

# The Cree Hunter And Trapper



VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2007  
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD

**A new magazine  
dedicated to outdoor life  
and traditional  
activities of the Cree**

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## The Cree Hunter and Trapper Mission and purpose

To help promote, maintain, and facilitate the participation of Cree people in the traditional lifestyle and harvesting activities as a way of life.

## Request for stories

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is interested in receiving stories and articles from the beneficiaries of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program. It will also consider stories about any activities related to the traditional lifestyle of the Cree. All submissions are welcome. The Cree Hunter and Trapper will pay, upon publication, up to \$300 per story based on quality of text and accompanying photos.

Editorial comments, submissions, and inquiries should be submitted to:

Serge Larivière, Director-general  
Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board  
Champlain Tower #1110  
2700, Blvd. Laurier, Québec (Québec) G1V 4K5  
Ph 418 643-7300 • Toll free 1 800 363-1560  
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## Acknowledgements

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is the official magazine of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board.

The publication of this magazine is in accordance with Paragraph 30.2.1 of Complementary Agreement No. 15 relating to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Board wishes to thank the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, Mrs. Michelle Courchesne, for her support of this initiative. For more information about the activities, the Program, or the Board, call 1 800 363-1560 to request our latest Annual Report. The Board wishes to thank the Cree Trappers Association for providing access to their photo collection.

## Message of the members

Wachiya,

We are pleased to introduce "The Cree Hunter and Trapper", the official magazine of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board.

When the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program was created in 1976, its role and mission were clearly outlined in Paragraph 30.2.1 of Complementary Agreement No. 15 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement:

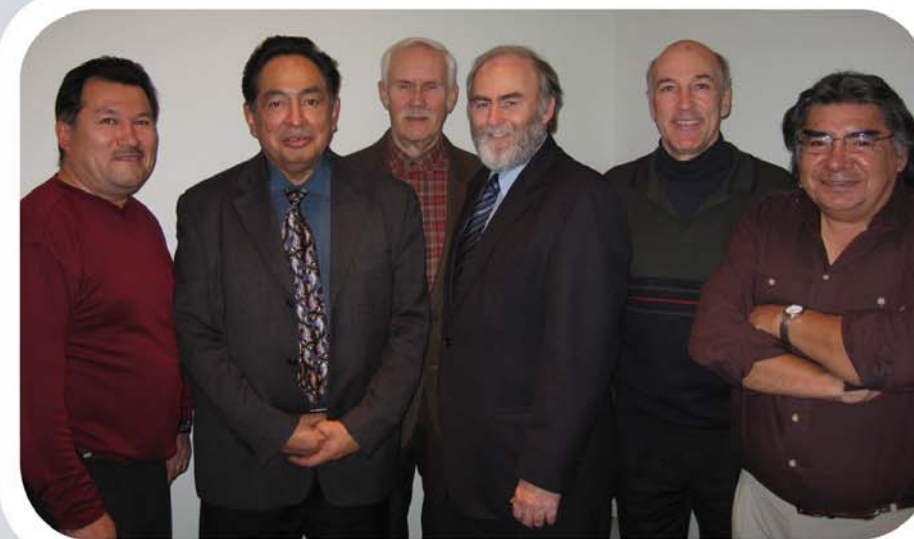
**"An income security program (...) to provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives from Cree people who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life..."**

The mission of the Board has remained unchanged since then, and the Board continues to be committed to helping Cree hunters and trappers who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life. This program-year, 2006-2007, marks the 30th anniversary of the Program. The Board continues to fulfill its mission, and with changing times comes a need for changing activities. With the greater opportunities created through employment, the appeal of urban lifestyles and the numerous distractions that may prevent today's youth from attending and participating to traditional activities, the Board felt it was time to raise the profile of the Program. The young Cree of today may gain from learning more about the benefits received by those

who participate in traditional activities. It is thus the intent of The Cree Hunter and Trapper to help promote, maintain, and facilitate the participation of Cree people in the traditional lifestyle and harvesting activities as a way of life.

The Board hopes you will enjoy this new publication, and that the information, pictures and stories contained therein both entertain and inform you. Should you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Director-general of the Board, Mr. Serge Larivière. We will all be pleased to hear from you. As always, we remain dedicated to our mission and to the persistence of the traditional lifestyle of the Cree.

### THE MEMBERS OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD



Photo, from left to right:

- Willie Iserhoff, Cree Regional Authority
- Philip Awashish, Cree Regional Authority
- Guy Girouard, Gouvernement du Québec
- Gérald Lemoyne, Gouvernement du Québec
- Jean-Guy Dugré, Gouvernement du Québec
- George Wapachee, Cree Regional Authority



# E

## ditorial

It is with great pleasure that I am presenting the following publication to you on behalf of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board. Its intent is simple: to enhance the profile of the Income Security Program, to help answer questions you may have regarding its rules and functions, and to help promote participation of the Cree in traditional harvesting activities.

Since its implementation in 1975, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement established numerous measures destined to help Cree people remain connected with the land. Among those, the Income Security Program was established to *provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives for Cree people who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life* (Complementary Agreement No. 15, Paragraph 30.2.1).

