



Funding provided in part by: **Ontario** 

Attention all Friends of Wabakimi! It is our pleasure to formally announce our new community science initiative, the **Wabakimi Boreal Caribou Citizen Monitoring Project**.

2024 will be the first year of a multi-year effort to equip and guide paddlers to collect data on the potential presence of woodland caribou in remote locations of the Wabakimi area, with a focus on calving sites. The hope is that this data may provide important information to conservation professionals, scientists, and policy makers to impact conservation strategies in the future and advance the recovery of the at-risk Woodland Caribou ([Boreal population](#)).

Our volunteer Steering Committee, along with a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of recognized experts, have been actively designing the project for several months. The project will continue the volunteer spirit of **The Wabakimi Project** which successfully explored, mapped and improved canoe routes across this wider area.

As you may know, Wabakimi Provincial Park provides anchor habitat for Woodland Caribou. These animals require large tracts of intact mature boreal forest, which played a part in the size designation of the provincial park. Caribou in the Wabakimi area also need the essential boreal habitat of the surrounding five Crown Land Forests and other reserves. These lands are subject to forest harvest, roads and human impacts. A [recent study](#) reaffirmed that “anthropogenic disturbances are the primary agent contributing to boreal caribou declines across Canada.”

The Ontario government is providing funding to select initiatives with the intent to advance the recovery of Caribou in the province.

This brings us to the most exciting piece of our announcement: **The Friends of Wabakimi have received funds from the Ontario government for the development and implementation of our Wabakimi Boreal Caribou Citizen Monitoring Project!**

The Project Steering Committee has been working tirelessly with the grant organizers to develop this Project. We are confident that through this initiative, we will positively impact the recovery of Woodland Caribou by:

- Empowering paddlers to become community scientists,
- Collecting valuable data on caribou presence/absence,
- Educating the public on the importance of caribou conservation.

To learn more about our Project and how to get involved, visit our [website](#). You can also contact the Project Manager at [\*fowcaribouproject@gmail.com\*](mailto:fowcaribouproject@gmail.com).

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