



# Take a Kid Trapping & Harvesting Report 2013-2014



Northwest  
Territories

Industry, Tourism and Investment • Municipal and Community Affairs  
• Environment and Natural Resources

Canada



This publication is a compilation of program reports received from schools, community groups and associations that participated in a Take a Kid Trapping and/or Take a Kid Harvesting Program in 2013 - 2014. Aside from minor edits, reports in this publication have been reproduced verbatim.

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# Introduction

For 2013/2014, the Take a Kid Trapping/ Harvesting Program supported 46 projects involving 1,726 youth participants at a total cost of \$301,994.

## Purpose

This Program is designed to introduce Northwest Territories (NWT) youth to the traditional life-skills practices of hunting, trapping, fishing and outdoor survival. It is designed for youth of all ages as a means to build on the traditional practice of passing on skills and knowledge to the next generation. The Program was developed in 2002 out of concern that the average age of a trapper/harvester was 60; it was believed that the survival of traditional harvesting practices would be threatened if more youth were not encouraged to participate.

## Partners - Delivery

The Program is administered and managed by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) in partnership with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Agriculture Canada. Program delivery is done through schools and Aboriginal organizations in co-operation with ITI, MACA, and ENR. Interested groups must prepare and submit an application for funding to the Regional Superintendents of ITI. Applications are reviewed by regional committees made up of representatives of ITI, ENR, and MACA.

Successful applicants hire instructors and incorporate on the land programs to promote hands-on experience setting traps, snares, fishnets and other traditional life skills, while promoting conservation and best practices in the preparation of pelts for market.

## Take a Kid Harvesting

The Federal Government renewed the Agricultural Policy Framework with the GNWT in 2013; the new five year agreement is Growing Forward II. This is a cost shared program that aims to build capacity within the agriculture and agri-foods sector in the North. ITI successfully leveraged additional funding for the Take a Kid Trapping program by developing a sister program (Take a Kid Harvesting) that met the Growing Forward requirements of harvesting a food source. 2013/14 was the fourth year of accessing Growing Forward contributions. **For the 2013/2014 year, 23 Take a Kid Harvesting projects qualified under Growing Forward II.**

Take a Kid Trapping/Harvesting Projects 2013/2014

	Sahtu	Dehcho	Beaufort Delta	South Slave	North Slave	Total
Take a Kid Trapping	0	1	5	6	4	16
Take a Kid Harvesting	4	5	6	5	3	23
Community Hunt	2	1	2	2	0	7
Regional Total	6	7	13	13	7	46
Participants	60	272	470	521	403	1,726

# Sahtu Region

## Mackenzie Mountain School - Norman Wells

The Mackenzie Mountain School's On the Land program provided students with an opportunity to learn about traditional trapping, camping and harvesting practices. This project was done by providing students with a chance to learn from the local Elder and instructors, who took them on the land to survive frigid temperatures in canvas tents.

Students were able to learn all the skills they needed to spend time in a traditional setting, including setting up a traditional fishing net under the ice and ice safety, constructing a base camp for trapping or harvesting purposes, setting snares and trap-lines, how to build basic survival shelters, use traditional and outdoor survival equipment as well as the traditional medicinal use of plants.

Twelve students participated directly in the program, and through student presentations and skills workshops, many more students at the school will benefit from this program.

Using community, oral, written and on-line resources—including the stories told by local Elders—students researched and prepared a presentation using maps, charts, tables, pictures and diagrams, visual and/or audio tools to show how first people lived during pre-contact times in a northern community or region of their choice.

## Chief T'selehye School - Fort Good Hope

Six students from Chief T'selehye School—three boys and three girls—were taken out onto the land and taught basic skills for surviving in the bush by two instructors. The students ranged in age from 10 to 16-years-old.

Each day the students were challenged with learning different bush skills. They were shown the basics of land skills, traditional and cultural knowledge and survival skills. The importance of daily camp maintenance, or as we call it, daily chores, was also emphasized. Each student participated in all daily responsibilities,

including hauling wood, chopping and keeping the wood boxes full, hauling water, doing dishes and maintaining cleanliness.

The students learned how to build a lean-to shelter and set up a tent, prepare and set snares, as well as skin and butcher rabbits. They also learned about traditional medicine, and the instructor showed them spruce gum and what it is used for. The girls were taught how to make bannock and all students were taught safety, especially in handling axes and the chainsaw.

The program was good because each student was held responsible for the work individually and as a team. It was hard work, but peaceful and enjoyable to pass on bush-life skills, and the kids had fun playing at the end of the day.

## Colville Lake School - Colville Lake

In the past, fishing the ice net constituted the majority of the harvesting program at Colville Lake School. While still an important part of the system, students suggested that more time be spent outdoors snaring rabbits. Building on last year's tracking successes, students set rabbit snares again this year.

The grade 4/5/6/7 class set rabbit snares on a couple of hills in the backcountry and checked them routinely throughout the year. A handful of rabbits caught generated quite the buzz in the school. Students learned the importance of checking snares on a regular schedule, as one rabbit hide was damaged from scavengers. With the remaining quality rabbits, students skinned the hide, prepared rabbit stew and tanned the hide for rabbit mitts.

Local elder Laura Tobac harvested a ptarmigan this year and brought it to the school. The students diversified their skinning techniques to include this bird. Some students compared the ptarmigan to duck, and wanted to pluck the bird. Others compared it to rabbit and skinned it instead. Tasty in stew either way!



## South Slave Region

### Deninu School – Fort Resolution

Deninu School arranged a Culture Week running from 17-21 March incorporating local community members who took students onto the land to participate in traditional activities based on survival skills passed on from generation to generation.

Students listened to Elders and observed their methods of trapping and fishing, and preparing furs and fish for selling or eating. Elders discussed methods of trapping and demonstrated the use of several traps to students in Kindergarten through to grade 9. Students were reminded of rules and regulations governing trapping and the Elders talked about the fur trade in terms of being an economic activity in the Northwest Territories.

Cultural activities were embedded in the week, included drumming, hand games, a traditional feast and dogsledding. A local Elder talked about fur products and displayed her arts and crafts based on fur and leather. Two local ladies talked to the students about the fur clothing and accessories they create. A mitt making class took place earning a Careers and Technology Studies (CTS) credit for some of our High School students.

Students were taught about safety and survival skills for each of the activities. Care was taken to educate students on looking at the health of animals and fish used for food. High expectations for safety, listening and following rules and teachings were maintained.

### Diamond Jenness Secondary School – Hay River

As part of the Take a Kid Trapping and Harvesting program, 36 campers from Diamond Jenness Secondary School went on the land to Steve Beck's camp for a total of five camps with 7-10 students at each camp.

Activities included tracking, trapping, hunting, pelt and food preparation, orienteering, camp, and wilderness skills.

Many of the students look forward to these camps and activities year after year, gaining new skills and competencies. The camps were a great success again this year and all the program objectives were met.



## École Boréale – Hay River

École Boréale's Take a Kid Trapping Program is designed to introduce youth in the Northwest Territories to the Traditional Harvesting practices of hunting, trapping, fishing and outdoor survival. The program is delivered through schools and partner organizations and in co-operation with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

Instructors incorporate visits to trap lines and hands-on experience setting traps, snares and fishnets, to teach traditional life skills, conservation and best practices in the preparation of pelts for market.

The objective is to create fun and safe experiences for students to enjoy the outdoors while also developing knowledge, aptitudes and self-confidence that do not always translate in the classroom.

All of École Boréale's students participate in at least one of our seasonal camps during the school year. These camps include a fall harvest leadership camp, a winter trapping camp, winter fishing excursions on Great Slave Lake setting and pulling nets, gutting and dressing fish with a local commercial fisherman, observing NWT furbearers in school presentations and participating in a spring beaver hunt.

## J.B. Tyrell Elementary School – Fort Smith

We have just completed our 10<sup>th</sup> year of highly successful camps at J.B. Tyrell Elementary School. In the end, 24 students took part in the three-day, two-night camps for an all-inclusive cultural experience. For the course of each camp session, the students were actively involved in setting and checking traps, travelling by snowmobile to harvest beaver, as well as take part in the preparation of the furs.

This year, local Elder and former trapper of the location, Raymond Beaver, provided students with much historical knowledge of the area and constantly told stories and jokes to keep them occupied. Raymond certainly provided students with knowledge they could not gain from other sources. Some of the activities were setting traps for beaver, checking traps, skinning, fleshing and stretching pelts, preparing meat and fish for smoking, and bush skills such as making fire and building shelter.

Appropriate licenses for the trapping of animals were applied for and granted by ENR and supported by the local Band and Metis. Students were also asked to keep a journal of their daily activities and reflections about their on-the-land experiences that were shared with classmates upon their return. A final celebration is to be held in late May when student certificates and other appreciation awards will be presented.

## Paul W. Kaiser High School – Fort Smith

Paul W. Kaiser Winter Camp is an on the land winter camp experience for students in grades 10 and 11. Traditional skills addressed include winter travel and navigation, winter survival, trapping and skinning "in season" animals such as beaver and lynx, as well as setting and pulling nets, all within a Cree language context.

Twelve students and four instructors participated in Winter Camp this year. Students successfully learned and applied traditional hunting and trapping skills, as well as winter bush survival skills, all within a Cree Language cultural context. Students also earned three CTS Wilderness credits.



# North Slave Region

## Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School - Behchokò

With the support of the Take a Kid Trapping contribution, Chief Jimmy Bruneau School was able to take students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 on the land to experience cultural education for half the month of December.

Students, teachers and cultural workers all experienced great success on the land, seeing and harvesting fish, rabbits, ptarmigan and grouse. The students were also exposed by way of Elders to the traditional ways of setting up camp, proper techniques in securing it and the many uses of tools found at a campsite. The Elders also discussed the history of the campsites around the region and the tales they have experienced over many years of being on the land. Many students exclaimed that camp was great—they loved being there and wanted to stay longer.

Supplementary to the regular Tlicho cultural programming, this year's winter camps also highlighted some key safety training for the students. Students were taught and mastered the following skills: bannock making, snowmobile operation and safety, snaring and skinning, and bush safety. These were huge successes that we will continue to include in the on the land programming.

## Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School - Behchokò

The Take a Kid Trapping program at Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School gave students the opportunity to experience traditional Tlicho ways of life and survival. By using Tlicho history of the way we lived off the land traditionally and incorporating the ways of today, students were taught the importance of survival on the land. All the students that participated learned through hands-on activities from the Elders and the cultural instructors and all our expectations of teaching students about surviving on the land were met.

