

March is Aboriginal Language Month “niwichiwakakan tanisi”

Be the first to guess the above phrase and win a language prize package!
Bring your answer into the Northern Journal.



Brought to you by
The NWT Cree Language Program

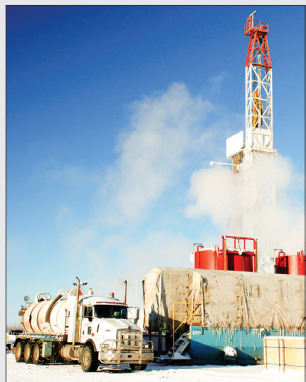
Tuesday, March 5, 2013
Vol. 36 No.43

An independent newspaper
serving Northern Alberta
and the Northwest Territories
since 1977

NORTHERN Journal

2011 national award winner - “Best All-Round Newspaper”

\$1.00



MLAs pass motion for industry prep in Sahtu

MLAs in the NWT are asking for federal support of job readiness and road construction in the Sahtu to prepare the region for a boom. See page 3.



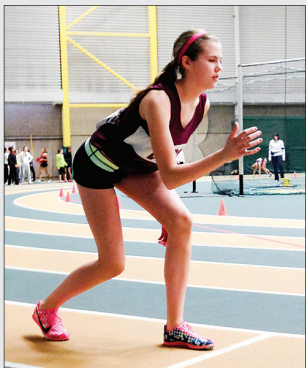
Mackenzie salmon study supports local knowledge

Findings of a decrease in Mackenzie River salmon in 2012 confirms local knowledge that populations work in cycles. See page 9.



Traditional Games event celebrates culture

Around 150 youth participated in the first ever Traditional Games Championships in Yellowknife over the weekend. See page 10.



NWT track athletes heading to Toronto in May

A select group of top track and field athletes will be heading to the Nike Grand Prix to compete in May. See page 15.



Dave Porter, Diane Seals and their daughter Taylor, 5, take a breather during the Thebacha Loppet on Saturday on the Fort Smith ski trails. The classic skiing event from Fort Fitzgerald to Fort Smith boasted a record turnout of 110 participants, with clear warm weather of -9C. See page 19 for more.

Tlicho join devolution with deal ‘days away’

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With the conclusion of devolution negotiations just “days away” according to the premier, the Tlicho government has agreed to become a party to the devolution Agreement in Principle (AiP).

Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus said the decision is about ensuring the Tlicho government will be respected after devolution.

“The Tlicho have the right to be involved in the implementation of the devolution agreement,” Erasmus told *The Journal*. “Therefore, we need to be involved in the AiP to ensure that the implementation of this agreement respects our agreement. It has to respect the Tlicho Agreement and provide the Tlicho government

with a meaningful role in this implementation. The only way we can do this is

never done before,” he said. “Now this will provide the opportunity for us to build

We need to be involved in the AiP to ensure that the implementation of this agreement respects our (Tlicho) agreement.

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

to be there, involved in the process.”

He said devolution has the potential to be “of great benefit” to the Tlicho and everyone else in the territory, but that it will take hard work and cooperation.

“It really requires the GNWT and other Aboriginal organizations to work together in ways they’ve

a strong and prosperous Northwest Territories. It will be what we make of it. The Tlicho government is ready to do our part to make the AiP strengthen our communities.”

Prior to the AiP, Erasmus said the Tlicho fought along with other Aboriginal governments for a “fair share” of resource royalties that

will come to the NWT as a result of devolution.

“The fact that the devolution agreement will now provide resource royalties is something we helped build,” he said. “The Tlicho are entitled to a share of that revenue. The time has now come for the Tlicho to get involved and share the hard work that we put in it and the benefits that we negotiated prior to the AiP.”

Erasmus said the 25 per cent cut of resource royalties promised to Aboriginal governments in the AiP is a “done deal” and is satisfactory for the Tlicho in that it is “over and above” what they already get through their settled claim and self-government agreements.

Erasmus had initially refused to sign on to the AiP,

attempting to force his way to the table through the back door last summer as a government with equal powers to the GNWT and Canada. NWT Premier Bob McLeod refused.

McLeod said he is “very pleased” the Tlicho decided to sign the AiP, which will “create benefits for all the people of the Northwest Territories” by giving them control of environmental protection and management.

The official signing ceremony will take place in Behchoko on Mar. 8.

Erasmus now joins heads of the Inuvialuit Regional Corp., the NWT Métis Nation, the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. and the Gwich’in Tribal Council at the negotiating table with Canada and the territorial government.

See Devolution on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sun transit affects internet service

Northwestel satellite facilities will be experiencing sun-related service degradations as a result of the alignment of the sun with the telecommunications satellite and its ground stations, the company announced Monday. Sun transit outages occur for several days semi-annually when the satellite passes directly between the dish on the earth's surface and the sun. Customers may experience noise or service interruptions between 12:22 and 13:00 MST until Mar. 7.

Intoxicated man arrested south of Wrigley for wielding firearm

Fort Simpson RCMP arrested a man at the Wrigley hotel, 1 km south of Wrigley, on Feb. 24 after it was complained the individual was intoxicated and wielding a firearm. William Delowski, 39, of High Level was charged with careless use of a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and unlawful possession of a firearm. He's scheduled to appear in Fort Simpson Territorial Court on May 1.

Tulita receives 4G wireless service

Northwestel launched its 4G wireless network in Tulita last Wednesday, meaning residents will now be able to call, text, browse the internet and download on handheld devices, such as smart phones and tablets. Northwestel is currently investing over \$15 million to enhance broadband internet service in communities in the NWT, launching a similar network upgrade in Fort Providence the week earlier.

Housing Corp. adding senior facilities to four NWT communities

The NWT Housing Corp. is planning to add four seniors' supported housing units to the communities of Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope, Fort Liard and Whati, Minister Robert C. McLeod announced last week, with construction beginning in the summer of 2014. Each facility will likely contain eight independent housing units, space for the delivery of home care and a gathering space for visitors and other seniors. There will be caretakers units and security in these facilities. The Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik will also be replaced rather than renovated.



Avalon Rare Metals' proposed Thor Lake project would mine 15 types of rare earth metals, including uranium and thorium, near Thor Lake in the North Slave and transport the ore by barge to the old Pine Point mine site.

Industry Mining

Thor Lake hearings in Fort Res highlight Akaitcho divisions

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

After getting dragged through the mud by critical First Nations in Yellowknife the week previous, Thor Lake mine proponent Avalon Rare Metals Inc. got a positive boost from the only Aboriginal government to sign an accommodation

agreement with the company to date during the final hearings in Fort Resolution on Tuesday.

Deninu K'ue First Nation (DKFN) Chief Louis Balsillie praised the company for its involvement with the community and welcomed the promised employment opportunities with open arms in his opening address last week, highlighting the existing divisions among First Nations in the Akaitcho region.

"We're in dire need of this project to move ahead because our people are not being recognized on the north side of the lake and the impacts that come with it," Balsillie complained. "I'm listening to the news and stuff about how the other communities are not supporting this. And, you know, Avalon's been fair. They've been going to the communities and meeting with the communities. They came to our community when this project first started. We supported it from day one. We're still supporting it."

Both the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) said they would not be supporting the rare earth metals mining project at the hearings in Yellowknife, Feb. 18-21, stating the company did insufficient consultation, including on the use of traditional knowledge in their project planning.

YKDFN is still in negotiations with Avalon over an impact benefits agreement. LKDFN, while in the ratification phase, rescinded its support after members decided there were too many unanswered questions around wildlife and other environmental impacts.

The project would see metals including uranium and thorium mined from the Nechalacho deposit near Thor Lake and barged across Great Slave Lake to the old Pine

Point mine site for processing.

While Balsillie said there are some details that still need to be worked out on their end with Avalon, they said trying to stop the project is not the way to go.

"We need the work," he told the Mackenzie Valley

adding that fish and caribou move around the whole lake.

"So we use this whole land area, and I'm sure we all used it together. Now it looks like we're fighting over this little area that we all use...We're fighting over minerals and gold, diamonds, and whatever," Lafferty said.

We supported it from day one. We're still supporting it.

DKFN Chief Louis Balsillie

Environmental Impact Review Board panel. "Our community needs the ability to go out and get the contracts. We do have an agreement with Avalon and we're ready for business."

He added that the Akaitcho region should be working together to support economic opportunities for its people.

"This is an Akaitcho territory. We don't look at it as every other community having their own place of business...And we believe what we're doing is right for our people, for our youth and for our elders in the community," he said.

Similarly, elders from Fort Resolution voiced concern that the Yellowknives were trying to have the people "south of the lake" ignored in favour of their own concerns because the Nechalacho deposit falls on the YKDFN territory near Drybones Bay.

"Yellowknife people are trying to say that people from this side of the lake have never been on the other side of the lake to trap, hunt," elder Tommy Beau-lieu told the panel.

"My grandfather travelled all the way to Inuvik for spring hunt, and my other grandfather went all the way to McMurray to get his groceries," said Eddie Lafferty, another elder,

"I don't think we should fight for something we already own. We should be sharing it with each other."

Despite its support, DKFN's presentation to the board raised worries about people's ability to fish, trap and hunt after the mine and processing plant are operational, especially given the presence of radioactive minerals. DKFN negotiator Linda Vanden Berg said Avalon has a large hurdle to jump in proving to the community that it is a good corporate citizen who keeps its promises.

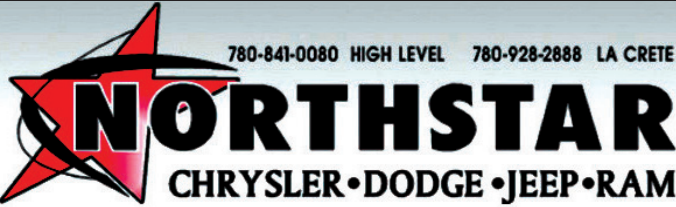
"We're not out to delay the process here. We're not out to stop the mine," she said. "We're simply out to ensure the safety of the workers in the mine."

The NWT Métis Nation also made a presentation during Tuesday's hearings, saying it did not support the transportation of ore across the lake out of fear of a spill.

Kara King, president of the Fort Resolution Métis Council, said it was "unfortunate" that the hearing was the first they had heard back about details on the barging portion of the mine project.


Tuesday's hearing brought the official end to the public environmental assessment of the Thor Lake project.

780-841-0080 HIGH LEVEL 780-928-2888 LA CRETE



NORTHSTAR
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

WHERE PEOPLE BECOME CUSTOMERS FOR LIFE!



FREE
Night Stay
in High Level
with every
purchase!

CAMPING SEASON
IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

GET GEARED UP AT
NORTHSTAR CHRYSLER
where we have a huge selection of new and used
Campers, Fifth Wheels and Toy Haulers!

Some of the best brands in the business
such as Heartland and Keystone

www.northstarchrysler.ca

MLAs pass motion to fund readiness in Sahtu

Motion requests talks with Ottawa on all-weather road, job training

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

MLAs passed a motion last week in Yellowknife calling for the territorial government to engage Ottawa on funding initiatives and infrastructure for people in the Sahtu region to prepare for the coming surge of oil and gas development.

The motion, put forth by Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya and supported by all 10 regular MLAs, called for more government pressure to be put on Canada toward constructing an all-weather road from Wrigley into the Sahtu, along with human resource development initiatives.

"The point that I want to make here is that the play is happening now. It's going on. The activity is there. This winter, over \$100 million is being spent in the Sahtu. Over 350 workers are working on seismic, driving, camp catering, you name it, they're working," Yakeleya said. "We recognize this in the Sahtu and we want to know when is this government, the federal government going to look at it and say there's encouraging results."

Yakeleya said Canada should fund the Sahtu like they did Voisey's Bay in



Sahtu elders get a tour of MGM Energy Corp.'s camp and drilling project near Tulita on Feb. 13.

Labrador in recent years following the rapid development of its mining sector. The federal government invested

\$75 million between 2003 and 2006 to ensure Aboriginal populations in Labrador would benefit from mining

through employment and the mitigation of social problems.

He said social problems like drinking and crime are already on the rise in the exploration stages and could worsen once full-blown industrial work begins in the region. Though the \$1.2 million recently allocated in the territorial budget for addressing social programs in the Sahtu is a good step, Yakeleya said more will be needed.

"The people in the Sahtu want to be wealthy, they want to be prosperous, want to have the opportunities but, like every other region in the North, they also want to save things," he said. "This is the direction that we want to be in now...so we can work with the other regions to get their people ready."

Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche, whose riding includes the community of Wrigley, said the all-weather Mackenzie Highway piece of the motion is especially important.

"When it comes to my riding, we saw in January when the road was shut down going up north how much of an impact that had on the communities of Wrigley and Fort Simpson. It backed up all the

way to Hay River as well. So it just showed me the impact of how huge that Sahtu shale play is, how much investment is going in there and how much industry is impacting our communities," he said.

"We have to pay attention to this. We cannot let this development just run on its own. We have to be aware, we have to work with it, we have to work with our federal counterparts and, at the same time, we have to mitigate the impacts on our communities."

Though the cabinet abstained from voting on the motion, Transportation/Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay said he appreciated the concern brought up by Yakeleya.

He said the GNWT continues to work with the federal government moving forward and that the Mackenzie Valley Highway remains a major priority for the government, adding that the government recently submitted an application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for the Wrigley to Dempster portion of the highway.

"This is the official start of the environmental review process and marks an

important milestone for an all-weather road through the valley," he said. "The federal government, through CanNor, has committed \$600,000 of the \$8 million estimated cost of the environmental assessment for the southern portion of the proposed highway. The completion of the EA is the first step towards the completion of the highway and we will continue to look for opportunities to fund this work, including seeking out additional federal funding."

Over the last decade, the GNWT and Canada have invested \$120 million toward the eventual construction of the highway, Ramsay added.

He noted that the territory still has time to prepare the region for what is coming down the pipe.

"Recent discussions with industry have indicated that if drilling occurs in a timely manner, no production decisions could be made before at least three years from today and no production in the Sahtu with concurrent sustainable activity would be possible before 2020," he said.

The GNWT has 120 days to provide a comprehensive response to the motion.

Politics Territorial

Devolution deal 'days away,' premier says

Continued from page 1.

A final devolution deal is "days away," according to McLeod, but another round of public consultation could add several months before the official signing ceremony takes place.

All governments currently participating in devolution negotiations, including Canada, the GNWT and the five Aboriginal governments at the table, anticipate undertaking public engagement before the conclusion of negotiations and approval of the final agreement, according to the devolution office.

Though the parties have yet to finalize public engagement plans, it is expected that activities will include community information meetings designed to explain the "content and benefits" of the agreement. More details will be available once negotiations have concluded.

