

Consultation on NWT Parks - Results

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.

The Department 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.

A detailed documentation of results from this consultation is available at: www.iti.gov.nt.ca

The following key findings were identified in the consultation process:

Issue 1: The Role of Parks

- 61% of telephone survey respondents indicated that tourists and residents should have equal priority for NWT parks.
- 67% of stakeholders indicated that Parks are “highly important” for attracting visitors.
- 67% of stakeholders indicated that Parks are “highly important” for providing accommodation and recreation opportunities to visitors.

Issue 2: Park Fees

- 83% of stakeholders indicated it was reasonable for park permit fees to increase as operational costs increase.

fact sheet

- 58% of respondents in the telephone survey stated that they might, probably or definitely would pay \$30/night for a powered, and 73% stated that they might, probably or definitely would pay \$20/night for a non-powered site.

Issue 3: Extended Stays

- Only 18% of campers interviewed in person stated that extended stays should be for the entire season; 35% of those interviewed recommended no extended stays, and 47% supported extended stays for less than the full season.

Issue 4: Online Reservation System

- 66% of NWT residents and 36% of visitors were dissatisfied with the value of the online reservation system.