



GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

news

Fall 2022



GRRB Wildlife Camera

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who we are

The **Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)** was established under the guidance of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) to be the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

who we work with

The GRRB works with its co-management partners - Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) - to communicate with the public and encourage conservation of renewable resources in the GSA. The GRRB works in collaboration with the four Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) in the four communities (Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik) to educate and promote sustainability of resources within the GSA.

our mission

The GRRB works in cooperation with the Gwich'in people, governments and stakeholders and in accordance with the GCLCA to effectively protect, conserve and manage renewable resources in the GSA. It does this in a respectful, transparent, communicative and inclusive manner, using the best available traditional and scientific knowledge.

our vision

The GRRB is a model of renewable resources co-management. Working with its partners, the Board plays a leadership role in ensuring that the fish, forests and wildlife of the GSA remain healthy and sustainable.

our mandate

The GRRB is the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the GSA. The Board acts in the public interest, representing all the parties to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Settlement – the Gwich'in, the people of the Northwest Territories and all Canadians.

Wanda McDonald

executive director

September 2021 - August 2022

Wanda was the GRRB's Executive Director for the past year, but she recently moved on to pursue other opportunities. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the organization and wish her all the best. She has provided an overview of her accomplishments below.

We are now in the process of recruiting a new Executive Director and hope to have the position filled soon.

I am a Gwich'in Participant and have lived most of my life in Inuvik. My daughter Julianne Chipesia is currently enrolled in a Law degree program at the University of Bristol, UK. Last summer/fall I was involved personally with the homeless by cooking and serving food while the Emergency Warming Shelter was closed for the summer months. I sit as the Director at Large for the Aboriginal Sports Circle board. A few of my hobbies include creative writing, basic photography, scrapbooking and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise.

The Executive Director's main responsibility is to ensure that the Board's direction is implemented at the staff level. Areas of responsibility include personnel management, financial management, Board administration and liaison activities. This newsletter is a progress report since our September 2021 Board meeting.

Personnel management We continue to support a positive work environment. The GRRB has a flexible work schedule to accommodate staff as and when required. Ergonomic office equipment has been purchased for all staff.



Long-term anniversaries On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to congratulate Kaytlin Cooper on her 7-year anniversary and Sarah Lord on her 5-year anniversary. Due to COVID restrictions, we have not been able to celebrate these milestones together.

Staff departure Sarah Lord, former Fisheries & Forestry Biologist, recently left GRRB for a job opportunity with Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO). Although we are sad to see Sarah leave, we are glad that we can maintain our working relationship with her in her new role. Congratulations, Sarah.

Staff leave Cheryl Greenland, Finance and Administration Manager, has been out of the office since December 2021. In her absence, Mary Beckett (Contractor) was hired to assist with the financial management of operations. Melanie Bonnetplume,

Office Assistant, continued to work on daily finance-related duties and records management up to the completion of her term employment on March 17, 2022.

Recruitment We are currently trying to fill the Fisheries & Forestry Biologist position. Ron Allen, Alternate Board member, has been assisting with this recruitment. We have advertised twice with no successful candidates. We have changed the job description to focus on Fisheries. In the interim, I have been monitoring activities under this portfolio with the assistance of Jessi Pascal.

Staff workshop On January 18, 2022, we held an afternoon Staff Workshop. The original plan was to hold the workshop outside of the office. However, due to COVID restrictions, we utilized the Gwich'in

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Land and Water Board boardroom. Some of the topics the workshop focused on were:

GRRB Strategic plan – We reviewed the plan in detail and discussed key areas, Opportunities and Challenges and Strategic Goals as a refresher.

2021-2022 Excel Worksheet summary – We reviewed this sheet in detail. Based on operational requirements, I will investigate the option of funding for additional staffing resources to assist in managing peak operational requirements where staff identify they have reached capacity. Options for consideration include requesting supplemental funding or seeking project-specific funding to help offset some of the workload.

16 Personalities – Currently, our team consists of four introverts and two extroverts. I am one of the extroverts. This is the first time in my management career I have had a team of mostly introverts. Understanding the composition of the team is important for everyone

PD Day - L to R: Wanda McDonald, Amy Neyando, Hope McDonald, Charlie Snowshoe



GRRB Professional Development Day - August 5 at Juk Park L to R: MaryAnn Villeneuve, Wanda McDonald, Charlie Snowshoe, Amy Neyando, Hope McDonald, Kaytlin Cooper

so we can understand how to work better together. The team will continue to evolve as we add new team members.

2022/2023 Work Plan – Team members were tasked with populating this document to the best of their ability, including key annual meetings, funding deadlines,

fieldwork, annual leave plans and consultation dates. Once a template is developed, the work plan can be easily refreshed by removing completed activities and inserting new activities. I prepared a high-level draft 2022/23 report for the funders, for which staff had an opportunity to review and provide feedback. The final draft was submitted to the Board for approval at the February Board meeting. The final work plan was submitted to the funders once approved by the Board.

Professional Development Day On August 5, 2022 we held a successful PD Day (*see photos this page*)! A big thank you to Mary Ann, Amy and Hope for taking the lead on organizing. We travelled to Juk Park, had a cookout, shared topics of interest and had staff giveaways. It was a beautiful day and the weather was very nice.

Training COVID-19 restrictions and timing continue to cause difficulties with our training plans. Snowmobile & Operations training is a requirement prior to the staff commencing fieldwork. Steve and

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Jessi completed this training in February. We will revisit our training plan in the new fiscal year. There are two courses I recommend all staff participate in – Supervisor Safety training and Verbal De-escalation. Both courses should assist the staff in performing their duties.

Board Operations and Administration The Chairperson position has been vacant since November 12, 2021. William Koe was selected as Interim Chair on November 17, 2021. The Board completed the nomination process and submitted the successful candidate's name on January 11, 2022. As of February 7, 2022, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is awaiting the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) concurrence. Once they receive the concurrence, they can start the internal approval process for the federal Minister's recommendation to the Privy Council Office for the Governor in Council appointment. CIRNAC will notify me once their process starts.

Financial management Financial management and administration are important to ensure that we operate efficiently.

Finance Committee The Finance Committee consists of Sam Bullock, Burt Hunt and Doug Doan, along with myself and the Finance and Administration Manager. In the Finance and Administration Manager's absence, Mary Beckett has been participating in the meetings. The Chair is ex officio. Roger Fraser is an alternate. We held our scheduled Finance Committee meetings on October 29, 2021, February 11, February 23, May 13, June 9 and July 24, 2022.

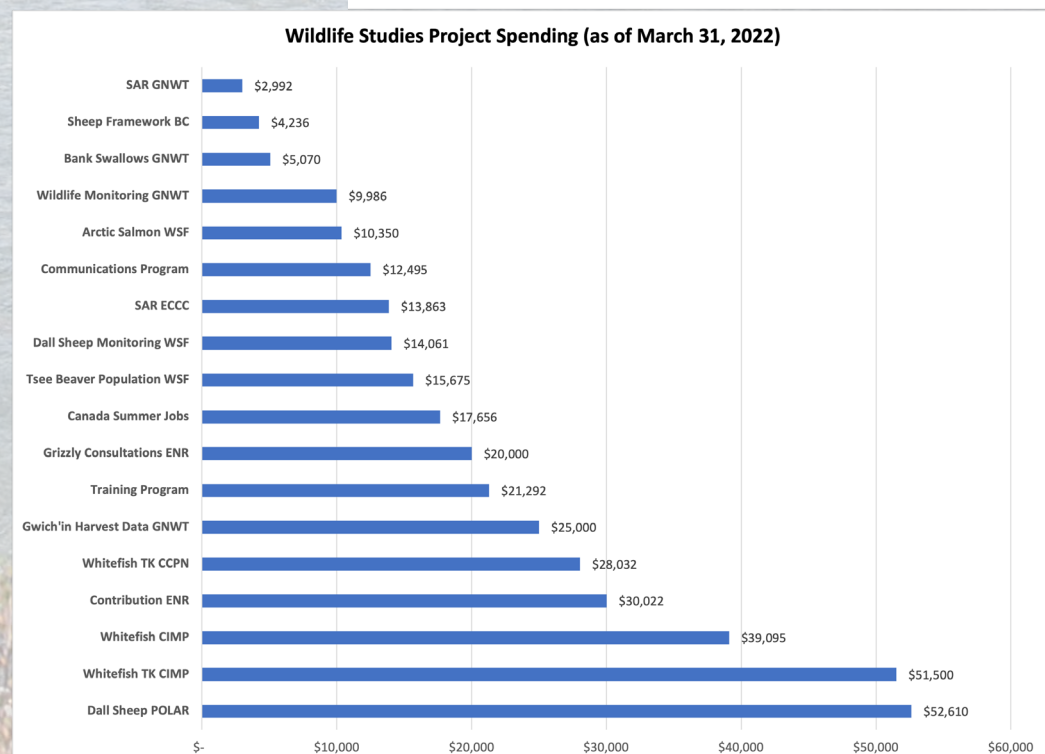
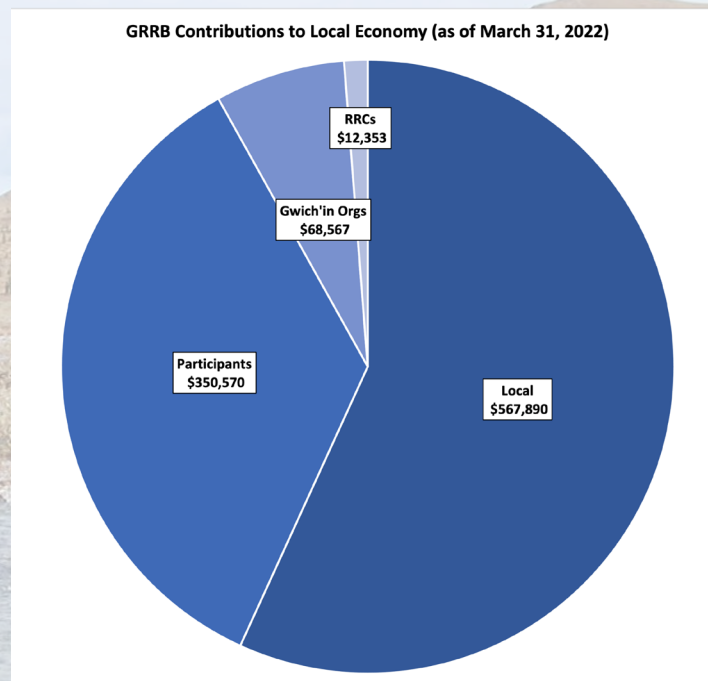
Our funding agreement with CIRNAC is a multi-year agreement that allows

