



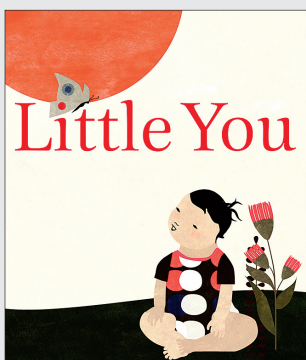
Tlcho government opens up lands for development

The completion of the Tlcho land use plan means an end to the Tlcho government's moratorium on development as of May 31. See page 2.



Fort McKay draws the line on oilsands industry

The Fort McKay First Nation speaks out against a proposed oilsands project on its territory, this time close to its sacred Moose Lake area. See page 7.



Van Camp celebrates babies with new book

Northern author Richard Van Camp says his new baby book, *Little You*, is a celebration of childhood innocence. See page 13.



Flyers reign supreme in Hockey Challenge

Yellowknife beat out the Iqaluit Icemen in a fierce weekend of hockey to end the Northern Hockey Challenge. See page 19.

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Melinda Brown (left) of Fort Simpson and Courtenay Kakfwi of Fort Good Hope celebrate their graduation from Aurora College's Thebacha campus in Fort Smith Friday afternoon with special guest NWT Premier Bob McLeod. The ceremony marked one of the college's largest graduating classes to date. See pages 10-11.

NWT government open to oilsands pipeline Alberta commissions study on bitumen pipeline to Arctic

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
With pipelines to the US and West Coast hotly contested, the Alberta government is looking north to potentially solve its "stranded oil" predicament and get oilsands bitumen to an Asian market, and the Northwest Territories government is not saying no to the idea.
Alberta recently paid Calgary firm Canatec Associates International Ltd. \$50,000 to do a feasibility study on a pipeline that would ship bitumen from northeastern Alberta through the Mackenzie Valley to a deep water port in Tuktoyaktuk on the north coast of the NWT.
It's not the first mention of a port project for the community, and it's an idea NWT

Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay said the territorial government is open to discussing.

"I think if you get an energy superpower like Alberta talking about the Northwest Territories...it bodes well for us for the future development of our resources."
*Minister David Ramsay
NWT Industry, Tourism and Investment*

"As the rhetoric heats up on Keystone and Gateway and there's an election in BC, our premier's gone on record and I share his opinion that for the Northwest Territories, we need to keep all of

our options open," he told *The Journal* last Thursday.
"I think if you get an energy superpower like Alberta talking about the Northwest Territories...it bodes well for us for the future development of our resources. So we're interested in keeping all those options open and talking to Alberta."

While Alberta is still pushing for the existing options of Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline to a port on BC's coast and TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline to refineries on the Gulf Coast of Texas, those projects are seeing mounting backlash from environmentalists, politicians and First Nations alike.
Alberta is also backing efforts to build a pipeline east to carry oilsands products to refineries in New Brunswick, as well as routes that could carry bitumen to ports in Alaska and Manitoba by train.
But a pipeline North, Alberta Energy Minister Ken Hughes says, could be another way out for the estimated \$30 million per year

in oilsands crude currently landlocked in the province with no way to market.
"One of the greatest challenges we face in Alberta is getting full market price for our resources," Hughes said in an email. "Our government is taking action to address this problem by pursuing increased market access for our resources. We're interested in looking at all options, including to the North. It's very early on in the process, but we are looking to build on the work that this group has done with the government of the Northwest Territories, who have expressed interest and support for the study of this development."
See Alberta on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chief devolution negotiator appointed deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Martin Goldney has been appointed as the Northwest Territories' Deputy Minister for the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Goldney is described as a "lifelong Northerner" and lawyer with "extensive experience in Aboriginal and constitutional law." He joined the department of Justice in 2000, where he provided legal support to a number of self-government and land claim negotiations. He has been an important part of the GNWT's devolution team since 2002, serving as legal counsel, executive director and most recently as chief negotiator, where he helped finalize the draft devolution agreement. NWT Premier Bob McLeod announced his appointment last Monday and it will become effective on June 1.

Inuvik RCMP seize 18 lbs of marijuana

An Inuvik man has been charged with the possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking after RCMP executed a drug search warrant at a local business on Apr. 22. The owner of Midnight Mechanical, Timothy Hunter, 47, was charged last week after police discovered 18 pounds of marijuana in bags as well as drug-related paraphernalia and a few unsecured firearms. Hunter was released with several conditions and is scheduled to appear in Inuvik court on June 25.

NWT holds National Day of Mourning

Northerners gathered Sunday for a moment of silence to recognize the National Day of Mourning, held annually to commemorate workers who have lost their lives in the workplace. Ceremonies were held at the Legislative Assemblies in Yellowknife and Iqaluit as well as outside Fort Smith Town Hall. Special tribute was paid to James Essery, Earl Canadien and Ralph Leslie Creed, all from the NWT, and Leo Lamontagne from Nunavut who were killed on the job in 2012.

Tlicho opens up to development with completion of land use plan

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Tlicho government has finalized the land use plan for its 39,000 square-km claim area, Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus announced last week at the Tlicho assembly in Gameti.

He said the plan, worked on by elders and lands department staff since 2007, reflects the "history, vision and future" of the Tlicho people and represents the Tlicho's traditional views on land use and stewardship.

"It's a huge accomplishment for the Tlicho government and the Tlicho people, an accomplishment that could not have been fulfilled without the hard work of our elders," Erasmus said in an interview following the passing of the plan as law last Thursday.

"It took us seven years of hard work," he said. "We have done what no one else has ever done in such a short time, because land use plans take a long time."

The completion of the plan ends the moratorium on development on Tlicho lands dating back to 2005

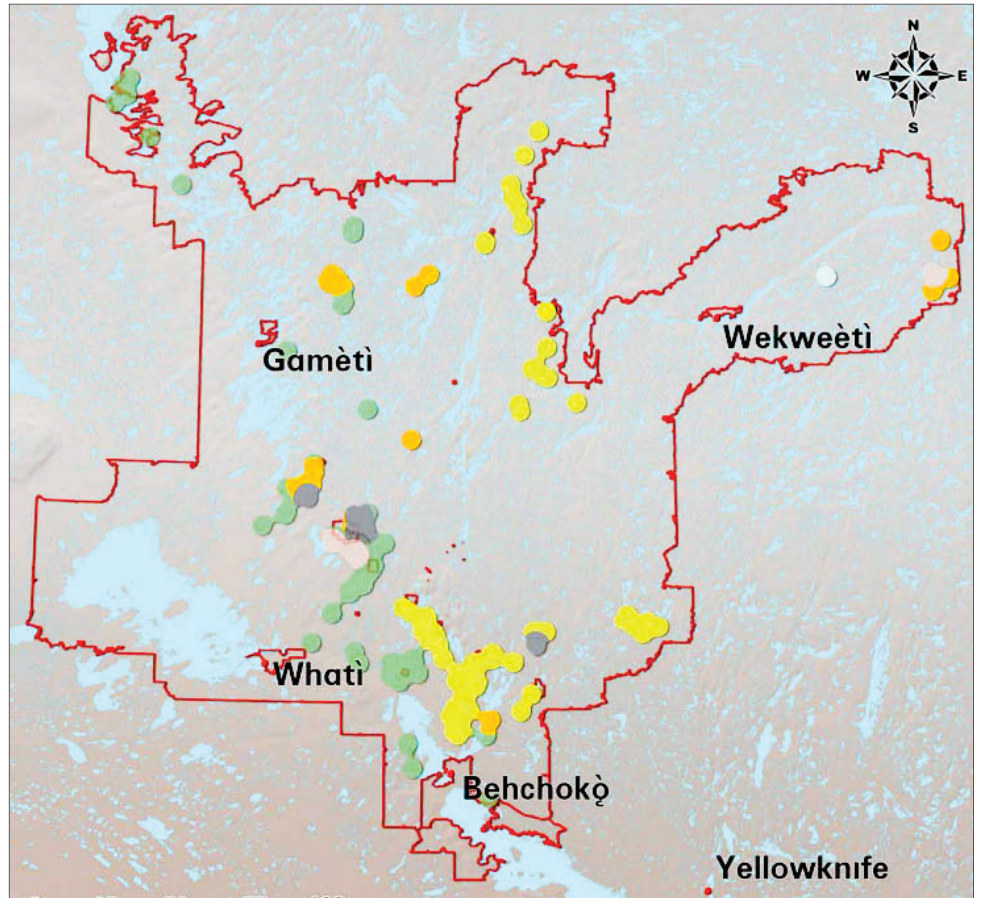


Image: Tlicho Government

The conclusion of the plan ends the moratorium on development on Tlicho lands as of May 31.

when the government was established. The moratorium is set to expire on May 31.

As of June 1, the Tlicho government will be able to begin reviewing applications for access to Tlicho land, and start carrying out monitoring and enforcement.

"It is a monumental point in terms of Tlicho ownership and authority over our land," Erasmus said. "It is time we move from the phase of protection of Tlicho lands to a very important phase: the administration of Tlicho lands, where the Tlicho can consider applications for land use, which will be guided by the land use plan."

Now, he said, the challenge will be to strike a balance between "sustainable development and care for our wildlife, land and our people," to ensure that development is done "the way our elders see it, with the support of our communities, to ensure that traditional knowledge and the Tlicho way of life must always be protected."

He said implementation of the plan will also include the use of geographic information systems (GIS) where the Tlicho government uses satellite imagery to help inform land use decisions.

The planning process required that consultation be done with the federal and territorial governments under the Tlicho agreement.

"That was the first time that I know in Canadian history where an Aboriginal



Photo: Dene Nation

Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

It's a huge accomplishment for the Tlicho government and the Tlicho people, an accomplishment that could not have been fulfilled without the hard work of our elders.

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

government has had to do consultation with the federal, territorial and community governments," Erasmus observed. "The consultation was done respectfully and took the views and suggestions of others into serious and due consideration...in a way that we feel consultations should be done. And it has been a very important and exciting process for us."

Last week's assembly ended Friday and was the

last time the Tlicho government will meet before members head to the polls to elect leadership for all four Tlicho communities in June.

