DRAFT MINUTES
March 4-6, 2003
Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group[1] Meeting, Arviat, NU

PARTICIPANTS:

David Alagalak	Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Arviat, NU
Flora Beardy	York Factory First Nation (YF), York Landing, MB
Marion Beardy	First Nations Elder, York Landing, MB
Sherrie Blakney	Natural Resources Institute, Winnipeg, MB
Alain Chouinard	Nunavut Sustainable Development, Arviat, NU
Don Cobb	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Winnipeg, MB
Wendy Dahlgren	University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
Terry Dick	University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
Kelsey Eliasson	Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Churchill, MB
Helen Fast	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Winnipeg, MB
Steve Ferguson	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Winnipeg, MB
Miriam Fleming	Environmental Committee of the Municipality of Sanikiluaq
Elizabeth Hallett	York Factory First Nation (YF), York Landing, MB
Stewart Hill	Fox Lake First Nation, Winnipeg, MB
Henry Isluanik	Inuit Elder, Arviat, NU
Alan Johnson	Community Gov't and Transportation (CG&T), Gjoa Haven, NU
Brock Junkin	Nunavut Sustainable Development (DSD), Rankin Inlet, NU
Peter Kritaqliluk	Community of Arviat, Arviat, NU
David Malcolm	Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI), Edmonton, AB
Narendra Mathur	Transport Canada, Winnipeg, MB
Jeffrey Maurice	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Iqaluit, NU
Steve Newton	Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Winnipeg, MB
Gabriel Nirlungayuk	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Rankin Inlet, NU
Bryan Purdy	Community Government and Transportation, Rankin Inlet, NU
Mike Setterington	Department of Sustainable Development, Arviat, NU
Robert Siron	Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, ON
Ivy Stone	Environment Canada (EC), Iqaluit, NU
Darren Thomas	Natural Resources Institute, Winnipeg, MB
Martina Tyrrell	University of Aberdeen, Arviat, NU
Eric Ukpatiku	Kivalliq Inuit Association, Rankin Inlet, NU
Herb Vandermeulen	Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, ON

REGRETS:

Ken Manson	Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce, Rankin Inlet, NU
Elizabeth Sherlock	Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit, NU
Glen Stephens	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Iqaluit, NU
David Wotton	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg, MB

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ACRONYMS

BSIMPI	Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard, DFO
CSSP	Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program
CCIARN	Climate Change Initiatives and Alternatives Research Network
CG&T	Community Government and Transportation
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CHS	Canadian Hydrographic Services, DFO
CMAC	Canadian Marine Advisory Council
COS	Canada's Oceans Strategy
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
CG&T	Community Government and Transportation
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DIAND	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
DSD	Department of Sustainable Development
EC	Environment Canada
EMAN	Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
GN	Government of Nunavut
HBOWG	Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group
HC	Health Canada
IM	Integrated Management
IQ	Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
KIA	Kivalliq Inuit Association
KWB	Kivalliq Wildlife Board
MB	Manitoba
MEQ	Marine Environmental Quality
MKO	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak
MPA	Marine Protected Area (DFO)
NCP	Northern Contaminants Program
NDC	Nunavut Development Corporation
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NMC	Nunavut Marine Council
NMCA	National Marine Conservation Area (PC)
NPA	National Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
NPC	Nunavut Planning Commission
NRCAN	Natural Resources Canada
NRI	Nunavut Research Institute
NMC	Nunavut Marine Council
NPW&GS	Nunavut Public Works and Government Services
NWA	National Wildlife Area
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT	Northwest Territories
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
PC	Parks Canada
SEC	Sanikiluaq Environmental Committee
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
TC	Transport Canada
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WG	Working Group
YF FN	York Factory First Nation

MARCH 4, 2003

Traditional Knowledge Reception and Square Dance

Mark Kalluak Hall

The Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group together with Nunavut Sustainable Development and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board hosted a community reception to discuss Traditional Knowledge in Hudson Bay. The event brought together many different interests to discuss this important topic. The celebrations included country foods and a spirited square dance.

Welcome: Mayor Peter Kritaqliluk

HBOWG Introduction: Brock Junkin, HBOWG Chair

Presentation: David Alagalak, President, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

- David spoke at our community reception about the importance of preserving and using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) in planning for Hudson Bay. He explained that the Hudson Bay region has experienced many changes in the past decade, including climate change, contamination and hydro development. He is concerned that IQ in the Kivalliq Region will be lost when their elders pass away. David also spoke about the need for a comprehensive IQ and scientific study that would help us better understand the changing environment.

Presentation: Stewart Hill, Fox Lake Cree Nation

- Stewart spoke about respect in the Cree culture and how Traditional Knowledge could be used to plan for a healthy Hudson Bay. He also talked about the similarities and differences that exist between Traditional Knowledge and Western Science (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

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MARCH 5 & 6, 2003

1. Introduction - Brock Junkin
2. Opening Prayer – Marion Beardy
3. Review agenda
   - The draft agenda was approved as circulated.
4. Review minutes, action items from September 24-26 meeting
   - Minutes were approved by the Working Group.
5. Youth Report - Elizabeth Hallett
   - Elizabeth discussed why Traditional Knowledge was important to First Nation people in York Landing, Manitoba (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).
6. Elder Report - Henry Isluanik (Arviat Elder)
   - Henry talked about the need to respect the Earth and everything in it. He explained that when he was growing up, each and every hunter was considered a Wildlife Officer because they had responsibility for the animals. There used to be large populations of walrus from Whale Cove to Arviat. Henry expressed his

gratitude to the HBOWG for coming to Arviat and including him in our discussions. He is supportive of our planning initiative.

7. Oceans Day 2003 in Churchill, Manitoba – Kelsey Eliasson
   - The Churchill Northern Studies will be hosting Oceans Day 2003 on July 4-6 in Churchill, Manitoba. The theme for the weekend is the relationship between freshwater and marine ecosystems. Beluga whale-watching, beach clean-ups, children's activities and an Oceans Film Festival will be held to promote oceans awareness and education (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

8. Drafting an Integrated Management Plan for Hudson Bay
   - The HBOWG is developing an Integrated Management Plan for Hudson Bay. The following five parts will be important components of this plan.

