

PRESS KIT | 2022

HERD

Inuit Voices on Caribou

DOCUMENTARY FILM DIRECTED BY DAVID BORISH, CANADA, 2022.

PHOTO: KARL MICHELIN, RIGOLET, NUNATSIAVUT

SYNOPSIS

In the unprecedented collapse of the once massive George River Caribou Herd – and a subsequent total hunting ban – Inuit in Labrador, Canada, were abruptly confronted with a new reality: life without a fundamental source of food, culture, and wellbeing. Through Inuit voices, *HERD* tells the story of the social, emotional, and cultural disruptions from cascading ecological change. The film, which was developed over four years of intimate collaboration between the filmmaker and communities, cinematically explores an array of lived experiences, from youth to Elders, hunters to cooks, to ensure that the stories of those living on the frontlines of this ecological crisis are *HERD*. It is a portrait of the deep interconnections that exist between humans and non-humans, a glimpse of heartbreaking loss and pain felt by entire communities, and an unforgettable and lasting testament of cultural endurance, hope, and resilience in the context of ecological uncertainty.

LOGLINE

HERD is a story of people and caribou, as experienced by Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions of Labrador who have been living with caribou declines and a total hunting ban since 2013.

TRAILER

[Click here to watch the *HERD* trailer](#)

IMAGES

[Click here to download images for press](#)



Community of St. Lewis, NunatuKavut



Harry Haye, Nain, Nunatsiavut



Caribou outside of Cartwright, NunatuKavut

LONG SYNOPSIS

In January, 2013, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a 5-year hunting ban on the George River Caribou Herd, a decision made in the wake of rapid declines of the herd's population. By 2022, with the ban still in place, the continued lack of access to caribou has manifested in cultural, emotional, and physical disruptions for Inuit communities who, for millennia, have had caribou embedded in their way of life. Through the voices of more than 50 Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions of Labrador, Canada, and their shared link with caribou, *HERD* illustrates these complex tensions, interplays, and celebrations that exist at the nexus of humans and animals, and illustrates the cascading social, emotional, and cultural disruptions that come from ecological change.

Caribou was once embedded into the daily lives of many, nourishing collective experiences, cultural resiliency, and deep understandings of place and past. "We celebrated it. We shared it. It was a part of who we were" described long time caribou hunter Derrick Pottle. But now, with caribou on the precipice of extirpation, this historic connection is being unraveled. Putting food on the table has become more challenging and more costly. Stories of the past take the place of experiences in the present. Personal and collective identities have been put into question. Intense emotions of excitement and happiness now substituted for fear and grief. As Dennis Burden shared, "you can never replace the caribou".

The film, which was developed over four years of intimate collaboration between filmmakers and communities, is a portrait of the deep interconnections that exist between Inuit and caribou, a glimpse of heartbreaking loss felt by entire communities, and an unforgettable testament of cultural endurance and resilience in the context of ecological uncertainty.



Eva Nochasak, Nain, Nunatsiavut

VERSIONS AVAILABLE

Short Length

Release Year: 2022
Time Length: 15 minutes
Format: HD, 1080p
Language: English / Inuttitut
Location: Labrador, Canada

Broadcast length

Release Year: 2022
Time Length: 44 minutes
Format: HD, 1080p
Language: English / Inuttitut
Location: Labrador, Canada

Full-Length

Release Year: 2022
Time Length: 60 minutes
Format: HD, 1080p
Language: English / Inuttitut
Location: Labrador, Canada

DISTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

VTape

Address: 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 452, Toronto, ON, Canada M5V 3A8
Phone: +1-416-351-1317
Distribution Director, Wanda vanderStoop: wandav@vtape.org
Distribution and Technical Coordinator, Dustin Lawrence: distribution@vtape.org
Website: www.vtape.org



Dennis Burden, Port Hope Simpson, NunatuKavut

ABOUT THE FILM

Led by Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions of Labrador, HERD documents, preserves, and shares Inuit knowledge and experiences with caribou, all through the co-creation of community-based documentary film. Between 2016-2022, we talked with, filmed, and photographed over 80 Inuit from across 12 distinct communities in Labrador; we documented caribou and landscapes from various parts of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut; and we collected archival multimedia from decades in the past. As a result, we gathered over 100 hours of footage, thousands of photographs, and countless memories from knowledge holders who were involved in this work. More information, photos, and writings can be found at: www.inuitvoicesherd.com





