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Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre

Annual Report 2004-2005





Service canadien de la faune

Environment Canada Canadian Wildlife Service

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3



It is with pleasure that I present to you this Annual Report from the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC). This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and gives a full account of the activities of the CCWHC in 2004-05.

The work of the Centre continues to expand, and the issues the Centre confronts continue to magnify in importance to Canadian society. The Board, the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee and the other government and non-government partners in the CCWHC are working to increase the capacity of the organization to meet the challenges of wildlife disease surveillance and management in Canada.

The CCWHC has worked closely with federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop a new coordinated and collaborative national strategy to reduce the socio-economic impacts of wild animal diseases in Canada, including effects on wildlife and environmental conservation, human health and agricultural economies. In 2004-05, this inclusive and collaborative approach was applied to establish a long-term management plan for one particular disease of urgent national concern - Chronic Wasting Disease. Here as well, the CCWHC has played a key role in defining the issue and coordinating a multi-jurisdictional response.

The CCWHC is a unique partnership which brings together academic veterinary institutions, government and non-government agencies in a powerful coalition to address national and regional disease issues. Canada is well served by this partnership, and I am delighted to offer you this report of activities in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Trevor Swerdfager

Director General – Canadian Wildlife Service

Chair – CCWHC Board of Directors

About the CCWHC

The CCWHC is a university-based, inter-agency partnership through which Canada's four Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, government agencies at all levels and non-government agencies pool their resources and expertise to reduce the economic and ecological costs and impacts of wild animal diseases in Canada

- The CCWHC partnership was established in 1992 with leadership from Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Directors, and with a start-up grant from the Max Bell Foundation.
- In 2004-05, the CCWHC partnership included all provincial and territorial governments; four federal agencies: Environment Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Ducks Unlimited Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation and Syngenta Crop Protection.



- The CCWHC has four primary university locations, each serving a large region of Canada:
- West coast activities occur through a partnership with the Centre for Coastal Health in Nanaimo BC

Charlottetown PEI St-Hyacinthe QC Guelph ON Saskatoon SK

What We Do

The CCWHC has four separate business lines, each carried out on regional and national scales. The first three business lines are supported by annual contributions from CCWHC partner agencies and the universities. The fourth business line—Wildlife Disease Response and Management—is supported by separate funding arrangements for each project and program.

The Four Business Lines of the CCWHC

1 Wildlife Disease Surveillance

The constant detection, diagnosis and recording of wild animal diseases in Canada, where each has occurred and in which wild animal species, and identification of potential major disease issues for further attention.



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2 Information Services

Scientific advice and information to partner agencies in support of their management decisions and the delivery of their programs.

(3) Education

Educational programs and services to partner agency personnel and education of wildlife health specialists by participation in university programs.





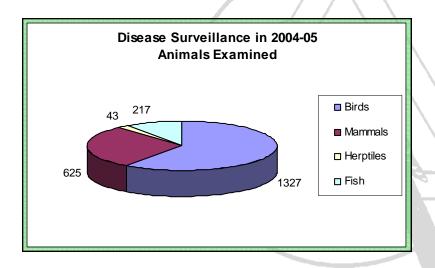
4 Wildlife Disease Response and Management

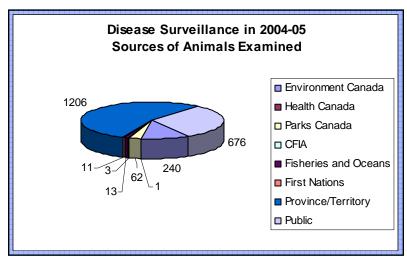
Targeted special programs are implemented when urgent or important new disease issues require further assessment, response or management.

1 Wildlife Disease Surveillance

- Disease surveillance is the foundation of all aspects of Canada's national wildlife disease program. It includes the detection and identification of diseases and their causes, central recording of information in a national database, information analysis, and communication of findings to managers and other stakeholders.
- Disease surveillance is achieved by medical examination of wild animal specimens discovered by wildlife field personnel and sent to the CCWHC and its collaborating laboratories.

In 2004, the CCWHC Program Examined 2,212 Wild Animal Specimens





(1) Wildlife Disease Surveillance - Highlights from 2004

Quebec Eider Project

• In conjunction with researchers from UQAM, CWS and Université Laval, the CCWHC has been investigating the effect of avian cholera on the survival of Common Eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) in the St. Lawrence Estuary.





Poisoning

 Poisoning continues to plague numerous species of Canadian wildlife from eagles and swans to White-tailed Deer and Black Bears. There were 200 poisoning cases recorded in 2004.

Type E Avian Botulism on the Great Lakes

 This epidemic continues to expand, killing large numbers of Common Loons, mergansers, grebes and gulls. In 2004, 4 new species were affected in large numbers: the Long Tailed Duck, the American Crow, the White-winged Scoter, and the Double-Crested Cormorant.





A New Virus Disease

• In early March of 2004, numbers of dead crows were found in the Pittock Conservation area of Woodstock, in southwestern Ontario. A new virus of the reovirus group appears to be the cause of death. This is a new epidemic disease in the American Crow.

West Nile Virus

• The continental epidemic of West Nile Virus is affecting many species of birds. In addition to the thousands of crows and their close relatives that have died, the CCWHC has documented the disease in 21 other species including: Bald Eagles, several species of hawks and owls and the endangered Sage Grouse.



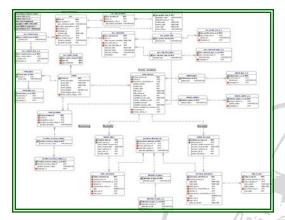


Chronic Wasting Disease

• 32 New Cases were detected in Saskatchewan in the 2004-05 hunting season. This is an increase of 45% above the 22 cases detected last year, and brings the total number of CWD-affected wild deer detected in Canada to 65.

CCWHC Information Technology Centre

- The CCWHC Information Technology Centre links together and supports the entire CCWHC program.
- The Centre maintains Canada's National Wildlife Disease Database.
- Internet-accessible data input and reporting ensure remote access by all CCWHC partners.
- Through international collaborations, the Database also supports the work of scientists in Universidad Nacionale de Costa Rica and the Charles Darwin Research Station, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.



• The IT Centre has re-designed the internal structure of the National Database for implementation on the PostGreSQL mainframe platform. This major upgrade of the IT system will provide superior user access and security options, seamless operation in English, French, and Spanish and a large new capacity to record a wide range of biological data.

New structural design for the National Wildlife Disease Database

 A pilot project was initiated to enter historical records into the database using the latest scanning technology and high character recognition software.

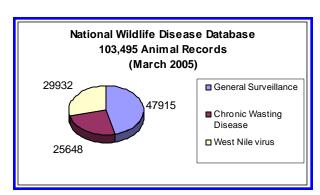


• The CCWHC database is used, in part, to generate Canada's Annual Wildlife Disease Occurrence Report to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).



Informational Websites



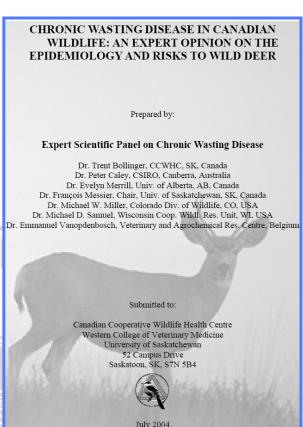


(2) Information Services

Expert Scientific Review of Chronic Wasting Disease in Canadian Wildlife

To address the alarming expansion of Chronic Wasting Disease in wild deer in Canada from 2000 to 2004, the CCWHC convened an international panel of scientists to review all aspects of this apparent new epidemic. Special funds to cover the Panel's costs were contributed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada).

The Panel was convened in Saskatoon on June 10-12 2004. It received briefs and presentations from a wide range of government and non-government stakeholders, and its report was released by the Panel's chairman at a news conference in Saskatoon on August 4th 2004. The full report is available on the CCWHC website (<<u>http://wildlife.usask.ca></u> - under "publications").



Final Report

The Panel's report received careful review by wildlife agencies and non-government organizations. There was extensive media coverage and wide public debate regarding management of this disease in wild deer. The report warned that Chronic Wasting Disease has the potential to spread from coast to coast across Canada, with substantial socio-economic consequences. It urged swift and bold measures to stop the spread of the disease, and intensive efforts to develop the new scientific knowledge required to fully control or eradicate it.

On September 18 2004, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for wildlife management in Canada met and discussed the epidemic of Chronic Wasting Disease in Canadian wildlife. They announced that their ministries would work together with ministries responsible for agriculture and public health to develop and implement a National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy in 2005.

