



Press Release:

Community-based Monitoring Network Quarterly Update

Project Overview:

The Community-based Monitoring Network is an initiative of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) that relies upon skilled and accomplished Nunavummiut harvesters to record data on wildlife observations and harvests. Participating harvesters are trained to use rugged hand-held computers with custom-designed software to record wildlife sightings, harvests, and other environmental observations while on the land. When harvesters return from the land, Data Clerks in the community transfer the information into a database to which they have rights and access.

The Community-based Monitoring Network was launched in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Sanikiluaq in 2011 and ran until the spring of 2015. The project then moved to Clyde River and Kugaaruk in 2015 and will continue until September 2018, and March 2019 respectively. Harvesters in these communities are contributing valuable information that may be used to improve wildlife management practices in Nunavut by ensuring that decision making bodies have up-to-date information directly from people who are most active on the land.

Harvester Recruitment in Baker Lake

As a newly participating community, the NWMB is looking to recruit Baker Lake harvesters of all ages and abilities to engage in this program. The Board values harvesters as professionals and the Community-Based Monitoring Network is built around their participation. Every time a harvester's data is uploaded to the Community-based Monitoring Network database, his or her name is entered in a monthly draw for a chance to win Visa gift cards (worth up to \$1,000), and semi-annual draws for larger prizes. Participants that contribute harvest and observation data to the project regularly will also receive recognition awards for their effort.

Paid training and information sessions will be held at the Iglu Hotel (Inns North) in Baker Lake on Wednesday, August 15 and Thursday, August 16.

If you are a Baker Lake harvester interested in participating in this project, please contact Alexander Alooq (Data Clerk with the NWMB) or Hugh Nateela (Manager of the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Association). You can also find us online at www.nwmb.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NunavutCBMN/>.