



**New electoral boundaries proposed for NWT**

The NWT Electoral Commission recommends three options for new voting districts in the territory, all of which dispose of Tu Nedhe. *See page 2.*



**Minister's shoes forecast year of 'fiscal discipline'**

NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger announced a second year of fiscal restraint in his budget address last week. *See page 3.*



**NWT girls get 'FOXY' at empowerment camps**

A new Northern sexual health and empowerment program for young women and girls is taking off across the Northwest Territories. *See page 9.*



**Aboriginal language classes kick it up a notch**

Aurora College's Thebacha campus is offering advanced Aboriginal language classes for the first time. *See page 11.*

# NORTHERN Journal

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Hockey first-timers (from left) Sadie McMahon, Shanae Nadary and Naomi Rhymer learn the fundamentals of the sport during Fort Smith's second Esso Fun Day, organized by coach Jessica Cox (back). Designed to introduce girls to the sport of hockey, players learned skating, passing, shooting and game play throughout the day, all the while making friends and having fun. *See page 19 for more.*

## Devolved authority to be partially delegated GNWT to inherit power over 24 acts, but MVRMA unlikely

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The government of the Northwest Territories has nearly worked out a final devolution deal that could see a fusion of both full and delegated authority from the federal government over legislation related to land, water and resources.

"It is important to note that the legislative authorities the GNWT will receive as a part of devolution will not be limited to delegation," NWT Premier Bob McLeod told *The Journal* last week.

"In fact, it is anticipated that at least 24 acts and regulations governing public land, water and resources in the NWT will become GNWT legislation on the transfer date, with the full accompanying authority to make changes to it, as required."

According to the premier, the GNWT anticipates having full control over administering the NWT Waters Act, the Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act, the Canada Petroleum Resources Act, the NWT Surface Rights Board Act, the Territorial Lands Act and certain regulations under the NWT Act.

Mining regulations within the Territorial Lands Act may become an NWT Mining Act at some point, he stated.

Those acts and regulations will be adopted initially as mirror legislation, meaning the territory will administer them in a fashion similar to the federal government.

"These are substantive pieces of legislation that will provide the GNWT with a suite of authorities to manage

and regulate public land, rights in respect of water, oil and gas activity and mining activity," McLeod said.

"This will include the authority to deliver related programs and services and to make changes to those programs to ensure they meet Northern needs and reflect Northern priorities," he added.

In previous discussions, devolution negotiators indicated the government was still deciding whether or not to move forward with Yukon-like delegated authority in a shorter timeframe or wait until the federal government had completed its ongoing changes to the NWT's regulatory regime, including amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), which regulates environmental

assessment outside of settled land claim areas in the NWT.

It is still undetermined whether or not the MVRMA will be an exception to the package of inherited powers.

"Delegated authority for the MVRMA is something that might be considered as an interim option because the federal government is in the midst of making substantial changes to it under their nation-wide Federal Regulatory Improvement initiative," McLeod said. "It is expected that these changes will not be completed in time for devolution."

But the premier said administering the MVRMA with delegated authority is not likely to prove different than inheriting it as mirrored legislation, based on

the complexity of the relationships that form it.

"The MVRMA is also unique as it was born out of requirements in the lands claims for an integrated system of environmental regulation that applies on Aboriginal lands and public lands, whether federal or territorial," he said. "This means whether it is enacted as territorial or federal legislation, the ability to substantively change it requires involvement from Aboriginal governments, the GNWT and Canada."

McLeod told *The Journal* in a previous interview that devolution talks were nearing completion following a week of negotiations in Ottawa earlier this month.

"Everything's coming together," he said. "I think we're very close."



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Deninu principal honoured

Fort Resolution principal Dan Summers has been named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals by The Learning Partnership, a Toronto-based education advocacy group. He will receive the award at a Toronto ceremony later this month. Fifty-one educators were honoured in total from across the country. Principals are nominated by their peers, school staff and community members in the Outstanding Principals program.

## Four arrested in Hay River drug bust

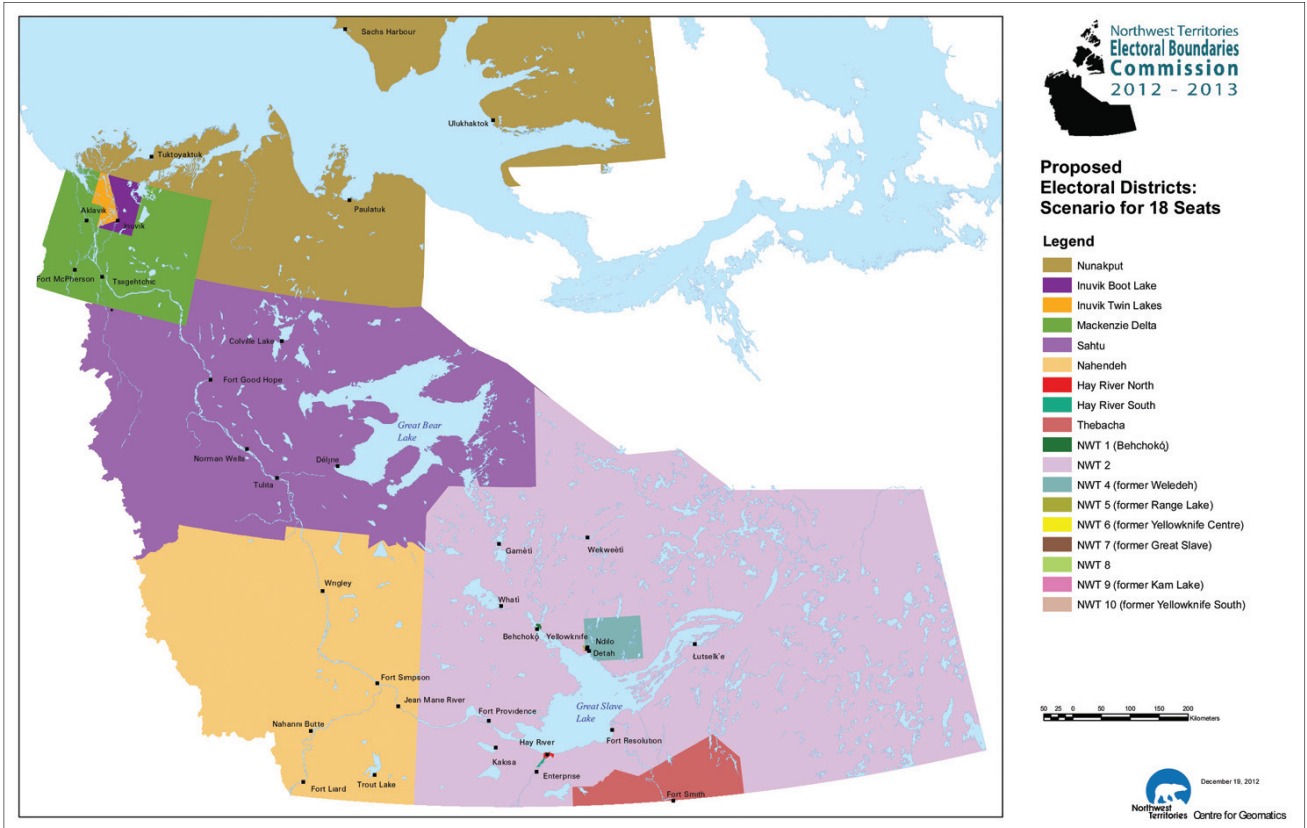
Four people have been charged after RCMP seized marijuana, crack cocaine, powder cocaine and a small amount of cash in a Hay River drug bust last Thursday. Earl Ruttle, 18, Kyle Mabbitt, 20, and Aaron Simpson, 21, all of Hay River, were released and are to appear in court on May 27. A 17 year-old who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act was also charged.

## Snowmobiler hits Northern Store

A snowmobiler crashed into the Northern Store in Fort Good Hope last Tuesday. The collision occurred after the snowmobile first struck a parked truck. The driver, a 37-year-old man from Whitehorse, was transported to Yellowknife. He is in stable condition. Alcohol and speed are believed to be involved. The investigation continues.

## Road tour features NWT films

Western Arctic Moving Pictures is taking an assortment of films from the sixth Yellowknife International Film Festival (YKIFF) into regions across the NWT. With the support of the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the YKIFF Road Tour will feature films from the NWT as well as Nunavut and Alaska. Films include *People of a Feather*, *Caribou* and *The Dancing Cop* among others. The tour will be in Fort Smith on Feb. 15.



## Politics Elections

# Commission releases proposed electoral boundary changes

*Tu Nedhe riding ousted in all three scenarios*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Major changes could be on the way for electoral boundary lines across the NWT if recommendations proposed by the Electoral Boundary Commission in its interim report released

last Monday are approved.

The Legislative Assembly asked the commission to provide details on where boundaries should be drawn given three different scenarios: if the number of districts is reduced to 18, increased to 21 or kept the same.

There are currently 19 districts.

The commission was appointed by the Legislative Assembly in October. Electoral boundary commissions are required after every second general election to “ensure everyone is getting effective representation,” Shannon Smallwood, chair of the three-person panel, told *The Journal*.

These commissions make recommendations that go before the Legislative Assembly, and MLAs make the final vote on whether or not to approve any of them. In 2006, a 9-8 vote rejected two proposed new ridings in Yellowknife and Behchoko.

The report states that no electoral district should be over or under represented by more than 25 per cent from the mean population.

According to Smallwood, 10 out of the 19 districts are either over or under represented at the moment. Almost every riding in the Yellowknife region is under-represented, she added.

The commission also weighed “community of interest” considerations. These factors – languages spoken, historical ties, transportation, land claims and treaty agreements – allow for persons who share certain characteristics to be grouped together in the same electoral district, stated the report.

“We proposed no changes to the Sahtu region, for example, because of the historical links between the communities, the fact that there is a land claim that binds these communities together and Norman Wells kind of acts as a hub when it comes to transportation to these communities,” Smallwood said.

Other major changes proposed in the report include dividing the Tlicho communities into different districts, adding seats to Yellowknife (in two of the three scenarios) and eliminating the Tu Nedhe riding by grouping Lutsel K'e and Fort Resolution with different ridings.

Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services, represents the constituency of Tu Nedhe. He called the report a "disaster."

"In my opinion, all three options are unacceptable. I don't think the commission was looking at anything other than population as a factor when it

made its recommendations," he told *The Journal*.

It would be the end of representation in Tu Nedhe, which has been a riding for over three decades, he said.

