



**Trapper Fur Handling Program  
Final Report**

**2016 - 2017**

## **Summary**

With support from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund and the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia (TANS) we were able to provide 128 new trappers with the skills and knowledge on proper pelt preparation and current trapping methods through hands on and classroom experiences. The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund enabled the TANS to offer this program across the province (Kings, Hants, Colchester, Inverness and Shelburne Counties).

The program was scheduled between September 2016 and March 2017 with each day lasting from 7 to 9 hours. The program involved 15 trapping educators and two project managers. Each student participated in hands-on activities, such as skinning, fleshing, boarding and drying fur. Setting current up-to-date traps and personal safety was also learned. The hands-on element of the program gave students the opportunity to fully experience how to maximize the most value from their pelts during market fluctuations.

All participants said they learned a lot of valuable information from their experience and the program should be extended or be a requirement along with the Fur Harvester course.

## **Project Goal**

### ***Goal***

The goal of the Fur Handling Program was to promote trapper participation, increase value from Nova Scotia's fur exports and to teach students proper pelt handling and current trapping techniques.

### ***Result***

The TANS increased student awareness about trapping and proper pelt handling by engaging 128 Nova Scotia students through this Program. The TANS provided 214 hours of hands on pelt preparation, up-to-date trap demos and the importance of good quality pelts. The majority of students indicated they plan to trap in the next trapping season. The TANS also stressed the importance of turning biological samples and harvest reports into the Department.

## **Description of Activities**

<b>Task:</b>	<b>Period:</b>
Assign TANS Directors to roles	June 2016
Determine where events will be held	June 2016
Promote the program	July 2016-March 2017
Purchase equipment	June 2016-March 2017
Educate trappers	April 2016-March 2017
Cheques mailed for mileage	June 2016-March 2017
Final report prepared, cancelled cheques were compiled	January - October 2017

## **Project Results**

The TANS completed all proposed qualitative objectives in delivering the Fur Handling Program. Engaging 128 Nova Scotians in our Program, the TANS increased trapper participation and awareness of trapping safety, ethics and has provided a lifetime of knowledge. All students participated in the field days and demonstrated to the instructor proper pelt handling and the trap sets they learned. In total two sponsors generously sponsored \$21, 387.63 towards the delivery of the 2016-2017 TANS Fur Handling Program. Students developed an appreciation for trapping, wildlife management and to take action for protecting these resources for today, tomorrow and future generations. Support from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund provided the means to train 128 students.

## **Financial:**

The Nova Scotia Habitat Fund contribution of \$9,800 represented 46% of the overall program budget of \$21387.63 and 54% of the funds came from the TANS either as in-kind donations or cash contributions. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of detailed expenditures.

## **Communication and marketing:**

The TANS has a booth program, during events the Fur Handling Program was advertised at each of the booths held throughout 2016-2017. The TANS also promoted the Program at their annual Workshop and at each of the Trapper Education Courses.

## **Conclusion:**

The TANS continues to see education as a priority area within this province. We are currently reaching 25% of new trappers and will continue to expand with the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund's assistance. The TANS is extremely grateful to have the continued support from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund.