



Bill Steer
Canadian Ecology Centre Foundation
Box 430
Highway 17 West
Mattawa, ON POH 1V0

February 18th, 2005

Re: Certified GPS Training – application and needs

Dear Mr. Steer,

Recently, four members of the Atikokan Police Service attended Quetico Centre and completed the Green Check Certified Training Program, including the competency test. Two more officers are scheduled to attend the training which is scheduled for mid March 2005.

The training was a real “eye opener.” Overall we learned of the important relationship between the map, the compass and the GPS unit. Specifically we learned that all GPS users when recording and communicating information should be using the map datum of WGS 84 and identifying co-ordinates in both UTM and latitude and longitude. The Universal Transverse Mercator system certainly makes more sense for identifying locations. We will be promoting these standards within our own police service and other emergency response services in the area.

The training was thorough and interesting. The competency test was fair and re-enforced the skills we learned. The manual and DVD – ‘What do those numbers mean anyway?’ is a very good, complementary resource to the course.

We will be investing in some GPS units, compasses and maps of our area. At the same time we will promote this training with other colleagues and communities. GPS technology is a tool of safety and professionals working with the technology should be properly trained.

We thank the Canadian Ecology Centre Foundation and instructor Bill Steer for taking the lead in this initiative and recommend their approach to this certified

training. I would be pleased to answer any questions regarding the GPS training we participated in.

Sincerely,

Tim Fairbairn
Acting Chief of Police
Atikokan Police Service

Ph # 807-597-2666

Fax # 807-597-4555

e-mail aps.fairbairn@nwon.com