Part I: Overview

Integrated Management Planning for Hudson Bay: An Overview – Helen Fast

- Helen reflected on how the HBOWG came to be and where it is headed in the future. She also spoke about ArcticNet, a climate change research proposal which will involve the HBOWG if approved (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Setting Ecosystem Objectives for Hudson Bay – Don Cobb

- Don gave an overview of the Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) Oceans Program. He discussed how it fits into Integrated Management, and why it is important for providing a common approach to assessing the state of the Hudson Bay ecosystem (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Part II: Traditional Knowledge

A Traditional Knowledge Protocol – Miriam Fleming

- The objective of a traditional knowledge protocol is "To use traditional knowledge and science together for addressing questions of ecological importance in the Hudson Bay marine, coastal and watershed areas" (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Part III: Climate Change

Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for Arviat – Darren Thomas

- Darren will be conducting climate change research in Arviat, NU this summer. He will bring together community members and scientists to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Part IV: Marine Services in Hudson Bay

Transport Canada's Marine Services and Responsibilities in Hudson Bay – Narendra Mathur

- Transport Canada's Marine Safety Office in Winnipeg addresses environmental and safety issues in Hudson Bay (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Government of Nunavut Marine Services and Responsibilities in Hudson Bay – Alan Johnson

- Alan summarized the Department of Community Government and Transportation's marine services in Hudson Bay. One of the new developments

in the Kivalliq Region is the discontinuation of the Northern Transportation Company re-supply (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

Part V: Wildlife in Hudson Bay

Rankin Inlet Peregrine Falcon Project – 2002 Status Report – Mike Setterington

- The Peregrine Falcon found in Arviat is a COSEWIC-listed species of Special Concern. These birds are predators at the top of the food chain, and the health and general status of this population may therefore be a good indicator of the general health of the ecosystem upon which it depends for its survival (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).

9. Action Items for Next Meeting

- All participants should email their suggestions and comments on the inclusion of traditional knowledge according to the mandates of their respective committees to Miriam Fleming (mbfleming@polarland.com) by May 31, 2003.

Committee	Item	Responsibility
Wildlife and Environmental	• Host an Ecosystem Objectives Workshop (Nov/Dec 2003) in Winnipeg	• Don
Traditional Knowledge	• Traditional Knowledge sub-committee meet and discuss articles of TK protocol (May/June 2003)	• Miriam
Research	• Complete a research protocol for the next meeting	• Brock
Transportation	• Submit Letter of Interest to Natural Resources Canada regarding impacts of climate change on transportation in the Kivalliq Region.	• Steve
	• Distribute code of conduct for cruise ships	• Steve
Economic Development	• Contact Ag Canada, Manitoba Agr, Rural Development and the Prospectors Developer Association re their interest in the HBOWG	• Brock
	• Invite Roger Connelly (NU-MB Liaison) to our next HBOWG meeting	• Brock
	• Host a Northern Economic Development Workshop (Jan/Feb 2004)	• Helen, Brock and Steve
	• Quantify harvests in the Kivalliq Region	• Brock
Communications	• Write a one page HBOWG summary	• Kelsey
	• Finalize the First Nations Poster Contest	• Elizabeth
	• Distribute Oceans 10 curriculum	• Jeff, Elizabeth and Steve
	• Edit video footage for next meeting	• Darren and Steve
	• Assist the Churchill Northern Studies Centre in the delivery of Oceans Day 2003	• Steve
	• Promote HBOWG activities during Kivalliq Community Tour	• Brock
	• Send letter to Fox Lake Cree Nation regarding Stewart Hill's membership in the HBOWG.	• Brock
	• Send thank you letter to the Hamlet of Arviat for hosting our March 4-6, 2003 meeting.	• Brock

10. Mid Canada Research Institute (MCRI) – David Malcolm
    - The mandate of the MCRI mandate is to identify community-based solutions and innovation in order to maximize local and national socio-economic benefits from the resource-rich Mid-Canada region (e.g. Kivalliq Region) (See Appendix 1 for presentation summary).
11. Next Meeting: Conservation and Protected Areas – Steve Newton
    - It is our practice to have a theme for each Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group meeting and to involve communities during evening discussions. We proposed that "Conservation and Protected Areas" be the theme our next meeting, September 9-11, 2003 in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. A number of agencies have responsibility for protecting and conserving marine ecosystems. This theme will bring some of those interests together to discuss marine conservation and protection in Hudson Bay.
12. Closing Prayer – Marion Beardy
13. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Appendix 1:

Presentation Summaries

Cree Perspectives on Traditional Knowledge and Western Science

Presenter: Stewart Hill
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Thank you for inviting me to Arviat to speak to your community about Traditional Knowledge and Western Science. The Inuit living in this community are resourceful and strong to be able to survive in such a harsh environment.

There is a traditional aboriginal system with respect to the natural environment, this system is valuable and can be of great benefit to aboriginal communities today. Given the context within which the western science system and the traditional aboriginal system were developed, neither system is superior to the other but each has their inherent strengths and weaknesses. Traditional knowledge is a complex and immense body of knowledge.

There are many differences between traditional knowledge systems and the systems of government which are science-based:

General Comparison of the Western, Science-Based System of Management and the Traditional Aboriginal System

In traditional times, the rules of the aboriginal system were well ingrained in a person's thinking and beliefs since they were taught from the time they could understand and start learning the traditional way of life.

Western, Science Based System	Traditional Aboriginal System
Law • Legislation	Law • Natural Laws • Respect
Policy • To carry out the law and regulations	Rules of Conduct/ Spiritual Practices • Examples: No wasting of animal parts; no contamination of animal parts; humility; etc
Regulations • To ensure the law is obeyed	Beliefs/ Spiritual Consequences • In Cree culture, the word is "ka-osh-chi-nan" which was a curse befalling upon a person if the laws were broken such as disrespecting an animal by torturing it would result in bad luck in hunting for that person but also including his/her entire family which

Western, Science Based System	Traditional Aboriginal System
	could mean starvation in historical times. • Another Cree word is "ki-sha-wen-ta-koh-shin" which basically means "you are accountable". Breaking the law will have consequences; it will come back to you and your family. The price will be paid in some form or fashion.
Based on *Numbers* and *Intervention in the Natural Environment*	Based on *Need/Availability* and *Conforms to the Natural Environment*

I wish the Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group well in their discussions and Integrated Management Planning for Hudson Bay. It was a pleasure to present to the people; I am honoured to be invited to participate in such a group.

