

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP SESSION

Chairman: D. Minty

Newfoundland Wildlife Division

Overview of the theme

It is heartening to know that people involved primarily in research and management are recognizing the importance of education and public participation. Within wildlife organizations, these topics have been often talked about, but in too many cases, they receive little action. In the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, we have been talking about putting a major effort into education since the early 60's. However it was 1980 before we established an Information and Education section.

Education and public involvement are important because we don't manage wildlife in a biological vacuum. There is always a social context. Often it is the social context of a management program that will determine its success or failure. It is even more significant that the social context is the main influence on the future of wildlife around the world. The future of wildlife and wildland will be determined by our ability to help environmental concerns become integral parts of the political, social, and economic fabric of a country, state or province.

The following three presentations generated discussions on this topic.