Completing the land use plan was part of Erasmus' platform when he was elected in 2011.

He said the pre-election timing of the plan's conclusion was not intentional, but that it could be viewed as an "accomplishment" by the current government.

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Sahtu MLA concerned for region after crime surge

Health, Justice ministers participating in Tulita community forum

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The MLA for the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories is voicing concern for his constituents after an influx of criminal activity, largely in Tulita, over the past month.

"This is not right; this is not normal behaviour. There are people breaking laws and hurting each other. We need to stand up as leaders and look at solutions for dealing with these issues," Norman Yakeleya said in a release issued last Tuesday.

A double stabbing in Tulita on Apr. 21 left a man and woman with multiple wounds. Both are now in a stable condition and recovering in the hospital after being medevaced to Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife.

The suspect, 19 year-old Kevin Kenny of Tulita, was located in a cabin across the Mackenzie River from the community after an extensive search and charged with two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of endangering life. The motive for the attacks has yet to be determined, police said.



Photo: Tulita RCMP

Tulita RCMP showcase the large amount of vodka seized recently while on its way illegally into the community.

Additionally, 180 bottles of liquor were seized by Tulita RCMP in two separate incidents this month. In both cases, the alcohol was en route to the community via snowmobile. Charges are pending for four individuals. Tulita liquor restrictions draw the line at about three of those bottles (375-ml) or 1,140 ml of alcohol, per person in their possession at any given time.

A RCMP report, tabled in the House by Yakeleya in

March, shows 47 per cent of all police calls in Tulita in 2012 were alcohol-related. In Fort Good Hope that number was 66 per cent, followed closely behind by Norman Wells, the only community in the Sahtu with a liquor store, at 52 per cent.

"People in the Sahtu have been telling me this situation with alcohol and violence is a ticking time bomb, that things are getting worse, not better," Yakeleya told *The Journal*. "We have been monitoring the

situation...I've been concerned for quite some time."

The tipping point came after a narrow plebiscite vote lifted the 40 year-old liquor restrictions in Norman Wells in early 2012, Yakeleya said. According to statistics from the NWT Liquor Commission, alcohol sales in the Sahtu increased nine per cent from 2011-2012. Hard liquor sales jumped almost 50 per cent in Norman Wells during that time.

Yakeleya said he wants to put together a "mastermind" of Sahtu community members, leaders and government representatives to revisit the liquor laws and create incentives for people to live sober lives.

He invited Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu and Minister of Justice Glen Abernethy to Tulita for a public community discussion on Wednesday.

"They were very happy to agree to come in. They said whatever they can do, they'll help," Yakeleya said. "I want them to listen to the public and chiefs and I hope we come out of it with a short and long term plan of action...Addiction is a

vicious cycle. We need to deal with that. We need education on that. We have to come up with a formula for wellness and harmony that doesn't have people just sitting in centres."

According to Yakeleya, the GNWT made \$24 million from the sale of liquor in the territory last year. He is proposing that 10 per cent of that go towards new educational campaigns on addictions and alcohol abuse.

"This wouldn't be about putting the message on a paper bag or posters saying don't drink," he said. "We need meaningful, family-centered initiatives, like maybe we'll donate \$1,000 worth of gas to help people get out into the bush and onto the land. That's incentive. Maybe we have a draw for a family vacation to Walt Disney World, where they are eligible if they have been sober for a year."

Specifically Yakeleya is interested in establishing a community-tailored, on the land wellness and healing addictions program across the Sahtu.

"We are very tied to our communities. We need something that speaks to that. We

need healing programs that incorporate the families... People need to know the government will support them and their loved ones as they heal."

Yakeleya is also in the process of drafting a private member's bill that would amend the territorial liquor act so Tulita, Deline, Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope could have a say in future liquor restriction changes.

He plans to have the bill ready for the House by late May.

"This bill states that any of the four communities surrounding Norman Wells would have the opportunity to vote on any plebiscite that has to do with the sale of liquor, as all these communities are affected by what happens with the liquor store in Norman Wells," he said.

"That town represents only a small fraction of the Sahtu region. Why does such a small percentage of the population have the only say on something that impacts all wellness in all the communities? In the Sahtu we're all one family."

Industry Oil & Gas

Alberta pipeline could be way out for NWT oil, gas

Continued from page 1.

Though the NWT supports the idea of an Arctic pipeline, Ramsay said any line or port initiative coming from Alberta will have to be a mutually beneficial team effort, as the territory has its own stranded oil and gas it has been trying for decades to get to market.

After 37 years of negotiations, the Mackenzie Gas

Project has yet to come to fruition, and there is still uncertainty as to how much of an industrial hotspot the Canol shale oil play in the Sahtu region will become over the next decade.

"It would make little sense for us (otherwise), aside from the jobs and construction, and perhaps some tariffs or however that would work, but I mean we

would build pipelines with the idea that our resources would be able to get to market through those systems as well," he said of the territory's involvement in a future oilsands pipeline.

He noted the territory is in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding with Alberta on the energy front, not just on oil and gas, but on hydro as well.

Ramsay said the territory is, like Alberta, also considering other options to get its resources to an international market, whether it be through the Yukon to Valdez, Alaska or via tanker from Tuk.

Ramsay and Premier Bob McLeod also met with the Chinese business sector last week in Calgary during a meeting of the Chinese-Canadian

Chamber of Commerce to pitch oil and gas opportunities to potential investors.

"I think there is, undoubtedly, a made-in-the-North solution to getting oil and gas perhaps to market, and those options need to be thoroughly studied and vetted, and I think we can play a role in the future - and that future might be coming sooner than we think if things

continue the way they are in the south," Ramsay said.

"We're interested in just keeping our minds open and working with Alberta, and we'll see where we get. We need to get our product to market at the end of the day and develop those resources so that people that live up here in the NWT will get the jobs and the opportunities as we go forward."

Devolution
of Lands and Resources in the Northwest Territories

Want to learn more? The proposed NWT Devolution of Lands and Resources Agreement is now online.
Visit devolution.gov.nt.ca

Northwest Territories Executive

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



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

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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	

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A tale of three tragedies

Three tragic events conspired to push cartoonish North Korean President Kim Jong Un off the front pages, in his foolish, yet dangerous and frightening threats to engulf the Korean Peninsula in thermo-nuclear war.

The Boston Marathon bombings, the explosion at a fertilizer plant near Waco, Texas and the collapse of a garment factory in Bangladesh are all remarkable, horrific and, in a unique way, connected to the lives of Canadians. Let's compare them in context, and note what can be learned.

The Boston Marathon bombings on Apr. 14 killed three people, injured scores more, and a policeman later died at the hands of the alleged bombers. That marathon is a darling of sporting events, and thus in a media spotlight. The bombing was the first terror attack on US soil since the World Trade Centre's twin towers were destroyed 12 years ago. The incident appears to have been the work of Americans who were Muslim extremists. All those factors combine to stir strong emotions.

The explosion in Texas was considerably more dire. It killed 15 people, injured hundreds, blew up multiple homes, devastated a community and eliminated its major employer. The cause of the Apr. 18 event was a fire igniting 270 tons of highly volatile ammonium nitrate, illegally present in the plant. Many of the victims were first responders who rushed to the scene of the fire and were then killed in the massive explosion. The plant had not been properly inspected for decades.

The most horrific of the three events was the collapse of a garment factory in Bangladesh that left 400 confirmed dead, and

many more trapped under layers of concrete and metal rubble. Many of the victims were women with families. The fallout from children orphaned and families without wives and mothers will impact generations. There are roughly 4,000 similar sweatshops in Bangladesh, where mainly non-unionized employees earn on average 18 cents an hour, meeting consumer demand for cheap clothes in places like Canada. The building that collapsed was said to have been illegally constructed in an area where building standards are marginal.

How is Canada reacting to all this? In the wake of the Boston bombings, the Harper Conservatives leapt into action, bringing forward the Combating Terrorism Act, which had languished on the parliamentary order paper for over a year. Now, with terrorist threats at hand, there was a sense of urgency from the Conservatives that it needed passing. Included are provisions for both preventive arrest and investigative hearings that enable authorities to jail anyone suspected of being a terrorist. The NDP opposition says the proposed law is dangerous, and that it would take guaranteed liberties away from Canadian citizens.

Ignored is the lesson from the Texas explosion, that poor regulation and a lack of enforcement by levels of government in Texas were contributing factors. Governor Rick Perry has bragged that his state's robust economy is due to low taxes and a lack of regulation for industry, something the current Canadian government is trying its best to emulate. The dead will be buried, the wounded will heal and the town will struggle to recover, as lawsuits flow from that disaster for decades. Fostering

a strong economy is a good thing, but not at the expense of reason. Care must be taken that deregulation of industry in Canada does not go too far. With this disaster so much more costly in lives and value, how is it the Canadian government sees only the events in Boston as relevant?

The collapse of the garment factory in Bangladesh is similar. Although the problem is not within Canada, we enjoy the benefits of globalization and our responsibilities lie beyond our borders. We need to ensure Canadian corporations operating abroad follow our laws and moral codes. In countries where we benefit from cheap labour for our consumer goods, we must think past just getting a bargain.

We could offer mentoring and training programs that enhance local laws, regulations and government oversight. Much like how we train police forces in Afghanistan, we should make an effort to share our considerable expertise and, as Canadians are protected by our laws and standards, help protect the people in other countries similarly. Those in other lands whose hard work makes our lives better deserve at least that - until such time as their wages attain parity with ours. Our appetite for cheap goods will never be satiated and the tinge of conscience that rippled across the land after the Bangladesh tragedy will, too, soon be forgotten. A few good people looking at clothing labels, refusing to buy products from other lands, is not the answer for the long term. We should at least try to do something substantive and meaningful.

The Harper Conservatives must see beyond their limited partisan vision if they are to be allowed to continue to govern our nation.



Francois Paulette tests out his portrait likeness at Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife. The painting by Giulia Borghesi was part of a larger exhibit of portraits of Northern leaders done by the high school students. A gala for the show was held last Thursday.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

River breakup comes early

The Slave River is running free. The ice broke up early this year. Open water areas appeared last week on the Slave River around Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith, and it broke free of ice on Sunday. Murray Jones of Water Survey Canada said this is the earliest the ice has cleared off the Slave River in over 25 years. Normally, the first day open water at Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith occurs is around May 9.

