

March is Aboriginal Language Month

"Otenahk e'wispayiyān"

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



Fort Chip locals get trained in monitoring
Locals in Fort Chipewyan are being trained to become a fleet of certified environmental monitors for the community. *See page 7.*



Skaters dance through the ages at Smith carnival
Fort Smith's skating club boogied down at this year's carnival with the theme "Let's Dance." *See page 7.*



ADCS experiments with first-ever science fair
Students in Fort Chipewyan played chemists, physicists and astronomers last week during their first-ever science fair. *See page 14.*



Yellowknife opening up weekly farmers' market
Green thumbs in Yellowknife are planning to sell their produce at a weekly farmers' market, starting this June. *See page 15.*

Tuesday, March 19, 2013
Vol. 36 No.44

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

NORTHERN Journal

2011 national award winner - "Best All-Round Newspaper"

\$1.00



Creator and destroyer Lachlan MacLean celebrates the burning of Transience during the Fire and Ice event at this year's Long John Jamboree festival in Yellowknife. MacLean's towering artwork, which went up in flames Saturday night on the frozen Great Slave Lake, was intended to represent the impermanence of winter, as well as life in general. Fire and Ice also included fireworks and other pyrotechnic displays. *See page 13 for more.*

GNWT split on devolution ‘consultation’

Motion to hold public referendum on deal defeated

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Just one day after the territorial and federal governments concluded devolution negotiations, members of the legislature were already split on who should be responsible for approving or rejecting the agreement.

A 60-day “public engagement” process is scheduled to follow the historic signing of the consensus draft version of the final devolution agreement, signed by Canada, the Northwest Territories and participating Aboriginal governments last Monday.

That “consultation” is designed to educate the public about what’s in the devolution agreement before the final agreement is voted on by MLAs in May or June. Aboriginal governments party to

the agreement, as well as Canada, will also decide whether or not to approve the final agreement.

Though the public is

I want to make it clear that negotiations have been completed. This is take it or leave it.

NWT Premier Bob McLeod

allowed to comment on it, Premier Bob McLeod said the agreement is essentially a “done deal” and no other changes will be made.

“I want to make it clear that negotiations have been completed. This is take it or leave it,” the premier told the House last Tuesday

when questioned about how much public input would be considered during the public engagement process.

“We will be explaining it

come back and start a whole new process of negotiation,” McLeod said.

Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro complained that many of her constituents have concerns with the deal. She asked why the GNWT would waste public resources on an engagement process that would result in no change.

“Those NWT residents do not agree with the premier, and currently there is little trust among the general public that the upcoming public engagement will allow for those residents’ opinions to be considered and appreciated,” Bisaro said. “Just what will the premier do if there is a groundswell of public opinion against signing off on the Devolution Final Agreement? Not very much, I’m afraid.”

A small protest took place outside the legislature on Monday during the signing ceremony, following an announcement the week previous that the North Slave Métis Alliance would be suing over the devolution deal based on lack of consultation.

Bisaro and other MLAs are requesting residents of the NWT have more say in the matter. Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley made a motion last week requesting a plebiscite, or referendum, that would see the whole territory vote on whether or not to approve the final agreement take place on May 13.

That motion was defeated, with just Bromley and Bisaro voting in favour and the entire cabinet voting no.

See Elected on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Four running for Salt River First Nation chief

Four candidates have thrown their names in for chief of Salt River First Nation, along with three others for councillor. Salt River members will be able to vote for Henry Beaver Jr., Warren Gagnon, Brad Laviolette or former chief Frieda Martosel at polling stations in both Fort Smith and the Kingsway Ave. Ramada Inn in Edmonton on Apr. 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Gabriel Mabry (Tourangeau), Don Matthews Jr. and Debbie Sikyea are all running for the one available councillor position. Advance polls opened last Tuesday at the Fort Smith Rec Centre. No results will be released until voting on election day is concluded.

RCMP intercept liquor, drugs en route to Fort Liard

Fort Liard RCMP stopped a pair of vehicles at a checkpoint on Mar. 12 to find dozens of bottles of alcohol and marijuana being smuggled into the community illegally. The first suspect, a resident of Fort Liard, was found to have two bottles of liquor in the cab. A further search of vehicle yielded 18 bottles of alcohol hidden near the spare tire. The suspect will be charged under the Fort Liard liquor restriction regulations and all liquor was seized. This is the second time the suspect has been caught for the same offence; the last time was 1.5 months ago. The name of the suspect is being withheld until formal charges have been laid. A second checkpoint search yielded another 24 bottles of alcohol, also hidden in the spare wheel well. A quarter pound of marijuana was also found. As a result, three males have been arrested, charges pending.

Hay River gets full-time physician

Hay River will get a full-time doctor next month when Dr. Coralie Boudreau begins her three-year contract on Apr. 2. Health and Social Services Minister Tom Beaulieu congratulated the department and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority for their hard work recruiting. Boudreau will serve Hay River, as well as the surrounding communities.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at a press conference following the signing of the draft devolution agreement on Mar. 11, flanked by (left to right) Ministers Leona Aglukkaq and Bernard Valcourt, and NWT Premier Bob McLeod.

Politics Devolution

Canada keeps hold of NWT environmental review boards

Draft of final devolution agreement released

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The federal government will retain jurisdiction over the Northwest Territories' environmental impact review boards under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) through the devolution agreement signed Monday.

The decision to accept delegated authority for the act was hinted at during the later stages

of devolution negotiations over the last several months, due to pending amendments to the act at the federal level that would have seen devolution negotiations stalled until completed.

A copy of the 113-page consensus draft of the final agreement was made public on Tuesday, along with a plain language version by the NWT devolution office.

Devolution negotiations concluded this week, but an additional 60 days of "public engagement" in the GNWT and consultation with Aboriginal governments on the part of Canada still have to occur before the NWT Legislative Assembly makes the final ratifying vote and all parties, including Aboriginal governments, decide whether or not to approve the agreement.

The agreement states that the GNWT will have the delegated authority to approve water licences, hold money as security to ensure land and water users follow rules, choose land and water inspectors and monitor the effects to water and land over time.

Canada, however, will keep the ability to make changes to the MVRMA, pay for each board under the act, choose who gets to be on the boards and administer environmental assessments through the review board.

Finances

As set out in the Agreement in Principle, the GNWT will be entitled to keep up to 50 per cent of resource revenues each year from development on public lands, which is "similar to the treatment of provincial resource revenues under the federal equalization program," according to the devolution office.

The amount of resources the GNWT will be able to keep, or the "net fiscal benefit," will be capped at five per cent of the GNWT's gross expenditure base each year, and will grow as resource revenues in the territory grow.

The GNWT estimates that number could have been around \$65 million for the last year had devolution already been completed.

The net fiscal benefit will be reviewed every five years.

Canada will also provide the GNWT with an annual total of \$67.3 million to deliver programs and services that were previously the responsibility of the federal government, starting on the projected transfer date of Apr. 1, 2014. That amount is up slightly from the \$65 million alluded to throughout negotiations.

Aboriginal governments that have signed on to the agreement will receive a share of the combined total of 25 per cent of resource revenues from public lands. How much governments receive will be calculated 70 per cent based on population and 30 per cent on cost of living.

Currently \$4 million of the promised \$26.5 million from Canada to help in the transition has been provided to the GNWT, while the remainder will be paid after the agreement is finalized.

Aboriginal parties to the deal will also be given \$4 million to support the one-time change-over, along with \$3 million every year following the transfer to support the creation and activities of an inter-governmental council of Aboriginal and GNWT leaders designed to "cooperatively" manage public and settlement lands "as part of a respectful government-to-government relationship."

Oil and gas

The agreement also outlines the transfer of rights in relation to oil and gas development.

A separate agreement between the GNWT, Canada and the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC) regarding oil and gas development near the Beaufort Sea is included in the deal, addressing how each government gives permission to oil and gas companies to work, the rules companies must follow and the amount to charge companies.

The IRC will receive \$200,000 annually to participate in the management of Beaufort oil and gas.

The three parties are required to begin negotiations for the management of offshore oil and gas within 60 days after the final agreement is signed.

A second note is made with respect to oil and gas rights in the Sahtu. Canada will retain its one-third ownership interest in the subsurface rights for the Norman Wells Proven Area, but Imperial Oil will now be required to pay royalties to the GNWT on its two thirds.

Jobs

The section on human resources stipulates that the GNWT make a "reasonably comparable job offer" to all permanent federal employees being affected by the transfer, "matching as closely as possible the employee's responsibilities, job location and pay."

Where federal pay is higher, employees will be given a "transition allowance" for five years to bridge the difference.

Unused sick leave and vacation time will be transferred over, and benefits will be picked up by the GNWT.

The agreement also states that "Canada and the GNWT want as many affected federal employees as possible to accept jobs with the territorial government as a part of devolution," according to the plain language document provided.

Waste sites

Canada will remain responsible for waste sites on public and settlement lands created before devolution.

