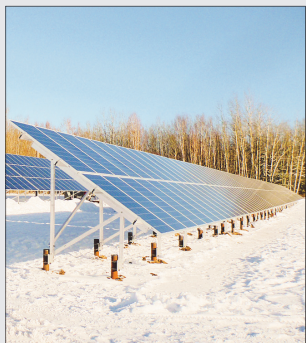




Alberta-NWT water agreement nears finish
A draft transboundary water agreement between Alberta and the NWT is expected to come out in late spring. *See page 2.*



Dene elder speaks to oil-sands protesters in Utah
Elder Francois Paulette visited Utah on a speaking tour to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of oil-sands mining. *See page 3.*



Power Corp. expands Fort Simpson solar array
The biggest solar project North of 60 got bigger last week with the addition of an extra 43 kw of generating capacity. *See page 8.*



Museum opens up back room for Heritage Week
Fort Smith students got a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Northern Life Museum's archives last week. *See page 12.*

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Award-winning, Canadian hip hop artist K.A.S.P. performs one of his new songs, "On a Roll," last Monday in Fort Smith. K.A.S.P., also known as Rob Sawan, toured NWT schools last week as part of his new anti-bullying project, Save Many In Loving Everyone (SMILE). *See page 13 for more.*

First Nations oppose Thor Lake mine Lutsel K'e, Yellowknives claim not enough consultation

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Avalon got slammed from all sides last week in Yellowknife during public review board hearings on its proposed Nechalacho mine at Thor Lake as two First Nations immediately announced they will not support the project.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) told Avalon Rare Metals Inc. they needed more questions answered, more impacts mitigated and better incorporation of traditional knowledge if they were going to let the underground mine and barge project go ahead.

"The company has disrespected our First Nation's traditions and people by not working with us to see how

development of mines is going to impact members of Yellowknives Dene," YKDFN Chief Edward Sangris told the review board panel.

The company has disrespected our First Nation's traditions and people by not working with us to see how development of mines is going to impact members.

*Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation*

Sangris' community of Detah is the closest to the proposed mine site.

"Back in 2005, engagement with Avalon began with high promise of economic prosperity,

job and training benefits for Aboriginal peoples and its partnership," the chief said. "But this relationship has failed the test of time. In our view, the

company is spending more energy attracting supporters from outside partners and investors, while forgetting about the most important group, the traditional owners of the land."

The project proposes mining 15 rare earth metals - including radioactive ones like uranium and thorium - 100 km southeast of Yellowknife at Thor Lake, and barging them unprocessed across Great Slave Lake from the Drybones Bay area to a hydrometallurgy plant at the former Pine Point mine site. The concentrate will then be shipped south by rail for final refinement, potentially in Louisiana.

Both YKDFN and LKDFN have yet to finalize accommodation agreements with Avalon. While LKDFN's was on its way to ratification, membership turned it down, saying there was too much missing information on caribou, barging, tailings, mine closure and traditional knowledge of the region.

YKDFN's chief and council

passed a motion opposing the development in Chief Drygeese Territory on Feb. 13, stating the potential environmental impacts on wildlife and water far outweigh the economic ones.

"YKDFN's concerns center around inadequate engagement," Shannon Gault, director of lands and environment for YKDFN, told the panel. "We need to see Avalon in the community, engaging with more than just a handful of members as they've done on site visits in the past. These engagements also have to be about the project, and not just about IBA (impact benefit agreement) talks...And YKDFN feels disrespected that our negotiations have not concluded as of yet."

See Avalon on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Two men die in fatal Highway 3 crash

Two semi-trailers collided last Tuesday on Highway 3 near Fort Providence, killing Grant Ambler, 60, of Gwynne, Alta. and Leroy Conner, 66, of Grove, Oklahoma. Ambler was the driver of the southbound semi-trailer and Conner was in the sleeper of the northbound semi. Highway 3 was closed for 48 hours. The investigation continues.

Crack cocaine bust in Yellowknife

Nine people have been arrested after RCMP raided a Yellowknife motel last Wednesday and discovered crack cocaine, money and drug paraphernalia. All of them have now been released from custody. According to police, those arrested were suspects in the distribution of crack cocaine in the city. The investigation is ongoing.

Attempted murder in Deline

A 38 year-old man has been charged with attempted murder after Deline RCMP responded to a call and found a 44 year-old man with multiple injuries on Feb. 1. Gary Beyonnie has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault. Beyonnie was taken to the Dora Gully Medical Clinic and then medevaced to Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife. He is still recovering in hospital. The investigation continues. Anyone with information is asked to call Deline RCMP at 589-1111, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

GNWT installs more wood pellet boilers

The department of Public Works and Services installed four more biomass heating systems in Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Behchoko and Fort Simpson. These include the Combined Services Building at the Yellowknife Airport, Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Behchoko, Deh Gah School in Fort Providence and Fort Simpson's community heating system. They are expected to save over \$400,000. More biomass projects are planned for the new health centres in Fort Providence and Hay River, among others.



Dr. Erin Kelly, manager of watershed programs for the GNWT, gives an update on community-based water monitoring results and the status of transboundary water negotiations in Fort Smith on Thursday, Feb. 21.

Environment Water

Draft NWT-Alberta bilateral water agreement expected by late spring

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Sixteen years after parties first signed on to a master agreement for the Mackenzie River Basin, two border-sharing jurisdictions are finally on their way to releasing a transboundary water agreement within the next few months.

Negotiating teams for the Northwest Territories and Alberta are quickly nearing the

conclusion of talks that began in 2007 with the signing of a first memorandum of understanding. A draft is expected to be done by late spring, with a bilateral agreement finalized by the end of the year.

Aboriginal leaders and communities across the territory were consulted on the interests being represented in the draft agreement to ensure the final document adequately represents the true interests of the North, including both science and traditional knowledge.

"We worked throughout 2012 on interests, we started to have the conversation about options, now we're talking about refining options and by the summer of 2013, we'll have a draft agreement that we can consult further on," Erin Kelly, technical advisor for the NWT negotiating team, told members of the public in Fort Smith on Thursday evening during a meeting to update the community on the status of negotiations and community-based water monitoring.

Kelly said both Alberta and the NWT have reached agreement on certain pieces of the deal, which insist that the agreement must support healthy ecosystems, respect Aboriginal and treaty rights, be adaptable to change over the long-term and help the NWT stay informed about upstream development before it happens.

What the agreement will not do, Kelly said, is stop development outright.

"This will not stop the oil sands; it will not stop the proposed Site C dam," she said. "This agreement's purpose is not to stop development in Alberta. It's to look at the health of the waters that cross the NWT-Alberta border and the Mackenzie River Basin as a whole."

She said the three components of the agreement will include measures for protecting

the river basin, monitoring efforts and government decision-making.

The key to protection, as it relates to language contained in Aboriginal land claims, is that waters in the NWT must remain "substantially unaltered" by activity in Alberta, Kelly said. That means keeping fish, animals and people safe, monitoring the levels and flows of water, making sure pollutants in the air don't get in the water, and developing water quality numbers that are site-specific for individual Northern rivers.

Part of the agreement will likely also include a commitment to learning more about groundwater and the effects of climate change on things like permafrost.

Under the management model, Kelly said the two parties are currently discussing having transboundary waters put into four categories based on risk. Level one will face limited risk and require no change in management, whereas level two would require further studies. Rivers at a level three risk category, such as the Slave, are those facing more development, and would require site-specific monitoring and management actions.

Waterways will not be allowed to enter level four, which indicates undue harm has been done to the system.

"At this point, you do whatever it takes to get it back down to a level three," Kelly explained.

The negotiating team is also looking to include social indicators for the first time in this type of bilateral agreement, meaning that traditional uses of waterways, such as transportation, trapping and fishing, can be used alongside biological and water quality indicators to raise red flags.

She said there will likely be an internal dispute resolution process to address breaches

of the agreement with assistance, if necessary, from an independent panel of scientific experts. However, if an agreement cannot be reached, the ultimate endgame of a legally binding agreement is always court.

"Of course there's going to be a difference of opinion on what is 'undue harm,'" Kelly said. "Undue harm needs criteria. What we need to do is show there's undue harm, not just say it."

She said that criteria will be based on consultations with NWT communities and Aboriginal groups on what change to waters would be considered "acceptable" before the final agreement is signed.

While some members of the Fort Smith audience expressed frustration over how long talks have taken, as well as incredulity at the notion that Alberta would agree to anything contrary to its development goals, Kelly said negotiations have been going more smoothly than originally anticipated.

"There's more pressure now, and people at the table respect that. We thought it was going to be really difficult, that the NWT and Alberta would be butting heads. There's some of that, but not nearly as much as we thought. Alberta has an interest in the agreement as well because of pressures," she said. "This is the farthest it's ever come over the last 13 years, so hopefully we'll be able to make it through."

Alberta is the first jurisdiction the NWT has entered into negotiations with following the conclusion of the transboundary agreement signed with Yukon in 2000. After this bilateral is signed, the territory will move on to talks with BC, Saskatchewan and, finally, revisit the Peel watershed agreement with Yukon.

Did you know that March is
Aboriginal Language Month?

Tanı́sı́ (in Cree)
Hello means (in English)

Check the next 4 editions of the Northern Journal to see our Aboriginal Language Month banner.

Be the first to guess the phrase and win a language prize package!

Bring your answer into the Northern Journal.



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Dene activist visits Utah on ‘tar sands tour’

Network calls on Paulette to help prevent US oilsands development

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Denesuline elder Francois Paulette visited Utah last week at the behest of a new American environmental network dedicated to “keeping Canadian-style tar sands and oil shale mining out of the USA” to talk about the impacts of oilsands mining on northern Alberta and the NWT.

The group called “Before It Starts” took Paulette on a week-long speaking and site seeing tour of the state to protest the development of oilsands in Utah, along with construction of TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL pipeline and climate change.

While Paulette travels around the globe regularly to speak about the environmental impacts of industry on his traditional way of life, he said this particular tour differed from others in places like Scandinavia in that there are oilsands there.

America’s oilsands reserves, located near national parks in patches throughout the mountains of Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, have not



Dene elder Francois Paulette (second from right) speaks about oilsands development at a rally in the Utah Capitol rotunda in Salt Lake City on Thursday, Feb. 21.

yet been developed, though there are test sites.

Paulette said it’s a serious concern for the States because they already have a limited water supply.

“Whatever water is there, they already have dams erected,” he said. “And the

aquifers, the underground lakes, there’s now evidence that fracking for gas is starting to pollute those underground streams. So there’s a huge push in Utah telling developers and the government to leave the tar sands where it is.”

During his visit, Paulette gave talks in Moab and Salt Lake City alongside screenings of the documentary *The Tipping Point*, which focuses on the environmental impacts of oilsands development and features interviews with Paulette.

He also visited indigenous groups, Canyonlands national park and rivers in the area.

“It’s just a trickle because of all the dams that have been built,” he said of the Green River. “For them it flows, but not for me.”

Paulette said his speaking events were very well-attended. In the state capital of Salt Lake City where he spoke at the main library, it was standing room only.

“It created an awareness because they see what’s happening in the North and they’re wondering if this is possible in their backyard,” Paulette said. “I can see why. They have a beautiful territory, no water, aquifers being contaminated, and what is different is they have a president who is listening. They don’t want to have more climate change.”

An Idle No More flash mob round dance was also held at the Utah Capitol rotunda on Thursday with Paulette as the keynote speaker. Paulette said the event was “unprecedented.”

“Politics up here in Canada and the States, they’re

different,” he said. “For me, it was unprecedented that the event was taking place right inside the state capital (building)...If we did this here in the Alberta legislature or say the territorial legislative assembly, we would probably be arrested. But here we were in a state building, a round dance in opposition to the Keystone, climate change, all being talked about at the same time as the representatives were meeting. Some came out to listen to what was going on.”

He will be going to Sweden for a conference on oil and gas, along with Norway again in May where, for the third time, he will address shareholders at Statoil’s annual general meeting. Statoil, Norway’s partially state-owned oil company, has a project in the Alberta oilsands.

“This traveling around has broadened my world consciousness spiritually to protect the environment, and there are governments that want to hear us out and listen to us,” he said. “It’s just about protecting the earth.”