“Here, we’re looking at lots of issues of low employment, poverty...health and addictions issues. And if the riding was any bigger, it would be very difficult to continue to address those issues,” he said. “So the ridings are the right size now and, in fact, in my opinion there are too many MLAs in Yellowknife to begin with.”

Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger is on a similar page.

"I'm all for 18. We don't need any more MLAs. If you went around the territory and asked everyone about all the things we need, I'm willing to bet the last thing they'd say is we need more politicians," he said at a constituency meeting in Fort Smith last Monday. "Let's put our money where we need it."

As part of its review, the commission must also hold public hearings, which will run until March 13, spanning 13 communities. The commission will then determine if any changes need to be made before its final report is presented to the Speaker of the House, Jackie Jacobson, on May 22.




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18 Electoral Districts	19 Electoral Districts	21 Electoral Districts
<p>Hay River North riding would include the Hay River Reserve (K'at'l'odeeche First Nation).</p> <p>Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise, Whati, Gameti, Wekweeti, Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e will make up electoral district NWT 2 (currently the Deh Cho, Monfwi and Tu Nedhe ridings).</p>	<p>Similar to the 18 district plan, but with eight electoral districts for the City of Yellowknife, including a new riding for the Niven Lake subdivision, as well as several of the residences that surround Frame Lake (would be known as NWT 11).</p>	<p>Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise, Hay River Reserve, Whati, Gameti and Wekweeti would become NWT 2.</p> <p>NWT 3 (Tu Nedhe) would include N'Dilo, Dettah, Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e.</p> <p>NWT 4 (Weledeh) would not include Dettah or N'Dilo.</p> <p>Yellowknife would have nine districts.</p>



# GNWT stays the course in year two budget

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger is sporting the same “trusty budget brogues” as last year.

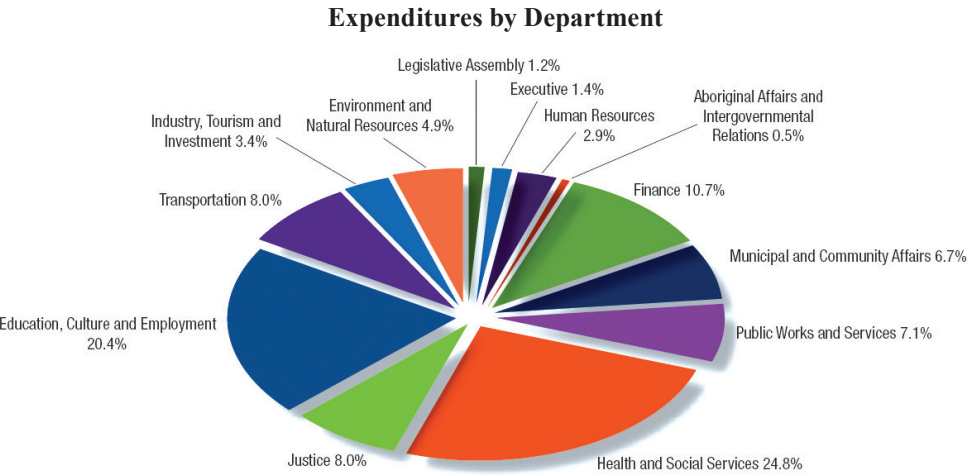
The finance minister’s shoes have come to symbolize the government’s fiscal strategy for the year, and Miltenberger’s sturdy, leather footwear indicates another term of fiscal discipline for the NWT, meaning controlled spending and a focus on short-term debt shrinkage in 2013-14.

The department is forecasting a \$113 million operating surplus for this year. That surplus is thanks to a 2.6 per cent increase in revenues over last year topping out at \$1.6 billion. It will allow for a \$56-million increase in expenditures compared to 2012-13.

“This budget’s \$113 million operating surplus demonstrates our commitment to living within our means and generates the cash required to fund half of the capital budget we approved last fall,” Miltenberger said in his budget address Thursday.

At least \$70 million of the operating surplus will go to the GNWT’s targeted \$139 million investment in public infrastructure over the year, consistent with the territorial government’s policy that at least half of capital investments must be paid in cash from surpluses.

The department expects to reduce the amount borrowed from the federal government, which currently sits at \$609 million, by \$28 million by Mar. 31 of next year, all the while maintaining a firm commitment to keeping a \$100 million cushion under the \$800 million federal borrowing limit.



*Close to 60 per cent of every dollar in the new NWT budget goes toward social programs, like health, justice and education.*

### Revenue growth ‘modest’

Miltenberger’s announcement stays in line with the guarantee made last year: that the first two years of the 17th Assembly would be dedicated to replenishing the government coffers and whittling away at the territory’s massive infrastructure debt, while not cutting existing programs and services.

With the territory still largely dependent on per-capita Territorial Formula Financing (TFF) grants from the federal government, which account for 70 per cent of the GNWT’s revenue, quicker growth without massive debt is just not possible, Miltenberger said.

“The NWT’s outlook for revenue growth over the medium term is modest,” Miltenberger said. “Overall, we expect less than two per cent growth in revenues over the next three years; a fraction of the six per cent annual

growth we’ve experienced over the past decade.

“The primary reason is that Territorial Formula Financing...is not expected to grow over the next two years as our population growth remains stagnant and provinces reduce spending.”

That, coupled with the waning production of the NWT’s diamond mines, poses a challenge for the government to make money in the short-term.

“Our reality is that revenue growth is slowing, making budgeting choices even more difficult,” Miltenberger said.

### Devolution will boost growth

In the long term, resource revenues gained from devolution and the development of an attractive investment climate will wean the NWT partially off of federal financing, Miltenberger said.

“The authority and control of our resources is one of the

most immediate and tangible ways we can grow our revenues and economy in the coming years,” he said.

Seven prospective mines and \$600 million in investments in oil and gas exploration in the Sahtu over the next five years shine a light at the end of the territory’s economic tunnel.

“The best way to wean ourselves off is through a strong economy,” Miltenberger told *The Journal* during a press conference before the budget announcement.

The GNWT has made a commitment that revenues from non-renewable resources will not be used to fund government programs and services, but instead will go toward paying down debt, infrastructure and Heritage Fund savings.

Though he said resource development is the “big ticket item” for the territory, Miltenberger said knowledge-based projects like the Mackenzie Valley Fibre-Optic Link will also create major economic activity in the North.

“If we look to the future, that could create up to \$150 million a year. It will open up economic opportunities all the way down the valley...So we’re looking at diversification.”

Still, capping expenditure growth in existing programs and services at \$25 million (around two per cent) this year and then at 1.5 per cent growth in the foreseeable future will allow an additional \$50 million to be added to next year’s operating funds, followed by another \$50 million in year four, Miltenberger said.

That extra cash can be used for badly-needed infrastructure and “territory growing” projects like the Inuvik-Tuk highway and the fibre-optic line.

“Next year we’ll start to reap the benefits of our labour, our discipline,” Miltenberger said. “In the meantime, we’re on track and making every dollar count.”

This year, increased revenues mean the purse strings have loosened a little bit, with more investments in several priority areas identified by MLAs and the public during a recent Budget Dialogue exercise, which took Miltenberger across the NWT to hear what people thought should be done with the limited amount of money available.

Areas chosen as targets were prevention and well-being in relation to addictions, long-term care, midwifery and resources for RCMP and victim services, to which an additional \$3.3 million has been allocated.

The public also prioritized investments in tourism, telecommunications and decentralization of government in order to diversify the economy.

## Budget highlights

- No new taxes, but adjustments for inflation on certain fees, including business licences and motor vehicle fees;
- \$1.2 million to “help Northerners benefit” from Sahtu oil development and mitigate impacts;
- \$1.15 million for mental health and addictions prevention, including \$339,000 for a pilot treatment program at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and \$200,000 to expand on-the-land programs;
- \$1.13 million to increase staffing at long-term care facilities;
- \$449,000 to begin the expansion of the Midwifery Program (for two midwives in Hay River);
- \$600,000 to increase tourism marketing;
- \$2 million to improve NWT parks and trails;
- \$250,000 to develop a regulatory application for a transmission line connecting Whati to the Snare hydro system;
- \$700,000 to install wood pellet boilers in multi-unit public housing;
- \$472,000 to improve medevac services;
- 29 positions will be moved or created outside of Yellowknife in an attempt to decentralize government, including 14-15 Health and Social Services employees to all regions, five to six superintendents within Municipal and Community Affairs to all regions, one Finance position to Hay River and four Industry, Tourism and Investment positions to Hay River.

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# The Northern disaster-in-waiting

How do we stop the forces of nature when they amass, seemingly to conspire, against us?

When Mother Nature flaunts her powers, we are at her mercy. The snowstorm that inundated the northeast coast of North America last week laid yet another beating on those who suffered from Hurricane Sandy short months ago. The decade-long "Big Dry" in Australia was declared over, finally, in May 2012 when rains came. That optimism was quickly re-assessed when, all this winter, much of that country has baked in sweltering heat and dry conditions. More than extreme weather events, extreme patterns over the long term seem to be becoming the norm.

What we must do, in dealing with severe weather, is try to prepare for the worst.

The lessons of Kelowna, BC in 2009 and Slave Lake, Alberta in 2011 seem to be quickly forgotten. Yet the same could easily happen to any Northern community - in a normal, hot dry summer.

In such a situation of vulnerability, the only protection is to minimize the risk of fires starting and be as prepared as possible. That is not happening in the current circumstances. Now imagine what Northern communities would face if they, too, experienced a 10 year drought, with excessively hot weather. And lightning. And wind.

Much of Northern Canada is swathed in boreal forest. Conifers dominate and

when dry spells intensify the already arid climate, the trees become tinder for wildfires, the Northern disaster-in-waiting. Tiny isolated communities dot the landscape, intruders in a sea of green. Nearly all communities systematically protect the forest fringe around them, and each are ringed by over-mature forest that according to natural cycles, desperately wants to burn.

Those communities are run by citizen councils, many of them lacking experience. Knowledge of what to do when a community is threatened by wildfire is typically non-existent. The fault cannot fall only to community leadership, however. Mayors and chiefs are often inexperienced, struggling with the demands of running a community. Senior administrators may excel at interpreting bylaws, but that does not mean they can provide the leadership needed in the face of a calamity. If there are leaders in a community with ability and knowledge in how to deal with a crises, it is likely an accident. No training exists, no carefully thought-out evacuation plans, no stock of waters or provisions for shelter and few, communities, if any, have well-run emergency measures organizations. On a very rare occasion, a mock disaster is held - at least that is something.