Aboriginal governments that did not participate in negotiations will have the opportunity to support and sign the final devolution agreement and get access to the resource revenue sharing agreement,

which will distribute 25 per cent of all newly-claimed resource royalties across Aboriginal governments, whenever they are ready - even after the signing ceremony.

Dehcho still worried

The premier made the announcement last Tuesday in the House following a presentation by Dehcho MLA Michael Nadli, who once again put into question the benefit of a devolution agreement to Aboriginal governments and, in particular, his constituents.

"First Nations in my constituency are not participating at the devolution table," Nadli said. "The Dehcho First Nations would like to see movement in their own negotiations to finalize the land use plan for the region before devolution goes ahead. As well, they strongly believe that 25 per cent of what the GNWT gets shared with all regional Aboriginal governments is not a fair allocation of resource revenues."

"From the First Nations' perspective, devolution, so far, is nothing but a GNWT

money and self-government grab. Most First Nations don't have self-government agreements. In spite of reassurances, it's hard to see how devolution won't prejudice these negotiations," he added.

McLeod said even with the tight timeline, discussions continue with the outstanding Aboriginal governments on signing the AiP, including with the Dehcho First Nations.

"I've written to all three of the Aboriginal governments...I've written to the Dehcho First Nation a couple of weeks ago. Actually, I met with the grand chief at lunchtime today," he said. "We've agreed to a bilateral process to try to resolve outstanding land issues with the Dehcho First Nations with the objective of getting the agreement for the Dehcho First Nations to sign on to devolution."

McLeod also reiterated the government's position that devolution will not impact ongoing negotiations between First Nations and Canada.

"Those negotiations will continue and there should be no negative impacts on those processes," he said.

Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program




Are you looking for a challenging & rewarding career?

Paid six-week training program runs:

- June 20 – August 2, in Fort Smith

For more information visit www.justice.gov.nt.ca

To qualify, applicants must obtain the following:

- Grade 12 or equivalency
- Satisfactory criminal records check
- Satisfactory medical assessment
- A valid Class 5 driver's licence, with the ability to obtain a Class 4 within four months of hire
- Valid Standard First Aid and CPR certification

Deadline to Apply is **MARCH 26, 2013**

The intent is for successful graduates of the program to qualify and apply on permanent or relief on-call positions at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre in Hay River and the Fort Smith Correctional Complex - Female Unit in Fort Smith.

Apply online now through  **www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment**



Visit the Journal online at www.srj.ca

The Northern Journal is an independent newspaper covering news and events in the western Arctic and northern Alberta.

Publisher & Managing Editor Don Jaque
867-872-3000 ext.21 • dj@norj.ca

Editor Meagan Wohlberg
867-872-3000 ext.24 • news@norj.ca

Reporter Renée Francoeur
867-872-3000 ext.25 • reporter@norj.ca

Comptroller Dixie Penner
867-872-3000 ext.23 • dix@norj.ca

Advertising Joshua Jorgensen
867-872-3000 ext.28 • ads@norj.ca

Administration Aldo Landaverde
867-872-3000 ext.29 • admin@norj.ca

Production & Graphics Sandra Jaque
867-872-3000 ext.22 • sandra@norj.ca
Paul Bannister
867-872-3000 ext.27 • graphics@norj.ca

Intern Georgina Skipplings

Advertising Deadlines

Display Ad deadline is Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
Classified Ad deadline is Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
Email: ads@srj.ca

Subscription Rates

(867) 872-3000

Prices include GST. \$47.25 in Fort Smith;
\$52.50 elsewhere in Canada;
\$105 in the USA; overseas \$164.30.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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.



The Northern Journal is available in the following NWT communities:

Aklavik	Fort Resolution	Rae Edzo
Behchoko	Fort Simpson	Sachs Harbour
Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekatie Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
Fort Good Hope	Lutsel K'e	Wekweti
Fort Liard	Nahanni Butte	Wha Ti
Fort McPherson	Norman Wells	Wrigley
Fort Providence	Paulatuk	Yellowknife

Available in Alberta at:

Anzac	Fort Chipewyan	Kehewin
Atikameg	Fort McKay	Kinuso
Brownvale	Fort McMurray	Lac La Biche
Cadotte Lake	Fort Vermillion	Mornville
Chard	Frog Lake	Peace River
Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
Duffield	High Level	Valleyview
Edmonton	High Prairie	Wabasca
Enilda	Hythe	
Enoch	John D'or Prairie	

Published weekly by
Cascade Publishing Ltd.

Printed on recycled newsprint with vegetable ink at Wainwright Star Chronicle.

Democracy: more than numbers

The recommendations by the NWT Electoral Boundary Commission for redrafting territorial ridings are disappointing.

The NWT is characterized by a sparse population in a vast land, diversity between small communities and the capital city, pockets of intense cultural commitment and the unique consensus political system. The Supreme Court of Canada has stressed that "the purpose of the right to vote is not equality of voting powers as much as effective representation, of which relative parity is a prime condition. It also allows geography, community interest and minority representation to be taken into account." At the same time, it established a requirement that all ridings must exist within a 25 per cent deviation from the riding average.

All that must be considered when ensuring all people are well represented within the political system. To do so, the three Electoral Boundary Commission members required vision, perceptiveness and acumen, and at the base of it, considered the fundamental of representation by population.

Unfortunately, "rep by pop" is all the commission seemed to consider in the three recommendations it offered for consideration to the legislative assembly. They include variously that Yellowknife should have more MLAs, that the Tlicho communities be separated into two ridings, and the one cruel act common to all three, that the riding of Tu Nedhe be eliminated.

The recommendations were released in late January following the requirement that the NWT's electoral boundaries "be reviewed within two years after every second general election." The last review

occurred in 2005-2006 and two general elections have been held since.

Here are numbers that were important to the commission:

- There are currently 19 NWT electoral districts - each with their own MLA;
- The average population per riding is 2,282 residents;
- Tu Nedhe (Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e) registers 797 residents (well below the 25 per cent deviation);
- Monfwi (the Tlicho communities - Whati, Gameti, Wekweti and Behchoko) have 3,183;
- Yellowknife has seven ridings, all over 2,700; the largest, Weledeh, has 3,254.

Let's get one thing out of the way first: democracy is very expensive and MLAs come at a high cost - in the millions of dollars each, when all the accounting is done. That is money that would otherwise be spent on hospitals, schools, infrastructure and social programs. Affordability has to be a consideration. Too many MLAs is a costly luxury.

From reactions so far, the Tlicho leaders do not appear to want their larger cultural community broken up into two ridings and are content with the status quo. Yellowknife MLAs are already so numerous they are almost tripping over one another. Are the people of Yellowknife poorly represented in the current legislature? Are the 20,000 residents there not well enough served by their existing seven MLAs? A case could be made to the contrary - that there are too many political representatives in the capital and the political weight it can swing disadvantages the regions. But no one is arguing such things. If there is a

problem, something must be done; but if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it.

The fixation that ridings numbers must be equal, to the point that multiple representatives are needed in relatively small populations, does not consider economies of scale. Ontario, with 107 MPPs, has an average population per riding of about 110,000 people. Some provincial ridings in Toronto have over 150,000 residents, each with a lone MPP.

What is fair in the NWT? One would think that since all ridings in Yellowknife register under 3,500 residents, a relatively tiny number of constituents to represent, no one's democratic rights are being violated there. The situation in the Tlicho is similar.

Conversely, if the Tu Nedhe riding is eliminated, how can Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e be properly represented if they are lumped into other larger cultural and language groups in other regions? If any two NWT communities were to be selected on the basis of need for social, economic and political solutions, those two would be at or near the top of the list. They, more than most other communities, need an advocate at the highest political level.

The only change to NWT electoral boundaries that would make sense is minor tweaking to existing boundaries in some ridings - warranted only in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River. It is unfortunate that was not presented as an option.

The NWT's Legislative Assembly is permitted to simply reject the Boundary Commission's recommendations and leave things the way they are. That is what was done the last time. Let's hope it happens again.



The third annual Mackenzie River Walking Challenge wrapped up today with over 1,400 Northerners walking the virtual distance of 1,658 km from Fort Providence to Tuktoyaktuk. Participants have logged almost 25,000 hours of exercise and walked almost 125,000 km collectively. Registration numbers for the 2013 walk almost doubled those from previous years. The walk began Jan. 7. Above, staff from Joseph B. Tyrrell elementary school in Fort Smith joined the challenge as the "JBT Pros." Left to right: Cora America, Mary Bourque, Gabrielle Vienneau, Shauna Bourke, Leah Desjarlais, JoAnn McLaren, Lori Robinson, Craig Walsh and Marie MacDonald.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

New options discussed for BIP

Members of a review team were in Fort Smith to hear what local business people thought of discussion paper on the territorial government's Business Incentive Policy (BIP).

The discussion paper, *BIP - A New Direction*, proposes options for changing BIP.

"It's designed to facilitate discussion, to bring the folks around the table and begin someplace, because BIP is very complex," said BIP manager Bonita Melvin.

Issue: March 1, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Coalition may form

A new coalition of Northwest Territories groups concerned about the environment will include different Aboriginal bands and environmental groups.

Gary Bohnet, the president of the Métis Association of the NWT, said the purpose of the coalition is to look at legal action to try to protect the Northern environment.

Issue: March 5, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Bison count up over last year

According to Doug Anions, acting area manager for Wood Buffalo National Park, this year's buffalo count is just about complete and, from the preliminary visual estimates, there appear to be roughly 5,100 bison sighted during the week long series of flyovers in the park. Last year's population was 4,512.

Issue: March 5, 1983

Family proud of award winner

We would like to congratulate our dad, Lloyd Sonny Flett, on receiving the 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Indspire Award.

As far back as we can remember, our dad was always going to meetings, volunteering for some cause or hunting and trapping to keep us all fed.

The Indspire Awards recognize the highest level of achievement for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have the discipline, drive and determination to set high standards and accomplish their goals. These individuals have made a profound impact in their communities across the country.

For his entire life, our dad has been devoted to protecting the environment, keeping the land safe and prospering for generations to come.

Dad realized the significance of maintaining natural resources and the importance of looking out for future generations.

He co-managed the traditional knowledge component for the Northern River Basin Study, which ensured traditional knowledge played a key role in the area pulp mill expansion.

As development increased in Northern Alberta, he realized the need to further native economic development. This led dad to develop joint ventures

between the Métis locals, the two First Nations in the Municipality of Wood Buffalo and business partners. This led to the establishment of Akita-Wood Buffalo Drilling Ltd., which Métis Local 125 owns – a perfect present from past-president, Sonny Flett.

We are always proud of your achievements and accomplishments, dad. We were even prouder being there to see you receive your Indspire Award from Canada.

Congratulations from your family!

CORRECTION

In last week's story, "Power Corp. expands Simpson solar project," it was incorrectly stated that the original 258-panel system was installed in April 2012. Though the official opening ceremony was held in April, the array had been completed and generating power since February 2012. We apologize for this error.

Booster seats save lives

Is your child as safe as they can be in your vehicle?

We all know that babies must be properly secured in a rear-facing car seat while riding in a vehicle. Everyone knows that toddlers must ride in a forward-facing car seat to be safe. Do we all know that children over 18 kilograms (40 pounds) are safest in a booster seat?

According to a recent study by Safe Kids Canada, parents seem to have a lack of awareness when it comes to the role that booster seats play in safe vehicle travel. The study indicated that three-quarters of Canadian parents with children between the ages of four and nine don't use booster seats. Of these ...

- 42 per cent believed their child was too big for a booster.

- 23 per cent thought their child didn't need a booster to be safe.
- 19 per cent felt their child was too old for a booster.

Seatbelts in vehicles are designed to protect and secure an adult in a crash by distributing the force of the collision over safe areas of the body. A child who is between 18 and 36 kilograms (80 pounds), is less than 142 centimetres (four feet, nine inches) in height and is less than nine years old does not fit an adult seatbelt. A booster seat will ensure the seatbelt does not sit too high on a child's belly and neck, preventing serious internal injuries in the event of a collision. Children in a seatbelt alone are three-and-a-half times more likely to

be hurt in a crash than when buckled into a booster seat.

Here are some tips to keep your child safe and content in a booster seat:

- Emphasize the positive. The seatbelt will fit properly without scratching their neck and they can see better out the window.
- Be consistent. Insist your child ride in the correct safety seat every time, no matter how short the trip.
- Be a good role model. Everyone buckles up or the vehicle doesn't move.
- Make sure your child is comfortable. Be sure your child is warm with as few layers as possible between your child and the seat belt. Try a sun shade. Do they need a neck rest?
- Car seats from the start.

Develop and encourage good habits early. Children who have been a car seat consistently from the start are more likely to recognize their seat as an important part of a safe ride.

When your child is over 18 kilograms or reaches the upper weight limit for their forward-facing five-point restraint, it is time to move to a booster seat. Children are safest in a booster seat until they are 36 kilograms, nine years of age or at least 142 centimetres tall.

For more information on booster seats, as well as all child restraints and seatbelts, visit the Alberta Occupant Restraint Program at www.albertaseatbelts.ca.

*Tammy Novak
Alberta Health Services*

Animal abuse awareness

Animal abuse, or cruelty to animals, is the infliction of suffering or harm upon animals for purposes other than self-defense. Commonly people think that animal cruelty is inflicting harm on an animal for personal amusement, but it can also encompass harm caused by neglect.

Luckily in Alberta we have excellent laws surrounding animal abuse. It is unlawful for anyone to cause any animal to be in distress. According

to the Animal Protection Act, an animal would be in distress if it is abused or subjected to undue hardship, privation or neglect. Also, a person who owns an animal must ensure the following:

1. That the animal has adequate food and water;
2. they must provide the animal care if it is wounded or ill;
3. they must provide the animal with adequate shelter, ventilation and space;

4. they must provide the animal with protection from severe heat or cold.

There is a popular misconception that the Fort McMurray SPCA handles and investigates complaints of animal abuse. Even though the SPCA is a strong partner with the RCMP and provide valuable assistance, it is the RCMP's responsibility to handle all investigations regarding animal abuse. If anyone witnesses or suspects animal abuse, they

are encouraged to call police at (780) 788-4000.

If people are interested in helping animals in our region they are encouraged to volunteer with the local SPCA and attend upcoming events such as Dancing with the Stars Wood Buffalo, the annual Awareness Walk to End Animal Abuse, and the Dog Jog.

*Cst. Jesse Jones
Community Policing
Wood Buffalo RCMP*

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

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.



