



Bill to amend Liquor Act stirs up fuss in the Sahtu
The Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce has voiced its concern with Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya's private member's bill. *See page 3.*



Healing walk expects big turnout near McMurray
The fourth ceremonial march for people concerned with the oilsands industry is planning for 500 participants on the 13-km "tar sands loop." *See page 9.*



Final devolution agreement is signed in Inuvik
Various heads of government gathered at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex to celebrate the final step of devolution on June 25. *See page 10.*



Gameti hosts first high school graduation
Jean Wetrade School celebrated its first "starry night" convocation for eight Grade 12 graduates. *See page 12.*

NORTHERN Journal

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Happy Canada Day!



July 2, 2013 Vol. 37 No. 09



Photo: Paul Bannister

George Cumming (left), 4, and sister Raiona, 8, proudly show off their Canadian spirit with maple leaf tattoos and plenty of red and white during the Canada Day celebrations in Fort Smith on Monday. July 1 was celebrated in patriotic style across the North with parades, music and more. *See page 15.*

Jury acquits Dettah chief on sex assault charges

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Dettah Chief Edward Sangris walked from Yellowknife Court House a free man Friday afternoon, acquitted by a jury of three charges of sexual assault.

"I'm going home to rest," Sangris said, and declined to say more to media, as family and friends embraced him after the week-long trial that was almost derailed on the final day.

Three jurors were dismissed after they said they felt intimidated by hostile looks from Jonas Sangris, a defense witness and brother of the accused. The last available substitute was summoned to bring the jury up to the minimum number of 10—six men and four women.

Sangris smiled and shook hands with his lawyer Eamon O'Keefe after the jurors



Dettah Chief Edward Sangris leaves the Yellowknife Court House Friday free of all charges.

confirmed the verdict they reached after just two hours of deliberation.

The trial was marked by conflicting testimony that bared divisions and

allegiances in Dettah, a Yellowknives Dene community of 250 where many are related by blood or marriage.

The complainant, a single mother whose identity is

protected by a court-ordered publication ban, testified that Sangris groped her crotch and fondled her breasts more than 40 times between 1986 and 1990 and again in 1994-96.

Sangris served as a band councillor for part of that time, and the woman worked in the band office. She said that the assaults occurred on mornings when she was alone, cleaning the office before it opened to the public.

The woman said in 1996 she complained to Jonas Sangris, Dettah chief at the time, and threatened to go to the police unless something was done. A meeting was called and Edward Sangris resigned his council seat, she said.

If there was a record of the closed meeting, it did not survive a relocation of the band office, in which some files were water-damaged.

When he testified in his own defense, Sangris denied the allegations of abuse, and said he agreed to leave council because he was working at a remote mine site and unable to properly fulfill his duties.

Richard Edjericon, chairman of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, was the only Dettah politician from 1996 whose testimony supported the woman's evidence. The abuse allegations prompted him to ask Sangris to step down, he said.

Sangris said he was on good terms with Edjericon until 2007, when he beat out Edjericon in a race for Dettah's top political job.

The woman went to the RCMP in 2011 with her complaint when Sangris was chief. He attributed that to a land dispute with the band.

Photo: Jack Danylchuk

NEWS BRIEFS

Mining regulations to be split

The federal government is looking to divide the current Northwest Territories and Nunavut Mining Regulations into two distinct regulations for each territory. "This will not create additional regulations, but rather create an administrative separation between the two mining districts," the plan states. The changes will not affect royalty payments on mining production, but will help with the devolution process when it comes to mineral administration, according to the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Future consultation with key stakeholders is currently being planned.

Northern Gateway hearings wrap up

After five months, public hearings over Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline came to an end last Monday. No further evidence, legislative changes or agreements will factor into the report. The review panel will prepare its final deliberations and recommendations into a report for the federal government, expected to be available to the public by the end of December. The major petroleum pipeline would transport crude oil from Alberta's oilsands to a tanker port in Kitimat, BC for export. The proposal has generated heated opposition from BC First Nations, most notably the Yinka Dene Alliance, which issued a cease and desist order to Enbridge last week. The alliance has stated the presence of Enbridge officials on Yinka territory will be considered trespassing.

Yellowknife RCMP investigate arson

Yellowknife RCMP responded to a vehicle fire in Daniel's Court on June 23 around 2:30 a.m. The fire department gained control over the blaze before it spread. No one was injured. Police believe it was not a random attack. The Yellowknife RCMP Detachment and Forensic Identification Section are working with the territorial fire marshal's office in order to determine the cause of the fire. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with more information is asked to call Yellowknife RCMP at 669-1111.