Harvesting activities are a way of life. Reconnecting with the land, staying in touch with culture and nature, finding physical, mental and spiritual health, all are reasons to participate in traditional activities. But to participate in harvesting activities is even better when one can share the experience with relatives and friends.



The goal of *The Cree Hunter and Trapper* will be threefold. First, we wish to provide information about the Income Security Program in a manner that is accessible to all. Second, we aim to promote participation in harvesting activities, and third, we aim to share information, knowledge, and stories received and shared from beneficiaries.

I hope you enjoy our new publication, and do not hesitate to contact me, or any of our staff, if you have any comments or suggestions to improve this publication.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serge Larivière'.

**Serge Larivière, PhD, MBA**  
Director-general  
Cree Hunters and Trappers Income  
Security Program



## How do I apply?

In July of each year, beneficiaries and new applicants must meet with their Local Administrators to enroll. Indeed, the first step in applying for the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security program is to contact the Local Administrator in your community. The location of ISP offices is well-known, on you may choose to first contact them by phone. The contact information of the ISP offices is provided on the back of this publication. For general information, you may also contact the head office in Quebec City at 1 800 363-1560.

## NEW GRADUATES

A special measure was established in the Complementary Agreement No. 15 to help promote the participation of recently graduated students to traditional activities. As such, new Graduates who apply for the first time may enroll on the Program without having to fulfill the regular eligibility requirements. Specifically, this means that students who enroll immediately after graduation are eligible even if they did not spend 120 days in the bush during the previous year. To be entitled to this special measure, the candidates must meet the following conditions:

- Be under 25 years of age
- Be in school during the year preceding application
- Graduate Secondary V or the equivalent during the year preceding the application

If you are a student currently in school and considering life in the bush after your graduation, talk to your Local Administrator today. This way, you will ensure that you do not miss any deadlines and take full advantages of this special measure.



# Interview With

# Paul Coon-Come



THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD CATERES TO THOSE CREE WHO PURSUE TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AS A WAY OF LIFE, BUT THE INCOME SECURITY BOARD IS NOT THE ONLY ENTITY IN PLACE TO HELP THE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS. JUST AS IMPORTANT, BUT IN A DIFFERENT AND VERY COMPLEMENTARY TO THE INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM ARE THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, ALSO ESTABLISHED AND PUT IN PLACE BY THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT,

THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION AND ITS STAFF ALSO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO LIVE OFF THE LAND CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, MR. PAUL COON-COME, KINDLY ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO SPEND A DAY IN THE BUSH NEAR QUEBEC CITY ON THE TRAPLINE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INCOME SECURITY BOARD, MR. SERGE LARIVIÈRE.

**Thank you Paul, for taking the time out of your busy agenda to come and visit me in Quebec City. The working relationships between CTA and ISB are important, as we have the same goal ultimately, to help support those Cree hunters and trappers who wish to pursue traditional activities. As I told you before, the Income Security Board has decided, with the support of the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, Mrs. Michelle Courchesne, to launch a publication to provide more information to the Cree hunters and trappers about the ISP and about harvesting activities. So in this first issue, I would like to do a short interview with you since CTA is such an important entity to hunters and trappers. But before we start talking about our respective organizations, tell me a little bit about your background.**

I have been working with CTA for 17 years now. I started with CTA as a local fur officer, and then became general manager when the previous general manager, Mr. Willie Iserhoff, left his position to become Director of traditional pursuits with the Cree Regional Authority.

**I have been working with the ISP for only 2 years myself, replacing Ms. Monique Caron who had been Secretary-general for over 20 years. So since I am still learning, maybe you can first define what you see as the main differences between CTA and ISB?**

Well, the two organizations are complementary to one another. The Income Security Program provides a guarantee of income for hunters. The money provided by ISP enables the hunters to purchase necessary supplies and to pay their bills. On the other hand, CTA facilitates the participation to traditional activities, not only for full-time hunters and trappers, but for those Cree who pursue hunting, fishing or trapping activities, even on an occasional basis.

**So, could you say that most if not all beneficiaries of the ISP are also members of the Cree Trappers Association?**

Yes, but many members of CTA are not on ISP because they have regular jobs, and thus cannot be enrolled on ISP. Nonetheless, they spend time in the bush hunting and fishing each year, maybe during Goose Break, or in the fall during Moose Season.

**So to access CTA services, one needs to be a member?**

Yes. Membership to CTA opens the door to the services we provide.

**What services do you offer?**

We offer assistance with purchase of equipment or fuel, sale of fur, construction of trapline cabins, trappers education, firearms safety, management of traplines, access to remote traplines, interactions with industry such as forestry or mining companies, etc.

**Do you provide direct financial assistance to the hunters?**

No, that is the role of the ISB. All CTA programs are designed to facilitate the participation of hunters and trappers to harvesting activities. The help we provide is either through training, or subsidies in equipment, travel, or services.

**And how many staff do you currently have?**

CTA employs about 15 people.

**And what is the structure of the organization?**

First at the top are the members. Each member has a vote and can decide who sits on the Board of Directors. The members elect the Executives. Our three executive positions, president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer are full-time, paid positions. Reporting to the Executive Committee is myself, the General Manager. ▶

▶ Then, to help me with the duties and services, are a group of employees including special projects coordinator, accountants, fur technician and receptionists. Finally, in each community there is a local fur officer to interact directly with the hunters and trappers.

