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Make or Break: Tackling climate change with nature-based solutions



Passing the torch

CPAWS welcomes Laura Colella as new National Chair

MIKE ROBINSON





Mike Robinson, left; Laura Colella, right

CPAWS is an extraordinary conservation organization, and it brings together on its chapter and national staffs and boards a wonderful collection of committed people. For the last six years I have had the pleasure of volunteer service on the national board, first as chair of the finance committee and then as president and

national board chair. As my primary volunteer commitment, it has been both an exhilarating and demanding task.

The exhilaration comes from being part of the governance system of a federated NGO, one that in many respects mirrors Canada in its travel distances, cultural diversity, strong sense of regionalism, love of the natural world, and hopes for a sustainable future. I know of no other national environmental organization that quite matches these attributes in delivering its conservation programs. Simply being a part of CPAWS guarantees inclusion in a very Canadian experience.

The time that it takes to govern national organizations is significant. As you take on more responsibility as a committee chair, vice-president or president, you also take on commensurate responsibilities for seeking solutions to governance issues, advising and mentoring leadership, establishing and maintaining relationships with various levels of elected officials, and simply participating in hundreds of conference calls. The net result of all of this is a deep feeling of inclusion in process.

All of the above has also taken on an added sense of urgency over my presidential term as the full scope of the global climate crisis has become more apparent. CPAWS' 56-year history of seeking nature-based solutions to environmental stewardship and conservation has never been more relevant than right now! The designation of parks and protected areas, the preservation of natural landscapes to promote carbon sequestration, and the need to maintain species diversity and natural populations are now of signal importance.

In this time of climate crisis, it is notable and important that new leaders are stepping up and seeking new directives to carry forward the CPAWS mandate. I welcome my replacement, Laura Colella, as the new president and chair of CPAWS' national board. An Ottawa-based lawyer, she has previously served as chair of the litigation committee and undertaken thoughtful and innovative policy work on the governance committee. I wish her great success in this challenging and fulfilling role.

And now, onwards!





CPAWS is Canada's voice for wilderness. Since 1963, we've played a lead role in creating over two-thirds of Canada's protected areas.

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ABOVE: A red fox, Vulpes vulpes, keeping warm in the snow. Photo by Ray Hennessry

THE FUTURE DEMANDS CHANGE NOW!

Millions of people worldwide took to the streets to support climate justice. CPAWS was there.

BY ANIKA HAZRA AND JENNIFER SCOTT

n September 27th the streets of our cities filled with the voices of millions calling for action on climate change. A movement led by the world's youth, sparked by the passion of 16-year-old Greta Thunberg and fuelled by the desire for a better future.

Across the country, CPAWS staff and volunteers marched in solidarity with concerned citizens from over 150 countries as part of the Global Climate Strike. Youth led movement is empowering the average person to take charge of how society responds to the climate crisis. These young leaders are imploring people

of all generations and walks of life to stand with them in calling for an end to the use of fossil fuels and supporting climate justice. The world's climate crisis cannot be ignored a moment longer.

At CPAWS, we've been striving to protect Canada's environment from the threats of habitat destruction and climate change for half a century. We have long recognized that climate change exacerbates the loss of biodiversity and significantly reduces the ability of ecosystems to thrive and sustain wildlife.

Throughout our campaigns, we have encouraged the public to support efforts to secure protection for Canada's lands and waters, with the goal of protecting at least half of Canada. The establishment of large, interconnected protected areas allows wildlife to move freely between habitats in response to climate shifts that are already underway. In August, we released our climate report, Finding Common Ground: Six steps for tackling climate change and biodiversity loss in Canada, which included policy recommendations for making use of nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss simultaneously. The leaders of the world need to recognize that healthy intact ecosystems can provide long-term benefits for biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.







Youth leaders in the environmental movement: Greta Thunberg, Autumn Peltier and Xiuhtezcatl Martinez Photos courtesy Instagram, Manuel Elias/The Canadian Press, Now.





Canadians young and old calling for action on climate change at marches in Winnipeg, left, Montreal, below left and Ottawa, helow





The youth of the world are demanding better from political decision-makers and industry because it's the health of our planet and, ultimately, their future at stake.

Greta Thunberg is not the first young activist to stand up for the health of our planet, but by happenstance she has become the face of the youth movement when her weekly school strike for climate outside the Swedish parliament was noticed by the world's media.

