



K'atl'odeeche pulls out of Dehcho claims process
Chief of the Hay River Reserve says the First Nation will not give up jurisdiction over its territory to be part of Dehcho First Nations. See page 2.



Valentine's vandals go on damage spree in Smith
Two men have been arrested following a series of break-ins and vandalism in Fort Smith during the early morning hours of Feb. 14. See page 9.



Wise Women awarded for their contributions
Edna Schaefer of Fort Smith was one of five women to be awarded the 2013 Wise Women title for her positive work in the territory. See page 18.



Rangers head out for winter training exercise
Fort Smith's Canadian Rangers patrol spent the weekend scouting and doing search and rescue. See page 20.

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Students from the Environment and Natural Resources Technology program kick up their feet for the College Idol contest last Thursday on Thebacha campus. The College Idol competition was one of the many activities featured during Aurora College Week, happening at all three campuses in the NWT. See page 11 for more.

Feds flock to Yellowknife to meet MLAs 'Northern Conservative Caucus' splits meetings with NDP

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Conservative MPs and senators from Yukon and Nunavut held a private meeting with MLAs in the Northwest Territories on Monday, timing their visit with the NDP Opposition leader Thomas Mulcair's first trip to the territory on the same day.

The group of Conservatives, calling themselves the "Northern Conservative Caucus," is composed of MPs Leona Aglukkaq of Nunavut and Ryan Leef of Yukon and Senators Dennis Patterson of Nunavut and Dan Lang of Yukon.

Former federal Conservative candidate Sandy Lee of Yellowknife was also included as part of the caucus.

The Conservatives met for roughly an hour with the NWT caucus for an informal, "free flowing exchange" to hear from

MLAs on their key issues and priorities, according to Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya, chair of the NWT caucus.

Patterson, chair of the Northern caucus, made brief opening comments, followed by an open exchange, chaired by Yakeleya.

Yakeleya said the discussion allowed each MLA to talk about his or her constituency.

"We talked about what's important for the NWT: the impacts of climate change, Territorial Formula Financing, devolution, the Mackenzie Valley highway, housing, infrastructure, mining," he said.

Patterson said in a press release that the goal was to introduce the Northern caucus as a political group to the MLAs.

"Our primary objectives are to explain what our group does at the political level to represent

and reinforce pan-Northern interests in the Conservative government, our party's caucus, and the senate," he said.

Apart from the meeting, the caucus held a public meet and greet, was involved in Diamond Jubilee medal presentations and held a session with a Yellowknife high school civics class. Aglukkaq was also scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a fundraiser event.

Though most of the representatives are from outside the territory, Yakeleya said they have important influence over the future of the NWT.

"The governing party right now is, of course, the Conservatives, so they have a high interest in the Northwest Territories, as well as Nunavut and the Yukon," he said. "Ms. Leona Aglukkaq is the head of the CanNor department, and of

course CanNor is working quite hard in the Northwest Territories...The caucus is a Northern caucus, so I think it looks at all three Northern territories, and I think that's the angle they're focusing on right now."

Yakeleya said the meeting was a "really good general discussion."

"I think that it shows the Northwest Territories is receiving some attention from Ottawa," he said. "You've got the Northern Conservative party members meeting with us, so that gives a strong signal that the Northwest Territories is on the government's radar."

"We're starting to see a little bit of a return on our investments from when we went down to Ottawa, a team from the Northwest Territories," he added.

The short meeting punctuated the first visit by NDP leader

Thomas Mulcair to the NWT.

Mulcair told *The Journal* he took the Conservatives' meeting, which was scheduled after they found out about his trip, as a "compliment."

While in Yellowknife, Mulcair announced that the NDP is planning to make the North a major priority for 2013.

"What happens in the North will have a positive impact on the rest of Canada if we get it right, but there will be high costs to the environment and health if we get it wrong," he said.

Mulcair said Arctic issues like global warming, housing costs and infrastructure like highways will be main issues for the NDP in the upcoming federal election.

Mulcair met with the NWT cabinet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, following a public meeting and press conference the same day.

NEWS BRIEFS

RCMP: Slow down on winter road

Wood Buffalo RCMP in Fort Chipewyan are asking winter road users to slow down after a number of speed-related incidents. Three individuals were charged Feb. 3 after their vehicle became lodged in a snow bank. The driver, a 28 year-old man, is facing charges under Provincial Legislation for driving at an unreasonable speed and his two male passengers are both facing charges for drug possession. RCMP have stepped up patrols of the road since it opened.

CNOOC given final approval for Nexen takeover

The China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC), one of China's largest energy companies, received final approval from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to acquire Canadian oil and gas company Nexen for \$15.1 billion last Friday. The deal is expected to close next week, Nexen said in a statement. CNOOC will gain control over multiple projects, including ones in the Gulf of Mexico, North Sea and Nexen's Long Lake oilsands project in Alberta. Canada approved the deal in December.

Alberta seeks input on energy regulator

Albertans will have a say in regulations for the new single Alberta Energy Regulator, which begins operations in June. Public consultation sessions are scheduled for 18 communities beginning Wednesday. Albertans who are unable to take part in the three-hour facilitated sessions can provide their ideas online until Mar. 29. The survey, session registration and other information can be found at www.energy.alberta.ca/Initiatives/RegulatoryEnhancement.asp.



K'at'l'odeeche First Nation Chief Roy Fabian (fourth from right) protests treaty violations at an Idle No More rally at the Deh Cho Bridge in January. Fabian says the First Nation will not give up its reserve or treaty rights to be part of the Dehcho process.

Politics First Nations

KFN pulls out of Dehcho process Chief says First Nation won't give up reserve, sovereignty over land

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

After years of discussion, K'at'l'odeeche First Nation (KFN) near Hay River withdrew from the Dehcho First Nations' comprehensive claim negotiations with Canada last week, stating it will not be part

of a deal that requires it give up its reserve or title to its traditional territory.

"Canada is insisting that KFN give up the Hay River reserve in order for us to participate in the Dehcho process," Chief Roy Fabian told *The Journal*. "So the way KFN is interpreting that is that there will be no more treaty because the reserve is a treaty right under Treaty 8. It's a treaty lands entitlement right."

Fabian made the announcement last Tuesday at a leadership meeting in Fort Providence.

KFN first entered into the Dehcho process in 1993 when the agreement being negotiated did not include land selection, but instead invoked the treaties to maintain First Nation jurisdiction over the land.

Fabian said that all changed in 2006 when Canada said they would no longer explore that type of arrangement and forced negotiations toward a comprehensive claims process, which requires First Nations to give up title over much of their traditional territory during the land selection process.

"The main idea of the Dehcho process was there would be no land selection and we would have interest in the whole Dehcho territory...but now under a comprehensive claim, we're going to be selecting land and...we're going to release our jurisdiction over all the rest of the land," Fabian said.

At a November 2012 meeting, KFN members instructed chief and council not to give up the reserve and to maintain sovereignty over their traditional lands under Treaty 8.

Since then, KFN has been attempting to gain support from other Dehcho First Nations to pass a motion

supporting KFN's right to keep its reserve near Hay River. When they refused, KFN decided to begin looking into its own land claim.

That has held its own challenges, as even through a community comprehensive

"The problem with the Canada claims policy is they're asking us to surrender the treaties and stuff like that. It's unconstitutional," he said. "They're inherent rights and we don't have to give them up."

The problem with the Canada claims policy is they're asking us to surrender the treaties and stuff like that. It's unconstitutional.

Chief Roy Fabian

land claim, the federal government expects KFN to give up the reserve and go back to the Dehcho process to negotiate its self-government as a larger group.

"If KFN gives up the reserve, we're going to become Dehcho First Nations. The K'at'l'odeeche First Nation will disappear, just like they did in the Tlicho agreement. There's no more Behchoko First Nation and so on. And KFN said no, KFN are the ones that are the treaty holders for Treaty 8 and we will not become a non-entity under the Dehcho," Fabian said.

"We want to negotiate a self-government agreement. We're entitled to that," he added, noting that the federal government is still reviewing KFN's request and is expected to give an answer by this week.

If Canada insists they give up the reserve, Fabian said that will likely be the end of negotiations.

He said KFN still has jurisdiction according to the Dene version of the treaty, which was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1973 Paulette Caveat.

Devolution also a factor, chief says

Another reason for leaving the Dehcho First Nations, Fabian said, is the pending issue of devolution, which would see the territorial government gain control over public lands, water and resources in the NWT.

Fabian said the Dehcho is negotiating with the GNWT right now over signing on to the final devolution agreement, but that KFN does not want to be part of it.

"With devolution, what they're trying to do is legitimize the Northwest Territories. They're going to turn all the water, resources, lands, everything over to it, and they're now going to be in charge of all that stuff. For us, we say no, not on our traditional territory you're not. We have jurisdiction over our traditional territory and we're willing to stand on that."

KFN is not the only nation to withdraw from the Dehcho process. Fort Liard and, most recently, Pehdzeh Ki First Nation in Wrigley, said they would be negotiating their own land claims.

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NWT cabinet votes down motion critical of feds

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

For the second time in the 17th Assembly, a motion proposed by MLA Bob Bromley asking the GNWT to take a stand on federal changes to environmental legislation was voted down in the Legislature. The Weledeh MLA once more proposed the GNWT oppose federal changes to environmental law enacted by the controversial omnibus budget bills, C-38 and C-45, which became the focus of the nationwide First Nations protest movement Idle No More last December.

