

# commonground



Bulletin of the Joint Secretariat  
Winter 2004 Vol 4-2

## Recent Climate Change Activities in the ISR

### ITK Observation Workshops

Observations of environmental change have now been recorded in all communities of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). In September a team of individuals from the Joint Secretariat and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) visited the communities of Paulatuk and Holman to hold workshops with community members where observations of environmental change were discussed and recorded. Similar workshops were completed in



Donald Inuktalik overlooking the community of Holman, February 2003.

other ISR communities in January and February 2002. The ISR is now the first Inuit region where community observations of environmental change are documented for all communities.

A final regional report will be published along with reports from each community workshop sometime next year. All reports will be published in English and Inuvialuktun.

### Inuvialuit Elders Workshop

Following the ITK Observation Workshops, the Government of the Northwest Territories held and funded a regional workshop in Inuvik where the topic of climate change was also discussed. This workshop not only included discussions about the changes that the Inuvialuit people



Youth and Elders Representatives at the Inuvialuit Elders Workshop, September 2003.

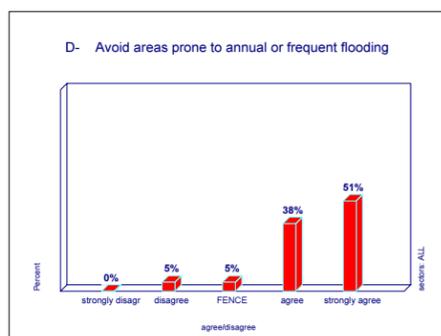
have noticed, but also included presentations from local, regional and national organizations. The presentations included scientific theories about climate change as well as current initiatives, including alternative energy sources such as wind energy and its potential development in the coastal areas of the region. Presentations were made by representatives from Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Joint Secretariat, Aurora Research Institute and ITK.

ROBIN A. FONGER  
tech@jointsec.nt.ca

## Drilling Waste Workshop

A report published by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada (DIAND) and observations by Inuvialuit harvesters have shown that many of the drilling waste sumps constructed in the 70s and 80s in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) have since failed. Sump construction has improved since then, but there are still concerns that the waste being put into sumps may eventually enter the environment. Inuvialuit community members have also expressed concerns about the cumulative impact of sumps on the landscape if industry continues to use this disposal method. A regional workshop was held in Inuvik, September 25 – 27, 2003, to address the issue of drilling waste disposal in the Mackenzie Delta.

The workshop looked at past practices but mainly focused on the various methods of drilling waste disposal that could be used in the Mackenzie Delta today, and the recommended best practices for applying these methods. Day one of the workshop was an introduction to drilling waste management. It provided everyone with the necessary information needed to discuss the various



Response for one of over one hundred issues addressed during the workshop using the remote keypad system. Photo source: Bill McMillan, Equus Consulting Group, workshop facilitator

drilling waste disposal options in breakout groups on days two and three. There were representatives from all six ISR communities at the workshop along with government and industry representatives. The facilitator used a system of voting keypads to address

Over the next few months a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be meeting to produce a document with the recommended best practices for drilling waste disposal in the Mackenzie Delta based on the results from the workshop.



Sump in the Mackenzie Delta. Photo source: Newpark Environmental Services

each option. Each participant used a remote keypad and registered their decision by hitting the number corresponding to their preferred response. The decisions were anonymous, but the overall results on each issue/question could be viewed immediately as they were projected onto a screen for everyone to see. This was the first time this system was used in the region and many felt that it was an effective way of ensuring that all had an equal say in the decisions and recommendations being proposed. The presentations from the workshop and a summary report of the discussions and results have been provided to the participants and are available upon request from the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC).

The Inuvialuit Land Administration, IGC, Environment Canada, DIAND, the oil and gas industry, and an environmental consulting company are all represented on the TAG. The workshop and the TAG have been funded by the Environmental Studies Research Fund.

The recommended best practices document produced by the TAG will be forwarded to all Inuvialuit organizations, industry, government and other interested parties. It is hoped that in this way, the Inuvialuit will have provided significant input into the way drilling waste disposal is conducted in the ISR for the future.