INDIGENOUS ACTIVISTS AREN'T NEW TO THIS FIGHT

However, closer to home, we have some incredible young Indigenous activists fighting for the wellbeing of Mother Earth. The fearless **Autumn Peltier**, who at only 14 years old has been nominated for the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize is but one example. Autumn is the chief water commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation who is fighting

for the right of Indigenous Canadian peoples and children to have access to clean water while at the same time acting as the voice for all against the abuse of clean water, as our most important natural resource. As a keynote speaker at the United Nations World Water Day, Autumn told world leaders to 'Warrior Up' for water and for the planet.

Earth Guardians Youth Director Xiuhtezcatl Martinez (pronounced 'Shoe-Tez-Caht') recently turned 18 years old but he is by no means new to the realm of activism. Xiuhtezcatl is an Indigenous climate activist, hip-hop artist, and powerful voice on the front lines of a global youth-led environmental movement. At the early age of six he began speaking around the world, from the Rio+20 United Nations Summit in Rio de Janeiro, to addressing the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York city. He has worked locally to get pesticides out of parks, coal ash contained, and moratoriums on

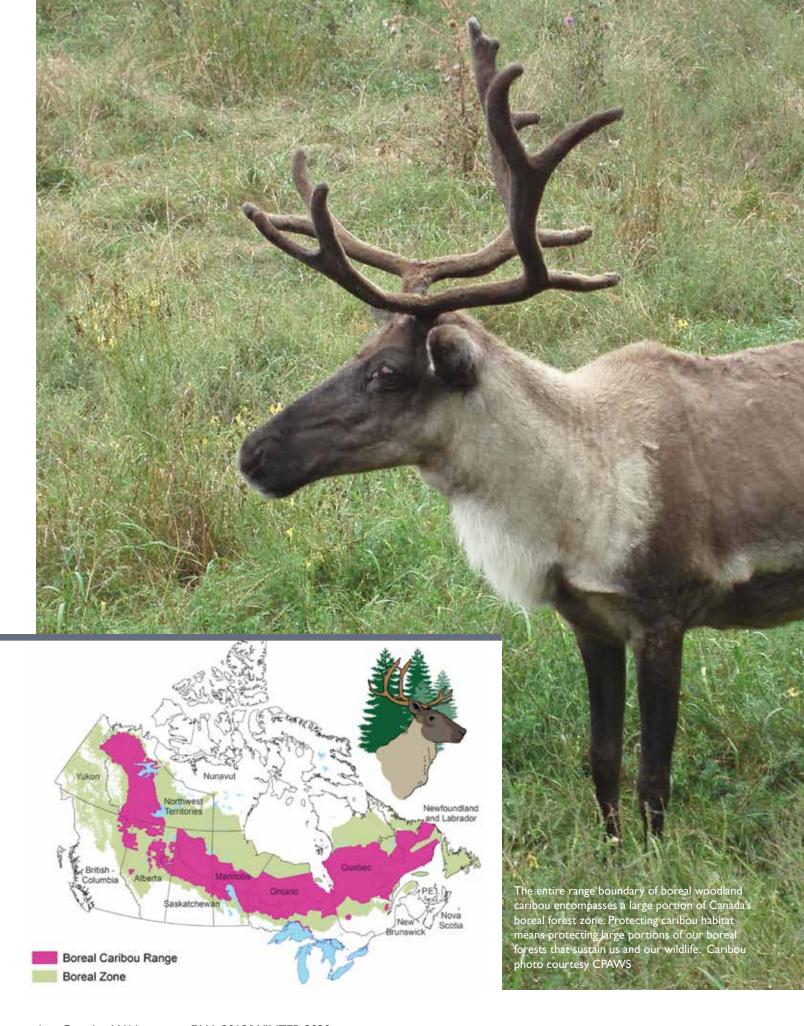


fracking in his home state of Colorado and is currently a lead plaintiff in a youth-led lawsuit against the federal government for their failure to protect the atmosphere for future generations.

Our collective future depends on the actions we take *now* to stem the impacts of climate change and ensure the health and biodiversity of our ecosystems.

Tomorrow cannot wait.

Anika Hazra is the CPAWS National Conservation Communications Coordinator. Jennifer Scott is the CPAWS National Communications Manager.





