

commonground



Bulletin of the Joint Secretariat
Winter 2002 Vol 3-1

Inuvialuit Youth Capacity Building

Due to the technical nature of fisheries research and management jobs in the ISR, many requiring post-secondary education, the majority of these positions are held by individuals from Southern Canada, with few being Inuvialuit. FJMC's Student Mentoring Program, offered in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), is designed to encourage Inuvialuit youth to complete their high school education and continue on with their studies so they can become the ISR's future scientists and resource managers.

Four students participated in the program's sixth year – three of them completing the term. Returning students Northern Beattie, Kyle Kisoun Taylor and Mary Anne Francey had the opportunity to participate in a variety of training and fieldwork placements.

Some highlights include:

a patrol tour of the Firth River in Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada;

lemming and bird surveys in Aulavik National Park on Banks Island, Parks Canada;

an ISR Cultural Biophysical Survey, Kavik-AXYS;

a 'tour of duty' on the CCGS Pierre Radisson with the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES); and

lab work and training at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg MB, DFO



left to right – returning students Northern Beattie, Mary Anne Francey and Kyle Kisoun Taylor.

Support for this year's program was provided by: FJMC, Joint Secretariat, DFO and the Freshwater Institute, GNWT Education and Culture, Enbridge Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), Parks Canada, Inuvialuit Environmental & Geotechnical, Kavik-AXYS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS), CASES and Maureen & Walter Elias.

KEVIN BILL fjmc@jointsec.nt.ca

ISR Grizzly Bear Workshop

The management of grizzly bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region was the focus of a two and a half day workshop held in Inuvik in October. Participants included representatives from each Hunters and Trappers Committee, both Wildlife Management Advisory Councils, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Yukon and NWT governments and Parks Canada.

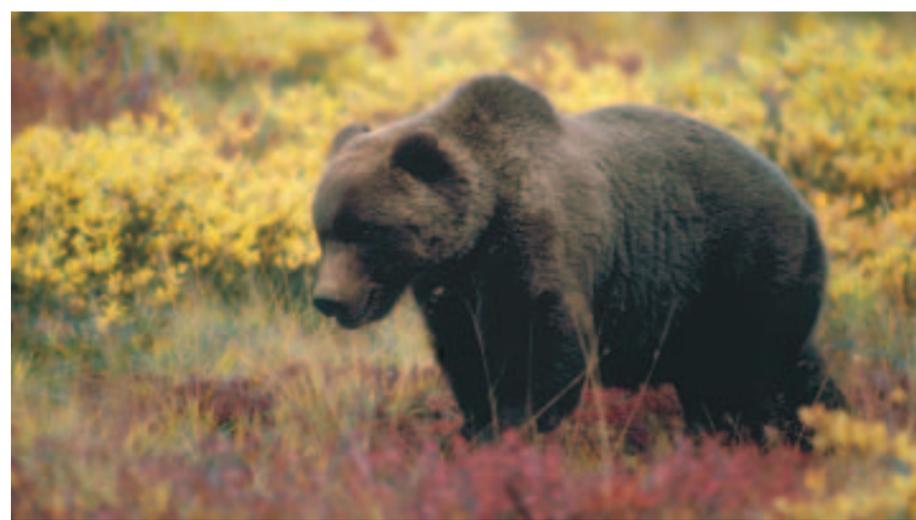
The workshop was held to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to the determination and distribution of harvest quotas, as well as the assessment of grizzly bear populations. The goals and objectives of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the next five years were also to be considered. The objective of the workshop was to develop ideas and recommendations for the future management of grizzlies that could be taken back to the communities, the WMACs and the IGC for further consideration.

The workshop began with presentations on the history of grizzly bear management in the ISR. An overview of how management circumstances have changed since the signing of the IFA noted the Inuvialuit's increased involvement in managing their resources over the past eighteen years.

Additional presentations provided information on past and current research by outlining ten projects that have been carried out in different regions of the ISR since the early 1970s. Most of these were conducted to estimate population density and have been used, along with other information on habitat, to calculate allowable harvest. Information in the ISR on grizzly bear populations is very good compared to other regions of Canada. Participants identified a number of future research activities that could be conducted to learn more about bear movements and to estimate population sizes.