Politics Federal

NWT Conservative candidate's expense returns seized by RCMP *Sandy Lee's campaign spending tied up in Senate expense scandal*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

RCMP seized the expense returns of federal Conservative candidate Sandy Lee last month in its continued investigation of Senator Mike Duffy's expense claims as controversy grows around misspending within the party.

Lee, who ran unsuccessfully against Western Arctic NDP MP Dennis Bevington in the 2011 federal election, was invoiced only \$209 by Duffy following his visit to the Northwest Territories in April 2011, covering just two taxi rides to a hotel in downtown Toronto on his way to Yellowknife and Park and Fly charges at Ottawa's airport.

Canada's Elections Act requires candidates to pay all travel expenses for Senators and Members of Parliament who campaign on their behalf, including meals, accommodations, flights and other costs.

If not charged to the candidate, those costs are required to be reported as non-monetary contributions. Duffy did neither in the case of Lee's campaign.

Duffy's invoice to Lee, as reported by *The Hill Times*, showed the Senator informed Lee he had charged hotel and flight costs from Ottawa to Yellowknife via Toronto to the Conservative Party of Canada, and had not billed Lee for the \$330 tab he picked up at the Fuego restaurant in Yellowknife.

"Hotels charged to campaign. Boarding passes enclosed for flights; Ottawa/Toronto/Yellowknife/Ottawa Travel charged to CPC (Conservative Party of Canada)," the invoice stated.

Political parties are allowed to fund travel for MPs and Senators campaigning nationally for the party, usually when touring with the party leader, but not on behalf of individual candidates.

Opposition MPs suspect the transfer of funds was used to avoid overspending by candidates in their ridings. Lee's campaign expenses came within \$324 of her limit of \$87,785, leaving no room to pay for Duffy's flights to and hotel costs in Yellowknife.

Duffy also visited Norman Wells with Lee during her campaign. Lee mentioned on Twitter on Apr. 8, 2011 that she was meeting Duffy in Norman Wells. His travel claims indicate he was on Senate business.

Bevington said he questions whether or not the Norman Wells trip, which included charter flights through Discovery Air, was properly accounted for.

"He didn't just go to Yellowknife; he went to Norman Wells," Bevington said of Duffy. "There's no indication how he got there - did he get paid to go there; how did he get there?...If the rest of her campaign team is on the plane, which would include Duffy, you would think that that would then become a campaign expense."

Lee, who is now employed by federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq as regional director in Yellowknife with a salary of \$123,000 a year, refused to comment on her campaign expenses or what

was included in her personal expenses - a second spending category that must be reported following a political campaign.

"My campaign filed all required reports in accordance with all relevant rules within the Elections Canada legislation and guidelines," she told *The Journal* in an email, directing questions instead to the Conservative Party headquarters.

Lee's personal expenses totalled \$48,586.17 compared to Bevington's \$8,109.60 and Liberal candidate Joe Handley's \$9,944.77. Nearly \$47,000 of Lee's personal claims are still listed as unpaid on the Elections Canada website.

Travel expenses of MPs and Senators campaigning for candidates must be filed under the campaign and not personal expenses category. Unlike personal expenses,

individual candidates' budgets. This time, they are accused of the opposite.

Bevington said the growing scandal with Senators' campaign expenses, which has seen Duffy resign from the Conservative Party caucus and implicates three other Senators, including Pamela Wallin, gives proof that the Senate is no longer functioning the way it was intended.

"The fact that there were 15 Senators who showed these enormous travel expenses during the last federal election says that these people were acting outside the bounds of what the Senate's supposed to be and maybe actually doing things that should never have been done," he said. "I think Canadians are starting to get that message, that this appointed Senate has out-used its usefulness as a

The fact that there were 15 Senators who showed these enormous travel expenses during the last federal election says that these people were acting outside the bounds of what the Senate's supposed to be and maybe actually doing things that should never have been done

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington

campaign expenses receive 60 per cent back from the federal government and are capped.

Lee originally made the mistake of personally paying \$6,000 to one of her campaign workers, Carla Hanvold-Walker, which should have been subject to her campaign expenses limit. The money was eventually returned to Lee to keep her campaign expenses under the limit.

