



Department of Environment
SUPPORT FOR HARVESTERS AND WILDLIFE CO-MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT

The Government of Nunavut will provide financial assistance to support harvesters, individuals, and organizations who contribute to wildlife co-management in Nunavut.

The Department of Environment is committed to a grants and contributions approval process that is accountable, easy to understand, fair, transparent and reflects community needs.

PRINCIPLES

The application and administration of this policy is in accordance with the principles of conservation, wildlife management and Inuit societal values.

- Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq –Maintaining respect and care for the land, animals and the environment is necessary in any harvesting initiative. Harvesting of wildlife is governed by and subject to the principles of conservation, as provided in Article 5.1.5 of the *Nunavut Lands Claims Agreement (NLCA)* and the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*.
 - (a) maintenance of the natural balance of ecological systems;
 - (b) the protection of habitat;
 - (c) the maintenance of vital, healthy, wildlife populations capable of sustaining harvesting; and
 - (d) the restoration and revitalization of depleted populations of wildlife and their habitat.
- Piliriqatigiinniq/ Ikajuqtigiinniq - working together towards a common cause. The knowledge and experience of harvesters and representative organizations is a valuable component of wildlife co-management in Nunavut, and the Government of Nunavut will support their activities within specified guidelines.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to those individuals and organizations that support wildlife co-management objectives or that enhance traditional harvesting activities in Nunavut.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms apply to this policy:

Audit

The examination and verification of records and reporting thereon.

Contribution

A conditional transfer payment made to a recipient from whom the Government will not receive goods or services. Contribution payments are conditional on performance or achievement, and are subject to audit or other financial reporting requirements.

Contribution Agreement

A contractual agreement for a contribution which outlines the obligations and reporting responsibilities of the parties involved.

Department

The Nunavut Department of Environment.

Grant

A transfer payment made to a recipient from whom the Government will not receive goods or services. A grant is a payment without a financial accountability requirement. An achievement report or other non-financial accountability requirements may be required.

Harvester

A person who harvests, as the activity is defined in the Wildlife Act; also includes a person who fishes.

Hunters and Trappers Organization

The duly recognized and registered local organization representing the interests of hunters and trappers in a part of Nunavut, as described in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Nunavut Inuit

Any individual who is a beneficiary of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Regional Wildlife Organization

The duly recognized and registered local organization representing the combined interests of Hunters and Trappers Organizations in a region of Nunavut, as described by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Resident of Nunavut

A Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has been living in Nunavut for at least twelve months.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Minister of Environment

The Minister is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this policy. The Minister shall approve program provisions including, where applicable, the variation of accountability requirements for specific contributions.

Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister is accountable to the Minister for the administration of this policy, including final approval on the awarding of all grants and contributions.

The Deputy Minister, or their designated official, establishes and communicates clear and transparent procedures and criteria for the allocation of funds under this policy. This will include guidelines that address:

- i. Application requirements and processes;
- ii. Evaluation and approval criteria; and
- iii. Terms and Conditions.

Director of Wildlife

The Director of Wildlife is responsible for overseeing and ensuring compliance with the terms of the policy.

AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Executive Council

The Executive Council shall approve program provisions and any exceptions to this policy.

Financial Management Board

The Financial Management Board approves an annual budget for contributions specified within this policy

PROVISIONS

Eligibility

This policy applies to individuals or organizations within Nunavut as detailed in the schedules to this policy.

Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as to limit the authority of the NLCA. The Agreement shall take precedence over this policy.

Financial Resources

- i. Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on approval by the Legislative Assembly and on the availability of funds in the appropriate budget. Contributions funded by the Government of Canada through third-party transfers are subject to available funding and the terms and conditions imposed on the transfer of funds.
- ii. All relevant provisions contained in the *Financial Administration Act (FAA)* and the Financial Administration Manual (FAM) shall apply to the administration of all grants and contributions issued under this policy.
- iii. Prior to issuing payment, the recipients of a contribution shall sign a Contribution Agreement, which contains project goals and objectives, guidelines for allowable expenditures, completion timeframe, and financial reporting and accounting requirements.
- iv. Eligibility for funding under this policy does not guarantee approval for financial assistance.
- v. Funding in one fiscal year does not guarantee funding in subsequent years.
- vi. Groups or individuals approved for funding under this policy may be funded at a level less than the amount requested.
- vii. Recipients of contributions must grant the Government of Nunavut the right to conduct an audit of activities supported under this program, even though an audit may not always be undertaken.
- viii. The Department may in its sole discretion provide an extension to an organization for the submission of financial statements. In such instances, the organization in receipt of funding must provide in writing the reason or reasons for an extension.
- ix. The Department may, in its sole discretion allow for an organization to carry over funding from one fiscal year to the next if they experience a surplus of funds at

- the end of a fiscal year.
- x. In instances where the required un-audited or audited financial statements are not submitted, or an organization has identified surplus funds - except those surplus funds for which the organization has obtained written approval to carry the funds forward – the amounts outstanding will be deducted from future payments and/or prohibit future contribution agreements. If a multi-year contribution agreement is in place, surplus funds may be carried from one fiscal year into the following fiscal year with written approval from the Department.
 - xi. All applicants for funding must disclose if they have applied for funding for the same project from other sources, in order to avoid any possibility of double funding. The Government of Nunavut reserves the right to conduct an audit of any project/program funded through a grant or contribution.