The knowledge, skills and, importantly, the leadership ability required to handle a major emergency requires ongoing training

and practice. The responsibility for that falls to senior governments. Territorial and provincial administrations need to dedicate resources and work with communities to develop that expertise and foster preparedness. That is their job. Their failure to do this is an abdication of responsibility.

The typical approach to dealing with wildfire is reactive, rather than preventative. "Fire Smart" programs are touted, but too-busy communities pay only lip service to them. There is little support and training from senior governments to foster awareness among community councils. There should be programs, education and readily available expertise - refreshed with each election cycle that produces a new council. Senior governments should take the lead in showing how to evacuate a community, demonstrating safe options to choose from when things are dire, and how to access food water and shelter for all community residents for days at a time. This should be seen by all as an imperative, not an option with minimal priority.

We have one of the best firefighting forces in the world with tremendous resources, experienced ground crews and excellent command and control. But our communities are neglected when it comes to preparedness, especially for wildfire emergencies. Something has to be done about that. Summer is coming fast. Now is the time.



Photo: Don Jaque

Following the resignation of Salt River First Nation Chief Dave Poitras late last month, the members of the SRFN council suddenly found themselves with enhanced roles. They are (left to right) Ron Schaefer, Judith Gale, acting-chief Connie Benwell and Joline Beaver (missing from the photo is the fifth councillor, George Cumming Sr.). Benwell told The Journal that Poitras' resignation on Jan. 26 was "unfortunate." The election of a new chief, along with one councillor, will be held April 2.

## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

*GNWT begins process to name new territory*

The GNWT is going to the public for assistance on finding a new name, flag and crest design for a yet-unnamed western territory in preparation for division, Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger said.

Miltenberger said the work would be done on a shoestring budget considering the financial atmosphere in the NWT, but it still had to be done.

Issue: February 13, 1998

### 20 Years Ago...

*Tourism program launched*

A new 13-week program to train employees for the NWT tourism industry started at Thebacha Campus.

The program is designed to provide pre-employment training for people who are interested in tourism or tourism related jobs.

These jobs might include hotels, airlines, travel agencies or tour operators.

Issue: February 13, 1993

### 30 Years Ago...

*No jobs to leave Fort Smith region*

"It's safe to say at this point there looks like no jobs or positions will be lost in the Fort Smith region when the Central Arctic Region gets underway," Fort Smith regional director Larry Gilberg said.

Rumors in Fort Smith have circulated about losses of jobs in the Town caused by the establishment of the new region.

Issue: February 12, 1983



# Trains down the Mackenzie Valley?

*Editor,*

I have been putting forward the idea of constructing a railway to provide affordable, low-impact transportation up the Mackenzie Valley, and I'm stunned at the reaction I get from this traditional idea. Having traveled in Europe and particularly Scandinavia by train, I can say there is no better way than a railway to lead you across our giant territory. I see a railway track as a true legacy, yet politicians I talk to tell me it's a completely unrealistic idea. They see only an expensive highway as the solution to open the Mackenzie Valley. Only in North America can such a simple idea become such a laughing matter.

It's our government's responsibility to take the time to study the pros and cons of all possibilities before deciding to spend millions on a highway, especially when we know how quickly the road can get damaged here due to high traffic and permafrost.

There are reasons why the Trans-Siberian railway, built

in the late 1890s, is still today's life-line of Russia! Think of all the things you see being transported by train! People, tourists, students going to sport events, food, goods, oil, lumber, mobile homes, vehicles, mineral ore, etc! The possibilities are infinite.

The right-of-way of a railway is also a lot less invasive than a highway; it is just narrow enough for the train which protects the fragile soil from sun exposure. It is easier to build and maintain; it provides a corridor to carry the precious hydro power to the communities along its route.

It is less invasive and disruptive on wildlife, etc. Think of all the long term job opportunities this would bring into communities!

They would all need a little loading and unloading station, selling tickets, maintenance crew... Give a discount for NWT residents, and soon enough this project would pay for itself and generate revenues (unlike a highway).

If the goal of the GNWT is to develop our economy and

attract exploration companies, this is the key! What better way to attract potential mine investors if you have a railway that can transport all their needs! Now that's a legacy that is truly adapted to our environment and is worth reviewing before opting for a road.

We have an opportunity to take care of ourselves and think about what the NWT can do with the challenges we face. We have to adapt, and our territory can become a leader for innovation in North America. It's time for us to start looking at what the other circumpolar countries of this world do well and take advantage of their experience.

I recently took the train from Oslo to Bodo with my partner, and it took about 20 hours to cross the country length-wise. We chose a sleeping cabin for a little more than \$150 each (how much does it cost you in gas to drive a vehicle 20 hours, plus hotel and meals?). But we could have selected a much cheaper ticket for a big comfy seat.

There was a little restaurant, lounges and lots of families. The landscape was very similar to ours; it was beautiful, relaxing and we met great people.

The NWT is facing challenges that are unique to the circumpolar countries. We have to start thinking outside the box and diverge from the classic North American solutions.

Oil is only going to get more expensive in the next couple of decades. Eventually it will become unaffordable for families to drive four hours to get to the next community. Also, all the traffic on our roads is polluting and damaging. Think of all the garbage thrown on the road by senseless drivers, or think of the road north of Wrigley two weeks ago that was closed due to truck traffic. What an embarrassment!

Let's study the pros and cons of a railway before moving on to a road, and show us the results. Let's find the real numbers and see if this could be a possibility.

*Geneviève Côté  
Fort Smith*

# A Senior Moment

## Seniors Helping Seniors

Did you miss my January column? Well I did, literally. My pen froze up in the January cold that we will all long remember! Here I am again, warmed up considerably. It is never too late for well wishing and my best wishes go out to everyone for a great New Year.

It turned out to be a busy winter for seniors in the North. In fact, it started getting so last November. There was a workshop in Fort Smith on the subject of "Safe Communities for Older Adults" throughout the North. It was sponsored by the NWT Seniors' Society, with its partners in law enforcement and Social Services in attendance. It was a real eye opener for most of us. Teleconferences and much information through the e-mail to all our chapters

about this subject are ongoing. A Face-to Face Meeting of the "NWT Network" is scheduled in Yellowknife for Feb. 26.

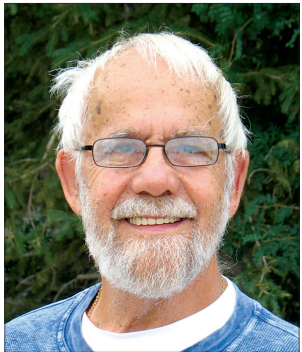
Feb. 27 and 28 are set aside for a meeting of the board of directors of the NWT Seniors' Society in Yellowknife. Minister Tom Beaulieu, the NWT minister responsible for seniors, will attend.

Perhaps the highlight of February activities will be "Celebrating Seniors in the NWT" – 30 Years of Success of the NWT Seniors' Society. This Feb. 26, Yellowknife affair will be hosted by the NWT Senior's Society - Avens-A Community for Seniors - Larga Kitikmeot. Special guests will include Commissioner George Tucaro, Premier Robert McLeod and Minister Beaulieu. Master of Ceremonies will be Tony

Whitford, and it will feature "older adults contributing to the success of the NWT Seniors' Society 1983 -2013."

I have to mention our Christmas potluck in Fort Smith. We had a successful event with more than 100 seniors attending. They enjoyed a visit by members of the Community Choir. Along with desserts, Santa arrived and presented the lucky winners of presents from a large pile of gifts. The evening was rounded off by local elder Anita Dube and friends with guitars in an all-out sing-along. It was another memorable Senior Christmas event.

Mayor Brad Brake attended our general meeting in January, inviting us to be part of the Town's plan of establishing an open area on the Recreation Centre grounds



Ib Kristensen

for seniors to gather for outdoor activities.

At our February meeting in Fort Smith, we discussed plans for a day visit to Fort Chipewyan. Those who went on a previous trip there in 2009 have great memories of it. Several members have family ties to this beautiful settlement. We will make final plans at our Mar. 5 meeting. Space will be limited so if you are interested, let us know.

Our next "Lunch with the Bunch" will be Friday, Feb. 15 starting at noon at the Senior Centre.

See you there!

About 80% of older adults in the NWT are affiliated with the NWT Seniors' Society.

### MUKLUK



### FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

#### Northern Journal 2013

ADCS prepares staff for learning on the land Teachers learn traditional skills at first ever 'cross cultural event'

The staff of Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan and their guest instructors celebrate the completion of waht is hoped to be the first of nmany cross cultural events engaging teachers and students ut on the land.

Photo: Meagan Wohlberg



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Iris Jasmine Catholique Awesome pic!

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## Forecast

### Inuvik

### Yellowknife

-20 High	Sun	-27 Low	Wednesday	-21 High	Sun	-25 Low
-17 High	Sun	-24 Low	Thursday	-12 High	Sun	-25 Low
-17 High	Cloud	-23 Low	Friday	-11 High	Sun	-20 Low
-25 High	Sun	-26 Low	Saturday	-14 High	Cloud	-16 Low
Norms: -22°C and -31°C			Norms: -19°C and -28°C			

### Hay River

### Fort Smith

-16 High	Sun	-19 Low	Wednesday	-12 High	Sun	-14 Low
-8 High	Sun	-19 Low	Thursday	-10 High	Sun	-22 Low
-4 High	Sun	-10 Low	Friday	-5 High	Sun	-16 Low
-10 High	Cloud	-12 Low	Saturday	-7 High	Sun	-11 Low
Norms: -15°C and -26°C			Norms: -14°C and -26°C			



# Heating costs nearly double in Inuvik

## Rate for synthetic natural gas finalized at \$35.44/GJ

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The cost of heating nearly doubled last week in Inuvik as the new rate for synthetic natural gas kicked in at \$35.44/GJ on Feb. 1.

While around \$3.00 lower than originally promised, the new rate is a shock to customers used to paying approximately \$19/GJ for natural gas from Inuvik Gas Ltd.'s moribund Ikhlil well.

The gas reserve became inoperable well before the end of its expected 2014 lifespan after it began taking in water.

The town has been running on synthetic gas since last month, but customers were still paying the old rate as the company awaited approval for its proposed rate increase. The Public Utilities Board and Town of Inuvik endorsed the new rate at the beginning of the month.