**So just like ISB has a local administrator in each community, CTA has a local fur officer in each community?**

That is correct. So those who wish to have information about our programs and services can start by first contacting their local fur officer, or simply call myself or one of the executives.

**Paul, the Income Security Board has decided, with the support of the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, to help promote the Income Security Program and the participation to traditional activities. What are your thoughts on the future of harvesting activities for the Cree?**

Participation to traditional activities reconnects us with our roots, with our culture, and insures that we remain faithful to ourselves. It also brings families much closer together. For example, when you take kids out during Goose Break, you often see and discover sides of your children that are hidden. Kids become “natural” after a few days in the bush, away from the influences of the community or their friends. Parents and children get reconnected when they spend time in the bush. For that alone, taking kids in the bush is priceless!

**And what do you like best about the bush?**

Just being out there. I love the peace, the smells, the sounds. I do not really need to be doing anything special to enjoy the bush, just being out in the bush is gratifying.

**And you have a trapline?**

Yes, I am tallyman, trapline M-28 was originally one (1) trapline, then, in the early seventies, my dad, David Coon-Come, divided the trapline into 2 parts. ▶

▶ The northern section (M-28) was assigned to my late brother Jimmy Coon-Come and the southern section (M-28-A) was assigned to me. But since then the tallymen for trapline M-28 are Matthew S. Coon-Come and Ronnie Coon-Come. The tallymen of M-28-A are myself and Samuel J. Coon-Come.

**Paul, thank you for your thoughts and insights, but we have just reached a little beaver colony that I have set traps at lately, so what do you say we pause and go check some beaver traps?**

Let's go!

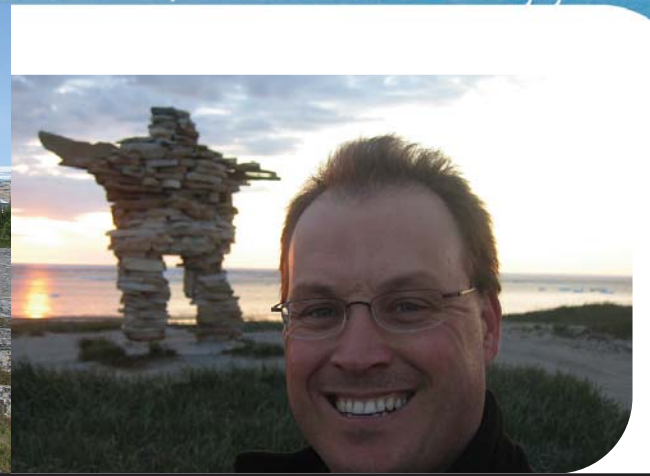
«Participation to traditional activities reconnects us with our roots, with our culture...»



June 2006 **Chisasibi**

The traveling DIRECTOR

HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING HIS RECENT TRIPS TO CREE COMMUNITIES.



