

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Connect with nature and discover species at Yukon's biological treasure hunt**

The public is invited to help create the biggest and most accessible national wildlife inventory in Canada this weekend. The Yukon Conservation Data Centre and Parks Canada, in partnership with Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, are hosting Yukon's Canada 150 BioBlitz in the Kluane area from June 22 to 25, 2017.

Over 50 scientists from across North America will be in Yukon to document and collect data on this unique ecosystem. The public is invited to become citizen scientists and work alongside conservationists and specialists on a national inventory of Canadian species that can be accessed using the iNaturalist app.

Public events are scheduled at the Beringia Interpretive Centre, Thachäl Dhäl Visitor Centre, Da Kų Cultural Centre and Kluane Lake Research Station during the four days. Participants will be encouraged to try to find as many species as possible within a short time, explore the changed landscape, learn about this unique environment and collect data on bugs, birches and everything in between.

### **Quotes**

"BioBlitz is a great initiative that recognizes, educates and celebrates the environment by inviting all of us to become citizen scientists. Understanding the biodiversity around us, and how it is changing, helps us to adapt to our environment and encourages curiosity about Yukon's incredible natural surroundings."

*–Minister of Environment Pauline Frost*

"Results of wildlife surveys across the country will help guide future conservation efforts for years to come. Everyone is invited to share the celebration the 150th anniversary of Confederation by immersing themselves in nature and the joy of scientific discovery."

*–Canadian Wildlife Federation CEO and executive vice-president Rick Bates*

### **Quick facts**

- In honour of Canada's 150th anniversary celebration, 35 official BioBlitz events will happen across Canada with support from BioBlitz Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation.
- Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The Kluane area is home to at least 38 species of conservation concern, some of which occur nowhere else in the world.
- New species are still being discovered, such as *Bombus kluanensis*, which was described in 2016 and is the first new bumblebee for Canada and the USA in almost 90 years.
- The unique environment in Kluane is undergoing changes such as the Kaskawulsh glacial meltwater abruptly switching direction, resulting in the first-ever documented river piracy in modern history.

### **Learn more:** Kluane BioBlitz 2017

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