

When we got on top it was blowing really hard. We looked down in the creeks for sheep and saw some tracks but the weather did not allow us to travel any further. We climbed back down and went up Willow Creek to the gravel pit. From there we traveled to Mountain Trail. We also saw a large wolf path with probably six or seven wolves. We then went back home checking the otter trap on the way, no otter yet.

Friday, December 18 – Snowmobile Excursion and Checking Traps:

Students went to the school in the morning to see Santa. Then we took off up into the foothills. We climbed up to First Creek and travelled down the creek to a gravel island by a big flat. We checked some moose tracks and looked for signs of caribou. The students gathered wood and we made a fire. We cooked lunch and the students went sliding on the mountain. After we had eaten lunch the students dried their mitts to the fire and we returned to Aklavik. We checked the otter trap again, but still no otter.



Cook out at First Creek on the last day of the TAKT Program

Conclusion:

The weather during most of the program was favorable but a large snowstorm during the camp out section caused us to shorten the trip. We originally intended to look for caribou and muskox in Canoe Lake and Cache Creek, but due to the storm this was not possible. A blizzard in the

mountains also prevented the sheep viewing portion of the program. Other than that every objectives that we wanted to complete was accomplished.

Trapping safety issues and concerns, related government trapping legislation and international trapping agreements were discussed and addressed during the trap line visits.

Attendance to the program was very favorable as a good core group of six students attended every day. All students were very well behaved and took part in all the activities. The group's age this year was younger than in past years.

Having Danny C Gordon do the first week of the program was very favorable as the students learned a considerable amount of traditional, cultural and heritage knowledge from him. I think his positive influence also helped with the student's behavior throughout the program.

We would like to thank Pastor Larry Nolan for donating his time and equipment, as a result of his contribution the wood cutting portion was added to the program.

We have been implementing this program for several years now and each year we try to improve the program. I am very pleased we provide the community youths an opportunity to learn about the trapping industry and their heritage and culture. I look forward to this program each year.

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Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

2009 Dept of ENR Aklavik TAKT Activity Report

Completed by Renewable Resource Officer (RRO) Ian McLeod

Moose Kerr School (MKS), Aklavik, NT

November 30th to December 18th, 2009.



Samuel McLeod and students with crafts they made at Danny C Gordon tool making shop.

The 'Take a Kid Trapping Program' (TAKT) is a Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) initiative that provides funding for on the land programs. ITI works in conjunction with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

The Moose Kerr School, with assistance from ENR Aklavik, applied for and was approved to implement a TAKT program. The goal of the program was to introduce students to a number of traditional harvesting winter activities. These would include: fishing, hunting, trapping and general winter travel skills. The students also gained invaluable knowledge related to harvesting,

such as tool making, small engine maintenance, fur pelt preparation, making pelt stretcher boards and introductory first aid.

TAKT Program Instructors:

Samuel McLeod a local trapper and a Moose Kerr School graduate (2008), was hired as the Youth Coordinator to assist Aklavik RRO McLeod to implement the program. Also assisting the program was: Danny C Gordon a local Inuvialuit elder taught introduction to trapping and fishing as well as tool making. He also introduced the students to firearm safety and traditional navigation. Pastor Larry Nolan with assistance from Chris Main from the Dept of Social Services taught wood cutting and chainsaw safety. Gladys Edwards, the Aklavik Community Health Representative, taught introductory first aid.

TAKT Program Students:

Students who took part in the program were Brian Kasook and Janelle Pascal (ENR high school work experience students), Edwin Gordon, Ocean Mcleod, Tyson Whitbread, Austin Kasook, Stringer Kasook, Arnold Archie, Justin McGee, Kyle Meyook, Shaun Firth, Trevor Gordon, John Inglangasuk and Dian McLeod. All youths are MKS Junior High students.

Daily Activities – WEEK ONE:

Monday and Tuesday, November 30 and December 1 – Traditional Tool Making:

Danny C. Gordon taught the ten students traditional tool making. He provided them with the different materials for making hunting knives, ulu and fish hooks. The students decided on what traditional tool they wanted to make and proceeded to work on individual projects with Danny's assistance. The students made a total of eight fish hooks, five hunting knives and one ulu. The traditional tools the students made were theirs to keep when they completed them. At the end of the second day Danny did a presentation on firearm safety.

