

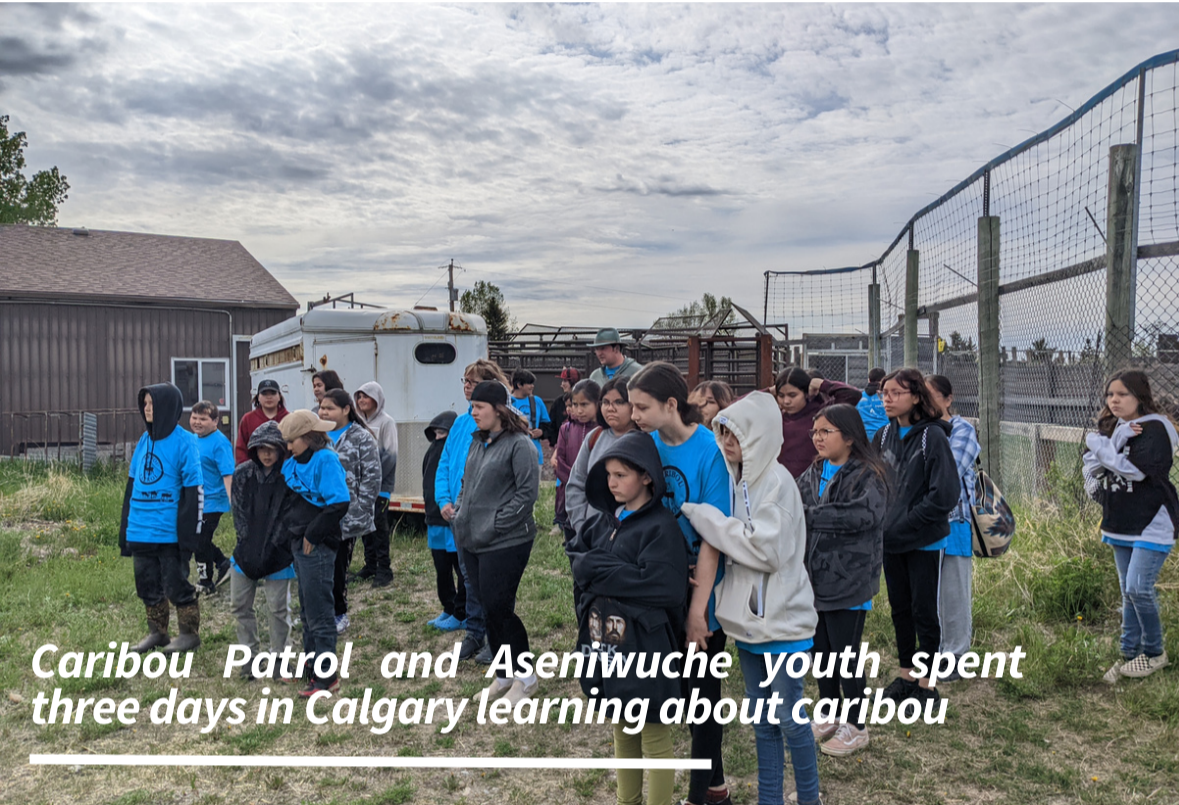
**JUNE IS NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH**

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR WAYS TO
CELEBRATE & HONOUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

National Indigenous Peoples Day is June 21

ASINIWACIY
ÂCIMOWINA

ASENIWUCHE STORIES

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Caribou Patrol and Aseniwuche youth spent three days in Calgary learning about caribou

LEFT: Aseniwuche youth from Susa Creek School and the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division visit the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre. **RIGHT:** Kirby, an American Woodland caribou, is a rescued orphan from B.C. He was brought by helicopter to the Calgary Zoo in 2018 as a result of disappearing habitat and increased predation in the wild.

Photo credit: Stephanie Leonard (left) and Shayna Sinclair (right)

LICHEN PROJECT BRINGS YOUTH UP CLOSE & PERSONAL TO CARIBOU

Contributed by Stephanie Leonard

AWN's Caribou Patrol Program was thrilled to take 29 Aseniwuche Winewak students, six adult volunteers and two Caribou Patrol staff to Calgary at the end of May to visit the Calgary Zoo's resident caribou, Vanilla, Kirby, and their offspring, Mica and Primrose.

The three-day excursion to Calgary capped off the first-ever Caribou Lichen Project between AWN and the Calgary Zoo. Earlier in May, students participated in a field day north of Grande Cache collecting lichen—a complex organism that can often only be found in extreme environments—for the 'bous at the Zoo. The lichen was collected from an area outside the local herd habitat.

The students got a rare opportunity to see Canadian wildlife, including the caribou, bison and muskox, at the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, a place not usually open to the public. Then, they joined a guided tour of the Asia exhibit at the Zoo, followed by supervised free time to visit the rest of the animal residents.

AWN and Caribou Patrol would like to share our deepest gratitude for this incredible and unique opportunity to partner with the Calgary Zoo. We'd also like to thank Imperial Oil and Weyerhaeuser Canada for funding the trip and making it possible for so many students to learn from and enjoy this special experience. Caribou Patrol is hopeful that we can participate again next year!



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2022

Brayden Gopher
John Labelle
Kai Hallock
Kyleigh Wanyandie
Makana Snider
Reanne Leavitt
Rebecca Wanyandie
Rhythm Hallock
Sonia Paquette
Yvette MacPhee
Zita Grey

HIGHWAY 40 DRIVERS, PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



A message from the Caribou Patrol Program and Aseniwuche Winewak Nation

As some of you have seen or heard, two caribou were struck and killed in vehicle collisions only a week apart last month. We are heartbroken. In a matter of days, the already dwindling local herds lost two bulls, one affectionately named Bruno for his reputation as one of the biggest males many have seen in years.

Since the Caribou Patrol Program was established in 2012, we have been aware of seven caribou (including the two recent mortalities) who have been struck and killed along Highway 40 between the Muskeg and Berland rivers. In the decade-long history of the Caribou Patrol Program, we have never reported two collision-related caribou deaths occurring so close together. Our crew and staff are at a loss for words.

We don't know what else we can do to protect these environmentally and culturally important animals from preventable vehicle-related death. Every caribou mortality in the last ten years happened outside our patrol times. Due to limited funding and safety, it's unfeasible and dangerous for our Caribou Patrol crews to be out 24/7.

We turn to you, the public, to help us raise awareness and prevent these tragic incidents from becoming a pattern. Please, slow down, pay attention, and do your part to make Highway 40 safe for all road users and wildlife.

