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# Take-a-Kid Trapping Program

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April 2007 – March 2009 Report

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# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



As the Minister Responsible for Youth, I am pleased to present the Northwest Territories 2007-2009 Take-a-Kid Trapping Program Report.

Funding for trapper training programs is provided by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI). This initiative supports the involvement of young people in traditional activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Offering students a unique opportunity to learn outside the classroom, the Program allows youth to work closely with community instructors and elders to obtain a better understanding and respect for traditional hunting, trapping and fishing methods. Participants also get a better understanding of the traditional lifestyles of their ancestors. They learn skills that continue to sustain the economies of communities across the North, and gain confidence in their own ability to continue a long-cherished tradition of respecting and sustaining our land.

For more information on the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program, please contact Municipal and Community Affairs in your region.

Honourable Robert C. McLeod  
Minister Responsible for Youth

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Northwest Territories is a land blessed with an enormous amount of renewable resources. And for thousands of years, the people who have lived in this great land have made wise use of them.

Today, our people continue to use those resources and traditional activities such as trapping to maintain a way of life. This is one reason why the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is committed to developing and supporting youth trapper training initiatives like the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program. It provides opportunities for young people to learn and participate in traditional life skills.

Since 2002, over 4,000 youth have participated in the program. Teaching and transferring these life skills to future generations will provide them with the ability to not only participate in the traditional economy, but also to gain an appreciation and insight into the culture, heritage and traditions of our region. Trapping is necessary to maintain a diversified, healthy and balanced economy.

Along with our partners in the program – Municipal and Community Affairs, Environment and Natural Resources, Aboriginal governments and schools – we look forward to teaching many more youth trapping skills. The passing on of skills and knowledge from generation to generation will ensure trapping is kept alive. In a way, the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program ensures another renewable resource is abundant in the Northwest Territories – trappers.

Honourable Bob McLeod  
Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources promotes and supports the protection and conservation of the natural resources and environment of the Northwest Territories for current and future generations.

Youth are the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

Working in partnership with Municipal and Community Affairs and Industry, Tourism and Investment, we are encouraging youth to maintain traditional ties to the land and develop a deeper understanding of the important connections between our forests, waters and wildlife.

The Take-a-Kid Trapping Program helps young people increase their knowledge of the environment and the natural resources that make the Northwest Territories unique.

Through this increased knowledge, experience and passion for our lands and waters, young people will be true stewards of our environment and pass its riches on to their children and their children's children.

Honourable Michael Miltenberger  
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

# CHARLES YOHIN SCHOOL

**Region:** Dehcho  
**Community:** Nahanni  
Butte  
**Participants:** 5  
**Partners:** N/A

Participants in the Charles Yohin School's Take-a-Kid Trapping winter camp learned winter camping and survival skills for bush camping, including trapping, snaring and snowmobile safety. Students were taught how to set traps for lynx, marten and wolverine, and set snares for rabbits.

A key component of the camp was firearm safety. Students learned about the care and respect needed to safely handle firearms when out on the land.

Students participated in all aspects of camp life, including camp activities like chopping wood, cooking, and fuelling lanterns, stoves and snowmobiles. Additionally, participants learned navigation skills by using star constellations.





# CHARLES TETCHO SCHOOL

**Region:** Dehcho

**Community:** Trout Lake

**Participants:** 6

**Partners:** Sambaa K'e  
Dene Band, Sambaa K'e  
Development Corporation

The Charles Tetcho School's Take-a-Kid Trapping camp took place at Black Duck Creek. At camp, students learned the importance of listening on the land, how to build different kinds of traps, and the safety practices associated with responsible trapping.

During the camp, students harvested several rabbits and learned how to prepare the meat. On the last day of camp, students demonstrated their new skills by preparing rabbit stew for members of the community who visited to enjoy the meal.



# PEHDZEH KI FIRST NATION

**Region:** Dehcho  
**Community:** Wrigley  
**Participants:** 2  
**Partners:** N/A

The Take-a-Kid Trapping Program took place during the local caribou harvest, in the traditional hunting region of Spruce Lake, 100 kilometers from Wrigley. Youth were taught traditional hunting and trapping skills.

During the camp, youth learned trapping principles and how to construct three different kinds of traps. Participants took part in the cooking and maintenance of the camp when they were not busy setting traps for rabbit and marten, or setting fish nets nearby.

