

Communiqué

News and Information from the Fur Institute of Canada

Chairman's Message

The FIC was created in 1983, by the Council of Wildlife Ministers to be a venue where government, industry and NGO fur trade stakeholders can work together to face emerging issues of animal welfare, trade and communications.

And in my mind, having been Chair of this organization for the better part of 24 years, the FIC has served its members very well. From its humble beginnings until now, we have survived as a single issue organization, whether it be trap research and the humane trapping standards or seals. While we have had short-term success in a number of related fields, we have been largely driven by a few major issues. We jump from one issue to another as the need arises, and although we have been successful, it comes with a lot of pain, hard work and scraping together needed resources.

The time has come for the FIC to become broader in our mandate, with a clear vision for the future. One that embraces our experience and success, and offers our expertise to address the many wildlife related issues that our governments, trappers, hunters and anglers, and the scientific community continue to face. There will always be 'issues' that need to be addressed, but organizations based on only one or two will not be able to stand the test of time.

The FIC has provided a lot of value to its members over the years, using a unique and successful formula. Redefining

ourselves will be the key to a successful future, where it can continue to contribute to the wildlife area in a proactive, collaborative and professional way.

This was my message to the Institute's 28th Annual General Meeting held in Winnipeg in June. My remarks were part of a larger discussion held over the course of the meeting, on the opportunity to broaden our horizons beyond fur and embrace wildlife issues as a whole.

"The time has come for the FIC to become broader in our mandate, with a clear vision for the future."

This new vision for FIC was the result of the past year's strategic planning exercise. The time is right to consider this new approach. With the support of the membership attending our AGM, it was agreed to further explore broadening the mandate of the Institute that would set a new direction for the Institute in the year's ahead.

The AGM was also an opportunity to report to our members on the actions undertaken over the past year to meet the goals outlined in the FIC's current strategic plan. Part of this year's discussion was on ways in which to make the Institute even more efficient and effective while maximizing the

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FIC Sets its Sights on New Future Directions

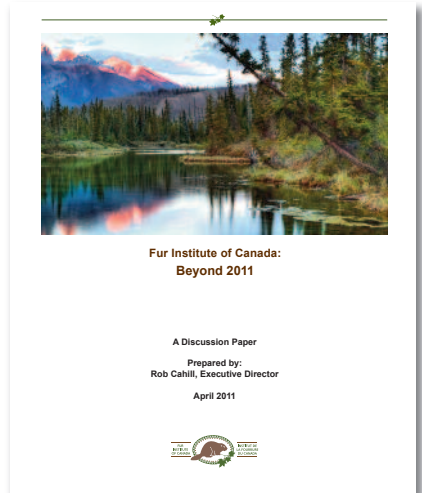


FIC Beyond 2011 is a discussion document developed through a strategic planning session with the FIC Board and developed by the FIC Executive Committee earlier this year. The document was circulated to FIC members and key stakeholders earlier this spring and was also extensively discussed at the FIC Annual General Meeting member forum in Winnipeg. The document sets a new course for FIC and recommends a broadening of the FIC mandate to include all wildlife, beyond fur bearing animals.

As the document explains, FIC is well positioned to expand its mandate and serve the needs of wildlife communities in the new millennium. Given the FIC's 28 year history in animal welfare

science, policy and practice, wildlife management education and applied methods, national harmonization, strategic policy analysis, government-NGO-industry liaison and communications, it is time for the Institute to build on these experiences and to evaluate our members' needs as to the future products and services in relation to broader wildlife management challenges.

The AGM members forum discussion concluded that this new strategic approach and a re-branding of FIC had merit and supported the Institute in pursuing the concept. The members' approval was recognized by the board of directors who have agreed to circulate the concept with a larger group of potential stakeholders in the coming



months and will be presenting it to the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee in the near future. FIC welcomes your comments which may be sent to info@fur.ca. Additional copies of the discussion document are also available on request.

New Stewards of Our Land Series Released

The *Stewards of Our Land* video project, first launched in late 2008, is designed to “put a face” to those involved in Canada's fur trade. The first series, featuring five Canadian trappers and a trap researcher have received nearly 37,000 YouTube views since their debut. This is in addition to direct access at the FIC website.

