

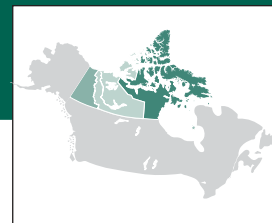
New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

March 2002

www.newparksnorth.org

Newsletter 11



Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

The *Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led to eight First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The eighth First Nation, Ta'An Kwäch'än, concluded their Land Claim Agreement on January 13, 2002, 100 years to the day after Chief Jim Boss asked for land for his

people. There are six remaining First Nations claims to be finalized. The development of a Yukon territorial park system and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy must follow or complement the land claims process.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% of the land is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)* and the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. Three national

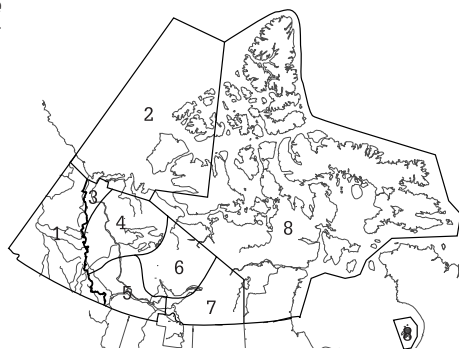
historic sites have been designated within these claim areas.

The Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle was signed in January 2000. In May 2001, government and the Deh Cho First Nations signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant first steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The South Slave Métis are currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the

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Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Some overlap exists in claim areas

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Introduction...

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timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks,

and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them. There are a few revisions this year to reflect changes affecting, primarily, Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada and Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the common law concept of aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of aboriginal peoples have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy have been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision) which acknowledged the existence of aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by

treaty or other legal means; and

- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed

wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with aboriginal peoples. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of aboriginal rights, as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment

of interim measures to protect aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw* has initiated calls from within aboriginal communities to once again review the comprehensive claims policy. The *Delgamuukw* decision is the first comprehensive treatment by the Supreme Court of Canada of aboriginal title.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Deh Cho

After the failure of the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. Negotiations during 2000 resulted in a draft Framework Agreement and a draft Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DCFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement. DCFN and Parks Canada formed the Nahʔa Dehé Consensus Team, a team of six people consisting of three appointees by Deh Cho and three by Parks Canada. They are now reviewing the Ecological Integrity Statement and the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. Following this, the Consensus Team may make recommendations to the Deh Cho Process main table on interim management arrangements for Nahanni.

South Slave Métis

One such proposal now under negotiation involves the Métis of the South Slave Region of the NWT. When the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was rejected by the aboriginal peoples in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. However, in the South Slave District, Dene First Nations originally opted to seek fulfillment of their Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 entitlements. This left some Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. A chapter on Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada likely will be included in the agreement.

Akaiicho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between Canada and the approximately 2,000 Akaiicho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary.

Dogrib Treaty 11

The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Governments of Canada and the NWT signed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on land and self-government negotiations in 2001. The AIP is not a binding contract but sets the stage for the final agreement, which is nearing completion. The AIP confirms that approximately 39,000 km² of land, including subsurface resources, will be identified for the Dogrib First Nation, and that Dogrib First Nation government will have law-making authority primarily over Dogrib lands and Dogrib citizens.

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Areas

Government of Yukon – Business, Tourism and Culture – Heritage Branch

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government in accordance with the 2000 Management Plan. New exhibits were installed at two interpretive centres in 2001. The primary centre, known as the Stone House, was built by government telegraph operator Charlie Stone in 1935 and is intended as a reception area to orient visitors to the site. The second centre is located in the reconstructed Big Jonathan House, originally built by the Yukon Field Force as a barrack in 1898 and later used as a home by a former Selkirk chief. Here displays focus on the heritage of the Selkirk First Nation. The two interpretive centres are over half a kilometre apart and anchor the ends of the linear, kilometre-long site along the bank of the Yukon River. Over 40 structures as well as several cemeteries still stand, dating from 1892 until the end of Yukon River sternwheeler traffic in the 1950s. Archaeological evidence indicates human use and occupation dating back as far as 7,000 years at the site, and up to 11,300 years in the region.

Other work at Fort Selkirk includes the reconstruction of fences, windows and doors, and the installation of an electrical system featuring “run-of-the-river” hydro and solar power at the work camp area and Stone House. Fort Selkirk will be featured on a new Virtual Museum Canada web site to be launched June 2002 (also see article on page 5).

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

This site is comprised of three

adjacent historic nodes at the mouth of the Forty Mile River: Forty Mile town site on the south bank, and Fort Cudahy, a historic North American Trading and Transportation Company post, and Fort Constantine, the first North-West Mounted Police post in the Yukon, on the north bank. Archaeological investigations, mapping and brush clearing work continued at the Forty Mile town site in 2001 to determine the full extent and nature of its heritage resources. Of the over 100 buildings standing prior to the Klondike Gold Rush, only a handful remain.

This site is co-owned, and will be co-managed through a joint management plan, by Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and the Yukon Government. A Management Plan Steering Committee has been formed, comprised of three appointees from each government. Consultations with the public, for input on the management plan, will be carried out in 2002. Archaeological investigations and clearing will continue on-site, in addition to some building stabilization work.

Highway Corridor Heritage Interpretation

Interpretive plans have been completed for the Alaska Highway West and the Haines Road. The Alaska Highway West plan covers the area from Whitehorse to the Alaska border, near Beaver Creek, while the Haines Road plan covers the area between Haines Junction and the Alaska border, near the Chilkat Pass. The plans were developed in consultation with the Champagne and Aishihik, Kluane, White River, Ta’An Kwäch’an and Kwanlin Dun First Nations and Parks Canada Agency. This now completes the development of interpretive plans for all major Yukon highway corridors. The corridor plans

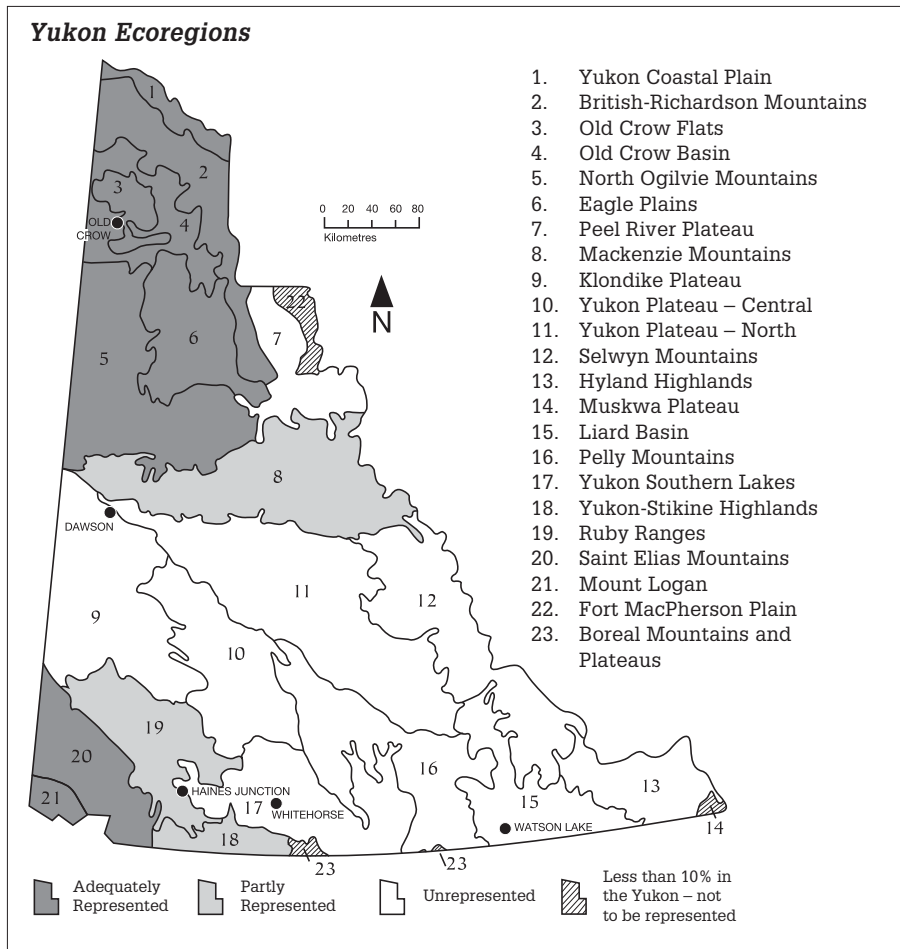
describe thematic frameworks and design motifs for interpretive signage that will be located at rest stops along the highways and identifies the location and infrastructure facilities required for safety and convenience. The interpretive signage is meant to educate travellers about Yukon’s natural and cultural heritage and encourage further exploration. The first in a series of waterway interpretive plans will be developed for the Yukon River in 2002.

Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites

These two north Yukon historic sites are co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and the Yukon Government according to the *VGFN Final Agreement*. Following extensive consultations the Management Plan for these two sites was accepted by both governments, leading to a signing ceremony at Rampart House in July 2001.

Work undertaken at Rampart House over the past two summers included the dismantling and reassembly of a one-and-a-half storey log store. A crew, being trained in log working skills, used broad axes to shape peeled, dry logs to replace, or be spliced into, rotten and broken building components. The logs were square hewn and fit together with mortise and tenon connections in classic, *pièce-en-pièce*, Hudson’s Bay style. Each spliced and replacement log had to match and fit the original exactly so that the large roof ridge beam would fall back into place once the walls were up. Similar log work will continue over the next decade as the remaining buildings are stabilized and restored.

As directed by the Management Plan, archaeological work carried out in 2001 at Lapierre House included the establishment of spatial limits of



the site, dating the use of individual buildings, locating and assessing any associated graves, and an attempt to locate a reported Gwich'in village in the area. The work was carried out with the assistance of VGFN crew members.

Additional research and interpretive materials for Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites will result from the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Lands Oral History Study, which has been supported by the Branch over the past three years.

Yukon Heritage Web Sites

Yukon heritage will be featured on five web sites, sponsored by Virtual Museum Canada, in 2002. Go to www.virtualmuseum.ca to see “Yukon Photographers: The Gold Rush Era”, “Explore Herschel Island!” and “Beringia Centre Virtual Tour”. As of June 13, 2002

look for the launch of two new virtual exhibitions concerning Fort Selkirk and Isaac Stringer, “the bishop who ate his boots”.

For further information about Yukon Heritage Branch programs, activities and publications see www.yukonheritage.com

Department of the Environment – Parks and Protected Areas Branch

Yukon Parks and Land Certainty Act

A new act covering all territorial parks in the Yukon came into force early in 2002. The *Parks and Land Certainty Act* replaces the *Parks Act* which was first developed in the 1970s to manage small campgrounds.

The *Act* gives the Yukon Government the authority to establish and manage parks created

under Yukon First Nations Final Agreements and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy. It also updates the administrative procedures and enforcement provisions in accordance with modern practice and recent court decisions.

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The primary aim of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) is to protect one representative part of each unrepresented ecoregion in the Yukon. After an extensive review by a public advisory committee, and public and stakeholder consultation, the YPAS is being implemented under new government direction.