us to defer the surplus until year 10. Mary Beckett and I have developed a refined Variance report to help manage expenditures against the annual budget. We have 18 projects in addition to Core Operations, so monitoring and coding expenditures are important. We are switching to a monthly variance report as it is a useful tool to assist with financial management. We will review and update the outdated 2009 Office Manager Handbook to reflect current operations. We will also develop a month- and year-end schedule to reflect the finance cycle.

Below/to the right are two graphs illustrating our expenditures. The pie chart shows GRRB contributions to the local economy. Over 50% of the budget flows back into the local economy, followed by contributions to Participants, Gwich'in Organizations and RRCs. The bar chart shows our wildlife project expenditures.

Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF) The WSF is managed by Royal Bank of Canada. We have financial advisors that provide reports to us (monthly, quarterly and annually), which the Finance Committee reviews. The call for WSF applications was set for November 22, 2021 – January 28, 2022. Prior to the next call (scheduled for November 2022), we will review the application and

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training, work experience, skill building, fieldwork and observe meetings to learn about governance, leadership and decision-making.” We are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Charlie Snowshoe, Hope McDonald, Rayna Vittrekwa and Dayle Cole. We are especially pleased we have been able to have both Charlie (three summers) and Hope (two summers) with us. Perhaps they will consider the GRRB for a future career or participate at the Board level.

2022/23 Work Plan The staff and I developed an annual work plan to help plan out the work over the four quarters and manage workflow. The workplan will be used to populate the annual CIRNAC workplan. It will assist the staff in preparing their annual performance goals and in completing 2021-2022 performance appraisals. The upcoming Strategic Planning process will develop an annual staff workplan that will include key indicators to help monitor progress.

Liaison Youth Initiatives We worked with Sharon Snowshoe, Department of Culture & Heritage and Diana Barr to develop a half-day workshop on March 3 in Inuvik as part of the Western Arctic Youth Coalition group workshop. We discussed the concept of developing a half-day workshop this fiscal year, moving towards an educational campaign specifically targeting “*Youth as Stewards of the Land*.” Once the initial educational campaign workshop is developed and piloted in one of the communities, we can roll it out to the other communities and this piece of work can form part of our annual work plan. **See page 21 of this newsletter for more information.**

Communication The 2022 Conservation Calendar was completed and distributed. The

website continues to be updated. Our Facebook page is active and is used to share information and meeting details.

Consultation On March 21 & 22, we held a Consultation Policy workshop with the GRRB staff. Legal Counsel Larry Innes facilitated the workshop.

The goals of the Workshop were:

- Review key elements of the co-management system under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the roles and responsibilities of the GRRB, public, government and Gwich'in Tribal Council and Designated Gwich'in Organizations
- Understanding the current law and best practices around engagement and consultation
- Share knowledge, ideas, experiences and opportunities for improvement in how the GRRB carries out consultation and engagement

The GRRB has its own Consultation Policy that staff need to follow. It is important to understand how to apply the policy in different scenarios.

Other activities **Office Reorganization** Over the summer months, we have been working to reorganize the office space. We have disposed of a lot of obsolete material. We also switched some of the staff offices and set up a new boardroom. Check out the photos on the next page!

Forest Act Legislation and Gwich'in Forest Management Plan Reviews of both documents are underway. We anticipate the *Forest Act* Legislation review to be completed soon. We will be going out to consultation to update the existing Gwich'in Forest Management Plan.

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Records Management Over the past couple of months, the students have been working on digitizing the initial Gwich'in Harvest Study from 1995 - 2001. (27 file boxes in total - see photos below). This is a very important project, as the study results are the baseline data for calculating the Gwich'in Needs Level. We hope to have this project completed by the time they end their summer employment with us. In addition, Mary Ann Villeneuve has been recording a couple of boxes of archival material that will be transferred to the Department of Culture & Heritage.

Steve Andersen, Wildlife Biologist, enjoying his new office space



Rayna Vittrekwa (top) and Hope McDonald, Summer Students, digitizing the initial Gwich'in Harvest Study



Office Coordinator Amy Neyando hosting a virtual meeting in our boardroom with Summer Students Rayna Vittrekwa and Hope McDonald



Summer Student Charlie Snowshoe Jr. helping with the office reorganization



Our new boardroom!

Farewell to Jozef and thank you!

The GRRB Board and staff thank Jozef Carnogursky for his many years of service as a staff member, Board member and Chairperson. He was dedicated to advancing the co-management of renewable resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and surrounding regions throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) and beyond.

Jozef initially started with the GRRB as a Summer Student. Upon completion of the Environment Natural Resources Technology Program, Jozef accepted a position with the GRRB as Renewable Resource Management Trainee. He moved on to work with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, then with the Federal and Territorial governments, gaining further work experience related to the renewable resources field. He also served as a Member and President of the Nihtat Renewable Resources Council.

Jozef returned to the GRRB in 2012 as an Alternate Board member (nominated by the Government of



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

the NWT). He then served as Full Board member (also nominated by GNWT) and was elected Chairperson (nominated by the GRRB Board), where he served until November 12, 2021.

Jozef was instrumental in ensuring that the communities in the GSA were always included in renewable resource management processes. He was a strong supporter of the hard work of the GRRB staff.

A few of the many files he was involved in during his GRRB tenure are:

- Establishing rules and procedures for consultation
- Development and approval of several management plans (Gwich'in Forest Management Plan, Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan, Dolly Varden Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, Grizzly Bear Management Plan and Agreement)
- Remote field work, contributing to the research that informs the management of those species
- Establishing a process for research priorities
- Progressing the work to define Commercial Use – supported process, engagement plan and he led the engagements at the legal/GNWT side
- Advisory Committee for the Cooperation of Wildlife Management
- *Wildlife Act* Working Group
- *Wildlife Act* Section 15 Meetings

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GRRB Board Members 2012 - Jozef's (second from right) first year as a Board member





Jozef is a Gwich'in Participant and an excellent role model for youth who may start with the GRRB, illustrating that you can start in an entry level position and end up leading the organization!

"Jozef was a very effective Chairperson during his tenure with GRRB. He was highly respected by Renewable Resources Council members from all four communities and by the general public, as well as by his colleagues on the Board." says Doug Doan, a fellow Board member.

Thank you, Jozef!
All the best from the GRRB.



