

Naskapi Caribou Hunt

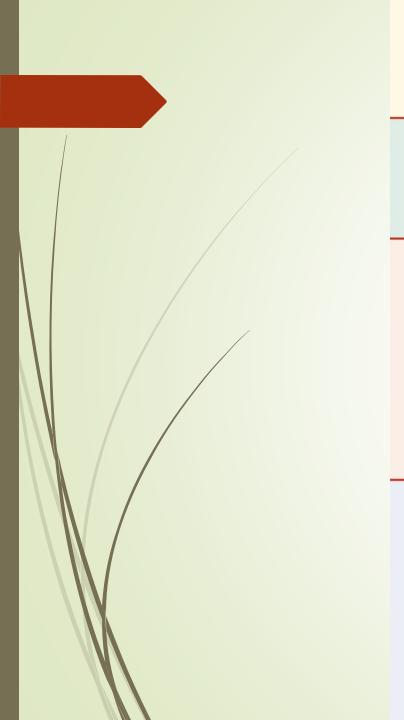
2025-2026



Outline of the meeting

- 1. MAP NEQA hunting rights
- 2. Proposal for a general DECISION-MAKING PROTOCOL in preparation for caribou hunting
- 3. Community DISCUSSION about 2025-2026 hunting season

1. MAP – NEQA hunting rights



Caribou Zone in **Inuit** Sector

Naskapi beneficiaries may hunt caribou in the Caribou Zone of the Inuit Sector without obtaining permission from Makivik Corporation.

Naskapi Sector

Naskapi beneficiaries shall enjoy the sole and exclusive exercise of the right to harvest in their primary area of interest – except species requiring complete protection.

Caribou Zone in **Cree** Sector

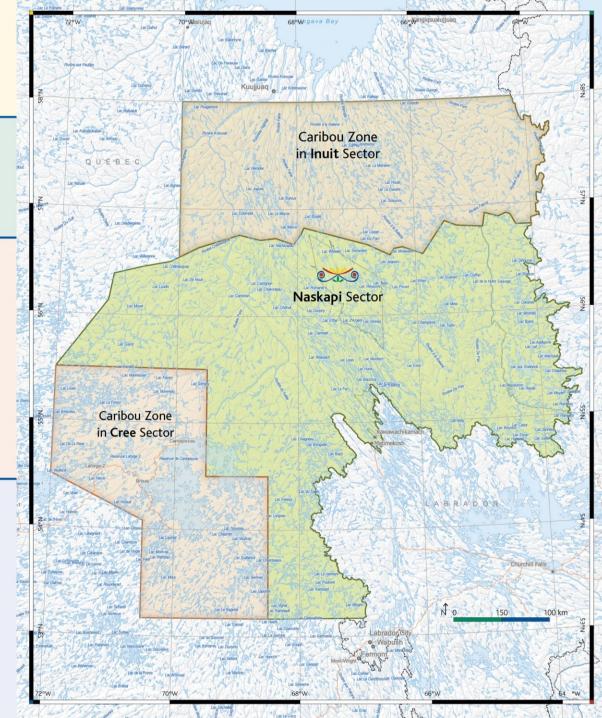
Naskapi beneficiaries may hunt caribou in the Caribou Zone of the Cree Sector without obtaining permission from the Cree Nation Government.

HOWEVER, a Naskapi hunter may have the right also to harvest furbearers in that sector, but **only** for purposes of food in case of need (while hunting caribou). In the event of the harvesting of beaver, the Naskapis must—as soon as possible—transport the skins to the interested Cree tallyman.

Beyond Naskapi Sector & Caribou Zones

Overall, beyond the Naskapi Sector and the Caribou Zones, Naskapi beneficiaries do not have harvesting priority in the Inuit or Cree areas of primary interest.

PRIOR to hunting caribou in Inuit or Cree sectors, the Naskapi Nation must have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Makivik Corporation or Cree Nation government.



HERD LOCATED IN THE: NASKAPI SECTOR OR CARIBOU ZONES



No communication or authorization are required from neighbouring Nations.

If the herd is located in the Caribou Zones:

Whether the Caribou Zone is located in the Cree or Inuit Sectors, the Naskapi Nation informs the Cree Nation Government for the Cree Sector, or Makivvik for the Inuit Sector, that a caribou hunt is planned in that area.

HERD LOCATED IN THE: CREE SECTOR (OUTSIDE THE CARIBOU ZONE)

Based on the Interim Mutual Understanding Agreement, signed by the Cree Nation Government (CNG) and the Naskapi Nation in 2020:

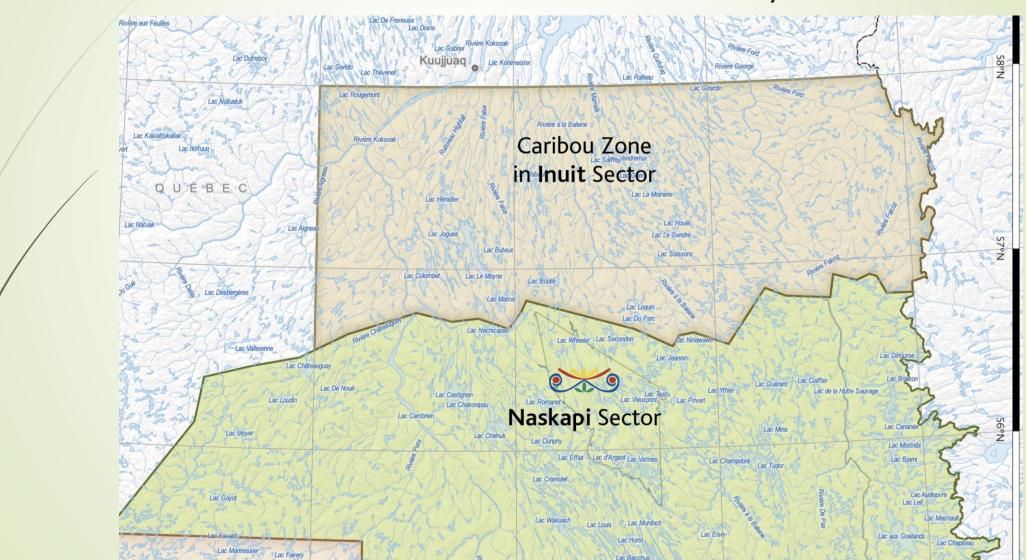
- the Naskapi Nation shall communicate with the CNG and the specific Cree community, whose traditional territory the hunt would take place on, to:
 - request authorization to proceed with the community hunt; and
 - indicate the number of caribou sought.
- 2. The CNG and the Cree community determine whether the hunt may proceed, the number of caribou that could be harvested, and the specific harvesting conditions. These conditions may include as example:
 - The exact location where the hunt may occur.
 - Whether Cree guides accompanying the Naskapi hunting party is required.
 - Any other considerations necessary for respectful and coordinated land use.

HERD LOCATED IN THE: CREE SECTOR (AND OUTSIDE THE CARIBOU ZONE)

Additionally, the **Interim Mutual Understanding Agreement** specifies, among others, that:

- Only community hunts are authorized.
- Only Naskapi beneficiaries may participate in the hunting party.
- Traditional customs and values must be upheld, including the avoidance of waste, ensuring no edible meat is left behind, and preventing unnecessary or prolonged chasing of animals.

HERD LOCATED IN THE: INUIT SECTOR (OUTSIDE THE CARIBOU ZONE)



HERD LOCATED IN THE: INUIT SECTOR (AND OUTSIDE THE CARIBOU ZONES)

Unlike the agreement established with the Cree Nation Government (CNG), no formal agreement has yet been signed with Makivvik to oversee Naskapi caribou hunting in the Inuit Sector. Based on past practices and drawing inspiration from the CNG agreement, the following process is proposed:

- 1. The Naskapi Nation shall communicate with Makivvik to:
 - Request authorization to proceed with the community hunt; and
 - Indicate the number of caribou sought.
- 2. Makivvik determines whether the hunt may proceed, the number of caribou that may be harvested, and any specific harvesting conditions (still need to be negotiated with Makivvik).

2. Proposal for general DECISION-MAKING PROTOCOL in preparation for caribou hunting (6 steps)

STEP 1: ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE GEORGE RIVER AND LEAF RIVER CARIBOU HERDS

Presentation of latest data on the two migratory herds by the MELCCFP or the Nation's Biologist

STEP 2: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

- **Solution** Discussion on:
 - Which herd can be hunted?
 - How much caribou does the community need?
 - How many caribou the community should be harvesting on each herd?

STEP 3: HSP COMMITTEE DECISION

Based on the herds' situation and the community discussion (steps 1 and 2), the HSP Committee makes a decision on:

Which herd to hunt;

Number of caribou to harvest.

STEP 4: COMMUNICATIONS AND AUTHORISATION FROM NEIGHBOURING NATIONS

Using information gathered from land users, the HSP Committee determines in which JBNQA & NEQA sectors the herd is located.

Do we need to contact the Cree Nation Government or Makivvik to negotiate or implement an agreement (based on the location of the hunt)?

IF YES: the Naskapi Nation contact the concerned organization.

If No: proceed to step 5.

STEP 5: PLANNING AND BUDGETING

The HSP Committee will prepare the hunt by developing a detailed plan and budget that ensure, among others, the hunt proceeds:

- In full respect of Naskapi traditional customs and practices.
- In the most efficient and cost-effective way (e.g. determining the most efficient means of transporting harvested caribou back to the community)
- With the participation of both experienced community hunters and new hunters, ensuring meaningful knowledge transmission between generations.
- In accordance with any specific harvesting conditions established by other Nations, when the hunt occurs on their traditional territories.

STEP 6: SCOUTING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE HERD

- if the exact herd location is not yet known, **scouting activities** may be undertaken to identify the herd's precise location.
- Once the herd exact location is known, the HSP Committee will communicate with the MELCCFP to confirm the herd affiliation using telemetry collar data managed by the Ministry.
- Once herd affiliation is confirmed and aligns with the herd targeted for the community hunt, the hunting party may proceed with the harvest.