The “area of interest”, within the Eagle Plains ecoregion in north-central Yukon, was announced in January 2002. Ecoregions not already adequately represented will have an “area of interest” designated by April 2003. The three ecoregions with less than 10% of their area within the Yukon will not be represented.

Each “area of interest” is identified by a technical working group, comprised of territorial and federal representatives, and approved by the Yukon Cabinet. Further studies and a public consultation process will be completed under the direction of a balanced planning team representing First Nations, Yukon Government and members of the public. The planning team recommends the final boundaries for a protected area, inside the “area of interest”, to Cabinet.

Each “area of interest” is chosen to represent the ecoregion while avoiding, where possible, third party interests, areas of high resource potential for industry, and critical access corridors. No new industrial development will be allowed within the protected area. Once an “area of interest” within the ecoregion is announced, industry will know that the balance is open for potential development.

International Polar Heritage Committee

The International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was formed in 2000 to promote international co-operation in all aspects of protection and conservation work concerning non-indigenous heritage of the Arctic and Antarctic. ICOMOS is an organization representing 75 national committees dedicated to furthering the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of monuments, groups of buildings and sites. The heritage, left by visitors is only one unique aspect of northern heritage, but one that reaches well beyond national borders and the Arctic Circle, covering two hemispheres. The IPHC presently has members representing national committees from Australia, Canada, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The inaugural meeting of the IPHC took place in May 2001 at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University, Cambridge UK, where statutes and work plans were approved. The IPHC web site (www.polarheritage.com) contains a database of polar heritage experts including historians, archaeologists, architects, engineers, technologists, conservators, planners, policy specialists and managers. Those interested in joining ICOMOS Canada and being a member of a parallel, Canadian Polar Heritage Committee can contact doug.olynyk@gov.yk.ca

Some protected areas established under Yukon First Nations Final Agreements may contribute to the ecoregion representation.

The principles of YPAS have now been enshrined in the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* which came into force early in 2002. Regulations, policy and procedures are currently being established.

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy – Eagle Plains

An “area of interest”, within the Eagle Plains ecoregion of north-central Yukon, was announced in January 2002 under the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy by the Ministers of Renewable Resources and Economic Development (also see previous article).

This ecoregion lies along the Arctic Circle, where temperatures range from -60°C to 30°C. The gently rolling terrain and low wetlands primarily support black spruce woodlands, with black spruce-tussock tundra on the lower slopes, shrub tundra at higher elevations and tussock tundra on level and sloping surfaces. Paper birch follows the large fires typical of the area. Largely unglaciated in the last ice age, excellent opportunities are available to study the unusual “Beringian floral assemblage”, a wide variety of woodland and tundra plant life, in the summer months.

Representing a good portion of the Eagle River drainage basin, the mid-portions of the Eagle River featuring unusual old-growth riparian white spruce and balsam forest, and many small lakes, the area covers 2,422 km². This “area of interest” is inhabited by waterfowl, bald eagle and osprey, black and grizzly bear, wolf and red fox. It is also a significant fall migration route of the barren-ground Porcupine Caribou Herd, whose calving ground is in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. They may also be seen over-wintering in the ecoregion. Caribou hunting along the

migration route is an ancient tradition for several First Nations.

The Dempster Highway, open year-round, runs along and through the “area of interest” for 60 km, including the crossing with the Arctic Circle, a popular tourist interpretive site. A new protected area, combined with the existing Tombstone Natural Environment Park further south, will enhance the Dempster’s tourism potential. Wildlife viewing, hiking, canoeing and fishing are possible activities.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter

In 2001, the Yukon Government completed its review of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS). The government committed to move forward with YPAS and to identify areas of interest for protection in 13 ecoregions by April 2003. Similarly the federal government has stated that it will expedite the land claims settlement process. Special management areas created through land claims will contribute to the YPAS objectives.

Vuntut and Teslin Land Use Planning Commission’s (LUPC) have also been established in the Yukon. The Vuntut LUPC has been working on a land use plan for the north Yukon; gathering information and identifying community interests in land use planning during its initial public meetings in June 2001. In December 2001, the Teslin LUPC held its inaugural meeting. Mandated to consider a wide range of land use issues, protected areas identification will be one of its key responsibilities. The Teslin land use planning area includes the entire Wolf Lake ecosystem, an area that is of considerable conservation interest. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) has spent three summers conducting research trips in the Wolf Lake area. Reports from these trips and further

data will be made available to the LUPC.

Also within the Teslin Tlingit and Carcross/Tagish traditional territories is Squanga Lake, a lake well known for its endemic whitefish. To gain a better understanding of the ecosystem, CPAWS collaborated with both First Nations, the Yukon Government and a local fisheries' consultant in a research trip to Squanga Lake. CPAWS compiled data and observations from the 2000 trip and produced a report on the research findings in 2001.

Building on work to identify areas of high conservation value in the southeast Yukon, CPAWS-Yukon completed two research trips down the Hyland River and a community

trip on the Beaver River. The data from these trips are being compiled and will be used to assist in conservation planning for the watershed. The community trip gave Elders, conservationists and resource people the chance to see and experience the beautiful and ecologically and culturally important watershed.

Efforts to remove mining claims from Tombstone Territorial Park continue. The federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is continuing to search for a solution to mining exploration in Tombstone Territorial Park in co-operation with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and the Yukon Government. Two mining companies, Teck-Cominco Limited and Big Blackfoot Resources

Ltd., have relinquished their mineral claims in exchange for federal assessment relief on other Yukon mineral properties.

Park management planning for major territorial and national parks in the Yukon is well underway. The public review processes of the draft management plans for Tombstone Natural Environment Park and Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve have been completed. These plans were submitted to the territorial Cabinet for consideration in early 2002. Management plans for Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada and Vuntut National Park of Canada have been reviewed by the public and will be refined for approval by the federal government.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Government of the NWT – Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Traditional Skills

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) is currently working with Inuvialuit and Inuvialuit cultural organizations on projects intended to revitalize traditional skills and increase knowledge of their heritage.

In the spring of 2001, staff of the PWNHC assisted in the frame construction of a traditional Inuvialuit "qajaq" (kayak). Constructors, Darrell Nasogaluak of Tuktoyaktuk and Don Gardner of Calgary, had previously worked with the Inuvialuit Social Development Program on similar projects in several Beaufort-Delta communities. The current project benefited from the knowledge and skills they gained from their earlier work, and incorporated new insights gained through more recent research. The

frame was built inside a cramped building in Tuktoyaktuk over an extremely cold two-week period in March, but that did not deter numerous school students and others from the community from dropping by to observe and to assist. The qajaq frame is now on display at the PWNHC.

Also underway is an Inuvialuit Traditional Skin Clothing Project. This project will eventually see the production of traditional Inuvialuit men's, women's and children's caribou-skin winter clothing based on examples in the Smithsonian Institute collections. The traditional Inuvialuit clothing designs have almost been lost to local knowledge. This project is intended to revitalize that knowledge and provide well-documented garments for display at the PWNHC and in other communities. As co-ordinator for the project, Elizabeth Drescher of Inuvik has acquired the skins and has recruited Elders to assist with the sewing of the garments, following a study visit to the Smithsonian

Institute in early 2002.

Documentation from the Inuvialuit qajaq and skin clothing projects will be made available to schools and the public through an on-line educational program "Journeys of Nuligak", which is being developed jointly by the PWNHC and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre. "Journeys of Nuligak" will be the second module of the PWNHC's "Lessons from the Land" series of on-line, interactive educational programs on northern aboriginal culture and heritage. The first module, The Idaà Trail, has a planned launch date in late June 2002 (also see article on page 19).

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**Government of Yukon –
Business, Tourism
and Culture –
Heritage Branch**

Herschel Island Territorial Park

A number of natural occurrences are posing a serious threat to heritage resources on Herschel Island (Qikiqtaruk). The whaling settlement area at Pauline Cove is barely above sea level and is subject to the effects of natural forces that continually reshape the coastline. The Northern Whaling and Trading Company (NW&TC) warehouse/store building has suffered increasing erosion of its foundation by wave action and has been severely damaged by sea ice driven up by storm winds. Industrial sandbags, placed along the shore side of the NW&TC building, have done little to

halt the erosion. The walls and roof of a sheet metal-clad annex, caved-in by sea ice, were dismantled in 2001. The floor framing was left in place in a shoreline stabilization attempt. The situation continues to be monitored to see whether the occurrences of the past few seasons foretell a long-term trend and threat.

Wooden grave markers and coffins are also being ravaged by the elements. Surface runoffs flood one area with water and sediments in the early summer, and southern slopes are moving and exposing coffins due to frost melt. Dr. Wayne Pollard of McGill University, an expert in permafrost activity, and Dr. Bryce Walt, Yukon Medical Health Officer, were brought in for scientific advice, along with archaeologists from the Branch and Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre. Inuvialuit

Parks staff and Elders were called upon for advice from a traditional knowledge perspective. A synthesis of observations, opinions and options is being prepared for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation for consultation with the Inuvialuit community and direction on the treatment strategy for the graves. The strategy needs to find a practical balance between respecting the power of natural processes and the sanctity of the dead.

Framework reconstruction of the a pre-contact sod house is being planned for 2002, to improve the interpretation of life on the island prior to its exploration by Sir John Franklin in 1826. The heritage of Herschel Island is also presented on the Virtual Museum Canada web site (also see article on page 5).

Gwich'in Settlement Area



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

**Fort McPherson and Teet'it
Gwich'in National Historic Sites
Project**

Fort McPherson was designated a National Historic Site in 1975, and a commemorative plaque was erected on the site in 1977 explaining the reasons for designation. The designation, however, makes no mention of Teet'it Gwich'in. Recognizing this gap, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in partnership with Parks Canada and a graduate student from the University of Alberta, are working with the Fort McPherson National Historic Site Steering Committee to expand upon the current designation to include the Teet'it Gwich'in perspective on the site. The Committee is also identifying other possible places for commemoration within the Teet'it Gwich'in traditional land use area.

Gwich'in Clothing Project

Gwich'in seamstresses in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Yellowknife are continuing to replicate five sets of a man's traditional caribou skin outfit worn during the late 1800s. The replicas are based on a set of clothing currently housed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. This project, which began in December of 2000, is a partnership between the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. A completion date of March 2002 is expected. Video footage taken during the course of the project is currently being logged in preparation for a video documenting the project.

**Gwich'in Elder's Biography
Project – Phase II**

Working with a graduate student

from Trent University, translators and a summer student, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) is pursuing phase two of the Gwich'in Elder's biography project. Oral history interviews were carried out this summer with 17 Elders from the four Gwich'in communities. Tapes are currently being transcribed so that biographical sketches can be written for the Gwich'in Elder's Calendar 2003, the second such calendar that GSCI has produced. Longer biographies will also be drafted for future publications.

Gwich'in Language Initiatives

For two weeks in July 2001, students from Tsiigehtchic were immersed in a Gwich'in language camp held on the Mackenzie River. The camp encouraged students to learn the Gwich'in language while pursuing traditional activities with Elders and language staff from the

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI). Through storytelling and some formal language instruction, the students learned basic conversational phrases and vocabulary used for living on the land.

A linguistics student from the University of Victoria, along with Gwich'in Elders and GSCI language staff, began work on a grammar for the Gwich'in language which, when completed, will be used by language instructors and those interested in learning the language. Work is expected to continue over the next few years and will complement the Gwich'in Dictionary, now under development.

Gwich'in Place Names Project

Several hundred Gwich'in place names with corresponding oral histories and land-based information are being entered into computer databases and into a Geographic Information System (GIS). Creating such databases, and a heritage layer

in the GIS, will enable the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) to produce maps with Gwich'in place names for the Gwich'in Settlement Region, and develop educational materials for the schools and public. Place names are a very important part of Gwich'in heritage and the creation of these databases will give GSCI the capability to more efficiently review land use permit applications for possible impacts on heritage resources.

Gwich'in Science Camp

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute held its sixth annual on-the-land traditional knowledge and western science camp in September 2001. Ten high school students from Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic attended Tl'oondih Healing Camp, located 20 miles up the Peel River from Fort McPherson. The students were instructed by Elders and people working in the fields of culture and heritage, renewable resource management

and politics. Instructors covered a variety of topics ranging from the traditional use of plants for food and medicine, to the aquatic effects of the ferry landings at Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson and fish biology. The students benefited from the presence of the seamstresses who were working on the traditional caribou skin clothing project.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site Project

Working with Parks Canada and the Gwich'in Geographic Information System office, a digital map is being prepared to include place names and other heritage resources pertinent to this designation. The map is being produced to better determine a boundary for the site. Once the boundary and the Commemorative Integrity Statement have been completed, a management plan and cost-sharing agreement can be negotiated.

Deh Cho

Government of Canada – Parks Canada – National Parks

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

For many years Parks Canada has been on record as wanting to expand the boundaries to complete the Nahanni National Park Reserve. In the 1980s three candidate areas were identified for inclusion, namely the Tlogotsho Plateau, the Ragged Range, and a Karst area north of the first canyon. Completing the park by expanding into these areas will contribute to better representation of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region and protection of the ecological integrity of the park.

Final determination of park boundaries, as well as establishment of Nahanni as a full

national park of Canada, will occur as part of the Deh Cho Process – the equivalent of a land claim for the Dene and Métis of the Deh Cho region.

As a participant in the Deh Cho Process, Parks Canada tabled information on areas of high conservation value around Nahanni National Park Reserve in November 2001. Parks Canada's data, along with information submitted by other federal and territorial departments, will be used to determine possible configurations for public consultation on an interim land withdrawal for the Deh Cho region pending conclusion of a Deh Cho final agreement. Public consultations will likely take place in the spring of 2002 and the interim land withdrawal is scheduled for November 2002. Parks Canada

expects that much of the areas of high conservation value will be within the lands protected by the interim land withdrawal.

Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

The wetlands around Mills Lake, a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake at the confluence of the Horn River, are important staging habitats for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley. The Canadian Wildlife Service has had an interest in Mills Lake and its protection for many years. Data has been collected that documents the importance of this area for spring and fall staging, as well as nesting, for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Fort Providence has long been interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons. In 2000, the Deh Cho First Nations leadership and Fort Providence, Łíídljį Kúé (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River and Pehdzéh Kí (Wrigley) formally approved the combining of the Horn

Plateau protected area initiative with the Mills Lake initiative. A single protected area (Edézhzhíe) will be advanced through the process defined in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (also see articles on page 16 and 17). The protected features of this one area will include:

- a representative example of

northern boreal forest (Horn Plateau Ecoregion) that supports a population of woodland caribou, now listed as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada; and

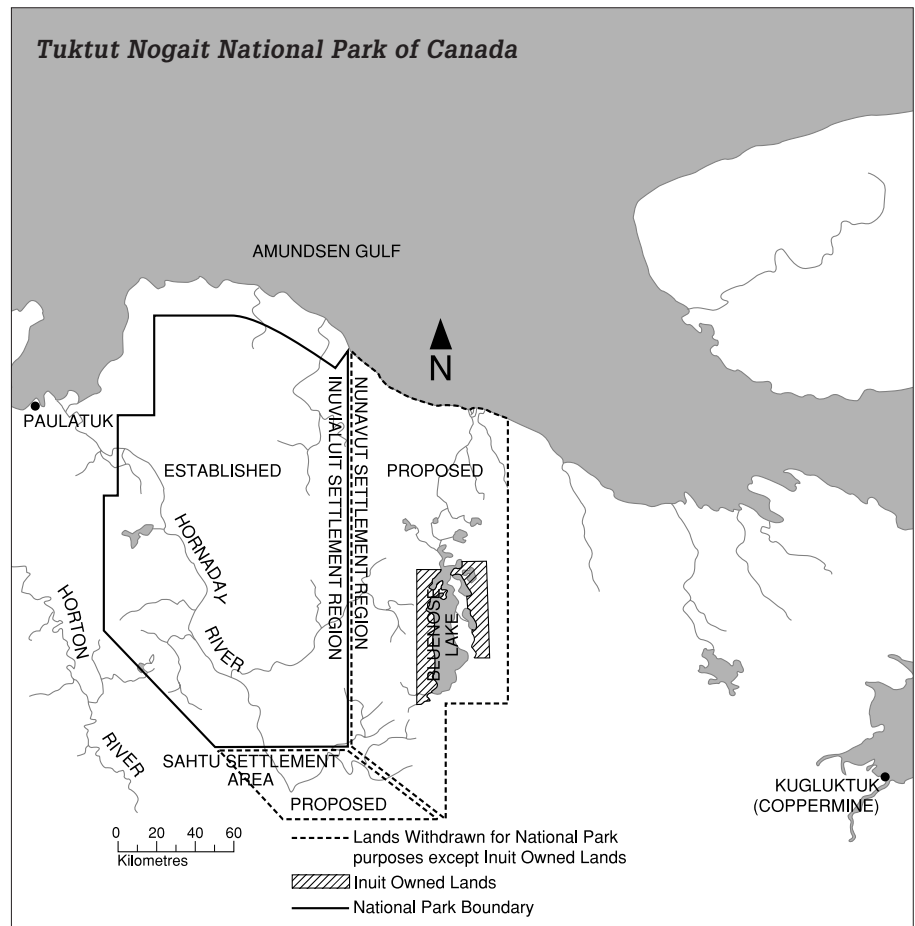
- an important boreal wetland (Mills Lake).

Sahtu Settlement Area

Government of Canada Parks Canada – National Parks

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

When Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada was created in 1998, following agreement between Canada, Inuvialuit and the Government of the NWT, the job was only partly complete. Lands had been withdrawn in two other areas to properly represent the Tundra Hills Natural Region and to ensure the ecological integrity of the national park. One of these areas is within the Sahtu Settlement Area, immediately south of the park. In 2001, Parks Canada began negotiations with the Déljine Land Corporation, on behalf of the Sahtu Dene and Métis, to complete the park in the Sahtu Settlement Area. The work to add approximately 1,850 km² to the already established 16,340 km² has progressed well, and the parties hope to reach an agreement within the year.



Dene and Métis Claims Areas (South Mackenzie)

Government of Canada – Parks Canada – National Parks

East Arm of Great Slave Lake National Park Proposal

More than three decades after

lands were withdrawn in the area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and Artillery Lake, the community of Łutsel K'e is showing a renewed interest in the national park proposal. The context for any change to the status of this

proposal is the Akaitcho/Treaty 8 Process, which embraces that community as well as the Deninu Ku'e First Nation (based in Fort Resolution) and the Yellowknives Dene (based in Detah and Ndilo near Yellowknife). Chief Archie



Catholique has reminded everyone of the 1986 undertaking by the federal and territorial governments that no change would be made to this park proposal without the support of Łutsel K'e.

In December 2001, Parks Canada's CEO participated in a workshop in the community where candid ideas were exchanged. In his summary at the end of the day, Chief Catholique said that there appeared to be consensus in support of a national park but further consultation with the Elders was necessary. Parks Canada's CEO said that the way of life so important to community members can be respected in a national park, including trapping, hunting, traditional and spiritual activities.

Other First Nations and Métis also assert interests in the area. A national park reserve could be established until such time that the interests of the other parties are clarified.

Hay Camp/Ejere K'elni Kue

Prior to the establishment of Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) of Canada in 1922, Hay Camp was one of several privately owned hay

meadows along the Peace and Slave Rivers. In 1925, Hay Camp became the operational headquarters of the park. For 70 years, Hay Camp played a vital role in park operations. Its location was ideal for development as a stabling, haying and warehousing centre for park warden cabins situated in the interior of the park. It was one of the few sites in any national park that had been associated with wildlife conservation for over half a century.

Bison and fire management, transportation, communications, shipping, experimental farming and gardening all took place at Hay Camp. At different times, Hay Camp maintained administrative buildings, wardens' houses, a corral system, an abattoir, a fire tower and a research centre.

Bison management consisted mainly of patrols to check on numbers and health. Between 1952 and 1967, corrals and abattoirs were used for inoculation and disease testing, as well as commercial bison meat production. The commercial production ended in 1967.

Hay Camp was the base for fire patrols from the 1920s until the early 1990s. The earliest patrols were

made by steamer or canoe on the Slave and Peace Rivers. When a fire was spotted, horses and fire fighting equipment had to be shipped by steamer, then transported in-land to the fire's location.

People were hired for their "bush" and building skills, and their ability to transport goods by dogsled and canoe. The first park wardens were local aboriginal men and World War I veterans, who lived at Hay Camp with their families. Travelling by dogsled or horseback, a park warden's duties focused on protecting the wood bison and ensuring the enforcement of hunting and trapping regulations.

Life could be lonely and isolated, and daily life required a great deal of energy. Women were very busy with many duties and chores including soap making, laundry, knitting, sewing the family's clothes, gardening, berry-picking and even hunting grouse and rabbits to supplement the rations provided. The women also provided some home schooling for the young children while they lived at Hay Camp.

In 1989, the Hay Camp fire base was relocated to Pine Lake to shorten response time to fires in the south of the park. By 1999, all the buildings at Hay Camp had been removed leaving only the corrals still standing.

Through the *Smith's Landing First Nation Treaty Entitlement Settlement Agreement*, Hay Camp was selected to be excised from WBNP and turned into an Indian reserve in 1999. An environmental assessment of the *Agreement*, undertaken by Parks Canada, identified the need for Hay Camp's story to be documented from its origins to the present day. Park staff hosted a picnic at Hay Camp in the summer of 2000, inviting those who had worked and lived at Hay Camp over the years to meet, share stories and reminisce about the past. A park archaeologist, historians and

heritage recorders were on hand to record the stories told by those who had experienced this place. This resulted in the publication of "Hay Camp/Ejere K'elni Kue – A Social and Land-Use History 1922 - 2001".

Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada

In April 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage agreed to consider land selection in Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada because Salt River First Nation and Smith's Landing First Nation had originally requested land for Indian reserves under Treaty 8 before the national park was created in 1922. Subsequently, in December 1998, Parks Canada started negotiations on the park land selections with both First Nation's as part of Canada's overall settlement of both land claims.

The Smith's Landing First Nation Agreement was signed by the Minister of Canadian Heritage on March 20, 2000, with lands being selected for Indian reserves within the park at Pine Lake, Hay Camp and Fort Fitzgerald. The total area of the reserves amounts to 9.73 km².

The Salt River First Nation negotiations took longer to complete, but a handshake agreement was eventually concluded on December 18, 2000, and a joint public information meeting/session was held with Parks Canada in Fort Smith, the First Nation's host community, on March 20, 2001. The complete agreement was initialled by Canada and Salt River in the fall of 2001 and was ratified by the Band's membership in December 2001. The formal signing of the agreement is expected to be concluded by March 2002.

Salt River has selected four sites in Wood Buffalo National Park at Pine Lake beside Smith's Landing reserve, at Salt River opposite the day use area, at Parson's Lake Road near the fire tower, and Little

Buffalo River on either side of highway 5. The total area of the land selection amounts to 13.65 km².

Parks Canada – National Historic Sites

Beaulieu Commemoration at Salt River

François Beaulieu was designated as a person of national historic significance in May 2000. Consultations have been carried out with the Fort Smith Métis local and South Slave Métis Tribal Council regarding an appropriate location for the commemorative plaque. The Beaulieu homestead and cemetery site were visited with descendants and Elders in the summer of 2001. Additional research is being carried out to further document the homestead and family burials at Salt River (St. Isidore Mission). Plans for 2002/03 include the selection of a location for the plaque at Salt River, the drafting of the plaque text and a commemorative ceremony. There may also be an opportunity to work with the Métis Cultural Institute in Fort Smith to interpret Beaulieu's extraordinary life and his role as a founder of the Métis Nation of the North.

Hay River (Katl odeeche) Missions National Historic Site

The Hay River Missions site was designated as a national historic site in 1992;

'Because of their close association with a critical period in Dene/Euro-Canadian relations, the Hay River Missions site, consisting of St. Peter's Anglican and Ste. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, a log warehouse and the two church cemeteries with their numerous spirit houses, are collectively of national and architectural significance.'

These two missions are located on the Hay River Dene Reserve in the NWT and are situated at the head of

the Mackenzie River. Roman Catholic and Anglican missions were established along this inland water route in the early 1900s, when the western NWT was opening up to Euro-Canadian influence, development and settlement. Out of approximately ten communities in the Mackenzie District, Hay River alone retains both its early churches.

In 1994, upon completion of a structural investigation of the resources, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended the Hay River Missions site be considered a high priority for action through the National Cost-Sharing Program.

As a major step towards a cost-sharing agreement, a commemorative integrity statement (CIS) workshop was conducted in February 1999 in co-operation with the Hay River Dene Band, Parks Canada and representatives from both churches. The CIS looks at the site as a whole, as well as the individual cultural resources. These are then defined as level one or level two cultural resources; level one is the relationship to national significance; and level two, while not directly related to national significance, is of historic value. Based on the values and objectives identified in the CIS, a conservation and presentation plan (C&P) was completed. The C&P provides for a cost-sharing agreement and focuses on the conservation of the level one resources and the communication of their importance to as many Canadians as possible. Both the CIS and the C&P have been approved and signed by the community and Parks Canada, and provide overall direction for the management of the site.

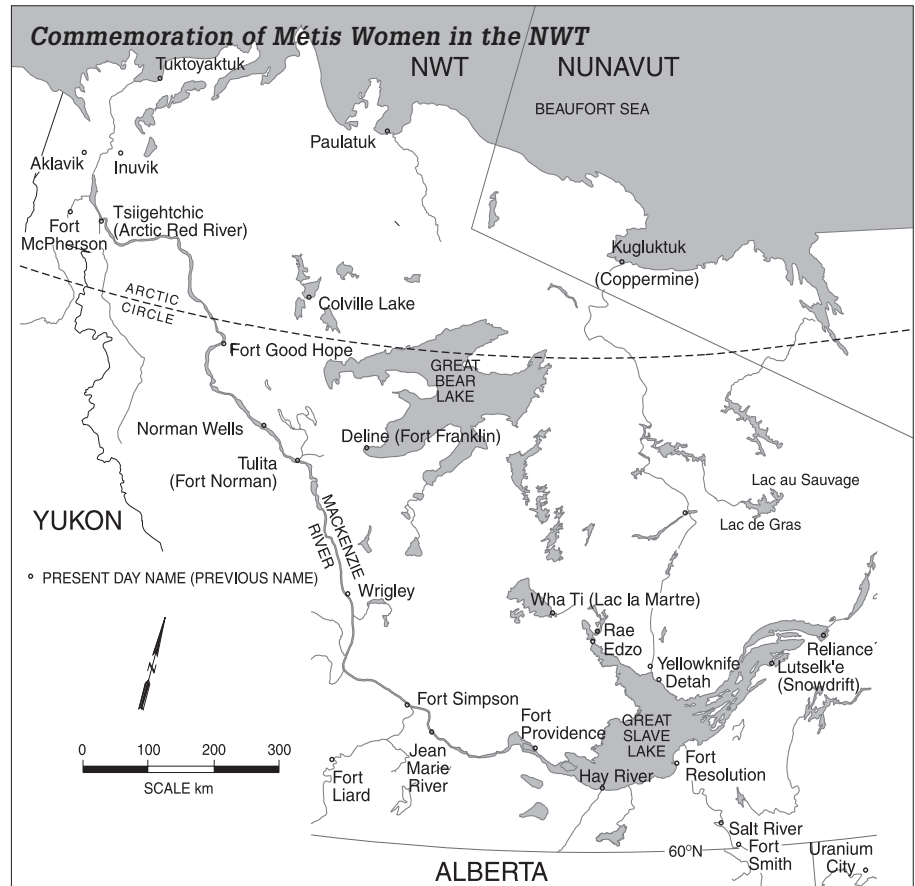
Parks Canada is currently negotiating a contribution agreement with the Hay River Dene Band based on the terms of the approved C&P. A plaque unveiling ceremony is planned for 2002.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada –
Parks Canada –
National Historic Sites

Commemoration of Métis Women in the NWT

In its second year, this initiative is identifying and documenting northern Métis women for commemoration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Work carried out in 2001 included consultation with Métis locals and oral history interviews to identify “extraordinary ordinary” Métis women in the North. The 25 year date of death requirement was taken into consideration in identifying potential candidates. Efforts were made to identify women from each region, although there are still gaps in the Delta. Documentary and photographic research were also pursued, particularly in the Archives des Soeurs Grises de Montréal (Grey Nuns) where important information relating to schools and hospitals in communities such as Fort Chipewyan, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson and Aklavik is held. References pertaining to Métis women are often scattered and provide more contextual, rather than specific, information. “Controlled speculation” becomes a useful and essential research tool in addressing the gaps in the historical record. In many cases, it was not so much an individual woman, but a group of women of the same family who made significant contributions to their society and culture, and the larger Canadian community. Some of the standard criteria for commemoration of women in general may also have to be adapted to aboriginal or Métis women more specifically. It is proposed to initiate the commemoration with a



submission on Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux of Fort Providence. The submission is being prepared in collaboration with the Métis local and its president Albert Lafferty. Other potential submissions are Marie Fisher Gaudet and daughters of Fort Good Hope, and Marie Beaulieu Mercredi of Fort Chipewyan/Fort Smith.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Introduction

The objective of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is to include rivers that represent the best examples of Canada's river heritage, and to ensure that these rivers are managed so that their heritage values are conserved.

When an interest is expressed in looking at a river for CHRS status, a

background study is prepared. As the first step in the process, background studies collect all available information, including field verification, on a river's natural and cultural heritage, its recreational opportunities, and issues that could affect its management as a Canadian Heritage River. If the background study indicates that a river meets CHRS guidelines, the next step is the preparation of a Nomination Document.

The Nomination Document is presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board for formal review. The Board then recommends to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the appropriate provincial or territorial minister, whether or not a river meets CHRS criteria and if it should be considered for inclusion in the system.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

1. Blackstone
2. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
3. Canyon City
4. Coal River Springs
5. Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Fort Smith Mission
8. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
9. Gwich'in
10. Herschel Island
11. Hidden Lake
12. Ijiraliq
13. Katannilik
14. Kekerten
15. Kuklok
16. Lansing Post
17. LaPierre House
18. Mallikjuaq
19. Montague Road House
20. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
21. Qaummaarvitt
22. Rampart House
23. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
24. Robinson Road House
25. Shāwshe
26. Sylvia Grinnell
27. Tombstone Natural Environment Park
28. Twin Falls Gorge

◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)

29. Arvia'juaq NHS
30. Aulavik NP
31. Auyiittuq NP
32. Déline Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
33. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
34. Ivvavik NP
35. Kitigaryuit NHS
36. Klondike NHS (Dawson City)
37. Kluane NP
38. Kluane NPR
39. Nagwichoonjik NHS
40. Nahanni NPR
41. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
42. Pingo Canadian Landmark
43. Quttinirpaaq NP
44. Sahyoue and Edacho NHS
45. Sirmilik NP
46. Tuklut Nogait NP
47. Vuntut NP
48. Wapusk NP
49. Wood Buffalo NP
50. Yukon NHS (SS Klondike)

☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

51. Anderson River Delta MBS
52. Banks Island No. 1 MBS
53. Banks Island No. 2 MBS
54. Bylot Island MBS
55. Cape Parry MBS
56. Dewey Soper MBS
57. East Bay/Harry Gibbons MBS
58. Igaliqtuq NWA (proposed)
59. Kendall Island MBS
60. McConnell River MBS
61. Nirjutiqavvik NWA
62. Polar Bear Pass NWA
63. Prince Leopold Island MBS
64. Qaqquttit and Akpait NWA (proposed)
65. Queen Maud Gulf MBS
66. Seymour Island MBS

* Areas Under Study

67. Akpatok Island
68. Digges Island
69. Eagle Plains "area of interest"
70. Foxe Basin Islands
71. Mills Lake/Edézhzié
72. Rasmussen Lowlands
73. Wolf Lake

+ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals

74. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
75. Northern Bathurst Island
76. Torngat Mountains
77. Tuklut Nogait
78. Ukkusiksalik
79. Utkuhiksalik

★ Heritage Rivers

80. Alsek
81. Arctic Red River
82. Bonnet Plume
83. Kazan
84. Soper
85. South Nahanni
86. Tatshenshini
87. Thelon
88. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals

89. Beechey Island
90. Kusawa Lake
91. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
92. Uvajuq

▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers

93. Coppermine River
94. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

□ Other Conservation Areas

95. Asi Keyi Special Management Area (proposed)
96. Bowman Wildlife Sanctuary
97. Dhaw Gro Special Management Area
98. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
99. L'hutsaw Wetlands Special Management Area
100. Nitsutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
101. Nordenskiöld River Special Management Area
102. Old Crow Special Management Area
103. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
104. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend

- Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
- Proposed Parks
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- Areas Under Study
- National Park Proposals
- Heritage Rivers
- Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas



Before designation, a management plan, or heritage strategy, must be submitted to the Board that describes the management area and the policies and actions to be put into place to fulfill CHRS objectives. This document is reviewed by the Board to ensure that there is a commitment to manage the river so that its heritage values are not degraded.