Inuvik Mayor Floyd Roland previously told *The Journal* the town was working with regional Aboriginal governments



Photo courtesy of the Town of Inuvik

*The Town of Inuvik is currently looking for long-term solutions to the natural gas crisis that has residents paying nearly twice as much for heating.*

and the gas company to explore ways to cushion some of the shock to residents, such as averaging the cost over a 12-month period.

Unfortunately, he said, parties are now only able to work on finding a long-term solution to the ongoing gas crisis.

"This rate increase, we're all going to have to deal with as our next power bills or gas bills come about. The work we've been doing is more in trying to find long-term alternatives around either a new supply or looking at whatever other alternatives we have out there right now that would put us in

a situation where we wouldn't find ourselves in a similar situation as we are in now."

Along with finding a new source of natural gas, Roland said there is lots of talk around wind energy, not just for Inuvik, but the Mackenzie Delta region as a whole.

"My discussions right now are preliminary with a number of groups to see if there's an interest in looking at developing a bigger alternative that would benefit not only Inuvik but a number of

other communities," he said. "I think it's time that we in the North start looking at the bigger picture instead of just powering a community."

Last week's territorial budget announced \$100,000 to explore a liquid natural gas (LNG) solution for Inuvik, primarily for the Ikhlil well's biggest consumer, the Northwest Territories Power Corp. (NTPC).

"We're aware that the Power Corp. is looking at the option of LNG because right now, their gas turbines cannot run on the synthetic natural gas. They've gone to diesel, so they're looking for other options that are cheaper than diesel," Roland said.

Hydro coming down the Mackenzie Valley is another idea being tossed around, but Roland said that likely won't help the community for the next 50 years.

"In the meantime, we're unfortunately stuck with this program that's in place - synthetic natural gas."

NTPC switched back to diesel power to try to extend the reserve's life last year. Most town facilities continue to run on natural gas, including the rec centre and town hall.

Inuvik Gas said the new rate is based on the landed cost of propane at the time the request for proposals was completed on Feb. 1.

The largest portion of the rate - \$27.17/GJ - accounts for the purchase of propane and the cost of delivering it to Inuvik, the company said, while the costs incurred by Inuvik Gas for operations, maintenance and keeping the Ikhlil gas well "functional and accessible" make up the remaining \$8.27.

While the company is monitoring the switch to ensure customers have continued safe and reliable gas service during the cold weather, it is also looking for customer cooperation during the transition phase.

A recent notice from the company instructed residents and businesses to ensure the supply of electricity to the heat trace on the gas riser is maintained by being careful not to unplug the ground fault interrupt plugged into their home or business and checking regularly to see if the light remains on.

If the light does not stay on, customers are asked to immediately contact Inuvik Gas at 777-4427.

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### Education Trades

## Regional skills competition cancelled due to low turnout

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The third annual NWT-South Regional Skills Competition scheduled for Feb. 8 in Fort Smith has been cancelled due to low registration numbers.

High school students from the Tlicho, South Slave and Dehcho areas would normally take part in a variety of trades and technical skill contests, from hairstyling to small engine repair. Winners from the region would then compete in the territorial skills event in Yellowknife.

"The numbers were down and staying down and we just can't afford, as far as time and resources, to keep it up," said Jan Fullerton, executive director at Skills Canada NWT, a charitable organization promoting careers in skilled trades and technologies to Northern youth.

No other regional territorial contest has been cancelled.

"We are going to be working with the schools over the next few months and the money allocated for the regional competition will instead go towards workshops, supplies

and equipment for those few students who did register, because we don't want them to lose out," Fullerton said.

Students who did sign up and paid their \$25 registration fee for the South Regional competition can now directly register for the Territorial Skills Competition, she added.

We're not giving up on the competition; it doesn't mean we'll never do it again. We just have to talk more with the South region's schools about what we can do to get the numbers up.

Jan Fullerton  
Skills Canada NWT

Registration closed two weeks ago. Fullerton said the actual number of students who registered wasn't available as numbers were still coming in after the deadline. Some schools that had registered were also calling Skills Canada NWT

of lack of participation even last year," she said. "We're not giving up on the competition; it doesn't mean we'll never do it again. We just have to talk more with the South region's schools about what we can do to get the numbers up."



# NWT throne speech calls for ‘strong economy’

## Health, environment and economy linked, says commissioner

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT government pushed an agenda of resource-based economic development in last week’s throne speech, emphasizing that jobs and wealth from development are needed to improve the livelihoods of Northerners.

“We cannot have healthy, educated people without a strong, diversified economy,” stated the throne speech, read by Commissioner George Tuccaro, which opened the fourth session of the 17th Assembly last Wednesday.

“We have gold, diamonds and rare earth metals. We are a potential energy powerhouse with world-class oil and gas resources in the central Mackenzie and the Beaufort-Delta, and hydro potential to rival Quebec’s James Bay project.

“Responsible, sustainable development of these resources will help to create a strong and thriving economy here in the Northwest Territories, and we need a strong economy if we want to be able to look after our people and our environment.”

Tuccaro said a strong, resource-driven economy will create jobs, letting people support themselves and their



Image: Meagan Wohlberg

families. Businesses, he said, will benefit from new opportunities, investment and increased consumer spending, while government, too, will benefit from revenue growth.

At the same time, he noted that building a strong economy must be balanced with the health of its population and the environment.

“We cannot have a strong, diversified economy without healthy, educated people, and

your government continues to invest in the health and well-being of our residents,” he said, adding later:

“The Government of the Northwest Territories understands that a healthy society and healthy economy depend upon a healthy environment.”

The second annual speech from the throne is designed to chart the course of the assembly over the next year, outlining the government’s key priorities and

updating residents on pending big ticket items.

It was no surprise that devolution made the list as one of the biggest targets for this assembly. Tuccaro said a final agreement that will see Northerners managing public lands and resources will be key to a burgeoning NWT economy.

“This agreement holds the promise of significant economic, environmental and political benefit for all residents,

businesses, investors and governments in the territory,” he said, encouraging residents not to break faith with their government as it enters the final stages of negotiations with Canada.

“The government has considered the financial terms of the agreement very carefully and is confident it will be able to manage transferred responsibilities without drawing on resource revenues. While final details

still remain to be worked out about the specific legislative authorities being transferred, including those in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, we must remember that significant authority and responsibility is being returned to the people of the North.”

Apart from devolution, the throne speech touched on last year’s successes, including the opening of the East Three School in Inuvik and the Deh Cho Bridge. Tuccaro noted the importance of two major upcoming projects: the Mackenzie Valley Fibre-Optic Link and the Inuvik-Tuk

highway. He praised the new residential schools curriculum, the Minister’s Addictions Forum and an anti-poverty strategy currently in the works, and noted the importance of Aboriginal governments as partners in GNWT initiatives.

“The territory is stronger when we work together, and our people all will benefit from continuing goodwill and cooperation between all the governments that serve and represent them,” he said.

### Industry Mining

# Northern mines not being inspected, watchdog reveals

## Report finds weak federal monitoring of operations, cleanup at mine sites

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The federal government is failing to properly monitor resource development projects north of the 60th parallel despite recorded concerns raised internally by government staff, according to a new report by Canada’s environmental watchdog.

Last week’s report by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Scott Vaughan, claims both the environment and government coffers have been left unprotected by a lack of monitoring on the part of the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC).

The audit found AANDC failed to conduct over 70 per cent of required site visits to all resource development projects in the Northwest Territories in 2011, including mines, and that employees within the department had raised red flags to no avail.

“Departmental records indicate that members of the department’s staff raised concerns internally about the level of monitoring being done,” Vaughan’s report states.

Those inspections, Vaughan noted, are a necessary condition for companies obtaining a

licence or permit, and ensure that terms governing such issues as fuel storage, the structural soundness of tailings ponds and disposal of hazardous wastes are being adhered to.

Vaughan also found that AANDC is not keeping satisfactory records of existing projects required to ensure companies have enough money to cover the full cost of decommissioning a facility and restoring the site - and whether those assurances are expired or not - so that the department is not stuck footing the bill.

He also found that the department doesn’t compare on a regular basis whether or not the financial deposits from companies for each licence and permit are sufficient to meet the costs of reclamation of land and water.

He said assurances from three of 11 mines in Nunavut, alone, accounted for security shortfalls totalling \$11 million.

In addition, the commissioner raised concerns about the government’s “polluter-pays principle,” which holds that liability for impacts on human health and the environment remains with the owner or operator of the mine, but does not require them to have insurance.

“In the event that the funds on hand are not sufficient to restore a site on federal lands, there is a risk that the government would have to assume these financial implications,” reads the report.

Further analysis showed AANDC accepted \$17.6 million in promissory notes for reclamation costs from companies, which are not guaranteed by a bank in Canada and thus do not satisfy legislative and regulatory requirements.

“We have concerns about the continuing enforceability of this security,” the report states.

Additional concerns raised include the outdated values contained within 1971 regulations, which cap securities for land-use permits at \$100,000.

“This limit does not reflect current costs for reclaiming a site,” the commissioner wrote.

Vaughan recommended that AANDC follow the regulations for inspections and develop a “comprehensive inventory system” to keep track of projects and the securities required to meet expected reclamation costs.

AANDC spokesperson Geneviève Guibert told *The Journal* that the department is already engaged in the appropriate monitoring required.

“Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) regularly verifies the level of securities for mines and other projects to ensure security is sufficient to cover the costs of reclamation,” she said in an email.

“The department’s risk management process ensures that each operation is monitored in a careful and considered manner to protect people, property and the environment.”


She said the frequency of inspections is dictated by the risks posed by the projects.

“While some operations require monthly inspections, lower risk operations require less frequent inspections. Inspectors assess each file based on possible impacts on people, property or the environment.”


The department as a whole has responded that it agrees with Vaughan’s

recommendations, promising to implement a risk assessment framework and management strategy for inspections and adjust securities as required to reduce the liability of the department.

“We have reviewed the commissioner’s report and will continue working to improve the risk management and inspections processes, and ensure that appropriate securities are maintained at all times,” Guibert said.




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# Youth talk prevention at Minister's Addiction Forum

## Four-member panel visits Fort Smith to talk solutions

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

High school students were among the most innovative and enthusiastic contributors to a community discussion on addictions and wellness held in Fort Smith last week as part of the ongoing, territory-wide Minister's Forum on Addictions.

A four-member panel composed of representatives from Hay River, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith met with a series of community groups, First Nations and the general public during its three days of consultation last week.

Each group was asked to provide feedback on what needs to be done to improve prevention, treatment and aftercare when it comes to addressing addictions in the Northwest Territories, pointing out what is missing and what can be changed.

