



June 24, 2024

ROBERT HAWKINS  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE**ORAL QUESTION 216-20(1): GUARDIANS OF THE LAND PROGRAM**

This letter is in follow up to oral questions about Guardian programs that you raised during the May 29, 2024, sitting of the House, specifically where Guardian programs are active, how Guardian programs are funded, and how Guardian programs can be established.

The establishment and administration of Guardian programs are led by Indigenous governments and Indigenous Organizations to watch and monitor lands, waters and wildlife, promote stewardship in their traditional territories, and engage in on-the-land programming that supports strong peoples, cultures, environments, and economies. As these programs are led by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, the creation of these programs is at their discretion. The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) supports a range of different Guardian programs through funding, capacity building, training, and community-based monitoring initiatives (e.g., water monitoring).

Specific to your question regarding the location of Guardians programs, I can confirm that ECC provides funding to co-management partners within two established Indigenous and Territorial Protected Areas: the Ni Hat' ni Dene Guardians in the Thaidene Nënë located in the North Slave region; Kash'o Got'ine Guardians Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta in the Sahtú region. We also provide funding and support the Dehcho K'éhodi Guardians, T'lichó Government Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è : Boots on Ground program, Fort Smith Metis Guardians in the South Slave, and the Bathurst Caribou Guardians Coalition. These programs are administered by Indigenous partners and receive funding from ECC, as well as other funding sources. ECC also provides funding to the On the Land Collaborative who have supported Guardian land-based programming.

I trust this answers your questions regarding Guardians programs in the Northwest Territories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Macdonald".

Jay Macdonald  
Minister  
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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