



CANADIAN
WILDLIFE HEALTH
COOPERATIVE

NORTHERN ISSUES

CREATING A WORLD
THAT IS SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE
FOR WILDLIFE AND SOCIETY

HEALTHY WILDLIFE for food security

Healthy wildlife populations have been the foundation of existence for Arctic Aboriginal peoples for generations, and changes in wildlife health both threaten the sustainability of wildlife populations and alter the perceptions and reality of wildlife (country food) safety.

For centuries Arctic peoples have relied on a range of wildlife species for food, shelter, and clothing, and more recently, also as a focus for maintenance of cultural identity and part of a sustainable renewable resource economy.

Rapid and unprecedented climatic and economic changes across the Arctic are, however, having significant impacts on wildlife health and population dynamics.

Other issues currently facing Northern wildlife include *Erysipelothrix* and other bacterial infections in muskoxen, *Besnoitia* in caribou, the geographic spread of lungworm and winter tick, and a host of other diseases which may influence population health and sustainability.

HELPING communities

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative is currently involved in a wide number of initiatives in Northern Canada aimed at understanding disease patterns and environmental factors affecting wildlife populations. We are actively working with Northerners, including harvesters, wildlife managers, and public health professionals to monitor and identify changes in the health of wildlife. In partnership with universities, territorial wildlife managers, and local hunter and trapper and co-management organizations, the CWHC is actively working to establish baselines for health of muskoxen and caribou, including infectious disease, contaminants, stress and production (body size, condition, pregnancy).

The CWHC is also involved in outbreak investigations and tracking of emerging pathogens in the Arctic and provides expertise in wildlife health that can be used to guide management, and inform food safety and food security issues.

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