Jozef (GRRB Renewable Resource Management Trainee) at the Tsiigehtchic Harvest Lunch, 2003

Tsee' Map-a-Thon

Seeking youths (18 - 25) to take part in a boat trip
to learn about tsee'

Contact Laura at the TRRC (952-2330)
or Roxanne at the GGRRC (953-3608)



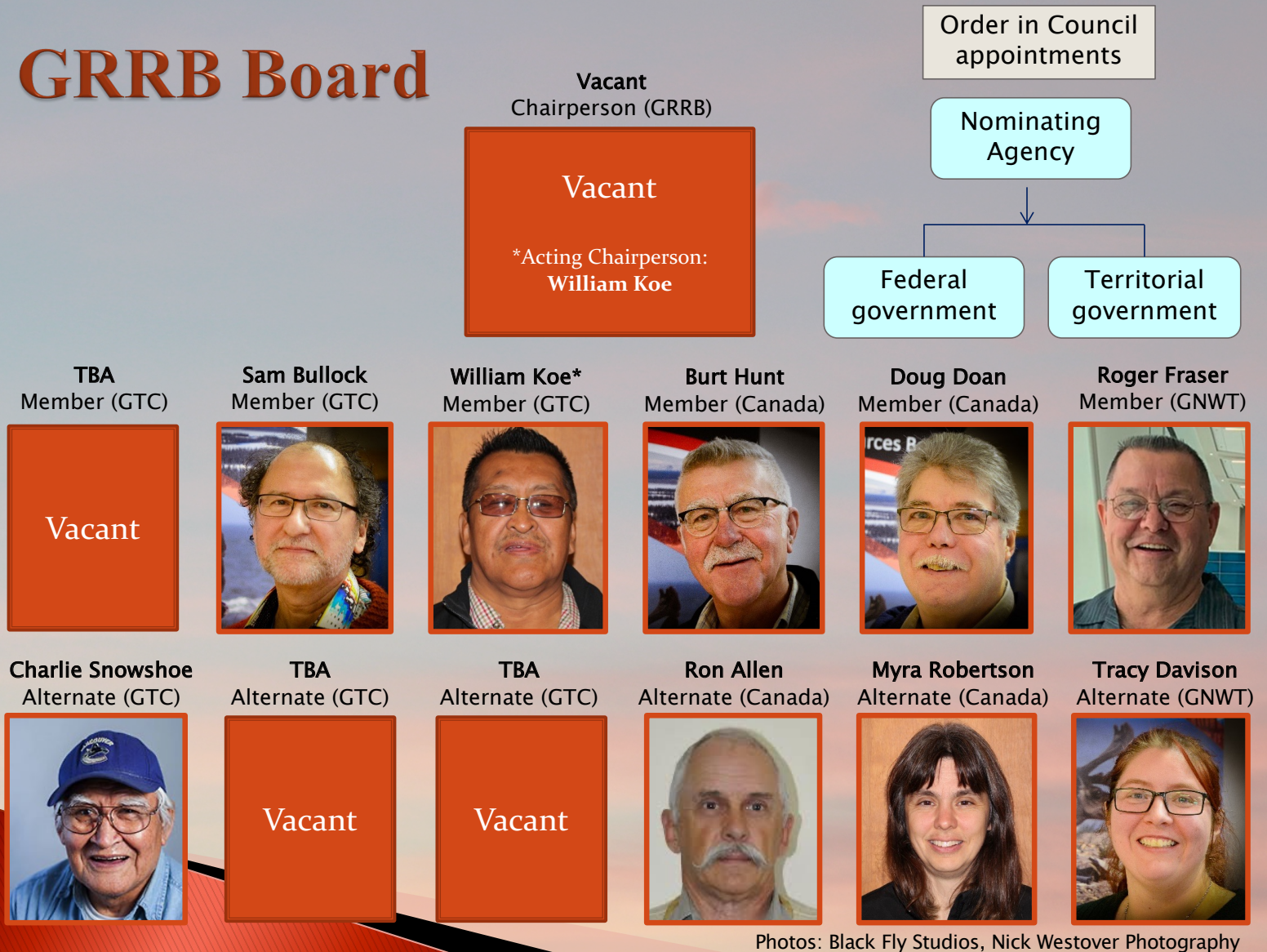
Fall is approaching, so bears are
trying to fatten up for winter.

Please help keep everyone safe
by ensuring that bear attractants
(like garbage and pet food) are
kept secure!



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca

GRRB Board



board member updates

To form the thirteen-member Board, three members and three alternate members are appointed from nominees put forward by each of the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the Government (federal and territorial). Nominees are jointly appointed by the federal and territorial governments. The Chairperson is nominated by the Board members and jointly appointed by the federal and territorial governments.

Once appointed, our Board members act in the public interest. They are independent, not beholden to the agency that nominated them.

Our Board members are busy working in many different areas:

Committees/Working Groups:

- Conference of Management Authorities
- Town Of Inuvik Landfill Site
- Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Steering Committee
- GRRB/Fisheries and Oceans Canada annual meeting
- Advisory Council for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management
- Section 15 Meeting – Environment and Natural Resources *Wildlife Act*
- Wildlife Studies Fund

Human Resources:

- Recruitment of Executive Director (one-year term)
- Chairperson recruitment
- Fisheries Biologist recruitment

Finance Committee:

- Sam Bullock, Burt Hunt, Doug Doan, Chairperson – Ex Officio, Roger Fraser, Alternate Board Member, Executive Director
- Q1 (April – June) – July meeting
- Q2 (July – September) – October meeting
- Q3 (October – December) – January meeting
- Q4 (January – March) – April meeting

GRRB Board Meetings

The Board held the following meetings throughout the 2021/22 fiscal year:

April 29, 2021

- Wildlife Act regulation amendment for drones
- Commercial Use
- Moose Hunting Regulations
- Rat River Working Group Annual Harvest recommendations
- West Side Working Group Terms of Reference
- Staff compensation review

August 5, 2021

- Approval of draft audited financial statements for General Operating and Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF)
- Approval of updated Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan
- Commercial Use
- Discussion on upcoming GRRB/ Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) meeting
- Approval to post Collared Pika management plan (federal)
- Approval to post Bank Swallow recovery strategy (federal)
- Approval of the issuance of a Ministerial Order to protect Bank Swallow proposed critical habitat on federal lands
- Approval of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee listing as a threatened species (federal)
- Online Cash Management system
- Cerdian self-service pay stubs

September 21 – 22, 2021

- Approval of Annual Report
- Updates – Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) regional and headquarters, DFO, Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC)
- Project updates – Tsee' (beaver, divii (Dall's sheep), muskrat, Arctic salmon, whitefish)
- Traditional knowledge data-mobilization and conservation plan



Caribou skinning

- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society
- Operating Policy update to include Truth & Reconciliation Day as a statutory holiday (September 30)
- Update Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship

September 28, 2021

- Review and approval of mid-year funding report for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

December 10, 2021

- Status of Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds
- Approval of revised Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan
- Alternatives to collars
- Communications & Education Strategy
- Screening of Expression of Interest applicants - Chairperson

February 16 & 17, 2022

- Review and approve GRRB 2022-23 workplan
- Draft Agenda – Youth Workshop
- Update on Tsee', Town of Inuvik Landfill site, Grizzly Bear Management Plan
- Updates – ENR, DFO, GTC, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)
- Letter responding to ENR preliminary draft regulations – sale of wildlife meat in Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA)
- Draft work plan leading up to Research Priorities Workshop
- Tsee' project: Understanding beaver population change - a case study from Jackfish Creek
- Arctic Salmon: samplers and coordination
- Nin Nihlinehch'I' – Li' hah Guk' andehtr' inahtii (Animals at

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- Risk – animals we are watching closely) 2022-2023
- Divii (Dall's sheep) community-based research project
- Northern Richardson Mountains Divii (Dall's sheep) survey
- Moose abundance survey
- Update on Divii and Tsee' projects
- DFO beluga whale
- Rat River Working Group (RRWG) presentation
- Royal Bank of Canada investment portfolio update
- Finance Committee report and recommendations – Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF) withdrawal
- Appointment of Auditor
- 2022/23 CIRNAC work plan
- Safety update
- Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship

March 23, 2022

- Bluenose-East briefing note
- Review decision on colour zone

April 12, 2022

- Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) briefing note
- Inuvik Solid Waste Disposal – landfill update
- Request For Proposals (RFP) – Research Priorities & Strategic Plan
- Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship

May 19, 2022

- Grizzly Bear Management Plan – next steps
- Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub
- Inuvik Solid Waste Disposal – landfill update
- Safety Form approved
- RFP – Research Priorities & Strategic Plan
- Forest Management Plan – Engagement Plan
- Financial update

- Audit schedule
- 2021-22 financial statements

July 26, 2022

- New Board Members – Roger Fraser and Tracy Davison
- Inuvik Solid Waste Disposal – landfill update
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council WMAC (NWT) plans to encourage beaver harvest
- Caribou Harvest Zones
- Grizzly Bear Management Plan – routing status
- Rat River Working Group – 2022-23 Harvest Levels
- Update on meeting with GTC
- Strategic Planning process update – workplan, advertising poster, radio engagement notice and Renewable Resources Councils (RRC) outreach

- Arctic Research Foundation presentation
- Forest Management – legal review of policy intentions document
- Species At Risk files:
 - Short-eared Owl
 - Barn Swallow
 - Lesser Yellowlegs
- Finance update
 - Review and approve 2021-22 audited financial statements (general operating and WSF)
 - CIRNAC general operations year-end report 2021-22
 - 2022-23 Q1 variance report
- Board appointments 2024 terms – expiry dates

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21 and 22, 2022 in Inuvik.



Servicing the Divii camera

GRRB Headlines

Watch this space in this and future newsletters for updates on some of the interesting things we are working on!

Wildlife Camera Win Sydney Goward, a University of Victoria Master's student working on the Divii Project, has been analyzing the thousands of photos collected by our wildlife cameras over the past four years. She recently spotted an image of a diseased sheep.

Veterinarians from Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Yukon Environment examined the photo and they suspect the animal has contagious ecthyma, commonly known as orf. This disease is most common and severe in younger animals.

Orf can infect people and is quite painful when it does. The good news is that it is easy for harvesters to avoid it by wearing gloves, not cutting into sores and washing their hands and knives thoroughly. The disease only

infects the animal's skin, so the meat is still safe to eat.

More information is available on pages 8 and 9 of **ENR's Wildlife Diseases Handbook**. Orf is also known to occur in dachan tat aak'ii (muskox) in the Richardsons.

If you know of people who harvest divii or dachan tat aak'ii in your community, please pass along this information. If anyone spots diseased animals, please let ENR or the GRRB know!

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GRRB DS05



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca

Steve Andersen
wildlife biologist
since April 2021

Management Planning Shih (Grizzly Bear) Over the past two and a half years, the Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) and GRRB worked together to develop a new Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan. It includes a simpler tag system, which no longer requires tags for bears killed in self defense and it is written in plain language so that it is easier to understand.

We met with all of the RRCs in early 2022 to review the draft management plan. I am pleased to report that everyone supported it. On August 5, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) endorsed the plan. With all of the approvals now in place, we will be doing public outreach in the fall to make sure that everyone is aware of the changes.

Mahsi cho to the many, many people who contributed their time and knowledge to developing this plan. Mahsi also to ENR and the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk for providing funding, without which we could not have undertaken such a large project.

Vadzaih (Caribou) The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) met last November to update the status of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East caribou herds. I presented information shared by Gwich'in harvesters about the health of the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds. Other Renewable Resources Boards brought information from their communities and ENR provided the results of the surveys they conducted in 2021. After reviewing all of the information, consensus was reached on the following statuses:



- **Cape Bathurst:** Yellow
- **Bluenose-West:** Orange
- **Bluenose-East:** Red/Yellow

The Red/Yellow status for the Bluenose-East is meant to show that the herd's status appears to be improving, but that it is still too early to know if it is on the road to recovery.

The status of the three herds will be updated again this fall at the upcoming ACCWM meeting November 15-17, which will be hosted by the GRRB. We encourage everyone to take part!

Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the Tetlit RRC are planning a Caribou Summit at Midway Lake from October 25-26, which will focus on the Porcupine herd and how to encourage respectful harvesting. Keep an eye on Facebook for more details as they become available.

Wildlife at the Inuvik Landfill The Town of Inuvik is making plans to install an electric fence around its landfill. The Town has not yet set a construction date, so the fence will not be in place until at least next year. In the long term, it will reduce conflict with bears. In the short term,

it will displace bears and result in more encounters in and around town. The GRRB, GTC and Nihtat RRC have been working with our Inuvialuit counterparts and ENR to develop a plan to reduce the risk to people and to the bears.

Tsee' (Beaver) The growing population of beavers in the delta has been brought up as a concern by both Gwich'in and Inuvialuit residents. The Inuvialuit have tried a number of management strategies in recent years and have previously expressed interest in working with the GRRB on a regional approach. We hope to have meetings on this later in the year.

Species at Risk I worked with Kaytlin Cooper (Species at Risk Biologist) to prepare an update for the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) outlining the management actions for species at risk that the GRRB has taken over the past year.

Research Tsee' (Beaver) Dr. Helen Wheeler from Anglia Ruskin University (United Kingdom) has been working with us to better

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understand how beaver populations have changed over time in the delta. Last summer, community members collected samples of willows that were cut by beavers. I then dried, inventoried and packaged the samples and sent them to Helen for analysis. More work is underway this summer. At the time of writing, Helen had just gone out with community members from Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik for ten days of data collection near Jackfish Creek (on the delta, halfway between the two communities).

Helen Wheeler, Kristi Benson (from GTC's Department of Cultural Heritage) and I successfully applied for funding from the On The Land Collaborative to run a beaver Traditional Knowledge project with the Gwichya Gwich'in and Tetlit RRCs this summer. Elders will share knowledge of beavers with youth and the youth will create short videos to document what they learn. The project runs until the end of September, so if you know of youth aged 18-25 who would be interested in taking part, please contact the GRRRC or TRRC (**see page 8 of this newsletter**).

Divii (Dall's Sheep) Last September, Jessi (Environmental Coordinator) and I performed a helicopter survey of sheep in the Mount Goodenough area. We are using these small half-day surveys to check that the information we get from our wildlife cameras is giving us an accurate picture of the divii population.

In February, two adults and two youths from Aklavik, along with Jessi and me, spent several days snowmobiling out to the wildlife cameras in the Richardson Mountains to replace their batteries and swap out the memory cards. The snow was so deep that one camera was completely buried and could not



Caught on the Wildlife Camera! Servicing the divii array with Sydney Goward
GRRB DS17

be found, so we had to return for it this summer. Other than that, things went well and all of the pictures have been sent to Sydney Goward (University of Victoria) for analysis.

In June, the GRRB worked with ENR and Yukon Environment to do a helicopter survey for divii throughout the Northern Richardson Mountains. This large undertaking takes six days, so we only do it every four or five years. It is important because it gives us a good picture of how divii are doing throughout their range. Preliminary results are 505 adult sheep and 104 lambs, which is similar to the last survey in 2017. The population remains low, but appears to be stable.

Master's student Sydney Goward has been working with us on the Divii Project for the past year and a half. She is investigating whether wildlife cameras are an effective way to measure the size and age structure of the divii population in the Richardson Mountains. She is also interested in how divii share the landscape with predators and competitors. She has been busy identifying all the wildlife in the

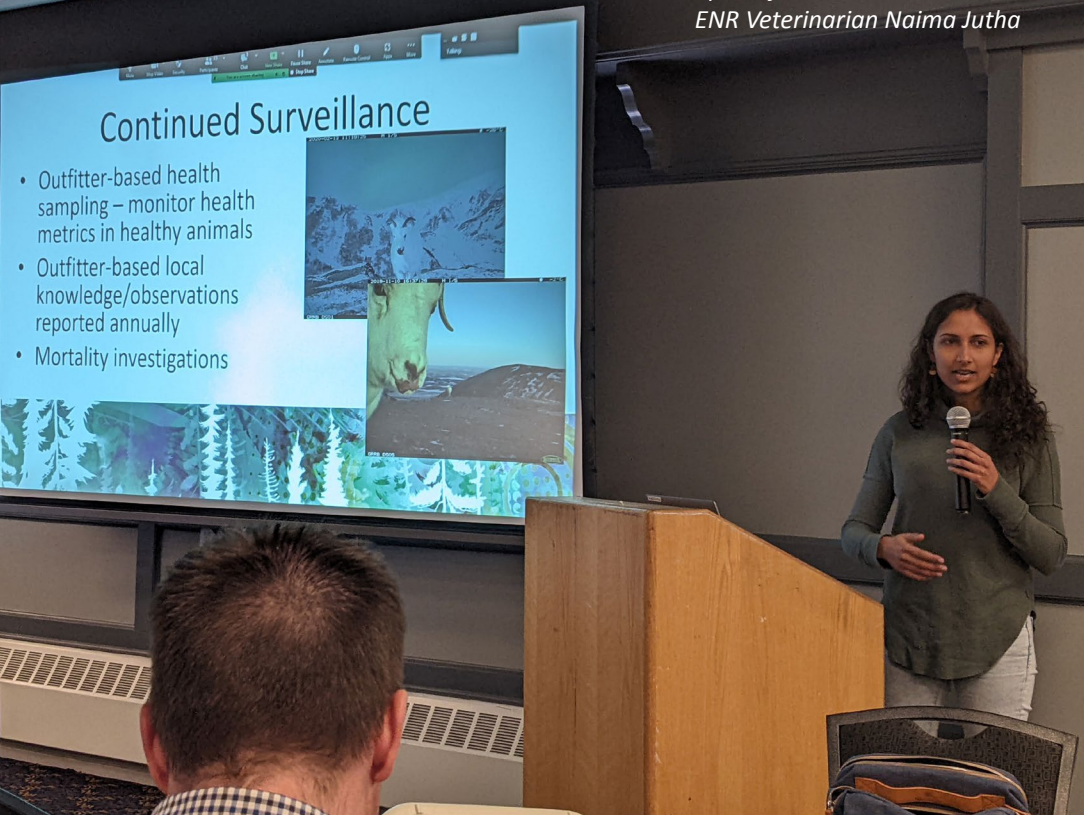
450,000 images that our camera array has taken since it was installed in 2018. She is now about halfway done and hopes to have preliminary results of her analysis ready early next year. Sydney plans to be in the GSA during the last two weeks of September to present at all of the schools, hold an open house in Aklavik and update the GRRB Board on her work at their fall Board meeting.