Traditional Knowledge and First Nation People

Presenter: Elizabeth Hallett, Youth Member
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Defining Traditional Knowledge was a difficult task. In several definitions, TK was defined with no definite end, where the definition itself was open-ended. Many definitions stress the knowledge of our traditional practices, beliefs, and values.

Another dilemma that was faced was the presentation and gathering of information to students in York Landing. For many students TK was a new vocabulary word. Once TK was clearly defined, students were eagerly giving helpful discussion topics. The topic that was most often referred to was "Goose Camp".

"Goose Camp" in York Landing, is an area where the community gathers to share traditional food prepared in a traditional way. "Goose Camp" is more than just the practice of preparing of foods, it's a place where all members of the community demonstrate and prepare cultural foods and favourite past-times. These past-times include, but not limited to, jigging, fiddling, recreational games, and story telling.

"Goose Camp" runs twice a year in the spring for two weeks and in the fall for a week. The opportunities for young and old are endless. The facilitators try to include all age groups when it comes to the planning. Included in the planning, the school plays a role in gathering some of the food. The school allows excused absents for two half mornings a week during the spring hunt. Also, in the past year the High School Students ran the "Goose Camp". This opportunity for the students to facilitate the camp again is uncertain, because others may like the opportunity themselves.

Traditional Knowledge is important to all aboriginal people. Some may think this statement is opinionated, but many First Nation People practice and stress cultural preservation, whether it be done privately or publicly. For generations parents have passed on the knowledge that was taught to them. Though some may not believe that our beliefs and values are traditional, they are, for they have been passed on.

In the privacy of our own homes, many individuals teach their children the values and beliefs passed on by their parents. As well, those who speak their First Nation Language have the desire to pass the language on to their children.

To First Nation Youth, the importance is simple in the fact that most are interested in learning the traditions as well as the lessons that come along. The importance of

retaining the knowledge is driven by the need to preserve the history and to teach the generations to respect life itself.

From time to time our traditions may change, but the root of our traditions have origin.

Oceans Day 2003 in Churchill, Manitoba

Presenter: Kelsey Eliasson, Program Coordinator
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As part of the Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group meeting in Arviat, Nunavut, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre presented a brief outline for 2003 Oceans Day celebrations in Churchill, Manitoba.

With the national theme focusing on the relationship between freshwater and oceans, the Churchill events will be built around the Churchill River and Hudson Bay. Beluga whale-watching, beach clean-up, children's activities and an Oceans Film Festival will be held to promote marine awareness and education.

In order to fully utilize the resources of the Churchill River, Oceans Day will be held on July 4-6 in Churchill. The river should be fully opened up by then allowing for community access, including free beluga whale-watching tours on the Sea North II.

A science and arts fair will kick-off Oceans Day on Friday. This event is designed to showcase youth talent and education in the north. Science projects, art displays and career opportunities will all be included in this display at the Town Complex. An ongoing marine focused website will be launched at this event as well.

The Oceans Film Festival will run for the entire weekend. Each evening will include a guest speaker and several short films about oceans and life in the north. The National Film Board of Canada will sponsor this free event.

Saturday includes children's activities based on the ProjectWild: BelowZero program as well as various traditional knowledge demonstrations. This will be based from Cape Merry at the mouth of the Churchill River and will run in conjunction with the Sea North tours.

A shore lunch, beach clean-up and community walk will be held on the final day. All events for Oceans Day 2003 are designed to promote community participation and youth education.

A portion of the budget has been set aside for promotion (including t-shirts, mail-outs, website, etc) as well as outreach to various school and youth groups.

Integrated Management Planning for Hudson Bay: An Overview

Presenter: Helen Fast, Integrated Management Coordinator
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This is our fifth meeting so it is a good time to look back and see how far we have come. It is also a good time to look forward. This will help us plan our next steps and allow the new people at the table to participate more effectively. During the next half hour I want to review three questions:

1. How did the HBOWG come to be?
2. Why was the HBOWG created?
3. What have we been doing and where are we going?

1. How did the HBOWG come to be?

A group of 150 people who care about Hudson Bay met in Winnipeg in 2000. A lot of people from the Kivalliq Region attended. David Alagalak spoke, as did Bert Dean, Tongola Sandy, and others. Nunavut Government and Federal Government people spoke also. Together we discussed how we could plan for the future of Hudson Bay. After that meeting we met with the Kivalliq communities and Churchill to make sure they had a chance to tell us what is important to them. We learned that coastal communities want a long-term plan for the Bay, and they want to be part of that plan. So, in October 2001 about 40 people met in the Siniktarviq Hotel in Rankin Inlet and formed the Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group. This is our fourth meeting as a Working Group.