Operating sites, such as an active mine, will become the GNWT's responsibility on the transfer date. The GNWT will have up to five years to determine the financial and environmental stability of operating sites before it releases the federal government from liability.

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Dehcho First Nations win battle to protect Edehzhie

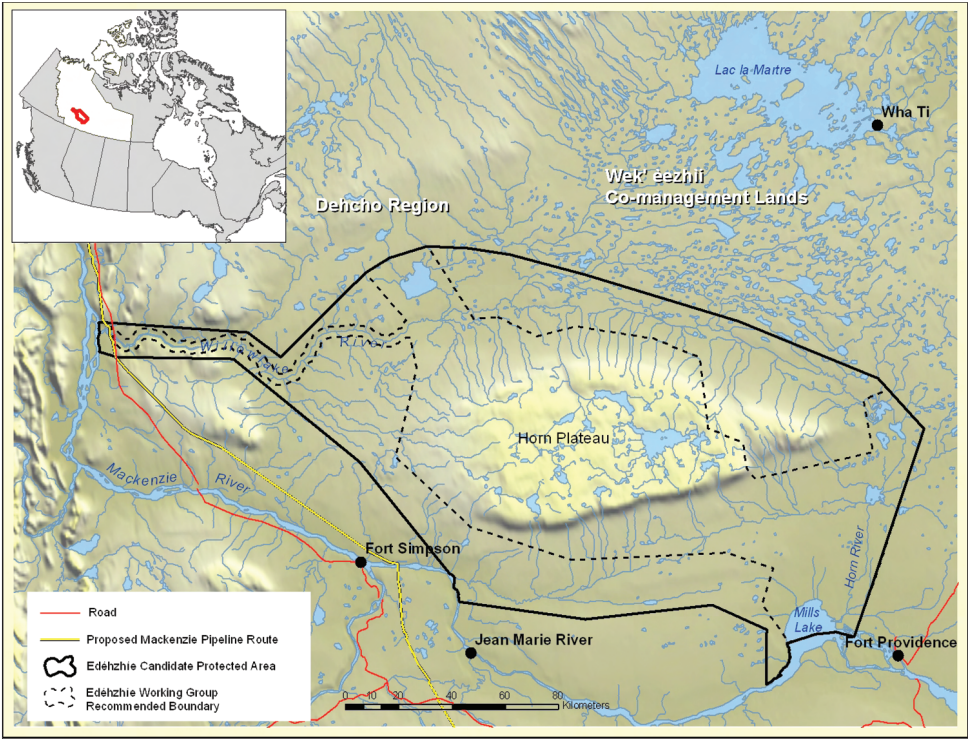
By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The federal government has agreed to complete the final steps to permanently protect the Edehzhie national wildlife area in the Dehcho following a court decision earlier this month stating it did not consult with the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) when it removed land withdrawal for the sake of mining in 2010.

DFN took Canada to court in November 2010 following what they called a “unilateral decision” by the federal government to terminate protection for Edehzhie, which was in the process of gaining protection through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS).

Last week, Canada agreed in writing to complete the final two stages of the eight-step PAS to establish the 14,250 square-km area, which includes the Horn River, Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and Willowlake River northeast of Fort Simpson, as a co-managed National Wildlife Area (NWA).

Ottawa also agreed to pay DFN’s legal fees in exchange for the withdrawal of the judicial review application.



Edehzhie, or “source waters,” contains the headwaters of three major drainage basins.

“It’s a shame that we had to sue Canada to get the Harper government to honour its obligations, but we are very satisfied with this result,” DFN Grand Chief Herb Norwegian said in a news release.

Canada allowed the legal protection of the area to expire on Oct. 31, 2010 to allow for mining exploration, just

after it completed a publicly-funded mineral assessment of the area made available to industry.

The court called Canada’s actions “clearly questionable” and reinstated interim protection to 57 per cent of the original 25,000 square-km study area that received surface and subsurface protection in 2002.

Following devolution, the department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will be taking more responsibility for negotiating PAS areas in the NWT. ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger said this will not disrupt ongoing, trilateral negotiations between the various Aboriginal governments, Canada and the GNWT.

It’s a shame that we had to sue Canada to get the Harper government to honour its obligations, but we are very satisfied with this result.

*Grand Chief Herb Norwegian
Dehcho First Nations*

“The federal government is going to be stepping to the side, and we are going to be playing a leadership role. We know in the Dehcho that we are going to conclude Edehzhie and the other candidate areas. We are going to continue to work with the communities and the other stakeholders,” he said last week in the legislature.

“I’ve had discussions with the (federal) minister of Environment about the resources that have been identified for these processes and these nominated wildlife areas to ensure that we, in fact, inherit and continue to have some of that funding that was voted by the federal government.

“I can clearly commit to the territorial government’s, our government’s, commitment to this process,” he added.

Edehzhie, or “source waters,” contains the headwaters of three major drainage basins and has traditionally been used as an area for hunting, trapping and harvesting, along with cultural and spiritual practices. It also contains a key northern wetland for migratory birds on the Central and Mississippi flyways.

The current land withdrawal expires in May 2013. The new boundary includes most important conservation areas and excludes areas that may provide economic development opportunities, according to the PAS website.

The final area will be co-managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service, DFN and the Tlicho government.

Politics Devolution

Elected representatives to decide on devolution deal, cabinet decides

Continued from page 1.

An EKOS poll commissioned by the NGO Alternatives North last week asked 400 random residents over the age of 18 in the NWT if they thought the public should get a vote on whether or not to accept the proposed devolution deal before it’s finalized.

Of the respondents, 68 per cent favoured a vote, 20 per cent were opposed and 12 per cent were uncertain or undecided.

McLeod said the territory does not make decisions through referenda, adding that a public vote would be non-binding and allow the GNWT to make the final decision in the end, regardless.

“We are the elected leaders of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “We are here to represent the people of the Northwest Territories. I think we should stand up and be counted. I don’t think we should be running

a government by plebiscite or by referendum.”

Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen agreed, and requested the consultation be renamed to frame it as a public awareness process.

“It’s not a perfect deal. It was never going to be a perfect deal. It was never going to have absolutely everything we asked for...But it is a good deal,” she said of the devolution agreement. “We are the elected leaders. We have the majority of our elected Aboriginal leaders who have come alongside and said, this is the direction we want to go. I think that to try to undertake a plebiscite would be giving perhaps some people out there that are not happy with this deal...the false hope that this is something that could be changed to a great extent, and I don’t believe that’s the case.”

McLeod said part of the issue is ensuring the GNWT

does proper “consultation” to avoid future lawsuits with Aboriginal governments, despite his firm belief that the devolution agreement does not require a duty to consult.

“We have significant amount of non-abrogation clauses that ensure we don’t infringe on Aboriginal treaty rights, (but) to make sure that we are very cautious, to make sure we don’t miss anything, we will be doing our consulting with Aboriginal governments and making sure we adhere to our duty to consult requirement,” he said.

McLeod said the GNWT would specifically be consulting with the Akaitcho and Dehcho governments - the only First Nations remaining outside the deal - but for a limited time, likely a year at most.

“They’re the best governments to tell us and make sure we don’t infringe on any rights,” he said.

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

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Advertising Deadlines

Display ad deadline is Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
Classified ad deadline is Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
Email: ads@norj.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.

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*The Northern Journal is available
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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	Uluksaktok
Fort Good Hope	Lutsel K'e	Wekweti
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Fort McPherson	Norman Wells	Wrigley
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Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
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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.*

Devolution - a step in the right direction

The agreement now finalized that will devolve roles from the federal to the NWT government has yet to be passed by the NWT legislature and must still be finally approved by the federal government. That all should take place by May and the final signing to bring it into law should happen no later than June. It is on course to completion and nothing foreseeable will stop it.

Is devolution good for the NWT? Yes, certainly it is. The less Northerners' lives are controlled by bureaucrats and politicians in Ottawa, the better. We want to be masters of our own destiny. We know better than anyone what has to be done to make that happen. The agreement is a big step in that direction. We will be given the responsibility to look after our own affairs, along with the resources and means to make that happen.

Are the terms of the agreement the best they could be for the benefit of the people of the NWT? No, they could be much better. We have been given responsibility, but the NWT still lacks power and authority. To say that "province-like powers" are being handed over is inaccurate. The federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development still holds the power. Appointments to key decision-making boards will be at the behest of the federal government, and partisan politics will still affect that process. Final approval of projects will still rest with the federal government – including dams, mines and other major industrial undertakings. The NWT government will be able to gather data, analyze and make recommendations, but beyond that the federal government will have the final say, even when the NWT government disagrees.

Having said all that, we seriously doubt anyone else could have pulled off a better deal. The NWT government has been focused intently on this file for over three years with a very competent negotiating team. They have been up against a federal government equally focused and passionate,

The bottom line is that the federal government has forged an agreement with the NWT that promotes the goals, objectives and methodology of the Harper Conservatives.

with serious plans for the North's vital contribution to the economic future of Canada. We at *The Journal* have written at least 40 news stories and run two guest columns and several editorials (counting this one) with a specific focus on devolution since early 2010. It has been a foremost agenda item for our leaders throughout that period. Imagine the incredible amount of work carried out behind the scenes by workers from both governments.