Production of Phase 2- Aboriginal profiles, began in Spring 2010. Filmed in the remote Cree communities of Northern Quebec, the series highlights the important role of traditional hunting, trapping and fishing to the Cree people. The series has been made possible by the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income

Security Board and was released earlier this spring. A total of six video and written profiles highlight the roles



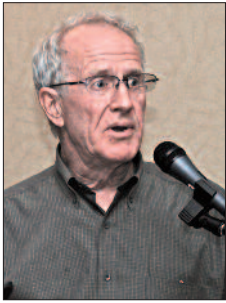
David Mianscum-Mistissini, Québec

played by our Aboriginal trappers and hunters in responsible wildlife use. Featured individuals deliver key

“This is my ancestor's land and I am still living and hunting here. Making a living from the outdoors has always been my livelihood. Hunting, trapping and fishing have always been my way of life.”

messages to a non-trade audience about sustainable use, culture and heritage, and respect for the land and animals. The video series is posted on the websites of both organizations as well as YouTube.

Fur Institute of Canada Announces 2011 Award Winners



Bob Carmichael



Simon Awa



Aaju Peter



Greg Linscombe



Rob Cahill presents to Bruce Williams

The Fur Institute of Canada is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's awards, presented at their Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on June 11, 2011.

Bob Carmichael, formerly with the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources was the recipient of the Lloyd Cook Award, which recognizes commitment to excellence in trapping, trapper education and public understanding of wildlife management. In his role with the Manitoba Department he ensured a strong and committed Manitoba Trappers Association, a first rate provincial trapper education program, and a 1970-74 Manitoba trap testing program. Bob also played a leading role in establishing the Fur Institute and continues to promote the need for programs to maintain the viability of the Canadian fur trade through research, trapper education and communications.

Simon Awa

The Jim Bourque Award went to Simon Awa, for his commitment to the sustainable use of wildlife resources, the recognition of Inuit and indigenous culture, promoting of the stewardship role of hunters and trappers in conservation and management of Canadian wildlife. As Deputy Minister for Environment

from 2003-2009, Mr. Awa passionately defended the rights of Inuit hunters and promoted sustainable resource use practices on a wide range of events and platforms. As a member of the European Delegations on behalf of Inuit and Canadian seal hunters he has forcefully argued that the politically motivated EU Seal Ban is harmful to both conservation and to Inuit sealers and their communities.

Aaju Peter

One of the world's foremost advocates for the right of Inuit, seal hunters, and women, Aaju Peter was the recipient of the Bernard Cahill Memorial Award, given to recognize the promotion of respect for people, animals and the environment. Residing in Iqaluit, Nunavut, she has appeared on National TV and published countless articles on the importance of sealing to the Inuit culture and socio-economic well being. As a Canadian delegate, she has spoken in opposition of the anti-sealing movement and its implications for Inuit to European legislators. Much of Aaju's tireless work on behalf of Inuit and the sealing industry has been done on her own initiative.

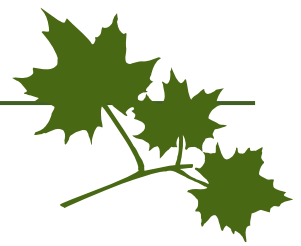
Greg Linscombe

The North American Furbearer Conservation Award, which recognizes innovation and excellence in furbearer

management and promoting pride in the fur industry, was given to Greg Linscombe. Over his 33 year career with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mr. Linscombe published 37 papers and helped pioneer the current Best Management practices development process for U.S. trappers. Mr. Linscombe worked extensively with Government negotiators in Washington and Ottawa, the National Trappers Association and various other fur industry elements to successfully replace the proposed EU fur ban with regulations that reflect scientifically-based sustainable and humane practices.

Bruce Williams, Chairman of the FIC stated, "I am pleased to recognize these worthy individuals for their outstanding examples of the work carried out to promote the wise and sustainable use of Canada's fur resources."

Further to these traditional awards, presented by the Fur Institute of Canada, Rob Cahill, Executive Director presented **Mr. Bruce Williams** with a Lifetime Membership Recognition, for his 24 years as Chairman of the FIC and dedicated, sage leadership of the organization through many challenging issues.