According to David Poitras, the sole Fort Smith representative on the panel that was hand-selected by Health and Social Services Minister Tom Beaulieu last fall, it was the youth who came



The panel facilitating the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness was hand picked by Health and Social Services Minister Tom Beaulieu last fall to lead a visioning exercise for the territory. They have visited seven communities to date.

up with many of the best solutions, especially when it came to prevention.

"Many people suggested, including the students, that on-the-land treatment or excursions on the land would be a lot more effective," Poitras said. "They should

be teaching more cultural activities, like actually living in the bush rather than going out for an hour and watching someone skin a beaver. It has to be a lot more comprehensive."

Apart from traditional and cultural activities, the

students suggested more emphasis on year-round sporting opportunities, cooking, book, film and language clubs, the availability of addictions treatment in high schools, anonymous support groups and life skills classes for both youth and their parents and guardians.

"Kids need to learn skills or go to programs where they can learn living skills, how to deal with peer pressure, how to deal with a lack of support at home, and also about setting goals and how to follow them," Poitras said. "And they suggested that there should be a reward motivation like, for example, when they did the smoking cessation, you could win a trip to Hawaii if you stopped smoking for a year."

Youth also said they feel neglected by community services in their hometowns. While some youth centres, like the Side Door in Yellowknife, are offering excellent drop-in services, kids from

the outer communities don't necessarily get that kind of care.

"They need good supervisors, they said, because some of these kids were from different communities and they said some of the places are dirty, people working there have no skills in working with youth, some of them yell at them, and they said those places need to be upgraded," Poitras said.

"All the liquor stores are really looked after – brand new – and the kids get dumps for themselves."

One of the most innovative solutions proposed to the panel was by a young female inmate from the correctional facility, Poitras said, who suggested the creation of an online support network for people returning to their communities from treatment or jail.

"A website online where if you've done treatment and you come back to the community, you can get online to ask questions or seek further support, make contact – and we all thought that was such an excellent idea," Poitras said.

### More culture needed in treatment

Poitras said another issue raised by all groups had to do with a perceived lack of cultural understanding on the part of workers in the addictions treatment system.

Recent government decisions have seen workers previously trained in Aboriginal addictions certificate programs, including Poitras, told they are no longer qualified to help others in a professional context because they don't have proper university degrees.

Poitras said that has frustrated a lot of people, himself included.

"We're tired of people coming from the south with degrees that don't know our

culture, don't understand our way of thinking, our spirituality, they've had no experience with drinking or drugs, some of them, and they're going to come and fix us – I heard that quite a few times," Poitras said. "They would prefer people from up here who understand the culture, have some training or education – they said they're way more effective."

"Elders helped people long before there was a GNWT up here," he added.

Wait times to get into treatment programs were also red-flagged as being major barriers to people getting help.

"When people are ready to go to treatment, they should not have to wait four weeks. Right now, that's what they do," Poitras said. "Being a former alcoholic, when I was ready to do something, it had to be now because tomorrow would have been too late."

Participants also said wellness workers need to do more outreach in the communities.

"People think that you can't just sit in an office and wait for people to come; it would be a lot more effective if you created a relationship with the community," Poitras said.

The Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness has visited Fort McPherson, Hay River, Enterprise, Fort Resolution, K'atl'odeeche First Nation, Lutsel K'e and Fort Smith.

This week, members of the panel will hold consultations in Deline, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells.

Poitras said he is excited to see the final product of the forum.

"I'm really positive about some of the recommendations that are going to come out," he said. "They're going to move the treatment field ahead."

## The Town of Fort Smith celebrates Aurora College Week Feb. 11-15

Wishing every success to all Aurora College students.  
May your goals be achieved!



Fort Smith is proud to be home to Aurora College Thebacha Campus



The Fort Smith Hurricanes returned with lots of ribbons from the 2013 Territorial Swim Championships in Yellowknife on the weekend. From left: Xander McMahon (9), Finn Johnson (9), Josh Zaidan (9), Bronwyn Rutherford-Simon (10) and Ollie Johnson (7), with coach Karen Zaidan.





FOXY ladies at Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife pose with FOXY peer leader Makenzie Zouboules, front centre.

**Health & Wellness Sexual Health**



Fort Good Hope girls try their hand at some FOXY theatre.



Body mapping is one of many artistic activities girls take part in during a FOXY workshop.

# NWT girls get FOXY at empowerment camps

## Innovative sex-ed workshops sweeping across territory

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

What does the new wave of sexual education look like in the NWT?

It wears pink feathered boas and glittering silver wigs. It's artsy and fun, full of laughter and empowerment.

This is what the workshop program FOXY, also known as Fostering Open eXpression among Youth, is all about and speaks to what today's young women are looking for when it comes to sexual health discussions.

FOXY uses storytelling, drama and art as venues to engage girls in conversations about sexual health and building empowered decision-making skills. The full-day workshop allows girls to take part in acting out real-world scenarios, such as being approached by older men on Facebook, and positive body image activities in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

Candice Lys, originally of Fort Smith, is a researcher with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR) in Yellowknife and FOXY's project lead.

The idea for FOXY was sparked by Lys' master's degree research on young NWT women and sexual health.

"One of the things that kept coming up was, sure, there are lots of current programs and resourceful websites, but girls were looking for a new and innovative way to talk about sexual health, sexual relationships, sexuality in general," Lys told *The Journal*.

FOXY, which ran a pilot workshop in Hay River last March, seeks to fulfil that demand.

Over the past year, the FOXY crew has traveled to almost a dozen NWT communities, including Aklavik, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Tulita, thanks to a partnership with Canadian North airlines.

"FOXY's evolved since it started...It's kind of a phenomenon now and it just keeps growing," Lys said, adding the program is also in the thick of developing its own manual.

"Girls love FOXY. It's really engaging and hands-on, a different way of internalizing the material," Lys said. "The first thing we do when we get there is push all the desks aside and make a big open space. They're on their feet all day long. We do body mapping, theatre, ice breaking activities...I'm always amazed that even the shyest girls throw on a hat and jump right into the drama aspect."

Lys is currently working on her PhD in Public Health Science through the University of Toronto. Her thesis will be tied to data collected through FOXY, specifically the program's upcoming phase two.

FOXY's second phase begins with girls from across NWT gathering at Blachford Lake Lodge in Yellowknife for a week-long peer leadership conference sometime this summer.

The conference will host a series of expanded workshops and include more

artistic media, such as digital storytelling. Lys said she's also trying to set up a drumming session for the conference with Veronica Johnny of the Fort Smith-spawned rock band The Johnnys.

Lys said the whole idea of the conference is to inspire girls to undertake projects of their own when they go back to their communities.

"What those projects are will depend on what the girls want to do. We anticipate a lot of them will have to do with social media. Either way, FOXY will be available to help support them."

Ultimately, the FOXY goal is empowering young women, Lys said.

"Just having different outlets to learn about sexual health and sexuality is really important to young women. If you give girls a really solid foundation to make good decisions for themselves and open up a dialogue about healthy sexuality, I think it can really go a long way in personal development."

FOXY is run through ICHR, receives funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and has fostered numerous partnerships with schools, youth centres and community agencies, including the Northern V Network, a non-profit fighting to end gender based violence.

FOXY has secured funding until March 2014.

Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are stops on the FOXY trail this week, followed by Whiti.

Lys, FOXY project coordinator Nancy MacNeil and their team of peer leaders

plan to make an appearance in Fort Smith towards the end of the month, along with return trips to Fort

Resolution and Hay River.

As for what's next for FOXY after phase two, Lys said the sky's the limit.

"World domination, maybe?" she joked.

For more information, visit [arcticfoxy.com](http://arcticfoxy.com).

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# Beads merge with business in Aklavik

## Traditional arts certificate program returns to Aurora College

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Four years ago, Aurora College sliced its traditional arts program on the Inuvik campus. Now, thanks to the demand of one small community, it's returned.

The former one-year certificate program is currently operating out of an Aurora College Community Learning Centre in Aklavik. It marks the first time the program has been offered in one of the college's centres.

"We're a smaller community taking on a big program and that's a challenge, but that's also what's so heartwarming and invigorating about it," Katie MacRae, Aurora College's community adult educator in Aklavik, told *The Journal*.

The program introduces students to hands-on traditional art forms and the corresponding technical skills, such as beadwork, embroidery and crafting footwear. They also learn how to kickstart and market their own small businesses.

According to MacRae, the program is highly technical and will produce skilled, well-rounded graduates.



Photo: Kerry Lynn

Students in Aklavik's traditional arts program show off their finished products. Left to right: Cindy Gordon, Joanna Hartley, Arlene Kogiak, Bernadette Whitbread, Katie MacRae, instructor Mildred Edwards and Andrena Noland. In front: Janina Semple, left, and Jeannette Elanik.

"There's so many embedded skills in traditional arts blended with traditional knowledge, so there's history and math and science with the measurements, pattern-making, drafting. The learning is on many levels."

Eight students, ranging from ages 16 to 70, are enrolled in the Aklavik program. Some have experience with traditional arts; some have never even picked up a needle.

MacRae, along with fellow instructor Joanna Hartley and Marja Van Nieuwenhuyzen, program head of the college's Beaufort Delta region and one of the original developers of the traditional arts program, were all key players in bringing the program to Aklavik.

"It's been a whirlwind to get it off the ground, especially when it came to getting the funding and then shipping

sewing machines and cutting tools over here from Inuvik," MacRae said.

"We have to peck away at the program so to speak, offering it course by course as we have the funds," Van Nieuwenhuyzen, a mixed-media artist, said.

This means the one-year program, comprised of a total of 19 different courses, will actually take the Aklavik students multiple years to complete.

There's so many embedded skills in traditional arts...history and math and science.

Katie MacRae  
Aurora College

Some courses, such as the one on footwear, require over 90 hours of work.

The program started last February, with the first beadwork courses running for 10 weeks. The next set of courses were offered this fall and saw students complete their own mukluks and caribou hair tufting, fish scale art and quillwork.

MacRae expects students to receive their certificates within the next couple of years.

"It's really important to provide students anywhere with an opportunity to either learn or relearn or enhance traditional skills and in doing so safeguard that," Van Nieuwenhuyzen said. "There's very few of these programs in Canada."

Finding employment in small

towns like Aklavik can also be challenging and traditional arts can be a venue of self-employment, she added.

Bringing traditional knowledge into the learning centre also further integrates the college with the community and "broadens the scope of what we teach academically," MacRae said.

