

AGENDA

2022 Virtual Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) Workshop Series

BACKGROUND

The MVRMA Workshop Planning Committee is pleased to host a series of four virtual workshops in 2022 related to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The topics of the workshops were selected based on the results of a Fall 2021 survey given to participants of the MVRMA co-management system. Given the ongoing pandemic circumstances, the first workshop will be held virtually on March 30 and 31, 2022 and will introduce the co-management and integrated system of land and water management established through the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, the Review Board, and government departments and agencies involved in the co-management system will provide an overview of ongoing initiatives, projects, and opportunities for engagement.

MARCH WORKSHOP GOALS

The purpose of the March 2022 workshop is to help familiarize participants with the co-management and integrated system of land and water management established through the MVRMA.

The goals of the workshop are to:

- Describe the historical context for how and why this system for resource management in the NWT exists by engaging directly with those closely involved with the development of the MVRMA
- Provide information on current initiatives, projects, and opportunities for engagement
- Consider ways on how to build capacity and increase opportunities in the co-management system for Indigenous people of the Mackenzie Valley
- Share knowledge, ideas, and experiences on existing co-management processes

DETAILS FOR MARCH WORKSHOP

Date	DAY 1: Wednesday, March 30	DAY 2: Thursday, March 31
Time	9am - 12pm (MDT)	9am - 12pm (MDT)
Link	<i>Provided upon registration</i>	<i>Provided upon registration</i>
Theme	PAST: How did the MVRMA Resource Co-Management System come to be?	PRESENT & FUTURE: Initiatives, projects, and opportunities for engagement and improvement

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding this upcoming workshop, please contact [Sarah Elsasser](#), Senior Regulatory Policy Advisor at the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board.

March 30 & 31, 2022
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Day 1: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 (9am – 12pm MDT)

PAST: How did the MVRMA resource co-management system come to be?

8:45 - 9:00	Virtual check-in <i>We ask that you sign in to Zoom in advance to ensure a proper start at 9am</i>
9:00 - 10:15	Welcome & Guest Speaker – Brian Crane <i>After our Opening Prayer and welcome remarks, we will have a guest speaker share their perspectives on the purpose of the MVRMA and how it came to be.</i>
10:15 - 10:30	Break
	Panel Discussion & Closing – Brian Crane (Moderator) Panelists: David Krutko, Violet Doolittle, and Ted Blondin
10:30 - 12:00	<i>We will dive further into the history of the MVRMA from a regional lens with panelists with varying experiences of the MVRMA. There will be time for questions and responses from the audience.</i>

For participants to consider in advance: What do you want to know about how the MVRMA came to be?

Day 2: Thursday, March 31, 2022 (9am – 12pm MDT)

PRESENT & FUTURE: Initiatives, projects, and opportunities for engagement and improvement

8:45 - 9:00	Virtual check-in <i>We ask that you sign in to Zoom in advance to ensure a proper start at 9am</i>
9:00 - 10:15	Welcome back & Information session <i>Representatives of the various co-management Boards and government departments and agencies involved in the co-management system will share ongoing initiatives, projects, and opportunities for engagement, including information on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Participant Funding Program• Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue• Public Land Act Regulations• Mineral Resources Act Regulations• LWB Consultation and Engagement Policy and Guidelines Update, Community Outreach Strategy, Closure and Reclamation Guideline Update• MVEIRB Guidelines for Developers of Major Projects, Guideline for Assessing Impacts on People

For participants to consider in advance: After reviewing this information package, do you have any questions for the Boards and/or government departments and agencies?

10:15 - 10:30	Break
	Fireside Chat Panel Discussion & Closing – Dakota Erutse (Moderator) Panelists: Rosy Bjornson, Daniel T'seleie, and Mason Mantla
10:30 - 12:00	<i>We will have an interactive panel session and discussion on looking forward to the future including how to build capacity and increase opportunities in the co-management system for Indigenous people of the Mackenzie Valley.</i>

For participants to consider in advance: What ideas do you have to build capacity and increase opportunities both in the co-management system and within the Boards themselves?

