

DARIUS ELIAS VANAGWAAHANDAII ZHAT KAIK'IT GWIIZHIT, ŁUK TS'AT NIN GWIDINEHTL'ÉE VAH GWITR'ITAGWAA'IN

DARIUS ELIAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY-BASED
FISH AND WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

VAN TAT GWICH'IN
TRADITIONAL
TERRITORY
2021 - 2026



THERE ARE NUMBER OF NAMES AND SPELLINGS FOR VAN TAT GWICH'IN.

“Van Tat Gwich'in” is currently the preferred name written in the modern orthography. The name is a reference to the heartland of the Van Tat Gwich'in (people of the lakes), or van (lakes) tat (many) Gwich'in (people), referring to Crow Flats. Vuntut Gwitchin, is the legal name for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. In this document we have used the modern orthography of Van Tat Gwich'in when referring to the people and culture and the old orthography of Vuntut Gwitchin when referring to official entities like the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation or Traditional Territory.



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Disclaimer

This community-based fish and wildlife work plan shall not create any commitments or obligations that are legally binding on the planning participants or create or affect any legal rights of the planning participants. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this community-based fish and wildlife work plan shall not create, affect, define, interpret or apply any roles, responsibilities, rights or interests under the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final or Self-Government Agreements.

Cover artwork by Sophia Flather

Fireweed beading by Ida Tizya (left)



Photo Credit: Wayne Lynch,
Parks Canada

Dedication

This plan is dedicated to the memory of Darius Elias, a Van Tat Gwich'in leader who advocated passionately for the lands, fish, and wildlife of the traditional territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin.

Throughout his career, Darius worked in many important roles like park warden in Vuntut National Park, member of the Legislative Assembly for Vuntut Gwitchin, the Fish and Wildlife Manager for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, and the Deputy Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Throughout his career, Darius fought passionately for the protection of Vuntut lands, fish, and wildlife. He contributed to many lasting protections for Vuntut lands and rights, including the creation of the Ni'iinlii Njik Territorial Park and Habitat Protection Area, the negotiation of the Porcupine Caribou Native User Agreement, the creation of the "Vuntut Gwitchin Way" Community-Based Porcupine River Salmon Plan, and past fish and wildlife work plans such as this one.

Darius had a huge heart – a heart that could laugh, love, and fight for the things he held dear including his family, friends, people, and lands. His passing was a tragic loss, but his life was a blessing for his community, territory, and country that few will forget. This Community-Based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan seeks to honour Darius' memory by carrying on the torch of working and advocating for the fish, wildlife, and lands of the Van Tat Gwich'in.



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The original artwork featured in this Plan is courtesy of Old Crow artists who participated in an art contest for this Plan. Each artist is individually credited by their work of art, and their art highlights the imagery and significance of fish, wildlife, and the land for Van Tat Gwich'in.

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LANGUAGE

ENGLISH	GWICH'IN
Arctic White Fox	Ch'ich'yàa
Beaver	Tsèe
Birds	Dzhii
Black bear	Shoh / Shoh zraii
Caribou	Vadzaih
Chinook	Łùk choo
Coho	Nèhdlii
Circle of life	Ní'iinlii
Ducks	Dats'an
Eagle	Ch'izhìn
Fish	Łùk
Fish camp	Łùk deek'it tr'agwich'ii
Fish net	Chihvyàh
Great Horned Owl	Vii'idzèe
Grizzly bear	Shih
Moose	Dinjik
Muskox	Nin daghan choo
Muskrat	Dzan
Otter	Trùh
Porcupine	Ts'it
Rabbit	Geh
Raven	Deetrù'
Sheep	Divii
Spruce grouse	Daih
Squirrel	Dlak
Wolverine	Nèhtrùh
Wolf	Zhòh



Photo Credit: Debra-Leigh Reti

1 INTRODUCTION

The community-based fish and wildlife work plan (this plan) is a way for a community to come together, share knowledge, and develop a path to work on fish and wildlife issues together. It is a way for the people of the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory to express their concerns and priorities for fish, wildlife, the land, and human activity. This plan contains goals and actions for the next five years for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, the Government of Yukon, the North Yukon Renewable Resources Council (RRC), and the Government of Canada (e.g. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada) to work together to watch over, care for, and protect the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. This plan talks about many subjects – from moose to salmon to education – and identifies who will do what and how.

