

**SUMMARY OF THE TRADITIONAL MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE HARVEST  
OF CARIBOU IN CREE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF CHISASIBI, EYYOU ISTCHEE  
BETWEEN THE CREE NATION OF EYYOU ISTCHEE AND THE INNU NATION IN  
QUEBEC**

**MAAMUU NISITUHTIMUWIN**

**MATINUEU-MASHINAIKAN ATIK<sup>U</sup> E UAUINAKANIT**

**COMPONENTS**

**Preface to Understanding**

- In 2013, several Indigenous nations gathered to create the *Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART)* and developed a strategy for the conservation of Ungava Caribou. This strategy entitled *A Long time Ago in the Future: Caribou and the People of Ungava* was released in 2017 and identified several priority actions including actions to determine how a limited sustainable harvest can be shared amongst Indigenous Nations in times of scarcity.

**Declaration**

- Exercise of the Cree and Innu Nations' right to maintain and develop contacts, relations, and cooperation in accordance with Article 36 of UNDRIP.
- Governments to adopt effective measures to facilitate such exercise and ensure implementation of this right.

**Preamble**

- Caribou preservation is at the heart of this Understanding and will remain the priority.
- A spirit of mutual respect, good faith and collaboration to ensure the health and sustainability of vulnerable caribou populations.
- In accordance with traditional practices, the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and Cree Nation Government have met with all concerned tallymen who have guided the development of this Understanding.
- The Cree and Innu Nations mutually acknowledge the terms agreed upon that will grant authorization to communal hunting for Winter 2022 until March 1, 2022.

## **Terms of Understanding**

- The Nations agree that harvesting of caribou shall be for ritualistic, cultural, educational, communal and sustenance purposes and not for the purpose of sales or any act that may be for the purpose of monetary profit.
- Only the local authorities of the Nations concerned can act to request or officially authorize, as the case may be, the hunting of caribou in the traditional territory of Chisasibi.
- Area defined on the Cree traditional territory (Chisasibi) must be respected by all hunting parties as they were identified through consultation with respective tallymen and families.
- Harvesting will only be permitted on the Leaf River Herd in order to alleviate pressure on other herds that are in a vulnerable and critical state such as the George River and boreal herds.
- A maximum of 300 caribou for the Innu Nation will be harvested, shared among the Innu Nation communities. This number has been subtracted from the Cree Nation's quota in order to limit over-harvesting given the precarious situation of the caribou population and objective of the Understanding to prioritize the health of the herds.
- Respect for animals, the environment, and the safety of individuals is critical to ensuring good practices while harvesting.
- No waste and no unnecessary or prolonged chasing of the animal will be accepted
- Disclosure of names of hunters before arriving in Eeyou Istchee will be necessary in order to participate in the communal hunt
- Prior authorization for use of camps, except for emergency purposes, will be mandatory.
- Cree tallymen will accompany hunting parties on their respective traplines
- The Understanding is valid for 1 year only as the health of the caribou populations will determine the modalities of any future Understandings.

**Signing date of the Understanding:** January 24, 2022, 1:30PM (ET)