
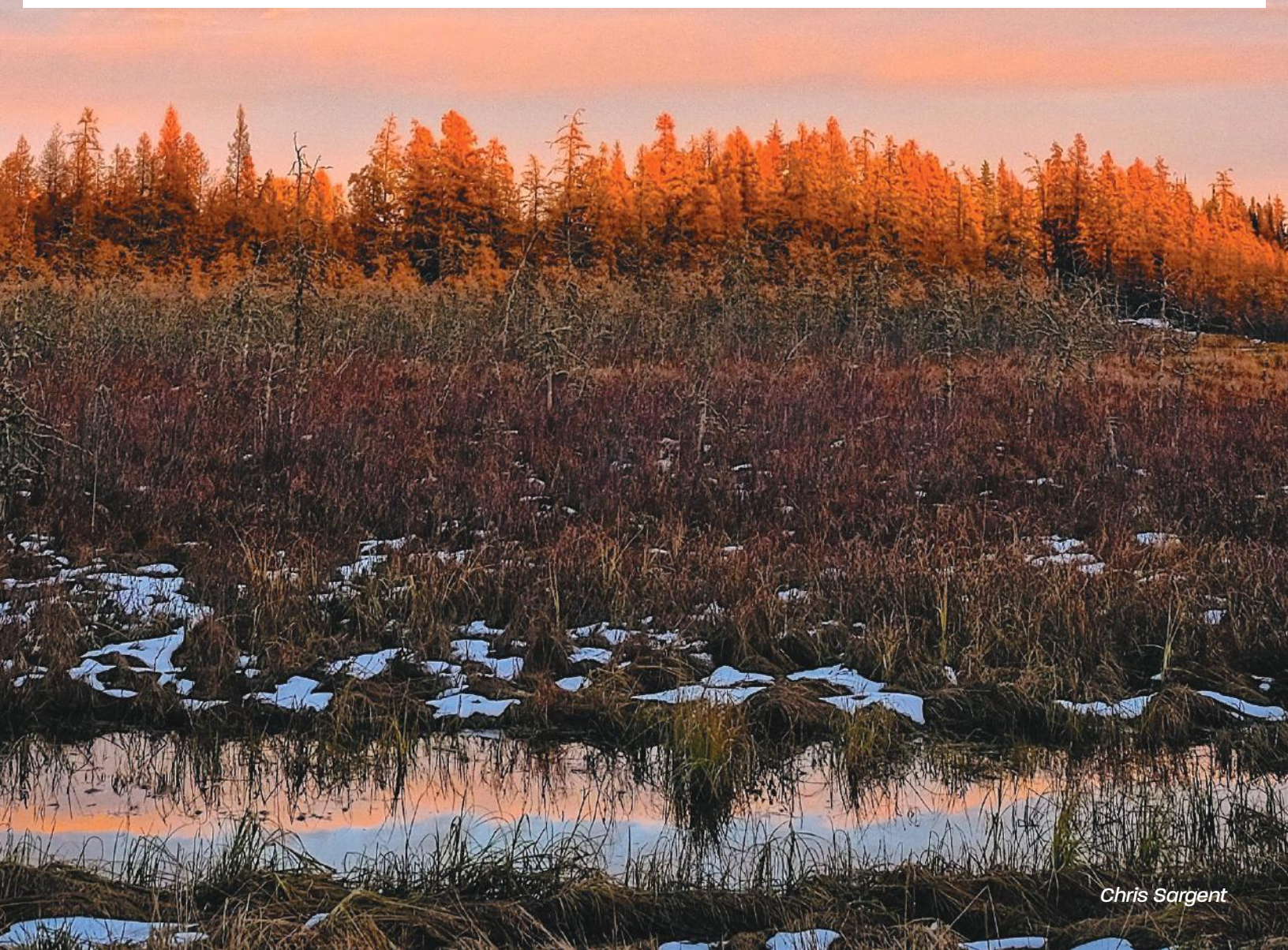


# Annual Report 2018 - 2019

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NORTHERN ALBERTA



*Chris Sargent*



# Table of Contents

<b>A Message from the Chapter .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About CPAWS NAB .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Staffing Updates .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Highlights of the Year.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Program Updates.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Public Outreach .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Volunteer Highlights.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Financial Information .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Partners in Conservation.....</b>	<b>19</b>

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER

It's been a big year for CPAWS Northern Alberta! It was an extremely busy period for several of our campaigns and, somewhere along the way, we even found the time to start new ones. The 2018/2019 year was our biggest ever for grant revenue. We grew our staff contingent as we grew our revenue, which has put us in a strong position, capacity-wise, to advance our conservation work.

The major focus for CPAWS Northern Alberta this past year was our Love Your Headwaters Campaign, advocating for new protected areas in the Bighorn region. Throughout this campaign we had unprecedented engagement by staff, volunteers, members and the public, all with a desire to protect the Bighorn's rich biodiversity, critical headwaters, Indigenous heritage, and amazing wilderness experiences for future generations. Although we were deeply disappointed that new protected areas in the Bighorn were not established prior to the change in government in spring 2019, we are optimistic that planning for conservation of this area will continue under the new government. The amazing work undertaken by our staff and volunteers continues to position CPAWS Northern Alberta as a key player in determining the future outcomes for the Bighorn.