NELSON PERRY  
igc-js@jointsec.nt.ca

## 10 Year Harvest Study Report Released

The Inuvialuit Harvest Study, which officially began in 1987, was suspended in 2000. Since that time harvest data have been obtained on a more specific basis and by another process. The harvest data from 1988 to 1997 have been compiled and analysed in the 10-year report, which is (at last!) available. This volume represents one of the longest, most comprehensive and reliable harvest data-sets available anywhere. It is a fitting tribute to a very large number of people, including of course, the harvesters themselves, who have contributed to this study over the years, and not the least of whom is long-time coordinator and former J.S. staff member Michael Fabijan.

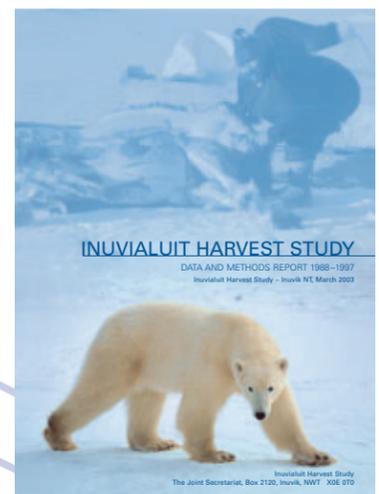
We are pleased to have in this edition of *commonground* a guest article from Brian Chambers who will soon be opening the

Inuvik sub-office of the Northern Gas Project Secretariat, of which he is the Yellowknife-based Executive Director.

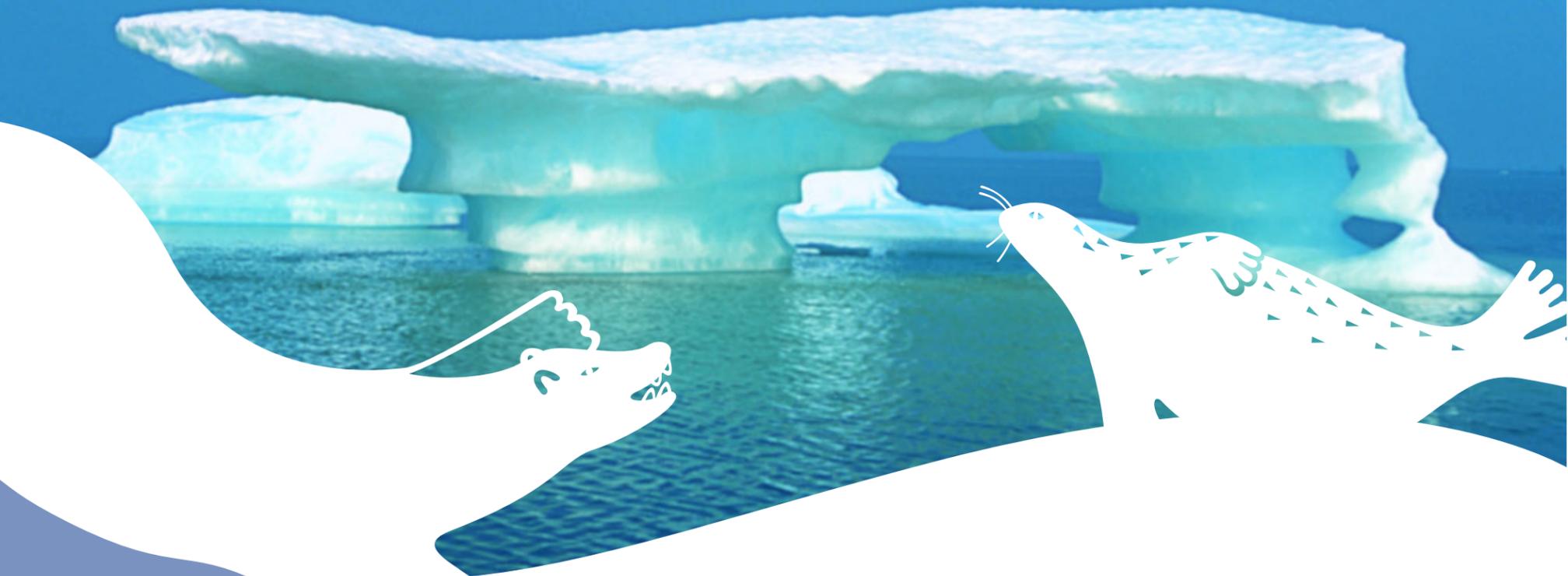
On the home front we are once again saying farewell to several folks. Jonathan Allen, Alisha Chauhan and Chris Alway have departed and that leaves Robin as the Community Support Unit (again!). We should, however, be filling those three positions early in the New Year. We are also bidding farewell to Duane Smith, the long-standing Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) and wish him well in his future endeavours, while at the same time welcoming Frank Pokiak as the incoming IGC Chair.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season.

