

# *Canadian* **WILDERNESS**

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## Partnering for conservation

How Indigenous peoples and CPAWS are  
working together to protect ancestral territories

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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# Partnering with Indigenous communities for wilderness preservation

MIKE ROBINSON

Over the five decades of CPAWS' efforts to preserve the ecological integrity of Canada's natural landscapes and marine areas many strong relationships have been formed with First Nations, Metis and Inuit organizations with shared values and deep knowledge of stewardship and sustainability of natural systems. We've listened and learned from these partnerships, and are committed to maintaining existing networks and building new ones.

We're still learning about the crucial need to identify and protect core areas rich with traditional ecological knowledge, to buffer them as much as possible by conserving adjacent lands and waters, and to connect the cores with corridors that enable safe travel for all of the migratory species with whom we share this world.

The techniques of what my friend and fellow CPAWS National Trustee Elmer Ghostkeeper calls "partnershiping," are as old as human use of the land. They include a fundamental respect for the languages and traditional knowledge of those who call it home, taking time to form working friendships on practical projects, and a healthy respect by the partners for mentoring as a learning process.



Photo: Caitlin Robinson

Each article in this issue describes a unique application of "partnershiping" to CPAWS' current work across Canada, from coast to coast to coast. You'll read about promoting the establishment of new territorial, provincial and national parks, backcountry canoe trips as Indigenous youth training programs, the crucial importance of developing marine use plans, and the contribution of new parks to the creation of sustainable livelihoods for those who still live on the land.

This is my first opportunity as the incoming president of CPAWS' National Board of Trustees to say hello to the membership and reach out to new friends. I do so in the spirit of partnershiping. I would like to thank Oliver Kent, in whose footsteps I humbly follow. And thanks to you for sharing the work and the offer of friendship!

*Mike Robinson (left), is CPAWS Board President.*

## Canadian WILDERNESS

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*COVER: A tranquil beach on Moose Island in Fisher Bay, Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Photo: Ron Thiessen*

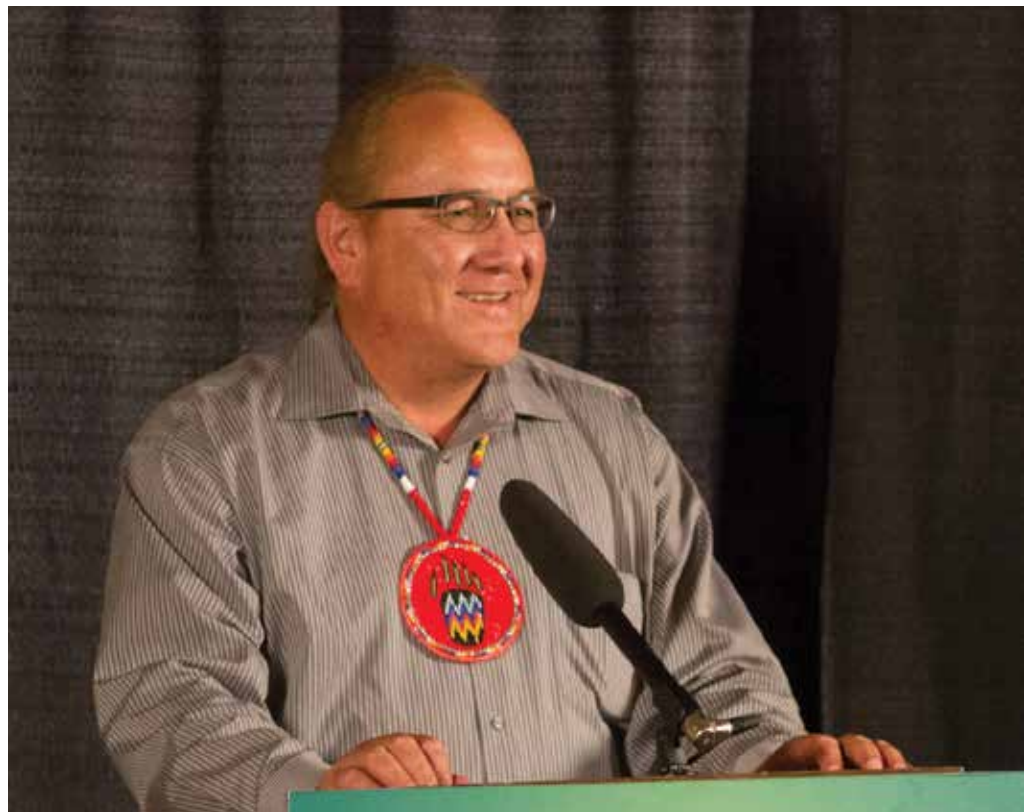
*ABOVE: Canoes pierce the mist of Lac Evans, Broadback Valley, Quebec  
Photo: Jonathan Elkhoury*

# ANCESTRAL PARK



Cree First Nation in Manitoba and CPAWS partner to develop new provincial park.