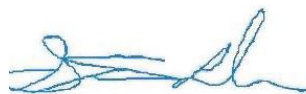
Over this past year, we bid farewell to several board members who generously volunteered their time and expertise, assisting CPAWS Northern Alberta in our work advocating for wilderness, waters, and wildlife. We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of former Vice-Chair, Chris Sargent. Chris was an incredible voice for conservation. The Bighorn was one of his favourite places and he cared deeply about the future of the area. Our work to protect the Bighorn will continue in his name.

This year also saw Dr. Catherine Cullingham, our outgoing Board Chair, secure a tenure-track professorship at Carleton University! Cathy has provided invaluable guidance and expertise to the board for many years. Thank you, Cathy, for all your contributions to the organization! We also welcomed new board members and staff and look forward to the passion, creativity, and hard work they are bringing to their new roles.

The future looks bright for CPAWS Northern Alberta and we are excited to see what the next year will bring.



**Dr. Kecia Kerr**  
Executive Director



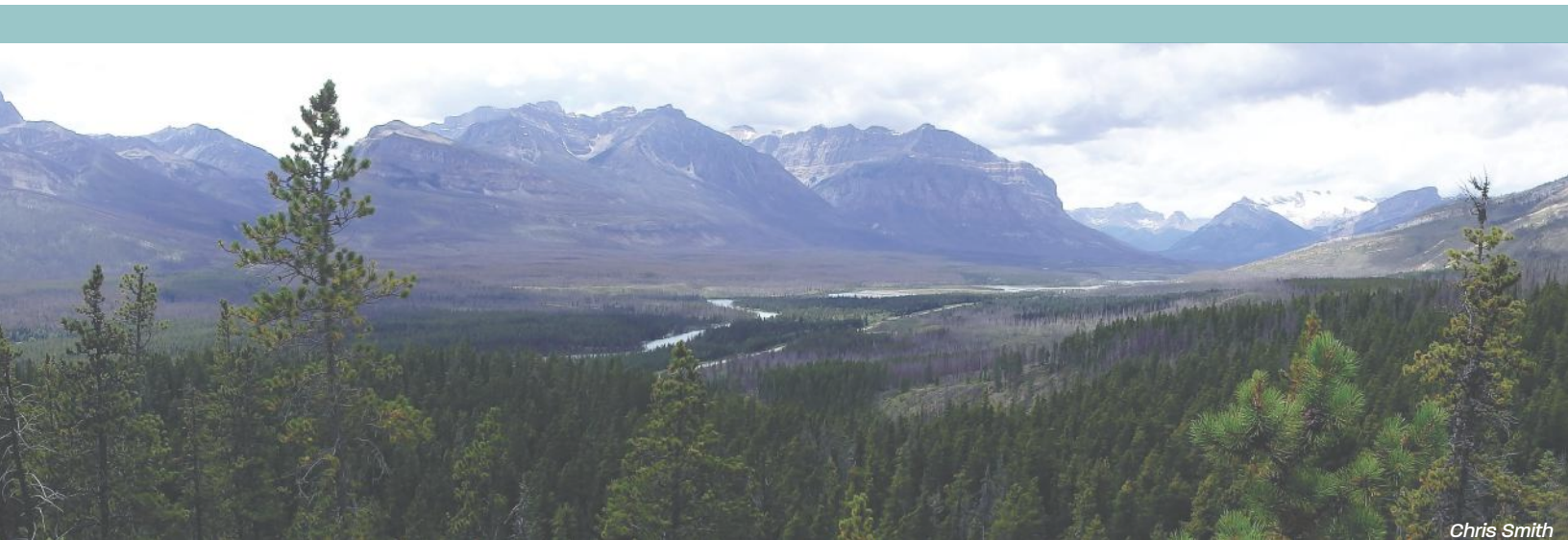
**Mr. Steve Donelon**  
Incoming Chair, Board of Directors

# ABOUT CPAWS NAB

## Overview

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) believes that Canada's magnificent landscape deserves to be enjoyed by all - now and into the future. That's why CPAWS is the only nation-wide charitable organization dedicated solely to protecting Canada's public lands and waters for current and future generations to appreciate. Since 1963, our organization has been instrumental in achieving legislative protection for over half a million square kilometres across the country. That's an area bigger than the Yukon territory!

The Northern Alberta Chapter was established in 1968 and we have been leading the way in conservation in Alberta for over 50 years. We aim to protect Alberta's waters, wilderness, and wildlife between the northern provincial border and Red Deer using a three-pronged approach: science-based decision making, collaboration and advocacy. Our goal is to conserve at least half of Alberta's public lands.



Chris Smith

### Vision

We aspire to an Alberta that embraces conservation and has a large protected wilderness network.

### Mission

We achieve conservation and legislated wilderness protection in Alberta through research, collaboration, and community outreach.

### Core Values

- Wilderness, Conservation & Biodiversity
- Collaboration
- Community Engagement
- Evidence-Based Decision Making
- Accountability

# WHO WE ARE

## The Board of Directors

**Steve Donelon**, Chair

**Donna Tribe**, Treasurer

**Ramona Blacklock**, Secretary

**Brian Steele**, Director

**Bryan Adkins**, Director

**Myles Curry**, Director

**Cindy Olsen**, Director

**Becky Devaleriola**, Director

## The Chapter Staff

**Kecia Kerr**, Executive Director

**Tara Russell**, Program Director

**Chris Smith**, Parks Coordinator

**Adean Alessandrini**, Boreal Program Manager (outgoing)

**Gillian Chow-Fraser**, Boreal Program Manager (incoming, November 2018)

**Cala Jorgensen**, Program Coordinator

**Nick Wilson**, Conservation Analyst (outgoing)

**Ryan Cheng**, Conservation Analyst (incoming, August 2018)

**Ashley Light**, Conservation Outreach Coordinator (Summer 2018)

**Carlos Bautista**, Financial Controller (Contractor)

# STAFFING UPDATES



Left to right: Ryan Cheng, Helen Yip, Georgia Englot, Cala Jorgensen, Chris Smith, Gillian Chow-Fraser, Kecia Kerr.

