



PROTECTING WHAT WE LOVE



Our most trusted advisor Joseph Rabesca



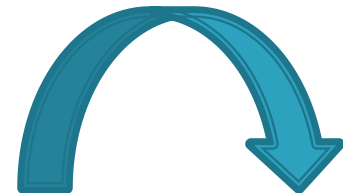
His wisdom has guided our business from the beginning and it continues to guide us now.

- ▶ We were always told by elders and biologist that caribou go in cycles of abundance and then decline.
- ▶ The last cycle of decline was in the 1960s.
- ▶ Things have changed a great deal since then.

ekwo - caribou



Caribou numbers go
up and down





Moise learned about hunting from his family as they hunted for survival.

Traditionally, meat was made into dry meat making it lighter for travel home.

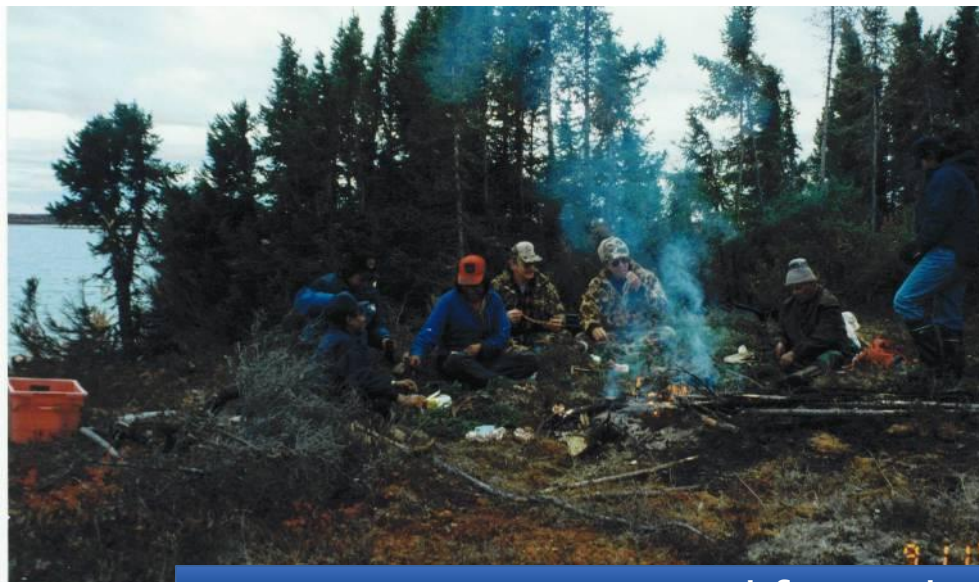


Many things are made from caribou





Camp Ekwo reflected our connection with Tlicho Culture providing hunters with more than a caribou hunt. It gave them a taste of life on the land.