1.1 Vision

Our vision, shared by all the parties to this plan is based on our relationship with the land and each other. It is our vision to:

- Manage the land, water, and wildlife with an ecosystem-based approach;
- Promote the use and preservation of Van Tat Gwich'in culture, oral history, and language; and
- Educate and empower the people of the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory to protect and maintain the integrity of the land, water, and wildlife, and the Van Tat Gwich'in culture for future generations.

1.2 Context

This plan is for the 55,548 km² of Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory, a region in the northern Yukon where the Van Tat Gwich'in have lived in since time immemorial. This area also is covered by the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, so many parts of the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory have special rules and are protected in some way.

This plan is the fourth community-based fish and wildlife work plan for the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. The preceding plans were for 2001-2005, 2007-2012, and 2013-2018. We wrote this plan in 2021 and it is relevant from plan approval to 2026. The priorities in this plan are not final; they are part of work that is ongoing and changing to adapt to new knowledge, ideas, or problems. Being able to adapt is an important part of this plan. To make this plan, we held a public meeting in Old Crow on March 2, 2021. The next night, we held a second public meeting with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board to talk about caribou conservation. This plan comes from the knowledge and priorities of our planning team and the community members who spoke at those two public meetings.

While this plan describes the work we want to complete over a 5-year period, it is also a commitment by everyone who worked on it that we will work together, for each other, and for the fish, wildlife, and lands of the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory.

1.3 Climate change

Community members made it clear that climate change is a critical concern and we need to explain how we deal with climate change in this plan. Climate change affects just about everything when it comes to fish, wildlife, and the land, and in ways we are only beginning to understand. Climate change affects what is “normal”; what was “normal” in the past may not be so now. To respond to this rapid change, we want to support monitoring and research that is consistent and smart, that respects both scientific and traditional knowledge, that is able to identify how things are changing over the long term, and is able to detect early warning signs of trouble. All of the work we do – if it is reporting harvest data, counting fish, or measuring stream temperatures – helps us understand these changes and provides the information we need to adapt to climate change.

Climate change is important for every step of this plan, especially for actions about research and monitoring. We have no climate change-specific actions in this plan because just about every area of our work – fish and wildlife management, research, education, and living on the land – contribute to our understanding of and adaptation to climate change.

1.4 Connections within the Traditional Territory

There are many different plans and guidance documents for fish, wildlife, and habitat management in the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. Taking guidance from many plans can be overwhelming. This plan gathers strategies and recommendations from other existing plans and policies, and then provides a clear path for delivering on concrete actions within a 5-year time period.

This plan does not redo work that was already done. It builds on and is compatible with previous work like:

- Ch’ihilii Chik Habitat Protection Area Management Plan (2019)
- Human Wildlife Conflict Protocol for Old Crow (2015)
- Implementation Plan to Support the “Vuntut Gwitchin Way” – Community-based Porcupine River Salmon Plan (2019)
- Management Plan for Dall’s Sheep in the Northern Richardson Mountains (draft, 2013)
- Nanh Kak Ejuk Gweedhaa Nakhwaandèe Hah Gwanaa’in (Watching Changes on the land with our eyes): A report on environmental monitoring activities and priorities within the lands of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (2018)
- Ni’iinlii’Njik (Fishing Branch) Wilderness Preserve & Habitat Protection Area Management Plan (2010)
- North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan (2009)

- Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement (1985)
- Van Tat K'atr'anahtii (Old Crow Flats) Special Management Area Management Plan (2006)
- Vuntut National Park Management Plan (2010)

The objectives and actions in this plan are those that work together best with what came out of this previous work. For example, actions for monitoring caribou harvest are important for Vuntut Gwitchin Government today and for honouring the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement of 1985. In the past, salmon and Porcupine caribou were not part of community-based fish and wildlife work plans; however, they are connected with other fish, wildlife, and Van Tat Gwich'in lands, so we included them in this plan. We hope putting all this together will help us see fish, wildlife, and land priorities in the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory as one body of work.

HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR COLOURS

At first all the birds were white,
And eagle was their chief.

All the birds had a meeting,
They decided to paint each other.

The birds found all kinds
of colourful paints,
And they used feathers
for paint brushes.

Hawk painted eagle with pitch,
Eagle painted hawk with ashes.

Raven painted ptarmigan with snow,
Ptarmigan painted raven with charcoal.

Whiskyjack painted
woodpecker with blueberries,
Woodpecker painted
whiskyjack with black currants.

Sparrow painted chickadee with ochre,
Chickadee painted sparrow
with salmon berries.

Owl painted the loon with clay,
Loon painted the owl with mud.

Grouse painted goose with soot,
Goose painted grouse with silt.

The seagull had beautiful
white feathers,
So the swan decided not to
paint each other.

All the birds painted each
other very fancy,
They were all happy an'
they started singing.

A. Benjamin





Photo Credit: Marina Milligan,
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

2 GOALS AND ACTIONS

The Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory is large (55,548 km²) and rich. It contains many important ecosystems, healthy wildlife, abundant fish, internationally recognized wetlands, great natural resources, and archaeological and paleontological resources of global significance. The Van Tat Gwich'in people have watched over this land for generations, and their culture and economy are built on a healthy connection to the land. The goals and actions in this plan reflect this connection of people and land.

We organized this plan by the themes of:

1. Fish and wildlife management
2. Research
3. Education and outreach
4. Living on the land

These themes do not mean these activities are completely separate. For example, education is an important part of traditional knowledge and living on the land. We use these themes to help us organize our thoughts and actions in the coming years. The themes are organized from shorter term to longer term actions. For example, we manage and study moose populations now so we can educate our youth in traditional living for the future. The final section of this plan contains Implementation Tables that show the themes and identify detailed actions we want to do for each goal. The tables include the details of who will do what and when.

2.1 Fish and wildlife management

Fish, wildlife, and their habitat are the basis of life on the land for Van Tat Gwich'in. For this reason, community members had many ideas for fish, wildlife, and habitat management using protections, legislation, and enforcement. Community members identified many partnership opportunities, building on important relationships between the parties on the planning team and others.

Specifically, community members asked that we work together to make sure fish and wildlife populations stay healthy. For example, moose are an important animal and community members want to have accurate information about their populations within the Traditional Territory. Therefore, this plan proposes a moose survey, building on moose work that came out of the last plan. Similarly, community members asked we do more to protect species of interest, especially caribou and salmon. We discussed many ideas about working with Alaska communities to keep salmon populations sustainable for future generations.

PORCUPINE CARIBOU COLLAR PROGRAM

Tracking the herd allows us to determine the timing, direction and location of migration. We can identify and provide evidence of the required habitats so that we can protect or manage land for the needs of the herd. When land use projects are proposed, we can assess if they are appropriate and if not, provide evidence how they would affect the Porcupine caribou. If appropriate, this information helps inform whether interventions have been effective. Recent advances now allows us to track how well the caribou are surviving and whether there are problems in remote parts of the range.

Government of Yukon



We heard that an ongoing challenge in Old Crow is that there is no conservation officer here. The North Yukon Conservation Officer is based out of Dawson City and travels to Old Crow periodically or as needed in response to issues or to conduct inspections and patrols. We would like to find ways to increase the capacity and collaboration with the Government of Yukon's Conservation Officer Services Branch to be consistently available to respond to issues.