2. Why was the HBOWG created?

The HBOWG is an example of a new form of government. It has come about in part because the world has become a more complicated place. Let me explain what I mean by giving you a few examples:

i. The environment is becoming more complicated.
For example, how will we be affected by climate change? How can a hunter in Arviat know when it is safe to travel if his traditional knowledge of weather and storms is no longer correct? How will the changes in Hudson Bay affect the farmers in southern Manitoba? What crops will grow under dryer (and maybe warmer!) conditions.

ii. We have new questions about our health.
Hunters in the north are seeing miss-shapen or oddly colored fish and asking whether they are safe to eat. We know people are wondering about the health of caribou, and seals with unusual coats. Are they safe to eat? In southern Canada we may worry whether the swarm of mosquitoes that attacked us in the

garden last night was carrying West Nile virus. Is it safe to walk outside in the summer?

iii. The economy is more complicated.
How can jobs be created here in the north so that northern children can raise their families and have a good life-style? How will a warmer climate affect the possibility of a northern economy such as tourism? What about mining?

iv. The legal system is more complicated.
Fifteen years ago we did not have Nunavut. Today we have a vast decentralized NU government and sophisticated co-management arrangements with the Federal Government. Five years ago DFO (Fisheries and Oceans) had 1 lawyer. Today I am told we have 40 lawyers.

v. Information is more complicated because there is so much more of it.
Many of us have email and internet. With a few clicks of the mouse we can learn a lot about Nunavut, and even Arviat. With one click of the mouse I learned that "Arviat means a place of the bowhead whales", and that "Arviat is a small settlement which lies on the western shores of Hudson Bay, some two hundred miles north of Churchill."
We can learn about the South China Sea, about Timbuktu just as easily. But there are only so many hours in the day. How do we decide what information we want to read? How do we use that information to answer some of our complicated questions?

vi. Finally, Government has become more complicated. Many government leaders in Ottawa and across the country have come to realize that they cannot answer all the complicated questions Canadians are trying to answer. Top-down control does not help us know which web sites to visit, when it is safe to travel, when our food is safe to eat, or whether that crow in my spruce tree has been infected with a virus.

So governments are changing. In the past they wanted to answer our questions. Now governments recognize that the questions are so complicated that everyone must come to the table and work together to answer them. One way of thinking about this is to say that governments used to row the boat, now they are steering the ship.

The Oceans Act we talked about last September at our meeting in Churchill is an example of this new type of government. The Oceans Act tells us to bring all the people who have knowledge of Hudson Bay together to draw up long term plans for the Bay. The Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group is an example of this new model of government. The word to describe this form of government is *governance*. The more we are able to work together in planning for the future of Hudson Bay, the less we will need to rely on the courts or on outsiders to tell us how this should be done.

3. What have we been doing and where are we going?

The steps to planning for Hudson Bay include:

1. Building a community and learning what matters to each other;
2. Deciding which questions are most important; and
3. Working together to have those questions answered.

We are working on all three of these steps at the same time. In other words, we don't finish one before we start working on the next one.

1. <u>We have been building a community and learning what matters to each other</u>
   We are learning how to be a community. We have learned that building a community depends on building relationships and becoming friends. In 1999 we celebrated Oceans Day in Rankin Inlet with a traditional feast. We played with the children and learned (watched) others do the two-step. In 2000 we listened to each other at our formal and polite meetings in Winnipeg. In 2001 we met with the communities and got down to serious and sometimes less polite conversations. There were times we misunderstood each other. Sometimes there were even angry words. But we parted friends and we were wiser because of what we had learned. Since then we have had more meetings to talk and learn. Last September we toured Churchill and ate pastries in Gypsies cafe. Yesterday we visited some of the local industries in Arviat. Last night we partied together again and those of us who are coordinated square danced. Slowly and surely we are building a community.

2. <u>We are deciding which questions are most important</u>
   While we have been building our community we have talked about which questions need to be answered. We have identified four main questions to start with:
   i. Climate change and how it affects coastal communities;
   ii. Sharing information and ensuring Kivalliq communities are part of research activities in Hudson Bay;
   iii. Economic development that provides jobs so that young people can stay in the north; and
   iv. Learning more about the health of the animals and water in the Bay.

3. <u>We are working together to answer these most important questions</u>
   What progress have we made so far in answering these important questions? Well, as you know, they are complicated questions and not easy to answer. However, the "*Governance"* Community of Hudson Bay has been able to make a start.

   i. Sharing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and using it to help us answer questions: The theme of this meeting is traditional ecological knowledge. We are learning from experts such as David Alagalak and Stewart Hill about how we can use TEK to understand the Hudson Bay. We have a TEK committee

which is drafting a policy for sharing TEK of Hudson Bay. Miriam will talk about this tomorrow.

ii. Sharing information: The people around this table are part of the Hudson Bay "*Governance*" Community. We already know more than we did a couple of hours ago about who is doing what, and where we can learn more. We have a communications committee which is finding ways to share information more widely. Members of the HBOWG routinely talk about this project with other people where they work. As well, Steve has a web site where people can learn about our activities.

iii. Economic development: Thanks to Brock the economic development committee has a draft economic development framework that will help us work on planning for economic development. We will also be learning about economic development from the marine transportation side of things tomorrow when both NU and DOT (Department of Transport) explain their responsibilities in Hudson Bay.

iv. Climate change: We have a young researcher from the University of Manitoba here. Darren Thomas will be returning to Arviat to work with the community to study climate change. Darren will talk more about this tomorrow.

Secondly, the University of Manitoba together with the University of Laval in Quebec has made a detailed application to study climate change in Hudson Bay. This proposal is part of a larger study of the Arctic called ArcticNet (See Appendix A). If approved, this study would last for seven years, and would fund about $10M in research for Hudson Bay. The study would include the social (people); economic (shipping and hydro-electric) and health aspects of climate change as well as the currents, ice, water quality and marine mammals. The Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group has been asked to participate in this research. If funded, we will expect to receive $1M to get more students like Darren to study our questions. As well, there will be funding for community-based research and travel to support it.

We expect to know in July if we are successful.

v. The health of the animals and water in Hudson Bay: We have talked about these questions a number of times. Ole Nielsen, a specialist in diseases of marine mammals traveled to the communities with us. A scientist from DFO, Gary Stern who studies contaminants presented to us in Churchill. Don Cobb has talked about the MEQ (marine environmental quality) program before. He will talk about it again as soon as I sit down. Deciding how to move forward on this question will be the focus of the committee meeting later today.

When we come together we share what we know and what we have learned. As we do so we become a team of experts. As a team we will be much stronger than we would be

alone. As we learn about each other we can build a plan together for how we want to manage Hudson Bay. As you will see from the agenda, we are beginning to draft a plan. A number of the presentations made during this meeting will form the basis for part of this plan.