Small Mammals In August, I helped ENR with their annual survey of small mammals, which counts shrews, voles and lemmings to see how their populations change from year to year. Small mammals are important food sources for larger animals, so knowing how large their populations are helps us predict how animals like foxes and owls are doing.

Other I wrote two Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF) applications for this year's divii fieldwork. I also provided feedback on two draft WSF applications for Helen Wheeler and Tracy Davison. I wrote two reference letters for Sydney Goward in support of funding requests she

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was submitting. In addition, I helped set up financial agreements between the British Columbia government, the GRRB and Sydney Goward to facilitate a thinhorn sheep project she is working on.

Technical Advice Research & Regulatory Reviews Since December, I have completed reviews of nine research and regulatory applications. At GTC's request, I have also provided them with advice on two piece of proposed legislation.

Liaison Sahtu Public Listenings The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) is holding a series of five public listening sessions in their communities to discuss how best to manage caribou. The second listening took place from April 25-29. Several GRRB Board members and staff attended virtually. People from the Sahtu shared an enormous amount of knowledge and I learned a great deal. Mahsi to the SRRB for allowing us to attend and to everyone who spoke.

GRRB Website In the fall, we hired former GRRB Wildlife Biologist Édouard Bélanger to update the Wildlife portion of our website. He has completed the work. Once I have had a chance to review it and find photos to go with his writing, it will be put online. I have already completed updates to our website's Research section.

Media Relations When Sydney Goward reviewed the thousands of photos from our wildlife cameras, she found a few images of sheep with a skin disease called orf. I appeared on radio shows on CBC NWT and CBC Yukon to talk about the disease and precautions that harvesters can take to keep safe. I was also interviewed by Cabin Radio for an article they wrote about it. **See page 12 of this newsletter for more information.**

Personal Over the winter holidays, I went south to spend time with my family. It had been a year and a half since I had seen any of them, so it

was nice to catch up face to face. I especially enjoyed seeing my three-year-old nephew, who is a really fun kid. One day he was out hunting for pirate treasure on the beach, another he warned me that I wouldn't be able to use the shower because he was doing some construction and had to remove the water pipes. The weather wasn't great, but it didn't matter because he kept the whole family entertained!

In late August, my mom and dad are going to be visiting. Because of COVID-19, it is the first time that anyone from the south has had a chance to visit since I moved here. I am planning to take them on a boat tour of the delta, drive up to Tuktoyaktuk with them to see the Arctic Ocean and do all of the usual tourist stuff. I am really excited for their visit!



Kaytlin Cooper

species at risk biologist

since January 2015

As Species at Risk Biologist, I work with local communities, Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and governments (Federal, Territorial and Indigenous), consulting on and assisting with species assessments and listings, developing management plans and recovery strategies and administering species at risk programs and research projects (science and Traditional Knowledge) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

Management Planning Northern Mountain Caribou were listed as a species of special concern in July 2021, under the Northwest Territories (NWT) *Species at Risk Act*. A management plan has been developed, adopting the national management plan and pointing to a regional (Sahtu) community-based planning process. Consultations on the management plan will occur in the fall.

Research Bank swallows I applied for funding through the NWT Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) to conduct bank swallow surveys in the summer of 2021. Surveys were done in 2014 on the Mackenzie and Arctic Red rivers near Tsiigehtchic. These were repeated in 2015 and surveys of the gravel pits from the NWT/Yukon border to Inuvik were added. This year, the surveys extended to the Peel River near Fort McPherson. The results will be instrumental in determining population trends (by comparing to the data from 2014 and 2015) and in identifying Critical Habitat (the habitat the species requires for survival), which is protected under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as bank swallows are listed as Threatened.



The species is due for re-assessment in 2023. The data is waiting to be compiled and analyzed. As soon as that is done, I will provide an update.

Bees Several NWT bumble bee species have been assessed as At Risk, but these assessments have identified knowledge gaps in the northern part of their ranges. A new insect research partnership has been created between the GRRB, Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (Inuvialuit Settlement Region) and Environment and Natural Resources. Recent consultations with the RRCs have shown great interest and support for this project. Blue vane traps were set in and around Inuvik. All insect specimens have been collected and sent south to a bug specialist for identification.

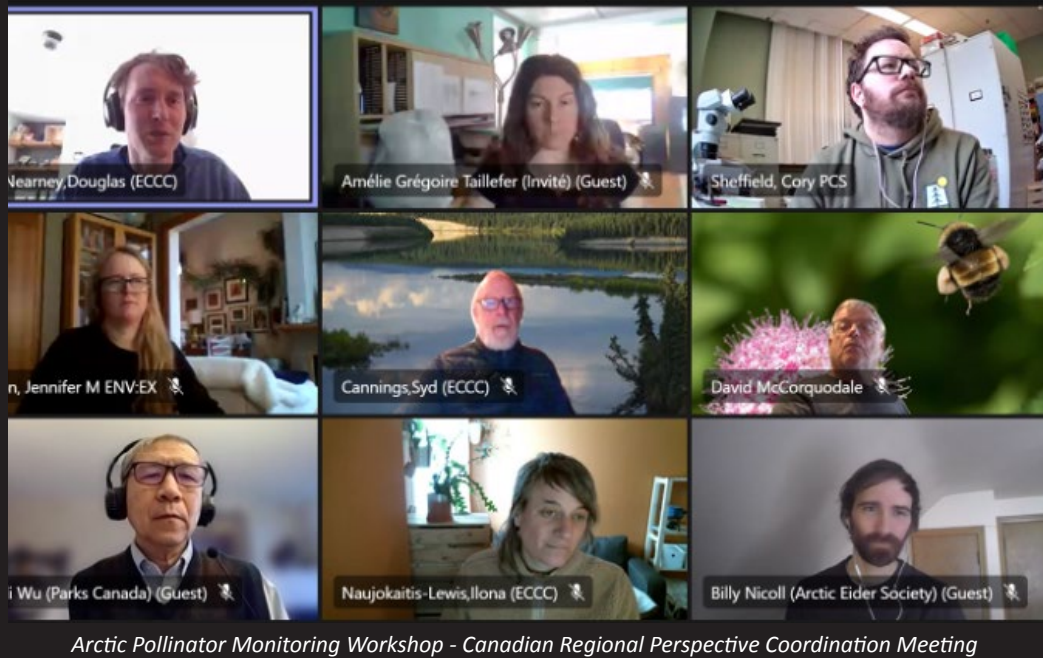
Bats Community members have reported bat sightings in the GSA for many years. Bat detectors were purchased with funding from the NWT Stewardship Program (now SCARF) in 2017 and placed in all four GSA communities. While no bats have yet been detected, occasional sightings are still reported to the

GRRB. There is several years of data waiting to be analyzed. Once that is done, I will provide an update.

Technical Advice I am a member of the Conference of Management Authorities, the group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share management responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. I am also a member of the Species at Risk Committee (SARC), a group of science and traditional knowledge experts who assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT, identify threats and positive influences to species and their habitats and may recommend conservation actions. I am also involved in the development and review of documents for the federal (Canada-wide) *Species at Risk Act*. These NWT and federal documents include species assessment reports, management plans and recovery strategies for several species at risk. Since our last newsletter, this has included boreal caribou, northern mountain caribou, Dolly Varden, amphibians, Peary caribou, peregrine falcon and bats.

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SARC met in May 2022 to assess three species, two of which occur in the GSA. **Read more details in the media release [here](#).** I will be consulting on peregrine falcon and boreal caribou in the fall.

