

# Caribou, mitigation, and roads in practice

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- This poster is about how mitigation works in practice using the experience with a road on Inuit-Owned Land.
- The all-weather road services a gold mine on the tundra in central Nunavut.
- In 2017, KIA Land Use Inspectors worked with the mine staff to monitor and mitigate traffic on the road when fall migration strongly exceeded what had been previously recorded for 2007 to 2016.
- Mitigation was increased to road closure when the 2017 monitoring revealed unexpected caribou numbers.

## The Road

- All-weather 107 km service road
- Open to ATVs and hunting
- To be extended to new pit (Whale Tail) with proposed truck passage at a rate of a vehicle/6 min

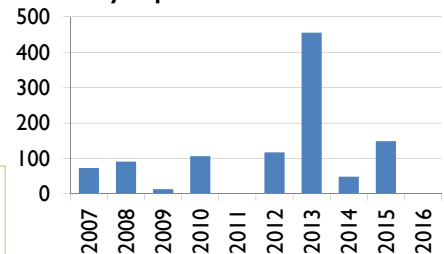


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## The Monitoring

- Road-based patrols: sightings vary annually (see graph below)
- Satellite/GPS collars: 5/34 collars in regional study area and 0 crossed road in 11 years (up to 2015)

Average Number of Caribou Observed Per Survey Trip 2007 - 2016



## The Caribou

- The road crosses the fall migration route of the Lorillard caribou herd (+Wager Bay): 41,000 caribou in 2002; trend uncertain

## The Mitigation

- Vehicle traffic will be minimized (i.e., convoys) and speed limits of 30 km/h will be imposed (2006 Plan)
- 2017 mitigation plan required for road extension to new pit
- 2017 plan has three levels of mitigation depending on seasonal group size
- Level 3 includes night closures but also flexibility and consultation

## Monitoring ⇨ mitigation 2017

- 26 October: Truck driver reports many caribou ⇨ road closed.
- 27 Oct.: 3 patrols - few 100 caribou ⇨ road closed; crew shift escorted.
- 28 Oct.-1 Nov.: 3 daily patrols – **1000s caribou** ⇨ road closed.
- 1 Nov.: Meadowbank mine running low on fuel
- 2 Nov.: 3 patrols – 100s caribou ⇨ road closed.
- 3-4 Nov.: 3 patrols – 100s caribou ⇨ road closed; fuel convoy.
- 5 Nov.: 3 patrols – <10 caribou ⇨ road closed; fuel convoy.
- 6 Nov.: 3 patrols – <10 caribou ⇨ road opened; speed limit 30 km/h where caribou seen.



Sources: Agnico-Eagle reports submitted to NIRB (details available from AG) and KIA reports