After a successful hunt for caribou by harvesters, the youth assisted in preparing the meat for transport back to Wrigley. Participating in the harvest was extremely beneficial, as youth learned from local harvesters, hunted on the traditional land of their ancestors and experienced the benefits of living on the land first-hand.



# MOOSE KERR SCHOOL

**Region:** Inuvik

**Community:** Aklavik

**Participants:** 9

**Partners:** RCMP, Hamlet  
of Aklavik

The goal of the Aklavik Moose Kerr School Take-a-Kid Trapping Program was to expose youth to a number of traditional winter harvesting activities. These activities included fishing, hunting, trapping and general winter travel and survival skills. Youth also learned skills related to small tool making, small engine repair and first aid.

Students travelled to Black Mountain Creek to check traps and learn how to set their own. They also learned how to set a fish net.



# SAMUEL HEARNE SECONDARY SCHOOL (SHSS)

**Region:** Inuvik  
**Community:** Inuvik  
**Participants:** 20  
**Partners:** N/A

For the fifth consecutive year, students at SHSS travelled to Jackfish Creek to take part in a traditional trapping camp as part of the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program. The main goal of the camp was to educate youth about traditional fur trapping and modern conservation practices.

During the camp, students learned how to set and check traps for lynx, muskrat, marten and wolverine while following NWT Trapping Regulations. In particular, instructors focused their teaching on the practice of the 'Leave No Trace' principle. Students also learned a variety of skills such as snowmobile maintenance, outdoor survival, quinzhee building, hunting, cutting firewood and fire building.

The involvement of elders, such as Fred Jerome, Sarah Jerome and John Jerome, was integral to the success of the camp, which included discussions about traditional trapping lifestyles and how this has changed over time.



# SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE SCHOOL

**Region:** Inuvik

**Community:** Inuvik

**Participants:** 57

**Partners:** Department of  
Fisheries and Oceans

Sir Alexander Mackenzie School's Take-a-Kid Trapping Program was held at Cabin Creek and Sitidgi Lake. The first part of the camp was held at Cabin Creek where students were shown how to use various traps and snares, build a fire, set a fish net, and received Gwich'in language lessons.

The second part of the camp involved two day-trips to Sitidgi Lake to learn about different species of fish and the responsible use of barbless hooks.



# TEETL'IT GWICH'IN TRAIL RIVER TRAPPER TRAINING

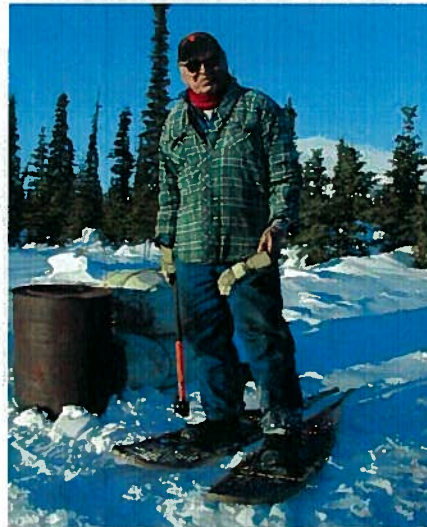
**Region:** Inuvik  
**Community:** Fort McPherson and Inuvik  
**Participants:** 15  
**Partners:** The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council; Teel'it Renewable Resource Council

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Trail River Trapper Training Program took place at a bush camp at the mouth of Trail River. This camp allowed youth to travel into the southern portion of the Richardson Mountains where Gwich'in people lived for thousands of years before moving to the Fort McPherson area.

The ten-day camp focused mainly on trapper training and trail building. A portion of the camp included survival skills and lessons on traditional life on the land during a caribou harvest.

Throughout the camp, students broke snowmobile trails while learning how to set various traps. Leaders organized a caribou hunt and the youth received a lecture from elder Robert Alexie on the importance of harvesting caribou in a traditional Gwich'in hunting area.

The trip was very successful and provided youth with the opportunity to see the land that their ancestors have occupied since time immemorial.



# TEETL'IT GWICH'IN FALL CARIBOU HARVEST

**Region:** Inuvik

**Community:** Fort McPherson

**Participants:** 7

**Partners:** Teetl'it Gwich'in Council; Gwich'in Tribal Council Education and Training Department

The objective of the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program during the fall caribou harvest is to improve the hunting practices of young aboriginal hunters that harvest from the Porcupine Caribou Herd as part of the Sight In Your Rifle Program (SIYRP). Besides improving hunting skills, the Program aims to give youth an opportunity to learn and experience their culture and language, while being involved in traditional activities.