Students travelled by snowmobile and participated in ice fishing, setting traps, setting their beds and observing the skinning of a muskrat and the preparation of camp meals.

Overall, everyone had a good experience while at camp. Teachers had the opportunity to observe students in a different element and enjoyed learning with them outside of a classroom setting. Teachers and students learned new things about the land and about the language by listening to the Elders. We feel that we met our learning outcomes through our experiences.



## Jean Wetrade School - Gameti

Thanks to Take a Kid Trapping funding this year, we were able to do our first overnight trip with the Junior and Senior High students on the dogsleds. They absolutely loved it! What a great week. The dogsleds allowed us to take even our pre-school students out on the land, something that was not possible on our traditional winter camps.

Each class (K-12) participated in a one-day dogsledding trip involving snaring, setting nets, pulling out nets/fish, cleaning and cooking fish, and a lunch.

Students learned traditional and on the land hunting and dogsledding skills. Approximately 30 fish were harvested—a mixture of northern pike, trout and whitefish.

We invited parents and community members to take turns on the dogsleds as well as the students, and organized a family day where parents could sled with their children.

Seventy-five students participated and there was a great community turnout for family day, which was a nice change from previous years.



## K'alemi Dene School - N'dilo

All K'alemi Dene students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 had the opportunity to attend our trapping camps. This year, our high school class helped with the construction of a new trapline, about a 20-minute snowmobile ride from our school and close to our tent frame. Once our base camp was set up, we ran four sets of camps for rabbit snaring, as well as marten, beaver and muskrat trapping.

Every class rotated through each camp, and each camp followed a similar routine. After a safety talk, students travelled by snowmobile to the trap line. We watched demonstrations, set traps and retrieved any captured animals before returning to our tent frame to warm up. There, we participated in lessons about important aspects of trapping and traditional trapping knowledge. Whenever possible, we incorporated Wiilideh Yatii into our lessons.

Due to cold weather in March, we delayed our muskrat and beaver camps until April. During our muskrat camp this year, we stopped and cooked muskrats on a fire for lunch, and George Tatsiechele taught the students traditional games including snow snake and pole push.

Once our trapping camps were finished, our Wiilideh Yatii classes focused on improving the students' understanding of trapping-relevant vocabulary through learning how to handle furs, preparing meat and tasting different types of animals.

Additionally, teachers incorporated our trapping experiences into a variety of writing and science activities integrated with the appropriate grade-level curriculum.

## Lutsel K'e Dene School - Lutsel K'e

This year's fall caribou hunt in Ptarmigan River was meant for families that travel here to harvest meat until winter freeze-up, to teach youth the lessons these hunters learned in their youth, share stories of the past, and keep the tradition of the fall caribou hunt alive and meaningful. Forty-seven people participated in the hunt, including 11 youths.

The caribou were abundant and all families were able to harvest as much meat as they could dry and carry back to their cabins and traplines. In the old days, sometimes food was scarce and there were times of struggle, but when the migration came through this region, many caribou were harvested and it was a time of plenty. Without the need to dedicate all waking hours to hunting for food, the families were allowed time for fun and enjoyment, as well as craft making and sharing stories from different parts of the territory.

There were charters that flew out on Friday September 27, more on Monday September 30, those charters bringing new hunters in and other hunters out, and the final pick-ups came on Thursday and Friday October 3 and 4. The contribution from DDEC covered the costs of the first and busiest day of flying, where we saw four planes, 36 people, all their gear and two dogs make the trip to Ptarmigan River. The cost of the remaining flights were covered by the community, as well as gas for the boats, rental of some necessary equipment, and scouting trips at the beginning of the hunt.

Over the week, each person who travelled here for the hunt left with something to take home. The atmosphere in camp was positive, families were helping each other out and sharing the harvest, and there were a great deal of laughs.



## Yellowknife Catholic School Board – Yellowknife

Our Take a Kid Trapping program was again a success and was very well received by our Aboriginal students who participated this year. Our focus this year was small-scale trapping. We chose small groups of students who had expressed an interest in trapping and traditional skills from the past.

These students were then trained by Aboriginal resource personnel and Elders how to set up and manage a small-scale trapline over a three-month period. Students then were asked to produce a plan showing how to best use the fur they harvested so as to benefit the group. It was determined that next school year, small groups of girls will make beaver, muskrat or fox mitts as part of a girl's coming-of-age program we run at Weledeh School. This fur was harvested by the students, will be tanned by students in the program and will become mitts made by some of the students who trapped the animals. We employed two members of the Yellowknives Dene Band for the majority of the project and often had several others employed as teachers and resource people during the course of the program.

## Yellowknife School District #1 – Yellowknife

As part of YK1's commitment to Aboriginal Education and the integration of Dene Kede, we have developed a series of ten on the land cultural experiences through the Aboriginal Cultural Experience (ACE) program, for students at all grade levels. In 2013/14 we had up to 250 students from seven YK1 schools that attended the ACE camps that focus on trapping.