Industry Mining

Avalon rep says company welcomes ‘candid feedback’

Hearings continue in Fort Resolution on Tuesday

Continued from page 1.

Similarly, LKDFN said the community of Lutsel K’e remains uninformed of the environmental, social and cultural losses they would have to incur to reap the benefits of an accommodation agreement.

Mike Tollis, LKDFN’s wildlife, lands and environment manager, said the issue speaks to a lack of consultation from Avalon with Aboriginal communities.

“Without a full understanding of the project, the potential impacts and the method in which the proponent will mitigate or negate those impacts, the LKDFN will not sign the agreement. And without the agreement, the Lutsel K’e Dene will not support the project through the permitting phase,” he said.

Avalon’s vice president of operations, David Swisher, commented that the company has taken a “very early, firm stance on corporate social responsibility and sustainability” and



The Martin exploration camp rests on the edge of Thor Lake, where Avalon plans to mine 15 rare earth metals to be barged to the old Pine Point mine site for processing.

worked with Aboriginal parties prior to submitting permits for the process - “even during the period of time when we did not realize yet the full potential of

the Nechalacho deposit,” he said.

Besides YKDFN and LKDFN, the company has consulted with the Deninu K’ue First Nation of Fort

Resolution, the NWT Métis Nation, the North Slave Métis Alliance, the Tlicho government and with the K’atl’odeeche First Nation regarding business

opportunities in Hay River.

So far, one accommodations agreement has been signed with Deninu K’ue, whose corporation is currently constructing boxes in

which to transport the concentrate from Thor Lake to Pine Point.

Swisher said the company has also committed to meeting the highest water quality guidelines around.

“Meeting CCME guidelines is typically, in the industry, unheard of,” he said. “Those are some of the most stringent guidelines with regards to water.”

He added that he appreciated the comments from the First Nations.

“We want that type of relationship with our Aboriginal communities. That’s always been our goal and endeavour over the last several years, to make sure we can develop a relationship where everybody feels that they can have candid feedback. We don’t want to just provide something to the community for them to just arbitrarily come on board. We want them to be a vocal partner in the project moving forward,” he said.

Hearings concluded on Feb. 20 in Yellowknife and will continue in Fort Resolution on Feb. 26.

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The Northern Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number so the author can be verified. Names will be withheld on request in special circumstances where the reasons are determined to be valid. The Journal reserves the right to edit letters for length, libel, clarity and taste. Opinions expressed in letters and columns are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor.



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Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
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Ekatie Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Uluksaktok
Fort Good Hope	Lutsel K'e	Wekweti
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Fort McPherson	Norman Wells	Wrigley
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Is there a 'blimp' on the horizon?

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Transportation has tabled a report on innovative transport modes that could improve Canada's future. It includes a section on the viability of airships to haul freight to remote locations.

Using lighter-than-air airships to haul freight into inaccessible locations in Canada's North is not a new idea. That solution has been touted by private companies in Hay River and Yellowknife throughout the last decade. A Fort Smith mayor, the late Paul Kaeser, promoted the idea in the 1960s and '70s.

These are not the giant blimps popular in the 1930s. They are hybrid aircraft that combine large but sleek bodies with small wings and aircraft engines for forward thrust. They are stable, reliable, cheap to operate and can carry massive payloads – the perfect freight-hauler for the North.

The idea has always made sense. Resupply to Canada's remote Northern communities is costly and always a challenge, especially when they are accessible by sea only in a short summer shipping window. Winter ice roads are expensive to install and maintain and their viability may be challenged by climate change. Traffic on winter roads can impact caribou

migrations and have other serious effects on the environment. Permanent roads are too costly to construct, particularly in difficult terrain involving permafrost. Economies of scale do not justify them to connect small communities or a new mine with a lifespan of a decade or so. Airships offer an intelligent solution.

The following are theoretical advantages of modern airships:

- They can carry very large, heavy and bulky items;
- They require very little infrastructure other than shared hangars for maintenance;
- They are expected to use far less fuel per kilo of cargo.

Note, too, that the relatively low speed of airships compared to jet aircraft is not an issue. The average speed of railway trains is about 25 miles an hour. If you can go 80 miles an hour in an airship, that's actually quite fast. And importantly, high winds and extreme cold would limit airship operations in the North no more than they impact airplanes.

So if airships are so great, why are they not already in use?

Maybe it is because they are not economically viable. But then how could they ever be, the way we are committed

to land-based solutions, no matter how expensive?

Or are we?

Governments make such decisions, investing our money. And governments are, by nature, very slow to change. That could very well be the problem.

In defence of the government's "approach," roads connect communities and allow us to access the rest of the world. That is something we do not want to do without. Who else but government has the resources or the moral authority to deliver them?

The trick is, when the usual way of doing things - like building expensive roads into remote locations over challenging terrain in a vast land - does not make sense, how can governments move out of the way and allow the private sector to step up? That is what needs to happen in this case.

Solutions that make sense for the challenges to life and development in Canada's North have to have more traction than a few hours of discussion over an obscure Commons Committee report.

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/CommitteeHome.aspx?Cmte=TRAN&Parl=41&Ses=1>



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Skating instructor Alexis Linaker gives Joseph Cox, 4, a hand during some basic skating drills on Sunday at the Fort Smith arena. Cox and Abey Zimmer, 3, were participants in the fun skate event, which gave out ribbons for skills. Thirty-four kids came out to skate for the afternoon.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Close finishes make biathlon races exciting

Fort Smith's new biathlon range opened with a bang as the racers from four South Mackenzie communities gathered to test their mettle – challenging the cold.

Cold weather delayed the start of the first day's race, but it went ahead when the bright sun warmed the temperatures to -25C.

Teams from Yellowknife, Rae, Hay River and Fort Smith competed in the two days of races.

Issue: February 26, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Six bison killed by rampaging bull

Six bison are dead at the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch after two bulls went on a rampage and prevented other animals from approaching the feed area.

On bull began guarding the feed area in the compound and killed five other bulls - two yearlings, two older animals and one really large bull.

Other animals were wounded in the skirmish and could die later on.

Issue: February 26, 1992

30 Years Ago...

Muffaloosers ride again!

The annual Fort McMurray to Fort Smith Muffaloose Trail promotion ride enjoyed another successful run this year.

Approximately 50 snowmobilers participated in the event: 25 from Fort McMurray, 10 from Fort Chipewyan and 15 from Fort Smith.

The 330 mile journey began in Fort McMurray on Feb. 26.

Issue: March 4, 1983

AFN welcomes new AANDC minister

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo issued the following statement on the Prime Minister's announcement of Bernard Valcourt, Member of Parliament for Madawaska-Restigouche (New Brunswick), as the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada:

"This cabinet change comes at a unique time for First Nations and Canada,

a true moment of reckoning where we have a commitment from the highest levels of the Government of Canada to achieve real progress and transformative change for First Nations citizens.

We see intensifying demand and opportunity to achieve justice, fairness, and political, social and economic development for First Nations. Our work continues on the basis of nation-to-nation relationships to

implement our rights and responsibilities, empower and enable our governments and support them through stable, predictable and fair funding mechanisms. First Nations will continue to advocate for the implementation of Treaties, all living agreements, commitments and promise, including those made at the Crown-First Nations Gathering and by the Prime Minister on Jan. 11, 2013.

We hope that Minister Valcourt will work with the First Nation leadership directly to advance priority areas to achieve transformative change for our peoples. I look forward to meeting with the minister as soon as possible to discuss immediate next steps in facilitating this dialogue, and together with the leadership, driving forward the work of building stronger First Nations and a stronger Canada."

Ontario chiefs call for end to funding discrimination

Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy called on the new federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to show he is sincere in building improved relationships with First Nations and, by extension, better outcomes for children and youth.

"The data shows that First Nations child welfare agencies are funded 22 per cent less than their provincial counterparts and this means less support to keep our children safely in their families.

"The numbers are clear. This government cannot allow this discrimination to continue. It is unconscionable and

must be addressed," he stated.

The Government of Canada appeared before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to respond to allegations that it is discriminating against First Nations children and families by under-funding child and family services on reserves. It reportedly spent over \$3 million and five years fighting to have the Canadian Human Rights complaint, originally filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS) and the Assembly of First Nations

(AFN), dismissed on legal technicalities.

The two Aboriginal organizations allege that the Government of Canada under-funds child welfare services for First Nations children on-reserve, leading to lesser or no service compared to the provincial standard. The inequities in First Nations child welfare have been well documented by the Auditor General of Canada and others. The Government of Canada funds and is actively involved in the on-reserve program.

"To fight in court at the cost of millions of dollars

against the well-being of our children is an international embarrassment for all Canadians. The resources could have been put to better use in addressing the reality on the ground rather than arguing legal technicalities that would allow the federal government to continue to shirk their responsibility," Beardy said.

The Chiefs of Ontario is a political forum and a secretariat for collective decision making, action and advocacy for the 133 First Nation communities located within the boundaries of the province of Ontario, Canada.

Plan ahead: shop with a list

March is Nutrition Month in Alberta and this year, its theme is "Choosing and preparing food for a healthier you."

This month, Alberta Health Services' dietitians will share tips on how to choose and prepare healthy foods for you and your family. This week, the focus is on grocery shopping.

Shopping for groceries the healthy way starts with planning ahead. Before your next visit to the grocery store, try to think of how your week will look and plan your menu accordingly. It is always helpful to check your

refrigerator and cupboards and try to use items you already have at home. You can also think about foods your family enjoys, your budget and the time you will have to prepare meals and snacks.

To prepare a healthy grocery list, try to include foods from all four food groups from *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* (Vegetables and Fruit, Grain Products, Milk and Alternatives and Meat and Alternatives). Here are some healthy buys from each food group:

Vegetables and Fruit: Apples, bananas, oranges, cabbage, carrots, potatoes,

canned tomatoes, plain frozen vegetables.

Grain Products: Plain hot cereals, rice, whole grain bread, dry whole grain pasta.

Milk and Alternatives: Milk, cheese, low fat yogurt, skim milk powder.

Meat and Alternatives: Natural peanut butter, dried or canned lentils and beans, canned light tuna packed in water, blade or rump roast.

Once your list is ready to go, it is time to plan your next trip to the grocery store. Aim for a time of the day when you are not tired or hungry and

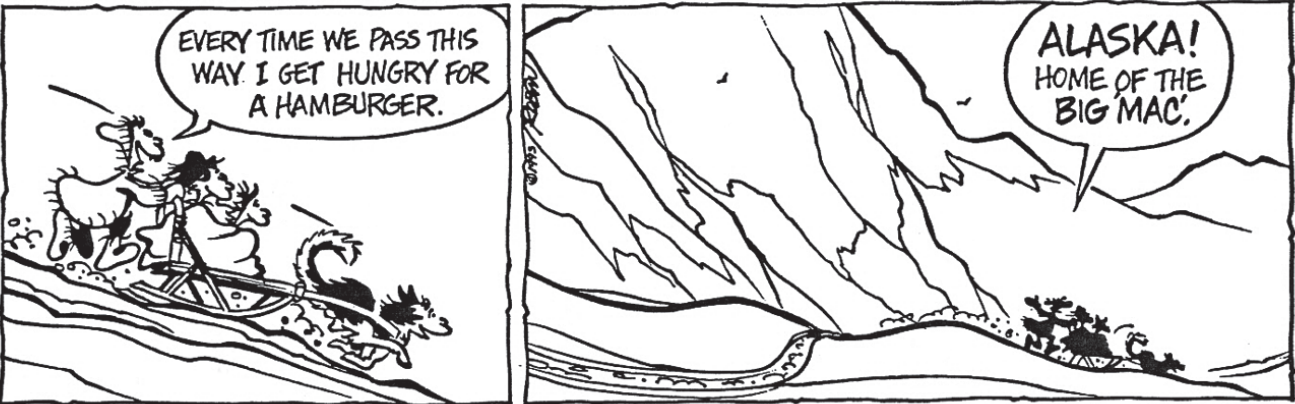
have enough time to read labels. It is easier to pick healthy foods if you focus your shopping around the areas of the grocery store where you can find the basics: vegetables and fruit, grain products, milk and alternatives and meat and alternatives.