Finally, an important job moving forward is documenting the harvest in the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. It is important to know what we are harvesting because this helps us tell which fish and wildlife populations are doing poorly and which are doing well.


Over the next 5 years, we want to better manage fish, wildlife, and habitat by:

1. Getting better harvest data from community members for all species
2. Increasing water and fisheries sensors to better understand our rivers
3. Completing wildlife surveys to better understand what is happening with our wildlife
4. Increasing collaboration and coordination with the Conservation Officer Services Branch
5. Exploring habitat management options to better adapt to climate change
6. Completing reviews of management plans for special management areas/ habitat protection areas and other protected areas in the Traditional Territory
7. Work together to implement the actions of the community-based salmon plan

2.2 Research

Changes to the environment are tracked through observation and personal experience on the land over many years. Research is important for understanding how the land is changing, especially because of climate change. Vuntut Gwitchin Government wrote a report in 2018 that described all the different environmental research in the Traditional Territory. This research covered topics from salmon and caribou to heritage values and human health¹. Community members asked for more research many times to make sure we know how the land is changing and how to adapt so that future generations have what we have now.

Community members reported many changes on the land that could be studied. One example was around changing crossing points for caribou on the rivers. Another was changes in insect populations over time. The Government of Yukon's Department of Environment has a research program across the Territory called the community ecological monitoring program (CEMP) that monitors a variety of plant and animal indicator species (e.g. snowshoe hare and squirrels, spruce cone crops, mushrooms, ground berries, predators). These projects provide important information for detecting early warning signs of change to the boreal ecosystem. One of the key questions researchers are hoping to answer from this type of study is how climate change is affecting Yukon ecosystems. We should explore whether to establish a CEMP plot near Old Crow.



“We know there is a relationship between the Salmon and a healthy northern ecosystem. They give life to bears, trees, so many fish and wildlife species and are tied to our human health. There is a reason that in the far north in our traditional territory there are huge trees that have been fed by the nutrients from the Salmon. This is what we know and what we need to ensure stays in balance.”

*Darius Elias
“The Vuntut Gwitchin Way”
Community based
Porcupine River
Salmon Plan, 2019*

¹ Kuntz, J. and Firelight Research Inc. 2018. A report on environmental monitoring activities and priorities within the lands of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Department of Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin Government.

Over the next 5 years, we want research opportunities in the Traditional Territory that:

1. Support our local management priorities, use scientific and traditional knowledge, and nurture ongoing partnerships
2. Engage youth

2.3 Education and outreach

There are many opportunities for education and knowledge sharing in our Traditional Territory. Community members told us they want to hear about research and monitoring happening here. The North Yukon RRC is keen to be a hub for information exchange and to promote education and awareness in the community.

One of the exciting ideas brought forward by community members was to establish a Darius Elias Memorial Scholarship for students who want to study fish and wildlife, and to build related skills through training and work experience for high school credit for older youth.

The Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Department of Natural Resources would like to host an annual meeting where researchers that are active in the Traditional Territory can present their findings. Similarly, the North Yukon RRC would like to hold monthly information-sharing meetings for community members and produce a quarterly newsletter on current fish and wildlife activities and findings.

Over the next 5 years, we want to support education by:

1. Offering more fish and wildlife learning opportunities for students in and out of the classroom
2. Collaborating more frequently with the school to integrate community-based objectives for fish and wildlife management and related traditional knowledge into learning outcomes
3. Showcasing research results and providing more opportunities for community members to engage with this information
4. Collaborating frequently with Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Heritage Branch and other partners on production of fish and wildlife-related education and outreach material

2.4 Living on the land

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation has maintained a deep and meaningful relationship with the land and water for many generations. Living on the land, traditional knowledge, and harvest are the foundation of Gwich'in culture and must be nurtured and promoted.