We received funding from ITI to enhance the Grade nine Winter Camp (December 2-6, 2013) and Grade four Trapping Camp (April 7-11, 2014). B Dene Adventures was contracted to provide the sites and help organize both camps. Local Aboriginal resource people provided demonstrations & instruction. Approximately 110 Grade nine students and 139 Grade four students participated.

All students at these camps had the opportunity to learn about the winter activities, such as setting and checking a fish net under the ice, setting beaver and muskrat traps, skinning & stretching beaver, and doing everyday activities in a camp setting.

YK teachers attended the camps as supervisors and had the opportunity to learn more about trapping. Our Dene Kede Facilitator, Sheila Stewart, organized the Grade nine Winter Camp in collaboration with the contractor and was on site to monitor the activities. Mike Johnston, Ecole Sir John Franklin (ESJF) teacher, organized the school portion of the Grade nine Winter Camp.



# Dehcho Region

## **Bompas Elementary School - Fort Simpson** *Spring Cultural Camp*

The Spring Cultural Camp at Bompas Elementary School enables students to become skillful on and respectful of the land and earn respect from their peers as well as adults. It teaches traditional Dene knowledge and skills, as well as minimizing the impacts of the camp's waste through composting, recycling and proper storage of camp garbage.

Before we started the activities for the day, the students organized their belongings, did chores like gathering firewood and putting the water jugs in their rightful place. Camp rules were reviewed and the students alternated participating in activities throughout the day, including fishing, learning how prepare and set rabbit snares, learning the history of bows and arrows in harvesting, learning how to set fish nets, how to clean fish and cook them over an open fire as well as make dry fish, and discussions on how the Dene gathered, prepared and preserved fish and other game a long time ago.

The students also learned the importance of harvesting plants for nutrition, medicine and survival, and made traditional lunch for the workers, teachers and themselves from harvested foods. Other activities included making bannock, sewing bags to collect berries and plants, hunting, making a moose caller and hiking to the falls.

## **Bompas Elementary School - Fort Simpson** *Fall Cultural Camp*

The Fall Cultural Camp at Bompas Elementary School helps students understand the importance and meaning of their relationship to the land, and that the land has provided the Dene with everything they needed to survive for thousands of years. Trapping has always been a way of life for the Dene, and students learn that it can be a means of earning or supplementing income in the North.

Before we started the activities for the day, the students organized their belongings and did chores like gathering firewood. Camp rules were reviewed and the students alternated participating in activities throughout the day, including making sling shots, bows and arrows, setting fish nets, rabbit snares and loche hooks. The students also learned about outdoor survival, firearm and knife safety, and how to harvest plants, berries and vegetables from our garden as well as sew different sized bags for collecting treasures.

## **Charles Yohin School - Nahanni Butte**

From September 23 to 27, students at Charles Yohin School took part in the Fall Harvest at a location known as Netla. It is a settlement about 30 minutes south of Nahanni Butte by boat. Flora and Frances (residents of Nahanni Butte) have a cabin there and hosted the students and volunteers for a couple of days during the Fall Harvest. The hosts talked to the students about many of the traditional ways they use the land. This consisted of gathering a variety of berries and other things in nature that can be used as food as well as medicines and healing agents. Students were taught how to set up snares and how to set up a weir. Students were also taught how to filet fish and cook it properly over a fire.

The last couple of days consisted of a couple of day trips from Nahanni Butte into the surroundings nearby. Students and chaperones were able to carry supplies out into the woods, into a clearing near the Nahanni River. Here, the students went hiking with the chaperones where they gathered berries and leaves used in teas. Students learned where the Elders used to set snare lines. At the camp itself, students listened to the locals as they described how they used to do the gathering and harvesting and where the best places were to do these things.

The Fall Harvest was a success in that the students learned new skills or at the very least had existing skills refreshed. On their way to Netla, students gained valuable knowledge about their surroundings as they made their way south down the Liard River. They learned where the good fishing areas were, where to collect

berries, and where they could find other things to gather from the land such as leaves and berries that are used for medicinal purposes.

The Fall Harvest also creates an opportunity for the local residents and Elders to participate and to share their knowledge.

### Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School - Fort Providence

The format at the Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School was changed this year so classes went out in week blocks. The focus for the K-3 program was on setting snares and having the students see the hunters fix the skins.

We built a cabin at the Horn River this year so our elementary classes went out for four and five day camps. The focus was on learning winter skills, setting snares with the girls, traps with the boys, and teaching them how to fix skins. They also set nets.

Every student in the school was given the opportunity to go out for one week. Approximately 60% of our students went out, 90+ students.

### Liidlii Kue First Nation - Fort Simpson

The Youth Culture Camp was hosted by North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge at Cli Lake from September 14 to 19, 2013, in partnership with Thomas Simpson Junior High School and Liidlii Kue First Nation(LKFN) - Brighter Futures Program. The goal of the annual camp is to introduce, teach and familiarize Dene and non-Dene youth to the Dene language and culture in a remote wilderness setting. The camp gave students a chance to learn the language while learning practical wilderness survival and cultural activities. The camp brought the participants back to the land and introduced them to a unique and beautiful part of the LKFN traditional lands.

On the first day of the camp participants traveled by twin otter plane to Cli Lake and briefed on lodge and camp rules. The participants were allowed free time to burn off the excitement of being in such a beautiful setting. On the second day the participants learned how to set and check a fish net. All participants learned how to clean fish three different ways. The girls learned to make necklaces or sew what they wanted. With their chaperone and cultural advisor, the boys read and shared what they learned of the big game in LKFN traditional territory. Participants reviewed and learned wilderness survival techniques, how to build a lean-to and set a trap. The youth also made atlatls for throwing spears as well as homemade hatchets. Participants learned how to shoot a .22 caliber rifle under the watchful eyes and security of Edward Cholo and Neal Phillips. There were a couple of days of weather that limited outdoor activities, but allowed for more teachings inside. The intimate classroom setting made for great discussions. All students actively participated.

Other unique features of the camp were the facilities and time of year the camp was hosted. The participants were able to live comfortably while being in the bush and experiencing the land in a fall/winter setting. We had 18 participants, 12 boys and six girls. However, up to 25 people were at the lodge participating and working to make the camp a success. Dene language use and teachings were part of the daily ritual of the camp for the participants. The language was spoken and classroom teachings were taught as part of the program.



## Louie Norwegian School - Jean Marie River

Students of Louie Norwegian School spent the winter of 2014 trapping near Jean Marie River. Students began their trapping adventure on January 14 with the help of Richard and Rufus Sanguéz, who first helped them to bait their 21 marten traps. A few days later Rufus Sanguéz, principal Kent Bratton and six students set out down an old trap line about five km long on the outskirts of Jean Marie River to set the marten traps.

Over the next month and a half the students and their teacher set rabbit snares and checked their marten traps twice weekly, eagerly anticipating any marten, ermine or rabbits they may have caught. By February 28 the students had caught three marten, two ermine and one rabbit (not in a snare, but in marten trap). At the end of February, Richard Sanguéz visited the school again, this time to teach the students how to skin the animals they had trapped. The rabbit was skinned and the meat was given to an Elder in the community. The rest of the animal furs are now on display at the school. Over the course of the winter most of the projected outcomes were met. Students learned to identify a number of animal tracks, how to bait, set and check marten traps as well as how to set rabbit snares.

## Sambaa K'e Dene Band - Trout Lake

Sambaa K'e Dene Band received a contribution for the Take a Kid Harvesting program that allowed opportunities for our youth to learn harvester's skills from the active harvesters in the community.

Take a Kid Harvesting was very successful and beneficial to the youth in the community of Trout Lake. Active harvesters took the youth to their outpost cabin on the land and spent ten days there for trapper training. During that period, the youth got hands-on learning identifying fur bearing tracks and the kind of forest different fur bearing animals such as marten and lynx inhabit.

The harvester demonstrated the safety rules when setting conibear traps, and then the youth set conibear traps for beaver, muskrats, lynx, wolverine, marten and weasel. Also the youth learned how to set snares for beaver and rabbits.

The youth checked the traps regularly and they learned how to skin, flesh and dry the skins such as marten, beaver, wolverine, lynx, etc.

As the result, the youth were motivated to go out on the land and practice the trapping skills they gained from their hands-on learning. The youth also learned how to survive out on the land when trapping in different weather conditions.



# Beaufort Delta Region

## Angik School - Paulatuk

The Take a Kid Harvesting project was based around a fall caribou hunt supported by orientation and instruction in On the Land situations. Instruction in survival skills, setting up camp, traditional knowledge, firearm safety, legislation, and best practices were essential learning outcomes.

The project involved seven students over approximately five-day trips on the land. Due to cold and windy weather conditions, our activities were restricted to the area around the Hornoday River. The first trips were made on November 28, 29, and December 1, 2013. The last trip was made on March 26, 2014. Unfortunately, the daily searches for caribou did not produce any results. Apparently, the caribou herds were not in proximity at that time.

Following the daily caribou search, the students were instructed in ice fishing on the Hornoday River. Demonstrations of setting char nets under the ice were very interesting to students and all students participated. Also, during free time, students took part in fishing for char with lures. On the final day, following a brief search for caribou, our guides took students on a ptarmigan hunt.

Four local guides/instructors/monitor assisted with the program. Gilbert Thrasher acted as coordinator, Annie Wolki as monitor, and Andy Kudlak and Dwayne Illasiak as instructors/guides.

While the caribou hunt proved unsuccessful in terms of harvest, students did gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the land around Paulatuk, the resources that it has to offer, and the traditional importance of these resources to the survival of the Inuvialuit People. In learning traditional skills associated with the caribou hunt and under ice fish netting methods, the participating students are now better prepared to continue to hunt and fish for sustenance in the area, with an increased knowledge of environmental and conservation concerns.

Also, engaging the community by hiring local guides, Elders, and teachers will develop respectful connections between the community, school, youth and Elders.

## East Three Elementary School - Inuvik

On September 16, 12 students packed up the vehicles to leave for the caribou hunt down the Dempster Highway. We had three trucks and ENR assisted with taking some of the gear down to Midway Lake. Along the way we identified different landmarks for the students. We stopped in McPherson to fuel our vehicles before leaving for Midway Lake.

Students participated in gun safety and sighting a rifle in, food preparation, hiking, listening to Robert Alexie talk of the traditional hunting grounds between Fort McPherson and Midway Lake at Rock River campground, cooking over an open fire and how to light a fire, identifying animals and animal tracks, preparing and gathering fire wood, camp life, hunting and looking for caribou, harvesting ptarmigan and cleaning them for supper, and eating traditional food of moose chili and moose stew.