Representatives from each of the four mainland HTC's reported their community's management issues. All communities confirmed that they want to maintain a healthy population of grizzly bears in the ISR while optimizing the sustainable harvest. The issue of problem bears was a major concern for everyone. When a problem bear is killed and counted as part of a community's quota, opportunities for subsistence harvesting are reduced. At times this has meant that problem bears in some areas, such as Inuvik, have used up

the entire allowable harvest for the year. While supporting measures that would continue to limit the number of problem bears killed, the community representatives stressed the importance of finding a way to reduce the effect these necessary kills have on their subsistence harvest.



Grizzly bear

All communities reported seeing lots of bears in their areas and felt that the population estimates and quotas were too low.

A review of harvest quotas provided participants with information on how and why they were introduced. Quotas for grizzly bears were first put in place by the Paulatuk HTC in 1986. This was followed by the Tuktoyaktuk HTC in 1989 and subsequently by other communities in 1994. Currently quotas are based on a sustainable harvest rate of 3% of bears over 2 years of age, with no more than a third of the harvest being female bears. Since 1994, the total number of bears harvested and the total number of females in the harvest have been less than could have been taken under the quota. A number of ideas were put forward by participants as to how to reallocate the portion of the quota that was unused. The introduction of multi-year quotas was also discussed. A review of the Community Hunting Areas prompted a discussion of options for changing, maintaining or eliminating them.

When questions were raised as to the process for changing the quotas, participants were told that, according to the IFA, the role of the WMACs is to determine the total allowable harvest and a harvest quota, with careful consideration for conservation of wildlife populations. The IGC's role is to allocate the recommended quota to the different

communities. The IGC also assigns Community Hunting Areas. It is the responsibility of the Hunters and Trappers Committees to sub-allocate the quota to individuals within their respective communities and to develop by-laws to regulate the harvest. By the end of the

workshop, participants had agreed on a number of suggested short-term and long-term actions. These actions included addressing the issue of the zero quota in the Delta and on Herschel Island, the development of programs to reduce problem bears and the reallocation of unused tags. Research to improve and expand information on population densities, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge into population assessments, was also identified as a priority.

The HTC representatives were given a printed summary of the ideas and recommendations developed in the workshop. They were asked to review the information with their members and forward their comments and decisions to the IGC and WMACs by late November. The GNWT is to provide their reassessment of sustainable harvest levels, review the recent DNA study in the Delta, and to provide an updated estimate of the number of grizzly bears in the ISR that incorporates local knowledge. The GNWT will also finalize the community traditional knowledge studies and discuss the results with the communities. If the IGC and WMACs receive the required information in time for their meetings in December, it will be possible for the three councils to review the existing quotas and consider the appropriate adjustments in time for the next grizzly bear hunting season.

AILEEN HORLER wmacs@web.ca

The Move to Common Ground

We take pride in the work we do as part of the Joint Secretariat, and wanted our bulletin to reflect our commitment to this beautiful area and the wildlife that we are all a part of. Common Ground focuses on our common goal: wildlife management, conservation, and maintenance of healthy populations. We chose the muskox

and the beluga whale to represent us — and the vastness of our area, both land and sea — because they are both social animals that work in supportive groups. We hope the changes we've made to our bulletin make your reading more enjoyable.



photo source: Ken Madsen

IGC News

Inuvialuit Game Council



IGC meeting in Holman

The Inuvialuit Game Council meets four times a year to conduct its regular business and to hear updates from the various co-management bodies and government departments. At least one of these meetings is held in one of the more remote ISR communities. In June the IGC held its meeting in Holman. During the four days of meetings the IGC heard from the various bodies and departments. Representatives from the oil and gas industry were present to give updates on the Mackenzie Delta Gas Feasibility Study and Devon's Offshore Drilling Program Biophysical Studies.