The agreement still needs to be studied and analyzed and all the details brought to light. It may be a year before there is an understanding of its real implications and results. That process of finding out is of critical importance to Northerners.

The bottom line is that the federal government has forged an agreement with the

NWT that promotes the goals, objectives and methodology of the Harper Conservatives. At the core is a huge carrot to promote industrial development in the NWT - because the funding for the NWT government will now flow from resource revenue. That is what was asked for by the NWT and it was happily obliged. Beyond that, it is clear by what is happening with the development of the oilsands in Alberta that everything will be done by the federal government to facilitate industrial development in the NWT, as fast as is humanly possible. Jobs and material well-being will flow to Northerners because of it, Canada's economy will enjoy the fruits of it, and huge wealth will be generated for those at the heart of it.

This devolution deal is not forever. It is only a next step. It can be revisited in the future, particularly if there are aspects of it untenable to either party. How it will be implemented will differ dramatically depending on the party in power in Ottawa; in particular, who wins the next election and controls Parliament.

That means if you like the plan and want to see as much exploitation of resources and hydro potential in the NWT as possible, there is a new Conservative caucus in Canada's North led by business leaders and Members of Parliament in Nunavut and Yukon who are eager for your support. Or you may feel the pace of development should be measured and carefully planned so it better suits the needs and goals of Northerners. Whatever the case, you will have an opportunity to do something about it. The next federal and NWT elections are just over 900 days away. Start planning now.



The former chief of the Fort Smith Volunteer Fire Department, Darren Linaker, receives a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal last Wednesday, Mar. 13 at the Fire Hall in recognition of his 21 years of service.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

A yen for the Northern Lights

More and more Japanese tourists are traveling to northern Canada to see the aurora borealis.

While most Japanese tourists make their way to Yellowknife for aurora tours, Michael Salvisberg of Kana 'Kes Aurora Tours in Fort Smith had a special group of 12 in town for one of his tours.

"You can't compare the aurora there (in Yellowknife) to the aurora here. The aurora we saw here was amazing," said Hiroko Toshizawa, travel writer for the magazine *Blanca*.

Issue: March 17, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Sunday is world anti-racism day

This Sunday, March 21, people across the country will be standing up and speaking out against racism as apart of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Since 1989, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada has pushed its anti-racism campaign to help build awareness and stimulate ideas to combat racism and racial discrimination in Canada.

Issue: March 17, 1993

30 Years Ago...

River Ridge for kids

The Receiving Home in Fort Smith is no more. In its place is River Ridge, a facility providing supportive care for older children and adolescents.

According to Social Service's area superintendent Steve O'Niell, the new name and direction for the former Receiving Home have been in the works for the past year.

"The programs are now geared for older kids undergoing emotional or other conflicts," he said.

Issue: March 17, 1983

Devolution a quickie deal with feds

Editor,
The NWT devolution deal omits a third of the NWT; major First Nations (maps included), fails to reach consensus with First Nations (Yellowknife). Is the quickie deal negotiated between Ottawa and Yellowknife a gift to mining

companies, or merely unloading the costly burden of regulating NWT mines? The Harper government announced it will transfer federal powers over mining to the young government of the NWT, on Mar. 11. However, a very large part of the NWT is NOT

included in Ottawa's rushed "devolution" deal: Dehcho First Nations and Akaitcho Territory (see maps on websites: www.dehcho.org/members_map_dehcho_territory.htm www.akaitchoterritory.com/AkaitchoMap.aspx). The hasty transfer of

environmental and mining authority to the young government of the NWT will result in weaker environmental protection and a lost opportunity for full participation in resource management by all First Nations and communities.

Edna Camsell

OPINION

The Canadian Senate - to be or not to be?

The recent furor over the expense accounts of senators has made many people not only question the integrity of the institution but its value as well. The national debate over its future has been given new life. As a result, the Conservatives' bill on reforming the Senate may show up in the House of Commons for debate as soon as this spring.

Does the federal Senate have a future? The provinces, who all had Senates in their legislative assemblies when they joined Confederation, have disbanded them. Expensive and ineffective were more than enough reasons for our provincial leaders to ditch this colonial hangover.

Let's look at our sole remaining Senate in Canada. Here we have an appointed body of respectable citizens, ostensibly there to provide a second look at the work of the elected politicians, providing them with advice. They are assured their

posts until they turn 75 years of age. It sounds more useful than it turns out to be. Regional representatives, as our senators are supposed to be by law, becomes meaningless when all senators are regular participants in the federal caucus of either the Conservatives or Liberals.

Regional representation means very little when partisan ideology takes over. For example, the senator from Nunavut voted to reject climate change legislation passed by the elected House of Commons. Sober second opinion is a joke when all Conservative senators join him in defeating this legislation prior to even hearing the evidence in Senate committees.

What we have now is a highly politicized senate, heavily weighted with Harper Conservative appointments (more than 50 per cent). In all likelihood, that number will increase by the next federal election, slated for the fall of 2015.

The opposition, both NDP and Liberal, know what problems a strongly politicized Senate will present to any new government that might come at that time. A newly elected government attempting to reform Conservative legislation as part of its election mandate will likely be frustrated and delayed in doing so by this legacy of Conservative senators.

Is the solution, as the Conservative Party suggests in Bill C-7, to elect senators for limited terms? This bill was introduced over 12 months ago, and has languished since. By turning the senators into politicians, by raising their profile in their regions, will this really serve the stated goals of the institution?

Will such an effort simply mean that the legislative will of the elected House of Commons be frustrated to a greater degree? Take a look at our neighbours to the south, where the two elected Houses



Dennis Bevington
MP Western Arctic

can hardly ever agree to anything, and where gridlock is assisting in the failure of the American state.

The appointed Canadian Senate has lost much of the support that it may have clung to over the years. It is vulnerable, and the actions of a handful of high rolling personalities have tarnished it. There is a mood in the country for change.

The Conservatives could bring their bill forward, and they have the majority to pass it quickly. Are these changes sensible and good for the operation of our democracy or will they cause even more difficulty in governing this country?

A 'smart' way to file taxes

Many of us struggle with taxes. The image of someone hauling a messy big box full of receipts into a long-suffering bookkeeper or accountant is classic. Keeping records and receipts throughout the year is just sensible, especially if you run a small business. But for the organizationally-challenged or overly-busy person (that means most of us), it is easier said than done. Here is a new approach using that

wonderful little Swiss Army Knife like tool we all carry around nowadays called a "smartphone." It is in fact so much more than a phone. In this case, use the camera to take a picture of receipts as soon as you get them. You can upload them to any number of virtual storage solutions like Dropbox or Rackspace, and of course Google has a cloud storage solution (just download the app of the one

you want). Or you can e-mail the receipt picture to yourself, but always put something easy to search in the subject line that is common to all of

them (like "Receipt" and then the date). Yes, the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) will accept virtual receipt copies for tax filing.

CORRECTION

In last week's brief, "Transmission line worker injured," it was incorrectly stated that the injured worker was a NT Power Corp. employee. The injured man was employed by a company working under contract for NT Power Corp. We apologize for this error.

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

A coalition of Alberta doctors, medevac pilots and rural advocates is still urging the provincial government to reconsider its plans to move air ambulance services to the Edmonton International Airport near Leduc, despite attempts by Premier Alison Redford to quell worries.



Doctors unconvinced medevac move won't hinder health
norj.ca



Helen Hudson-Macdonald This will also affect NWT residents, as usual, our Gov't isn't peeping!!!



Stella Wasylyshyn my thoughts exactly so phone your MLA!!!!!! lol

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday	
-21 High	-31 Low
Thursday	
-20 High	-31 Low
Friday	
-17 High	-25 Low
Saturday	
-15 High	-27 Low

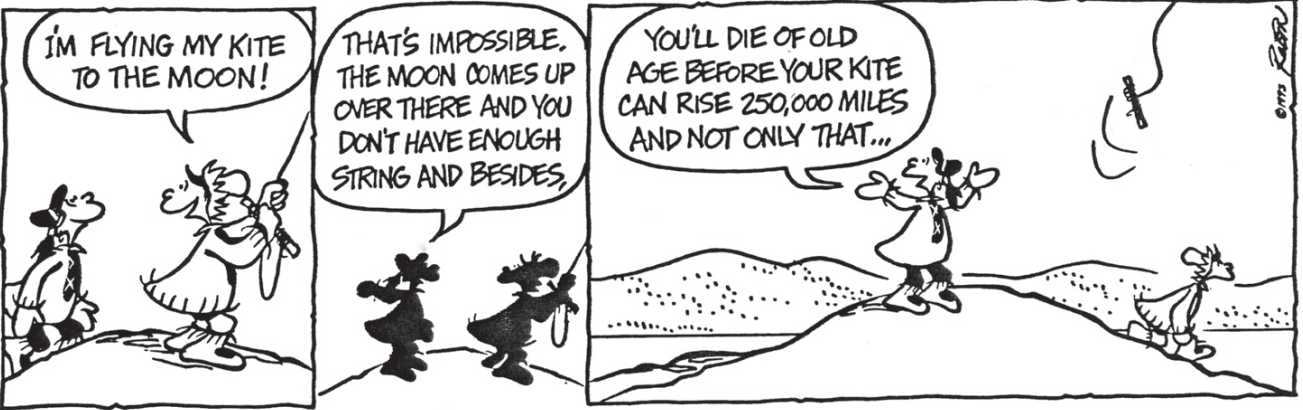
Norms: -16°C and -27°C Norms: -10°C and -22°C

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday	
-4 High	-19 Low
Thursday	
-5 High	-10 Low
Friday	
-3 High	-9 Low
Saturday	
-6 High	-15 Low

Norms: -7°C and -19°C Norms: -4°C and -18°C

MUKLUK



Inuvik-Tuk Highway construction a ‘go’

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

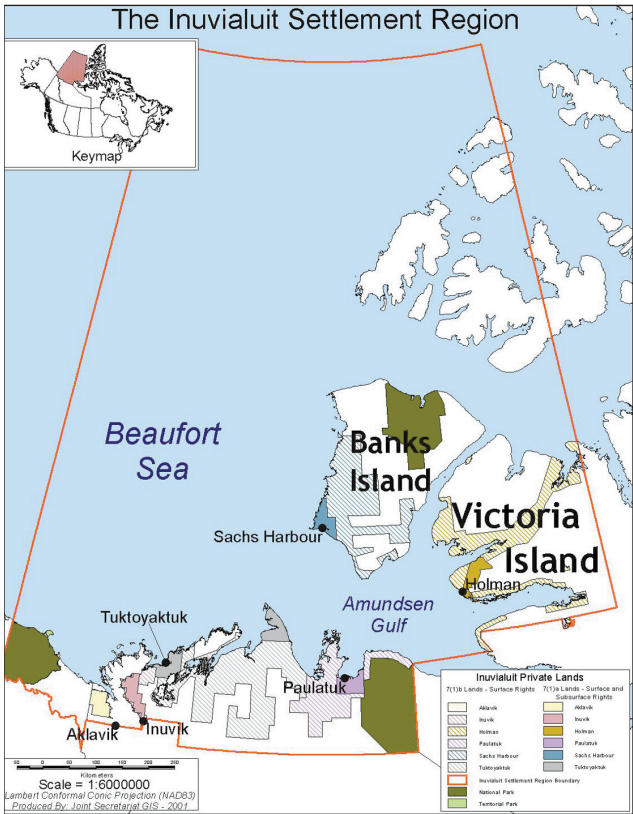
With an additional \$50 million topping up the federal government’s contribution to \$200 million, the \$300 million Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway project is officially on its way to becoming a reality.

“The Prime Minister’s confirmation of funding support provides another significant piece of the tapestry we must create as we move forward with this construction project,” NWT Transportation Minister David Ramsay said last week in the legislature.

If approved by the Legislative Assembly, construction can begin within days, he added.

“The department of Transportation plans to begin this project by upgrading the access road from Tuktoyaktuk to Gravel Source 177 and conducting additional geotechnical work,” Ramsay said. “Much work also remains to obtain regulatory permits, finalize the highway design and determine an approach to procurement.”

Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC) chair Nellie Cournoyea applauded the movement on the project, which will run through the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).



The Inuvialuit Regional Corp. is entitled to charge royalties on gravel procured from its settlement region, but Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins is hoping it will waive the charge in order to have more money allocated to the road itself.

“Completing the highway will fully realize Diefenbaker’s dream of a ‘road to resources’ and for the first time connect the rest of Canada to

our Arctic coastline - a major step in protecting Canadian sovereignty in the far North,” she said in a press release. She said the road will

I would like the Inuvialuit to agree to waive their royalty fee. Now, that doesn’t mean they don’t get to charge for the gravel. I think fair market rate is fair in whatever they decide to do.

MLA Robert Hawkins

facilitate economic development in the region, including short and long-term employment.

“Our hope for the future is that easier access will encourage onshore and offshore oil and gas development and set the stage for further investments in the future,” she said.

Western Arctic Conservative Association president and mayor of Inuvik Floyd Roland also lauded the step forward for the highway project on account of the economic benefits it would give to the Beaufort-Delta region.

He said the road will dramatically reduce the cost of shipping goods into Tuktoyaktuk, which costs \$3 per pound on average through air freight. Truck deliveries are expected to cost 15 cents per pound.

He also said the highway

project will create much-needed work for the region’s residents.

MLA questions royalties to IRC

Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins is requesting the IRC waive the royalties on gravel to be used for the highway construction, stating gravel should be purchased at a fair price and the rest of taxpayers’ money put toward the highway itself.

“I would like the Inuvialuit to agree to waive their royalty fee. Now, that doesn’t mean they don’t get to charge for the gravel. I think fair market rate is fair in whatever they decide to do, but it is the royalty fee to be very clear,” he said, adding that the Inuvialuit have not invested money in the project.

Royalties on the IRC’s

gravel are guaranteed in the Inuvialuit Land Claim Agreement, but are negotiable.

Hawkins said whatever is negotiated for the Inuvik-Tuk portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project will set precedent for deals with other Aboriginal governments.

“If we accept a bad deal on the Inuvik-Tuk highway, we will be sentencing ourselves and future generations to be paying premium prices multiplied by hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars across thousands of kilometres,” he said.

Though Hawkins tried to get Transportation Minister David Ramsay to state the estimated royalty rate included within the \$299 million estimated cost for the Inuvik-Tuk highway, the minister wouldn’t budge.

“We don’t negotiate in public,” he said.

Ramsay added that the Inuvialuit have invested in the project by allowing it to take place on their land.

“The road program goes entirely over ISR lands...They have a future need and requirement for granular materials. They have every right to charge royalties to people using granular materials from ISR lands.”

Politics Elections

Political choices loom large for former premier

By JACK DANYLCHUK

When the next federal election rolls around in 2015, Floyd Roland will have a choice to make: stay on as mayor of Inuvik, seek the chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. - or jump into federal politics.

“The next election will be an important one and I will look to it with interest, and am considering what is best for our territory,” Roland said in reply to an email after he joined the chorus of praise for the federal government’s decision to add \$50 million to its stake in the estimated \$300 million road to Tuktoyaktuk.

“This is a great day for the entire NWT,” Roland said in a press release as president of the Western Arctic Conservative Association (WACA).

The press release was distributed by Sandy Lee, failed Conservative candidate in the last election, and federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq’s special assistant in the Western Arctic, who said she was acting as a party volunteer.

The road will reduce the cost of shipping goods into Tuktoyaktuk, which relies

heavily on airplanes and is pegged at about \$3 per pound. Once the highway is complete, trucked deliveries are expected to cost just 15 cents per pound, Roland said.

“The highway will also mean work. We can expect more than 1,000 jobs will be created during the four-year construction period and an additional 42 permanent careers will be available for those maintaining the road after it is built.”

Although the party’s website has yet to reflect the change, Roland was elected WACA president in mid-December, he said, and was a member of the Conservative party while serving as premier, a term dogged by controversy over a sexual encounter with a clerk of the legislature and a non-confidence vote.

“I guess you can say (it is) a first purely political post. Of course in life most things involve some politics, right?” he said. “As I have grown with experience, I am seeing that my values align with the party I have selected to be a part of.”

Roland has been a popular politician. He first won election in 1995 and was re-elected in 1999 with 83 per cent of the vote. He was acclaimed in 2003 and again in 2007 when members of the legislature chose him as the territory’s 11th premier.

When Roland retired from territorial politics last year, it was widely speculated he would challenge Nellie Cournoyea for the leadership of the IRC, but he opted to continue in his new post as mayor of Inuvik.

Taking a run at Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington would be no less challenging. Bevington has held the seat for the NDP since 2006 when he unseated Liberal incumbent Ethel Blondin Andrew and has held it against a series of formidable candidates - including former premier Joe Handley.

Past Conservative candidates made strong showings in the traditional party strongholds of Hay River and Beaufort-Delta, but none have been able to break the NDP grip on Yellowknife.

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Fort Chip locals get environmental monitoring training

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Community members concerned with the health and environmental impacts of surrounding industry in Fort Chipewyan are on their way to becoming certified environmental monitors through an eight-week course teaching them everything from water and snow sampling to environmental regulations.

The course, spearheaded by Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Fort Chip Métis Local, is a partnership between Aurora College, Keyano College and Environment Canada, aiming to equip Aboriginal people with the skills to become involved in existing scientific studies or design their own monitoring programs.

“The goal is to create quality, high-class environmental monitors that can be used in all sorts of monitoring programs,” instructor Adam Bathe, a sessional instructor at Aurora College, told *The Journal*.