Dene activist visits Utah on 'tar sand tour'
norj.ca

Myrna Blake And how does he get to all those locations ... by consuming massive quantities of petroleum products. If we do not wish the developments of oil and gas then stop consuming the petroleum products or forever be at the mercy of other countries for our heat, fuel and that means giving up medicines like aspirin, hearing aids and heart valves, oil filters, firearms, cameras, golf bags, CD's and DVD's, safety glass, soft contact lenses and eyeglasses, clothing (yes those shoes that you choose over leather), bitumen for our roads and roof shingles ... every aspect of our lives are dependent upon petroleum from the products consumed to the distribution to get it to you. I grew up with wood heat that could not keep the log cabin warm, horse and sleigh and consuming the food that we grew and watched people suffer from illnesses ... I have no desire to return to that. There was a time when a child reached child bearing, if he survived to that age, that the parent was nearing the end of his life. Now a family with four children, most times all four survive to reproduce and the parents live to see 4 generations grow up. Time marches ahead ... the oil from the oil sands flowed out of the banks and into the rivers long before development!!

Join us online!

Like Northern Journal on Facebook and get the weekly news delivered to your feed!

Forecast

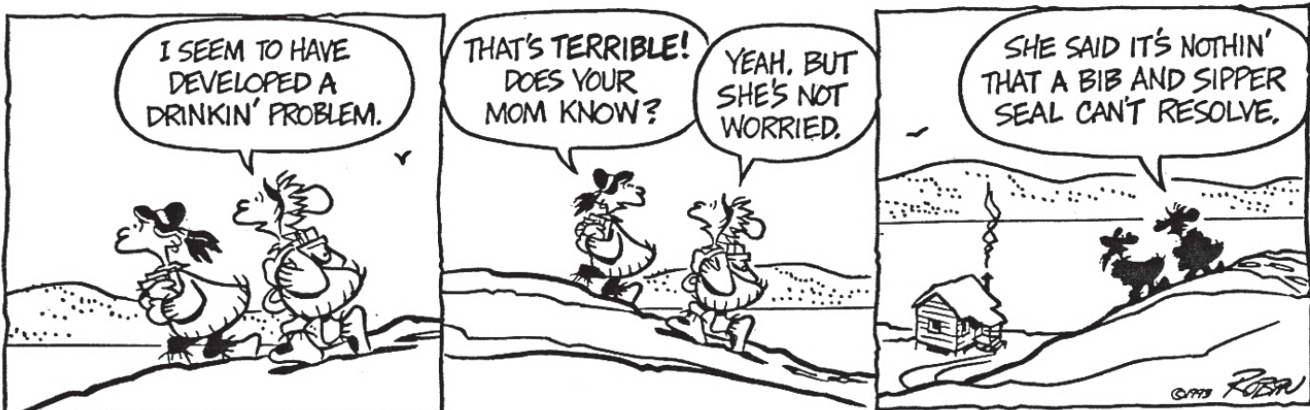
Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
-29 High	-33 Low	-25 High	-36 Low	-22 High	-31 Low	-18 High	-26 Low
-24 High	-37 Low	-23 High	-38 Low	-14 High	-29 Low	-14 High	-21 Low
Norms: -20°C and -29°C				Norms: -14°C and -26°C			

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
-27 High	-34 Low	-20 High	-35 Low	-10 High	-21 Low	-8 High	-15 Low
-23 High	-31 Low	-19 High	-32 Low	-11 High	-22 Low	-6 High	-16 Low
Norms: -11°C and -23°C				Norms: -8°C and -22°C			

MUKLUK



ERCB slams company over pipeline spill

Plains Midstream not fined for massive 2011 leak on Lubicon land

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) of Alberta issued four "high-risk enforcement actions" against Plains Midstream Canada last week in relation to the May 2011 pipeline spill that left the Lubicon Cree community of Little Buffalo drenched in oil for weeks.

The results of the ERCB's comprehensive investigation into the pipeline break, which leaked 28,000 barrels (4.5 million litres) of crude oil from the Rainbow Pipeline 95 km northeast of Peace River, concluded Plains Midstream failed to comply with regulatory requirements in four areas.

High-risk enforcement action was taken against

the company for inadequate backfill and compaction procedures, operations and maintenance and leak detection and response, as well as failure to test its emergency response plan.

In addition to those four areas, ERCB also criticized the company's "substandard efforts" beyond initial notification to ensure that the public and impacted stakeholders were kept informed of the incident and the remediation progress.

"As a result, Plains has been directed to engage a third party to conduct an audit of the company's ability to manage communications during a crisis, with the results submitted to the ERCB

no later Apr. 30, 2013," the board ruled.

The company was not forced to pay a fine.

Plains is also required to run risk assessment procedures to identify current and past risks associated with similar pipelines, conduct a "major emergency response exercise" by Mar. 31, 2013 - with results to be submitted to the ERCB - and to demonstrate that backfill procedures have been incorporated into the company's standard operations.

The company was also forced to conduct a number of activities at the time of the incident, including excavating all welded pipeline sleeves for ERCB inspection,

doing weekly aerial patrols of the pipeline, implementing leak detection and pipeline restart procedures and revising its backfill and compaction efforts.

"Since the incident, Plains has been subject to an increased frequency of ERCB audits and inspections of the company's pipeline operations," the board stated in its ruling. "Failure to comply with all ERCB-directed actions will result in the escalation of enforcement action, which can include partial or full suspension of operations."

The pipeline was reopened on Aug. 30, 2011. The site has been cleaned up and reclamation and remediation efforts are still underway, the board said.

Other spills receive similar criticism

Plains Midstream was not the only company to receive a sharp critique from the ERCB last week.

Similar high-risk enforcement actions were issued against the Pembina Pipeline Corp. and low-risk actions against Pengrowth Energy for pipeline spills that occurred in mid-2011 near Swan Hills.

Pembina was censured for neglecting to immediately inform the ERCB about a pipeline spill on July 20, along with a second failure that occurred on the same pipeline 1,600 m from the first break on Aug. 15.

"Through the investigation, the ERCB determined that

both pipeline failures were caused by circumferential stress corrosion cracking," the report concluded.

The board directed the company to develop and put in motion a dig program to address potential cracking in all pipelines "in a condition similar to the condition of the pipeline that failed," and to share what it learned from the incident with its industry peers.

Pengrowth was criticized for operating the pipeline for more than a year under "faulty construction practices" before a pipeline failure on June 26, also near Swan Hills. It was forced to modify its construction and inspection system.

Industry Oil & Gas

Enbridge walks the (pipe) line

By JACK DANYLCHUK

At a secret location in Edmonton, a crew of 29 people works around the clock monitoring 13,500 km of Enbridge Inc. pipeline. It's the largest system in North America and daily delivers more than 320,000 cubic meters of petroleum products.

As computerized monitoring systems go, it is as advanced as you can get, says Graham White, manager of business communications for Enbridge.

"The previous system was not nearly as advanced as the current, state of the art centre."

For Enbridge, "previous" means before the pipeline failure near Marshall, Michigan in 2010 that spilled more than 20,000 barrels of oil into the Kalamazoo River system.

At last count, the Kalamazoo cleanup cost more than \$800 million and Enbridge is still digging its way out of the public relations quagmire that flowed from a report on the spill by the US National Transportation Safety Board.

The US regulator said Enbridge knew about a defect in the pipeline five years before it burst, and compared

the company's fumbled response to the ensuing disaster to a Keystone Kops episode.

By comparison, the leak of 1,500 barrels of oil from the Norman Wells pipeline near Wrigley was a mere grease stain. But it was found by a hunter, in May 2011, a year after the Kalamazoo spill, and suggested Enbridge might still be on a steep learning curve.

Last summer, in a response to damning reports from US regulators, Canada's National Energy Board, which will release a report later this year on

the Wrigley spill, increased safety audits on Enbridge.

The company's culture has undergone a sea change since the spills at Kalamazoo and Wrigley, White said.

"We have learned a great deal from our recent past with events," White wrote in a reply to emailed questions.

"We have prepared a fairly comprehensive list of lessons learned and the quantifiable actions we are taking and have taken to emerge as a better company, with a pipeline system of very high integrity."

Among the innovations White described are

"overlapping leak detection methods (pressure changes and volume inconsistencies, for example), along with our public awareness program, to detect the presence of leaks within the system."

Leaks below the threshold of the monitoring regime in Edmonton, "such as some pinhole leaks, would be detected by surveillance and third party reports, or through regular in-line inspection," White wrote.

"This is one of the reasons we promote awareness, training and preparation along our right-of-way communities and with

emergency services to enhance this capability and reduce risks and impacts."

Last year, Enbridge introduced "integrity digs" to the Norman Wells pipeline, as "an ongoing feature of our overall pipeline integrity program and commitment to the safety and security of those lines, especially in identified sensitive environments."

Where to dig and how many holes is determined by in-line inspection. Last year, Enbridge crews made 19 digs. This year, 175 workers are expected to complete 44 by Apr. 30, covering 680 km of the 869 km line.

Early last month, a crew "encountered potentially contaminated soil," 60 km and 120 km west of Fort Simpson. "There was no free product requiring recovery. The pipeline was shut down as a precautionary measure. There were no wildlife or water impacts," White said.

"We are looking at increasing this number to more than 200 (digs). Since integrity digs include monitoring, upkeep and repair or replacement of the pipe where required, it continually increases our security and integrity of this line."

The inspection program resonates far beyond the Northern bush and the monitoring centre in Edmonton.

Enbridge has invested heavily in the Northern Gateway pipeline, which would carry bitumen to Asian markets via the BC coast, and if the latest Norman Wells discovery lives up to enthusiastic forecasts, there may be demand for another line south.



Separate... together.

Family Mediation.
Private. Informal. Flexible. Positive.

A co-operative approach to separating and divorce for families with children.

Begin a better ending



Se séparer... ensemble.

Médiation familiale.
Privé. Informel. Flexible. Positif.

Une approche coopérative à la séparation et au divorce pour les familles qui ont des enfants.

Commencer une meilleure fin

Call 1-866-217-8923 to talk privately about what is happening in your family and how a mediator can help.

Appelez au 1-866-217-8923 pour parler en toute confiance de ce qui se passe dans votre famille et pour voir comment un médiateur peut vous aider.



Northwest Territories Justice

With funding assistance from Justice Canada



Programme offert grâce au financement obtenu du ministère de la Justice du Canada



Territoires du Nord-Ouest Justice

Aboriginal languages to be part of human trafficking campaign

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Northwest Territories/Nunavut Council of Friendship Centres wants to see Northern Aboriginal languages used in a new human trafficking campaign launched this year by the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) to address gender-based violence and the large number of missing Aboriginal women.

"In the North, we're different. A lot of people in the small communities, especially elders, listen to the radio in their own languages, like on CKLB or CBC. So we would like to have this campaign transmitting its messages in Chipewyan, Tlicho, Slavey on the posters, on the radio, on TV, etcetera," Rita Catholique, executive director for the NWT/NU Council of Friendship Centres, told *The Journal*.

Language was one of the handful of things discussed at an informational session on human trafficking held in Yellowknife two weeks ago. The session discussed

the intersections between being Aboriginal and human trafficking, and also served as a launching pad for the public to provide input into how to best advance the national campaign within the Aboriginal community.

The Human Trafficking Against Aboriginal People Public Awareness Campaign has an overall goal to decrease domestic human trafficking among Aboriginal peoples.

"We know human trafficking is occurring. We know it's happening here in the North, too, but it's just not being recorded a lot of the time and I think it's more shrouded in secrecy here," Catholique said. "People are getting abducted, people are going missing, people are being forced into sex work, especially Aboriginal people. We are a high risk group because of such a legacy of disparities."

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation,

transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the

consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

People are getting abducted, people are going missing, people are being forced into sex work, especially Aboriginal people. We are a high risk group because of such a legacy of disparities.

Rita Catholique
Executive director for the NWT/NU
Council of Friendship Centres

consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

In UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, sexual exploitation was noted as by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking.

It's estimated that thousands of Aboriginal women in Canada have gone missing and been murdered since the 1980s. According to a 2005-2010 study from the Native Women's Association of Canada, there are currently almost 600 documented cases of missing women,

in the same cohort to die as a result of violence.

In November, the issue of missing Aboriginal women in the NWT was brought to the Legislative Assembly by Premier Bob McLeod.

"Since Jan. 1, 2000, 35 deaths occurring in the Northwest Territories were classified as homicides by the coroner's office. Eleven of the victims were women," McLeod said in the House.

There are 73 missing or unsolved homicide cases open in the NWT, and 63 of these are considered historical missing persons cases. Of those 63, 13 are women, 8 of whom are Aboriginal.

Catholique's own cousin, Charlene Catholique of Lutsel K'e, has been missing since 1990. She was 15 when she disappeared, last seen accepting a ride in Behchoko to get to Yellowknife.

"To this day we don't know what happened to her," Catholique said. "So it's a campaign close to my heart."

Alongside the campaign, the NAFC is in the process

of establishing a National Aboriginal Advisory Committee (NAAC) made up of regional, youth and expert representation. The NAAC will devise and lead a community engagement plan to gather insight from a wide range of Aboriginal people across the country into the messaging and formats the national campaign materials should assume.

The committee, coupled with the campaign, aims to increase "knowledge sharing and awareness around human trafficking and...increase community capacity to combat human trafficking," according to NAFC.

Catholique hopes to see promotions of the campaign being carried out in Aboriginal languages by October.

She will be taking part in another executive meeting with NAFC next month to reiterate the importance of including multiple languages.

"It's important to remember this is first and foremost an Aboriginal initiative, but that it helps everyone," Catholique said.

Justice Violence

Violence against NWT women nine times national average

Severity of violence, fear for life higher in all three territories

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Rates of police-reported cases of violence against women in the Northwest Territories are nine times the national average and more likely to end in serious injury, new federal statistics show.

A new report released last week by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, called *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends*, shows the NWT, Nunavut and Yukon continue to have the highest rates of violent crime, overall, in the country, and violence against women is no exception.

The rate of violent crime against women in Nunavut was nearly 13 times the national rate in 2011 at 7,772 victims per 100,000 people; Yukon's rate was four times higher than the national average at 1,900 victims per 100,000.

The rate in the NWT is 3,818 women victims for every 100,000 people.

The report's editor, Maire Sinha, said research suggests demographic characteristics could help explain women's increased risk of violence in the North.

"According to the 2011 Census, the population in the territories was significantly

younger on average, a consistent risk factor for victimization," she wrote. "Further, those living in the territories are also more likely to have other socio-demographic factors...associated with victimization, including identifying as Aboriginal, being single and having less than a high school education."

The same was true for sexual offences, the prevalence of which were substantially higher in the Northern territories. Women's risk was nine and 12 times greater in the NWT and Nunavut, respectively, than the provincial average. Yukon's average was 3.5 times the provincial one.

The territories also held the highest rates of police-reported criminal harassment, or stalking.

