

# Policy Directive

Manitoba  
Conservation



Subject: FURBEARER MANAGEMENT

Index Number

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Approved

Revision #

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Division/  
Branch: Wildlife

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Date of  
Revision

**INTENT:** To define policy for the administration and management of furbearers in Manitoba.


**POLICY:** Furbearers are a renewable Crown resource; it is the department's mandate to ensure that furbearers are managed and utilized in a sustainable manner for the maximum benefit of the people of Manitoba.

The department shall provide an administrative environment that promotes sustainable benefits to the people of Manitoba.

**PRINCIPLES:**

1. The allocation of furbearers shall be subject to General Wildlife Policy PO/10/01 respecting priority use of wildlife by residents of Manitoba and the commercial use of wildlife.
2. The department shall promote ecological, cultural, economic, and social benefits through the conservation, management and allocation of furbearers in accordance with General Wildlife Policy PO/10/01.
3. The department shall endeavour to maintain sustainable populations of furbearers, through the development and implementation of integrated resource management policies and programs.
4. The department shall monitor commercial fur production.
5. The department shall, where possible and practical, consult and seek co-operation with trapper organizations, the private sector, local communities, First Nations, and stakeholders in the conservation and management of furbearers.
6. The department shall encourage communication and consultation between trappers, other stakeholders, First Nations, Community Councils, private landowners, and other resource users.
7. Lands agreed by the Manitoba and First Nations to be under negotiation processes such as, but not limited to, Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) or Northern Flood Areas (NFAs) shall not be allocated unless under written agreement with the First Nation.
8. Traditional knowledge will be an important consideration in the development of furbearer management plans and programs.
9. The department shall ensure that the harvesting of furbearers be conducted employing humane trapping devices and trapping techniques. The department shall employ legislation restricting the use of non-humane trapping devices on the basis of the availability of alternatives and shall promote humane trapping and trapper education.

10. The department shall promote public awareness of the ecological, cultural, economic, and social benefits from the humane and sustainable use of furbearers through:
  - a) Co-operation with other agencies, authorized organizations representing trappers, First Nations, organizations representing other Aboriginal trappers, stakeholders; and
  - b) Informing the public about the importance of furbearers and the role trapping plays in managing and sustaining furbearer populations.
  
11. The management of furbearers shall be enhanced through:
  - a) Administration and maintenance of Registered Trapline Sections (including registered trapping blocks), and Special Trapping Areas;
  - b) Development of formal agreements or administrative procedures that are mutually agreed upon by the department and trappers' organization that accommodate local or regional differences within Registered Trapline Sections and Special Trapping Areas;
  - c) Communication and consultation on a regular basis between the department, organizations that represent trappers, individual trappers, First Nations, organizations representing other Aboriginal trappers' interests and other stakeholders;
  - d) Encouraging development proponents to ensure that resource developments are not initiated without prior consultation with trappers in the affected trapline areas to minimize the negative impact(s) on furbearers and furbearer habitats; and
  - e) Conducting adjustments within established land-use planning and licensing procedures and criteria, and establishment of new procedures and criteria as necessary, to accommodate furbearer management.
  
12. This policy shall not supersede or otherwise render obsolete the department's resolve to ensure that all natural resources in an area are managed within the context of sustainable development and respecting policy and procedures that may be enacted in consultation with the stakeholders in support of the department's objectives and strategies, including biodiversity.
  
13. The department, in consultation with stakeholders, First Nations, and organizations representing other Aboriginal trappers' interests shall periodically review policies and procedure directives to make sure they guide the sustainable use of furbearers and the effective administration of commercial trapping.

<b>Procedure Directive</b>		<b>Manitoba Conservation</b> 
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FURBEARERS	Index Number PO / /	Revision # _____ Revision Date
Division/Branch: Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection		Approved

**INTENT:** To establish procedures and to provide guidance for the management of furbearers and the administration of the Registered Trapline (RTL) Sections (both with and without individual lines), Special Trapping Areas (STAs; formerly Fur Rehabilitation Blocks), and Open Trapping Areas.

**PROCEDURES**

**A: FURBEARER POPULATIONS**

- 1) The department shall ensure the sustainable management of furbearers by:
  - a) monitoring furbearer harvest annually;
  - b) maintaining sustainable harvest levels by regulating harvests by species; establishing quotas where and when necessary; developing regulations (*Schedule IX*);
  - c) ensuring furbearers are harvested employing humane trapping devices and techniques;
  - d) endeavouring to minimize the impacts of other resource uses on furbearers and furbearer habitat through integrated natural resource management practices and policies which would include consultation with trappers affected by the impacts of other resource uses;
  - e) maintaining a system to designate and allocate trapping areas that is in keeping with formal Agreements (*Schedule I*) between Manitoba and First Nation(s) and/or other communities (*Schedule IV*); and
  - f) consulting with First Nations and other Aboriginal communities where required under agreement and as may be necessary otherwise; and
  - g) consulting with stakeholders and trappers organizations where they exist.
  - h) developing community based criteria for allocating trapping areas within a traditional-use planning area where required (*Schedule IV*) such as identifying designated communities; incorporating the traditions of the community (sharing etc.) in establishing allocation criteria and identifying other criteria, e.g. using dollar value of fur production to evaluate trapper production.

**B: REGISTERED TRAPLINE SECTIONS**

- 1) The department shall:
  - a) ensure that traplines designated as Community, Youth, Family Trapping Areas are maintained consistent with the requirements and traditions of the designated community or communities or as specified by agreement;
  - b) encourage participation in the management of traplines (including allocation, species monitoring) by trappers' organizations, resource management and development boards, First Nations, Community Councils; and
  - c) where necessary, establish fur-catch quotas to reduce human-wildlife conflict situations and implement site-specific management prescriptions under authority of a Special Permit for those furbearers that come into conflict with people.

