

CARIBOU CONSERVATION AND CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

STEP 1: SHARE CWD INFORMATION TO MÉTIS CITIZENS

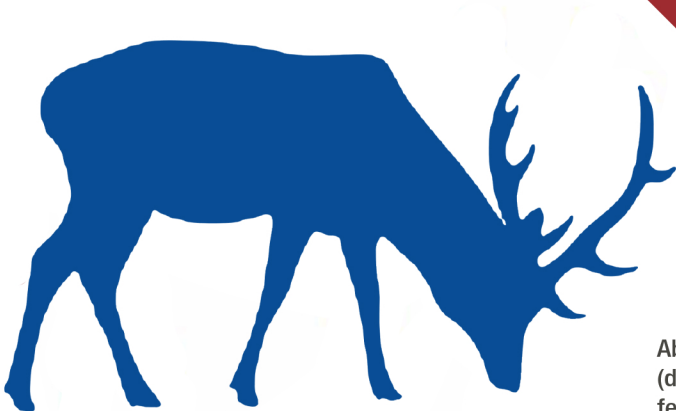
What is CWD?

A fatal, contagious, nervous system disease that causes brain degeneration in cervid populations such as deer, caribou, elk, and moose.

CWD SYMPTOMS IN CERVIDS:

Extremely skinny

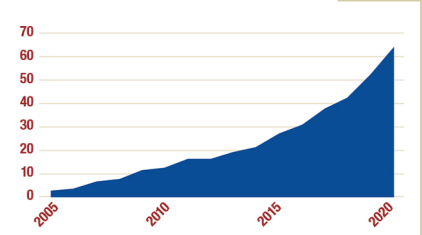
Loss of bodily functions (stumbling, excessive drooling, droopy ears)



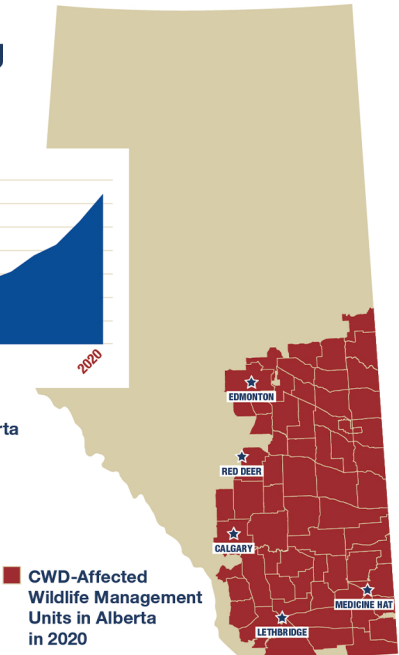
Infected animals can transmit the disease through saliva, feces, and urine. There are currently no successful vaccines or cure for CWD

Abnormal behaviour (drooping head, little fear of humans)

CWD is spreading across Alberta



Total number of CWD-Affected Wildlife Management Units in Alberta from 2005–2020



Alberta’s CWD Surveillance Program:

- Hunters can submit deer heads or tissues for CWD testing.
- In some Wildlife Management Units, submissions are mandatory, even for MNA harvesters.
- Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting: alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease.aspx



Caribou in Alberta:

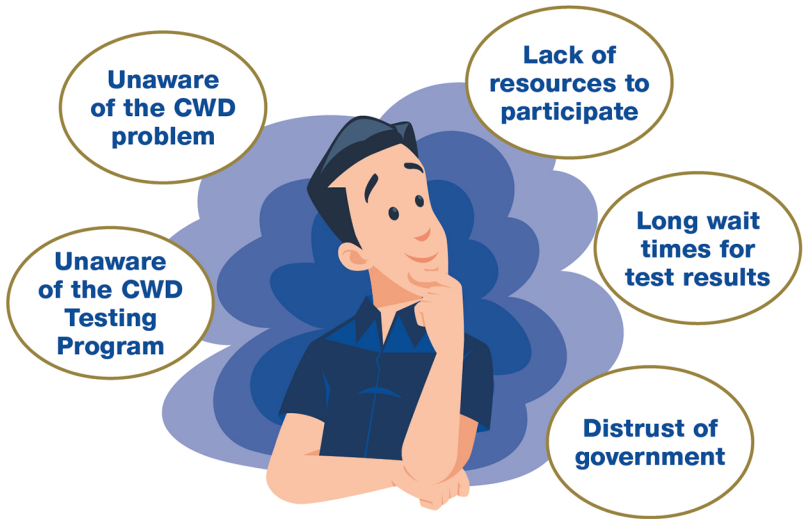
- Reside primarily in northern boreal zones
- Listed as “Threatened” species, both provincially and federally
- Experiencing population declines
- At risk of contracting CWD if it enters their territory

STEP 2: GATHER CONCERNS AND FEEDBACK FROM MÉTIS CITIZENS

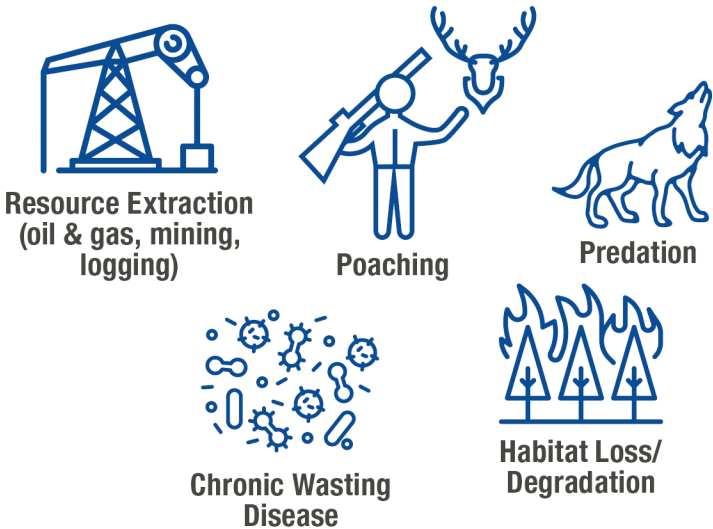
WHAT WE HEARD DURING ONLINE ENGAGEMENTS:

- 4 online engagements were held with MNA Citizens in July & August 2021.
- 174 MNA Citizens completed our online survey.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CWD TESTING PROGRAM



THREATS TO CARIBOU



If you are interested in learning more about projects from the Environment Team, please reach out at environment@metis.org