June 2006

Whapmagoostui





August 2006 **Mistissini**



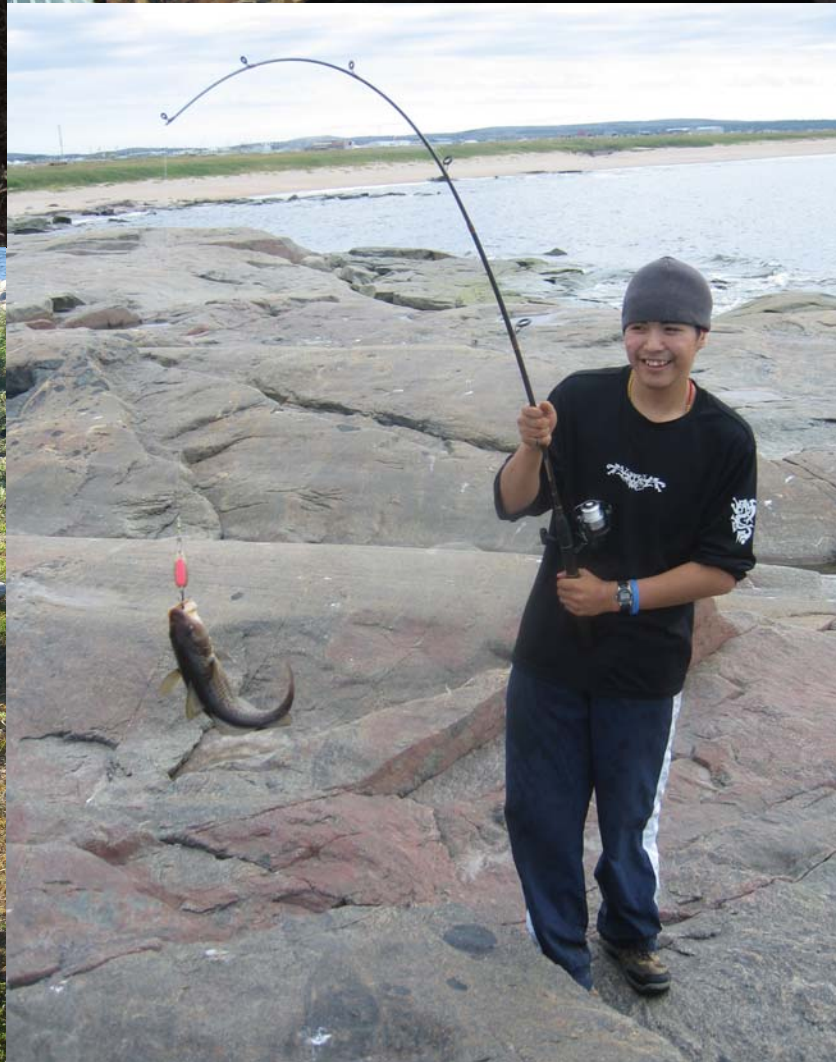
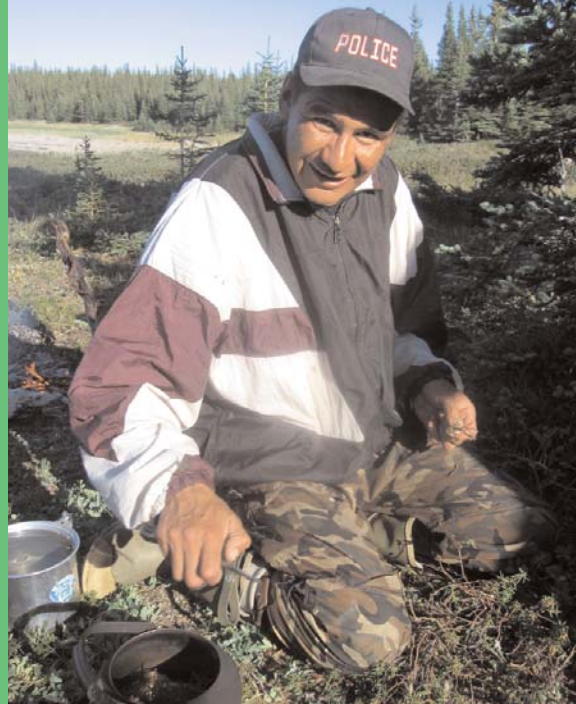
August  
2006

