

# THE CREE HUNTER AND TRAPPER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE  
CREE HUNTERS ECONOMIC SECURITY BOARD  
NUMBER 27 / DECEMBER 2019



Cree Hunters  
Economic Security Board

Office de la sécurité économique  
des chasseurs criés



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CREE HUNTERS  
ECONOMIC SECURITY BOARD  
NUMBER 27 / DECEMBER 2019  
**IN THIS ISSUE**

- 03. Editorial
- 08. FISHER
- 10. Trails cameras
- 24. News & Reports
- 30. Make That Set!
- 34. The Hunting Chronicle
- 42. Safety in the Bush
- 44. Staff Profile:  
BETTY TOMATUK
- 46. Traveling Director
- 98. ISP Important dates

99. > 107. Version Française

109. > 113. ᓃ ᐱᓐᓐᓐᓐᓐᓐ

114. Youth Page /  
Page jeunesse

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### 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.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is the official magazine of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board. S. Larivière, Director-general, acted as editor-in-chief and provided photographs. Luc Farrell and Pauline Suffice provided photographs. Maxime Lavoie provided text.

#### REQUEST FOR STORIES

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is interested in receiving stories and articles from the beneficiaries of the Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters. It will also consider stories about any activities related to the traditional lifestyle of the Cree. All submissions are welcome.

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

Serge Larivière, Director-general / [slariviere@osrcpc.ca](mailto:slariviere@osrcpc.ca)  
Cree Hunters Economic Security Board  
2700, Boulevard Laurier Édifice Champlain  
Bureau 1100, Québec (Québec) G1V 4K5  
Phone 418 643-7300 / Toll free 1 800 363-1560 / Fax 418 643-6803

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Cover of the magazine: Zina Balash Photography©



Cree Hunters  
Economic Security Board  
Office de la sécurité économique  
des chasseurs crïs



THE INFORMATION CONTAINED  
IN THIS MAGAZINE REMAINS  
UNDER THE INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY OF THE BOARD.

# EDITORIAL

## THERE ARE SOME ANIMALS IN EYYOU ISTCHEE THAT HUNTERS RARELY SEE OR HEAR ABOUT.

With the ongoing changes in climate, hunters of Eeyou Istchee are exposed to new animals that the elders may not have known in the past. One such animal that is slowly moving north, with the ongoing changes in climate, is the fisher.

The fisher is an interesting animal, as it resembles a large marten and acts a little like a wolverine in that it is a scavenger but also covers large areas to find its food. In the southern parts of the province of Québec, the fisher is common and many trappers are used to its presence and know how to capture it. In Eeyou Istchee, the fisher is still confined to the southern parts. Hunters from Mistissini, Ujé-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, as well as traplines in proximity of Matagami are most likely to detect its presence on their traplines.



The forests of Eeyou Istchee hides fishers. Take a look and let us know if you catch one!

Serge Larivière, Ph.D., MBA, ASC  
Director-general  
Cree Hunters Economic Security Board





DR. PHILIP AWASHISH



GEORGE WAPACHEE



WILLIE ISERHOFF

*Thank you!*

To these outstanding individuals for all your years of dedication

for the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board!

# Welcome!



The Cree Hunters Economic Security Board wishes to welcome the three new Cree Board members: Rodney Mark (left), Kathy Shecapio (center) and Clark Shecapio (right), and we look forward to great years and great accomplishments!





**THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS\***

New



\*THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS WAS PREVIOUSLY CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

**PRESENTATION**

OF THE  
**NEW PROGRAM**

**IN**

**CREE COMMUNITIES**

**WINTER 2020**

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

**CREE HUNTERS ECONOMIC SECURITY BOARD**



# Fisher

ANIMAL PROFILE

**English Name:** Fisher  
**French Name:** Pékan  
**Scientific (Latin) Name:** *Martes pennanti*  
**Cree Name:** Ucek  
**Cree Syllabics:** ᐃᑭᑦ

THE FISHER (MARTES PENNANTI) IS AN ANIMAL OF THE SAME FAMILY AS THE MARTEN OR THE WEASEL (A MUSTELIDAE). THE ECOLOGICAL NICHE OF THE FISHER IS THAT OF A SOUTHERN SCAVENGER.

Fishers travel long distances in search of food and they feed mostly on snowshoe hares, carcasses and they are a very effective predator of porcupines. Not many people know how fishers kill porcupines, but research has shown that fishers kill porcupines by repeatedly biting porcupines in the face. To protect themselves, porcupines, when attacked by fishers, will spin in circles rapidly and try to hit the fisher with their tail. This is why trappers find porcupine quills in the face and neck of fishers they capture.



“With recent climate changes, there are more and more fishers up north...”

Down south, the fisher is fairly common and it is not unusual to find fishers in traps set for foxes or raccoons. Up north, most fishers are caught in traps set for martens. The fisher is much larger than the marten, however a hungry fisher will often squeeze its head inside a small marten trap and get captured. Trappers who focus on fishers typically use larger traps. In the woods, fisher tracks are just like that of a marten, only bigger in size. In the summer, it is almost impossible to find fisher tracks or scats, but in the winter, snow will reveal the whereabouts of fishers and they are easily captured once located. When observed, fishers are easy to distinguish, because of their large size, their very long tail and the white markings on their throat and chest.