(2) Information Services (Continued)

The CCWHC responded to a wide range of requests for information and advice from partner agencies in 2004-05. These included participation in regional, national and international meetings, participation on committees, and reports on specific issues. The CCWHC also provided information to the public by responding directly to inquiries, publishing a semi-annual Newsletter, providing numerous media interviews, and maintaining an informational website: http://wildlife.usask.ca

Regional

- West Nile Virus—Reports to regional meetings
- Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Team
- PEI Provincial Rabies Committee
- Eastern Canada Piping Plover Working Group
- Development of standard operating procedures for seals in difficulty
- Ontario Rabies Advisory Committee
- Expert Witness for Crown—wildlife-related litigation
- Presentation on common and important diseases in northern Ontario—First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
- OMHLTC Public Health Branch—Information Session on Wildlife Zoonoses
- Scientific Advisory Committee to the Task Force Group for Bovine Tuberculosis in Manitoba
- Sturgeon River Plains Bison Management Strategy Development Team
- Development of standard operating procedures for wildlife capture and handling in the NWT

National

- Technical Working Group of the National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy
- Inter-agency Oversight Committee of the National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy
- National Steering Committee on West Nile virus
- Animal capture drug advice, acquisition and distribution to wildlife agency personnel
- CCAC Subcommittee on Guidelines for Care and Maintenance of Marine Mammals in Captivity
- The harp seal hunt—Joint meeting of DFO and the World Wildlife Fund
- National Wildlife Disease Strategy: Preparation, Review, Action Plan Draft
- National Wildlife Disease Action Plan Workshop
- Public Health Agency of Canada Zoonoses and Special Pathogens Laboratory Peer Review
- Public Health Agency of Canada Zoonotic Disease Subcommittee
- CFIA—current issues in wildlife
- Expert Panel on Chronic Wasting Disease—Report "Chronic Wasting Disease in Canadian Wildlife"
- PrioNet: Network Centre of Excellence on TSEs—CWD theme leadership
- Health Canada's Working Group on Climate Change
- CCWHC Newsletters
- Canadian Animal Health Consultative Committees
- National Aquatic Animal Health Program Workshop
- National Wildlife Disease Occurrence Report to the OIE 2004

International

- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
- Type E Botulism On the Great Lakes Canada-USA Workshop
- Emerging Infectious Disease: Joint conference WDA/AAZV/AAWV Co-Chaired
- Envirovet Program—Guest Lectures USA
- Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment, International Symposium on Climate Change in the Arctic
- Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (USA) Report on CWD Expert Panel Process.

(3) Education

Education is a key activity of the CCWHC. Education supports disease surveillance through instruction and engagement of wildlife field personnel and the public, and creates wildlife health specialists through university programs. Instruction in a wide range of topics related to wild animal health and disease was provided to community groups and to partner agency personnel in 2004-05, including a wildlife forensics course and a community-based wildlife disease education program.

Northern Education Programs



Dr. Brett Elkin and Students in Deline, January 2005

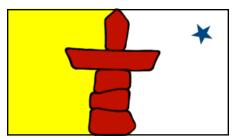
In cooperation with the Government of the NWT and the Sahtu Renewable Resource Board, the Sahtu Monitoring Project is designed to increase awareness about wildlife species and to foster community-based expertise in wildlife health and population monitoring across the Sahtu Settlement area in the NWT. In January 2005, a series of educational seminars about wildlife research, health and monitoring were presented to Renewable Resources Councils (RRC's), schools, and the public in the Sahtu region.

The Program's main objectives are:

- 1. Wildlife Health Monitoring: To continue to establish partnerships with harvesters to provide an efficient means for long-term monitoring of wildlife body condition and health and to build community expertise in issues relating to wildlife health.
- 2. Youth Education: To provide information pertaining to the health, biology, ecology, and management of local species to school students. Also, to promote student involvement in monitoring projects, science and resource management careers.
- 3. **Historical Occurrence of Wildlife Disease**: Participation with experienced harvesters to document changes in wildlife disease occurrence over several past decades.
- 4. **Graduate Student Education**: Graduate students continue to be involved in the program ensuring that future researchers are exposed to northern issues and experiences, while establishing between universities and the communities

This was the first year of a 3 year project with the Government of Nunavut to provide a series of workshops and the associated educational materials on wildlife diseases to communities in the Kivalliq Region, Nunavut. Workshops will begin in 2005-06.