Preparing a grocery shopping list will help you plan your family meals, buy healthier foods and save time and money.

For more information, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or www.healthyalberta.com.

Alberta Health Services

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

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.

Conservatives reject amendments to Surface Rights Board act

norj.ca

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.











David Poitras That is why I made the decision not to participate. I stated that "adding my voice at that public hearing would be like a fart in a windstorm." In other words, not even noticed!









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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

-21 High		-27 Low	Wednesday	-13 High		-21 Low
-22 High		-26 Low	Thursday	-11 High		-17 Low
-22 High		-30 Low	Friday	-4 High		-14 Low
-23 High		-28 Low	Saturday	-8 High		-14 Low
Norms: -21°C and -30°C			Norms: -16°C and -27°C			

Hay River Fort Smith

-9 High		-22 Low	Wednesday	-7 High		-18 Low
-9 High		-15 Low	Thursday	-6 High		-10 Low
-4 High		-13 Low	Friday	-3 High		-10 Low
-5 High		-11 Low	Saturday	-2 High		-11 Low
Norms: -13°C and -25°C			Norms: -11°C and -24°C			

Fresh winds lift airship dream to new heights

By JACK DANYLCHUK

A promising new design and a small push from a parliamentary committee have put new life into a dream of bringing airships to Northern skies.

“It was certainly timely,” Barry Prentice, a transportation specialist at the University of Manitoba and longtime proponent of a new generation of airships, said in a *Journal* interview after the committee on transportation recommended that Ottawa invest in a pilot airship program.

“This is the first time any government has spoken positively about using airships in the North,” he said. “Finally, someone is taking a serious look at solid alternatives to roads and ports. It might get the interest of the mining companies.”

Recommendations from parliamentary committees don’t carry a lot of weight, but Prentice welcomed the



Image: Aeros

Artist’s rendition of an Aeros Pelican airship, which is expected to make its first test flight in March.

renewed interest after a subsidiary of Yellowknife-based Discovery Air abandoned its plan to invest in a British-designed airship.

Discovery representatives told the transport committee the company dropped the idea because it couldn’t get support from private sector investors

to buy 45 heavy-lift craft from Hybrid Air Vehicles Ltd. for \$40 million each, starting in 2014. The University of Manitoba

will host a one-day conference in Winnipeg on Mar. 1, faintly echoing a two-day, 2006 meeting in Yellowknife that generated a

60-page report and buzzing enthusiasm.

Much of the early excitement was generated by the US military, which poured \$500 million into airships that were to be capable of delivering heavy loads to remote battlefields or serving as observation platforms. The military dropped the project after test flights last year.

Prentice expects representatives from Aeros, a California company that has attracted a rush of media coverage in the past month. The Aeros Pelican is expected to make its first test flight in March.

It promises to deliver a lift capability at \$1 million per ton – far less costly than the vehicle Discovery Air backed, but considerably more than the trucks and ice roads that will be used to develop new mines in the Slave geologic province, extending from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean.

Politics Employment

Details emerge on decentralized GNWT jobs

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Details are out on 18 of the 29 decentralized

GNWT positions announced in the recent territorial budget, with Hay

River seeing the most new employees in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Five of those positions are with the department of Municipal and Community

Affairs (MACA) to put assistant regional superintendents in Inuvik, Norman Wells,

and Fort Resolution will also be created through the Executive.

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Alberta
Government

Equitable distribution of the economic benefits associated with public service employment ensures every region benefits, and we will continue to work to maintain this distribution across the territory.

Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger

Behchoko, Fort Simpson and Fort Smith.

A sixth new MACA job will see a youth officer position in Behchoko.

Hay River will be getting four new staff with Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI). They will be moving to the Business Incentive Policy (BIP) monitoring office.

Health and Social Services are creating two new community wellness coordinator positions - one in Fort Smith and one in Inuvik.

Inuvik will get two more employees through Human Resources. One is for a recruitment officer and the other a help desk supervisor.

The department of Finance is creating one communications officer position for the Liquor Commission in Hay River.

Three positions for new Single Window Service Centres in Tsiigehtchic, Wrigley

The 18 positions are in addition to the 11 new positions proposed under various government programs, including the response to industrial activity in the Sahtu region.

“The other eleven positions are forced growth positions and new positions within departments,” GNWT spokesperson Brenda Norris said in an email.

None of the positions will be officially created until the budget passes.

The new jobs are part of the 17th Assembly’s pointed effort to decentralize government out of Yellowknife.

“Equitable distribution of the economic benefits associated with public service employment ensures every region benefits, and we will continue to work to maintain this distribution across the territory,” Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger said in his budget address earlier this month.

Power Corp. expands Simpson solar project

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Northwest Territories Power Corp. (NTPC) has pumped up the largest solar project North of 60 by an extra 43.6 kilowatts (kw).

An additional 178 solar panels have been erected at Fort Simpson's airport - the same site as the original 60.6 kw array installed one year ago.

The combined system has the capacity to turn sunlight into a total of 104 kw of electricity at peak periods, the equivalent of 17 houses or 15 per cent of the community.

According to the Power Corp., it will displace approximately 100,000 kw hours of diesel generation annually and stop 84.3 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

"Investing in clean solar technology benefits both the



Photo: NTPC

The expanded Fort Simpson solar array includes 178 new panels, bringing the total peak production up to 104 kilowatts.

environment and, through displaced costs, our customers in the thermal rate zone," Brendan Bell, chairman of NTPC's Board of Directors,

said in a press release. "We will continue to look for opportunities to replace diesel generation with green energy."

Construction to expand the solar energy system began on Jan. 30. The extra panels - installed by the same vendor, SkyFire Energy of

Calgary, with subcontractor Kiwi Electric of Fort Simpson - cost \$350,000.

Of that, \$250,000 worth was purchased through the

department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) Solar Strategy implementation funds. The remaining \$100,000 came from NTPC.

The expansion was announced during the release of the NWT Solar Strategy last November. Though no other solar projects are being actively pursued at this point, NTPC spokesperson Bob Kelly said they would be considered, provided more GNWT funding is available.

The original 258-panel system installed in April 2012 generated about 63 megawatt hours of clean electricity in just under a year, amounting to eight per cent more than anticipated and displacing over 43 tons of carbon in the atmosphere from burning diesel, which is equivalent to planting four acres of trees.

Environment Oil & Gas

More research needed on Sahtu fracking, MLAs argue

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The territorial government needs to do a lot more research on hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas before the promised \$700 million in investment starts rolling into the Sahtu region over the next few years, MLAs argued in Legislature last week - including making a visit to an actual fracking site.

"Currently, we don't have the capacity to deal with the wastewater from drilling and the long-term impacts of disposable wells are unknown," Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya said last week in the House, noting that pipelines need twinning, roads need building and communities need preparing before a boom.

"We can guess the impacts of hydraulic fracturing based on what we see in other places, but we cannot predict the real long-term impacts on the land, the animals, the lakes and rivers of the Sahtu," he said.

Members of the economic development and infrastructure (EDI) standing committee went on a fracking tour with Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Minister David Ramsay and Yakeleya last year, meeting with regulators like the National Energy Board, environmental groups and industry in Alberta and BC.

But as Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley was quick to point out Thursday, that tour never included a visit to any fracking site, nor did it approach

any jurisdictions who have banned fracking.

"Our so-called EDI fracking tour didn't include a visit to even one fracking site. As part of this information gathering, will the ENR minister work with the Industry minister to ensure the promised southern tour of regional leaders includes a visit to a no-fracking jurisdiction and

"Sometime in April, I'm hoping to get a group of business leaders from the Sahtu down to southeast Saskatchewan and into North Dakota to talk to Aboriginal leaders in Bakken about what has happened there, and how Aboriginal governments and leaders here in the Northwest Territories can translate what is happening in the Sahtu

We can guess the impacts of hydraulic fracturing based on what we see in other places, but we cannot predict the real long-term impacts on the land, the animals, the lakes and rivers of the Sahtu.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya

to meet with the Aboriginal leadership with extensive fracking experience in northeastern BC?" he asked.

"Let's educate our public, support their fact-finding trips to actual fracking sites, and fully respond to their concerns with actions to address and resolve them," he added.

Ramsay said there have been a number of meetings in the Sahtu on fracking and that leaders from the Sahtu attended a fracking tour in Calgary as well. He said more visits are in the works, including one to an active frack site.

to business opportunities for their people and make a better life for them and their families," he said.

The EDI's report on fracking, which recommended the GNWT get to work immediately on developing its own regulations and policies around the unconventional drilling procedure in time for devolution, was released last November.

Ramsay said ITI and the department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) would reply to the report by the end of the current session. ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger said the department

will likely come forward this spring or early fall at the latest with the first fracking guidelines, based on best practices from other jurisdictions currently regulating fracking.

Both Yakeleya and Bromley expressed worries that the government isn't moving fast enough to get the amount of detail required before it allows the area to explode with industrial activity.

"The need for environmental and geological baseline data essential for good management is clear, but are we committed to achieving this information before allowing full-scale development should reserves prove up?" Bromley said. "This data collection typically requires a full field program, partnered with local knowledge. It's

expensive, takes time and requires analysis and synthesis with existing information to be applied."

"We don't have to look any further than boom towns like Fort McMurray, Alberta, or Fort Nelson, BC, to see some of the social effects of fast-paced development," Yakeleya said. "This winter, we have seen how exploration alone stretches the capacity in our communities."

Ramsay said there is work being done to ensure both environmental and social concerns are being addressed. Over \$1 million was allocated in the recent budget to mitigate impacts of development in the Sahtu, including the addition of a business development officer in Norman Wells. He said policing

and education are also being looked at.

On the environmental side, Miltenberger said, there is also plenty of work being done.

"There are going to be dollars available to work on the groundwater mapping, the surface water and the wildlife baseline information as well," he added. "All the wells that are being drilled and have been drilled have to do well monitoring sites, water monitoring sites. That information is going to be collated and pulled together so we can build a map of this central Mackenzie Sahtu region as it pertains to the status of the groundwater and surface water. That work is being done."

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CanNor announces funding for NWT projects

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Two infrastructure projects, a mine training program and an economic promotional campaign in the Northwest Territories received funding boosts from the federal government last week during a visit to Yellowknife by Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

Aglukkaq, the minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), announced \$1 million in community infrastructure improvements in Inuvik and Behchoko, along with \$350,000 for francophone investment marketing, on Tuesday morning.

The Children's First Centre in Inuvik, currently under construction, received \$500,000 in federal funds to support improvements to its kitchen and common space areas.

The 13,000 square-foot facility dedicated for early childhood care and education is scheduled to open this summer and already received a \$50,000 boost from Aviva



CanNor Minister Leona Aglukkaq (centre) and the rest of the Northern Conservative Caucus meets with the GNWT cabinet in Yellowknife last week.

Canada's Community Fund. It will host up to 120 children aged six months to 12 years and create 19 permanent jobs in Inuvik.

Over the next two years, the GNWT will pay \$1.175 million for the project, while \$2.3 million will come from the municipality and another \$2.475 from other sources for a total cost of \$6.45 million.

Behchoko's \$16 million Kohn Go Cho Complex renovation project also received \$500,000 from CanNor. The multi-purpose facility is currently

undergoing an overhaul after closing in 2007 due to disrepair. It is scheduled to reopen in March 2014.

Once completed, the facility will offer recreation and fitness activities, office space for community government and will provide a venue for community events, assemblies, conferences, trade shows and regional sporting events.

"This funding reflects a sensitivity and responsiveness by the government of Canada to the infrastructure needs and somewhat unique

circumstances of Behchoko," Behchoko Chief Clifford Daniels said in a press release.

"That is key in rejuvenating an otherwise dormant facility, into a symbol of hope and health for the Tlicho people. This day marks the start of a very exciting year as we move forward in finalizing the detailed design and starting construction," he said.

The Tlicho government also benefited from a \$450,000 investment to purchase a mobile crusher for the Crusher Operator Training Program operated by the Tlicho Learning

and Development Centre in Behchoko to train mine workers from all four Tlicho communities.