BY RONTHEISEN



Clockwise from top: American White Pelican graces Fisher Bay; Fisher Cree First Nation Chief David Crate; Northern Flicker; a wolf on the prowl.  
Photos: Ron Thiessen



Clouds scud over Moose Island  
on Fisher Bay, Lake Winnipeg.  
Photo: Ron Thiessen

**T**wo hours north of Winnipeg on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, about 1,700 members of the Fisher River Cree Nation (FCRN) continue to live within their traditional territory – a primary source of their livelihood for millennia.

This picturesque area around Fisher Bay includes treed shorelines, long sandy beaches, large islands covered with old-growth forests, and reefs. It is important habitat for wildlife, including bears, moose, fox, eagles, songbirds, ducks, and the highly endangered Piping Plover.

Some local Cree still practice traditional harvesting. Many are also in businesses, including plumbing and electrical services, a car wash and laundromat, a casino, and a real estate business that specializes in cottage lots.

Members of the Fisher Cree First Nation want to protect the majority of their traditional lands so that they can continue traditional harvesting, develop eco-tourism and cultural tourism businesses and ensure that nature stays healthy for future generations.

With pressures from logging and peat mining growing in the Fisher Bay area, the First Nation first proposed in 1999 that it be protected. Six years later, when I joined as executive director of the CPAWS-Manitoba chapter, we began a partnership with Fisher Cree First Nation Chief David Crate and other community members to promote establishment of a provincial park in the area.

In 2011, after working together to raise awareness among Manitobans and convince government of its merit, we celebrated the establishment of Fisher Bay Provincial Park, covering 84 square kilometres, about twice the size of Winnipeg. Today, the Fisher River Cree Nation has a visitor centre to welcome people to the area, and is considering future infrastructure that will respect the backcountry wilderness park status it has already achieved.

“We see the park as a very important step in protecting the core of this beautiful and culturally important area. Our goal is to ensure that traditional activities can be maintained on the landscape and people from Manitoba and across the world can visit and enjoy the natural surroundings,” says FRCN Chief David Crate.

Our partnership with the Fisher River Cree Nation continues, and our objective now is to expand the size of the protected area. The next step, hopefully starting this fall, is to consult with community members and other stakeholders, sharing with them science, economic and cultural studies to identify appropriate land use designations for this part of Manitoba’s boreal forest.

Working with the Fisher River Cree Nation has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job since joining CPAWS. The vision and determination of its community members help me to stay optimistic that Manitoba will become a world leader in nature conservation, in a manner that respects Aboriginal rights and aspirations.

*Ron Thiessen is executive director of CPAWS’ Manitoba chapter.*

# SACRED BROADBACK

Quebec Cree Nation  
gains protection for river valley.

BY PIER-OLIVIER BOUDREULT

“**T**his is important. It’s about our way of life, what we get from the land. The fish, the bear, the moose, that’s what we want to conserve.”

Isaac Voyageur, director of the Grand Council of the Cree’s Environment Department in Quebec, explains to a journalist from Radio Canada why he and other leaders, supported by environment groups, organized a canoe trip on the Broadback River last summer for 16 youths, many of whom had never met each other and were paddling white water for the first time.

After the trip, Voyageur remarked, “Now the youth understand why we do this. They know what they do today will have an effect in the future.”

Local Cree communities have been pushing for more than 25 years to protect the Broadback River Valley east of James Bay. Cree leaders such as Voyageur and Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come are committed to teaching youth about the past in order to enlist them in protecting the future. They have also helped CPAWS’ Quebec (SNAP) chapter staff members to better understand the traditional importance of this area.

The Broadback watershed is a thriving ecosystem of lakes, rivers, and old growth spruce and pine forests covering more than 21,000 square kilometres. The fast-flowing river at its heart runs through Lac Evans – the biggest freshwater lake south of Nunavik that is inaccessible by road. In the Broadback boreal forest, endangered woodland caribou thrive and nine Cree communities run long-established trap lines and make seasonal rounds of their sacred places.

The Cree Nations have identified areas totaling 13,000 square kilometres within the Broadback rivershed as priorities for core protection, and most logging companies in the region have agreed, for now, not to operate on or build roads within them.



Top: Twin canoes await paddlers for an adventure on the Broadback River. Photo: Jonathan Elkhoury Bottom: Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come says protecting the land begins with educating youth about the past.

The Cree and CPAWS’ Quebec (SNAP) celebrated when Quebec took a step towards realizing the Cree’s conservation vision in July by announcing that another 5,400 square kilometres of the rivershed would be protected, bringing the total to over 9,000 square kilometres.