DIRECTOR

David Borish is a social and health researcher and visual artist pushing at the boundaries of using audio-visual methodologies to explore and understand relationships between humans and the environment. His work sits at the interface of documentary film, public health, cultural and social wellbeing, wildlife conservation, and audio-visual research methods. To create this film together, Borish worked in alongside a Caribou Project Steering Committee with experts and leaders from different sectors, disciplines, and knowledge systems, as well as over 80 Inuit from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions. Previously, he has worked in partnership with Indigenous Peoples in Peru, Uganda, Malaysia, Nepal, and elsewhere to co-create visual stories relating to environmental and social issues. Through film, photography, and articles and other forms of writing, his work is centered around producing both research and storytelling outputs that can be used to inform multiple and diverse audiences within and outside of academia.

C: 1-519-546-8364

E: dborish@mun.ca / david@inuitvoicesherd.com

IG: [@davidbborish](https://www.instagram.com/davidbborish)

W: www.davidborishvisuals.com

COLLECTIVELY CREATING THE FILM

At it's core, HERD is about collaboration and partnership, bringing a diversity of life experiences and backgrounds together to share the story of Inuit and caribou in Labrador. Both Inuit and non-Inuit came together from different regions, disciplines, professions, and knowledge systems, with the intention of creating this film through a reciprocal and collective process that would resonate with Inuit experiences. A Caribou Project Steering Committee was formed with members from communities, the Nunatsiavut Government, NunatuKavut Community Council, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board, and multiple academic institutions. It was our collective vision to support Inuit storytelling values and traditions, and consistently engage Inuit knowledge holders in the making of the film. Community members supported in filming caribou, people, their communities and lands. We were able to hear from and involve over 80 Inuit from across Labrador through community knowledge-sharing events, summary videos, personalized links with draft versions of the film, and casual phone calls, texts, and Facebook messaging. Their voices, wisdom, and feedback strengthened the film in fundamental ways, ensuring the deep connections between Inuit and caribou were accurately portrayed. We believe this collective filmmaking process is a core part of reconciliation, of supporting Inuit self-representation, and celebrating Inuit self-determination and control over their knowledge, wildlife, and stories.



The first day of filming caribou in March, 2018, outside of Nain, Nunatsiavut. This was a collaborative effort between a knowledge holder from Nain (Henry Lyall, left), an Inuit drone operator (Eldred Allen, middle), David Borish (right), and a wildlife biologist (Aaron Dale, not pictured).



David Borish and Inez Shiwak co-interviewing Andrea Andersen (not pictured) in Makkovik, and community-members looking at participant photos and quotes during a knowledge-sharing event for the HERD project in Rigolet, 2020.

INUIT REGIONS

Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut are two distinct Inuit regions in Labrador, Canada. Inuit in these regions have shared a deep and enduring relationship with the land, ice, and animals for generations, including multiple caribou herds such as the George River Herd, Mealy Mountain Herd, and Torngat Mountain Herd. To co-create this documentary film, over 80 Inuit knowledge holders from 12 communities were involved: Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet from the Nunatsiavut region, Cartwright, Black Tickle, Charlottetown, Port Hope Simpson, St. Lewis from the NunatuKavut region, and North West River and Happy Valley-Goose Bay from the Upper Lake Melville region.



The land outside of Makkovik, Nunatsiavut

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

"Caribou was the reason, and everything else happened after"

- Joey Angnatok, Nain, Nunatsiavut

"It's not just food and it's not just fur for clothing and all of that, but it's just a sense of home"

- Ocean Lane, Makkovik, Nunatsiavut

"Well, it's not only about being able to eat the caribou. It's being able to go out on the land and harvest with your father, or your grandfather... our culture, is what it is, right? I mean that's our makeup"

- Jim Shouse, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NunatuKavut

"The loss of a food, a cultural food, is just as high of an importance as language, as craft, and art, and all the rest of it"

- Judy Voisey, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nunatsiavut

"Certainly impacted me emotionally. It just tears me down to think that we don't even know how long we're gonna have to wait to get to harvest another caribou"

- Woodrow Lethbridge, Cartwright, NunatuKavut

"You can never replace the caribou"