General Conditions

- This policy and related programs shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the existing policies and laws of the Territory of Nunavut.
- The Government may terminate, suspend, or reduce the scope of grants and contributions made under this policy if the recipient fails to comply with the terms of the policy.
- The Government of Nunavut shall not be liable for and shall be saved harmless against all losses, costs, charges, damages, expenses, personal losses, injury or death etc. from application and/or recipients of grants or contributions from this policy.
- The Government of Nunavut retains the right to use project details for communications, reporting and marketing purposes.
- Detailed conditions contained in the program schedules appended to this policy statement shall apply.

APPEALS

When applicable, an applicant for a grant or contribution has the right to appeal to the Deputy Minister of Environment regarding the assessment and decision on their application for funding.

Appeals for grants or contributions must be made within thirty days of the applicant receiving the decision on their application.

The decision of the Deputy Minister of Environment shall be final.

PREROGATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Nothing in this directive shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take actions respecting grants and contributions of the Department outside the provisions of this policy

SUNSET CLAUSE

This policy remains in effect from the date of approval until March 31, 2022.

Premier

SCHEDULE A - PROGRAMS

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Schedule A-1 SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS

Purpose

The Department supplies core operational funding to eligible Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) in recognition of the important role they play in wildlife co-management in Nunavut, and to support their meaningful engagement with the Department in wildlife management decision-making.

Eligibility

Active RWOs that are recognized by the Minister of Environment as representing the interests of Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in Nunavut.

Accountability

RWOs that receive financial support from the Department must submit an annual report to the Regional Manager of Environment to account for funding received in the previous year.

Where an annual report is not submitted to the Department, the RWO may not be eligible for further funding until the required information is received.

Annual Reporting Requirements:

Each RWO shall make an annual report to the Department no later than 60 days after each fiscal year that includes the following:

- Sufficient information to determine eligibility for funding, as set out in this schedule.
- An audited annual financial statement, including details of actual expenditures as they relate to the objectives of the program.
- An outline of activities undertaken in the previous year as they relate to the objectives of this program.

Amount

An RWO shall receive funding proportional to the number of HTOs within their jurisdiction.

An RWO with unexpended funds at year end may request to retain it for use in the subsequent fiscal year. The Department may allow the retention of such funds when circumstances warrant.

Audit

RWOs are required to submit mid-year un-audited financial statements (as scheduled in the contribution agreement), and year-end audited financial statements, including an audited schedule of revenues and expenditures, within 60 days of the end of the Government of Nunavut's fiscal year-end.

Payment

A lump sum payment in the form of a contribution will be made upon execution of a contribution agreement between the Minister of Environment and the RWO.

Term

Contributions are made one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.

Schedule A-2 SUPPORT FOR HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATIONS

Purpose

The Department supplies core operational funding to eligible Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) in recognition of the important role they play in wildlife co-management in Nunavut, and to support their meaningful engagement with the Department in wildlife management decision-making.

Funds supplied by the Department are intended to facilitate core operations related to wildlife co-management, such as community level consultation, planning, and HTO participation in meetings as they relate to the Department's wildlife research and management initiatives. For greater certainty, this contribution shall constitute as financial assistance for HTO participation in meetings. Honoraria will only be provided in exceptional circumstances, upon request and at the discretion of the Department.

Eligibility

Active HTOs that are recognized by the Minister of Environment as representing the interests of hunters and trappers within Nunavut.

Accountability

HTOs that receive financial support from the Department must submit an annual report to the appropriate Regional Wildlife Organization (RWO) to account for funding received in the previous year.

Where an annual report is not submitted to the RWO, the HTO may not be eligible for further funding until the required information is received.

Supporting Data:

Each HTO shall make an annual report to their representative RWO that includes the following:

- i. Sufficient information to determine their allocation of funding, as set out in this schedule.
- ii. An annual financial statement, including details of actual expenditures as they relate to the objectives of the program.
- iii. An outline of activities undertaken in the previous year as they relate to the objectives of this program.
- iv. Names of the Board of Directors.

