


Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table: Responding to Declines and Mitigating Pressures on Ungava Migratory Caribou

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Oct 22, 2014



The UPCART – The Context

- Drastic decline in George River Caribou Herd (GRH)
 - From 776 000 (1993) to 74 000 (2010) to 27 600 (2012) to 14 200 (2014)
 - Issue of food security for Aboriginal peoples who depend on caribou
- Slow response from governments
- Great concern for future of caribou by Aboriginal peoples (Innu, Inuit, Métis, Cree, Naskapi) from two provinces (Québec and Newfoundland & Labrador), but;
- Little prior collaboration between them

Creation of the UPCART

- Aboriginal-only evening meeting at HFTCC workshop in September 2012, Montreal
 - First opportunity for all rightsholders to meet and explore collaboration and share information and perspectives on Ungava caribou
- Emergency summit in Kuujuaq in January 2013
 - Resulted in Declaration
- Formalizing of UPCART in April 2013, Uashat
 - Co-Chairs, executive committee, technical committee
- Terms of Reference for UPCART adopted in September 2013, in Nain

The UPCART

- Membership:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innu Nation – Nunatsiavut Government – NunatuKavut Community Council – Innu from the Québec region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach – Nunavik Inuit – Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee / Cree Nation Government
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Objectives of the UPCART

- Reestablishing respect for caribou by all hunters
 - “Everyone depending on animals knows that all parts of the animals were used, even the bones and head of caribou were very important parts. My wish is that people start to recognize and understand again the importance of using all parts of the animal and that there be less wastage. We have to bring back that respect that was so important and central in the caribou hunt.”
 - John Petagumskum, Cree Elder, Whapmagoostui

Objectives of the UPCART

- Collaboration and sharing of information between Aboriginal Peoples
 - Sharing of cultural practices, cultural laws and perspectives on the Aboriginal relationship with caribou and the land
 - Discussions include:
 - Harvesting measures
 - Perspectives on
 - management
 - relationships with other governments, stakeholders and industry



Objectives of the UPCART

- Jointly developed caribou management plan for Ungava Peninsula which
 - Is culturally significant
 - Need to link this plan with government management plans currently under development
- Will develop a 3-year strategic plan for UPCART in next few months



Objectives of the UPCART

- Exploring the creation of an Aboriginal monitoring network of the UPCART
 - Building off Innu Nation experience with Innu Caribou Guardians and other community-based monitoring experience of UPCART membership
- Importance of holding aboriginal-only discussions without the presence of Governments and other stakeholders

Objectives of the UPCART

- Develop an engagement strategy for interacting with Crown Governments and other stakeholders including academia, industry and other Northern residents
- Actively participate in research conducted on Ungava caribou
 - Aerial surveys
 - Delineation of calving grounds

UPCART Achievements

- Met four times
 - Kuujjuaq, January 2013
 - Uashat, April 2013
 - Nain, September 2013
 - Kuujjuaraapik / Whapmagustui, May 2014

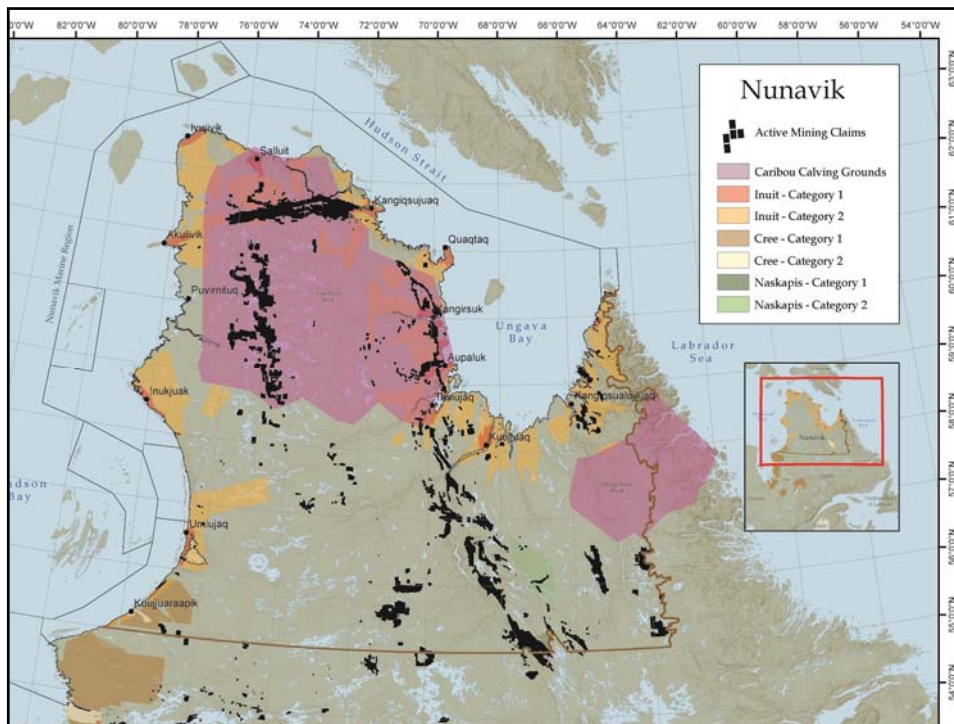


UPCART & Industrial Development

- Important for Industry to understand how vital caribou is for Aboriginal culture and survival
- Food security issue
- UPCART prepared to work with Industry
 - Particularly mining sector
 - Extensive mining operations and exploration in the Ungava Peninsula

UPCART & Industrial Development

- Importance of protecting calving ground
- Calving areas are vital to Leaf River Herd and George River herd survival
 - Thus also of the highest importance to UPCART
- The areas in Nunavik where there is the most mineral exploration and exploitation are precisely the calving areas for the two caribou herds



Ungava Caribou & Mining

- Not just current and future mines that have impact on caribou
 - Also mining exploration
 - Frequent flights to and from exploration camps can have significant negative impacts on caribou
- There is a need for sector-wide and regional approaches
- A need for coordination between jurisdictions

What can Industry Do?

- Consult with UPCART
 - Aboriginal input in development plans can have a positive influence
 - Aboriginal peoples possess vast knowledge of the environment
- Voluntary measures
 - E.g. limiting flight activity during migration and calving periods

What can Industry Do?

- Interact with UPCART
 - Provide financial support for UPCART meetings and initiatives
 - Industry representatives meet with UPCART and discuss shared concerns
 - Develop collaborations
 - E.g. Caribou monitoring programs
 - Development of sector-wide guidelines

Thank You/Merci/Nakurmiik



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