DAY 1 SPEAKER BIOS

BRIAN CRANE KEYNOTE & MODERATOR



Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Civil Litigation, Brian Crane is a senior member of Gowling WLG's Advocacy Group and practises in constitutional, administrative, and Indigenous law. Brian has appeared as counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court, and provincial and territorial courts and tribunals. He has worked extensively in the negotiation of Indigenous land claims and self-government agreements and related litigation and arbitration. Brian has served as legal counsel for the Dene/Metis Joint Secretariat from 1982- 1989 and the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated in the 1990s in land claim negotiations. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1977 and is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Brian has chaired Canadian Bar Association Committees on Reform of Parliament, the Federal Judiciary, and the Reform of Civil Justice. He co-authored (with Robert Mainville and Martin W. Mason) First Nations Governance Law, 2nd edition (LexisNexis Canada). Brian has been recognized in Chambers Canada, The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory, The Best Lawyers in Canada, and The Legal 500 Canada. In 2017, 2019, and 2021, he was named Lawyer of the Year – Ottawa by Best Lawyers Canada in three different practice areas: Administrative and Public Law, Appellate Practice, and, most recently, Aboriginal/Indigenous Law. Brian has been recognized in Chambers Global as a Senior Statesman in the field of Aboriginal/Indigenous law.

DAVID KRUTKO PANELIST



David Krutko is a Gwich'in nominee to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, having been appointed on February 16, 2017. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko was first elected in 1995 to the 13th Assembly, re-elected in 1999 to the 14th Assembly, was acclaimed to the 15th Assembly in 2003, and re-elected to the 16th Assembly in October, 2007. During his time at the Assembly, Mr. Krutko has served as: Chair and Member of a number of Standing and Special Committees; Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the Assembly; Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board and as the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Mr. Krutko has most recently (2012-2016) been a Board of Director for the Gwich'in

Tribal Council and also serves currently on the Gwich'in Designated Organization. Mr. Krutko worked as a negotiator on the Dene Metis Land Claim Agreement and was a senior negotiator on the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Agreement and the Sahtu and Metis Comprehensive Land Agreement. He continues to work on the Gwich'in Self Government. Mr. Krutko has served as the vice president of the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories, vice president of the Mackenzie Delta Tribal Council (now known as the Gwich'in Tribal Council), councillor with the Hamlet of Fort McPherson, director of the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea Regional Planning Commission, member of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, member of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, director of the Metis Development Corporation and co-chair of the Northwest Territories Tourism Training Group. Mr. Krutko also worked in the oil and gas industry in the Beaufort Sea and in Norman Wells in the 70s and 80s. Mr. Krutko has four children: Gordie, Laura, Joanne, and Michelle and he lives in Fort McPherson.



VIOLET DOOLITTLE PANELIST



Violet Doolittle was born at Sucker Creek, near Tulita, NT and raised here until the age of sixteen. A Sahtu beneficiary, she resides and works in Inuvik, NT where she has been for the past 28 years. She holds diplomas in Social Work and Addiction Studies and currently works as a Residential School Counsellor. Violet has gladly given 20 years of service to the social field because she cares and enjoys helping people in need. She is also fluent in the North Slavey language. Violet is a Board member on the Sahtu Land and Water Board.

TED BLONDIN PANELIST



Ted Blondin is a valuable member of the Tł'cho Region and has an extensive background in politics and business across the Northwest Territories. He studied Businesses Enterprise of Self-Governing Systems and Business Management at the University of Lethbridge in 1990. Early on, Ted worked on the negotiation team as a Tł'cho Land Claim Manager, contributing to the creation of the Tł'cho Constitution, Self-Government, and Land Claim Rights. After the Tł'cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement came into effect, Ted became the Chairperson of the Tł'cho Community Services Agency (TCSA) as well as a board member, and later President, of the Behchokò Development Corporation. Ted is still dedicated to his passion of being a role model in the North and will continue communicating his vision for the younger generations to learn from and follow.

DAY 2 SPEAKER BIOS

DAKOTA ERUTSE MODERATOR



Dakota Erutse favours conversations that make sense of the human condition, whether it's raw confession or a parlay of facts and philosophy. This does not include academic discourses nor political mantras. As a facilitator and mediator, Dakota can manage conflict and still keep the conversation going, having dealt with men banging on doors and men with knives. He has been a member of the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board since 2016. He was born in Yellowknife and raised in Fort Good Hope, NT, and now lives in Vancouver, BC.