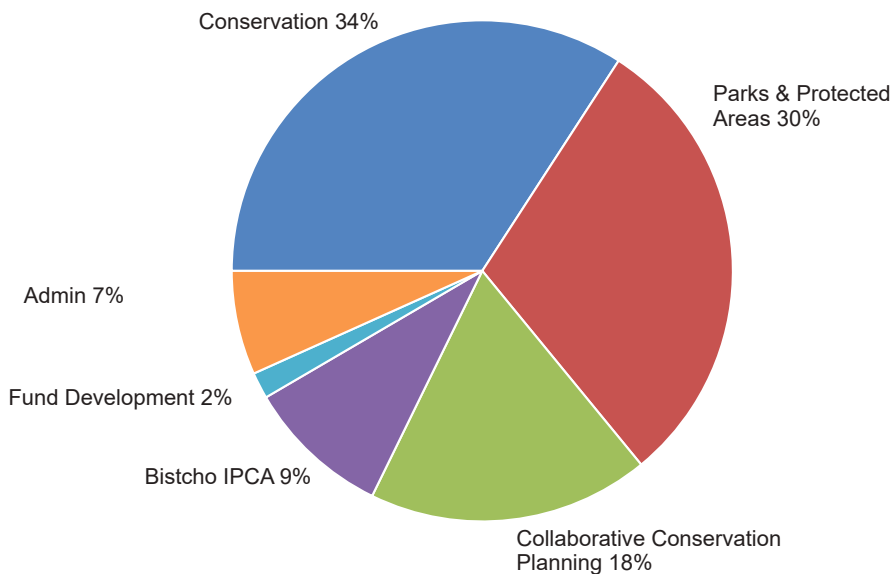
## We're growing!

Over the past year, we have increased our staff capacity from three to six full-time employees.

Recent additions to our team include: **Ryan Cheng**, Conservation Analyst; **Gillian Chow-Fraser**, Boreal Program Manager; and, **Cala Jorgensen**, Program Coordinator. We also had **Ashley Light** join us for the summer season as Conservation Outreach Assistant.

Increasing staffing was a goal outlined in our 2017/2018 Annual Report and we are now better able to tackle the most pressing conservation projects, while also growing awareness of our organization in Alberta.

## TOTAL STAFF TIME



## Staff Time

The chart to the left shows the proportions of how our cumulative staff time was spent. We dedicated over 90% of our time to our various protected areas and conservation programs. Note that the "Conservation" category encompasses our general conservation work as well as our caribou and climate change programs. Parks & Protected Areas includes our Bighorn and National Parks work while Collaborative Conservation Planning involves our multi-stakeholder projects across Northern Alberta.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Esha Panesar



## Expansion of Wildland Provincial Parks

We saw our previous efforts to protect Alberta's boreal come to fruition with the announcement of five new or expanded Wildland Provincial Parks in May 2018.

Totalling 1.36 million hectares of forest, these new parks adjoin Wood Buffalo National Park and Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park to form the largest, contiguous boreal protected areas network in the world!

We were involved in this project from early on, collaborating with Alberta Pacific Forest Industries to identify and propose areas for conservation within their forestry tenure and advocating for the protection of these lands during the provincial government's Lower Athabasca regional planning process.

We are excited by the opportunities these protected areas bring for caribou conservation and Indigenous-led cooperative management in northern Alberta.

## Proposed Icefields Trail

In January 2019, we, alongside many concerned Canadians, were successful in convincing the federal government to cancel the proposed Icefields Trail. This non-motorized multi-use trail would have connected Jasper National Park to Banff National Park via the Columbia Icefields.

Such a development would have increased human/wildlife conflict and damaged critical habitat for many species at risk in the area, contradicting Parks Canada's commitment to prioritize ecological integrity above all else, including commercial tourism development.

## Teck Frontier Oil Sands Project

We acted as an intervenor during the public hearings for the joint federal-provincial review of the Teck Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project application in the fall of 2018.

The proposed Project, located just 30 kilometres south of Wood Buffalo National Park, would threaten the Outstanding Universal Values for which the Park was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. In particular, we called attention to the potential negative impacts on migrating bird species, including the endangered whooping crane.

The Joint Review Panel acknowledged the wide-ranging negative impacts the Project would have, yet recommended it go ahead. A final decision on the Project is expected from the federal government in early 2020.



IUCN





# PROGRAM UPDATES

*Alison Ronson*



Helen Yip

# Bighorn Backcountry

CPAWS Northern Alberta has continued to work tirelessly to increase protections for the area known as the Bighorn Backcountry, home to the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River and several species at risk. This past year has been a particularly busy and exciting one, starting off in November 2018 with the former provincial government's announcement of a proposed network of new parks and protected areas in the region.

Alberta Environment and Parks then hosted private stakeholder meetings, held public town halls, and ran a 12-week online public consultation survey (the longest of its kind) to gather feedback on the proposed designations. CPAWS Northern Alberta staff attended public town halls and private stakeholder meetings, where we offered our perspective to government representatives as well as other stakeholders in attendance.

