



TORNGAT
**WILDLIFE
PLANTS &
FISHERIES**
SECRETARIAT

**STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2014 - 2018**

**Torngat Wildlife, Plants
& Fisheries Secretariat**
P.O. Box 2050, Station B
Happy Valley - Goose Bay
NL, Canada A0P 1E0
T: 709.896.6780
F: 709.896.6786
www.torngatsecretariat.ca



Overview

Purpose

To identify the priorities for stewardship and education of wildlife, plants, and fisheries and their habitats in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, which will guide the Secretariat in its support to the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board.

For Whom This Strategy is Intended

For use by the Secretariat, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board, and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board.

Background on the Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat

The primary responsibilities of the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board are to establish total allowable harvests for non-migratory species of wildlife and for plants; recommend conservation and management measures for wildlife, plants, and habitat in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA); and to make recommendations in relation to the conservation of species, stocks of fish, aquatic plants, fish habitat, and the management of fisheries in the LISA.

The Secretariat is the implementation agent of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The Secretariat is a team of professionals based in Happy Valley-Goose Bay that provide financial management, logistical, project management, and analytical support to both boards.

Development of a Stewardship and Education Strategy

Work began in July 2013, when the Torngat Secretariat engaged Intervale Associates, a nonprofit organization with extensive experience in stewardship programming, to facilitate consultations, conduct one-on-one interviews, and write the strategy. Ten consultations were conducted in October, 2013: the communities of Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, and Nain;

Upper Lake Melville region; Nunatsiavut Government and Community Corporation representatives in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Northwest River; the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board; the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board; and the Torngat Secretariat staff. The strategy is a product of this background work, particularly the consultations. The following information and strategy were written by Kathleen Blanchard of Intervale.

Stewardship in the Context of Labrador Inuit Culture

Stewardship means, simply, people caring for the Earth and all living things, including people. It is about positive relationship, and it encompasses both an ethic and an action. Authentic stewardship is voluntary. Often the care is directed locally, where the impact is more meaningful. Stewardship can apply to resources, landscapes, and cultural artifacts.

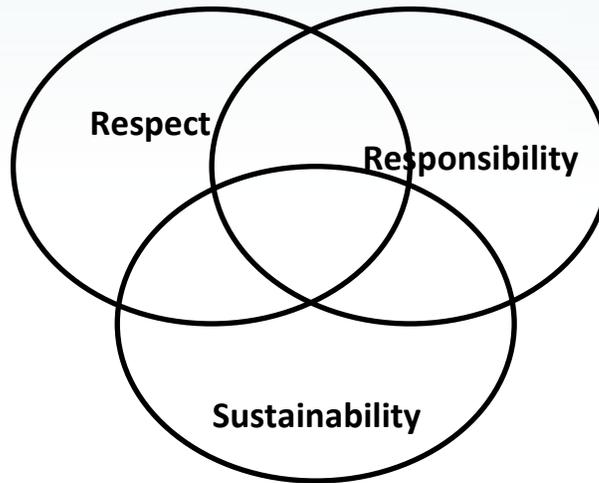
Stewardship is an integral part of the Labrador Inuit identity and culture. Experts have identified several Inuktitut words that refer to values or actions associated with stewardship, for instance, *paikitsiaguk* (take care of it), *kamasiak* (mindful observation), and *assikinniangu* (don't waste it). The Labrador Inuit have an important relationship with the fish, wildlife, and plants around them. This relationship is at the core of the Torngat Secretariat's strategy for stewardship and education.

The work of stewardship involves strengthening community values and feelings of responsibility at both the individual and community levels, where personal ethics and cultural norms or customary rules take effect. Stewardship and education programs will take a community-based approach: for the benefit of the people and built upon community values that support sustainable use. They will make abundant use of methods such as group dialogue, mentoring, and skills training.

Renewing a Culture Of Stewardship

**Objective 1. Give meaning
and voice to stewardship.**

**Objective 4.
Strengthen knowledge
and informed
decision-making.**



**Objective 2. Make
stewardship and education
a priority in the
management of wildlife,
plants, and fisheries.**

**Objective 3. Nurture youth
as leaders for stewardship.**

Conceptual Framework of the Stewardship and Education Strategy

Vision

Nunatsiavut thrives through stewardship.

Values

1. Respect for all living things. We respect that all living things have value and that they are influenced by natural laws that regulate the seasons, life cycles, migrations of animals, and the growth of plants. We respect the individual and collective rights of human beings, the preservation of heritage and culture, and the aspirations of a society. An important part of the Labrador Inuit identity is to live in respectful relationship with the land, sea, and living things around them. This relationship is at the core of stewardship.