Opening up the classroom for traditional arts right in Aklavik makes it accessible to those who don't want to relocate to a larger town or city to take the program, MacRae said.

There had been numerous community requests for something like this, she noted. Not to mention, the hamlet is "full of talented individuals" and many artists already selling their own work.

"It's a good fit," she said.

# Fort Smith man inspired to

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Since starting school this fall at Aurora College in Yellowknife, Leslie Marie hasn't missed a single class.

"I tell my two sons all the time about how to make good decisions and one of the things that comes up is you have to go to school every day; if you want an education, you have to show up for it," Marie, 41, said. "I don't plan on missing a single day of school; it's for my boys, Phoenix and Quinton. It's about me holding up my end of the deal, too."

Marie moved from Fort Smith to Yellowknife to pursue his dreams and is halfway through his studies in the Social Work Access program, a 10-month upgrading program that prepares students for college courses.

Next year he hopes to be accepted into Aurora's two-year Social Work diploma program and, from there, eventually secure his bachelor's degree from the University of Regina.

"I'd like to keep going and get my Master's, too," he said.



Leslie Marie is a student in the Social Work Access program and who hopes his focus on education will be a lesson to his sons.

Marie spent 10 years working in the mines and a couple more as a stay-at-home-dad while his girlfriend went back to school.

It was in 2009 when a social worker in his hometown of Fort Smith inspired him to think about social work as a profession he could one day call his own.

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# Thebacha campus ups the ante with advanced Aboriginal language classes

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Betty Elias of Tuktoyaktuk is a fourth year student in the Bachelor of Education program at Aurora College in Fort Smith. She speaks Inuvialuit, but on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, she can be found in Room 230 on campus, sewing and sounding out new Tlicho words.

Elias is among a handful of students partaking in free Aboriginal language classes Aurora College began offering last Tuesday.

“I’m doing it for interest, curiosity, to mingle and because I think learning another Aboriginal language will help me look at my own in a different way,” Elias said.

Aurora College has been offering free introductory Cree, Chipewyan and Tlicho classes to the public for a couple years, but this is the first time it has offered an intermediate and advanced session, said Dave Porter, chair of Aurora’s School of Education.

“People were keen to see it come back this year and we were looking to add to what we could offer. We thought



Tiffinnea Roberts and instructor Victoria Drybones hold the material Drybones uses for her Tlicho language classes at Aurora College.

well, we have some diversity in levels now, so let’s highlight that,” Porter said.

The advanced levels for Cree and Chipewyan focus more on reading and writing, using both the English alphabet and syllabics.

About six students of all ages showed up last Tuesday night for the introductory Cree and Chipewyan classes, Porter said.

Two were present to try their tongue at Tlicho.

“As a college, we certainly want to assist in revitalizing and ensuring that the Aboriginal languages of the NWT are supported. We want to be that space for those seeking the opportunity to continue learning and working with the language,” Porter told *The Journal*. Introductory classes run

7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in Rooms 230, 216 and 214. Intermediate and advanced speakers are invited to gather in Rooms 230 and 216 at the same time on Thursdays. All classes are family friendly and everyone is welcome to attend on a drop-in basis.

Steve Lafferty and Eileen Beaver teach Chipewyan, Mary Cardinal is running the Cree

classes and Tlicho is taught by Victoria Drybones of Behchoko.

“The important thing is to pass the language on, to keep it alive, to have the children know it and show how rich it is,” Drybones said.

A current student in the Bachelor of Education program at Aurora, Drybones said she felt she wasn’t speaking her native tongue enough during her

time in Fort Smith, prompting her to teach the Tlicho class.

“I lost my language before, when I was a kid and moved to Yellowknife, and I don’t want that to happen again,” Drybones said.

She plans to bring her four children to future classes, as well.

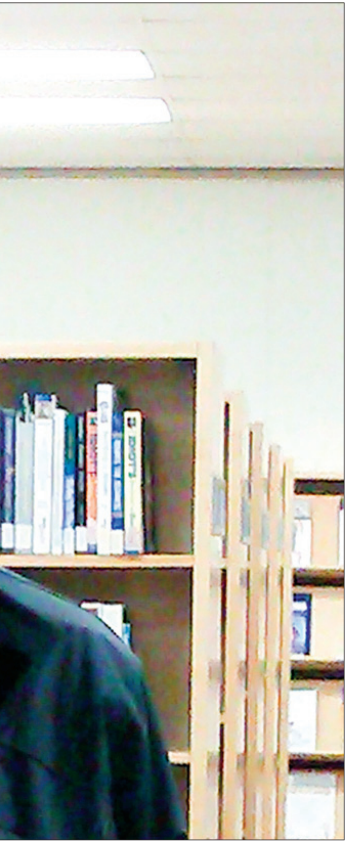
Drybones’ lessons are all oral. “There will be many stories, some from books, some just from my head,” she said. “There are also English/Tlicho books students can read to visually see and compare the translations.”

Drybones also welcomes beginners to her Thursday night classes.

At the moment, Thebacha is the only campus offering free Aboriginal language classes, but Porter said he has no doubt similar seminars are about to emerge at other college campus and learning centres.

“We really want to see things like this take off and I see it expanding,” he said. “We’re looking at about five or six other communities with Aurora College centres and encouraging these types of classes there.”

## go back to school



I tell my two sons all the time about how to make good decisions and one of the things that comes up is you have to go to school every day; if you want an education, you have to show up for it.

*Leslie Marie*

workers and that’s not the reality; they’re there to help. And they do make a difference. I knew I wanted to help others like me in the future, I wanted to be one of them.”

Marie said he feels it’s the right career choice because he has personal experience with social work from the “other side.”

“I’ve been there. I’ve seen the system playing out and I’ve gone through it myself, so I have that to offer, too.”

So far, Marie said he’s been impressed by the courses at the college and the tools instructors are giving him.

“I look at the essays I was writing in September and

compare them to ones I’m writing now and, whoa, can you tell a difference,” he said. “Overall my writing has improved and I’m learning skills that will help me as I work towards my diploma, like I didn’t know anything about writing in APA style and that’s the main form of writing for the two-year program.”

The school also made his family’s transition to Yellowknife a smoother process, he said.

“The college’s support mechanism, the outreach, they’ve been there for me and it’s just been a great experience so far.”

WE SUPPORT AURORA COLLEGE  
AURORA COLLEGE WEEK  
FEBRUARY 11 - 15

*You can get anywhere if  
you go one step at a time*





# McMurray men take to ATVs to help homeless

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

As Ken Krahn of Fort McMurray hopped off his orange side-by-side ATV under the Welcome to Fort Smith sign for the seventh year in a row, he was all rosy cheeks and smiles.

“Well, it was certainly a warmer ride than last year,” he said.

Once a year, Krahn rides his quad the 440 km from McMurray into Smith to raise money and awareness for homelessness on the Ride for Hope. Last year, temperatures dipped to -36C but hovered steadily around -13C for this trip.

Adding to the “heat” was the fact that Krahn, 62, almost caught on fire after his heated gloves short circuited in his chest pockets just before they left.

“Other than that, it was a good ride,” he joked.

Krahn, OK Tire’s general manager in McMurray, was joined this year by process operator Drew Wilson on another quad. Added to their convoy were three trucks with signs on the front grills cautioning oncoming vehicles about the quads.

“It’s one of those things, a feeling of being called to



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Ken Krahn and Drew Wilson take a break after arriving in Fort Smith from Fort McMurray on their ATVs last Thursday.

help the homeless, and we’ve been blessed with cool toys like these ATVs so we might as well use them for a worthy cause,” Wilson, who made the same ride with Krahn a couple years ago, said.

“These people are spending winter nights outside; we’re just spending one day,” Krahn said. “Rent is really high in

Fort McMurray; yet another issue and a reason we have people out sleeping on the streets in this cold.”

The men left at 5:00 a.m. and arrived in Fort Smith around 2:00 p.m., not quite as quick as last year, Krahn said.

All funds raised by Krahn’s crew go towards

operating costs at the Centre of Hope in McMurray. So far this year, Krahn and his support team have raised around \$12,000, though they are still adding up the numbers.

“We were aiming for \$25,000,” Krahn told *The Journal*. “Hopefully people will continue to donate.”

Over the past six years, they’ve raised a total of \$90,000.

“Six years ago, I was saying to my son, ‘What would happen if we raced our quads to Fort Smith for a good cause?’” Krahn said. “Well, here we are.”

The Centre of Hope provides programs and services

for 175 to 200 homeless individuals per week, the majority of whom have been homeless for one to three years, according to the centre’s website.

The 2012 Housing Needs Count Report, recently released by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s (RMWB) Homelessness Initiative Strategic Committee, states 326 people identified as homeless in Wood Buffalo as of Oct. 12, 2012. That is an increase of seven from the previous snapshot count in 2010, but remains 41 per cent below levels experienced in 2008, according to the report.

Another fundraiser in support of the Centre of Hope, the Ski for Hope, is on Feb. 23. RMWB Councillor Phil Meagher will be cross-country skiing 280 km from Fort Chipewyan to Fort McMurray.

Meagher, who had a hip replacement in June 2011, is expected to take 30 to 40 hours without stopping to sleep.

Donations can be made online at the Centre of Hope website at [www.fmcentreof-hope.com](http://www.fmcentreof-hope.com).

Phoenix Automotive supports


# Aurora College Week

February 11-15, 2013

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## Best wishes

to all of the staff and students!



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Fort Smith, NT**

### BEST WISHES FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

On behalf of Mayor and Council, I would like to extend my very best to all those gathered for the Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival.


The temperatures are well below zero and the snow banks are rising higher each week, but that does not stop our residents from getting out and having fun in these winter months!

The Winter Carnival is a great opportunity to do just that... it’s a celebration of the rich culture and cold climate – but warm hearts – of Fort Chipewyan and Wood Buffalo.


My thanks go to the organizers, sponsors, and volunteers who make this Winter Carnival possible. An event like this brings the community together and makes our region a great place to call home.

I wish everyone who is participating in the Winter Carnival a safe and enjoyable time!


Sincerely,



Mayor Melissa Blake



[www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca)



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OF WOOD BUFFALO



# Fort McPherson weighs in on Peel land use plan

By MARY WALDEN

With less than two weeks before the Yukon government (YG) wraps up its Peel watershed land use plan consultations, Fort McPherson residents will finally get to have their say.

The NWT community of 850 is the only settlement in the transboundary watershed, most of which lies in Yukon.