**C) REGISTERED TRAPPING BLOCKS**

- 1) The department shall maintain and develop Registered Trapping Blocks, (formally Fur Rehabilitation Blocks), in accordance with agreements established for resource management purposes within Registered Trapping Districts that are not subdivided into individual traplines.
- 2) Operational guidelines or written agreements that recognize the regional and community differences for the management of the Registered Trapping Block may be established:
  - a) these procedures shall be recorded by the department (*Schedule VII*); and
  - b) these procedures may be time bound; and
  - c) shall remain in effect until such time as they are deemed no longer valid through mutual agreement; or
  - d) the department determines these procedures are in conflict with the ongoing management of the Registered Trapping Block.
- 3) Eligibility to trap within a Registered Trapping Block shall be:
  - a) restricted to trappers who have been residents for a period of at least six months in the Registered Trapping Section and/or designated community for which the area was designated;
  - b) considered for others of the community or new residents of the community after application to the department to trap in a Registered Trapping Block;
    - i) a permit may be issued by the department following consultation with the designated community/communities or resource management board established where there is an agreement.
- 4) The number of permits issued may be limited:
  - a) to avoid non-sustainable harvests of furbearer populations; and
  - b) to minimize trapper conflicts.
- 5) When restrictions are necessary:
  - a) the number of permits issued shall be determined by the department in consultation with the trappers' organization or with other groups such as First Nations, under the terms of an agreement;
  - b) where there is a need to restrict the number of trappers;
    - i) eligibility to trap shall be subject to the assessment criteria and trapper seniority for RTLs (*Schedules II, III, and V*);
    - ii) permits shall be probationary for a period of one year; and
    - iii) following the probationary period, and upon proof of satisfactory fur production, the permittee shall be eligible for an annual permit in the Registered Trapping Block.
  - c) permits will be issued in order of trapper seniority.
- 6) A trapper in a Registered Trapping Block shall be considered inactive and may have his/her trapline taken away from them when he/she:
  - a) fails to purchase a RTL Permit; or
  - b) fails to record any fur production, without just cause, for a period of two consecutive trapping seasons.

#### D. SPECIAL TRAPPING AREAS (STAs)

- 1) The department recognizes that geographical (community), ecological, cultural, economic, and social differences may exist between various STAs.
- 2) The department and the trappers' organization or the designated community/communities

or resource management board under terms of an Agreement may establish administrative procedures to accommodate the regional and community differences, and to manage trapping activities for all species of furbearers or a specific species of furbearers.

- 3) In cases where STAs are divided into distinctive zones, administrative procedures established for registered trapping sections shall apply to those areas unless specific administrative procedures are identified under terms of an Agreement:
  - a) these procedures shall be recorded by the department (*Schedule VIII*); and
  - b) these procedures may be time bound; and
  - c) shall remain in effect until they are deemed no longer valid through mutual agreement; or
  - d) the department determines these procedures are in conflict with the management of the STA.
  
- 4) Special conditions may be required in STAs to sustain and manage furbearer populations including:
  - a) zoning of a STA;
  - b) closure of commercial trapping within zones;
  - c) establishment of quotas by species;
  - d) restricting the number of permits available;
  - e) varying the trapping period; and
  - f) requiring non-community members to apply to the department; the department in consultation with the trappers' organization, designated community/communities, resource management board, or under terms of an agreement, shall then determine eligibility to trap within the STA
    - i) any privileges awarded to non-community members may be for a specified term; and
    - ii) subject to review and approval in successive years by the department in consultation with the trappers' organization or the designated community/ communities or resource management board, or under the terms of an agreement.

#### E. COMMUNITY, FAMILY, AND YOUTH REGISTERED TRAPLINES

- 1) The department shall ensure that community, family, and youth traplines are developed and maintained consistent with the requirements and traditions of the designated community through:
  - a) consultation with trappers' organizations or the designated community/communities or resource management board where there is an agreement;
  - b) consideration of the traditions and practices of the designated community; and
  - c) establishment of mutually-agreed administrative procedures (*Schedule VIII*) between the department and trappers' organization, or under an Agreement (*Schedule 1*), to accommodate the regional and community differences and to manage trapping activities to ensure sustainable populations of furbearers.
  
- 2) Allocation to non-community members will be considered with the written consent of the trappers' organization:
  - a) any privileges awarded non-community members shall be for one trapping year only and subject to review and approval in successive years by the trappers organization where they exist or designated community/resource management board; and
  - b) if no trappers' organization exists, the department may allocate to non-

community trappers on a one-year basis.

- 3) No person may hold a permit for a community line and a regular line in the same section at the same time, except under Special permit.

#### F. TRAPPING AREA BOUNDARIES

- 1) The department is responsible for identifying boundaries of RTL Sections, RTLs, STAs, Registered Trapping Blocks and community and family traplines.  
Where necessary:
  - a) boundaries shall be defined by rivers, lake shores, watershed areas, hydro or legal survey lines, roads, and geographic features that will ease boundary location and recognition;
  - b) shall conform to the traditional-use area of a designated community that has been agreed to by the trapper organization, department and/or First Nation community;
  - c) shall be defined in consultation with First Nation community, trappers' organization, and other stakeholders to consider the ecological, cultural (traditional), economic and social aspects of furbearer management in an attempt to minimize conflicts between trappers and other resource users.
  - d) the cost for the new Director of Survey Plan may be the responsibility of the individual(s) or agency requesting the revision, at the discretion of the Director of the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch
- 2) Boundary revisions may be considered when:
  - a) a larger area is needed to meet the needs of the designated community/communities or trappers of the designated community;
  - b) Crown land changes designation or ownership;
  - c) private land becomes provincial Crown land;
  - d) the line holder of a larger adjacent line is not utilizing the entire area;
  - e) division of a trapline into sub-units or additional traplines is desirable for management or administrative purposes; and
  - f) to re-establish traditional trapping areas within the traditional-use planning area of a First Nation community.
- 3) All boundary revisions shall be approved and documented according to *Schedule VII* prior to any trapping activity taking place.
- 4) The cost for the new Director of Survey Plan shall be the responsibility of the individual(s) or agency requesting the revision.

