



Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Yukon North Slope Conference

Dawson City

People came from all over—from Fairbanks and Ottawa, Tuktoyaktuk and Thunder Bay, Aklavik and Wyoming—for the fourth Yukon North Slope Conference. The 130 participants enjoyed Dawson City's hospitality during September 14-16th, complete with fall colours, warm, sunny days, and of course Diamond Tooth Gertie's. The theme of the conference was "*Co-management on the North Slope, Implementing our Plans.*" The central focus was the *Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan*. By all accounts, the event was a success.

Section 12(57) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement calls for a conference to be held annually for three years. The purpose is to promote public discussion among native organizations, government and the private sector with respect to management coordination for the North Slope. Following the third Yukon North Slope Conference, in 1991, it was decided to hold a North Slope conference once every three years instead of annually.

This fourth conference was definitely a time to work. Conference delegates were asked to decide how to go about implementing the *Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan*—not a simple job. Ten workshops were set up with facilitators and rapporteurs. Each workshop represented a management goal within the Plan. Participants were asked to determine priorities for implementing the actions of each goal.

For two days, participants discussed and debated the issues. When it came time for the facilitators to make their final reports on what had happened in the workshops, there was an impressive coming together of ideas. The workshops produced valuable comments that will assist WMAC(NS) in its continuing efforts to complete the Plan. Publication is expected in 1995.

The conference finished late Friday morning but many stayed to mingle before heading home. The casual conversation overheard among delegates as they left still focused on the conference and the scope of the Plan they had just discussed. People were pleased with it.

Impressive Displays

A variety of displays were on hand at the Yukon North Slope Conference. Delegates viewed a range of presentations, including a photo interpretive display of Herschel Island, a Geographic Information System (GIS)

demonstration, a wolf satellite tracking display, and many others. Much time and effort went into putting these displays together and delegates were duly impressed.

Feast a Highlight

One of the highlights of the fourth Yukon North Slope Conference was the feast held on Thursday night. Mr. Percy Henry, Dawson First Nation Elder, gave an opening prayer before delegates were treated to a banquet of salmon, caribou, bison and arctic char, as well as an assortment of salads and desserts—Delicious!!



Naysmith Gives Keynote Address

The keynote address at the fourth Yukon North Slope Conference was given by the conference chair, Dr. John Naysmith, chief negotiator for Canada from 1976 to 1978 in the IFA negotiations and now Head of the Forestry Department at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Dr. Naysmith took a holistic approach when talking about ecosystem management. He said we must also consider the human aspect of a management plan for it to be effective. Having a sound blueprint for both the human and resource management, he said, is the only way the three main principles of the IFA can be realized. Section One of the IFA lists these principles as: preserving cultural identity, Inuvialuit participation in the economy, and protection and preservation of the environment.

In his remarks, Dr. Naysmith was particularly impressed with the Wildemess Charter in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. It says that the degradation of



the Yukon's North Slope will impoverish all mankind, not only the Inuvialuit or Yukoners or Canadians. Dr Naysmith also noted that as humans, we are all dependent on a very thin sphere of atmosphere, water, land and energy from the sun. We must take that seriously. He praised the Plan for its vision in laying out the groundwork for preserving the Yukon North Slope for future generations.

Long Time ICG Chair Steps Down

Outgoing Inuvialuit Game Council Chair Andy Carpenter was honoured on Thursday night with a special gift from Diamond Tooth Gertie. She invited the unsuspecting leader onto the stage for a unique serenade. Andy's friends had organized the event in order to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated nearly 20 years of his life to the Inuvialuit cause and to the Game Council. In addition to Gertie's personal attention, Andy received a beautiful Robert Bateman wildlife print.



Newly appointed ICG Chair, Larry Carpenter, participates in a conference workshop.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

- **Inuvialuit Game Council:** Danny C. Gordon; Herbert Felix; Alternates: Billy Archie, and Carol Arey
- **Government of Canada:** Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service; Alternate: Alan Fehr, Parks Canada
- **Government of Yukon:** Brian Pelchat, Renewable Resources; Alternate: Dorothy Cooley, Renewable Resources
- **Chairperson:** Lindsay Staples
- **Secretariat:** Aileen Horler

For more information, please contact us at: WMAC (NS), P.O. Box 5928, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5L6
Tel: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

Email: wmacns@web.net **Website:** www.taiga.net/wmac