Community members spoke strongly about how we need to pass on the knowledge, skills, and culture from living on the land – to youth, to all Yukoners, and to visitors. Place names are an important starting point, but steps must be taken to use traditional knowledge in all aspects of our work. In particular, telling and re-telling stories is an important way of communicating respect for the land and animals.

Being at fish camps, participating in community hunts, and attending culture camps were all felt to be essential activities for youth to be a part of. The camps should focus on traditional skills. There was also strong interest in understanding predator-prey relationships and organizing a community-based program to support trappers.



Artwork by: Rosie McWhirter

[Caribou fences], I never saw, Grandchild. They only had those on the mountains... They made a big caribou fence, and corralled the caribou. They killed them with arrows. In those days, they went through hard times. [It was] just like nothing for us. They would go up and put all the meat [in] one place. All the people didn't stay together. Families stayed here and there... on this side of the mountain and all over. We saw all the tents and we just watched. In the evening, they had fires and cooked. At that time... the willows weren't very big, nor the trees. Everybody could see each other clearly and what they were doing. When I remember, all of a sudden I wish for all that.

Excerpted from Peoples of the Lakes: Stories of our Van Tat Gwich'in elders, 2009

Over the next five years, we want to support living on the land by:

1. Offering more fish and wildlife learning and training opportunities for students both in- and out-of-classroom
2. Developing more trapper assistance programs that supports local trappers to be out on the land maintaining traditional trapping practices and reducing predation rates on moose and caribou
3. Encouraging youth participation in culture camps and community hunts that focus on traditional skills
4. Supporting community members to be more active in hunting, gathering, fishing, trapping, and living on the land

While the caribou's meat and fat and internal organs are equivalent to a Gwich'in supermarket, the bones also have many material uses [...]. In turn, the caribou's skeleton is the Gwich'in hardware store. As the elders remind us, nothing in the animal is wasted

The Man Who Became a Caribou, 2019



Photo Credit: Debra-Leigh Reti

3 IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

The following tables list the work to be completed over the next 5 years. This plan provides guidance to managers and technical staff on the coordinated activities to take place between North Yukon RRC, Vuntut Gwitchin Government, and Government of Yukon. In the tables, the lead organization² has a key role to oversee the proposed actions and the timeline gives a rough estimate of when those actions targeted to be done.

Organization Abbreviations

DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
NYRRC	North Yukon Renewable Resources Council
PC	Parks Canada
VGG	Vuntut Gwitchin Government
YG	Government of Yukon

² Where there are multiple lead organizations, they are presented in alphabetical order.

3.1 Fish and wildlife management

GOALS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Get better harvest data from community members for all species	• Develop a comprehensive community-based harvest monitoring program	NYRRC, VGG	2022
	• Encourage people to record the data when it is fresh in their memory	NYRRC, VGG	2021
	• Have Game Guardian(s) on the land and water reminding people	VGG	2021
Increase water and fisheries sensors to better understand our rivers	• Regularly monitor water levels and temperatures with data loggers	DFO, ECCC, VGG	2022
	• Collaboratively operate the sonar station	DFO, VGG	Annually
Complete wildlife surveys to better understand what is happening with our wildlife	• Collaborate in a survey of the Richardson moose population with existing partners (e.g. GRRB)	YG	2023
	• Collaborate to survey or develop other means of understanding the Upper Porcupine moose population	VGG, YG	2025
	• Support collar projects for moose by working with regional partners with external funding	YG	As opportunity arises
	• Collaborate on a sheep survey(s) as per the draft Management Plan for Dall's Sheep in the Northern Richardson Mountains (2013) with existing partners	YG	2022
Explore habitat management options to better adapt to climate change	• Explore funding opportunities for bank restoration and reforestation projects	VGG	2023
Increase collaboration and coordination with Conservation Officer Services Branch	• Work toward restoring and maintaining housing for Department of Environment staff to increase availability, consistency and responsiveness	YG	2026
	• Work together to optimize surveillance of caribou harvesting along the Dempster highway	VGG, YG	Annually
	• Continue offering bear safety, hunter training, trapper training, including instructor training opportunities for community members to deliver essential programs and include their traditional knowledge	YG	Annually

