# CANADA OUNITED STATES

# A SHARED COMMITMENT: PROTECTING THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD

For thirty years, Canada and the U.S. have worked together to conserve caribou and their habitats from Alaska to the Northwest Territories. The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge is important to our shared commitment.

#### UNIQUE AND IRREPLACEABLE

There are roughly 200,000 porcupine caribou ranging across Alaska, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. In 1987, the U.S. and Canada signed an agreement to jointly protect this "great natural resource." The agreement requires Canada and the U.S. to consult one another on any activities, including oil and gas development, that may potentially impact the caribou or their habitat.

Porcupine caribou rely on the Coastal Plain in and around the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to give birth to up to 40,000 calves each year. Disruptions in the Coastal Plain will harm the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the only healthy herd in North America.

## CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

Through agreements with the Yukon Territory and Indigenous peoples, Canada is protecting the porcupine caribou herd and its range across nearly 8,000 square miles along the Alaskan border—including the resourcerich Old Crow Flats. However, caribou do not respect national boundaries and hard choices are required to conserve the herd and respect Indigenous peoples on both sides of the border.



## THE CARIBOU PEOPLE

The Gwich'in Nation spans both sides of the border across the porcupine caribou herd's migratory route. They rely heavily on the caribou herd for their culture and livelihood. Caribou also provide the Gwich'in their main source of food. Conserving the caribou and safeguarding their habitat is vital to the preservation of Indigenous history and way of life.

Canada

