

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following information is in support of an Environmental Screening related to allied training with updated practice laser guided munitions at the 5 Wing Practice Target Area near Minipi Lake. Specifically, this report examines air and ground conflicts with existing and future land use as a result of adding a safety template beyond the Practice Target Area to provide for public safety. Due to the deployment of this system at higher altitudes and speeds, the restricted area around the Practice Target Area will need to be expanded, with control transferred to the Federal Government from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. To determine current land and airspace use of the general area, Jacques Whitford Environment Limited was contracted by the Goose Bay Office of National Defence to complete the necessary land use research of Labrador residents and others. Innu Environmental was subcontracted specifically to examine existing (from 1990 to present) land use by the Innu of Labrador. Interviews for all those contacted followed a prepared template where appropriate and examined a variety of aspects related to the environment, resources, land use (hunting, fishing, trapping, and other activities), land use settlement, concerns and guidelines (possible mitigation). The researchers also attended a public information session and worked closely with staff from the Goose Bay Office, 5 Wing Goose Bay and in particular the Wing Community Liaison Officer. For the non-Innu component, interviewees were considered in terms of Commercial and non-Commercial activities from air charters and outfitting to recreational hunting and fishing. The primary air and land use activity at present and predicted at this time is the outfitting activity in the vicinity of Minipi Lake. Two outfitters, Cooper's Minipi Lake Camps and Labrador Outdoors use a large area immediately north of, and overlap to a slight degree of the proposed safety template. Float plane and helicopter operations in this region are predominantly in support of these two Outfitters. To that end significant attention was placed with these owner operators, to explain the Project and examine potential conflicts. In both of these cases, no opposition to proceeding with the initiative was expressed by them or other non-Innu interviewees. Several people suggested mitigation measures that were either part of the existing proposal or could be incorporated into its design.

To understand the recent land use of the area in question by the Innu of Labrador, Jacques Whitford Environment Limited sub-contracted Innu Environmental, a wholly-owned (by the two Innu Band Councils of Labrador) company. This document (Wolverine & Associates 2001) is presented as an attachment to this report. Within Quebec, a similar exercise by the Mamut-Inuat was undertaken but not yet available at the time of writing.