ArcticNet: Research Proposal

As mentioned earlier, the HBOWG has been asked to participate in a climate change research study (ArcticNet) together with the Universities of Manitoba and Laval. The proposal is divided into 4 themes, with specific projects under each theme. One of the themes is entitled, "Managing the Largest Canadian Watershed in a New Climate: Land-Ocean Interactions in Hudson Bay." Dr. David G. Barber (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Helen Fast (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) are the co-leaders of this theme.

Theme Summary

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has indicated the polar regions, and in particular Hudson Bay, are very sensitive to global scale climate variability and change (IPCC, 2001). In order to fully understand the complex interrelationships amongst the physical, ecological, social and medical characteristics of Hudson Bay and her People we require a multidisciplinary network focused around detailed experimentation and time series measurements of all aspects of the system.

Over the first four years, this theme will document the present links between environmental change, health and economy within Hudson Bay. Linkages with heavily impacted southern watersheds and the role water regulation plays in the processes of Hudson Bay will illuminate the complex two-way connections between the subarctic and southern Canada. Key indicators of change and variability will provide the background necessary to make effective policy, management and governance decisions by all levels of government. Direct coupling between physical scientists and stakeholders in the communities, and elsewhere, will ensure integrated management decisions are based on policy relevant science.

Project Summary

Under this theme, one of the projects is entitled "Engaging Local, Scientific and Government Partners in Ocean Co-management (H. Fast, F. Berkes, D. Cobb, D. Alagalak, M. Fleming, M. Manseau, S. Nickels). The objective of this project is to develop and implement mechanisms for engaging local, scientific and government partners in the co-management of Hudson Bay marine resources. The active participation of residents of northern coastal communities is recognized to be a cornerstone of effective ocean management in Canada. One increasingly important basis for government decisions in the north is traditional knowledge (or Inuit Qaujumajatuqangit, IQ for short). In practice, however, hunters are commenting that their IQ is becoming less reliable in helping them predict conditions and events that are occurring on the land, ice and water. Traditional values are further being eroded by a growing lack of confidence in the safety of traditional subsistence foods. A burgeoning population and lack of economic opportunities are compounding these difficulties. Consequently, northerners are

vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on a number of fronts, and their capacity to participate in co-management processes is being severely challenged.

To begin to address these conditions northerners require ready access to information. We will develop a model for sharing scientific information by drawing on directly relevant information produced in 4.2 (human vulnerability), which will be used to help hunters and travelers understand what adaptations are needed in the changing climate. Information gathered in 3.4 (contaminants cycling) and 3.5 (contaminants) will be interpreted and provided to the communities to help them evaluate uncertainties about contaminant loads in subsistence food supplies. Projects 3.8 (shipping), 3.11 (hydroelectric) and 4.5 (maritime transport) will provide information to will help northerners assess opportunities for economic development.

In addition to being able to access information, northerners must be given the opportunity to become partners with government officials and with social, biological, physical and medical researchers. As a first step, we will design and implement communication processes that will ensure that communities are informed of ArcticNet activities over the life of the network. Five *Nunavummiut* hunters with a respected IQ knowledge of Hudson Bay will spend a week on the Franklin. This will provide direct opportunities for collaboration and exchanging information with natural scientists. Northerners will join the cadre of ArcticNet scientists by conducting community based monitoring projects of key indicators at areas of interest identified by the community. Using a team approach, *Nunavummiut* youth will be trained to conduct this research by elders and scientists. In this way, information from the community (micro) scale will be brought together with the satellite (macro) scale. A more complete understanding of change will result than would be possible with one view alone.

Northerners require economic stability if they are to have sufficient leisure time and energy to participate in decision-making processes. New opportunities for economic development are key to ensuring that the rapidly growing northern population is financially capable of participating in ocean management. We will evaluate the potential for economic growth as it relates to climate change, work to identify opportunities for marine resource development, and engage northerners in identifying the most viable options.

In sum, this project seeks to involve northerners in making adaptations appropriate to their circumstances, and so encourage them to participate in shaping their future. Ultimately the establishment of effective ocean co-management processes in Hudson Bay will be enhanced if northerners, governments and researchers are able to develop a viable and on-going forum for exchanging ideas, knowledge and values. We will continue to develop the network of local, government and scientific agencies and individuals with interests in Hudson Bay, building on the Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group (WG). Research proposals will be vetted to this WG, and the WG will provide logistical, intellectual and moral support for the research undertaken.

Setting Ecosystem Objectives for Hudson Bay

Presenter: Don Cobb, Marine Environmental Quality Coordinator
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Marine Environmental Quality is a statement of the overall condition of the marine ecosystem. It considers things such as: the biological community (e.g. fish, mammals and invertebrates and their health, abundance, reproduction, etc.), the natural physiographic features (e.g. water column, seascape, etc.), climatic factors (water temperature and ice), and physical/chemical conditions (e.g. contaminants, salinity, nutrients). MEQ should link directly to Integrated Management or Marine Protected Plans.

The term Marine Ecosystem is a geographical area (e.g. Hudson Bay) that includes all animals and plants, and how they interact with each other and the environment.

MEQ examines the environmental aspects that would be included within an IM plan, while other social/economic aspects could still be assessed by other aspects of the IM plan.

The Hudson Bay workshop and community tours helped to identify concerns about the health of the Hudson Bay. Issues ranged from contaminants and disease in animals, to climate change.

Setting ecosystem objectives help to identify important aspects that should not be compromised regardless of the activities allowed in an Integrated Management Plan. An example, using contaminants, was provided of how broad objectives can be set, and then more specific objectives can lead to selection of indicators and an eventual monitoring program. This could include things already being monitored by other agencies, or DFO. There is not always the need to start up new monitoring programs.