- Dennis Burden, Port Hope Simpson, NunatuKavut

Social Media



#Caribouherd

#inuitvoicesherd

#LabradorCaribou

#herdvoices

#CaribouWasTheReason



@inuitvoicesherd



@inuitvoicesherd



@inuitvoicesherd



HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou



@inuitvoicesherd

CREDITS

DIRECTOR

David Borish

PRODUCERS

David Borish
Ashlee Cunsolo
Sherilee L. Harper

CONCEPTUALIZED & LED BY

The Nunatsiavut Government
The NunatuKavut Community Council
The Torngat Secretariat
Ashlee Cunsolo
Sherilee Harper

WITH SUPPORT FROM

The land
The herds

PARTICIPATION

Martin Shiwak
Dane Shiwak
Fred Shiwak
Jack Shiwak
William 'Bert' Allen
Sarah Baikie
Belinda Shiwak
Derrick Pottle
Roger Shiwak
Sarah Jensen
Andrea Flowers
Greg Flowers
Nicholas Flowers
Reuben Flowers
Veronica Flowers
John Lucy
Jennifer Jacque Poole
Tim Poole
Morris Jacque
George Gear
Josephine Jacque
Hanson Jacque
Harold Jacque
Maurice Jacque
Amos Jacque
Torsten Jacque
Ivy Strangemore
Anthony Andersen
Ocean Lane
Andrea Andersen
Wilson Andersen
Annie Evans
Toby Andersen
John Winters
Ron Webb

Heather Angnatok
Edna Winters
Harry Hays
Andrew Andersen
Jacko Merkeratsuk
Tom Angnatok
Joey Angnatok
Eva Nochasak
Paul Nochasak
Alex Saunders
Dennis Burden
Howard Russell
William Larkham Sr.
Warrick Chubbs
Roy Mangrove
Alexander 'Sandy' Campbell
William Morris
Susanna "Aunt Susie" Roberts
Absalom 'App' Williams
Tony Powell
George Morris Jr.
George Bird
Kenneth Martin
Herbert Bird
Anthony Elson
Shawn Holwell
Woodrow Lethbridge
Dwayne Burdette
Susan Dyson
Barry Dyson
Abe Dyson
Patrick Davis
Theodore Ward
Douglas Blake
William Larkham Jr.
Jim Shouce
Bill Russell
Cliff Russell
Jim Holwell
Henry Lyall
Pauline Andersen
Mina Campbell
Richard 'Dick' Michelin
Carolyn Michelin
Lloyd Pardy
Judy Voisey
Amanda Neville
John Neville
Karl Michelin
Jean Crane
David Wolfrey

CARIBOU FILM STEERING COMMITTEE

Inez Shiwak
Michele Wood
Amy Hudson
Jamie Snook
Charlie Flowers
Aaron Dale
Meredith Purcell
George Russell Jr.
Charlene Kippenhuck
Joseph Townsley
Jim Goudie
Ashlee Cunsolo
Sherilee Harper
David Borish

EDITOR

David Borish

FIELD PRODUCER

Inez Shiwak

SOUND DESIGN

David Borish
Taiowa Butenschoen

LEAD CINEMATOGRAPHER

David Borish

DRONE OPERATOR

Eldred Allen

CARIBOU FIELD MANAGER

Aaron Dale

GUIDES/GUARDIANS

Karl Michelin
Henry Lyall
Theodore Ward
Patrick Ward
Patrick Davis
Jeffrey Keefe
George Morris Jr.
Russell Keefe

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER

David Borish

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT

Carlee Wright

ANIMATOR

Garth Laidlaw

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ian Mauro
Marcel Kreutzer
Jason Ryle
The Lumberjack Team
Bryn Wood
Stan Oliver
Donna Carroll
Sherry Turnbull
Sandi Michelin
Amy Kipp
Cate Dewey
Ptarmigan Drive

ARCHIVAL SUPPORT

Morgan Mills
George Lyall
Roger Shiwak
Jennifer Price
Randy Edmunds
Andrew Manske
Reuben Flowers
Nick Flowers
Veronica Flowers
Barry Pottle
Connie Pijogge
Iris Allen
Jennifer Poole
Jessica Penny
Lukas John Terriak
Roxi Wolfrey
Samantha Williams

TRANSLATION

Katie Winters

COLOURIST

Artsiom Zartaiski

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE

CBC
PVP Media

LICENSED MUSIC

Twin Flames
The Jerry Cans

IN MEMORY OF

Andrea Flowers
Sandy Campbell
Kenneth 'Ken' Martin
William 'Bert' Allen
Howard 'Hob' Russell