GOALS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Complete reviews of management plans for special management areas/ habitat protection areas and other protected areas in the Traditional Territory	• Review and update the Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Ecological Reserve and Settlement Land Management Plan	VGG, YG	2026
	• Review and update the Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Wilderness and Habitat Protection Area Management Plan	VGG, YG	2026
	• Review and update the Van Tat K'atr'anahtii (Old Crow Flats) Special Management Area Management Plan	VGG, YG	2026
Work together to implement the actions of the 2019 community-based salmon plan	• Consider implementing salmon harvest windows and delayed or selective harvest strategies and support alternative harvest options to reduce pressure on low salmon stocks.	DFO, VGG	Annually when necessary
	• Discuss a community process for salmon harvest decision-making	VGG	2023
	• Create an info page with rationale for salmon harvest management recommendations	DFO, VGG	Annually
	• Explore salmon harvest monitoring and enforcement options and programs	DFO, VGG	Annually
	• Work with Fort Yukon to organize a meeting with the Gwichyaa Zhee to develop Porcupine-specific salmon strategic goal(s)	VGG	2025
	• Maintain and expand projects to monitor and increase salmon productivity, survival, habitat use, and return to the Traditional Territory	DFO, VGG	Annually

3.2 Research

GOALS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Support our local management priorities, use scientific and traditional knowledge, and nurture ongoing partnerships	• Continue lichen mapping and research for caribou winter range	YG	2022
	• Build on the available research about the influence of wildfire, development, and climate change on caribou. Determine impacts on caribou – use of habitat and movement)	YG	2026
	• Explore interest in conducting further fish studies on other tributaries (e.g. Crow and Bell Rivers)	DFO, VGG	2021
	• Work to make Porcupine watershed salmon research reports more accessible, potentially by posting on the vgfn.ca website	DFO, VGG	2024
	• Explore options for establishing a Community Ecological Monitoring Program plot near Old Crow to monitor the long-term effects of climate change (e.g. predator prey cycles – hares, squirrels)	YG, VGG	2022
	• Support ongoing research on Richardson Mountain Dall sheep populations led by Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board	GRRB, VGG, YG	Annually
	• Develop a long-term caribou summer habitat condition monitoring program in Vuntut National Park	PC	2024
	• Continue the long-term lake monitoring program in the Old Crow Flats	PC, VGG	Ongoing
	• Continue sampling for contaminants in traditional foods	VGG	Ongoing
	• Establish an Indigenous Guardians program for monitoring predators	VGG	2022
Engage youth in research	• Study sources of salmon mortality, habitat use, and methods to increase salmon productivity, survival, and return to the Traditional Territory	VGG, DFO	2023
	• Update and make available a list of research questions that are important to the community and build off Nanh Kak Ejuk Gweedhaa Nakhwaandëe Hah Gwanaa'in - Watching Changes on the Land With Our Eyes report (2018)	VGG	2024
	• Reach out to organizations to investigate research opportunities that engage school kids (e.g. insect population changes)	NYRRC	As opportunities arise