In July, I held consultations with the RRCs on three federal Species at Risk files. It has been proposed to change the short-eared owl listing from Special Concern to Threatened, change barn swallow from Threatened to Special Concern and to list lesser yellowlegs as Threatened. Species' information and consultation results were then presented to the Board, who approved these proposed listings.

As a member of the NWT Wildlife Care Committee (WCC), I provide technical advice on wildlife handling applications and review wildlife handling reports and other documents. These applications outline planned animal handling for proposed research, while wildlife handling reports provide a summary of wildlife handling once the research has been conducted. At the application stage, the NWT WCC provides recommendations on how to be respectful of the animals, ensuring that animal welfare is considered and

that humane handling (and euthanasia, if required) occurs. Proposed animal handling procedures must comply with WCC Standard Operating Procedures and the *Guidelines on the Care and Use of Wildlife and the Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals* developed by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The NWT WCC approves research projects throughout the NWT, not just in the GSA. I review research and development applications on behalf of the GRRB from the perspective of impacts on species at risk. Applications have included Yukon boreal caribou, foxes as sentinels of zoonotic disease, ecology and recovery of endangered whooping cranes, western arctic snow goose management: banding lesser snow geese in the western Canadian arctic, a polar bear genetic mark-recapture survey and boreal caribou collar deployments.

NWT Council on Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens (NWT CISPP) I was appointed to this council on behalf of the GRRB in December 2020 and then appointed to the Board of Directors at the June 2021 Annual General Meeting. This new council operates as an independent non-government organization that provides

advice to decision makers based on the following guiding principles:

1. Provide information, advice and recommendations to management authorities and other decision makers about threats, best practices, planning, prioritization and emerging concerns related to invasive species, pests and pathogens.
2. Serve as a respected source of credible information and resources on invasive species, pests and pathogens in the NWT.
3. Increase awareness and educate about the destructive impacts that invasive species, pests and pathogens can have on the environment, economy and society.
4. Engage and empower people to prevent, detect and take action against invasive species, pests and pathogens.
5. Foster partnerships with jurisdictions, agencies, industry and other groups to collaboratively develop and implement management programs to combat invasive species, pests and pathogens.

Check out our new website and like our Facebook page!

Other Training I have spent a lot of time this year focusing on Indigenous studies: Traditional Ecological Knowledge from the University of Northern British Columbia, Indigenous Canada training from the University of Alberta and various Indigenous awareness and consultation and engagement courses from the Indigenous Awareness Academy.

Personal I was able to take several weeks off work over Christmas and the New Year and see my Mum for the first time in two and a half years!

Sarah Lord

fisheries & forestry biologist

2017 - 2022

I am sad to write that this will be my last update as the GRRB Fisheries & Forestry Biologist!

Since starting at GRRB in January 2017, I have greatly enjoyed working with my fellow staff, Board members, Renewable Resource Council (RRC) councillors and community members on fisheries and forestry management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. I have personally benefitted from many training and learning opportunities during my years with the GRRB and I have been privileged to spend lots of time out on this beautiful land at field research sites and fish camps.

I have really enjoyed working with Gwich'in youth doing school visits, Nature Day, Science Rendezvous and other outreach activities, as well as hiring youth to work as my field assistants in many different research projects over the years. In partnership with many academic and government scientists, I have worked hard to



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

develop and lead research projects to answer questions raised by the Gwich'in communities including the whitefish project, eDNA sampling for Dolly Varden in the Vittrekwa and Arctic Red River headwaters, the paleolimnology water levels project taking moss samples and peat cores. I also helped with many others. My work on those research projects will continue after I have left the position because we still have reports and papers to write as we wrap up!

In addition to research, I pushed forward on updating management plans, including the revised Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Dolly Varden that was approved in 2019 and the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan that is in the review and updating process now. I also assisted in developing new plans, including the Species At Risk Management Plan for Dolly Varden that you should see for approval next year.

The last five years have had quite a number of significant legislative reviews happen at both the federal and territorial level, including the review of the changes to the *Fisheries Act* that

culminated in a modernized *Fisheries Act* coming into force in June 2019 that undid the those 2012 changes, and then the development of many policies and regulations stemming from the new *Act*. In 2018 the GNWT had a whole slate of legislative proposals for GRRB to review, including the *Forest Act*, *Water Act*, *Protected Areas Act*, *Environmental Rights Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*. I participated on behalf of the GRRB as part of the Technical Working Group who won the Minister's Award for this collaborative work in 2020. Although the *Forest Act* got sent back to the drawing board, we are now seeing new Protected Areas being proposed (Thaidene Nënë, Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta) under that new legislation, which is exciting!

I want to thank the staff, Board members, RRCs and all the community members I've worked with for their warm welcome, support and guidance over the years. I appreciate you all and I look forward to continuing to work with you in my new role at Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

My staff update on activities since our last newsletter follows.

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Photo credit: Nathan Bristow,
Moose Kerr School



Management Planning Forestry Management I worked on updating the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC). COVID-19 restrictions continued to prevent direct consultations with the RRCs.

Fisheries Management The Species at Risk group at Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) is developing a Species at Risk Management Plan for Dolly Varden in the Western Arctic. Kaytlin Cooper and I have been clear on GRRB's expectations for meaningful engagement with the RRCs and the timelines laid out in GRRB's Consultation Policy. DFO staff plan on consulting the RRCs virtually. In January, I re-sent the revised, approved-by-the-Working-Group Rat River Working Group Terms of Reference to user groups for formal motions of approval.

Research I offered my support to researchers at many different organizations for projects that address GRRB research priorities.

Fall Seine Program I co-led the DFO fall seine program at the Rat River fish hole (September 30). Very few fish were observed visually on that date,



so we did not attempt to seine. It is unknown if the fish were just very late moving up to the fish hole this year. We did a thorough search, flying up past the Yukon border and out to the Delta and we did not see any congregations of fish like we normally would at the fish hole area. Ryan McLeod and I were in the helicopter searching and both of us were confident we only saw a few fish. This is now the second year in a row with insufficient new tags put out in the population and no estimate generated from the seine program, which highlights the importance of the char harvest monitoring program providing a second estimate.

Because so few fish were seen, I organized an additional trip to take

video of the migration path from the Delta all the way up to the fish hole in case something was preventing the fish from getting to the fish hole. I hired a videographer and brought Ryan McLeod and a community member from Fort McPherson (Steven Tetlitchi) with me. We flew a continuous route over every stretch of the migration pathway and no barriers to fish passage were observed. There were two beaver dams, but they were not blocking the main channel. The fish hole was mostly iced-over by the date we flew (October 22), but we did see more fish in the open water spots than we had seen on September 30.

Peat Moss Sampling for Past Mackenzie Water Levels In September 2020, we completed field work for this project. Charlie Snowshoe Jr. was my youth field assistant. The peat moss samples that we collected will be used to reconstruct past (1,000+ years) water levels in the Mackenzie Delta region. I continued to provide direction and guidance for this project. Several graduate students are working on processing the moss samples and peat cores collected in 2020. We anticipate results being reported in late 2022. Jennifer Galloway is working with Sharon Snowshoe to write a plain language report on activities in the 2021-22 fiscal year, translated into Gwich'in.

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Community-Based Whitefish Monitoring I continued to provide logistical and administrative support for this project, partnered with Dr. Rachel Hovel from the University of Maine. Two monitors in Fort McPherson are fishing this season. This is the last year of our Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) grant. Our plan for next year is to work through the backlog of existing samples and draft a summary report so we can determine next steps.

Arctic Salmon Project I provided logistic and administrative support to Dr. Karen Dunmall and Darcy McNicholl from DFO Winnipeg to deliver this project. Few salmon were turned in this year, so the project is focusing on working through the backlog of existing samples. For more information, check out the project's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/arcticsalmon/>

Permafrost Degradation on Iuk dagaii (Broad Whitefish) Habitat in the Peel River Watershed

This is a collaborative project with GRRB, Gwichin Tribal Council (GTC) Department of Cultural Heritage and the University of Victoria to look at how melting permafrost may be affecting fish habitat in the Peel River, using traditional knowledge interviews to map important fishing areas and whitefish habitat, combined with an overlay analysis of permafrost thaw risk. Post-doctoral fellow Jackie Ziegler (supervised by Trevor Lantz at the University of Victoria) is writing up water level Traditional Knowledge (TK) interviews done by Tracey Proverbs in summer 2019 into a manuscript for publication.

Jackie is also working with Kristi Benson and Sharon Snowshoe from GTC Department of Cultural Heritage (GCH) to collate TK information about whitefish from existing GCH archives.

Jackie had planned to visit the GSA in September to do new interviews in person, which were cancelled by the COVID-19 outbreak in Inuvik. We re-scheduled for January, which again got cancelled due to a new outbreak. We are hoping to bring Jackie up once the local situation is under control.

