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Parks Canada

*This report outlines the activities and projects undertaken by the Council during the two-year term from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2003.*



Yukon Government

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) is fast approaching the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its establishment under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), signed in 1984 between the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, Canada, Northwest Territories and Yukon. The period covered by this report provides ample evidence of how far wildlife conservation and management have come since the signing of the IFA.

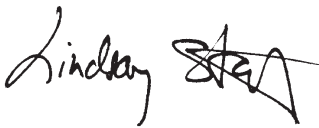
The institutional arrangements, the research and monitoring programs, the participation of local people and communities, and the cooperative initiatives between governments and jurisdictions are indicators of what has been achieved and the instruments that are available to address present and future issues on the Yukon North Slope.

The efforts and accomplishments of the Council are dependent on a fragile commodity – cooperation. Without it, the Council has no effective means to implement its programs and to make good on its responsibilities. In this regard the last two years of the Council's activities have benefited greatly from the collaboration, cooperation and support it has enjoyed from many quarters: the Yukon's Wildlife Branch, Parks Branch and Department of Environment, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, the Northwest Territories' Wildlife Management Branch (RWED) – Inuvik Region, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, other IFA co-management organizations, the Inuvialuit Game Council and Joint Secretariat, and federal and state researchers and managers in Alaska.

To all of the organizations we express our thanks for their efforts.

Once again, I offer my appreciation for the generous efforts and commitment of Council members toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and the protection of Inuvialuit traditional use on the Yukon North Slope.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Staples  
Chair



Norm Barichello

## THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE

The Yukon North Slope is located in the northern region of Canada's Yukon Territory and encompasses the western portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. It is an area of land and sea stretching from Alaska to the Northwest Territories and includes all of the Yukon's mainland whose waters drain into the Beaufort Sea, as well as Herschel Island, other islands, and nearshore and offshore waters. One of Canada's most diverse Arctic environments and home to many species of wildlife, the area is of international importance.

There are no roads or towns. Only a few isolated North Warning System radar sites along the Arctic coast mark the thin presence of the industrial and technological age. Seasonal hunting camps are the only reminders of an active and enduring human occupancy.

The Yukon North Slope is the home of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, who have relied on the region's wildlife for hundreds of years. While most Inuvialuit now live in nearby communities such as Aklavik and Inuvik, many return to the North Slope on an annual basis to hunt, trap and fish. They still use traditional gathering places in the mountains and along the coast.

In recognition of the international importance of the wildlife and habitat of the area and of the dependency of the Inuvialuit upon it, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was negotiated with detailed provisions to secure and protect this area and its people. Negotiated by the governments of Canada, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit, and proclaimed on July 25, 1984, as the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement established a broad conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope. The Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognizes the Yukon North Slope's uniqueness and importance to the Inuvialuit people and the rest of Canada.



Yukon Government



Ken Madson

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The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), or WMAC(NS), was established in 1988 under the Western Arctic Claims (Inuvialuit) Settlement Act, which arose out of the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). Section 12(2) of the IFA states: "The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use." The IFA established a co-management council to oversee and maintain this conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope, and to develop a wildlife conservation and management plan to give the regime ongoing practical effect.

The Council consist of four members and an independent chairperson. Two members are appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, while the governments of Canada and Yukon each appoint one member. Responsibilities of the Council are defined in section 12(56) of the IFA, which states:

"The Council shall provide advice to the appropriate minister on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation, and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope and without restricting the generality of the foregoing the Council shall:

- a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Yukon North Slope to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, the Review Board and other appropriate groups;
- b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles of conservation set out in subsections (2) and (3);
- c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of game in the Yukon North Slope; and
- d) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting including those referred to in subsection 14(3)."

Since its inception, the Council has been an active and effective supporter of cooperative management on the Yukon's North Slope.

## THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)



Jim Hawkings

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WMAC(NS) works closely with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) in order to ensure that the needs and concerns of the Aklavik Inuvialuit are addressed in the Council's decisions and actions. Through public meetings and meetings with the HTC's Board of Directors, WMAC(NS) is able to provide information and exchange ideas on the management of wildlife on the Yukon North Slope. Concerns about muskox management, grizzly bear management including a population assessment and quota review, and the management of Herschel Island Territorial Park are some of the topics that have been discussed.

## AKLAVIK HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS COMMITTEE



Fisheries Joint Management Committee

**YUKON NORTH SLOPE  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

As one element of the special conservation regime it established, the IFA requires the preparation of a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon North Slope. The Plan is to provide direction to long-term wildlife conservation management consistent with the goals of the IFA.

Volume 1 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was completed in 1996. This environmental overview provides an introduction to the land, its people and its resources and has been distributed to over 700 agencies and individuals.

Volume 2 of the Plan (Goals and Actions) was completed early in 2003 after many years of consultation, review and revisions. This volume is intended for those with a management, conservation and resource use interest in the area. It is a frame of reference against which the Council, the governments, the Inuvialuit, and other aboriginal, public and private interests can assess efforts and activities on the Yukon North Slope to uphold IFA principles and objectives.

Volume 2 presents six goals to guide the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement's Section 12 and other related provisions that affect the management and conservation of wildlife on the Yukon North Slope. These goals are:

- Goal A: Conservation of Wildlife and Habitat
- Goal B: Protecting the North Slope Environment
- Goal C: Enhanced Interjurisdictional Cooperation
- Goal D: Involvement of User Groups in Management Decisions
- Goal E: Development Within Environmental Limits
- Goal F: Implementation of the Plan



Yukon Government

For each of these goals, several objectives have been defined. A series of recommended action items accompanies each objective, providing detail and direction to government agencies, Inuvialuit organizations and co-management groups with management responsibilities on the Yukon North Slope.

Volume 3 of the Plan consists of Yukon North Slope Wildlife Population Status Reports. This volume was first compiled in 1996 for the purpose of providing information relevant to the environmental screening and review of development activities potentially affecting the Yukon North Slope and wildlife management in the area. It is updated on a regular basis. For each of the 34 wildlife species included, these reports provide information, where available, on: the estimated population size; the population distribution and range; unique characteristics of the population; management concerns and information gaps; and the management regime of the population through plans, agreements, legislation, regulations and responsible agencies.

Recognizing that the wildlife population reports were based primarily on scientific research, the Council, working in partnership with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, initiated a project in 2002 to collect local information on 22 selected species. Interviews were conducted in Aklavik over a two-week period in the spring of 2003. Ten people who are active on the land were asked to provide information on range, condition, habitat and population size. A public meeting was also held to get additional information. The Council intends to incorporate the information into Volume 3 as well as produce a separate report on the project that includes information on methods and results.

All three volumes of the Plan can be found on the Council's website at [www.taiga.net/wmac/wcandmplans.htm](http://www.taiga.net/wmac/wcandmplans.htm). Hard copy editions are available from the Council's Secretariat.



Don Russell



Yukon Government

## ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

WMAAC(NS) continued to participate in and support a number of ecosystem monitoring initiatives.

In conjunction with Environment Canada, the Council co-ordinated the seventh and eighth annual gatherings of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. The Co-op was formed in 1995 when representatives of different First Nations, Inuvialuit and co-management groups, along with several government agencies, met in Dawson City, Yukon, to start a cooperative ecological monitoring program. Participants at the meeting identified the three main areas of focus for ecological monitoring: climate change, contaminants and regional development. Participants also decided that an important part of the Co-op should be to bring together science and local/traditional knowledge. The program's geographic focus was defined as the range of the Porcupine caribou herd and includes regions of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Alaska.

The Co-op is administered by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society, a non-profit society incorporated in the Yukon. Current members and supporters of the Co-op include the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the North Yukon Renewable Resource Council (Old Crow), the Tet'lit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council (Fort McPherson), the Arctic Village Council, the Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council (Aklavik), the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and Review Board, the Yukon Government, Parks Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, US Fish and Wildlife (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and the University of Alaska.

Each year since its founding, the Co-op has held an Annual Gathering. Previous Gatherings have been held in Whitehorse, Inuvik, Old Crow and Aklavik. The Gatherings are an opportunity for participants to share information and to discuss and make decisions about the Co-op's programs.



Yukon Government

The seventh Annual Gathering was held in Fort McPherson, NWT, in February 2002. Over 45 participants, representing government agencies, First Nations and Inuvialuit from the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska, worked together for three days to maintain and enhance a system of ecological monitoring that is relevant and feasible to the Co-op's members. Several residents of Fort McPherson attended the Gathering as well. Presentations included a report on the status of song birds in the Arctic Borderlands region and a review of indicators being tracked by the Co-op. An Elders' roundtable focused on spring and changes in climate observed in the region at that time of year. The community-based monitors from Aklavik, Old Crow, Arctic Village and Fort McPherson presented and discussed the results of their interviews.



Borderlands Coop

The eighth Annual Gathering was held in Whitehorse, YT, in February 2003. First Nation, Inuvialuit and government representatives joined community participants from Old Crow, Arctic Village, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. The Community Monitors each reported the results of their interviews. There was a working session to review the Co-op's indicators and determine possible new indicators. Another session considered the information that had been collected over the years through the community monitoring program and included a discussion on the need for and the content of an information protocol. Both Gatherings included a business meeting at which the participants reviewed the Co-op's financial statements and elected a Board of Directors.

The Council recommended funding for the sixth and seventh years of the Coop's Community Monitoring Program and for the development of ecological monitoring programs in Aklavik. (See IFA Funded Research, below). Information obtained through the Community Monitoring Program, along with scientific monitoring information, is being archived and used through the Co-op to help in the understanding of changes occurring in ecosystems. Results of the Community-based Monitoring Program, as well as information on the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, can be found on the internet at [www.taiga.net/coop](http://www.taiga.net/coop).



Catherine Kennedy

The Council also supported and recommended funding for a number of ecosystem monitoring programs on Herschel Island and in Ivvavik National Park (See below).

## MUSKOX MANAGEMENT



Yukon Government

For a number of years, the expansion of muskox from northeast Alaska into the northern Yukon and the Northwest Territories, west of the Mackenzie River, has given rise to concerns regarding their ecological impact. It has also resulted in expressions of interest from local communities for a muskox harvest.

In response to these interests and concerns, WMAC(NS) hosted a workshop for three days in Aklavik in October 2001. The workshop brought together community, co-management boards and government representatives to exchange scientific and traditional knowledge about muskox behaviour, biology, distribution and population size.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to review and expand the scope of the management plan for muskox found on the Yukon North Slope. This plan was prepared through the joint efforts of WMAC(NS), Parks Canada and the Yukon Government. It was originally developed to recognize and incorporate the IFA's conservation criteria while addressing the harvesting rights of the Inuvialuit. With the expansion of the herd into other jurisdictions, the plan needed to be modified to include and meet the needs of all interested parties within the Canadian range of the population.

Recommendations were made by workshop participants for regional allocations of the determined harvest quota. As stated in Section 12 (56) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, WMAC(NS) is responsible for determining and recommending appropriate quotas in order for such a harvest to be possible on the Yukon North Slope. (A summary of the workshop can be found at [www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/workshop\\_01.pdf](http://www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/workshop_01.pdf))

Following the workshop, a revised version of the Plan was developed and distributed for review to interested parties. Comments received are currently being incorporated into a final draft document. Once the plan is complete, WMAC(NS) will be able to recommend a sustainable harvest quota for Inuvialuit residents of Aklavik.

During 2001-03, WMAC(NS) supported and recommended funding for the continuation of a muskox satellite and tracking project conducted by the Yukon Government and Parks Canada. The Council also recommended funding for a population survey and composition count. (See IFA Funded Research, below. )

WMAC(NS) developed a number of communication products related to muskox. A series of fact sheets, a website and a unit for school children were produced to provide information on muskox to people in the region. (See Communications, below.)

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The management of grizzly bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region was the focus of a two and a half day workshop in Inuvik, held in the fall of 2002 and attended by several Council members and the Chair. Other participants included representatives from each Hunters and Trappers Committee, WMAC(NWT), the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Yukon and NWT governments, and Parks Canada. The objective of the workshop was to develop ideas and recommendations for the future management of grizzly bears, which could be taken back to the communities, the WMACs and the IGC for further consideration. Participants had an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to the determination and distribution of harvest quotas, as well as the assessment of grizzly bear populations. The goals and objectives of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the next five years were also considered.

In December 2002, the Council met with members of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and GNWT biologists to discuss population levels and the potential for a quota adjustment in the area west of the Mackenzie Delta. This meeting was held to respond to a number of issues that arose at the October workshop, including the request from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee for a review of the grizzly bear quota in their designated hunting area. After a thorough review of population estimates, members of both Councils agreed that a small increase in the harvest would not negatively affect the sustainability of the population at this time. The Councils also agreed that any quota increase would be recommended only as an interim measure, pending a grizzly bear population reassessment in the western ISR within three years.

## GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT



Stefan Himmer

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WMAC(NS) monitored the development of the federal Species at Risk Act (Bill C-5) on an ongoing basis. Council members received updates on both the federal and territorial Species at Risk initiatives from government representatives at Council meetings throughout the two years.

WMAC(NS) representatives attended a federal-government-sponsored workshop in Edmonton, in January 2002, to discuss the proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the role of wildlife management boards. Federal representatives gave an update on Bill C-5 and outlined how the various components required by SARA will be carried out. There was a presentation on the assessment of species at risk and the mechanisms of the listing process, prohibitions and recovery.

WMAC(NS) was also an active participant in the development of a legislated process and program for addressing species at risk in the Yukon. Council representatives attended two 'Yukon Species at Risk' workshops in Whitehorse. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss what a Yukon Species at Risk Program should contain and how it should work, including linkages to a national SAR program.

The Council reviewed and provided comments to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) on species being assessed within the region. The Chair and Secretariat participated in preparations for a meeting between the members of COSEWIC and representatives of wildlife management boards across Canada to discuss how they could work together on species assessments in the range jurisdictions of the boards.

## SPECIES AT RISK



C. McEwen

## IFA FUNDED WILDLIFE RESEARCH



Grant MacHutchon

WMAC(NS) reviews government proposals for IFA-funded research projects related to wildlife management and ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope consistent with the goals of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the objectives of section 12 of the Agreement. Recommendations are made to Parks Canada, the Department of Environment – Yukon Government, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development – Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Advice to these agencies is based on research priorities identified in the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan, the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan, the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, meetings with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Aklavik HTC research priority list, community consultations through public meetings in Aklavik and research priorities identified at the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op annual gatherings.

Reports on the Council's funding recommendations are conveyed to the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

The Council monitors the progress of all recommended projects by requesting status reports and final reports from all agencies that receive funding.

The following is a list of projects supported by the Council in 2001-2003.

### Muskox Ecology Studies

Lead implementation agencies – Yukon Government, Parks Canada  
Implementation partner – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee



Yukon Government

In 2001-02, Council members recommended support for the third year of the Muskox Ecology Study. The objective of the study was to determine the habitat and movements of the muskox on the Yukon North Slope, in order to ensure proper and effective management and to assist in determining a sustainable harvest quota. This study included a satellite collaring program as well as composition and population counts. Information on the location and movement of the seven muskox satellite-collared in March 1999 was received regularly. An aerial survey conducted in July 2001 counted a total of 192 muskox in 16 groups between the Alaska border and the Babbage River. Studies were also conducted to determine the number of bulls and cows, how many calves were born and how many calves survive.

The Council recommended support for the Muskox Ecology Study again in 2002-03. The satellite collars deployed in March 1999 were scheduled to be removed or replaced in 2002. Aided by the satellite collars for three years, managers were able to learn a lot about muskox movement, birth rate, calf survival, calving interval, and mortality rates, but more information was needed, especially about the movements of muskox along the edge of the main distribution.

Captures took place in mid-July 2002. All five muskox that still had active satellite collars were captured to remove the collars. Four of these five muskox were fitted with new satellite collars, plus four new muskox (one cow and three bulls) were also captured and collared. As the muskox were being collared, samples were taken for diseases, parasites and genetic analyses that will help meet the goals in the Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan. Body measurements, age, and body condition parameters were also taken. The satellite automatically logs locations. These locations will be used to determine annual and seasonal range use. The collars will be used to help locate groups of muskox during the census.

Two population counts took place as part of the Muskox Ecology Study in 2002-03. A survey conducted in the spring of 2002 estimated a total of 186 muskox within the survey area on the Yukon North Slope. The survey conducted in the summer of 2002 counted 142 muskox within the same area.

### Muskox Management Workshop

Lead implementation agencies – Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Yukon Government

Implementation partner – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

WMAC(NS) hosted a workshop for three days in Aklavik in October 2001. The workshop brought together community, co-management board and government representatives to exchange scientific and traditional knowledge about muskox behaviour, biology, distribution and population size. (See Muskox Management, above.)

### Ivvavik National Park Sheep Surveys

Lead implementation agency – Parks Canada

Implementation partner – Yukon Government

The goal of this project was to determine the size, distribution, critical habitat and population structure of Dall's sheep in Ivvavik National Park. This was done by conducting two aerial surveys. The study area included the western portion of the British Mountains in Ivvavik National Park, between the Malcolm and Firth rivers, and the east side of the Firth River valley. A helicopter was used to search all potential sheep habitat within the study area. Animals sighted were counted, identified by age and sex and their location mapped using GPS. The survey completed the summer of 2001 located 85 sheep and identified lambing cliffs. The second survey was completed in March 2002 to determine winter ranges. A resident of Aklavik accompanied biologists on both surveys. This study will also help to identify the research that may need to be done in future years and develop a long-term monitoring strategy.



### Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey

Lead implementation agency – Parks Canada

Implementation partners- Yukon Government, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada

This project had two objectives. The first was to collect data on vegetation and terrain attributes throughout the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park, to compare with data collected in 1988 and 1989. The second objective was to analyze the data collected, using statistical methods, to investigate if there are significant changes in vegetation and terrain attributes on the coastal plain over the past 12- to 13-year period.

Global warming has been changing the environment. Scientists conducting environmental monitoring on Herschel Island have found that a profound change in the vegetation cover and permafrost activity has taken place on the island over a 15-year period. It is possible that the changes in vegetation and terrain occurring on Herschel Island may also be occurring on the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park. In the summer of 2001, data was collected on vegetation and terrain throughout the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park so that it could be compared with data collected there in 1988 and 1989. Later analysis showed that there have been changes in the abundance and diversity of particular vegetation communities.

### Firth River Water Quality Monitoring

Lead implementation agency – Parks Canada



Yukon Government

Water quality monitoring is conducted on the Firth River in Ivvavik National Park to determine current water quality conditions and to monitor changes in water quality over time. Contaminants from sources in the south have been found in arctic ecosystems. These contaminants travel through the atmosphere and are deposited in the arctic where cold temperatures keep them from traveling any further. The presence of contaminants such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals and radionuclide are a concern because they can have a negative effect on the arctic ecosystems and human health. Three sets of water samples are taken over the summer. Water temperature, conductivity and pH are also measured. Water quality samples are analyzed for physical components, nutrients, major cations, trace metals and organics. Data is available for Ivvavik since 2000. Analysis of the data so far shows that the water quality in the Firth River is excellent.

### Ivvavik National Park Weather and Permafrost Monitoring

Lead implementation agency – Parks Canada



Danny C. Gordon

Long-term monitoring of weather and permafrost temperature is required to track changes in climate and to understand how these changes will affect the environment of the Western Arctic. In the past 100 years the average temperature of the earth has increased. However, the amount of increase has varied in different parts of the world. The Western Arctic is one of the most strongly affected regions, with the highest degree of warming showing in winter temperatures. Most projections of future temperature change show this pattern continuing and accelerating in the next few decades. The temperature increase is likely caused by human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. A weather station has been established in Ivvavik National Park to record precipitation, wind speed and direction, air temperature, incoming short wave radiation, relative humidity, dew point, snowfall and snow depth as well as barometric and vapour pressure. Permafrost probes measure soil temperature at various depths. Measurements are recorded on data loggers and are transmitted by satellite.

### Firth River Water Flow Monitoring

Lead implementation agency – Parks Canada



Parks Canada

River water flow monitoring is conducted on the Firth River to determine current water cycles and to identify long-term changes to these cycles. Changes in the amount of water flowing in Arctic rivers, and the timing of peak and low water levels, may be affected by climate change. Local observations from Aklavik hunters repeatedly note the historic decline in water flows and water quantity on the Yukon North Slope. A station to measure water flow is located on the Firth River and is maintained annually by a Water Survey Canada technician. Information about water flow is valuable for understanding how Arctic ecosystems function. River flow information is also useful to people who are planning to canoe, raft, kayak or cross the Firth River. Data is available on water flow on the Firth River from 1972 to 1994 and since 1997.

