

Consultation on NWT Parks - Process

The Department of Industry Tourism and Investment (ITI) is working to provide the best possible service and facilities to parks and campground users in the Northwest Territories, especially given escalating costs of operations and a requirement to spend public funds responsibly and equitably.

To address public concerns, the Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment instructed ITI staff in May 2008 to consult with stakeholders on a number of key issues identified by NWT residents.

ITI solicited feedback from a broad range of stakeholders over the 2008 camping season on four major topics:

- the role of parks in providing services to tourists and to residents and the balance between those two client groups;
- increasing costs to operate and maintain campgrounds, and parks fees;
- should extended stays at campgrounds be offered at discounted prices, and if so, for how long; and
- the value and satisfaction of parks users with the online reservation system.

Stakeholders consulted by the Department included resident campers, visitors to the territory who used NWT campgrounds, the business community, the tourism industry, community governments and NWT Aboriginal organizations.

Four main instruments were used to obtain input from campers and parks users:

1. A telephone survey of park users was completed on August 11, 2008. A total of 785 Northwest Territories (NWT) park users were interviewed (418 NWT residents and 367 non-residents).
2. An online survey was launched on July 3, 2008 and ended on August 15, 2008. A total of 87 surveys were completed (83 NWT residents and 4 non-residents).
3. Self-administered surveys were distributed in all Territorial Parks and were available from July 1 to August 15, 2008. A total of 87 surveys were collected (32 NWT residents and 55 non-residents).

fact sheet

4. Eleven stakeholder surveys were completed by tourism operators and Aboriginal organizations, and
5. An additional 10 written submissions were received from individuals.

The results and analysis of this consultation was provided to a three-member independent review panel to consider and provide recommendations to the Minister.

Panel members were identified by and represented three official societies or organizations with a vested interest in how NWT parks are managed:

- CPAWS represents the public interest in benefits the society in general receives from parks;
- NWT Tourism has an interest in parks as tourism attractions; and
- the NWT Chamber of Commerce has an interest in the economic benefits of parks.

Based upon recommendations from this panel, the Minister has initiated amendments to the Territorial Parks Regulations to be in place in time for the 2009/2010 parks season.