The seven students, several community members and instructors who participated, set up camp at the Midway Lake Music Festival site. The diversity of those who attended the camp greatly enhanced inter-generational learning, and the sense of community amongst participants. Youth learned about sighting their rifles, bear safety, and about hunting, field dressing, skinning and preparing caribou.



# TUKTOYAKTUK

**Region:** Inuvik

**Community:** Tuktoyaktuk

**Participants:** 6

**Partners:** Hunters and Trappers Committee

The goal of the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program offered in Tuktoyaktuk was to allow youth to experience living on the land, while promoting traditional cultural values and skills so they will continue to pass on cultural knowledge to future generations.

Participants were taught how to set different traps for a variety of arctic animals during the first part of the camp, and how to skin and prepare the meat.

The second part of the camp involved a caribou hunt. Youth caught, skinned and prepared caribou. The caribou meat prepared by the participants was then distributed to community members. In the evenings, traditional camp fire stories were shared and traditional language lessons were given by the camp guide.

Facilitators hope to continue to develop the Program so that a larger student group can participate in the future, potentially making the Program a permanent part of the curriculum in Tuktoyaktuk.





# YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT #1

**Region:** North Slave  
**Community:** Yellowknife  
**Participants:** 392  
**Partners:** Dene-Kede  
Program; Department of  
Fisheries and Oceans

Yellowknife Education District #1 (YK1) designed their Take-a-Kid Trapping Program to work in conjunction with the pre-existing Dene-Kede program run by the District. Funding from the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program was used to enhance four pre-existing programs: the grade four trapping camp, the grade seven fish camp, the grade nine winter camp and the Bliss Lake trapper training camp. Local Dene and Métis trappers and resource management officials were contracted by YK1 to facilitate camps throughout the year.

Grade four students attended a camp at Octopus Lake and a camp on the Grace Lake trail system. Students learned about trapping and snaring, as well as fall fishing methods from local Aboriginal trappers. All students participated in snare setting, muskrat, marten and beaver trapping, dry meat preparation and fish cleaning.

Grade seven students participated in a fall fish camp where they assisted in the cleaning and preparation of fish. Additionally, a presentation was given by Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials to educate students on environmental factors and local fish.

Grade nine students participated in a winter camping and trapping program. The camp was held on the Grace Lake trail system. In addition to being taught how to set snares, students checked traps for marten and lynx. Youth were taught how to safely operate snow machines and how to travel by dog sled, both of which were the main methods of travelling to traps and snares.

Eighteen high school students attended the Bliss Lake trapping camp and forest fire study area. At the camp, students learned about the impacts of forest fires on the local environment, and attained a trapping certification that was recently developed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A major objective and positive aspect of the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program is the continuation of traditional skills in trapping. The continued trapping among several high school students who now trap as a part-time profession while attending school has been a huge success for the YK1 program.



# ELIZABETH MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Region:** North Slave  
**Community:** Behchokò  
**Participants:** 217  
**Partners:** Tìicho  
Community Service  
Agency; Brighter Futures

The Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School Winter Fish Camp is part of the Dene Curriculum offered to students from pre-school to grade six. Students were instructed by experienced Tìicho camp workers and Elizabeth Mackenzie Tìicho staff with the participation of local Tìicho elders. Traditional skills such as snowshoeing, and setting fish nets and snares were taught during the camp. Students also learned about Tìicho history as part of the camp workers' goal of broadening the students' knowledge about living on the land.



# K'ÀLEMI DENE SCHOOL

**Region:** North Slave

**Community:** N'dilo

**Participants:** 85

**Partners:** N/A

Students travelled by snowmobile and toboggans to a site by Grace Lake and Great Slave Lake, where they learned about beaver and muskrat habitat, structural dwelling, diet and livelihood. Students were taken to lodges to set and check traps.

To help students understand the full process of harvesting pelts, several demonstrations of skinning, fleshing and stretching of beavers and muskrats took place during the camp.



# LUTSELK'E DENE SCHOOL

**Region:** North Slave  
**Community:** Lutselk'e  
**Participants:** 25  
**Partners:** Lutselk'e Dene Band; Co-op; University of Calgary; Department of Justice

A key objective of the Lutselk'e Dene School's Take-a-Kid Trapping Program is to give participants between grades six and ten, the opportunity to learn personal responsibility and independence in a safe and comfortable community setting.

The Program began with several well-attended workshops for students and community members about regulations, setting traps and preparing furs. Throughout the Program, students learned about the environment and biology in a hands-on context. Skills acquired include traditional trapping skills and routes, outdoor survival skills, navigation and firearm safety.