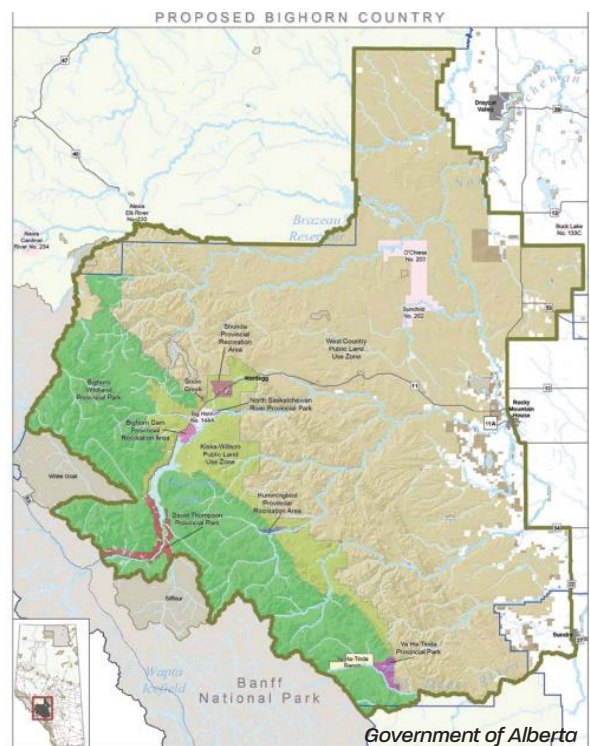
From the beginning, the proposal was controversial. Opposition to the proposal was primarily led by a small but vocal group of off-highway vehicle users that falsely believed that these new designations would result in trail closures and decreased access to the land - much of it fuelled by the backlash against trail closures in the Castle. Unfortunately, the issue became increasingly polarized and political during the lead up to the April 2019 provincial election. Several counties officially opposed the proposal, their rationale based on a wide range of concerns and issues, many of which were based on misinformation or a misunderstanding of what was being proposed. After the public consultation period ended, the provincial government did not move forward with the plan prior to the provincial election.

Between September 2018 and April 2019, there were more than 120 media articles addressing the proposal and the Bighorn region, including print, digital, television and radio across 38 different media providers. Despite the heavy coverage of opposition in the media, the majority of Albertans were actually in support of increased protections for the Bighorn Backcountry. Prior to the proposal being announced in November, we and our collaborators had collected over 17,000 signatures and letters in support of protection via the Love Your Headwaters and Alberta Preserves campaigns.



Gillian Chow-Fraser

This proposal included the creation of a new Wildland Provincial Park along with nine new or expanded provincial parks, recreation areas and public land use zones, totaling approximately 4000 km<sup>2</sup>.



Government of Alberta



Gillian Chow-Fraser

In January 2019, CPAWS Northern Alberta and CPAWS Southern Alberta released the results of a commissioned public opinion survey, which found that 73% of Albertans supported the Government of Alberta's proposal while only 16% opposed.

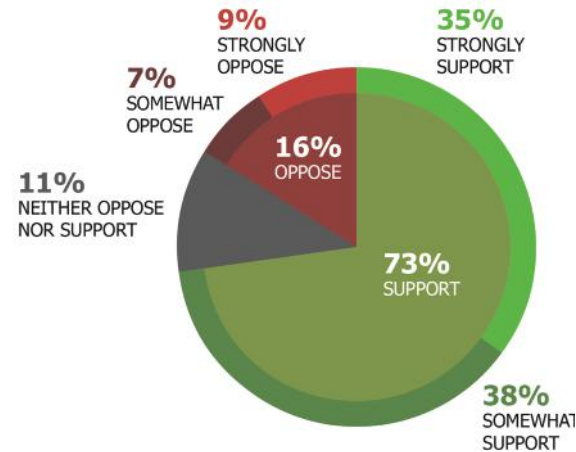
Many of these individuals and organizations were not afraid to voice their support publicly. As part of our efforts to educate the public on the benefits of the proposal and why CPAWS Northern Alberta was (mostly) supportive of it, we ran three information events and hired 30 part-time canvassers, which, alongside our partner's efforts, enabled us to collect 5,000 hard-copy and digital letters during the 12 week public consultation period, which we hand-delivered to the office of the Minister of Environment and Parks on the last day of consultation.

In March 2019, CPAWS Northern Alberta submitted a letter of support to the government that included 48 businesses, including MEC and Patagonia, conservation organizations, such as Nature Canada and the Wildlife Society of Canada, and societal organizations such as the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Council of Canadians.



Despite the huge effort on the part of our members (YOU!), partners, supporters, and staff to educate Albertans on the benefits of increased protection for the Bighorn, the newly elected provincial government scrapped the NDP proposal in May, stating that it was flawed and had inadequate consultation. Although this setback is disappointing, we will continue to strive for the protection of the Bighorn. Efforts to protect this area have been ongoing for decades and this is just the latest hurdle on the track to achieving meaningful, long-term protection for this exceptional part of our province.

