



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

### BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION POLICY

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Government of Nunavut will provide financial compensation to harvesters for providing biological samples and harvest reporting information to the Department of Environment. Samples and harvest information are integral in achieving wildlife management objectives and informing research initiatives in Nunavut.

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

#### **PRINCIPLES**

This policy is based on the following principles:

- Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq – showing respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment is integral to the responsible management of wildlife resources in Nunavut.
- Piliriqatigiinniq/ Ikajuqtigiinniq - working together towards a common cause. The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting harvesting activities that enhance traditional livelihoods and contribute to the economy.
- Qanuqtuurniq – being innovative and resourceful. The Government of Nunavut will compensate harvesters for biological samples and harvest information to better inform wildlife management decisions in Nunavut.

#### **APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all individuals who harvest managed wildlife species in Nunavut.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

##### Biological Samples

Physical specimens collected from managed wildlife species for the purpose of research and analysis.

Department of Environment

Department

The Government of 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.

Harvest Information

Data collected about the harvest of managed wildlife species, including the number and location of animals harvested.

Harvester

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

Nunavut Inuk

Any individual who is a beneficiary of the *Nunavut Agreement (NA)*.

Resident of Nunavut

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

Sample Receipt

A document issued upon receipt of samples from a harvester, and is signed by the harvester to confirm that they are eligible to receive the grant for the collected samples. This will serve as proof of payment to the harvester.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Minister of Environment (Minister)

The Minister:

- Is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this policy.
- Shall approve program provisions including, where applicable, the variation of accountability requirements for specific contributions.

## Department of Environment

### Deputy Minister of Environment (Deputy Minister)

The Deputy Minister:

- Is responsible to the Minister for the administration of this policy, including final approval on the awarding of all grants and contributions.
- Establishes 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.
- May, through a letter of instruction, delegate authority to establish procedures and criteria for the allocations of funds under this policy to a senior official.

### Director of Wildlife Operations

The Director of Wildlife Operations:

- Is responsible for overseeing and ensuring compliance with the terms of the policy.
- Is responsible for ensuring Conservation Officers are aware of the sample and harvest information requirements identified by the Wildlife Research Division.
- Is responsible for ensuring Conservation Officers are trained in the collection of biological samples and the issuance of payments for samples and harvest information.

### Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers:

- Are responsible for the collection of biological samples and harvest information.
- Are responsible for paying harvesters for collected biological samples and harvest information.
- Are responsible for the timely submission of payment information to Department finance officials.

### Wildlife Guardians

Wildlife Guardians:

- Are responsible for the collection of biological samples and harvest information.
- Are responsible for paying harvesters for collected biological samples and harvest information.
- Are responsible for the timely submission of payment information to Department finance officials.

## **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 all individuals who harvest managed wildlife species in Nunavut, as detailed in the schedules to this policy.

### Nunavut Agreement

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

### Financial Resources

- Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on approval by the Legislative Assembly and on the availability of funds in the appropriate budget.
- 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.
- Prior to issuing payment, the recipients of a grant shall sign a Sample Receipt. This Sample Receipt contains the harvester's information, details on the samples collected, and the total amount of the grant for the collected samples.
- Eligibility for funding under this policy does not guarantee approval for financial assistance.
- Funding in one fiscal year does not guarantee funding in subsequent years.
- Grants may be less than the amount requested or outlined in the schedules and guidelines.

## Department of Environment

### 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 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 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 has the right to appeal to the Deputy Minister of Environment regarding the assessment and decision.

Appeals for grants must be made within thirty (30) days of the applicant receiving the decision on their application.

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

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

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.

### **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, 2028.

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Premier

**SCHEDULES**

Wolf Sample Collection Program

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## **Schedule 1: WOLF SAMPLE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

### Purpose

This program provides financial compensation to Nunavut harvesters for providing wolf samples and harvest information to the Department from wolves harvested in Nunavut.

### Eligibility

Residents of Nunavut who harvest wolves in Nunavut may be eligible for compensation under this program upon the submission of samples and information for harvested wolves. The skull of harvested wolves, as well as location data, are required to be eligible for compensation.

### Review

Harvesters will be required to report and submit their collected samples and harvest information to a Conservation Officer or Wildlife Guardian at their local Wildlife Office. The Conservation Officer or Wildlife Guardian will complete a Sample Receipt for the collected samples turned in by the hunter. This document will contain the harvester's information, the list of collected samples, the kill location and other required harvest information, and the total grant amount to be issued to the harvester.

Conservation Officers and Wildlife Guardians will submit their Sample Receipts to Corporate Services staff in a timely manner to ensure proper budget administration and the usage of program dollars to ensure that payments do not exceed the allocated budget for the program.

### Accountability

Wolf samples must be submitted as soon as practicable by the harvester. Collected samples and harvest information will be recorded on a Hunter Kill Return form filled by the Conservation Officer or Wildlife Guardian for all harvested wolves submitted under this program.

The Wildlife Operations Division will keep track of payments issued to harvesters. Biological samples and harvest information that is collected will be documented and provided to the Wildlife Research Division.

### Amount

Payment for submitted wolf samples from across Nunavut will be five-hundred dollars (\$500.00). In areas where caribou are of special concern, payment will be in the amount of nine-hundred (\$900.00) for wolf samples from wolves harvested in the designated areas.

The designated areas are defined in the map included in this Schedule.

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### Payment

Payment will be made in a lump sum and issued to the harvester immediately upon receipt of samples via cheque issued at the Wildlife Office. Payments will come from Wolf Sample Collection Program budget. This budget is to be used on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the program budget has been depleted no more wolf sample payments will be made unless another source of funding is identified.

### Term

Payments issued between November 1 and March 31 of each fiscal year.