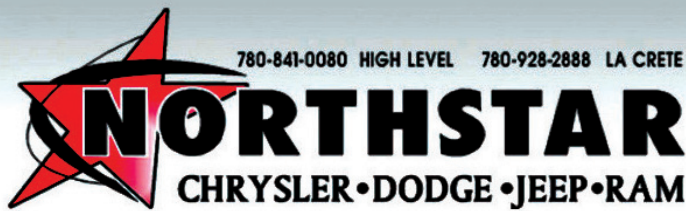
Hanvold-Walker is also employed in Aglukkaq's Yellowknife office as a special assistant.

This is not the first time the Conservative Party has been accused of transferring election expenses. In 2006, Elections Canada argued in court that the party used a similar pattern, only that time to create more spending room in the national campaign using

body of sober second thought and has morphed into this political animal that is completely inappropriate."

As for the expenses, he said he would like to see a federal election where everything is above board.

"I ran all my travel expenses as part of the election campaign, and I only spent \$50,000, so I didn't have to keep them in my pocket," he said. "Everybody that travelled with me was paid for, which showed up in the campaign expenses...But then again, I've never ever had to worry about the election expenses cap. One year I won and I had the lowest amount spent of any NDP candidate won in the country. It was \$45,000. So I've always had fairly low expenses, because in reality that's not what wins it for you in the North."



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Chamber of Commerce opposes liquor restrictions

Bill 24 to Amend Liquor Act targets problem of alcohol abuse in Sahtu

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce says it's standing up for private businesses and voicing "strong opposition" to a recently introduced private member's bill that seeks to give Sahtu communities a voice in amending liquor restrictions.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya brought forth the bill, which received second reading on June 6, to help combat the escalating problem of alcohol abuse and its link to violence in the Sahtu.

When a plebiscite narrowly lifted 40 year-old liquor restrictions in Norman Wells in early 2012, voting was only open to Norman Wells residents, despite the fact that citizens from across the Sahtu use the Norman Wells Liquor Agency - the only liquor store in the region.

Bill 24 seeks to enable Sahtu communities to vote in any plebiscite to determine if liquor sales should be restricted at the Norman Wells liquor store.

"As soon as that plebiscite went through, I began receiving a number of emails, letters and phone calls from people all across the Sahtu concerned that they didn't get a chance to have a say in the vote," Yakeleya told *The Journal*. "They didn't think it was fair that 30 per cent of the population of the Sahtu dictates to the other 70 per cent...They've told me the amount of crime and alcohol abuse is going up in their communities and it's having a devastating effect and they should have had a say in the matter."

Chris Buist, president of the Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter to Yakeleya expressing his concern with the bill.

"Bill 24 - if passed - would set a dangerous and indefensible precedent in giving communities within a region the power to interfere with private business," he stated.

He went on to note that Sahtu residents also purchase alcohol from Yellowknife and Inuvik.

"We are somewhat puzzled that if the purchase of liquor by Sahtu residents is the motivation behind Bill 24, why did you not suggest that other liquor outlets serving the Sahtu also be subjected to the wishes of the 'Sahtu communities?'" Buist argued.

Norman Wells Sales/Litres

April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013

| Year | Sales | Litres |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011 | \$2,095,000 | 191,312 |
| April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012 | \$2,315,00 | 198,914 |
| April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013 | \$2,638,000 | 204,375 |

Increase in litres from 2010/11 to 2011/12

Increase in litres from 2011/12 to 2012/13


Increase in litres from 2010/11 to 2012/13

3.97 %

2.75 %

6.82 %

The liquor rationing system was removed effective February 1, 2012



Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya

In the letter, he urges all MLAs to defeat the bill in order to continue to "allow private business to operate without political interference."

"This bill would create more of a regional government approach to our operations and not the territorial approach legislation should. If there is going to be an amendment to the Liquor Act, it should be for all of the Northwest Territories, not just the Sahtu, not regionally specific," Buist later told *The Journal* in an interview. "This is not the best approach to solving social issues. I think it's kind of a radical approach to doing that."

Yakeleya released a three-page rebuttal to Buist's letter last week, as well as a question and answer sheet.

The MLA noted that the sale of hard liquor in Norman Wells has increased by almost 50 per cent since restrictions were lifted and that he has been advised by community leaders and the RCMP that crime related to alcohol consumption has also "risen noticeably."

According to the NWT Liquor Commission, there was a 6.82 per cent accumulative increase in the litres of alcohol (wine, beer, spirits) sold from 2010/2011 to 2012/2013.

Additionally, a RCMP report 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 at 52 per cent.

"There will be people opposed and this is what public policy is all about. However, the opposition of a minority of residents should not stop us from taking bold actions to address this issue," Yakeleya said.


