



wolverines, polar bear, barren-ground grizzlies, muskox and Dall sheep. About 140 species of birds, including bald eagles, tundra swans and snow geese, use the area as a staging ground for migration. Many of these species migrate between Canada and the United States.

Canada is most concerned about the effects of development on the Porcupine caribou, whose life cycle makes it particularly susceptible to disturbance.

In the spring the cows begin their migration from the herd's winter range (located mostly in Canada) to the calving grounds on the coastal plain. Although some calving takes place in the Yukon's Ivvavik National Park, most of the calves are born in Alaska on a narrow band of tundra that lies between the Brooks Mountain Range and the Beaufort Sea—the 1002 lands.

After calving is complete, the rest of the herd joins the cows to form an enormous aggregation along the coast where they graze and gather strength for the fall migration. The density of the herd (up to 50,000 per square mile) provides protection from predators.

A scientific advisory panel to the

International Porcupine Caribou Board set up under the Canada-U.S. agreement reported in 1993 that the calving and immediate post-calving period is the most important phase of the caribou life cycle and the time when the animals are most sensitive to human disturbance.

Because the herd's principal calving and post-calving grounds lie within the area proposed for development, this most critical phase of the caribou's life cycle could be severely disrupted. The 1002 lands contain the richest grazing land and the most protection from predators and insects. If the herd were displaced to poorer and less protected feeding grounds, the survival of the cows and newborn calves during migration could be threatened. Canada is also concerned that the pipelines, roads and other infrastructure associated with development could alter the herd's migration routes into Canada.

Any decline in the herd would significantly alter the lifestyles of Aboriginal people who have depended on the Porcupine caribou for thousands of years. For example, the caribou is the primary source of food and an essential element of social structure for the 7,000 members of the Gwitch'in Nation in Canada and Alaska. Unlike Aboriginal groups who live on the Alaskan coastal plain, the inland Gwitch'in would have few alternative sources of food if the Porcupine caribou herd were diminished or its migration routes altered.

Because of the potential consequences for Canadian wildlife and Aboriginal people of developing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain, Canada has repeatedly urged the U.S. government to protect the area permanently by designating it as wilderness.

## HALIFAX SUMMIT

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■ A pledge "to work for the reduction of remaining internal and external barriers" to trade and investment and "to resist protectionism in all its forms." The leaders committed themselves to working together "to consolidate the WTO as an effective institution" and "to ensure a well-functioning and respected dispute settlement mechanism."

■ A variety of recommendations to multilateral development banks and UN agencies to improve their effectiveness in tackling problems of poverty and sustainable development.

■ An agreement to send G-7 economic ministers to a meeting in Paris early next year to exchange ideas on reducing unemployment.

After the economic part of the Summit agenda was completed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin joined the group for discussions on a range of global issues.

The escalation in fighting in Bosnia and the fate of the 26 UN peacekeepers (including 12 Canadians) still held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs was a dominant topic of the discussions. In fact, G-7 leaders focussed on the situation at their opening dinner (instead of planned economic subjects), after which Prime Minister Chrétien read their appeal for restraint and release of the hostages to the news media. Later, Mr. Chrétien made a personal plea for President Yeltsin's aid in persuading the Serbs to release the peacekeepers. The Serbs freed all the hostages on June 18.

Canada has more than 2,000 peacekeepers in Bosnia and Croatia.

The eight leaders reiterated their commitment to multilateral action through the United Nations while endorsing Canada's call for broad reform of the organization's financial and political structures. Of particular interest to Canada, Prime Minister Chrétien said following the meeting, was consideration of measures to improve the UN's rapid deployment capabilities.

Before departing for Washington, President Bill Clinton said that his Canadian host had delivered on his promise of a Chevrolet Summit: "It has been more business-like, more informal and more specific in its suggestions for what we can do to improve the lives of our people, than many of our previous meetings." French President Chirac pledged to continue the trend towards informality at the 1996 Summit in Lyon.

### Canada's Development Activity

Canada has never allowed drilling on its portion of the Porcupine caribou's calving grounds, although exploratory drilling took place between 1957 and 1985 in a few less sensitive areas of the herd's range. A total of 78 wells were drilled, three in the coastal plain outside the calving grounds and the rest in the herd's fall and winter range. In spite of significant pressure for further mineral exploration and other development, no oil or gas has ever been produced and all the wells have been abandoned. Drilling and

mining are now prohibited in large areas of the herd's Canadian range.

The Dempster Highway connecting the Yukon and Northwest Territories was built in the late 1950s and '60s following an existing winter road. It crosses a caribou migration route but is nowhere near the calving grounds. Despite some initial concern, the sparsely travelled road has not altered the herd's migration patterns. The greatest potential threat to the caribou from the road was greater access for hunters, but hunting has been restricted along the highway corridor.