NORM SNOW



Ten-year Report on what's harvested in the ISR now available.



## Inuvialuit Game Council



## IGC News

### October 2003 IGC Meeting

The Inuvialuit Game Council represents the collective Inuvialuit interest in wildlife and wildlife habitat in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). The Yukon North Slope falls within the ISR and the Council sometimes holds its regular meeting in the Yukon to meet with Yukon Territorial Government (YTG) representatives and representatives of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) (WMAC (NS)). The WMAC (NS) is the co-management body established under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, responsible for the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and traditional Inuit use on the North Slope. Its office is in Whitehorse.

The fall IGC meeting was held in Whitehorse, October 2–5, and the Council had discussions with various federal and territorial government departments, and the co-management bodies, and also heard updates from industry on activity within the ISR.



Richard Gordon, Chief Park Warden, Herschel Island Territorial Park, updating the IGC in Whitehorse.

### Election for IGC Chair

The election for IGC Chair was held on October 3, 2003 with the 42 Hunters and Trappers Committee Directors as eligible voters. Frank Pokiak was voted in as Chair with a four-year term from October 6, 2003 until October 5, 2007. Frank resides in Tuktoyaktuk and brings with him many years of experience as a member on various co-management bodies and as Vice-Chair and Director of the IGC.

The IGC would like to express its appreciation for the leadership that Duane Smith provided to the Council from 1998 to 2003. The Council recognizes with gratitude the many years of dedication, commitment, and service that Duane provided to the Inuvialuit both as an IGC Director and then as Chair of the IGC.

NELSON PERRY  
[igc-js@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:igc-js@jointsec.nt.ca)

## Public Review Update

Following a review by the EIRB, the government authority responsible for authorizing the proposed development must respond to the Board's findings. In the case of the Commander Resources' Diamond Exploration Program review that was completed in February, the EIRB concluded that the project should proceed. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs agreed, and although he did not accept all of the recommendations put forward by the EIRB, the Minister was supportive of their intent which was to prevent disturbance to wildlife. Commander completed its program this past fall and provided updates to the EIRB.

In May, the EIRB determined that WesternGeco's Mackenzie Delta River 2D Seismic Program could proceed. In this case the National Energy Board

was the regulatory authority, and it agreed that the program could proceed. It also agreed with most of the recommendations made by the EIRB as to how it should proceed. Although it was given the go-ahead, WesternGeco decided not to carry out their program this year.

Our files are open to the public if you are interested in having a look at any documents pertaining to the public reviews.

### Other Activities

The EIRB is active even when a review is not underway. The Chair continues his involvement with representatives of environmental assessment and regulatory agencies that would assess or authorize the Mackenzie Gas Project. And he,

together with several members, attended a Cumulative Effects Assessment Management Strategy and Framework meeting earlier in the year.

### Best Wishes Jonathan

After more than a year as the EIRB Resource Person, Jonathan Allen headed back to New Brunswick this past summer. There should be a new face in the office early in the new year.

### Meet Our Members

Robert Horal (Chair), Jack Akhiatak, Peter Bannon, Richard Binder, Tom Butters, Herbert Felix, and Andrew Williams.

LINDA GRAF  
[eirb@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eirb@jointsec.nt.ca)

## Screening Business

This past summer and fall only a few gas exploration-related programs were screened. The EISC decided that the drilling programs submitted by Chevron (Ellice Island) and EnCana (Burnt Lake), the seismic program submitted by Chevron (Taktuk), and the geochemical/geological surveys submitted by Devon, would have no significant negative environmental impact. In October the EISC determined that the Mackenzie Gas Project (proposed pipeline) should be sent for public review. The EISC are awaiting further information before they can make a decision about which review body should conduct the assessment.