Issue: April 28, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Fire season not looking busy now

Rumours of a blistering fire season due to the dry weather have been circulating throughout, but the Smith-based Territorial Forest Fire Centre wants to defuse concern. "This is the mildest winter I've even seen," said Smith elder Frank Laviolette. "And I've been here 67 years." The head of the fire behaviour and research at the fire centre, Rick Lanoville, says it'll take more than one mild winter to push drought code levels to those of the early 1980s.

Issue: April 28, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Inquiry into conditions

A sit-down strike by inmates at the Yellowknife Correctional Institute has caused Social Services Minister Kane Tologanak to launch an inquiry into prison conditions. On Apr. 18, inmates refused to report to work assignments inside the prison and in Yellowknife. They gathered in the prison dormitory, which usually holds about 15 people, and were locked in this space for nine hours while three of them met with prison officials.

Issue: April 28, 1983

Bevington out of touch

Editor,
MP Dennis Bevington's review of Bill C-45 demonstrates yet again he has lost touch with Northerners.

He claims the report focuses on issues that matter most to residents. It is loaded with salacious quotes and references from people and organizations attacking anything and everything that could affect the North. Yet how many Northerners are actually quoted in

the document? One. The lone voice speaking for the North was well-known eco-fascist and Alternatives North member/supporter Peter Redvers.

Instead his hit squad appears to have interviewed countless special interest groups from outside the NWT so that they can tell us how to feel.

Bevington and Redvers both condemned de-valuation over their own

unsubstantiated fears of potential impacts.

We are evolving here and taking control of our own destiny. It's a shame that Bevington is so quick to hand that control back to special interests from the south.

We probably shouldn't be surprised; he also supports introducing a carbon tax which would cripple our economy and individual Northern households by increasing the price of almost everything

from baby food to camping gear due to added transportation, electricity and heating costs for both businesses and residents alike.

He also publicly, and thoughtlessly, called for legalizing marijuana just weeks after we learned the drug directly led to a 2011 plane crash that killed two residents and severely injured two others.

*Dave Beamish
Fort Smith*

OPINION

Use caution with unfamiliar animals

Now that spring is upon us, we are enjoying outdoor activities. As a result, there is always an increase in the number of animal exposures or attacks that occur.

That's why it's important to take precautions when being around unfamiliar animals. Be careful when approaching a friendly-looking animal or helping an animal that seems injured. If the animal is not accustomed to human interaction or even if the animal is domesticated, it may respond aggressively out of fear.

To protect you and your children from animal bites or exposures, AHS recommends these simple precautions:

Do not approach or attempt to befriend an unfamiliar animal.

Do not attempt to help

injured animals. Call animal control for assistance.

Ensure your immunizations, as well as your animal/pet immunizations, are up-to-date.

Animal exposures are often the result of such activities as petting and feeding stray animals, playing with barn cats, helping injured animals, breaking up fights between animals or sleeping in enclosed spaces with bats. Animal exposures may put you at risk of infection from rabies or tetanus.

If you've been bitten, scratched or attacked by a wild animal, stray dog or bat, immediately cleanse the wound with soap and water. If the wound is severe, visit your nearest Emergency Department for medical treatment, and for additional information call HealthLink

Alberta at 1-866-408-5465. At the times of the incident, attempt to obtain as much information about the animal and the owner, if known, as soon as possible.

All animal exposures should be reported to your local Environmental Public Health inspector so they may follow up on the animal. The inspector will call its owner and provide instructions on the next steps. The owner may be asked to quarantine the animal for 10 days to determine if it has rabies. It is important not to destroy or dispose of the animal so that it can be sent for testing if needed. The inspector will also brief the local Public Health Nurse, who will follow up with the individual who was exposed to ensure immunization is up-to-date.

If you work in a veterinary

clinic, perform animal research, work in animal or wildlife control or care for animals on a daily basis, you may qualify for rabies pre-exposure immunization. Discuss this with your employer and have your employer contact your local Public Health office to inquire.

*Heidi Gould
and Carolyn Hayes
Communicable Disease
Control, Public Health
Alberta Health Services*

More information about preventing and treating animal bites can be found online at www.myhealth.alberta.ca or call Health-Link Alberta to speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day seven days a week at 1-866-408-LINK (5465).

Celebrate and appreciate our planet

Earth Day is the day in which we take as many moments as possible to celebrate and revere our home planet, but did you know that it actually extends to the entire month of April? In reality, we can and should celebrate our planet and the life it gives us every day, but the point of setting aside a certain day or month is to encourage people

to really put our life on Earth into perspective and think about how the way we live our lives affects it.

The Earth is beleaguered by a great many ecological problems, including water and food shortages, climate change due to pollution and other damaging human activities, and the continuing endangerment of many of

its life forms. Many of the choices that we make in our daily lives either directly or indirectly affect these issues, and the effect can be positive or negative. What Earth Month encourages us to do is try to make incremental changes in our daily routines and habits that will create less negative effects for the planet. Whether that

means to drive our cars less, be more mindful of our water and energy usage, or contribute to causes in some way that work to benefit our life-giving planet, Earth Month helps raise awareness for ways we could be doing things differently all the time, not just for a month out of the year.

*Sunny Scope Outdoor
News (www.sunmyscope.com)*

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK
FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington released his own report on the Northern impacts of omnibus Bill C-45 on Monday, hoping the information on the huge piece of legislation will educate not only residents and First Nations, but the territorial government.



MP releases report on Northern impacts of Bill C-45



Terry Halifax: Where's his report on the Long Gun Registry??



Jeryl Jaque: It's the Long Gone Registry, which is a good thing.

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

-13 High	Sun	-25 Low	Wednesday	5 High	Sun	-10 Low
-12 High	Cloud	-17 Low	Thursday	9 High	Sun	-6 Low
-9 High	Sun	-19 Low	Friday	7 High	Sun	-1 Low
-6 High	Cloud	-15 Low	Saturday	6 High	Rain	-2 Low

Norms: -1°C and -10°C Norms: 6°C and -4°C

Hay River Fort Smith

5 High	Sun	-11 Low	Wednesday	5 High	Sun	-13 Low
8 High	Sun	-4 Low	Thursday	11 High	Sun	-6 Low
7 High	Sun	0 Low	Friday	8 High	Sun	1 Low
11 High	Sun	2 Low	Saturday	14 High	Sun	3 Low

Norms: 8°C and -3°C Norms: 11°C and -2°C

Private company chosen to take on energy problem

Dalkia Canada plans to provide SNG to Norman Wells for two years

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Norman Wells is one step closer to avoiding an energy crisis after town council voted to enter into negotiations with Dalkia Canada, a Toronto-based, industrial management service and energy provider, on Apr. 18.

Long-time supplier Imperial Oil is pulling the plug on natural gas to businesses in town in just under two months. It will be cutting off all natural gas by June 2014.

The town of about 800, slated for a surge in population with the expansion of oil exploration in the area, has been in a state of limbo over how to handle its energy problem for a couple of years, bouncing back and forth between biomass, diesel or propane options with previous councils.

This month, council set out on a clear path, planning to hand off the looming heating mess to a private utility company.

Council voted 4-1 in favour of signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU)



Norman Wells has entered into negotiations with Dalkia Canada to handle the town's looming energy crisis.

Photo: Town of Norman Wells

with Dalkia during a "special" town council meeting after presentations from the company and fellow utility proponent ATCO, who both responded to a request for proposals from the town earlier this year.

According to Norman Wells Mayor Harold

McGregor, the signing is expected to take another couple of weeks.

"It's going to move forward. We just have to lay the groundwork first, get the lawyers involved, cross the t's and dot the i's, you know, so the town and Dalkia understand each other," he said.

The company claims they can execute a swift transition and begin supplying synthetic natural gas (SNG) to local businesses by the first cut-off date this June, McGregor said.

Dalkia plans to supply SNG until they come up with a permanent solution.

"What that solution will be, we don't know yet. It could be a biomass plant, it could be almost anything, but Dalkia has the resources that would be required no matter what. They're a huge company," he said.

ATCO's proposal was centered on an air/propane mix for approximately 3-7 years during which they would look into switching the town's source to liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"I think in the long run those who voted in favour of Dalkia were just more comfortable with their solution. It is more flexible. In the end, it could very well still be LNG as a solution, but we don't know yet."

Dalkia, a worldwide company, has experience in supplying various energy

services, including renewable options such as biomass and geothermal systems.

Additionally, according to the company website, Dalkia owns and manages the largest portfolio of district energy networks in North America with 19 urban networks supplied by over 21 central utility plants. These plants produce energy from hot water, steam or chilled water and deliver it to a group of buildings or facilities via an underground piping network.

While energy costs are expected to rise, the majority of residents are content, McGregor said.

"It's been a long process and at least we know now which direction we're going," he said. "Everyone is aware it will cost us more to heat our homes, but that's unfortunately unavoidable."

McGregor said it is not yet known exactly how much more heating will cost the town. That will be worked out with Dalkia, as stated in the MOU.

The town will have no part in Dalkia's operations, McGregor noted, as it will run as a private utility provider.

According to McGregor, about half of the town uses natural gas to heat their homes.

MOU key points

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) will act to guide negotiations for Dalkia and the Town of Norman Wells in the following areas:

- **WORKING** with residents and building owners to identify an effective, safe and cost-effective solution
- **COLLABORATING** with Imperial Oil to develop a practical transition strategy
- **EVALUATING** finance and governance models that best serve the interests of the parties and ratepayers
- **ASSESSING** relevant regulatory issues
- **EXPLORING** strategic alignment with the government of Northwest Territories
- **REACHING** final agreements for the provision of utility services in Norman Wells

Listen to Experience



"When a child is born, they are born with a gift. Everyone should see this gift and nurture it. We also need to get back to our spirituality, to go on the land and reconnect with the earth."

- Margaret Vandell. Proud mother of 5. Proud grandmother of 10.