#### Support for the Bighorn Country Proposal



Intrinsic Design

#### PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT

**OVER 17,000**

**SIGNATURES AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT COLLECTED.**

#### DURING CONSULTATION

**+ 30 PART-TIME CANVASSERS  
12 WEEKS**

**5,000  
LETTERS COLLECTED**

**48 BUSINESSES IN SUPPORT OF  
THE BIGHORN**

#### OVERALL

**120 MEDIA ARTICLES WERE  
GENERATED ACROSS 38  
DIFFERENT MEDIA PROVIDERS.**

**22,000 PEOPLE  
SIGNED THEIR NAME IN  
SUPPORT OF PROTECTING  
THE BIGHORN**



Stay informed on the latest Bighorn developments at:  
<https://cpawsnab.org/loveyourheadwaters/>



Scott Lough

# Wood Buffalo National Park

**Did you know?** The largest beaver dam in the world is found in Wood Buffalo National Park? It's 850 metres long and you can see it from space!

In addition to being Canada's largest National Park, Wood Buffalo National Park is a World Heritage Site known for its unique collection of salt plains, wetlands, grasslands and boreal forests that support the endangered Whooping Crane and the largest free-roaming Wood Bison herd. But, growing unmitigated threats

and industrial expansion outside of the park threaten its health. We have proudly supported Mikisew Cree First Nation since 2014, when they led a petition to have Wood Buffalo National Park listed as a World Heritage Site "in Danger".



Jorgen Schyberg

This past year, we saw two important actions from the federal government in response:

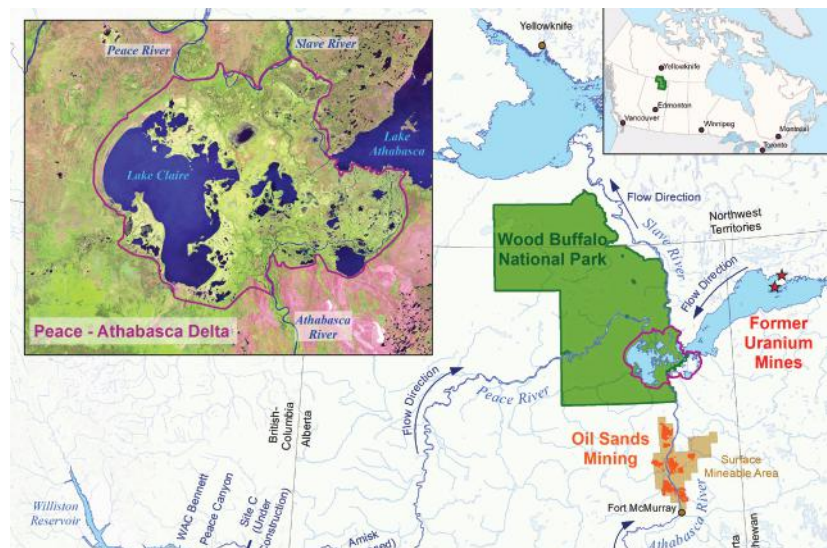
1. **A \$27.5 million investment in the park in June 2018.**
2. **The release of an Action Plan in February 2019 to improve the outlook for the Park.**

The Action Plan boasts 142 actions, which include strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities and the incorporation of traditional knowledge. However, CPAWS Northern Alberta feels full implementation of the Action Plan is unlikely without multi-year commitments to resources that can support Indigenous involvement and stronger regulations that prevent the degradation of our waters. Citing these concerns, the following spring, we led a joint letter to the World Heritage Committee supporting its listing as "In Danger", which was co-signed by fourteen Indigenous communities and environmental groups.



Neal Jennings

Our work on Wood Buffalo National Park garnered media coverage across the nation, with a series of radio interviews with CBC's Radio Canada International, a feature in the Canadian Wilderness magazine and an interview on Canada's most popular politics podcast (Canadaland's "Commons: Crude" podcast).



For updates on Wood Buffalo National Park, visit: <https://cpawsnab.org/wood-buffalo-np/>



# Jasper National Park

Jasper National Park is perhaps one of the most beloved National Parks in northern Alberta. However, over the last number of years, there has been a substantial infestation of mountain pine beetle that has caused a massive die-off of pine trees in Jasper National Park and has increased the risk of a forest fire occurring near the town. This has caused several problems, most significant of which has been safety concerns from the residents, as well as damage to critical infrastructure.

In October 2018, we received information that to mitigate this risk, park management contracted a forestry company to harvest dead and dying trees along Pyramid Bench and enlarge the fire break to protect the town. While we understood the reasons why this operation was being done, we were concerned about the presence of industrial-level harvesting occurring within a National Park; this is not a trend we would like to see continue. In response,




we conducted an extensive literature review of all the available science, interviewed forest fire professionals and consulted with senior park management to inform our official recommendations, which we delivered to park management. In it we detailed that for future mitigation we would like to see a number of measures implemented. These included increased emphasis on prescribed burning, further investment in FireSmart practices beyond just removing timber and more comprehensive environmental assessments that include a greater emphasis on post-harvest impacts.

**Did you know?** The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway originally lobbied the federal government to increase the size of Jasper National Park in the early 1900s.

In January 2019, CPAWS Northern Alberta began participating in Phase 1 of the new 10-year management planning process for the Rocky Mountain Parks (Banff, Jasper, Yoho, and Kootenay National Parks), working collaboratively alongside CPAWS Southern Alberta and CPAWS National.