EU Seal Product Ban Legal Case Awaits Court's Schedule

The Fur Institute of Canada is working with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and other co-plaintiffs throughout Canada, Greenland, Norway, Namibia and the United Kingdom to overturn the EU seal product ban through the European General Court. The court action is complimentary to Canada's WTO challenge.

As reported at the FIC Annual General Meeting, the estimated conclusion of the two legal challenges and one appeal proceeding is as follows:

- 1st Application for Annulment, initiated Jan. 11th 2010 expected decision spring 2012
- Appeal for Interim Measures, initiated Dec. 14th 2010 expected decision fall 2011

- 2nd Application for Annulment initiated Nov. 9th 2010 expected decision winter 2012.

Legal fees for these challenges are being cost shared on a 50/50 basis between FIC and ITK plus contributions collected by other plaintiffs and supporters.

FIC Applauds Canada's Move to Protect Fair Trade Principles

Members of Canada's sealing community welcomed the news in February that the Canadian government would move to seek a World Trade Organization dispute settlement against the European Union's ban on trade in seal products.

According to the Fur Institute of Canada, the seal ban was a political expedient put in place despite the European Union's own legal opinions in 2009 that the proposed legislation would be indefensible at the World Trade Organization.

Rob Cahill, Executive Director of the FIC said, "the seal products ban is an issue of fundamental unfairness against a marginal group of Canadians." Mr. Cahill explained, even the EU's own legal advice admits this, but it did not dissuade their Parliamentarians from pushing the ban through. "If Canada allows this EU precedent to stand – that it's immoral to hunt and use seals, regardless of high standards for animal welfare and sustainability – then there is no telling which industry or group will be the next to suffer this kind of categorical discrimination", he added.

Following the February announcement by Canada, an application by Iceland to join the case as a third party member was approved at a WTO dispute settlement meeting on March 25th. Iceland is one of six countries where seal hunting is still practiced.

"The FIC is continuing to cooperate with Canadian departments to help provide information that would support Canada's cases."

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While the ban includes an exemption for seal products derived from hunts traditionally conducted by Inuit and indigenous communities for subsistence, the Inuit insist the move adversely affects them because it shrinks the market for the product. They also fear the exemption would not always be respected. The Canadian government says the EU ban doesn't contain an exemption clause for products from seals that have been killed humanely. Canada argues that

scientific evidence shows the country's seal hunt follows what it calls "rigorous" standards of animal welfare.

Meanwhile, The World Trade Organization said on April 21, it will rule on complaints brought by Canada and Norway against the European Union over Brussels' ban on the import of seal products. "A panel has been established," said a WTO spokeswoman, referring to a panel of arbitrators. Norway and Canada had filed separate complaints in 2009 but the WTO decided that it will merge the two cases. According to FIC's Sealing Committee, a decision from the WTO could take a year or more. The precedent setting challenge is being watched by the international wildlife community, as any final WTO decision will have tremendous impact on wildlife activities and international trade. The WTO also set up a second separate panel to hear a much older Canadian grievance about seal product import bans. The complaint is much the same as the one against the EU, but was levelled at EU members Belgium and the Netherlands in 2007, before the EU-wide ban was put in place.

A Unique Opportunity to Influence the Global Conservation Agenda



The first ever Canadian Forum for IUCN

Where: Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa

When: September 19 - 20, 2011

The Canadian Committee for the IUCN World Conservation Commission invites Canadian IUCN Members, Commission members and other interested Canadians to provide meaningful advice to IUCN at the

“...this Forum presents a unique opportunity for IUCN members in Canada to influence the global conservation agenda”

first ever Canadian Forum for IUCN. This two-day forum is in preparation for the next IUCN Conservation Congress to be held in Jeju, Republic of Korea on September 6-15, 2012.

Building on the outcomes of our Canadian Conservation Forum, on the second day of our event, Canadian IUCN

members will meet with each other, the IUCN Director General and our North American IUCN Councillors. We will provide our advice and input to guide IUCN's work over the next four years, and identify opportunities for Canadian IUCN member and Commission member participation in the IUCN programme.