However, the work is not over. The Cree are determined to gain protection for the remaining places in the Broadback Valley that they have identified in their proposed conservation plan. These areas, consisting mostly of the last intact forests of the Waswanipi community, are also sought by logging companies for potential exploitation.

With the help of our donors, CPAWS will be continuing to support this conservation campaign with technical, public relations and government-relations assistance. We feel fortunate to have this opportunity to share knowledge and learn from our Cree colleagues as we work together to protect the health of the land.

For more information and videos about this inspiring landscape and conservation campaign, visit [www.eeyouconservation.com](http://www.eeyouconservation.com).

*Pier-Olivier Boudreault is Forest Conservation Manager for SNAP Quebec.*



The spires of the boreal forest are mirrored in the still waters of Lac Evans in the Broadback Valley.  
Photo: Sophie Paradis

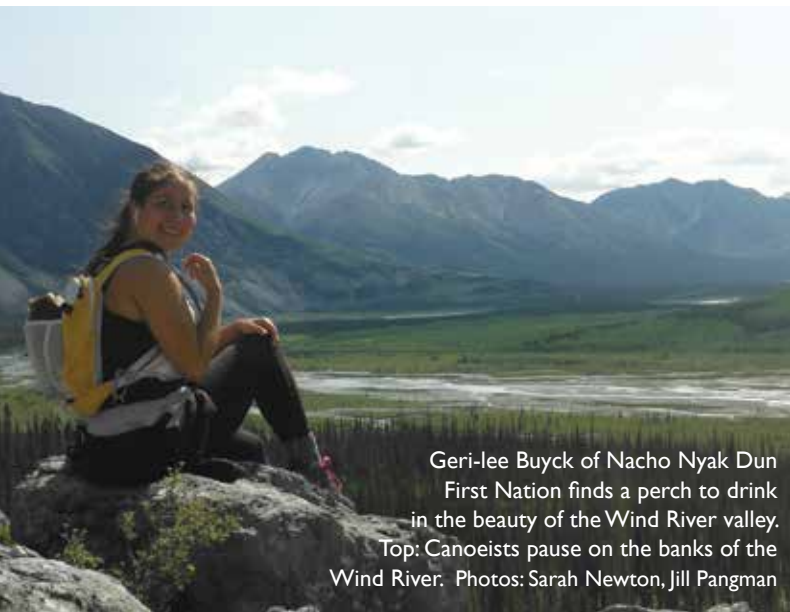


Some 9,000 square kilometres of the pristine Broadback River watershed are now protected from development.  
Photo: Sophie Paradis



# RUNNING THE WIND

Journey of discovery through  
the Peel watershed. **BY GENESEE KEEVIL**



Geri-lee Buyck of Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation finds a perch to drink in the beauty of the Wind River valley.

Top: Canoeists pause on the banks of the Wind River. Photos: Sarah Newton, Jill Pangman

“Mercury levels, changing weather systems, oil spills, endangered species – these are the key words and language of my generation,” says 29-year-old Dana Tizya-Tramm, of Old Crow. He was speaking in August to a packed house of over 300 people in Whitehorse following the first day of the Peel River Watershed Yukon Court of Appeal hearing.

Tizya-Tramm, a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, was one of five First Nation youths who participated in a leadership-training canoe trip organized by CPAWS’ Yukon chapter on the Peel watershed’s Wind River.

Accompanied by CPAWS guides, Tizya-Tramm and the four other youth paddled more than 500 kilometers through the Peel Watershed, experiencing first-hand the land that sustained their people. Over the course of three weeks, these future leaders found and carefully cleaned ancient gravesites of their ancestors, held smudging ceremonies and hiked high into the mountains alongside sheep and caribou.

“We witnessed amazing abundance out there, and were part of a whole and complete ecosystem that exists unrefined and undisturbed,” Tizya-Tramm told his rapt audience.

The youth camped on gravel beaches and spruce-shaded banks. They spent the last two nights at a fish camp at Road River, helping to catch, clean and cut fish for drying. During their time they also forged a vision for the future -- working together for Peel protection.





The fate of this ecosystem, one of the last remaining, large-scale, ecologically intact watersheds in North America, hangs on the decisions of the court, where three Peel First Nations, CPAWS and the Yukon Conservation Society are fighting to protect 80 per cent of the watershed, or 13.4 million acres of wilderness. Despite widespread public opposition, and a Yukon Supreme Court ruling in favor of the First Nations and ENGOS, the territorial government remains steadfast in pursuit of its own plan to open more than 70 per cent of the region to industrial development and roads.

“How much more land are we willing to sacrifice?” Tizya-Tramm, who lives a largely subsistence lifestyle in the tiny fly-in First Nation community of Old Crow, asked the Whitehorse crowd.