#### G. REGISTERED TRAPLINE (RTL) ALLOCATION

- 1) RTLs containing lands which are agreed by the Manitoba and First Nations to be under negotiation for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE), the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), or other formal Agreements shall not be re-allocated unless under written agreement with the First Nation.
- 2) Where Agreements exist between Manitoba and First Nation(s):
  - a) the department will refer to the First Nation or Resource Management Board, a notice(s) of allocations under consideration with respect to vacant and under-utilized registered traplines within the traditional-use planning area of the First Nation(s) as defined in any related legislation.
  - b) allocation of the RTL may be conducted under an administrative procedure

- established with the First Nation for the purpose of allocating natural resources including vacant or under-utilized RTLs;
- c) allocation procedures may be based on the traditions of the community and may include recommending to the department to whom the RTL shall be allocated;
- 3) In situations where no agreements are in place, First Nations, the department and the trapping community may enter into an agreement specific to the RTL section for the administration of the RTL Section including allocating vacant or under-utilized lines;
  - 4) A RTL shall be declared vacant if:
    - a) the registered line holder has been totally inactive without just cause for two consecutive years; or
    - b) the line holder notifies the department, in writing, that he/she intends to relinquish his/her trapping privileges; or
    - c) the line holder fails to renew his/her RTL permit without just cause; or
    - d) the line holder dies.
  - 3) When allocating a RTL, the department, in consultation with the designated community/communities or where there is a formal agreement, under the terms of that agreement, shall allocate traplines based on processes as identified in Sections 2(a), (b) or (c) within one year following the RTL being declared vacant.
  - 4) Unless delegated to another authority under agreement, the department administrative procedures for the allocation of RTLs shall be as follows:
    - a) Notice of vacant traplines shall be posted with the municipal, First Nations and Community Council offices, trappers' organization and publicly throughout the RTL Section in post offices, department offices, or any other place in the community available for public access, for no less than thirty (30) days between June and September;
    - b) Notice shall identify the vacant trapline; the designated community or communities; the criteria to be used to evaluate production; other items that may be identified on the Notice that are important to the selection of the successful applicant.
    - c) applications shall be made in the form outlined in *Schedule IV* or as provided under an agreement with the community;
    - d) the evaluation of applications shall be undertaken as soon as possible following the posted closing date in consultation with the community or under terms of an agreement, either with a community representative(s) or Resource Management Board or Directors of the trappers' organization(s) where applicable and in accordance with Schedules II, III, and V;
    - e) applicants shall be notified of the tentative selection of the successful applicant, and provided with the evaluations of their own applications;
    - f) in the event a disagreement arises over the awarding of a vacant trapline, applicants may request a review of their scoring, usually in writing (*Schedule IV*), to the department district office within 30 days of the notification of the selection.
    - e) in the event a disagreement arises over the awarding of a vacant trapline, applicants may request a review of their scoring, usually in writing (*Schedule IV*), to the department (district office) within 30 days of the notification of the selection. The process shall be:
      - i) The RTL shall be held vacant until the review process is exhausted;
      - ii) The Regional Director will appoint a panel of people and shall include a member of the department, an executive member of the Manitoba Trappers Association; a member of the First Nation or community,



- 5) When a line holder cannot trap due to a temporary illness or other just cause, a "Special Trapping Permit" may be issued to another trapper from the designated community to trap the line for only that current trapping year with the approval of the line holder.
- 6) The line holder may not transfer or sublet any portion of the RTL allocated to them.
- 7) Line holders within the RTL Section, with good production, and with the mutual consent of the department and, as applicable, First Nation, designated community/communities or trappers' organization, may transfer from one RTL to another.
- 8) No more than two helpers shall be allowed to trap a RTL at any time without the mutual consent of the department and the trappers' organization, or, as applicable, First Nation, designated community/communities and
  - a) helper's permits shall not be issued unless the line holder is also actively engaged in trapping on the RTL allocated unless the line holder is absent with just cause;
  - b) helper's permits shall be issued only on an annual basis with the written consent of the line holder;
  - c) permits shall not be issued to helpers to build cabins or to make improvements for the purpose of trapping in the RTL.
- 9) Where there is no designated line holder and several trappers utilize the line, the department in consultation with the designated community/communities or resource management board established under a formal agreement between Manitoba and First Nation(s), and/or other communities or trappers' organization, may designate these either as a Community Line, Family Trapline, STA, or RTL Block or it may be posted (Procedure E).
- 10) The minimum age limit for RTL holder shall be eighteen years old or as may be determined in consultation with the designated community or resource management board, or under the terms of a formal agreement.
- 11) Existing line holders and helpers, by mutual agreement between the department and local fur council, or under the terms of an Agreement (Schedule 1); can be issued only a Special Permit as a second permit for another line or block in Manitoba.
- 12) The applicant who receives the highest score may not necessarily be awarded the allocation as other factors (e.g. traditions of the community) may influence the final decision. [Legal requirement]
- 13) The applicant who receives the highest score may not necessarily be awarded the allocation as other factors such as the traditions of the community and others may influence the final decision. [Legal requirement]
- 14) No person may hold a registered trapping permit for a community line and a regular RTL permit in the same section unless the department has authorized additional permits as only Special Permits, such as to address furbearers that have come into conflict with people and their property.

#### H. IMPROVEMENTS ON REGISTERED TRAPLINES

- 1) Construction of all cabins, trails, and water-control structures require prior approval of the department and shall be given only to the line holder or to those having tenure and in

accordance with the provisions of *The Crown Lands Act, Forestry Act, The Parks Act, The Water Resources Act*, or other provincial statute.

- 2) Buildings used for the purpose of trapping are subject to approval by the department, and designed to require a low amount of capital investment to prevent significant capital losses should the trapline be reallocated or revert to the Crown; further, buildings may consist of:
  - a) a main cabin or base camp no larger than 600 square feet[add metric], or smaller if specified by applicable legislation;
  - b) up to two ancillary structures for skinning and equipment storage of no more than 100 square feet;
  - c) up to three overnight or line camps of no more than 200 square feet;
- 2) Trapline cabins will not be permitted on Community lines or in Registered Trapping Blocks unless for educational purposes or as authorized by the department and in consultation with the designated community
- 3) Trappers cabins may have been traditionally used for other purposes (social and cultural) and these uses shall be recognized as legitimate uses by the Department, in recognition of outcomes from the WNO and situations in northern communities.
- 4) Where improvements including trappers' cabins are to be located in the traditional-use planning area of a First Nation then the department shall consult to determine if there are any concerns respecting Treaty and Aboriginal rights.
  - a) If the First Nation community identifies concerns then these shall be addressed prior to the issuance of a work permit to construct; and
  - b) if the concerns are sufficient then an alternate location shall be selected.
- 6) Trapline buildings shall not be rented, sold or used for purposes other than trapline management activities unless authorized to do so under a permit issued by the department and notwithstanding traditional uses as in H. 2) above. Cabins declared to be community owned traditional use cabins shall not be considered to be trapline cabins for purposes of this Procedure.
- 7) Trapline cabins built in areas designated for remote cottages shall conform to permit standards for these areas unless otherwise authorized by the department.
- 8) Trapline cabins built in provincial parks or other designated lands shall be subject to conditions applicable to cabins on those lands unless otherwise authorized by the department.
- 9) Trapline cabins, not within Provincial Parks or other designated lands or remote cottage areas, except as may otherwise be authorized by the department shall be:
  - a) designed to require a low amount of capital investment to prevent significant capital losses should the trapline be reallocated or revert to the Crown;
  - b) built no closer than 30 metres to the shoreline of any lake, river or creek; and
  - c) built no closer than 300 metres to any all-weather road.