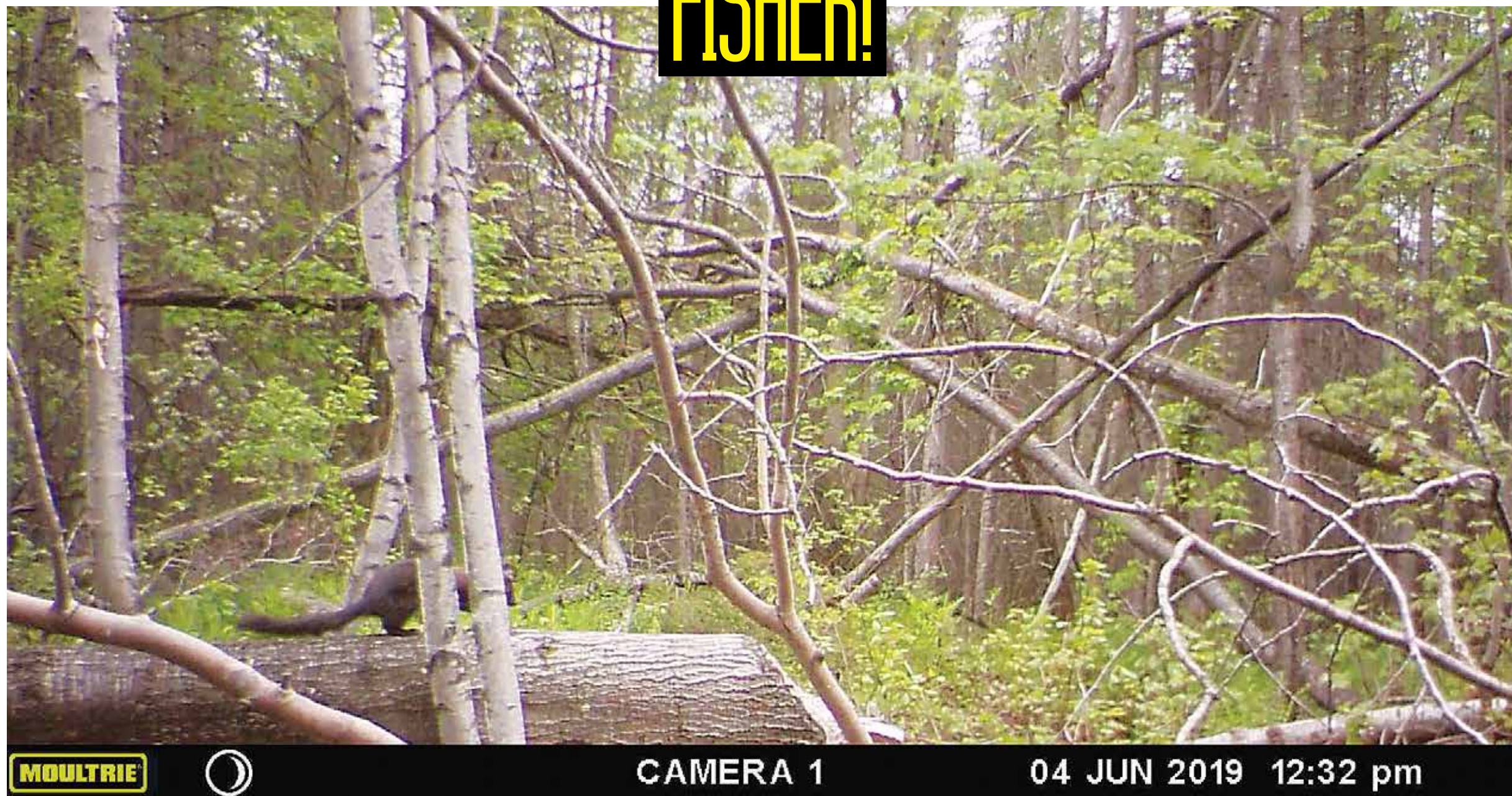


With recent climate changes, there are more and more fishers up north, and many hunters are now catching fishers where none existed before. It is likely that over time, there will be more and more fishers in Eeyou Istchee, so don't be surprised if you find one in your trap someday!



# Trails Cameras at work!

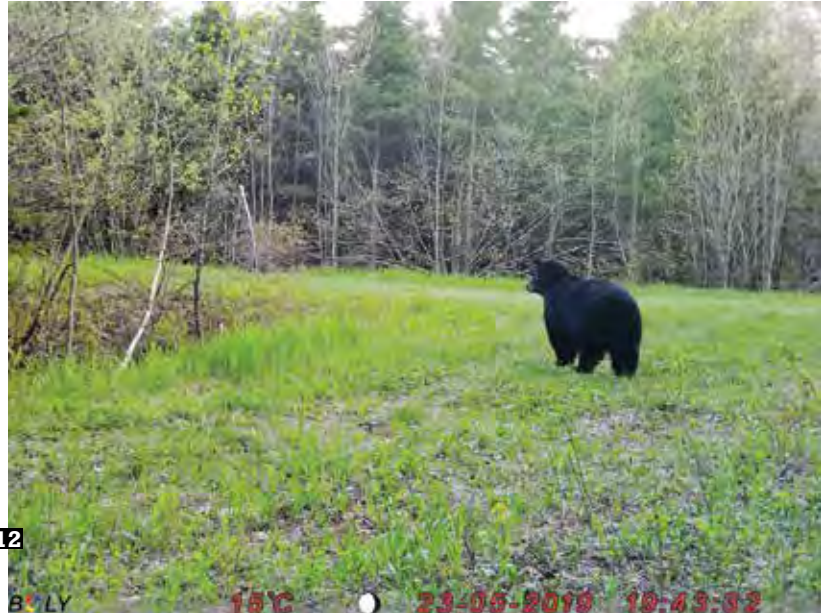
**FISHER!**







23°C 10-07-2019 21:41:39



16°C 23-06-2019 19:49:32



**BLACK BEAR!**

15°C 27-06-2019 07:28:29

12

13









**MOOSE!**









# RACCOON & BEAVER







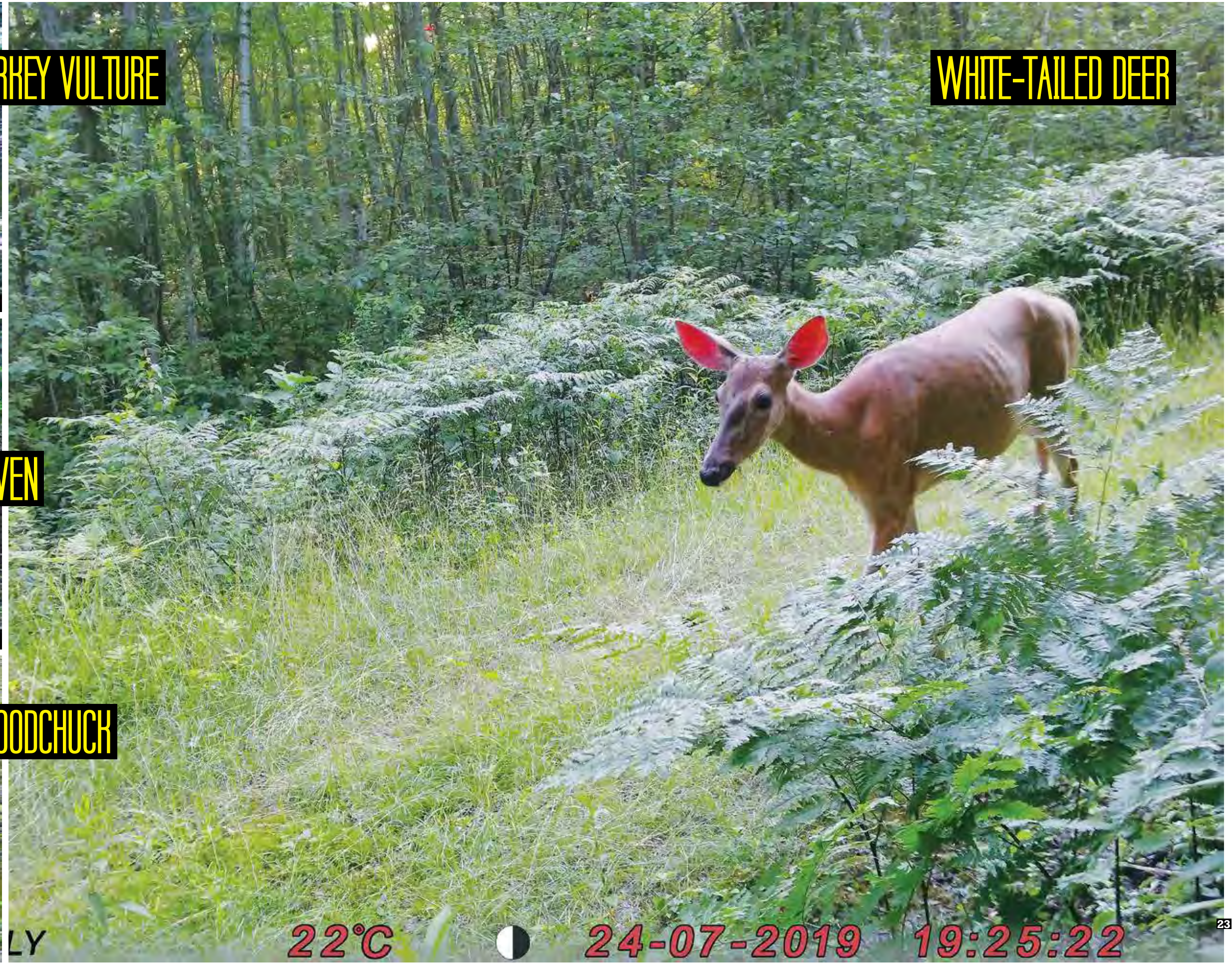
**TURKEY VULTURE**



**RAVEN**



**WOODCHUCK**



**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

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22°C



24-07-2019

19:25:22



# NEWS & REPORTS



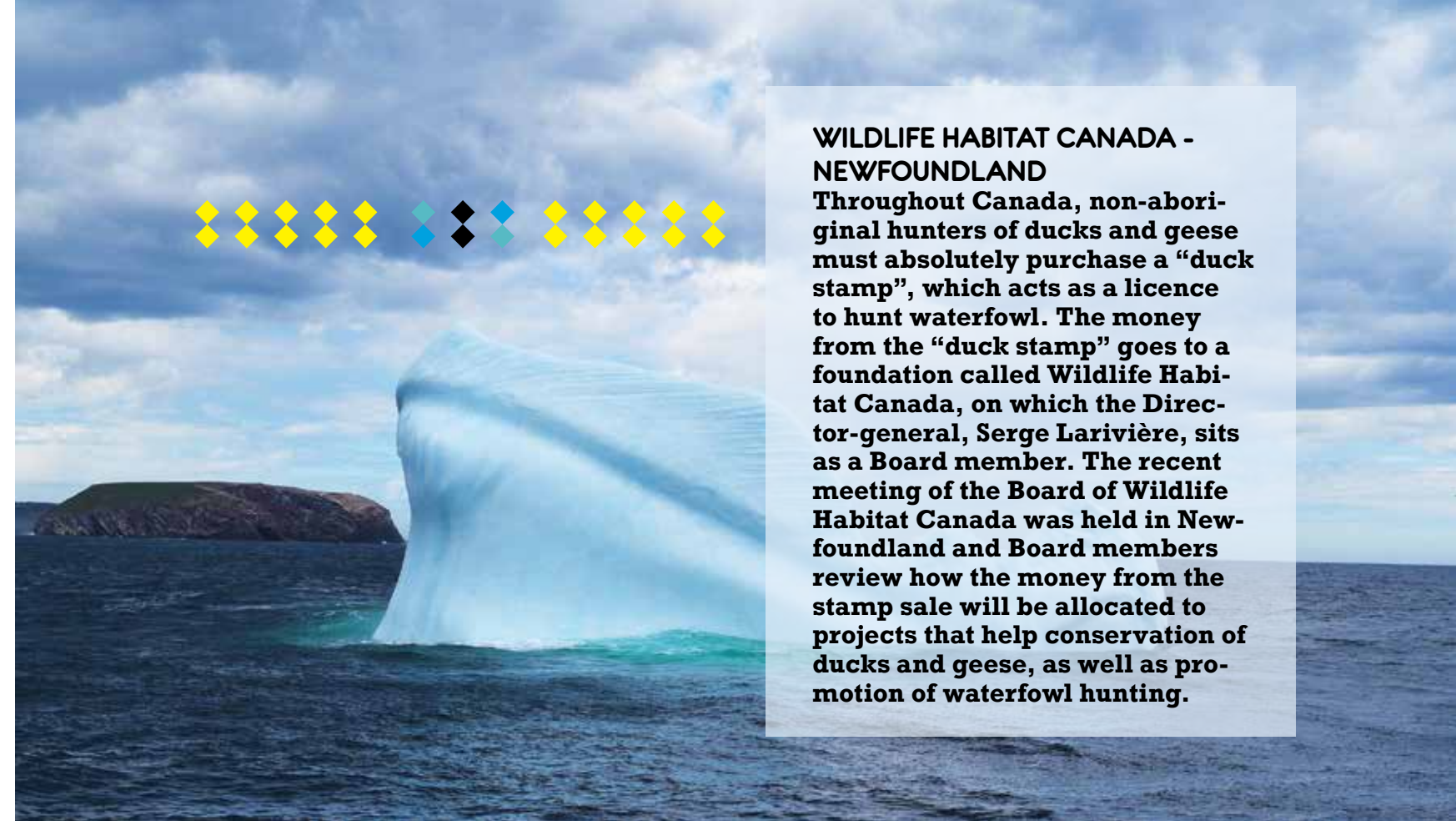
## FUNDRAISING DINNER - FONDATION DE LA FAUNE DU QUÉBEC

On May 23, 2019, a fundraising dinner was held in Montreal for the benefit of the Fondation de la Faune du Québec. For this important event there were two co-chairs, Grand Chief Abel Bosum and Mr. Patrick Godin, CEO of Stornoway mines. The lobster dinner event was attended by numerous Chiefs as well as staff from the Cree Nation Government. Also present were Director-general Serge Larivière and Chairman of the Income Security Board, Mr. Gérald Lemoyne and their spouses. A great networking event for the benefit of wildlife conservation chaired by the Grand Chief of the Cree. What more could you ask for?



## CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION - EXECUTIVE DINNER

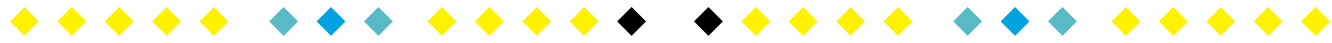
On June 5, the Director-general, Serge Larivière, traveled to Gatineau, Québec to meet with executives from the Cree Trappers Association. During this meeting, the new changes to the Income Security Program were presented to the Cree Trappers Association executives and were explained in detail. This short but useful presentation started a long discussion on improving conditions for Cree hunters and it was decided that this should be presented at the General Assembly of the Cree Trappers Association Whapmagoostui in August 2019.



**WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA - NEWFOUNDLAND**  
 Throughout Canada, non-aboriginal hunters of ducks and geese must absolutely purchase a “duck stamp”, which acts as a licence to hunt waterfowl. The money from the “duck stamp” goes to a foundation called Wildlife Habitat Canada, on which the Director-general, Serge Larivière, sits as a Board member. The recent meeting of the Board of Wildlife Habitat Canada was held in Newfoundland and Board members review how the money from the stamp sale will be allocated to projects that help conservation of ducks and geese, as well as promotion of waterfowl hunting.