The Peel Watershed is the ancestral homeland of four First Nations, including Tizya-Tramm’s, and, once protected, will act as a refuge for wildlife and plants as the climate changes, mitigating the effects of development in other areas by acting as a carbon sink. Without protection, the purity of the water and the Peel’s unspoiled wilderness, rich in rare species that have flourished in these waterways and mountains since time immemorial, will go the way of biodiversity across the rest of North America and the world. Conserving the Peel watershed has been a top priority for CPAWS’ Yukon chapter for more than a decade.

“This land sustained our ancestors with animals that will forever return to it, if we respect them and respect their habitats

[www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org)



Dana Tizya-Tramm addresses a rapt Whitehorse audience. Above: The Wind River meanders through a sub-arctic landscape before emptying into the Peel River. Photos: Tyler Kuhn, Juri Peepre

– especially the waters which are key to all the life cycles. This is not just an issue of our time. This is not just a Canadian issue. This is not just a First Nation issue. For all peoples and our children and their children and theirs, from the teachings of our elders, I must ask, how much more land are we willing to lose?” asks Tizya-Tramm.

With young, emerging First Nation leaders like Tizya-Tramm, the answer seems clear.

For latest news about the Peel Watershed, visit [www.protectpeel.ca](http://www.protectpeel.ca).

*Genesee Keevil is a Whitehorse-based journalist and was head guide on CPAWS Yukon’s Wind River youth leadership trip.*

# MAPPING ECOLOGICAL

**A**lmost a decade ago, when concern was growing about the health of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of British Columbia, residents of Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands) were interviewed about their traditional knowledge of the area. An elder named Captain Gold remarked:

“If you start marking everything we tell you on the map you’re going to have a fancy-coloured map by the time we get through! It will cover every bit of the shoreline. We live in this land and on the ocean. We gather all the foods.”

And the foods are rich! From herring, salmon and halibut, to Dungeness crab, clams and cockles, harvesting occurs in all seasons. However the myriad species that used to thrive within

the northern Pacific are being affected by climate change, overfishing and other industrial activities.

This is what motivated the Council of the Haida Nation, alongside 17 other First Nations, to speak out for better marine protection, and to begin work with the province in 2011 on integrated marine plans for over 100,000 square kilometres of BC’s Pacific north coast. Throughout their collaboration, CPAWS and other conservation groups played an advisory role.

In April, the province and the First Nations reached a milestone, jointly announcing marine use plans for four sub-regions of this huge marine area: Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast and North Vancouver Island.



Clockwise from above:  
A diver charts Pacific marine life off Haida Gwaii; halibut adorn a Haida totem; Haida Nation members, from left: Trevor Russ (Vice President); Peter Lantin (President); Alan Wilson (Member); Berry Wijdeven (Province of BC); Russ Jones (Haida Nation); and Sabine Jessen (CPAWS).



Photos: Rowan Trebilco; Sabine Jessen; Haida Nation

# WISDOM

Expertise of B.C. coastal First Nations helps define marine-use plans. **BY ALEXANDRA BARRON**

The Haida, like the other First Nations engaged in this process, brought a wealth of traditional and local ecological knowledge to the table. They also contributed teams of skilled and knowledgeable biologists, planners and scientists who analysed massive amounts of data regarding traditional and commercial human use and ecological values of the marine ecosystems, and produced detailed spatial maps of areas needing protection.

The importance of the strong leadership role by First Nations in this process cannot be underestimated. Eighteen First Nations came together and spoke as one. Their political will saw the planning process through to completion, and has ensured that the marine plans have strong benefits for both conservation and communities. Now the challenge is implementation.

As President of the Council of Haida Nation Peter Lantin stated at the official endorsement ceremony in April, "Today we celebrate, tomorrow we roll up our sleeves and begin the hard work of implementing the plans.... the plans will change the way we do business on the coast."

CPAWS is proud to have been part of this process. National Ocean Program Director Sabine Jessen sat on the marine advisory committee for the Haida Gwaii marine plan. She also worked with other conservationists to promote strong protection standards within all of the marine plans. With impressive partners like the Haida, we intend to stay vigilant to ensure effective, long-term protection for this amazing ocean region!

*Alexandra Barron is Marine Conservation Coordinator for CPAWS-BC.*

Like an exploding mushroom, a Plumose anemone thrives in the nutrient-rich ocean waters off Gwaii Haanas. Photo: Jocelyn Nelson



NWT First Nation's traditional territory to become new national park.

BY ERICA JANES



# FORTY YEARS TO A SLAVE LAKE PARK

Above: Bedrock slides beneath the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.  
Inset: Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation leaders unveil park map.  
Photos: Bob Wilson, Lee Montgomery

**F**orty years of off and on discussions and negotiations about protecting the homeland of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN), whose traditional territory is in and around the Northwest Territories' East Arm of Great Slave Lake, have led to a break-through that will benefit all Canadians.