These new management plans will lay out the direction for park management for the next decade. It is therefore crucial that the new management plan is robust and puts nature and ecological integrity first. CPAWS Northern Alberta has been focusing on Jasper National Park's plan and we've begun to involve the public in this significant process that will shape the future of the park. We have attended two town hall meetings with Jasper staff and members of the public and have met with senior management to discuss elements we would like to see included (a strong focus on ecological integrity), maintained (efforts being undertaken to recover the three caribou herds in the park) or excluded (targets for increasing tourism growth in the park) from the new plan. The scoping phase of the management phase has been completed, with a final plan to be tentatively completed by fall 2020. We look forward to a rigorous plan put forward by Parks Canada and will continue to engage the public on this issue as it moves into the draft management plan phase.

 Stay up to date on what's going on in Jasper National Park at: <https://cpawsnab.org/stand-up-for-jasper/>



# Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Across the world, Indigenous Peoples are leading the way in conservation of their traditional territories and the waters, wilderness and wildlife within them. Here in Alberta, we have been elated to see increasing recognition from all levels of government of the critical role traditional knowledge and land use plays in land management and conservation. For example, cooperative management agreements have been signed between various First Nations and Alberta Environment and Parks to secure treaty rights and traditional use in some of the Wildland Provincial Parks across the province, including the recently established Kitaskino Nuwenéné Wildland Provincial Park. These agreements typically enable Indigenous communities to provide input on park management plans, protect cultural sites, explore economic opportunities within the park and potentially establish an Indigenous Guardianship Program.

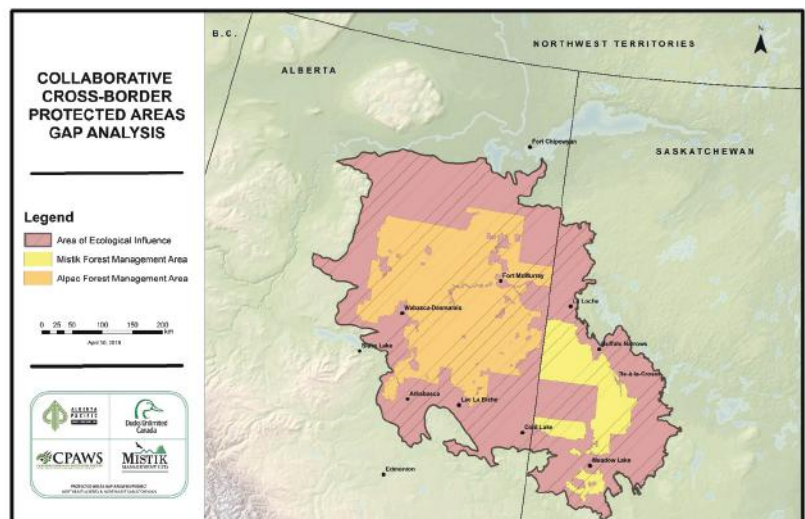
## Key Elements of an IPCA:

1. Indigenous-led
2. Represents a long-term commitment to conservation
3. Elevates Indigenous rights and responsibilities

CPAWS Northern Alberta has been collaborating with the Dene Tha' First Nation (DTFN) on a project to protect an area in the northwest of the province surrounding Bistcho Lake, as the first Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in Alberta. The proposed Bistcho IPCA would preserve DTFN's treaty rights, protect important caribou habitat and contribute to the Canada Target 1 goal of 17% protected lands and inland waters. We were successful in securing funding to advance our collaborative work on this project through Environment Canada and Climate Change's Nature Fund Quickstart Application. This funding allowed us to discuss the idea with DTFN community members and develop a project description, that was endorsed by DTFN Chief and Council, to be shared with interested parties. We are currently seeking additional funding to continue this important work with the DTFN.

# Conservation Planning in Alberta

Building off the success of our Conservation Blueprint (2015), we have been busy providing technical analyses on conservation planning projects across northern Alberta. We've been providing direction and methodology in identifying areas of high conservation value to be utilized by a multi-stakeholder team for a regional forest management approach in northwest Alberta. This team includes the Nations of the North Peace Tribal Council, Tolko Industries, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Stand.earth. Over in the Northeast, we have been involved in a protected areas planning exercise that coincides with our work to secure habitat for five caribou herds on the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. Phase 1 of this project (completed in October 2018) identified conservation goals for the study area and determined gaps within the existing protected areas network. Moving forward, the project team will be working on identifying locations that could serve as candidate conservation areas.





# Caribou & You

Our caribou program is based on the knowledge that habitat protection is fundamental to caribou recovery and long-term survival. We advocate for permanent habitat protection and responsible land use within caribou ranges with different stakeholders to reach meaningful conservation outcomes that ultimately benefit caribou. In this past fiscal year, CPAWS Northern Alberta participated at several multi-stakeholder tables and advised on provincial governments' and forestry companies' management plans, focusing on the ecological needs of caribou based on expert knowledge.



In particular, we have been moving forward on work to produce strong range plans for every caribou population in the province. Since May 2018, CPAWS Northern Alberta has participated in a provincially-led multi-stakeholder table to draft the Cold Lake caribou range plan, working alongside First Nations, industry, and government biologists. It is anticipated that this range plan should be finalized in the winter of 2019-

**Range plans** are federally-mandated plans that outline the course of action required to establish and conserve suitable amounts of undisturbed caribou habitat within ranges.