Bathe, who works for environmental and traditional knowledge consulting firm Blyth & Bathe out of Fort Smith, said the program, which is funded by Environment Canada, was designed to mentor students in federal monitoring protocols so they can be further involved in the sampling process, whether it be community-based, government-led or industry-funded.

“When you have local people trained in these types of projects, it’s really valuable because they also have historical knowledge and they see the changes that are happening on the landscape as well as knowing where to go,” he said.

This particular course has combined the five-week Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) training program, which integrates traditional knowledge with practical field experience, with science and math upgrading at Keyano College, as well as safety



The class heads out to do snowpack sampling on Lake Athabasca near Fort Chipewyan with Environment Canada scientist Jane Kirk (front centre).



Pamela Paquette (left) takes a snowpack core sample for federal scientist Jane Kirk.

Photos: Adam Bathe

courses, such as wilderness first aid and ice safety.

It teaches everything from water and snowpack monitoring techniques to spills and compliance monitoring, as well as legislation connected to federal and provincial environmental regulatory regimes.

Last week, students had a guest presentation from Environment Canada scientist Jane Kirk, whose recent study on airborne contaminants from bitumen upgraders in the oilsands region confirmed previous studies showing that industry is polluting the surrounding snowpack.

Kirk took the students out on the lake to do snowpack sampling, giving them hands-on experience working with the equipment and practicing the required techniques.

Additional funding from Environment Canada has been secured to allow the 14 students to spend two weeks out on the water in May working with sampling equipment, as well.

While the training is new territory for some of the students, others are already involved in the community-based monitoring work

around water and wildlife happening in the community and are looking to be officially certified, Bathe said.

“(The local Aboriginal governments) just wanted to make sure that those students are knowledgeable when it comes to environmental monitoring at a high enough level that their results won’t be questioned, that it can’t be in any way held against them,” he said. “They’ll come out of this as certified environmental monitors.”

Kevin Courtoreille, an employee of Mikisew’s Government and Industry Relations (GIR) department and leader of the field portion of the community-based water monitoring program, is one of those students taking the course despite working in the monitoring field for the last five years.

He said his personal concern for the health of his community is what pushed him to become so involved in monitoring what industry is doing to the land, water and animals.

“It’s my home, and I feel like we’re looking down the barrel of a shotgun type of

situation and that there’s a high probability our people are being impacted by the tar sands,” he said. “There’s loved ones who’ve passed on from unexplained cancers, extremely rare, and when I’m out on the field taking these samples, that’s the kind of thing that I think about, which gives me motivation.

“It’s personal in that these are my people and I care about them, what’s impacting them and their health.”

Bathe said the course fulfills 200 of the 2,000 required hours to become a recognized environmental monitor. The rest of the hours must be filled through fieldwork.

Though it’s the first year such a course has been taught in Fort Chipewyan, Bathe said he hopes it won’t be the last.

“In a way, it’s sort of a pilot project, so we’re hoping that the success in this class can actually lead to the development of bigger and better courses in the future.”

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www.ainsworthengineered.com. The deadline for submission of proposals is **3:00 p.m., April 30, 2013**.

Métis sign deal with Alberta government

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Alberta's eight Métis settlements signed long-term funding arrangements with the Alberta government last week totalling \$85 million over the next 10 years.

The funding arrangements, signed by the Métis Settlements General Council, provide further resources for education, employment and economic opportunities, strengthening the local governments and improving infrastructure and essential services.

"People living on Métis settlements deserve the same social and economic opportunities, and essential services on par with other Alberta communities," Robin Campbell, minister of Aboriginal Relations, said in an official statement on the signing.

"This agreement is the start of new community approaches to generate ongoing sources of revenue. We want to ensure self-sufficient communities and an improved standard of life for people living on settlements," he said.



Alberta Premier Alison Redford signs a 10-year funding arrangement with Randy Hardy, president of the Metis Settlements General Council, Tuesday, Mar. 12.

The framework fulfills a commitment made by the province in 2011 designed to reduce Métis settlements' future dependence on provincial funding. Alberta is home to the

only recognized Métis settlements in Canada, which comprise a total of 1.25 million acres of land primarily in the east-central and northern areas of the province.



A crumpled sheet of steel is all that remains after a cabin burnt down during PWK's annual winter camp on Piers Lake last week.

Education Winter Camp

Cabin burns down during PWK winter camp

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
A handful of Paul W. Kaeser High School students from Fort Smith are thankful to be home after avoiding disaster during the annual Grade 9 winter camp on Piers Lake, where they spend five days each year learning to live off the land.

One cabin on the campsite burnt to the ground late last Wednesday night, consuming sleeping bags, parkas and other supplies.

The structure was the sleeping cabin for the boys,

but was empty at the time of the incident as all occupants had headed to another cabin for a late snack around 10:00 p.m. or so, PWK principal Al Karasiuk told *The Journal*.

No one was injured and students were flown home on Thursday.

"Our leadership team at the school is holding debriefing sessions with the students," Karasiuk said. "It was a shock for them to see that happen, and you're out in the bush; you can't just call the fire department."

The source of the fire is not known.

Karasiuk plans to collect witness statements for insurance purposes.

The winter camp for Joseph Burr Tyrrell Elementary School also had an incident last week when a student accidentally leaned on the throttle of a 800cc snowmobile and took off into a group of young students, knocking over two girls. The girls were bruised but not seriously injured, according to sources.

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Tuesday, March 19, 2013

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Veronica Johnny sings the band's newest single, Motorcycle Mama.



Arbor Live host Stevie Salas sits down with The Johnnys to find out what the band has been up to.



Drummer Dave Johnny belts it out on the set of Arbor Live.

Photos: Scott Benesinaabandan

Arts & Culture Music

The Johnnys rock out on APTN's *Arbor Live*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
The Johnnys, a rock and roll band founded in Fort Smith by Cree vocalist/rhythm guitarist Veronica Johnny and her drummer husband Dave, brought down the house again on *Arbor Live*, a music variety TV program on APTN. Episode seven of *Arbor Live*'s season three aired Friday, featuring the band, who divide their time between Manitoulin Island in northern Ontario and downtown Toronto, alongside Big Sugar, a Canadian

blues-rock band fronted by Gordie Johnson.
"Opportunities like this really increase our profile," Veronica, who grew up in Fort Smith, told *The Journal*. "When I come home, friends of mine say to me, 'I saw you on TV and am so proud of you.' So a big part of me does it for them too." The episode was filmed in November 2011 and marked the second time the band, which *Arbor Live* host Stevie Salas calls one his "favourites," belted out their high-energy mix of


punk and '70s inspired hard rock on the show. They also appeared in season one. With Oriana Barbato on bass and Tim Bones on lead guitar, the group performed *Dona Juana* and *Bedbug Banquet* from their multiple award-nominated second album *Louder Faster More Fun*, and the single *Motorcycle Mama* from their forthcoming record. "Both times we've been on *Arbor Live* have been a bit of a fluke," Veronica said. "We were at the 2011 Aboriginal Peoples Choice

Music Awards (APCMA) in Winnipeg and the guys from *Arbor* happened to catch us live and said they had to have us back again. One week later, they were filming in Toronto, and we made sure we were there." The band, nominated for best rock CD in 2011 at the APCMA, will also be featured on *The Best of Arbor Live*, airing Apr. 26. "That's a real honour for us," Veronica said. "They've had so many musicians on the program and to be chosen to be


on that episode is a real achievement." One of the best things about *Arbor Live* is how it airs lesser-known Aboriginal acts alongside more established and successful bands, Veronica said. "They put us in the same category...That really helps lift up Aboriginal musicians and the community. There's a sense of pride to what we're doing." The release party for The Johnnys' newest CD, *ROCK*, is Apr. 19 at the Hard Rock Cafe in Toronto.

"This album slows down the pace a bit, leaves more space in the music," Veronica said. "It's diversified and will appeal to more people, I think, but it's still heavy, still rock." Veronica, also a traditional hand drummer and singer, will be back in the NWT this summer to learn more about hand drumming from local elders and work with youth. To catch the Johnnys' performance on *Arbor Live*, visit <http://aptn.ca/pages/arborlive>.

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Politics Youth

Fort Smith girl meets PM at devolution signing

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Fifteen year-old Anna Gervais of Fort Smith wasn't expecting to have one of those "moments of a lifetime" when she signed up to be a NWT Legislative Assembly page. Gervais, a Grade 9 student at Paul W. Kaeser High School, arrived for her first day on the job in Yellowknife last Monday morning and came face to face with the prime minister. "I didn't even know what I was doing; I'd only just had a tour of the buildings and they told me I was going to be the one to give him (the prime minister) his speech," Gervais said. "I was shaking. I didn't even recognize him at first when he walked by me; I had to do a double take." Gervais was the only one out of eight pages to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who was in the city to sign the momentous devolution agreement with NWT leaders. "I just happened to be the one picked. He shook my hand and asked if I was the page who would be handing him his speech and we made some small



Anna Gervais of Fort Smith shares a moment with Prime Minister Stephen Harper last Monday in Yellowknife before he delivered his speech at the devolution signing ceremony.