Unlike the rest of Canada, the report found that women above age 15 living in the territories had rates of violent victimization similar to men, rather than above. Around 10 per cent of both men and women reported spousal victimization either by a current or former spouse.

However, Sinha said, the forms of violence experienced by women were more severe.

"In particular, women represented 78 per cent of

spousal victims who were beaten, choked, sexually assaulted or had a weapon used against them. Women were also more likely to fear for their lives as a result of the victimization," she wrote.

That's because half the female victims of spousal violence in the territories were physically injured in 2009, Sinha said.

"In the territories, a fear for life was predominantly reality for female victims of spousal violence, as approximately half (51 per cent) believed that their lives were in danger. In addition, about half (49 per cent) of female spousal victims sustained physical injuries," the report states.

As with the rest of the country, rates of violence were worse for Aboriginal women in the territories. Nationwide, Aboriginal women - who are typically younger, more likely to be unmarried and experience higher levels of unemployment, statistically - disproportionately experienced violence, injury from violence and death from both spousal and non-spousal perpetrators.

"At least eight per cent of all murdered women aged 15 years and older

were Aboriginal, double their representation in the Canadian population," the report notes.

In the territories, women who identified as Aboriginal were more than three times as likely as non-Aboriginal women to report being victimized by a partner in the last five years.

The likelihood of experiencing violence also increased with lower incomes (below \$60,000 per year), ages below 35, an

educational level of high school or less, heavy drinking or drug use and community factors, such as living in a neighbourhood or home where drugs were sold or property was vandalized.

Women in the territories are more likely to report spousal violence to the police than women in the provinces, though. Six out of 10 female victims in the North will make a police report compared to 30 per cent in the south. Most (69

per cent) were satisfied with the police response.

The statistics also show that the territories had the highest clearance rates for police-reported violent crime against women, meaning that charges were less likely to be laid than in other regions.

"The most common reasons to clear by other means included the female victim's request not to proceed with formal charges and the use of departmental discretion," the report notes.

Valentine

Grey and White Mix
Very adoptable

ADOPT A Shelter Pet

Fort Smith Animal Society

Please leave a message at 872-5543 for details.



VALENTINE is a lovely young female cat. She is always playful, and her tasteful grey & white coat is enough to keep you warm during the long winter season.

- Spayed/Neutered
- Up-to-date with routine shots
- House trained

WESCLEAN NORTHERN SALES LTD.
Ph: (867) 875-5100 • Fax: (867) 875-5155
E-mail: info@wescleannwt.com • web: www.wescleannwt.com

Benjamin Moore
The Colour Experts

Health department looks into insuring weight loss surgery for obese people in the NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT department of Health and Social Services could soon be helping finance weight loss surgeries for people with weight problems and diabetes, a move pushed by several MLAs during legislative session last week.

Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro brought the issue to the table on Monday morning, asking the minister to consider insuring such medical procedures as a cost-saving measure to the department in the long run.

“The NWT has a number of chronic diseases which plague our territory. One of them is diabetes,” she said, noting that, on the whole, NWT residents are overweight compared to the rest of Canada and that the only viable solution for some is bariatric surgery, which is not currently an insured service for NWT residents.

Bariatric surgery includes a variety of procedures, from reducing the size of the stomach with a gastric band to removal of a portion of the stomach, or by re-routing the small intestines to a small stomach pouch, also known as gastric bypass surgery.

“Studies have shown that 83 per cent of patients are cured

of their diabetes after bariatric surgery,” Bisaro said. “It may cost our health system a bit more for surgery in the beginning than just treating the systems (sic) of obesity, but in the long run our costs are significantly reduced and the quality of life for the patient very much improved.”

She said patients should at least have their follow-up

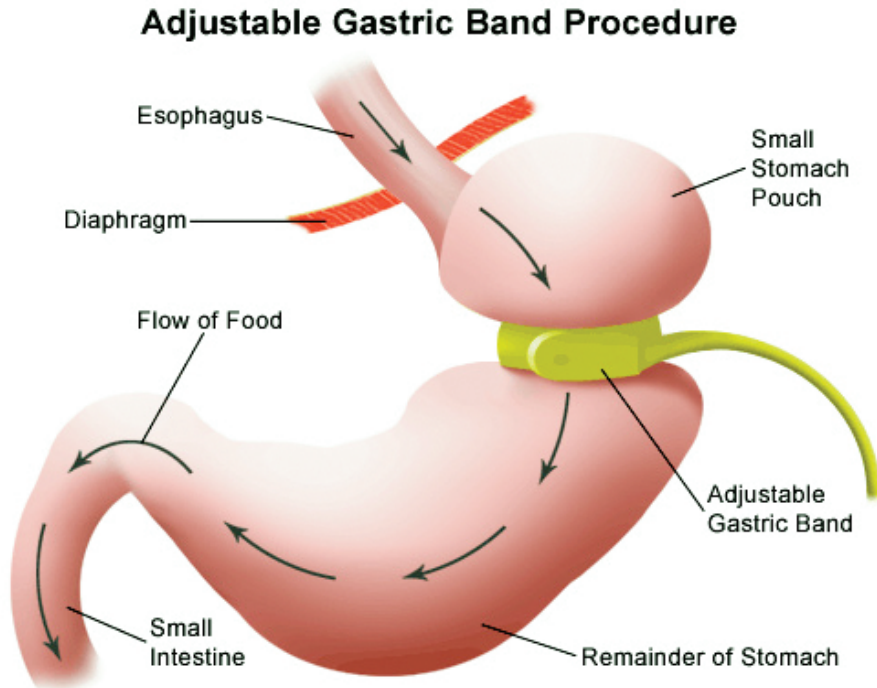
procedures and consultations paid for, even if they pay for the surgery on their own.

Health Minister Tom Beaulieu said the department is looking at adding bariatric surgery, along with other medical services that could address obesity, to its insured services.

“We think that is one of the emerging issues in the whole issue of chronic disease

management and...we’re hoping that once the committee is able to discuss this, that changes can be made in the system and it can become part of the insured services,” he said.

Though the minister has authority to add, delete or amend insured services, Beaulieu said a committee, put together in May 2012 with the NWT Medical Association, is currently



Studies have shown that 83 per cent of patients are cured of their diabetes after bariatric surgery.

Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro

in the process of developing terms of reference for making those changes within the act’s regulations.

“Once the determination has been made that we will add this bariatric care or obesity or the whole area of overweightness to the insured services... then we will make a decision on when and how we will go through the process,” Beaulieu said. “Part of the process would be, if an insured service is added then it will be more cost. Once that determination is made by the Medical Association and by the department, that bariatric services will be added, then we will come back to the House for more money to carry out that service (through the regular business planning process).”

He was unable to give a timeline on when those changes might be made.

“However long it takes for us to add this and get this approved through the business planning process, considering all the other pressures on the system, then we will have a better idea of when this can be approved,” he said. “It may be in the next business cycle. If it’s in the next business cycle, it will be a year from now.”

Gastric bypass and lap band surgery are the only two bariatric procedures covered by insurance in Canada. Both are covered by Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec while Saskatchewan, Ontario, Newfoundland and British Columbia only insure gastric bypass surgery.

The average wait time for weight loss surgery in Canada is five years, according to a McGill University Health Centre study.



Factory Cab

Kubota’s deluxe B Series tractors offer the latest advancements with superior levels of performance and ease of operation. Kubota... do more with orange.

- Deluxe B Series Cab Models - B3000HSDC/ B3000HSDCC**
- 30 Hp Diesel 4 WD
 - Factory Cab
 - Air Conditioner and Heater
- ROPS Models - B2630 & B3030**
- 3 Range Hydrostatic Transmission
 - 26 and 30 Hp Diesel 4WD
 - Hydrostatic Power Steering
 - Hydraulic Independent PTO



B2920



B3200



B26TLB



EQUIPMENT RENTAL & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY
 “A True Northern Company”
 103 Kam Lake Road Yellowknife, NT
 Ph: (867) 766-6025 Fax: (867) 873-4871



Industry Oil & Gas

Yellowknife MLA wants gas prices regulated

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

One Yellowknife MLA is making it his mission to stop the trend of Northern gas prices remaining at steady highs, while prices drop across the country.

Robert Hawkins wants to see a standard formula used to calculate gas prices and a maximum rate set by the government to improve transparency and fairness for Northern consumers in the fuel industry.

Hawkins brought forth a motion last Thursday calling for the government to consider regulating NWT gas prices, similar to systems already in place in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board, an independent crown agency established by the Legislature, sets a maximum gas price to regulate the electricity, natural gas and motor carrier industries in the province.

Hawkin’s motion was seconded by Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche. It was carried in the House with nine members in favour and nine abstaining.

“My motion boils down to the fact we need to investigate

and research the pros and cons of the regulation of fuel prices in the NWT,” Hawkins told *The Journal*. “In market communities such as Yellowknife, Hay River, Norman Wells, prices flux with the world market, but I have yet to see them actually move down with the rest of the market. For example, when prices drop in Edmonton, they generally remain solid in NWT. That’s an issue.”

Hawkins pointed out that government-controlled regulation is not his favourite option, but “at the same time, we have to be doing something rather than nothing.”

Consumers are “being held hostage” by the gas pricing game in the North, he said.

“There’s no window for the consumer to complain and it’s almost useless for them to do so because there is no teeth in anything to support their concern, no ruling body to investigate their concern and deal with it.”

Sixteen communities are already regulating gas prices through the NWT’s Petroleum Products Division to a certain extent, Hawkins added.

These include areas like Lutsel K’e, where gas has been set at \$1.73 at the local Co-Op since October. It changes once a year when the new supply is brought in.

“I don’t blame the local on-the-ground vendor...They’re just doing their job. They don’t set those prices because the people who do set those prices live in Toronto, New York or Houston...The fact is, they have no vested interest in what it’s like for the cost of living here in the North,” Hawkins told the House.

Mackenzie Delta MLA Frederick Blake supported the motion, noting constituents “would like to pay the same prices as people in the southern part of the territory. My residents pay anywhere from \$1.65 per litre in Fort McPherson to \$1.80 in Tsiigehtchic.”

At the end of January when gas prices plummeted to \$1.129, the rate in Yellowknife held steady around \$1.30.

Last week, prices in the NWT were on average \$1.389, according to *Gasbuddy.com*. The Canadian average was \$1.29.

Salmon decrease in Mackenzie supports local hunch

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A significant drop in the amount of salmon caught in the Mackenzie River system in 2012 helps confirm local knowledge that salmon populations run in five to seven-year cycles in the NWT.

PhD researcher Karen Dunmall of the University of Manitoba is in her second year of studying the genetics and population structures of Mackenzie salmon, which are becoming increasingly predominant throughout the river system, including as far south as Fort Liard and Fort Smith.

Though the salmon collections, done through the help of local fishermen, returned 226 fish in 2011, only 22 salmon were turned in for reward in 2012, supporting the local theory that there is a cyclical pattern to salmon in the Mackenzie.

“One of the big questions I got in 2011 was, ‘Did you get a lot of salmon because a lot more people were looking for them and handing them in, or did you get a lot of salmon because there were more salmon?’ And I didn’t know how to answer that until this year when we had the same amount or more people fishing and handing salmon in,” Dunmall told *The Journal*.



Karen Dunmall prepares a Mackenzie salmon sample for DNA analysis back at the lab.

Photo courtesy of Karen Dunmall

“People who were catching four or five salmon a day in 2011 didn’t catch any in a few instances or caught one or two in the whole season this year. They were the same nets, same location - basically everything was the same except the fish didn’t show up.”

Dunmall said that’s what people up and down the river had told her, that the chum salmon show up in a cycle.

“The cycle length seems to change depending on who I talk to and where they are on the river,” she said. “The closer to the mouth, it seems like it’s a shorter cycle; and then further

up river in Fort Smith it seems like it’s a really long cycle. But definitely that’s what people said: ‘You’re not going to see a year like this for a while,’ referring to 2011. So it was something to keep my eye open for in 2012, and then when it actually happened, it was really interesting.”

Pink salmon, too, show up in two-year cycles. In 2011, only three of the 226 salmon caught were pink, whereas last year, half of the catch was pink salmon.

The majority of salmon caught in 2012 came from the Mackenzie Delta region, as pink salmon only migrate as far as Tsiigehtchic. The

furthest upstream that a chum was caught last year was in Wrigley and one in Fort Liard.

The chum salmon that are coming back to the Mackenzie River are between three and five years old, Dunmall said. Because of that, it makes sense to see a pattern in an established population of chum salmon in the river system.

Dunmall said the observation, while helpful, opens up many more questions.

“It provides evidence for a population from the Mackenzie that returns every three to five years, except that the cycle length that people are

telling me is longer than that, so that’s the part that I don’t know yet, is why would it be seven years or longer for people in Fort Smith, and why is it shorter for people closer to the mouth? Especially since salmon aren’t coming back as seven year-olds.”

She said there may be more than one population cycling at once, or salmon coming in that aren’t from the Mackenzie spawn, adding more strays to some years than others.

She hopes to figure some of that out in the next portion of her research, which looks at the genetics of the salmon samples, to see if there is more than one population of salmon in the Mackenzie and where they might be coming from.

Dunmall will also be comparing salmon caught in the Mackenzie to ones caught elsewhere to see if there are stray salmon coming in. She is heading to Anchorage, Alaska at the end of the month to start collaborating with researchers there to see if their salmon match.

She said population data on salmon in the Mackenzie could help contribute to addressing larger questions of if or how Arctic salmon are being affected by climate or ecosystem changes, and how

an increase in salmon could impact other native fish species and the river itself.

“People were curious to know if salmon are increasing in the Mackenzie River and the potential for interaction between salmon and other species is also increasing. So are they competing for habitat, are they introducing diseases or pathogens from outside the system, all the dolly varden (trout) benefiting because they eat salmon eggs,...are there more nutrients in the river, because salmon come in and bring all these nutrients from the ocean and then die and leave it there?”

As of right now, she doesn’t have those answers, but she’s hoping the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans will allow her continue to research over the next three years.

“It’s a big question: is the ecosystem changing and is that why salmon are showing up in bigger numbers? To start addressing that first is to get a handle on the distribution and abundance year to year of salmon and then where they’re coming from.”

To get updates on Dunmall’s salmon study, visit arcticsalmon.ca or Arctic Salmon on Facebook.



8TH Annual • Fort Smith TRADE SHOW

Sat., April 27, 2013 • Fort Smith Centennial Arena • 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Only five booths remaining. Don't miss out!

For more information: call 872-2795 or on the web www.thebacha.ca

★ 2013 Platinum Sponsor ★

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION
Empowering Communities
An NT Hydro Company

★ Gold Sponsors ★

BDIC NWT **NORTHERN JOURNAL** **Northwestel**
Bringing us together.

Northwestern Air LEASE LTD.

★ Silver Sponsors

KASSTO

★ Bronze Sponsors

H-R BLOCK **PHOENIX TECHNOLOGY**

First Traditional Games champs celebrate culture

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Children aged 10-12 from across the Northwest Territories gathered in Yellowknife over the weekend to partake in the first Traditional Games Championships, presented by the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the NWT (ASCNWT).

The championships featured five Inuit games and five Dene games, with the overall goal of increasing Aboriginal cultural awareness among youth in an entertaining way.

"We want the kids to grasp the cultural importance of things like these games, understand the traditions and carry them on. We want these kids to grow with the championships, become the ambassadors of it as it grows more and more each year, hopefully," ASCNWT program manager Derek Squirrel said.

Roughly 150 children participated, making up 18 teams spanning 22 NWT communities.

Traditional Dene games included stick pull, snow snake, spear ball, pole push and hand games. Inuit games featured one-foot high kick, two-foot high kick, wrist hang, caribou



Around 150 youth from 22 communities took part in the first Traditional Games Championships in Yellowknife over the weekend, with Fort Smith's JBT Elementary School coming out on top with a total of 83 points.

Photo: James Mackenzie

skipping and the animal muk laughing game.

The animal muk laughing game kicked off the tournament during Thursday's opening ceremonies, which involved Inuvialuit drummers from the Northern Games Society and the lighting of a symbolic

fire that burned all weekend long.

"The animal muk game is a social game where everyone is put into teams, one person is in the centre and has to make others laugh by making animal sounds. If you laugh, you lose, basically," Squirrel explained.

Fort Smith's Joseph B. Tyrrell elementary school team was the overall championship winner, finishing the playoff series of traditional games with the most points, a total of 83.

A team from Fort Resolution came in second, followed by Yellowknife's William

McDonald middle school. A community team from Norman Wells came in fourth.

Many of the games test for endurance and strength, like the wrist hang, Squirrel said.

Games like the snow snake tell stories about traditional hunting practices.

"This was a hunting technique before there were guns. In the early morning when a caribou was out lying in the snow, the hunters would throw a weapon, pointed at one end, through the snow and try to wound the caribou. You had to be accurate, fast...That was a way of life, a matter of survival back then. Slowly it turned into a game and was handed down through the elders," Squirrel said.

Over the past two years, ASCNWT, a non-profit dedicated to promoting community wellness through sports and recreation, has hosted traditional games workshops for boys and girls aged 10-12 in various NWT communities.

"It was time to start something big, now that we'd been to the communities on their own, we wanted to bring everyone together. There's all these super soccer events and cagers. We wanted to do that with traditional games," Squirrel said. "Next year, we want to have more age groups and eventually have all 33 communities participating."



THANK YOU

The Thebacha Loppet Organizing Committee
 would like to thank the following for their support and help in making the 2013 Thebacha Loppet the biggest and best yet!
 We hope to see you all next year for our 40th anniversary!

Smith's Landing First Nation Industry, Tourism and Investment ENR (Forest Management) CAB Construction Town of Fort Smith Northwestern Air Lease Department of Highways River Ridge Jeff Dixon Don True Juneva Green	Laura Aubrey Magloire Paulette Bill Mawdsley Jean Morin Karl Cox Stu MacMillan Lance McMahon Owen MacDonald Ron Holtorf Janie Hobart Lauraine Armstrong Richard Daitch
--	---

And, to all the people who pitched in to help with baking and the many other tasks, we thank you.

Sponsored by the Fort Smith Ski Club 

The Fort Smith Skating Club

presents

Just Dance!

March 16 at 7:00 p.m.
 March 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$5.00 - available at the door
 Kids three and under are FREE

Guest Skater
 Bryce Chudak

Sanctioned by Skate Canada

For more information please contact:
 Brenda Tuckey at 867-621-2736.

Tlicho craftswoman expands into 'baby belts'

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

When Dora Marie Lafferty of Behchoko isn't in the bush or out trapping muskrats with her husband, she's threading needles.

"I'm retired, so it's my hobby now. I do it whenever I can. I'm always sewing," Lafferty, 63, said.

Lafferty makes mostly moosehide moccasins and mukluks for women, ranging from \$300 to \$800, but has recently been branching out into baby belts, or baby tump lines.

Her most recent baby belt, fully beaded with tassels, fabric lining and caribou hide on both ends, is for sale on the Tlicho online store for \$425.

It took two months to make, Lafferty noted, because of all the intricately stitched beadwork that makes up the 15 different flowers and their leaves, all various shades of green, in the pattern.

Baby belts, known as *bebia kwit'a* in Tlicho, were used traditionally by the Dene to carry babies wrapped in shawls, the Tlicho Store explains on its website. The belt goes under the baby's seat and is slung either across the mother's shoulder or chest.



Left, Dora Marie Lafferty works with beaver fur in her Behchoko home.



A close up of Lafferty's moosehide gloves highlight the intricate beadwork in her flower designs.

Photos: Diane Lafferty

"The mothers here seem to like them and want them," she said. "The one young mother I sold my first belt to, she thinks the world of it; she puts it in a plastic bag for safekeeping when she's not using it...It's nice to see them becoming popular again."

Lafferty said she never used a baby belt for her own children, but did make a "baby carrying wrap" for her grandchild out of caribou hide, which is hard to come by today, she noted.

She said she might make a few more belts in the future.

It was Lafferty's mother who taught her how to sew when she was a young girl.

"She told me I have to just sit and watch and that's the best way to learn," Lafferty said. "She never directly taught me. I just watched her and started doing what I saw. It comes easy to me."

Lafferty started taking her craftwork more seriously when she married in 1968, but it wasn't until the 1980s that she began selling it to interested friends and neighbours.

"I'm very busy around Christmas," she said. "But on average, it takes me about two weeks to make mukluks."

Lafferty prefers to use floral designs in her beadwork and draws all of her own patterns out by hand first.

"I don't copy them. I draw the flowers myself. And I never make two flowers the same colour. I like to mix it up, make it rich."

Northerners Aboriginal Leaders

Fort Chip leaders win big at 25th RARA Awards

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Fort Chipewyan is boasting many proud faces after the 25th Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) in Fort McMurray on Saturday where eight community leaders were recognized for making a difference.

The ceremony honours the positive contributions of Aboriginal people on both a provincial and national level, as well as in their home communities and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Award recipients are nominated by those in various sectors, including education, sports and the Aboriginal community.

Fort Chip recipients included Rose Simpson, who won the Elder Award.

Autumn Morin-Whiteknife from the Athabasca Delta Community School took home the Junior Achievement Award.

The Cultural Award went to Ed Marten.

Roxanne Marcel won Female Citizen of the year.

Donald Voyageur won Male Citizen.



Donald Voyageur, right, of Fort Chipewyan receives his Male Citizen of the Year Award from Connie Landry, the program and planning advisor for Aboriginal relations with Nexen Inc.

Photo courtesy of RARA

Greg (Cowboy) Marcel took home the Leadership Award.

Janet Daschcavich won the Volunteer Award.

The Outstanding Adult Student went to Trista Joy Simpson.

The evening featured Susan Aglukark as returning master of ceremonies, respected Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation member Dr. Cora J. Voyageur as keynote speaker, Métis fiddler Brendan Chartrand and comedian Don Burnstick.

Come check us out!

OPEN HOUSE

Mary Kaeser Library

Friday, March 8 7 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, March 9 1 - 5 p.m.

Special Events on Saturday

Scavenger Hunt at 1:30 p.m.
Robotics Club Demo 3 p.m.
Enter our logo contest!

FREE SNACKS and PRIZES!

Yellowknifers shaping plans for Old Town upgrade

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Early pictures of Yellowknife show a community that sprouted almost overnight from the rock now topped by Pilots' Monument, but it will take a bit longer to restore the city's historic centre in Old Town.

City council has budgeted \$600,000 this year for improvements to the former government dock in Old Town, Pilots' Monument and construction of a controversial dock for float planes on Back Bay.

The projects are being discussed at a series of community

meetings that will continue through the spring until construction season starts.

"We want to be certain that everyone in the community is consulted," Jeff Humble, director of planning and development, said after meetings last month on the government dock and the monument.

About 80 residents offered their views at the meetings, Humble said, while others chose to share their ideas via the city hall website.

Still to come are consultations with Latham Island

residents on the float plane dock between Lessard Drive and Otto Drive. The area is public land, but adjacent property owners have built docks there and treat it as their own.

Humble said those who turned out for a meeting on the monument asked planners to consider the addition of a memorial to aviators who worked and died in the North.

The Wildcat Café will reopen in May after a two-year hiatus for reconstruction, joining two other restaurants that operate in the area, and a

fourth that could open on the former federal dock.

Pilots' Monument rock is ringed and sectioned by just four streets, and in summer, when several businesses, the dock and public boat launch are in operation, traffic can be an issue, said Humble, "so we've been asked to consider traffic patterns."

Last week, the city bought a small lot at the foot of Pilots' Monument that could be added to a small park there and create more parking spaces for the neighbourhood

that draws tourists and residents year-round.

Wayne Guy, architect, Old Town resident and property owner, said 50 people turned out for a meeting to present ideas on how the former government dock can be used.

The city took control of the dock last summer, cleared it of derelict vehicles and installed racks for canoes and kayaks. The dock was given a clean bill of environmental health.

The dock is still used by commercial fishermen and freighters working on Great

Slave Lake, and Guy said that there was a clear consensus at the meeting that it should remain a working dock.

City planners were also asked to consider adding powered stalls for vendors, a viewing area and a restaurant or pub in a building owned by Guy.

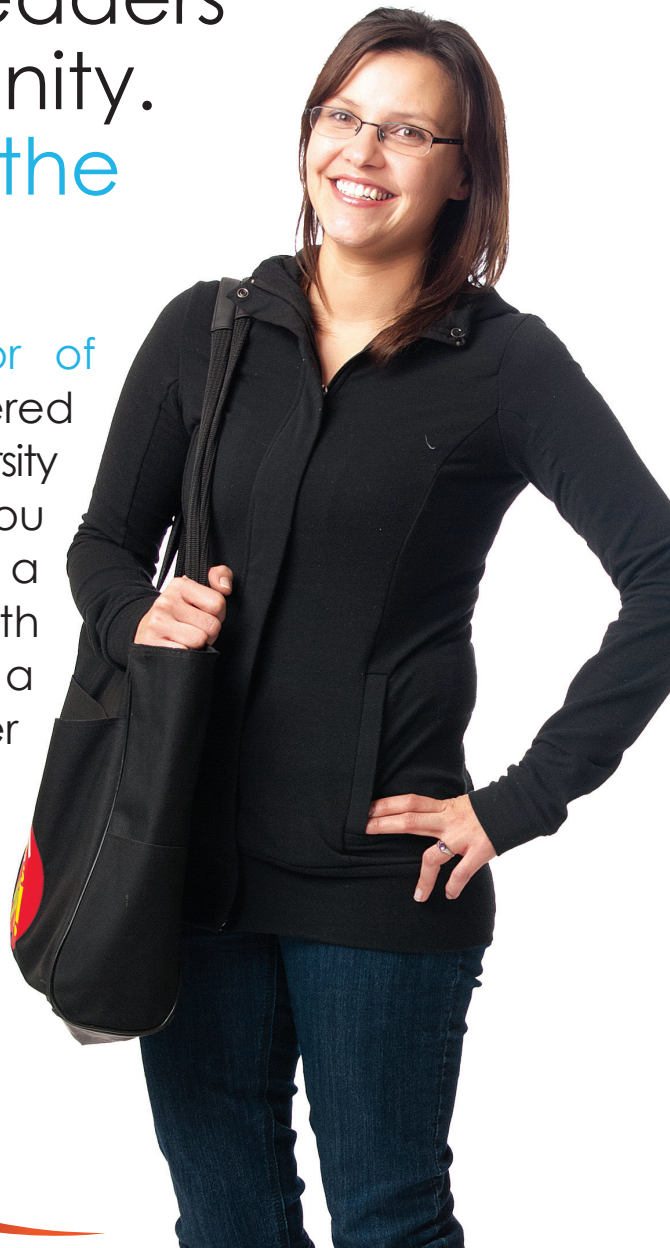
Humble said that the city's long-term plan for the government dock area includes the waterfront area now fenced off for the exclusive use of the federal departments of Fisheries, Coast Guard and National Defence.

Aurora College • School of Education
www.auroracollege.nt.ca

Teachers are leaders
in your community.
Are you up for the
challenge?

Aurora College's **Bachelor of Education Program**, delivered in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, offers you the opportunity to earn a degree at home in the North which prepares you for a successful teaching career in your community.

We are currently taking applications for our **2013/2014** program at Thebacha Campus. **Apply today!**



Aurora Campus (Inuvik)
1 (866) 287-2655
Thebacha Campus (Fort Smith)
1 (866) 266-4966
Yellowknife North Slave Campus
1 (866) 291-4866

Fort Smith born Leah Desjarlais graduated with her Bachelor of Education degree in 2011. Leah now teaches at JBT Elementary School in Fort Smith.

Health & Wellness Bullying

Union calls for end to workplace bullying in NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Union representatives joined the array of voices calling for an end to bullying last Wednesday on Pink Shirt Day, the national day to end bullying in schools and society.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) stood with school children, municipal and territorial government

Currently, the GNWT's interpretation of their Harassment Policy only allows an employee to make a complaint about harassment which has directly occurred to the complainant," the letter reads.

PSAC is requesting the department of Human Resources upgrade its Safety Act and regulations to match Canada

There has been a lot of lip service given to anti-bullying initiatives and the need for change, but it's time for specific, targeted action.

Julie Docherty, PSAC

representatives and members of the public in Yellowknife on Wednesday morning, bringing forward its agenda to stop workplace bullying.

"There has been a lot of lip service given to anti-bullying initiatives and the need for change, but it's time for specific, targeted action to ensure that workers and the public are protected. We have outlined what is needed and our area council has offered its assistance to the GNWT so that no more time is wasted," Julie Docherty, PSAC North regional executive vice president, said in a press release.

At least 40 per cent of all employees are affected by workplace bullying, Docherty said.

She said more needs to be done at the territorial level to enable people to speak out about bullying happening around them in the work environment.

The union submitted a letter of requests to the minister of Human Resources last week.

"In order to stop workplace bullying, it is essential that GNWT employees can 'stand by those who are being bullied and report bullying behavior.'

Occupational Health and Safety regulations - the current industry standard - for dealing with harassment, bullying and other forms of workplace violence.

The union is also asking the GNWT to create a new "Violence Prevention Policy" that will allow employees to make complaints about any workplace bullying they are experiencing and/or witnessing.