Once the plan is accepted by the Board, the next step in the process is the designation ceremony, which involves the unveiling of a bronze plaque. This, however, is not the end of the CHRS process. Yearly status reports must be submitted on the condition of the river, and every ten years a "State-of-the-River" Report must be submitted to the Board.

Further information on these processes can be obtained from:

*Canadian Heritage River System
Secretariat*

Parks Canada Agency

*4th Floor, Jules Leger Building
North*

25 Eddy Street

Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5

Heritage Rivers in Nunavut include the Soper (Kuujuak) on Baffin Island, and the Thelon and Kazan Rivers in the barrenlands. The NWT is currently represented by the Arctic Red and South Nahanni Rivers. Yukon rivers in the system are the Bonnet Plume, and the Thirty Mile Section of the Yukon River. Two northern rivers presently under study are the Coppermine and the Mackenzie. These two rivers are at different stages in the process of becoming a Canadian Heritage River.

Coppermine River

Copper deposits found along the river were important to the first peoples who lived there. Many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the Coppermine. It was stories of these copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the

area in 1771. Hearne's documented overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, soon followed and the Coppermine became an important exploration and fur trade route. The river continues to support the Inuit subsistence lifestyle. Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose, fox and a variety of raptors can be found here. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it.

Background studies have been completed and the Nomination Document was presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board at the February 2002 meeting. If accepted, the Nunavut government has three years to present an acceptable management plan for the river before designation.

Mackenzie River

Background studies are being prepared for the Mackenzie River (Deh Cho or "Big River" in Slavey). A nomination document should be ready for presentation to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in three years. Inclusion of the Mackenzie River into the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) presents unique challenges.

The main stem of the Mackenzie River is 1,800 kms. When measured to its most remote source, Lake Thutade at the head of the Findlay River, it is the longest river in Canada at 4,241 kms, and the second longest in North America after the Mississippi. Its watershed is the largest in Canada, draining an area equal to more than one-sixth of Canada's land mass, and its discharge is second to that of the St. Lawrence.

Two rivers within the Mackenzie watershed, the Arctic Red and the South Nahanni, are already represented in the CHRS.

The Peace and the Athabasca are also being considered. Within the Mackenzie drainage are numerous outstanding natural and cultural heritage resources: critical wildlife habitats, sand dunes, freshwater deltas, sites of historic significance.

Given that the Mackenzie is so big and encompasses such a diverse range of values, the question is how best to represent these in the CHRS. One suggestion is to commemorate and protect certain outstanding natural and cultural features within the watershed by nominating several distinct river segments within the watershed, rather than the entire river.

For more information, contact Richard Wyma (Nunavut) (rwyma@gov.nu.ca) and Gerry LePrieur (NWT) (gerry_leprieur@gov.nt.ca).

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

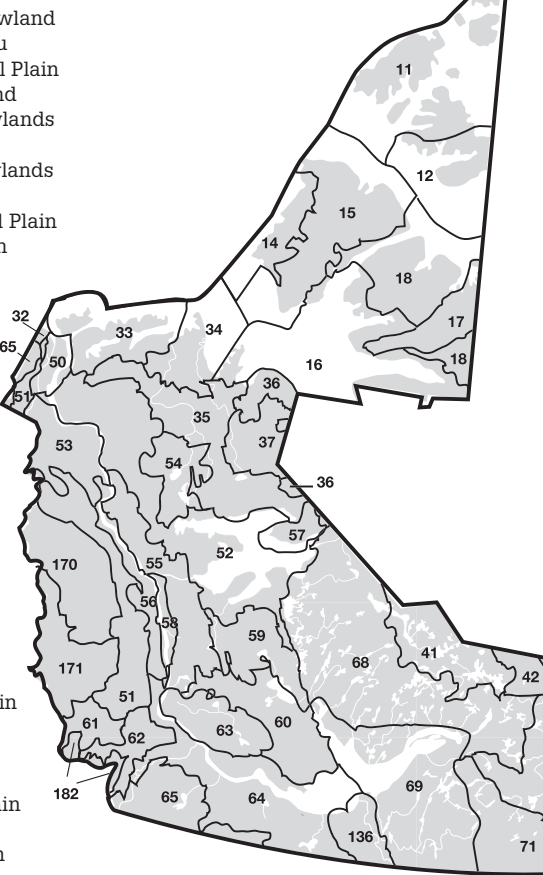
The implementation of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) has been underway for just over two years, under the guidance of the PAS Implementation Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of representatives from regional aboriginal and environment non-government organizations, industry and the Government of the NWT. The Committee has conducted meetings in Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Délne, Paulatuk and Rae during 2000/01.

The focus of PAS implementation is advancing new candidate protected areas to meet two goals:

- to protect special natural and cultural areas, where development could be permitted when compatible with the values being protected; and
- to protect core representative areas within each ecoregion where resource based development such as mining, logging, hydro-electric projects,

Terrestrial Ecoregions of the Northwest Territories

Ecoregions

- 
- 11. Sverdrup Islands Lowland
 - 12. Parry Islands Plateau
 - 14. Banks Island Coastal Plain
 - 15. Banks Island Lowland
 - 16. Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
 - 17. Shaler Mountains
 - 18. Victoria Islands Lowlands
 - 32. Yukon Coastal Plain
 - 33. Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain
 - 34. Anderson River Plain
 - 35. Dease Arm Plain
 - 36. Coronation Hills
 - 37. Bluenose Lake Plain
 - 41. Takijūq Lake Plain
 - 42. Garry Lake Lowland
 - 43. Back River Plain
 - 44. Dubawnt Lake Plain/Upland
 - 50. Mackenzie Delta
 - 51. Peel River Plateau
 - 52. Great Bear Lake Plain
 - 53. Fort MacPherson Plain
 - 54. Colville Hills
 - 55. Norman Range
 - 56. Mackenzie River Plain
 - 57. Grandin Plains
 - 58. Franklin Mountains
 - 59. Keller Lake Plain
 - 60. Great Slave Lake Plain
 - 61. Nahanni Plateau
 - 62. Sibbeston Lake Plain
 - 63. Horn Plateau
 - 64. Hay River Lowland
 - 65. Northern Alberta Uplands
 - 68. Coppermine River Upland
 - 69. Tazin Lake Upland
 - 70. Kazan River Upland
 - 71. Selwyn Lake Upland
 - 136. Slave River Lowland
 - 165. British-Richardson Mountains
 - 170. Mackenzie Mountains
 - 171. Selwyn Mountains
 - 182. Hyland Highland

Planning steps of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy

1. Identify priority areas of interest.
2. Prepare and review protected area proposal at regional level.
3. Review and submit proposal to a sponsoring agency for consideration.
4. Consider/apply interim protection to the candidate area.
5. Evaluate the ecological, cultural and economic values of the candidate area.
6. Seek formal establishment of protected area.
7. Approve and designate protected area.
8. Implement, monitor and review protected area.

Candidate Protected Areas

Edézhzhíe

The Deh Cho First Nations and Dogrib Treaty 11 Council are working toward the protection of Edézhzhíe, an area comprising the Horn Plateau, Willowlake River, Horn River and Mills Lake (approximately 24,500 km²). A comprehensive proposal has been prepared for Edézhzhíe and the Canadian Wildlife Service has been identified as a potential sponsoring agency for this candidate protected area. Once an agreement has been reached between the Deh Cho First Nations and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the proposal can be advanced further (also see article on page 9).

Sahyoue/Edacho

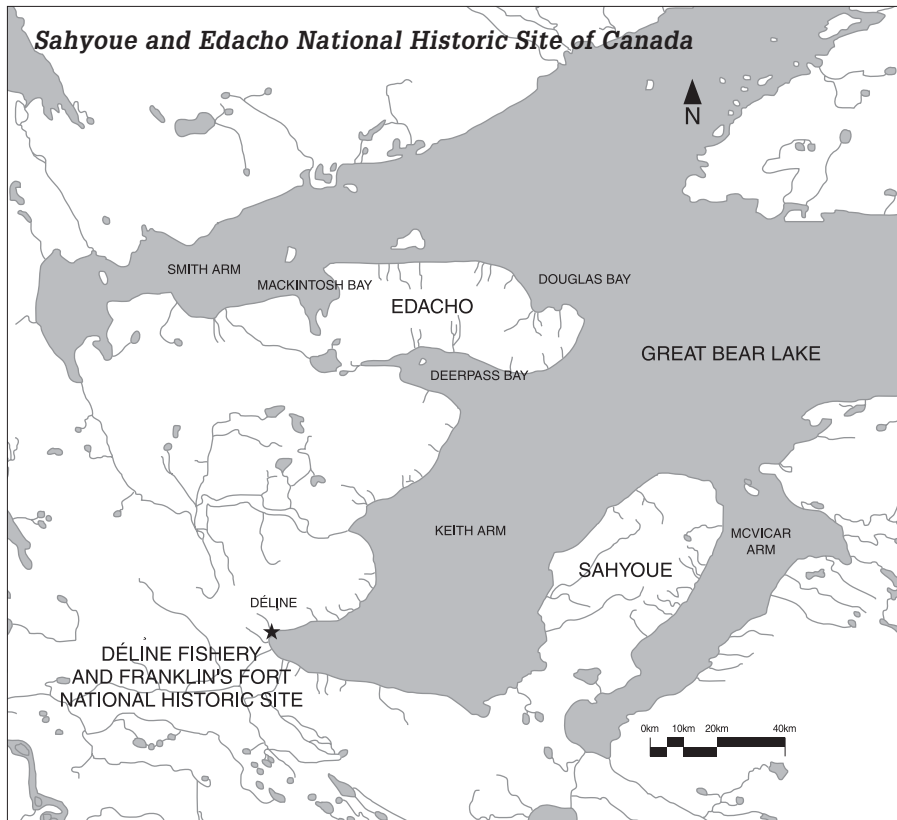
The Sahyoue/Edacho candidate protected area received interim protection in February 2001 for a five year period. With a combined area of 5,587 km², these two western peninsulas of Great Bear Lake are a vital source of Sahtu

agriculture, oil and gas surface work, and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

The focus of the first two years of implementation has been on areas identified as priorities by communities and regional organizations. Łutsel K'e, Fort Resolution, Wrigley and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council have identified areas of interest through the PAS. These areas have only advanced through the first and second steps of the planning process. Edézhzhíe and Sahyoue/Edacho are two candidate protected areas that

have advanced beyond the first two steps of the PAS process. While these areas primarily focus on the first goal, to protect special natural and cultural areas, they may also contribute to meeting the second goal of protecting core representative areas within each ecoregion. There are 42 ecoregions in the NWT, 17 of which have portions of existing legislated protected areas within them. In 2002 more focus will be placed on how to identify and establish core representative areas in each ecoregion in order to achieve the second goal of the PAS.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter



Dene culture and a tradition of land-based stories. Sahyoue/Edacho was commemorated as a national historic site in 1998, and the community of Déline continues to work with Parks Canada, the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) partners, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to evaluate the area for long-term protection. A working group has developed a three year work plan covering ecological, cultural and non-renewable resource assessments, as well as consultation plans and management options as required under Step 5 of the PAS planning process (also see article on page 19).