In July, members of this picturesque, fly-in community hugging the shore of the crystal-clear waters of Great Slave Lake welcomed federal and territorial politicians to their meeting hall. Together, they unveiled a map showing some 28,000 square kilometres of the LKDFN's traditional territory that is proposed for protection within a national park reserve and territorial park.

"Getting to this day has been quite a journey. We've taken our time to educate other governments about our rights, and we've made sure that the time is right. We've worked hard with both Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that these lands will be managed in accordance with Dene values. Thaidene Nene will not be like the parks that our grandfathers knew, which excluded our people from the land," says Steven Nitah, LKDFN Chief Negotiator.

For the past four years, CPAWS has been partnering with the First Nation to garner support for protecting the "Land of the Ancestors" – both because of its beautiful and wild landscape that link the boreal forest to the tundra, and its rich cultural history. This project has been an exciting opportunity for us to share our experience in wilderness conservation and public relations, and to learn more than we could have ever imagined from members of the Lutsel K'e Dene people about their experience on the land, and their patience in working to protect it.

For the 350 or so community members who live fulltime in Lutsel K'e, and for the many more who return at least once

a year for the annual spiritual gathering or to hunt in fall or winter, Thaidene Nene is the heart of their homeland. It is where they still hunt caribou, fish year round and pick berries each summer, teaching their youth how to survive on the land. It is where they honour their elders past and present, and visit long-held spiritual places.

While today the community has wireless access and smartphones abound, unemployment is high. Preserving Thaidene Nene will offer LKDFN members the opportunity to practice and strengthen their culture while creating new means of sustainable livelihoods and participation in the development of a new national park.

"Forty years ago, our elders pretty much told the officials from Parks Canada to take a hike when they proposed a park. Today, we're looking at a new era where our people will be full players in managing the protected area," says Nitah.

There are still formal processes to complete before park ribbons are cut for Thaidene Nene, but with proposed boundaries from governments mapped out, and with continuing support from Canadians committed to conservation, we expect that these parks could take their final shape within the next year.

Learn more and voice your support at [www.landoftheancestors.ca](http://www.landoftheancestors.ca).

*Erica Janes is Conservation Coordinator for CPAWS NWT Chapter.*

# IN DANGER: CANADA'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK

Mikisew Cree First Nation alerts UNESCO to threats facing World Heritage Site.

BY ALISON RONSON

Members of the Mikisew Cree First Nation have relied on the resources of the forest and delta within Wood Buffalo National Park in Northern Alberta for thousands of years. Now they're fighting to protect the health of Canada's largest national park. The first nation, with leadership from Chief Steve Courtourelle and Government and Industry Relations Director Melody Lepine, has asked UNESCO (the UN's Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) to place Wood Buffalo National Park on its List of World Heritage Sites in Danger.

CPAWS has supported the Mikisew Cree's petition by submitting a letter to UNESCO and contacting former Parks Canada management staff who, in turn, wrote their own letter of concern.

One of the gems in Canada's national parks network, Wood Buffalo National Park is a vast area of boreal forest containing the largest inland freshwater delta in the world (the Peace-Athabasca Delta) and the last herd of free-roaming buffalo in Canada. The park is also the last place where wolves and buffalo co-exist with a natural predator-prey dynamic and the only nesting place in the world for the endangered whooping crane. Because of its high ecological value and global significance, Wood Buffalo National Park was placed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites in 1983.

The problem is that today, Wood Buffalo's delta is drying up. Mikisew Cree members, supported by scientific research, are concerned that dams along the Peace River in British Columbia and Alberta and oil and gas activity along the Athabasca River in Alberta are lowering water levels in the delta. This is causing changes in wildlife habitat and migration patterns within the park.

In their UNESCO petition last December, the Mikisew Cree carefully detailed their observations about the effects of industrial activity on the park.

"We know this land and the waters so well. We have been living in this area for generations and we want to keep the delta healthy for our children and theirs to come," says Chief Courtourelle.

In July of 2015, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee responded to the Mikisew Cree's petition by asking Canada to review the impacts of all industrial development with potential impacts on the park, and in the meantime not to make any decisions related to development projects that would be difficult to reverse.

Working with strong Indigenous leaders like Chief Courtourelle and Melody Lepine and the members of the Mikisew Cree First Nation gives me hope that together we can protect our amazing Canadian wilderness.

More information on this issue can be found at [www.cpawsnab.org/news](http://www.cpawsnab.org/news).