### FUR INSTITUTE OF CANADA - MONCTON

The annual meeting of the Fur Institute of Canada was held in Moncton, New-Brunswick. As always, this gathering of trappers and wildlife biologists from across Canada facilitates exchanges between professionals on ways to improve trapping methods, management of population and improvement of trapping technology. A very important meeting for all those interested in trapping!



### VAL D'OR ORIENTATION MEETING FOR NEW CREE BOARD MEMBERS

On July 15, 2019, Director-general, Serge Larivière, traveled to Val d'Or to meet the three new Cree Board members assigned to the administration of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board. During this one day meeting, an orientation of the administrative structure, budget and operations was presented to the new Cree Board members, Mr. Clark Shecapio, Ms. Kathy Shecapio and Mr. Rodney Mark.



### SUMMER REVISION - QUÉBEC CITY

During the last two weeks of July 2019, all staff from the Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters met in Québec City to review files and discuss issues relating to the administration of the Program. This two week event is always a busy time, as every file of every beneficiary of the Program is reviewed and analyzed to make sure it is handled properly and according to official rules. This is a very intense work period, but always a great time to get all staff of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board working together!

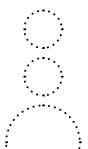
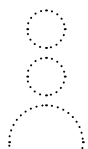


### CANID TRAPPING COURSE - RAWDON

On July 27 and 28, 2019, Director-general, Serge Larivière, gave a special trapping course to a group of passionate trappers in Rawdon, Québec, relating specifically to the trapping and management of wild canids (foxes, coyotes and wolves).



During this two day trapping course, participants were exposed to new methods of trapping, population management, as well as ways to optimise their harvest of these elusive animals. There is always something to learn when it comes to trapping!