In the afternoon we conducted a working group on Ecosystem Objectives. We discussed whether this was the place to begin setting objectives, and decided we could start, but that it would be very preliminary given the short time, and need to include other members of communities and scientists. We began by examining three examples of environmental aspects: biodiversity, productivity and physical/chemical aspects of the ecosystem. We had a lot of discussion on what the terms mean, and how they could be interpreted into Inuktitut, and decided that a simpler starting approach would make more sense. We came up with 4 possible "overarching" objectives based on an evolution of discussion. These four objectives were presented back to the rest of the Hudson Bay Working Group. A vote was taken to get a sense of how the group as a whole thought about the wording:

1. "Taking care and sustaining the animals and plants and the environment for which they exist" (0 votes);

2. "Taking care and sustaining all living things in the Hudson Bay environment" (11 votes);

3. "Taking care of the environment and food chain so wildlife may survive and sustain" (4 votes); and

4. "Taking care and sustaining living things and habitat connected to Hudson Bay" (4 votes).

These four objectives can be presented again at a more focused meeting, which would involve participation of a larger group of coastal community members, and scientists. The working group decided that a couple of days would be needed to further detail objectives. We suggested a priority be given to a meeting in the new fiscal year.

A Traditional Knowledge Protocol

Presenter: Miriam Fleming, Environmental Committee
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The intent of the presentation was to review and receive input from meeting participants on a framework for the meaningful inclusion of traditional knowledge in the integrated management planning efforts of the Hudson Bay Oceans Working Group (HBOWG). The framework was designed on the basis of discussions that the traditional knowledge committee held in the September 2002 working group meeting.

The amended purpose of the traditional knowledge protocol is "To use traditional knowledge to build a relationship of trust between the holders of traditional knowledge and the Hudson Bay Oceans Working Group for providing and using indigenous and local knowledge in the affairs and activities of the working group."

The traditional knowledge protocol includes definitions for traditional knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge and management systems, Hudson Bay, integrated management and integrated management planning. Working group members acknowledged suitability of the traditional knowledge definition for purposes of the HBOWG and commented that the definition for Hudson Bay was a good starting point.

The second objective of the traditional knowledge protocol was amended as follows: "To use traditional knowledge and science together for addressing questions of ecological importance in the Hudson Bay marine, coastal and watershed areas".

Of the five protocol principles, the third principle has been reworded to "Trust and respect are necessary for the sharing and use of traditional knowledge" and the fourth principle was amended as follows: "Traditional knowledge holders have the right to share or abstain in providing traditional knowledge".

The articles of protocol will include the following clauses:

- Provision of Traditional Knowledge
- Use of Traditional Knowledge in:
    - Meeting Proceedings
    - Research Activities
    - Economic Development Activities
        - Tourism and Games
        - Oil and Gas
        - Mineral Exploration
        - Hydroelectric Development
        - Fisheries and Wildlife

        - Forestry Practices
        - Housing and Community Infrastructure
    - Transportation Planning
    - Conservation and Marine Protection
    - Communications
- Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Ownership of Traditional Knowledge Information
- Benefit Sharing

The Chair requested that participants email their suggestions and comments on the inclusion of traditional knowledge according to the mandates of their respective committees to Miriam Fleming (mbfleming@polarland.com) by May 31, 2003.

Miriam requested a meeting with a sub-group of the HBOWG to draft the articles of protocol for review by the traditional knowledge committee at the next working group meeting.

Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for Arviat

Presenter: Darren Thomas, Graduate Student
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Why is it important to include communities in Climate Change Research? Communities can add to resources used to determine impacts of climate change. Western science collects scientific data regarding climate change, however the impacts or changes at the local level are often not collected or have data gaps. The local community can fill in these gaps and provide much needed information.

There are barriers to including communities in this type of research. The first barrier is data collection. Past histories of local communities, may affect the relationship the community will have with the researchers. Other barriers may include the usability of the data. Since local knowledge is a different knowledge base and a different type of information, western science may not be able to properly interpret the data and use it successfully.

This project has recognized the importance of community involvement, so it is asking the community of Arviat to be involved. This project has also recognized some of these identified barriers and is going to try to overcome them

The types of impacts likely to be felt as a result of climate change will affect the subsistence food sources, will have social and cultural impacts and will impact the economy including transportation and community infrastructure. The project will focus on changes in the subsistence food supply, social and cultural impacts, economic impacts including transportation and community infrastructure.

The objectives are to bring together knowledge of environmental change held by local people and scientists, to evaluate impacts of climate change on the community of Arviat from a socio-economic perspective, to help develop appropriate and effective management strategies for the community, to work with the community of Arviat and help to develop a Community Climate Change Action Plan.

The methods of conducting the research will be a literature review, local interviews, workshops with community members, community meetings and other methods that may be suggested by the HBOWG.

The project will be done under the guidance of the HBOWG. The project will establish and work with a community steering committee. The project will work with and train a local researcher. The project will be presented to the community at different stages to gather feedback on the progress of the project.

Transport Canada's Services and Responsibilities in Hudson Bay

Presenter: Narendra Mathur, Sr. Inspector – Marine Safety
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I would like to thank the Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group for inviting me to speak to your group about Transport Canada's Services and Responsibilities in Hudson Bay.

The Canada Shipping Act and its regulations govern domestic and foreign shipping operating in Hudson Bay. Recent changes to the Canada Shipping Act make it mandatory that every boat that is used to carry one or more passenger is now required to be inspected by Transport Canada Marine Safety and to carry an appropriate certificate of inspection.

There has been concern raised by the HBOWG and Nunavut communities regarding cruise ships in Hudson Bay. There are several mechanisms in place which serve to control and regulate cruise ship activity. The Port State Control is an instrument that is used to control foreign shipping in Canada. Canada inspects all foreign ships if they have not been inspected in the last 6 months. This inspection covers every aspect of the vessel from construction to life saving; fire fighting equipment and the competency of the master and crew onboard the vessel. Particular attention is paid to the operational readiness and pollution prevention aspects of the vessel.

Transport Canada's Marine Safety office in Winnipeg has the itinerary of cruise ships in advance. They adhere to a very strict schedule and do not divert from their intended route without first informing marine safety office in Winnipeg, MB. Also, cruise ships do not go into areas that are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act. This office is working in conjunction with the Dept. of Fisheries Oceans to advise cruise ships to limit noise pollution and not to disturb the nesting birds by sounding their horns, firing in the air, etc. just so that the passenger can get a view if the wildlife.

