

Hotì ts'eeda Project Spotlight

EKWÒ NÀXOÈHDEE K'È

Caribou Monitoring Program

THE PROJECT

Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è: Boots on the Ground is a Tłıchǵ Government caribou monitoring program that collects critical field knowledge of the Bathurst caribou herd and habitat.



The program began in response to the decline of the Bathurst caribou herd. It uses the traditional knowledge and language of Indigenous Tłıchǵ Elders and harvesters to closely observe caribou. Local people who rely on caribou best understand current conditions of the caribou and of the land. This concept honours traditional knowledge to reveal detailed insights that protect caribou and environmental health. Researchers monitor indicators to track changes over time: (1) caribou habitat & environment, (2) caribou population & health, (3) predators, and (4) industrial disturbance.

GUIDING CONCEPTS

do as hunters do

This phrase is based upon the lifeways of hunters, and guides the project methodology.

we watch everything

A concept shared by Elders that guides researchers to holistically observe caribou herds and the land. This reveals how the caribou interact with the environment.

Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è

A Tłıchǵ phrase that refers to the migratory movements of the caribou herd. It encompasses the yearly journey of the caribou across their habitat.

Hotì ts'eeda has supported this project since 2018 by offering knowledge translation and communications support.



References

1. <https://research.tlicho.ca/research/bootsongtheground>
2. <https://nwtspor.ca/supported-projects/ekwo-naxoede-ke-boots-ground>



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