3.3 Education and outreach

GOALS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	LEAD ORGANIZATION	TIMELINE
Offer more fish and wildlife learning opportunities for students in and out of the classroom	• Speak to the school about setting up a co-op program for school credit and/or providing seasonal student jobs in fish and wildlife roles	VGG	2022
	• Speak to school about a youth mentorship strategy where a student could follow VGG Fish and Wildlife Manager or Game Guardian	VGG	2022
	• Establish a Darius Elias scholarship for students to study fish and wildlife and gain training and work experience	VGG	2022
	• Deliver the Salmon in the School program	DFO	Annually
	• Hire youth to work at the Porcupine Sonar and Fishing Branch Weir	DFO, VGG	Annually
Collaborate more frequently with the school to integrate community-based objectives for fish and wildlife management and related traditional knowledge into learning outcomes	• Collaborate with school to offer opportunities for students to learn about fish and wildlife management, including population monitoring and harvest	VGG	As opportunities arise
	• Contribute to Culture Camps and community hunts where students can learn traditional knowledge and practices	VGG	As opportunities arise
Showcase research results and providing more opportunities for community members to engage with this information	• Host an annual research meeting where researchers can present their results	VGG	Annually
	• Prepare and send out a newsletter containing findings and discussion around research	NYRRC	Quarterly
	• Host information sharing sessions at NYRRC meetings	NYRRC	Monthly
	• Request researchers provide plain language summaries to be left in the John Tizya Centre for public access	VGG	Annually
Collaborate frequently with Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Heritage Branch and other partners on production of fish and wildlife-related education and outreach material	• Organize and distribute information on rights and abilities to hunt muskox, and how to handle and harvest them	YG	2022
	• Continue to put out the natural resources calendar	VGG	Annually
	• Continue to coordinate courses about bear safety, firearms safety, hunter education, and trapping	NYRRC, VGG, YG	Annually

3.4 Living on the land

GOALS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	LEAD ORGANIZATIONS	TIMELINE
Offer more fish and wildlife learning and training opportunities for students both in classroom and out-of-classroom	• Coordinate community salmon camp	VGG	Annually
	• Explore options for supporting alternatives to salmon harvest	VGG	2023
	• Educate community members on canning and drying processes used by other FNs (e.g. Alaska Fish and Game has a lot of resources)	NYRRC	As opportunities arise
Develop a trapping program that supports local trappers to be out on the land, maintain traditional trapping practices, and locally reduces predation rates on moose and caribou	• Support a pelt subsidy and tanning program	NYRRC, VGG	2022
	• Host public meeting(s) for people interested in wolf trapping, specific wolf trapper training (make trails, teach kids to snare)	NYRRC	As opportunities arise
	• Encourage people to trap more wolves	NYRRC, VGG	2022
	• Support wolf research and develop a community-based wolf trapping program	VGG, YG	2022
	• Host a trapping competition for marten or other furbearers	NYRRC	Annually
Encourage active participation, especially by youth in culture camps and community hunts that focus on traditional skills	• Organize community hunts in Old Crow and encourage elders to take youth on the land to teach them	NYRRC, VGG	Annually
	• Continue to support culture camps for youth	DFO, PC, VGG, YG	Annually
	• Continue to host Vadzaih Choo Drin (Big Caribou Days)	VGG	Annually
Support community members to be more active in hunting, gathering, fishing, trapping, and living on the land	• Explore options for creating a facility (e.g. repurposing an existing space) for processing animal hides	VGG	2025
	• Continue to offset the costs of harvesters getting out on the land	VGG	Annually
	• Explore subsidizing a charter to take families to remote parts of the Traditional Territory	VGG	Annually

CARIBOU CALVING GROUNDS (IZHIK GWATS'AN GWANDAII GOODLIT)

At the caribou calving grounds
There's only wildlife sounds.

The water is clear an' clean
And the land is so pristine.

It's a place for the caribou herds
And the migratory birds.

The caribou give birth
On their mother earth.

When the calves arrive
We know we will survive.

This is their precious home
Where they're free to roam.

Animals on all fours
Play in the great outdoors.

The calving grounds we never touch
'Cause our caribou mean so much.

We must speak for the caribou herd
And their voices will be heard.

We will help our caribou to thrive
Because we need them to survive.

When I see a caribou horn
I dream of the place where it was born.

A. Benjamin



Artwork by: Maureen Charlie



**If you report your harvest,
we can protect your
harvest rights**

**In the event of a wildlife
conflict, your options for
assistance are:**

- 1.** contact the **North Yukon Conservation Officer** office
867-993-5492
- 2.** call the **TIPP** line available 24/7
at 1-800-661-0525
- 3.** call the **local RCMP**
at 966-5555