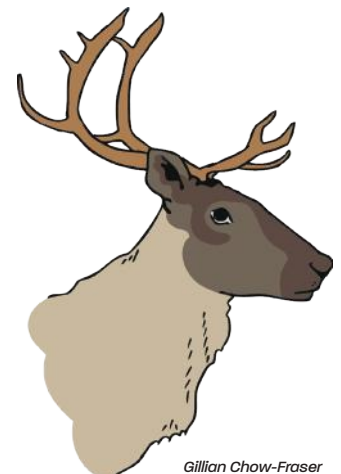
**Did you know?** Mountain caribou, a unique ecotype of woodland caribou, are especially sensitive to losses in forest because they seasonally migrate between the mountainous alpine areas and forested valleys.

2020 as the **first official range plan in Alberta!**

We have also provided key recommendations to the provincial government on a range plan in northwest Alberta as part of another collaborative group that includes forestry companies and First Nations.

Aside from contributing to provincial range planning, CPAWS Northern Alberta is collaborating with CPAWS Saskatchewan, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Mistik Management Ltd. and Alberta Pacific Forest Industries to identify an effective network of

conservation areas that will benefit the five caribou herds living around the northern Alberta/Saskatchewan border. The project area spans over 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>—roughly half the size of California! Meanwhile, in west-central Alberta, we've worked with forestry companies to develop a forest management plan that makes room for mountain caribou to thrive in their home forests in the Rockies.



Gillian Chow-Fraser

Keep up with the latest caribou conservation news at: <https://cpawsnab.org/caribou/>



# Climate Change Literacy

Here at CPAWS, we believe that protecting our natural landscape is a critical step in tackling climate change. Protected areas not only absorb greenhouse gases from our atmosphere but also aid both humans and wildlife in adapting to their changing environment. This year saw the conclusion of our two-year Climate Change Literacy program, implemented in partnership with our sister chapter, CPAWS Southern Alberta. The goal of this program was to increase awareness and acceptance of climate change and nature-based solutions amongst Albertans via educational and outreach programs delivered in the community and in schools. CPAWS Northern Alberta was successful in empowering over 1,400 individuals to take individual and collective action on climate change through these means.

We also produced a number of educational and communications materials related to climate change to support our awareness efforts. For example, ten Edu-Kits, which contained materials and lesson plans for five primary school classroom activities, were developed in conjunction with local teachers to ensure alignment with the Alberta curriculum and developmental stage. The best thing about these Edu-Kits is that we were able to leave them with the school so that climate change education could persist beyond the length of this program. Other materials included climate change fact sheets and stickers.

Another unique communications tool developed for this program included a two-part podcast on the topic of climate change specifically within the Alberta context. The first part delves into everyday Albertans' personal stories of climate change and its environmental and social impacts while part two focuses on potential solutions through in-depth conversations with experts in the topics of energy policy, natural-based solutions and renewable energy. These podcasts were developed as a special project by Megan Westervelt, a volunteer journalist that dedicated many hours to researching, scheduling and conducting, transcribing and editing interviews, with initial concept design and oversight from our staff.

Stay tuned to hear about how we are continuing the conversation about climate change by delivering presentations to schools and interested community groups in Edmonton, integrating this messaging into other programs, and by expanding this program to rural and Indigenous communities in Northern Alberta through our Climate Ambassadors program that rolled out in 2019.



“ Thank you for a very informative presentation. If more of us understood what climate change means for the way we live & the places we love, there would be a greater sense of urgency to do more. ”  
– Dana Oikawa, Participant



For more information on climate change or to listen to our podcast, visit: <https://cpawsnab.org/climatechange/>



# PUBLIC OUTREACH



With community engagement as one of the core values of our organization, public outreach is a critical part of the work we do. Staff, volunteers, and board members frequent schools, markets, festivals, and other community hotspots to bring Alberta's

conservation issues to light via presentations and information booths. These in-person interactions are not only some of the most rewarding aspects of our work, but they are also incredibly effective at fostering public engagement in our campaigns, and can sometimes lead to larger partnerships with like-minded businesses and organizations. After having an active presence in the community over the years, CPAWS Northern Alberta is now widely recognized as an environmental leader; people are always eager to hear what we have been working on and how they can help make a difference. Here are a few highlights from our outreach activities over the past year:

## Parkbus TD Elk Island Express

In the summer of 2018, Parkbus, a non-profit organization that aims to connect city-dwellers to nature by providing free transportation to protected areas located outside large cities, launched the Elk Island Express bus. The project is funded by TD Canada Trust and Edmonton Tourism. We partnered with Parkbus to provide educational and logistical support as Ambassadors on the bus. Every Saturday, CPAWS staff climbed aboard to educate people about the importance of protected areas while riding from downtown Edmonton to Elk Island. Throughout the summer, we were able to help over 300 people get outside and enjoy nature while also garnering more interest in conservation in Alberta.





## Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) Conservation Course

In May of 2018, we were thrilled to teach a course, “Conservation in Alberta: Land, Water and Wildlife”, during the Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association’s (ELLA’s) Spring Session. ELLA is a volunteer-run organization that, through its partnership with the University of Alberta, provides a variety of educational courses to adults 55 years of age or older. Led by our Executive Director, Dr. Kecia Kerr, and supported by CPAWS staff, the course provided 35 students with a comprehensive understanding of conservation issues in Alberta – from a historical perspective on the importance of protecting wilderness and endangered species to a practical understanding of an individual’s impact in their hometown. We and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and many of the students have become CPAWS supporters, either by donating or volunteering with our organization.

## Edmonton Marathon

Every year, we gather up our board members, staff, volunteers and our mascot, Bou the Caribou, to cheer on runners and run a water station at the Edmonton Marathon. This is our largest annual volunteer event that requires all hands on deck. It also provides us with a great deal of exposure - over 5,000 participants receive information about our organization and its conservation objectives. As an added bonus, the event is a ton of fun and a great way for us to connect with our supporters!