The mobile crusher is expected to double the number of trainees over the next three years, upping the number of participants to 60, and supply crushed materials for local infrastructure projects, such as construction, road building and maintenance and drainage.

It is hoped that local production will reduce the cost of crushed materials currently purchased and shipped by winter road from Yellowknife.

"This investment will give businesses greater opportunities to hire skilled workers locally, and help Northerners secure jobs in important sectors that contribute to Northern economic growth," Aglukkaq said.

Additionally, \$350,000 was given to support the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO) in promoting economic opportunities in the NWT to francophone markets.

The funding will allow CDÉTNO to develop an Economic Opportunities Toolkit and outreach campaign highlighting opportunities in mining, oil and gas, and tourism in Quebec and France.

"Over the past few years, with CanNor support, we have built a solid Investment Attraction Strategy that raises the profile of the NWT in such francophone markets as Quebec and France," CDÉTNO president Robert Galipeau said.

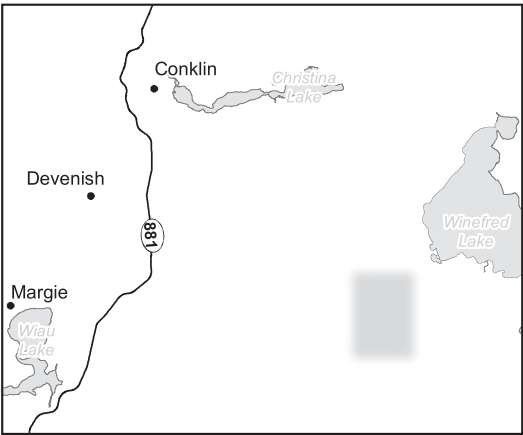
Planned activities include hosting outreach events in Quebec and France to attract investors, promote the NWT at trade shows, enhance professional business services for the francophone community and address information, translation and facilitation gaps.

"This year, amongst other initiatives, we are organizing a large trade mission and investment showcase that will bring NWT entrepreneurs and Quebec investors together to generate increased economic activity in the North," Galipeau said.

Notification of AESO Regulatory Filing Addressing the Need for the New Underwood 183S Substation in the Christina Lake Area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file a Needs Identification Document (NID) for the Underwood 183S substation with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after March 15, 2013.

FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) has identified that a new substation is needed to serve a new industrial load in the Christina Lake area. FortisAlberta's request can be addressed by adding a new 138/6.9 kV substation, to be called Underwood 183S, and a 138 kV transmission line to connect Underwood 183S substation to the proposed Pike 170S substation. The Pike 170S substation, proposed for development under a separate application, would be modified to accommodate the 138 kV transmission line from Underwood 183S substation. Modifications would include the addition of 138 kV breakers.



The shaded area indicates the approximate area where the proposed transmission development is needed. In a separate application called a Facility Application, AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink), the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Christina Lake area, will describe the specific routes and sites for the proposed transmission development, and request AUC approval to construct and operate these transmission facilities. The specific substation sites and transmission line routes applied for by AltaLink may extend beyond the area shown.

The AESO and AltaLink presented this need to stakeholders, including residents, occupants and landowners, from May 2012 to March 2013. The AESO has considered feedback gathered from stakeholders, and technical and cost considerations, and will apply to the AUC for approval of the need for this transmission development. Once filed, the NID will be posted on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/25873.html>

Please visit our website, www.aeso.ca for more information, or contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca



Politics Federal

New Aboriginal Affairs minister pledges 'working together'

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The position of federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) minister was handed over to the associate minister of national defence on Friday.

New Brunswick MP Bernard Valcourt replaces John Duncan, who resigned from the position on Feb. 15 after admitting to wrongfully contacting the Tax Court of Canada on a constituent's behalf.

Valcourt said the Harper government is committed to working with "those Aboriginal leaders who want to work with the government of Canada to create jobs and growth in their communities" and said he is looking forward to meeting with Aboriginal leaders and the territorial governments.

"Our government has made significant progress in improving outcomes for Aboriginal peoples across Canada. We have built new schools, invested in clean drinking water systems, built thousands of new homes, increased funding for services for the most vulnerable members of First Nations communities, and invested in hundreds of projects to link Aboriginal people with job training services. But there is more to do," he said.

"This January, the government committed itself to a high-level dialogue on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims. I am firmly of the view that working together is the best way to achieve our shared objective of healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient Aboriginal communities."

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus welcomed the new minister, emphasizing his hope that they will indeed be able to work together.

"The Dene Nation understands and appreciates the meaning of 'working together' because it has real effect when dealing with the enactment of our inherent rights, interests and addressing the complexities of Dene government based on existing treaties," he said in a press release.

"Within his tenure, that high-level dialogue that the federal government has committed to is needed. Or, we will continue to have legal uncertainty in regards to politics and the economy of Denendeh," he added.

While NDP Aboriginal Affairs critic Jean Crowder welcomed Valcourt to the position, she expressed disappointment that the portfolio

wasn't handed to a more senior minister.

She also questioned how the new minister will be able to address the Idle No More movement sweeping the country.

"Unfortunately, the new minister's statement accepting this position repeated the same tired Conservative line that this government is only going to work with 'willing partners' and only on the priorities the Conservatives outlined," she said.

"As recent grassroots protests have demonstrated, Canadians are moving past the old rhetoric and want the federal government to engage in a meaningful way with First Nations, Inuit and Métis."

The new appointment came as part of a mini cabinet shuffle. British Columbia MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay, previously parliamentary secretary to the minister of Justice, was promoted to Valcourt's position.

As well, two other portfolios held by Valcourt have now been filled. Veterans Affairs Minister Stephen Blaney takes over francophone issues and National Revenue Minister Gail Shea adds responsibility for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Remembering Northern black history

Former commissioner retells soldier stories

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Fort Smith in 1942 was an exciting place to be.

That's what Emilia Mercredi Gratrix told her son, Tony Whitford, former NWT Commissioner and MLA.

Mercredi passed away in 2005 at the age of 87, but Whitford, 71, still fondly recalls many of the vibrant stories his mother passed on about that year.

The American army had come to the Northwest Territories that June. They would stay for just over a year, working to boost Alaska's defence after the assault at Pearl Harbour. That period marked the first time many Northerners met African-Americans.

The United States was especially concerned about Japanese attacks as they shipped petroleum to their Alaskan base via the Pacific coast. As such, the CANOL (Canadian Oil) Project was born. The project would see the construction of a pipeline from Norman Wells to Whitehorse,

Gratrix befriended a number of the soldiers and sold them homemade pies and did their laundry, Whitford said.

"Two or three of them would sit there on the front steps of the house and cut these pies she'd sold them into four big pieces and eat them right there. My mom made good money on that... We'd get special favours from them; they'd bring over a whole jeep full of big cans of ham, bacon, pie filling for cherry and raisin pies."

The Christmas Eve service in 1942 was another memorable event.

"My mother said there was nothing on earth that could match the singing of Silent Night by these hundreds and hundreds of troops. Tears came in your eyes, she told us, because they were all sad because they were away from home."

However, Whitford said, his mother made reference to a number of "unpleasant events" connected to the

From what I was told, it almost seemed like they came overnight and they were gone overnight.

*Tony Whitford
Former NWT Commissioner and MLA*

Yukon. From there, oil could be trucked into Alaska.

About 1,500 soldiers came to Fort Smith to handle the shipment of pipeline materials on barges down the Slave River, build an all-weather airfield and carve out new winter roads from Hay River to Fort Smith and Norman Wells.

The soldiers, who built their own camp complete with a saw mill, barracks, mess hall and even a temporary hospital, would also change the social makeup of the small Northern community.

"We'd had contact with southerners, but not like we had when the Americans came. They arrived and it was totally different. All of a sudden you've got a thousand handsome black men away from their home with full pockets, so it was an exciting time," Whitford said.

According to the local history compilation *Wooden Boats and Iron People* by Sandra Dolan, the 338th Engineer Battalion stationed in Fort Smith was made up of 26 white officers and 1,238 African-Americans from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

"They didn't want these guys fighting at the front; they didn't trust the blacks, so they shipped them North. That was, sadly, the time," Whitford said.

army's presence as well, including cases of sexual assault and endless fighting between the "town boys" and soldiers.

"There was a lot of fun, but many tribulations too. It changed the social stability here. There was drinking and fights and romances taking place regardless of marriage, and that did cause some difficulties...I think there were about 10 children that resulted from that year, children with Fort Smith mothers and black fathers they never knew."

One of those children is artist Robert Burke, whose mother was Chipewyan and father was an African-American soldier.

Burke burrowed into the racially complex issue of his childhood through one of his painting exhibitions, "The Silent Breed."

In his artist statement, Burke explains the title: "The Americans were part of a segregated army and their job was to serve as labourers... They worked under terrible conditions with hand tools such as a pick, shovel, axe and saw...Most of the children never had a chance to know who their fathers were.



American soldiers kill time on one of the barges used to carry pipeline supplies down the Slave River, across Great Slave Lake and down the Mackenzie River to Norman Wells as part of the CANOL Project during the Second World War.



The American army band jams to the jazz hit "Jumpin' at the Woodside" in Fort Smith where a battalion of mostly black soldiers were stationed in 1942.

Struggles of identity and belonging were problems to be solved."

Burke has made his home on Vancouver Island and is still trying to obtain his Indian status.

When the soldiers were transferred to Norman Wells in the early autumn of 1943, Whitford's mother had very little correspondence with the soldiers she'd befriended.

"She'd heard they'd all been mostly shipped overseas afterwards. She felt, and I don't know how she knew, that many of the troops in Smith had died in the islands, specifically the Battle of Tarawa, I think," Whitford said.

Remnants of 1942 are still strewn throughout town.

Whitford found buried, corroded Briggs & Stratton engines and boxes of

hammers down on the Slave River bank where the landslide occurred in 1968.

"I learned the army's colonel bulldozed one of their warehouses down into the Slave. The warehouses had been located right on the river bank in '42. This one had been badly damaged when a fire was set by a spy."

According to Whitford's stories, the troops abandoned

many of their belongings when they left, including jeeps and ambulances, some of which can still be found on Calder Avenue, he said.

"From what I was told, it almost seemed like they came overnight and they were gone overnight," he said.

February is Black History month in Canada and the United States.

NWT teachers touched by students’ words on Education Week

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

For science teacher Thana Rahim, every one of the students she’s taught over the past seven years at Yellowknife’s St. Patrick High School have been like her own children. “I feel like a mother to all of my students. I want to see them achieve their highest goals and praise them, I want to see them enjoy learning, I want them to tell me what they go on to do with their lives,” Rahim told *The Journal*.

So when the roles were reversed and a former physics student of Rahim’s wanted to see her recognized for her hard work at the school, she was “deeply moved.”

Aimée Gauthier, now a mining engineering student at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, submitted a letter of thanks to Rahim through the Thank You for Making a Difference (TYFMAD) initiative, presented annually by the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association (NWTAA) during Education Week, which ran Feb.18-22. “Of all my teachers, she (Rahim) had the most significant impact on where I ended up today and she continues to



Yellowknife teacher Thana Rahim, left, accepts her Thank You for Making a Difference award from NWTTA president Gayla Meredith last Friday in Fort Smith.

inspire my future,” Gauthier wrote. “She ran frequent tutorials and stayed late in the evenings...She’s a lifelong educator and the NWT is lucky to have her.”

The initiative, started 15 years ago, collects and shares written submissions from current students about how a certain teacher has impacted them.

The award initiative saw only 29 submissions the first year it ran. This year, there were close to 2,800, NWTTA president Gayla Meredith said.

Winning submissions from Yellowknife and the rest of the NWT are drawn at random, with the chosen students and the winning teachers they nominated receiving grand prizes.