Bromley made a similar motion in November 2011. Debate on that motion was adjourned without a vote.

Bromley's motion, seconded again by Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya, asked the GNWT to inform the federal government of its "dissatisfaction" with both "the dismantling of the federal environmental protection regime" and Ottawa's failure to consult with the NWT on those changes, which he said directly affect Northern interests.

He also moved that the GNWT immediately get to work on determining the cost of repairing and maintaining the regulatory regime post-devolution "to restore it to the



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Premier Bob McLeod led cabinet in a rare vote against MLA Bob Bromley's motion last week.

responsible standard expected by our public."

"Because federal stewardship for our Northern natural birthright is so dominant, these impacts are more strongly felt in the NWT. Still worse, they are taking place just as we are negotiating the transfer of these management responsibilities to our control," Bromley told the House.

"Disturbingly, most have taken place without even our advance knowledge, much less

our input. This motion asks our government to speak out on these impacts, consider how to fill the voids created and to tell us how the funds will be found to ensure responsible environmental management across the Northwest Territories while supporting sustainable economic development."

He said amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Fisheries Act, Navigable Waters Protection Act and Species at Risk Act

were counter to the "vigorous environmental management regime" essential for the North – a particular danger because the GNWT stands to inherit the regulatory regime through devolution.

The motion was voted down 8-6, with MLAs Wendy Bisaro, Michael Nadli, Robert Hawkins and Kevin Menicoche joining Bromley and Yakeleya in favour of the motion. Two abstained.

Bromley, who was criticized for being "partisan" in

the fall when he brought up the first motion, this time argued against that counterpoint, stating this was out of concern for the environment.

"This motion is purely and simply about ensuring that clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy food to eat are front and centre when we pursue economic or any other activity that can affect the land. Everyone of whatever stripe understands these basics," he said.

Premier Bob McLeod was most vocal in his opposition of the motion on behalf of the cabinet, which voted rather than abstained on the motion.

"This motion takes issue with decisions made by the government that they had every right to make. It then calls upon the government of the Northwest Territories to take action in areas of federal jurisdiction. We cannot do that," he said.

"We aren't the federal opposition. We are a government in our own right and we need to concentrate on managing our own affairs."

While most representatives thanked the movers for facilitating a conversation about the issue, they did not support taking action against a government the territory is still dependent upon for funding.

"The politics are difficult in the Northwest Territories when we are dependent on the federal government for our funding, for our infrastructure money, our borrowing limit and any discussions we have concerning money," Hay River North MLA Robert Bouchard responded. "So the keepers of our coffers are the ones that are controlling this initiative and I understand this motion is weighing us against some of our values, some of our issues about the land, the water and the uses of that. And so I'm feeling a little bit torn."

Similarly, Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen worried scolding Ottawa through a protest vote could disrupt tenuous devolution negotiations.

"We could protest that here by way of motion in this Legislature. However, given the fact that we have our eye on a bigger prize, which is devolution, I do not think that is expedient at this time," she said. "I cannot support the motion for that reason. It is a way of sending a message, but to me, devolution is the prize."

She added that she thought the "pendulum had swung too far the other way" in favour of environment over business in the Northwest Territories.

Politics Federal

Duncan resigns as federal Aboriginal Affairs minister

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

John Duncan resigned as minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada last week after admitting to inappropriately writing a letter to the Tax Court of Canada.

Duncan wrote a character reference letter to the Tax Court of Canada in June 2011 on behalf of an individual for whom his constituency staff were providing casework assistance on a Canada Revenue Agency matter.

Duncan issued a statement on Friday afternoon apologizing for the mistake and announcing he would be stepping down from cabinet.

"While the letter was written with honourable intentions, I realize that it was not appropriate for me, as a Minister of the Crown, to write to the Tax Court. I have therefore offered my resignation as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to the Prime



Photo: AANDC

John Duncan resigned last Friday after admitting to wrongfully writing a letter to the Tax Court of Canada.

Minister, which he has accepted," he said.

"I take full responsibility for my actions and the consequences they have brought. It has been an honour to serve in the cabinet and I thank the Prime Minister for placing his confidence in me on this most important file. I have every confidence that the government will reach its goal of improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples across our country."

Duncan has been replaced temporarily by current Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore until a new minister is named. Duncan will continue to serve as MP of Vancouver Island North in Ottawa.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper released a separate statement that day confirming Duncan's resignation.

"I would like to thank Mr. Duncan for his many contributions as minister and for his service to the people of Canada," Harper said.

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Ekatie Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
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Oilsands: the unguarded golden egg

Close to 35,000 people from across the United States journeyed to a rally in Washington, DC on the weekend, braving cold temperatures and biting winds to vent their anger against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Organizers are calling it the largest climate change protest in US history. Washington has seen much larger rallies, but still, this one was significant.

TransCanada Corp.'s proposed \$5.3 billion pipeline project is the target of their frustration. It would traverse six states and give the oilsands companies in Canada access to refineries in Texas that could process the bitumen they painstakingly extract from the sands of northeastern Alberta.

In what appears to be a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the Keystone XL project has become a symbol of a larger fight in the US over environmental protection and economic development in the same way drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was in the 1990s, but with concerns over climate change - which is becoming an emotional battleground - thrown in to up the ante, rhetoric and angst.

The protest in Washington can also be seen as an indirect indictment of the Harper Conservatives' policies on environmental protection in Canada - their preference that industry be self-regulating and their active dismantling of much of the mechanisms of data gathering, control and scrutiny over industrial practices that past federal governments (both Liberal and Conservative) had put in place. The protest was intended to put pressure on US President Obama to stop the pipeline mega-project, and although indications are he likely wants

it to proceed, to provide needed stimulus to the sluggish American economy, the record of the current Canadian government on the environment does not help his case.

Let us not forget, the protests that have culminated with the anti-pipeline rally on the weekend originated about 20 years ago with concerns over the health of people in the oilsands region, particularly the prospect of high rates of cancer in Fort Chipewyan, plus anger over what was seen as the creation of a toxic wasteland with the massive tailings ponds. Industry has been working hard to change all that, but too much of it remains true. That storyline resonated around the world and gave birth to a blockbuster movie in 2009 about the plight of blue skinned, yellow eyed (and quite attractive) natives of another world and their fight against a powerful and greedy corporation. Following that, the embarrassing state of environmental monitoring by the federal and Alberta governments was exposed. The approach has been: develop first and worry about consequences later.

It remains to be seen if concerns of the American protesters gain traction among the general Canadian population. It could be the case that bitumen from the oilsands is restricted as an export, both due to its growing lack of popularity (thanks to the "dirty oil" label, that seems to be sticking) and because the industry is landlocked with no ready access to markets.

A domino effect could be the loss of popularity of the Harper Conservatives and their replacement in the next election.

Harper's policies and approach closely follow those of Premier Mike Harris whose

"Common Sense Revolution" swept him into power in Ontario in 1995 with promises of lower taxation, smaller government and pro-business policies to create jobs.

Sound familiar?

The most serious case of water contamination in Canadian history, the fatal E. coli outbreak in Walkerton, Ontario, was largely blamed on the Harris policies in the court of public opinion. Seven people died and 2,300 became ill after Walkerton's water supply became contaminated with manure spread on a farm near the town. Only one of several findings of the judicial report that followed pointed to "government cutbacks" as the cause, but the zeal of the Harris Conservatives to get rid of government, regulations and regulators and their perceived penchant for "throwing the baby out with the bathwater," resulted in them being seen by the public as the villain. They were swept out of office after eight years in power. Will something similar happen to the Harper Conservatives if they are seen to have blown environmental protection?

The oilsands industry is like the goose that lays the golden eggs in the Jack and the Beanstock tale. It needs to be properly cared for and carefully managed. That should happen in a planned and coordinated way, over time, at pace. Maintaining the health of people in the region should be paramount, and impacts to the environment must be dealt with in a discerning and open way. That is what the public wants. Governments are responsible for that. They will receive the blame, as they should, if things go badly.

It would be a sad day if the current unmanaged approach that allows unchecked growth with little government monitoring and no control backfired and damaged the future potential of the industry. That just might be what is happening.



The latest NWT residents to be awarded the prestigious Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals, four people from Fort Smith were recognized during a medal presentation on Saturday afternoon at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre. From left: educator Ann Pischinger, Richard Daitch and Mary-Pat Short on behalf of their daughter Sarah Daitch, indigenous activist Francois Paulette and Master Cpl. Paul Currie all received medals, presented by Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington and Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Fort Smith recipe gets national exposure

Canadians will soon be seeing Chris DeWolf, the new graphic artist at Cascade Graphics in Fort Smith, on 200,000 special edition Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal boxes.

DeWolf is the winner of the grand prize for the Create Your Favourite Kellogg's Rice Krispies Squares Recipe Contest. Born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, DeWolf will be the first non-celebrity to appear on a Kellogg's cereal box.

Issue: February 17, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Disabled abuse a problem in the North

Raising public awareness of the abuse disabled persons in the North suffer was the goal for the first regional conference of the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, held in Fort Smith.

The conference was one of two the council is holding. The other will be held in Iqaluit.

Issue: February 16, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Accounting office opens

At this time of year, when income tax time looms around the corner, Fort Smith residents will be comforted to know that there will be someone to go to, who can help sort out forms and figures.

Janet Wilson, a relative newcomer to Fort Smith, officially opened an accounting service, Garden Capital Income Tax and Accounting.

Janet offers assistance to both individuals and small business.