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Fort McKay First Nation objects to oilsands project

Company says buffer zone would hurt economics of project

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

For the first time in 30 years, the Fort McKay First Nation has filed a formal objection against an oilsands project on its traditional territory approximately 100 km north of Fort McMurray.

The Dover Operating Corp. project, owned jointly by Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. and PetroChina Co. Ltd., would extract 250,000 barrels of bitumen a day from the west side of the Athabasca River using steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) technology.

Although the First Nation has been a service provider and consistent employee base for the oilsands industry over the last 25 years with its own companies and joint ventures in the region, it says the Dover project will affect one of the last remaining bits of wilderness in its traditional territory.

"We are reaching our tolerance for oilsands development in the area," the First Nation's communications director, Dayle Hyde, told *The Journal* from hearings in Fort McMurray last week before a review panel of Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB).

The First Nation wants a 20 km "no-development" buffer zone created around its reserve near Namur and Gardiner Lakes, known locally as Moose Lake,



An Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. employee works on one of the company's existing oilsands projects in the region. The company co-owns the Dover project with PetroChina Co. Ltd.

Photo: Athabasca Oil Sands Corp.

which borders on the proposed development. The area is held by the First Nation to have great cultural, historical and environmental significance.

"We have a longstanding connection to Moose Lake," Hyde said. "We have ancestors who are buried there. The community of Fort McKay considers Moose Lake sacred."

Along with the request for a buffer zone, the First Nation is also asking for an "intensive access management plan" to mitigate the effects of development in the Moose Lake

area by, for example, keeping cutlines to a minimum width and using existing roads rather than constructing new ones.

"We're not opposed to the total project, we're just opposing the project as it's proposed now," she said. "Right now, I think the closest well pad planned is within 2 km of our reserve, and the north-central processing facility is 13 km from the border of our reserve."

Hyde said the planned facilities have the potential to disrupt wildlife, making it difficult for members of the First Nation to

exercise their traditional harvesting rights.

"It is a SAGD facility, which has a large surface imprint, and so there are large pipelines that will be spanning the area," Hyde said. "There is going to be noise pollution and light pollution and some emissions, so there is going to be an impact on the environment and on the wildlife...Our experts proposed that

there will be a significant impact to the moose population. It will go into decline much faster once this project is underway."

Hyde said the small community, which sits across from a tailings pond on the river and is surrounded on all sides by oilsands development, is already feeling the effects of industry.

"We're always trying to strive to find the balance between resource development and our healthy community, but for us Moose Lake is one of the last pieces of land that we can access to practice our cultural activities, and that's why it's so important to us," she said.

Dover spokesperson Kristi Baron told *The Journal* the company understands and has had "extensive discussions" with the First Nation regarding its desire for a buffer zone, but has concerns regarding the proposal's potential impact on the economics of the project.

"Any buffer zone that sterilizes development has a significant impact on the project development and economics. Furthermore, any buffer zone would impact other oilsands leaseholders bordering the Buffalo Lake Reserves. We

estimate a buffer zone could sterilize as much as 23.5 billion barrels of bitumen, resulting in the province losing up to \$74 billion in royalty revenues as well as employment opportunities and other subsequent social benefits," she said.

Baron said the company has been in discussion with the First Nation for over two years and anticipated concern about the proximity of the Dover site to the reserve.

"As such, we ensured our development plan maximized the distance from major facilities to the reserve boundary," she said.

The specific request for a buffer zone was first provided to the ERCB on Mar. 25, 2013.

Baron added that Dover has had discussions with the First Nation about establishing an access management plan to the area and is "willing to work with them to more fully define this plan."

PetroChina bought 60 per cent of Athabasca Oil Sands' Dover and MacKay River projects in 2010 for \$1.9 billion.

If approved, Dover plans to begin construction on the project this year, with initial steaming commencing in 2015.

Environment Pipelines

Alberta charges company for 2011 pipeline spill

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta government charged Plains Midstream Canada last week following a pipeline spill in April 2011 that dumped 4.5 million litres of crude oil onto wetlands surrounding the Lubicon Cree community of Little Buffalo in northwestern Alberta - the second largest spill in the province's history.

The company faces three charges under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, including one for the spill itself, one for failing to take measures to repair and confine the effects of the spill and the third for failing to properly remediate the damages.

"The charges have a maximum penalty of up to \$500,000 per count and the company is facing three charges in this case," Nikki Booth, spokesperson for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development, said in an email. "If they are found guilty in the matter, the judge can also look at creative sentencing options,

as has been done in the past."

Booth said she was unable to comment on how the province found the company to have not taken adequate measures with respect to its response to the spill and cleanup, since the matter is before the courts.

She also declined to comment on any compensation for the community or First Nation.

Charges were laid a day after an advance copy of a report by Greenpeace was sent to the Alberta government with the notice that it would be released publicly on Sunday.

The report, called *The Rainbow Spill: A Case of Crime and (No) Punishment*, criticized the government for not laying charges or fining the company for the breach of its Rainbow pipeline.

In the report, Greenpeace criticizes both the company for its actions and the province for its alleged inaction despite "damning" findings reported by the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) in February 2013.

"Instead - as internal documents obtained by Greenpeace under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act reveal - the prime concern of both the regulator and the Alberta government was not to protect the affected communities or the environment but to limit the damage to the oil industry's public image," it states.

The report notes the ERCB leadership "rejected a request from its own investigation team for a public inquiry into the spill" and that when launching an investigation of pipeline safety in the province, Alberta's Energy minister "worked closely with the oil industry to structure the review in a way that would limit the damage to the sector's reputation."

It also claims the government relied on the company to take the water samples that will now be used in the court case against them and that confidential government reports indicate there were problems such as missing samples with those submitted by the company.

REQUEST for Expression of Interest

Are you interested in making Fort Smith more environmentally sustainable?

The Town of Fort Smith's Sustainable Development Advisory Board is recruiting for 2013. If you are interested in alternative energy and energy efficiency, recycling, composting and gardening, or other environmentally sustainable practices, please share your interest and talents to help make Fort Smith a leader in sustainable practices.

For more information
or to get involved, please contact:



The Town of Fort Smith
townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca
867-872-8400

Canada going backwards on indigenous rights

UN ambassador comments on new legislation and Idle No More

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Sharon Venne is an indigenous lawyer from Saskatchewan and one of the first indigenous women to graduate from law school in the country. She was instrumental in helping establish the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the 1970s and remains the Treaty 6 ambassador to the UN and a staunch advocate of indigenous rights at the international level. In the North, Venne served as the first female chief negotiator for the Akaitcho Dene for 10 years. She was back in the NWT as the keynote speaker for Aurora College's Thebacha campus grad last Friday. The Northern Journal caught up with her to talk about the current status of indigenous rights, the negotiations process and the Idle No More movement in Canada.

Northern Journal: From your perspective, as someone who started doing work in the '70s on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, have you seen any progress in terms of indigenous rights?

Sharon Venne: In Canada, I think we're going backwards. The recognition of our rights is not a positive thing. We have had to bring what's going on with our peoples to the UN. In February, we filed an urgent action with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) about all the legislation that's coming down. The other part was on the racism that was generated in the media against the Idle No More movement. There was no one doing anything to prevent that kind of racism from being spread by the media. So we put a two-part intervention together to CERD. So the UN work is ongoing; the declaration is only one aspect...

Unfortunately the situation in Canada, as I said earlier, is deteriorating. One of

the big complaints that we had at the United Nations is that Canada is introducing a large number of acts and bills, and we're constitutional rights holders in the Constitution of Canada - it says in section 91 and 24, Indians and lands reserved for Indians, and also section 35, that treaty rights are recognized and affirmed. The government of Canada acts as if these don't exist, and so when we go to Ottawa to try to intervene, if we get into the standing committee, it's an interesting process... Even if you show up and they let you speak there, they don't take up anything that you say. That's undemocratic. So the UN system has taken up that whole issue of representation and whether or not we can make our presentations.

NJ: What do you think is the course of action for Aboriginal people in this country to address these pieces of federal legislation that are coming through?

SV: The only reason that Canada exists at all is because



Sharon Venne, a lawyer and Treaty 6 ambassador to the United Nations, addresses students and their families and friends on the importance of education at the Aurora College Thebacha campus graduation last Friday in Fort Smith.

Photo: Paul Bannister

The only reason that Canada exists at all is because of the treaties. That's British law, that's international law, that's common law. People cannot live in this country without the treaties. So it's in Canada's best interest to uphold and honour these agreements. Why Canada is in the process of doing away with them, I have no idea. But if Canada does away with the treaty relationship, then what reason would Canada have the right to be here in our territories? It's a good legal, international question.

United Nations ambassador Sharon Venne

of the treaties. That's British law, that's international law, that's common law. People cannot live in this country without the treaties. So it's in Canada's best interest to uphold and honour these agreements. Why Canada is in the

process of doing away with them, I have no idea. But if Canada does away with the treaty relationship, then what reason would Canada have the right to be here in our territories? It's a good legal, international question.

We're in the same legal position as South Africa because South Africa and Canada were both created by acts of the British parliament. So who has the right to self-determination? It's the indigenous nations, not the state of Canada. I don't think they think too much about their actions, what they're doing, because it does have a ripple effect internationally. And I think domestically the Idle No More people, who are still very active, see that and are trying to wake up people and trying to educate non-indigenous people about these issues.

NJ: There are so many tables that are sitting stagnant right now and land claim negotiations that aren't moving forward. As someone who worked as chief negotiator of a claim for so long, what is your take on that in Canada right now?

SV: I never called it a claim because I've always said that Canada's the one trying to claim the land. I think that the situation with the negotiations across the country, the way that the government has approached indigenous peoples in general, is that they pretend as if we're not here, that we might go away, which I think is sort

of a recipe for disaster, because they're going to run into problems.

They stepped out of the issues of environmental reviews and have now taken protection off a bunch of lakes and rivers and lands and only protected those in their ridings, and the rights holders of these resources are the indigenous peoples. So what's going to happen is indigenous people are going to come forward and want to be making decisions about what's going to happen. So if Canada thinks that they're streamlining and making the process go faster, I think they're going to find themselves in a very peculiar situation because it's going to get ground down.