#### I. REGISTERED TRAPLINE - TRANSFER (buildings, other improvements & equipment)

- 1) When a trapline is transferred or re-allocated, all improvements such as buildings may be transferred if those improvements are necessary as determined by the Department for the effective operation of the trapline.

- 2) Where buildings are included in a trapline re-allocation they may be disposed of as follows:
  - a) the buildings may be sold at a price arranged between the two trappers or
  - b) if the buildings are not required by the incoming trapper, the outgoing owner shall:
    - i) remove the structures; or
    - ii) apply to the department to retain the cabin (subject to other applicable legislation, guidelines, or policy) where
      - there is a long-standing use of occupancy of the cabin by a family engaged in trapping, and
      - permitting of this type of tenure is not detrimental to the management of other resource values, and
      - under the conditions of an agreement between Manitoba and First Nation(s) and/or other community;
    - iii) dispose of the structures in accordance with *The Crown Lands Act*.
- 4) Traps and other equipment are the personal property of the outgoing trapper and are not considered part of the transfer of the trapline.

#### J. TRAPLINE COMPENSATION

- 1) The department recognizes that multiple uses of resources on Crown lands may result in conflict between resource users. The department in consultation with the community and/or trapper's organization shall act in an advisory capacity to arbitrate disputes.
- 2) The department assumes no responsibility for payment of compensation to trappers for impacts caused by other resource-use activities, land-use designation, fires, Treaty Land Entitlements (TLEs), NFA settlements or other formal agreements.
- 3) The department assumes no responsibility or liability for any improvements made by a lineholder or helper or special permittees on an RTL.
- 4) The department recognizes other government agencies may have policies which affect trapping activities (e. g. PFRA Community Pastures). Where this occurs, the policies of the agency responsible for the land shall supersede department policy.
- 5) The department shall require a permittee (e.g. Work Permit issued under the Crown Lands Act, Forestry Act, Provincial Parks Act) to meet with the applicable trapper(s) before undertaking any activity, as a condition of that permit.
- 6) Where Manitoba has entered into agreements with First Nations or other communities that include provisions for the administration and allocation of natural resources including registered traplines, then these Agreements supersede this policy and the Department assumes no liability for the loss or trapping privileges or personal property that may be contained on the RTL.

#### K. ADMINISTRATION OF FURBEARER MANAGEMENT IN THE OPEN TRAPPING AREA:

- 1) The department recognizes that in the "Open Area Zones" most of the land is privately owned and shall co-operate with landowners to:
  - a) develop management options to ensure a sustained yield of furbearers;
  - b) encourage co-operation between landowners, trappers' organizations, and trappers;

- c) develop management options to minimize the damage caused by furbearers to private property; and
  - d) encourage the involvement of experienced trappers to address human-wildlife conflict situations related to fur-bearing wildlife.
- 2) The department shall, where necessary, implement management procedures that may limit the number of licences available or impose quotas on the number of furbearers that may be taken in the Open Area Zone(s).

L. ACCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

- 1) The department recognizes the accidental capture of non-target species of wildlife may occur and shall minimize the probability of accidental capture through regulations and trapper education during a period when:
- a) the trapping season for a particular species is closed; or
  - b) a quota is in effect; or
  - c) non-target species of furbearers are taken.
- 2) A trapper may be allowed to market one accidentally caught furbearer only, when:
- a) the accidentally captured furbearer is taken to the nearest department office at the earliest opportunity to be verified and/or tagged;
  - b) a "Permit to Possess Wildlife" is issued allowing the trapper to possess and market one accidentally captured furbearer for the trapping season; and
  - c) the department recognizes that in remote areas where access to a department office may be limited, the trapper shall notify by telephone the nearest department office about accidental capture(s). This provision does not apply to an accidentally captured cougar, other protected species or black bear for which there is not a trapping season to allow the capture of that species.
- 3) All other accidentally captured furbearers of the same species, taken by the same trapper, shall be:
- a) surrendered to the nearest department office and become the property of the department; and
  - b) surrendered wildlife shall be disposed of in accordance with Wildlife Policy PO/10/09, "Disposition of Dead Wild Animals".
- 4) Species other than furbearers or gray wolves which are accidentally captured may not be retained unless otherwise authorized by the department under legislation such as *The Wildlife Act* or *Endangered Species Act*.