INTO THE WOODS

Saving the caribou's home to save our own BY GILLIAN CHOW-FRASER

Clip clop, clip clop

ear that sound? For some, it might conjure up images of Santa Claus and reindeer landing on your roof to deliver all kinds of exciting gifts. But the real gift was having our homes visited annually by reindeer—not by Santa—the same species as the awe-inspiring, but threatened woodland caribou in Canada.

Boreal woodland caribou are found in almost every province and territory in the Canada (Map 1). Not to be confused with their northern cousins that rely on mass migrations for safety, boreal woodland caribou naturally exist in small numbers and hide in parts of the boreal forest that other unfriendly critters avoid. Boreal woodland caribou (herein, "caribou") prefer boggy wetlands and unproductive old-growth forests to ensure their safety and sources of food. But, a long history of industrial development in our boreal forest has thrown this careful strategy out of balance. Now, industry-driven alterations to the landscape are making caribou habitat more accessible than ever for predators, and also giving other prey species the upper hand. Sadly, widespread declines in caribou populations have landed them a designation of Threatened in Canada's Species at Risk Act.

Canada's caribou are running out of safe spaces in the boreal forest.

Their decline tells us that our boreal forest is damaged and that our ecosystems are degraded. Experts tell us time and time again that protection of their habitat is the best solution for saving this iconic species. This is why CPAWS continues to fight for protecting large portions of our boreal forest within these important caribou ranges.

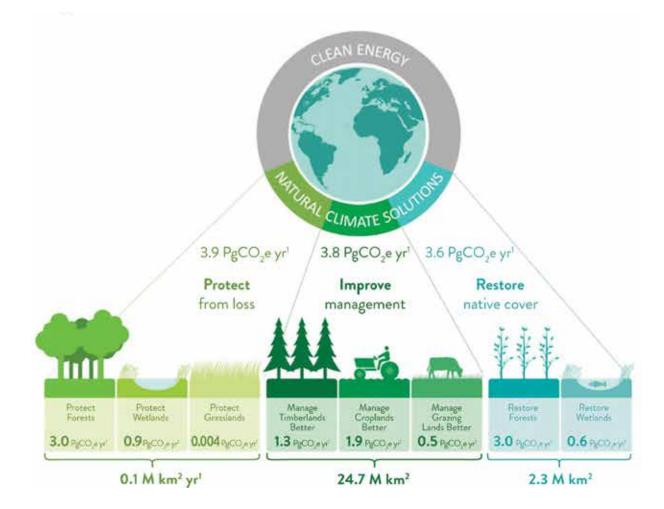
Protecting our boreal forest not only helps caribou but provides a long list of benefits making protection of the boreal forest a perfect nature-based solution to fight climate change. The boreal forest stores massive amounts of carbon in the soil. Intact wetlands like peatlands, bogs, and fens—the exact places that caribou love—are natural carbon storing machines. In fact, the boreal forest effectively stores billions of tonnes of carbon! Permanently protecting these areas means locking that carbon in the ground, where it should stay.

But wait, there's more!

Our boreal forest also stores an unbelievable amount of fresh water in its wetlands, rivers, and lakes. These natural sources buffer us from environmental catastrophes, like droughts, floods and wildfires. The added bonus is that this process provides us with clean drinking water for communities across the country.

Our boreal forest provides all these wonderful benefits to us and our planet, in addition to providing a safe home for iconic species, like woodland caribou and all their fellow forest creatures. So, isn't that something worth protecting?

Gillian Chow Fraser is the Boreal Program Manager at CPAWS Northern Alberta



STEP BY STEP

Using nature-based solutions to combat climate change **BY FLORENCE DAVIET**

Climate change and biodiversity loss are among the most pressing challenges facing global society and the natural world. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are produced and wildlife habitat is degraded when land is cleared through activities such as deforestation. This degradation also reduces the ability of ecosystems to protect us from floods and other environmental disasters.

Top: The global potential for nature-based solutions. Illustration source: Griscom et al, Wiley online library, March 2019; https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.111/gcb.14612; Right: Young grass in a bog. Photo: Djalu A. P./ Unsplash



SO, WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

CPAWS is proposing six steps that would allow policymakers to implement actions that would support both climate and biodiversity goals. Many of these actions could be taken in parallel.