View our upcoming events:  
<https://cpawsnab.org/all-events/>

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



We would like to take a moment to recognize the incredible efforts of our volunteers. From engaging with the public at outreach events, to completing background research on species at risk in our province, to finding new grants for us to apply for, our volunteers have dedicated countless hours sharing their passion for the protection of public water and land! Sending out a big thanks to our committee members and casual volunteers for increasing our impact in Northern Alberta! Ways to get involved:

## **Communications and Engagement Committee**

Our newest committee, geared at providing assistance with public engagement as well as developing online and physical communications materials.

## **Conservation Committee**

Increases our Chapter's capacity by conducting academic background research to support our conservation initiatives.

## **Casual Volunteers**

Our casual volunteers are always there to lend a hand at larger events, such as our bi-annual casino and the Edmonton Marathon. We couldn't pull these events off without them!

## **Fund Development Committee**

A small but dedicated group of volunteers that are instrumental in helping with fundraising and grant writing.

## **University of Alberta CPAWS Student Group**

This was the inaugural year for the CPAWS Student Group at the University of Alberta. This group is the first CPAWS student group nation-wide!! There was wide interest among post-secondary students, with approximately 80 members and 8 executives leading the group. The student group aided our Chapter in achieving our conservation goals, such as when helping to collect letters in support of the Government of Alberta's Bighorn Country parks proposal. The student group sets its own mandate and has sought to focus on local conservation issues by hosting events, such as park clean-ups, and by advocating for new protected areas in the Edmonton river valley. Moving forward, CPAWS UofA is excited to build collaborations with other student groups on campus in order to educate the student body about the ways in which preserving wilderness can be part of a solution to modern day environmental issues.



## **In Memoriam: Chris Sargent**

Chris was formerly the Vice-Chair of CPAWS Northern Alberta's Board of Directors, until he stepped down in August 2018 due to illness. Sadly, he passed away one year later, in August 2019, at the young age of 40. Chris had a wealth of knowledge when it came to political science, environmental sustainability, working with Indigenous groups, and public health. He brought many skills, such as his incredible talent for photography, and inspirational passion for the outdoors to our organization. Chris was an avid hiker, canoeist, angler, and traveller who was dedicated to the conservation of Northern Alberta's wild places. He was particularly passionate about the need for protection for the Bighorn Backcountry. Chris is survived by his loving wife and two young daughters. Chris will be deeply missed, fondly remembered, and never forgotten. Our work towards protecting the Bighorn will continue in his name.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



CPAWS Northern Alberta is incorporated as a non-profit society in Alberta and governed by a board of directors. CPAWS Northern Alberta shares a charitable number with the other chapters of CPAWS across the country (106865272 RR0001). CPAWS Northern Alberta is supported by individual members, by granting foundations, businesses, and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Thanks to the generosity of these donors, we finished 2018-19 with a large surplus. Due to increased expenses related to increasing our staff numbers, we are currently projecting a deficit for 2019-2020.

Statement of Operations	Projected 2019-2020*	2018- 2019	2017- 2018
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants	372,074	499,714	199,090
Gaming	35,000	52,752	27,807
Donors and Supporters	52,538	42,283	39,035
Other	3,000	20,999	43,602
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$462,612</b>	<b>\$615,748</b>	<b>\$309,534</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Conservation Programs	472,951	489,516	252,184
Core Mission Support	15,303	25,290	20,919
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$488,254</b>	<b>\$514,806</b>	<b>\$273,103</b>
<b>Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$25,641)</b>	<b>\$100,942</b>	<b>\$36,431</b>

\*The projected 2019-2020 deficit as of August 31 is \$75,000 based on current projections for funding from grants.



## Funding Sources

During the 2018/19 fiscal year, CPAWS Northern Alberta's primary sources of funding consisted of donations from our membership, proceeds from our 2017 Volunteer Casino via the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, and grants and contracts awarded by the following entities: the Government of Alberta, The Government of Canada, Alberta Ecotrust, the Community Foundation of Northwest Alberta, Patagonia, TGear, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

## Other Financial Information

CPAWS Northern Alberta's administrative costs include professional fees, a percentage of the Executive Director's salary, office rent, bank fees, hardware, software, and other supplies. The chapter experienced a surplus for 2018/19 because of increased funding through grants related to our Bighorn campaign, the Bistcho IPCA Quickstart funding, and two large grants for our work on Caribou. We capitalized on increased funding by doubling chapter capacity (staffing) for our conservation programs and will use this year's surplus to maintain this increased staffing over the next year (or hopefully more), despite projecting a deficit for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.



# PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



We receive financial, in-kind, and campaign support from many amazing places. Thank you to those individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations that supported us in our 2018-19 fiscal year.







Gillian Chow-Fraser

## Leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy. Help protect Alberta's waters, wilderness, and wildlife.

By choosing to leave a legacy gift with CPAWS, you are choosing to protect the landscape you grew up on for future generations to enjoy. With your support, we can establish more parks, protect more animals, keep more of our waterways clean, and inspire more people to get out and connect with nature.

**Make a donation today, visit [cpawsnab.org](http://cpawsnab.org) for more information.**

**The Edmonton Community Foundation is currently matching donations of up to \$50,000 to the endowment funds for environmental organizations. Double your impact!**



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