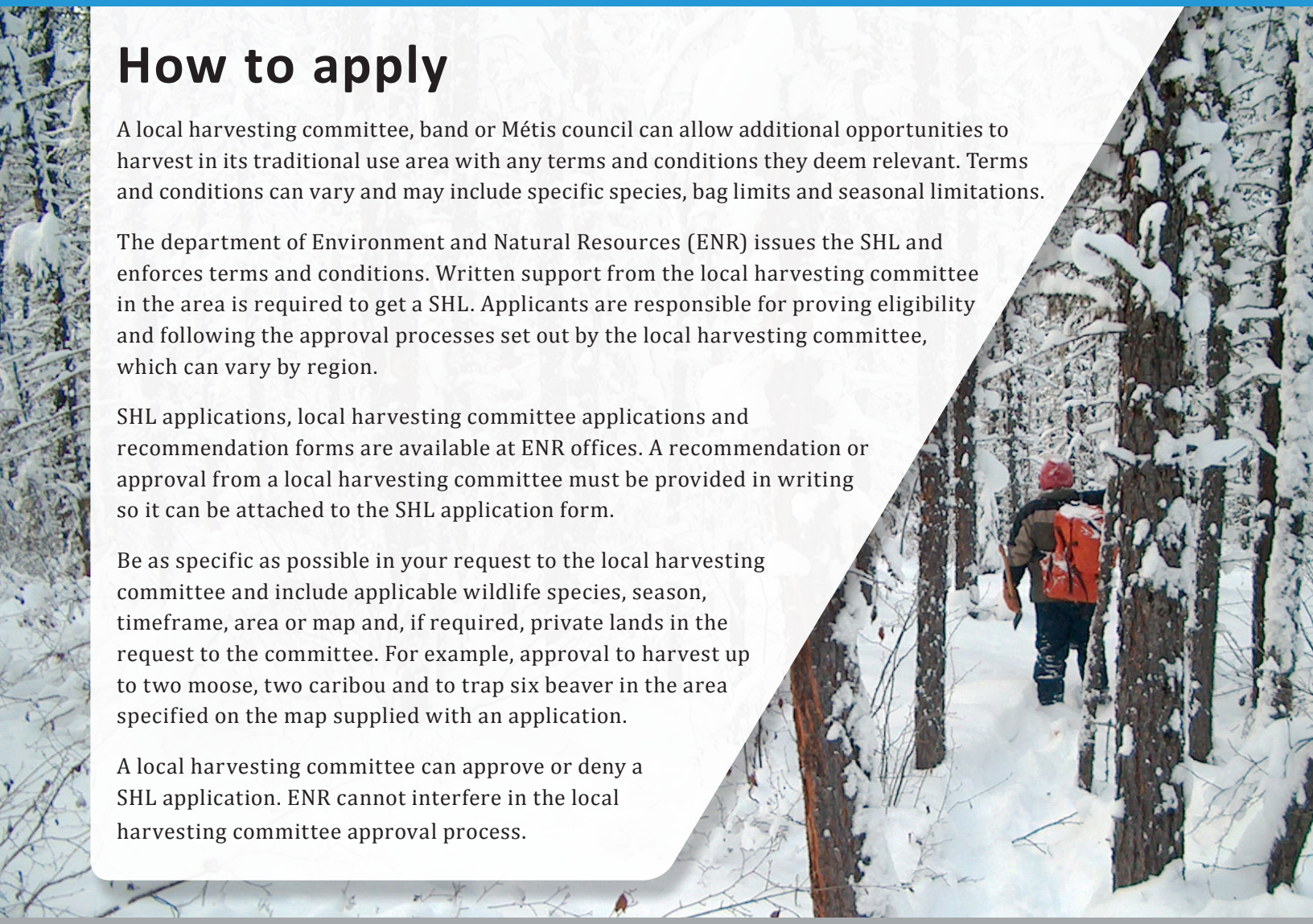
Government of
Northwest Territories

Special Harvester Licence

Information for applicants and local harvesting committees (including hunters and trappers committees, renewable resource councils, band or Métis councils)

Who is the licence for?

A Special Harvester Licence (SHL) can be issued to a person who does not have Aboriginal harvesting rights in an area but is supporting an Aboriginal family, living a subsistence lifestyle, or given permission to trap or harvest more than is allowed under a resident or non-resident hunting licence, or a General Hunting Licence.



How to apply

A local harvesting committee, band or Métis council can allow additional opportunities to harvest in its traditional use area with any terms and conditions they deem relevant. Terms and conditions can vary and may include specific species, bag limits and seasonal limitations.

The department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) issues the SHL and enforces terms and conditions. Written support from the local harvesting committee in the area is required to get a SHL. Applicants are responsible for proving eligibility and following the approval processes set out by the local harvesting committee, which can vary by region.

SHL applications, local harvesting committee applications and recommendation forms are available at ENR offices. A recommendation or approval from a local harvesting committee must be provided in writing so it can be attached to the SHL application form.

Be as specific as possible in your request to the local harvesting committee and include applicable wildlife species, season, timeframe, area or map and, if required, private lands in the request to the committee. For example, approval to harvest up to two moose, two caribou and to trap six beaver in the area specified on the map supplied with an application.

A local harvesting committee can approve or deny a SHL application. ENR cannot interfere in the local harvesting committee approval process.

Special Harvester Licences (SHL) in unsettled land claim areas

There may be overlapping local harvesting committees in areas without settled land claims. Only one local harvesting committee needs to approve a SHL application. Regional ENR offices will try to inform other overlapping local harvesting committees when a SHL applicant has an approved recommendation form.



Application refusal or non-response

Local harvesting committees should provide a response within 60 calendar days after receiving an application for a SHL. If no response has been received after 60 days, a written request from the applicant can be sent to the Minister of ENR to find out about the status of the application.

If a SHL application for furbearers on public lands in the Gwich'in or Sahtu settlement area is refused, the applicant may apply for a review of the refusal to the renewable resource board in accordance with article 12.4.7 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement* or article 13.4.7 of the *Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

There is no opportunity for appeal when an application is refused for private lands in the Gwich'in or Sahtú settlement area.

Outside the Gwich'in or Sahtu settlement areas, if an application is denied, an appeal can be made to the Minister of ENR in writing within 30 days and must include a statement containing the reasons for the appeal.

The Minister has 30 days, once the written request for appeal is received, to confirm the status of the application. If the local harvesting committee does not consider the applicant's application within 45 days after being contacted by the Minister, the applications will be considered rejected and another application can be submitted.



Exceptions and restrictions

A SHL cannot be used to harvest outside of harvest seasons, limits or conditions applicable to Aboriginal harvesters established in the *Big Game Hunting Regulations, Small Game Hunting Regulations* and *Trapping Regulations*.

All Special Harvester Licences expire on June 30 following the date of issue.



For more information

For more information, contact your regional or local Environment and Natural Resources office.

Fort Simpson	**867-695-7450**
Fort Smith	**867-872-6400**
Inuvik	**867-678-6650**
Norman Wells	**867-587-3506**
Yellowknife	**867-767-9238 ext. 53461**