## ***SCHEDULE I: DEFINITIONS***

1. Agreement: A formal and signed understanding between Manitoba and First Nation(s) and/or other communities that have been developed for the management of natural resources, including traplines and trapping areas within the traditional-use planning area of the signatories, and where Resource Management Boards may have been established for this purpose. These Agreements include, but are not limited to, the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), the Grand Rapids Forebay Agreement and the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Accord and others that may be developed between Manitoba and First Nations, resource boards, and/or other communities.
2. Department: the Manitoba provincial government department that is delegated the responsibility and authority for the management of fur bearing wildlife under *The Wildlife Act*.
3. Community Trapline: a RTL within a registered trapping section or STA where there can be no exclusive line holder and where RTL line(s) were originally designated as trapping areas for the Elders and youth of the designated community and where numerous residents of a certain community or designated community are permitted to trap in the same season. A community line may be further restricted to only youth (12-17 years of age) or seniors of the community.
4. Designated Community: Communities/First Nations originally associated with, as well as communities currently within, a specific registered trapping section or STA; depending upon the RTL or STA, the original designated community or in some situations communities can be either within the section or STA or outside the section or STA. The RTL program, when it was first developed, was done so with the co-operation of the local community and/or First Nation. The RTL Sections were then given the names of the communities or First Nation to identify the specific trapping section, for which the RTL section was first established. Designated communities may also be identified on the poster announcing "Applications for Vacant Registered Trapline" as identified by the department, resource management board and/or community including where they exist trappers organization.
5. Family Trapline: a trapline within a RTL Section or STA, designated as being allocated for members of the same immediate family.
6. Helper: the holder of a RTL Permit who is authorized by the lineholder in writing and by the department to help trap during the period when the line holder is actively engaged in trapping.
7. Immediate Family Member: the son/daughter and step relationship, father/mother, brother/sister, husband/wife, grandparents, grandchildren, and traditional family relationships of the First Nations community.
8. Line Holder: a trapper allocated exclusive trapping privileges for a designated RTL.
9. Just Cause: such as sickness, adverse weather, extreme low market prices, safety conditions, traditions of the community, and the rotational use of an area to allow populations to recover.
10. Local Fur Council: elected representatives from among the members of a trappers' organization permitted or licensed by the department to trap within the RTL Section or STA Zone. A Local Fur Council is affiliated with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA), although other local trappers organizations may not be affiliated
11. Minimum Quota: a minimum number of furbearers of a particular species as determined by the department in consultation with the resource management board or trappers' organization that must be harvested from a RTL and may be based on the average harvest of a certain species within the section or a dollar level or a specific species of furbearing wildlife such as beaver.
12. Open Trapping Area: that portion of the province comprised mostly of private lands in southern Manitoba and designated by regulation as Open Area Zone(s).
13. Optimum Harvest: Assessment based upon average harvests from within the registered trapping section for a period of time or other criteria as may be established by the department and

resource management board or trappers' organization.

14. Production: Furbearer harvest amounts or other criteria such as dollar value and traditions of the community as determined by the department and resource management board or trappers' organization prior to the posting of a vacant RTL or STA Zone and identified on postings.
15. Production Records (Reported): as determined by the department furbearer data records and other sources including fur dealers', tanners', and taxidermists' returns and dated receipts issued by fur dealers.
16. Registered Trapping Sections: As defined in regulation, a subdivision of a registered trapping district. Forty-six (46) RTL Sections were established between 1940 and 1958 with consensus among the Chief and Council of First Nations, local trappers, and communities. These were established to ensure sustainability of the furbearer resource and to give the exclusive privilege to local residents to trap within the section. The boundaries for many of the sections were delineated by the First Nations at the request of the department. These are the areas a particular First Nation community used for various purposes including trapping and are commonly referred to as traditional use areas or may be recognized by legislation as traditional-use planning areas.
17. Registered Trapping Block: Registered trapping section without individual lines **and** designated for the exclusive trapping use by residents of specific communities and settlements; generally used to trap muskrats but may apply to other species of furbearers. These areas were formally known as "Fur Rehabilitation Blocks" which were designated because they were areas of specialized habitat and under intensive management of muskrats.
18. Registered Trapper: the holder of a Registered Trapping Permit.
19. Registered Trapline (RTL): a subdivision of a registered trapping section which is typically allocated to either an individual trapper or a community, depending upon the line. Approximately eight hundred (800) individual RTLs were established to provide local residents (trappers, families, Elders, and youth) of designated communities the exclusive privilege to trap a defined area within a RTL Section.
20. Resident: A person who ordinarily has their home in Manitoba and the home is within a designated community of a registered trapping section or special trapping zone.
21. Special Trapping Area (STA): Subdivision of the Open Trapping Area described in regulation where trapping may be conducted under authority, and as specified by, the conditions of a "Special Trapping Permit" or Special Trapping Area License." An STA may be further subdivided into smaller STA Zones.
22. Stakeholder: includes Local Fur Councils, Community Councils, Manitoba Trappers Association, other organizations representing trappers, the trapping industry, or others who have an interest in the furbearer resource.
23. Traditions of the community: ecological, cultural and social values of First Nations and other communities that form the Traditional Knowledge of a designated community that may be used in the assessment of an application for a vacant RTL or in the management of a specific RTL by a lineholder (trapper).
24. Traditional Use Planning Areas as defined by [the proposed Crown Land Traditional Use Planning Areas and Special Protected Areas Act under Section 4 (Designating Planning Areas)] [legislation].
25. Trapper: a resident of Manitoba who is either licensed (in the Open Trapping Area) or permitted (in the Registered Trapping Area) to take furbearers for commercial purposes.
26. Trappers' organization: an organization like a Local Fur Council, the Manitoba Trappers Association or other such organization that is authorized by the trappers of the area/district to represent their interest(s).

27. Zone: As described in regulation a) a subdivision of the Open Trapping Area of Manitoba; b) a subdivision of s Special Trapping

## **SCHEDULE II: TRAPPER ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

- 1) **Applicants for a RTL or STA zone will be selected on the basis of the assessment of applications (*Schedule V*) and other information relevant to this proceeding.**
- 2) **Consideration shall be given to the following:**
  - a) **immediate family members of the line holder who are licensed helpers with proven trapping production on that trapline;**
  - b) **immediate family members of the line holder who are either line holders or permitted helpers themselves with production on another RTL within the section or in another RTL Section;**
  - c) **helpers who have at least two years of trapping production on that trapline;**
  - d) **trappers within the RTL Section, such as a line holder who may wish to relocate, who have a minimum of two years of trapping production;**
  - e) **trappers from the designated community or within the section who have a minimum of two years recorded production in the last five years; and**
  - f) **experienced trappers from neighbouring RTL Sections and other residents of Manitoba, with production.**
- 3) **Other criteria for consideration for applications for vacant traplines will include:**
  - a) **the terms of any related formal agreement;**
  - b) **traditional trapping practices of the designated community;**
  - c) **employment status;**
  - e) **family status; and**
  - f) **other relevant information as may be provided by the applicant.**
- 1) Eligibility for a Permit within a Registered Trapping Block or Community Trapline shall be restricted to residents of the designated community and/or Section or in some section the communities (several) for which the area was originally designated.
- 2) Applicants, who are non resident of the RTL Section, must score a minimum of 65% of the total maximum eligible points in order to be awarded a vacant RTL.
- 3) New residents of a community shall be subject to a waiting period of six months and are required to meet criteria established by the department and applicable trapper's organization, before they can apply to the department for a permit to trap in a Trapping Block or on a Community Line, unless otherwise approved by the local trappers' organization where they exist.
- 4) The department shall consult with the local trappers' organization before any new applicants are approved for permitting in the Registered Trapping Block.
- 5) An allocation may not always be awarded to the applicant with the highest total points, as other factors may influence the final decision.

