

Northern Tails: Ch'igii the Caribou Calf



Final Report To
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust

Bob Hayes and Shot in the Dark Productions

February 27, 2016

Project Activities

For this project, we completed the following activities:

- **Script/Storyboard Development** – We wrote an initial script, then collaborated with the designers and film production crew to determine what we could create and how we could film it. Based on that process we developed our final script and shot list.
- **Puppet and Set Construction** – Using our final script and shot list, we hired a fabric artist and puppeteer to design and build the main puppet characters and a set that could be used for the different locations we wanted to shoot.
- **Production** – We filmed the entire film over two days. Production required puppeteers, cameras, rentals, lights, and other equipment.
- **Post-Production** – This is where we edited our final version together. We also hired a composer to develop our soundtrack and do sound effects for us.
- **Testing** – Before our finalizing our edit, we showed the film to a group of 4-7 year-olds for their feedback.
- **Final Presentation** – We completed the film and presented it at the Annual Harvest Meeting of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (over 50 people in attendance) and at the School Show for the Available Light Film Festival (over 250 students in attendance).

Our goal was to develop a way to present basic natural history information to young people in a way that is engaging and informative. This process achieved these goals.

We did modify some of our activities as outlined in our initial proposal. The one thing we didn't do was pre-test the puppets and the concept. Our rationale for doing this was because of the cost and effort to prepare the puppets and sets for filming, it was not deemed to be an efficient use of time and resources. If we were to do this again, we would ensure we had some additional funding to cover these costs if we wanted to carry out this step.

The project was successful as we demonstrated during the Available Light Film Festival School Show on February 9, 2016. We presented the film to a full house of elementary students at the Yukon Arts Centre. It was extremely well received by the audience (they laughed at all the right parts) and there was a spirited and engaging question period after the film where we were able to discuss some of the information presented in the film in more depth. The audience left the presentation with a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural history and habitat requirements of barren-ground caribou. Following this presentation, we've been asked to present this film at more schools and will be following up on these requests later this spring.

Our biggest challenge was in set construction and finding a way of filming backgrounds. We initially tried to do this production using a green-screen but were not able to effectively use it in post-production because of lighting issues. If we were to do this again, we would have a larger studio where we could set up a bigger lighting system which would give us the depth needed to make that approach work. Or we would have a larger budget for set construction that would allow for us to have hand-painted backdrops.

Communications

This project was widely communicated through **Shot in the Dark Film Productions** and **Porcupine Caribou Management Board's** Facebook pages. Photos documenting the filming process and postings updating the progress and final presentation of the film were uploaded and widely viewed.

The film was also promoted as part of the Annual Harvest Meeting of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and presented during their public meeting held in Dawson on February 7, 2016. Over 50 people were in attendance.

The film was also played as part of this year's Available Light Film Festival. A description of the film was included in the main festival program and it was promoted as one of the few Yukon productions included in the festival.

The YFWET was acknowledged as a funder during the public presentations. The film acknowledges the financial support of the YFWET during the first credit of the film.

We are currently communicating with Yukon schools to determine an appropriate way of presenting the film more broadly to Yukon schools. We are also in the process of revising our website to make the film and its information more easily accessible

Some production pics and a few from the ALFF School Show...



Financial Report

Category	Item	Projected	Actual	Receipt
Rentals	Studio/Lighting	\$1,000.00	\$577.50	✓
Wages	Puppeteer	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	✓
	Cinematography	\$1,000.00	\$400.00	✓
	Editing	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	✓
	Soundtrack	\$500.00	\$800.00	✓
Materials/ Supplies	Set Construction	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	✓
Total		\$11,000.00	\$10,277.50	

As we only received \$7,000 from YFWET, we secured an additional \$3,000.00 of financial support from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Our additional costs that exceed \$7,000.00 are covered under our agreement with them.

Thank you for your support.

We are pursuing a second film on wolves for 2016.