# Waskaganish

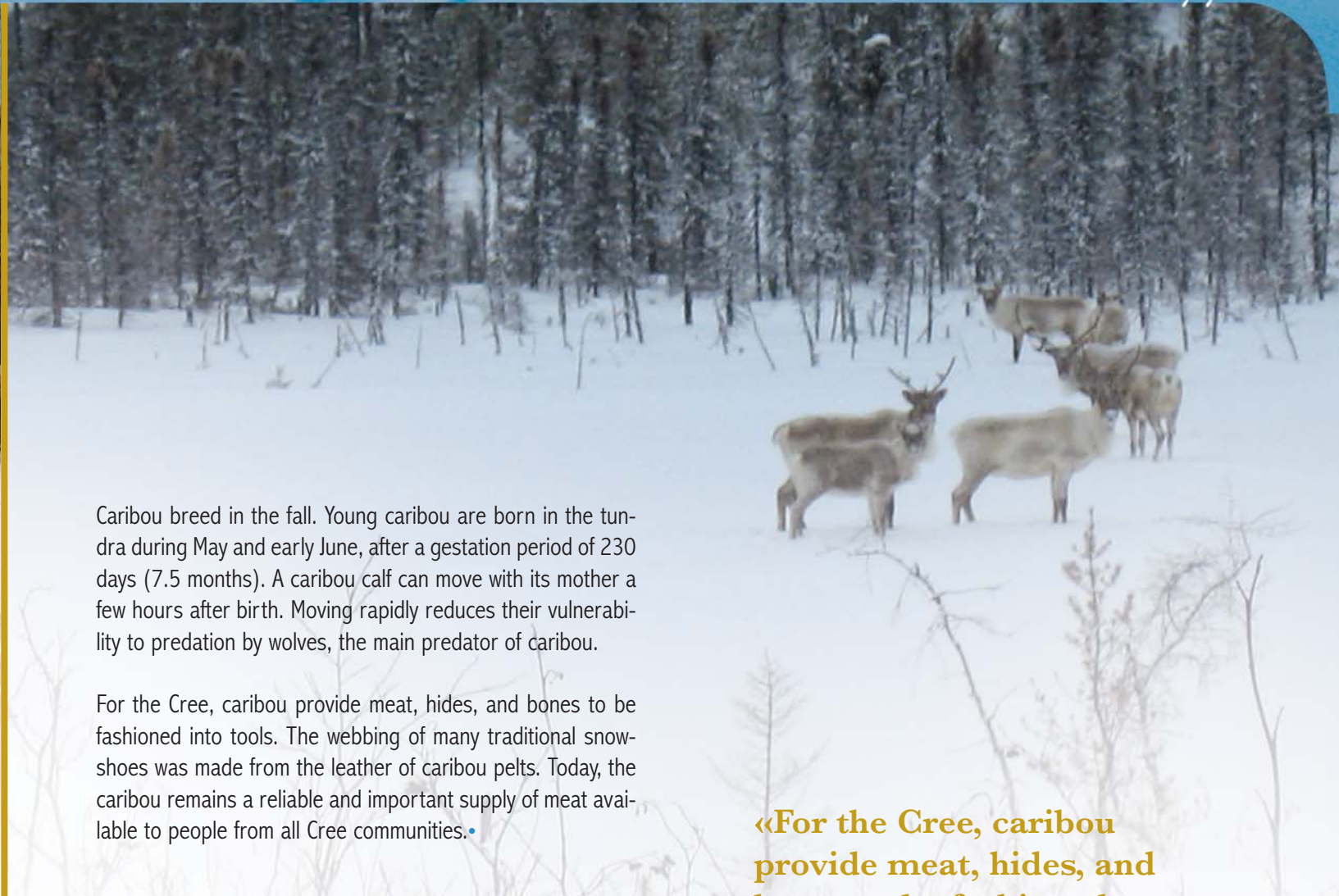
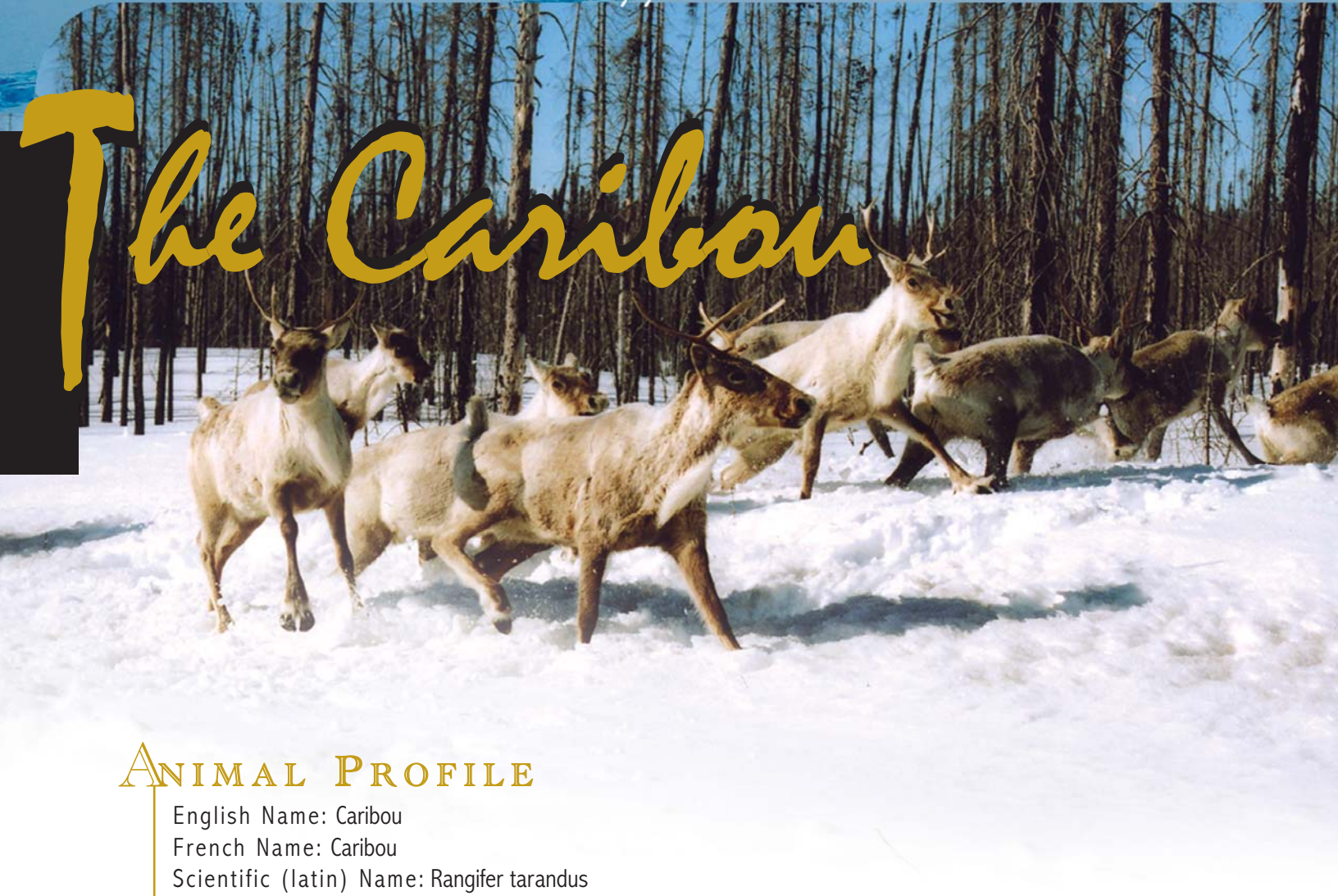


Sept.  
2006

# Whapmagoostui



# The Caribou



## ANIMAL PROFILE

English Name: Caribou  
 French Name: Caribou  
 Scientific (Latin) Name: Rangifer tarandus  
 Cree Name: Atihkw (pronounced Ah-te-kaw)  
 Cree syllabics: ᐱᑎᑦᑯᐱ

Caribou breed in the fall. Young caribou are born in the tundra during May and early June, after a gestation period of 230 days (7.5 months). A caribou calf can move with its mother a few hours after birth. Moving rapidly reduces their vulnerability to predation by wolves, the main predator of caribou.