Back row (l to r): Billy Day, Richard Binder, Frank Pokiak, Donald Inuktalik, Andy Carpenter Jr., Chucky Gruben, Donald Aviugana, Larry Semmler, Ruben Ruben, Nelson Perry, Norm Snow. Front row (l to r): Duane Smith, Greg Green, Margaret Kanayok. Holman, NT, June, 2002

One significant resolution passed by the IGC in Holman was to not support the use of sumps in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Sumps are the disposal sites for drilling wastes. They consist of a hole in the ground where the drilling wastes are placed which is then covered and left when the program is completed. They are usually located at or near the drilling site. The wastes are below the active layer, and permanently sealed in the permafrost. Recent reports as well as observations by HTC members have indicated that many of the sumps that were constructed in the 1970s have since failed. For the short term sumps will continue to be used. However, more work is now being done, largely as a result of the IGC resolution, to look for environmentally friendly ways of dealing with wastes.

Emerging Fisheries

In the past couple of years there has been an increased interest in exploring the potential for a commercial fishery in the Beaufort Sea. After discussions with one of the interested companies from BC, and with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, there was a joint

experimental fishery licence issued to Leader Fishing Ltd. and the Inuvialuit Game Council by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The species of interest are cod, crab, shrimp, prawns, and halibut. The plan was to conduct an experimental fishery in a prescribed zone of the Beaufort Sea that has not been traditionally used by the Inuvialuit. Due to weather and ice conditions, Leader Fishing's vessel was unable to complete the work in the summer of 2002. They now plan to return in the summer of 2003. In the meantime, the IGC will continue to work on this issue in cooperation with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee to ensure that Inuvialuit harvesting rights under the IFA are protected.

The Passing of a Member

The IGC members would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of Larry Semmler who recently passed away. Larry was an alternate member on the IGC for approximately one year and his contributions to the business of the IGC will be greatly missed.

NELSON PERRY igc-js@jointsec.nt.ca

Review Board Update

Environmental Impact Review Board

EIRB

The Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) continues to participate in the Cooperation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories. This plan was released by the Northern Pipeline Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Chairs' Committee (the Chairs' Committee) in June of 2002. Robert Hornal (EIRB Chairman) has a seat on the Chairs' Committee. Jonathan Allen, EIRB Resource Person, is involved in various subcommittees that are working on putting the plan into action.

Ongoing Reviews

The EIRB has received two referrals from the Environmental Impact Screening Committee: WesternGeco (White), Mackenzie Delta River 2D seismic program 2002 and Commander

Resources' proposed diamond exploration program, Victoria Island, NT. WesternGeco performed a test program this past summer in order to help address some of the outstanding questions and concerns related to their proposed development. One portion (of three) was carried out in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). WesternGeco expects to have their study results available for release later in 2002. Commander Resources is proceeding with its submission of a draft Environmental Impact Statement – one of the early stages of the EIRB's Public Review Process.

New Publications

The EIRB distributed a draft version of the *Criteria for Establishing Environmental Standards* and *Criteria for Evaluating a Developer's Standard of Performance in the Husky Lakes Area* (Area

Number 2, Annex D, *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*). They are looking for questions and comments from interested parties on or before December 13th 2002.

The document *Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: A Guide for Proponents*, is now complete. Two guides entitled *Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: A Guide for Reviewers* and *Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Current and Potential Capability* (completed in January of this year) round out the set commissioned by the EIRB and Environmental Impact Screening Committee to help proponents address cumulative effects.

JONATHAN W. ALLEN eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

Screening Business

Environmental Impact Screening Committee



Five meetings were held since June. The EISC decided that drilling programs submitted by Chevron (North Langley) and Petro-Canada (Nuna) would have no significant negative environmental impact. Other developments approved since spring include those from the University of Toronto (archaeology, geology), Simon Fraser University (biogeochemistry), ROAM Adventures (river rafting), Thistle/Smith (land lease), Storm Communications (towers), Due North Journeys (hiking tours), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (fish monitoring, climate study research, tide gauging), Cyntech Tank Services (hydrostatic testing of fuel tanks), Environment Canada (water quality), Hosanna Tours Enterprise (tours), and Kuñnek Resource Development (relocation of reindeer corrals).