Technical Advice In December, I reviewed the updated draft NWT Sportfishing Regulations for 2022-23.

Liaison I continued to keep in touch with all four RRC coordinators by phone and email.

Other Health & Safety I remained active on the Occupational Health & Safety Committee. I participated in meetings, typed up minutes and completed safety-related action items.

Mahsi cho!

Sarah





Jessi Pascal
environmental
coordinator
since September 2021*

***Change of Roles** I was hired in June 2021 as a Technician. On September 13, 2021, I started as Environmental Coordinator.

Research Gwich'in Harvest Study
I visited three of the four Gwich'in communities to consult with the Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) on recommended changes to the current Harvest Survey. Once consultations are complete, I will be releasing a report. To increase participation within the region, the GRRB has provided new promotional items to each RRC for those who have completed the Harvest Survey.

Fieldwork I participated in the divii (Dall's Sheep) survey via snowmobile in February and March. I have been involved in that project since near the beginning. Other fieldwork included the Muskox survey that occurs every 5-6 years at the Alaska border, Yukon North Slope and Richardson Mountains. I was also part of this

project in 2016. In June 2022, I again assisted our Wildlife Biologist, Steve Anderson, with the divii survey in the Richardson Mountains.

Other Conservation Calendar I assisted Nick Westover with the creation of this year's Conservation Calendar, ensuring that all photos and descriptions were provided in a timely manner.

Fisheries and Forestry Biologist
The GRRB Fisheries and Forestry Biologist position has been vacant for some time. While we work to fill the role, I have been delegated to do some of the work that this role normally covers. This includes organizing the upcoming Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Steering Committee meeting, where we discuss the management of Rat River char.

The GRRB has hosted this meeting for the past few years. The Steering Committee includes the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Parks Canada.

Future Work I am assisting with the framework of the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan, which may include future consultations with each RRC.

I am also taking the lead on our upcoming Research Priorities workshop in early 2023.

Conferences, Meetings and Consultations

- RRC Regional Workshop (October 4-7)
- Environment and Natural Resources meet and greet (October 12)
- Ehdiiat RRC (November), Nihtat RRC (December 8), Gwichya RRC (December 13) Harvest Survey consultations
- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society (ABEKS) meeting (October 22)
- Finance meeting (October 29)
- Yukon Plastics Gathering (November 2-4)
- Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Annual Status Meeting (November 25)
- Geological Survey of Canada virtual workshop on Climate Change (January 17)
- Staff Work Plan Workshop (January 18)
- Confronting Climate Change on the Big River: Hannah Cunningham (University of Alberta; January 21)
- NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program Blueprint meeting – Water and Fish (January 26-27)
- Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) Annual Harvest Meeting (February 8-9)
- Western Arctic Youth Council – Youth initiative (March 3)
- Aurora College presentation (March 8)
- ABEKS meeting (March 11-15)

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- Consultation Workshop (March 21-22)
- Fisheries and Oceans Huddle (March 24)
- Meet and greet with Yukon Conservation officers (March 28)
- *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* workshop
- (March 30-31, June 9)
- Gwich'in Forest Management Plan meetings (April 1, May 10 & May 31)
- Muskox Workshop (April 19-20)
- Renewables in Remote Communities (April 25-29)
- PCMB meeting (June 8)
- West Side Working Group meeting (June 20)
- Rat River Working Group meeting (June 24)
- Strategic Planning and Research Priorities meeting (July 21)

Divii (Dall's Sheep) Project Partner Awarded Prestigious Weston Scholarship

The GRRB congratulates Sydney Goward, our partner in the divii project!

The Weston Family Awards in Northern Research provide unparalleled support to young scientists in Canada pursuing research in Canada's North. These annual awards are some of the most prestigious in the country for students pursuing post-graduate studies. Sydney is a master's student at the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies. Her research uses remote camera traps to study Dall's sheep and mammal community ecology in the Northwest Territories' Northern Richardson Mountains in partnership with the GRRB.

More information on Sydney, this award and the full list of 2022 recipients is available online.



Weston Family
Awards in
Northern Research
2022

Weston Family Awards in
Northern Research



Sydney Goward

Sydney is a master's student at the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies. Her research uses remote camera traps to study Dall's sheep and mammal community ecology in the Northwest Territories' Northern Richardson Mountains. In partnership with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Sydney's project is part of a broader Indigenous-led community-based monitoring program.

Sydney is a member of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Métis Association and grew up on Secwépemc territory, in the community of Williams Lake, B.C. She is a collaborator with the First Nations—B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum and is involved in developing the B.C. Provincial Government's Thinhorn Sheep Stewardship Framework as part of the Indigenous perspectives working group. She is an accomplished forestry professional and emerging wildlife ecologist, skilled in working with, and for, Indigenous research and management partners.

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Cheryl Greenland
finance/administrative
manager
since February 2009

The Finance and Administrative Manager role involves providing administrative and financial assistance to the Board members and staff in a timely and efficient manner. Cheryl has been on leave for most of the year, but hopes to return to work soon. In her absence, Amy Neyando and Mary Ann Villeneuve have been helping to fill her role.

Amy Neyando office
coordinator (term)

Originally from Fort McPherson, I have been living in Inuvik since 2005. I have been working at the GRRB on a term position as the Office Coordinator, alongside Mary Ann Villeneuve (pictured below right).

Duties include:

- administration/reception
- accounts payable and receivable
- bank reconciliation
- hiring, orientation, scheduling and supervision of Summer Students
- job advertising
- cleaning, organizing and setting up the office
- setting up for meetings
- assisting the staff where and when needed

Mary Ann and I are supervising the summer students and so far, things are going well. We are looking forward to an exciting summer with the students.

I like working here. The GRRB team is great and the atmosphere is awesome. I am gaining a lot of knowledge and looking forward to new experiences with this position.

*At right: Mary Ann Villeneuve
(Office Coordinator) at GRRB PD Day*



Summer Students 2022



Hope McDonald I was born in Inuvik, but have been living in Fort McPherson my whole life. I recently moved to Inuvik for school and work. This is my second year of being a summer student here at GRRB and it is the best job I've had.

I have obtained skills and work experience as a previous summer student. I am very familiar with digitalizing, scanning and uploading important files in the library database. I am also good at answering phones, taking messages, greeting visitors, daily office administration duties and outdoor fieldwork that requires traveling. I work very well with others and consider myself a great team player in group work activities. I can multi-task and manage my time productively to meet deadlines. I enjoy learning new skills and I am respectful of the organization's mandate and goals.

It feels good to be back at the GRRB! I am looking forward to another good year, especially with all of the staff.

Rayna Vittrekwa (below) I am originally from Teetl'it Zheh/Fort McPherson. This summer is my first one working as a full-time Summer Student here at the GRRB. Previously, I was attached to different GRRB-affiliated projects and fieldwork as a part-time Summer Student out of Fort McPherson. I travelled up the Peel River and on the Dempster Highway for this past position.

I am excited to join the GRRB office! My work day normally includes working alongside the other Summer Students to digitize essential files and help organize the GRRB office space. Our goal is having less clutter and a more accommodating atmosphere for present and future employees.



Dayle Cole (right) From Tsiigehtchic, this was Dayle's first GRRB Summer Student job. When asked what interested her most about the position, Dayle responded "definitely getting more experience in an office environment and learning more about the land and animals." Dayle was leaving her options open, exploring to see what she likes and using this summer student role as a learning experience.



Charlie Snowshoe Jr.

From Inuvik, Charlie has worked for the GRRB as a Summer Student over the past three summers. The GRRB is very pleased that Charlie continues to express interest in returning to work with us. When asked "What interests you the most about the Summer Student position?" Charlie responded that every day he has something to do, he really enjoys his job (a fun summer at the GRRB) and likes to participate in the fieldwork. His passion is "physical work where he is doing things", "out on the land." He "likes to help when needed". His future career considerations are Wildlife Officer or mechanic.



'Stewards of the Land' Youth Workshop

Local2Global Youth Summit

From March 1 – 4, 2022, **Gwich'in Council International** and **Western Arctic Youth Collective** partnered together to deliver the Local2Global (L2G) youth summit in Inuvik. L2G is a project of the Arctic Council's **Sustainable Development Working Group** to promote international collaboration and connections between circumpolar communities working together to foster life promotion and mental well-being of all Arctic youth and communities. This multi-year circumpolar youth empowerment initiative began in 2019 and is hoped to continue through 2023. This year, a series of events and activities (film screenings, youth panels, a reverse town hall, stakeholder meeting and more) explored the topics of pride, resilience, suicide prevention, well-being, youth empowerment and leadership.