Policy and Communications Initiatives

In fulfilling other components of the PAS Action Plan, the territorial and federal governments have completed the following initiatives through the guidance of the PAS Implementation Advisory Committee:

- Guidelines for Non-renewable Resource Assessment, Interim Protection and Compensation of Third Party Interests.
- Various communications products, such as a video, regional posters, newsletters and a new web site at www.rwed.gov.nt.ca/rwed/pas/index.htm
- Review of existing legislative mechanisms for protected areas in the NWT.
The PAS Action Plan focus will be on the following initiatives during 2002:
 - Guidelines for Ecological and Renewable Resource Assessments.
 - A Forum on Ecoregion Representation (Goal 2 of the PAS) March 4-6, 2002 in Yellowknife and a plan for implementing ecoregion representation.
 - Options for the application of tribal parks in the NWT.
 - Review and amendment of the *Territorial Parks Act*.

Conservation of the Peel River watershed has long been a priority of northern communities and conservationists. The watershed is one of the Yukon's largest roadless areas and is of great ecological and cultural importance. Seven major rivers form the Peel River watershed: the Yukon's Ogilvie, Blackstone, Hart, Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake Rivers, and the NWT's Arctic Red River. As part of the efforts to conserve the watershed, its ecological values and the way of life that it supports, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)-Yukon has carried out years of research in partnership with the Teetlit Gwich'in First Nation and Renewable Resource Councils, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Mayo Renewable Resource Council.

In July 2001, five residents of Fort McPherson and Mayo, nominated by their respective Renewable Resource Councils, gathered with conservationists, river guides and others near the headwaters of the Snake River for a ten day trip. The group made its way down the river by canoe and raft. For some it was a unique wilderness experience; for others an opportunity to see the land of childhood stories; for others still, a chance to revisit land they knew well. Since its conclusion, CPAWS has hosted a number of slide shows to bring the river and the watershed to people throughout the Yukon and beyond. CPAWS believes that the Snake River watershed should be the candidate for protection through the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy process.

Initial steps have been taken to launch a Peel River Watershed land use planning commission. The anticipated land use planning in the Peel will benefit from the work of

other initiatives like the Gwich'in Land Use Plan and the Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee, both of which recommended conservation of the watershed.

NWT Chapter

Established in 1996, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)-NWT Chapter is dedicated to protecting wilderness and biodiversity. This is accomplished through the establishment and management of parks and protected areas, raising awareness on conservation and wilderness issues, and supporting local efforts to protect ecologically and culturally significant lands. Goals are achieved through advocacy, education and co-operation with aboriginal organizations, governments, communities, industry and others.

A significant new conservation challenge is the current and future increase in oil and gas activity in the territory. In October 2001, CPAWS-NWT along with other northern non-government organizations, released a set of six principles to be followed to meet the challenges posed by oil and gas exploration and development in the North. The principles include calls for the completion of a system of protected areas in the NWT, and a fully funded environmental management regime to be in place prior to the construction of a pipeline, or increased oil and gas activity.

2001 saw continued progress on existing candidate protected areas, and the emergence of new protected area proposals in the NWT.

Sahyoue and Edacho

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-NWT continued to work with the community of Délı̄ne on the protection of Sahyoue and Edacho, the western peninsulas of

Great Bear Lake. Sahyoue and Edacho are 5,587 km² wilderness areas of extensive boreal forests and healthy wildlife populations. Through traditional use, stories and legend, these areas are woven into Sahtu Dene and Métis culture. In February 2001, Sahyoue and Edacho became the first area, under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS), to receive interim protection.

In the summer of 2001, field work was carried out on both Sahyoue and Edacho to complete a preliminary reconnaissance of the flora and fauna. This ecological work is part of the overall cultural, ecological and economic evaluations being done on the areas as part of Step 5 of the PAS. The Working Group, which oversees Step 5 work, has developed a three-year work plan to complete the evaluations and move forward toward permanent protection of these areas (also see article on page 17).

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Efforts to increase protection in the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem achieved significant progress in 2001. In May, the Deh Cho First Nations and government began negotiations that are intended to lead to withdrawal of lands late in 2002. Lands with high ecological and cultural values adjacent to Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada will be identified and given interim protection under this process. Parks Canada has completed new mapping of areas of high conservation value and is working toward the completion of the park reserve. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)-NWT continues to push for increased protection in the region, and remains opposed to the operation of the Prairie Creek lead-zinc mine immediately upstream of the park reserve (also see article on page 9).

CPAWS-NWT is also working with Begae Shuhtagot'ine

(Mountain Dene) of Tulita in their efforts to protect the headwaters of the South Nahanni Watershed. Begae Shuhtagot'ine are interested in advancing this area through the PAS, and are now into Step 1 of the process which includes compiling information and defining an area of interest. During a workshop, which built on the results of previous meeting, participants mapped cultural sites and key ecological areas and trails, and discussed options for protection.

Government of the NWT – Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Lessons from the Land: A Virtual Map of the NWT

Staff at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, in conjunction with school boards and other organizations from around the NWT, are currently developing an internet-based program entitled "Lessons from the Land: A Virtual Map of the NWT". Based on the landscape and traditional travel routes of the NWT, the program will offer students, teachers, and the general public the opportunity to take virtual journeys to sites of cultural, historical and practical significance.

The initiative is aimed at fostering an appreciation and understanding of aboriginal cultures in the NWT, as well as disseminating information about the Culture, Heritage and Languages Division's rich collection of artifacts, archives and other resources relating to the heritage of the NWT. "Lessons from the Land" was conceived as an innovative and engaging way to accomplish these goals. As its primary audience will be the school system, it will be designed to complement curricula such as Dene Kede and Northern Studies.

The main interface of the program will be a map screen depicting the NWT and the many trails and travel routes that have been used by people over the centuries. From there, users will be able to choose a journey, visit sites along that trail, and learn the customs and culture of the people who travelled that route. Accompanying the virtual traveller will be two Elders serving as guides who, through an audio format narrative, will explain the significance of the various sites.

The first path on the Virtual Map will be the Idaà Trail, a traditional Dogrib route stretching from Great

Slave Lake to Great Bear Lake. The Division has spent several years in partnership with the Dogrib Nation documenting sites of historical and cultural importance along the trail. Knowledge gained from these projects will be presented to students in a trilingual (Dogrib, English and French) and interactive format. A range of media, including photos, illustrations, music, animation, text, audio and video, will be used to make the journeys as detailed as possible. The Idaà Trail will be launched in late June 2002. A second trail, which will take users through the Beaufort-Delta region, is currently in the planning phase. The

Virtual Map will be an expansive and ongoing project, with many new journeys being added over the next several years.

For further information, please contact:

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Nunavut

Government of Canada – Parks Canada – National Parks

Nunavut Field Unit

Revisions to the *National Parks Act* in February 2001 proclaimed two existing national park reserves, Auyuittuq and Quttinirpaaq (formerly Ellesmere Island), as National Parks of Canada and created Sirmilik National Park of Canada.

Management of the three national parks entered a new phase in 2001 with the establishment of Joint Inuit/Government Park Planning and Management Committees (JPMCs) for each of the national parks. Committee members have been equally appointed by Inuit and the Government of Canada. Fifteen of the 18 members are Inuit from the communities adjacent to the national parks, and half of the members are unilingual Inuktitut speakers. This makes it necessary to prepare all background materials and minutes in English and Inuktitut and provide interpretation at all meetings.

An initial orientation session in March 2001 has been followed by

three meetings. The Committees are tasked with providing advice to Parks Canada on all aspects of planning and managing the parks. Specific management planning responsibilities are outlined for the JPMCs in the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the Baffin national parks.

Although still in the start-up phase of incorporation, the JPMCs have already contributed to significant elements of park management by reviewing and recommending a park business plan. This information forms a part of the annual budgeting cycle for the Field Unit.

The Auyuittuq and Quttinirpaaq JPMCs, together with an Inuit/Government Park Planning Team, are developing the terms of reference, or Scoping Document, for a management planning program for these parks. The Scoping Document identifies how the planning program will proceed and what key issues need to be addressed. Both the JPMCs and the Planning Teams will be involved in the public consultation process for the management plans over the next year.

Some members of the Sirmilik JPMC attended a workshop in February 2002 designed to identify what is known and not known about the park in the areas of ecological and physical sciences, history, archaeology and traditional knowledge. As well as community members, workshop participants included scientists, archaeologists and historians. The purpose of the workshop was to identify priorities for future research and investigation.

The Nunavut Field Unit is also focusing on commitments related to sustainable tourism in the IIBA. Tourism strategies are being prepared in co-operation with the six communities adjacent to the three national parks. Parks Canada is working with the Kakivak Corporation, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tourism on this project.

A strong commitment is being made by Parks Canada in Nunavut to integrate the principles of Inuit Qaujimanitugangit (IQ – Inuit traditional cultural values) into the operation and management of the Field Unit. Some IQ principles are: respect for others, stewardship of

the land, learning by observation, leading by example. Parks Canada is exploring ways that these important values and principles can be understood and exemplified in the workplace.

Tuktusiuqviauluk (Northern Bathurst Island)

Northern Bathurst Island represents the Western High Arctic Natural Region, with its combination of land forms, vegetation and wildlife. Bathurst Island is also home to Peary caribou, an endangered species found only in Canada's Arctic islands. Within the proposed national park is found important habitat for this species, including calving areas and summer/winter habitat.