INCREASE THE ECOSYSTEM EMISSION REDUCTIONS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2030 in

Canada's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Describe the role of nature-based climate solutions for reducing those emissions.

2. START A NATURE-BASED CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS FUND to invest in a range of activities that aim to reduce emissions from land-use change and ecosystem degradation and deliver biodiversity benefits.

3. a. GHG ACCOUNTING RULES for assessing emission reductions and mitigation options that explicitly consider nature-based approaches.

b. NATIONAL RULES FOR ASSESSING THE BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS of the solutions proposed for addressing GHG emissions.

4. SECTOR PLAYERS THAT GENERATE THE GREATEST ECOSYSTEM GHG EMISSIONS in Canada, starting with activities that cause land-use change (such as deforestation) and result in long-term changes to ecosystems.

5. SCREEN ALL THEIR PROPOSED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS for both ecosystem emissions and biodiversity impacts.

6. GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT to include the ecosystem emissions generated by major emitters

While nature-based solutions are not the only approach to reducing Canada's carbon footprint, they offer a valuable and overdue strategy to help combat climate change while protecting our nation's unique biodiversity. Given the pressing climate change challenge, taking action to reduce GHG emissions from ecosystems, alongside existing and new steps to reduce fossil fuel emissions, would strengthen Canada's prospects for meeting its commitments under the Paris Agreement.



The roadmap laid out in our climate report, Finding Common Ground: Six steps from tackling climate change and biodiversity loss in Canada, provides the federal government with a way to bridge the climate-conservation gap. By bridging this gap, the federal government will be able to deliver effective, quantifiable nature-based climate mitigation solutions that the country urgently needs. To read the report, visit cpaws.org.

Florence Daviet is the National Director of the CPAWS Forest Program

identified in Step 4.



TURNING THE TIDE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Canada's Marine Conservation Targets and the plan for implementation BY CANDACE NEWMAN

t should come as no surprise that decades of harmful human practices have damaged our ocean environments. These include overfishing, pollution (including noise, chemicals, and plastics), and physical disturbance such as ship strikes and bottom trawling. But now, climate change is creating even more new challenges for our oceans. It is also increasing the importance of protected areas to enable species to adapt to a warming world. As the climate warms, the role of healthy oceans as carbon sinks is essential.

The term Marine Conservation Targets (MCTs) entered Canada's vernacular in 2016, when the Prime Minister of

Canada publicly released his Ministerial mandate letters. In them, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard was charged with working with the Minister of Environment and Climate to protect 5% of our marine and coastal areas by 2017 and 10% by 2020.

These numbers quickly became known as Canada's Marine Conservation Targets. And, these numbers came with a bit of history. The 10% target was taken from Aichi Target 11, established under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), in 2010. The target was, in fact, debated at the UNCBD at length, and 10% was decided



Facing page, left: Gwaii Haanas. Photo: Graham Osborne; Middle: Seaweed and driftwood, Nova Scotia. Photo: Irwin Barnett; Above: A diver explores a sponge reef—critical habitat for many species—in Hecate Strait off the British Columbia coast. Photo: Dale Sanders.

primarily as a first-step towards addressing challenges faced by countries seeking to manage unlawful fishing activities, industrial offshore impacts, and observed changes in marine biodiversity. The 10% target was not based on rigorous scientific analysis or global reports supported by scientific consensus, rather it was a political decision. The 5% target was not debated at the UNCBD, instead it was adopted nationally and set as an interim measure.

In 2016, the MCTs announcement immediately stirred interest and excitement in Canada. And, perhaps caused a bit of heartburn. Never had Canada committed, on such a large scale, to conservation of its marine and coastal waters.

As the lead, the Department of Fisheries and Ocean quickly announced a 5-point plan that included establishing several Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that had been identified years earlier as potential sites. Within 3 years, several of these MPAs were designated. During the same period, Bill C-55 came on the scene. A bill that proposed changes to the Oceans Act and included a new tool that would allow the Minister to establish Interim MPAs. The National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards was struck and traversed the country listening to what Canadians thought should be allowed (or not) in MPAs. Over 50 effective areabased conservation measures, aka marine refuges, would be established in each of Canada's three oceans.