EMILIE ROSE (ROSY) BJORNSON PANELIST



Rosy is a mother of four with a full time career. Rosy has been an Environmental and Indigenous Rights activist for the past twenty plus years. Rosy has lived in Deninu Kue for the past 40 plus years. Over the years she has worked many different roles in her community. In the late 1990's She began working for Akaitcho Government as an Environment Coordinator Trainee, in 2006 Rosy was hired as the Deninu Kue First Nation Interim Measures agreement coordinator. In the role as the IMA Coordinator, she has worked alongside many researchers, scientist, and regulatory teams. Rosy has been involved in the development of the Cumulative Effects Assessment blueprint, where the CIMP program sprouted from. She has been involved in the Northern contaminates program and Environment and Natural Resources Community Base monitoring program. Rosy was a member of the Slave River and Delta Partnership and had an active leading role in the development and implementation of the Slave River Watershed Environmental Effects Program (SWEEP). Rosy has also served on the Akaitcho Aquatics Technical board for several years and developed the Deninu Kue First Nation Aquatics Coordinator position and coordinated the implementation. Rosy was part of the negotiation team for the establishment agreement of Thaidene Nene National Park for the Deninu KUE First Nation. Rosy was also active in the development and negotiations of the Ni Hadi Xa agreement, a first of its kind. An agreement that allows for indigenous signatory parties to continue to be stewards of the land around the Gah Cho Kue mine in roles such as board members, traditional knowledge monitors and environmental monitors. For the past three years, Rosy has been the Manager of the Ni Hadi Xa and executive secretary to the Ni Hadi Xa Committee. In her spare time, Rosy likes to play the guitar, sing and read good non-fiction novels.

DANIEL T'SELEIE PANELIST



Daniel is K'asho Got'ine Dene from Radili Ko (also known as Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories). His consulting practice focuses on work with Indigenous communities and organizations in areas of Indigenous rights and environmental issues, including self-government negotiations in the Northwest Territories. Daniel holds a J.D. from the University of Victoria and a B.Sc. in mathematical sciences from McMaster University. Daniel has previously worked in the areas of education, journalism, government policy, unskilled labour, and lands and environmental management in Dene communities with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

MASON MANTLA PANELIST



Born and raised in Behchokǫ, Mason Mantla is a Tłı̨chǫ citizen who is deeply connected to his community and culture. His educational experiences include graduating from Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School, courses at the University of Victoria's 2011 Summer Institute at the Centre for Aboriginal Health Research, and being part of the pilot semester at Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning in 2010. Concerned by the problems and issues in his community and the health of the environment, Mason strives to make a positive difference in the lives of the Tłı̨chǫ people. Currently, Mason works as freelance videographer and entrepreneur. In addition to his love of music (Mason has been writing songs since the age of 12 and playing guitar and singing since the age of 16), filmmaking, Mason loves spending time with his daughters Evie and Theia. Mason was nominated to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board by the Tłı̨chǫ Government on May 27, 2011, and has been on the Board ever since. On December 9, 2021, Mason was confirmed by the Minister as the new Chair of the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board.



INFORMATION SESSION UPDATES

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Northern Participant Funding Program

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

NPFP provides funding to support Indigenous governments and organizations, and northerners, to meaningfully participate in impact assessments of major projects across the three territories. In NWT, we provided \$342k for Diavik in 2019-20, and \$1.5m for Pine Point in 2021-22 and 2022-23. From 2019-20 to 2021-22 we have also provided Indigenous governments in the NWT with \$469,087.52 to build capacity to participate in future environmental assessments.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

NPFP's current funding sunsets on 31 March 2023. CIRNAC is currently examining options for renewal and potential expansion of the program. A related proposal to central agencies, recognizing decision-making does not rest with the Department, will be informed by a series of engagement sessions the program recently completed. Among the most frequent comments were the need to expand eligibility to include regulatory processes such as water licensing, and to increase the overall amount available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

From January through March 2022, CIRNAC conducted a series of engagements on the future of the program, comprising 12 engagement sessions with 39 partners in 3 territories and northern Quebec. Partner organizations included Indigenous governments, Indigenous women's organizations, territorial governments, co-management boards, and NGOs. Feedback was also sought from industry organizations and proponents. That feedback, and any provided during the 2022 MVRMA workshop, will help inform CIRNAC's considerations in respect of the program's future.