For the Cree, caribou provide meat, hides, and bones to be fashioned into tools. The webbing of many traditional snowshoes was made from the leather of caribou pelts. Today, the caribou remains a reliable and important supply of meat available to people from all Cree communities.

«For the Cree, caribou provide meat, hides, and bones to be fashioned into tools.»



The Caribou is an important animal to many aboriginal nations in North America. The caribou that lives in Cree territory is the barren-ground caribou, also called American tundra reindeer by the Europeans.

The caribou is the only member of the deer family to live in arctic environments. Some herds of the barren ground caribou remain in high-arctic during the entire year, whereas other herds migrate south into the boreal forest or the taiga during winter. It is then that Cree hunters harvest them. Luckily, caribou are very abundant, and estimates for North America suggest that populations exceed 4 million individuals. ►

«The caribou is the only member of the deer family to live in arctic environments.»



# Meeting of interest National and International

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

FEBRUARY  
10-15  
2007

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS FEBRUARY SALE
- **LOCATION:** TORONTO, ONTARIO

**DESCRIPTION:** INTERNATIONAL AUCTION OF WILD AND RANCH FUR. YOU MUST CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, BUT YOU CAN WITNESS HOW LARGE FUR AUCTIONS OPERATE. WILD FUR STORAGE ROOM AND AUCTION FACILITIES ALSO CAN BE VISITED BY THE GUESTS.

FEBRUARY  
17-18  
2007

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTIONS FEBRUARY SALE
- **LOCATION:** NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

**DESCRIPTION:** INTERNATIONAL AUCTION OF WILD AND RANCH FUR. YOU MUST CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, BUT YOU CAN WITNESS HOW LARGE FUR AUCTIONS OPERATE. WILD FUR STORAGE ROOM AND AUCTION FACILITIES ALSO CAN BE VISITED BY THE GUESTS.

MARCH  
02-04  
2007

(IN FRENCH)

- **EVENT:** 30<sup>E</sup> SALON DU TRAPPEUR (30TH PROVINCIAL TRAPPER'S CONVENTION)
- **LOCATION:** HÔTEL DELTA, SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC

**DESCRIPTION:** THIS ANNUAL TRAPPER CONVENTION IS AN OCCASION TO MEET TRAPPERS FROM ALL AROUND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. AS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES, YOU WILL FIND SKINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AMONG THE ATTENDEES WILL BE NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS AS WELL AS FUR BUYERS. THE EVENT'S BANQUET IS HELD ON SATURDAY NIGHT WITH SEVERAL GUEST SPEAKERS (IN FRENCH). DEMONSTRATION AND SPEECHES ARE ALSO IN FRENCH, ALTHOUGH MANY ATTENDEES ARE BILINGUAL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CONTACT BOB MCQUAY  
AT 416-675-9320 OR BY  
EMAIL AT [BMCQUAY@NAFA.CA](mailto:bmcquay@naafa.ca)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CALL 705-495-4688  
OR BY EMAIL AT  
[FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM](mailto:FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM)  
[WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM](http://WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.FT6Q.QC.CA](http://WWW.FT6Q.QC.CA)  
OR CALL 418-872-7644  
(IN FRENCH)

MARCH

MARCH  
15-18  
2007

(IN FRENCH)

- **EVENT:** SALON EXPERT - CHASSE • PÊCHE ET CAMPING
- **LOCATION:** CENTRE DE FOIRES EXPOCITÉ, QUÉBEC  
(OR 22-25 FEBRUARY 2007 AT PLACE BONAVENTURE, MONTRÉAL)

**DESCRIPTION:** THIS ANNUAL HUNTING AND FISHING SHOW IS AN OCCASION TO MEET DEALERS AND OTHER SPORTSMEN.

MARCH

MARCH  
30-31  
2007

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS 16TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
- **LOCATION:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTION, NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

**DESCRIPTION:** THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A GATHERING OF TRAPPERS (MOSTLY FROM ONTARIO AND QUEBEC) TO DISCUSS NEW TRAPPING TECHNIQUES, PELT PREPARATION, AND INCLUDES NUMEROUS BOOTHS FROM TRAPPERS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC AS WELL AS COMPETITION FOR SKINNING AND PELT PREPARATION. THE GATHERING OCCURS IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, AND INCLUDES AN EVENING BANQUET ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT. ATTENDING TRAPPERS CAN ALSO VISIT THE WAREHOUSE FACILITIES AND EVEN PURCHASE TRAPPING SUPPLIES ON LOCATION.

MAY

MAY  
14-19  
2007

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS MAY SALE
- **LOCATION:** TORONTO, ONTARIO

**DESCRIPTION:** SAME AS FEBRUARY SALE (SEE ABOVE). COMPARED TO THE FEBRUARY SALE, THE MAY SALE HAS A LARGE COLLECTION OF PRIME, LATE SEASON WILD FUR FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA.