Experiencing life on the barenground



1990's Humpy Lake Esker covered with Caribou



Sometimes caribou surrounded the camp. You could see them in all directions



Oh..so many caribou



The blessings of abundance

Then changes came to the barrenground



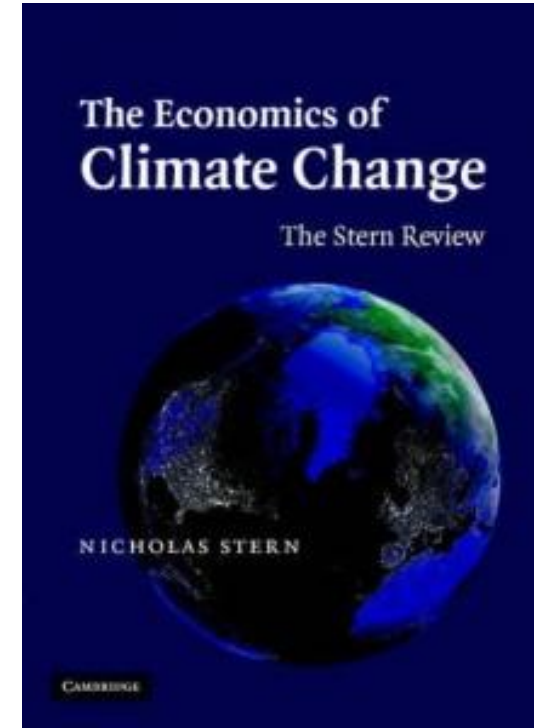
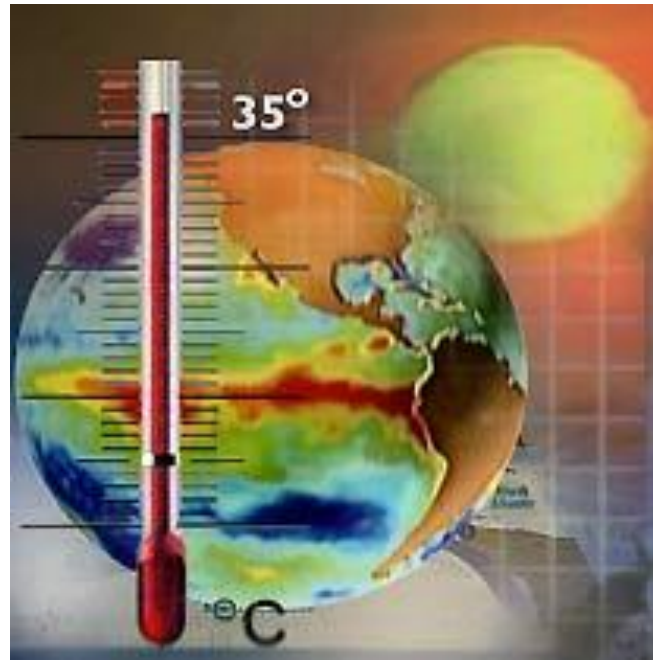
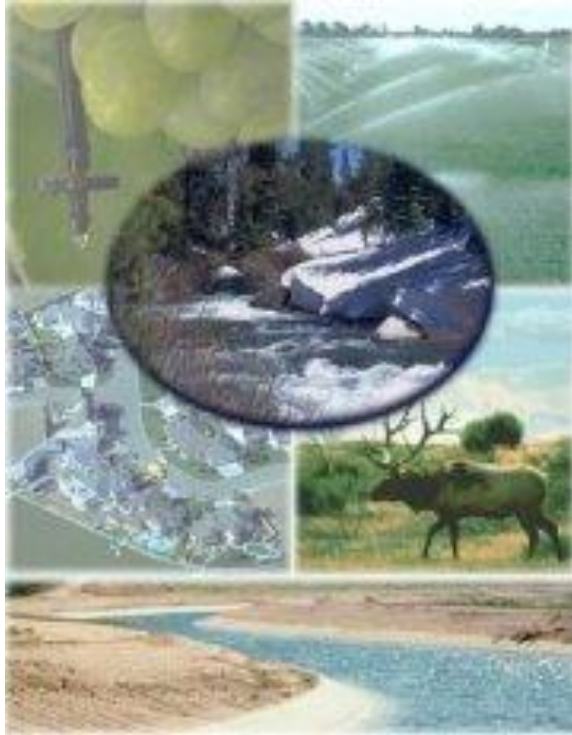
Diamond mines and exploration on the caribou migration routes



Ice Roads providing easy access to caribou hunting



Changing Climate -- is impacting Caribou Range and Migration Routes



Predators and the Natural Cycle of Life



Wolves



Barrenground
Grizzly



And, the cycle
continues

And the Greatest Predators of All - Humans



We hunt by planes



We hunt by pickup trucks



We haul with trailers



We hunt by boat



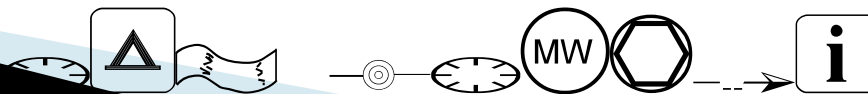
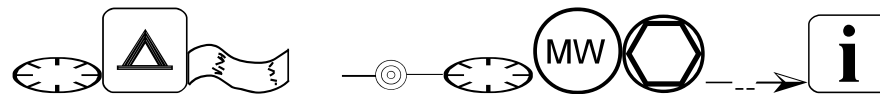
We haul with flatbed trucks



We hunt by Snowmobiles



Trucks haul snowmobiles on the ice roads to save time



Today we hunt with powerful rifles with scopes.....

And, there are a lot of hunters including, aboriginal hunters, resident hunters and outfitter's hunters.



During the 1990s the barren ground was a very busy place with mining and exploration during the summers



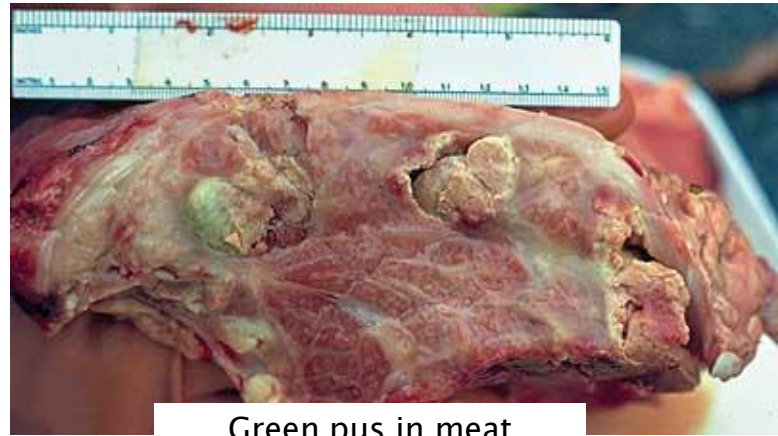
Claims staking crews landed helicopters near groups of caribou scrambling for safety – we observed several caribou with broken legs over the years of claims staking. This continued for a number of years in the '90s.