Photo: Deb Ransom

talk...I asked him how he liked it here and he said it was a bit cold," Gervais said. "Then he said, 'Quick shot,' and we were swarmed by all these cameras and then that was over before I knew it...Later I thought, wow, I just met one of the most powerful people in Canada." Gervais was also approached by Jackie Jacobson, speaker of the House. "He said to me, 'My friend tells me you're a debater. You

should consider our Youth Parliament session in May,'" she said. "And I am considering it, actually." Other pages included Aurora Vassal, 14, from Fort Smith, Lecy Gully and Chantell Orlas from Colville Lake, and fifteen others from Yellowknife. "It was a memorable moment and a big step for the NWT...To be a part of that was pretty neat and at the same time intense, but well worth it," Gervais said.



The Fort Smith Skating Club takes a well deserved breather after dancing on ice all weekend at the 2013 carnival.



Isabella Bourque feels the music in her belly dancing number.

Sports & Recreation Skating

Fort Smith kicks up blades *‘Just Dance’ skating carnival a hit*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Jazz, tap, Irish jigging, disco, the Cha Cha - you name it, the Fort Smith arena had it this past weekend as skating club members cut up a rug on the ice at the annual skating carnival.
This year's theme was “Just Dance” and featured an adorable Mexican Hat Dance by the junior skaters as well as an up-beat, head-bopping dance to the international hit Korean song *Gangnam Style* by the intermediate group.

Among other performers, Adam Brunner-McLaren grooved robot-style to some classic Michael Jackson and Megan Walsh put a spell on the audience with her graceful dance to “Pure Imagination” from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*.
An adult group of skaters even broke it down for the cheering crowds with a thumping *Footloose* performance.
The two-day carnival was a success with the stands nearly packed both Saturday

night and Sunday afternoon.
Guest skater Bryce Chuduk made two breathtaking appearances during the carnival. Chuduk, who trains in Edmonton at the Royal Glenora Club, is only 17 and competes at the junior level. With only six days notice he competed in the Skate Canada National Championships in Toronto this January as the original alternate. He finished 16th at Nationals. He hopes to make the senior ranks and beginning coaching in the future.



Skaters wiggle their hips during a catchy, high-energy performance to the song Gangnam Style.

Photos: Pam Walsh, Rene Mercredi, Renée Francoeur



Mini disco dancers take a bow after their groovy routine.



Guest skater Bryce Chuduk doesn't miss a beat coming up from his fast-paced spin.



Joe Cox works his sombrero during the Mexican Hat Dance.



Intermediate skaters kick their legs high in a synchronized, marching-style performance.

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Rangers roll, slide and swim at ice rescue training

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Members of the First Canadian Ranger Patrol Group traded their traditional green garbes for shiny, yellow full-body suits, bright blue rubber gloves and fluorescent orange helmets last Friday as they headed out to plunge through the ice on Jackfish Lake in Yellowknife.

Nine rangers learned specialized, hands-on ice rescue safety training for the first time during a two-day course presented by the Arctic Response Centre for groups that work near bodies of water.

Day one was all about theory and involved discussing different types of rescue. On day two, the students had to show instructors what they'd absorbed by taking the classroom out into open, frigid waters.

"They just threw me into the water and I had to get out, but I'm actually pretty warm and comfortable in this suit," Sgt. Dave Chafe, who has been with the Rangers for one month, told *The Journal* halfway through his practical training on the lake. "Those of us splashing around too much got a bit cold on the face. It's been great."

The suits are "ice commander" body wear and provide thermal insulation as well



Photo: Stephen Watton

Members of the First Canadian Ranger Patrol Group stay warm in thermal suits as they practice ice rescues on Jackfish Lake near Yellowknife. Front, left to right: Capt. Benoit Garneau, Pte. Tammy Phinney, Sgt. Glen Lauritsen. Back, left to right: Cpl. Jeff Greenwood, Sgt. Chris Irvin, Sgt. Dave Chafe, master seaman Grace Campbell, Sgt. Eric Gazaille and master warrant officer Derrick Elson.

as waterproof and buoyancy features, Adam Woogh, Arctic Response's regional manager in Yellowknife, explained.

"In the North, there are a

number of cold water drownings so this focus on safety and ice rescue here today, it's important and very relevant," Woogh said.

It's also a realistic scenario for Rangers, who spend a significant amount of time out in the bush around isolated patches of open water, Chafe added.

"If you see someone in the water, you can't just run and try to pull them out because you may put yourself in a similar situation," Chafe, 24, said. "You

have to choose and know what is the best technique based on the situation."

The general tactics to performing a rescue operation are: "talk, reach, throw, row, go," Woogh explained.

"There are different options; sometimes all you need to do is yell and talk to a person to help them climb out, encouraging them. Sometimes, it's more serious and you have to go in yourself."

Rangers practiced self-rescues by rolling onto the ice, "talking rescues" where they kept themselves at a safe distance from the victim, throw bay rescues with floatation devices, and the full-out "strong swimmer" rescues where they had to jump in.

After the course, the group will be able to prepare themselves for a trip out on the ice, prevent an emergency from happening, avoid dangerous areas on the ice and self-rescue or assist others who have fallen through the ice, Stephen Watton, the public affairs representative for 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, said.

The patrol group performs over 110 exercises and operations like the ice rescue training each year.

Social Workers Make a Difference!



Photo Credit: Leili Heidema

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Randy Sibbeston of Fort Simpson fine-tunes his ice carving, The Moment of Truth, with a chainsaw.



Hundreds of attendees head down to the lake for the Long John Jamboree, held Mar. 15, 16 and 17 in Yellowknife on Great Slave Lake.



The Transience art exhibit goes up in flames on Saturday evening as part of the Fire and Ice event at the jamboree.



Bart Rupert, winner of the Ugly Truck contest, poses with Prince Rupert, aka "Bubba," who won the Ugly Dog contest.



MC Janet Pacey (left) shares her mic with Flint Palmer.



Mowafak Nemo (left) of Gatineau, Que. and Kenny Hayden of Ottawa, Ont. showcase their ice sculpture, Venus Sleeping.



Instructors from Yellowknife's Zumba Fitness in Canada's Arctic keep the crowd moving.



Shilah (left) and Aiden Nuttall of Yellowknife enjoy the cold sunshine on the frosty lake.

Photos: Paul Bannister



Nathaniel Adam (left) and Peter Marcel demonstrate how an electric charge can power a magnet.



Grade 10 student Destiny Smorong wins silver in the senior category for her look into what's inside energy drinks.



Kevin Courtoreille (left), Trenton Waquan and Shancee Courtoreille mix hydrogen peroxide, potassium iodide and food colouring to get a vibrant chemical reaction.



Kendra Wanderingspirit (left) and Tia Woodward make homemade markers from the natural dye found in strawberries.



Grade 4 student Christian Stuart explains how a simple wedge tool can split apart wood, shovel snow or sweep up dirt.

Education Science

ADCS experiments with first-ever science fair

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan made scientific history last week with its first-ever, school-wide science fair.

Students from Grades 1-12 showed their stuff on Wednesday afternoon, demonstrating everything from fizzing chemical reactions to zapping electronic charges for a panel of nine judges supplied by oilsands companies Cenovus and Imperial Oil.

Winners of the science fair in each category will go on to compete in the Wood Buffalo Regional Science Fair representing Fort Chipewyan, also for the first time.

The event, which was two years in the making, received \$15,000 in support from both Cenovus and Imperial Oil to get off the ground.

ADCS' science teacher Corey Conroy said large-scale events like the science fair are a challenge for the school because of the community's isolation, which makes supplies expensive and hard to come by.

"I would attribute it to staff turnover, usually, but also lack of equipment - being in a fly-in community, it's hard to support project-based science because it generally does take a lot of materials and equipment. But thankfully we're in a position, thanks to Cenovus and Imperial; they donated a very generous donation to our school so we could procure that this year."

Conroy, the event's lead organizer, said all the hard work and planning was worth it to have students take such an active interest in science. "I am such a huge advocate

for project-based science because it puts the student in the driver's seat of their learning. They take initiative for it, they find the information, they ask the real

and they're being quite eloquent and very articulate in their thoughts, their communication, and it's really encouraging."

The team of judges

I am such a huge advocate for project-based science because it puts the student in the driver's seat of their learning.

Corey Conroy
ADCS science teacher

questions of life, and it really gives them skills for investigation, critical thinking and problem solving that they can take wherever they go," he said.

"And it gives them confidence. We have a team of judges in from Calgary

included geophysicists, engineers, environmental advisors and members of the stakeholder relations teams of each oilsands company.

"They're looking for scientific inquiry and the scientific method, they're looking for enthusiasm, creativity, how deep did they go into the topic, and just generally how well they put their investigation together," Conroy explained.

