



News Release

Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation Programs Introduced Today

Iqaluit, Nunavut (October 15, 2012) -- Two new programs are being introduced today that give Nunavummiut the opportunity to improve personal safety and take steps towards reducing the number of incidences of wildlife-related property damage.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment is implementing the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program (WDPP) and the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP). These programs encourage people to take part in traditional activities by making them safer for both humans and wildlife.

"The safety of our communities and all Nunavummiut is very important," said James Arreak, Minister of Environment. "The aim of these programs is to encourage preventative actions that will reduce the number of incidences and severity of wildlife-related property damage. By working together we can ensure Nunavummiut have the knowledge they require to protect themselves and their property."

The development of these programs was completed in consultation with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations, and feedback from all communities. The Department of Environment has conducted successful field trials of damage prevention equipment and is confident that these programs will work towards the prevention and mitigation of wildlife incidents.

The Wildlife Damage Prevention Program (WDPP) will provide individuals and community groups with the opportunity to apply for funding in support of protective equipment and supplies. Safety equipment and materials such as; electric fencing, electronic bear detection devices, bear proof storage containers and bear proofing construction supplies are all part of this new program.

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP) will provide funding to those individuals or groups who have taken the necessary preventative measures but who have still experienced loss or damage to their property. To be approved for this program a claim must be submitted and each claim will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about the programs contact your local Wildlife Conservation Office or visit the Department of Environment's website at www.env.gov.nu.ca

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