

# Joint Mountain Caribou Workshop

Held Jul. 26 – Aug. 2, 2017  
Dechenla Lodge, Mackenzie Mtns

*‘We’ve got to find a way to move forward. Our people always did that – every time they struggled to find a way, they’d get together like this,’ – Leon Andrew*

**Bedzih / Kudzih / Shúhta Goꝛepé hé, Dene Ts’lly / Guk’eh hé** (health of mountain caribou and Dene ways of life) were the focus of an on-the-land workshop with Sahtú and Tu Łidlini Dena delegates last summer. The workshop was held at K’á Tǎ – a unique place in heart of the Mackenzie Mountains with deep cultural meaning for Tu Łidlini Dena, Kaska Dena and Shúhtaot’jné (Mountain Dene), as well as important habitat for Northern Mountain Caribou.

Our goal was to create a joint community-led conservation plan. By late fall 2017 the draft was ready for community review.

*‘We want to protect it now while there’s still caribou out there,’ – Gordon Peter*

Traditional Dene values, principles and knowledge guide us, such as:

- Ah’ yeh gus’an (KD) / bets'erjchá (S) – respect for caribou
- Ah’ yeh gus’an (KD) / ɤets'erjchá (S) – respect for each other, and
- Guyeh / duyah kadzudedali (KD) / ɤetexé ɤeghálats'eda (S) working together.



We named the plan **Nío Nę P'ęné Begháré Shúhta ɤepé Narehǎ – Trails of the Mountain Caribou** to honour the importance of the area to Dene, and refer to the Mountain Caribou trails that cover the landscape.

