



## **Context**

Inuit have inhabited and used most of the region north of the 55th parallel in Québec for hundreds if not thousands of years (long before Québec even existed). Prior to the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*, life in the communities consisted essentially of traditional subsistence harvesting pursuits. Wildlife resources continue to be vital to the Inuit health and their way of life.

## **A Few of the Challenges**

Population growth and subsistence harvesting may eventually create unsustainable pressure on wildlife resources and their habitats.

Climate change is threatening the capacity to access inland and marine harvesting areas safely, as well as contributing to the encroachment of non-indigenous species.

High transportation costs for equipment and supplies puts harvesters without another form of paid employment at a disadvantage.

The habitats of harvested wildlife and of some endangered species are the same areas coveted for mineral exploration and other industrial development projects. Air, sea and land traffic generated by these projects also exert pressure on wildlife resources.

Sport hunters, sport anglers and increased numbers of workers from outside the region place additional pressure on the same wildlife resources used by traditional subsistence harvesting.

Implementation of wildlife provisions under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* as well as the enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations are difficult in particular due to the lack of permanent funding, the absence of sufficient enforcement capacity, and the high turnover of wildlife conservation personnel.

The disruption of caribou migrations by unregulated outfitting mobile camps, the increasing presence of private small aircraft, helicopters and illegal trapping affect the ability of Inuit to practise traditional subsistence harvesting.

Wildlife harvesting and food processing regulations make it almost impossible to serve locally harvested food to tourists as well as in restaurants and health centres.

## **Solutions and Priorities**

Inuit harvesting rights in Nunavik are protected by treaty, subject to the Principle of Conservation.