### **SCHEDULE III: TRAPPER PRODUCTION - EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 1) For the purpose of evaluating a trapper's furbearer production record:
  - a) An average harvest over the past five years shall be determined for all the individual lines within the RTL Section or STA but with consideration given to extenuating circumstances such as bad weather conditions, extreme low fur prices, illness, or other justifiable reasons like traditions of the community (*Schedule I*).
  - b) In assigning a value to a trapper's production history during those years that trapping occurred based on department furbearer production records: [Major change but already in use]
    - i) Very Good: regularly producing at least 80% of the average harvest;
    - ii) Good: regularly producing at least 60% of the average harvest;
    - iii) Fair: regularly producing at least 40% of the average harvest;
    - iv) Poor: regularly producing less than 40% of the average harvest.
- 2) Production of a helper on a RTL or STA Zone will be rated in proportion to what the trapper's effort contributed to the total annual harvest. –e.g. if an average harvest is produced, and the helper contributed equally, both the line holder and helper shall be rated equally.
- 3) Evaluation of fur production will utilize all known information as determined by the department's furbearer production records, other sources, and trappers' organization including the following:
  - a) fur produced or sold as reported through fur dealer returns or receipts for fur purchased as issued by a licensed fur dealer and/or taxidermist returns and/or receipts;
  - b) estimates of furbearer populations;
  - c) period and duration of trapper activity;
  - d) extent of trapping coverage of line;
  - e) proportionate effort and production by the line holder and helper;
  - f) management practices of the trapper and/or community to sustain furbearer populations;

**SCHEDULE IV: APPLICATION FOR VACANT REGISTERED TRAPLINE (RTL)**

RTL Section: \_\_\_\_\_ RTL Section No. \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (3 digit No.)

RTL Number: \_\_\_\_ or Special Trapping Area: \_\_\_\_\_ STA Zone:  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town /City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

1) **EXPERIENCE AND RELATIONSHIP: [Mark one line only]**

a) Are you an immediate family member with production in two of the last five years on the RTL or STA zone applied for: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Are you an immediate family member and line holder or helper on another RTL or in another RTL Section (Name Section \_\_\_\_\_): or STA with production in two of the last five years: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Are you a helper on RTL line (where \_\_\_\_\_) or STA Zone applied for with production in two of last five years: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) Are you a line holder or helper who wishes to relocate: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) Are you a line or zone holder within the section with good production on a poor line: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO \_\_\_\_

f) Are you a trapper or helper from outside the RTL or STA Section: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) **RESIDENCE: [Mark one line only]**

a) Do you live within the RTL or STA Section applied for: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Are you a past community member that wishes to relocate: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Do you live adjacent to the RTL or STA Section applied for: \_\_\_\_ YES/NO  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Have You Completed A Mandatory Trapper Education Course? \_\_\_\_ YES/NO \_\_\_\_  
If YES, provide:

Graduate Certificate Number \_\_\_\_\_, year course taken \_\_\_\_\_, and Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

---

4) Trapping Record And Furbearer Production:

Year	RTL/STA or Open Area Number	List Five Most Common Furbearers Taken And Number of Each Species Sold

2) Experience As A Licenced Trapper Or Helper:

- a) RTL Section or STA Permitted Trapper: Number of years \_\_\_\_
- b) Open Area Licensed Trapper: Number of years \_\_\_\_

6) LIST EQUIPMENT and NUMBER and TYPE OF TRAPS/SNARES:

\_\_\_\_\_

-

\_\_\_\_\_

-

\_\_\_\_\_

-

Leghold(padded)		
Leghold(Off-Set)		
Leghold(Other)		
Snares(standard)		
Snares(power)		
Conibear(number and size)		

7) Dependents (Number of Dependents): \_\_\_\_

8) Other Income/Employment Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fulltime (Includes farmer), Seasonal, Retired

9) Traditions of the Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Application may be declared VOID, if the applicant provides false information.

**SCHEDULE V: ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION FOR VACANT REGISTERED TRAPLINE (RTL)**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
1. EXPERIENCE AND RELATIONSHIP: <b>(Fill in one)</b>		
a) <b>Immediate family member that is a permitted helper on the trapline in question with fair or better production;</b>	(5 points/year) 25	
b) <b>Immediate family member who is a permitted line holder/helper with fair or better production in the last five years on a trapline within the section or in another RTL Section;</b>	(4 points/year) 20	
c) <b>Helper on line applied for with fair or better production in last five years;</b>	(4 points/year) 20	
d) <b>Trapper within the section with fair or better production in the last 5 years;</b>	(3 points/year) 15	
e) <b>Trapper who has shown good production for a minimum of four years in the last ten years from outside the RTL or STA Section.</b>	(1 point/year) 10	
2. RESIDES/LIVES: <b>(Fill in one)</b>		
a) <b>Within designated trapline community;</b>	25	
b) <b>Within the trapline section;</b>	20	
c) <b>Long time helper on line applied for with minimum of 5 years of continuous production and lives in an adjacent RTL or STA section</b>	20	
d) <b>Past community member who wishes to relocate;</b>	10	
e) <b>Adjacent the trapline section.</b>	5	
3. COMPLETED MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE	5	
4. TRAPPING RECORD/PRODUCTION ( <i>SCHEDULE III</i> ): <b>(Fill in one)</b>		
a) Very Good;	<b>16 - 20</b>	
b) Good;	<b>11- 15</b>	
c) Fair;	<b>1- 10</b>	
d) Poor.	<b>0</b>	
5. EXPERIENCE AS A LICENSED TRAPPER <b>(Fill in one)</b>		
a) Over ten years;	15	
b) Five - ten years;	10	
c) Two - five years.	5	
6. EQUIPMENT <b>(Fill in one)</b>		
a) Adequate equipment to start trapping the RTL applied for;	20	
b) Some equipment to start trapping the RTL applied for;	10-15 range	
c) No equipment listed.	0	
<b>Total</b>		

Other Criteria to be considered in addition to the above (Criteria 1 through 6) to select the successful applicant:

7. DEPENDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

8. OTHER INCOME / EMPLOYMENT & COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. **ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED BY THE APPLICANT:**

10. **OTHER CRITERIA PRESENTED BY THE APPLICANT AND/OR COMMUNITY OR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICANT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TRAPPERS' ORGANIZATION ENDORSEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Endorsement shall be in writing by Director of organization)

**FIRST NATION OR RESOURCE BOARD ENDORSEMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Position

DATE OF ENDORSEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Month Year

**REVIEW [Legal requirement]:** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Date Notice of **Review** Received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ATTACH NOTICE OF **REVIEW** -

SCHEDULE VI: EVALUATION OF **REVIEW** [Legal requirement]

1. Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Reason(s) for Review:

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: **Review** interviews shall be in-camera.