Students began their trapping trips in January at a permanent camp at Du Hammel Lake. Accompanying students to the camp were two University of Calgary biologists doing research. The biologists gave caribou anatomy lessons and performed a dissection for the students.



# TULITA BAND HUNTING AND FISHING CAMP

**Region:** Sahtu  
**Community:** Tulita  
**Participants:** 20  
**Partners:** N/A

The Tulita hunting and fishing camp provided several young men the opportunity to spend a month learning traditional skills. The camp took place in the Willow Lake area 30 kilometers north of Tulita.

Youth travelled in the area around Mahoney Lake, Clement Lake and Tetso Lake, and learned to look for landmark trails and other means of navigating the land. Youth were also taught snaring, trapping, fishing, hunting, and skinning skills as well as how to hunt moose.

The camp was extremely successful, and the participants thoroughly enjoyed their time on the land — many of them wanting to return again the following year.



# DELINE SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARD

**Region:** Sahtu  
**Community:** Deline  
**Participants:** 6  
**Partners:** Enbridge  
Pipelines Inc.

Youth participated in three one-week excursions that gave them the opportunity to experience important aspects of a traditional lifestyle. Throughout the Program, youth harvested marten, red fox, and wolverine. Proceeds from the pelts were used to fund an educational student field trip to Europe, run by the school. The school actively supports and promotes the participation of young women in the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program, and this year, half of the youth participating in the program were female.



# COLVILLE LAKE SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARD

**Region:** Sahtu  
**Community:** Colville  
Lake  
**Participants:** 11  
**Partners:** Enbridge  
Pipelines Inc.

During Colville Lake's Take-a-Kid Trapping Program, youth learned how to set up overnight bush camps, check trap lines, and prepare harvested animals. The Program was considered a tremendous success and was greatly beneficial for all the youth who participated.

Outdoor survival and traditional skills are well respected within the community, and the youth benefitted from the great support provided by elders. The harvested animal pelts from the camp contributed to fundraising efforts for students to travel to Europe on an educational field trip with their school to increase their knowledge of other cultures.





# CHARLIE BARNABY TRADITIONAL SKILLS CAMP

**Region:** Sahtu  
**Community:** Fort Good Hope  
**Participants:** 6  
**Partners:** Enbridge Pipelines Inc.

The Charlie Barnaby Traditional Skills Camp was a nine-day traditional harvesting camp held on the Hume River. At the site, youth learned to fish, set fishing nets, and prepare fish.

Participants in the camp also went on a duck hunt and learned how to set snares and clean rabbits for meals and fur. Additionally, lessons on traditional trapping techniques, the history of the area, and how to safely make fires were taught. A journal was kept to document the group's activities, which provides a remarkable account of the camp and the benefits for those who attended.



# DEH GAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Region:** South Slave  
**Community:** Fort  
Providence  
**Participants:** 72  
**Partners:** N/A

The Deh Gah Elementary School's Take-a-Kid Trapping Program consisted of several morning, afternoon and full-day camps, as well as a five-day spring hunt that focused on traditional hunting and trapping. Various groups of students were taken out on the land and taught how to set and check traps and snares, and to recognize various animal tracks.

The main objectives of the Program included engaging youth in traditional fall and spring Dene activities, providing youth with experiences that teach responsibility, and encouraging supportive relationships between youth and local trappers. All Program objectives were successfully met with the involvement of students, parents and instructors.



# JOSEPH BURR TYRRELL (JBT) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Region:** South Slave  
**Date:** March  
**Community:** Fort Smith  
**Participants:** 28  
**Partners:** N/A

Twenty-eight grade five and six students from JBT Elementary School attended a winter trapping and fishing camp at Hanging Ice River as part of the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program.

While at camp, students kept a journal of their experiences and were actively involved in setting and checking traps and fishing nets, as well as cleaning and preparing furs. After successful hunts, students also learned how to prepare the meat for smoking.

Outdoor survival skills, such as building shelters, breaking trail and marking trails, were among other crucial skills that students learned. The camp, which was done in three separate sessions, taught students valuable traditional skills. Organizers plan to continue the program and hope to broaden its scope in the years to come.



# DENINUE K'UE FIRST NATION

**Region:** South Slave

**Community:** Fort  
Resolution

**Participants:** 4

**Partners:** Deninue K'ue  
First Nation

The objective of the goose hunting program is to share traditional knowledge of goose and duck hunting with local students.

The program took place in two locations: Spruce Point and Jean Bay. Youth alternated schedules, groups, and instructors depending on what days they were available to hunt. Since group sizes were small, each student received valuable one-on-one instruction. Youth learned how to make blinds for duck hunting, how to shoot, pluck, and clean harvested geese and ducks, as well as the safety and proper care required for handling firearms. Additionally, students who travelled to Jean Bay received boat safety training from instructors.

Harvested geese and ducks were split amongst students to take home to family and community members.



# DIAMOND JENNESS SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Region:** South Slave  
**Community:** Hay River  
**Participants:** 96  
**Partners:** Department of  
Justice, Soaring Eagle  
Friendship Centre, Hay  
River Métis Council

2009 marked the first year of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School's Take-a-Kid Trapping Program. The Program took place 100 kilometers south of Hay River and was completed in three separate camps.

The first camp was for grade eight students. Students checked existing traps and built a prospector's tent to be used for skinning harvested animals. All camp duties were fulfilled by students, including gathering water, hauling and stacking wood, cleaning, and cooking. Students learned how to set different traps, clear bush for traps and how to use different baits. Students also studied different tracks and learned how to identify promising trapping areas.

The group of grade nine students began their camp by learning how to safely harvest, or fell trees, in order to chop and haul wood for the four woodstoves at camp. The students later took a short snowshoe trip to set rabbit snares and trap-lines.

The grade ten to twelve students took part in all of the daily camp duties, as well as trapper training activities. Students set snares, collected rabbits, cleaned and skinned rabbits and marten, and were also fortunate enough to learn how to set under-water beaver traps. The last day of the camp was a caribou hunt that took students far from camp. Students had to learn how to use a GPS and how to read maps. Leaders taught youth how to maintain and repair snowmobiles and also went over the importance of winter survival gear.

The first Take-a-Kid Trapping Program at Diamond Jenness Secondary School was a huge success that generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement from students, staff and community members.

# P.W. KAESER HIGH SCHOOL

**Region:** South Slave  
**Community:** Fort Smith  
**Participants:** 14  
**Partners:** N/A

The PWK culture committee ran the winter trapper training camp. Fourteen students attended the camp, with three returning students and eleven students who were participating in their first trapper training camp. In addition to learning how to set traps for fur bearing animals, students learned how to harvest, clean and stretch animals caught in traps. Students were also taught how to set fish nets through the ice, travel on the land, construct winter shelters and build fires. The camp ended with a caribou hunt.

In the hopes that the Trapper Training Program becomes a permanent part of the PWK curriculum, construction on a permanent kitchen/classroom facility at Piers Lake has begun.



# LIIDLII KUE FIRST NATION BIRCH BARK CANOE

**Region:** Dehcho  
**Community:** Fort Simpson  
**Participants:** 7  
**Partners:** Liidlil Kue First Nation

In partnership with Liidlil Kue First Nation, the Take-a-Kid Trapping Program helped fund a birch bark canoe building project for youth in Fort Simpson. Seven local youth worked with canoe builder Aaron York over the course of three weeks. Youth were taught traditional canoe building skills used by the people living in the area since time immemorial. The canoe is, by all accounts, an outstanding full size replica of the traditional canoes that were used by northern people in the Dehcho region as a principle means of transportation. The program was completed in July, 2009.



# CONTACT INFO

## **Municipal and Community Affairs Contacts:**

### **Sahtu**

Norman Wells: (867) 587-7100

### **South Slave**

Hay River: (867) 874-5077

Fort Smith: (867) 872-6525

### **Inuvik**

Inuvik: (867) 777-7121 or

Toll-Free: 1-877-777-3322

### **North Slave**

Yellowknife: (867) 920-8084

Behchokò: (867) 392-6900

### **Dehcho**

Fort Simpson: (867) 695-7220

## **Environment and Natural Resources Contacts:**

### **Sahtu**

Norman Wells: (867) 587-3500

### **South Slave**

Hay River: (867) 875-5550

Fort Smith: (867) 872-6400

### **Inuvik**

Inuvik: (867) 777-7295 or

(867) 777-7311

### **North Slave**

Yellowknife: (867) 873-7184

Behchokò: (867) 392-6511

### **Dehcho**

Fort Simpson: (867) 695-7451

## **Industry, Tourism, and Investment Contact:**

### **Fur Management/Traditional Economy**

Yellowknife: (867) 920-6406