



Turn In Poachers/Turn in Polluters 2015 Overview



The “Turn in Poachers / Polluters” (TIPP) program has been in effect in the Yukon since 1991. It was established as a joint effort of the Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Game Association to provide Yukoners with the opportunity to report resource violations to Conservation Officers using a toll free number.

Environment Yukon’s “On-Line” TIPP program continues to be a success:

Environment Yukon’s public access web site now offers anyone with internet access, the ability to contact the department with TIPP information 24 hours a day. The On-Line site continues to be very popular and allows interested participants to remain anonymous, or supply their contact information for future contact, or to participate in the TIPP Rewards program.

Our Environment Yukon web site address is:

<http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/environment-you/tip.php>

The Department of Environment TIPP program guidelines and direction for the general public:

What kinds of activities should I report to the TIPP Line?

- hunting or fishing out of season
- exceeding the bag limits
- illegal sale of fish or wildlife
- deposit of harmful substances in lakes and streams, and on the ground
- littering

What should I do if I see a suspected violation or know of one?

You have the following choices:

- Contact your local Conservation Officer Services office



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- Access our on-line website (above) site and complete the questionnaire, and upload any photos you may have or:
- Call our toll free TIPP line @ 1-800-661-0525 as soon as possible. Trained staff will take your call, record the information you supply and immediately pass it on to the nearest available Conservation Officer.

You should try to observe and record the following details:

- date and time of activity
- exact location
- vehicle licence number
- vehicle description
- description of persons involved
- details of the violation

Never approach or attempt to apprehend a suspect!

The TIPP Line operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Do I have to identify myself?

No. Anyone who uses our on-line web site, calls the TIPP line (1-800-661-0525), or provides information to a Conservation Officer or district clerical staff may remain anonymous. A unique identification number will be assigned to you when your call is taken. This number will be used to identify you in any future communications.

How do I qualify for a reward?

If the information you provide concerns a resource violation and results, or supports the laying of a charge by a Conservation Officer, if interested, you are eligible for a reward. The person taking your call can provide you with the details of the procedure.

Who supplies the reward money?

The Yukon Fish and Game Association, in collaboration with the Environment Yukon's Conservation Officers Service Branch (COSB) have a Rewards Committee which oversees the handling of the Reward Fund, and meets annually.



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This program is intended to serve as a compliance promotion initiative by raising public awareness concerning the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife and illegal environmental activities such as dumping waste. The knowledge that such a program exists and is well advertised not only educates and informs the public about potential areas of concern, but may act as a deterrent to those who would commit violations. While the reporting of matters that may otherwise be undetected is a direct benefit of this program, the most significant value of this program is in promoting compliance with resource legislation through education and awareness.

The toll free TIPP line, as well as our Environment web site is in operation 24 / 7 to receive information about fisheries, wildlife, and environmental violations. On-line (internet) information is passed onto a conservation officer immediately. Calling our Toll free TIPP line, the answering service operator passes information received to the appropriate Conservation Officer. If the information or intelligence provided results in the laying of a charge, or identifies individuals leading to potential charges, the caller is eligible for a cash reward. The program also provides reward payments to individuals who provide information directly to a Conservation Officer.

The Fish and Game Association and Yukon Environment Conservation Officer Services Branch form a Rewards Committee annually to review and oversee TIPP Reward submissions. They make a reward recommendation based on the information, case outcome, and risk associated to the information received from the caller. On Feb 10Th 2016, the committee reviewed the 2015 submitted cases, and recommended reward payments based on the information provided.

Most persons who report matters do not request reward payment, and report matters out of genuine concern for our natural resources. Others however, would not report without the incentive of reward payment. Several significant poaching cases have been resolved through information received from persons who were seeking a reward. These are matters that would almost certainly never have been solved had it not been for the existence of the TIPP program. This has included cases involving the wasting of meat, use of poisons, hunting of elk and deer, and dangerous hunting. To date, (including 2015 rewards) the COSB / Fish & Game Assoc. committee has reviewed 59 cases where rewards were requested, and has paid approximately \$51,110.00 to persons for reporting resource violations. The money is paid directly to persons who provided the information by the Conservation Officers who investigated the matter, and a witness.

Environment Yukon and the Yukon Fish and Game Association promote the program through various media, including TV, Radio, road signs, telephone book highlighting and through dispensing promotional material such as mugs, ball caps, key chains etc. These promotional materials are distributed by Conservation Officers during field patrols, when conducting public educational programs such as school talks, or given to various groups and organizations such as the Scouts or Guides youth groups. To reduce costs, this



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material is often cost shared with agencies promoting conservation messages such as Fisheries Branch promoting Live Release Angling, or First Nations promoting a Harvest Reporting program. The TIPP logo also appears on most departmental licences, many brochures, on Conservation Officer Vehicles, etc.

The Department of Environment contributes approximately \$6,000 annually towards promoting the TIPP program, as well as paying the monthly administrative fee of \$400.00 to the British Columbia based answering service. The TIPP program also relies on the Fish and Game Association to contribute annually towards the purchase of promotional material, and when required, provides reward payments.

The Wildlife Act provides authority for courts to order monies paid into the Conservation Fund through a legislated "violation reporting system" resulting from convictions under the Yukon wildlife, and associated Acts. Although not accessible at this time, this initiative will eventually provide a substantial amount of funding to support Yukon Conservation initiatives associated to the success of our TIPP program.

The TIPP line normally receives in excess of 100 calls annually that require a response from a Conservation Officer. The same phone number is used to record information for the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery program, voluntary wildlife kills, wildlife sightings and concerns the public would have with respect to Human / wildlife conflicts such as Bear sightings in or around populated areas. The line is sometimes used by campground staff to report campground complaints such as loud parties, theft of firewood or vandalism.

The TIPP "Turn in Poachers / Polluters" program has proven successful numerous times since its inception. It's difficult to measure the deterrent value of such a program; however it is clearly a positive, proactive way of informing and educating the public about concerns many Yukoners' share about protecting our natural resources.

Summary of 2015 TIPP calls

TIPP line (1-800-661-0525)

Wildlife Sightings

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Southern Lakes area: | 20 |
| Whitehorse area: | 293 |
| Remainder of Yukon: | 66 |



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Calls for Conservation Officer immediate Services:

(Possible illegal acts – road kills requiring a CO attendance)

Whitehorse Area 71
Remainder of Yukon: 43

Calls for Conservation Officer Services requiring follow up:

(Road kills involving wildlife - no threat to public)

Whitehorse Area: 103
Remainder of Yukon: 49

Voluntary Moose kill reporting

Outside Whitehorse: 8

Environment Yukon's' On-Line "TIPP" web site

<http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/environment-you/tip.php>

Numerous TIPP messages continue to be received on our "On-Line" internet site since its launch in 2014. Users have been able to provide photos with their on-line reports which has been an aid to the investigating officers and used for public notifications of wildlife sightings. Results of the number for calls for service or TIPP was unavailable at the time of this report was completed.

Yukon's TIPP program continues to attract public interest and participation, resulting in prosecutions under the Wildlife and Environment Acts. It also captures important information with respect to dangerous wildlife sightings, assisting the Conservation Officer Services Branch in promoting public safety. This program has become invaluable to both the Yukon public the enforcement initiative of the Yukon Environment.

Respectfully submitted by

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