CONTACT

Jeremy Weyerman

Program Manager

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CIRNAC/CANNOR/GNWT, Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- The Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD) is a dialogue-first approach to discussing regulatory topics involving federal/territorial governments, Indigenous Governments and Organizations, industry representatives, and resource co-management boards.
- It provides an opportunity to learn about the interests/perspectives/expertise of others, identify common challenges/objectives, and collectively work towards improvements on operational issues outside of legislative processes. It also can provide a feedback mechanism, whereby different organizations can provide updates on initiatives of interest.
- A pilot workshop was held in 2020 to discuss a specific regulatory topic (information requirements – such as bathymetry data – for small-scale/grassroots exploration projects). Efforts to maintain momentum following the workshop were challenged by the global pandemic that shifted the focus and priorities for all. Following the pilot workshop, a couple of virtual meetings were held to review the outcomes from the workshop and re-define priorities in light of the new (covid-19) realities.
- An Organizing Committee has worked to draft Light Work Plans (LWPs) based on feedback from the workshop and subsequent meetings with partners. These LWPs focus on the development of application templates and supporting materials to assist proponents and reviewers with submissions and reviews, improvements to how information is displayed or shared on the land and water board websites, and to develop a communication strategy on how best to keep all partners apprised of information or events that are important to them (for example, where to post information that is not project-specific, opportunities to have non-project-specific discussions, etc.)

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Feedback on the value of a multi-party dialogue initiative is welcomed. If this is viewed as a useful endeavor, parties can work together to organize future meetings and/or workshops to discuss challenges and perspectives, define common objectives, and work together to build solutions. Opportunities to align meetings or workshops with existing initiatives would be sought (such as the MVRMA workshops, GeoScience Forum, other).
- Updates on LWPs could be presented, with an opportunity for feedback – and new LWPs could be developed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Thoughts and suggestions on how best to move forward are welcomed at the 2022 MVRMA Workshop Series.
- Ideas may include a meeting/workshop specifically designed to present the work done to date and to discuss how/if to move forward. Written comments/suggestions on this initiative are also welcomed.

CONTACT

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GNWT Department of Lands, *Public Land Act* Regulations

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The Department of Lands is developing regulations to bring the new *Public Land Act* (PLA) into force. The PLA will replace the current *Commissioner's Land Act* and regulations and the *Northwest Territories Lands Act* and regulations.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy to develop a modern and comprehensive legislative framework for land and natural resource management in the Northwest Territories.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The Department will continue engaging with other GNWT departments, Indigenous governments and organizations, community governments, and NWT land and resource management stakeholders throughout the regulations development process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Targeting fall of 2022 for public engagement on the proposed regulations

For more information on PLA regulations go to "[Have your say](#)" public engagement portal

CONTACT

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GNWT Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, *Mineral Resources Act* Regulations

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The MRA received assent from the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly in August 2019. The MRA will not come into force until the corresponding regulations are developed. The bill is intended to manage mineral interests in the Northwest Territories (NWT) within the existing co-management of land, water and resources and remove Mining Regulations out from the Northwest Territories Lands Act (NWTLA). The MRA is a stand-alone legislation to govern mineral rights administration in the Northwest Territories.

The existing legislative framework includes the NWTLA which also governs surface use and quarrying, the federal Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) which manages environmental and socio-economic impacts, NWT Waters Act and the Mine Health and Safety Act which sets occupational health and safety standards. If there is a conflict or an inconsistency between a provision of the MRA or its regulations and a provision of a land, resources and self-government agreement or legislation approving, giving effect to and declaring valid a land, resources and self-government agreement, the provision of the land, resources and self-government agreement or legislation prevails to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.

The Government of the NWT inherited the Mining Regulations from the federal government (Government of Canada, or GC) with Devolution in 2014. As part of the GC's "devolution" initiative for the NWT, or the passing of province-like lawmaking powers to the territorial government, land transferred was subject to the existing legal system of administering, the Territorial Lands Act (TLA; mirrored into GNWT legislation as the NWTLA).