"Workplaces which do not have policies and procedures for witnesses to report bullying increase the risk for employees who suffer from vicarious trauma," the letter states. "Vicarious trauma is the process of change that happens when employees care about other people who have been hurt, and feel committed or responsible to help them."

They have also asked the government to modify its management training program to incorporate a module on workplace bullying so managers can identify its various forms, along with an anti-bullying program for GNWT employees and support programs.

Yellowknife chef starts campaign to fund cookbook

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

For Journeyman Red Seal chef Mark Plouffe of Yellowknife, it's time to do something different.

Plouffe, 54, has worked in some of the most prestigious kitchens across Canada, including the Fairmont Hotel McDonald in Edmonton.

He taught food studies at Aurora College and has been teaching at St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife for the past eight years. In 2010, he also began Open Kitchen Studio, his home business where he offers on-site cooking lessons.

Now he plans to release his first cookbook. But he needs help.

"I'm all about exploring new things," he said. "I've been documenting my recipes for years, so I thought a cookbook is the next step... It compliments the cooking lessons I offer."

Encouraged by his son Mike, Plouffe began a campaign to fund his cookbook three weeks ago on the international crowdfunding website *Indiegogo.com*, a tool to promote an idea and collect funding globally within a designated amount of time.



Mark Plouffe, a Red Seal certified chef, gets ready to make a mess in his Yellowknife kitchen as part of the cooking lessons he offers.

something concrete to leaf through at the kitchen counter won him over, Plouffe said.

If his crowdfunding campaign falls through, Plouffe has no plans of abandoning ship.

"One way or another, it'll get published within the next year or so," he said.

At St. Patrick, Plouffe is also embarking on a new project called Garden to Table where students can use herbs and vegetables they grow on their own to prepare meals.

In a couple weeks, he hopes to have the wall up for the classroom's vertical garden.

Plouffe is also working on a children's book with illustrator Tamara Christen, greenhouse manager at Arctic Farmer Nursery in Yellowknife. The book, tentatively titled *Maddy Makes Pancakes*, was inspired by Plouffe's 3 year-old granddaughter, Maddy.

"It's something fun for kids and will feature a pancake recipe and a few other recipes for things you can do with pancakes. It'll hopefully get kids cooking, baking, having fun in the kitchen."

To donate to Plouffe's cookbook, visit www.indiegogo.com/projects/lessons-from-the-open-kitchen-studio?c=home.

Plouffe set a goal of \$20,000 and so far he's raised \$2,900. The online campaign ends next Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. and if the goal is not reached, everyone who made a pledge will receive their money back.

"I thought we'd be a bit further ahead in our funding, but the amount of support I've received is just awesome," Plouffe said.

The cookbook, called *Lessons from Open Kitchen*, will

feature recipes and photos from the eight subject areas Plouffe introduces in his workshops, such as pasta, desserts, East Indian cuisine, and so on.

According to Plouffe, one of the most sought-after recipes

to be featured in the book is his orange, white chocolate pannacotta, an easy-to-make, traditional Italian custard.

While he toyed with the idea of self-publishing the cookbook online, the appeal of having

Photo: Mike Plouffe

Wood Buffalo Frolics 2013

\$4000 Go-Go Bingo

Sunday, March 10

Rec Centre Gym

Doors open at Noon

Extra Cards

\$1

\$30 Entry Fee

Big 'W' Early Bird Game: 1 PM

Regular Games Begin: 2 PM

1/2 The House

Licence # 13-007

&

\$0.50 Nevada
and
\$1.00 Tickets

Licence # 13-008

Rec Centre Concession will be open at 12 noon, serving hamburgers, hotdogs, french fries and onion rings.

Sponsored by:

All funds raised will benefit the Fort Smith Track and Field Society and the Community of Fort Smith.

FIELDS.ca

Everyday Items | Great Value | Since 1948

THREE DAYS ONLY! Fri, Mar 8th - Sun, Mar 10th



32 LOADS

SAVE \$1

3.99
Reg. \$4.99

Purex Laundry Detergent
1.47 L.



SAVE \$1.50

5.49
Reg. \$6.99

Cascade Action Pacs
20 count.



SAVE 26¢

99¢
Reg. \$1.25

Nestlé Chocolate Bars 42 - 50 g.



SAVE 30¢

99¢
Reg. \$1.29

Royale Facial Tissue 2 ply.
132 sheets.



SAVE \$1

7.99
Reg. \$8.99

Folgers Coffee
920 g.



SAVE \$1

5.99
Reg. \$6.99

Standard Pillows



SAVE \$2

3.99
Reg. \$5.99

Men's 3 Pack Premium Socks or Ladies 6 Pack No Show Socks

GREAT VALUE!
30% off
Regular Price

Men's, Ladies' or Kids' Outerwear, Winter Boots, Gloves & Toques

SHOP LOCALLY AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

81 King Street, Fort Smith NT tel#: 867-872-3130

Store Hours: Mon - Wed, Fri - Sat: 9:30am - 6pm, Thursday: 9:30am - 8pm, Sunday & Holidays: 12pm - 5pm

Ski for Hope expedition cut short for Wood Buffalo councillor Meagher swears to finish upon recovery

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

It wasn't the icy hills or the sand-covered winter road that defeated Wood Buffalo Municipal councillor Phil Meagher as he set out to take on the cross-country ski journey from Fort Chipewyan to Fort McMurray on Feb. 23.

It was pneumonia that put the 51 year-old down in the end, landing him in the hospital 50 km before the finish line.

"I am disappointed, but I just couldn't breathe. I sat down on the sled I was towing, rested for a bit, got back up and skied another 50 metres maybe, and still couldn't get my breath," Meagher told *The Journal* last Wednesday, his first day back in the office after being air ambulated to the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in McMurray.

Meagher was in the thick of the Ski for Hope initiative, trekking 280 km by ski with a 30 pound sleigh behind him to raise money for the homeless in support of McMurray's Centre of Hope, when his health forced him to quit.

The journey was expected to take a total of 40 hours, without stopping.

"The first 140 km were just absolutely incredible. They were marbled and very icy, which I liked, but then I got into some issues with icy downhill," Meagher, who started the trek from Lake Athabasca around 5:30 a.m., said. "I felt great."

The weather starting out was also ideal - around -9C. As he headed south, he said it heated up and "things got slower; the snow became dirtier."

"The sandy, flat parts too on the Fort Chip winter road started to cause me grief. I'd be pushing and catch a ski and down I'd go. I must have done about seven or eight nose and face plants and that's into the hard road, not soft snow."

Meagher had a hip replacement in June 2011. He fell hard on it once.

"It's bruised, but operating like it normally does...I also ended up with a slight foot fracture, just from over-use and those long hours of pushing in the skis."



Photo courtesy of Phil Meagher

Phil Meagher thaws out his frosted beard after a cross country skiing training exercise in early January. While warmer weather held up for his Feb. 23 Ski for Hope expedition, Meagher's health did not.

When he reached Shell Landing on the Athabasca River, 32 hours in, he noticed he was beginning to wheeze and felt pressure on his lungs.

"I kept going for a bit; I just didn't want to give up."

But before he knew it, he felt like something was "seriously wrong" with his breathing.

"The hospital confirmed he had pneumonia. He pulled out his phone to call for help. A snowmobiler gave him a lift to the "Bridge to Nowhere," where an air ambulance picked him up.

"I guess it was just not to be this time," he said. "I am on antibiotics and I plan on getting rid of this and going back out to finish it... It can even be roller skiing in the summer. It doesn't matter to me how, but I will certainly finish it."

The Ski for Hope raised a total of just over \$10,000 for the Centre of Hope, the local organization that provides programs and services for 175 to 200 homeless individuals per week, the majority of whom have been homeless for one to

three years, according to the centre's website.

"The Ski for Hope is part of my own personal vision to see the end of homelessness," Meagher said. "It's about giving a hand up, not a hand out."

Donations made to Fort Chip

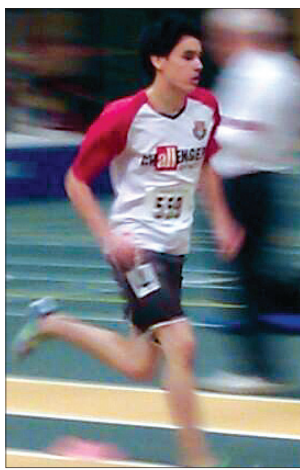
On Feb. 22, as part of the Ski for Hope initiative, Meagher also presented a cross-country skiing workshop at Keyano College in Fort Chipewyan, teaching 11 interested staff and students how to ski and how to maintain their equipment.

Meagher and his Dare 2 Dream team, which seeks to inspire Wood Buffalo youth to be active and charitable, donated 24 sets of skis and boots to Keyano College, totalling nearly \$10,000 worth of merchandise.

"The group and I even got out for a ski, and that was fun. A lot of those there had never even been on skis and they were just fascinated," he said. "All they need is someone to champion it. They have the interest and opportunity now to run a program there for skiing."



Veronica McDonald, left, and Sydney Dunlop take a break during the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships in Edmonton.



Logan Tourangeau races to the finish line in the 300m at the Alberta Team Challenge event in January.



Josh Gauthier prepares to break a record in shot put at the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Photos: Joe LeBlanc, Hilary Turko

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ten medals for NWT at Alberta Track & Field Championships

Nineteen NWT athletes returned from the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships in Edmonton with 10 medals and 61 new NWT indoor records. In shot put, Fort Smith's Josh Gauthier won the gold and Veronica McDonald silver. Skylar Horton from Diamond Jenness in Hay River won a silver in triple jump and bronze in long jump. Greg Littlefair from Yellowknife's Sir John Franklin took home a gold medal in the 800m, 1,500m and high jump, and Desiree Brown won bronze in the 300m. John Franklin alumni Diane Marin won gold in shot put and silver in weight throw.

Yellowknife takes women's hockey tourney

Yellowknife went undefeated in last weekend's women's hockey tournament in Hay River, beating out Hay River's Hazard team in the final, 4-0. The team out of High Level, Alberta won third in the consolation final against the Fort Smith Fury, 2-1. Fort Simpson and a second Hay River team were out after Saturday's round robin action.

Territorial Volleyball Championships goes to Yellowknife

The YK Red team beat the YK Balls and Dolls team, made up of a few players from Fort Smith and Inuvik, for the championship title in the women's league at the NWT Volleyball Association's Territorial championships in Yellowknife, winning the best of five games with scores of 25-23, 25-21 and 28-8. In the men's league, the YK orange team beat the YK blue team for first place with scores of 25-12, 25-21 and 25-16.

Newfoundland in lead at 2013 Brier

Newfoundland is in the lead so far with four wins at the 2013 Tim Horton's Brier in Edmonton with Brad Gushue as skip. Skip Jamie Koe of the Northwest Territories/Yukon team beat Eddie MacKenzie of PEI 8-3 in the fifth draw game Sunday. Glenn Howard of Ontario soared past Jeff Stoughton of Manitoba 8-5. The NWT/YT team, standing in sixth place with two wins, two losses at time of print, played Nova Scotia in draw seven Monday night and Ontario Tuesday. The Brier wraps up Mar. 10.

Sports & Recreation Track & Field

NWT track and field team headed to Grand Prix in Toronto

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A co-ed team of students from Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife has been selected to compete in the Nike High School Grand Prix, the first Canadian invitational track and field event for high school athletes in Toronto, now in its second year.

The NWT Storm girls and boys team, comprised of athletes from Hay River's Diamond Jenness Secondary School, Paul W. Kaeser High School in Fort Smith and St. Patrick and Sir John Franklin high schools in Yellowknife, will compete against 23 other teams

across the nation.

Four PWK athletes were originally chosen for the NWT Storm team: Logan Tourangeau, Josh Gauthier, Bret Tuccaro and Veronica McDonald. Two others have been chosen as alternates. Last year, only one PWK athlete competed at the Grand Prix, according to PWK track and field coach Hilary Turko.

"The athletes have been training three days per week inside since November. We originally focused on strength and conditioning training such as running stairs, plyometrics and sprinting in the halls and

have now moved towards more specific event training such as high jump and long jump take offs, as well as using the starting block," Turko said.

Track and field events include: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m run, 110m boys hurdles, 100m girls hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot-put and the 4 by 100m cross-provincial relay.

Over 280 students will be participating at the event from May 9-12 at the University of Toronto's Varsity Stadium.

Teams are required to raise \$650 per athlete to cover travel costs.

The Nike High School Grand Prix is a joint venture between marketing agency TrojanOne Ltd. and School Sport Canada.

"At Nike, we believe in building better athletes and helping them realize their maximum potential," Eric Grimes, Nike Canada's general manager, said in a press release. "The future of Canadian track and field athletes are in high school right now, so putting our support behind them with the hope of fostering their athletic career is one of our top priorities."

For more information, visit www.highschoolgrandprix.ca.

Sports & Recreation Pond Hockey

Back to basics: the ins and outs of pond hockey

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Goodbye barriers, slapshots and goalies. Hello naturally frozen rinks, small teams, smaller nets, fresh air and wide open space.

Pond hockey season is well upon us.

A recreational and generally less-organized form of traditional hockey, pond hockey is exactly what it sounds like: pushing the puck on a naturally frozen body of water, bumpy surface and all.

The World Pond Hockey Championship, first held in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick in 2002, calls it "pure hockey, the way the game was meant to be played."

The championship's website details how the pond hockey tournament has evolved since its inception when Plaster Rock's Roulston Lake was plowed with "a couple of pickup trucks" and rinks were marked with measuring tape.

Now, there's "many more trucks, skid steer loaders, snow blowers and a host of

other equipment" used to prepare the lake and GPS systems are used to mark rink locations and sizes.

Closer to home, the Polar Pond Hockey tournament runs Mar.15-17 in Hay River on Fisherman's Wharf. The Alberta Pond Hockey Championships took place in February in Lac Cardinal, near Grimshaw. There is also the Canadian Pond Hockey Championships, held the first weekend of February in Hali-burton, Ont.

If you're interested in playing hockey in the great outdoors, there are some basic things you need to know. This isn't your typical arena game.

Pond Hockey is a four-on-four game played with smaller nets and no goalies. Rinks are 150 feet by 75 feet, or 75 per cent the size of a normal rink.

Rules are fairly standard across the board for every tournament. Below are the Polar Pond Tournament's rules:

1. No Slapshots. Raising the

puck above the knee is not necessary and saucer passes should be attempted with caution.

2. No goaltending; players are cautioned to stay out the crease.

3. Games are 30 minutes long with two 15-minute halves.

4. Teams are only allowed to substitute a player after a goal is scored upon them.

The player entering the game must enter the ice from behind their own net.