These various ocean conservation designations enable species to recover from exploitation and provide long-term economic benefits by supporting healthy, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism and recreation activities. Healthy oceans also increase coastal resilience to climate change by providing natural shoreline protection and carbon storage. By providing areas of refuge, conservation measures such as MPAs allow species greater ability to move from areas of the ocean that are no longer hospitable to them due to climate change and other pressures such as noise pollution.

In August 2019, Canada announced the 10% ocean conservation target had been surpassed - 13.8% of Canada's marine and coastal waters are now protected. Canada's recent advances in ocean conservation will move us forward in restoring the long-term health of our ocean and the wildlife that depend on it. Protecting Canada's ocean is critical to all of us. We encourage governments to use all the tools available to them and tap into all available resources. Only through a truly concerted effort will we be able to address the small to large-scale impacts, like climate change, that our causing major changes to our oceans.

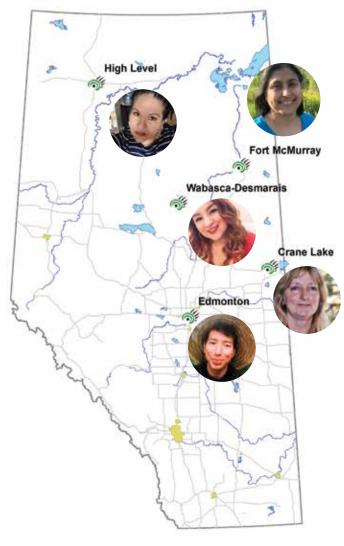
Candace Newman is National Director of the CPAWS Oceans Program.

THE OUTLIERS

Taking the climate conversation to the community with the Climate Ambassadors Program

BY CALA JORGENSEN





CPAWS' first ever Climate Ambassadors and the communities where they'll be striking up the climate conversation.

hile climate action is gaining traction around the world with events like the Global Climate Strike, the majority of participation is concentrated in urban centres, where capacity and resources for climate change education and action already exist. Those who live in more rural areas have different needs, operate under different circumstances, and often depend on greenhouse gas-emitting industries to feed their families and to fuel much of the economy. In order to better understand each of our unique roles in reducing emissions and creating real change, we need to open the discussion to northern, rural, and Indigenous communities to hear their concerns and ideas for solutions.

With this in mind, in the spring of 2019, CPAWS Northern Alberta launched the Community Climate Ambassador Program, the first of its kind in CPAWS history. This program includes five citizens from all walks of life from across the province who are concerned about the changes they were seeing in their environment. We provided our Ambassadors with online and in-person training on the latest climate science, focusing on nature-based solutions and effective communications on climate change. We are proud to have them initiating conversations in rural and Indigenous communities that did not previously have an active forum for climate dialogue. Over the next several months, each Ambassador will host up to 40 climate events in their respective communities of Fort McMurray, Cold Lake, Wabasca, High Level and the greater Edmonton area to share what they've learned and get people talking climate. Our hope is this process will provide them with valuable skills in environmental education and communications along the way, thereby opening doors to careers in a greener economy.

NAVIGATING THE CONVERSATION WITHOUT CONFRONTATION

Talking about climate change is not an easy task, but it is a crucial first step towards action. According to researchers, people put the same amount of trust into what they hear from a friend or family member as they would from a climate scientist. The upcoming holiday season is an excellent opportunity to broach these conversations in an effort to move the needle on climate change acceptance within your own circles. Here are a few tips from the Alberta Narratives Project, which surveyed 482 Albertans from a variety of backgrounds to find the most effective and nonconfrontational language to address this critical issue so we can begin to come together to form a solution. If you're keen to learn more, visit: albertanarrativesproject.ca

Stay tuned to hear more from our Community Climate Ambassadors in the next issue of *Canadian Wilderness*.

Cala Jorgensen is the former program coordinator at CPAWS Northern Alberta



How to talk about climate change

DO

GIVE RECOGNITION THAT A
RESOURCE-BASED ECONOMY HAS PROVIDED
A GOOD LIFE FOR US.

SAY "CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EMERGING CHALLENGE AMONG MANY THAT WE WILL NEED TO DEAL WITH."

SAY "THE MAIN ISSUES WITH OIL AND GAS ARE OVER-DEPENDENCE, INSECURITY, AND VULNERABILITY."

SAY "WE CAN DISCUSS OUR OPTIONS."

TALK ABOUT INVESTING IN THE FUTURE.

USE PLAIN LANGUAGE.

