

I was one of a small group of people who attended the meeting at Selkirk school regarding the perceived “wolf problem” in the Yukon. When I entered the gym where the meeting was being held I noticed different posters on the walls and doors that had words like “co-existence, respect, and conservation”. As the discussion began though none of those terms were referred to with the exception of the term “respect” that was used on one occasion. Terms that did seem to prevail throughout the discussion included the terms control and management which were used many times and not in reference to the control or management of human behaviours but rather wolf behaviours. I find it interesting that wolf populations have coexisted with ungulate species for 30 million years – there was never a problem – ecosystems were healthy – everything was in balance. Enter the human factor and of course that changes everything. And here we go again, wolves being scapegoated for irresponsible human behaviours and a reluctance to “share the wealth” so to speak or to coexist with these critters who t have been much more successful in providing balance in nature than we ever have. Obviously, a decrease in wolf numbers will increase ungulate populations in the short term – this will meet the needs of special interests groups in the Yukon who have everything to gain on a monetary scale. I sincerely hope that the committee will utilize real science and consider all the contributing factors e.g.: obtaining accurate counts of ungulate kills by all hunters, non-first nation and first nation when making their recommendations.

Lea Bayliss

Whitehorse