The Peel open house is set for Feb. 12. It was originally slated for Jan. 23, but the YG cancelled it at the last minute, saying it was too cold for its six officials to make the drive from Inuvik.

They'd been in nearby Tsiigehtchic the day before, but instead of continuing on to McPherson to spend the night, they returned to Inuvik.

McPherson residents who did show up weren't sure whether the cancellation was legitimate or not.

Given the YG's perceived track record on the Peel file – it's been accused of suppressing environmental reports, ignoring public sentiment and most recently cutting First Nations out of the loop – there's a high degree of mistrust.

"We'll just make the meeting an even better one when they do show up," said a



The people of Fort McPherson still use the Peel River as a highway in both winter and summer.

Photo: Mary Walden

woman that day as she cleaned up the lunch that had been prepared for the meeting.

The YG started work on a Peel land use plan in late 2004. As required under its modern day treaty, a commission was set up to do the job, comprised of members appointed by the government and the four First Nations with ties to the region, including the NWT Gwich'in.

The commission spent

more than six years studying the region, analyzing options and consulting the public at key points along the way.

Its recommended plan was shared with the public in 2010 by the five governments for feedback.

In Fort McPherson, where the Peel is near and dear to the Tetlit Gwich'in, that meeting was standing-room-only as speaker after speaker urged protection for the watershed from industrial development.

In response, the commission produced the final recommended plan – which protects 80 per cent of the region – and turned it over to the governments in July 2011 to complete the process.

They were expected to jointly hold a last round of consultation before each deciding whether to accept, reject or modify the plan.

Instead, the YG called a news conference last October, saying it was going it

alone with consultations and unveiling its own plan for the Peel – one providing considerably less protection – submitting it to the public alongside the commission's plan.

Since then, it's shopped both plans around at open houses in Whitehorse, Mayo, Dawson City, Old Crow, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik.

Fort McPherson is the last public event before consultations end Feb. 25.

Although the government has tried to limit people at these sessions to one-on-one discussions with bureaucrats, more often than not the public has forced a more traditional format where people take turns speaking while others listen.

Most recently, in both Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik, the leaders of the Gwich'in Tribal Council turned up to tell the YG, in no uncertain terms, to dump its new plan.

Like the three Yukon First Nations who participated in the planning process, the Gwich'in said they did so in "good faith" and now feel betrayed.

"Do the right thing: withdraw your plan and publicly support the original plan as developed by the commission," Gwich'in Tribal Council President Robert Alexie Jr. told officials in Inuvik.

If not, First Nations will have to turn to the courts, they said.

The YG is accepting written comments on the Peel plan until Feb. 25.

It has promised to put all submissions on its website shortly after the deadline passes.



We salute the staff and students of  
**Aurora College**  
during Aurora College Week  
Feb. 11 - 15, 2013



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Check out the Thebacha Loppet Facebook group for pictures and stories from past loppets.



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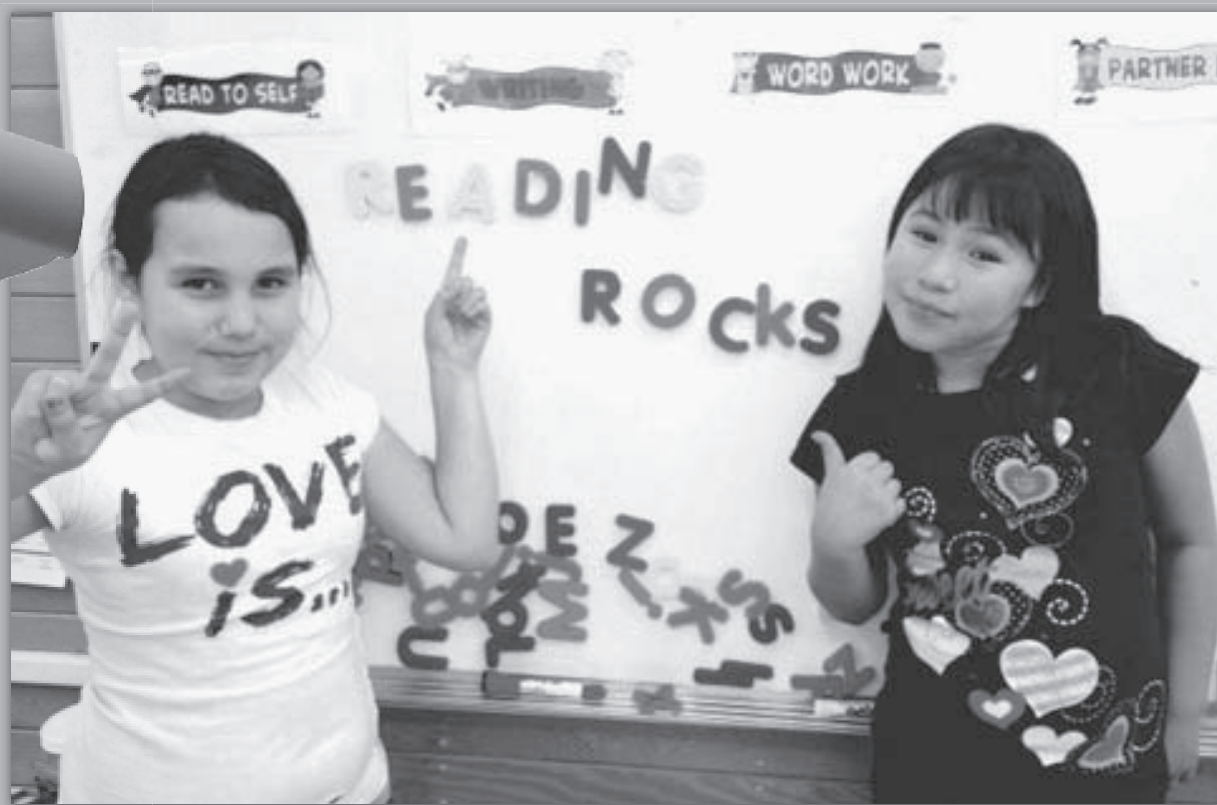




# AFTER SCHOOL LITERACY



Activities offered at Athabasca Delta Community School



**LITERACY CLUB** is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Banks' Literacy Room. Snacks and drinks are provided to fuel learning. This club is for students interested in boosting their reading and writing skills. Certified teachers and paraprofessionals are there to work with the children one-on-one or in small groups.

Additional homework or reading material can be provided to those families interested. Parents/Guardians will need to arrange a ride home, as we do not have transportation for after school activities yet.

**Reading Nights sponsored by ACFN, Shell, Cenovus and ADCS.**

## Future reading nights schedule:

Wednesday, February 27  
Wednesday, March 27  
Wednesday, April 24  
Wednesday, May 29  
Wednesday, June 12

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**If you or your organization would like to sign up  
to be part of a future reading night, please contact  
Hilary Banks at (780) 697-3933 or [hilary.banks@northland61.ab.ca](mailto:hilary.banks@northland61.ab.ca)**



# Northern Farm Training Institute takes root

## GNWT commits start up funds to new Hay River school

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The seeds have been sown and classes are set to bloom this spring at a new farming school in Hay River now that the NWT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has finalized its financial contribution to the pilot project.

Northerners interested in learning about growing their own food or animal husbandry can now apply to become the first students at the new Northern Farm Training Institute.

The school will offer a themed three-day workshop once a month from April to October. There will be classroom lessons as well as hands-on fieldwork in greenhouses, community gardens and farms.

The institute is the brainchild of Jackie Milne, president of the non-profit Territorial Farmers' Association (TFA).

Four years ago, Milne, an avid gardener, began hosting a series of volunteer workshops based on cultivating gardens. The level of interest was substantial then, she said, and it's only continued to grow.

"There's a real genuine interest in purposeful food production out there in the NWT," Milne said. "I see the project becoming a dynamic catalyst that will rapidly disseminate the information out because lots of people I speak to have an incredible desire to reestablish themselves locally and become more in control of their food. That awareness is everywhere; it's in society now."

The GNWT confirmed its contribution of \$40,000 to the institute at the end of last month, the startup portion of the total \$350,000 Milne originally requested.

"New funding comes April 1 and then we should get the remainder as far as I understand," Milne told *The Journal*.

Securing the rest of the finances from the government shouldn't be a problem, according to Milne.

The new Growing Forward 2 fund, a joint federal and territorial program, announced an annual increase of \$500,000 to support small-scale food production. Starting this spring, that means the NWT agriculture industry will receive a total of \$1.2 million per year.

Milne figures the entire cost for the new institute's first pilot year, excluding students' travel costs, is about \$200,000.

Thanks to the Growing Forward fund, students who qualify for the workshops will not have to pay for the course.

Milne said she is still discussing a budget with the GNWT that would cover all costs for students, including travel.

There is room for 15 students. Milne noted preference will be given to those in isolated communities.

"I look at it this way: everyone who comes to this can in effect become a mentor back in their community. So we're training trainers," Milne said.

Students can choose to sign up for the full school season or just attend one workshop.

Milne wants the workshops to be flexible and accessible, which is why she's scheduled them to happen on weekends.

Classroom activities will take place at the Aurora College Community Learning Centre in Hay River. Outdoor activities will cycle through local greenhouses, farms, berry orchards and so on, Milne said.

Instructors include local farmers and gardeners as well as Milne and Aurora College instructor Susie Wegernski, a permaculture enthusiast from Fort Resolution.

"Hay River has all the components we need for such training: established



President of the Territorial Farmers' Association Jackie Milne shows off the kale she grows in her own greenhouse. She plans to use her greenhouses as "living classrooms" for the new Northern Farm Training Institute.

community gardens, a variety of greenhouses, cattle farms, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits."

Graduation kits, specialized to each workshop theme, will also be handed out to students at the end, Milne said. These will include things like seed starting kits complete with grow lights and weeding tools.

The TFA is also compiling resource material to accompany the workshops.





Partners for the Northern Farm Training Institute include Aurora College, Ecology North and the NWT Literacy Council.

Applications are now being accepted. Northerners interested in applying are asked to call the TFA at 867-874-4706 or by email at [farminwt@north-westel.net](mailto:farminwt@north-westel.net).


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## Ski North's Annual NWT Ski Days Census



Like a caribou herd count, **Ski North's Census** measures the health of the NWT ski herd.

Skiers can register with their school or club between Monday, February 11 and Sunday, February 17.

**Contact Ski North Coordinator Karen Johnson**  
at [skinorth.nwt@gmail.com](mailto:skinorth.nwt@gmail.com) or 867-669-8379 to report your skier numbers.