Wednesday, December 2 - Introduction to Trapping:

Danny C. Gordon took the ten students out to his trapline on Leland Channel about 80 miles return trip from Aklavik. The students were introduced to the various species that Danny traps, safe trapping practices, and the type of traps and sets he uses for each species. Upon the completion of the first day they trapped two lynx, a mink and a cross fox. They were out for a total of six hours.



Students with the animals they caught on Danny C. Gordon trapline.

Thursday, December 3 - Introduction to Ice Fishing:

Instructor Danny C. Gordon took the students out to Martin Creek, east of Aklavik, to try out the fish hooks some of them made a few days earlier. The students chiseled their own fishing holes and caught mainly inconnu (known locally as coney). The students caught a total of forty-two (42) fish.

Friday, December 4 - Harvesting Firewood:

Instructors Chris Main and Pastor Larry Nolan taught six students (four students had to go to Inuvik for regional soccer tryouts) how to harvest firewood. Pastor Larry Nolan volunteered to teach the students which trees are considered dry wood and good for firewood. They also taught a chainsaw safety course. The firewood the students harvested was brought to John Martin's camp for our overnight stay there.

WEEK TWO:

Monday, December 7 - Small Engine Maintenance and Introductory to First Aid:

Youth Coordinator Samuel Mcleod taught the students snowmobile maintenance and trouble shooting, and completed minor repairs on snowmobiles and toboggans for trips planned in the near future.

Gladys Edwards taught the students introductory to first aid in the afternoon. The first aid course focused mainly on signs of hypothermia, frostbites, burns and minor injuries.



Learning to put an accident victim into the recovery position.

Tuesday, December 8 - Firearm Safety and Visiting a Trapline:

RRO Mcleod and Samuel Mcleod took the students south of town to Husky Channel. We attempted to go up Semple Creek into the mountains to look for sheep and/or a moose but the upper part was washed out and had too many boulders so we had to turn around. We stopped in a part of the creek with a high bank and completed a firearms safety course and the ENR Sight in Your Rifle Program. RRO Mcleod taught the students on the safe operation of a firearm and each student was provided the opportunity to fire a 30-06 caliber rifle. Later in the afternoon we checked Samuel Mcleod's trapline and caught a cross fox.

Wednesday and Thursday, December 9 and 10 – John Martin Camp:

We took eight students to John Martin camp for the overnight portion of the program. We departed Aklavik at 2:00 PM. The weather was mildly overcast so we took our time getting to the camp. We arrived at the camp at 5:00 PM. The students lit the woodstove and went down to the lake to get ice. Five moose were seen in the creek below the camp.

The next day the students went down to the creek and checked out the moose. The weather was not favorable for hunting so we just took pictures of the moose from a distance. We were going to hunt rabbits but the creek still had running water and for safety reasons we decided not to pursue this activity.

When the participants returned from a short snowmobile trip the weather became unfavorable so we decided to have a quick lunch and we started for home. Due to the whiteout conditions we could not follow the same trail back, so we followed the ridge above John Martin camp to a gravel pit in the foot hills and climb down the mountain on the old gravel pit road. We then followed Willow Creek down to the MacKenzie Delta.



Students in front of John Martin's cabin.

Friday, December 11 - No TAKT Program:

Unfavorable weather.

WEEK THREE:

Monday, December 14 – Ice Fishing and Fur Preparation:

The weather was still unfavorable for snowmobile travel so the students were taken ice fishing on the ice road instead. Six students caught fourteen fish.

In the afternoon we worked with fur in the shop. Samuel McLeod taught the students how to flesh and stretch a wolverine. He also showed them some of the other animals he caught earlier this trapping season. Nellie Arey also came in and skinned a mink for the students.



Samuel McLeod and students with his furs.

Tuesday, December 15 - Beaver Trapping:

RRO McLeod took five students out to set beaver traps in the lakes near Aklavik. Two beaver lodges were found but both appeared to be abandoned. This may be because of all the otter in the area. We did set one otter trap and broke out some trails. We also got stuck in some overflow and had to dig our machines out.

Wednesday, December 16 - No TAKT Program:

MKS Christmas Concert. Samuel McLeod went up to Red Mountain and made a snowmobile trail for the following day.

Thursday, December 17 - Sheep Viewing on Red Mountain:

RRO McLeod and Samuel McLeod took the students up Red Mountain. We had a lot of fun climbing the steep 1500' high mountain. (continue)