The local communities are requested to contact their Economic Development Officers (EDO) and raise their concerns of the cruise ships not using the local boats in the community for transporting their passengers to and from the vessel. The EDO can then contact the shipping company directly or its agent in Canada to ensure that the local community may benefit economically through the use of their local boats to transport the passengers to and from the ships.

Given the unique geography of the area and its remoteness, marine transport is one of the only cheap and efficient means of transporting goods in and out of the area. A study needs to be done to confirm the amount of goods and services flowing in and out of the

Hudson Bay area for a meaningful transportation structure to be set up. I am willing to share my professional knowledge with any person undertaking this type of research.

In conclusion, please call our office in Winnipeg, Manitoba if you see or witness any accident or pollution incident. Transport Canada will investigate and take the necessary action. Thank you very much

Government of Nunavut Marine Services and Responsibilities In Hudson Bay

Presenter: Alan Johnson, Transportation Planner, Marine and Roads
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Community Government and Transportation Services (CG&T) in Nunavut have undertaken the following marine programs for 2002-2003:

- $500K spent on variety of O&M, Capital;
- Routine maintenance to beach landings sites, breakwaters and docks in the Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regions;
- Completion of the Fish Habitat Study at the New Kugluktuk Re-supply Site ;
- Kugaaruk - Skid Way for the Marine Landing Craft;
- Kimmirut Port and Road Pre Feasibility Study;
- Final design of Clyde River Breakwater / docking facilities; and
- Hydrographic Charting continues for various projects; Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Repulse Bay

Annual repairs are required for these various stations due to natural occurring actions, such as:

- Wear and tear;
- Wind and wave action;
- Tidal cycles; and
- Ice formation, movements, frost, and annual ice breakup.

Some of these damages include:

- Repairs of structural deadman;
- Gravel Fill, surface repairs;
- Site rock removal / beach cleanup;
- Armour rock repairs; and
- Dock planks/boards/steel/concrete repairs.

We are currently undertaking a Kimmirut port and road feasibility project that would consist of the establishment of an ocean port at Kimmirut with a connecting 153 km all weather road to Iqaluit. The project has been issued and the study is underway.

Another one of our projects is the Bathurst Inlet road and port project. The feasibility and environmental studies are nearly completed at a cost of 6 million dollars. The application for land use permit and water license was filed April 2002. The environmental assessment and permitting procedures are to be completed by mid 2004 and the road and port construction is to start in the fall of 2004.

There has also been a lot of interest in a proposed Kivalliq to Manitoba Road. The Governments of Nunavut and Manitoba have signed an MOU to conduct a feasibility study. 5 potential corridors have been identified. A route selection study funded by the Nunavut, Manitoba and the Kivalliq Inuit Association is required to confirm the preferred corridor.

Some of our future marine programs include:

- Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) – All communities along the East Baffin Harbours (SCH) are requesting upgrading to their marine facilities to enhance this major fishery;
- Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) - Hall Beach is requesting new marine facilities;
- Kivalliq - Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake and Repulse Bay are requesting new marine facilities. Coral Harbour and Whale Cove require improvements to their re-supply push outs and breakwater;
- Kitikmeot - Taloyoak is requesting new marine facilities; and
- Kitikmeot - Gjoa Haven needs a new breakwater.

One of the new developments affecting the Kivalliq Region is the departure of the Northern Transportation Company Limited (NTCL). NTCL had provided Kivalliq general cargo and fuel delivery service after 28 years. Public Works is currently new proposals

Climate Change is affecting ice patterns all across the Arctic. As a result, more and more people are interested in traversing the Northwest Passage. In 2002 female sailors from France were the first all female crew to cross the Northwest Passage (West – East).

Thank you very much for your time and attention. Alan.

Rankin Inlet Peregrine Falcon Project – 2002 Status Report

Presenter: Michael Setterington, Wildlife Biologist
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The *tundrius* race of Peregrine Falcons is a COSEWIC-listed species of Special Concern. These birds are predators at the top of the food chain, and the health and general status of this population may therefore be a good indicator of the general health of the ecosystem upon which it depends for its survival.

This is a migratory species where individuals fledged in Rankin Inlet have been recovered throughout central and eastern United States, Texas, and as far away as Uruguay. Long-term data population status and reproductive data is relatively easy to collect and manage because the population is easily accessible from the Rankin Inlet.

The Rankin Inlet Peregrine Falcon Project has been conducted by a variety of research partners and the GNWT/GN since 1982. Until 1996, MSc and PhD candidates from the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan conducted and managed the project and the GNWT/GN provided field equipment and some resource funding. Annual reports and data were regularly submitted to either the Kivalliq Regional Biologist or the GNWT Raptor Biologist.

Research projects included detailed life history studies, pesticide contamination, diet analysis, and return rates of banded birds. The long-term data set comprises number of occupied territories/year, the number of pairs to produce young, and the total number of young fledged/number of young banded. Since 1996 when academic involvement ended, the project has continued on an ad-hoc basis and no monitoring was conducted in 2001.

There is continued interest by the Nunavut Wildlife Service (NWS) in this project because: 1) of the high level of community involvement and awareness; 2) the *tundrius* Peregrine Falcon is a Species of Special Concern whose management falls under the jurisdiction of the NWS, and we need to maintain some level of understanding of the status of this species in Nunavut; and 3) the project is very cost effective and the monitoring data that is collected is scientifically valid.

The long-term objective of this project is to monitor and maintain an in-house knowledge base of the status of a species of special concern in Nunavut. By collecting long-term data on territory occupancy, survival rates (band returns) and production in discrete Peregrine Falcon populations such as Rankin Inlet, Hope Bay, and Kugluktuk, the NWS can effectively (i.e., economically and logistically) monitor and report on the general status of a Species of Special Concern in Nunavut. By having this information readily available, NWS will be able to competently address some concerns for this species as potential

disturbance and threats to habitat and behaviour increase due to increasing development activities throughout Nunavut.