High school teacher Annie Casson from K’alemi Dene School, the Ndilo Community School in Yellowknife and Chuck Lirette from Hay River’s Diamond Jenness High School each won a First Air sponsored trip. The students who nominated them took home a laptop. Winners were announced in Fort Smith at the TYFMAD grand finale celebration last Friday, the final day of Education Week. Rahim was also in Fort Smith to accept a special one-time award handed out in recognition of NWTTA’s diamond jubilee year, the 60th anniversary award that celebrates a teacher nominated by a past student instead of a current one. “When I found out about Aimée’s submission, I just cried and cried. It’s really from the heart,” Rahim said. “When you read the excerpts submitted by students, I know the words will speak to all of you. Really, the prizes are the words,” Meredith said to the crowd of local educators gathered in Fort Smith for the celebration. “Teachers teach because they care. This is in honour of all of you and the challenges you face.”

Photo: Renée Francoeur

Thank You!

Fort Chipewyan Fishing Derby

We Thank Everyone
for coming and supporting our great community and sincerely look forward to welcoming you back for the 15th Annual Fishing Derby next year!

The Fort Chipewyan Fishing Derby Committee

would like to thank all our sponsors, participants, and volunteers for their contribution to the 2013 (14th Annual) Fort Chipewyan Fishing Derby held on February 16, 2013 at the Lake Front. Thanks to the generous monetary and door prize donations and support from our sponsors, community and individuals, we continue to have a successful fishing derby each year. This year was no exception! We had a great derby, participants from many communities and a genuinely all-around clean sport and community event. We weighed in seven fish and gave away over 100 prizes!

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Thanks to Jennifer Voyageur and the Northern Store for ticket sales.

We apologize to any person or organization we have missed.

Congratulations to this year’s winners!

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Place | \$6,000 | Lorraine Alberts | (3.56kg/74cm/Trout) |
| 2nd Place | \$5,000 | Louie Ladouceur | (2.91kg/72cm/Trout) |
| 3rd Place | \$4,000 | Roy Campbell | (2.63kg/89cm/Jack) |
| 4th Place | \$3,000 | Kylie Flett | (2.16kg/88cm/Jack) |
| 5th Place | \$2,000 | Sheldon Flett | (1.80kg/83cm/Jack) |
| 6th Place | \$1,000 | Ernest Thacker | (1.65kg/63.2cm/Jack) |
| 7th Place | \$800 | Florence Lizotte | (1.62kg/84cm/Jack) |

Grand Prize Winners:

- Boat/Motor/Trailer - Frank Marcel
Quad - Hank Pietersma

Once again, sincere thanks from the Fort Chipewyan Fishing Derby Committee, 2013

Clariss Voyageur, Jerry Voyageur, Jennifer Voyageur, Scott Flett, Darleene Nicholson, Lucy Fraser, Debbie Sandberg, Lynda Marten, Johnny Fraser

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Students snare rare ‘behind-the-scenes’ museum tour for Heritage Week

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Student groups had the chance to sneak a peek at the inner workings of the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith last week as part of Heritage Week celebrations across the Northwest Territories, Feb. 18-24.

The museum is aiming to be more interactive and hands-on with visitors, executive director Mathieu Doucet said, and Heritage Week provided the perfect excuse to try something new.

Thirteen different groups from Joseph B. Tyrrell elementary school, P.W. Kaeser High School, Aurora College and even a group from the Fort Smith Correctional Complex toured the museum and the usually off-limits warehouse throughout the week.

“We could have done just a basic presentation to recognize Heritage Week, but we wanted to offer something specific, a special behind-the-scenes tour,” Doucet said. “We don’t want to have a museum in Fort Smith just for the sake of having a museum.

We want people to utilize it to its maximum potential. Heritage Week tours are just the first step. We want to do specific educational programming, we want to buy period costumes for kids to try on as a different learning medium.”

The museum has approximately 17,000 artefacts. About two per cent of that is on display, as is the case with most museums, Doucet said.

The Heritage Week tours showed off all the additional artefacts in storage, including taxidermied animals, century-old beadwork and textiles, old letters and photos, vintage saddles, sewing machines, telephones and radios, just to name a few.

As far as Doucet knows, behind-the-scenes tours have never been offered at Northern Life.

“The stuffed wolf is my favourite,” Olie Johnson, 7, said, as his split Grade 2/3 class darted around the warehouse, eagerly opening the heavy green storage drawers after a brief discussion with Doucet on how the museum keeps track of its artefacts.

“I like seeing old guns,” classmate Kian Berro, 8, added, staring intently at the limited-edition, 1970 Winchester Northwest Territories Centennial rifle brought out by museum events coordinator Diane Seals.

Tours were offered in both French and English. In addition to the warehouse component, Doucet offered a small workshop where he explained how the museum collects, preserves and stores artefacts.

“We learned you can’t touch anything with your hands,” Trace Arey, 7, said. “You have to always put on those white gloves.”

According to Doucet, the tours were a success, with some classes scheduling additional tours.

The tours hopefully also helped students in their own projects for the upcoming annual Heritage Fairs at JBT and PWK, he added.

NWT Heritage Fairs Society’s Territorial Showcase will be held in Fort Smith this year from May 9-12 and will display 50 specially selected projects from students in Grades 4 to 9.



Northern Life events coordinator Diane Seals explains how to handle artefacts, such as the 1970 Winchester Northwest Territories Centennial rifle, with care.



Kian Berro, 8, takes a peek at hidden furs the museum keeps in its warehouse.



Olie Johnson, 7, says his favourite artefact is the stuffed wolf.



Museum director Mathieu Doucet shows Gabrielle Vienneau's Grade 2/3 class how the museum displays some of its 17,000 artefacts.



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

Sponsored by the Fort Smith Ski Club 

Award-winning hip hop artist talks anti-bullying and culture with NWT students

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Inspiring youth, especially Aboriginal youth, to grow and persevere in a positive way is the goal behind school and community workshops from one of BC's award-winning rappers.

K.A.S.P., also known as Rob Sawan, stopped in Fort Smith last week as part of his first motivational speaking tour in the Northwest Territories.

"It's important to know your culture, where you come from and who you are before you dive into anything, whether that's hip hop or becoming a teacher, or whatever," he told a crowd of almost 50 gathered in the Joseph B. Tyrrell elementary school gym last Monday evening.

Earlier, he spoke to Grades 4, 5 and 6 students about self-esteem building and how to identify and prevent bullying as part of his new project tour called Save Many In Loving Everyone (SMILE).

"It was so cool," Wynter Trudeau, 10, said. "At the end everyone got up and started dancing. The gym was just full of dancing!"

Jeanette Lockhart said her



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Canadian hip hop artist K.A.S.P. meets with Fort Smith students last Monday in the JBT gym to share his life story, talk anti-bullying and rap a few of his hit songs.

11 year-old daughter, Lillyan, enjoyed Sawan's schoolday workshop so much, she insisted the family also attend the evening session.

"She told me, 'He's the bomb,'" Lockhart laughed.

As part of the workshop, Sawan shares his difficult

story of physical abuse, molestation, drugs, the impact of residential schools on his family and the freedom he found in music.

"My parents didn't know how to be parents and the residential schools were a big part of why," the

multi-national Aboriginal music award winner and nominee said.

Growing up in East Vancouver, he watched his father, a former heroin addict and drug dealer, get stabbed and witnessed a friend's arm shot off.

He discovered hip hop by accidentally stumbling across a tape cassette on the street one day, which turned out to be an N.W.A. album, an American hip hop group from the late '80s.

After winning a radio contest, he was on the fast path to fame and went on to claim multiple awards with his former group, 7th Generation.

"But by 2008, my ego had got to me and I was depressed and didn't even know it, drinking too much, sneaking drinks," he said.

It was Sawan's wife, Elaine Alec, who talked him into attending a life-changing seminar which in turn triggered his own workshops.

"I want you to look at me and my story and know you can do anything, come up from anything," he said. "I speak from the heart."

Incorporating his Aboriginal culture into his songs is a priority as can be heard on his new single "Intertribal," featuring pow wow music from the group Northern Cree.

Sawan also smudges before each of his workshops. The smell of sweetgrass lets

him know his grandfather and father, both since deceased, are with him and guiding him, he said.

"I use culture as much as I can because that's what hip hop is about to me, expressing yourself. It's not about how many rings you got on, how much you smoke or drink, the money," he said. "Hip hop talks about where you've been and what you did and what you want to accomplish."

Sawan's tour, presented by the South Slave Divisional Education Council and the NWT's department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), is all about "keeping it fresh to resonate with the students," Peter Daniels, MACA's youth and volunteer officer, said.

"We are always trying to bring in motivational stuff with a traditional component. With role models like K.A.S.P., we hope they reach our youth and instil positive and healthy lifestyle choices."

Sawan also talked to students in Hay River, K'at'l'odeeche, Fort Resolution and Fort Providence as part of his five-day tour.

Industry Tourism

Territories launch tourism campaign *en français*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Francophone economic development agencies in the NWT, Yukon and Nunavut have launched a marketing campaign designed to entice Quebec tourists to make the trek North for their next vacation.

The campaign, which will run Feb. 18 to Mar. 31, includes television and online advertisements, as well as a presence at consumer and trade events, playing on the "Canada's North" brand that was launched during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

The Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO), along with Carrefour Nunavut and the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY), are leading the campaign as the Francophone Tourism Consortium.

"This campaign is an opportunity to present one bilingual unified message and a powerful image across the country, thus maximizing our marketing efforts," Andréanne Laporte, director

of CDÉTNO, said in a press release.

French Canadians will be encouraged to visit the lenordcanadien.ca website to see photos, read stories and watch videos of all three territories.

For the NWT, the website focuses on travel experiences like driving on ice roads, dog sledding, fishing, viewing the aurora borealis and embarking on an assortment of water adventures, from whitewater paddling to waterfall visits.

A French television commercial will be aired on CBC/Radio-Canada, Canal D, RDI and RDS in Quebec. Online ads will be featured on canoe.ca and Météo Média. The consortium will also have a booth at the Outdoor and Adventure Travel Show in Ottawa in March, and will make a special, invite-only presentation to travel professionals at the Mountain Equipment Co-op in Montreal.

The marketing campaign is being funded by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor).



The Aurora Borealis, one of the major draws for tourists to the NWT, dance above Aurora Village in Yellowknife.

Photo: Northwest Territories Tourism

Herd of NWTERS heading to Ottawa’s Northern Scene

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Nearly 70 artists from the Northwest Territories will descend on Ottawa along with cohorts from Nunavut, Yukon, Nunavik and Greenland for the first ever Northern Scene festival taking place at the end of April.

The official lineup for the festival was announced on Monday, along with announcements of program details, including concerts, theatre performances, food and craft fairs and art exhibits taking over the nation’s capital from Apr. 25 to May 4.

Musicians, actors, storytellers, visual artists, authors and fashion designers make up the diverse group coming from the NWT.

Festival highlights include a “Circumpolar Soundscape” featuring contemporary music by Leela Gilday and three other women artists from the Arctic on the festival’s opening night.

Other musicians making their way to the stage will include Yellowknife’s Dana Sipos, Digawolf, Grey Gritt, Leanne Goose and the sounds of fiddlers Wesley Hardisty and Richard Lafferty.

I Count Myself Among Them, a radio play adapted from NWT author Richard Van Camp’s short story of the same



Yellowknife’s Dana Sipos is one of the musicians lined up to perform at the Northern Scene festival in Ottawa at the end of April.

name, will be performed by a live cast of Aboriginal actors on the night of Apr. 28. Directed by Yellowknife actor and playwright Reneltta Arluk,

the play features sound design and a live score by fellow Yellowknifers Travis Mercredi and Brendan Callas. Ben Nind is bringing his

play, *Taste of the Wildcat*, to be performed at the replica Wildcat Cafe in the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Nind is also organizing a

storytelling showcase from the Northwest Territories, including the yarn spinning talents of Anthony Foliot, Jim Green, Moira Coleman,

Pat Braden, Ria Coleman and Scott McQueen.

Aaron “Godson” Hernandez, also of Yellowknife, will be ramping up the party vibe with his hip hop at the SWARM party and fashion show on Friday, Apr. 26.

The Dehcho Drummers and Inuvik Drum Dancers will be part of a musical performance spectacle on Apr. 28, teaming up with the Dakhkà Khwàan Dancers of Yukon to share the diversity of drum dancing traditions throughout the North.

The hot, meaty eats of Yellowknife’s Wise Guy Foods truck chef Robin Wasicuna will be featured as part of the North-South Fusion culinary event on the evening of May 1.

