

MEDIA ADVISORY

**CPAWS presents fourth annual review of Canada's boreal caribou
and petition of supportive Canadians**

WHO: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

WHEN: December 19, 2 pm

WHERE: Charles Lynch Press Room - Rm 130-S

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), along with three students from Cairine Wilson Secondary School, will present CPAWS' fourth annual review of government action to conserve Canada's boreal caribou. The CPAWS report finds there has been spotted progress – with too few jurisdictions showing significant leadership in protecting the species that has long graced our 25-cent piece.

A petition of more than 130,000 Canadians who support the protection of the boreal caribou will also be presented.

For interviews, contact Karen Turner, Communications Manager, at kturner@cpaws.org or 613-569-7226 x232.

BACKGROUND

Based on the 2012 *Final Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou*, developed under the federal Species-at-Risk Act, all provinces and territories should have plans in place to recover their boreal woodland caribou populations by 2017. However, most are far from meeting this milestone and across Canada boreal caribou habitat remains unprotected.

Boreal Caribou occupy about 2.4 million km² of Canada's boreal forest – less than half of their North American range in the 19th century. The biggest threat to their survival is habitat fragmentation, which increases access by predators. Scientists consider caribou as bellwethers of the health of the boreal forest, which also cleanses our air and water and stores vast amounts of carbon within its soils, moderating climate change.

The caribou, a close cousin to the reindeer, is often in the spotlight at this time of year for its connection to the holiday season.

More information and past reports can be found at caribouandyou.ca