According to FIC Executive Director and CCIUCN board member Rob Cahill, this Forum presents a unique opportunity for IUCN members in Canada to influence the global conservation agenda as we prepare for the Jeju IUCN Conservation Congress in 2012. The Forum will also help to develop a broader awareness of IUCN/CCIUCN membership and help identify challenging issues and priorities to the Canadian conservation/stewardship community. Additional information on this unique opportunity may be accessed at www.cc-iucn.org.

FIC-led Economic Analysis of Stewardship Activities in Canada released

In March 2011, a first of its kind report was released, which provides a preliminary overview of the economic impact of ecological stewardship, including job creation and contributions to rural economic development in Canada.

This case study report was prepared for Environment Canada by the Fur Institute of Canada and the Centre for Environmental Stewardship and Conservation to assist in the Government's habitat and biodiversity programs. The case studies reveal that the economic contribution of stewardship-based conservation activities may be grossly under-valued unless all factors such as ecological goods and services, carbon capture, voluntary contributions and

job creation are considered. For example, a financial investment of \$11 million in the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund created a combined economic benefit of

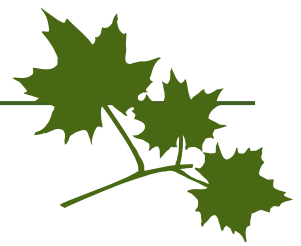
“...a financial investment of \$11 million in the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund created a combined economic benefit of almost \$100 million over the life of the program”

almost \$100 million over the life of the program. A series of recommendations relating to public policy needs are presented based on this preliminary review. To access the full report go to www.fur.ca/files/economic_impact_analysis_7_09_10.pdf

International Trap Standards Joint Management Committee to meet in Edmonton

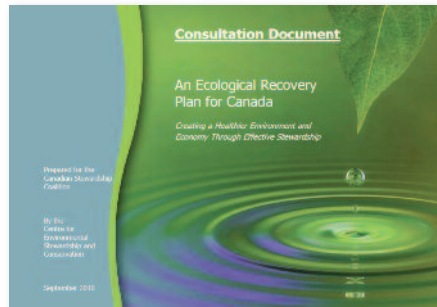
Following on the successful and productive meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2010, the Canadian delegation is pleased to host the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) this year. The JMC has been scheduled to take place October 4–5, 2011, in

Edmonton, Alberta, and will include a tour of the Vegreville Trap Research Centre. The Joint Management Committee was established under the Agreement on International Humane Trap Standards to annually report on progress and identify gaps on Agreement implementation among the signatory nations.



FIC Coalition Releases Ecological Recovery Plan for Canada

During 2010 the Canadian Stewardship Coalition, chaired by the Fur Institute of Canada, developed an Ecological Recovery Plan for Canada. Titled *Creating a Healthier Environment and Economy through Effective Stewardship*, the Plan is focused on strengthening community-based stewardship programs across Canada. The Plan contained in this consultation document addresses needs identified at five national stewardship conferences since 2000 by local, regional, provincial and national stewardship organizations that deliver



community-based conservation initiatives across Canada. The goal of the Plan is to ensure the continuing capacity of stewardship networks and organizations to maintain, restore and enhance Canada's natural capital,

biodiversity and wildlife habitat while sustaining the significant economic benefits of stewardship actions. This document will be used as the first chapter in an integrated Action Plan over the next decade, according to coalition chair Rob Cahill. The Canadian Stewardship Coalition is a partnership of non-government, government and private sector interests determined to reverse the decline in Canada's habitats and biodiversity. To read the full Plan, visit:

www.fur.ca/EC_eco_recovery_plan.php

Funding secured for trap research and development work

FIC has received funding approval under a five year agreement with Environment Canada to contribute toward Canada's leading-edge trap research and testing program. The agreement will provide the Institute's Trap Research and Development Committee with the stable funding needed to carry-on with its research and testing programs. The FIC committee is mandated to oversee trap research, testing and certification in Canada. Funding totalling slightly over \$1.1 million will be allocated evenly over five years (2011 to 2016). Since 1999 the FIC has coordinated the implementation of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) within Canada. This implementation includes harmonizing standards among all provinces, territories and appropriate federal jurisdictions. As a part of that mandate, FIC also manages and coordinates Canada's research and testing of existing and newly developed

traps. Testing traps is a requirement of the certification process under the international Agreement. In addition to the testing conducted at the Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures research centre, an extensive data base has been compiled by the centre's Trap

"Funding totalling slightly over \$1.1 million will be allocated evenly over five years (2011 to 2016)."