### CREE NATION GOVERNMENT ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On August 6 and 7, George M. Shecapio and Serge Larivière attended the Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly in Nemaska, Québec. On the second day, Serge Larivière and Board member Rodney Mark presented a quick overview of changes to the Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters. At the front table were representatives of the environment sector for the Cree Nation Government, representatives from Niskamoon, representatives of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board, as well as the Cree Trappers Association. Thank you to Grand Chief, Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief, Many Gull, for the invitation.



### BOARD MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2019

On September 19, the new Board of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board met for the first time in Waswanipi, Québec. This was the first Board meeting for three new Cree members, Mr. Rodney Mark, Ms. Kathy Shecapio and Mr. Clark Shecapio. The new Program has a lot of changes and the next few years will be very busy. It was great to have the entire Board together for this first meeting!



### TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT

During the maternity leave of Ms. Angeline McLeod, our Local Administrator in Waskaganish, our beneficiaries will be served by another person well known to Cree hunters and trappers, Ms. Jacqueline Salt. Don't hesitate to talk to her if you have any questions about the Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters.



### MEETING OF INTEREST NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY  
**21 to 24**  
2020

- 42<sup>nd</sup> Shot Show
- Sands Expo and Convention Center, Las Vegas, USA
- [www.shotshow.org](http://www.shotshow.org)

FEB-MARCH  
**28 to 1**  
2020

- Le Salon du trappeur et de la fourrure
- Centre de congrès et d'expositions de Lévis, Québec
- [www.ftgq.qc.ca](http://www.ftgq.qc.ca) or 418-872-7644 (In french)

APRIL  
**10 & 11**  
2020

- Fur Harvesters Annual Trappers Convention
- Fur Harvesters Auction, North Bay, Ontario
- [www.furharvesters.com](http://www.furharvesters.com) or 705-495-4688