Amount

Each organization shall receive a base funding allocation of \$11,000. Additional funds shall be contributed to HTOs when the population of the community, according to the most recent census, is:

Population	Rate	Base Allocation	Total Allocation
0 – 100	\$2,000	\$11,000	\$13,000
101 – 250	\$4,000	\$11,000	\$15,000
251 – 500	\$4,500	\$11,000	\$15,500
501 – 750	\$5,000	\$11,000	\$16,000
751 – 1000	\$5,500	\$11,000	\$16,500
1001 – 1250	\$6,000	\$11,000	\$17,000
1251 – 1500	\$6,500	\$11,000	\$17,500
1501 – 1750	\$7,000	\$11,000	\$18,000
1750 – 2000	\$7,500	\$11,000	\$18,500
2001 – 2250	\$8,000	\$11,000	\$19,000
2251 – 2500	\$8,500	\$11,000	\$19,500
>2500	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$20,000

A HTO with unexpended funds at year end may request to retain it for use in the subsequent fiscal year if they have provided the RWO with an annual report and are eligible to receive operational funding for the future fiscal year. The Department may allow the retention of such funds when circumstances warrant.

Payment

A lump sum payment in the form of a contribution will be made to the HTO. The RWO shall administer funding to its member HTOs upon execution of a contribution agreement between the Minister of Environment and the RWO.

Term

Contributions are one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.

Schedule A-3 DISASTER COMPENSATION FOR HARVESTERS

Purpose

This program provides financial compensation to support Nunavut harvesters who suffer the loss of, or damage to, harvesting equipment and property due to a natural weather event or disaster.

Eligibility

Residents of Nunavut who are primarily subsistence harvesters may be eligible for compensation under this program.

A natural weather event or disaster is defined as a significant adverse event resulting from a natural Earth process and may include: blizzards or severe winter storms, strong winds, earthquake, flood, tundra or forest fire, etc.

Ineligible Occurrences

Losses or damages that are avoidable, due to human error, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, or negligence, as determined by the Conservation Officer during inspection, are ineligible for compensation.

Damage or loss caused by wildlife is not eligible under this program.

Claims for occurrences within a municipality are normally ineligible but may be considered on a case by case basis under exceptional circumstances.

Supporting Data

A complete application form and affidavit of loss are required to be submitted to the Conservation Officer.

Review

- i. On receipt of the application, the Conservation Officer will, where feasible, go to the location to inspect the damage and the surrounding area, and generally investigate the circumstances of the occurrence.
- ii. Based on the inspection and review of the application, the Conservation Officer will make recommendations. The community Hunters and Trappers Organization may also make recommendations on the application.

- iii. Applications will be forwarded to a review committee comprised of four (4) Regional Managers of Wildlife, Senior Manager, Operations, and the Coordinator, Operations & Regulations.
- iv. The committee will review all applications. Recommendations to accept or reject each application will be forwarded to the Director of Wildlife, or a designated official, for decision.
- v. Within sixty days of the completed application being received by the Department, the applicant will be provided with a letter informing them of the decision and the reason for it.

Accountability

Applications must be submitted within one month of the date of the occurrence and must demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum standards and eligibility requirements set out in this schedule for financial assistance

Amount

Funding levels depend on the nature of the claim, and historical claim information, to a maximum of \$15,000 per occurrence.

Funding levels will be based on the current value of equipment lost or damaged. Upon inspection, and review of an application, the Conservation Officer will make recommendations to the review committee on asset depreciation, as applicable.

Payment

A lump sum payment in the form of a grant will be made to successful applicants.

Term

The grants are one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.

Schedule A-4 WILDLIFE DAMAGE PREVENTION

Purpose

This program provides financial assistance to individuals or recognized community groups who wish to take measures to prevent or reduce wildlife damage to property and to improve human safety.

Eligibility

All residents and recognized community groups of Nunavut.

Eligible Prevention Methods

Prevention methods that may be eligible for funding include:

- i. Wildlife Detection System;
- ii. Portable Electric Fence;
- iii. Semi-Permanent Electric Fence;
- iv. Bear Resistant Containers;
- v. Wildlife Deterrents;
- vi. Cache Protection;
- vii. Existing Structure Reinforcement;
- viii. Other Projects.

Review

- i. On receipt of the application, the Conservation Officer will, where feasible, go to the location to assess the feasibility and anticipated effectiveness of the proposed measures.
- ii. Based on review and assessment of the application and proposed prevention measures, the Conservation Officer will make comments and recommendations.
- iii. Applications will be forwarded to a review committee comprised of four (4) Regional Managers of Wildlife, , Coordinator – Operations & Regulations, and the Wildlife Deterrent Specialist.
- iv. The committee will review all applications. Criteria that are considered when reviewing applications include:
 - The history and extent of wildlife damage in an area and anticipated effectiveness of the proposed measures;

- The feasibility of putting the measures into place;
 - Funding or in-kind services provided by the applicant.
- v. Following review, recommendations to accept or reject an application will be forwarded to the Director of Wildlife, or a designated official, for decision.
- vi. Within sixty (60) days of the completed application being received by the Department, the applicant will be provided with a letter informing them of the decision and the reason for it.

