# 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

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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 CARIBOLI

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.

# PASKAWEWOPISIM · < ^ b∇· ▷· ∧ ∠ · HATCHING MOON · JUNE 2022

# We caught up with Cory Cooper, Indigenous Relations Liaison with Canfor Woodlands, to learn more about Canfor and their work with the community and other Indigenous nations.

#### WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN GRANDE CACHE?

Our main corporate office is located in Vancouver, and we also have offices in Prince George and Cranbrook. Our Woodlands team operates throughout Northern BC and in Alberta including Grande Prairie and Whitecourt. Canfor has been operating in our Forest Management Area south of Grande Prairie and North of Grande Cache for around 50 years. We have been involved with AWN for many years and look forward to many more!

#### HOW DO YOU BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES?

Canfor aspires to be a partner of choice for Indigenous Peoples, a privilege afforded by fostering strong relationships and deeply respecting Indigenous histories, cultures, values, and beliefs. We commit to cocreating lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships that advance social, economic and environmental priorities for Indigenous community groups.

#### HOW CAN COMMUNITIES GET INVOLVED?

We promote productive partnerships and economic opportunities for Indigenous People through joint ventures, cooperative agreements and collaborative initiatives within the industry. We enjoy successful business arrangements with Indigenous groups, as well as fibre supply agreements with First Nations bands that provide access to timber on land in their traditional

#### WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS DO YOU SUPPORT?

Canfor has a group of networking teams with one of them being our internal Canfor Indigenous Relations Connection (CIRC). CIRC will become the learning ground for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples to connect about Indigenous histories, cultures and values. This connection will foster an empathetic workforce that is more inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and help drive Canfor's commitment to creating a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace. Together, we bring awareness to Orange T-Shirt Day, MMIWG2S, Indigenous Veteran's Day, etc.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE US TO KNOW? Canfor has an Indigenous Engagement Strategy that is guided by three principles:

#### • RECOGNITION AND RESPECT

Canfor recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples' constitutionally protected rights and treaty rights. We are working to understand each region and community's unique interests and challenges by working with the diverse Indigenous groups within our operating areas.

#### • INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE FOREST **ECONOMY**

Canfor acknowledges that forests are an integral part of the livelihood of Indigenous Peoples. As a manufacturing business reliant on sustainable forest management, Canfor sees opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous communities that complement and enhance our business.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Canfor and Indigenous Peoples share common goals in conserving and sustaining forests' environmental, social, and cultural values. Together we can improve the wellness of Indigenous Peoples through shared principles that ensure the sustainability of the forests for current and future generations.

In September 2020, we launched our Indigenous Talent Program (ITP). This program aims to build and support our Indigenous community within Canfor and increase Indigenous participation in the forest economy. Our goal is to become the employer of choice for Indigenous Peoples. The ITP seeks to attract Indigenous candidates and connect them with career opportunities through guidance, skill matching, access to advisors and interview preparation. After the initial hire, the program offers continued support through mentorship, targeted programs, and community-building. We aim to provide a positive candidate and employee experience through enhanced services and meaningful employment and career opportunities for Indigenous candidates. Our Indigenous Employment and Training Advisor provides full employment services to candidates, resulting in a higher level of engagement with Indigenous applicants. From September to December 2020, this program resulted in a 95% increase in Indigenous hires compared to pre-launch and a 244% increase in Indigenous hires over 2019, going from 18 to 62. We are also tracking an 87% retention rate for these hires. For more information, please contact Karla Wright, Indigenous Employment Advisor inclusion@canfor.com or 1.866.653.9203

WEBSITE: canfor.com CAREERS: jobs.canfor.com







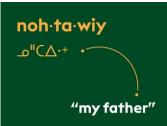
# ADC FABRICATION SUCCESS WITH NUVISTA

ADC began working on NuVista projects through subcontracting wellhead platforms for two sites through a third party. When NuVista approached us about fabricating the platforms directly, we were able to plan labour and steel delivery many months ahead. This set us up for success by allowing us to adequately schedule work requirements and keep our steel prices down by buying in bulk from Edmonton.