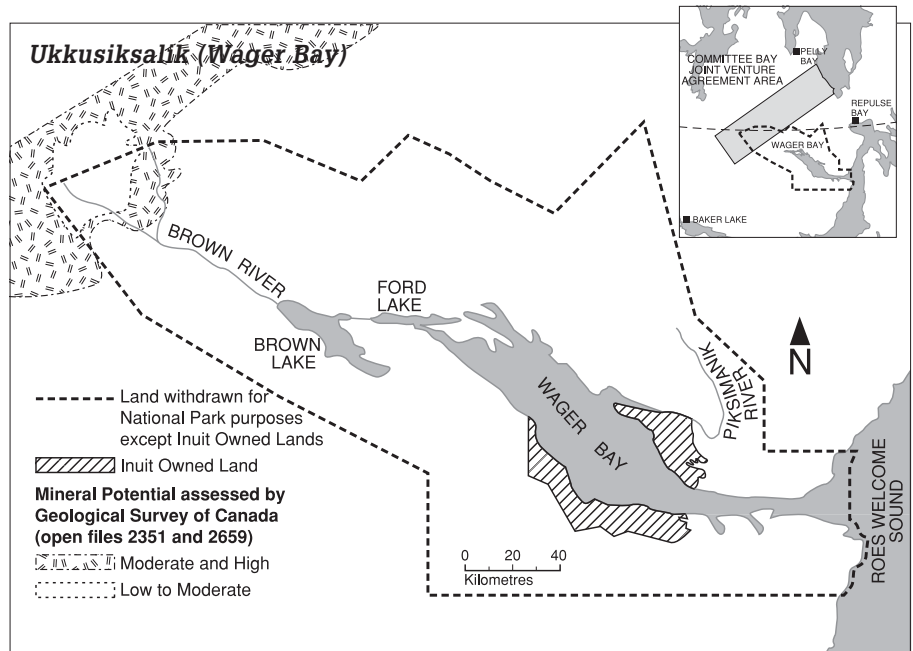
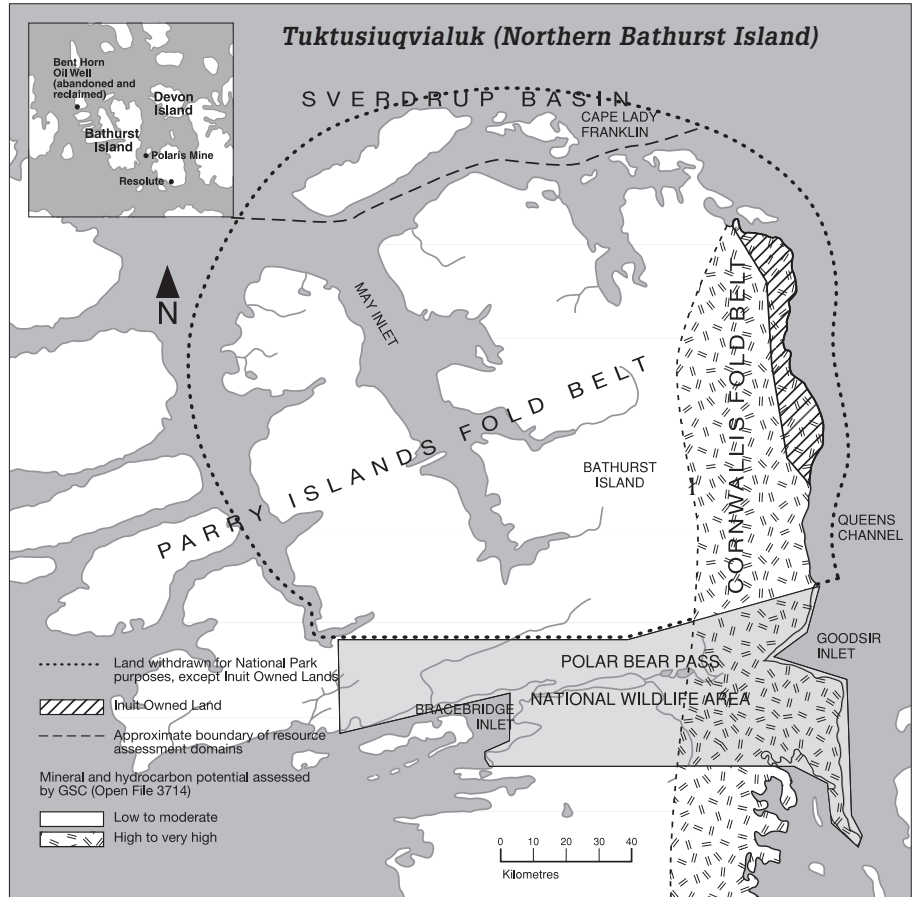
Reports from the Geological Survey of Canada show very high potential for minerals and hydrocarbons in the eastern part of the proposed park. The lands within the proposed park have been reserved for national park purposes since 1996. The current land withdrawal order will expire in October 2004.

The next step in the process is to begin formal negotiations between Parks Canada and Inuit regarding terms and conditions of park establishment.

Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)

Ukkusiksalik represents the Central Tundra Natural Region, and encompasses approximately 23,500 km². At the heart of the park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The proposed park area includes an impressive variety of land forms, and a wide range of habitats supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine, gyrfalcon, polar bear, beluga, ringed and bearded seal. Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

Negotiations have been



completed for the creation of a national park at Wager Bay. As required by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the Governments of Canada and

Nunavut, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of all Inuit, have negotiated an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). This Agreement sets out the conditions

under which a national park can be created and includes such topics as: park boundary; access; economic benefits to Inuit; co-operative management of the park; management of emergency kills of polar bears; outpost camps; and Inuit access to carving stone. Interim protection for the proposed park lands has been extended until October 1, 2004. The parties to the IIBA are anticipating that a signing ceremony will be held in the near future.

**Environment Canada –
Canadian Wildlife Service**

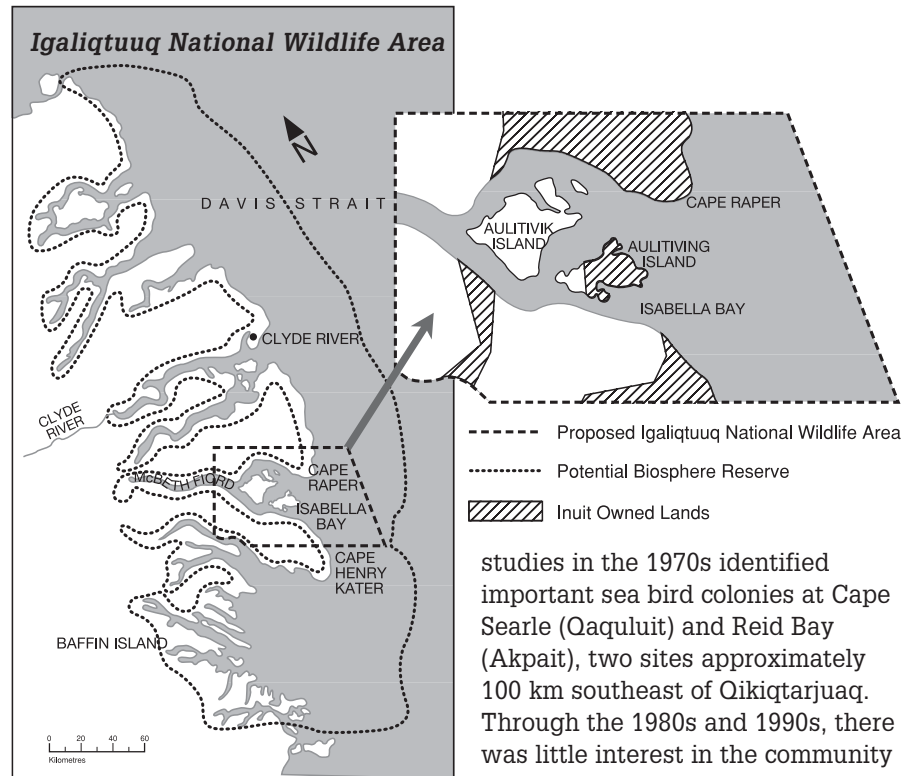
**New Initiatives and Existing
Conservation Areas**

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two national wildlife areas and 12 migratory bird sanctuaries that are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the *NLCA* include negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all conservation areas. In 2001, CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. began negotiations on an Umbrella IIBA to cover conservation areas in Nunavut, with site-specific appendices to this document to deal with issues relevant to certain sanctuaries or wildlife areas.

CWS has identified priority sites for protection of critical wildlife habitat. As well, communities have nominated other sites to be protected by CWS legislation. Progress on some of these initiatives is also described below.

Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area

In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries



for Igaliqtuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. After many delays, Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations for this site are being conducted in concert with the Umbrella IIBA process for existing conservation areas. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) will execute the formal designation process for the NWA, and CWS will collaborate with Clyde River to begin habitat mapping and biological inventory work at Isabella Bay.

In 2001, Environment Canada provided financial support to the World Wildlife Fund and the Igaliqtuuq Steering Committee through the Habitat Stewardship Program to conduct field work and local employee training on monitoring bowhead whales in Isabella Bay.

**National Wildlife Areas at
Qaqluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait
(Reid Bay)**

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

studies in the 1970s identified important sea bird colonies at Cape Searle (Qaqluit) and Reid Bay (Akpait), two sites approximately 100 km southeast of Oikiqtarjuaq. Through the 1980s and 1990s, there was little interest in the community for attaining protection for these sites. However, in 1999, the Hamlet of Oikiqtarjuaq received support from the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Oikiqtani Inuit Association, and the Oikiqtarjuaq Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions regarding protection of these sites as national wildlife areas (NWA).

At a public meeting in May 2000, the community voted to proceed with the work required to create two new NWAs. Since March 2000, four site visits have been made to Qaqluit by CWS to gather baseline ecological data in collaboration with the Nattivak HTO, the municipality, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). A community knowledge study has also been conducted, led by the Nattivak HTO and sponsored by the WWF. In June 2001, a census and mapping project was conducted at Qaqluit, the first time ever that this site has been mapped in detail. A NWA Boundaries Committee was appointed in 2001, and the use of community knowledge and field

Parks Program will be developed through a Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee to ensure that the program reflects the interests of Nunavummiut.

Attraction Development

In 2001, Nunavut Parks began feasibility studies to consider opportunities for the development of parks and other attractions in some of Nunavut's communities. Building on existing Community and Regional Economic Development Plans and pre-feasibility studies, the projects will identify existing or potential tourism attractions, types of attractions that may be developed, support (training, product development, etc.) and facilities required, as well as identifying the potential benefits to each of the communities.

Ijiraliq Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Ijiraliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park. In summer, visitors and residents enjoy the river's spectacular scenery, eskers and bedrock outcrops, as well as fishing, and viewing the park's abundant wildlife including the endangered peregrine falcon. The park's most outstanding features, however, are its many archeological sites, remnant of Dorset, Pre-Dorset and Thule cultures.

In 2001, Ijiraliq became the centre for increasing cruise ship activity in the Kivalliq Region and Rankin Inlet. The site showcased the strong cultural and natural heritage of the region for cruise ship visitors, and became a centre for local arts and crafts. Park development is continuing, and is expected to increase following completion of the Umbrella Inuit and Impact Benefit Agreement. Interim park facilities, provided for the cruise ship visitors, will be replaced with more permanent structures. Future plans include road upgrades to the park,

installation of additional signage, interpretation and the production of a park brochure.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls"), in the south Baffin near Kimmirut, includes an area of approximately 1,269 km², almost all of it in the Soper River watershed. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Katannilik stretches northward from the top of Pleasant Inlet along the west coast of Hudson Strait (just outside of the community of Kimmirut) toward the south shore of Frobisher Bay, following the Soper Valley and a traditional overland trail. The park extends east and west beyond the valley, encompassing some of the rivers, deep gorges, sloping valleys, lakes and hills that make up the relief of the lower plateau.

