

**IR Number: IR0607-003-01**

**Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)**

**To: Government of Northwest Territories**

**Issue: Tourism**

**Preamble**

Concern over negative impacts on the tourism industry from mineral resource development has been raised during EA0506-003, a previous assessment of the proposed development. For the Review Board to determine whether the proposed development may have a significant impact on the social or cultural environment by way of negatively affecting tourism, it needs to know the value of tourism to the potentially affected area.

**Request**

To the extent possible, please provide the following information:

1. Value of tourism industry to Akaitcho Region, including projections for future development; expressed as total and as proportion of the overall economy.
2. Number of persons employed in the tourism industry in the Akaitcho Region; including projections for future development; expressed as total and as proportion of the overall economy.
3. Any other relevant information that would allow the Review Board to determine the importance of the tourism industry to Aboriginal communities, in terms of economy, heritage, cultural or social aspects.

**Response:**

1. Value of tourism industry to Akaitcho Region, including projections for future development; expressed as total and as proportion of the overall economy.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) does not have information on tourism expenditures in the "Akaitcho region" per se. We can, however, provide some information on tourism spending in the South Slave Region, as administered by the GNWT. This Region includes Wood Buffalo National Park and other South Slave tourist activities.

These values were collected by exit survey for 2001, assembled in 2002. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) have similarly completed an exit survey for 2006, which we anticipate will be assembled in early 2007. (see attachments - values are in \$1000s)

We have also provided the number of current operators, along with their capacities, in the area east of 110 degrees and north of 61 degrees. This area is larger than the area of potential effects of the proposed development.

There are currently eight Tourist Establishment Licence (TEL) holders in the area of paragraph above, with a total capacity of 187 guests. There are also nine Tourism Outfitter Licences (TOL) for the area. Some operations have both TELs and a TOL.

The actual number of guests that each operation serves each season is the private information of the operators and is not collected by the GNWT.

There have been very few new applications for tourism operations in the area in question over recent years. Applications are opportunity-driven and cannot be projected.

2. Number of persons employed in the tourism industry in the Akaitcho Region; including projections for future development; expressed as total and as proportion of the overall economy.