People are going to ask to be present. They're going to force it; they're going to go to court; they're going to have the ability to do that. The courts have been very progressive in saying that, yes, if you have a right in this area, you have a right to speak. So they're going to grind the whole system to a halt, I think. It's sort of short-sighted on the part of the government to knock this issue off the table and disengage at the wrong time. I think it's not very fruitful for them.

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The Government of the Northwest Territories was recently recognized as one of the Top 100 Employers as well as one of the Top 50 Diversity Employers in Canada. Visit the website below to learn all about the benefits of a career with the GNWT.

The GNWT offers unique employment opportunities. Work with a diverse group of Northerners to make a difference.

To view the jobs currently available, please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment and click on the eRecruit link.



www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment



Casey Nickolson, 4, chooses her colours for a \$2 glimmer tattoo from the Enchanted Pathways Faerie Nursery booth at the Fort Smith trade show.



Eleanor MacMillan, 10, is a proud Fort Smith Animal Shelter volunteer.

Photos: Renée Francoeur

Industry Trade Show

Trade show offers up swag, service and smiles

Hundreds flock to annual Fort Smith business fair on Saturday



Robyn Hall (right) of CosMedic Arts, explains the contents of her handmade soap to Susan Webster.



Doug Longard, left, and Jared Byrnes talk cars and trucks at the High Level Motor Products booth.

Congratulations Graduates!



We would like to extend special congratulations to the Aurora College graduates of 2013!



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment



Felicia Beaulieu, a co-winner of the "student of the year" award, stands proud with her new certificate.



Fort Smith's Louie Beaulieu receives an honorary diploma from the Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program at Aurora College.



Aurora College's Thebacha campus celebrates one of its largest graduating classes.



Destiny Thom-Gargan and Denise Robert are all smiles after receiving their office administration certificates.



Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya congratulates Violet Edji of Fort Good Hope.



Melinda Brown of Fort Simpson receives her early childhood development certificate.

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Keeping you informed.

Suncor Energy would like to notify Wood Buffalo community members that planned maintenance work on one of its upgraders begins in mid-April.

Over approximately seven weeks, there may be periods of increased flaring and the potential for odours in the Fort McMurray area during the shutdown and startup of the unit. Suncor will work to minimize these. Alberta Environment and regional stakeholders have been informed.

For more information, please contact the Suncor Stakeholder Relations Group at 780-792-9545. Regional air quality information is available from the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association at www.wbea.org

Education Aurora College Grad

Hats off to the Class of 2013 Aurora College's Thebacha campus one of its largest graduating classes

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The premier of the Northwest Territories and a world-renowned keynote speaker on indigenous rights, along with faculty members, friends and family, honoured the successes of 41 graduates from Aurora College's Thebacha campus in Fort Smith on Friday during the school's annual spring convocation ceremony.

According to Glenn Bourke, campus manager and the convocation's master of ceremonies, this year's graduating class is one of the largest in Aurora College history.

"You should all be very proud of yourselves," Premier Bob McLeod told the beaming crowd of graduates decked out in blue robes and stoles made to resemble tanned hide.

"It is a fact that education improves your situation in life. Over 90 per cent of people in the North who have a diploma or degree are employed," he said. "With an increase in national and international interest in the North for resource development and with devolution just over the horizon, the future for our territories and for all of you is bright."

Dr. Sharon Venne, a First Nations lawyer, was the keynote speaker. Venne worked 10 years as chief negotiator for the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation, Lubicon Cree and the Dene Nation. She also had an extensive hand in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, providing many of the clauses.

"The first time I graduated from university in the 1970s, I remember I was the only indigenous person receiving a degree that day," Venne said in her address to the crowd. "Today, seeing so many of our people being recognized like this is a tremendous thing and I'm so encouraged by that and the families and all of you who have come out to support these students."

Certificates, diplomas and degrees were handed out to graduates from the schools of education, business and leadership, and arts and science.

Alexander Yakupov from Ukraine and Abby Gardiner from Beauval, Sask. gave the valedictory address.

"We did it," Gardiner said, triggering a wild cheer from the graduates. "We made it through the long hours of writing essays and research papers...It was a long journey, but well worth the ride."

For many of the graduates, like Maja Haogak of Sachs Harbour, convocation marks the end of their Fort Smith adventure.

"I'll be going back to Inuvik where I tentatively have a job set up," said Haogak, who is graduating with a diploma from the Environmental and Natural Resources Technology Program (ENRTP). "It's exciting. My time at Aurora has been great. With every new course, I wanted to change careers. I took a geology course, wanted to be a geologist. Then it was a consultant. I loved it."

Betty Elias of Tuktoyaktuk is also ready to return home to Mangilaluk School with her fresh bachelor of education. The Beaufort Delta Education Council sent a message to be read as the emotional Elias accepted her degree.

"We are so proud of you for leaving your home and your



over, with 41 fresh grads ready to take on the world.



Gerald Chocolate from Gameti shakes hands with Margaret Imrie, the vice president of education and training on campus.



Betty Elias is showered with flowers and best wishes as she steps off the stage.



Delores Burke enjoys the convocation ceremony with her fellow graduates.



Valedictorians Abby Gardiner and Alexander Yakupov prepare to give their inspiring speeches.



Ivan Bourque presents wife Jessica Hval with roses in honour of her bachelor of education degree.

2013 celebrates

family to pursue the bachelor of education degree. Although we cannot be there to celebrate this special day with you, please know that you are in our thoughts..We are so proud of you and looking forward to your return," the message read. "I really felt that deep in my heart," Elias said afterwards.

This year's student leadership award went to Katie White, a first year ENRTP student, for her tireless volunteer efforts. White also took home the Town of Fort Smith's academic achievement award.

Louie Beaulieu of Fort Smith, whose guidance in survival skills are an integral part of what makes Paul W. Kaeser high school's winter camp a success, was presented with an honorary ENRTP diploma.

The two "students of the year," presented by the Thebacha Students' Association, went to Jessica Hval and Felicia Beaulieu.

Further convocation ceremonies for Aurora College students will be held on May 4 in Yellowknife for the North Slave Campus and May 10 for the campus in Inuvik.



Tiffany Shiels-Campbell of Hay River is loaded down with gifts and flowers from proud friends and family.

Photos: Paul Bannister

**Congratulations
Thebacha
Graduates!**

Wishing you many
more successes
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NWT artist skis to North Pole, calls for Arctic sanctuary

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Kiera Kolson of Yellowknife has returned from her cross-country ski trek to the North Pole feeling “humbled, validated and hopeful,” she said.

The 27-year-old Arctic Outreach Campaigner for Greenpeace Canada travelled to the top of the world to raise awareness of the need for environmental protection in the Arctic from the encroaching oil and fishing industries.

As part of Greenpeace’s Save the Arctic campaign, Kolson and 15 others set out on Apr. 5 from Russia’s northern Barneo base to deposit an eco-friendly time capsule into the seabed through ice and 4 km of freezing water.

The capsule carried the names of 3 million campaign supporters, all calling for a global sanctuary in the Arctic. It also included the winning design for the Flag of the Future contest, sponsored by the campaign and selected by distinguished fashion tycoon Vivienne Westwood, which inspired youth in 54 different countries to create a flag symbolizing peace, hope and the joint commitment to safeguard natural resources.

“It was magical being there in such a pure environment



Photo courtesy of Kiera Kolson

Tso’Tine-Gwich’in motivational speaker and singer/songwriter Kiera Kolson stretches the Gwich’in flag wide from a perch at the North Pole earlier this month.

with all the white and aquamarines...It really validated why this space needs to be protected,” Kolson, a Tso’Tine-Gwich’in motivational speaker and singer/songwriter, said in an interview. “To be a part of something so big is kind of remarkable.”

Kolson and the four other Greenpeace youth ambassadors on the journey, including actor Ezra Miller, who recently starred in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, held a ceremony before lowering the capsule and completing the mission.

“When we’re leaving something behind or taking something, there must be a balance restored. I passed some tobacco around and we put our wishes and energy into the tobacco and pushed that down as well,” Kolson said.

She also spoke about the importance of honouring and respecting indigenous rights and culture at the ceremony.

“We have so much we’re fighting for in this generation so that we can continue a traditional manner of sustenance... We cannot allow governmental

or industrial influences to sway us from those inherent rights,” she told *The Journal*. “Our children deserve fresh water. This is not just an indigenous issue. This is a human issue... We have to work together. That’s what we did out there, we worked together and succeeded, and that resonated with me. I hope it resonates with others.”

Kolson made sure to fly the Gwich’in and Dene Nation flags when she reached the pole in honour of everyone supporting her back home in the NWT.

“Oh yes, you’ve got to represent,” she said with a laugh. “It was a powerful experience for me individually and something that will stay with me forever.”

The group, dubbed Team Aurora, took nearly 10 days to reach its destination due to drifting ice floes and rough terrain.

“We tried to travel 10 km a day, but we’d do that and then drift back 7 km. The next day we’d travel 5 km and drift back 5. The ice movement was very frustrating,” Kolson said.

Finally, a helicopter picked them up to get them back on track, setting them down closer to the North Pole.

Throughout the entire trek, the power of the pristine and dangerous environment was a constant companion, Kolson said.

A group of Russian explorers headed out a few days before Team Aurora and two of them were medevaced back after extreme frostbite.

“The environment is in control...Four of our equipment sleds cracked and so I had to pull mine backwards and it got caught more easily this way. It took me down a few times and I almost fell into open water which was quite frightening.”

Additionally, skiing over uneven, icy surfaces made for slow going.

“It felt like skiing over the rubble from a fallen building,” Kolson said. “I put skins on my skis to help me get over the raised areas from pressure ridges.”

But the weather, holding at around -25C for the journey, didn’t phase Kolson, who is used to such temperatures, and the wind held off until the group’s final day when a blizzard struck in the morning.

During the voyage, the team had requested a meeting with members of the Arctic Council who were also flying in for their first meeting ever at the North Pole. They were refused.

“Here are four youth from across the globe serious about climate change with this beautiful incentive centered on the Arctic and these leaders fly over us and then fly back. To not have a second for us, that was discouraging,” Kolson said.

