

Rat River Trapper Training Program February 7 – 16, 2006.



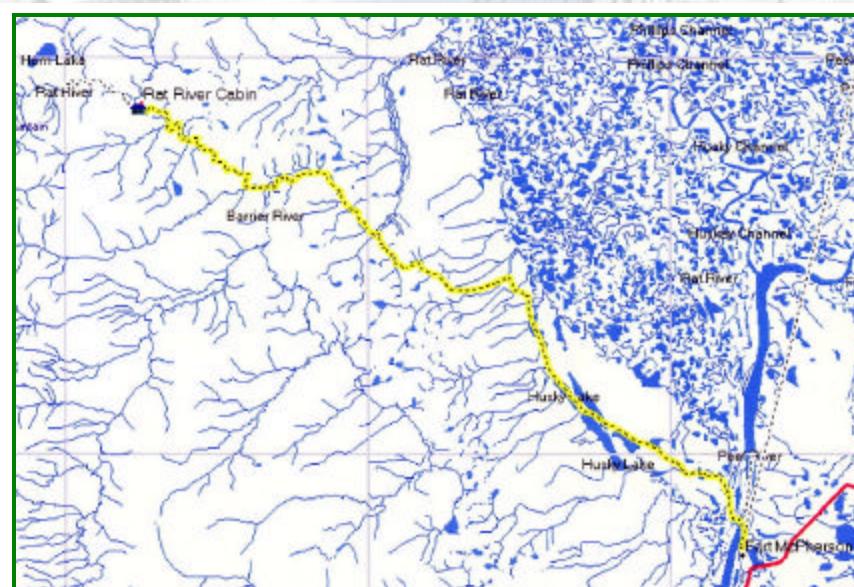
Introduction:

The Tetlit Gwich'in Council (TGC) and the Gwichya Renewable Resource Council (GRRC) in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and the Gwich'in Tribal Council Education Department (GTC Ed. Dept.) implemented a trapper-training program beginning on Tuesday, February 7 to Thursday, February 16, 2006.

The trapper training funding was provided through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and ENR.

Location:

The program was held on the Rat River, the camp was located at Bear Creek, which is situated in the Richardson Mountains. It has a favorable moose and wolf population and is known as a fall caribou harvesting area. It also has many fur-bearing animals and it was encouraging to hear several students suggest that they will be traveling back to the area next year to harvest furs.



Funding:

The following organizations contributed the following amounts:

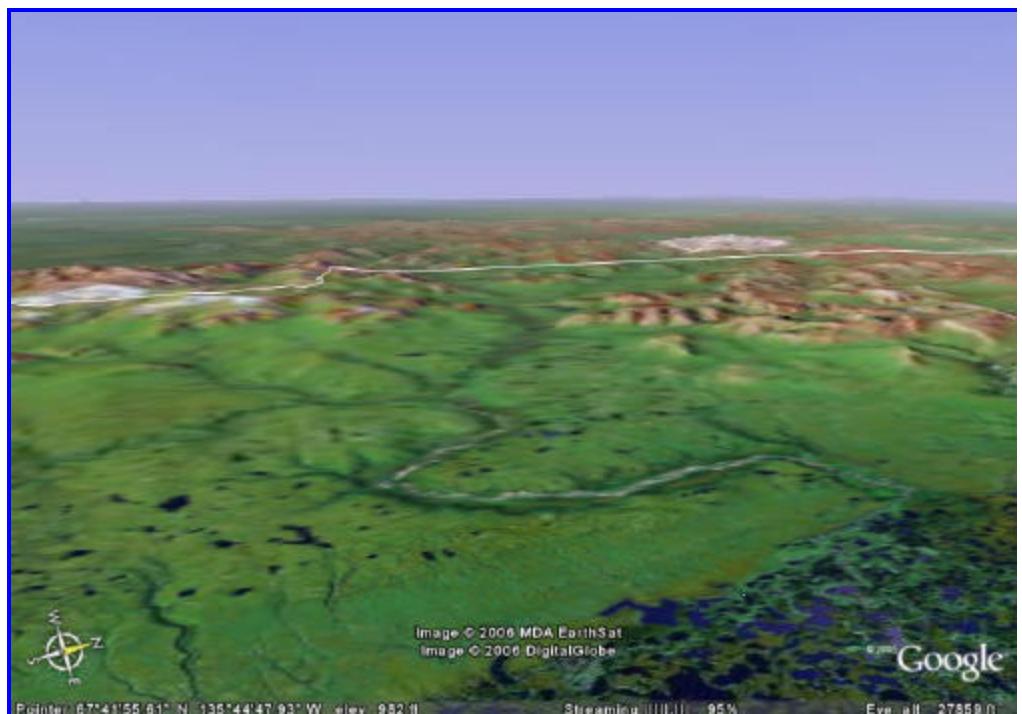
Tetlit Gwich'in Council
Gwichya RRC (GHAP)
GTC Education Department