Projects approved through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* screening process over the past six months include those from Carleton University (drilling mud sumps), Geological Survey of Canada (glaciers), University of Toronto

(archaeology/geology), SDC Drilling Inc. (storage of drilling unit), Canadian Wildlife Service (bird survey), Parks Canada (salvage excavations, old fuel/drum disposal), Aurora Research Institute (ethnobotany), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (bird surveys), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (community-based monitoring program, oceanographic research) and Laval University (Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchanges Study).

### Learning About the Gas Industry

The Pembina Oil and Gas Workshop in Alberta gave EISC members the opportunity to learn about the gas industry from the perspective of landowners, non-government organizations, and developers. And, thanks to ConocoPhillips for their assistance with a tour of the Alpine and Kuparuk petroleum facilities on the Alaskan North Slope in September.

### International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) 2003

A theme of "community capacity building" drew our Chair to Morocco this past June for the IAIA meeting.

### Comings and Goings

Congratulations Bill Klassen on your appointment in June to another term as EISC Chair. We will miss Frank Pokiak after his election to the IGC and resignation from the EISC in October. The remaining members are: Cathy Cockney, Billy Day, Alex Kaglik, Randy Lamb, and Johnny Lennie.

LINDA GRAF  
[eisc@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eisc@jointsec.nt.ca)

## Environmental Impact Review Board

EIRB

## Environmental Impact Screening Committee



# Managing Fisheries Within the ISR

## FJMC Research Priorities

The Committee has met for three regular meetings since our last issue: June 23rd – 25th and September 15th – 17th, both in Inuvik, and the annual FJMC Community Tour from November 3rd – 6th. During the tour, public meetings were held in co-operation with the Hunters and Trappers Committees in Paulatuk, Holman and Sachs Harbour, which allowed the Committee to meet with local harvesters and gather information relating to research priorities for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

## 2003 Beluga Harvest Monitoring Season

Preliminary results show the number of whales harvested by subsistence hunters totaled 115 in 2003, up considerably compared to the past several years. After several unsuccessful seasons, harvesters in Paulatuk had a productive season with 20 whales taken.

The number of whales struck and lost this season remained relatively low (10). Aircraft traffic sightings totaled 220, with two reports of low flights (neither report caused a significant harvest



The 2003 Husky Lakes Assessment Crew with FJMC Student Kyle Kisoun-Taylor at top left. Photo source: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

disturbance). Thank you to all the monitors: Willy Carpenter (Head Monitor), Jerry Arey, Ned Kayotuk, Wilson Malegana, Noel Rogers, Tommy Thrasher, and Hank Wolki.

## FJMC Student Mentoring Program

Four students participated in the program's seventh year, with three of them completing the term. This year we welcomed a new junior student to the fold, Candice Cockney. Northern Beattie, Kyle Kisoun Taylor, Mary Anne Francey and Candice all had the opportunity to participate in a variety of training and fieldwork placements.

FJMC staff and past mentoring students will be visiting the ISR communities in the New Year to promote the program. If you know someone who might be interested in participating in next year's program, please feel free to contact the FJMC Resource Biologist by phone or email.

Support for this year's program was provided by: FJMC, the Joint Secretariat, DFO and the Freshwater Institute, GNWT Education and Culture, Enbridge Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Parks Canada, and Inuvik resident Buck Dick.

KEVIN BILL  
fjmc@jointsec.nt.ca

Fisheries Joint Management Committee



# WMAC (NWT) Activities

## Wildlife Research

Several projects are underway with some funding from the IFA land claim. Polar bear research is expensive, takes several years, and requires a lot of planning and community support. While it has the potential to conflict with the timing for sport hunting, the WMAC (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) and Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs) support this research, recognizing the need for updated information to make management decisions such as quota changes.