*Alison Ronson is Executive Director of CPAWS' Northern Alberta chapter.*

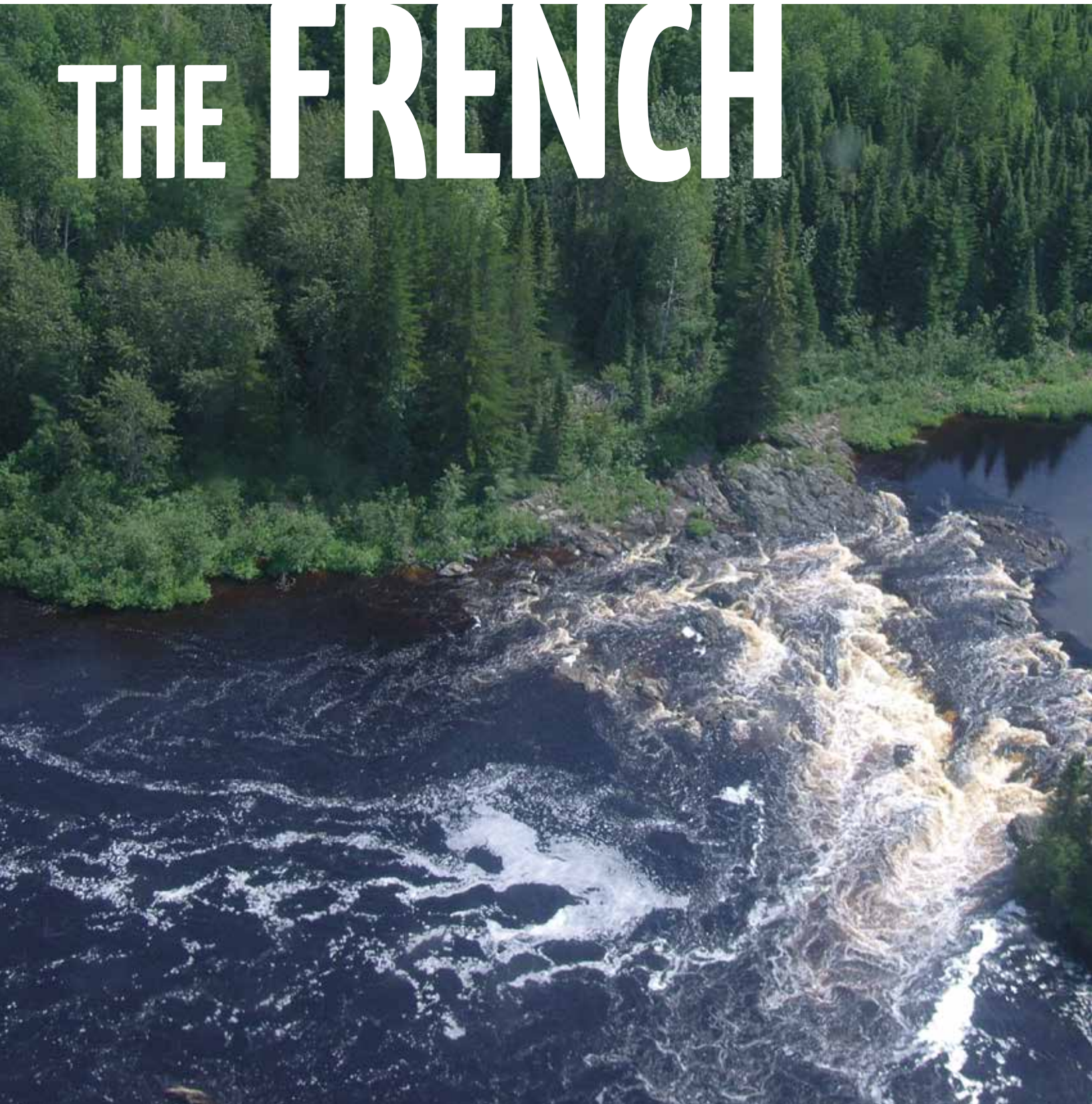


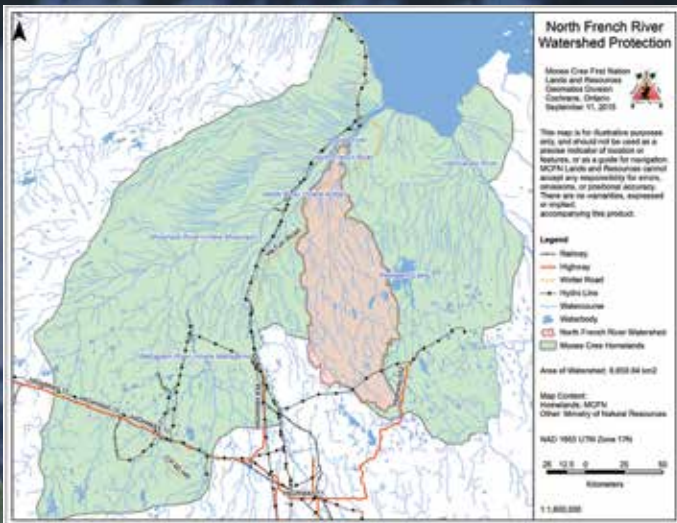
Dams on the Peace River are one cause of lower water levels within Wood Buffalo National Park. Above: Melody Lepine of the Mikisew Cree has alerted UNESCO to threats to Canada's largest national park. Photos: Ansgar Walk; courtesy of Melody Lepine