Many of the projects linked to what is currently being taught in the classroom, while other students pursued questions arising from their observations of the world around them. One such project by Grade 8 student Destiny Smorong, called "What's Inside?" looked into the ingredients in energy drinks.

"So many teens are drinking them as everyday drinks, but they don't know what they're consuming," she said.

Smorong found an alarming amount of caffeine and sugar in many of the brands she analyzed, and the project

earned her the runner-up prize for the fair.

First place was taken by Grade 10 student Evangeline Cardinal, whose project looked into penicillin allergies.

"I decided to do it because I have an allergy to penicillin and amoxicillin, and also because I developed the allergy at a younger age than most people do, which is between 20 and 49 years," she said.

Cardinal now understands what some of the risk factors are for developing the allergy, such as overuse of the drug, and how the drug was accidentally discovered by a "lazy lab technician."

"Before, I never knew anything other than the name," she said.

Other younger students also showed a great amount of enthusiasm for their projects, such as a group of Grade 6 students who made an interactive display on constellations.

"I love space. Space is my favourite," exclaimed Kaya Mercredi, the spokesperson for the group. "There are lots of beautiful things you can see...Science is fun and you can learn lots of things."

Fellow Grade 6 student Isaac Smorong kept with the space theme - a unit just completed in class - in his project on planets, for which he made his own model solar system.

"It's just cool. The universe, people don't know what's out there and that's what I like about it," he said.

The Grade 4 class focused on simple machines, like wedges, levers and pulleys.

"Without a pulley, it's hard to pull up heavy stuff," Kayden Tuccaro explained, while other members of her group - Shauntay Antoine and Chase Grandjambe - added they never knew a flagpole or shoelaces were considered pulleys before their research.

The Grade 1 class focused on the sugar content of drinks.

"We learned water is the most healthy and iced tea has the most sugar," Mackenzie Whiteknife said.

Shelley Larose, community programs officer with Imperial Oil, was on hand to help judge projects. She said promoting science is essential to the vitality of her company.

"It's also vital to the broader industries outside of our own and really helps make Canada a competitive country in a global market," she said. "Setting up these kids to pursue different areas and disciplines, science provides a variety of opportunities for them. It's not all working in a lab. Science can be outdoors, it can be working with water, in a classroom, in a hospital."

Martha McClary, community affairs analyst for Cenovus and a fellow judge, said events like science fairs get kids looking outside the classroom.

"We hope that they inspire kids, not necessarily just with science, but with a real passion for lifelong learning, a passion to be creative and just innovative and passionate about their future overall," she said. "It's nice to have that diversity outside the classroom with what a school can offer."

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Photos: Meagan Wohlberg



Industry Agriculture

Farmers’ market set to open in Yellowknife

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Picking up locally harvested fish, homemade preserves or vegetables fresh from the Northern soil is about to become easier in Yellowknife.

An official farmers’ market, the first one in the city since the ‘90s, is slated to run once a week from June to September.

“The community is so ready for it. Everyone I talked to over the last year told me they felt like they just needed someone to step up and make it happen,” said Amy Lizotte, one of the main forces behind the farmers’ market.

Lizotte began online surveys last year to collect market data on Yellowknife’s food preference for her Master’s research at Royal Roads University.

“Almost all of the participants, 96 or 97 per cent, said they would attend a farmers’ market if it was available here. It was one of the only questions where such a majority agreed,” she told *The Journal*.

After Lizotte’s report detailing the potential for urban farming was released last fall, a group passionate about the local food movement gathered to talk about rejuvenating the once-thriving Yellowknife farmers’ market.

That group, now the volunteer-based Yellowknife Commons Cooperative, is preparing to launch the market this summer in front of city hall on the first weekend in June.

The co-op is so new, in fact, that they are still waiting on approval from the corporate registries to be officially declared a cooperative. Their paperwork is currently being processed.

Yellowknife had a “flourishing” farmers’ market in the 1950s and today the interest in local food is increasing again, as seen in the brimming community gardens where there are waiting lists every year, Lizotte, a founding member of the new cooperative, noted.

But the farmers’ market, unlike the community gardens, is about small scale urban farmers reaping more than one profit from their hard labour.

“The purpose of what the co-op trying to do is resale and allow people to generate their own money from this. The community gardens are not a profitable thing for users. They’re great, but they’re about growing food for yourself,” Lizotte explained.

Five vendors have committed so far, but Lizotte is hopeful more will roll in as spring arrives and the cooperative pumps up its recruitment efforts.

“We’d like to see 10 tables where people are selling, and maybe some selling out of the bed of their trucks...Anyone who grows, harvests or makes food is invited to contact us to set up shop,” Lizotte said.

“You don’t have to have a business to be a vendor. You can sell the bread, salsas and jams you make in your own kitchen.”

The cooperative plans to not only facilitate the market, but go one step further and secure land within Yellowknife that can be specifically designated for urban farmers who want to resell their produce to the public.

To become a vendor or get more info, email yellowknife-commonscoop@gmail.com.

Health & Wellness Nutrition

Grocery crash courses transform shopping experience

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Eating healthy in the North isn’t always the easiest thing, with limited selection and soaring price tags in the more isolated communities.

But according to Canadian dietitians, something as simple as one grocery store tour can provide individuals and families with the tools to make smarter meal choices and spark some positive dietary change, without breaking the bank.

Dietitians of Canada conducted a poll in spring 2012 and discovered 63 per cent of Canadians struggle with healthy food choices at least half the time they shop. More than a third of those surveyed struggled at least 75 per cent of the time.

Free grocery store tours from dietitians are offered periodically throughout the Northwest Territories, including one for expectant mothers from the NWT Prenatal Nutrition Program, based in Inuvik and Yellowknife, to combat consumer confusion.

Roberta Dowling, the registered dietitian in Fort Smith, is holding grocery store tours all month long in celebration of National Nutrition Month.

“They are so hands-on, visual, tactile and applicable to everyone because we all have to eat, we all have to shop,” Dowling,



Fort Smith dietitian Roberta Dowling is offering grocery store tours to help consumers understand food labels.

who arrived in the North in October, said. “These are the things my clients find the most useful in their lives.”

The focus of the tours is proper label reading, something she said almost everyone does wrong.

“People are looking at the wrong part of the label or looking for the wrong ingredient in the wrong section. If you’re looking at fat in the bread aisle, or fibre in the cheese section, you’re wasting your time. People just need to be directed so they’re not in the grocery store for multiple hours,” Dowling said. “Also, if you’re looking for that wonder product that’s high fibre, low fat, low salt, high in vitamin

C, it’s not out there. You need to know which nutrient to look for in which section.”

Other lessons from a more general supermarket tour include understanding that basic cereals have the best value, based on nutrition and price; canned sardines, dried beans and sunflower seeds are alternative sources of calcium, as well as fortified orange juice and soy milk; and frozen vegetables are just as healthy a choice as fresh vegetables in a pinch.

The number one problem is the catchy icons and slogans on products, such as red “health” check marks and the green boxes that scream “sensible solutions,” Dowling said.

“People will see these and just grab them. But these graphics are mostly marketing ploys. You have to look closer at the labels. Take the time.”

On the tours, Dowling doesn’t steer participants away from the chip aisle; she calls herself a realistic dietitian.

“The point of the tour isn’t to tell people what to eat and what not to eat. I don’t do that. I’ll tell you how to eat it in healthy portions, though. The point is to give people the tools to make the decisions for themselves (and) show them how to understand labels for each section.”

While Dowling has administered supermarket crash courses in other regions, including her home province of Prince Edward Island, March marked the first time she started them up in Fort Smith.

“People so far have been impressed; they’ve said it’s made things clearer, easier and they’re feeling more educated on their choices,” she said.

“At the end of every tour,” Dowling said, “I always tell them, ‘You’re armed and dangerous now.’”

She plans to continue tours after nutrition month and tailor future ones for specific health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol and so on.

NWT Social Work Week is March 17-23, 2013

Minister of Health and Social Services
Tom Beaulieu

Social work is a profession for people who have a passion to support and help others to improve their lives and address challenges. Social Workers across the Northwest Territories fundamentally believe that the strength of our communities depends on the individual and collective wellness of our children, youth, men, women and elders. To achieve this, professional Social Workers can be found in a number of workplace settings providing support and services. They can be found working in hospitals, health care centres, child and family services offices, mental health services and counselling centres, schools, correctional centres and Elders’ facilities. They also work in non-governmental organizations such as youth centres and women’s shelters.

The issues that a Social Worker may need to respond to can be sensitive and challenging and the hours can be long and tiring. However, Social Workers understand that it requires determination, devotion and a sense of purpose to make a difference to others who are truly in need.

As we celebrate National Social Work Week, please join me in thanking these invaluable individuals in your communities.

