

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Nunavut Harvesters Support Program Review Released

(March 13, 2006 – Rankin Inlet, Nunavut) Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Raymond Ningeocheak today announced that the *Final Report on a Consultation-Based Review of the Harvester Support Programs of the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.* was complete and available to Beneficiaries and other members of the public.

The report provides a review and analysis of the support provided to harvesters in Nunavut by NTI and the GN's Department of Environment. Specifically, the report assesses current wildlife support programs and how well they meet the needs and priorities of Nunavut harvesters, and it offers a series of recommendations in light of current fiscal realities.

"It is critical to Inuit harvesters that our organizations take a close look at the Nunavut Harvester Support Program so we can determine if we are effectively meeting the needs of Beneficiaries," said Ningeocheak. "These assistance programs are critical to the social and economic well-being of Inuit so it is important to evaluate our actions to ensure we are able to provide assistance in the future," he said.

To complete the review and the final report, the consultants examined historical and current documents used by NTI and GN harvester support project managers including program criteria and guidelines, program financial records, and prior reviews of harvester support programs.

Further, focus groups were arranged through Hunters and Trappers Organizations in six Nunavut communities to allow the consultants to obtain feedback from harvesters on their needs, priorities, and their satisfaction with the support programs.

Ningeocheak said NTI and the GN are now in the process of reviewing the final report and planned to work together in coming months to streamline, eliminate duplication and update their programs to enable the organizations to continue to work together to meet the needs of harvesters. It is expected that a planning symposium will be held to discuss the NHSP review.

In the meantime, NTI will continue to offer a series of programs under the NHSP this year. Ningeocheak announced last week that a total of \$2.8 million would be spent on such initiatives in 2006.

The Nunavut Harvester Support Program was established in 1993 by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut. The partners each contributed \$15 million to the fund, for a total of \$30 million. The money was invested by the Nunavut Hunters Income Support Trust, enabling the program to continue to be funded while NTI, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada decide whether to invest in the continuation of the program.

It is hoped that today's Final Report will boost efforts to replenish the funds in the trust.

Copies of the report are available from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Government of Nunavut.

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