This year two developments were referred to the EIRB for public review: WesternGeco's proposed Mackenzie Delta 2D seismic program and Commander Resources' proposed Victoria Island diamond exploration program. In both cases the EISC believed there could be an impact on traditional harvesting. Also, in the case of WesternGeco's program, the EISC lacked confidence in the proposed mitigation and monitoring program.

Mineral Review

The EISC has the mandate to conduct an annual review of mineral activity in the Region. Although there has been little such development recently, in May the EISC carried out a review based on a report from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). The EISC noted that some of their earlier

recommendations to the government (1996) had not been carried out. The government indicated that this was due, in large part, to the confines of their legislation. The EISC wrote to the Minister of DIAND and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to suggest that their Minerals Agreement be amended to make it a more workable document.

Comings and Goings

The EISC welcomes Cathy Cockney (Inuvik) and Frank Pokiak (Tuktoyaktuk). Frank replaces Fred Wolki, who had been sharing his wisdom with the group since 1990. He will be missed by his fellow members Bill Klassen (Chair), Billy Day, Chuck Hubert, Alex Kaglik and Johnny Lennie and the EISC's Resource Person, Linda Graf.

LINDA GRAF eisc@jointsec.nt.ca

Managing Fisheries Within the ISR

New FJMC Resource Biologist

On June 28th 2002, Ed McLean resigned as FJMC Resource Biologist and has moved on to Parks Canada as Ecosystem Secretariat Manager. The FJMC members wish Ed the best of luck in his new position and extend their thanks for his tireless work over the past two years.

The FJMC would also like to welcome Kevin Bill as the new Resource Biologist. Kevin joined the



New FJMC Resource Biologist Kevin Bill

staff at the Joint Secretariat in April 2002 as Co-Management Technical Resource Person. After filling in for the interim, he officially took over as Resource Biologist on September 2nd.

Another Successful Beluga Harvest Monitoring Season

Preliminary results show the number of whales harvested by subsistence hunters totaled 85; approximately the same number taken in each of the last several years. Of special note, on August 30th Inuvialuit hunters in Holman harvested a beluga for the first time in over 15 years.

The number of whales struck and lost this season was low (3) and aircraft traffic sightings were also low compared to last year, with no reports of aircraft disturbance or harassment. Thank you to all the monitors: Willy Carpenter

(Head Monitor), Wilson Malegana, Fraser Rogers, Hugh Rogers, George Selamio, Tommy Thrasher, and Hank Wolki.

Emerging Commercial Fisheries

Two Regular FJMC meetings were held over the summer; June 9 – 11 in Yellowknife NT, and August 26 – 28 in Pigeon Lake AB. In addition to dealing with regular committee business and increased hydrocarbon exploration and development within the region, the Committee has observed renewed interest in the development of a commercial fishery within the Beaufort Sea. Two companies have expressed interest in conducting exploratory fishing in offshore waters. The FJMC, along with other Inuvialuit organizations and regulatory agencies, is currently working to ensure Inuvialuit interests are incorporated into any commercial fishing development within the ISR.

KEVIN BILL fjmc@jointsec.nt.ca

Fisheries Joint Management Committee



WMAC (NWT) Activities

This summer and fall were quite busy with the office move, year-end tasks such as the annual report, the polar and grizzly bear workshops, and the now "usual" numerous meetings with oil and gas companies to discuss their exploration activities and potential pipeline issues. This is in addition to the general Council duties such as commenting on EISC submissions,

species status reports, wildlife legislation and policies, wildlife research, management plans and quarterly meeting business. To have a first-hand look at these types of developments, two WMAC (NWT) members attended an oil and gas workshop which included tours of various facilities such as pipelines, compressor stations and gas transmission plants.

Polar Bear Agreements' Workshop

In June the WMAC (NWT) hosted a two-day workshop in Holman, NT to update the polar bear community management agreements that were signed in 1991/1993. The 26 representatives were from each HTC, WMAC (NWT), IGC, RWED, CWS, and from Nunavut: Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay HTOs, Kitikmeot RWO, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and the Govt. of Nunavut. There are three agreements (now called Memorandums of Understanding or MOUs), one for each polar bear population

in the ISR. The Viscount-Melville and North Beaufort populations are shared with Nunavut, so an inter-governmental agreement is also being discussed. The Southern Beaufort (SB) population is shared among ISR communities. By October 1st, three of the four SB communities accepted the changes suggested at the workshop, with the fourth community wrapping up their discussions. The other two MOUs will be amended once the inter-governmental agreement is done.