## Wildlife Harvesting Season & Zone Changes

Instead of the Council reviewing harvesting seasons, zones and quotas at its December meeting, requests were discussed throughout the year, with recommendations forwarded to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED). The WMAC (NWT) is waiting for RWED to accept and complete four regulation recommendations, including: polar

bear quota; Peary caribou quota; and wolf and wolverine sport hunting. The HTCs will be notified when they are complete. The Council continues to work with the IGC and HTCs on the quota for grizzly bears in the eastern Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). If the budget allows, the WMAC (NWT) would like to do an ISR community tour in February 2004, to discuss



October 25, 2003, Dr. Ian Stirling received the Northern Science Award for over 35 years of polar research, much of it on polar bears in the ISR in cooperation with the WMAC (NWT), IGC and HTCs.

topics such as grizzly bears and other regulation changes. The Council, IGC and RWED are also working to streamline and speed up the process.

## Joint WMAC (NWT) & WMAC (NS) Meeting

This annual joint meeting on issues of mutual concern was held in September. Topics included involvement with the endangered species listing process, hosting an annual ISR wildlife research conference, and the Yukon North Slope Conference.

## Welcome New Member

In September the federal Minister of the Environment appointed Bruce MacDonald as the Environment Canada Member to WMAC (NWT). Bruce is employed by the Canadian Wildlife Service in Yellowknife. He's a familiar face in the ISR from his work on ducks in the last few years.

KATHERINE THIESENHAUSEN  
wmacnwt@jointsec.nt.ca

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



# Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

## Community Information Contributes to North Slope Species Status Reports

WMAC (NS) recently completed a project in Aklavik that recorded community observations of some of the birds and animals found on the Yukon North Slope and in the western Mackenzie Delta.

Much of wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is aimed at maintaining or increasing wildlife populations and conserving wildlife habitat. The purpose of the project was to collect local and traditional information to help in determining the health and abundance of wildlife populations. Asking local people about what they are seeing on the land is a good way to monitor how populations are doing. Until now, much of the information in reports assessing the health or status of wildlife populations has been primarily based on scientific research. The WMAC (NS) wanted to add traditional and local knowledge to this body of information.

Interviews were conducted in Aklavik over a two-week period in the spring. Twenty-two wildlife species were selected for the study including wolverine, snowy owls, moose, grizzly bears, wolves, fox, and a number of ducks and geese. Ten people in the community who are active on the land were asked to provide information on range, condition, habitat and population size. A public meeting was also held to get additional information.

The Council worked closely with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (AHTC) during the entire project. YTG Environment and NatureServe Yukon provided design, interviewing and writing support.

A full report on the project has also been prepared. It is called *Aklavik Inuvialuit Describe the Status of Certain Birds and Animals*. It was prepared by Barney Smith (YTG Environment) in collaboration with the AHTC. It is available from the AHTC, the Joint Secretariat and on WMAC (NS)'s website at [www.taiga.net/wmac/aklavikreport/index.html](http://www.taiga.net/wmac/aklavikreport/index.html). The information obtained has also been added to the Council's Yukon North Slope Wildlife Population Status Reports.

AILEEN HORLER  
wmacns@web.ca

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NS)

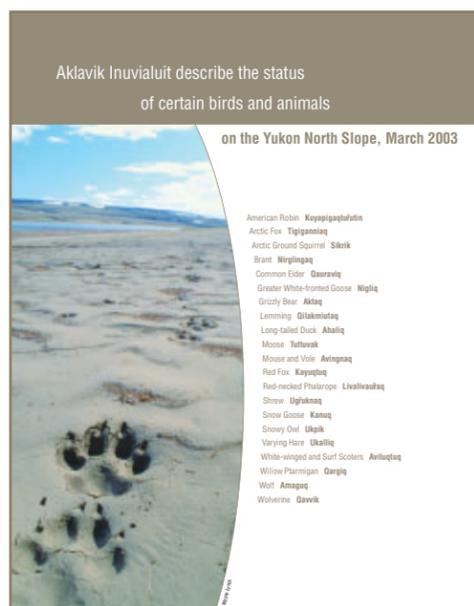




photo source: WMAC (NS), YTG

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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.