## Community-based Monitoring Program

Lead implementation agencies – Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, Canadian Wildlife Service

Implementation partners – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, WMAC(NS), Yukon Government, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Fort McPherson, Aklavik and North Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, Arctic Village Council, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

Community researchers in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Old Crow, Arctic Village and Kaktovik were contracted to conduct interviews with local experts and record their observations on ecological conditions over the previous year. This included observations about caribou movements and condition, fish, berries, weather, and general observations about changes in the health of the environment. The community researchers used a standardized questionnaire. A training and development session was held to refine the questionnaire and develop good interview and reporting techniques. Community experts who were interviewed received an honorarium. Results from all communities were compiled into a summary report and presented at the Co-op Annual Gathering each year. The summary reports can be viewed at the Co-op's website [www.taiga.net/coop](http://www.taiga.net/coop). For more information see the section on Ecological Monitoring (above).

## Herschel Island Vegetation Studies

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partner – Herschel Island Territorial Park staff

This is the continuation of a long-term multi-part monitoring program, begun in 1998, to obtain information on soils and vegetation on Herschel Island. The objective of the program is to gain a better understanding of habitat use and ecology, and to obtain information on the use of habitat types by the animals on the island. The Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan identifies the need to develop long-term habitat monitoring in order to predict potential impacts of climate change. The Plan also identifies the need to support long-term research on ecosystem mechanisms that are sensitive to climate change and incorporate permafrost and soil temperature into climate monitoring.

This project is a long-term monitoring of several biophysical components of the Herschel Island ecosystem. Ongoing studies include the re-surveying of vegetation species and soil activities that have shown dramatic change over the past 15 years. Permanent vegetation plots, when measured every five years, will show any change in the types of plants growing there. Annual growth monitoring shows how different years and weather affect plant growth. Park Rangers are recording vegetation and terrain changes in their usual wildlife observations. The purpose of the fieldwork conducted in the summer of 2001 and 2002 was to further document changes in vegetation composition and biomass on the island.



Yukon Government

## Herschel Island Permafrost Monitoring

Lead implementation agency – Chris Burn (Carleton University)

Implementation partners – Yukon Government, Herschel Island Park Rangers

The study was conducted on Herschel Island to establish a site for monitoring near-surface ground temperatures, and to examine the ground ice in various terrain types on the island. This research was initiated in 2000 with installation of a thermistor cable to measure ground temperatures to depths of 15 m, and collection of various samples of ground ice to investigate the geochemistry of near-surface sediments. Results of this work found that the effect of early-Holocene (8,000 yrs BP) warming on active-layer development was less at Herschel than in the Mackenzie delta area. In summer 2002, an unsuccessful attempt was made to install a temperature cable to 50-m depth. Another attempt will be made in the summer of 2003.

### **Porcupine Caribou Satellite Collaring Program**

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partners – WMAC(NS), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, GNWT, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Parks Canada (Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks) and Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

This is an ongoing project to maintain satellite radio collars on caribou cows in order to document annual migration routes and winter range use. Many agencies are co-operating in this program. Satellite collars are more cost effective than conventional radio collars when a large number of frequent locations is needed. They are good tools for learning about caribou movements because a plane or helicopter is not required to determine where the caribou are located. The satellite tracks the animals automatically and is helpful in showing the general distribution of the herd. The satellite collars also provide valuable information about the timing and routes of the migrations.

This project was started in 1997 when ten satellite collars were purchased. In March 2003, three satellite-collared cows were recaptured. Two were fitted with new satellite collars and one was released uncollared. Four new caribou were fitted with satellite collars. Contributions from various organizations every year pay for satellite system fees and data retrieval. Interested agencies, organizations and schools in the Yukon, Alaska and the NWT are able to track the location of the collared caribou on the Internet ([www.taiga.net/satellite/index.html](http://www.taiga.net/satellite/index.html)) and through maps that are distributed once a week.

A web-based educational organization called Journey North also uses the satellite locations in their Porcupine caribou program. This program is one of many that teach school children throughout North America about wildlife migration ([www.learner.org/jnorth](http://www.learner.org/jnorth)).



Ken Madsen

## Porcupine Caribou Radio Collaring

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partners – Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, GNWT, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Parks Canada (Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks) and Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

The objective of this program is to maintain between 80 and 100 conventional radio collars on the herd to assist with the location of the herd during the composition counts and censuses. The collars have also been very useful in showing the importance of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to calving caribou. Each year, radio collared caribou die of natural causes. More collars need to be placed on caribou each year in order to maintain the number of collars on the herd.

In March 2002, eighteen new collars were put on animals in the herd. In March 2003, 63 radio-collared caribou were located. The herd was spread out from the Hart River to the Bell River. A total of 21 new conventional collars were deployed on ten bulls, two adult cows and nine 9-month-old females. These young females were captured because the program is starting to monitor the survival of young females to see if a reduction in survival may be contributing to the herd decline. Co-operating agencies purchase radio collars and the Yukon Government is responsible for putting them on the caribou.



Yukon Government

## Porcupine Caribou Photocensus

Lead implementation agencies – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Implementation partners – Yukon Government, Canadian Wildlife Service

This work was done early in the summer of 2001, as a way to estimate the total number of animals in the Porcupine caribou herd. When the insects come out in early July, caribou form very large groups, sometimes of many thousands of animals. This makes them easier to count. By using the radio collars, the large groups of caribou are located from a fixed wing aircraft flying very high. Once these large groups are found, one of the planes flies over them, taking photographs at regular intervals. Smaller groups are either counted or photographed from the other search planes. The census photos were taken July 3, 2001. The caribou were not grouped up as tightly as usual, so there was a need for more photos to be taken. A total of 414 photos were taken. The results of the studies show that the herd size is approximately 123,000. This number includes over 18,000 calves. A photocensus on the herd is scheduled every 2 to 3 years.



Jim Hawkings

## Porcupine Caribou Herd Calving Surveys

Lead implementation agency – Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Implementation partners – Yukon Government, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Calving surveys were conducted again in the summer of 2001. The object of the surveys was to get more information about the size of the Porcupine caribou herd, the number of calves that were born and where they were being born. Fieldwork was conducted out of Kaktovik, Alaska. Researchers began by locating the radio-collared cows to find out if they already had a calf. If they were pregnant, they were relocated until they gave birth, and then again 1 or 2 days after the calf was born. Half or more of the calf deaths occur in the first 2 days, so it is important to see how many survive this time period. At the end of June, all radio-collared cows were again located to record how many calves survived.

### Yukon North Slope Harvest Information.

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partner – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee



Yukon Government

The objective of this project is to collect harvest information on key species from Aklavik residents. The IFA provides for the collection of harvest information to assist in the management of wildlife and to assess wildlife compensation claims in the ISR. The Inuvialuit Harvest Study (IHS) was terminated in 1997. It has been replaced by annual harvest reporting in select Inuvialuit communities that is keyed to specific species. In 2001, YTG developed a database and summarized 12 years of harvest data for the Yukon North Slope collected during the IHS. The current database includes data collected for 1987 to 2001, except 1999.

In 2002, YTG began to conduct recall interviews in Aklavik to determine the harvest moose, sheep, furbearers and caribou. A local person was contracted, in partnership with the HTC, to conduct interviews twice a year during freeze up and break up. Information recorded includes species, kill date, kill location by Game Management Subzone (GMS), sex and maturity of kill, and hunter name. Information collected is added to the YTG database. All identifying information is kept confidential, however, summary information on total harvest will be made public. The full dataset is shared with the GWNT, who share harvest information provided by Inuvik hunters with YTG for management purposes.

### Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

Lead implementation agency – Heather Swystun (University of Northern British Columbia)

Implementation partners – Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada



Wayne Lynch

This study is being conducted by a graduate student of the University of Northern British Columbia. Its objective is to monitor environmental change and effects of development in the Mackenzie Delta using tundra swans as an indicator species for other birds and waterfowl. It was designed to establish another method by which the cumulative impacts of development and environmental change can be measured into the future.

The study has examined tundra swan nesting biology and how tundra swans use their habitat. Forty-six plots have been established where swans, swan nests, and young productivity are counted each year so that changes can be tracked. Plots are located where development is proposed and where development will likely not occur. Also 31 interviews were completed with local elders and hunters from Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and Fort McPherson to learn about tundra swan biology through local people. Aerial surveys were conducted in the summer of 2001 and 2002.

This project will also provide a summary of six years of population estimates for tundra swans before any major impacts of development occur, as well as descriptions of other species found in the study area. Data and possible reasons for successful nesting will be compared to unsuccessful nesting. Descriptions of important habitat for nesting tundra swans are also being determined. The project will be completed in 2003.

## Breeding Bird Distribution and Habitat Association on the Yukon North Slope

Lead implementation agency – Canadian Wildlife Service

The objective of this project was to convert Yukon North Slope breeding bird data into a spatially accurate database and GIS files. The Yukon North Slope is especially important to many breeding birds. Understanding their distribution and habitat preferences is important in conservation management. In 1992 and 1993 the Canadian Wildlife Service, Yukon Department of Renewable Resources, and WMAC (NS) undertook an extensive field survey of breeding birds at four locations on the Yukon North Slope: Running River, Babbage River, Firth River, and Clarence Lagoon. The result of this work was a large database (10,000+ records) of bird observations, with each observation referenced using GPS coordinates. The data analysis proceeded to an advanced stage during 1993/94, but funding ran out before the final analysis was complete. Little work has been done on this data since.

The current resurgence of hydrocarbon industry interest in the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie Delta has resulted in a lot of inquiries about this data and there is an obvious need to make it widely available to all interested parties, including industry consultants. In order to ensure the best and most appropriate use of this data, the locations needed to be checked against the original field sheets, and adjusted if necessary. The spatial and attribute data need to be converted to modern formats to make them appropriate for further analysis and distribution. This work addressed a number of action items identified in the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan. These action items focus on the need to identify habitat use and important habitats for various species.



Parks Canada

## Experimental Infections of Dall's Sheep with Muskox Lungworm

Lead implementation agency – University of Saskatchewan

Implementation partners – Yukon Government and many others

This University of Saskatchewan project was conducted to determine if the parasitic muskox lungworm (*Umingmakstrongylus pallikuukensis*) can infect thin horn sheep (Dall's and Stone's subspecies) and, if so, what its effects are. The project was initiated because biologists had concerns about the possibility of this parasite, found in muskox populations east of the Mackenzie River, infecting Dall's sheep. It is important to have this information as the muskox are expanding their range and could come in contact with the sheep in the Richardson Mountains. The experiment determined that the parasite is not able to infect the sheep.

## HERSCHEL ISLAND TERRITORIAL PARK



Yukon Government

At its meeting in October 2001, the Council received a presentation from the Senior Park Ranger summarizing the activities related to Herschel Island over the previous year. Council members had an opportunity to provide comments on the Park's mission statement and the outline provided of goals and objectives. Members also commented on the draft bear strategy plan and the initiative to reestablish the Elders and Junior Rangers programs for Herschel Island.

The Council continued to support the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan. The Plan, originally completed in 1991, is being updated by the Yukon Government to reflect the increase in visitor numbers and other management issues not addressed in the original version. These issues include garbage management, the recognition of by-laws, and the improvement of economic opportunities for the Inuvialuit. The Plan will also address issues regarding cruise ships, user conflicts, human-wildlife conflicts, integrated resource management, cultural resource management and licensing requirements. As part of this review, the Council hosted a workshop in Whitehorse in November 2002 that brought Council members together with representatives from the Tourism, Heritage, Parks and Wildlife branches of the Yukon Government to order to discuss and redraft the contents of the Plan.

The Council recommended funding for vegetation studies on Herschel Island that were continued during the summers of 2001 and 2002. Several long-term vegetation plots have been established in different areas on the island. These plots are part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX), which is designed to measure the effects of global climate change on tundra ecosystems. Additional activities completed in the summer of 2001 included permafrost temperature monitoring and a re-survey of vegetation species that have shown dramatic change over the past 15 years. The Council also recommended funding to reinforce the vegetation identification training the Rangers had received in previous years. This training ensures that the Rangers will be able to take part in the continuing long-term multi-part monitoring program on Herschel Island.

Council members spent several days on Herschel in July 2002. Members were able to learn more about the research projects underway on the island and to see how the Territorial Park is operated. The Council held a one-day meeting while on the island that included a review of the proposed revisions to the Park's Management Plan.



Parks Canada

## PARKS CANADA AND IVVAVIK NATIONAL PARK

WMAC(NS) has continued to work in partnership with Parks Canada on issues related to wildlife research, management and ecological monitoring in Ivvavik National Park. The Council recommended the revised Ivvavik National Park of Canada Management Plan to the Minister of Heritage early in 2003. Revisions to the Management Plan will ensure that the management of Ivvavik National Park is responsive to issues and challenges associated with ecosystem conservation, climate change and potential industrial disturbances. They also reflect a renewed commitment to optimizing the current and potential economic benefits associated with the establishment of the park, particularly as they may affect Inuvialuit interests and rights as provided for in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

The Council recommended funding for a sheep survey in the Park, as well as a vegetation and terrain survey. The Council also recommended funding for Firth River water flow monitoring, weather and permafrost monitoring and Firth River water quality monitoring. (See IFA Funded Research, above).

Parks Canada played an active role in muskox management and research on the North Slope. Parks also played a leading role in the development of the draft of the Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan. Parks Canada provided the logistic support that made it possible for Council members to spend a week traveling on the North Slope during the summer of 2002. A representative from Parks Canada sits on the Council as the alternate member for the Government of Canada.



Don Russell

## OTHER ISSUES



Fisheries Joint Management Committee

Council members monitored and commented on a number of additional issues that have bearing on the Yukon North Slope. These included:

- the Yukon's proposed Development Assessment Process
- Shingle Point DEW-Line site clean-up
- devolution of responsibilities from DIAND to the Yukon Government
- submissions to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board
- proposed amendments to the Yukon Act
- the amendment of Section 19.3 of the Yukon Act
- amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act
- oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie Delta and the northern Yukon
- the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Western Arctic/ Beaufort Sea integrated management planning and Oceans Management Strategy.

## COMMUNICATIONS

WMAC(NS) maintained its web site at [www.taiga.net/wmac](http://www.taiga.net/wmac). The site includes information on the Council and its activities, including Term Reports, newsletters, fact sheets, species status reports and links to related sites. The second and third volumes of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan have recently been added to the site.

WMAC(NS) has continued to produce a newsletter, *Wildlife Watch*, to inform the general public, Inuvialuit communities, and government and non-government organizations of the Council's activities and to provide updates on issues of community interest. Recent issues provided updates on Yukon North Slope research and initiatives. Over 500 copies of each issue of *Wildlife Watch* were distributed. The newsletters can be viewed at [www.taiga.net/wmac/watch](http://www.taiga.net/wmac/watch).

The Council is also a regular contributor to *Common Ground*, the newsletter produced twice a year by the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik. This newsletter provides a summary of the activities of the Inuvialuit renewable resource committees. Copies of *Common Ground* can be viewed at [www.fjmc.ca/js\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.fjmc.ca/js_newsletters.htm).

A Muskox Communications Strategy was prepared as a means to direct the development and distribution of information about North Slope muskox. The strategy identified the need for the Council to develop educational materials and communication products including fact sheets.

In response to the recommendations of the Muskox Communications Strategy, the Council developed a muskox website to provide more detailed information on the biology and management of the North Slope population ([www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/index.html](http://www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/index.html)). The Council also produced a series of fact sheets that summarize information on the history, biology and uses of North Slope muskox. The fact sheets can be downloaded or printed from the muskox website. A school unit, with activities suitable for all grade levels, was also developed to assist teachers in providing school children with information on muskox.

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**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

During the two-year term from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2003, the Council held meetings in Inuvik, Aklavik, Whitehorse and on Herschel Island. One teleconference was also conducted. A summary of meeting dates and locations is listed below.

May 8-9, 2001	Whitehorse, YT	April 30-May 2, 2002	Whitehorse, YT
June 25-26, 2001	Aklavik, NWT	July 17, 2002	Herschel Island, YT
October 15-16, 2001	Whitehorse, YT	July 23, 2002	Inuvik, NWT
December 10-13, 2001	Aklavik and Inuvik, NWT	October 8-9, 2002	Whitehorse, YT
March 11, 2002	Teleconference	December 9-10, 2002	Aklavik, NWT

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**OTHER MEETINGS**

WMAC(NS) Chair, members, representatives and Secretariat attended a number of workshops and other meetings, throughout the term, associated with the ongoing activities of the Council. These workshops and meetings are summarized as follows:

April 2001	IFA Roles and Responsibilities Workshop, Inuvik
April 2001	Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee, Inuvik
April 2001	Herschel Island Public Consultation, Inuvik
April 2001	Herschel Island Public Consultation, Whitehorse
May 2001	Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks, Whitehorse
June 2001	Joint Secretariat Board of Directors, Edmonton
June 2001	Inuvialuit Game Council, Tuktoyaktuk
June 2001	Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Directors, Aklavik
June 2001	Public meeting, Aklavik
October 2001	Inuvialuit Game Council, Yellowknife
November 2001	Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee teleconference
December 2001	Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvik
December 2001	Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Directors, Aklavik
December 2001	Joint meeting with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvik
January 2002	Species at Risk, Edmonton
January 2002	Yukon Species at Risk, Whitehorse
February 2002	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative – Seventh Annual Gathering, Fort McPherson, NWT.
May 2002	Yukon Species at Risk, Whitehorse
June 2002	Inuvialuit Game Council, Holman
July 2002	Oil And Gas Issues Workshop – Pembina Institute, Calgary
October 2002	ISR Grizzly Bear workshop, Inuvik
October 2002	Inuvialuit Game Council, Whitehorse
November 2002	Herschel Island Park Management Plan workshop, Whitehorse
December 2002	Public meeting, Aklavik
December 2002	Joint meeting with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvik
December 2002	Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvik
February 2003	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative – Eighth Annual Gathering, Whitehorse.
March 2003	Alaska/Canada Oil & Gas Environmental Regulators, Fairbanks, Alaska

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council consists of four members and an independent chairperson. Two members are appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, one by the Government of Canada and one by the Government of Yukon. The Council is supported by a Secretariat located in Whitehorse.

The Council's membership in 2001-2003 was as follows:

### **Lindsay Staples: Chair**

Lindsay lives in Whitehorse and works as a private consultant in the fields of land use planning, resource management, sustainable development and socioeconomic impact assessment. He has a long-standing interest in Yukon North Slope issues.

### **Danny C. Gordon: Member — Inuvialuit Game Council**

Danny C. is a resident of Aklavik. He is an active hunter and trapper and is a director of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

### **Herbert Felix: Member — Inuvialuit Game Council**

Herbert is a resident of Tuktoyaktuk. He is currently a member of the Environmental Impact Review Board and the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee. Herbert enjoys participating in co-management activities.

### **Richard Gordon: Alternate — Inuvialuit Game Council**

Richard is a resident of Aklavik and is the Senior Ranger of Herschel Island Territorial Park.

### **Carol Arey: Alternate — Inuvialuit Game Council**

Carol is a resident of Aklavik. From the time Carol was six days old she has spent her summers at Shingle Point and considers the North Slope her home. She has been active with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee for many years and has recently served as its President.

### **Joan Eamer: Member — Government of Canada (until March 2002)**

Joan lives in Whitehorse where she works as a biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service, as the Head of Ecosystem Health. Prior to joining Environment Canada, Joan worked as an environmental scientist for industry and government in the Yukon and B.C.

### **Martin Raillard: Member — Government of Canada (since March 2002)**

Martin is the Manager of the Environmental Conservation Branch of Environment Canada in Whitehorse. The Environmental Conservation Branch includes the Canadian Wildlife Service. Martin worked in Inuvik for a number of years with Parks Canada.

**Alan Fehr: Alternate — Government of Canada**

Alan is the Superintendent of the Western Arctic Field Unit of Parks Canada, based in Inuvik. He has also worked as an adult educator and biologist in Aklavik and was the manager of the Inuvik Research Centre prior to moving to Parks Canada.

**Doug Larsen: Member — Government of Yukon**

Doug is the Chief of Wildlife Management for the Yukon Territorial Government. He has worked for YTG since 1978, starting out as a moose biologist. Prior to this work, Doug spent time in the Arctic working for the University of Alberta and for the Canadian Wildlife Service. He has helped with studies on muskox and ringed seals, and spent some time on Herschel Island in the mid-1970s, studying polar bears.