Inkind Administration
\$ 5,000
\$10,000

Joint Contribution:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment	\$15,000
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs	
Total	\$30,000

The Dept. of ENR also provided in-kind services of staff and camping equipment.





Implementation:

The decision to approve the program was decided in mid-January and it was felt that the program itself could be implemented in early February. The TGC and ENR staff members coordinated and implemented the program.

The GRRC (GHAP) from Tsiigehtchic provided an additional \$5,000 and three students. The ENR staff member, Renewable Resource Officer Sonny Blake, is also from Tsiigehtchic and assisted for the duration of the program.



Fort McPherson Renewable Resource Officer Johnnie Charlie organized most of the program and prior to implementing the program made several trips to Inuvik to pick up camping equipment and supplies.

The TGC Community Coordinator William Koe worked in conjunction with RRO J. Charlie to select the students, elder and cooks. William was very instrumental in assisting with the implementation of the program.



Fort McPherson Elder Robert Alexie Sr. has extensive experience working with youths from his community and has completed many trapper-training programs over the years. Mr. Alexie is always an asset to this type of program and because of his participation ensured its success. Instructor Bryan Kay has been trapping for several years even though he is only 25 years old, he is known to have extensive knowledge and on-the-land skills.



Our cook and cook assistant was Ms. Effie Snowshoe and Ms. Dorothy Koe, respectively. They put a considerable amount of time and effort in feeding up to 20 participants throughout the program and waited up into the late evenings ensuring the students arriving back from the traplines had a hot meal and cup of coffee.

PARTICIPANTS:

Instructors:

- **Robert Alexie Sr.**
- **Bryan Kay**

Cook and assistant:

- **Effie J. Snowshoe**
- **Dorothy Koe**

ENR Staff Members:

- **RRO 2 Johnnie Charlie**
- **RRO 1 Sonny Blake**
- **CEO Daryl English**

Tsiigehtchic Students:

1. **Joey Blake** **20 years old**
2. **Daniel Blake** **18 years old**
3. **Michael Andre (did not complete program)**

Fort McPherson Students:

1. **Darcy Nerysoo** **18 years old**
2. **Roger Koe** **22 years old**
3. **Calvin Koe** **26 years old**
4. **Carl Koe** **21 years old**
5. **Stanley Bonnetplume** **26 years old**
6. **Douglas Wilson** **22 years old**
7. **Aaron Kay** **25 years old**

Observer (invited by band council):

- **Peter Louvers** **Anthropologist student from Netherlands**

Conclusion:

This program could become an annual event for Fort McPherson and Tsiiigehtchic. All participants seem to enjoy themselves extremely well and the location was very favorable for fur harvesting and hunting.

An anthropologist student from the Netherlands, Peter Louvers, was invited to record the trapper training program by the band council and it would be worthwhile to follow up on his report and video footage that he took while out on the land.

It was encouraging to hear the positive comments from the students and staff over the duration and even after the completion of the program. Even though several students have spent time on the land previously, they still felt they learn a lot at this program.



Back Row: Peter Louvers, Sonny Blake, Joey Blake, Carl Koe, Stanley Bonnetplume, Daniel Blake
Middle Row: Douglas Wilson, Effie Snowshoe, Dorothy Koe, Aaron Kay, Rick Charlie, Robert Alexie, Bryan Kaye

Front Row (kneeling): Terry Pascal, Darcy Nerysoo, Roger Koe, Johnnie Charlie, Calvin Koe