An Exploration Boom!!

Starting from around 2001 thru to 2006 there was a lot of diseased caribou – outfitters were required to take samples for ENR



Hoof rot



Green pus in meat



Cystic hydatid disease



Abnormal growth

Caribou usually shed their velvet 1st part of Sept.

-then

hard horn for the rest of the season

-by the year 2000 the velvet started to remain on the horns until late September



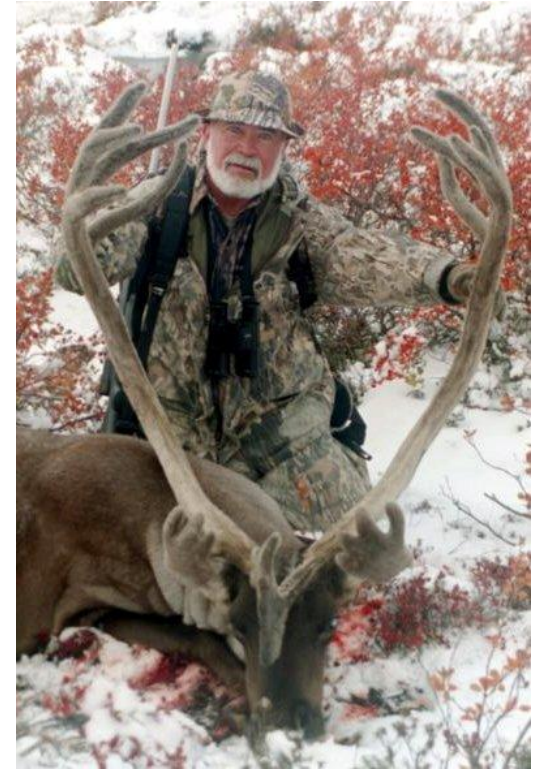
Shedding velvet in late August, early September 1997



Velvet horns mid August 1998



Hard horn 2nd week in September 1997



Velvet on horns into last week in September 2004

Not the norm

By 2001 until now
we started to see less and less caribou
at Humpy Lake & Little Forehead Lake,


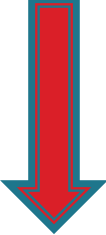


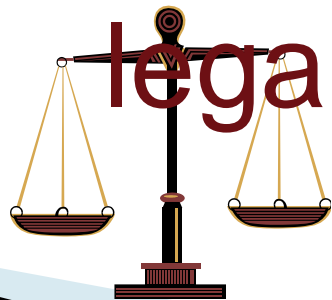
ENR population
survey for 2003
the Bathurst Herd
was down to
182,000 caribou



By 2008, NO CARIBOU



For the past few years, as caribou
numbers tumbled
downward,   fear and
desperation began to set in some
outfitters could not accept ENR
results, a media blitz began when
outfitters took



legal action!



Paid advertisements appeared!

For the benefit of all we ask our elected officials to base wildlife management on science, not politics.



Caribou Management

Scientific Management
OR

Political Agenda???

Or Traditional Knowledge???

Conflicting public opinion

The NWT Wildlife Federation represents the interests of all hunters and fishers in the NWT.

- Premier States "Final decision will be political." (not scientific)
- Aboriginal harvest is estimated at 11,000 – 20,000 Caribou*
- Aboriginals have an unlimited harvest and no requirement to participate in resource management...

* 500 - 1,000 Caribou annually*

Outfitter plans lawsuit, seeking millions from GNWT



John Andre: New act will be detrimental to caribou



Tlicho slams minister over caribou

Rae chief sides with big game outfitters on questioning herd counts

by Jason Ureanu
Northern News Services

Tlicho chief's rebuked territorial Environment Minister Michael McLeod for his handling of the barren ground caribou herd. The chief's decision to side with big game outfitters on questioning herd counts is a major blow to the government's position.