The weather was very co-operative and the students had a great time even though no animals were harvested. We did not see any caribou but the students did get to see seven grizzly bears.





## East Three Elementary School – Inuvik

On September 23, the group left Inuvik in three boats and headed out to the school cabin, looking and calling for moose along the way. We arrived in the morning and packed all of our supplies into the cabin. Students were briefed on the cabin and area as well as safety issues that would pertain to the week.

Students had the opportunity to learn how to call moose, what moose tracks look like as well as learn about some of the areas that moose are more than likely to be seen. We stopped at creeks as we travelled and students had the chance to catch Northern Pike (Jackfish) and Coney.

Students participated in activities including open-fire cook outs, how to start a fire, gathering fire wood, how to clean a duck, how to clean a fish, identifying tracks, how to call a moose with a bull call and a cow call, identifying landmarks and channels, boat safety and water safety, and cooking on an open fire.

Students stayed busy for the whole week and the weather stayed in our favour for the entire trip. We traveled many different channels and were able to see a lot of country. There were no moose spotted, as has been the case in the Delta for the most part this year.

## East Three Elementary School – Inuvik

On September 30, the group left Inuvik by boat on Monday, and arrived at our school cabin at 11 AM. We did not attempt to get to Yaya Lake on the recommendation of Sam Lennie, our Elder, who said that the wind was too rough and it would not be safe. In the morning the weather was still bad and we made the call to run the programs out of the cabins for the week.

Students were also shown the various landmarks along the way to our cabin, making them more aware of the area that they will one day travel in.

Sam Lennie was our guide to the area and talked with students about gun safety and the importance of sighting your rifle in. We saw some geese, swans, ducks and many other birds. The students were shown many ways of how you can still live off the land. Students ate

wild meat while on the trip, such as duck, moose and fish (Lake Trout and Coney).

Students had the chance to do some fishing in the evening for Coney and Jackfish. We did not harvest any animals because this was a berry picking and plant identification.

Students also participated in camp life such as filling the wood box, getting water, cleaning around the cabin, cooking, washing dishes and learning about solar power, as well as how to use a generator.


Despite the weather, we were still able to maintain safety as our guideline and take the students to our cabin for five days. Since the money had already been spent on fuel, elders, food, it would have been a waste to cancel the whole program. Having a back-up plan paid off, and everyone had a wonderful trip.

## East Three Elementary School – Inuvik

Once again this year we had every student in our school (320) participate in the on the land program, taking all of them on eight different days to where Boot Lake meets the East Branch. Two local people, Angus Alunik and Sam Lennie, gave students the opportunity to learn about camp life in the Gwich'in language as well as in Inuvialuit. Ms. Kay and Ms. Johns taught the students about camp life, and the Aboriginal languages were reinforced on these days. Students also learned how to set up a tent and collect spruce bow branches to line the floor with, as well as how to set and make rabbit snares with Mr. Sam Lennie. Each student learned how to set a fish net under the ice and how to check it, as well as the fish they saw in the net.

In the afternoon, students had either chili or stew with bannock. Afterwards, we checked rabbit snares along the trail as we headed over to the Boot Lake Hill to learn how to start a fire and the difference between wet wood and dry wood. Students roasted marshmallows and learned how to make ice art from Mrs. MacAuley. Half of the class did the art while half of the class slid on Boot Lake Hill.

This program continues to be very successful, with each student in our school getting to learn about traditional



life in and around a tent. Students learn about how life was long ago from our Elders and each of them gets to see how you can still live off the land in the winter. The message is that nature has a lot to offer. Thanks once again to Environment and Natural Resources for providing an officer to talk about their job as well as discuss how we must live with wildlife in our community and how students should leave traps alone if they find one.

### East Three Elementary School - Inuvik

Forty-two Grade three students left Inuvik on separate trips last March. Students were able to travel on either a snowmobile or in a toboggan. Our local guide stopped and pointed out various landmarks, including East Branch River, Big Lake, Semmler Lake, St. Amand cabin and school cabin were pointed out.

Once at the cabin, students were given a safety introduction, a big part of this program. Students learned about the area all around the cabin as well as how the cabin has been set up over the years and the cabin's name.

Activities included teaching students how to gather dry wood and twigs for a fire as well as how to light a fire with flint. Students learned that fire can save you (keep you warm and cook your food) and fire can kill you. Students also learned how to set a rabbit snare as well as a trap for fox and lynx. Mr. Alunik did a great job talking to the students about what he does with his trap line presently, as well as what he has done his whole life.

Time at the cabin allows students to connect with nature and gives them the freedom to explore what is of interest to them on the land, while creating a love for the land.

In the afternoon, students learned how to play fox and hound, and played in the snow. Students saw that there are activities you can play outside, thus allowing them to get more daily physical activity.

The students enjoyed each of these trips, and having Angus Alunik along is always a nice way to connect the past to the present. The goal of getting the students on the land as well as showing them that there are so many things they can do outdoors was achieved. By giving students time to enjoy this space and create a love for the outdoors, we hope to ensure that they will continue to be active while enjoying the outdoors.