Take advantage of the nice weather. Get out skiing and prepare for the upcoming **Thebacha Loppet** which will take place along the historical portage route from Fort Fitzgerald to Fort Smith, Saturday, March 2, 2013.



# COMMUNITY TRADING POST

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## Government of the Northwest Territories

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Closing Date: March 8, 2013

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• Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration. • The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require support, you are encouraged to identify your needs if you are contacted for an interview or assignment, so that you may be accommodated. • Equivalencies may be considered. • Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions. • Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.



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TERRITORIAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority  
Dental Services**

Reference No. 13100

- Sahtu Region, NT -

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority on behalf of the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority is requesting proposals from qualified proponents for the provision of visiting Dental Services for communities located in the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories.

Proposals will be received until:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 5, 2013.**

at the following location:

Stanton Territorial Health Authority  
Materials Management Department  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Stanton Territorial Hospital  
550 Byrne Road, Yellowknife, NT  
Phone: 867-669-4173, Fax: 867-669-4132

Request for Proposal documents may be obtained from the above address.

The Government of the Northwest Territories Business Incentive Policy will apply to this proposal call.

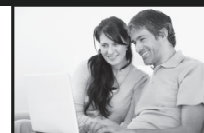
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Grade 9 students Albert Kalola (left) and Corey Lucas compete in the finger pull event, coached by instructor Warren Baton.

Sports & Recreation Traditional Games

# Games link Sachs Harbour students with tradition

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Students at Inualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour got re-acquainted with the land-based origins of Northern traditional games last week during a visit from

the Aboriginal Sport Circle's (ASC) Arctic and Dene games program. Students from kindergarten to Grade 9 spent two days learning traditional Dene games like stick pull,

finger pull, hand games and snow snake, along with the Arctic sports of one and two-foot high kick, Alaskan high kick, the animal laughing game and caribou skipping with the help of

instructors Warren Baton of Deline and Sachs Harbour local CJ Nogak. While many of the students had been exposed to Arctic games before, only one of the 18 participants had actually seen Dene games, which - coupled with the fact that the small, isolated community rarely has visitors - made it an exciting and fun learning opportunity.

"This is one of their bigger events throughout the school year. Us coming in and doing these traditional games, it's kind of the highlight...so it was nice," said Derek Squirrel, program coordinator for ASC. "All the stuff that we introduced to them was their first time. And hopefully we'll have a kit made for them to send up, with stick pull and snow snakes and maybe a couple drums with some music that they could learn from and be able to do hand games, so that we're not going in there and showing them this stuff and then they never see it again or do it again. They'll have the equipment to carry it on within their gym classes."

Learning the Dene games will be especially important for the three girls from Sachs Harbour intending to participate in the Traditional Games Championship scheduled for Mar. 1-3 in Yellowknife, Squirrel said, where each competitor aged 10-12 must participate in five Arctic and five Dene games.

Principal Terry Davidson said he is bringing Nogak back to the school once a week for the next 12 weeks to continue practicing



Students had a chance to take each other on in the challenging and fun leg wrestling event.



Students play Dene hand games for the first time.

Photos: Derek Squirrel

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traditional games, which he said are important for the kids' learning and development. "It's actually more beneficial to them in many ways than they think," Davidson said. "I think they haven't quite made the connection between their recent or distant past related to traditional hunting practices or gathering practices, but because Derek and Warren and CJ were all very willing each time they undertook a new activity or game to explain the cultural and historical relevance, it began to mean something more to the kids."

prepared them to undertake a particular activity, which would have been part of everyday life," he said. Davidson said he would love to have the instructors come back every month if he could because of how positive the experience was for the students. "I feel that the children were very receptive to them as instructors. I found all of them also were not just here as instructors, but also participated with the kids in whatever they did, and that really brought an element of reality to the kids' experience. They were teachers and mentors

It's been really great for the kids to understand that they're not just playing a game here, but they're actually involved in an activity that, number one, is related to their cultural past, and number two...would have prepared them to undertake a particular activity, which would have been part of everyday life.

*Terry Davidson  
Inualthuyak School Principal*

Davidson said he feels there is a widening gap between what was once relevant to the local culture and what is relevant now, but that traditional games keep the youth linked to their history. "It's been really great for the kids to understand that they're not just playing a game here, but they're actually involved in an activity that, number one, is related to their cultural past, and number two...would have

and facilitators at the same time," he said. Apart from benefit to the students, Squirrel said the program also creates worthwhile experiences for the instructors involved. "It's just (about) passing on the tradition of the instructors," he said. "They're all young and they've played these since a young age, so we thought it's best for them to pass on their knowledge and these kids to learn and hopefully carry it on."





Laura Aubrey coaches Lisa Heron, 5, on her shooting against goalie Atikin Hehn.



Naomi Rhymer, 6, makes a play for the puck during a fun scrimmage against the coaches.



Fun Day participants cheer “1, 2, 3 Girls!” before breaking for a healthy snack.



Olivia Cox, 5, practices puck handling.

**Sports & Recreation Hockey**

# Hockey first-timers take to ice on Esso Fun Day

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR  
Shanae Nadary, 7, scuffled across the Fort Smith rink and heaved herself up onto the boards.

“I want to do hockey now!” she chirped, smiling cheek to cheek under her hockey mask.

Saturday marked the first time Nadary ever tried shooting pucks and her enthusiasm is exactly the kind of reaction Esso Fun Days is looking for.

The Esso Fun Day program was established in 1998 by Hockey Canada as a fun and free way to introduce young girls to hockey.

Saturday was Fort Smith’s second Esso Fun Day, organized by Jessica Cox, who facilitated the last one in 2006.

“It’s a good opportunity for young girls to learn to play with others, a fun introduction to the sport that makes it less intimidating,” Cox said.

Seven young girls showed up for a few hours of games and skill-building exercises with local coaches. All except a couple of the girls were brand new to hockey, Cox said.

For Naomi Rhymer, 6, it was the first time donning a hockey jersey and managing a stick.

“I like it even though it’s a bit hard and I fall down,” Rhymer said.

Rhymer told *The Journal* she’s now thinking about joining minor hockey next year.

girls-specific sporting event,” she said.

Jodi McMahon brought her 7 year-old daughter Sadie, who’s been playing hockey for three years, to the arena Saturday.

“It’s something neat to try out and encourages more female athletes,” she said. “The girls get to spend time

It’s a good opportunity for young girls to learn to play with others, a fun introduction to the sport that makes it less intimidating.

*Jessica Cox  
Esso Fun Day organizer*

Shari Olsen, who also coaches the CanSkate program, volunteered on the ice at the Fun day.

“I think being active is an important part of life and it’s great to see something like this getting more kids involved, especially in a

with some older coaches and hockey players and learn about teamwork; they’re great role models.”

Sadie said she can’t get enough of hockey.

“In every game, I try to get a goal. I like when I do,” she said.



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# Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival

Schedule of Events Feb. 21 – 24, 2013



## King & Queen of the North

### Age Categories

Prince & Princess of the North (Ages 10-14)  
Jr. King & Queen of the North (Ages 15-17)  
King & Queen of the North (Ages 18-54)  
Sr. King & Queen of the North (Ages 55+)

### Indoor Events

Trap setting  
Jigging Contest  
Moose Calling  
Traditional Dress

### Outdoor Events

Log Sawing  
Tea Boiling  
Nail Pounding  
Snow Shoe Contest

Each event will receive a cash prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd along with points; 3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd place. The overall winners with the most points in each category will be declared the 2013 King and Queen of the North.

## Thursday, Feb. 21

### Opening Remarks

6 p.m.

### Mushum and Kukum Pageant

6:15 p.m. - 11 p.m.

*Admission: Carnival Button*

Participants must compete in Traditional Dress, Impromptu Question, Talent and Selling Winter Carnival buttons. If you are 55 years of age or older or have any inquiries about this event, please feel free to contact Blue Eyes Simpson at 780-697-9017.

## Friday, Feb. 22

### Indoor Events

6 p.m. - 11 p.m. at Mamawi Hall

*Admission: Carnival Button*

Prince & Princess of the North  
Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling  
Jr. King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling  
King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling  
Sr. King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling

## Saturday, Feb. 23

### Pancake Breakfast

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Mamawi Hall

### Kids Indoor & Outdoor Events

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Youth Centre

*Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20 and 3rd \$10*

Ages 0-3: Jigging, Traditional Dress

Ages 4-6: Jigging, Traditional Dress, Nail Pounding

Ages 7-9: Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

Ages 10-14: Log Sawing, Nail Pounding, Snow Shoeing

### Dog Sled Races

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lake Front

Categories: 10 dog - 10 mile race  
6 dog - 6 mile race

Contact: Marg Villebrun for all enquires at (780) 697-3600 or 215-5069.

### Skidoo Races

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Lake Front

*Admission: Carnival Button*

Categories: Bikes, Ice Race, Cross Country, Snow Cross and Drag

Contact: Gregory "Cowboy" Marcel at (780) 799-2981.

### \$1500 Bingo

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Mamawi Hall  
Chip Child Development

### Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Mamawi Hall (Middle Room)

### Family Entertainment

with Hypnotist Scott Ward

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Mamawi Hall  
*Admission: Carnival Button*

### Adult Dance

9 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Live Band - "Nicely Put Together"

*Admission: \$20.00 each*

Organized by Métis Local #125.

All proceeds from the dance go toward the 2013 Winter Carnival.

## Sunday, Feb. 24

### Pancake Breakfast

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Mamawi Hall

### Dog Sled Races

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lake Front

### Skidoo Races

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Lake Front

### Outdoor Events

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Jr. King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

Sr. King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

### Community Roast Beef Dinner

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Mamawi Hall

*Admission: \$5.00 each*

Please register for all events!

## 2013 Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival Sponsors

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125, Extreme Sno Riders, Helping Hands to Success, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Chip Manufacturing, Nunee Health Board, Mamawi Seniors, CNRL, Total, Suncor, Imperial, ACFN Group of Companies, Cenovus, Birch Mountain, TECK, Athabasca Tribal Council, Northwestern Air, Neegan and the Northern Journal.

**On behalf of the RMWB and Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival Committee, we thank you all for participating.**

**To our visitors, we hope that you enjoy your visit to Fort Chipewyan and hope to see you again in the future.**

**To the community, sponsors and volunteers: our sincere appreciation for your support. Thank you all!**

Any questions, please contact Flossie Cyprien at (780) 697-3724 or (780) 714-0569.