

III

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE H. TRACEY, MINISTER OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES
YUKON TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

1

On behalf of the Government of Yukon, the Department of Renewable Resources, and the people of Yukon, I would like to welcome you to the 18th Annual North American Moose conference and workshop. A special welcome to those who have travelled long distances. I understand that delegates as far away as Sweden are in attendance.

This is the first North American Moose conference to be held in Yukon and looking at the agenda it appears to be quite timely. I see there are a wide spectrum of papers dealing with everything from physiology to predation. The workshops on aerial survey and harvest strategy techniques are of particular interest. Our biologists have just completed the first of a series of extensive moose surveys in Yukon and the optimum methods and allocation of the harvest are on a lot of peoples minds.

As a species, moose are of highest priority to residents and to the Yukon Government. They generate more recreation for resident hunters than any other species of wildlife in Yukon. In fact, nearly 22 thousand man-days are spent hunting moose each year. Yukoners consider the moose a bread and butter species, and for good reason at close to a thousand pounds per animal.

But they are not only important to the consumptive user. The second most important industry in the Yukon is tourism. The majority of these people come to enjoy the open spaces and a chance to view the wildlife. In many respects over the long term, wildlife could be considered the

IV

most stable and important industry to Yukon. But only if we develop sensible management programs to ensure its existence.

I hope that your discussions are fruitful to that end and that you can benefit from each others experiences.