



Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP)



What is CHAP?

The Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP) is funding provided once a year to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations (IGOs), renewable resource councils and hunters and trappers committees. Each organization chooses how to use the funds to support their members. The money can be used for hunting and trapping, promoting traditional practices, land-based livelihoods, and food security.

Why did we want to review it?

This program has been running for over 20 years and there have been many changes to the hunting and trapping environment in that time (including changing climate, rising fuel cost, fur prices, etc.). It's important to make sure that the program is useful and easy to access for the people who use it, and that the program funds are used in the best way possible.

How did we gather information?

We wanted to make sure we heard as many different views and ideas as possible. In 2019 we held open houses in 18 communities and offered a public survey to gather information on what is important to support sustainable livelihoods. During this engagement we heard that residents wanted CHAP to be reviewed.

In 2021, we then led a specific engagement on reviewing CHAP. Virtual meetings were held in with IGOs, renewable resource boards and council, hunters and trappers committees and the public to ask what they thought was working well in the program and what they thought could be done better. There were online public surveys, direct emails and an open phone line for the public to leave their feedback.



Summary of What We Heard:

- The program is useful and should continue, but could be improved
- Funding amounts are no longer enough to adequately help harvesters
 - Amounts have not gone up to match the rise in cost of living, supplies, and fuel rates
- Some organizations did not know about the program
 - Clarify and communicate clearly
- Clear and easy to understand guidelines on what and who is eligible for funding at the local level are needed
- Make reporting tools easier to use
 - Templates that are clear and easy to hand in
- Think about ways to:
 - Help people who are currently not living in their home community
 - Help new harvesters learn skills and get equipment and supplies
 - Educate youth on harvesting skills
 - Review guidelines more regularly to make sure they are inclusive and fair
 - Give funding more than once a year
 - use funds to buy larger items, including items that could be shared



What are the next steps?

We have identified eight important actions to make the program better:

1. Clarify and communicate program goals
2. Clarify and communicate ways to track how well the program is working
3. Look at ways to make the program more fair and accessible
4. Update the funding formula
5. Clarify and communicate program guidelines
6. Improve communications about the program
7. Look at ways to better help NWT residents who do not currently live in their home NWT community
8. Look at ways to have more training and support programs to build harvesting skills

Making changes to the program and creating guidelines supporting these improvements will roll-out in three steps:

- **Now** – The full report that outlines what we heard and key actions ENR will work on will be shared with the IGOs, renewable resource councils and boards and hunters and trappers committees who participated in the review and also be released publicly.
- **Winter 2022** – Open to feedback on the report and how we can do better, while starting work on the next steps.
- **Summer 2022** — Release the final evaluation report, updated program policy and new guidelines.

Have Your Say

We want to hear your thoughts.
Get in touch:

toll free 1-866-611-3788 (FURS)
ontheland@gov.nt.ca