3. Evaluation of reasons for **Review** as stated by applicant (see above):

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Decision of Review by **Review** members:                      Review Upheld                      Review Denied

A) Manitoba Conservation:                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_

B) Executive Trappers' Organization                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_

6. Comments:

A) Manitoba Conservation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

B) Trappers' Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Attach to *Schedule VI* any material submitted to consider during the **Review**.

**SCHEDULE VII: TRAPPING AREA AND RTL BOUNDARY CHANGE FORM**

1. Registered Trapline Section: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Name RTLs Involved

2. Existing Situation (attach map):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Justification for Change (include objective of change, biological, economic, traditional/cultural, First Nation/Community request, interest group concerns, safety implications, enforcement, other please specify):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Risks and liabilities if change is made (describe any adverse affects):

a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Benefits of change:

a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Consultation with First Nation or Resource Management Board, Local Fur Council and/or trappers' organization (identify who by name, comments/concerns) and attach to file the written documentation:**

\_\_\_\_\_

- 
7. Originated by:
- a) Local Fur Council: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Registered Trapper(s): \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) **Resource Management Board**
  - d) Other (Identify): \_\_\_\_\_

8. Recommendation Manitoba Conservation
- a) Natural Resource Officer i/c: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Regional Wildlife Manager: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) **Assistant Regional Director:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Furbearer Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Reason(s) for denying request:
- a)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. **NOTE:** Attach a map that clearly shows the amended boundary changes. This map is to be witnessed by the signatures of representatives of the trappers' organization and the signatures of the trapper(s) directly involved in the boundary change. This map is also to be dated and signed by the NRO i/c of the district and the Regional Wildlife Manager. This applies to all RTL boundary changes.

11. A "Director of Survey Plan" is required to effect the boundary change and the cost of this plan shall be borne by the individual or agency requesting the change.

**SCHEDULE VIII: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITIES INCLUDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF RTL SECTIONS, STAs, AND TRAPPING BLOCKS.**

Registered Trapline Section: \_\_\_\_\_ RTL Section No. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
 Name

Special Trapping Area: \_\_\_\_\_ STA No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

Registered Trapping Block \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

A) PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

B) JUSTIFICATION FOR PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

C) TIME FRAME: \_\_\_\_\_

D) APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department  
 District Supervisor**

**First Nation/Trappers' Organization  
 Resource Management Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Regional Wildlife Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Nation/Trappers' Organization  
 Resource Management Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Furbearer Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Nation/Trappers' Organization  
 Resource Management Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director of Wildlife and  
 Ecosystem Protection Branch**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Nation/Trappers' Organization  
 Resource Management Board**

**SCHEDULE IX: FURBEARER SEASON AND TRAPPING REGULATION  
RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGE FORM**

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

1. Species: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Existing Regulation & Situation (Describe):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Recommended Change:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Trapping Area (please refer to the map in the Trapping Guide):  
A) Open Area Zone (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
B) Registered Trapping District (s) or RTL Section(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
C) Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Justification / Reason For Change (include objective of change, biological, economic, stakeholder/interest group concerns, safety implications, and/or enforcement):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Risks and Liabilities if the Change is Made (who might be adversely affected and how):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7.	Other Options:	Consequences(s)
	A) No Change	_____
		_____
	B)	_____
		_____

8. Consultation with stakeholders (identify who and comments/concerns/recommendations of stakeholders):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Originated By (Specify Agency):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stakeholder(s)  
a) Local Fur Council (Name)  
b) Manitoba Trapper's Assoc.  
c) Individual Trapper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manitoba Conservation  
a) Region  
b) District  
c) H.Q.  
d) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch

10. Reviewed By Manitoba Conservation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Wildlife Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Regional Director/ARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

11. Recommendation(s) of the Furbearer Seasons and Regulations Committee

A) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Furbearer Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Approval

Manager  
Game and Fur Management \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Wildlife \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**and Ecosystem Protection  
Branch**

“SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR RTL” LETTER DRAFT [Legal Requirement]

Dear Mr. or Miss Trapper:

Thank you for your application for Registered Trapline (RTL) #\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Section. I am pleased to advise you that you are the successful candidate for this competition.

This line is being allocated according to the guidelines set out in the Manitoba Furbearer Management Policy, which will include the following process:

- No Line Holder or Helper permits will be issued for RTL # \_\_ for at least 30 days, pending any formal requests from other applicants for a review of their scoring;
- If a formal request for review or rescoring is received during this time period, no Line Holder or Helper permits will be issued until the review has been completed
- If no requests for review or rescoring are received by [30 DAYS FROM THIS LETTER], this office will provide you with a letter confirming that RTL #\_\_ has been allocated to you effective [30 DAYS FROM THIS LETTER], and of any conditions, including probationary requirements, which may apply;

[IF NEEDED→] I recognize that several trapping seasons will have opened over the next 30 days. However, the department cannot issue a permit to trap the line so it will remain vacant until the review process has been concluded.

Please call me at 1-204-XXX-XXX if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Resource Officer

"UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR RTL" LETTER DRAFT [Legal Requirement]

Dear Mr. or Ms Trapper

Thank you for your recent application for Registered Trapline (RTL) # \_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Section. I must advise you that you were not the successful candidate for this competition.

If you believe you have any cause to question the results of the evaluation of your application you have 30 days from the date of this letter to submit a written request for Manitoba Conservation to review the scoring of your application. This office will not consider any requests for review or rescoring after [30 DAYS FROM THIS LETTER]. Should you be considering such a request, I strongly suggest that before you do so; contact me as soon as possible to review your application and for an explanation of the scoring process.