2. Responsibility to care for the land and its people. The Labrador Inuit have the right to pursue and enjoy a traditional way of life within the larger context of sustainability of resources and the well-being of all their people. With that right comes responsibility. We are to help the Labrador Inuit care for their beautiful land and their people. That care extends to all Labrador Inuit, especially those in need, elders, children, and grandchildren.

3. Sustainability. We believe in the sustainable use of resources and that conservation takes priority where necessary, in order to prevent irreparable loss and to ensure the ability of future generations to utilize those resources. Co-management, collaboration, and stewardship are strategies we embrace in order to maintain the sustainability of resources.

Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the strategy is the renewal of a culture of stewardship, which has been an integral part of the Labrador Inuit identity for generations. This will be accomplished through strategies that link with traditions and customary rules for renewable resource management, while educating a generation of youth for environmental decision-making.

There are four main objectives to the strategy:

- 1) Give meaning and voice to stewardship;
- 2) Make stewardship and education a priority in the management of wildlife, plants, and fisheries;
- 3) Nurture youth as leaders for stewardship; and
- 4) Strengthen knowledge and informed decision-making.

Each is broken down into specific objectives that will be implemented through work plans and funding agreements.

Objective 1: Give Meaning and Voice to Stewardship

- 1.1 Promote the use of Inuktitut words and phrases that describe the ethical and practical dimensions of stewardship and provide tangible examples of their use in Labrador Inuit life.
- 1.2 Link Inuit identity to stewardship, by asserting traditional Inuit values and customary rules that manifest stewardship ethics and actions.
- 1.3 Showcase Labrador Inuit projects that model stewardship actions and champion exemplary Inuit leaders of stewardship.
- 1.4 Promote the diverse voices of stewardship: women and men, young and old, from each community, and various livelihoods.

Objective 2: Make Stewardship and Education a Priority in the Management of Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries

- 2.1 Make stewardship and education an essential component of all renewable resource management and implement strategies and actions with sufficient multi-year funding to enable them to achieve measurable outcomes for conservation and human dimensions.
- 2.2 Use human dimensions research to explore, describe, or explain human variables relevant to the development of management objectives and strategies in the context of Inuit culture.
- 2.3 Partner with all relevant parties, including Nunatsiavut, federal, and provincial governments, nongovernmental organizations and institutions, learning centres, communities, and schools, to strengthen the influence of stewardship and education on daily actions that affect wildlife, plants, and fisheries.
- 2.4 Support stewardship, education, and communications components of multi-year research or monitoring initiatives, for the purpose of increasing public understanding of the research and the rationale for management decisions. Facilitate the ability of communities, schools, educational programs, and media to access current information about the research.

Objective 3: Nurture Youth as Leaders for Stewardship

- 3.1 Create and support existing stewardship and education programs that enable all Inuit girls and boys to access traditional activities, learn life skills and best practices from role models, and gain Aboriginal ecological knowledge from elders.
- 3.2 Link stewardship and education to social, health, and well-being objectives for

Labrador Inuit youth, particularly those affected by poverty, mental health problems, or addiction. Nurture the positive aspects of stewardship and ensure benefits to those who need them most.

- 3.3 Advocate for Labrador-based stewardship content to school-based instruction and nonformal programs such as Hunter Education and Firearms Safety, and provide supplemental curriculum materials to the Nunatsiavut stewardship coordinator, curriculum advisors, teachers, and youth group instructors in Labrador.
- 3.4 Train and mentor Labrador youth by offering field and office internships. Continue to encourage their career development through the creation of an alumni program that promotes stewardship.

Objective 4: Strengthen Knowledge and Informed Decision-making

- 4.1 Create and support collaborative initiatives that nurture a future generation of Labrador Inuit that possesses the knowledge, skills, motivation, and experience to make informed decisions about the management of their wildlife, plants, and fisheries resources.
- 4.2 Build ecological literacy among all Labrador Inuit about Labrador species, ecosystems, environmental contaminants, and climate change, utilizing both Aboriginal ecological knowledge and science. Support collaborative efforts to identify essential concepts and skills and to disseminate knowledge.
- 4.3 Create opportunities for community leaders to witness first-hand the methodologies and results of field research that informs management decision-making. Empower them with knowledge and experience to inform their communities and contribute to

constructive dialogue about issues of importance to Labrador Inuit.

- 4.4 Provide communities and partner organizations with consistently timed updates. Acknowledge the contributions of participants to consultations, so that stakeholders see the results of their participation and are encouraged to remain active. Be more visible in communities and nurture positive relationships.

Implementation

The Secretariat will provide leadership and coordination on a strategic level, building an alliance of partners that will implement stewardship and education programs. The Secretariat will work collaboratively with Nunatsiavut Government and member parties of the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, as well as many other partners.