The 531km^2 study area is within an 18km radius of Rankin Inlet NU. The study area is defined by a boundary encircling a 3.3km radius of the outermost nesting territories in the population [following a method used by Ratcliffe (1980)]. The 3.3km radius is based on the mean inter-nest distance of Peregrine Falcons in Rankin Inlet (Court 1986). Potential nesting habitat within the study area is limited because approximately 294km2 (55.4%) of the study area is comprised of Hudson Bay and freshwater lakes and rivers.

The entire area is accessible by snowmobile and ATV during the spring, and boat and ATV during the summer. Because of its small size and relatively gentle terrain, it is logistically simple to systematically search the entire study area for known and new territorial pairs. Because nest sites in Rankin Inlet are on cliffs that are only 7 to 30m high, all sites are readily accessible for collecting productivity data and live capture of chicks (some basic rope climbing is required at only four sites).

The field season consisted of two field sessions. The first session (5–19 June) was timed to locate and determine territory occupancy, and to identify returning banded adult birds. Transportation was primarily by snow machine on sea ice, but also required a few days use of ATVs. One Rankin Inlet resident (Andy Aliyak) was employed as a field assistant for that session. The second session (2–12 August) was timed to determine the number of pairs that produced young, and to band young birds near fledgling. Blood samples were taken from a number of young birds at the request of a graduate student at Queen's University investigating genetic differences between races of Peregrine Falcons throughout North America.

Another Rankin Inlet resident (Tittaq Komaksiutiksak) was employed to band birds and operate the boat — the primary mode of transport for the summer session. The Rankin Inlet Wildlife Officers (David Oolooyuk and Raymond Mercer) provided logistical support and the use of a snow machine and 4x4 ATV.

To gain a better understanding of the status of Peregrine Falcons throughout Nunavut, effective monitoring schedules should be rotated throughout these populations. Rankin Inlet would remain the most intensively studied populations (including territory occupancy surveys and banding), while Kugluktuk, Hope Bay and Frobisher Bay population surveys can be limited to territory occupancy surveys.

Mid Canada Research Institute

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I found the Arviat meeting very stimulating. It was good to see the energy and enthusiasm to improve conditions in the Hudson Bay area.

Looking back on the committee issues and concerns, I note that climate change is included by all four committees as a major concern, and of course that hits home, since one of my main interests these days is Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation.

I particularly noted the discussions of protocols around the use and ownership of TK, especially in the many areas of economic development and scientific research. I still believe that the concept of the Mid Canada Research Institute (MCRI) that I talked about at the meeting, which works nationally across the entire Boreal Region will help to expand upon and resolve some of the TK issues to the benefit of the residents of Hudson Bay.

For your information, I attach a short paper that I spoke from at the recent Western Aboriginal Business Summit in Saskatoon. This describes the concept of MCRI, for which we now are planning for implementation, and have put together a start-up fund totally in excess of $1M.

1. Background

Back in 1967, Major-General Richard Rohmer advocated the Mid-Canada Corridor Concept, a national developmental strategy which would encompass the entire Canadian Boreal region, from Newfoundland to the Yukon. Acres Limited was retained to carry out a concept study and published their report, entitled Mid-Canada Development Corridor, in 1967. Following this event, the Mid-Canada Corridor Conference was held in August, 1969 at Lakehead University, as a means of public consultation and scholarly discussion of the Acres report. The concept fell by the wayside shortly thereafter.

In 2001, the Hon. Rick Laliberte, MP for Churchill River, came up with his corresponding concept, and began to redevelop the concept, with the full cooperation and help of General Rohmer and Professor Emeritus from University Laval, Louis-Edmond Hamelin. In August 2001, Mr. Laliberte promoted this concept at his Second River Gathering in Beauval, Saskatchewan. He discussed the common heritage of Canada's remote northern Aboriginal communities and their dependence upon the rivers and river basins for their livelihoods. Northern Aboriginal community leaders voiced their opinion

that considerable new knowledge and research was need for them to ensure the sustainability of their communities in the Boreal Region in the face of pronounced Global Change. Owing to previous connections of the Director of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI) with northern Saskatchewan Development, CCI was selected to mentor the development of a Mid-Canada Research Institute (MCRI). MCRI would be a virtual institute to concentrate on community-based research, with projects organized in collaboration with the academic community as needed, and training provided on an as-needed basis within communities to allow community members to participate in the research projects.

2. MCRI Mandate

The MCRI mandate will be to identify community-based solutions and innovation in order to maximize local and national socio-economic benefits from the resource-rich Mid-Canada region.

From the outset is was envisaged that MCRI would be led by the mentorship of CCI at the University of Alberta, and that MCRI would network with existing institutes, universities and colleges across Canada to address regional and community knowledge needs in health, housing, economic sustainability, education and training. A preliminary organization chart of MCRI is included on the following page. The full Proposal for MCRI of June 2002, generated by CCI under contract to the federal Privy Council Office and entitled Mid Canada Research Institute: Implementation Proposal, Mid-Canada Project, 2002-2004, was discussed with positive feedback and support from the Prime Minister, and from Ministers Goodale, Martin, Copps, Rock, Mitchell, and Owen, among others.

3. Next Steps

Dr. David Malcolm of CCI has prepared a project to develop a detailed project plan or Business Plan to implement MCRI, including the incorporation of the MCRI and discussions with the provincial governments in the Boreal Region of Canada, with funding expected to be provided by Western Economic Diversification (WED) over a period of approximately five months, including community consultations. Following the delivery of the MCRI project plan, and based upon the financial resources recommended in that plan, WED will work with other federal agencies, including such federal departments as Industry Canada, NRCan, DIAND and the Rural Secretariat to assemble a funding package to support the MCRI as a sustainable legal entity. The detailed work plan for the MCRI planning phase is presently under way.

It is likely that the funding for community based research will exceed $1,000,000 p.a. on an ongoing basis. This funding will allow regional and community needs all across the Boreal Region of Canada, from Labrador west to the Yukon and lower Mackenzie, to be addressed through community-based and community-driven research. The research needs anticipated are in such areas as housing, forestry, health, education and training, energy, mining, biodiversity, wildlife management, river systems and habitat, water quality, climate change, and social and economic development.