“Hopefully our actions are taken to heart and this becomes a sanctuary because it is such a magical, magnificent space and for those of us who do have connections to the land, I believe this is what our ancestors advocated for, to have a voice for the earth.”

Northerners Charity

Charity moves North with new Yellowknife Tides office

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

One of Canada’s foremost charitable organizations is setting up shop in Yellowknife following the creation of its first program to help Northerners benefit from wealthy donors who have a penchant for environmental and social development work.

Headed by a familiar face in the NWT, Stephen Ellis of Lutsel K’e has moved to the big city to serve as the first Northern associate of Tides Canada, helping to link what he calls “cool people doing cool things” from across the North with foundations, institutions and individuals who want to see their money put to good use.

While Tides has been pairing everything from early childhood development centres to museums with charitable donors for over a decade, this is its first time expanding an office into Canada’s North, which is designed to serve people all the way from Yukon to Labrador.



Photo courtesy of Tides Canada

Steve Ellis is the first Northern associate of Tides Canada.

Ellis hopes the move will fill a funding void.

“The charitable giving sector doesn’t really exist in the North in Canada very much at all...There’s none of that up

here. All the resources that are available to communities or NGOs or grassroots organizations really come from government or industry,” he said.

“So this is sort of a third stream of money from essentially institutions, families and individuals who have done very well for themselves and have a real interest in seeing their dollars go towards environmental sustainability issues, community wellness and livelihood issues, and other sorts of things like that.”

Ellis first moved to Lutsel K’e over 12 years ago following the completion of his Masters in Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo. His work over the past decade has focused mainly on helping First Nations, government and industry address land and resource challenges.

“I am thrilled that Steve Ellis has joined our team,” Tides Canada president and CEO Ross McMillan said in a press release. “He brings the right mix of experience, relationships and out-of-the-box thinking that will help philanthropy to make the greatest and most positive

impact in Canada’s territories and Inuit regions.”

Ellis said his new job has two main roles: one, to be a talent scout for interesting work being done on the ground, and the other to be a bridge-builder between that talent and the agency with the money to make a project a reality.

“A lot of these foundations and institutions have an interest in the North, but they may not know a whole lot about it; they don’t have the people on the ground to actually find the connections that they need...So I’m connecting these donors with the people on the ground who might be able to use those dollars in the best way,” Ellis said.

Unlike money from industry or government, which can come with lots of restrictions, Ellis said Tides funding is often better at helping people meet their specific targets.

“It’s a lot more flexible and may be a lot more in tune with what many of

our communities are really looking to do, which is deal with tough land and resource questions, build sustainable local economies and see their young people educated and evolved into new, Northern leaders,” he said.

Existing Tides Canada projects in the North include the Iisaqsivik Family Resource Centre in Clyde River, Nunavut and a community ecotourism initiative from Arviat.

For now, Ellis is busy getting his feet wet and introducing himself across the North, but he said anyone with an idea can get in touch. He hopes to make it to Yukon and Nunavut within the calendar year, followed by a trip east of Hudson’s Bay in 2014.

“It’s fun, I’ll get to go hang out with all the interesting people doing great things,” he said. “There’s all sorts of neat things that are going on that I’ll be able to be a part of, and hopefully flow resources to.”



Photo: Richard Van Camp

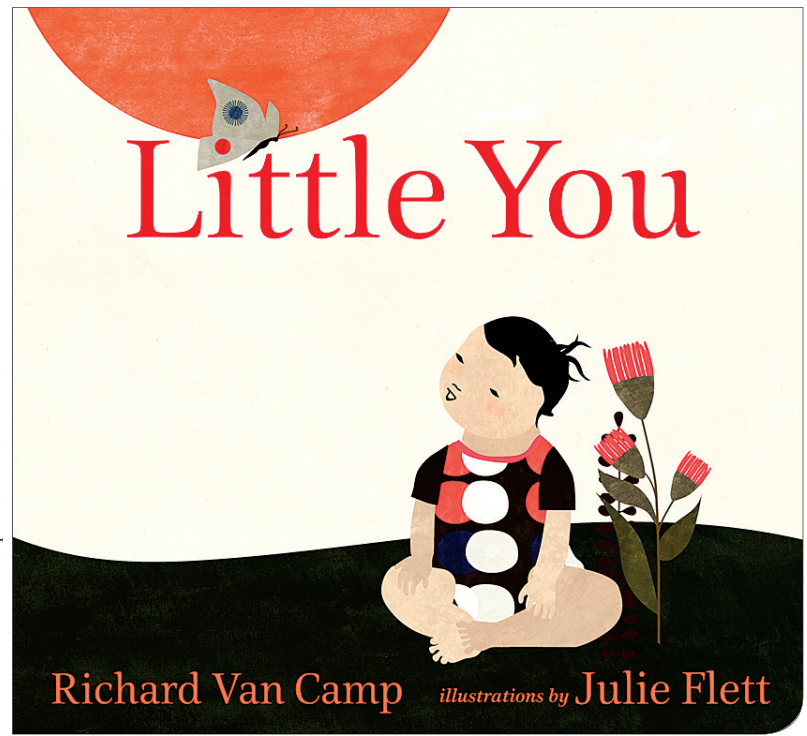


Photo courtesy of Orca Book Publishers

A thousand copies of *Little You* arrive at the NWT Literacy Council office ready to be distributed to babies across the territory.

Little You is Richard Van Camp's third baby book.

Arts & Culture Literature

Van Camp celebrates innocence with new baby book

NWT Literacy Council giving away 1,000 copies of Little You

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

"I think it's a curse to be an adult and to have lost the gift of being silly and being playful and flirting with the magic of everyday grace," says acclaimed Northern author Richard Van Camp.

"With my baby books, that innocence that's inside of me that I've never let go of...and that sense of play that I have with everyday life, I finally get to honour the world for that precious gift."

Van Camp's third baby book does just that, by giving a gift to a new generation of little ones.

Told in short, rhyming stanzas, the poem that forms *Little You* praises babies with lines like "You are mighty, you are small" and "You are life and breath adored."

Van Camp says it is a reflection of the part of his being that lives to play.

"With my adult work, I write about what breaks my heart, and I love writing sensual work and funny work when it comes to my young adult stuff and my adult stuff, but when it comes to the baby books, the gift that Fort Smith has given me is I've always been able to hold on to my innocence and my playfulness and just be silly," he said.

"It makes people happy, and if I'm making people happy, then I'm happy."

The book, published by Orca in Victoria and illustrated by Julie Flett, was born out of a Pearl Jam concert last year in Edmonton when singer Eddie Vedder asked the thousands of fans in the audience to sing Happy Birthday for his daughter. At that moment, Van Camp said the poem came in a flash.

"I just felt this rush of love for the world and for

humanity, and it just came like a prayer and a chant and a wish," he said. "Actually I thumbed the entire book out in probably 27 seconds on my phone."

The publisher immediately loved it and put Flett to work on the warmly coloured illustrations that show a small child surrounded by nature and the love of his or her parents.

"It's the first time we did a baby book with an illustrator and it's the smartest thing we ever did," Van Camp said. "Everyone's so proud of it."

One thousand copies of the book have been sent to the NWT Literacy Council to give to babies across the territory, as was done with Van Camp's past two baby books, *Welcome Song For Baby* and *Nighty-Night*.

"There are very few books for babies and young children by Northern authors, so this is great," Helen Balanoff, executive director of the NWT Literacy Council, said in an email. "Richard has long been a strong supporter of the Literacy Council and we have done a number of projects with him."

Little You will also receive its official Northern launch at the upcoming NorthWords writing festival in Yellowknife at the end of May, where parents and their babies will be invited to a short gathering and sing-along and sent home with signed copies.

The book will also be handed out through the Inuvik and Stanton Territorial hospitals, as well as through the Fort Smith midwifery program.

Books for BC Babies purchased 5,000 copies of the book to distribute around the province, too, and SET-BC is translating it into braille.

And as an additional gift to Northerners, the book is also being translated into Cree, Chipewyan and South Slavey by the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC).

"This is about Fort Smith creating its own curriculum and literature and having it translated into the languages of the territory," Van Camp said.

Along with *Little You*, Van Camp has a graphic novel on traditional justice, called *Three Feathers*, forthcoming. Done with burgeoning 24 year-old artist Krystal DeNeiva Mateus, a Diamond Jenness High School graduate and former French monitor at JBT School in Fort Smith, the book is another initiative of the SSDEC.

The graphic novel is slated for publication in 2014 and will be published in South Slavey, Cree and Chipewyan, as well as English.

He is also in the process of writing another volume of short stories in his never-ending thread of tales involving unmistakably Northern characters and themes, complete with streaks of the supernatural, moments of violence and the cushion of sensuality. That work is tentatively called *Night Moves*.

He's also begun work on another graphic novel called *Wheetago War*, which connects back to the apocalyptic tales that open his latest short story collection, *Godless but Loyal to Heaven*.

With those projects and more involving films and writers-in-residence programs underway, Van Camp is as busy as ever, but says he's no longer in a mad dash for success.

"One of the things about the last few years is I've been so blessed with *The Lesser*

Blessed and Godless but Loyal to Heaven and *Little You* and all the translations, and what I'm doing at the age of 41 is I'm actually giving myself permission to just take it easy," he said. "I'm not in a rush to sell *Night Moves*; if my publisher


wants it for 2015, that's fine."


These days, Van Camp is more excited about helping others, especially Northerners, launch their own careers.

"Twenty years ago I was so hungry to get my voice out and finding my way in the world,

and now at 41, my focus now is more on mentoring - that's what makes me happy - for literature that is going to impact our communities in the Northwest Territories. That is my greatest pride and joy right now."

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Northern Scene kicks off with sold out shows

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Over 250 Northern artists have taken Ottawa by storm this week in the first ever Northern Scene festival, showcasing mixed-media, music, dance, theatre, food, film and more from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Greenland.

It is the largest gathering of Northern artists ever hosted outside of the region, according to Heather Moore, producer and executive director of the National Arts Centre's (NAC) Scene festivals.