Kivalliq Education Project



Education Summary 2004-05		
Hours of Instruction to Partner Agencies	160	
Graduate Students Supervised	14	
University Courses Taught	9	
Scientific Presentations	28	

4 Wildlife Disease Response and Management

The CCWHC responded to important wildlife disease issues with targeted programs of enhanced surveillance, research and participation in the disease management actions of partner agencies. CCWHC personnel also participated in research to extend knowledge of wildlife health and welfare in Canada. Each of these targeted programs was financed separately from the core CCWHC program.

Disease Response and Management in 2004-05

- Health Assessment of Wolves in Riding Mountain National Park
- National West Nile Virus Surveillance Program in Wild Birds
- Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance in Saskatchewan
- Tuberculosis, Elk and Wolves in Riding Mountain National Park
- Development of PCR Tests for Wildlife Pathogens
- Avian Botulism: Distribution of Spores in Wetland Environments
- Summary Report on Avian Botulism Research
- Survey for Pesticides in Raptors and Waterfowl in Southern BC (CCH)





- Bears: Measures of Long-term Stress and Ecosystem Health
- Exposure Levels for Pesticides in Birds of Prey
- Epidemic Diseases in Double-crested Cormorants
- Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and West Nile Virus Infections in Ringbilled Gulls in Ontario
- Seroprevalence of West Nile Virus in Song Birds
- Expanded Surveillance for West Nile Vectors on Vancouver Island (CCH)
- Evaluation of the Role of Climate Change in the Emergence of Pathogens and Diseases in Arctic and Sub-arctic Ungulate Populations
- Risk Assessment of Disease Transmission Between Wild Dall's Sheep and Mountain Goats and Introduced Domestic Sheep, Goats, and Llamas in the NWT





- Health Assessment of Beluga Whales from the St. Lawrence Estuary
- Health Assessment of Amphibians on Agricultural Lands
- Revision of CAZWV Chemical Immobilization Course Manual
- National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy
- Federal-Provincial Fish Health Management Advisory Committee Operation (CCH)

Total Financial Resources For Disease Response and Management: \$1,316,301

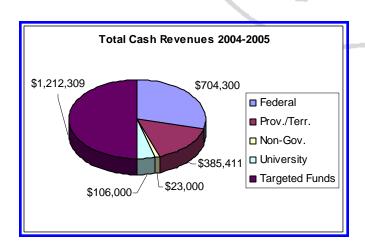
$\textbf{Publications and Reports:} \ \textbf{A Sample of Publications in Journals by CCWHC Staff}$

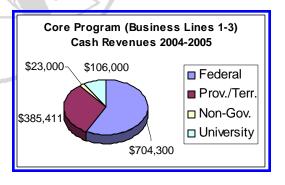
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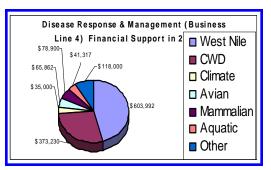
Financial Report for 2004-2005 - Core Program Revenues

Financial Support for Core Program (Business Lines 1-3)				
Environment Canada	\$381.600	Prince Edward Island		\$4.735
Health Canada	\$194,000	Ontario		\$212,300
Parks Canada	\$78,700	OMNR	\$73,500	. ,
CFIA	\$50,000	OMHLTC	\$70,000	
Alberta	\$7,000	OME	\$68,800	
British Columbia	\$30,000	Quebec		\$25,000
Manitoba	\$10,000	Saskatchewan		\$34,523
New Brunswick	\$5,000	Yukon		\$8,000
Newfoundland & Labrador	\$11,685	Canadian Wildlife Federation		\$10,000
Northwest Territories	\$11,168	Ducks Unlimited		\$10,000
Nova Scotia	\$11,000	Syngenta		\$3,000
Nunavut	\$15,000	Veterinary Colleges/Universitie	s	\$106,000
		Total		\$1,218,711

Cash Revenues in 2004-05			
Core Program: (Business Lines 1-3)	\$1,218,711		
Response & Management Targeted Programs: (Business Line 4)	\$1,316,301		
Total:	\$2,535,012		