Thank you again for your application. Please call me at 1-204-XXX-XXX if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Resource Officer

## OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES [In use]

**Subject:**        **Annual Trapping Season and Regulation Changes**

### **Background:**

The Manitoba Department of Conservation has the authority to manage furbearers and commercial trapping activities.

The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch coordinates the annual review of trapping regulations, trapping seasons, licensing requirements, boundaries, and makes adjustments due to changing environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors.

### **Intent:**

To provide guidelines for reviewing and changing annual trapping seasons and regulations by providing a degree of formality which obligates trapping associations and/or department staff to discuss and formally submit recommendation(s) for consideration.

This review also includes regulations affecting the taking of black bears and timber wolves under authority of a trappers' license.

### **Objectives:**

1. To ensure that the harvest of furbearers is sustainable.
2. To maximize trapper opportunity, thereby providing economic benefits for Manitoba.
3. To reduce the number of regulatory changes which occur on an annual basis.
4. To standardize the format and protocol for changes to the annual trapping seasons and regulations.

### **Guidelines:**

The following guidelines shall determine the annual process for reviewing and changing trapping regulations.

1. **Recommendations for change** to the Furbearer Trapping Seasons and/or Furbearer Trapping Regulations shall be submitted on the form *Furbearer Season and Trapping Regulation (Recommendation for Change)*;
2. **Notice of Trapping Seasons Meeting**
  - A) The Furbearer Manager shall send a memorandum to the Regional Wildlife Managers, Regional Superintendents, Regulatory Specialist, and Manager of Licensing, *to initiate the annual review of the trapping seasons and regulations.*
    - i) Attachments shall include preliminary season dates.
    - ii) Copy of the "Recommendation for Change" form.
    - iii) Participants shall be advised of the following:
      - a) any changes in format,
      - b) deadlines/meeting dates including the Trapping Seasons and Regulations meeting, and
      - c) topics eligible for discussion.

**3. Trapping Regulations review, consultation, and development of recommendations for change.**

- A) Notice of trapping regulations review shall be initiated by *the third week of January*.
- B) Regional Wildlife Managers and Superintendents shall be responsible for the following:
  - i) Evaluating the previous year's trapping seasons.
  - ii) Developing submissions for licensing, season and regulation changes.
  - iii) Informing, coordinating, and reviewing input from District staff including other resource managers like Parks Managers. And
  - iv) Developing recommendations for change to address stakeholder concerns/resolutions.
- C) Furbearer Manager shall be responsible for the following:
  - i) Evaluating trapping regulations and developing recommendations for change to address:
    - a) Stakeholder concerns/resolutions,
    - b) Departmental Direction,
    - c) Special Season Proposals,
    - d) Species guidelines for standardized season frameworks, and
    - e) Regular consultation and communication with Regional Wildlife Managers and Superintendents.
- D) Regional staff and Furbearer Manger shall be responsible for:
  - i) Informing First Nation(s), Resource Management Boards,
  - ii) Soliciting input from stakeholder groups,
  - iii) Furbearer Manager shall meet with First Nations, Resource Management Boards and stakeholders as requested by the region(s) and stakeholders,
  - iv) Furbearer Manager shall provide information to the regions for their distribution to the First Nations, Resource Management Boards, and stakeholders within their respective regions of those proposals that they may affect them.
- E) Submission of "*Recommendation for Change*" forms.
  - i) Shall be distributed to the Regional Wildlife Managers and Assistant Regional Directors, First Nations, Resource Management Boards and the Manitoba Trapper's Association by *31<sup>st</sup> January*.
  - ii) Stakeholders shall submit their Recommendation for Change to the Regional Wildlife Manager where the change is to take place.
  - iii) All proposed Recommendations for Change to the season(s), regulations, fee structures, licensing and permitting requirements, and boundary changes shall be presented on the *Recommendation for Change Form* and include the following:

- a) Typed or hand written format,
- b) Signatures of *both* the Regional Wildlife Manager and Regional Superintendent/Regional Director,
- c) Provide qualitative information (harvest levels) by species for specific geographic areas (Registered Trapline Sections),
- d) Level of consultation with First Nations, Resource Management Boards and stakeholders,
- e) Stakeholder concerns (risks and liabilities),
- f) Justification Section to include a clear objective and indicate how the change will resolve or improve the current situation, and
- g) All forms shall be submitted to the Furbearer Manager no later than *the 3rd Monday of April*.

#### **4) Assembly and Distribution of Proposals**

- A) The Furbearer Manager shall assemble and distribute copies of all recommendations for change by the *4<sup>th</sup> Monday in April* to the Regional Wildlife Managers, Regulatory Specialist, Manager of Licensing, First Nation(s), Resource Management Boards and the Manitoba Trapper's Association and the Local Fur Councils and/or trapper's organizations where they exist respecting those recommendations that may affect their trapping activities.

#### **5) Annual Trapping Seasons and Regulations Meeting**

- A) The Furbearer Manager shall meet prior to the *3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of May* with First Nation(s), Resource Management Boards and the Manitoba Trapper's Association by the *3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of May* and shall:
  - i) Present the recommendations for changes to the trapping seasons and regulations.
  - ii) Record their comments and concerns and
  - iii) Distribute these to the Regional Wildlife Managers and Superintendents.
- B) The Furbearer Manager shall meet with the Regional Wildlife Managers and Regional Superintendents *by the 4th Monday of May*.
- C) *Recommendations for Change* shall be reviewed in detail.
- D) Participants may develop recommendations respecting the modification or withdrawal of proposals, and
- E) The Furbearer Manager shall record and distribute the minutes of this meeting to the participants.

#### **6) Final Recommendations for change to the Furbearer Trapping Seasons and Regulations.**

- A) The Furbearer Manager shall prepare the submission to the Regulatory Specialist and Policy Coordination Branch outlining the *changes* to the furbearer seasons and regulation and shall include the following details:

- i) Season and regulatory changes and
  - ii) Justification for all changes.
- B) Provide explanation to stakeholders respecting those recommendations that have not been approved/adopted.
- C) Submit the changes for publication in the annual Trapping Guide.