The NuVista facilities team has supported ADC with clear and prompt communication. They have done a great job of planning work in advance, which helps ADC ensure that everything is completed in a timely fashion.

NuVista has maintained a continuous stream of work to ADC, providing steady employment for four journeyman welders, a painter and a shop labourer. This has also added further opportunities for additional Welding Apprenticeships, which significantly benefit community members pursuing career advancement opportunities. In addition, they have generously offered to cover tuition and accommodation costs for Jared Friesen as he progresses in his apprenticeship!

We want to give a huge thanks to NuVista and their team for the opportunities they have provided, and we look forward to a long and reciprocal relationship.



## FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 19

Whether you spend the day celebrating your dad, mushum (grandfather), brother, uncle or any loved one you're grateful for, make them laugh with some classic dad jokes! AWN's Cultural Navigator Lorraine Delorme, has some to get you started.



AWN's Fish and Streams program has started collecting field data to measure the health of aquatic habitat (surface water in rivers and creeks) and animals (fish and aquatic bugs) in the Traditional Land Use (TLU) area. Concerns about contaminants in fish and aquatic habitat were raised by community members and Elders in engagement sessions and surveys completed in 2021.

WHO AWN's Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator (Nate) has been developing this project over the past year, following community engagement sessions and surveys completed by community members in the fall of 2021. We have been working with provincial and federal agencies, such as Alberta Health, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to obtain project funding and to develop a strong study design that will address concerns that AWN community members have expressed.

WHAT This project will identify locations in the TLU area where fish are safe to eat, and where fish and their habitat may have elevated contaminants such as metals and other elements (mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic, selenium) or organic pollutants, such as dioxins and furans or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. This will fill an important data gap of contaminants we know are in the Smoky River basin between Grande Cache and Grande Prairie.

WHERE We will be sampling many of the major rivers and important creeks that flow into the Smoky River between Grande Cache and Grande Prairie. Specifically, samples will be collected from Sulphur River, Smoky River, Muskeg River, Susa Creek, Sheep Creek, Kakwa River, Copton Creek, Simonette River, Cutbank River, Wapiti River and Little Smoky River. Sampling locations were determined through a combination of community engagement events and surveys completed in 2021, and streams that have current fish consumption advisories due to historic contamination.

WHEN This project is being planned between May 2022 and March 2024. The first round of surface water samples was collected between May 24th and 26th by Nate Medinski (Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator) and Eric McDonald (Aquatic Technician). Fish sampling and additional water and aquatic habitat sampling will take place in summer and fall 2022.

WHY This project is important because of the concern brought up by the community and Elders who participated in engagement sessions and surveys. Our primary goal is to update the community's knowledge on the health of fish and aquatic habitats within the Smoky River basin portion of the TLU area. This project will improve our understanding of where fish are safe to eat, or where it might be best to avoid harvesting fish if areas are identified where levels of contaminants like mercury or organic pollutants are higher. This project will therefore be highly beneficial in addressing community concerns about traditional food safety (harvesting fish).

HOW We will accomplish our project goals by collecting field data (water samples, fish, habitat, food web information) from 11 different streams that are within the Smoky River basin and are located within the TLU area. Samples will be sent to laboratories in western Canada to determine which contaminants, if any, are present in water, aquatic bugs, and fish tissues. Once we have this information, we can compare contaminant levels to provincial and federal guidelines to determine where fish species such as mountain whitefish, rainbow trout and burbot are/aren't safe to harvest. All our findings will be shared with the AWN community through engagement events and in the monthly newsletters.

Please contact AWN's Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, Nate Medinski ahrf@aseniwuche.com, or Aquatic Technician, Eric McDonald ahrf.2@aseniwuche.com, if you would like to discuss this project or have any other fish or water questions or comments.

What did the 0 say to the 8? That belt looks good on you.

How does a taco say grace? Lettuce pray.

Why do cows have bells? Because their horns don't work.

What days are strongest? Saturday and Sunday, the rest are weak-days. What happens when frogs park illegally? They get toad.

My uncle names his dogs Rolex and Timex. They're his watchdogs.