

BREATHING LANDS & WATERS OF THE OMUSHKEGO NATION

PRESENTATION BY VERN CHEECHOO & LAWRENCE MARTIN





The Omushkego Nation

A PROUD PEOPLE ROOTED IN OUR LANDS AND WATERS WORKING
TOGETHER UNDERSTANDING OUR INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY TO
OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In relation to
North America
Our land Base
covers
approximately
1/3 of Ontario,
which includes
the waters of the
James and
Hudson Bay





Kashechewan



Attawapiskat



Chapleau Cr



Missanabie Cree First Nation



MANDATES:

Resolution pertaining
to the Protection of
the waters of the
Mushkegowuk
Territory

PASSED AT ANNUAL GENERAL
ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 24TH, 2022

INCLUDES LAKES, RIVERS AND THE
BAY AND THE MANY HABITATS OF
ANIMALS, FISH, WILDLIFE AND
BIRDS OF MANY SPECIES



“Breathing Lands & Waters”

- Largest wetlands in North America



Second Largest Carbon Sink in the World storing approximately 35 Gigatons of carbon within its Peatlands



- Wetlands are crucial in addressing Climate Change
- Peatlands are particularly important; they store twice as much carbon as the entire world's Biomass
- Peatlands can become emitters of GHG, if Peatlands are disturbed

forests. Protection is also essential for maintaining the capacity of Canada's

example, not only store large quantities

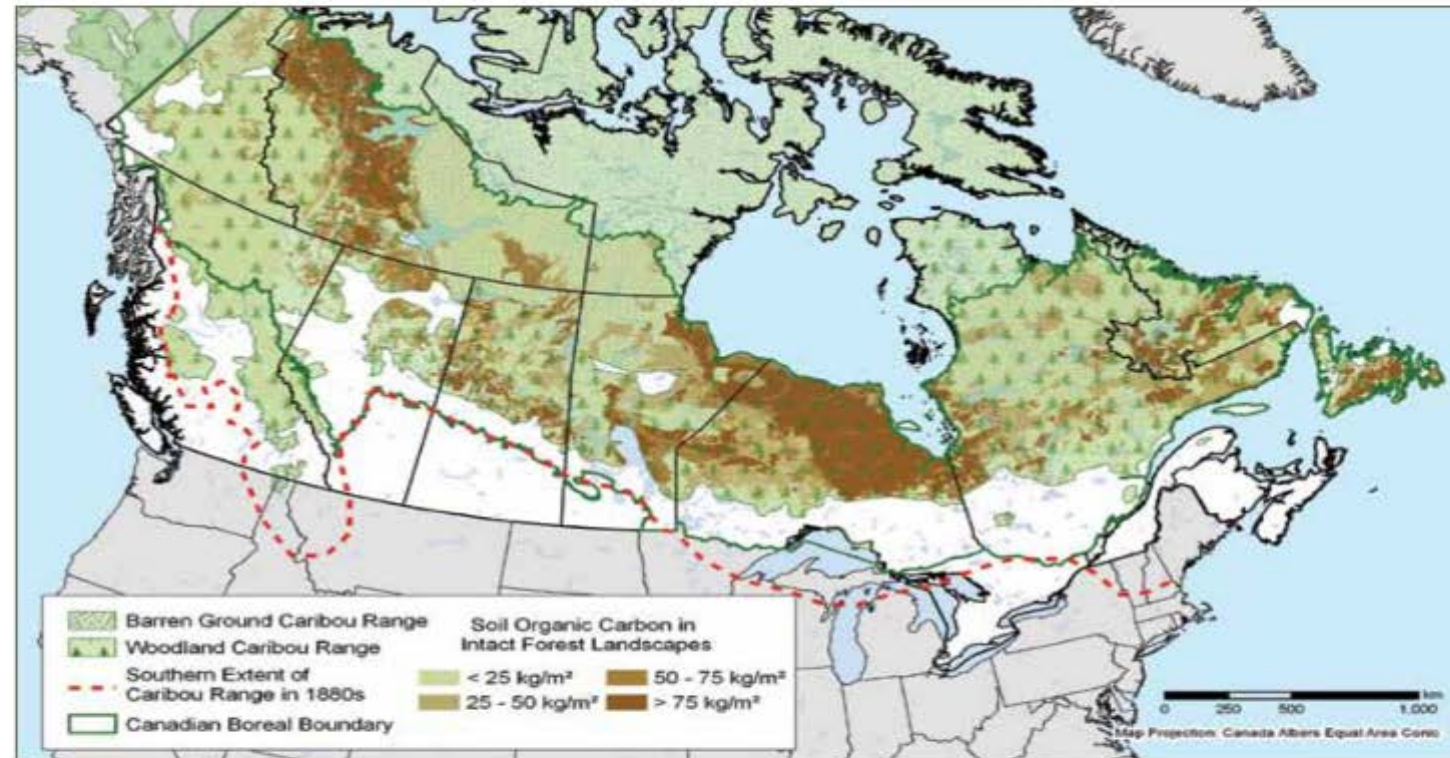


Figure 6. The Canadian Boreal Forest region's largest carbon stores occur within the still intact range of the threatened Woodland Caribou.

Source: Global Forest Watch Canada and the Soil Organic Carbon Digital Database of Canada (1996).

National Marine Conservation Area



What are we protecting? and Why?

The James and Hudson Bay is the least protected marine region of the world

Birthing Place for many species of migratory birds, song birds, shore birds said to support near 400 different species

Important habitats for Beluga, white fish, sea trout, Walrus, seals, Polar Bears, etc.

It is part of a larger ecosystem connected through waterways

www.mushkegowukmarine.ca



NMCA PROJECT

Establish a First Nation-led National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in Weeneebayko and Gitchie-Weeneebayko and recognize the inherent rights to ancestral territory of the O mushkegowuk as protectors and stewards



CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

We can't do this Alone....

Mushkegowuk Council is leading this effort with support from Oceans North, Oceans 5, Oceans Kind, Wildlands League, Oceans Collaborative, Moore Foundation and the Federal Government

Partnerships are crucial to this effort and in the spirit of reconciliation, let's walk together to meet our goals for conservation of the marine region



OUR WEENEEBAYKO is globally significant

And one of the least protected marine environments in Canada



Unique
languages and
culture



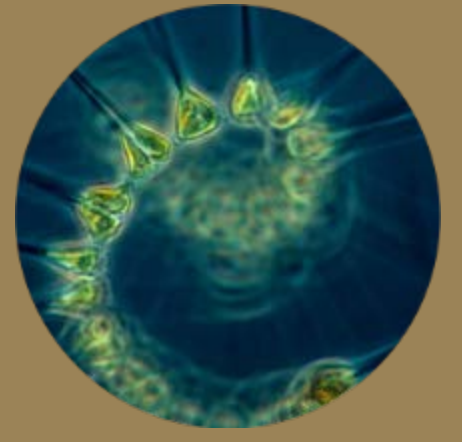
Year-round
beluga habitat



Most southern
population of
polar bears in the
world



170+ species of
geese, ducks &
shorebirds



One of the most
productive marine
areas in the Arctic



Through This Initiative, we will:



Exercise self-government, self-reliance and inherent rights to ancestral territory as protectors and stewards

Protect entire coastal & marine ecosystems that underpin the O mushkego way of life: harvesting, ceremonial rights, sacred sites, travel routes and monitoring health of territory

Ensure transmission of Traditional Knowledge

MEEGWETCH