**Dorothy Cooley: Alternate — Government of Yukon**

Dorothy works in Dawson City as Regional Biologist for Yukon Renewable Resources. Dorothy is responsible for coordinating research and wildlife studies that are conducted by the Yukon Government on the Yukon North Slope. Her position is partially funded through IFA implementation funding.

**Secretariat:**

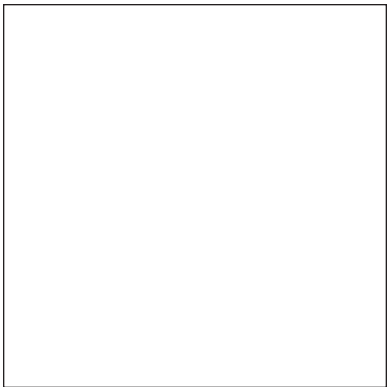
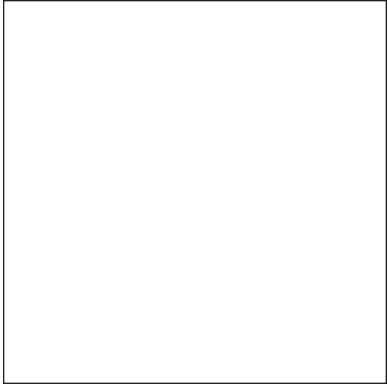
Aileen Horler has been providing administrative support to the Council since May 1995.

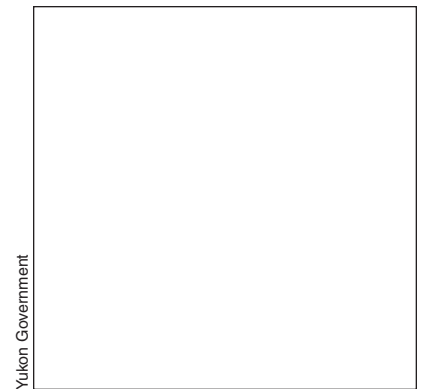
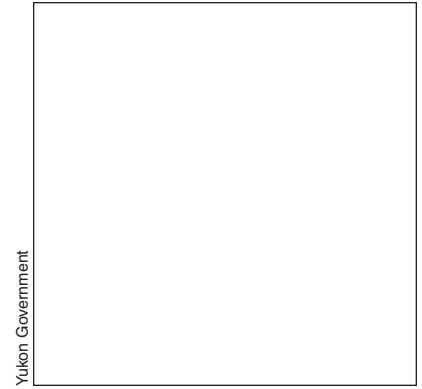
The WMAC(NS) office is located at Suite 3, Horwood's Mall, Whitehorse.



WMAC(NS) Meeting – Herschel Island July 2003. (left to right)

Richard Gordon (Herschel Island Park Ranger), Herbert Felix (Inuvialuit Game Council – member), Doug Larsen (Yukon Government – member), Martin Raillard (Environment Canada – member), Dorothy Cooley (Yukon Government – alternate member), Mervin Joe (Parks Canada), Lindsay Staples (Chair), Aileen Horler (Secretariat), Danny C. Gordon (Inuvialuit Game Council – member)





**YUKON NORTH SLOPE  
JULY 2002**



FINANCIAL STATEMENT MARCH 31, 2002

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT  
REPORT, MARCH 31, 2002

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**J. Kim Tanner, C.A., Ltd.**

Chartered Accountant

To the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council  
(North Slope):

I have reviewed the financial position of Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), as at March 31, 2002 and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Council.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that operations in the year are not, in all material respects, in accordance with the terms of the contribution agreements entered into with Government of Yukon and Environment Canada during the year.



Chartered Accountant

Whitehorse, Yukon

April 25, 2002

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2002 (unaudited)

	2001-02	2000-01
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	19,410	810
Accounts receivable	189	3,111
GST receivable	4,736	4,718
<b>Capital Assets</b> (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	27,672	23,010
Less accumulated amortization	21,310	19,667
	<u>6,362</u>	<u>3,343</u>
	<b>30,697</b>	<b>11,982</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank indebtedness	—	1,898
Accounts payable	4,995	7,957
Due to Government of Yukon	253	253
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	20,556	—
	<u>25,804</u>	<u>10,108</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)</b>	(1,469)	(1,469)
<b>Investment in Capital Assets</b> (note 2)	6,362	3,343
	<u>4,893</u>	<u>1,874</u>
	<b>30,697</b>	<b>11,982</b>

Approved by:

Herbert Fisher Councillor

Walter Councillor

**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (unaudited)**

	2001-02	2000-01
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government of Yukon—contribution	127,444	147,182
Government of Yukon—muskox management workshop	23,343	—
Government of Yukon—North Slope Conference	—	12,500
Interest income and other	123	63
	150,910	159,745
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Bank charges and interest	15	46
Bookkeeping	939	737
Honoraria	25,926	29,263
Newsletter	1,682	2,390
Office and telephone	9,668	10,856
Professional fees	1,072	987
Rent	4,347	4,347
Secretariat fees	35,216	37,573
Term report	5,197	422
Travel and meetings	20,804	22,576
	104,866	109,197
<b>IFA Implementation Project Costs</b>		
Satellite Imagery	644	—
Muskox management	23,769	—
Muskox communications	5,175	—
North Slope Conference	—	30,853
Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan	3,599	12,886
Ecosystem monitoring	3,178	3,545
Long term research workshop	870	579
Web page development	2,750	4,194
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	1,397	—
	41,382	52,057
<b>Total Expenses</b>	146,248	161,254
<b>Excess (Shortage) of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	4,662	(1,509)

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2002 (unaudited)**

	2001-02			2000-01
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	3,343	(1,469)	1,874	4,580
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	4,662	4,662	(1,509)
Purchase of capital assets	4,662	(4,662)	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	8,005	(1,469)	6,536	3,071
Amortization of capital assets	(1,643)	—	(1,643)	(1,197)
Balance at End of Year	6,362	(1,469)	4,893	1,874

**Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2002 (unaudited)**

	2001-02	2000-01
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from Government of Yukon	171,343	162,682
Cash received from other sources	123	63
Cash paid for administration costs	(107,846)	(100,176)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(38,460)	(66,747)
	25,160	(4,178)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing and Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(4,662)	—
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year</b>	20,498	(4,178)
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	(1,088)	3,090
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	19,410	(1,088)
<b>Cash is represented by</b>		
Cash	19,410	810
Bank indebtedness	—	(1,898)
	19,410	(1,088)

**Notes to Financial Statements**

For the year ended March 31, 2002 (unaudited)

**1. Nature of the Financial Statements**

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was created pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement to advise federal and territorial governments on matters pertaining to Yukon North Slope wildlife and habitat issues.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies****a) Capital Assets**

Capital assets are recorded on the statement of financial position at cost, in the year purchased. Amortization is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Capital assets are amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in capital assets reflects the total amortized cost of all capital assets owned by the Council.

**b) Deferred Revenue**

Deferred revenue represents funds received under a contribution agreement or a specific project which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year as described in note 4.