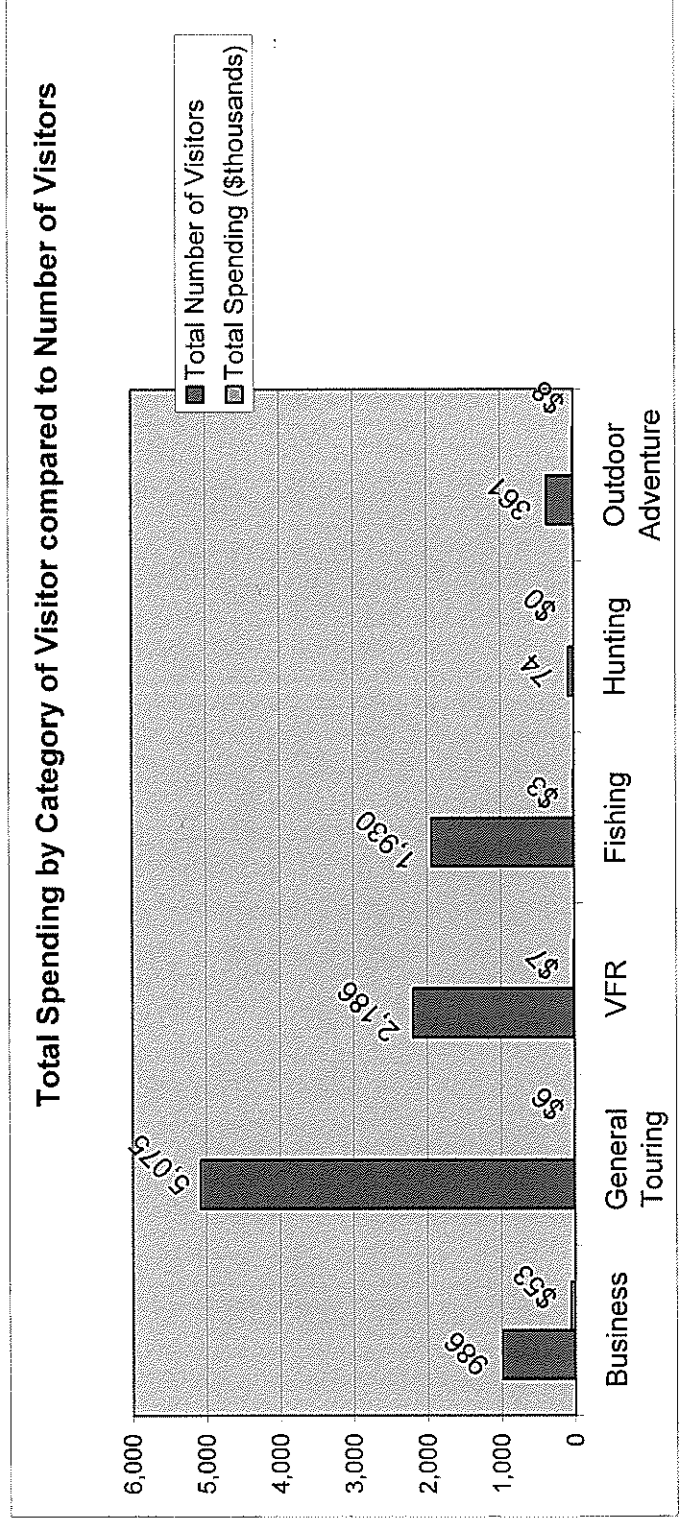
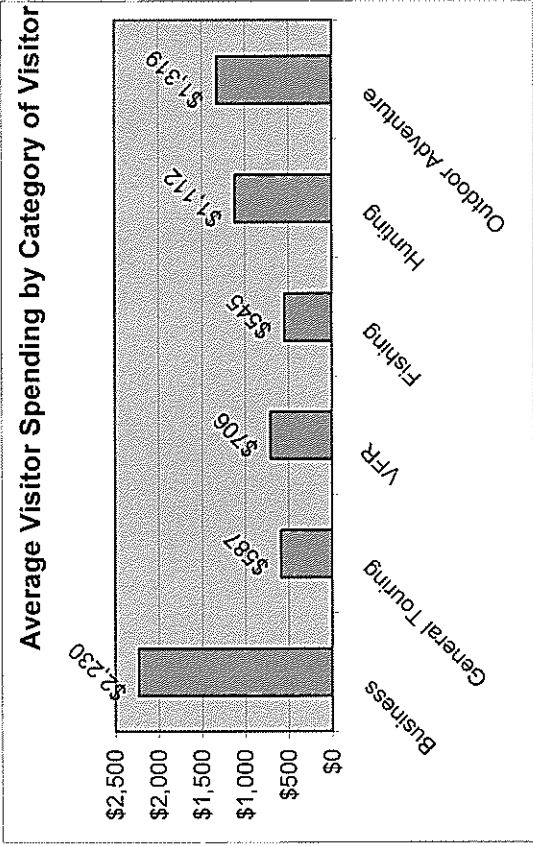
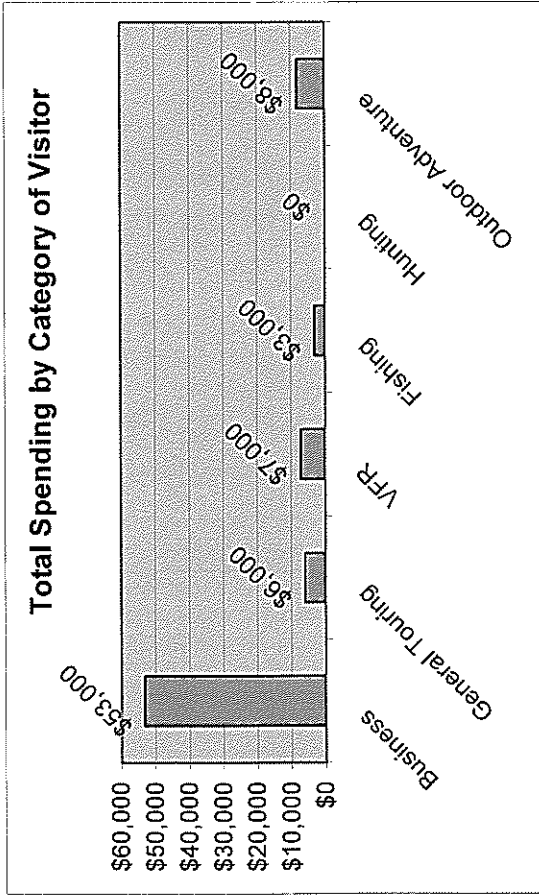
The following information is for the number of caribou hunting guides employed in Akaitcho Region. This information does not include the various other staff that would be employed by the big game outfitter, nor does it include information from fishing outfitters or eco-tourism operators that provide services in the Akaitcho Region. The GNWT does not have information on employment levels for tourism services other than what's provided below.

There is only one big game outfitter licence for Wildlife Management Unit "U". A review of guide licences issued by GNWT for the 2006 season shows a total of 15 guides. Of these, 12 are residents of Lutsel K'e and three were southern guides. The area they operate in is northeast of Lutsel K'e and includes Artillery and Alymer Lake.

3. Any other relevant information that would allow the Review Board to determine the importance of the tourism industry to Aboriginal communities, in terms of economy, heritage, cultural or social aspects.

Tourism represents a large, untapped potential resource for Aboriginal communities in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Akaitcho communities included. However, private investment requires a level of security and potential return on investment. Aboriginal-owned tourism ventures are a possibility, but are still largely in a developing phase at this time. Aboriginal communities themselves may be in a better position to answer this question.

# SOUTH SLAVE VISITORS



## SOUTH SLAVE VISITORS

	Canada	US	Other	Total Road	Canada	US	Other	Total Air	Total Number of Visitors	Average Spending	
Business	554	50	0	604	326	32	24	382	986	\$2,230	\$53,258.90
General Touring	4,144	550	321	5,015	38	13	9	60	5,075	\$587	\$5,555.10
VFR	1,888	17	39	1,944	192	40	10	242	2,186	\$706	\$7,128.37
Fishing	1,594	133	86	1,813	44	66	6	117	1,930	\$545	\$3,438.42
Hunting	9	0	0	9	0	65	0	65	74	\$1,112	\$0.00
Outdoor Adventure	205	67	64	336	16	3	6	25	361	\$1,319	\$8,321.61
Total VAC(nonvfr)	7,840	766	510	9,117	290	187	32	509	9,626		
Total People	8,408	816	510	9,720	616	219	56	891	10,612		\$77,702.41

### Total Spending (\$thousands)

\$53,000	\$53
\$6,000	\$6
\$7,000	\$7
\$3,000	\$3
\$0	\$0
\$8,000	\$8
\$76,000	\$76
	\$615.35
	\$185.98
	\$355.45
	\$0.00
	\$1,608.20