

HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou

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INUIT LEADERSHIP

Supporting the advancement of Inuit leadership, governance and adherence to Inuit research processes¹, this project is led by Inuit from the Nunatsiavut region and the NunatuKavut region. A Steering Committee is guiding this project, with members from the Nunatsiavut Government, NunatuKavut Community Council, Torngat Secretariat, and academic researchers.

GOAL

In partnership with Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions, this project characterizes the ways in which changing caribou populations impact the health and wellbeing of Inuit through the co-production of community-based, research-oriented, participatory documentary film work.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 84 participants were video-interviewed, ensuring a diversity of ages, regions, experiences with caribou, and gender equity. *Photos displayed with participant consent.



This will be a physical iPad on the poster, playing footage of caribou and our analysis process on loop

ANALYSIS

A video-based qualitative analysis was carried out, whereby video-interviews were used as the data. The coding and analysis capabilities in two video-editing softwares were utilized: Lumberjack Builder™ and Final Cut Pro X®. Codes were applied to a quote that was linked to a video clip.



CONTEXT

In Labrador, Canada, Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions have sustained a deep reliance with caribou for generations². This relationship has been challenged in recent years, as caribou herds have experienced precipitous population declines, including a 99% decline of the George River Caribou Herd since 2001, which resulted in a total hunting ban in 2013³.

METHODS

This project is informed by decolonizing⁴ and community-based participatory research⁵ frameworks. It is incorporating two participatory video research methods:



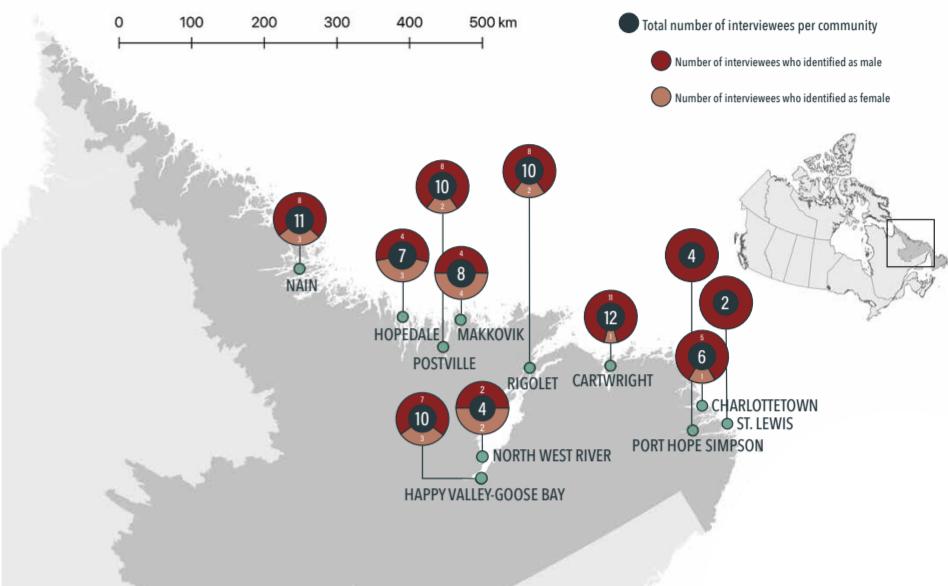
84 In-Depth Interviews



Participatory Video Editing

LOCATION

This research took place in 11 communities across two Inuit regions: the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions.



"It's almost like the caribou was the reason, and everything else happened after"