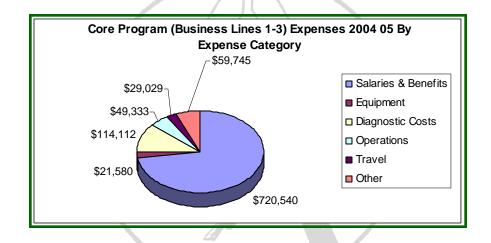


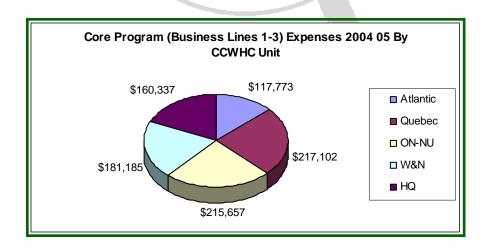




Financial Report for 2004-2005 - Core Program Expenses (Business Lines 1-3)

Expense Category	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario & Nunavut	Western & Northern	Headquarters Office	Totals
Salaries & Benefits	\$87,048.08	\$167,366.36	\$139,066.00	\$122,900.00	\$204,160.21	\$720,540.65
Equipment	\$0.00	\$11,722.51	\$4,245.00	\$1,802.00	\$3,811.06	\$21,580.57
Diagnostic Costs	\$12,058.87	\$29,112.57	\$42,500.00	\$30,441.00	\$0.00	\$114,112.44
Operations	\$671.10	\$13,999.21	\$1,465.00	\$3,987.00	\$29,211.48	\$49,333.79
Travel	\$2,633.95	\$11,151.45	\$5,470.00	\$5,420.00	\$4,354.49	\$29,029.89
Other	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,745.11	\$59,745.11
Overhead (15%)	\$15,361.80	\$49,013.00	\$28,911.00	\$24,682.50	\$43,692.35	\$161,660.65
Costs Recovered	\$0.00	-\$75,263.04	\$0.00	-\$8,047.00	-\$174,637.19	-\$263,947.23
Total Expenses						
Before Cost Recovery	\$117,773.80	\$292,365.10	\$221,657.90	\$189,232.50	\$334,974.35	\$1,156,003.65
Total after Cost recovery	\$117,773.80	\$217,102.06	\$215,657.90	\$181,185.50	\$160,337.42	\$892,056.68





Staff and Associates of the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre - 2004-05

Atlantic Region

DirectorPierre-Yves DaoustProfessionalScott McBurney*TechnicalDarlene Jones*

Associates Gary Conboy, David Gorman

Quebec Region

Director Stéphane Lair

Professional André D. Dallaire*, Cecile Aenishaenslin

Technical Kathleen Brown*

Associates Christian Bédard, Denis Bélanger, Guy Fitzgerald,

Daniel Martineau, Roger Ruppanner, Carl Uhland

Ontario & Nunavut Region

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Technical Melissa Coady*, Cheryl Massey*

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Professional Marc Cattet*, Ron Templeman*

Technical Patrick Zimmer,*, Amy Templeman*, Dan Coode*

Clerical Jacqui Brown*

Associates Maria Forzan, Craig Stephen

^{*} Salary paid from CCWHC core program budget

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(* Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors)

Michel Damphousse	Directeur du développement de la faune, Secteur Faune Quêbec, MRNF		
Jack Dubois	Wildlife Director, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch, Manitoba Conservation		
Cameron Prince	Executive Director, Animal Products Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency		
Susan Fleck*	Director, Wildlife Management Division, NWT ENR		
Jim Hancock	Director, Inland Fish and Wildlife Division, Newfoundland & Labrador		
Hugh Hunt	Executive Director, Resource Stewardship Branch, Saskatchewan Environment		
Harvey Jessop	Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Yukon Department of Environment		
Cameron Mack *	Director, Wildlife Policy Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources		
Colin Maxwell	Executive Vice President, Canadian Wildlife Federation		
Bruce Morgan	Director, Biodiversity Branch, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection		
Henry Murkin	Chief Biologist, Ducks Unlimited (Canada)		
Frank Plummer	Director General, CIDPC, Public Health Agency of Canada		
Charles Rhodes *	Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan		
Barry Sabean	Director, Wildlife Division, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources		
Jim Skrenek	Director, Fish & Wildlife, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development		
Art Smith	Director, Fish & Wildlife Division, PEI Department of Environment		
Mike Sullivan	Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, NB Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy		
Trevor Swerdfager *	Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada		
(Chair) Joe Tigullaraq	Director, Wildlife Services, Nunavut Department of Sustainable Development		
Mike Wong	Executive Director, Ecological Integrity Branch, Parks Canada		