'Stewards of the Land' As part of L2G, on March 3 the GRRB delivered a 'Stewards of the Land' Workshop at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex in Inuvik.

This important workshop focused on renewable resource management as it relates to youth, individual well-being and the traditional knowledge concepts of "sharing", "resource management", "respect for the land, animals and people" derived from storytelling. These concepts have been incorporated into complex modern resource management processes, which have been established to conserve and protect wildlife.

Jessi Pascal, GRRB Environmental Coordinator, began the workshop with a presentation on the GRRB



and a question-and-answer period. Sharon Snowshoe, Director Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Department of Cultural Heritage, followed by narrating a traditional Gwich'in story 'Boy in the Moon' (see next page for a photo of the book cover). Arlyn Charlie, Coordinator, GTC Department of Cultural Heritage, gave an oral presentation on interpreting traditional knowledge from storytelling.

We showcased the traditional art of skinning, butchering and drying a caribou (contributed by Anita Koe Tetlit). Liz Jerome, Marty Kunnizzi and Bobbi Rose Koe demonstrated this for us at the Inuvik Native Band gathering space.

After the demonstration, we split into groups and discussed the following questions:

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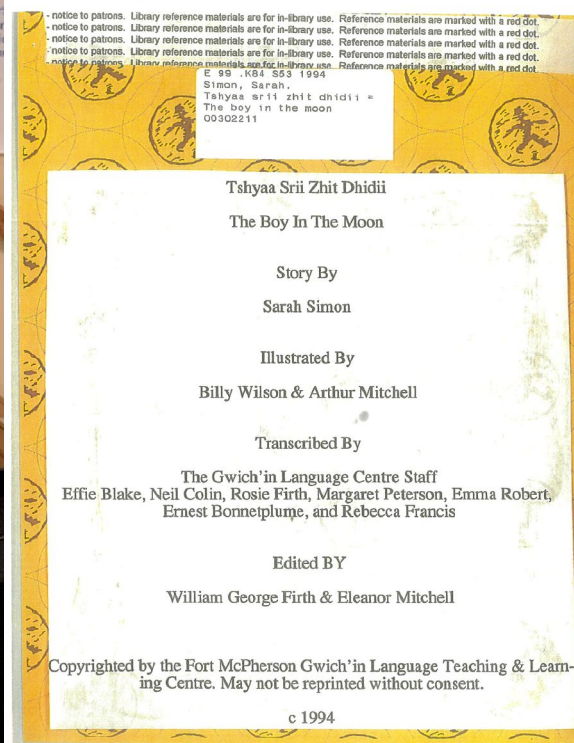




- In what ways do you feel having respect for the Land, Wildlife and Gwich'in Culture contribute to a person's well-being?
- What was the most important idea or perspective you took away from today's session and why was this important to you?
- The youth are the next generation of 'Stewards of the Land'. What would be the role of youth in planning for the future?
- What other presentations, demonstrations or life experience do you feel would be of interest when talking about renewable resources?

Resources from the Workshop, including links and publications related to wildlife management, Gwich'in legends, research reports and publications of general interest are available **on our website**.

A big thank you to the Working Group (Wanda McDonald - GRRB, Sharon Snowshoe - GTC, Arlyn Charlie - GTC and Diana Barr - Consultant) who dedicated several hours planning, organizing and delivering the event!



Meeting the Minister

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, traveled to our region in August to meet with various groups. Her aim was to hear concerns first-hand, with the hopes that she might come out of her tour with a better understanding of northern challenges and the diversity of issues we face. On August 9, the Minister met with GRRB Interim Chairperson William Koe at the GRRB office in Inuvik.

Also in attendance were:

GRRB Representatives

- Sam Bullock (Board member)
- Burt Hunt (Board member)
- Roger Fraser (Board member)
- Wanda McDonald (Executive Director)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

- Caleigh Garland, Minister's Chief of Operations
- Sofia Vartsakis, Prairies and Arctic Advisor
- Michelle Wheatley, Acting Regional Director General (DFO)

- Joanne Weiss Reid, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard
- Amy Amos, Director of Arctic Operations (DFO)

Topics of discussion included:

- Conservation and education
- Lengthy Federal nomination process for Board members; operational impact of vacancies
- 2024 expiration of Board member appointments
- Job/career opportunities for Northerners
- Funding for fisheries and baseline data collection (i.e. Dolly Varden and salmon)
- Small-scale commercial fisheries
- Relationship building
- Other species that can impact fisheries (i.e. muskrat, beavers)

L to R: GRRB Interim Chair William Koe, Minister Murray, GRRB Board Member Sam Bullock



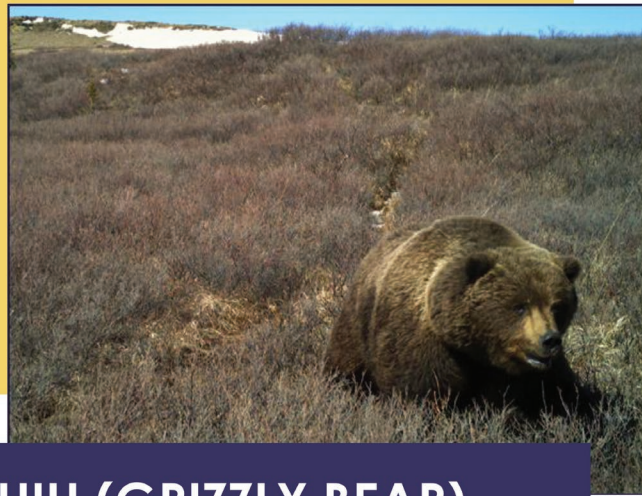
Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan Update

We are excited to announce the official acceptance of the new Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan by the Government of the Northwest Territories' Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). GRRB and the Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) will work with ENR to begin implementing the plan and its framework for the effective management of Shih (Grizzly Bear) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

Under our mandate to be the main instrument of fish, wildlife and forest management in the GSA, the GRRB helped develop the first Grizzly Bear Management Plan (GBMP) for the GSA in 2000. The Agreement for this plan was put into place in 2002. Initially, the GBMP worked well. However, over time, the RRCs identified several areas where the plan could be improved.

The GRRB has been working with the RRCs, ENR and various other stakeholders since spring 2020 to develop an updated Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan for the GSA for 2022-2032. The new plan is written in plain language so that it is easier to understand. The tag system has been streamlined. Communication between the RRCs has been strengthened.

The federal government provided funding for this project through its Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program. ENR supplied funds to hold the consultations and update the plan.



SHIH (GRIZZLY BEAR) MANAGEMENT PLAN



Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

August 05, 2022

Mr. William Koe
Interim Chairperson
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
P.O. BOX 2240
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0
Email: williekoe@northwestel.net

Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan - Gwich'in Settlement Area 2022-2032

Thank you for your letter dated June 24, 2022, seeking Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) support and acceptance for the *Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan - Gwich'in Settlement Area 2022-2032* (the plan).

ENR appreciates the work undertaken by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), Renewable Recourse Councils (RRCs) and other stakeholders to develop the plan. ENR staff have reviewed and agree with the GRRB's assessment that no legislative or regulatory changes are required for operationalization of the plan in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

I am happy to accept the plan in full as per Section 12.8.25 of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. ENR would be happy to work with the GRRB and its partners to implement the plan and its framework for the effective management of Shih (Grizzly Bear) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. ENR staff can work with the GRRB to collaboratively operationalize the plan, and our Beaufort Delta regional office will be the main point of contact. To discuss implementation, please contact Mr. Norman Snowshoe, Regional Superintendent, at norman.snowshoe@gov.nt.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the collaborative management of Shih (Grizzly Bear) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the rest of the NWT.

Sincerely,

Shane Thompson
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca

get in touch

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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upcoming events

GRRB Strategic Planning & Research

Priorities RRC & Public Sessions

Inuvik/NRRC - September 12
Tsiigehtchic/GGRR - September 14
Fort McPherson/TRRC - September 15
Inuvik/GTC/GRRB - September 20
Aklavik/ERRC - TBD

GRRB Fall Board Meeting

September 21 - 22, 2022
Inuvik, NT

Porcupine Caribou Summit

October 25-26, 2022
Midway Lake, NT

Gwich'in Harvest Survey

November 1 - 30, 2022
Inuvik/Tsiigehtchic/Fort McPherson/
Aklavik

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Meeting

November 15 - 17, 2022
Inuvik, NT



Please call your RRC for
monthly meeting times:

Ehdiitat RRC (Aklavik)
867-978-2336

Tetlit RRC (Fort McPherson)
867-952-2330

Gwichya RRC (Tsiigehtchic)
867-953-3608

Nihtat RRC (Inuvik)
867-777-6650