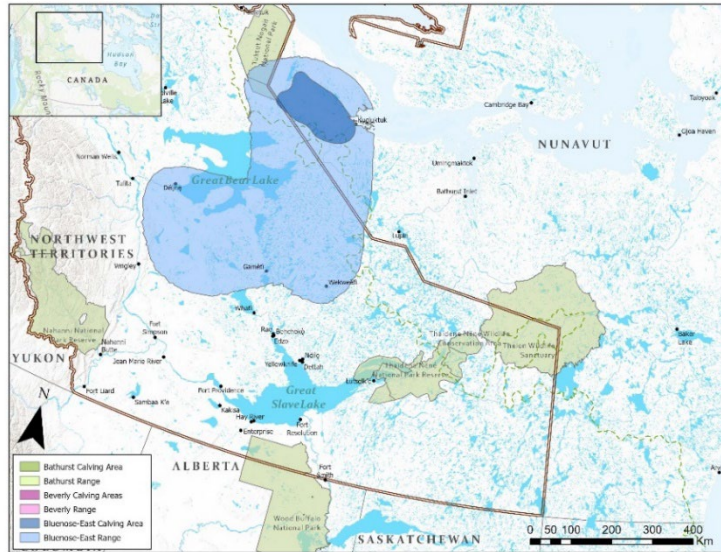
- Survey results suggest a herd decline, but not the magnitude observed between the 2022 and 2025 surveys
- High winter overlap of Bluenose-East, Bathurst and Beverly herds since 2021
- Increased movements of collared cows to neighbouring calving grounds
- Continue to look at data on cow, calf, and bull survival