**3. Capital Assets**

	2001-02				2000-01
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	18,691	14,486	4,205	2,025
Computer software	20%	2,878	2,701	177	—
Office equipment	20%	6,103	4,123	1,980	1,318
		27,672	21,310	6,362	3,343

**4. Deferred Revenue**

	2001-02	2000-01
Government of Yukon	20,556	—

**5. Financial Instruments**

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is the Council's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

**6. Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make assumptions and estimates that have an effect on the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could be different from those estimates.

**7. Economic Dependence**

The Council is economically dependent on the Government of Yukon.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT MARCH 31, 2003

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**J. Kim Tanner, C.A., Ltd.**

Chartered Accountant

**REVIEW ENGAGEMENT  
REPORT, MARCH 31, 2003**

To the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council  
(North Slope):

I have reviewed the financial position of Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), as at March 31, 2003 and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Council.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that operations in the year are not, in all material respects, in accordance with the terms of the contribution agreements entered into with Government of Yukon during the year.



Chartered Accountant

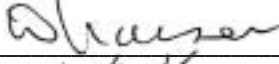
Whitehorse, Yukon

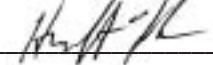
April 30, 2003

**Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2003 (unaudited)**

	2002-03	2001-02
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	11,539	19,410
Accounts receivable	1,826	189
GST receivable	4,903	4,736
	18,268	24,335
 <b>Capital Assets</b> (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	28,473	27,672
Less accumulated amortization	23,224	21,310
	5,249	6,362
	23,517	30,697
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	9,896	4,995
Due to Government of Yukon	253	253
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	9,588	20,556
	19,737	25,804
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	(1,469)	(1,469)
<b>Investment in Capital Assets</b> (note 2)	5,249	6,362
	3,780	4,893
	23,517	30,697

Approved by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor

**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (unaudited)**

	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government of Yukon—contribution	165,606	127,444
Government of Yukon—muskox management workshop	—	23,343
Interest income and other	2	123
	<u>165,608</u>	<u>150,910</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Bookkeeping	798	939
Honoraria	32,958	25,926
Bank charges and interest	104	15
Newsletter	1,961	1,682
Office and telephone	9,584	9,668
Professional fees	900	1,072
Rent	4,347	4,347
Secretariat fees	36,975	35,216
Term report	501	5,197
Travel and meetings	20,401	20,804
	<u>108,529</u>	<u>104,866</u>
<b>Income From Operations</b>		
Satellite Imagery	—	644
Muskox management	—	23,769
Muskox communications	6,202	5,175
TK Assessment	4,024	—
Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan	7,033	3,599
Ecosystem monitoring	2,970	3,178
Long term research workshop	—	870
Web page development	3,004	2,750
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	1,594	1,397
Grizzly bear management	8,824	—
Coastal zone planning workshop	4,986	—
Herschel management	2,534	—
Library	4,910	—
Muskox plan	4,192	—
Database update	2,000	—
Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan printing	4,005	—
	<u>56,278</u>	<u>41,382</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>164,807</b>	<b>146,248</b>
<b>Excess (Shortage) of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>4,662</b>

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2003 (unaudited)**

	2002-03			2001-02
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	6,362	(1,469)	4,893	1,874
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	801	801	4,662
Purchase of capital assets	801	(801)	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	7,163	(1,469)	5,694	6,536
Amortization of capital assets	(1,914)	—	(1,914)	(1,643)
Balance at End of Year	5,249	(1,469)	3,780	4,893

**Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2003 (unaudited)**

	2002-03	2001-02
<b>Cash flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from Government of Yukon	154,638	171,343
Cash received from other sources	2	123
Cash paid for administration costs	(103,795)	(107,846)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(57,915)	(38,460)
	(7,070)	25,160
<b>Cash flows from Financing and Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(801)	(4,662)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year</b>	(7,871)	20,498
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	19,410	(1,088)
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	11,539	19,410

**Notes to Financial Statements**

For the year ended March 31, 2003 (unaudited)

**1. Nature of the Financial Statements**

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was created pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement to advise federal and territorial governments on matters pertaining to Yukon North Slope wildlife and habitat issues.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies****a) Capital Assets**

Capital assets are recorded on the statement of financial position at cost, in the year purchased. Amortization is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Capital assets are amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in capital assets reflects the total amortized cost of all capital assets owned by the Council.

**b) Deferred Revenue**

Deferred revenue represents funds received under a contribution agreement or a specific project which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year as described in note 4.

**3. Capital Assets**

	2002-03				2001-02
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	18,690	15,747	2,943	4,205
Computer software	100%	2,878	2,878	—	177
Office equipment	20%	6,905	4,599	2,306	1,980
		28,473	23,224	5,249	6,362

**4. Deferred Revenue**

	2002-03	2001-02
Government of Yukon	9,588	20,556

**5. Financial Instruments**

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is the Council's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

**6. Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make assumptions and estimates that have an effect on the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could be different from those estimates.

**7. Economic Dependence**

The Council is economically dependent on the Government of Yukon.

APPENDIX 1

Extracted from *Western Arctic Claims (The Inuvialuit Final Agreement) Settlement Act (1984)*

**Yukon North Slope**

12. (1) For the purposes of this section, “Yukon North Slope” means all those lands between the boundaries of Alaska and the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, north of the height of land dividing the watersheds of the Porcupine River and the Beaufort Sea, and including adjacent nearshore and offshore waters and islands.

**Principles**

12. (2) The Yukon North slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.
12. (3) Subject to subsections (5) to (15)\*:
- (a) all development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope shall be screened to determine whether they could have a significant negative impact on the wildlife, habitat or ability of the natives to harvest wildlife;
  - (b) other uses within the Yukon North Slope shall be considered and may be permitted if it is shown that there would be no significant impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting;
  - (c) other uses within the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting shall be permitted if it is decided that public convenience and necessity outweigh conservation or native harvesting interests in the area; and
  - (d) development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact shall be subject to a public environment impact assessment and review process.

**Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)**

12. (46) In order to provide for joint planning by the native people and the governments in the North Slope with respect to the principles set out in subsection (2) and (3), a Wildlife Management Advisory Council shall be established as soon after the execution of this Agreement as is practicable.
12. (47) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.
12. (48) The permanent members of the Council shall include at least one person designated by the Government of the Yukon Territory and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.
12. (49) In addition to the permanent members of the Council representing government, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments as they may be required from time to time.
12. (50) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit, and, subject to agreements, by other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Yukon North Slope under their land claims settlements.
12. (51) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Yukon Territory, with the consent of the native members and Canada.
12. (52) The permanent members of the Council shall have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

12. (53) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures.
12. (54) The Government of the Yukon Territory agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.
12. (55) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.
12. (56) The council shall provide advice to the appropriate ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:
- (a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Yukon North Slope to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, The Review Board and other appropriate groups;
  - (b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles of conservation set out in the subsections (2) and (3);
  - (c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of game in the Yukon North Slope; and
  - (d) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting in the Yukon North Slope including those referred to in subsection 14(3)\*.

\*Refer to act for complete references.



