



## **Caribou and Forestry: A Multi-Species Approach is Needed**

The *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* is federal legislation aimed at managing species of concern, to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened. The goal of this legislation is very important, but SARA needs proper implementation to be effective in protecting species and to avoid unnecessary harm to communities and families.

### ***Caribou and SARA***

Caribou are classified as an endangered species under SARA legislation. This means that provincial recovery plans must be put in place to help maintain caribou habitat.

### ***Why We Need to Consider Other Species***

One of the flaws of SARA is that it leads to recovery plans being created for one species in isolation from other species. Grizzly bears, for example, prey on caribou. And, because they are classified as a “species of special concern”, considerable work has been done to successfully increase grizzly bear populations. While the outcome for grizzlies was positive, this work may have had negative impacts on caribou. This is just one example of why we need to take a multi-species approach to species at risk, rather than creating separate recovery strategies, in isolation, for individual species.

### ***Death by a Thousand Cuts***

One of the measures proposed to help maintain caribou is to eliminate forestry activity in certain areas. If forestry is eliminated in one area for caribou, then in additional areas, one after another, to support plans for different species, we can expect to see timber harvest levels and other commercial activity reduced so greatly as to ensure that many thousands of jobs will be lost. A better approach would be to leave foresters and other experienced resource managers in place to carefully manage the forest for all species on the landbase.