



Nunatsiavut Harvest Study—Program Development and Training (Terrestrial Species)

With support from the Government of Canada's [Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk](#) (Prevention Stream) the [Nunatsiavut Government](#) led a one-year project in 2014–2015 to develop and pilot a harvest survey to assist harvest management decision making.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

The Nunatsiavut Government manages the Inuit harvest of all species within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, which covers 72,500 km² of land and 48,690 km² of sea. Currently, there are provincial and federal regulations as well as Nunatsiavut Government recommendations for the harvest of polar bears, moose, caribou, and migratory birds, but not for other terrestrial species. Harvest data for these other terrestrial species would be valuable to help resource management decision making as little is currently documented about distribution patterns or population trends. The Nunatsiavut Government selected 57 terrestrial species to be included in a pilot harvest survey to collect population and distribution data. The survey included mammals (e.g. furbearers, caribou, and hares), birds (e.g. ptarmigan and grouse), trees (e.g. spruce, fir, and larch species), and several species of berries—all of which have socio-economic importance to Nunatsiavut communities.

WHAT WAS DONE

The project team designed a Labrador-specific survey based on research from past harvest studies in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. An advisory group of Inuit Elders, other harvesters and Nunatsiavut Government staff revised the survey design before it was tested. Over a one-week period, two research assistants from Trent University trained and mentored seven Inuit survey assistants from the communities of Makkovik and Nain before the start of the survey. The survey was designed to ask all Nunatsiavut beneficiaries about their harvest on a monthly or seasonal basis, depending on the frequency of their harvest. Following the training sessions, the survey assistants administered door to door surveys within the communities of Makkovik and Nain. The data collected were recorded in a database held by the Nunatsiavut Government for use in harvest management. The survey team plans to survey additional communities in a follow-up project.



▲ Boreal caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS PROJECT

- Developed community capacity to design, implement, and record harvest surveys using database software on tablets.
- Collected valuable harvest data to facilitate effective resource management decisions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROJECT

The Nunatsiavut Government will benefit from having a harvest survey tool that will assist harvest management decision making.

INVESTMENT: 2014–2015

Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk Funds:	\$13,076
Partner Support Leveraged:	\$16,081
TOTAL:	\$29,157