# PRESERVING

Moose Cree First Nation works to protect last untouched river in its territory. **BY ANNA BAGGIO**

# THE FRENCH





Clockwise from top: The North French River lies in the traditional territory of the Moose Cree; Jack Rickard is Moose Cree Director of Lands and Resources; The North French watershed is untouched by human development; the river tumbles over waterfalls as it flows north into James Bay. Photos: Bernie McLeod; Jack Rickard Map: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

**R**anging south from the shore of James Bay in Ontario, the traditional homeland of the Moose Cree First Nation stretches over a vast area of boreal forest, wetlands and rushing rivers. Today, roughly half of the 4,000 or so members of the Moose Cree First Nation live on reserve at Moose Factory. Many still hunt on the land, but they have also been diversifying their incomes by developing businesses ranging from tourism operations to a partnership in a major hydroelectric project on the Lower Mattagami River.

“The Moose Cree.... are not generally opposed to resource development in our Traditional Territory,” wrote Chief Norm Hardisty in a recent letter to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. However, his First Nation is determined to protect the health of the rivers and land they have long relied on. In his letter, Chief Hardisty said that his First Nation intends to protect the 6,660-square-kilometre North French Watershed, the last of the rivers in their traditional territory untouched by industrial development.

The North French River flows north into James Bay from its headwaters about 50 kilometres north of Cochrane. Its watershed shelters woodland caribou and birds ranging from warblers to nighthawks, several of which are threatened species. Within the river, a variety of fish -- an important traditional food source -- thrive, including a genetically distinct population of sturgeon.

Since 2001, with support from CPAWS Wildlands League, the Moose Cree have been proposing that the entire North French watershed in Ontario be formally designated a protected area. This has meant facing down mining companies actively seeking claims in the watershed, and forestry companies interested in building roads through the headwaters, and prolonged discussions with the provincial government about land use in the area.

Over the past 14 years, I’ve been leading the effort by CPAWS Wildlands League staff to partner with the Moose Cree in many ways, ranging from organizing meetings with high-ranking Ontario government officials, to helping with a canoe excursion on the North French last summer to survey culturally and ecologically important areas in the watershed. That trip was made possible by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Says Jack Rickard, Moose Cree Director of Lands and Resources, “We want to ensure fresh water for future generations, a pristine area and all types of natural resources for our people to enjoy, protect traditional pursuits, and practice sustainability as it was done in the past.”

The effort to gain formal provincial protected-area designation has gained momentum over the past year. Local forestry companies have largely respected the call for no logging within the watershed. The Moose Cree community has launched its own conservation plan, with members monitoring the area to ensure that mining companies avoid staking claims there, and negotiating with others to reduce harm they may cause in managing a hydro corridor that transects the North French headwaters. Now the Province of Ontario needs to put the final piece in place – formal permanent protection as the Moose Cree have requested.

For more information, see <http://wildlandsleague.org/project/country-foods/>

*Anna Baggio is Director of Conservation Planning for CPAWS’ Wildlands League chapter.*



# CARIBOU CRASH

Miawpukek First Nation  
studying threats to Newfoundland's  
declining caribou population.

BY CHRIS MILLER

A lone caribou ambles across the Bay D'Espoir Highway, Newfoundland; Inset: Andy Joe, Raymond Jeddore, Gregory Benoit and David Jeddore are studying caribou migration patterns to understand why the caribou population is crashing. Photos: Chris Miller, Greg Jeddore





**M**y friend Greg Jeddore, from Miawpukek First Nation on the Island of Newfoundland, tells me that I'll probably see a caribou crossing the Bay d'Espoir Highway at Miguel's Brook, on my way south to their community of Conne River.

And, sure enough, as I approach that location, there it is... a beautiful caribou crossing the highway right where he said it would be. I pull over to take a photo.

It's first-hand local knowledge like this that is so crucial in protecting Newfoundland's population of caribou.

I'm on my way to learn more about Greg and his Miawpukek colleagues' study of the caribou's important habitat. CPAWS shares with the Miawpukek the goal of saving this iconic species from extinction, and so we're exchanging knowledge and resources.

"Mi'kmaq people of Miawpukek First Nation have been hunting and trapping the caribou for a thousand years or more in Newfoundland", says Greg. "We have hunted the caribou for survival, for food, clothing, blankets, footwear, drums, snowshoes, and for tools for hunting and fishing."