### East Three Secondary School - Inuvik

On September 17 to 19, nine students and three staff from East Three Secondary School participated in a very successful Moose Hunt. While we were unable to shoot and harvest a moose, the hunt was nonetheless enjoyable. We traveled as far as Shallow Bay and spent our evenings at James Roger 's camp on the Delta. The purpose of the trip was for the students to get out on the land and enjoy our great outdoors.

Students participated in activities such as boat safety and maintenance, tracking moose, firearm safety, traditional hunting methods and fire-building methods.

There were daily discussions and illustrations on the importance of being prepared out on the land, and the staff and students prepared a list of important things to bring, such as a good winter sleeping bag and warm clothing (hats, face masks, gloves, ski pants, and a warm winter jacket). How to properly tie down equipment and supplies was also emphasized.

While we did not harvest a moose we did learn a few valuable lessons. There was an opportunity to shoot a female moose with her male calf, but our guide Daniel chose to practice a great preservation technique. He spared the two animals knowing we would be saving perhaps future generations. This was both difficult for some students to understand but vital. We made it clear we were hunting for sport, not survival, and there is a distinct difference.

We look forward to continuing this program next year. It was successful in both planning and execution, and will have positive influences on the working relationships between the school and the community.

## East Three Secondary School - Inuvik

On March 17 to 20, nine students and three staff from East Three Secondary School participated in a Trapper Training program. We traveled by snowmobile to Jimmy Lake and spent four amazing days and three cold nights at Lloyd Binder's Cabins. Lloyd is a local reindeer herder and he accommodated our trip with a place to stay. The cabins were rustic but perfectly equipped for our program.

Students participated in activities such as snowmobile safety and maintenance, trapper training (rabbits), fire arm safety, reindeer herding, ice fishing, wood gathering and fire building methods.

Our daily classroom discussions in preparation for this trip were very detailed, emphasizing the need to be prepared for difficult conditions on the land and poor weather, and wear warm clothes while traveling.

Students were responsible for the safety and transportation of their own gear, and communal items such as fuel, food, hunting and cooking equipment. They were responsible for collecting sufficient wood to keep the fire burning all night and water for drinking and cooking.

While we did not trap any rabbits, we did witness the reindeer herd in its natural habitat, and students were given a tutorial on one method of skinning and harvesting the reindeer for processing. It was one of the most educational experiences I personally have ever witnessed while on the land. Lloyd used a pulling method, with his snowmobile, to remove the fur from the animal. This is a practice that is widely accepted in his culture (Sami culture of Northern Sweden). Our Gwich'in teacher felt this method was very disrespectful to the reindeer. It was a "teachable moment" and was discussed thoroughly following our excursion. Students were made aware of both views and allowed to decide for themselves whether it was appropriate or not.

## Helen Kalvak School - Ulukhaktok

For the Take a Kid Harvesting program this year, students between the ages of 12 and 18 went out on the land to participate in all aspects of the muskox harvest. During the day long trip to Anialik, the students are taught traditional hunting areas, safe traveling routes, shelter locations, tracking methods and how to field dress and animal. Once the students return to the school they are then shown how to butcher, care and pack their meat in order to ensure it is done in the safest and most efficient method. During the following two days, the students take part in traditional food sharing (Payuktaking) by delivering portions of the meat to Elders around the community. Finally they take part in fleshing (Umikiyok) and preparing the hides to be used during future hunts as mats (Allinik) for the sleds.

Before the hunt our students take part in several weeks of archery during their assigned physical education classes. Students loaded the sleds and prepared their equipment for the hunt. The group travelled both on land and sea ice in order to show them where it is safe to travel and how you can tell if the ice is safe.

Once the Muskox were spotted the two young hunters with their spotters proceeded on foot and were shown how to get close to their prey undetected and how to set up to ensure they had the best chance for a clean shot.

While on the land the students were also shown all of the vital supplies that should be packed and explanations were given to why it is important to take multiple days' worth of food and water, considering such things as weather conditions, breakdowns or injuries.

Once all the explanations were completed and lessons taught on the land; the meat and supplies were packed for the return trip to the school.

Once all of the meat had been butchered and packed the students then went around to the Elder's houses in the community to share their good fortune. Some of the meat was put away for the 2014 graduation feast where it will be used to prepare several different dishes. On April 30, the class stayed for lunch and had homemade Muskox pizza at the invitation of the two young hunters.

## Helen Kalvak School – Ulukhaktok

The Take a Kid Trapping program was intended to have Elders in the community of Ulukhaktok instruct elementary and junior high students in our school on safe travel and trapping methods. Between the months of January and March we were able to incorporate 29 students from grade five to grade nine. These students would make several trips each week (depending on weather) to check and reset their trap line. Each student was designated one trap; that they would be responsible for maintaining.

While out on the land, the student would check their traps and learn about shifting ice and safe travel from local guides. The students were shown traditional methods of travelling using landmarks, as well as how to use a GPS to mark their traps and for emergency travel. During the entire process, students were treated to traditional stories from their two guides as well as several other local hunters who from time to time had volunteered to come along.

Once back at the school, students were treated to some warm food and drink. Depending on the day, students could be treated to pizza, noodles or on special days soup and Bannock.