Issue: Feburary 11, 1983

A concussion is a not a bruise

In the sporting world today, we're hearing more and more about concussions - and that's a good thing.

As we learn more about both the causes and consequences behind a concussion, we aim to change the sport culture on how we treat the athletes who have suffered one.

In our society today, many kids have a "go-go-go" attitude. They balance early-morning practices and training camps with sport-enhanced school programs, schoolwork, hobbies and social activities. What happens to this "go-go-go" kid if he receives a concussion injury?

A concussion is fundamentally different than other types of sport injuries. A concussion is not a bruise, a torn ligament or broken bone. There is no definitive way to highlight what happens inside an athlete's head when the brain's jelly-like cortex slams directly into the player's skull. Even though the brain is protected by a cerebrospinal fluid, a severe blow to the head can push through this protective layer, causing it to crash into its own skull.

Prevention is priority in any sport. Here are a few tips:

- Respect all players, coaches and officials.
- Make sure your helmet and gear fits and are fastened properly.
- Be aware - (i.e. play heads-up hockey).
- Always use correct body contact techniques (i.e. checking) and never hit from behind.

If a concussion is a potential injury, here are some of the symptoms and signs to look for:

- Problems thinking and

concentrating. Does not know the time or date, appears generally confused.

- Complaints of headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, sleepiness, blurred vision.
- Other problems, such as poor coordination or balance, vomiting, slurred speech, strange or inappropriate emotions.

If a player has a concussion, here is a step-by-step Return to Sport procedure:

1. No activity, complete rest. Once back to normal and cleared by doctor, go to step 2.
2. Light exercise, such as walking or stationary cycling, for 10 - 15 minutes.
3. Sport-specific aerobic activity (i.e. skating in hockey, running in soccer or football) for 20-30 minutes. No contact (no body-checking, tackling or heading the ball, etc.)
4. On-field practice, such as ball drills, shooting drills and other activities with no contact.
5. On field practice with body contact, once cleared by a doctor.
6. Game play.

Each of these steps must take a minimum of one day. If the athlete shows signs of a concussion that come back with any activity in any of the steps, the athlete should rest for a minimum of 24 hours and be seen by a doctor.

Concussions can often be missed and left untreated; however, if you are unsure if an athlete should play, remember... when in doubt, sit them out!

For more information on concussions, please visit www.thinkfirst.ca.

Michelle Hodder
Health Promotion
Facilitator
Alberta Health Services

Half of parents join Facebook to check on their kids

Is your mom creeping on your Facebook? Is dad friends with all of your buddies? A new study by Education Database Online has found that nearly half of all parents using Facebook have joined to spy on their kids.

Parents are most likely to check up on status updates and photos their children have been tagged in.

According to the study, 43 per cent of parents check their child's Facebook profile daily. The study also discovered that 31 per cent of parents check their kids' account four to five times per week.

Not all parents pry as often: 14 per cent of Facebook-using parents reported only "sporadically" checking out their kids' pages, and 11 per cent said they check their kids out on Facebook once a month.

One per cent of parents using Facebook say they never check out their child's Facebook profile.

The study also found that 41 per cent of parents are most interested in status updates, while 39 per cent care about what other people post on their

kids' wall. Twenty-nine per cent of Facebook-spying parents are most interested in the photos their kids are tagged in.

With approximately 17.5 million Facebook users believed to be under the age of 13, the number of Facebook-spying parents is only likely to increase.

Jeff Crilley
Real News PR

StatsCan reports on growing income gaps for first time

Statistics Canada released data recently on the incomes of the top 1 per cent of tax filers, and compared these to the incomes of the remaining 99 per cent. Not surprisingly, this small segment of the population receives a disproportionate share of the pie - about one-tenth of all individual income, with a median income of \$283,400, about 10 times the median of the bottom 99 per cent.

StatsCan has further provided comparable data going back to 1982, and not only by province and for the five largest cities, but also for men and women separately. StatsCan has also used its CANSIM data dissemination tool (now free of charge) to provide a tremendous range of much more detailed breakdowns - enough to keep data junkies busy for days and weeks.

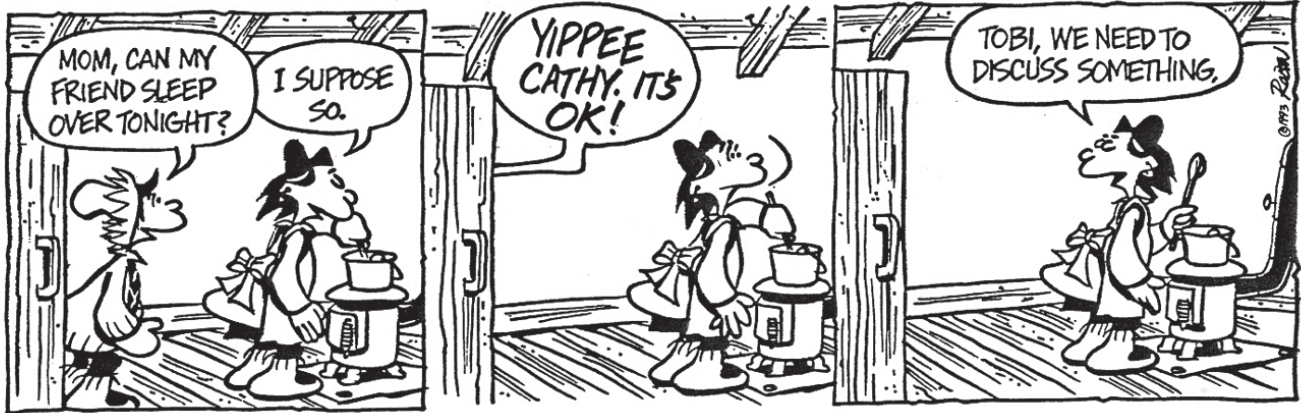
For example, the threshold to be in the top 0.1 per cent in terms of after-tax income, at \$2.2-million, is almost 14 times as high as the threshold

for the top 1 per cent. Virtually all the news coverage so far has discussed only the numbers in the StatsCan text for the data release, which referred only to before-tax income.

What you may not have noticed is that this is the first time StatsCan has ever produced such data as part of its standard suite of statistics. One of the challenges for a national statistical agency is to stay relevant to the issues of the day. Issues related to income inequality have been bubbling in the background amongst economists for decades. The Occupy Movement has been in the news for more than a year, and we even have the elite of the business community in Davos (World Economic Forum annual meeting of global political and business elite in Switzerland) recently putting income inequality at the top of their agenda. So these new data are most welcome.

Michael Wolfson
EvidenceNetwork.ca

MUKLUK



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FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

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Northern Journal - February 12, 2012 Flipbook
norj.ca

Linda Martin, Debora Heron and Veronica Tuccaro like this

Veronica Tuccaro ...love it

Kristin Bradley I love this too - it's great!

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

-27 High		-30 Low	Wednesday	-15 High		-21 Low
-26 High		-30 Low	Thursday	-10 High		-16 Low
-23 High		-28 Low	Friday	-7 High		-16 Low
-30 High		-36 Low	Saturday	-11 High		-13 Low

Norms: -22°C and -30°C Norms: -17°C and -27°C

Hay River Fort Smith

-11 High		-17 Low	Wednesday	-9 High		-16 Low
-10 High		-14 Low	Thursday	-5 High		-12 Low
-10 High		-17 Low	Friday	-7 High		-10 Low
-12 High		-17 Low	Saturday	-9 High		-13 Low

Norms: -14°C and -25°C Norms: -12°C and -25°C

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Politics Regulatory

Conservatives reject amendments to Surface Rights Board act

Decision 'colonial,' says NWT MP

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Amendments proposed by Northerners to the NWT Surface Rights Board act during an informal public hearing in Yellowknife last month were voted down by the Conservative majority on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development standing committee.

Over 40 amendments to Bill C-47, which sets up both a surface rights board in the NWT and implements land use planning portions of the Nunavut land claim, were proposed by NDP MPs.

Those amendments were based on suggestions made during the Jan. 23 hearings and written submissions by Alternatives North, the NWT Association of Communities, the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington, the NDP's Northern Opposition critic, said the dismissal of the proposed amendments is an affront to the consultation process, which is supposed to hear from Canadians on how to improve legislation.

"We were pretty disappointed that the Conservatives wouldn't accept any of our amendments," Bevington said. "Basically, they were all things that Northern people brought up. We didn't invent these amendments; they were things that were brought to our attention."

The proposed amendments included having the bill reviewed after five years, creating a participant funding process and having hearings of the various boards and commissions held in public.

One in particular tried to change the language around appointments to the board, which holds that representatives must

have knowledge of land, environment or traditional knowledge. Bevington said a representative should meet all three of those requirements.

No reasons were given for the rejection of the amendments.

"To my mind...these were amendments that Northerners brought forward, these acts are for Northerners and the fact that the Conservatives wouldn't countenance them is

the bill stipulates that at least one member of any panel of the board hearing an application regarding lands in a particular area must be resident of that area, consulted groups were concerned that the residency requirement was insufficient.

"In order to accommodate the concern, AANDC incorporated an additional knowledge requirement for members appointed from the applicable settlement areas, stipulating that

These were amendments that Northerners brought forward.

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington

really very, I find, colonial," Bevington said.

"This is legislation for the people of the North - it's not affecting anyone else - and the Conservatives have a Northern strategy that talks about turning over governance and then they can't listen to one amendment out of 40 some that people of the North have said is useful."