Welcome New Members

In September the IGC appointed Jack Akhiatak and Donald Inuktalik (previously an Alternate), both from Holman, to WMAC (NWT). As a co-management Council, Inuvialuit participation in wildlife management issues through the WMAC (NWT) is equally important as the input from our government partners.

KATHERINE THIESENHAUSEN
wmacnwt@jointsec.nt.ca

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



WMAC (NWT)'s Polar Bear Workshop

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

Last July, members of the WMAC (NS) spent a week on the Yukon North Slope, traveling by boat from Inuvik to Shingle Point and Herschel Island. The first several days were spent on Herschel where members were able to learn more about the research projects underway on the island and to see how the Territorial Park is operated. The Council held a one-day meeting while on the island that included a review of the Park's revised Management Plan. Later in the week council members had an opportunity to participate in the Parks Day activities held at Shingle Point by Parks Canada. The trip

emphasized the importance of spending time on the land in the places, and with the people, that are the focus of the Council's work. WMAC (NS) would like to thank Richard Gordon, the Herschel Park Rangers, Mervin Joe, Ron Larsen, Foster Arey and Danny C. Gordon for all their help in making the trip a success.

The Council has completed Volume 2 of its *Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan*. Developed after many years of extensive consultation and review, the Plan will provide direction to long-term wildlife conservation management consistent with the

goals of the IFA. The Plan can be viewed at www.taiga.net/wmac/ynscon&mplan_volume2/vol2_index.html. A printed version will be available soon.

WMAC (NS) has taken the next step towards finalizing its Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan. The Plan has been circulated to agencies and groups that participated at last year's Muskox Management Workshop for their final review.

AILEEN HORLER wmacns@web.ca
www.taiga.net/wmac

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NS)



below: WMAC (NS) on Herschel Island. Photo source: Aileen Horler

Canada Geese from illustration by Peter Voudrach





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Inuvialuit Renewable
Resource Committees
Vol 3-1**

P.O. Box 2120
107 Mackenzie Road, Suite 204
Inuvik, NT, X0E 0T0

Ph: 867-777-2828 Fx: 867-777-2610

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Joint Secretariat provides administrative and technical support to the wildlife and environmental co-management boards set up pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and to the Inuvialuit Game Council.



Bernice Joe is one of the friendly voices you talk to when you phone the JS office in Inuvik.

New Staff

Heather Hansen,
Travel/Accommodation Coordinator, JS

Kevin Bill, Resource Biologist, FJMC

Chris Alway, Co-Management
Technical Resource Person, JS

Upcoming Meetings

EISC

Dec. 16-18, 2002, Inuvik (tentative)
Feb. 3-5, 2003, Inuvik (tentative)

EIRB

TBA

FJMC

Jan. 6-8, 2003, location TBA

IGC

Dec. 11-14, 2002, Inuvik

WMAC-NWT

Dec. 9-10, 2002, Inuvik

WMAC-NS

Dec. 9-10, 2002, Aklavik

Community Support Unit Update

Our deepest sympathy to the Irish, Semmler and Meyook families who lost their loved ones last month. The three men will be sadly missed. They were all well known around the delta. Larry was just made the Vice President of the AHTC.

The HTC's' annual general meetings have come and gone. There are some new directors: welcome to Hans Lennie (who replaced Duane Smith) to the IHTC; welcome to Danny Gordon Jr. in Aklavik; Sachs has a vacant position as Wayne Gully resigned; Paulatuk welcomes Stanley Ruben and Bobby Ruben (who replace David Ruben & Noel Green) to the Board.

The Inuvik HTC has recently hired Donna Hanson as the new Resource Person (RP). Welcome aboard! The RPs for the surrounding areas are: Faith Gordon and Agnes Tardiff (Aklavik), Eleanor Ross (Tuk), Bill S. Ruben

(Paulatuk), Florence Elanik (Sachs Harbour) and Lillian Kanayok (Holman). Welcome also to Chris Alway who joined the Community Support Unit at the JS on October 7th.