Classroom sessions had John Alikamik or David Kuptana instruct the students on how to skin, flesh and stretch foxes for sale. By the end of the program, several students volunteered to skin and flesh their own foxes. Due to the large number of participants this year, we were not able to ensure that every student was able to trap their own fox. However the main intent was that our students engage and learn about the trapping process. We feel that this year was very successful in teaching our students safety when traveling, how to use a GPS and most importantly a traditional skill that most them would have otherwise never learned.

## Moose Kerr School – Aklavik

The goal of Moose Kerr School's Take A Kid Trapping program in Aklavik was to allow students to be exposed to a number of traditional winter harvesting activities. These included hunting, trapping, woodcutting and general winter travel skills.

Local trappers Wally Tyrrel, Edward and Samuel Mcleod were hired as instructors, and also assisting in the project was the Aklavik RROII Ian Mcleod. Environment and Natural Resources also provided support in the form of tents and other camping supplies.

Five students took part in the program from March 19 to 22. After a brief safety lecture, the students travelled through the Richardson Mountains by snowmobile and portage, checking traps along the way. The students set up tents, cut wood and collected gravel. Animals such as sheep, lynx and wolverine were harvested, and students were shown how to skin and butcher sheep.

The weather during most of the program was good, around -10 degrees Celsius most days. Wind around Rat River kept us from going further in search of caribou. The temperatures dropped at night and it was a little cold in the tents. The students showed great enthusiasm for the subjects discussed. No one complained about the cold and students did not want to go home most days.

Student attendance was 100% during the program. The instructors, one of whom was an Elder, all felt that the students were very well behaved and respectful.

Trap safety and trapper-related legislation and international agreements on trapping were talked about during trapline visits. Snowmobile safety was stressed during the program. With a few minor exceptions, snowmobile safety rules were followed very well..

# Take a Kid Trapping/Harvesting 2013 - 2014

Activity	Description	Participants	Take a Kid Trapping	Take a Kid Harvesting	Community Hunts/ Equipment
SAHTU	Take a Kid Harvesting	Colville Lake School	20	\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Chief T'selehye School	15	\$8,700	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Mackenzie Mountain School	10	\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Chief T'selehye School	15	\$6,900	
	Community Hunt	Deline Renewable Resource Council			\$3,000
	Community Hunt	Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council			\$4,000
		<b>60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$35,600</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
SOUTH SLAVE	Take a Kid Trapping	Ecole Boreale	70	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	Deninu School	35	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	Paul W. Kaser High School	12	\$2,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	J B Tyrell Elementary School	24	\$3,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	Diamond Jenness Secondary School	56	\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Ecole Boreale	90		\$8,000
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Paul W. Kaser High School	12		\$10,000
	Take a Kid Harvesting	J B Tyrell Elementary School	24		\$10,000
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Deninu School	30		\$600
	Community Hunt	Fort Resolution Metis Council	4		\$3,000
	Community Hunt	Fort Resolution Metis Council	4		\$3,000
			<b>541</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$28,600</b>
NORTH SLAVE	Take a Kid Trapping	Yellowknife District Education # 1	280	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	YK Catholic School Board	36	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	Lutsel K'e Dene School	12	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Trapping	Jean Wetrade Gameti School	75	\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School			\$8,000
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School			\$8,000
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Kalemi Dene School (YKDFN)			\$8,000
		<b>403</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	

# Take a Kid Trapping/Harvesting 2013 - 2014

Activity	Description	Participants	Take a Kid Trapping	Take a Kid Harvesting	Community Hunts/ Equipment	
BEAUFORT DELTA	Take a Kid Trapping	East Three Elementary School	320	\$4,700		
	Take a Kid Trapping	East Three Elementary School	42	\$4,100		
	Take a Kid Trapping	East Three Secondary School	15	\$4,000		
	Take a Kid Trapping	Moose Kerr School	5	\$8,000		
	Take a Kid Trapping	Helen Kalvak School	10	\$10,000		
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Angik School	7		\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	East Three Elementary School	10		\$5,700	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	East Three Elementary School	12		\$4,700	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	East Three Secondary School	9		\$5,517	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	East Three Elementary School	12		\$5,200	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Helen Kalvak School	28		\$4,882	
	Community Hunt	Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee				\$4,000
	Community Hunt	Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council				\$4,000
			<b>470</b>	<b>\$30,800</b>	<b>\$35,999</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
DEHCHO	Take a Kid Trapping	Bompas Elementary School	115	\$8,000		
	Take a Kid Trapping	Deh Gah Elementary & Secondary School	90	\$10,000		
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Deh Gah Elementary & Secondary School			\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Louie Norweigan School	6		\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Liidlil Kue First Nation	18		\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Charles Yohin School	8		\$8,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Sambaa Ke Dene Band	8		\$10,000	
	Take a Kid Harvesting	Bompas Elementary School	117		\$8,345	
	Community Hunt	Sambaa Ke Dene Band				\$4,000
		<b>272</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$56,345</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	
	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Cost TKT</b>	<b>Cost TKH</b>	<b>Cost CH</b>	
	<b>46</b>	<b>1746</b>	<b>\$111,800</b>	<b>\$180,544</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	





## Traditional Harvest Program

•  
Community Harvests

•  
Take a Kid Harvesting

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Inuvik **1-867-777-7286**

Sahtu **1-867-587-7170**

North Slave **1-867-920-3230**

South Slave **1-867-872-6430**

Dehcho **1-867-695-7510**



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