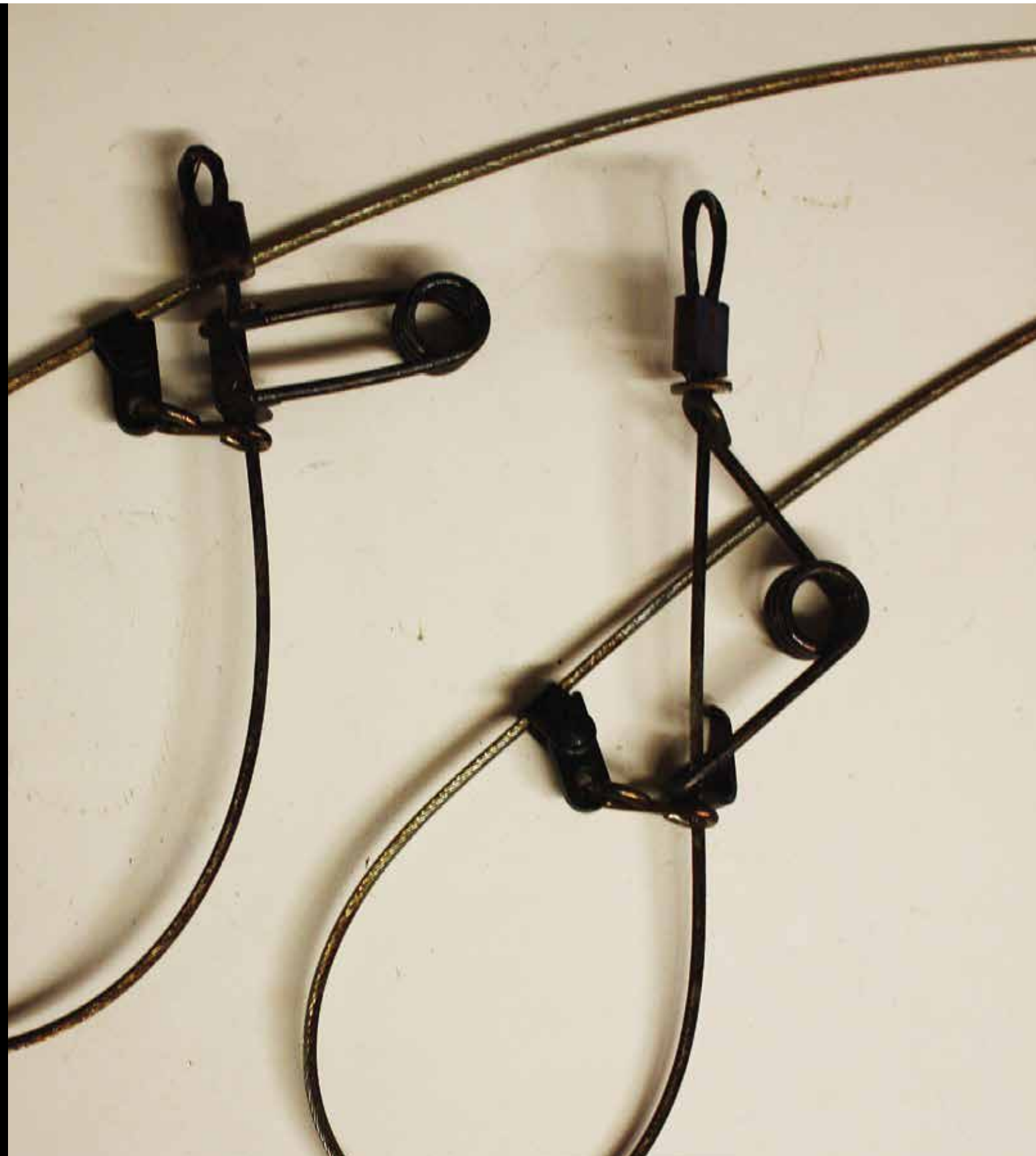


# Make that set!

## KILL SPRINGS

BY SERGE LARIVIÈRE

TRAPPERS ALWAYS LOOK FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR METHODS OF CATCHING FURBEARING ANIMALS. IN EYYOU ISTCHEE, SNARES ARE REGULARLY USED TO HARVEST ANIMALS SUCH AS RED FOX, LYNX OR WOLVES. FOR A SNARE TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE ANIMAL MUST PULL AND CLOSE IT TIGHT WHEN IT IS CAPTURED. OFTEN, AN ANIMAL MOVING WILL HIT THE SNARE AND WHEN IT GETS TO THE END OF THE CABLE, THE SNARE WILL CLOSE TIGHT AROUND ITS NECK, THUS PROVIDING A HUMANE DISPATCH. HOWEVER, NEW IMPROVEMENTS ON MODERN SNARES HAVE PROVIDED NEW WAYS TO MAKE SNARES EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE.



The most recent development in snares is the use of kill springs, also known as “compression springs” or “dispatch springs”. These springs will be inserted on the snare, so that when an animal pulls against the snare, the snare closes and then any further pulling will compress the spring. When the animal stops pulling, the spring will pull back to regain its original shape, and thus will exert additional pressure on the neck of the animal, killing it more rapidly. There are a few models available on the market right now, the two main ones being the Emberg spring and the Senneker spring. The Emberg spring is a simple coil spring that relies on the pull of the animal to squeeze it, whereas the Senneker spring resembles a body-gripper spring, but will have a trigger, so it has to be pre-loaded when set. Regardless of the spring you use, they will definitely increase how fast animals die in snares, and therefore make them more humane. If you love to snare furbearers on your trapline, do not hesitate to try a few snares with kill springs, you will be amazed at how efficient they are at harvesting furbearers!



Hunting to me is about many things... tradition, heritage, time with friends and family, but most importantly it is a source of ethically harvested, organic meat.

## Hunting for Food



Andrew Rochon

**By: Andrew Rochon, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Wildlife Habitat Canada**

One of the difficult things for me when shopping at grocery stores is not knowing where food came from. The meat purchased at local grocery stores likely comes from animals that were not raised or harvested in ideal conditions. These animals are often cramped, stressed and heavily inoculated with antibiotics, which all effects taste and texture.

This is what got me into hunting. I worked in many restaurants in Toronto and Montreal and fell in love with using wild game. Duck, pheasant, goose, boar and venison all intrigued me and I knew then and there that I wanted to hunt and be able to harvest the animals myself. The thought of being able to stalk, kill, track, butcher, process and prepare an animal was fascinating to me. I spent the next 5 years learning all I could about the different ways to hunt and became close friends with lifelong hunters who were generous enough to show me the ropes.



Working as a chef for over 12 years I learned the importance of using local ingredients and supporting local farmers and suppliers. Not only does this help support the local community, but often the food tastes better and has less of a negative effect on the environment (e.g., consider the CO2 emissions from shipping food around the world). When we hunt for food we are also helping to manage wildlife populations that, without the help of selective harvesting, could become unstable and in turn affect the very wildlife we hunt. When wild animals become over populated it can cause widespread disease as well as food shortage. As hunters, we help keep a healthy balance in the wild. Another way hunters contribute to conservation is through the purchase of items such as the Canadian Duck Stamp.



Since 1985, the sale of the Canadian Duck Stamp (which is attached to the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and is required to hunt migratory game birds in Canada) has raised over 50 million dollars. These funds are distributed through a competitive grant program to support local and national conservation organizations.



One of the challenges we face is the declining number of waterfowl hunters with the new generation. With fewer waterfowl hunters each year there are fewer Stamps being sold. This results in a reduction in funds to help support wildlife conservation. In response, WHC aims to engage potential new hunters through the "Locavore Movement." Many young people are keen on the idea of knowing where their food came from, and only purchasing meat that is organic and ethically treated.

What better way to source this type of protein then hunting it yourself? Wild game has no added hormones, antibiotics or other unnatural additives. We hope to encourage new hunters to take up the sport and hope that the tradition is passed down to future generations.





# The Hunting Chronicle

## PTARMIGAN HUNTING

**Willow ptarmigan are well known birds in Eeyou Istchee. During the winter, you can see them along the James Bay highway, along the Route du Nord, along the Trans-Taiga highway.**



The abundance of Ptarmigan seem to vary from year to year but it is hard to tell whether their numbers fluctuate or whether their presence along the Eeyou Istchee roads simply varies. One thing is for sure, hunters like to see them in winter! Also, the ptarmigan is a great bird to initiate youth to hunting. Take a small gage shotgun or a 22 long rifle, and educate your kids how to safely harvest these birds. The good news is your kids will be happy and you will enjoy great meal of ptarmigan during winter time!





# GLOBAL WARMING

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND FISHER

BY MAXIME LAVOIE, PH.D.  
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

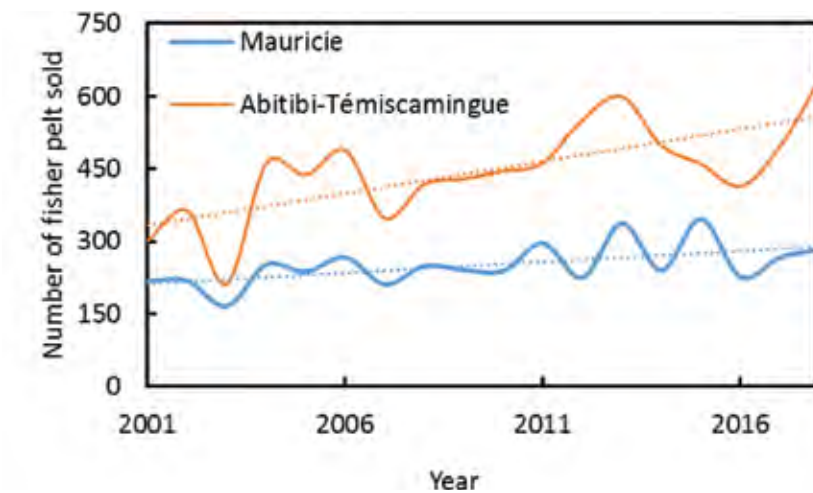
CONTRARY TO WHAT ITS NAME SUGGESTS, THE FISHER DOES NOT CATCH FISH. ITS ENGLISH NAME PROBABLY COMES FROM ITS RESEMBLANCE TO THE EUROPEAN POLECAT ALSO CALLED FITCHET, WHILE ITS FRENCH NAME "PÉKAN" IS DERIVED FROM ITS ALGONQUIN NAME "PĒKANĒ".

The fisher is a generalist species, which means its diet is composed of a variety of food items such as rodents, small mammals, birds as well as carrion, nuts and fruits. It developed several adaptations that make them not only skilled terrestrial predators but also formidable underground and arboreal hunters. First, they have a keen sense of sight and smell that allows them to hunt snowshoe hare over great distances. Then, their long slender body allow them to hunt small mammals in underground tunnels, hollow trees or channels created by their prey under the snow in winter. Finally, their sharp claws, partially retractable, let them climb trees like a cat, looking for squirrels and birds. Their hind feet can even rotate 180 degrees allowing them to go down a tree head first. All these characteristics make the fisher a remarkable hunter capable of adapting to a wide range of environmental conditions and prey, as evidenced by his ability to take down a porcupine, a feat accomplished by very few predators. To do this, the fisher will dance around the porcupine striking for the porcupine quill free face at every opportunity. If the porcupine starts to climb a tree, the fisher can jump on the trunk and, with his rotating ankles, attack it from above.

At our latitudes, its main impediment is its weight. Where snow is plentiful and light, the heavy weight of the fisher puts it at a disadvantage compared to other predators such as marten, as it sinks deeper into the snow, increasing the energy costs for traveling. This is especially true for male fishers that are almost twice the size of females. As a result, males rely more intensively on scavenging ungulate carcasses in winter while females are more active hunters. As we have seen in the climate change chronicle "Walking on thin ice", the length of the winter season has considerably shortened in recent decades. Thus, the decrease in snow cover probably helped the northward expansion of the fisher, a trend that is expected to continue in the coming years.



Because of their elusive and nocturnal behavior, fishers are not easily visible. As a result, changes in their distribution in recent decades have not been as noticeable as for other species such as white-tailed deer, moose or caribou. However, historical and recent data on fur sales confirm their northward expansion. For example, in the early 2000s, pelts of fishers were rarely sold north of Obedjiwan, but in the last five years between one and five pelts have been sold each year near Chibougamau and Waswanipi. In 2018, 3 skins were even sold for the first time near Wemindji. Fisher's expansion is more evident further south. In fact, the number of fisher pelts sold increased steadily between 2001 and 2018 in the Mauricie and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions (see graph).



THE NUMBER OF FISHER PELT SOLD STEADILY INCREASED IN QUEBEC, CONFIRMING THEIR NORTHWARD EXPANSION.

Interestingly, along with their northward expansion, fishers are also increasing in size. A study in the United States has shown that fishers in eastern North America are larger than their counterparts found in the west of the continent. According to the study, this could be due to the presence or absence of top predators. In the west of the continent, apex predators like wolves and cougars roam the environment and would not hesitate to include fishers in their diet. In the eastern United States and southern Quebec, these two predators have long been extirpated. Their disappearance has left a void that some species, such as the coyote and the fisher could be filling. Indeed, fishers in the east are now eating larger prey. The effect of climate changes on species distribution will undoubtedly alter the interaction between predators, prey ... and humans.



# SKILLS FOR THE BUSH

## A LADY'S PURSE

BY FRANÇOIS GUINDON, PH.D.  
ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANT  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NEEPOSH FAMILY

FOR TWO SUMMERS, IN 2010 AND 2011, THE AUTHOR AND A GROUP OF CREE ELDERS MET IN MISTISSINI AND DISCUSSED THEIR LIVES IN THE BUSH. THE GROUP HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE CRA'S ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM (ACHP), BEFORE THE FLOOD OF THE RUPERT RIVER DIVERSION.

François Guindon was one of the archaeologists for the project and the elders acted as local experts for the M-25 (Neeposh) hunting grounds. Their names are the late Kitty Neeposh, Johnny Husky Swallow, the late Charlotte Husky Swallow, Mary Swallow and Abel Swallow. The elders were interviewed using objects that had been collected on campsites where they had lived between the 1940s and 1980s. Their stories tell us of various inventions and original uses they had for the objects. Their stories also show us how creative and resourceful Cree people were in the bush.