The purpose of the MRA is to provide a framework for responsible and balanced mineral prospecting, exploration, development and production, while recognizing the following goals:

1. Regulate mineral interests efficiently, effectively and in a transparent manner;
2. Support the economy of the Northwest Territories;
3. Realize benefits from mineral development for Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the people of the Northwest Territories;
4. Ensure that wealth generated by mineral resources will be used for the benefit of present and future generations of the people of the Northwest Territories;
5. Encourage positive relationships between proponents, Indigenous governments and organizations, communities and the Government of NWT;
6. Respect Aboriginal and treaty rights;
7. Complement the systems for collaborative management of land and natural resources in the Northwest Territories;
8. Improve geological knowledge in the territory; and,
9. Recognize sustainable land use.



FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The MRA largely outlines the new legislative framework and consists of significant enabling authorities, so most details, procedures and frameworks are left to the regulations, which are “subordinate” or “secondary” legislation approved by Cabinet or the Minister, as the enabling authority may specify, and made by the Commissioner. These regulations will set out the specific rules that will govern persons/entities under the MRA and make the administrative system(s) of the MRA function

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Regulatory specific engagement session to occur April/May 2022

CONTACT

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The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley (LWBs) regulate the use of land and water, and the deposit of waste, primarily through the issuance and management of land use permits and water licences. There are four land and water boards in the Mackenzie Valley Region that perform these functions, each in their respective management areas. They include the:

- Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB)
- Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB)
- Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB)
- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)

The LWBs recently released their Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 which consists of the following four pillars: relationship building and outreach, policy and guidance, capacity building, and internal processes and policies. The Strategic Plan document is available on the LWBs' websites [here](#).

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Current LWB initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Planning and delivering virtual LWB information sessions
- Updating Online Review System (ORS) and websites
- Updating the Consultation and Engagement Policy
- Adopting MVERB Traditional Knowledge Guidelines
- Clarifying water licence renewals vs amendments
- Identifying and supporting on-the-land experiential learning opportunities/activities for Board and staff
- Implementing our policy to hire qualified staff representative of the population affected by decisions of the MVLWB, with the goal of increasing representation of Indigenous persons

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Future planned initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Soliciting feedback on how the LWBs can improve stakeholder engagement and communications
- Developing and implementing a community outreach strategy
- Identifying communication products for general outreach
- Updating the Consultation and Engagement Guidelines
- Updating the Closure and Reclamation Guidelines
- Implementation of the Updated Security Estimator
- Working with GNWT to align Quarry requirements

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

The LWBs will have various opportunities for engagement on the initiatives and projects listed above, including public reviews, working groups, surveys, etc. depending on the type of project. If you have preferences for how you'd like to be engaged on a specific project, please let us know.

CONTACT

Please contact [Sarah Elsasser](#), Senior Regulatory Policy Advisor at the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Recently completed public review of *draft Guidelines for Preliminary Screeners*. Public comments will be incorporated into a final Guideline for release by late spring / early summer 2022
- Ongoing updates to the Online Review System and Review Board website to make information more accessible and user-friendly

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Draft *Guidelines for Developers of Major Projects* describes an optional, direct pathway to environmental assessment for developers of major projects. It also outlines the information requirements for developers who wish to bring their development directly to EA. We are hoping to release a draft for public review in late spring 2022.
- Draft *Guideline for Assessing Impacts on People* outlines the Review Board's view on how impacts on people and well-being should be considered in environmental assessment. Targeted engagement sessions were held in the fall of 2021, the results of which are now being incorporated into a draft. We are hoping to release a draft for public review following the review of the Guideline for Developers of Major Projects.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the public reviews of both Guidelines mentioned above, the Review Board is exploring options for co-developing engagement plans with communities and Indigenous Government Organizations. These engagement plans can help facilitate and target engagement activities on these, and other, policy initiatives as well as on project-specific assessments.