All the financial audits have been completed and the HTC's now have their funding for the rest of the year. The IHAP policy & procedures may have some revisions. I will have them posted in each community when it is time to give out the IHAP in Feb/March 2003.

The Inuvik Hunters & Trappers Committee had their board development training on September 28th and 29th. It was a very good turnout with some enthusiastic directors waiting to exercise their roles and responsibilities.

Take care, and good luck in harvesting!

DIANE DILLON htc@jointsec.nt.ca



An example of the damage Grizzly bears have done in the Delta this summer. No food was in the cabin. Photo source: Diane Dillon

53rd AAAS Arctic Science Conference

The Inuvialuit Game Council sent a delegation to Fairbanks recently to attend the 53rd Arctic Science Conference at the University of Alaska. While the theme for the conference was examining the interrelationships between the Arctic Ocean, the Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska, there were presentations on all aspects of Arctic ecosystems.

Climate change was one topic that some presenters focused on. Scientists have found that the Bering Strait is shifting to an earlier spring and that this is affecting the timing for biological productivity. They have shown that the tree line is moving northwards, shrub density has increased on the tundra, and permafrost temperatures are warming in some areas.

There were also discussions on the research that is being coordinated for

the Arctic Ocean in Canada and Alaska, some of which is taking place in the Beaufort Sea. One of the larger projects that started this year is the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES). This work is taking place in the Beaufort Sea and involves scientists from several countries. There were two Inuvialuit students selected to work onboard the research vessel. Participants also heard about other international research projects that are being planned for the next few years that involve work in the Beaufort Sea.

Participants also learned some things about the biology of muskox on the North Slope and possible reasons for the declining numbers in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

This was a four-day conference with over one hundred presentations and so only a few of them have been touched

on here. The delegation members spread themselves around and covered as many of the sessions as they could.

NELSON PERRY igc-js@jointsec.nt.ca



Front (l to r): Ruben Ruben, Larry Carpenter, Nelson Perry; Back (l to r): Frank Pokiak, Donald Inuktalik. Photo source: Katherine Thiesenhausen

Farewell to Ed McLean



The JS wishes Ed McLean the best of luck at Parks Canada.

Since the last issue we have bid farewell to Ed McLean and wish him well in his new job with Parks Canada. Kevin Bill is now in Ed's former position as FJMC Resource Person, and we welcome Chris Alway as Kevin's Community Support replacement. We also miss Bridget Wolki, who has returned to Sachs Harbour, and welcome Heather Hansen who is currently replacing Bridget.

The move to our new space on the second floor of the Inuvialuit Corporate Centre is now complete and we have all (more or less!) settled in. Please come and visit us when you are in Inuvik.

In addition to the routine wildlife management issues, industry activity within the region is occupying most of our time. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed off by the Minister of Environment and a draft Joint Review Panel Agreement was recently released to the public. Both these documents set out how the Inuvialuit may be involved in any future environmental review of a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline project. We will be discussing these, and related activities in the communities in the near future, as at the time of going to press we are awaiting a Preliminary Information Package from the Delta Producers Group with respect to their pipeline project.

NORM SNOW execdir@jointsec.nt.ca

Community Art Contest



Drawing by Vanessa Irish, Grade 9

On October 11th our contest closed for Inuvialuit drawings. We were thrilled to receive 58 submissions from 4-year-old to adult artists. There was such a variety of pictures of wildlife and Inuvialuit interacting with wildlife, it was difficult to choose winners, but here they are:

Vanessa Irish – *Two Polar Bears Coming out of Water*

Sandy Adam – *Inuit Fishing*

Justin Firth – *Caribou in Winter Looking for Food*

Peter Voudrach – *Canada Geese (see previous page)*

Charles Lucas – *Eskimo Curlew*

Look for the drawings in following issues as we incorporate them into the overall design. Many thanks to all the artists! We appreciate your enthusiasm and wonderful pictures.