### A PURSE FROM A 1940S CAMPSITE

This purse frame (see picture) was found in 2008, on a campsite where the Neeposh family lived in the 1940s. Johnny Husky Swallow remembered this place with great details because this is where he spent his first winter with the Neeposh. He said: *This site is the birthplace of Edna Neeposh, inhabited 63 years ago, in 1944 [...] This place was only occupied once, by five families constituting a seasonal hunting group (Rogers 1963: 54-58). The Neeposh left Mistissini in August to travel to this camp, where they were joined by the Jolly, arriving from Nemaska. Johnny said that this place was inhabited from September to January. In January, everyone left and the men went to sell their furs to Neoskwekau.*<sup>2</sup>



THE COLLABORATORS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLOTTE BLACKSMITH (TRANSLATOR), JOHNNY HUSKY SWALLOW, LATE CHARLOTTE HUSKY SWALLOW, MARY SWALLOW, ABEL SWALLOW, FRANÇOIS GUINDON (INTERVIEWER). FRONT ROW: LATE KITTY NEEPOSH

<sup>2</sup>Guindon, F., Bosum, J. P., and Marshall, S. (2007). *Cree Ethnoarchaeology and Historical Land Use Project. EM-1A - Rupert Diversion - 2006. Technical report, Cree Regional Authority and Société d'Énergie de la Baie James. For the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition Féminine. Nemaska.*



REMAINS OF THE WALLS OF THE DWELLING CLEARED FROM THE OVERGROWN MOSS (SOURCE: ACHP, CRA)

### PURSES FOR BUSH LADIES

A purse may evoke images of feminine items, such as make-up, perfume, as well as a mix of money and other unused and forgotten items, which some of you, ladies, tend to lose in there! However, elders such as Mary and the late Charlotte never used their purses to carry their beauty kit or their money. In fact, they had little or no use for these kinds of things when living the traditional way.

For them, a purse was a rather practical object - a bag to carry their sewing kits. This equipment was essential in the bush to repair old clothes and make new ones for their husbands, their children and for themselves. Purses thus contained essential tools that the women needed to sustain the traditional way of life, based on hunting, trapping, fishing and foraging.

Charlotte thought that this model of purse may have been the first type ever used by Cree women. The metal frame was usually quite durable, but the bag itself could break. They fixed it by sewing a new bag around the old frame.

### FACEBOOK

If you also want to listen to the elders and learn a few skills for life in the bush, join the Facebook group called "The old ways: Elders and things". Audio clips and pictures of the objects that helped the elders remembering the past can be accessed on this page.



THE LATE CHARLOTTE HUSKY SWALLOW, ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND JOHNNY, SHOWING A DRESS SHE MADE

THE METAL FRAME OF THE PURSE (TOP) ALONG WITH OTHER OBJECTS FOUND IN THE DWELLING. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (BOTTOM): HAIR CLIP, SUSPENDER FRAGMENT, LEG SECTION OF LACED PANTS, SUGAR BOTTLE, PART OF A TRAP



METAL FRAME OF THE PURSE DISCUSSED IN THE TEXT

THE CAMPSITE BEING EXCAVATED BY THE ACHP IN 2008 (SOURCE: ACHP, CRA)





# INSCRIPTIONS FOR THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS\*

**TO BE ENROLLED  
FOR 2020-2021**

\*THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS WAS  
PREVIOUSLY THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

**RIGHT NOW**

## MEET WITH YOUR LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR

To request to be added to the *Local Committee list* of your community. This list contains the names of people that are recognized as choosing traditional harvesting and related activities as their main occupation.

**YOUR APPLICATION  
MUST BE RECEIVED**

**BEFORE MAY 2020  
AND YOU MUST PROVIDE:**

*New date!*

- **Cree Beneficiary number** / All members of the family
  - **Birth Certificate** / All members of the family
  - **Social Insurance card** / Adults of the family
- **Documents confirming ALL INCOME received between January 1 and December 31, 2019** (work, employment insurance, pension amounts, honoraria, etc... ) **by the adults of the family**
- **Information on your harvesting activities, your harvesting territory, your equipment.**

**JULY AND AUGUST 2020**

REVISION OF ALL FILES AND REQUESTS BY THE HEAD OFFICE

**END OF AUGUST 2020**

FIRST PAYMENT OF THE 2020-2021 PROGRAM-YEAR



# Safety

In the bush

## SATELLITE PHONE

**Hunters in remote areas gain from being able to communicate with their loved ones regularly. In the past, the only way to stay in touch with the community or with friends was through the bush radio.**



In recent years, however, the use of satellite phones has been increasingly popular for Cree hunters. Nowadays, there are several models to choose from and although they are expensive to buy, the safety they provide is well worth it. In the last couple years, another series of devices have provided additional options. Now, you can purchase satellite phones that send email or text messages instead of voice communications. These devices are much cheaper and also provide a great way to communicate when you are in remote areas. Whatever model you chose to purchase and use, they are a great tool to increase your safety when you are in remote areas. Eeyou Istchee is big and hunters on distant traplines should always have a way to communicate with civilization in case of trouble or simply to confirm that everything is ok.



# STAFF PROFILE

THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR 40 YEARS BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATION OF ITS STAFF. THIS COLUMN "STAFF PROFILE" PRESENTS A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WORK TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM. IN THIS ISSUE, WE ARE PROUD TO PROFILE MS BETTY TOMATUK, OUR LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR, IN EASTMAIN.

## Betty Tomatuk

**CURRENT POSITION: LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR**  
**WORK LOCATION: EASTMAIN**

My name is Betty Tomatuk, I live in Eastmain, Qc. I am employed by the Cree Trappers' Association since 2005. However since 2015, I am also a representative of the Cree Hunters Economic Security Board as a support staff. I conduct interviews with Local beneficiaries on the Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters in my community.

My parents are Fred & Frances Tomatuk, I have 3 brothers Clayton, Randy & Justin.

As a summer student I took CTA as interest entity, at that time my dad was the Local ISP administrator. He would give small tasks like counting, reviewing and making accurate count of days claimed by the beneficiaries. I gained knowledge of how the program works from there and made it easier for me to apply for the job once the position was available. Therefore, I needed very little training.

I grew up in a hunting environment, my parents are both experienced harvesters. My 3 brothers are all very good and all seasons hunters, therefore right from a little girl I had interest in hunting, making me an above average woman hunter. I've killed 3 moose, so many caribou, a good number of geese and many ptarmigans.

"...RIGHT FROM A LITTLE GIRL I HAD INTEREST IN HUNTING"

