



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
**SPECIES  
AT RISK**  
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-2024



# ANNUAL REPORT

Under subsection 23(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Species at Risk Committee must submit an annual report to the Conference of Management Authorities by July 1 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

## THE SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It applies in most areas of the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.



Red-sided garter snake - Photo Credit: Peter Lin



# THE SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

The Species at Risk Committee (the Committee) was established under the Act. It is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.

Species status assessments are done at the territorial level and results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available Indigenous knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee uses two sets of objective biological criteria in its assessments: one based in Indigenous and community knowledge and one based in science. It does not consider socio-economic factors.

The Committee uses the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories for the legal list of species at risk are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. Species can also be assessed as Not at Risk or Data Deficient. The Committee identifies threats and positive influences to species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures for species at risk.

The Committee makes its recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities, a group of boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The Conference of Management Authorities includes wildlife co-management boards established under land claim and self-government agreements, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłı̨chǫ Government, and the Government of Canada.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Species at Risk Committee members are appointed by the four wildlife co-management boards established under settled land claim and self-government agreements and the federal government. The Government of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, appoints the other members. Appointments are for up to five years.

Committee members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation. Members act independently and not as representatives of their appointing bodies.

The Species at Risk Committee would like to welcome new members and alternate members appointed in 2023-24: Mr. Bobby Migwi, Mr. Darren Campbell, Ms. Kelby Ogryzlo, Ms. Kristi Benson, and Mr. Robert Charlie-Tetlich.

## Members:

- Chairperson: Mr. Leon Andrew
- Alternate Chairperson: Dr. Suzanne Carrière
- Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter
- Ms. Lynda Yonge
- Mr. Petter Jacobsen
- Mr. Sam Bullock
- Mr. Bobby Migwi
- Mr. Darren Campbell
- Ms. Kelby Ogryzlo
- Ms. Kristi Benson

## Alternates:

- Ms. Aimee Guile – alternate to Mr. Bobby Migwi
- Mr. Robert Charlie-Tetlich – alternate to Mr. Darren Campbell

Biographies of members and alternates are available at [www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)

*The Species at Risk Committee would like to recognize the significant contributions of Deborah Simmons and Moise Rabesca, former committee members and advocates for NWT species at risk.*

*Their on-the-land expertise and guidance in wildlife management – as well as the spirited conversation they sparked at committee meetings – will be missed.*



Photo: Amos Scott

**Moise Rabesca**  
(1947-2023)



Photo: Jean Poffus

**Deborah Simmons**  
(1962-2022)

# COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024

The Species at Risk Committee held two meetings in 2023-2024. The Committee assessed American white pelican and Dolphin and Union caribou in April 2023 and finalized species status reports for hairy braya and red-sided garter snake in preparation for the 2024 assessments of these species.

An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed or reassessed from 2025 to 2029 was developed and submitted to the Conference of Management Authorities for approval. The assessment schedule is revised annually.

All Species at Risk Committee documents, including species status reports and assessment, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: [www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca).

# RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	CURRENT ASSESSMENT	DATE OF CURRENT ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT HISTORY
Northern leopard frog	Threatened	December 2013	
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014	
Western toad	Threatened	December 2014	
Wood bison	Threatened	April 2016	
Porcupine caribou	Not at Risk	April 2017	
Barren-ground caribou	Threatened	April 2017	
Grizzly bear	Special Concern	April 2017	
Big brown bat	Data Deficient	April 2017	
Little brown bat	Special Concern	April 2017	
Northern myotis	Special Concern	April 2017	
Long-eared myotis	Data Deficient	April 2017	
Long-legged myotis	Data Deficient	April 2017	
McKay's bumble bee	Data Deficient	April 2019	
Yellow-banded bumble bee	Not at Risk	April 2019	
Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee	Data Deficient	April 2019	
Northern mountain caribou	Special Concern	April 2020	
Polar bear	Special Concern	April 2021	Special Concern (December 2012)
Peary caribou	Threatened	May 2022	Threatened (December 2012)
Boreal caribou	Threatened	May 2022	Threatened (December 2012)
Peregrine falcon	Not at Risk	May 2022	
Dolphin and Union caribou	Endangered	April 2023	Special Concern (December 2013)
American white pelican	Special Concern	April 2023	
Hairy braya	Threatened	April 2024	Threatened (December 2012)
Red-sided garter snake	Special Concern	April 2024	

# ASSESSMENT/REASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2029

Spring 2025	New	Canadian toad ( <i>Anaxyrus hemiophrys</i> )
	Reassess	Western toad ( <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i> )
	Reassess	Northern leopard frog ( <i>Lithobates pipiens</i> )
Spring 2026	New	Common muskrat ( <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i> )
	Reassess	Wood bison ( <i>Bos bison athabascae</i> )
Spring 2027	Reassess	Northern myotis ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )
	Reassess	Little brown myotis ( <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> )
	Reassess	Barren-ground caribou ( <i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i> )
Spring 2028	New	Muskoxen ( <i>Ovibos moschatus</i> )
	New	Rock cranberry (lingonberry) ( <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> )
Spring 2029	New	Dall's sheep ( <i>Ovis dalli</i> )

\*The assessment schedule is subject to annual review and modification.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories, provides full administrative and financial support to the Species at Risk Committee. Contracts for preparing species status reports are advertised on [contracts.opennwt.ca](https://contracts.opennwt.ca).



Bathurst barren-ground caribou - Photo Credit: Joel Koop

## CONTACT

For more information about the Species at Risk Committee and its activities, please visit our website:

[www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)

Or contact:

Species at Risk Secretariat

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 [www.facebook.com/NWTSpeciesAtRisk](https://www.facebook.com/NWTSpeciesAtRisk)

Respectfully submitted,



Leon Andrew, Chairperson  
Species at Risk Committee

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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Cover Photo:  
Northern leopard frog - Photo Credit: Kris Kendall

Berries, Mackay Lake - Photo Credit: Joe Koop