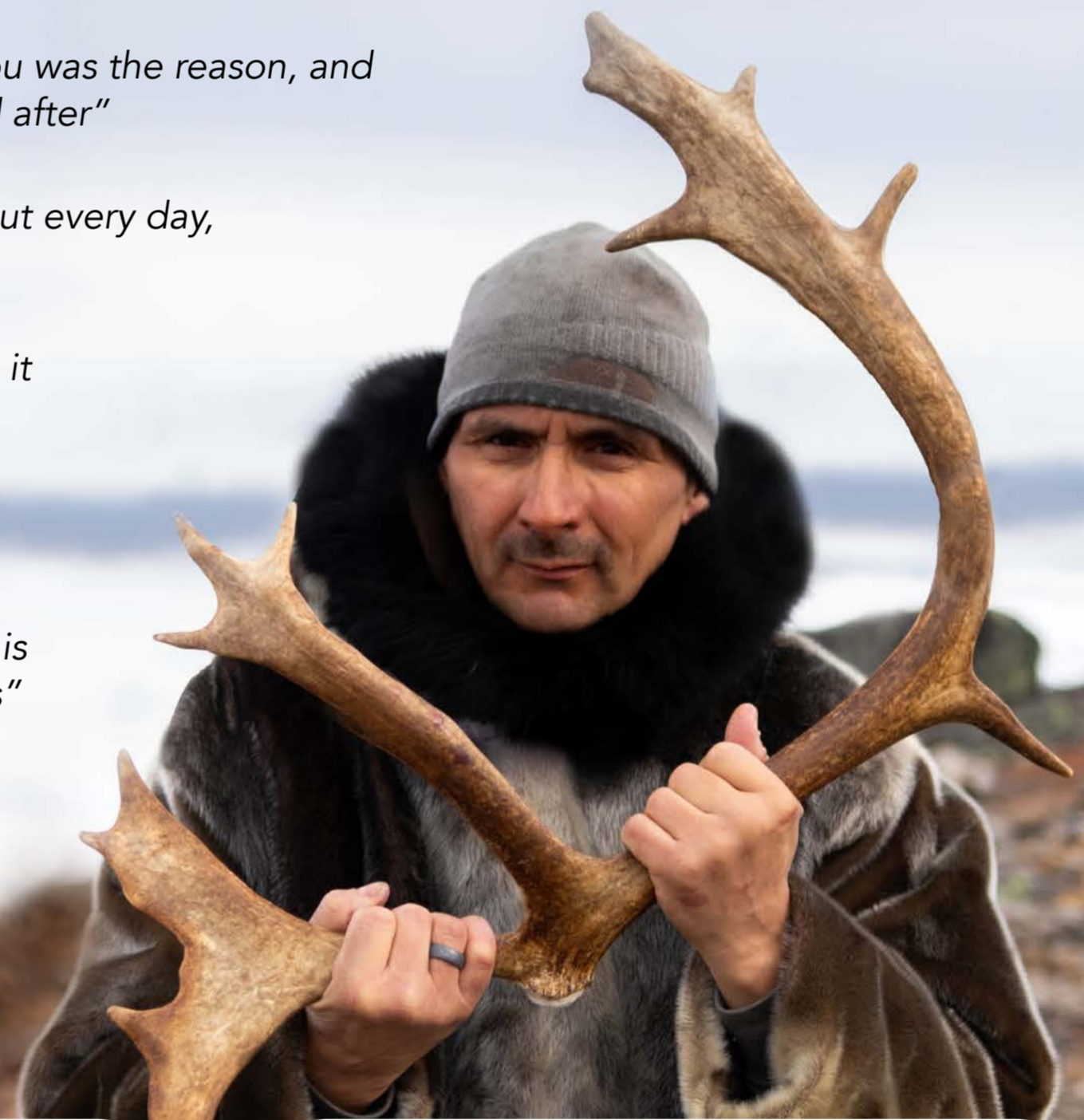
"My family ate caribou just about every day, twelve months of the year"

"Caribou meant everything for me... it brought happiness to everything"

"Big part of who we are, our identity is taken away, like so many other things"

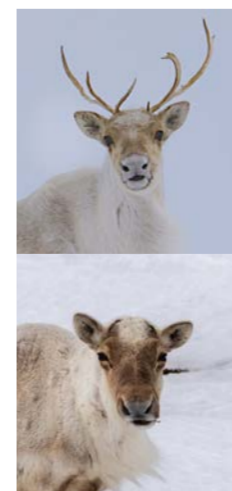
"[Now] children don't even know what caribou tastes like"

"You can never replace the caribou"



RESULTS

Inuit across the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions explained how caribou are an important element of Inuit identity, cultural continuity, and overall wellbeing. The changes in caribou populations are resulting in losses to cultural knowledge, alterations to Inuit perceptions of self, and concern about the future of caribou-Inuit relationships. While Inuit are adapting to the caribou population changes in a variety of ways, "you can never replace the caribou."



CONTRIBUTIONS



Provides important data on Inuit-caribou relationships in Labrador.



Portrays the deep linkages between access to caribou and Inuit wellbeing.



Advances the use of audio-visual research methods in Inuit contexts.



Highlights Inuit-led strategies for future caribou conservation.