Bill C-47 has now been reported back the House and will come up for debate in the next two to three weeks.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) spokesperson Genevieve Guibert told *The Journal* in an email that "all concerns raised during consultations with Aboriginal groups/governments on Bill C-47...were considered and responded to."

She said accommodations were made, where appropriate.

"Some Aboriginal groups/governments expressed a concern regarding membership on the (Surface Rights) Board," she said. "Although

these members 'must have... considerable knowledge in respect of lands, the environment or Aboriginal traditional knowledge in relation to the applicable settlement area.'"

As well, Guibert said, AANDC added a provision that allows the term "residency" to accommodate particular circumstances, such as groups with transboundary claims.

Some Aboriginal groups also expressed concerns regarding land claims still under negotiation, which they fear will be impacted by the implementation of Bill C-47.

"In order to accommodate the concern, AANDC added a review clause requiring the Minister to review Part II of Bill C-47, Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act, with representatives of any Aboriginal group/government who have entered into an agreement in relation to the NWT to determine whether the Bill should be amended to implement any provision of that agreement."



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McPherson rallies to protect the Peel watershed

By MARY WALDEN

Fort McPherson residents turned out in force for a Yukon government meeting Tuesday on the Peel River watershed land use plan.

More than 200 people crammed into the Johnny D. Charlie community hall – from school children to elderly grannies – to discuss the river that flows past their front door.

Even though most of the watershed lies in the Yukon, McPherson's Tetlit Gwich'in have strong historical ties to the entire region.

They still rely on caribou from that land and the fish from the river. And they know that whatever happens upstream could eventually come down the river to haunt them.

"We are the first community that will be affected by any sort of development," Tetlit Gwich'in official Diane Koe told the six-member Yukon contingent that flew in from Whitehorse for the four-hour meeting.

"The world is changing drastically and it's because of development and it's because of industries that ruin land and water all over this world," she said. "As Gwich'in people, we want to keep the Peel watershed free from development."



It was standing-room-only for the Yukon government's Peel River watershed land use plan meeting in Fort McPherson Feb. 12.

Photo: Mary Walden

The Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council said the only plan it supports is the one it helped to create. It worked with the Peel commission for years, sharing its knowledge and providing input at every stage in the planning process.

"It is disappointing and alarming...to see that work pushed aside for the government's new plan, which clearly ignores the years of consultation with us and everyone else who was consulted," said the council's Wilbert Firth in a written statement.

The government's new proposals "do not reflect any of the feedback that we have given after all those years of consultation," he said. "This is not protection; this is development."

For Abe Stewart Jr., clean water is key.

"If we look after our land and our water, they in turn will look after us. That's the way it's been for generations and generations and that's still the way it is today," he said.

And it won't be any different for future generations, he said.

"They'll carry this fight on for as long as the river flows, they'll carry it on," he said. "It's never the end. It's never the end for us."

Elder Eileen Koe said the Peel's wilderness helped her heal.

She credits a four-month stay in the Snake River area in the 1970s as changing her "unbalanced life."

Grappling with the impact of years spent at residential school, coupled with the loss of two people she loved, her father sent her upriver to the

Snake to get her out of the community.

The "harsh, but beautiful" landscape helped her deal with her overwhelming grief, she said.

"I came out of there with a better understanding of who I was and what I needed to do," said Koe, who now helps others who are grieving.

The McPherson meeting was the last one the Yukon government is holding in the communities.

It's accepting public submissions on the Peel plan

until Feb. 25. All that input will be posted on its website shortly afterward.

It then plans to start negotiations with the four affected First Nations – Mayo's Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Dawson's Tr'ondek Hwech'in, Old Crow's Vuntut Gwitchin and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The First Nations have already said they support the Peel commission's land use plan. They've threatened to take the Yukon government to court if it tries to push through its new proposal.

Politics Regulatory

MLAs question layoffs to Mackenzie Review Board *Fired staff could be hired on by GNWT, premier says*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Members of the territorial government expressed concern over funding cuts that led to the termination of six employees of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) last week, with one asking the territorial government to find new jobs for the affected workers.

Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins said the GNWT should find a way to offer jobs to the six who received notice on Friday, Feb. 8 that their jobs were terminated effective immediately.

Those employees included two environmental assessment officers, a communications person and other corporate staff.

"These are real people, not just statistics," he said. "They're people with mortgages, they have bills to pay, they have children to take care of. It's a crying shame what happened to them. I'm told that two of them were let go before their maternity

leave even began. Another, a constituent of mine, is a single parent who does not have enough time in the review board to qualify for EI. This affects real lives.

"Let's not abandon these people the way they were abandoned last week," he added.

Hawkins asked the premier whether he would be willing to look at assisting those employees by putting them on a priority staffing list with the GNWT.

"Right now, the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada that has seen a decrease in population. So, of course, we'd be interested in trying to find ways to have these six people find gainful employment," Premier Bob McLeod responded, noting that there are over 100 vacant positions in Yellowknife right now that could be filled.

"The MVEIRB is a creature from the federal government and we do have a process for the orderly transfer

of employees that will be devolved from the federal government to the government of Canada" McLeod said. "I'd be very interested in contacting these six individuals and trying to find employment for them within the government of the Northwest Territories."

The layoffs were the result of funding cuts to the review board from the federal government through the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

According to the department, the federal government is unable to continue providing extra funding to cover unexpected costs coming out of environmental assessments.

A busy year of reviews in 2012 apparently left the board in the red in its third quarter.

Hawkins was not alone in his concern over the cuts. Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley, known as an environmental advocate, chimed in on the matter, calling the cuts to the review board the latest

"rampage" by the federal government against environmental protection.

"Seven new mines are in the office and these plus other large projects being proposed require meaningful review to be done responsibly," he said. "We

are going to see incomplete reviews, increased environmental impacts and the depleted ability of our land to meet people's needs – and, I suspect, a vulnerability to section 35 court actions that will freeze development."

Hawkins agreed.

"This is not a case of doing more with less," he said Thursday. "This is clearly a case of doing less with less. I only wonder when industry is all of a sudden going to catch up and realize what is happening, because this will affect the critical work that they need done."

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NORTHERN Journal

7



Fishing derby winners (from left): 2nd place Louie Ladouceur, 1st place Lorraine Albert and 3rd place Roy Campbell.

Sports & Recreation Ice Fishing

Chip fishing derby draws 1,400 Annual event light on bites, big on prizes

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Over 1,400 ice fishing enthusiasts flocked to Fort Chipewyan for Saturday’s annual ice fishing derby.

A snowy day of fishing

yeilded plenty of fun, but few fish. Just seven fish that made the qualifying size limit were caught throughout the day, but that didn’t dampen the spirits

of visitors who came from north and south to participate in the event. First prize went to Lorraine Albert, who won \$6,000 for her fish. Second place and \$5,000

went to Louie Ladouceur and the \$4,000 third prize fish was caught by Roy Campbell. This was the first derby in two years. Last year’s was cancelled due to several funerals.



Kids from Fort Smith impatiently wait for their fish.



Derby volunteers measure a fish to see if it qualifies.



Over 1,400 gathered for the snowy event on Lake Athabasca.

Photos: Erin MacDonald

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Fort Smith Valentine’s vandals go on break-in spree

Businesses, RCMP vehicle targets of early morning attacks

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Scattered, broken glass was the scene three Fort Smith business owners found at their stores early last Thursday morning.

The Fort Smith Liquor Store, Lou’s Small Engines and The Source were broken into and the windows of one RCMP Ford F-250 smashed during a vandalism spree that began around 5:00 a.m.

An estimated \$1,700 worth of damage was done to the police vehicle, Cpl. Barry Ledoux, RCMP media relations officer, told *The Journal*.

Damage estimates at the three stores are not available at this time, Ledoux said.

RCMP have charged two men.

Dillan Cardinal, 18, and Stuart Beaulieu, 23, both of Fort Smith remained in police custody after their arrest. They appeared in court Monday.

Both men have been charged under the criminal code with break and enter, two counts of mischief under \$5,000, two counts of theft under \$5,000 and possession of a weapon while committing an offence.

Cardinal was also charged with a breach of probation.



Photo: Fort Smith RCMP

An RCMP F-250 had one of its windows smashed early Thursday morning in Fort Smith.

According to the police report, an RCMP officer returned to his vehicle in the Health Centre’s parking lot to find three windows broken

in the early morning hours of Feb. 14. RCMP were called to the various break-in scenes soon after.

More details will be available

as the investigation continues.

These incidents come in the wake of defaced school property two weeks ago. A window on the south side of P.W. Kaeser



Photo: Don Jaque

Vandals smashed the front doors and windows of The Source.

High School was smashed along with four snowmobile shields in the parking lot. The fence was also cut open, vice principal Dan Kearley said.

Anyone with more information is asked to call Fort Smith RCMP detachment at 867-872-1111 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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ARI priority for Aurora’s board of governors

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Aurora College’s Board of Governors is looking to secure more federal funding for the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) to boost not only the institute’s cutting-edge work, but also its reputation.

The ARI was a hot topic for the board during their most recent meeting in Yellowknife at the end of January.

“Much of our focus was on research and we’d like to get to the position where we can start applying for SSHRC grants for the ARI,” Sydney O’Sullivan, chairperson of the board, told *The Journal*.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is a federal research funding agency for postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences.

The agency allocated over \$330 million in grants, fellowships and scholarships during 2011-2012.

Securing funds from the SSHRC would elevate the capabilities and reputation of the ARI, O’Sullivan said.