SAY "DEFEATING CLIMATE CHANGE WILL NOT BE EASY. WE WILL ALL HAVE TO MAKE CHANGES."

TALK ABOUT TRANSITIONING TOWARD SOMETHING NEW.

DON'T

CLOSE DOWN THE CONVERSATION
BY LAYING BLAME ON THOSE JUST TRYING
TO MAKE A LIVING.

SAY "CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HUGE AND IMMEDIATE THREAT AND IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WE FACE."

SAY "THE MAIN ISSUES WITH OIL AND GAS ARE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION."

SAY "THIS IS THE ONLY WAY."

TALK ABOUT PIPELINE BATTLES.

USE TECHNICAL JARGON.

SAY "DEFEATING CLIMATE CHANGE IS EASY.ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SWITCH TO RENEWABLES."

TALK ABOUT TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM SOMETHING OLD.

Visit albertanarrativesproject.ca for more details

CONTACT US

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CPAWS Wildlands League 416-971-9453 or 1-866-510-WILD www.wildlandsleague.org

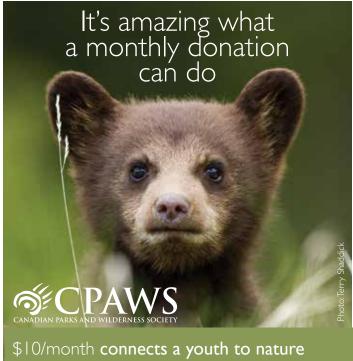
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\$10/month connects a youth to nature \$15/month saves a boreal woodland caribou \$20/month nurtures Canada's parks \$50/month protects our oceans

Join CPAWS' Wilderness Protection club with a monthly gift. It's the best way to ensure that CPAWS is always ready to respond to new threats—and capitalize on emerging opportunities—as we strive towards our goal of protecting half of our public lands and waters.

Become a monthly donor today! Visit cpaws.org or email wpc@cpaws.org

Go WILD on Giving Tuesday!

Giving Tuesday is an international day dedicated to giving back. This year, that special day is December 3rd and with the help of a truly generous donor your gift will be doubled, dollar for dollar!

Your gift of \$25, \$50 or \$75 will go even farther in helping CPAWS to protect Canada's incredible natural heritage – which is part of our shared heritage as Canadians. Use this special link to ensure your gift is matched, bit.ly/CPAWS-GT2019.

With this link you can give early or wait for December 3rd and your

With this link you can give early or wait for December 3rd and your gift will still be doubled.

There really is no better way to give back to your community than to be the voice for wilderness when decisions are being made about the use and management of Canada's public lands and waters.

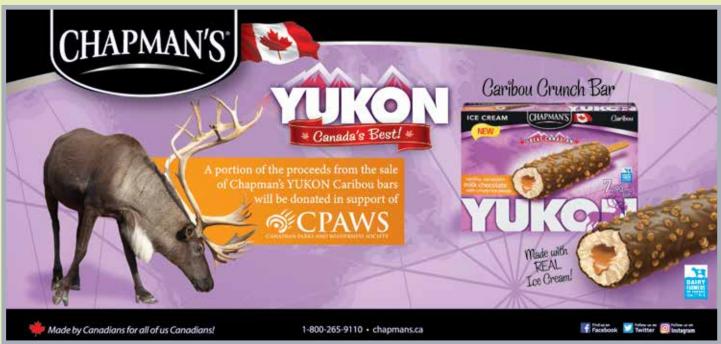
Give your gift to nature at bit.ly/CPAVVS-GT2019

GIVINGTUESDAY"









Want to help fundraise for CPAWS with your event, product, or activity? Contact Vicki Dimillo at vdimillo@cpaws.org.

CLOSER TOWILD





WOMEN'S EXPLORE

CONSCIOUSLY CONSTRUCTED FOR BETTER ADVENTURES

OUTSIDE BRINGS OUT OUR BEST SIDE, KEEP THOSE WILDER VIBES IN REACH WITH A VERSATILE HIKER THAT CROSSES TERRAIN AND WEATHER. LIGHTWEIGHT AND WATERPROOF IN PERFORMANCE MESH, OUR KEEN EXPLORE HIKERS

FUSE TRAIL CRED WITH SNEAKER COMFORT

SO ADVENTURE IS ALWAYS ON.