Unfortunately, Newfoundland caribou are in the midst of a major population crash, having declined by approximately 60 per cent over the last three caribou generations. There are some indications that the crash may be bottoming-out, but caribou will remain in a precarious position in Newfoundland for the foreseeable future.

"Today, with the decline in the caribou due to over-harvesting of timber by industry, poachers, and coyotes, the caribou population is under threat," says Greg.

Last year, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) listed Newfoundland's caribou as a species of "Special Concern".

In response, Miawpukek First Nation is gathering and documenting critical information about calving areas, migration routes, and how the caribou movements are changing over time.

The project is only in its second year, but is already providing a deeper understanding of the caribou in Newfoundland. Greg, and his colleagues Andy Joe, Raymond Jeddore, Gregory Benoit, and David Jeddore are out on the land for long periods of time throughout the year assembling first-hand knowledge about caribou migration patterns, what resources they depend upon, and how they respond to changes in their natural environment. Scientific computer models suggest that the caribou should be moving North-South in that part of Newfoundland at a particular time of year, but first-hand observations from the Miawpukek members reveal a much more complicated migration story involving intricate movements in an East-West direction as well in response to the natural ecosystem.

This work is crucial for understanding Newfoundland's caribou and ensuring the species has a fighting chance at survival.

To learn more about this project, please visit [cpawns.org](http://cpawns.org).

Chris Miller is CPAWS' National Conservation Biologist

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Share the experience of 400 spellbound audience members who attended a rare Canadian presentation in May by this National Geographic Explorer in Residence, TED prize winner, author and lecturer in Ottawa.

Dr. Earle's 75 minute presentation, *Sustainable Seas: The Vision, the Reality*, including inspiring underwater film footage and photography, is now available in video on the CPAWS website at: [cpaws.org/campaigns/cpaws-talks-oceans-with-dr-sylvia-earle](http://cpaws.org/campaigns/cpaws-talks-oceans-with-dr-sylvia-earle).

With special thanks to:





Photo courtesy of Judith Davidson

## For Judith Davidson, monthly giving comes naturally!

One of my biggest career decisions was whether to work in wildlife protection or healthcare. I ended up choosing healthcare, while keeping my dedication to wildlife as an important aspect of my personal life. While on a cycling trip a few years later I met Jean Langlois, then-executive-director of the Ottawa Valley chapter. That's when I first learned about CPAWS and discovered that this organization was about the things that mattered to me.

I feel that with Canada's beautiful expanses of wilderness, its protection should be our primary intent, so we don't have to work on recovery later. Many aspects of CPAWS align with my personal philosophy of how we can do this.

The report released this summer, "Protecting Canada: Is it in our nature?" by Alison Woodley and others exemplifies CPAWS' work to remind federal, provincial and territorial governments of their land protection goals and encourage them to move beyond these. I love that rather than being antagonistic, CPAWS works in a collaborative, knowledgeable way with the governments who manage the vast

majority of Canada's land base.

Having been a graduate student for more years than I'll admit, when I met Jean I could not afford to donate to many charities. It was more satisfying to donate to one than to spread my small surplus among several. I knew CPAWS would be the one.

One year, I earned some extra money and donated it to CPAWS, on my birthday. I continued this tradition for a few years.

Now that I'm working full-time, CPAWS remains my primary charity. It's important for any organization to have reliable support for its day-to-day operations. That's why I make a regular monthly donation. The reports and other updates from CPAWS, including the media coverage, show me that it's working.

In addition to monthly support, I still give an annual donation, close to my birthday. I like to think of our caribou and other wildlife as having a wide range to roam. It's an uplifting feeling to support an organization that has the same vision!

It's amazing what  
a monthly donation  
can do



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Photo: Terry Shaddick

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Join CPAWS' Wilderness Protection club with a monthly gift. It's the best way to ensure that CPAWS is always ready to respond to new threats—and capitalize on emerging opportunities—as we strive towards our goal of protecting half of our public lands and waters.

Become a  
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A photograph of two runners in a forest. The runner in the foreground is wearing a blue t-shirt and black shorts, with bright green and black running shoes. The runner behind is wearing a black top and black shorts with blue accents, with blue and black running shoes. They are running on a dirt path with trees in the background. The text "Thanks for running wild." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thanks for running wild.

**MEC** **BIG WILD**  
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**More than \$75,000 raised for wilderness conservation**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the 2015 MEC Big Wild Challenge and CPAWS. There were awesome teams, 78 creative adventures, 842 trail runners, and over 900 generous donors.

See you next year!

[www.bigwildchallenge2015.cpaws.org](http://www.bigwildchallenge2015.cpaws.org)