“It would put us in a position of access. The ARI is becoming increasingly active and this would help further high-quality research,”



Sydney O’Sullivan, chairperson of Aurora College’s Board of Governors, says boosting the Aurora Research Institute with more federal funding is a focus for the board.

she said. “I think Aurora College has been viewed as your basic community college and the research arm

hasn’t been as prominent in the national public eye, as it should be. This would raise that presence.”

Aurora could be in a position to start applying for the funding as soon as this fall, O’Sullivan noted. But it

will be at least a year or two before there is any concrete outcome.

“We’re in the process of putting policies together to meet the SSHRC’s qualifications,” O’Sullivan said.

To be eligible to apply for funding, Aurora College must demonstrate it has “acceptable policies governing the integrity of research including: humane treatment of animals; ethical dealings with human research subjects; ultimate dissemination/ownership of intellectual property; responsibility of the administration; integrity and accountability of all parties; and academic freedom,” she noted.

A number of policies have already been developed and approved by the board, but until all have been approved, they will remain confidential.

“We could partner with another university and apply, creating more university networks, which is also on our agenda, or we could just take the lead. We don’t know right now; the focus is on getting us to the application stage,” O’Sullivan said.

There are several additional research funding sources the school plans to seek out in the future as well, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering

Research Council (NSERC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). All of them have requirements similar to SSHRC for institutional policies governing ethical research.

Another item on the board’s agenda is the “resurrection” of the research advisory council, a nine-person standing committee providing the board with advice on an annual research agenda for the ARI and monitoring ARI’s progress. The council would also look over applications for the ARI’s research fellowship program.

The council will consist of board members and also four members from the public, three with backgrounds in various science fields and one with traditional knowledge.

The board in general is in the midst of reshaping itself, O’Sullivan said.

There are a number of fairly new members that are “eager and energetic,” she noted.

“We’re embarking on a new strategic plan and that will make a big difference in the priorities the college will follow. We will be seeking input from staff, certainly, and the public at large as well.”


O’Sullivan said the board’s current strategic plan runs until the end of this year.

Photo: Renée Francoeur

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Business students petition for third year program

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Kari Williams is a student in the two-year business administration program at Aurora College in Yellowknife.

She’s set to receive her diploma this year and is currently looking into internships and a distance program to obtain her degree through Athabasca University, based in Alberta.

It’s not an ideal option, the 25 year-old told *The Journal*.

She’d prefer to continue courses in a classroom setting at home in Yellowknife, but the college no longer offers third-year courses for a business degree program.

Williams, vice president of the Business Administration Student Association, and her fellow classmates began a petition in November to bring the third-year option back. They sent out 85 letters, each attached with 35 signatures.

“It’s such a big deal to have higher education available in the North, so we don’t have to keep moving somewhere else,” Williams said. “For myself, we talked about moving to Edmonton or Lethbridge for

school, but it’s just not feasible with a young child.”

The letter points out that students, like Williams, who want to continue their education must relocate and transfer to finish their degree, which is sometimes financially and/or logistically impossible.

Williams and her classmates would like to see the business program rise to the level of the nursing one at Aurora’s North Slave campus, where students can obtain their full Bachelor of Science without leaving Yellowknife.

It may turn out to be an attainable goal after some positive movement on the college front toward reviving the third year distance program, Williams noted.

“There’s an ongoing dialogue happening. There’s a meeting between campus heads later next week to discuss this specific issue. Right now, it’s floating in the administrative area of Aurora and they’re talking about it, trying to get it underway...I’m hopeful,” she said.

According to Williams, many

of the students currently in the first year business administration program are right out of high school.

“I think that’s amazing to see students from Yellowknife willing to stay in the North and get their education, and that’s something we shouldn’t ignore.”

So far, the responses to the petition outside campus have also been positive.

“MLA Bob Bromley got a hold of us last week and gave us encouragement. The issue was brought up in the Legislative Assembly last week too, and everyone was committed to seeing something happen.”

Meanwhile, the business diploma program continues to grow, with only one classroom available for students in both first and second years of the program.

That being said, tight accommodations won’t get in the way of the potential third year program; Williams has already figured out how to squeeze it in.

“It’d be in the evenings, Monday to Thursdays from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. It’s doable. They’ve done it before.”



Photo: Paul Bannister

Lorna Larsen lost her 23 year-old daughter, Shannon, pictured on the poster behind her, to breast cancer in 2005. An Aurora College Week guest speaker, Larsen talked with Yellowknife students about breast cancer awareness for young women.

Education Aurora College Week 2913



Photo: Paul Bannister

Violca Memedi, a nursing student in Yellowknife, tries her hand at glow bowling during Aurora College Week.



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Jessica Hval performs with daughter Kendra at the coffeehouse night in Fort Smith.

Aurora College Week builds sense of community

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

College spirit was high last week as campuses in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith, as well as in the 23 learning centres across the Northwest Territories, celebrated the annual Aurora College Week. “The whole purpose of the week is to get people to mingle, encourage students to socialize with other programs, building that sense of community within the college,” Faye Heron, student life and wellness coordinator at Thebacha campus in Fort Smith, said.

Various family-friendly events defined the fun-filled week, including Zumba dance demonstrations, tug-of-war challenges, College Idol contests, treasure hunts, guest speaker sessions, crafts and cook-offs. The traditional pancake breakfast last Wednesday on the Aurora campus in Inuvik was “very well attended, with probably just over 100 people,” Campus Director Doug Robertson said.

He noted there was also good attendance at the elders tea and bingo event last Tuesday. In Fort Smith, the student team from the apprenticeship electrician program took the tug-of-war challenge glory against the team representing the Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program. Thebacha students also snatched a victory against faculty members in the staff versus students hockey game last Monday evening.

Janelle Nitsiza, 19, and Deanna Johnson, 19 - both first year students in the Teacher Education Program at Thebacha - said they planned to attend as many Aurora College Week events as they could. They especially enjoyed taking part in the traditional Dene hand games demonstration, led by Peter Paulette, last Tuesday. Women are not traditionally allowed to partake in hand games North of 60, but Paulette said he asked

the elders to make an exception in demonstrations and teaching events. “I love this; hand games remind me of home,” Nitsiza, from Whati, remarked. “It’s great to see the college introducing students to cultural things, too. I find that’s an important part of any education,” Johnson added. Last Thursday, NWT Education Minister Jackson Lafferty spoke about the significance of Aurora College Week in the Legislative Assembly.

“This is an annual celebration of college spirit that brings together students and staff outside the classroom. The college is a strong advocate of community-based learning, and works to foster strong ties with communities,” he said in House. “This celebratory week also encourages the public to learn about Aurora College’s many programs and opportunities for upgrading and training. The department proudly supports Aurora College and takes part in celebrating Aurora College Week.”



Photo: Jeff Turner

Teams based on programs sweat it out in the annual tug-of-war challenge last Monday in Fort Smith.



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Peter Paulette, centre, leads a hand games demonstration for Thebacha campus students.

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Beyond the classroom

New college president weighs in on jobs, communities and the future



The new president of Aurora College, Jane Arychuk, is no stranger to education in the North. She has worked for over 30 years as an educator in the Northwest Territories, from primary to post-secondary classrooms, small communities to larger urban centres. Now at the helm of the territory’s centre for adult education, the Northern Journal spoke with Arychuk about her vision for the college, its relationship with communities and what the future could hold. (The following are excerpts of a longer interview.)

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

On the college’s role in education in the NWT

I think the college plays a very important role in education in the Northwest Territories, as many of our Northerners need the opportunity to be educated near their home, close to their families, in a place that knows where they come from and where they feel comfortable. So the college offers that opportunity to anybody from the Northwest Territories to enter a program, even if it’s to start something that they will continue somewhere else because we don’t offer a full degree.

All of our students walk through the door with a life history, and with that life history comes some trauma, some life issues – baggage. And it’s with them from kindergarten to 12 and it’s still with them at college if they haven’t dealt with it. Usually if they get to 12, they’ve worked through it. But by the time they hit about grade 9-10, when the rubber hits the road, you really have to know your stuff, and they start dropping out. Schools have no alternative way to work with students. With the CanNor dollars,

that’s what we’re hoping – to find an alternative. Because right now, we do a lot of the same stuff high schools do. We deliver the same, maybe to a smaller group, but some of these students need different in order to be successful, so we need to find different: what’s going to work for our students, what’s the alternative?...We need to take advantage of what’s being learned in these alternative schools and move it into our learning centres and developmental studies class.

On linking the college with the community

We bring the community in here. We do a service fair during orientation week, so people can come in. But it would be nice to take students out into the community. The community

has to be ready to accept students and deal with what that means, what that means with a transient population, what that means with young mothers with kids with no spouses

with them. So the community needs to be willing to accept and support in any way they can, because it is quite often single parents that are coming with children.