CONTACT

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Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Recently completed a youth workshop “Stewards of the Land” which included a PPT on the GRRB, its roles and responsibilities as a Co-management Board and the complexity of Resource Management, narrated a Traditional Gwich'in Story as it relates to Caribou and modern interpretation of how is TK incorporated into modern harvesting practices and Caribou demonstration (cutting up caribou and many uses).
- Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan Update (currently in progress)
- Staff Workshop – GRRB Consultation Rules and Procedures with our Legal Counsel

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Hosting ACCWM meeting - November 2022
- Species at Risk listings and plans – number of files
- Youth Initiatives – Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship, Summer Student Jobs, working towards building a Youth component into Annual Work plan
- Wildlife Studies Fund – Call for Proposals – Opens November 2022 for the period 2023-24
- Porcupine Caribou Management Board – January 2023
- Harvest Study – June and November 2022
- Moose Survey
- Dall Sheep Survey – June 2022
- Traditional Knowledge study for Dall Sheep and Muskrat
- Community based TK – Beavers – Tsiigehtchic and Tetlit Zheh
- On-going Research initiatives
- Muskox Survey
- Research Student to hold consultations with communities on Research project
- Whitefish project
- Develop a Regional Beaver Strategy with Inuvialuit and ENR
- Research and Management Priorities Workshop – renew – September 2022
- Strategic Planning Workshop – renew – September 2022
- GRRB/DFO Annual Meeting – November 2022
- Rat River Working Group and West Side Working Group – Dolly Varden March 2023
- Preliminary Draft Regulations – Sale of Wildlife Meat In the Gwich'in Settlement Area Under 12.4.16 of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*

CONTACT

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Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The SRRB is guided by a five year strategic plan (2021-2025). The SRRB's **five year vision** is as follows: In five years, the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board will have consistently constructive, closely collaborative working relationships with the five ?ehdzo Got'jnè (Renewable Resources Councils). The Board will be supporting ?ehdzo Got'jnè to steward wildlife in their regions based on evolving, place-based priorities emphasized in community conservation plans. The Board will further support ?ehdzo Got'jnè in implementing priority stewardship projects through active community Né K'ádí Kä and Sahtú Youth Network programs within a regional network, programs that support the development of environmental leadership skills in youth, and all beneficiaries.

The following **strategic goals** shape the SRRB's activities:

1. Planning and related initiatives in the Sahtú are undertaken through community conservation planning processes
2. Community ?ehdzo Got'jnè are strong, independent organizations, fully implementing their role as defined in the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement
3. The Sahtú's Né K'ádí Kä programs are consistent, strong and sustainable
4. Research and monitoring in the Sahtú is community collaborative, and supports community and regional leaders to make wise decisions
5. Sahtú youth are strong environmental stewards and future community leaders For these goals to be achieved, the following implementation goals must also be pursued:
6. The SRRB has strong staff, contractor and partnership teams, with a central focus of building Beneficiary capacity in the Sahtú
7. The Board has secured increased and diversified funding to support Plan implementation

Program areas

The SRRB's programs to achieve the strategic goals incorporate youth, elders, knowledge holders, women and men in balance as much as possible. Where possible programs take an on the land approach, and are oriented to supporting community-led Né K'ádíke – Keepers of the Land programs. Engagement is integrated with all programs.

- **Community conservation planning and Public Listening Session (PLS - Hearing)** on the central question, "What should people's role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?" This PLS has been delayed due to the pandemic, but preparations have taken place and the event is expected to take place early in 2022. Preparations are also underway for tǫdzi (boreal caribou) range planning in partnership with ENR.
- **?ehdzo Got'jnè and environmental leadership capacity-building**
 - Dene Béré (Country Food) Community Harvesting and Sharing Program – Increasing food security through community harvesting programs
 - Gender Working Group
 - Sahtú Youth Network

- Digital NWT – Digital literacy training
- Né K'è Dene Ts'ìlì - Living on the Land Forum
- COVID-19 On the Land program and evaluation

- **Research and monitoring**

- Nío Né P'ènè – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Hub, including five sub-projects.
 - Following the trails of the caribou
 - Understanding caribou landscapes
 - Mapping knowledge
 - Livelihoods and climate change
 - Renewing governance
- “A Century of Petroleum Extraction at Tłegóhłì (Norman Wells)
- Dene language resurgence initiative (with Délı̨nę)
- Food security
- Water monitoring