5. Any blatant penalty will result in a goal for the team offended and loss of possession of the puck.

According to the Canadian Pond Hockey Championships, players are also not allowed to lay any part of their bodies, gloves or sticks in front of the net.

Likewise, there is to be no physical contact or fighting on the ice, and major penalties result in an immediate goal awarded to the opposing team and could result in play disqualification.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

The Property Assessment Notices for the 2013 tax year were mailed on Friday March 1, 2013 to all Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo property owners.

If you have any concerns regarding any information on the Property Assessment Notice, or you have not received your Assessment Notice, please call 780.743.7900 or 1.800.973.9663 and arrange to speak with an Assessor. Assessors will be available during regular business hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

If a discussion with an Assessor does not resolve your concern, an Assessment Review Board Complaint Form (accompanied by the appropriate filing fee) may be filed with the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board. For more information regarding the complaint process please call 780.743.7001 or 1.800.973.9663 or visit www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/arb. The deadline to submit an Assessment Review Board Complaint Form is 4:30 p.m. on April 30, 2013.

Council will set the 2013 tax rates in May. This rate will be applied to the assessed value of your property, as noted on the Property Assessment Notice. Tax Notices will be mailed in late May.

$$\text{ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE} \times \text{PROPERTY TAX RATE} = \text{PROPERTY TAX BILL}$$

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO REVIEW YOUR ASSESSMENT NOTICE CAREFULLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca • 780.743.7900 • 1.800.973.9663
IMPORTANT DEADLINE
 2013 Assessment Review Board Complaint Form and Fee to the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board - April 30, 2013

www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca



COMMUNITY TRADING POST

FORT SMITH CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Say it in 25 words or less for only \$3.50! Extra words are .20 each. Business classifieds are \$10.00 for 30 words and .25 each for additional words. E-mail your advertising to: ads@norj.ca or fax it to 872-2754 or call 872-3000, ext 26.

MEMORIES: It was 15 years ago this week that rec. hockey player Jeff O'Keefe proceeded to take off his skates as his team was entering overtime in the finals of the annual Frolics Rec. Hockey Tournament. His excuse - he had a dinner date that he could not miss! Not to worry, his teammates still pulled off the victory! Hope it doesn't happen again this year! CW

FOR SALE: FIREWOOD. Custom cut sizes - split green, dry, bagged. Wood Gasification/Outdoor wood boilers. Delivery from Fort Smith to Hay River & Yellowknife. Contact Dave at (867) 872-3435 or cell 872-0229 or email dhehn@northwestel.net. (UFN)

BLANKET CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

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.

NEED TO ADVERTISE? Province wide classifieds. Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only \$269. + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details or call 1-800-282-6903 ext. 228.

MEIER GUN AUCTION. Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m., 6016-72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns - handguns, rifles, shotguns, miscellaneous. Call to consign 780-440-1860.

BY AUCTION: 14 quarters of grazing lease land West of Edmonton. March 14/13. Stewart Auctions, Vermilion, Alberta. For more info, call 1-800-269-8580; stewartauctions.com.

WILD ROSE Antique & Collectible Auction Sale. Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 9 a.m., Woodbend Community Hall, 26002 TWP RD 514, Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Autos

GET YOUR FOOT in the garage door. Learn basic engine theory, power train, suspension, job safety. First step to Automotive/Heavy Duty Apprenticeships. GPRC Fairview Campus. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

Business Opportunities

ESTABLISHED LANDSCAPE COMPANY in central Alberta. Profitable turnkey operation with equipment & training available. \$900,000 revenues, \$230,000 cash flow; shop/office/yard available. Email: landscapeco.4sale@gmail.com.

BE PART of global hangout and make part-time income; www.globalhangout.com/gmnardelli or for more info call Mario 780-444-1810.

Coming Events

STAMP SHOW - Edmonton Stamp Club. March 22-24, West Edmonton Mall, 3rd floor above Europa Boulevard. Stamps for sale, exhibits, Jr Table. Free admission, free evaluations; www.Edmontonstampclub.com.

Employment Opportunities

INTERIOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operator School. No Simulators. In-the-seat training. Real world tasks. Weekly start dates. Job board! Funding op-

tions. Sign up online! iheschool.com. 1-866-399-3853.

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

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

AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS NEEDS: Production Assistant to successful business owner, some travel required. Class 1 Driver; Semi retired Mechanic; gravel Crusher Operators, possible experience Foreman. Competitive wages. Work area: East Central Alberta. Email: fitzcons@telus.net. Fax 780-842-5556.

SWAN HILLS Golf & Country Club looking for "working" golf course Groundskeeper/Superintendent. 9 holes, grass greens, staff of 2 - 4. April to October. Please send resume or qualifications to: swanhillsgolf@hotmail.com.

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER required for hauling heavy equipment. Rates negotiable & benefits available. Fax resume 780-778-2444.

3RD/4TH YEAR, Journeyman Automotive Technician required. Competitive wages. Full benefits. Incentive programs, pension plan. Wolverine Ford, High Level, Alberta. Fax 780-926-4204 or email: dave@wolverineford.com.

FAST TRACK to Parts and Materials Technician. New 34 week program at GPRC Fairview Campus. Fall, 2013. Write 1st and 2nd year apprenticeship exams. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

PARTS PERSON REQUIRED for Northern Alberta dealership. Ford experience an asset. Valid drivers licence required. Full benefits package. Fax resume to 780-926-4204 or email: ron@wolverineford.com.

SEEKING A CAREER in the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: www.awna.com/resumes_add.php.

PUT POWER INTO your career! As a Fairview Power Engineer. On-campus boiler lab. 4th Class-Part A 3rd Class. Affordable residences. GPRC Fairview Campus. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

GO TO YOUR next job interview with 2nd Year Heavy Duty Mechanic skills. GPRC, Fairview campus - Heavy Equipment Certificate program. Hands-on training, safety courses, opportunity to write 1st and 2nd HET apprenticeship exams. Gain 600 hours credit. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

UNITED HOMES CANADA - Southern Alberta's premier home dealer for 40+ years, need home set up contractors. Drywall/flooring/trim installation prerequisite. WCB and bondable; ron@unitedhomescanada.com; www.unitedhomescanada.com.

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

NOW LOCATED in Drayton Valley. BREKKAAS Vacuum & Tank Ltd. Wanted Class 1 & 3 Drivers, Super Heater Operators with all valid tickets. Top wages, excellent benefits. Please forward resume to: Email: dv@brekkaas.com. Phone 780-621-3953. Fax 780-621-3959.

NOW HIRING! Journeyperson, 30 Millwrights, 50 Pipefitters, 20 Welders, with industrial experience for a large project in Vanscoy, SK. Wages \$34 - \$40/hour, plus retention & completion bonuses, 14/7 shift rotation, paid benefits, RRSP's. Travel & living out allowance (for eligible candidates). Successful candidates must complete a pre-access A&D test & CSTS 09 training. Apply with current resume and references to: jobs@monad.ca or www.monad.ca or fax 1-888-398-0725 or in person at 9744 - 45 Ave., Edmonton, AB, T6E 5C5.

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

BAKOS NDT is hiring qualified CGSB Technicians in Whitecourt, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. Benefit package, signing

bonus and profit sharing available. Email: admin@bakosndt.com or call 1-888-763-5575.

NEWCART CONTRACTING LTD. is hiring for the upcoming turnaround season. Journeyman/Apprentice; Pipefitters; Welders; Boilermakers; Riggers. Also: Quality Control; Towers; Skilled Mechanical Labourer; Welder Helpers. Email: resumes@newcartcontracting.com. Fax 1-403-729-2396. Email all safety and trade tickets.

CENTRAL PEACE NATURAL Gas Co-op Ltd. requires full-time Gas Utility Operator. Experience, safety tickets an asset. Clean valid driver's licence required. Forward resume: cpngc@telusplanet.net. Fax 780-864-2044. Mail: Box 119, Spirit River, T0H 3G0.

SEMI RETIRED? Want to see the country? We are looking for 1 ton and 3 ton O/O to transport RVs throughout North America. 1-800-867-6233; www.roadex-services.com.

Feed and Seed

FOR SALE: Alfalfas, Clovers, Grasses plus Hay, Pasture, Reclamation and Lawn Mixtures. Early order discounts - Book now! No charge custom blending. Call 1-800-661-1529 or esther@hannasseeds.com.

HEATED CANOLA buying Green, Heated or Spring thrashed Canola. Buying: oats, barley, wheat & peas for feed. Buying damaged or offgrade grain. "On Farm Pickup" Westcan Feed & Grain, 1-877-250-5252.

For Sale

STEEL BUILDINGS/METAL BUILDINGS 60% off! 20x28, 30x40, 40x62, 45x90, 50x120, 60x150, 80x100, sell for balance owed! Call 1-800-457-2206; www.crownsteelbuildings.ca.

METAL ROOFING & SIDING. Best prices! 36" Hi-Tensile TUFF-Rib 29ga. Galvalume \$.67 sq. ft. Colours \$.82 sq. ft. 40 Year Warranty. ALTA-WIDE Builders Supplies 1-888-263-8254.

SAWMILLS from only \$3997. Make money & save money with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD; www.NorwoodSawmills.com/400OT. 1-800-566-6899 ext. 400OT.

BIG BUILDING SALE. "This is

a clearance sale you don't want to miss!" 20x20 \$3,985, 25x24 \$4,595, 30x36 \$6,859, 35x48 \$11,200, 40x52 \$13,100, 47x76 \$18,265. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-800-668-5422; www.pioneersteel.ca.

HOW TO PLAY Popular Piano. New home study course. Fast, easy method. Guaranteed. Any age. No experience required. For Free lesson and infopack call 1-800-667-0050 ext. 100.

NEW COMPLETE KOBOTA ENGINES. 4 cyl., 40 & 50 hp., V1903's \$5200. & V2003's Turbo's \$5800. Originally for Thomas Skidsteers. Phone 780-222-9394.

Health

YOUR NEW CAREER is as close as your computer. Online Actively Aging Fitness Practitioner Certificate. Work with older adult fitness programs, coach master athletes. GPRC Grande Prairie, Alberta. 1-888-539-4774; www.gprc.ab.ca.

Livestock for Sale

SIMMERON SIMMENTALS. Fullblood Full Fleckvieh Bulls, yearlings and 2 year olds, polled and horned, A.I. blood lines, very quiet, muscled. 780-913-7963.

RITCHIE BROS Unreserved Auction. Oyen, Alberta, March 23 at Noon. Red & Black Angus 230 mature cows, 25 replacement heifers, 12 mature bulls. Bobby Miller: 403-358-1393 or rbauction.com.

Manufactured Homes

ARDON HOMES. Come see our new 29' X 56' show home that will truly impress. Or view our many other homes that are priced to move! Visit us North of Sherwood Park on Hwy 16. 780-801-1166; www.ardon-homes.com.

CROSS COUNTRY HOMES. Check out our brand new modular show home "The Inspire" that truly lives up to its name. Customizable to match your own inspiration! Visit us in Acheson. 780-470-8000; www.crosscountryhomes.com.

SMART. SPACIOUS. Stylish. Why not a Modular Home? Now available in 9' ceilings. Call Craig's Home Sales for exciting new ideas! 1-855-380-2266; www.craigshomesales.com.

Northern Journal Business Directory

Get your name out there!

Need affordable advertising?
Call the Northern Journal and find out how to have your business listed
our Business Directory.
Call (867) 872-3000 or email ads@norj.ca.

Rapid Petroleum Products

Delivery of Home Heating Fuel - Private and Commercial rates available
• 24hr Gas / Diesel Pumps Available Competitive Pricing
• Use your Visa or Master Card at pump - no pin required
• Commercial Fleet Cards available with Commercial Rates



High way 5 and Pelican St. (beside NWT Power Corp office)



Bob McArthur
Aurora TPI Travel

Telephone: 867-872-2462 Cell: 867-872-0806
Fax: 867-872-3986 Email: bmcArthur@northwestel.net
Box 149, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

Home Heating Oil

For on-time or anytime delivery...call

TDC

Petroleum

872-4567

100% Locally owned and operated!
#1 Breynat Street, Fort Smith, NT

Whispering Pines Cottages

Serving you with 50 years experience

- **Enjoy:** Private, clean, comfortable year round accommodations with Free WiFi and HD
- **Relax:** with our jacuzzi tub, fireplace, BBQ yard, dishwasher, great parking and plug ins
- **Affordable Rates:** daily, weekly & monthly stays available. 4 private units. 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms to choose from.

Please Contact: Sandra Robichaud
Phone/Fax: (867) 872-2906 - Cell: (867) 621-0254
85 Pine Crescent, P.O. Box 300, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

www.whisperingpinescottages.ca

Safe Travels



Employment, Tenders and Legal Notices

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 X0E 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.

Motorcycles

REV UP YOUR ENGINE. Now gain 1st and 2nd year Apprenticeship Motorcycle Mechanic skills. GPRC Fairview campus. Hands-on training - street, off-road, dual sport bikes. Write AB MCM exams - gain 320 hours credit. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

Personals

DATING SERVICE. Long-term/short-term relationships. Free to try! 1-877-297-9883. Live intimate conversation, Call #7878 or 1-888-534-6984. Live adult 1on1 Call 1-866-311-9640 or #5015. Meet local single ladies. 1-877-804-5381. (18+).

TRUEPSYCHICS! For Answers call now 24/7 Toll Free 1-877-342-3036; Mobile: # 4486; http://www.truepsychics.ca.

Pets

LEARN TO TREAT and Care for Large and Small Animals. Animal Health Technology - GPRC Fairview Campus. On campus residences and farm. Fairview, Alberta. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

Real Estate

OKANAGAN REAL ESTATE ALL PROPERTIES, "Best Buys", fastest & easiest way to check it all at no cost to you. Check out our website: 2percentokanagan.com.

LAND FOR SALE by Tender R.M. 494, Canwood, Saskatchewan. 800 acres pasture plus 880 acres crown lease. Closing 31/03/13. Information: Box 88, Parkside, SK, S0J 2A0 or jaurau@sasktel.net.

Recreational Vehicles

NOW - NEW 8 week courses covering small engine, snowmobile, quad or marine outboard repair. Take one course or all - fit your interest and your timeline. GPRC Fairview campus. Affordable residences. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca.

Services

IS YOUR CRIMINAL record limiting your future? Want it gone? Have it removed today! Canada's #1 record removal providers since 1989. 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366); www.RemoveYourRecord.com.

DO YOU NEED to borrow money - Now? If you own a home or real estate, Alpine Credits will lend you money - It's that simple. 1-877-486-2161.

CRIMINAL RECORD? Think: Canadian pardon. U.S. travel waiver. (24 hour record check). Divorce? Simple. Fast. Inexpensive. Debt recovery? Alberta collection to \$25,000. Calgary 403-228-1300/1-800-347-2540; www.accesslegal-research.com.

