



# Harvesters' News

from the

## Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Winter 2004

### Harvest Study Update

***“What did you harvest over the last three months?”*** This is the question that interviewers for the Gwich'in Harvest Study will now be asking harvesters.

Since last September, the interviews changed to four times a year instead of every month. Hopefully this will help reduce the budget, as well as avoid “burn-out” among people who have been participating for the last nine years.

For those of you that spend a lot of time out on the land, make a mental note that Harvest Study interviews will now be taking place during the months of **February, May, August and November**.

If you don't think you'll see your interviewer for awhile, use one of the Harvest Study Conservation Calendars or field notebooks to keep track of your harvest!

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### Special points of interest!

- Harvesters workshops a big success!
- New Community Interviewer hired in Aklavik.
- Participation study is on the rise since 2002.
- Calendars and Notebook ready.
- Year-end prize awarded.
- Reported caribou harvests down since 1996.

### For more information contact us!

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This year, the grand prize winner of the Harvest Study Draw was **Richard Ross Sr. of Aklavik**. Richard won a Stihl chainsaw worth approximately \$500. Congratulations, Richard!

### Staff News in Brief

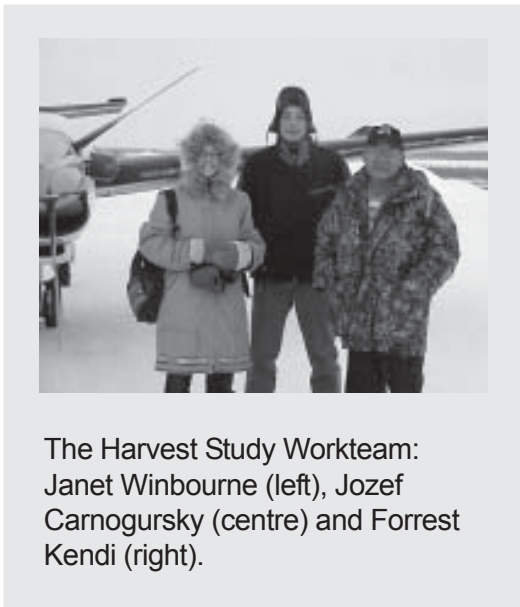
The GRRB would like to welcome a new Harvest Study Community Interviewer: **Kathy Greenland** will be taking over responsibilities for the Aklavik



interviews starting this February. She joins:

- **Frederick (Sonny) Blake** in Tsiigehtchic;
- **Effie Jane Snowshoe** and **Bella Snowshoe** in Fort McPherson; and
- **Jozef Carnogursky** and **Forrest Kendi** in Inuvik, who are the GRRB Renewable Resource Technicians and Harvest Study Assistants.
- **Janet Winbourne**, who started last May, is the person responsible for coordinating the Harvest Study, as well as facilitating Traditional and Local Knowledge projects for the GRRB and the communities.

Although Janet's office is located in Inuvik, you may have met her during recent workshops or travels throughout the GSA. She comes from the Central Coast of BC, where she worked mostly with the Nuxalk and Owikeno First Nations as a biologist and Traditional Knowledge researcher.



The Harvest Study Workteam: Janet Winbourne (left), Jozef Carnogursky (centre) and Forrest Kendi (right).

Please don't hesitate to drop by at the office to meet with Janet. The office is located at 105 Distributor St., in the Alex Moses-Greenland Building, above the Band Office. You can also call her at 867-777-6611 or send her a message by fax at 867-777-6601 or by email at [janet.winbourne@grrb.nt.ca](mailto:janet.winbourne@grrb.nt.ca)

### Harvest Study Luncheon-Workshops: a big success!

This fall, the Gwich'in Harvest Study office staff made presentations of the Study's findings in each of the communities. This was a chance for harvesters to see where their information has been going and how it's looking. It was also a chance for people to meet, get together over lunch and talk about the Study.



The Harvest Study Workteam met with harvesters in Aklavik, Inuvik, McPherson and Tsiigehtchic to discuss the Study

The GRRB staff were pleased with the workshops. They got lots of good feedback about the study from close to 60 local harvesters — including an amazing cross-section of ages, from their early 20's to late 80's.

Some of the issues and ideas raised at the workshops were:

- most harvest totals look too low, maybe people are not reporting what they actually get;
- information should be collected on a household basis, as some younger harvesters are missed;
- some people fear reporting their harvests in case other agencies get their personal information;



- fewer people are going out on the land now, because costs of gas, supplies and equipment have gone up but fur prices have gone down; and because there are more economic opportunities in the oil and gas industry;
- there are some misunderstandings about why the GRRB collects the harvest information and who gets it (see page 4 for some “**Facts on the GHS**”).

It also includes a lot of information, such as: short quizzes about being on the land and stewarding the land; some conservation concerns; and a new collection of photographs! The photos on the back cover can be used for identifying animals, such different types of ducks; both English and Gwich'in names are listed there. The new calendar will hopefully help hunters, fishers and trappers to keep track of their harvests each month, in-between interviews.

Thank you to the RRC Coordinators and the Community Interviewers for helping organize the luncheons and workshops, and to the cooks/caterers (Ruby McLeod, Caroline Andre, Louisa Kalinek, Mary-Ann and the staff of the Tetlit Gwich'in Co-op) that provided great food! And, of course, to everyone who took part:



THANK YOU, HARVESTERS,  
FOR MAKING THE WORKSHOPS  
A SUCCESS!!



You can use the calendar to record your harvest and also to teach youth about animals you find in the area.

Something else new this year is that we will also be giving harvesters **pocket-sized notebooks** that can be used to record harvests, even while out at camp.

### Conservation Calendar 2004

The new **2004 Conservation Calendar** looks a bit different this year — it's more colorful and bigger, with more room to write down your harvest details.

### Prizes

The GRRB rewards Gwich'in beneficiaries that donate their time and effort to the Harvest Study by giving out prizes. Every month 5 winning names are drawn from those who were interviewed. Some of the recent prizes that have been awarded to harvesters are axes, binoculars, fleece vests and jackets, quilts, snowmobile oil, t-



shirts, and gas coupons. We also give out a grand prize at the end of each year.

We will continue to give out prizes in 2004 to people that are participating in the Harvest Study. So good luck and keep up the good work!



Gwich'in Harvest Study participants are in a win-win situation as they can both win prizes *and* help protect fish, wildlife and harvesting rights.

### Some Harvest Study Facts

#### Did you know?

- The Harvest Study is confidential; *none* of your personal information is shared with *anyone else*.
- Each harvester is given a code; your name is never connected to your harvest information, unless you personally request it in writing.
- Your participation is voluntary.
- The information is useful when decisions about the land have to be made.
- The information collected can be used to estimate the Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level, and can help protect fish, wildlife and harvesting rights in the future.
- The more people that take part, the better our harvest estimates are.
- The only kind of information given out is the number and location of animals taken by a community. The graph below is typical; it shows the total reported caribou harvest in the GSA over the last seven years.
- The Harvest Study is a Gwich'in research project that is written into the Implementation Agreement and has been carried out by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board since 1995.

**Porcupine Caribou Harvests Reported to the Gwich'in Harvest Study**