Evelyn Bullock is the JS Finance Officer and makes sure everything makes "cents"

## Upcoming Meetings

### EISC

December 1-3, 2003  
January 12-14, 2004  
February 16-18, 2004  
March 22-24, 2004

### EIRB

February 2003

### FJMC

TBA

### IGC

December 17-21, 2003 in Inuvik

### WMAC-NWT

December 17-20, 2003 Inuvik

### WMAC-NS

TBA

## Community Support Unit Update

The Community Support Unit (CSU) has been busy over the summer working on a variety of issues for the JS Boards and the Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs). The long anticipated Mackenzie Gas Project Preliminary Information Package was received in June. Since then the CSU has travelled to communities to help people understand the consultation and review process. The CSU will continue to visit communities to keep people up-to-date on this and other issues.

The Olokhaktomuit HTC (OHTC) is concerned about the potential impact of the Bathurst Port and Road Project application in Nunavut on the Dolphin & Union caribou herd, and asked the CSU to keep them informed about the application. The OHTC has conveyed their concerns about this application to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

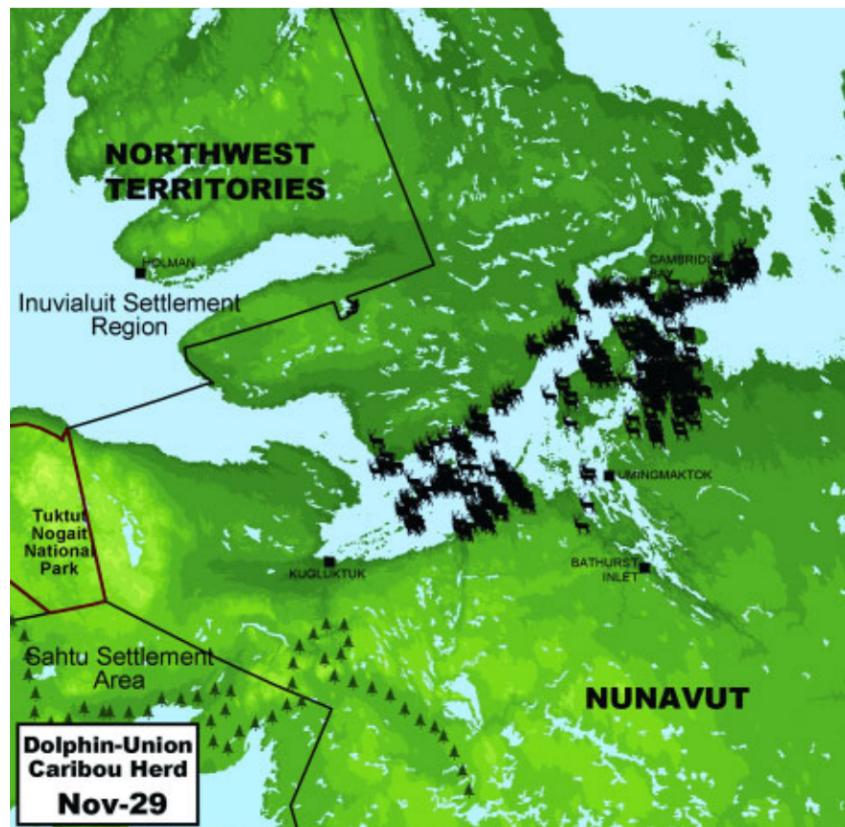
Robin Fonger, our HTC Technical Resource Person, helped to deliver climate change workshops in Paulatuk, Holman, and Inuvik, which are talked about on the front page of this issue. A new wildlife monitor training session is scheduled for November or December in each Inuvialuit community. Participants in these sessions will work on wildlife monitor job descriptions, report writing, wildlife safety, first aid, CPR and firearms safety.

Alisha Chauhan has moved on. Her presence will be missed both here in the office, and in the communities. We wish her the best of luck in the future.

This will be my last CSU update as I have moved to Whitehorse for family reasons. I'd like to say thank-you to

everyone for welcoming me in your communities over the last year. I hope to stay in touch with Inuvialuit issues from the Yukon.