Over 30 artists will have their work showcased in art and film exhibitions and fashion shows around the city.

The Northern Scene is the sixth in a series of biannual national festivals produced by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, which kicked off with Atlantic Scene in 2003.

With 250 participants, it promises to be the largest gathering ever of Northern artists south of the 60th parallel.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #239 was pleased to make the following donations in 2012:

Nikita Hehn (Support for Overseas Volunteering).....	2,000.00	PWK High School (Plaque For Top Attendance)	25.00
Sutherland House (Single Parent Christmas Lunch).....	701.81	Pelican Rapids Golf Course (Merchant’s Golf Tournament, Youth/Senior Prizes) ...	500.00
Fort Smith Fish Derby (Prizes For Youth Category).....	500.00	Albert Jewell (Assist Member in Need)	500.00
Megan Walsh (Attend Forum For Young Canadians)	895.00	Gaylen Pischinger (Attend Hockey Academy)	3,500.00
PWK High School (Ben Lesser Visit)	1,500.00	Olivia Villebrun (Attend Powershift Conference)	500.00
Alberta/NWT Command (Polio Fund)	976.10	Alica Korol (Attend RCL Sponsored Track & Field Meet).....	1,750.00
Alberta/NWT Command (Youth Fund).....	1,464.50	Uncle Gabe’s Friendship Center (Lunch Program).....	5,000.00
RCMP Regimental Ball (TV For Auction)	503.00	Alzheimer’s Society (Donation).....	1,501.80
Daniel Rohne (Attend a National Badminton Tournament)	1,100.00	JBT School (Snack Program).....	7,000.00
Canadian War Museum (Operation Veteran).....	2,000.00	PWK High School (Snack Program)	7,000.00
Fort Smith Cadets (Operational Costs)	16,049.04	Nelda Bourke (Assist Member in Need)	500.00
Fort Smith Seniors Society (2012 Senior Games)	2,100.00	RCL Branch #239 (Purchase Electric Scooter).....	2,661.75
Fort Smith Volunteer Fire Dept. (Purchase Thermal Energy Camera).....	6,210.00	PWK High School (Travel Club).....	2,000.00
PWK High School (Scholarship).....	250.00	Fort Smith Extended Hand (Christmas Dinner).....	500.00
Fort Smith Animal Shelter (Annual Calendar)	3,000.00	Northern Lights Special Care Home (Christmas Dinner).....	500.00
Northern Lights Special Care Home (Purchase a Shadow Box).....	1,000.00	Northern Lights Special Care Home (Purchase Portable Oxygen Tank)	3,700.00
PWK High School (L. Hobart Memorial Volleyball Tournament).....	7,000.00	Fort Smith Men’s Shelter (Christmas Dinner).....	250.00
Brenden Leguerrier (Attend Camp in Edmonton).....	3,850.00	Movember (Team Darrell Loutit - Fundraising For Cancer Research)	2,000.00
Calista Burke (Attend Biathlon Camp).....	1,522.00	Movember (Team FSVFD - Fundraising For Cancer Research).....	1,000.00
Wood Buffalo National Park (Pine Lake Picnic).....	1,000.00	RCL Branch #239 (Donation to Community Poppy Fund)	1,496.00
Thebacha & Wood Buffalo Astronomic Society (Youth Astronomy Camp)	500.00	Sutherland House (Christmas Dinner)	1,800.00
The Hospital Activity Book For Children.....	229.95	Fort Smith Métis Council (Host Elder’s Dinner)	1,500.00
		Fort Smith Ski Club (Fundraiser for the Food Bank/Seniors)	1,350.00

Total Donations in 2012.....\$100,885⁹⁵

We look forward to continuing to support the Veterans, Seniors and Youth of Fort Smith in the future.

Iron Chef of Meatballs crowned in Fort Smith

IRON CHEF BECKIE'S WINNING MEATBALLS

- 1 7/8 cups undiluted evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1/2 cup fine cracker crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 tbsp. prepared mustard
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- Phyllo pastry

Mix all ingredients, except phyllo, together. Shape the mixture into meatballs. Lay out the phyllo pastry and cut two layers into 3-4 inch squares. Brush with butter. Wrap meatballs in phyllo and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve with a sauce of your choice.



Photos: Don Jaque



Above: Last Saturday night Fort Smith's Roaring Rapids Hall was the scene of the much anticipated Iron Chef Meatballs event, a fun filled evening and fundraiser for cancer. Event organizer Barbara Clark (centre) is flanked by her troop of meatball and dessert chefs, from left to right: Beckie Linaker, Anna Kikoak, Mathieu Doucet, Katie Hicks, Joann Gauthier, Lynn Napier Buckley, Derise Rehm, Keith Barton, Janie Hobart and Marnie Villeneuve.

Far left: Barbara Clark (right) presents Beckie Linaker with a prize after she was voted "Best Meatball Chef" by the over 150 participants present who tested seven different meatball entrées.

Right: One of a panel of three judges, Mayor Brad Brake taste tests winning chef Marnie Villeneuve's dessert entry of caramel infused chocolate chiffon cake.



Wood Buffalo Frolics 2013

March 7 to March 10

Final schedule available next week...

Planning and Preparation for the 2013 Frolics is well underway. Here's your chance to get out, get involved and have some fun!

- Youth Northern Events
- Adult Northern Events
- MLA's Sliding Party
- Community Feast
- Family Swim
- Sugar Shack
- Kids Carnival
- And much more...



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For more information, please contact Chris Bird @ 872-4732 or email: cbird@fortsmith.ca

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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.

CLASSACTION Claim Support-Vioxx, others. The Nurses at The Optio Group will help prove your claim and get you the money you deserve. 1-855-939-0499; Claims@TheOptioGroup.ca; www.TheOptioGroup.ca.

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; rbauction.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: rbauction.com/realestate.

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STANTON
TERRITORIAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR TENDERS Ground Transportation Services Reference No. 12041 - Inuvik, NT -

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority is requesting tenders from Contractors interested in establishing a non-exclusive Standing Offer Agreement for the provision of Ground Transportation services on an "As and When" required basis in the community of Inuvik.

Tenders will be received until:

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

at the following location:

Stanton Territorial Health Authority
Materials Management Department
1st Floor Stanton Territorial Hospital
550 Byrne Road, Yellowknife, NT
Phone: (867) 669-4173, Fax: (867) 669-4132.

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

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

Lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca

INVITATION TO TENDER



Town of Fort Smith Rec. Center Doors Replacement Tender #2013-003

Sealed tenders will be received at the Town of Fort Smith Municipal Office at 174 McDougal Road until 3:00 p.m. March 22, 2013 local time, for the supply and install of Rec Center Main Doors. Tender documents may be obtained during regular office hours at the Fort Smith Municipal Office or from the Town's website at www.fortsmith.ca.

Lowest or any tender
may not necessarily be accepted.

Inquiries to: Jean Soucy, Director Municipal Services
Town of Fort Smith
P.O. Box 147, Fort Smith NT XOE OPO
Email: townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca
Phone: (867) 872-8400
Fax: (867) 872-8401

Faxed or e-mail tenders will not be accepted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR ADVISOR

AKAITCHO – Mineral Industry Support Office

The Akaitcho Dene First Nations (AKFNs) and the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Chamber) are seeking a dynamic individual to manage an innovative and unique cooperative Pilot Project to advance mineral exploration and development in the Akaitcho Territory.

As Senior Advisor, you will play a critical role fulfilling the goals of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AKFN and the Chamber, to "collaborate towards mutually beneficial mineral exploration and development in the Akaitcho Territory."

The Senior Advisor must demonstrate leadership and creativity to facilitate and foster positive and trusting relationship-building, and engagement and consultation between the AKFNs and industry members. The Senior Advisor will help create and be guided by an Action Plan that includes working with communities and industry to help advance responsible projects, educating proponents on First Nation circumstances and vice versa; enhancing training, employment, and business opportunities between the AKFNs and Chamber members; and marketing the Akaitcho Territory as an attractive stable destination for responsible investment. The Senior Advisor will conduct business from an Akaitcho – Minerals Industry Support Office located in the Chamber of Mines Office in Yellowknife.

**For a copy of the job description
and to submit an application contact:**

The Akaitcho – Industry Relationship Committee
email both executivedirector@miningnorth.com
and scellis@eastarm.com.

The competition closes March 8, 2013.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCES Hay River, NT

You will provide strategic direction and leadership in planning and executing human resource initiatives and programs in support of Corporate objectives and ensure compliance with federal and territorial acts and regulations. As well as perform at the executive leadership level as a member of the Executive Committee in developing and directing Corporate objectives, financial and business plans, and strategies to ensure the effective planning and delivery of programs and services to achieve the Corporate mandate. This position also manages corporate training and development to ensure the Corporation maximizes its financial investment in training dollars and employee skill sets, as well as ensures the Corporation has appropriate documentation and records in place with regard to employee training, qualifications and standards to assist in meeting the requirements of Territorial and Federal legislation, acts codes and regulations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Academic credentials to include a combination of a degree in business with a major in human resources/labour relations with at least eight years of directly related experience in all aspects of human resources with an emphasis on labour relations and collective bargaining, including at least five years of leadership experience supervising, overseeing and/or directing the work of others; OR A diploma in human resource management together with a minimum of ten years of directly related experience in all aspects of human resources with an emphasis on labour relations and collective bargaining, including at least five years of leadership experience supervising, overseeing and/or directing the work of others. Knowledge of applicable human resources and labour relations legislation, related regulations, principles, and best practices. CHRP designation an asset.

BENEFITS: Salary under review. We offer a comprehensive benefits package which includes defined benefits pension plan. Send resumes to: Human Resources, Northwest Territories Power Corporation, #4 Capital Drive, Hay River NT XOE 1G2, Fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: careers@ntpc.com Competition #: 07-HR-13. Open until suitable candidate is found.

Affirmative Action Employer - Candidates must clearly identify eligibility status in order to receive priority consideration. We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



APPRENTICES (term positions)

Upon the successful completion of your apprenticeship program, you will be offered a full-time position with the NWT Power Corporation. We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic individuals interested in pursuing a career in trades within the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. We provide a combination of on-the-job and in-school training.

APPRENTICE DIESEL MECHANIC Yellowknife 08-YK-13

APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN Fort Simpson 09-SP-13

Qualifications: High School Diploma with overall average of 70+%. Some related experience also required.

APPRENTICE POWER LINEPERSON Fort Simpson 10-SP-13

APPRENTICE POWER LINEPERSON Fort Smith 11-SM-13

Qualifications: High School Diploma with overall average of minimum 70% and a pass in grade 11 pure math or applied math. Some related experience also required.

Successful candidates will be required to write and pass the appropriate Trades Entrance exam. You must have good written and verbal communication skills. You must be willing to travel in small aircraft and winter roads to remote communities for extended periods of time. Salary range starts at \$23.92 per hour for an apprentice and goes up to \$46.17 per hour for journey person certification. Salary increases are based on experience and successful completion of training. We also offer accommodation and location allowances. We offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a Defined-Benefit Pension Plan. Qualified applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume and high school transcripts, quoting the competition number to: NTPC Attention: Human Resources, #4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT, XOE 1G2 or fax (867) 874-5229 or email careers@ntpc.com Closing Date: March 18, 2013. We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Affirmative Action Employer - Candidates must clearly identify their eligibility in order to receive priority consideration under the Affirmative Action Program.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



ASSET MANAGER, HYDRO Hay River, NT

The successful candidate will be responsible for the Asset Management of the Corporation's hydro plants in the NWT. The position will also have responsibility for analysing life cycle costs of hydro plants taking into consideration efficiency, operating costs, maintenance and asset life. You will be responsible for the condition assessment of the Corporations hydro plants including dams and waterways and to recommend replacement/rehabilitation projects as appropriate. Integral to this will be long term planning, scoping and budgeting of the projects identified to maintain or improve the Corporations hydro assets. You will also provide guidance and make recommendations on the maintenance of the Corporations Hydro plants to optimize the life of the Corporations assets.