3. Community DISCUSSION about 2025-2026 hunting season



Which herd should be harvested?

Will How many caribou does the community need?

How many caribou should the community be harvesting on each herd?

How many caribou the community should be harvesting on each herd?

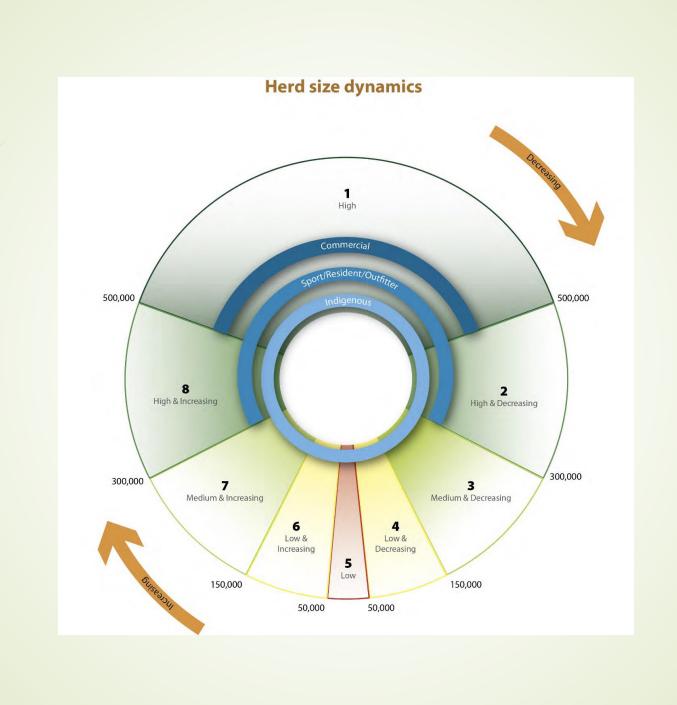




A LONG TIME AGO IN THE FUTURE: CARIBOU AND THE PEOPLE OF UNGAVA

IINGAVA PENINSULA CARIBOU ABORIGINAL ROUND TABLE

2017-2117



Leaf river herd vs George river herd (cat 4) (cat 5)

- Category 4: Low and decreasing
- Harvest Rate: 2-1% (3000-500)
- Full harvest monitoring and reporting
- Survey every 1-2 years
- Status Assessment every 2 years
- Review Indigenous Sharing Agreement
- Indigenous Sharing Agreement
 Implemented
- Develop plans to maximize social, cultural, and spiritual values

- Category 5: Low
- Harvest Rate: <1% (less than 500)
- Full harvest monitoring and reporting
- Survey every year
- Status Assessment every 2 years
- Communicate successes and core values

Example for Leaf river herd

125 000 caribous x 2% = 2500

There is 13 inuit commuties + 2 cree + 1 nakaspi +1 innu* that are commonly hunting that herd = at least 17 communities

2500 ÷ 17 = **147** caribous could be harvested on **Leaf river herd** for each community at the most (in respect of UPCART strategy)

4. Proposal for the development of NASKAPI GUIDELINES for caribou conservation

Caribou conservation: Naskapi guidelines for hunting

- WHY? To protect the Naskapi traditional way of life and to preserve caribou populations
- The guidelines would be intended to be general and modified every two years
- The guidelines would be honoured in good faith, mutual trust and most importantly, as a shared responsibility to protect the health of the caribou populations (every Naskapi person has the responsibility to protect the land, the wildlife and the traditional way of life)
- Establishing a Naskapi caribou technical committee: responsible for the preparation of guidelines (with consultation of Elders and hunters)

Guidelines

Zone 17

GUIDELINE 1

A limit of 2 moose per trapline must be respected.

GUIDELINE 2

All Cree hunters in Eeyou Istchee should limit their harvest to one moose per family.

GUIDELINE 3

All Cree hunters should report their moose harvest to the local CTA.

GUIDELINE 4

In zone 17, the moose harvest in winter and spring (January/March) is only allowed within traplines where harvest has not already reached the 2 moose limit.

GUIDELINE 5

Full-time Trappers and Land Users (Income Security Program) are given priority for the harvest of moose.

GUIDELINE 6

Avoid the harvest of female (cow) and big bull moose.

GUIDELINE 7

Use every parts of the animals, not leaving any waste behind and share the harvest. Hunters are invited to donate to the community freezer located at CTA office.

GUIDELINE 8

Hunting at night is prohibited

GUIDELINE 9

Hunters from other Cree communities shall NOT be permitted to hunt moose within Zone 17. Except those invited by the tallymen.

GUIDELINE 10

Hunters are expected to share their harvest with elders, family, members of the community; especially low-income families.

GUIDELINE 11

Harvesting shall be for cultural, educational and sustenance purposes; not for the purpose of sales or any monetary profit.

GUIDELINE 12

Every hunters will refrain from publicizing any moose hunt on social media in respect for the animal.

GUIDELINE 13

The use of skidoo for chasing and the use of drones is prohibited to hunt moose in Zone 17.





Thank You! Chiniskumitin!