The sixth in a series of biannual national festivals that profile specific areas, Northern Scene kicked off last Thursday with a welcome ceremony and the highly anticipated, sold out show, "Circumpolar Soundscape." The evening of contemporary, soulful song featured NWT's award-winning Dene singer-songwriter Leela Gilday, ukulele player Nive Nielsen of Greenland, Yukon vocalist Diyet and throat singer/drum dancer Sylvia Cloutier.

NWT Commissioner George Tuccaro and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty were in Ottawa for



Aaron "Godson" Hernandez performs at Friday night's music and fashion show event, Boundless.

the festival launch Thursday evening.

The Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment provided \$200,000 to support over 70 participating NWT artists.

"Our artists truly reflect the cultural mosaic of the North," Lafferty said at the launch. "We are known as a land of opportunity, rich in resources, and everyone assumes this refers to natural

resources. One of our greatest resources is our talented, creative and innovative people who successfully represent and promote the North wherever they go."

Friday's spotlight was on the late night and free-of-charge fashion show, titled Boundless, showcasing designs from 11 Northern fashionistas. NWT designer Jamie Look curated the runway event where the art of traditional sewing met



Dehcho drummer Lawrence Nayally helps ring in the festival with a traditional song at Saturday's Spirit of the Drums event.

contemporary glamour and innovative creations ranging from sealskin to the undercoat of a muskox.

Additional festival focal points include the Artists' Marketplace, running for the entire 10 days. A first-time event for Scene, the marketplace is a one-stop boutique experience where 20 Northern artists specializing in beadwork, clothing, painting and more will be on hand to detail the ins and outs of their work

and the stories behind their creations to interested buyers.

"Some of the shows are sold out and they've been buzz on the street," Moore said. "We knew it'd be popular but that took us a bit by surprise as well."

The first event to sell out was the Northern Scene Fiddle Showcase on Apr. 27, headlined by the "Flying Gwich'in Fiddler" Boyd Benjamin, Dehcho Dene fiddler Wesley Hardisty

and the "pride of Kugluktuk," Colin Adjun.

The artistic magic that happens in kitchens also grabbed the public interest with the North-South Fusion live cooking demonstration coming up on Wednesday selling out weeks ago. The demo will feature three Northern chefs paired up with three from Ottawa to add a twist to traditional Northern cuisine.

Moore estimates at least 50,000 people will come out during the week, with many taking advantage of family-friendly and free activities, such as the sold-out 50 minute Spirit of the Drums performance on Saturday with the Dehcho Drummers and Inuvik Drum Dancers.

"I think the public is really looking to explore this festival," Moore said. "There is a special spirit and passion to it - not to say the other Scenes don't have that, but there's an energy and excitement about this one."

The festival runs until this Saturday, featuring over 50 events in total.

"Everyone up North should be hugely proud of their artists down here," Moore said. "They're not letting you down in the least."

Photos: National Arts Centre

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for
Gisela Becker

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Arts & Culture Music

Five thousand expected for Folk on the Rocks 2013

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Popular Canadian talent, lesser known bands just growing fan bases and re-emerging artists back on the scene are all heading to the largest music festival in the Northwest Territories this summer.

Folk on the Rocks, voted one of Canada's top 10 music festivals by CBC, released its official 2013 lineup a couple weeks ago, revealing a diverse and dynamic event from July 18-21 on the shores of Long Lake in Yellowknife.

"Folk is thrilled to present a great mix of high profile, nationally popular acts, along with great emerging talent," executive director Penny Ruvinsky said in a press release.

Headlining artists include BC's Grapes of Wrath, a well known folk-pop-rock band from the '80s, who will be performing tracks from a freshly cut album - the first new music from the reconciled group in over 20 years. Vancouver's indie alternative rockers Hey Ocean!, Juno nominees this year, are also slotted to make

an appearance at the festival along with Quebec's traditional clogging trio Gentecorum, Owls by Nature from Edmonton and the whimsical, soft-lyriced Hayden from Toronto, returning to the music scene this year after a four-year hiatus.

Three-time Juno award nominees The Kerplunks will also be stopping by to entertain the younger crowd with their assortment of instruments including the trombone and kazoo.

Ruvinsky expects over 5,000 festival-goers this year.

"We've got a great lineup and there will be names that people recognize, but I think they will also come away having new favourite artists, which is part of the point of the festival," she said. "Most of these bands are known in the south and of course we have ones widely recognized in the North such as Nelson Tagoona, and he is known internationally now...The Paulatuk Moonlight Drummers and Dancers are also a popular name up here."

The festival received 300 submissions this year, which a selections committee whittled down to 24 by meeting once a week from October to April, Ruvinsky said.

A few more acts currently in negotiations may be added to the list in coming weeks.

According to Ruvinsky, there will be a "visual theme" for this year's festival which will be revealed at the Yellowknife trade show on May 11-12.

The outdoor festival began as a small, outdoor gig along the water's edge of Frame Lake before it moved to Long Lake in 1980. Today, over 300 volunteers team up with festival staff to deliver more than 24 hours of programming on six stages, including a children's area, beer garden and cultural section.

Volunteer registration is slated to open later this week. For more information and to purchase early bird tickets (discounted rate available until May 13), visit www.folkontherocks.com.

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Town of Fort Smith Sidewalks & Concrete Works 2013 Contract B Spot Repairs

Sealed Tenders plainly marked on the envelope "Town of Fort Smith Sidewalks & Concrete 2013 Contract B Spot Repairs", will be received by the Town of Fort Smith, 174 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT, until **3:00 p.m. MST, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.**

The project is located in the Town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. This project is associated with 400m of sidewalk removal and replacement.

Project documents may be obtained from the Town of Fort Smith after April 23rd, 2013.

Each tender must be accompanied by the specified bid security made payable to the Town of Fort Smith.

The right is reserved to reject any or all Tenders or to accept any Tender that may be considered in the best interest of the Town of Fort Smith.

Written inquiries may be addressed to:

Mitchel Heron, C.E.T.
at Maskwa Engineering Ltd.
Phone: 867-872-2812 / Fax: 867-872-2813
Email: mitch.heron@maskwaengineering.ca

NOTICE OF TENDER



Town of Fort Smith New Salt Storage Building 2013

Sealed Tenders plainly marked on the envelope "Town of Fort Smith New Salt Storage Building 2013", will be received by the Town of Fort Smith, 174 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT, until **3:00 p.m. MST, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.**

The project is located in the Town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. This project consists of:

- Demolition of existing metal building
- Removal of existing concrete
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- Supply and installation of new fabric building
- Supply and installation of new wooden pony walls

Project documents may be obtained from the Town of Fort Smith after April 23rd, 2013.

Each tender must be accompanied by the specified bid security made payable to the Town of Fort Smith.

The right is reserved to reject any or all Tenders or to accept any Tender that may be considered in the best interest of the Town of Fort Smith.

Written inquiries may be addressed to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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TAKE NOTICE

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Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS Northwest Territories Minimum Wage Adjustment Committee

The Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is now accepting resumes from Northwest Territories' resident based employers and employees interested in serving on the Northwest Territories' Minimum Wage Adjustment Committee (MWAC).

The MWAC's mandate is both interesting and important and will benefit the residents of the Northwest Territories. The MWAC will meet biennially and make recommendations to the Minister of ECE on adjusting the Northwest Territories' minimum wage rate.

Employer applicants must be residents of the Northwest Territories and own their own business located in the Northwest Territories. Employee applicants must also be residents of the Northwest Territories and work for a Northwest Territories company located in the Northwest Territories. One employer and one employee will be selected. Members will receive honorarium and reimbursement for related travel and per diem expenses at the Government of the Northwest Territories' rate.

Submissions must be received in writing (by email or regular mail) in the form of a resume detailing experience before:

5:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013.

General inquiries to: Ms. Janelle James
Manager, Employment Standards
1st Floor Nova Plaza
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 873-7486
Email: janelle_james@gov.nt.ca

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NOTICE OF TENDER



Town of Fort Smith Sidewalks & Concrete Works 2013 Contract A New Sidewalks

Sealed Tenders plainly marked on the envelope "Town of Fort Smith Sidewalks & Concrete 2013 Contract A New Sidewalks", will be received by the Town of Fort Smith, 174 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT, until **3:00 p.m. MST, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.**

The project is located in the Town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. This project is associated with the supply and installation of:

- 320m New Sidewalk on Field Street
- 610m New Sidewalk on Pine Crescent

Project documents may be obtained from the Town of Fort Smith after April 23rd, 2013.

Each tender must be accompanied by the specified bid security made payable to the Town of Fort Smith.

The right is reserved to reject any or all Tenders or to accept any Tender that may be considered in the best interest of the Town of Fort Smith.

Written inquiries may be addressed to:

Mitchel Heron, C.E.T.
at Maskwa Engineering Ltd.
Phone: 867-872-2812 / Fax: 867-872-2813
Email: mitch.heron@maskwaengineering.ca



Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Law Clerk RFP LA435590

- Yellowknife, NT -

The Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories invites proposals from qualified proponents to perform the duties of Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Submissions will be accepted until:

5:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013.

Lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted.

Proposal packages will be available at the Legislative Assembly building effective **April 30, 2013.**

Please quote RFP **LA435590** when inquiring on or submitting proposal documents.

Address your submission in confidence to:

Legislative Assembly
Attention: Gail Bennett
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Management
4570 48th Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Phone: (867) 669-2343
Fax: (867) 920-4735
Email: gail_bennett@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



EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Milton Building Envelope Upgrades CT101307

– Fort Simpson, NT –

Upgrade exterior building envelope.

Sealed Tenders may be addressed to: Area Manager, Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, (delivered to 1st floor, Milton Building), 9909 – 97th Avenue, Fort Simpson, NT, or; Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, Suite 301, 76 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT (delivered to 3rd floor, B&R Rowe Centre), will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013.

Documents are available as of April 29, 2013 from the Electronic Plans Room at the NWT Construction Association www.nwtca.ca or (867) 873-3949.

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

General inquiries to: Audrey Mabbitt,
Contracts Administrator
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 874-7003

Technical inquiries to: Ron Bonnetrouge,
Project Officer
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 874-7004

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



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS NGO Stabilization Fund

The NGO Stabilization fund is a grant program that provides special funding to help NGOs who deliver critical GNWT funded programs or services to the public to stabilize or develop their capacity to manage programs and services.