JUNE

JUNE  
14-17  
2007

- **EVENT:** 2007 FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS
- **LOCATION:** MORA, MINNESOTA, USA

**DESCRIPTION:** THIS CONVENTION IS ONE OF THE TWO LARGEST GATHERING OF TRAPPERS IN THE UNITED STATES (THE OTHER BEING THE NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION HELD IN AUGUST). YOU CAN EXPECT ANY-WHERE FROM 3,000 TO OVER 10,000 TRAPPERS TO ATTEND. ON LOCATION, YOU WILL FIND NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS, NON-STOP SKINNING AND TRAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS, VARIOUS CONTESTS, AND EVEN A FLEA MARKET OF OUTDOOR GEAR. NEARBY MOTELS FILL UP FAST, BUT YOU CAN CAMP ON LOCATION FOR MINIMUM FEE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.SALONCHASSEPECHE.CA](http://WWW.SALONCHASSEPECHE.CA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM](http://WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM),  
[FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM](mailto:FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM)  
OR CALL 705-495-4688

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CONTACT BOB MCQUAY  
AT 416-675-9320 OR  
BY EMAIL AT  
[BMCQUAY@NAFA.CA](mailto:BMCQUAY@NAFA.CA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.FURTAKERSOFAMERICA.COM/  
CONVENTION.HTM](http://WWW.FURTAKERSOFAMERICA.COM/CONVENTION.HTM)

# Make that set!

## Baited Pole Set for Beaver

*Editor's note: Make that set features a simple set that can be used on the trapline to harvest fur animals. If you have a special set that is especially effective on your trapline, and that would like to share with other Cree hunters, pass it on! We will gladly feature it in one of our next issues! This first set is a favorite of the Director-general Serge Larivière and of the local administrator of Mistissini, George M. Shecapio.*

By  
**Serge Larivière**  
and  
**George M. Shecapio**

The beaver is an important animal for the Cree as much for its fur as for the meat. For this reason, many hunters enjoy harvesting their beavers during winter, to take full advantage of the prime pelts and enjoying a nice, rich meal of the fatty meat during the colder months. One of the best ways to catch beaver under ice is by using snares. Snares are lightweight, economical, and easy to set.



The wise traveler can also carry several beaver snares rolled up and stored with the emergency tools of the snowmobile. Along with an axe and a knife, snare can allow hunter to catch food easily during winter.

One of the simplest sets to use to catch beaver in winter is a baited snare pole. To make this set, find a solid and dry pole. Usually, one can find such a pole either on top of the beaver lodge, or simply cut a dead tree in the vicinity.



«For best results, leave the set in place for 2-3 days before checking.»

Then, attach snares to the pole, starting from the bottom, and allowing 6-10 inches so that the pole can be shoved into the bottom of the pond or lake. Using 6 snares per pole is ideal, but the set can function with as little as two snares.

After fastening the snares, one on top of the other and on each side of the pole (3 snares on each side), tie a piece of bait in the middle. The bait stick needs to be fresh, and preferably would be quaking aspen, willow, yellow birch, or at a last resort, white birch. The bait stick ideally is 3-4 inches in diameter, and about as long as the height of the 3 stacked snares (about 30 inches). Fasten the bait securely.

To lower the set under ice, make a hole big enough on either side of the feed pile. A chainsaw works best for this task, but an ax or ice chisel may also be used. Lower the set slowly to insure that the snares remain open until the set is anchored on the bottom. Because the water may not freeze rapidly, tie a cross-pole above the ice as a safety pole. This will ensure that your catch will not pull out and swim away under the ice with your set!

Baited sets work best in late winter. For best results, leave the set in place for 2-3 days before checking. The cold water will keep your catch's meat and fur intact, and you may even get the odd double (2 beavers on one pole!) or even catch otter!

BAITED POLE SET FOR BEAVER

BAITED POLE SET FOR BEAVER

# ISP USEFUL

## THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM: HOW DOES IT WORK?

by Tanya Lynn Strong, Program Assistant – Administration  
and Serge Larivière, Director-general

*The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program provides an income guarantee for individuals and their families who choose hunting, trapping and fishing as a way of life, and who spend time in the bush. The amounts received by beneficiaries are influenced by many factors, but the following outlines the major items.*

### What does the Program pay?

The Income Security Program provides a daily allowance (currently between \$55-60) for all days spent in the bush, up to a maximum of 240 days each for the individual and his/her consort.

Depending on the situation of the family, there is the possibility of an additional Basic Amount based on the number of adults and children in the family unit (this amount is affected by all income received by the family).

At the end of each year, an additional amount (currently between \$15-20) is provided for each day spent in a far region. Far regions are determined based on distance from the community and access, and a map of far regions is available for each Cree community.

At the outset, the beneficiary of the Program and the local administrator agree on a forecasted number of days to be spent in the bush for the whole year. Once determined, calculations are made, taking into account all other sources of income of the family. Then, the amount payable is divided into four equal payments. The benefit cheques are remitted to the individual in person, following an interview by the Local Administrator in September, January, April and June.