Bluenose-East 2025

Calving Ground Survey

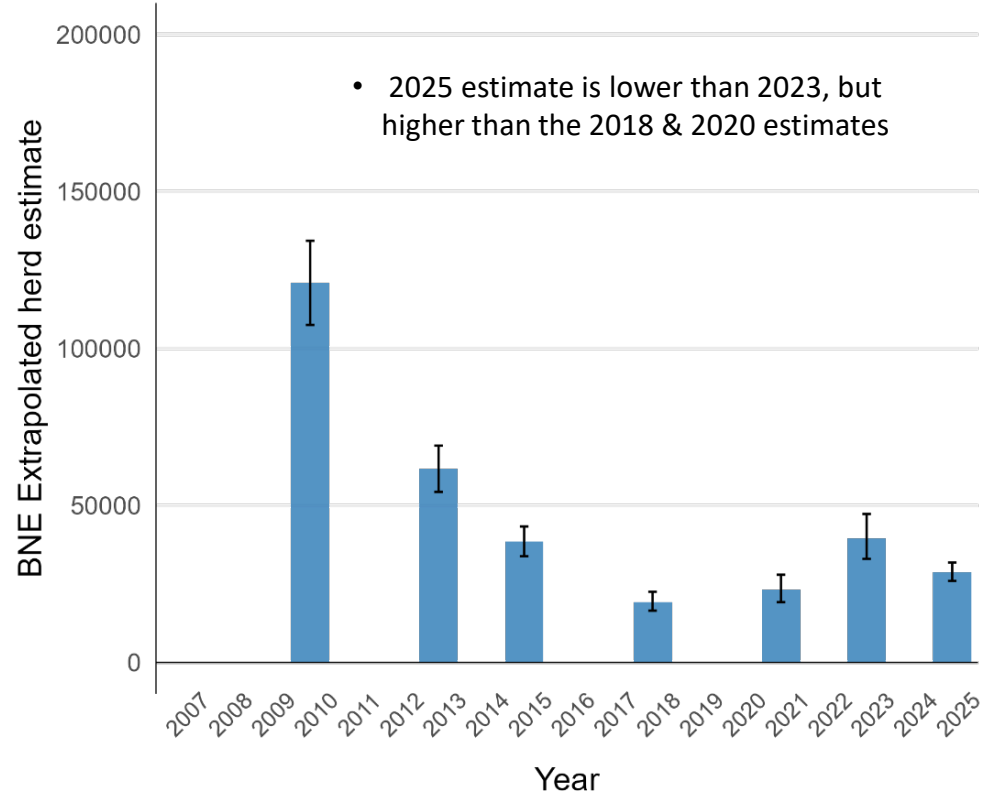


Bluenose-East Herd: 2025 Herd Estimate



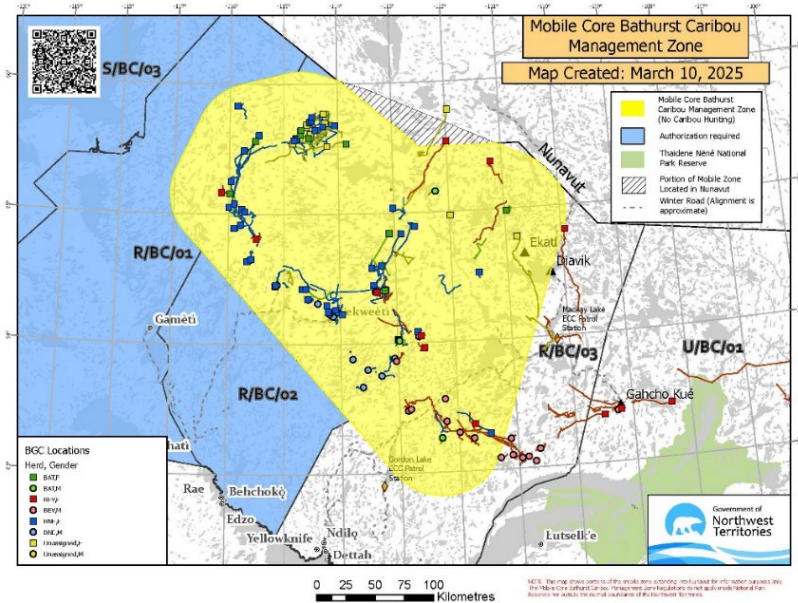
Year	Estimate	95% CI
2021	23,202	(19,247-27,971)
2023	39,525	(33,021-47,310)
2025	28,759	(25,997-31,816)

CI - confidence interval



Herd estimates do not include yearlings and calves

Bathurst No-Hunting “Mobile Zone”



- Established via Regulation - Mobile Core Bathurst Management Zone (2015)
- Complete harvest closure within Zone
- Zone Maps are updated and posted weekly
 - Based on current and anticipated Bathurst Caribou Locations (Collared Caribou data)
- MCBMZ Compliance Violations
 - 2023/24: 0 caribou
 - 2024/25: 2 caribou



Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road Compliance, Monitoring & Enforcement

Mission

- Promote wildlife conservation and sustainable management by monitoring and enforcing compliance with territorial regulations.

Objectives

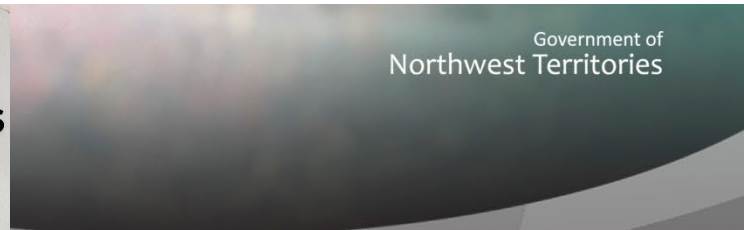
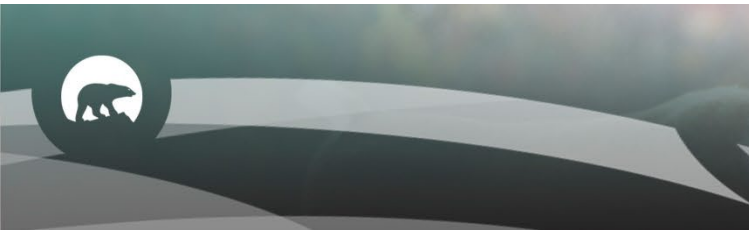
- Maintain a Visible Education and Enforcement Presence
 - Up to 5 Renewable Resource Officers
 - 2 Patrol Stations (Gordon Lake & McKay Lake)
- Maintain High Compliance with the *Wildlife Act* & Mobile Core Bathurst Management Zone Regulations
- Ensure Fair & Defensible Investigations
- Facilitate Seamless Coordination



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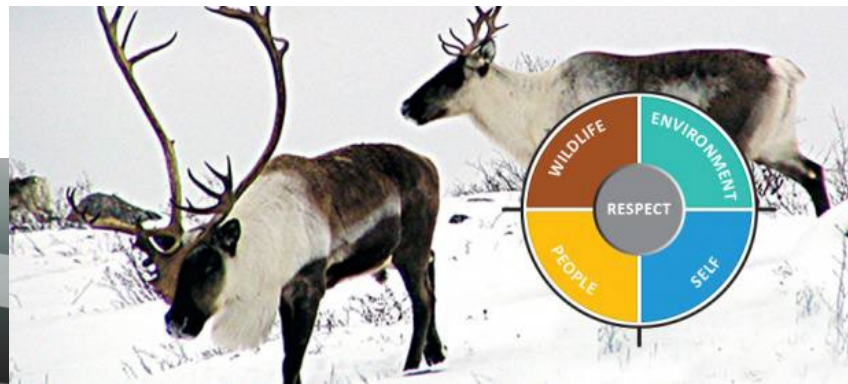
Monitoring & Guardian Programs

- Indigenous-led Monitoring & Guardian Programs:
 - Tłıchǫ Government,
 - Yellowknives Dene First Nation
 - North Slave Métis Alliance
- Caribou Guardians Coalition



Respected Harvesters Meetings

- December 2021, January 2022, August and November 2025
- Recommendations on how to encourage safe and respectful harvesting
 - Work together and increase communication and public awareness
 - Increase coordination amongst monitor and guardian programs
 - Share statistics on illegal and disrespectful harvesting



Next Steps

- Continue working with co-management partners on caribou monitoring, conservation and recovery actions
- Meet with Indigenous government-led monitoring programs to prepare for the 2026 winter road season
- Maintain collaborative public education and awareness efforts to promote safe, legal and respectful harvest
- Maintain GNWT-led compliance and enforcement efforts



Thank You
Questions?

