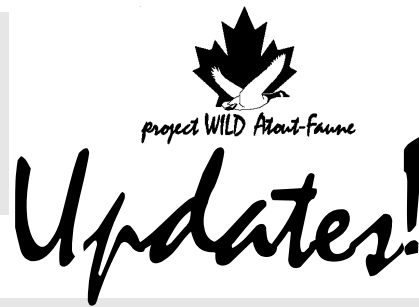


WILD Yukon

Environment Education



Department of Environment—
Conservation, Protection & Public Education Branch

November 2002

Welcome to the first *Wild Yukon Update* of the 2002-2003 school year. If you would like an electronic version of this newsletter, please contact the Conservation Education Coordinator, Remy Rodden, at remy.rodden@gov.yk.ca or call 867.667.3675.

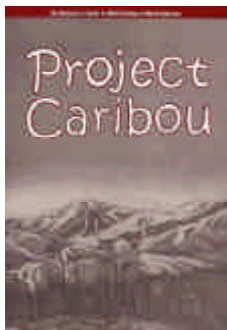


News from Environment Yukon

Project Caribou website

Have you heard about our Project Caribou learning resource on the wild caribou of North America? Well, thousands of people around the world have and they've kept the Project Caribou website hopping! At the site www.projectcaribou.net you can get supplementary materials, links to research pages, and even download the entire document in PDF format!

If you are a Yukon educator, we have a few copies of the spiral-bound resource book free-of-charge (others can purchase the book through links at the web site). Workshops in Project Caribou will be offered at the YTA Conference in May.



Participants at the first-ever Project Caribou workshop, ANROE Conference, Anchorage Alaska, November 2002.

The Chisana Caribou Recovery Project

Many Yukon students in grades 4-7 have been learning about the plight of the Chisana Caribou herd south of Beaver Creek, Yukon.

In recent years, few Chisana calves have survived, forming an increasingly elderly herd. Since the 1980s, their numbers have plummeted from 1800 members to a mere 275. If there is no intervention, it is believed that this herd will undergo *extirpation* (disappear). Biologists are considering a spring recovery program in which they would pen and feed a portion of the pregnant cows on their range to help the calves survive and stabilise the herd's population. That's where the student involvement is *greatly* appreciated!

Students have been learning about the caribou's natural history, ecology and importance through class discussions, songs, and play. They are contributing their own

sweat and cold fingers to the recovery program by collecting lichen that will be fed to the cows. As one student exclaimed, "The caribou will love us!"



So ask a child participant about the Chisana's situation and/or contact the Wildlife Viewing Program at 667-8291 for more information or if you would like to get your students involved. Also keep your eyes open for an upcoming link at www.projectcaribou.net.

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Yukon
Environment

Fresh new contact person at Wildlife Viewing!

If you are wondering what happened to Todd, he changed his hair and got a whole lot shorter! Hello, my name is Sara Nielsen, and I will be replacing Todd Powell in the Wildlife Viewing Program at Environment Yukon until



April. My role is to provide wildlife viewing and appreciation opportunities for the public through great interpretive sites, inspiring publications, special events and fun school programs. I am here as a resource person for you!

So look up and yonder; learn and ponder; and discover what nature is hiding right out your back door...

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like an interactive visit for your class, I am waiting for your call at **(867) 667-8291** or **Sara.Nielsen@gov.yk.ca**.

Territorial Action Plan for Environmental Education (EE)

As part of Canada's commitment to the advancement of environmental education at the *Johannesburg Earth Summit* in September, Environment Yukon proposed an Action Plan for EE. Our proposals will keep us pretty busy over the coming months and years. Highlights include:

- a review of EE in the Yukon
- a recognition program for excellence in EE
- advancing cooperation with First Nations
- a Yukon Council on EE

Your ideas and participation in this process are invited. For outlines of this plan and others (Yukon had the highest per capita submission of Action Plans in the country) see the Environment Canada website at: **www.ec.gc.ca/education/actions/viewactions_e.htm**

Canadian Journal of Environmental Education

Published at Yukon College and distributed worldwide, the CJEE recently issued two fascinating editions: one a synopsis of papers presented the "Telling Our Stories" conference in Whitehorse in 2001, and the other on "Culturing Environmental Education". For more info call: 668.8778.


Local Resources

Looking for a classroom resource person?

Remember, Heather Dundas at the **Innovators in the Schools Program** is there to help you connect with community resource people. Innovators maintains an extensive database of professionals willing to share their expertise with your students, on a variety of science-related topics. Give Heather a call to match your class with the appropriate innovator. **Innovators 668.8739.**

A reminder: let Environment Yukon be of service

The Conservation Education Coordinator is available to you and your colleagues as your environmental education consultant in the Yukon.

Our knowledge base and resource library are constantly expanding and our involvement in regional, national and international groups keep us up-to-date on the latest in EE.



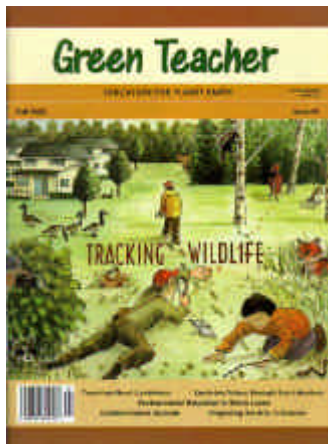
I will be in your school sometime this year, so please contact me to let me know how I can help you! Call 667.3675 or e-mail **remy.todden@gov.yk.ca**.

Other interesting possibilities

Green Teacher Magazine

This is North America's premier environmental education publication for teachers, and is run on a not-for-profit basis. It is jam-packed with practical ideas and news to assist you in your EE efforts.

Your school may already subscribe, but if you don't, please consider it. We have sample copies available here at Environment Yukon. You are also invited to write articles or resource reviews. Contact Remy at 667.3675 for more information. Green Teacher website: www.greenteacher.com.



Interesting Websites

Our Website: www.environmentyukon.gov.ca/cons_edyouth.shtml

Eecom: The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication: www.eecom.org

Online Guide to Yukon Environmental Education Resources: www.taiga.net/YukonEE

Wild Education: www.wildeducation.org

Yukon Education Student Network: www.yesnet.yk.ca

Mandatory Hunter Education For Youth: Are Your Students Ready?

If you are:

- √ 12 - 16 years of age,
- √ did not have a 2002 Yukon Hunting Licence,
- √ are a First Nation youth wanting to hunt outside your own traditional territory,

the following information will be important to you.

As of April 1, 2003, a hunter in the age group of 12 years to and including 16 years must prove successful completion of a recognized Hunter Education Program in order to qualify for a Yukon Hunting Licence. An exception to that is where the applicant held a Yukon Hunting Licence in the previous year (this licence year). This will also include First Nations youths who will require a hunting licence to hunt outside their own Traditional Territory where, for some reason, they do not have written permission from that First Nation.

These workshops are free of charge and also include the Canadian Firearms Safety Course which will allow you to obtain your Firearms Licence. These workshops are not restricted to hunters and will be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about firearm safety and hunter education BUT young hunters may be required to successfully complete the workshop.

If you are interested in taking the Hunter Education and Ethics Development workshop, please contact Larry Leigh at 667-5716 or e-mail larry.leigh@gov.yk.ca



NOTICE TO SCHOOL STAFF

PLEASE ensure that this publication is posted where everyone can read it, and that it is circulated to all staff.