

# The Story of Tâdzié



Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is restoring the river to restore justice for threatened *tâdzié* (Woodland Caribou)

In k'es hochela nene, a part of the homeland of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN), *tâdzié* used to roam in one massive herd across the boreal landscape.



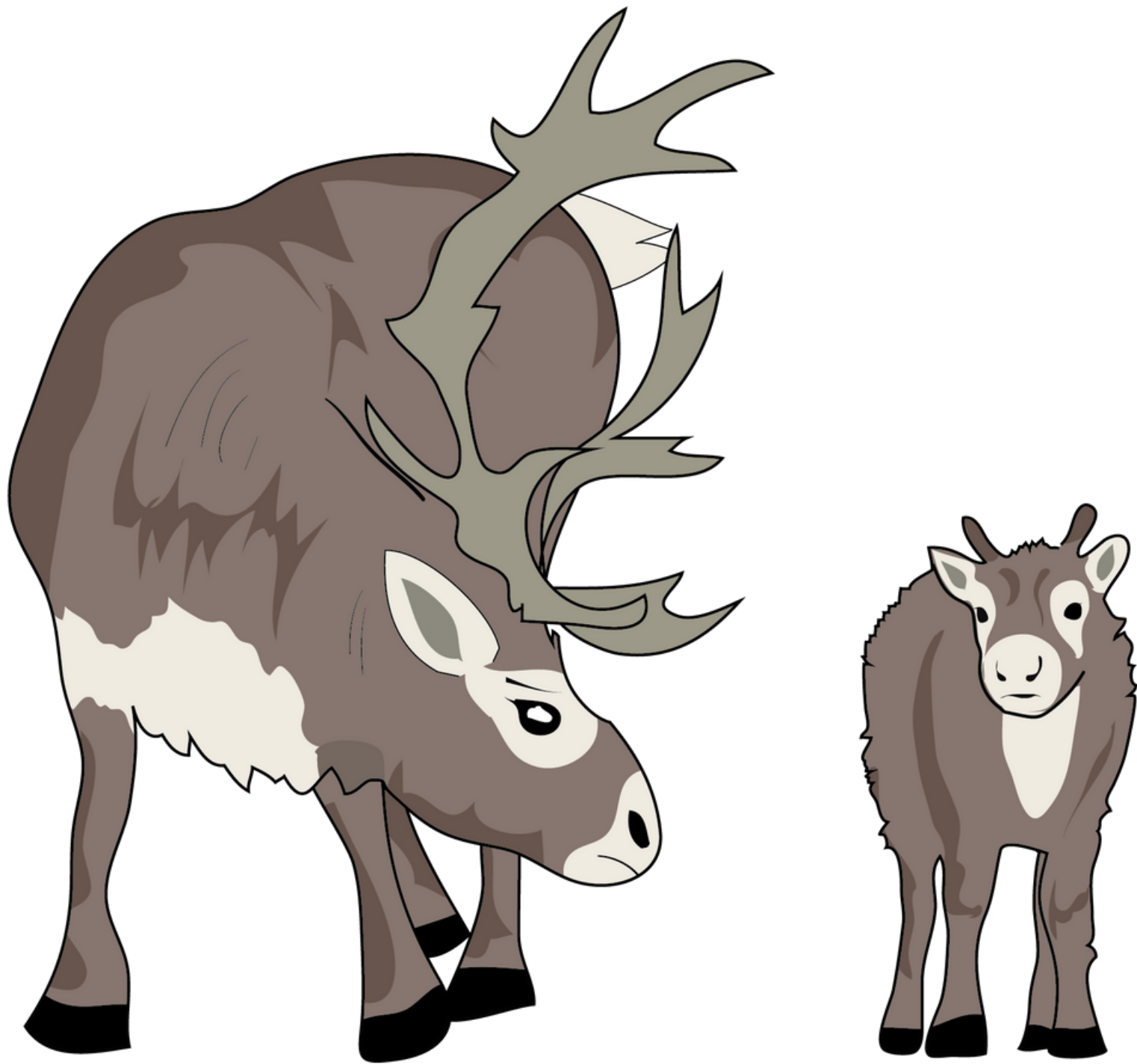


Countless generations of k'ai tailé dené (people of the land of the willow who are now ACFN) travelled alongside *tâdzié*, sharing a bond of physical, cultural, and spiritual sustenance. *Caring for the land meant caring for tadzie, and in turn, tadzie took care of the people.*

Unfortunately, there has been a severe disruption to the lands and waters that both ACFN people and *tâdzié* rely on. Industrial activity and wildfires have cut the land into pieces, disrupting the migratory flow of *tâdzié*. Now, only 14% of where *tâdzié* lives is considered to be undisturbed habitat, contributing to their decline as a species.



tâdzié is now spread out in four different herds in four separate regions. They are struggling to survive. There were less than 600 total across all four herds in 2022, and they are declining at a rate of 50% every eight years.





There is still hope! ACFN, in collaboration with the Mikisew Cree First Nation, have written a comprehensive stewardship plan to protect and bring back tâdzié. It includes an Elder protocol, an on-the-ground guardianship program, and references to federal legislation that support their efforts to recover tâdzié populations. It's vital for the spiritual and cultural well-being of ACFN to do so.

The Athabasca River is also vital to recovering *tâdzié* populations. This incredible river flows directly into the Peace-Athabasca Delta, the largest freshwater inland river delta in North America. Scientific research and traditional ecological knowledge show that *tâdzié* migrated along and across the Athabasca river still today.



Over 5.3 million liters of tailings and 670,000 liters of other contaminated water was discharged into ACFN's territory. When the first two discharges happened, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta didn't tell ACFN about it for nine months. ACFN members live downstream, and they are now afraid of practicing their Treaty rights because of toxic contamination.





Just like with *tâdzié*, ACFN is taking action. They launched a legal case against the AER and Alberta for not telling them about the tailings discharges. This legal challenge will bring systemic change to hold the AER and Alberta accountable to respecting Indigenous sovereignty and Treaty rights if successful. Alberta will also have to remediate the damage that has been done by this environmental disaster.

# ACFN needs your help

Learn more about the legal case and donate now. Together, we can assist ACFN in taking on the AER and Alberta in court to better protect their territory which, in turn, will save *tâdzié*.

[raventrust.com/acfn](https://raventrust.com/acfn)