At the end of the year, an additional payment may also be issued to correct for days spent in the bush over and above the initial prediction. This is also when the Board pays the amounts owed for days spent in far region, as well as for indexation of the Program. This retroactive payment is what most beneficiaries refer to as the "Retro" cheque. Not all beneficiaries receive a Retro cheque: all depends on the initial forecast, other sources of income, and the amount of time spent in the bush.



### How are interviews conducted?

Beneficiaries enrolled on the Income Security Program must meet with their Local Administrator four times per year for an interview. During this interview, the beneficiary must report on his/her activities in the bush. The main document provided is a calendar where beneficiaries circle the days spent in the bush.

Files may be modified at any time during the year. For this reason, it is essential that beneficiaries report on any change to their family status, report any income they have received (themselves or their consort), or any other information which may affect the calculation of benefits (marriage, separation, birth of child, etc.).

File modification and calculation of benefits occur at the Head Office of the Board in Quebec City. For this reason, benefits may vary from one period to the next, based on any new information provided in the file.

For additional information contact the Local Administrator in your community or the Head Office in Québec City at 1 800 363-1560.

### RULE OF THUMB

*Not sure if this matters for your file? Mention it!*

**Your local administrator is there to help you and answer your questions. Feel free to call them if you wonder how certain activities or changes in your life may influence your ISP benefits.**

# Staff profile

THE INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR 30 YEARS, AND ITS SMOOTH OPERATIONS STEMS FROM THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF A TEAM OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES. FROM ANY OF THE CREE COMMUNITIES OR FROM THE HEAD OFFICE IN QUEBEC CITY, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD INSURE THAT BENEFICIARIES ARE SERVED WELL, AND THAT THE BOARD MEETS ALL ITS FINANCIAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.

STAFF PROFILE WILL FEATURE A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF ONE OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS, SO THAT THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM CAN GET TO MEET AND BETTER KNOW THE EMPLOYEES WHO INSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF OPERATIONS.

FOR THIS FIRST ISSUE, WE CHOSE TO PORTRAY ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE PROGRAM, A PERSON WHO IS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN ACROSS ALL CREE COMMUNITIES: MR. PETER SHECAPIO.

# Peter Shecapio

**Employed by the Board since:** June 6, 1976  
**Current position:** Program Assistant – Services  
**Work Location:** Mistissini

**Peter Shecapio**, son of Abraham Shecapio and Agnes Wapachee, was born in the bush on the shore of Ayde Lake, approximately 140 km north of Mistissini.

Peter lived in the bush until he was 5 years old, at which point he left to attend residential school in Moose Factory, Ontario, and later attended school in Sault-Ste-Marie, Ontario.

Peter stayed in school until he was 18 years of age. He then started to work. His first job was at Point 21 on Mistissini Lake during the summer of 1968. There, Peter worked at a fishing camp and was responsible for packing and shipping fish to Chibougamau.

After that, Peter left for West Palm Beach, Florida, to work as a construction labourer for slightly less than a full-year. Peter returned to Mistissini in 1970, and worked for Maury's Canteen, then for the Hudson's Bay Company as their grocery manager until 1974. Peter then worked at the construction site for the LG-2 dam until fall of 1975, then he did line cutting and prospection around Mistissini for Shell Exploration Company from California.

It was then that Peter was approached by Henry Mianscum, a former staff of the Income Security Program, to become Local Administrator in Mistissini. Peter accepted the position a few days after the offer, and has been with the Board ever since. ▶



Peter Shecapio has always worked based in Mistissini, but his position as Program Assistant - Services requires that he travels periodically and regularly to other Cree communities as well as to the head office in Quebec City. Recently, Peter Shecapio spent much time in Wemindji and Whapmagoostui to help employees from these communities.

When Peter Shecapio is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, especially his wife of 33 years Christine Shecapio (formerly Christine Rabbitskin), and their six sons, Matthew (aged 31), Richard (29), Gary (27), Titus (25), Naaman (20), and Tyler (9). Peter and Christine currently have 6 grandchildren. Peter also loves to spend time in the bush on his trapline (M-15) in the fall.

On August 17, 2006, during the festivities for the 30th Anniversary of the Program, Peter Shecapio received a gold watch from the Board in recognition of his 30 years of service. Peter hopes to continue to serve the Cree Hunters and Trappers for several more years, and aims to be enrolled on the Income Security Program after his retirement. •



# ISP

IMPORTANT DATES

## FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

### JANUARY 3, 2007

Date of the second ISP cheque for the program-year 2006-2007. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of September, October, November and December. As usual, cheques are available following an interview between Local Administrator and beneficiary.

### FEBRUARY 2007

Information Meeting about the Income Security Program to be held in Chisasibi. Dates will be posted and advertised on the radio once finalized. Deadline for the issuance of Relevé 5 "Statement of benefits" indicating the amount received by beneficiaries enrolled on the program during the calendar year 2006.

### APRIL 2007

The Annual Report of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board is available from your local administrator following tabling at the National Assembly.

### APRIL 10, 2007

Date of the third ISP cheque for the program-year 2006-2007. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of January, February and March.

### JUNE 27, 2007

Date of the fourth and final cheque for the program-year 2006-2007. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of April, May and June, and also enroll for the next program-year.

### JULY 2007

Period for Annual inscriptions, new demands, and reinstatements to the Income Security Program.





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