QUALIFICATIONS: You will have a Bachelor's degree in Civil or Mechanical Engineering with P.Eng status and a minimum of ten years of relevant experience. Be a strong leader with excellent communication skills; a motivator of teams. Previous design and project engineering/asset management experience with an Owner/Operator that operates hydro plants engines for utility electrical power generation. Benefits: Salary under review, plus location, & accommodation allowances of approximately \$7,773 per annum. We offer a comprehensive benefits package which includes defined benefits pension plan.

SEND RESUMES TO: Human Resources, Northwest Territories Power Corporation, #4 Capital Drive, Hay River NT XOE 1G2, Fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: careers@ntpc.com Competition #: 06-HR-13. Closing date: Open until suitable candidate is found.

Affirmative Action Employer - Candidates must clearly identify eligibility status in order to receive priority consideration. We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



SUMMER STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES Hay River and Yellowknife, NT

NTPC has a number of summer student employment opportunities available. Students must be enrolling/enrolled in diploma or degree programs this fall. Summer student employment opportunities are available in the following fields:

YELLOWKNIFE

Mechanical or Civil Engineering
Automations Communications Engineering
Mechanical or Electrical Trades

HAY RIVER

Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
Information Technology/Computer Science
Public Relations or Communications
Finance/Economics/Commerce

Qualified applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume including two references from your most recent supervisors or instructors. You also need to indicate the community(s) you are prepared to work in. Please submit your resume and references quoting Competition No. 04-SS-13 to: Human Resources, 4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT XOE 1G2 Fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: careers@ntpc.com

Affirmative Action Employer - Candidates must clearly identify their eligibility. We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Employment, Tenders and Legal Notices



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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Family Law Mediation Services SC434386

– Northwest Territories –

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Justice, would like to increase the number of family law mediators who provide services to the Family Law Mediation Program. Successful proponents will be offered contracts to provide mediation services “as required”.

Sealed proposals addressed to the Purchasing and Contracts Officer, Department of Justice, Government of the NWT, 4903-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 27, 2013.

Proponents may obtain proposal documents from the following:

General inquiries to:
Ben Singer
Purchasing and Contracts Officer
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 920-6443
E-mail: ben_singer@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
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Chief Jimmy Bruneau School Ventilation Upgrade CT101288

– Behchokò, NT –

Upgrades to the Ventilation System of Chief Jimmy Bruneau School.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5015-44th Street, Yellowknife, NT (delivered to the North Slave Regional Office), will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 25, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the NWT Construction Association at (867) 873-3949 as of February 25, 2013.

To be considered each tender must be submitted on the forms provided and must be accompanied by the security stated in the tender documents.

Pre-tender meeting: March 6, 10:00 am, in the main lobby of the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School, Behchokò.

General Inquiries to:
Tanya-Louise Gray
Acting Contract Administrator
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7662

Technical Inquiries to:
Zoltan Kalnay
Project Officer
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7633

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



Government of the Northwest Territories

For copies of the job description please visit
www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment

Corrections Supervisor

Justice Hay River, NT

Indeterminate

Limited to candidates residing in the South Slave Region in the communities of Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Resolution and Enterprise.

Salary starts at \$41.65 per hour (approximately \$81,218 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$5,187.

Job Opening ID#: 10231 **Closing Date:** March 1, 2013

► **Apply Online:** www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment

Inquiries Only: Hay River Human Resource Service Centre,
209, 62 Woodland Drive, Hay River, NT X0E 1G1,
Fax: (867) 874-5095, E-mail: jobshayriver@gov.nt.ca

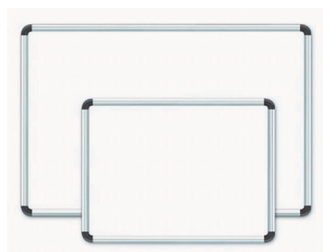
- Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require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



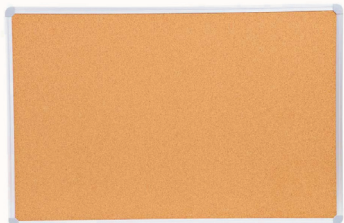
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REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Surfacing Aggregate Production CT101266

– NWT Highway 1, Km 201 and Highway 6, Km 25, NT –

The production of Surfacing Aggregate at various sites.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 19, 2013.

Tender documents are available as of February 25, 2013, at the locations noted above.

Pre-tender meeting: 10:30 am, March 4, 2013,
76 Capital Drive, Suite 201, Hay River, NT.

General inquiries to: Marilyn Tordoff
Phone: (867) 874-5010

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.

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Nunavut port project a challenge to Yellowknife

By JACK DANYLCHUK

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has set the stage for public hearings that will determine how and when mining companies tap vast mineral deposits that lie beneath the calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou herd. Nunavut’s share of the Slave Geologic Province is a relatively untouched trove, but several new mines are planned for the region once isolated by distance and ice that is fast disappearing from Arctic waters.

The developments are challenging the capacity of regulators and First Nations to keep pace, along with the future of the struggling Bathurst caribou herd, and could diminish Yellowknife’s status as the supply base for exploration and mining in the Western Arctic.

The federal government will decide sometime this year on a recommendation from the NIRB for a full public review of MMG Resources Ltd.’s sprawling Izok Lake project, 260 km south of Kugluktuk.

MMG, a subsidiary of the Chinese state-owned China Minmetals, wants to begin work on the site in late 2014, before the regulatory process is complete, and the Izok project could be producing zinc, copper and lead by 2018.

The Izok project involves two separate mines that require draining four lakes, 350 km of roads, two air strips, camps for 1,100 workers and a port at Gray’s Bay, 180 km east of Kugluktuk, capable

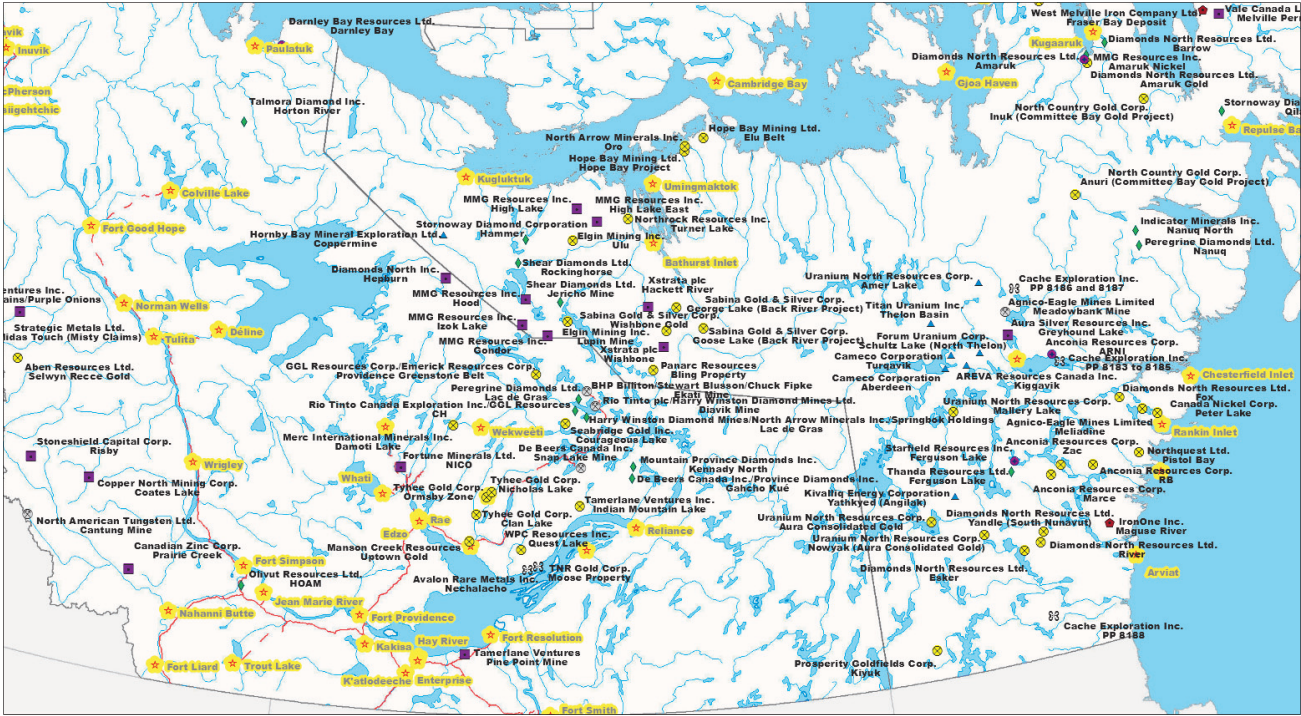


Image: NWT/Nunavut Chamber of Mines

Northwest Territories and Nunavut Mineral Exploration Projects (2012)

of berthing ships of 50,000 tonnes.

Winter roads already reach into the heart of the region and MMG will use the Tibbett-Contwoyto ice road to ferry supplies during construction. But when the mines are operating, MMG plans to rely primarily on the port and transportation network of airstrips and roads.

Another port that could serve the region has been planned for more than a decade. Sabina Gold and Silver

bought the moribund Bathurst Inlet port and road project in 2011 to supply its mine at Back River.

Earlier this month, NIRB said Sabina and its partner Xzastra Zinc could pick up where the inquiry into the Bathurst port left off in 2004, but asked the proponents for an updated proposal with more detail on potential impacts on the environment.

MMG, Sabina and Xzastra could decide to share a port, as some interveners

suggested to the NIRB. The port could also supply future mines in the region and take business from Yellowknife. The NWT Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society questioned whether the Izok road and port are feasible without support from other mine developers in the region.

Nine mine projects are proposed or under review in the Kitikmeot region, and “carry the potential for increased fragmentation of largely undisturbed caribou

habitat,” the NIRB stated in a Dec.16 letter to John Duncan, minister of Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada.

The NIRB believes that “the potential for cumulative ecosystemic and related socio-economic effects require thorough consideration to fully understand the implications of this proposed project.

“The project may have significant adverse effects on the ecosystem, wildlife

habitat or Inuit harvesting activities, socio-economic effects on Northerners, (and) involves technological innovations for which the effects are unknown,” Phillip Kadlum, NIRB vice-chairman, said in the letter to Duncan.

More than 400 individuals, environmental advocacy groups, First Nations and governments registered concerns about the project. Many pointed out that the Bathurst herd has only recently stabilized after a 90 per cent drop in population over the past 25 years - a decline steep enough to curtail hunting - and many fear the mines might disrupt recovery.

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Nunavut government also called for a review, but support the project for its economic stimulus, although the sparsely-populated region will be hard pressed to fill the anticipated 1,100 construction and 710 mining jobs.

The government of the Northwest Territories told the NIRB it is “particularly concerned that the recovery of the caribou herd may be delayed necessitating extensions on harvest restrictions in the NWT, resulting in continued hardship.”

The Dene Nation, Lutsel K’e Dene and Yellowknives Dene rejected the MMG project outright. The Tlicho wants the highest level of review and a seat on the review board, and the Canadian Arctic Resource Committee wants a study of transportation options for the region before the NIRB approves any further projects.

Yellowknife diamond row factory deal still not iced

By JACK DANYLCHUK

After searching for a year to find a buyer for two moth-balled diamond factories, the territorial government appears to be in no rush to complete the \$1.9 million sale to Deepak International Ltd.

A week before he embarked on a diamond fact-finding mission to Europe and Africa in January, Industry Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay revealed that Deepak Kumar, a former ITI employee, was negotiating to purchase the two buildings on what was Diamond Row in Yellowknife.

As part of the deal, Ramsay said Deepak International

Ltd. would get “approved NWT diamond manufacturer status,” giving it access to a portion of 10 per cent of rough diamonds mined in the territory and use of the polar bear trademark.

But the Jan. 31 closing date for the sale of the Diamond Row buildings – the latest in a series of missed deadlines – came and went without word from Kumar or the government.

Kumar did not reply to emailed questions about the sale, but Ramsay’s office said Deepak International “is busy securing specialty equipment, recruiting personnel, working on rough diamond supply contracts and developing

marketing and distribution channels.”