Government to court

Caribou debate continues

First Nation chief says he doubts resolution is close

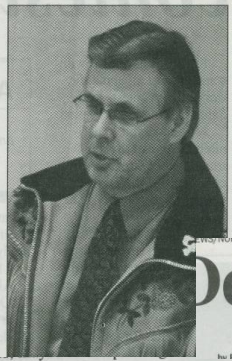
by Elizabeth McMillan
Northern News Services

On Thursday, David Krutko Mackenzie Delta

Caribou necessary action, defended



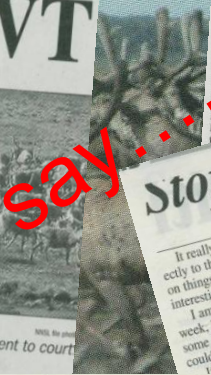
the room with staff and we can about are we a duty ment, do we have iggest to you that said. 'berger acknow- vknives did not the ban when it id consultations going. ure adjourned, munity mem- and frus- of resolution. rst Nations ll Erasmus s and called



Yellowknife

'Dangerous as hell'

Herd sample group too small



Ahiak from page 12

GNWT to survey and stibk Barren-ground caribou, which include both the Ahiak and Badjurs herds. Jason Fisher, one of three researchers who completed the survey in 2008, said GNWT researchers 'did the best job that could be done given the amount of money they had. Government can't expect one government to come down on another government. I wonder how important the report results are.' 'Movement rates, fidelity, fecundity, birth and survival rates for the entire population are being based on sample sizes that are far too small.' YELLOWKNIFE, Friday, February 5, 2010 9

Stop harassing caribou

Northern News Services

It really is too bad that we can't talk directly to the caribou to get their point of view on things. I am sure they would have some interesting insights to argue numbers this week, but I thought I would try to throw out some ideas on ways that caribou and wildlife could or should be managed. If you were to ask to see the numbers



This map shows the separation between the Bathurst and Ahiak caribou herds. Since the creation of the Ahiak herd in 1996, there has been controversy. Some outfitters, like Montana-based John Andre, believe the Ahiak herd to be animals from the Bathurst.

Dene refuse to stop hunting caribou

Ndilo, Dettah chiefs say they weren't consulted about hunting ban



Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, left, looks on as Dettah Chief Ed Sangris tells media about four Dene hunters who were given a written warning by the

Caribou stupidity

edicament over caribou, what to do? ve, I don't blame big game hunters. us they are organized, only take us they don't waste the meat. e hunters fly the meat into buted, we even send some to

The caribou controversy

million industry due to a decline in the Bathurst herd and ence behind counting the animals shows the truth

Dene Nation fights hunting ban

Akaiicho people should be exempt based on treaty rights

new resolution calls for the

Outfitters must close doors to save industry

My husband Moise Rabesca and I have been one of those caribou outfitters for more than 20 years operating Camp Ekwo. When we started our business in 1988 we moved camp to different areas and in 1990 settled in the area of Humov Lake and Little Forehead

return. In fact, their lives depended on it. In 2002, at the age of 96, Joseph was determined to be in his beloved barnground watching "ekwo" (Tlicho word for caribou) and sharing his stories. In November of 2002 Joseph

many tags we have if you cannot fill them what does it matter how many tags are available. This year, 2009, we left our permanent camps and hunted further to the north-east where the Bluenose East herd trickled into the Zone R hunting area. We harvested some caribou

GUEST Comment

Joyce Rabesca is co-owner of Rabesca Resources.

**It felt like we were in a shaman's
dust storm – I couldn't see anything
clearly anymore**



We stood still, the dust settled and
the picture became clear



We looked beyond our local situation to a more global picture
We began to see how caribou have been impacted over the time

Reindeer and caribou numbers have plummeting around the world.



Feeling the heat from climate change



Fewer than 700 Peary Caribou Remain



Reindeer and caribou numbers worldwide: red denotes herds in decline, green indicates those on the increase and dark grey means no data is available. Reindeer and caribou do not range in areas coloured light grey. 2008

The Caribou's Decline

Caribou once ranged across most of the northern hemisphere. Today, their numbers are considerably reduced, and they are extinct on many of the large islands they once inhabited—Britain and Ireland, for example. The vast herds that used to roam Canada and the U.S. south of the St. Lawrence River have almost completely disappeared. The reasons are not mysterious. As human populations have grown, our activities have had a profound effect on the caribou. Oil pipelines stretching across Canada, Alaska and Russia block caribou migration routes. Hunting, legal and illegal, takes a tremendous toll. In the U.S. only one subspecies of caribou holds on by the barest of threads. Taken from www.anh.org American Natural History

There is evidence that there were caribou herds that populated the mid-western U.S. and were hunted by various ancestral groups during the following periods:

Fort Ancient culture: 1,100 – 500 years ago

Hopewell people: 2,100 – 1,500 years ago

Archaic people: 10,000 – 2500 years ago

Paleoindian people: 15,000 – 9,000

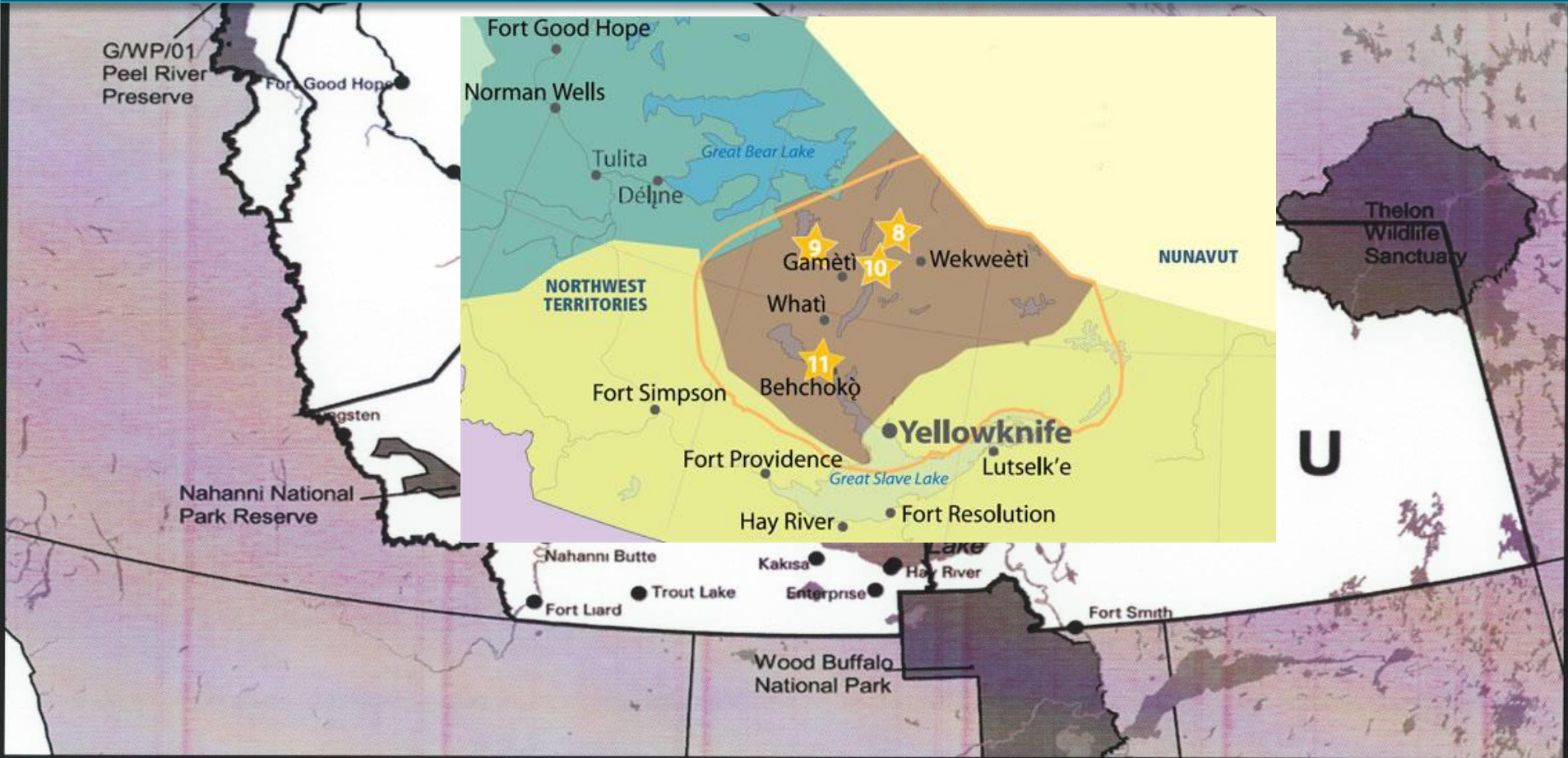


Artist's version of Archaic people

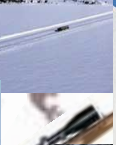
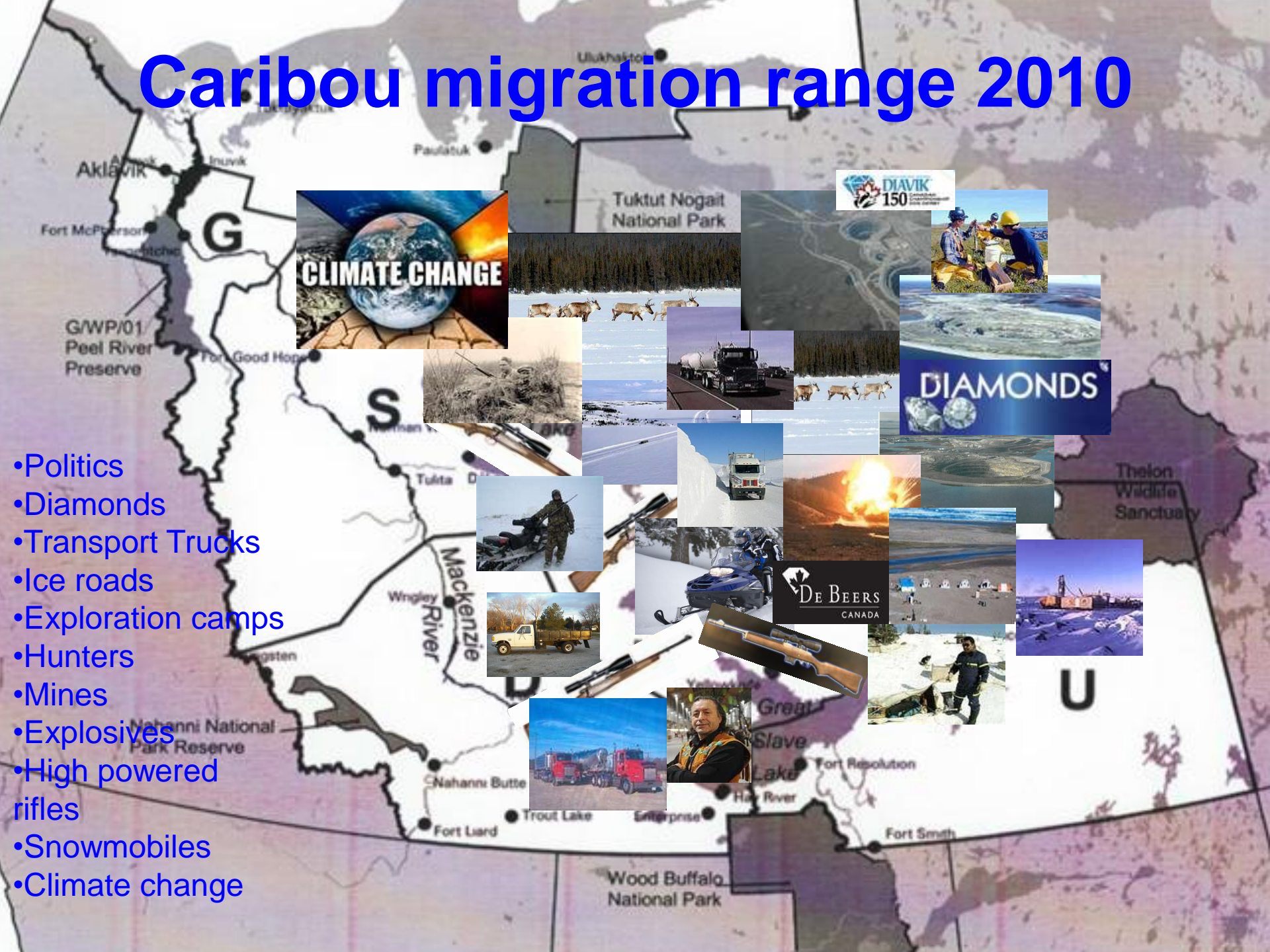
The signs are all there

– we didn't need science to tell us the Bathurst caribou Herd were in decline

it was obvious - the concentration of activity in their migration range is enormous!



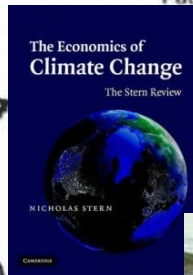
Caribou migration range 2010



- Politics
- Diamonds
- Transport Trucks
- Ice roads
- Exploration camps
- Hunters
- Mines
- Explosives
- High powered rifles
- Snowmobiles
- Climate change

Caribou migration range 2010

- Hunters
- Yellowknife
- Float planes
- Snowmobiles
- Forest fires
- Mines
- Trucks
- Outfitters
- Wolves
- Exploration
- Climate change
- Politics