Effectiveness Research Team (TERT). This ever-expanding data base now contains some 632 animal/trap test results spanning more than 15 years of research. The TERT group of scientists and technicians are contracted by the FIC to carry out annual work plans developed by the Institute's Trap Research and Development Committee (TRDC) in cooperation with the provincial/territorial Canadian Wild Fur Managers Committee, which is then approved by

the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee. The plans identify and prioritize the research and testing needs both by species and by trap type.

TRDC Chair Randy Mersereau called the funding arrangement "a very important step in continuing to meet the committee's international commitments to humane trapping standards and Canada's obligations under the AIHTS." Executive Director, Rob Cahill added, the long term agreement will provide the assurance needed to carry out future research work plans and to reach trap certification goals. "The Institute's trap research and testing program, which is the most advanced in the world, is the engine that drives all aspects related to implementing the AIHTS Treaty and FIC appreciates the Government of Canada's recognition of the importance of this work," he said.



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2 nd Vice-Chairman: Dion Dakins	NuTan Furs Inc.
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Serge Larivière	Cree Hunters & Trappers Income Security Board
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Kirk Rankin	Canada Mink Breeders Association
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Anne Troake	Communications Committee
Brian Roberts	International Relations and Conservation Committee
Serge Larivière	Aboriginal Communications Committee
Dion Dakins	Sealing Committee
Lloyd H. Jones	Audit and Constitution Committee

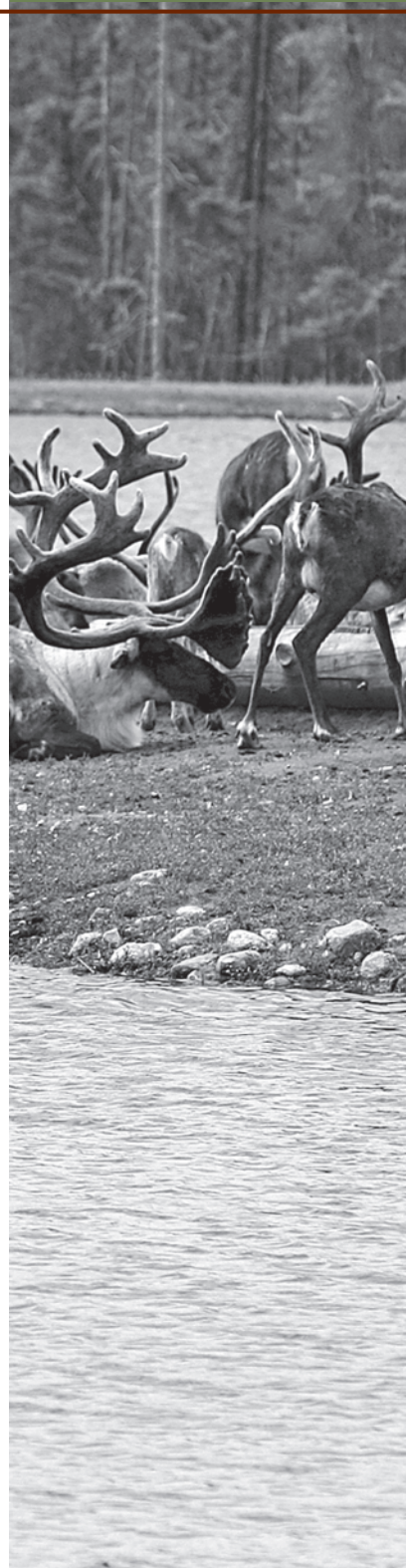
Executive Office:

Executive Director	Rob Cahill
Executive Assistant	Shirley D'Penha
Financial Manager	Louise Canning
Administrative Assistant	Valerie Labelle

Contract Staff:

Neal Jotham	Trap Research and Development Committee
Leslie Ballentine	Communications Committee

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