

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trapper Training Curriculum Guidelines Developed

Ottawa, September 27, 2004 – The Fur Institute of Canada is pleased to announce the completion of National Trapper Training Curriculum Guidelines for use throughout Canada. This project was funded by the Government of Canada’s Human Resources Partnerships Directorate.

Under the skilful guidance of an Industry Steering Committee, the Guidelines, accompanied by a video trapper training series entitled *Focus on Trapping, 2nd Edition*, were produced in both official languages and distributed to very positive reviews to all wildlife jurisdictions, provincial and territorial trapper associations and Aboriginal organizations with an active interest in trapping. The Guidelines will be updated and redistributed annually, with the continued input from stakeholder groups.

Canada has long been a world leader in trap research and trapper education. While some areas of the country had comprehensive training tools already at their disposal, there remained a definite need to upgrade these in other jurisdictions. “The Guidelines and *Focus on Trapping* program can now benefit all trappers across the country with the latest training material,” said Fur Institute of Canada Chairman Bruce Williams. “While helping to ensure improved knowledge, skill and income of all Canada’s trappers, this new resource will enable us to meet Article 8 of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), requiring that all trappers be trained in the humane, safe and effective use of certified trapping devices and best methods.”

The Industry Steering Committee of 19 experts was established at the beginning of the project, following consultation with all trapper education stakeholder groups. It consisted of six Aboriginal trapper representatives, four provincial/territorial agency officials, five provincial/territorial trapper association representatives, and two members each from auction houses and the national fur industry. A large number of stakeholder groups were kept informed of progress and the Committee benefited from their invaluable input throughout the project.

The Fur Institute of Canada, a national non-profit organization based in Ottawa, was established in 1983 on the initiative of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Ministers. Its overall mission is to promote the sustainable and wise use of Canada's fur resources. The Institute has been charged to coordinate the implementation of the AIHTS by the Canadian Wildlife Ministers to ensure Canada’s compliance and maintain open markets for Canada’s wild fur products. Much headway has been made in this regard, particularly in the area of trap testing against AIHTS requirements. Achieving this latest goal is in the interest of over 50,000 Canadian trappers, almost half of whom are Aboriginal, and the maintenance of a vibrant trade in fur products that contributes some \$800 Million annually to the nation’s economy.

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