Accountability

The applicant must provide a complete application package that includes a description of the proposed prevention measures.

Supporting Data

A complete application package, including the general application form and a Project Request Form detailing the proposed prevention measures to be undertaken, must be submitted to the local Conservation Officer.

Applications must demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum standards and eligibility requirements set out in this schedule for financial assistance.

Amount

Funding levels depend on the application and the eligible prevention methods outlined within. The maximum amount that can be awarded in any fiscal year is \$10,000 per applicant.

In the allocation of the annual budget, the Director will give preference to projects located in areas with a history of known damage caused by problem wildlife.

Payment

A portion of the funds may be withheld until the completion of a project is proven. The applicant may be held financially responsible for funds received if a project is not completed within two years of the anticipated completion date.

Term

Payments are one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.

Schedule A-5 WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION

Purpose

This program provides financial assistance to individuals and recognized community groups who experience damage to property caused by wildlife.

Eligibility

This program is available to residents and recognized community groups in Nunavut that have demonstrated significant efforts to prevent wildlife damage to property.

Ineligible Occurrences

Damage that occurs in circumstances where no effort has been taken to reduce or prevent property damage is ineligible for compensation.

Review

- i. On receipt of the application, the Conservation Officer will, where feasible, go to the location to inspect the damage and the surrounding area, and generally investigate the circumstances of the occurrence.
- ii. Based on the inspection and review of the application, the Conservation Officer will make recommendations. The community Hunters and Trappers Organization may also make recommendations on the application.
- iii. Applications will be forwarded to a review committee comprised of four (4) Regional Managers of Wildlife; Coordinator – Operations & Regulations and the Wildlife Deterrent Specialist.
- iv. The committee will review all applications. Recommendations to accept or reject each application will be forwarded to the Director of Wildlife, or a designated official, for decision.
- v. Within sixty days of the completed application being received by the Department, the applicant will be provided with a letter informing them of the decision and the reason for it.

Accountability

Applications must be submitted within one month of the date of the occurrence and must demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum standards and eligibility requirements set out in this schedule for financial assistance.

Applications must demonstrate that adequate and reasonable precautions were taken to prevent property damage by wildlife, or risk rejected claims for compensation.

Supporting Data

A complete application form and affidavit of loss is required to be submitted to the Conservation Officer.

Amount

Compensation amounts depend on the nature of the claim, and historical claim information, to a maximum of \$2,000 per occurrence.

Claims made in excess of \$2,000 will only be considered in extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis by the Deputy Minister.

Payment

A lump sum payment in the form of a grant will be made to successful applicants.

Term

The grants are one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.

Schedule A-6 SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE HARVESTERS

Purpose

Harvesters who provide the Department with samples and information from the wildlife they harvest may be compensated in recognition of the value of their contribution to ongoing wildlife research and monitoring initiatives. The collected samples and information may be used to inform decision making in Nunavut's wildlife co-management system.

Eligibility

This program is available to all residents of Nunavut engaged in the lawful harvest of wildlife.

Only samples being requested by the Department as part of an ongoing research and monitoring program will be accepted. Non-target samples or information are not eligible for compensation under this program. Requested samples may include, but are not limited to, the following: samples of skin tissue and hair, carcass, blood, fecal matter, and intact lower jaw bones of select species.

Review

Harvesters may be required to register with the Wildlife Office prior to collecting and providing samples and information based on program needs.

Accountability

The Department will determine the need for information and samples in accordance with ongoing research and monitoring initiatives. Programs and sample requirements will be communicated to harvesters by Department officials via local Wildlife Offices.

Samples and/or information shall be brought to the Conservation Officer, or other designated official, for verification.

Compensation will be provided to a harvester directly upon verification and acceptance of the sample or information by a Conservation Officer, or other designated official.

Amount

Compensation amounts are fixed and are based on sample type, quality, and need, as determined by the Department.

Specific programs may limit the number of samples an individual harvester may receive compensation for in a fiscal year. A limit may be placed on overall samples accepted due to budgetary constraints.

Price for samples and/or information may be adjusted at the discretion of the Deputy Minister of Environment.

Payment

A lump sum payment in the form of a grant may be made to harvesters who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this schedule.

Term

Payments are one-time only, with a reporting period from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year.