



# Aboriginal Participation in Protected Areas Planning and Management:

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## Case Studies from the Canadian Parks Council with Specific Discussion of the Yukon

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## Our Experience

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Modern day land claim agreements have:

- changed park planning and management
- altered the relationships between Aboriginal people and federal, provincial and territorial governments
- created a new framework and a growing body of experience



## Our Common Understanding

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Ingredients to success:

- community leadership
- meaningful partnership
- recognition



## Categorizing Our Examples

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1. planning and management
2. network planning initiatives
3. interpretation activities and tourism ventures
4. culture and traditional knowledge
5. cultural learning opportunities for aboriginal youth
6. capacity building

## Protected Areas Profiled in Case Studies



## Pimachiowin-Aki World Heritage Site Initiative

- proposed to Parks Canada in 2002
- 43,000 sq km includes Atikaki PP, Woodland Caribou PP, and Bloodvein HR
- "remarkable .... diverse and significant boreal forest values ..."
- land use planning based on community goals and interests in all 4 First Nations
- First Nations leadership and articulation of values crucial



- December 2006 - established a non-profit Corporation as a partnership to pursue the nomination



## Collaborative Management Coastal Conservancies in British Columbia

- new First Nations relationship in planning
- also included industry and local government
- established conservancies [new designation]
- committed to Collaborative Management Agreement
- special funding for planning and operations



- multi First Nations and multi protected areas board
- First Nations and BC nominees on broader land use forum



## Cooperative Eco-Tourism Venture: Grizzly Bear Viewing in Ni'iinlii'Njik Park

- salmon and grizzly bear relationship
- late fall – winter denning Bear Cave Mtn.
- Committee of Managing Agencies
- plans produced
- special tourism opportunity
- risk management plan – stringent controls



- tourism enterprise partnership [commercial operator, Vuntut Gwichin First Nation]
- Yukon Parks developed and maintains facilities and monitors use

## Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan

- Deline led management plan development
- Great Bear Lake Working Group
- no legal status for either
- plan intended to form part of Sahtu Land Use Plan [a provision in the claim]
- presented to land use planning board 2006
- plan elements incorporated into draft regional plan 2007



- Deline elders central to process
- process honoured oral traditions
- key was developing relationship and common vision among people with differing mandates and world views


## Katannilik Park Knowledge Camp

- programs for youth – small communities
- Kimmirut [pop. 400]
- youth connecting with elders
- began 1999
- integration of knowledge of science and traditional knowledge
- all grade 5 & 6
- week long camps on land
- early August



- developed by Katannilik Park staff with strong community and youth support and participation
- needed elsewhere but capacity is an issue

## Aboriginal Youth Work Exchange Program

- aboriginal youth [15 to 24]
  - 8 week work placements on resource management projects, job skills and personal development training
  - 3 summers – 2 with Ministry and 1 with First Nations community or organization
  - 20 parks participating
  - participants: 20 [2006]; 60 in 2007
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- high employer and participant satisfaction
  - emphasis on career development and skills training

## New Parks Identified in First Nation Final Agreements





## Kusawa Park Management Planning Program

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### Status



- provisions in claims: objectives; management planning process
- Steering Committee
- process begun with terms of reference, operating procedures and work plan approved
- visioning event in July for 3 First Nations



## Kusawa Park Management Planning Program

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### Challenges



- only 2 of 3 claims
- the letter or the spirit of the claims
- management structures
- regulations