

## PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

The project is a growing partnership among the SRRB, DRWED, the Research Group for Arctic Parasitology (RGAP), the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC, University of Saskatchewan), the five Sahtu Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs), the five Sahtu schools, and *Enbridge Pipelines (NW) Ltd.* The University of the Arctic has written its support for the program, as have the Sahtu Divisional Education Council, and the Honourable Norman Yakeleya (MLA, Sahtu).

We received \$20,000 from NWT CIMP for this project in 2005; this is the third consecutive year that NWT CIMP has supported the project. Other funding agencies included the SRRB, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) *PromoScience*, and *Enbridge Pipelines (NWT) Ltd.* Interviews were funded by *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*, the *Climate Change Action Fund Natural Resources Canada*, and *The NWT Biophysical Study*. In-kind support was provided by DRWED, RGAP, CCWHC, and the SRRB.

## PROGRAM DELIVERY, 2005

**The four key sub-projects we focused on in 2005 were:**

- 1) ***Wildlife Health Monitor Program:*** Continue to establish partnerships with harvesters to provide an efficient means for long-term monitoring of wildlife body condition and health, to build community expertise in issues relating to wildlife health, and to directly involve local harvesters in research.
- 2) ***Youth Education:*** Provide information about the basic biology, ecology, management, and health of locally important species to school students, to promote school/student involvement in monitoring projects (e.g., birds, small mammals, snowshoe hares, etc), and to promote student involvement in science and careers in resource management.
- 3) ***Focus-group Interviews on the Historical Occurrence of Wildlife Disease:*** Participate in an information exchange with experienced harvesters about changes in wildlife condition and disease over several decades. This is an integral part of our long-term wildlife health and condition monitoring strategy.
- 4) ***Graduate Student Education:*** Involve veterinary graduate students to provide northern experiences and exposure to northern issues to future academic researchers, to continue to establish strong links between universities and communities, and to enhance the possibility of future monitoring projects.

**Program Logistics in 2005:**

The project took place from 18 January to 01 February 2005. With the number of people involved and the amount of equipment and supplies required for interviews, monitor training, and school laboratory sessions - road travel was the most economical and efficient means of visiting communities. Two four-wheel drive crew-cab pickup trucks and fuel were provided by RWED, as was most of the equipment used for lab dissections set up in community schools. Accommodation was in local commercial facilities, except for Tulita where the RWED office/base is suitable for accommodating 5-6 people and for preparation of meals.



A camp along the winter road between Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake