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872-2345



INUVIK

On educational standards and job readiness

We have an accredited facility, and we have to keep our accreditation. So our programs have to meet that, and if they don't, if something changes, we have to change. So all our programs do meet – not even trades, but all areas - the requirements of the institutions we're affiliated with. We've met (the graduates) academically. They may not walk out of here with the same motivation, same job skills – we can try – but it doesn't mean they're job ready. We do try, but for a number of reasons, there may be other things that are in the

On the recent federal funding boost

The CanNor funding is directly for Northern adult literacy and basic education. We're well on our way with that funding. This is our second year...so we now have the funding right through to 2016 approved and a manager has been hired, will be in place until 2016, and projects are on the go from the strategy that was approved. We are looking at developing short-term courses that will focus on essential skills. Essential skills are the reading, writing, math, speaking – whatever skills you need, but only for a specific area. So if you wanted to learn some skills around being a



FORT SMITH

way and their motivation may not be the same. If somebody's not going to attend school, it's not going to take long before they fall behind and they're not going to be in the program. So that hopefully helps with the attendance once they get into the workplace. So those kinds of things we can deal with, but if you go into one of the trades programs, it's not going to teach you all those workplace work habit skills that you need. And it's not our number one priority. It is part of our responsibility, but so many other things come into play. small engine mechanic, what are the essential skills you would need? So you will learn how to read manuals, how you understand part numbers, those things, and not worry about poetry, essays. We're working with the literacy council to this year build two of those courses, but at the same time without a purposeful plan, all three territories are doing the exact same thing. The three Northern colleges are working together with this funding... Each college will work on different themes or careers, and then we'll end up with six courses that will end up going out into the communities as short courses.

On planning for the future

does a community want? Also, something that's very exciting, with our reorganization we have regional program heads...Their regions match up with the Aboriginal groups, so we have an Akaitcho/South Slave, Dehcho, North Slave, Beaufort Delta and Sahtu, and each of those areas has a regional training group...Now we're all sitting at the same table, we all bring what we have to the table, the money we have, and each of those groups is coming out with regional training plans. It takes some time, although I've been with the college for seven or eight years, I've been in a different capacity and



YELLOWKNIFE

On the Mackenzie Valley Fibre-Optic link

The fibre-optic line, if everything goes as planned, we have always wanted to be able to do distance education – distributed learning – and we would be able to, because that's been a big barrier for the college. We do a program on the phone right now, early childhood education, out to our communities because that's the only guaranteed line right now because our communities don't have the bandwidth. There's nothing more frustrating than trying to be on the computer with not enough bandwidth. We have people sitting in 23 communities that could be in learning centres where we could offer anything. It could be offered anywhere and you just have to be there at a certain time and it's live...There's your teacher, you can ask questions. There's 23 people out in communities that could be right there beside them and supporting. That would be a big advantage for us...People in their homes would be able to hook into those programs with us, too, right now. They could be anywhere.

Aurora College is open for business. We're willing to talk new programming with industry as they come up with new training needs; we're willing to continue with programming that we're doing, meet needs in communities in our 23 learning centres; we're open for business.



The Métis Nation would like to extend their sincere thanks for the dedication of the students and staff of Aurora College.



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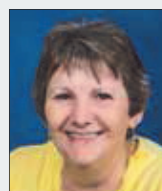
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NWT principals awarded ‘outstanding’ title



Lois Philipp, Deh Gah



Dan Summers, Deninu

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Two NWT principals have been named “outstanding” by a Toronto-based education advocacy group, as announced earlier this month.
Dan Summers of the Deninu School in Fort Resolution and Lois Philipp of Fort Providence’s Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School were among 51 other principals chosen from across the country by The Learning Partnership to be honoured for their leadership in education.
They will receive their awards later this month at an official ceremony in Toronto.
Principals are nominated by their peers, school staff and community members in the Outstanding Principals

program. Candidates are chosen based on evidence of partnerships with parents and community, a personal story illustrating successful change and innovation that resulted in improved student achievement, and letters of support.
“It’s an honour,” Philipp, who has been at Deh Gah since 1996, said of the award. “I think it’s a testament to the quality of administrative leadership we have in the North. I’ve worked with Dan on a number of projects and what he brings to the table is essentially what I bring: putting the community first.”
For Summers, who has been principal for four years at Deninu, the award is not about him.

“It really speaks to my brilliant staff,” he said. “I can’t say that enough.”
Deninu’s previous principal Moh Odeen also won the Outstanding title in 2008.
“Dan’s ability to motivate staff and students to achieve their potential derives, in my opinion, from a singular quality: he is focused on what is best for the students in every circumstance,” South Slave Divisional Education Council Superintendent Curtis Brown said in a press release.
According to the release, Deninu students have made major leaps during Summers’ time as principal. For example, 87 per cent of Deninu School students achieved the national average or better on the GRADE assessment in 2012 - up from 46 per cent in 2008. The Canadian average is 77 per cent.
“My big push is culture and building, of course, literacy and numeracy, which we’ve done. But you also have to focus on a well-rounded education,” Summers said.
From Feb. 24- 28, the honoured principals will also participate in an executive leadership training

program at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management where they will discuss management issues with other leaders from the educational and business sectors.
The 2013 Canada’s Outstanding Principals join 260 others who have received this honour over the past nine years, becoming members of The Learning Partnership’s National Academy of Canada’s Outstanding Principals.
The Learning Partnership is a national charitable organization dedicated to championing a strong public education system in Canada.



Photo: Suzanne Sihikal

Biathlon Bears win at Polar Cup

Fort Smith’s Polar Cup participants each returned from Hay River last weekend with a load of medals and new personal bests in the ski biathlon competition. From left: Calista Burke, Agnes Cockney, Amelie Smith and Danika Burke, with coach Lindsey Freund.

Health & Wellness Family Violence

Men’s healing program launches in Yellowknife

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
A new pilot healing program designed for men who use violence against their intimate partners launched in Yellowknife last week.
The 24-week program, called “Wek’eahkaa, A New Day,” is designed to help men who have been abusive find their own strength, use it to change their behaviour and take responsibility for past actions, according to the program description.
Justice Minister Glen Abernethy said the program reflects the 17th Assembly’s healing philosophy.
“Each day brings with it a fresh chance to take control of our actions,” Abernethy told the House on Monday.
“Men will be supported as they develop their abilities and resources. Group sessions will focus on how to build respectful relationships, to understand how behaviour affects others and to consider the possibilities for healing and repairing the effects of their abuse.”

Abernethy said the program is based on models running in other jurisdictions and was developed through consultation with men throughout the North to create a custom design for the NWT.
The first four weeks assess the individual’s readiness to enter the therapy program, followed by 20 weeks of group work.
The project will be piloted through the Healing Drum Society in Yellowknife for three years, with the intention to eventually expand into other communities. Participants can volunteer or be mandated to participate in the program.
“Ultimately, our goal is to have a program that is accessible and relevant throughout the NWT. It is an investment in prevention, education and awareness, and it is built on partnerships,” he said, including NGOs, the RCMP, cultural advisors and staff from the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services.

“They have been working with the contractor, the Healing Drum Society, to make sure the program is ready. Program staff have been trained and are ready to start,” he said. “As word is spreading, calls have been coming in from men who feel they are ready to learn from this program.”
Abernethy extended his gratitude to those involved in developing and delivering the program, as well as to the men who are choosing a better way.
“We know that family violence is deliberate. We also know that this violence is based on a pattern of behaviours against the will and against the well-being of family members. This program will be a significant step towards positive change,” he said.
“This is a hopeful program. It invites men to consider what kind of person they want to be, how they want to treat their partners, their children and their communities. The participants want to change.”



SALT RIVER FIRST NATION #195 NOTICE OF NOMINATION BY-ELECTION, APRIL 2, 2013

SALT RIVER FIRST NATION #195
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LYNDA B. MARTIN AT #59 PINE CRESCENT FOR:

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AND
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COMPLETED NOMINATION PACKAGES MUST BE DELIVERED
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REQUIREMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES WILL BE PROVIDED
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COMMUNITY TRADING POST

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If you wish to place an advertisement that will reach all 122 weekly newspapers in Alberta and the NWT with a combined circulation of nearly one million, call our sales desk at the Northern Journal, 867-872-3000, ext 26.

Announcements

DO YOU KNOW a great volunteer? The Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association (AWNA) and Direct Energy are now accepting nominations for the Alberta Volunteer Citizen of the Year award to recognize someone who goes above and beyond to help others in the community. Nominations are open to all residents served by AWNA newspapers. As a reward for giving so much, the winner will get a \$1000 cash prize from Direct Energy and a \$5000 donation to their community organization of choice. Visit: directenergy.com/vcoy or awna.com. Nominations close Sunday, March 31, 2013.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED. Northern Youth Abroad is looking for families to host 2 youth from Nunavut/NWT. Volunteering in your community. July/August; www.nya.ca. 1-866-212-2307.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS. C.A. MacLean/Fred Row Jour-

nalism bursaries. Help us locate a deserving individual from your community who would like to pursue a career in print journalism. Applications must be received by February 22, 2013. For further information, contact your local weekly newspaper or the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association, 1-800-282-6903 ext. 225; www.awna.com.

Auctions

7th ANNUAL COLLECTOR CAR Auction & Speed Show, March 15 - 17/13, Red Deer Westerner Park. Featuring Big Schwag & indoor car show! Exhibitor space available. Consign your car; estate today. 1-888-296-0528 ext. 102; EGauctions.com.

1 HOME QTR & 18 Parcels of Farmland - Davidson, Saskatchewan. Sorgaard Ranches Ltd - 2290 +/- title acres. 3 bedroom bungalow, 30 X 50 ft. garage, selling at the Saskatoon Auction March 19/13. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers: 1-800-491-4494; rbauktion.com.

RITCHIE BROS Unreserved Auction. Edmonton, March 8. Two Parcels of Farmland located at Grassland, Alberta. For more info contact Jerry Hodge, 780-706-6652 or visit: rbauktion.com/realestate.

MONTGOMERY AUCTION Sales Center. Sat., Feb. 23/13, 10 a.m. 26514 TWP 400, Blackfalds, Alberta. Selling sheet metal equipment, vehicles, ATV's, tarp buildings, saddles, squeeze, meat equipment, building supplies, Com.RO System, toys, dolls, shop tools & more. See www.montgomeryauctions.com or call 1-800-361-6963.

MGM FORD Lincoln Sales Ltd. 3010 - 50 Ave., Red Deer, Alberta. Sat., Mar. 2/13, 10 a.m. All surplus equipment & assets including portable sales office, dry van, forklift, hoists, shop equipment, chain link fencing, office furniture & more. See www.montgomeryauctions.com or call 1-800-371-6963.

CLOSEOUT AUCTION. Feb. 23. Schultz Construction. Woodworking equipment, tools, hardware, pickups, cargo trailer, office furniture, inventory, skidsteer. Phone 780-944-9144; www.CenturyServices.com.

MEIER GUN AUCTION. Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m., 6016-72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns

- handguns, rifles, shotguns, miscellaneous. Call to consign 780-440-1860.

Business Opportunities

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BOW RIVER Gas Co-op seeking a Journeyman Gas Fitter. Permanent full-time. \$27. - \$32./hour, full benefits, Natural Gas Distribution experience an asset. Apply to Richard Thorne: rick.t@bowriversgas.ca.

JOURNEYMAN HD mechanic required for oilfield construction company. Duties will include servicing, maintenance and overhaul of our equipment. The job will be predominately shop work, but with a portion of your time spent in the field. A mechanic's truck will be supplied for you. The job is based in Edson, Alberta. Call Lloyd at 780-723-5051.

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PYRAMID CORPORATION is now hiring! Instrument Technicians and Electricians for various sites across Alberta. Send resume to: hr@pyramidcorporation.com or fax 780-955-HIRE.

\$100 - \$400 CASH DAILY for landscaping work! Competitive, energetic, honesty a must; PropertyStarsJobs.com.

WANTED - Water & Vacuum Truck Operators. Class 3 w/Q-endorsement, H2S, First Aid, PST, CSTS. Mechanically inclined. Day-rate benefits. Fax 403-934-3487. Email: reception@mjswaterhauling.com.

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SMS FORT MCMURRAY is hiring Certified Heavy Duty Mechanics & Welders. Total compensation \$76.71/hour (including premiums & allowances). 14 X 14 shift rotation. Email: fmjobs@smsequip.com. Website: www.smsequip.com.

TOWN OF PONOKA Employment Opportunity - Utility Operator II - Water Works. Position details at www.ponoka.org or email: michael.lewis@ponoka.org.

CLASS ONE Tank Truck Drivers needed. Off road experience needed, oilfield tickets, accommodations available. Production work. Email: admin@predatoroilfield.com. Fax 780-538-0968. Email preferred. Phone 780-817-8027.

FAMILY BASED ATV motorcycle business seeking self-motivated Sales Associate. Must be outdoor enthusiast. Business minded team player with excellent computer skills. Full-time salary. Potential for bonuses. Apply to: Gateway Sales and Service Ltd., Box 1468, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B1; gatewayss@telus.net.

BARRHEAD & DISTRICTS Co-op Home Center is recruiting Assistant Home Center Manager. Apply with resume to the Home Center Barrhead; Attention: Don Graham; hcmanager@telus.net.

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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 these competitions to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.
- For copies of the job description please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment.



Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly
Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Broadcasting Notice of Consultation

The Canadian Radio-Television
and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
CRTC 2013-19

The CRTC has issued a Broadcasting Notice of Consultation concerning an application by the Legislative Assemblies of Nunavut and Northwest Territories. This Notice of Consultation calls for mandatory distribution of the legislatures' broadcasting services through cable and satellite television distribution serving the people of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This service would provide live and recorded coverage of the Legislative Assembly proceedings in Aboriginal languages, as well as English and French. The application was submitted pursuant to an order issued under section 9(1)(h) of the *Broadcasting Act*.

The CRTC has scheduled Notice of Consultation hearings beginning **April 23rd, 2013** to review and rule on the legislatures' applications. This process allows for public input through interventions that either support or oppose the applications. The Legislative Assemblies encourage all residents to participate in the process by submitting an intervention and providing comments that will help shape the future of Canadian broadcasting. Interventions will be received until **February 27th, 2013**.

Detailed information on the Assemblies application, as well as instructions on submitting an intervention may be reviewed on the CRTC's website:

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2013/2013-19.htm>

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Brian Thagard, Sergeant-at-Arms
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Telephone: 867-669-2228 or (toll-free) 1-800-661-0784
E-mail: brian_thagard@gov.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Transportation

REQUEST FOR TENDERS Single Asphaltic Surface Treatment Overlay CT101265

– NWT Highways 1 and 6, NT –

The Supply and Application of a Single Asphaltic Surface Treatment Overlay.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Transportation Office in Fort Simpson, Hay River or Yellowknife under the conditions contained within the tender documents, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 20, 2013.

Tender documents are available as of February 18, 2013, at the locations noted above.

Pre-tender meeting: 1:30 pm, March 4, 2013,
76 Capital Drive, Suite 201, Hay River, NT.

General inquiries to: Charlene Lloyd
Phone: (867) 920-8001

Technical inquiries to: Gilles Roy
Phone: (867) 874-5019

The GNWT Business Incentive Policy and Chapter 5 of the Agreement on Internal Trade will apply to this procurement.

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Fire Service Training – NWT SC794223

– Yellowknife, NT –

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is looking for qualified proponents to provide certification, advice, support and assistance to the GNWT in the delivery of fire service training for both nationally certified and non-certified firefighters.

Proposals addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT, Email: pwsbids@gov.nt.ca, Facsimile: (867) 920-4112; will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 12, 2013.

Contractors may obtain proposal documents from the above address as of February 12, 2013.

General Inquiries to:
Art Durkee
Contract Administrator
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7917
E-mail: art_durkee@gov.nt.ca

The GNWT Business Incentive Policy and Chapter 5 of the Agreement on Internal Trade will apply to this procurement.

For contract opportunities visit
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Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Campground Operator

Fred Henne Territorial Park – PM014775

Reid Lake Territorial Park – PM014776

Prelude Lake Territorial Park – PM014777

– North Slave Region, NT –

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Tourism and Parks for the North Slave Region is requesting proposals from qualified proponents to operate and maintain the facilities at each of the following parks; Fred Henne Territorial Park, Prelude Lake Territorial Park and Reid Lake Territorial Park. A separate contract will be awarded for each park.

Submissions addressed to the Contracts Manager, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, 7th Floor, Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013.

Interested parties may obtain proposal documents from the Contracts Manager. Clearly indicate which park you are requesting by referencing the corresponding PM number listed above.

General inquiries to: Michelle Wilcox
Manager, Contracts
and Purchasing
Government of the NWT
Tel: (867) 873-7582
Fax: (867) 873-0550
E-mail: michelle_wilcox@gov.nt.ca

The GNWT Business Incentive Policy and Chapter 5 of the Agreement on Internal Trade will apply to this procurement.

For contract opportunities visit
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Government of the
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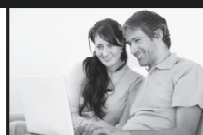


- Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require 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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NWT do-gooders recognized with Wise Women Awards

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Edna Schaefer of Fort Smith doesn't like to be in the spotlight.

"I'm one of those who like to work behind the scenes," she said. "I don't like being the centre of attention. You don't help others to be recognized."

So when Schaefer, 73, received a call last week informing her she was one of the 2013 winners of the Wise Women Awards, hosted by the Status of Women Council of NWT, she was flabbergasted and overwhelmed.

"I didn't even know I'd been nominated. I said, 'Me? Are you sure? Why me?'" she said with a laugh.

The annual Wise Women Awards recognize women from five NWT regions who are role models in their communities and who are dedicated to improving the status of women.

Schaefer, originally from Fort Resolution, is a traditional Chipewyan crafts-woman and has been meticulously sewing moccasins, moosehide jackets and mittens for decades. She's taught classes in local schools and offers workshops regularly at the Northern Life Museum



Wise Women Award winner Edna Schaefer shows off some of her more recent sewing projects in her home in Fort Smith.

and Cultural Centre in Fort Smith.

Schaefer learned how to stitch from her mother and remembers being taught to knit on a pair of six-inch steel nails.

"The knowledge I have, I like to pass it down. It's our job to do that for the teenagers today," she said.

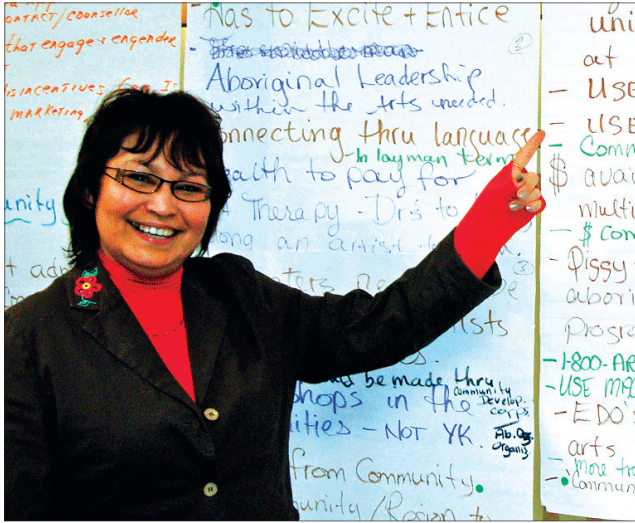
Louise Fraser has known Schaefer for years and said many people in Fort Smith will be overjoyed to learn Schaefer has won the award.

"She has touched so many lives with her kindness and

is keeping the traditional native crafts alive," Fraser said. "She'll teach anyone who wants to learn, whether they can pay for their own materials or not."

Aside from her handiwork, Schaefer is also that woman in the community who is making extra meals for new moms or cleaning house for sick friends, Fraser added.

"When I was first diagnosed with cancer, she would come see me and make jigsaw puzzles with me, spend the whole day.



Karen Wright-Fraser, one of the 2013 Wise Women Award recipients, envisions a future where all women know their rights.

That meant everything. I'm very proud of her," Fraser said.

"If someone needs help, yes, I'll drop everything and go help. I can always take care of my things later," Schaefer told *The Journal*. "It's the little things that people remember."

Karen Wright-Fraser of Yellowknife is also a traditional knowledge holder and a fellow Wise Women Award winner this year.

Wright-Fraser runs her own Aboriginal arts and crafts business, Whispering

Willows, and is also the community liaison coordinator at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Wright-Fraser, originally from Inuvik, said she is willing to teach traditional Gwich'in sewing patterns and jigging to anyone who wants to learn.

She said she also runs her business "like a cottage industry" to help others while still giving them a sense of autonomy.

"If I have a big order, I'll find good beaders in the community who are struggling

and need extra income, and they can do some piecework," she said.

"And also, I find Aboriginal women who sew, a lot of them don't get their money's worth for all the time they put into their products. They don't know what to charge. I try to encourage them to put a value on what they create and to stick to it."

Wright-Fraser, 48, grew up in an alcoholic home and has been sober now for 21 years.

"I found my voice and inner strength. My hope is for more women to find theirs, too, and for women to know their rights, to take on more leadership roles," she said.

Taipana Rene Oliktoak of Uluhaktok in the Beaufort Delta region, Margaret Ann Landry of Fort Providence and Vivian Edgi Manuel of Fort Good Hope are also 2013 Wise Women winners.

The women will be celebrated on Mar. 8, International Women's Day, at Yellowknife's Explorer Hotel during a public Bread and Roses luncheon.

The Wise Women Awards have been ongoing since 1992.



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Tuesday, February 19, 2013

First Wellness Conference creates health network

Aboriginal health perspective key component, organizers say

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Yellowknife was full of talk about energy therapy, traditional plant medicine, reiki and yoga this past weekend to usher in the Northwest Territories’ first wellness conference.

The NWT Wellness Conference aimed to educate the general public on all health and wellness options available in the North, as well as create connections between practitioners of different health modalities, Sylvie Francoeur, conference co-ordinator, told *The Journal*.

A volunteer-based, “community driven initiative,” the conference was also about celebrating and promoting Northern wellness resources.

“Many of us think we need to go down south to get well, but the energy, the talent, the expertise, it’s right here and we need to take more advantage of that, be aware of that,” Francoeur said.

A trade show of local exhibitors, various demonstrations and workshops, panel discussions and contests were



Therapist Rhonda Miller draws on the interactive “Art Wall” during an expressive art workshop geared for youth at the NWT Wellness Conference.

all a part of the weekend-long conference that took place at the Baker Centre and Sir John Franklin School.

Henri McKinnon of BC-based Insight Counselling and Training Inc., a professional in the development of the cosmic self and spiritual

healing, was the conference’s keynote speaker.

Workshops included introductions to Chinese medicine, personal fitness training and breast health, among other topics.

There was also a focus throughout the conference

There is so much to be found in traditional Aboriginal culture in regards to wellness and healing and our natural resilience to facing illness.

Sylvie Francoeur
Conference coordinator

on the Aboriginal perspective when it comes to injury, recovery and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

“There is so much to be found in traditional Aboriginal culture in regards to wellness and healing and our natural resilience to facing illness,” Francoeur said. “Here in the North especially, that should be at the forefront of these dialogues.”

Dene elder Be’sha Blondin led the conference’s opening prayer and ran a workshop on holistic healthy living, the “Dene Way” and the healing properties of plants.

“They (Dene elders) said

things will change by working and sharing with each other to create wellness to strengthen the people, and to build the community and the nation,” Blondin, a healer and environmentalist, stated in a December press release.

“It is everybody’s responsibility to work together to help create a wellness plan on every level. We need to make funding and resources available...for helping to implement these wellness plans,” she said.

The conference also featured a panel on Aboriginal wellness with speakers Della Green, Paul Andrews,

Leon Erasmus and Sayiz Catholique.

The idea for a NWT wellness conference has been around for years, Francoeur said. The steering committee decided it was time to stop talking about it and make something happen.

“I think people are looking to take charge of their own health and wellness in new ways and this will speak to that.”

The conference will hopefully “plant a seed with the community,” Francoeur said, and volunteers hope to see the conference come back next year.

The weekend events were supported by the Sacred Circle Project, the Native Women’s Association of the NWT, the City of Yellowknife and Conseil de developpement économiue des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO).

Weekend passes were \$20 with all profits going towards BETTY House, an up-and-coming transitional home for homeless women in Yellowknife.

SPORTS

BRIEFS

Northern Hockey series continues

The Northern Hockey Challenge continued this past weekend with games in Yellowknife, Iqaluit and Kuujjuaq, Que. Yellowknife took on Hay River and tied both their Friday and Saturday games with a nail-biting score of 4-4. Iqaluit won game one against Repulse Bay 9-5. Repulse Bay came back in game two with a 7-6 win. Rankin Inlet swept their first weekend game away with a 12-4 win against Kuujjuaq, but lost Saturday 6-11.

Mawdsley wins biathlon champs

Elizabeth (Betsy) Mawdsley of FortSmith had the winning time this past weekend in North Battleford, Sask. during the Western Canadian Biathlon Championships. Biathlon combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship. Mawdsley took home the gold medal with a final time of 1:27:30 Saturday during the sprint race and a time of 46:10 Sunday for the mass start race. She will head to the Canadian Championships in Whistler, BC in March.

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Fort Smith Rangers hit the land for winter training

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

One by one, members of the Fort Smith Canadian Rangers Patrol breezed up to the Lookout on snowmobiles early last Friday morning, dragging sleds loaded with gas, food, clothes and tents behind them, ready to spend three full days of exercises in the wilderness.

“I’m just really looking forward to getting out on the land, living out there for the weekend and scouting around,” Ranger Cpl. Donald Bourke said, stuffing his radio and GPS into his parka.

Ten local Rangers headed out to make the zig-zagging 120-km ride to Kozo Lake, northeast of Fort Smith, to set up base camp for their training.

They were conducting a “standard Type 2 sovereignty patrol,” Sgt. Brenda Johnson said.

Type 2 patrols are small compared to Type 1, which involve working with patrol groups in Hay River and/or Yellowknife, she noted.

Johnson usually leads the patrols, but couldn’t attend this session due to tie-ups at work. Master-Cpl. Gordon Villeneuve filled in.

“They’ll be out scouting the 300-km radius of land we’re responsible for here, scouting and recording landmarks. It’s a chance to refresh their



Photo: Renée Francœur

The Fort Smith Canadian Rangers gather at the Lookout before the snowmobile ride to Kozo Lake for on-the-land exercises last weekend. Left to right: Don Desjarlais, Don Bourke, Ashleigh Stokes, Lindsey Freund, Judy Bourke, Master Cpl. Gordon Villeneuve, Bruce McArthur, Hardy Freund, Sgt. Brenda Johnson, Jackie Bourke and Noel Dube.

knowledge in maps and using the GPS and the structure of travel in general,” Johnson said. “They also zero in their rifles, the .303 Lee Enfields, for a land shoot out there.”

A ground search and rescue was also part of the training.

“The aim is to increase the visibility of the Northern Rangers, show that red

and green Ranger flag and, of course, ensure Canadian sovereignty over the land,” Capt. Stephen Watton, Unit Public Affairs Representative for 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group in Yellowknife, told *The Journal*.

Training exercises build self-sufficiency, safety and weapon handling skills, as

well as positive leadership traits, he added.

Lindsey Freund, 24, is the youngest and newest member of the Fort Smith Canadian Rangers Patrol.

This was her first winter training exercise.

“I’m excited. Both my parents are Rangers and I like being out on the land,” she

said before joining the line of Rangers and speeding across the Slave River Friday.

The Fort Smith group has kept busy with sovereignty patrols over the past year, Johnson said.

Last February, they reopened the trail to Hook Lake and then met up with the trail that goes to Fort Resolution. There was

also a Type 3 patrol last June by boat to Great Slave Lake. This past July, six Fort Smith Rangers also went to the East Arm on a type-two patrol.

Johnson is looking forward to the next Ranger patrol, March 1-13. It will be a more intensive, Type 3 patrol starting at Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan, and finishing in Selwyn Lake, NT. It will be the first time the group has ever been in those areas, Johnson said.

Fort Smith isn’t the only place with Ranger events going on.

The commissioners for all three territories joined Rangers in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Feb.8-10 during Ranger Development Phase 2 Training. This training is to develop Ranger Sergeants in exercises such as conducting patrols, constructing an aircraft landing strip, ammunition safety regulations and calculating patrol resupply needs, among other things.

Additionally, about 60 Junior Rangers, aged 16-18, from across the North are participating in an enhanced training session in Kananaskis, Alberta this week. The session includes ice rescue training, possession and acquisition licence certification training, a confidence course, traditional crafts and air rifle lessons.

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