CHRISTOPHER J. ALWAY  
tech-rp@jointsec.nt.ca



Movements of the Dolphin-Union caribou herd during the period when they cross from Victoria Island to the mainland. Photo source: GNWT Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

## Northern Gas Project Secretariat

### An introduction by Brian Chambers, Executive Director

I am pleased that the Joint Secretariat has given me an opportunity to provide a brief overview of the Northern Gas Project Secretariat. The Northern Gas Project Secretariat, or NGPS, is being established to facilitate a co-ordinated plan for the environmental assessment and regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The NGPS will have offices in Inuvik and Yellowknife. The Inuvik office will be opening in early 2004 and will be located in the Aurora Research Lab on Mackenzie Road.

The NGPS takes its direction from the Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Chairs Executive Committee. This committee is composed of representatives from the Inuvialuit (as represented by the Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council), Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, NWT Water Board, National Energy Board, and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Each of these agencies has a role in

reviewing and assessing the proposed gas project. As many residents of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region know, in June 2003 the proponents of the Mackenzie Gas Project submitted a Preliminary Information Package (PIP). The PIP outlines plans for the development of natural gas fields in the Mackenzie



Brian Chambers, Executive Director.  
Photo source: Northern Gas Project Secretariat

Delta, gathering lines, processing and transportation of natural gas south through the Mackenzie Valley to northern Alberta. The NGPS will be responsible for co-ordinating the environmental assessment and regulatory review process that is outlined in the Cooperation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Natural Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories, which was released by the environmental assessment agencies and regulators in June 2002. This 'made in the North' approach ensures that the environmental impact assessment and

regulatory processes associated with the Mackenzie Gas Project will be rigorous, comprehensive, and co-ordinated, and will address the needs of northerners and all Canadians.

As Executive Director, I am assembling a team whose key role will be to provide information management, logistics, communications, and administrative support to the public hearing panels for the environmental impact assessment and regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The views of northerners are particularly important, and NGPS staff will be visiting communities throughout the north to explain to stakeholders and the general public how to get involved in the review of the proposed project. I look forward to travelling throughout the ISR and meeting many of you as the review of the Mackenzie Gas Project proceeds.

BRIAN CHAMBERS  
Executive Director,  
Northern Gas Project Secretariat  
chambersb@ngps.nt.ca

## HTC Support Officer

I have just completed a two-day Resource Person Workshop in Inuvik on October 8th and 9th. Participants: Donna Hansen, Patricia Rogers, Joanne Eldridge, Diane Ruben and Lillian Kanayok. A big thanks to David Haogak (Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development), Kathy Sittichinli (Human Resources Development Canada), Linda Graf (EISC and EIRB), Nelson Perry (IGC), and Katherine Thiesenhausen (WMAC (NWT)) for their presentations.

Tuk and Sachs Harbour will hold their AGMs in December while the other HTCs have their AGMs scheduled for summer 2004. The new board of directors for the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee is: Evelyn Storr, Charlie Kalinek, Pat Kasook, Jerry Arey, Danny C. Gordon, Donald Aviugana, Danny Gordon Jr. The Resource Person is Faith Gordon, and the Secretary is Agnes Tardiff. For Inuvik: Richard Binder,

Hank Rogers, Jo Jo Arey, Esther Price, Duane Smith, Ron Gruben, Billy Day. The Resource Person is Donna Hanson, and Finance is Patricia Rogers. For Tuk: Paul Voudrach, Frank Pokiak, Veryl Gruben, Emmanuel Adams, Chucky Gruben, Henry Nasogaluak, Randal Pokiak. The Resource Person is Eleanor Ross-Saunders. For Paulatuk: Stan Ruben, Ruben Green, Ruben Ruben, David Ruben, Arnold Ruben, Bobby Ruben, Garrett Ruben. The Resource Person position is currently vacant. For Sachs Harbour: Andy Carpenter Jr., Earl Esau, Adella Ruben, Richard Carpenter, Peter Esau, Joe Kudlak, Margaret Lennie. The Resource Person is Joanne Eldridge. For Holman: Mary Banksland, Joseph Haluksit, Sadie Joss, Donald Inuktalik, John Alikamik, Peter Malgokak. The Resource Person is Lillian Kanayok.

DIANE DILLON  
htc@jointsec.nt.ca