DROWNING IN DEBTS? Helping Canadians 25 years. Lower payments by 30% or cut debts 70% thru Settlements. Avoid bankruptcy! Free consultation; www.mydebtsolution.com or toll free 1-877-556-3500.

MONEY PROVIDER.COM. \$500 loan and +. No credit refused. Fast, easy, 100% secure. 1-877-776-1660.

INVITATION TO TENDER



JANITORIAL SERVICES Fort Smith, NT Tender No. 21334

Sealed tenders marked "Northwest Territories Power Corporation Tender 21334" will be received at the offices of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, 8 Aspen Road, Hay River, NT X0E 0R6 until 4:00 p.m. local time on March 22, 2013.

The tender consists of janitorial services in Fort Smith, NT as specified in the Tender Documents.

Tender Documents will be available on March 5, 2013. Please fax or email request for documents to:

Tammy Schofield
Contract Management
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
Phone: (867) 874-5211 Fax: (867) 874-5214
Email: tschofield@ntpc.com

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Salt River First Nation Chief Executive Officer

Salt River First Nation is seeking a qualified and dedicated individual for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at its administration office in Fort Smith, NT. The CEO reports directly to the Chief and Council, and is responsible and accountable for:

- Providing effective leadership and vision to facilitate effective self-governance of Salt River First Nation;
- Setting the tone for ethical and responsible decision making and management;
- Acting in both an advisory capacity and agent for implementation;
- Planning, organizing and implementing all day-to-day activities of the First Nation;
- Managing all human resource functions; and
- Identifying annual budget requirements and monitoring the First Nation's finances.

The preferred qualifications for this position are:

- Degree in Commerce, Business Administration or Public Administration;
- Five (5) years related management experience;
- Accounting and financial management experience with a First Nation and/or other government;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Ability to work effectively in a complex environment.

Please forward a letter of interest, resume, three references and a job applicable Criminal Records check to:

April McAllister, Executive Assistant
Salt River First Nation #195
P.O. Box 960, Fort Smith NT X0E 0P0
or via E-mail: ea@srfn195.com

Salary commensurate with education and experience.

Closing Date: Friday, March 29, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.



Tell them Danny Hooper sent you

RURAL WATER TREATMENT (Province Wide)

Iron Filters • Softeners • Distillers • Reverse Osmosis
"Kontinuous Shock" Chlorinator

Patented Whole House Reverse Osmosis System

**Water Well Drilling - Within 150 miles of Edmonton,
Red Deer, Calgary** (Government water well grant ends March 15/13)

Time Payment Plan O.A.C. for water wells and water treatment

1-800-BIG IRON (244-4766)

BIG IRON
Drilling Ltd.

View our 29 patented and patent pending inventions online at
www.1800bigiron.com

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 journeyman 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, X0E 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.

Are you interested in working in the RAIL industry?

SWITCHING CONDUCTORS/OPERATORS

Cando, an employee-owned company supplying specialized rail services, is seeking Switching Conductors/Operators for its railcar switching services in the Edmonton area. Duties include:

- performing yard switching in a safe and efficient manner
- building trains according to instructions and requirements
- switching and inspection of railcars
- minor repair and regular maintenance to company locomotives

Casual, shift work with 0-44 hours/week. Opportunities to work full time.

candold.com

CAND

SUBMIT RESUME

Fax: 780-418-2365

Email: jason.smith@candold.com

OUT HERE, OPINIONS ARE
LIKE PICK-UP TRUCKS.

EVERYBODY HAS ONE.

Your opinion is important to us, and now, it can be valuable to you too. Sign up for online surveys and earn rewards from leading companies or donate to the Canadian Cancer Society. Quarterly you will be enrolled in our sweepstakes for a new Samsung Galaxy Tab.

VISIT MYVOP.NET/REWARDS

Online flipbook at www.Norj.ca

Employment, Tenders and Legal Notices



South Slave
Divisional
Education Council

Public Affairs Coordinator

Fort Smith, NT

Term Position until April 30, 2015

Salary starts at \$38.01 per hour (approximately \$74,120 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$6,895.

Job Opening ID #: 10263 Closing Date: March 8, 2013

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

Inquiries Only: Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: jobsfortsmith@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.
- For copies of the job description please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment.



Chair, Trades, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training

Thebacha Campus
Fort Smith, NT

Indeterminate

Salary starts at \$52.24 per hour (approximately \$101,868 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$6,895.

Job Opening ID #: 10289

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Program Head, Bachelor of Education Program

Thebacha Campus
Fort Smith, NT

Indeterminate

Salary starts at \$47.74 per hour (approximately \$93,093 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$6,895.

Job Opening ID #: 10288

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

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

Inquiries Only: Fort Smith Human Resource Service Centre, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: jobsfortsmith@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 these competitions to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.
- For copies of the job description please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment.



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Campground Operator

Little Buffalo River Crossing
Territorial Campground – PM014831

Hay River Territorial Campground –
PM014836

Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Campground
and Kakisa Day Use – PM014839

Fort Providence Territorial Campground
and Dory Point Day Use – PM014840

– South Slave Region, NT –

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Tourism and Parks for the South Slave Region is requesting proposals from qualified proponents to operate and maintain the facilities at each of the campgrounds listed above. A separate contract will be awarded for each campground.

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

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

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

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

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

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



Northwest Territories Transportation

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.

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca

INVITATION TO TENDER

FORT SMITH HOUSING AUTHORITY Bulk Heating Fuel Supply & Delivery Services

The Fort Smith Housing Authority is accepting tender prices for Bulk Heating Fuel Supply and Delivery Services for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

Closing date:

March 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.

For this tender, local time refers to the Town of Fort Smith, NT.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins
Fort Smith Housing Authority
89 King Street, P.O. Box 1287
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Telephone: (867) 872-2311
Fax: (867) 872-4450

A satisfactory criminal record check of selected Contractor may be required.

**LOWEST OR ANY TENDER
NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED.**

INVITATION TO TENDER

FORT SMITH HOUSING AUTHORITY As and When Contract Services

The Fort Smith Housing Authority is accepting Tender prices for **As and When Electrical Services** and **As and When Janitorial Services** for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

Tender packages are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority office, 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT.

Closing date:

March 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins
Fort Smith Housing Authority
89 King Street, P.O. Box 1287
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Telephone: (867) 872-2311
Fax: (867) 872-4450

A satisfactory criminal record check of selected Contractor may be required.

**LOWEST OR ANY TENDER
NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED.**



A record group of over 100 loppeters gets ready to bus to Fort Fitzgerald to begin the 27.4 km trek.



Three hours into the loppet, Taylor Phillips, 19, cruises along the Slave River.



A couple youngsters coast through the woods. Many of the cross country skiers were under the age of 12 for the 2013 loppet.



Dallas Phillips gives a thumbs up with 5 km left to go on snowshoe.



Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington glides down a hill during the last length.

Photos: Renée Francoeur and Paul Bannister

Sports & Recreation Skiing & Snowshoeing

Thebacha Loppet includes snowshoers for first time

Annual skiing event sees one of its largest turnouts

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

It wasn't just skiers pinning on their numbered paper bibs Saturday as the annual cross-country Thebacha loppet got underway.

For the first time in the classic event's history, snowshoers could also join in from the Halfway checkpoint (10.1 km) or Mountain Portage (5 km) on the 27.5 km trail from Fort Fitzgerald to Fort Smith.

"It seemed to go well. I haven't heard any complaints, so we will likely open the entire trail up next season to snowshoers," loppet organizer Patti-Kay Hamilton said.

The skiing event also saw one of its largest turnouts to date, with 106 registered participants, 25 of whom snowshoed. They hailed from all over, including Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Fort McMurray, Yellowknife and Hay River.

The Ney family, Patrick, Kate and their three sons, moved to Fort Smith last Friday and decided to join in the loppet 24 hours after moving. Hamilton found ski

equipment for them to borrow as they had left theirs at home on Vancouver Island.

"We're just looking forward to meeting people and we love the outdoors so we thought why not jump right in?" Kate said.

The Neys brought the total participation number up to a record 111.

"In the early '70s when most of the national ski team was training in Inuvik, there were large loppet numbers too, according to Jacques Van Pelt, one of the founders, but not for a very long time," Hamilton said.

Thirty of the 86 skiers were under 12 years-old this year, Hamilton added - a sign of a strong group of upcoming cross-country skiers.

For Finnaly Rutherford-Simon, 8, it was the second year crossing the loppet finish line.

"It's fun because you get to ski and be outside with everyone," Rutherford-Simon, who has been skiing for four years, said.

The 2013 loppet celebrated the reopening of the trail

around the Cassette rapids this season by Smith's Landing First Nation. According to Hamilton, many people did this 3.5 km loop and then drove to another trailhead to add a few more kilometres.

Deanna Leonard, 34, and Aaron Spitzer, 40, both of Yellowknife flew into Fort Smith for the loppet straight from Wisconsin where they participated in the 88 km American Birkebeiner on Feb. 23.

"We just love to ski and we'd heard about the Thebacha loppet from friends because it's a trail with such a historical aspect, being used as an old portage route," Leonard said after completing the loppet for the first time in about 2.5 hours.

The trail between Smith and Fitz has been used by Aboriginal peoples for thousands of years, later becoming a portage route for trading. It was also used by some of the first Northern explorers including Sir John Franklin, Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne.

Next year marks the loppet's 40th anniversary. Although it formally started in 1972, there were two years when it was cancelled due to bad weather.

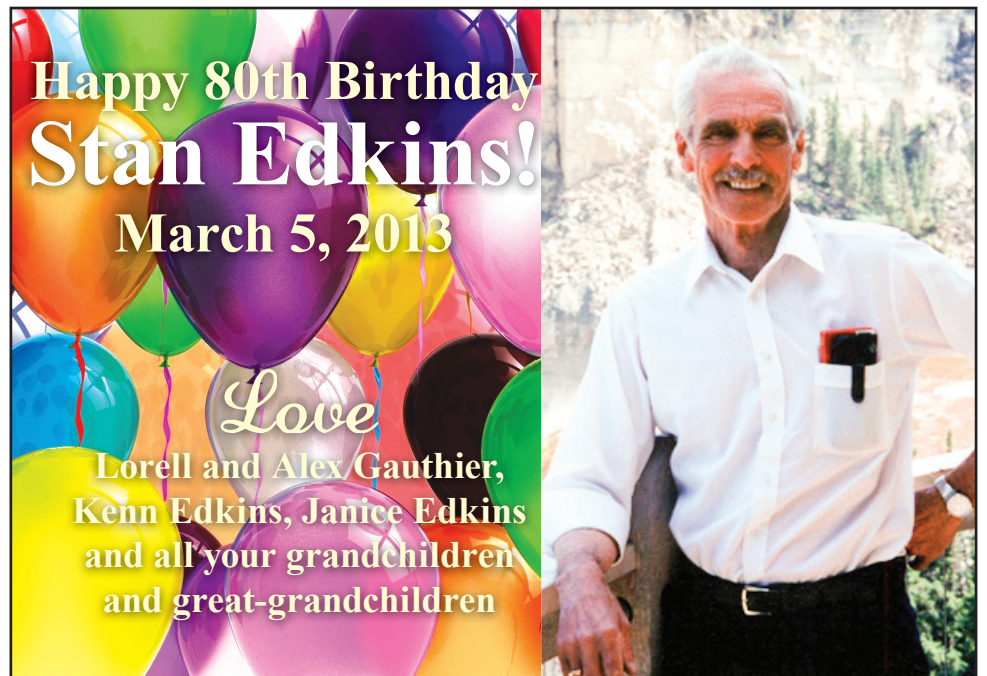
Organizers are already brainstorming about a weekend-long celebration and extending the last leg of the loppet past the Nordic Centre along the riverbank and into

town, ending at the arena for a party, Hamilton said.

"On the Sunday, we'd hold a kids' fun ski on the Cassette Loop with clowns as checkpoint officials, balloons in the trees, hidden treats on the route and end with a bonfire and wienner roast. After lunch, there'd be a skijoring tour with dogs pulling skiers on the stretch

from Halfway to Mountain," she told *The Journal*.

According to Hamilton, the loppet team also has long-term goals to work with Smith's Landing First Nation to do some extensive trail development that would include bridges across some of the ravines and widen the trail to allow for two tracks and snowshoers.



\$200
per button!



Wood Buffalo Frolics 2013

March 7 to March 10

Schedule of Events

Thursday

Youth Talent Show

TIME

6pm - 9pm

PLACE

Rec Centre Gym

SPONSORED BY

Fundraiser
Bully Awareness

Friday

Kids' Carnival

1pm - 3pm

Rec Centre Gym

Sugar Shack

1pm - 3pm

Outside Rec Centre

Canteen Open

1pm - 5pm

Rec Centre

Fort Smith Track & Field Society

Youth Aboriginal Games

2pm - 4pm

Outside Rec Centre

Rec. Hockey Tournament

6pm

Arena

Community Feast

6pm

Rec Centre Gym

Library Open House

7pm - 9pm

Mary Kaeser Library

Indoor Northern Games

8pm

Rec Centre Gym

Mad Trapper Ball

9pm - 2am

Roaring Rapids Hall



Saturday

Breakfast

8:30am - 11am

Arena

Rec. Hockey Tournament

9am

Arena

Northern Events (Adults)

11am

Arena

Northern Events (Youth)

Noon

Arena

Library Open House

1pm - 5pm

Mary Kaeser Library

Free Family Swim

3pm - 5pm

Rec Centre Pool

UNW Local #2/Town of Fort Smith

Sunday

Breakfast

8:30am - 11am

Arena

Rec. Hockey Tournament

9am

Arena

Northern Events (Adults)

Noon

Arena

Bingo - \$4,000 go-go

Noon - 4pm

Rec Centre Gym

Fort Smith Track & Field Society

Canteen Open

Noon - 5pm

Rec Centre

Fort Smith Track & Field Society

Sliding Party

1pm - 3pm

Lookout/Sliding Hill

MLA Michael Miltenberger

Free Family Swim

3pm - 5pm

Rec Centre Pool

UNW Local #2/Town of Fort Smith

Bonfire/Round Dance

7pm

Arena

Compete in
**NORTHERN
EVENTS**

Prizes for All Categories

ADULTS (18+): Log Sawing / Moose Calling / Bannock Making / Axe Throwing
Tea Boiling / Trap Setting / Snowshoe Race and more...

Overall top male and female win airfare to Edmonton courtesy of Northwestern Air

YOUTH: Shoeshoe Races / Nail Pounding / Snow Soccer / Garbage Bag Hockey

The Wood Buffalo Frolics would not be possible without the generous support of:



The Fort Smith
Business Community