Visitor use continues to increase throughout the year, stretching the summer season from late June through September. Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increasing economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community activities and events. The Itijagiaq Trail, the traditional overland route between Kimmirut and Iqaluit, is heavily used in the winter and spring. Nunavut Parks and the community of Kimmirut designated the trail as part of the Trans Canada Trail in 2001, which officially links Nunavut to the Trans Canada Trail Project. Nunavut Parks is reviewing the 1991 Park Master Plan and options to reduce impacts on the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish whaling station during the 1850s and 1860s. Knowledge of the whales, the area, and survival in

the Arctic made Inuit essential allies in the commercial whaling industry. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

In 2001, Nunavut Parks initiated a restoration project which increased economic development opportunities in Pangnirtung, while enhancing the awareness of the unique whaling history. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site and providing a much needed emergency shelter. The project is still in the early stages and is expected to continue through to 2005.

Kuklok Territorial Park

Background studies, undertaken on the Coppermine River, consider the further development of Kuklok Park, located 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk, as a possible Canadian Heritage River destination (also see article on page 16). Bloody Falls, which lies within Kuklok Park, is the site of perhaps the most famous battle in the north. Declared a national historic site in 1978, remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration only begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site. The park landscape, of rolling tundra, escarpments and rocky outcrops, and steep cliffs at the falls and along the river, provide great wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. The park has become a well used one-day canoe trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to camp at

Kuklok. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional pattern of use for the site.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq (“big wave”) is located within a 45-minute walk north of Cape Dorset. Named for the rounded hills and low tundra valleys, Mallikjuaq offers several panoramic views of the numerous islands and the complex coastline of southwest Baffin. Several Thule sites and stone structures dating back some three millennia can be found along with tundra wildflowers, caribou, peregrine falcons, snowy owls, ptarmigan, polar bear, seals, beluga and possibly the bowhead whale.

This area has often been recognized for its natural and cultural heritage potential for park and tourism development. Future site investigations will include environmental inventories and a site assessment, followed by the development of a park management and master plan, and site and additional facility design to address visitor impacts to the site. A popular destination for cruise ship traffic, Nunavut Parks is working to ensure that impacts are addressed through scheduling and site developments.

Northwest Passage Park – Gjoa Haven

Northwest Passage Park is not a park in the conventional sense. It is an effort to link stories from several communities and sites into one broad theme – the Northwest Passage – both the search by Europeans for a Northwest Passage, and the subsequent search by several expeditions for answers to the disappearance of the Franklin expedition.

In Gjoa Haven, the Northwest Passage Historic Park is a component part of this development. The signage along the walking trail

through the town, and the display at the Hamlet complex, concentrate on Amundsen’s exploration and time in the community. Future development will provide additional interpretative research, planning and exhibit design, and renovations to the visitor information centre. Interest in the Northwest Passage is expected to grow leading up to the 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen’s arrival in Gjoa Haven in 1903, before becoming the first person to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage by water.

Some of the other sites include Beechey Island off southwest Devon Island, where the Franklin Expedition wintered in 1845/46; Port Leopold on Somerset Island, where the first Franklin search expedition wintered in 1848/49; and Cape Hotham and Assistance Bay near Resolute, associated with search expeditions of the early 1850s. For these and other locations, efforts are being made to co-ordinate identification, protection and interpretation of sites associated with the Northwest Passage and Franklin themes. Several of the sites have been proposed as potential historic parks through the *Territorial Parks Act*.

Sylvia Grinnell/Quammaarviit Territorial Park

Located one km from the heart of Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, Sylvia Grinnell Park provides an opportunity for the many visitors and residents to readily experience the Arctic landscape. The park provides the visitor a chance to see the Baffin Island flora, including several rare plants such as the woodsia fern; fauna, primarily caribou and arctic fox; and its cultural heritage, including traditional fishing sites at the rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

In keeping with the Master Plan, park facilities were expanded to include an all-season pavilion and deck, a viewing platform

overlooking the water, and an access trail from the viewing platform to the water. Future development plans include expanded access and the establishment of formal camping areas. In 2001, Nunavut Parks officially designated the Sylvia Grinnell Trail as part of the Trans Canada Trail. Work has begun with the Department of National Defense to look at options for bridge construction and installation to include Qaummaarviit Territorial Park within the boundaries of Sylvia Grinnell.

Qaummaarviit Park, a Thule site, has more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. Summer tents, kayak stands, meat caches and more can be viewed, including the remains of 11 winter houses which made use of raised living surfaces and deep entry to trap cold air – techniques rarely seen elsewhere.

Uvajuq Territorial Park

Uvajuq describes the region that includes Mount Pelly, one of three mountains approximately 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. Becoming increasingly popular for tourism because of its interesting mountain and lake landscape, and its characteristic Arctic wildlife, the area is also renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds. Many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Although Uvajuq is currently accessible by a rough narrow route, it is already the most important day use destination for visitors. The Arctic Coast Visitor Centre conducted a number of programmed activities for visitors and residents as a means of increasing awareness of the park. Nunavut Parks is considering future development needs for the park that better reflect the sensitive landscape, and the interests of the wildlife and bird habitat.

Publications of Interest

Andre, Alestine and Alan Fehr
2001 **Gwich'in Ethnobotany: Plants Used by the Gwich'in for Food, Medicine, Shelter and Tools.** Published by Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Aurora Research Institute. 68pp. ISBN 1-896337-04-X (\$15.00)

Over thousands of years, Gwich'in have used a variety of trees, shrubs and berries for food, medicine, shelter and tools. This publication presents information from Gwich'in Elders on the use of 32 plants and three types of rocks and minerals. The book includes Gwich'in names for these plants (in both Gwichya Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects), where they are found, and how they can be used. Several recipes for making medicine and preparing food are also included, while black and white and colour photographs illustrate the text. This book is part of a Gwich'in Plant Kit developed for use by educators in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The kit includes a copy of this book, 28 pressed, labeled and laminated plants, an organizer with assorted samples of dried berries and fungi, and two jars of lichens and mosses. The book can be used without the remainder of the kit.

Heine, Michael, Alestine Andre, Ingrid Kritsch, Alma Cardinal and the Elders of Tsiigehtchic
2001 **Gwichya Gwich'in Googwandak: The History and Stories of the Gwichya Gwich'in.** Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. 409 pp. ISBN 1-896337-05-8 (\$49.95)

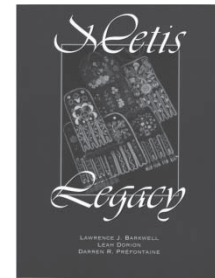
This publication presents the story of Gwichya Gwich'in life on the land from pre-contact times to the present. It is based on information and stories provided by Gwichya Gwich'in Elders during

oral history and archaeological research carried out from 1992 to 2001. Also included are archival information and oral history interviews undertaken in the late 1960s and early 1970s during the Committee of Original Peoples Entitlement project in preparation for land claim negotiations in the Mackenzie Delta. Numerous archival, personal and Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute photographs, drawings and maps illustrate the text.

Stephenson, Wendy
2001 **The Bell With a Name: Adapted from the story told by Elizabeth, Eva and Hugh Colin.** Published by Eva and Hugh Colin, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and GNWT (Department of Municipal and Community Affairs). 44pp. Gwich'in and English text with colour illustrations. ISBN 1-896337-07-4

This children's storybook is adapted from the true story of Eva and Hugh Colin's wedding at the Mouth of the Peel village. The story is told from the perspective of Eva and Hugh Colin's five-year-old son, Kirk, and shows the caring and helping that is so common to the North. The book was written in celebration of the International Year of Volunteers (2001). Twenty-two colour drawings illustrate the story which is targeted for grades three to six. The text is in Gwich'in and English so that it can be used as a teaching resource for Gwich'in language teachers. Copies of this book are being distributed at no charge and can be ordered through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, GNWT, Suite 400, 5201 - 50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9

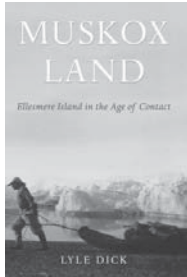
Barkwell, Lawrence J., Leah Dorion and Darren P. Préfontaine
2001 **Metis Legacy: A Metis Historiography and Annotated Bibliography.** Published by Pemmican Publications. 500pp. (bound) ISBN 1-894717-04-X (\$84.95); (paperback) ISBN 1-894717-03-1 (\$69.95)



This book was launched in December 2001 as a joint initiative of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Saskatchewan and the Louis Riel Institute of Manitoba, with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada. The book includes chapters on Métis homelands beyond the Canadian prairies, including the NWT, Montana and Missouri. The pictorial collection offers new illustrations of past and present Métis material culture, including clothing, decorative arts, and transportation. The book also includes essays on important themes such as the Michif language and music, and current issues such as leadership, identity and specific rights in a multicultural Canadian society. The comprehensive bibliography provides one of the most up to date research tools for anyone researching the history of the Métis in North America.

Dick, Lyle
2001 **Muskox Land: Ellesmere Island in the Age of Contact.** Published by University of Calgary Press. 640 pp. ISBN 1552380505 (\$34.95)

Contributing to the existing body of work on the history of the North, *Muskox Land* brings together insights such as historiography,



native studies, geography, ecology, anthropology, and polar exploration history to provide an understanding of Inuit-European relations in the 19th

and 20th centuries in the High Arctic (the area now known as Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada). Researched and documented through a comprehensive search of polar archival collections in Canada and the USA, and through oral histories with Inuit in Grise Fiord, Nunavut, *Muskox Land* focuses on the roles of the natural environment and culture as factors in human history, and the charting of historical change arising from the interplay of cultures, the environment, and circumstance during the exploration era.

2001 **The Dogrib Caribou Skin Lodge Project.** Video (VHS format) (\$19.95)
The Dogrib Caribou Skin Lodge project was successfully completed



with the release of a 30-minute documentary in March 2001. The video, in Dogrib with English subtitles, records the entire project from start to finish, with commentary

from participating Elders. To order a copy, please contact Margaret Demeule at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9; 1-867-873-7551; margaret_demeule@gov.nt.ca). The price includes all taxes and shipping/handling costs. Visa is accepted.

2000 **Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care of: Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group.** Available in PDF format.
Created by the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)*, the Sahtu Heritage



in the Sahtu region. Represented by Dene and Métis residents of the region and the territorial and federal governments, the Working Group deliberated for nearly five years before submitting its January 2000 to the Sahtu leadership and the territorial and federal ministers. The report contains recommendations for 40 heritage sites, or groupings of sites, as well as advice on how to continue and manage future heritage research. To ensure that the public has access to this report, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has provided downloadable PDF files containing the complete report on its web site. To download the report, please refer to www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/research/places/

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

National Parks and National Historic Sites

Parks Canada
Box 1166
Yellowknife, NT
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Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Department of Sustainable
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Parks and Tourism Division
Government of Nunavut
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
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www.nunavutparks.com
Attention: Richard Wyma
Manager, Parks and Conservation
Areas
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Fax: (867) 975-5990
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Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter

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Whitehorse, Yukon
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www.cpaws.org
Attention: Juri Peepre
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**NWT Protected Areas Strategy,
NWT Territorial Parks and
Heritage Rivers**

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.

Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.