Support can be granted for eligible one time general management, governance, organizational development, and extraordinary general operations costs, related to the delivery of critical GNWT funded programs or services. Collaborative projects that build the capacity of more than one NGO are encouraged.

For more information and to obtain an application form, please visit:

www.executive.gov.nt.ca/ngostabilization

Phone (867) 873-7823

Fax (867) 873-0279

or e-mail ngostabilization@gov.nt.ca

**The 2013–2014 application deadline
is Friday May 24, 2013.**



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Scour Rock Production, Hauling and Stockpiling CT101305

– NWT Highway 3 - Quarry Km 272, NT –

6950m³ Class 1 Scour Rock and 140m³ of 300mm minus Dressing Rock.

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, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of April 29, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 1:00 pm, May 13, 2013,
1st Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue
Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

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

Technical inquiries to: Chaudary Murtaza
Phone: (867) 920-3462

Consultant inquiries to: Associated Engineering Ltd.
Phone: (867) 920-4074

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

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Tulita's Junior Rangers zero in on Quebec City

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Five Junior Canadian Rangers from Tulita representing Team NWT competed in the Rangers' 5th National Marksmanship Championship at Valcartier Garrison, the armed forces base in Quebec City, last week.

It was the first time a group of young Rangers, aged 14-17, from the Sahtu hamlet took part in the competition, joined by two other Northern teams from Gjoa Haven in Nunavut and Carcross in Yukon.

They challenged over 50 other rifle enthusiasts from 13 teams across the country in a series of relay events measuring their shooting accuracy.

"It's actually the first time Junior Rangers from any of these three Northern communities have competed in this championship," Sharon Low, the officer commanding Northern Junior Rangers, said. "They are all wonderful shooters and representing the North well."

Team NWT placed tenth overall with a total of 2,158 points.

Yukon's team placed fourth overall in the championship. Chyanne Spenner from Carcross placed second in the top



Team NWT strikes a pose with their Daisy air rifles at the Rangers' 5th National Marksmanship Championship. Left to right, Shannon McPherson, Shauna Etchinelle, Devon Etchinelle, Jared Etchinelle and Alanna Bernarde.

Photo: Stephen Watton

shot individual category with a total of 703 out of 880 points.

Another Northern winner included Charlie Kogvik from Team Nunavut, who won bronze in the traditional skills shooting game.

The championship is the final stage of the season's marksmanship training portion of the community-based Junior Ranger program, established in 1996 to provide meaningful and structured activities for young people in isolated communities while

still promoting traditional lifestyles and cultures.

Marksmanship is an integral part of the program and "builds self discipline and confidence," Low said. "It increases their shooting skills, which is very relevant in the North for sustenance hunting, so training and events like this are also important because they polish their capabilities to provide for their families as they get older."

The teams, each consisting of five shooters and one

coach, faced off in a number of relays where they had approximately an hour to hit all of the targets, said Stephen Watton, the public affairs representative for 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, headquartered in Yellowknife.

"There's 11 different shooting competitions, including one based on traditional skills. They are judged on their accuracy to hit the targets from the prone, kneeling, sitting and standing positions," he said.

In addition to the relays, Rangers took part in "zeroing in" exercises and practice shoots with their Daisy air rifles.

"I've never been this far from my community. It's a bit scary, yes, and big," Shauna Etchinelle, 16, of Tulita said. "But the targets here are easy to hit; they're closer than the ones back home."

Etchinelle said she was inspired to join the Junior Rangers after a friend signed up.

"My favourite part is just the shooting. I've been shooting

for a couple years now. I go hunting with my dad; he taught me," she said.

Other Tulita participants included Alanna Bernarde, 15, Jared Etchinelle, 14, Devon Etchinelle, 14, and Shannon McPherson, 12.

The competition also aims to provide valuable exposure to the rest of Canada for many of the youth raised in remote locations and the opportunity to meet new people.

"It's always fun to bring teams together like this because you can see them become more confident and they practice hard and they see how good they are," Low said. "The boost in confidence pro-

vides more interaction with the other kids. One Ranger was telling me he was sitting with a group and they were all sharing stories about different animals in their communities and their hunting styles. So they really learn about different parts of not only the Northern cultures, but also straight across Canada."

The championship ran Apr. 23-25.

There are currently more than 3,400 Junior Rangers in 125 remote and isolated communities across Canada.



Filmmaker Natasha Duchene shares some quality time with her rescue dog, Max.



North Paws cameraman Pablo Saravanja focuses in for a segment on Ashley Macdonald, a recreational musher in Kam Lake with a team of "sled dog misfits," a mix of rescue pups and hand-me-downs from other mushers.

Photos: Anthony F. Saad

Arts & Culture Film

NWT dogs scamper into small screen spotlight

New documentary, North Paws, premieres on the Pet Network

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new documentary delving into past and current relationships between Northerners and their canine counterparts is set to make its world TV premiere next week on the Pet Network.

North Paws, an hour-long film, reveals how dogs, previously the only reliable mode of transportation in the North, have "lost their once-crucial, working roles in Northern communities, with tragic consequences" such as overpopulation, states the documentary's website.

The film speaks to how, with few animal shelters operating across the North and a shortage of veterinary services - making spaying and neutering a challenge - many dogs end up abandoned or killed.

North Paws was set in motion by the successful 2011 campaign to raise funds for Yellowknife's first self contained animal shelter, which opened its doors last December.

"I was a part of the fundraising effort for the SPCA

shelter and seeing how this community of such passionate people came together to make this happen against all the odds was really inspiring," said film director and writer Natasha Duchene of Yellowknife. "*North Paws* started out just about the shelter, but then the more we dug into the idea, the more we realized that the whole story of dogs in the NWT is just an incredible, longer story with such a rich history that we had to tell it all."

A year in the making, *North Paws* took Duchene and her crew, including producers Judith Keenan and dad Don Duchene, past Yellowknife and into Inuvik and Aklavik to talk to other animal lovers, such as modern mushers Andrew Charlie and Scott McQueen who are carving out new roles for Northern dogs in the 21st century through racing.

"I wanted it be balanced and so far it's been received pretty well," Duchene said.

As Duchene's first film, *North Paws* premiered to a

Yellowknife audience earlier this year. Duchene, also a singer/songwriter who released her first album in January, said it won't be her last.

"I've been around the film industry for a long time because my dad is a filmmaker... This experience has been so wonderful. I wish I could have told all the stories we heard along the way," she said. "Next I somehow want to incorporate both film and music into a new project. I'm just not sure what that will be yet."

Duchene hopes audiences take away a sense of awe and respect for the North, the region's ancient partnership between dogs and people, and the difference many Northerners are making in the lives of animals.

"The more we can remember how our lives are intertwined with other living things, the more we will live compassionately I think, and I hope this film speaks to that," Duchene said.

To catch *North Paws*, tune into the Pet Network May 6 at 8:00 p.m. MST.

Yellowknife sweeps up Northern Hockey Challenge crown

Flyers beat Iqaluit Icemen in all three games during weekend finals

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Yellowknife Flyers have been dubbed kings of the pan-territorial Northern Hockey Challenge after a series of tense, action-packed games this weekend against the Iqaluit Icemen in Yellowknife.

After three months of seven senior men teams from the NWT, Nunavut and northern Quebec facing off for the Northern title, it came down to the aptly defensive Flyers from the western division and the scoring machines from the east, the Icemen.

Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck dropped the puck Friday, kicking off the weekend finals. The Icemen were on instant attack mode but kept the tempo steady, feeling out the Flyers with heavy neutral zone play in the beginning.

The Flyers took the first goal with 5 minutes remaining in the first period. The teams were of fairly equal skill level and soon after the first goal, Iqaluit's Eric Jacobson buried the puck in the net just under the glove with a shorthanded shot. Things weren't tied for long, with Yellowknife blasting into the Icemen's zone and leading 5-1 by the end of the



The Yellowknife Flyers show the North who's number one after the team's 7-3 victory over Iqaluit Sunday night.

Photo: Josh Long

second period. The Flyers finished Friday with a solid 7-2 win.

Both NWT Premier Bob McLeod and Nunavut's member of parliament, federal

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, were cheering in the stands for their respective teams at Saturday's narrow, nail-biting game. The Icemen gave it their all, wreaking

havoc on the Flyers and controlling the pace by leading 2-1 well into the third period.

Flyer Brad Mueller tied things up with 8:36 remaining in the third after a slick

pass from Kyle Kugler. Matt Greyeyes of Yellowknife then set the crowd roaring after receiving the puck from teammate Ashley Rivers and landing a goal with 33.1 seconds remaining to steal the game 3-2.

In game three on Sunday, with two wins in hand, Yellowknife was presented with the chance to close out the championship, and the team did just that with a score of 7-3.

The Flyers went straight to business in the first period, slamming by two goals within the first four minutes. Iqaluit didn't give up, however, and took back control of the puck to score a goal of their own before the end of the first period. The second period was packed with action at both ends of the rink.

Natan Obed from Iqaluit was left wide open, giving him the opportunity to slip a shot past Yellowknife goalie Jeff Bowden to tie things up 2-2; but for only a few moments before Flyer Mirsad Mujcin scored a goal assisted by Chris Cahoon and Greyeyes, with 15:26 still left

in the second period, making it 3-2.

With action moving in end to end rushes, the Icemen started pushing harder. Dwayne Twerdin from Iqaluit tied things back up with 13:40 remaining, but it wasn't enough to hold the Flyers back and the second period finished with the Flyers leading 5-3.

The score didn't slow the Icemen down, who wasted no time in executing their offensive attack at the onset of the third period, taking three consecutive shots, all to no avail. The team fought until the end when the Flyers walked away with the championship, 7-3.

Heyck and Iqaluit Mayor John Graham made a friendly bet on the final series. The losing mayor is to wear the jersey of the winning team while presiding over a city council meeting.

Heyck tweeted Sunday night: "Anyone know Iqaluit Mayor John Graham's jersey size?"

The Flyers head next to the 2013 North American Championships in Calgary, May 20-25.

THANK YOU

from the

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