Evert Botha, whose father taught diamond cutting and polishing at Aurora College in Yellowknife for seven years, also looked at the two Diamond Row properties. The Botha family operates a diamond manufacturing plant in Prince Albert and considered expanding their business to the NWT.

“My father and mother lived seven years in Yellowknife and enjoyed the experience,” Botha said in a *Journal* interview. “But it is just too expensive to operate there. Everything costs more: housing, transportation. For those reasons, we did not make an offer on the buildings.”

Kumar arrived in Canada from India in 2003 and settled in Behchoko where he held down three jobs while looking for larger opportunities. In 2006, he moved to Edmonton and began exporting cut and polished Canadian diamonds to buyers in Asia.

Kumar said that in India, his family has been “in the diamond and jewelry business for many generations; without in-depth understanding, technical know-how and experience it is impossible to be successful in this very complex business.

“I am a self-made success story of the NWT,” Kumar said in an email after Ramsay’s announcement. “While

I was working many jobs round the clock, I never lost my focus on my dream to start my own Canadian diamond business and as soon as I had a little capital saved, I totally left the jobs and started my business.”

Although the territorial government has a broad array of programs that could help a company like Deepak International, Kumar said that “with our operation, not even a single penny of taxpayers’ money is on the line in any manner.

“I always thought that I could do things differently and when in 2011 the GNWT was advertising the opportunity, I decided to consider it,

and here we are at the beginning of an exciting journey,” Kumar said in an email.

“Looking back, it’s a long journey that started in the small community of NWT Rae-Edzo by selling GNWT-certified diamonds online, which led to wholesale distribution, and in a fairly short time we have grown from the Arctic to the Great Wall of China,” Kumar said.

“Deepak International Ltd. will undoubtedly play an important role in the continued development of the Canadian diamond industry. My vision is to create a global footprint for polar bear brand diamonds,” he said.

Higher gas prices keep on truckin’ across NWT

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

There will be no pleasant surprises for Northerners filling up at the pumps as gas prices across the Northwest Territories continue to fluctuate in the higher price range.

Inuvik drivers were paying one of the highest rates last week with prices teetering above \$1.70.

“We’ve had a couple increases over the last two weeks,” Barb Lennie, manager of the Arctic Esso in Inuvik, said.

Gas was at \$1.74 at the Arctic Esso last Wednesday. Lennie said she expects the price to go up by a few cents in coming days.

“I don’t usually bother putting it up unless it’s a three cent difference to me, and actually right now my margin is much lower than it normally is or I’d be at about six cents more a litre.”

The last time gas went down was just around the end of the holiday season, Lennie said.

Hay River had one of the lowest gas rates of the new year when prices plummeted to \$1.129 and held there for nearly two weeks at the end of January.

“We were at \$1.31 before the new year, then it dropped to \$1.24, then \$1.12. Now we’re back up to \$1.289 and I see it staying there for a little bit anyways,” Kurtis King, manager of the Hay River Esso Service, told *The Journal* last Wednesday.

Yellowknife gas prices remained high even when Hay



Charles Desjarlais of Fort Smith checks out the price of gas as he fills his tank.

Photo: Don Jaque

River dipped to \$1.12. They continue to hover around an average of \$1.389. The price at the capital’s Gastown Ltd. was \$1.429 last week.

In Fort Smith, gas has been at \$1.19 for cardlock users at TDC since early February. The Rapid Corner Store and Kelly’s Convenience Store and Gas Bar were both at \$1.30 last week.

Meanwhile, the price of gas at the Co-op in Lutsel K’e hasn’t moved from \$1.73 since October.

“Our price usually only changes once a year, up or down, when the new supply, which comes in on the barge every August, starts being used. The price of fuel was up everywhere else last fall, so our price went up 10 cents for this year too,” Brian Greene, Co-op manager, said.

Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche brought up the issue of fixed fuel rates in remote communities in house last Tuesday.

“The petroleum products division provides fuel to a number of these small towns in my riding. Fuel is delivered in the winter; however, the fuel rates are set in July and sold at a fixed rate throughout the year. Rates can be very high and put a lot of pressure on people who rely on the traditional economy,” he said.

“I urge this government to look at ways to make fuel prices more fair and reasonable. One of the ways they can do that is through a freight

subsidy that would help make up for the fixed costs.”

Gas went up eight cents last Monday at the Big River Service Centre in Fort Providence to \$1.429.

The Deh Cho Bridge has not been a factor driving the rates, Dave Wilkes, Big River’s general manager, said.

“The bridge has had an effect in that we don’t have a mad rush of truckers fuelling up at the same time. And in April, when there used to be that eight-week

period without the ferry or ice road, business was bad. This year, things should be better.”

Across Canada, Edmonton has one of the best pump prices, averaging around \$1.097 with Calgary close behind at \$1.126.

Gas price analyst Jason Toews said he’d be surprised to see gas prices go below a dollar per litre in the NWT.

“This time of year, refineries like to do their maintenance, so what happens is we end up with a bit of a supply shortage across the country, driving prices up,” Toews, co-founder of the *GasBuddy.com* website, said.

Higher prices in certain centres like Yellowknife are all about location, he added.

“In the more remote or rural areas, the fewer gas stations there are and the less competitive they are with each other,” he said. “Now they want to avoid trying to seem like they’re gouging consumers, but certainly there’s less pressure to have a great gas price like in major cities,” he said.

According to the winter energy outlook from Canada’s National Energy Board, prices are expected to average between \$1.20 and \$1.40 across the country this season.

Americans are also grumbling about pocket-emptying fill-ups at the pumps.

The average price for a gallon of gasoline across the US is up to \$3.67 a gallon, a 12 cent increase from the past week and 42 cents from the past month.

Politics Business

Smith Chamber of Commerce selects new executive *Mayor wants to see more businesses use chamber as ‘vehicle of good will’*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The new president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, resurrected in 2012 after a three year hiatus, plans to hone in on short-term and long-term strategy development, increase the chamber’s membership and target sports tourism in 2013.

Former mayor Janie Hobart, voted in by 11 attending members last Wednesday night at the chamber’s annual general meeting, is taking the helm from outgoing president Dana Jackson. “We have to work on a membership drive to get more businesses involved, including home



Janie Hobart

occupations,” she told *The Journal*. “We need a broader range of the business we have. Last year, we had 43 businesses registered with the chamber, but there are

over 200 business licences out there.”

Other members of the 2013 executive include TDC Contracting co-owner Marie Swanson as treasurer, Northwestern Air general and operations manager Brian Harold as secretary and CAB Construction president Craig Browne as director at large. Jackson was voted in as vice president.

“Definitely for 2013 there has to be a focus on strategic planning, as we didn’t get to that in 2012. So we’ll focus on what we want to do in the future and immediate goals,” Jackson said.

An executive meeting to discuss goals is planned for

later this week. No immediate goals have been set.

At the next general meeting in March, members at large will establish a strategic plan for critical goals, both in 2013 and for three to five years down the road, Hobart said.

“We want people to move here, live here, shop here, work here. It’s time to look at more long-term, sustainable economic strategies, instead of just one ‘Shop Local’ weekend kick, so to speak,” Jackson added.

Hobart also mentioned the importance of recognizing the potential for sports tourism in Fort Smith for businesses.

“We already have a sports tourism infrastructure in place, such as our brand new track, the volleyball tournament in the fall where we have 56 teams competing,” she said. “Most kids when they travel up North, they bring \$200 to spend. So let’s get the businesses involved and have things for them to spend their money on.”

Mayor Brad Brake was also present at last Wednesday’s meeting and spoke about what needs to be improved in the business community.

“Fort Smith is underperforming and we need existing businesses to provide investment in

under-marketed areas such as winter tourism and special sporting events. Each new, successful event brings much needed dollars into our community. It could be as simple as a donation or seconding staff and equipment to assist,” he said at the meeting.

He encouraged more businesses to join the chamber to put them front and centre in the community.

“They can use it as a lobby group and as a method of helping within the community. That’s what I’d like to see happen: more business using the chamber as a vehicle for good will,” Brake said.

NWT School Curling Champs showcase growing curling interest among youth

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
It isn't just the adults taking curling seriously across the NWT.

Two out of four junior teams from Fort Smith returned with medals from the NWT School Curling Championships, open to anyone registered in an NWT school, in Hay River on Feb. 7-10.

One of the Fort Smith junior boys teams walked away with the gold medal and the Little Rocks team took home the bronze.

Ten year-old Joe Sturgeon of Fort Smith said it was "exciting" to play in the gold medal game in the C division in Hay River against a team from Yellowknife.

Hay River took home the bronze.

In the Little Rocks, Yellowknife won gold and Hay River took silver.

"I like thinking of strategies. We had to do that. You need to have strategies in curling; that's why I like it," Sturgeon told *The Journal*



Junior Fort Smith curlers practice their footwork and lunging last Thursday during a warmup.

during one of the team's routine Thursday afternoon practices.

It's a sign things are going well on the curling ice sheet when it comes to the Little Rocks, curlers aged seven

and below, and the Junior C Division for players seven years-old and up, coach Nick Kaeser said.

"They're passionate, energetic kids and they just like curling; they're talking

about it to their friends in school," Kaeser, who has been coaching curling in Fort Smith for three years, said. "The more we can attract to the sport, the better."

NWT School Curling Championships coordinator Gary Hoffman said the "kids had a ball," each team playing six games.

"There were smiles around all weekend. So that's a sign they're having fun," he said. "Curling keeps them on the ice and out of trouble so it's great."

The junior curlers hosted a "Bring a Friend to Curling" day last Monday in Fort Smith, which was a success, Kaeser said.

"We had 32 young curlers in total, so there's definitely an interest and I'm looking forward to seeing that grow and the team grow," he said.

The curlers work on establishing technique at practice, like throwing the rocks with left or right spins, Kaeser said.

Fort Smith's Hunter Villeneuve, 9, said she likes curling for the friends she makes at practices.

"It's fun. We get to play games...I like throwing the rocks and hanging out with my friends here."

Photo: Renée Francoeur

SPORTS

BRIEFS

Yk schools win big at senior basketball

Sir John Franklin High School and St. Patrick school were the overall champions of the NWT Power Corp. Senior Basketball Cager Tournament in Yellowknife Feb. 22-24. St. Patrick won first place in both the senior girls and junior boys division with Sir John taking the winning title for junior girls and senior boys. The senior boys team from PWK placed seventh overall, winning one of their five games 90-57 against Hay River. It was the first time in nine years a Fort Smith team played in the cager. PWK won the banner for most sportsmanlike boys team.

Hay River to take on Yellowknife in Northern Hockey

The Northern Hockey Challenge's West Division continued this weekend in Hay River. Friday night the Hay River Huskies stole the game with a 8-3 win against the Inuvik Delta Stars. The Huskies almost walked away with Saturday night's game too until Inuvik came back from a 4-1 deficit in the third period. The Stars scored a goal with 1:42 remaining to tie up the score 4-4. There were no games played in the east division this weekend. The Stars will take on Yellowknife in Inuvik on Mar. 8-9 in the final weekend series of the round robin for the West.

Novice Hawks keep up winning streak in Yk

Six novice hockey teams faced off in Yellowknife this past weekend. The Fort Smith Hawks kept up their winning streak, stealing four of their games and losing one. They played four different Yellowknife teams and one from Hay River, coach Wes Steed said. An initiation hockey tournament is scheduled for Hay River on Mar. 9-10.

Wood Buffalo to host Dancing with the Stars event

Wood Buffalo community leaders will be kicking up their heels Apr. 13 for the municipality's second annual Dancing with the Stars competition. For \$20 a vote, the public can cast their ballot for the best dancer. Seven couples will be competing this year, including a RCMP constable and radio host. All funds go towards the SPCA.

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Northerners celebrate winter at Fort Chip carnival



Snowcross was one of the top events at this year's carnival with high-flying snowmobiles, quads and bikes taking over the town.



Fort Smith's Brandon Tuckey comes in sixth in the six-dog race across the Lake Front.



Mary Schaefer gets ready to go with her six-dog team. She came in fifth in the race.



Moe Ladouceur, who placed fourth in the 10-dog race, kicks off at the start.

Photos: Donald Voyageur & Maurice Evans



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