

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & INFORMATION

### Concern 1

#### People need to be kept up-to-date and have input to wildlife issues.

Prior to the 1997-2001 plan, there were concerns that people in the community did not have current information on fish and wildlife management and felt they did not have enough input on management in the NND traditional territory.

#### Solution Use a variety of ways to inform people and get their input to wildlife issues.

To address this concern, the 1997-2001 plan identified a number of ways to inform the public through the RRC's communication strategy. During the review of the plan, the plan partners noted that, while the revision to the RRC strategy was not completed, communicating through the RRC's annual report, videos, magazine articles, on the internet, with newsletters and through direct contact are all effective methods of community education. Through these methods, a wider audience such as conservation groups, other Yukon government departments, the Council of Yukon First Nations and other RRCs and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board can be made aware of issues in the NND traditional territory.

### Commitment

By who? By when?

**RRC**  
2002-2007

Revise and use RRC communication strategy to include annual reports, videos, magazine articles, more newsletters, internet contact with interest groups. [81] Annual reports were suggested as a method to inform the public about the activities of the RRC, progress on implementation of this plan, and a current status of wildlife in the NND traditional territory. Broad distribution of the report was recommended to include schools, libraries and governments.

Videos could be used to convey education messages for school use, or to inform the public on traditional hunting practices.

Magazine articles in publications such as "Up Here" or as a supplement in the Western Fish and Game Association publications could be used to reach a wider audience about fish and wildlife management issues in the NND traditional territory.

Internet use would provide access to this plan, and to provide interest groups with current information on RRC activities.

Regular publication of a simple, short newsletter was identified as a tool to provide current, regular information.

Direct local contact with the RRC members could also improve communications, including with groups such as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Yukon Conservation Society, and the Wilderness Guide and Outfitters Association.

**Concern 2****Scientific fish and wildlife information can be difficult to understand.**

The 1997-2001 plan acknowledged the need for simpler reports about wildlife management. Since then, there have been efforts made to make reports more understandable to the public. This needs to continue.

**Solution Make sure that reports are interesting and understandable for the public.**

Scientific information using terms such as the “age-ratio” of a wildlife population can be difficult to understand with no explanation. Using simpler terms to explain and present information can help the public to understand issues and proposed solutions.

**Commitment**

By who? By when?

**YTG**  
2002 - 2007

Make sure public reports are interesting and understandable. [82]

Plain language and more use of graphs and illustrations are recommend ways to get management messages across to the public.

**Concern 3****There are fewer youth that are out “on the land,” that have knowledge and experience about fish and wildlife, and important habitats.**

Some NND members are concerned that the youth are becoming disconnected from the land. Kids have shown less interest in getting out on the land, despite efforts to promote youth-elder programs such as the 2002 spring culture camp.

**Solution Promote the “first hunt” program with youth and elders working out on the land together.**

In 2002, the Porcupine Caribou Management Board promoted the “first hunt” idea by making funding available to user communities of the Porcupine caribou herd, including to NND. One-time funding to support this initiative was provided by a private foundation. Once established, the program would have elders work with youth to promote the safety of a first hunt, along with the proper ways to care for meat. NND can provide the equipment, but needs the support of elders to volunteer their time. This program could promote hunting for youth, for boys and girls.

**Commitment**

By who? By when?

**NND**  
2002 - 2007

Determine if additional funding is needed, identify a funding source and submit a proposal to initiate a “first-hunt” support program. [83]

Additional funding to cover the costs of this program may be necessary.

**NND**  
2002 - 2007

Some elders will volunteer their time to work with youth on this project. [84]

There was a commitment to discuss this at the 2002 General Assembly, to seek the support of elders to volunteer their time on the land with youth.