



IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Caribou Health Technician	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-17007	Yellowknife	Wildlife and Forest Management/ HQ

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Caribou Health Technician (Technician) is responsible for coordinating the planning, development, and implementation of ongoing wildlife health/disease surveillance and management programs, with a particular emphasis on barren-ground caribou. The position works under the guidance and supervision of the Wildlife Veterinarian and works closely with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Wildlife Headquarters and Regional staff, Renewable Resource Officers, academic and industry partners, renewable resource co-management boards, and communities.

SCOPE

Located in Yellowknife and reporting to the Wildlife Veterinarian in the Wildlife Division, the Caribou Health Technician works collaboratively with departmental staff, reference laboratories, academic partners, co-management boards, and communities, with the responsibility for contributing to caribou health monitoring. The support provided by the incumbent will contribute to the success of this program.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC)'s Wildlife Health Program monitors and manages threats to the health, welfare, and sustainability of the Northwest Territories (NWT) wildlife including high priority species such as barren-ground caribou; this includes both the high-level strategic planning around caribou health issues and the field implementation of caribou health monitoring activities. The Wildlife Health Program is responsible for the delivery of actions to prevent, mitigate, and respond to potentially significant caribou health issues, and their impacts on caribou populations, as well as domestic animal and public health.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Working under the guidance of the Wildlife Veterinarian, supports the operation of the Wildlife Health Program.

- Supports ongoing caribou health research, monitoring, and management activities, assist with wildlife necropsies, basic wildlife sampling, maintain necropsy/laboratory facilities and maintain supply inventory.
- Provides administrative and technical support to ongoing caribou programs including provisions of technical advice, coordinating ordering and distribution of materials/equipment, processing and shipment of samples to reference laboratories for analyses, and training of biologists, technicians, officers, and public/volunteers in field sampling techniques.
- Assists in the supervision of summer students, veterinary students, and volunteers, and helps to develop and deliver laboratory and field caribou health programs and activities.
- Contributes to the development and upkeep of caribou health communications materials.

2. Manages a centralized information framework for caribou health/disease reports, samples, and data.

- Manages caribou health case reports and necropsy/diagnostic/health analyte data on, including coordination with the CWHC national surveillance database.
- Coordinates and conduct standardized collection, processing, storage, inventory, and management of caribou biological specimen archive; facilitate transport of samples.
- Helps to establish a caribou specimen database and caribou health sample unique identification system for long-term tracking of caribou health samples and data
- Remains current on the state of knowledge on caribou health through the literature and contact with professional colleagues.

3. Supports development of training/guidance resources, standard operating procedures and public communications on matters pertaining to caribou health.

- Assists in the development of training materials and procedural documents to guide caribou health investigation activities.
- Develops and updates public communication products related to caribou health.
- Identifies opportunities for raising awareness of key caribou health issues.

4. Assists in the development and implementation of caribou health surveillance.

- Assists in the review and preparation of caribou health and disease surveillance plans
- Participates in program activities related to caribou health monitoring

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

The incumbent's role may be carried out in an office, laboratory, or field environment. Field work involving physical activities that may include manipulating live and dead wild animals

(some species over 1000 kilograms), camp preparation and maintenance, and equipment repairs may be involved.

Environmental Conditions

Exposure to and risk of infection with serious or potentially fatal zoonotic diseases when handling wildlife, conducting field necropsies, and processing laboratory samples. Travel to remote field sites using small aircraft or alternative motor vehicle transport may be required. Exposure to repeated, long-term high decibel noise from firearms, aircrafts, snowmobiles, ATVs, and working around heavy equipment.

Exposure to extreme temperatures while doing active outdoor fieldwork.

Sensory Demands

Use of potentially dangerous laboratory or field equipment, handling of live or dead wildlife, and processing of biological samples and chemicals requires attention to detail and safety, and rapid and competent judgement.

Mental Demands

The incumbent may encounter sensitive, difficult, or controversial topics or situations, and some which require timely responses and the respectful management of confidential information.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- General knowledge of wildlife biology, health, disease, and welfare theory and practice
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Strong writing and editorial skills and excellent command of the English language
- Strong computer processing skills (proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Ability to work with live and dead animals, technical materials/equipment, biological samples (fluids, tissues, etc.), and familiarity with laboratory and field safety techniques
- Ability to work independently and be self-driven
- Strong interpersonal skills and capacity to work collaboratively and in team environments
- Ability to commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.

Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:

A Bachelor's Degree in a field such as Natural Sciences (including Biology, Animal Health/Veterinary Sciences, Zoology), Wildlife Management, or Ecology.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Position Security (check one)

- ☐ No criminal records check required
- ☒ Position of Trust – criminal records check required
- ☐ Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check

French language (check one if applicable)

- ☐ French required (must identify required level below)
Level required for this Designated Position is:
ORAL EXPRESSION AND
COMPREHENSION
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
READING COMPREHENSION:
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
WRITING SKILLS:
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
- ☐ French preferred

Indigenous language: Select language

- ☐ Required
- ☐ Preferred