- **SRRB capacity**

- The SRRB hired two Research Managers and a Community Conservation Planner in 2021. In 2022, we expect to hire two additional Community Conservation Planners.
- We have continued our internship program, and hope to expand this as the professional staff team expands.
- Training has included courses in Healthy Country Planning, professionalism, wellness – and we’re preparing for a course in facilitation.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

- Public Listening Sessions 2021 – 2024
 - 2022: Wildfires and climate change
 - 2023: Knowledge about caribou and landscapes
 - 2024: Caribou and the mixed economy

CONTACT

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Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Management Proposals

- Currently, reviewing the joint management proposal submissions from Tł'chǫ Government & Government of the Northwest Territories for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds. The proposals are open for comment on the WRRB's Management Proposals page until April 15, 2022: <https://www.wrrb.ca/management-proposals>.
- Ongoing implementation of determinations and recommendations related to the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding.
- Ongoing review of wildlife research permit, timber cutting permit and scientific licence applications as well as land use permit and water licence applications.

Management Plans/Initiatives

- Membership on the Advisory Committee for Cooperation of Wildlife Management; implementing the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan by meeting annually to determine the status of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds.
- Membership on the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee, which recently completed the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and held its first annual meeting for determining herd status.
- Membership on the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group.
- Membership on the Wek'èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan Working Group, which recently completed an interim plan to meet the EA measure related to the Tł'chǫ Highway.
- Membership on the Mackenzie Wood Bison Working Group.
- Membership on the Grizzly Bear/Wolverine Biological & Management Feasibility Working Group, which has recently completed and submitted the Grizzly Bear assessment.
- Membership on the Species at Risk Committee and the Conference of Management Authorities.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

No specific initiatives/projects currently planned

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

No specific opportunities at this time

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Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Finalizing wording in the 2018 version of the draft revised plan. Currently working with CIRNAC on legal interpretation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement regarding how the land use plan and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board policy provide integrated management of commercial renewable resource activities.

Looking ahead to the next comprehensive review of the land use plan, the GLUPB hired a senior planner, Vince Deschamps, for a two-year term in February of 2020. One of his biggest projects was to initiate a Natural Capital and Ecosystem Service Assessment of the Gwich'in Settlement Area based on contemporary literature on the topic in concert with current biophysical data and research pertaining to the provision of ecosystem services in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). Natural Capital is held by the natural ecological systems (such as forests, rivers, wetlands, etc.) that exist within a defined geographic landscape at a given point in time. These ecological systems are recognized as Valued Ecological Components (VECs) due to the valuable ecosystem services they provide. There is a stakeholder engagement element to this assessment that will be done in the coming year.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Fully initiate the next comprehensive review of the land use plan as the revised plan approaches approval.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

The GLUPB is always open to people or organizations bringing land use issues to the board for discussion and potential action, such as those that might require exceptions or amendments to the land use plan.

The Board will start engaging stakeholders to prepare for the the next comprehensive review of the land use plan. This will be concurrent with the approval process for the existing draft revised land use plan as it wraps up. This includes engagement specific to Natural Capital and Ecosystem Service Assessment already mentioned, but other elements like issues scoping with all stakeholders.

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Sahtú Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB)

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

These are a list of projects completed in the past year, or projects which staff are currently working on:

- Adoption by the SLUPB of 2 amendment packages to the Sahtú Land Use Plan (SLUP): 5-Year Review and Ts'udé Njíhé Tuyeta amendments
 - Both have been approved by the Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated and are awaiting approval by GNWT and Canada.
- Worked with Regulators on getting the list of authorization and dispositions that considered the SLUP and publish the first annual Monitoring & Evaluation report.
- Staff are currently working on an updated SLUP Background Report, compiling information about the Sahtú Settlement Area.
- Staff are finalizing the graphic design of a SLUP Plain Language document, complete with translations of main concepts into Dene Kədá. This will be released when there is more information regarding the remaining approvals to the 5-Year Review amendment package.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The following is a brief summary of the initiatives planned for this year:

- Redesign the SLUPB's Website and implement a new online Registry using SharePoint (same platform as the LWBs online Registry). The idea is that a similar Registry from the LWBs may help get more people engaged in the SLUP's processes, as it would look very similar.
- Work with Regulators on developing procedures for conformity checks to the SLUP. Many Regulators were unaware of the requirement to check the plan prior to issuing authorizations or dispositions.
- Support Approving Parties (SSI, GNWT, and Canada) with the approvals of SLUP Amendments, and work on the graphic design of the final documents prior to their release.
- Work with Regulators on updating the SLUP Implementation Guide, as to include information that is most relevant to Proponents in interpreting the SLUP.
- Research project on addressing climate change in the SLUP. As climate change is of great concern to many residents of the Sahtú and is a theme always brought-up through engagement, it is important to see how the SLUP can work to mitigate these risks.
- Release the second annual report on the SLUP's Monitoring & Evaluation and develop a framework for monitoring the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving its vision and goals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

The Sahtú Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) was planning community engagement in all Sahtú communities in February 2022, along with the Sahtú Land & Water Board and the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board. The idea behind the community tour is to engage with Sahtú residents and let them know what the Board is doing, without needing to engage on a particular topic. Virtual engagement strategies do not work well, only gaining a small segment of the population; therefore, it was planned to be in-person. However, this was postponed due to concerns about the COVID-19 virus in some of the communities. In the meantime, the SLUPB is working with the school in Fort Good Hope to do an activity with high school students on the role of the co-management Boards in implementing the land claim agreement. This will get youth interested, get them participating in implementing the land claim, and provide staff with other perspectives on what future work should be done. The idea behind this is to do

a similar activity at the other schools as part of the community tour (when the COVID-19 risk subsides and communities are comfortable to host visitors).

Social Media Strategy: As part of the SLUPB's communication strategy and an outcome from its strategic plan, the SLUPB started a social media page as to engage a different group of Sahtú residents that we had not been able to connect with through traditional engagement.

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GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, *Legislative Initiatives*

RECENT AND CURRENT INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is continuing to advance its legislative initiatives included in the 19th Legislative Assembly's Legislative Agenda. This includes:

Forest Act

ENR is advancing work on a new Forest Act to create a modern regulatory framework for forest resources in the NWT, rooted in the principles of cooperative management. The new Forest Act would repeal and replace the *Forest Management Act* and *Forest Protection Act*. ENR is committed to the collaborative development of a Forest Act Bill with the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations that are not members of the IGC, and renewable resources boards. ENR hopes to have a Bill ready for introduction during the February/March 2023 session of the 19th Legislative Assembly.

FUTURE PLANNED INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Waters Act and Environmental Protection Act

Moving forward on work to amend the *Waters Act* and *Environmental Protection Act* is subject to the timing of the review of the Devolution Agreement's provisions respecting the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and decisions regarding the devolution of the MVRMA.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Targeting summer of 2022 for public engagement on the proposed Forest Act.

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INFORMATION ON NWT BOARD FORUM TRAINING

Want to learn more about the co-management and integrated system of land and water management established through the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*?

Visit

<https://training.nwtboardforum.com/>

And sign up for free courses on Board orientation*, administrative law, and renewable resources management

* Part 1 of the Board Orientation course provides a helpful introduction to land and resource management in the NWT.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the NWT Board Forum. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, COURSES, ABOUT, CONTACT, REGISTER, and a search icon. To the right of the navigation is an email address: JANE@BRIDGEBUILDING.CA. Below the navigation is a large banner with the text "Welcome to the NWT Board Forum" and "Select a Training Course Below". The background of the banner is a blurred image of people in a conference room. Below the banner, there are three blue boxes, each representing a training course:

- BOARD ORIENTATION**: Features a person icon. Description: The purpose of this course is to prepare NWT Board Forum members and staff to fulfill their role effectively as it relates to the NWT's integrated and coordinated resource management system. Link: Download Board Orientation Reference Guide
- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**: Features a key icon. Description: The purpose of this course is to ensure that NWT Board Forum members have the knowledge & tools required to make effective and independent decisions that meet the requirements under administrative law. Link: Download Administrative Law Reference Guide
- RENEWABLE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**: Features a recycling icon. Description: The purpose of this course is to increase the awareness of NWT Board members and staff with respect to renewable resources management in the territory. Link: Download Renewable Resources Management Reference Guide