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Coming Events

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MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER Fort Simpson, NT

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Government of the Northwest Territories

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

Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program (10 Positions)

Justice

Fort Smith, NT

Ten Casual Positions (June 20 to August 2, 2013)

Limited to candidates residing within a 25 km radius of Fort Smith, Hay River, Enterprise, Fort Resolution, Kakisa and Fort Providence.

Salary starts at \$21.10 per hour, plus a Northern Allowance of \$3.62 per hour.

Job Opening ID#: 10325

Closing Date: April 9, 2013

► 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 this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.



WWW.NORJ.CA

Tso’Tine-Gwich’in artist prepares to ski North Pole

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A Yellowknife woman is standing up for indigenous rights and environmental protection of the Arctic by cross-country skiing to the North Pole this April with Greenpeace.

Kiera Kolson, the Greenpeace Canada’s Arctic Outreach Campaigner for the past year, is training to cross-country ski from Russia’s northern Barneo base to the North Pole with fifteen others.

They will be carrying an environmentally-friendly time capsule that they will lower into the seabed through ice and 4 km of freezing water. The circular capsule is filled with a scroll of the nearly 3 million names on the Save the Arctic campaign.

The campaign calls for a sanctuary in the Arctic to protect it from expanding oil companies and industrial fishing.

“Long story short, the Arctic is in danger...In Russia right now, the frequency of oil spills is just ridiculous. The land is just yellow there...This journey is about representing those people whose names are on the petition,” Kolson, a Tso’Tine-Gwich’in motivational speaker and singer/songwriter, said in an interview.

“Industry has never had to



Kiera Kolson, Arctic Outreach Campaigner for Greenpeace Canada, cross country skis with a heavy load on her back to prepare for her trek to the North Pole during a training camp in Norway last month.

deal with an oil spill under the ice. They wouldn’t know how, which is one of the reasons Shell agreed not to drill in the Arctic this year.”

This year is international water year and everyone should be “truly scared by the lack of accountability for environmental and water protection,” she added. “There will be nothing

left for the future generations if we keep this up.”

Kolson, 27, and the rest of the expeditioners, who come from all over the globe - including one young man from Seychelles, an island nation near Madagascar - took part in a five-day winter training exercise in Norway at the beginning of February to build

up their endurance and mentally prepare for the extreme conditions they will face.

“I focused on keeping myself warm, lots of layers. We learned to make tents on the ice, how to melt snow with these special burners for water, practiced cross-country skiing, talked about the campaign,” Kolson told

The Journal. “It was one of my first times on cross-country skis to be honest, so I’m a bit nervous.”

The journey, expected to take around nine days, is hard to predict. Due to drifting ice floes, it could be anywhere from a 30 to 70 km trek, Kolson noted.

“Our guides tell us some pressure ridges can extend

quite high and we’d have to go around them,” Kolson said. “It’s a very hostile, unpredictable zone.”

Saving the Arctic is also about standing up for indigenous peoples with stakes in the area, Kolson said.

“We have a responsibility because as indigenous people we have special relationships as stewards of the land. We need to be heard.”

Marine life in the Arctic provides an array of rich and traditional sustenance for the Inuit and Sami people, and these are “things we cannot afford to abandon to industry,” Kolson said.

“I have a lot of passion for accountability when it comes to our indigenous rights and our human rights because of some of my own personal story, too,” Kolson said.

On her mother’s side, Kolson is a descendant of the disbanded Yellowknives Tso’Tine Nation from the Rocher River region.

“We’re considered a lost tribe. We’re not recognized in any way. But I’m inspired by my culture and my family’s struggle...and in the middle of April, if people look up towards the North Pole, I hope that they think of us and feel inspired to become part of the solution.”

Photo: John Novis



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**BUILDING TRADES
HELPER PROGRAM**



Northwest Territory Métis Nation

The **NT Métis Nation** is sponsoring the delivery of the 12-week Aurora College Building Trades Helper Program (BTHP). The program will be delivered in Fort Smith and will begin on April 9, 2013 and end on June 28, 2013.

The BTHP is designed to prepare individuals for entry-level positions in the construction industry. The program focuses on Safety, Introduction to Construction Tools and Materials, Introduction to Carpentry and Introduction to Electrical and Mechanical Systems. The program includes a combination of theory and shop experience.

Applicants to the program must be:


- Residents of Fort Smith or have accommodation in Fort Smith
- Physically fit
- Interested in working in the construction industry
- Operating at the Grade 9 level or higher in Math and English

Eight students will be accepted into the program and priority will be given to members of the NT Métis Nation. There is no program fee.


Training allowances for eligible Métis students may be obtained through the NT Métis Nation. Other students may seek training allowances through their Band, ASETS holder, or through the Fort Smith Career Development Office of Education, Culture and Employment.

Application Deadline is **March 28, 2013**. An Aurora College application form may be obtained at Thebacha Campus, or online at www.auroracollege.nt.ca.

For more information please contact the NT Métis Nation at **1-866-399-7299** or Aurora College, Thebacha Campus at **1-866-266-4966**.



**AURORA
COLLEGE**



Northwest
Territories Education, Culture and Employment

Shamrock fun at Ski Club



Jackrabbits celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Fort Smith Ski Club with a shamrock-themed practice Saturday after the Polar Cup Ski/Biathlon/Snowshoe race was cancelled due to cold weather.



Patti-Kay Hamilton (left) and Juneva Green sport leprechaun-approved attire at the St. Patrick's day Jackrabbit practice Saturday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Northern Hockey Challenge continues in eastern division

It was an even series of games this weekend for Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit with each team taking a win as the Northern Hockey Challenge played on in the eastern division. Iqaluit defeated Rankin Inlet in a tight game Friday, 5-4. Rankin Inlet came back strong Saturday with Pujjuut Kusugak scoring the final goal on Iqaluit's empty net with 32 seconds remaining in the last period for a 9-7 win. This weekend in the east, Repulse Bay and Rankin Inlet face off against Kuujjuaq in Rankin Inlet. Games also resume in the west this weekend with Yellowknife and Hay River facing off in the final.

Big wins at Hay River fishing derby

Eddie Fabian of Fort Resolution scored the biggest fish in the second Hay River ice fishing derby on the weekend after catching a 5.62 kg trout, taking home the \$1,500 prize. Graeme Reid from La Crete, Alta. came in second for the \$1,000 prize when he hooked a 4.89 kg burbot. Over 500 holes were drilled at the derby that saw 475 tickets sold and 370 people out on the ice. Last year only 238 tickets sold. Pearl Lafferty won the draw prize for the 16 foot Lund boat with a 30 hp motor and matching trailer. Darryl Dean of Hay River also took home a prize for the best fishing hut.

Team Poutine Machine Polar Pond Hockey Champs

Hay River's Poutine Machine team walked away with a decisive 21-12 win against the Sandy Blew Jays Plumbing team at the Polar Pond Hockey Tournament in Hay River on the weekend. In the women's division, the Easton Fections slaughtered PCUK, the Fort Simpson team, for first place with a score of 15-6. In the 45 and over division, Team Ring Ass-Prins from Hay River beat out the Old Huskies 15-9. Forty teams in total competed on the 10 rinks set up for the tournament on Fisherman's wharf.



SALT RIVER FIRST NATION #195 NOTICE OF ELECTION

An Election for one (1) Chief
and one (1) Councillor is being held in Fort Smith.

CHIEF CANDIDATES:

BEAVER, HENRY JR.
GAGNON, WARREN
LAVIOLETTE, BRAD
MARTSELOS, FRIEDA

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES:

MABRY, GABRIEL (TOURANGEAU)
MATTHEWS, DON JR.
SIKYEA, DEBBIE

ELECTION DAY POLLING STATIONS APRIL 2, 2013

SENIORS' ROOM
FORT SMITH RECREATION CENTRE
POLLS OPEN AT 10:00 A.M.
POLLS CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

REGINA ROOM, RAMADA INN
KINGSWAY AVENUE, EDMONTON
POLLS OPEN AT 10:00 A.M.
POLLS CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE in accordance with the Amended Customary Election Regulations under Section 103, if an Elector will not be available to vote in the Advance Poll or on the day of the Election, that Elector may request a mail-in ballot from the Electoral Officer and Section 76 – 79 apply as if the mail-in ballot had been sent in accordance with Section 74.

Review Committee

Gladys MacPherson
Shari Olsen
Bev Tupper

Lynda B. Martin
Electoral Officer
(867) 872-2945

TREATY CARDS MAY BE REQUESTED.

Keeping Traditions Alive

Shell Albion Sands is proud to support the Mikisew Cree First Nation Elders Care Centre in Fort Chipewyan. Our \$500,000 contribution will give elders an area where they can celebrate their culture, gather with members of the community and share traditional knowledge with the next generation.

A member of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo community for 10 great years, Shell Albion Sands has contributed over \$20 million to organizations making a difference throughout the region.

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The Athabasca Oil Sands Project (AOSP) includes the Muskeg River and Jackpine Mines north of Fort McMurray, Alberta and the Scotford Upgrader and Quest Carbon Capture and Storage project, north-east of Edmonton, Alberta.