CLIMATE CHANGE



Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary



Nahanni National Park Reserve

Nahanni Butte

Kakisa

Hay River

Fort Liard

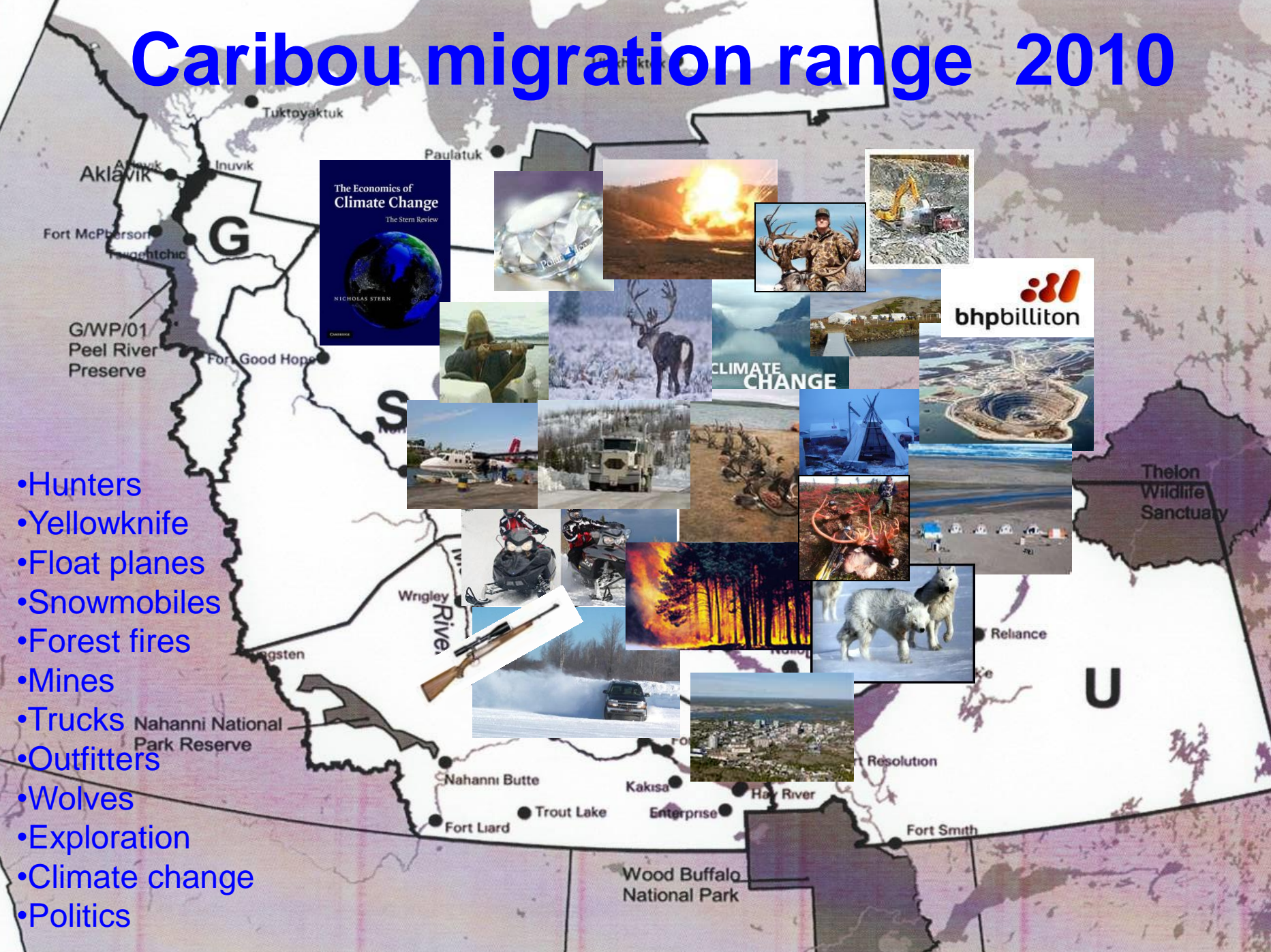
Trout Lake

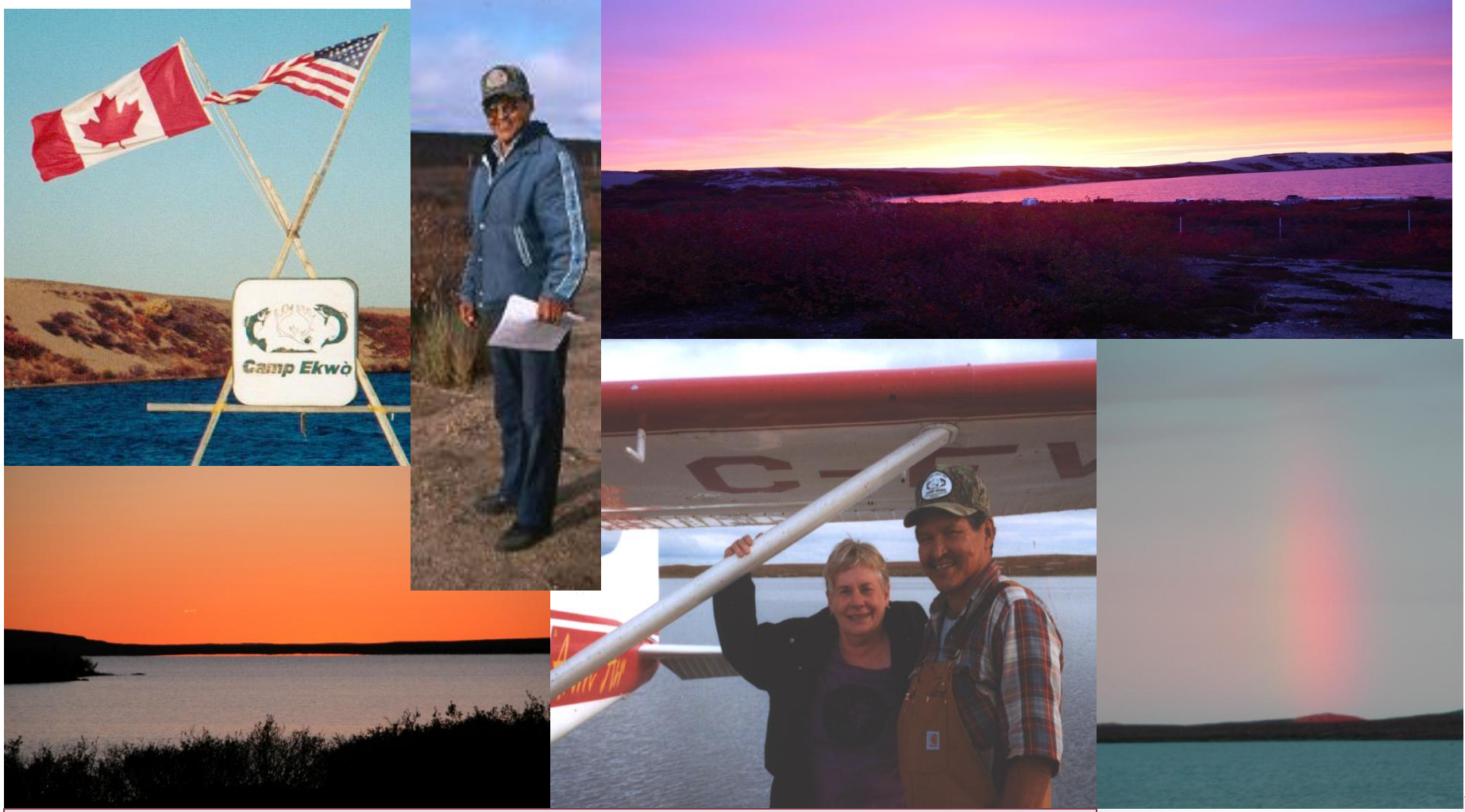
Enterprise

Resolution

Fort Smith

Wood Buffalo National Park





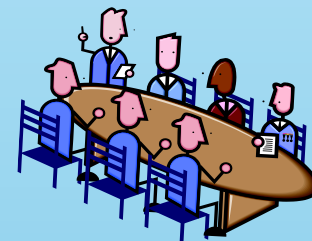
It was a difficult decision but all the signs were there.. At the end of September 2009 we suspended outfitting operations at Camp Ekwo. Based on what we have learned from our own experience and what history has told us we offer our outlook and suggestion to the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board.



Rabesca's Resources Ltd. comments

To the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board regarding the Bathurst Caribou Joint Management proposal are as follows:

- ❖ Rabesca's Resources Ltd. (RRL) intends to comply with the WRRB if it is the board's decision to eliminate all tags for outfitting for hunting seasons until 2012. Our company is actively seeking alternative business activities.
- ❖ RRL supports the elimination of all commercial meat tags until 2012.
- ❖ RRL supports the elimination of all resident hunter harvest until 2012
- ❖ RRL suggests that aboriginal subsistence hunting be considered for outlying communities based on quotas. And, that a model be developed whereby community members are selected (based on their trustworthiness and wisdom) for "community committees" to advise on quotas for those families dependent on caribou as their primary food source based on individual family need. Whether they be cows or bulls and how many, will be for the expertise of traditional knowledge and science combined to provide a basis for the rules of a quota system.
- ❖ Let us work together to save caribou!



Caribou move hundreds of miles across the landscape - seems their main purpose is to support our survival. We need to show them the respect they deserve and thank them with all our hearts for the gifts they offer us



Bless the calves, bless the cows and
bless the bulls. May the Creator
protect you, our caribou relations, and keep your spirit
and bodies strong ...

CABOU FOREVER



Credits

- ▶ From Rabesca's Resources Ltd. photo archives
- ▶ Articles – News North newspapers
- ▶ Ohio Historical Society
- ▶ Friends and relatives
- ▶ Numerous websites and web photo images (too numerous to name) contributed to the making of this presentation
- ▶ And the most important credit goes to, **Caribou**, for your inspiration and all those years of sustaining us and the numerous others who have benefited from your bounty