While Bruist said that to the best of his knowledge the bill was introduced without consultation with all Sahtu residents or the impacted business, the Norman Wells Liquor Agency, Yakeleya told *The Journal* the consultation process is just about to begin, now that the bill is in the hands of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

The introduction of the bill follows a recent community forum in Tulita, held in May with Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu and Minister of Justice Glen Abernethy present alongside Yakeleya.


"It was a good opportunity for people to sit and talk with legislators and say to us, 'Do something different about the alcohol abuse, do something creative, be bold and look at where we can make changes,'" Yakeleya said.

"We have a lot of things going on in the Sahtu region for development and one of the biggest hinders is alcohol abuse, and RCMP crime stats and Health and Social Services states this. We know for a fact we have to tackle this before the Sahtu gets really busy," he said.

Public hearings on Bill 24 are expected to begin this fall.



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A must-have pipeline for Redford

Some leaders rise to prominence in times of crises, like Winston Churchill who led Britain through her “darkest hour” in the war against Nazi Germany. Indeed, some struggle with acceptance by the electorate and need a good crisis to lend them credibility. That was the case with Barack Obama in October 2012, during the final stages of the presidential election when he was neck and neck with Republican rival Mitt Romney. Hurricane Sandy, the largest of the 2012 season, opportunely slammed the east coast. The devastation was massive and with all America watching, Obama was on the scene, sympathetic and involved, providing hope and promising aid. Many said that was the push he needed, the momentum booster that got him over the top.

Until the floods of 2013, Alison Redford was struggling. A “red Tory” in ultra conservative Alberta, she was seen by many as a “lame duck” premier. In a poll taken in March, Redford’s popularity was at 29 per cent and Danielle Smith, leader of the Wildrose Party and her main opponent, almost double that at 53 per cent. In April, the *National Post* ran a story that Redford’s popularity had “tanked” so badly she may not even survive a leadership review at her November convention.

A subsequent poll in April commissioned by the *Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald* showed “nearly two-thirds of Albertans felt she has steered the province off course.” In addition to dissatisfaction with Redford, the poll showed “77 per cent reporting displeasure with the government’s financial management.”

Redford was virtually under siege. Her numbers showed worst in rural Alberta, where the Wild Rose Party dominates, but urban centres were not far behind. All opposition parties made gains, but Danielle Smith’s star seemed to be rising

the most. The charismatic leader, who numbers Stephen Harper among her mentors, lambasted the Redford government on its \$6 billion of red ink in a stirring speech at the end of Alberta’s legislative sitting in May, the one year anniversary of her close defeat at the hands of Redford.

Smith was born in Calgary and her riding includes High River, arguably the hardest hit of all communities in the southern Alberta flooding last week. Smith has not been in the media spotlight like Redford. Unlike Redford, she is not in charge.

Redford, by contrast, dominated the national media for nearly a week. Backed by a bevy of grave cabinet ministers, shoulder to shoulder with popular Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and in numerous photo ops with the Prime Minister, who showed up to commit hundreds of army troops, she appeared poised, caring and competent. She was in command, an obvious leader in a time of crisis. Importantly, she did all the right things.

Gone was any concern over budgeting that had made her cannon fodder a short month before. She dismissed all budgetary concerns cavalierly and pledged \$1 billion to flood relief. “The world has changed,” she said, and the message was, so had all priorities. Tight purse strings were no longer a concern to Albertans, and she knew it.

The flood is for Redford what Hurricane Sandy was for Obama. The real story that followed the flood is the mettle and spirit of Albertans, how they band together to help one another, tenacious through tough times. Redford was a part of that, in the right place at the right time, and will benefit from it.

We cannot even begin to fathom the costs of the flood recovery. In addition

to caring for the needs of impacted citizens, Alberta will have a very large infrastructure bill to cover over time. Then there is the impact to the economy - lost business, present and future. Redford’s next big challenge will be to fill the depleted provincial coffers with money to cover those onerous costs. How else to do that than encourage more growth in the oilsands industry, the “engine of growth” for the province?

Redford has been fervent in her extensive lobbying efforts in support of the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipelines. At least one of them would provide a means to deliver oilsands bitumen to international markets, enabling further expansion of the industry in northeastern Alberta. Now the imperative that she succeed in those efforts will be much greater.

The news Redford did not want to hear, in the new American Climate Plan released by Obama last week, was that climate concerns are “absolutely critical” to determining if the Keystone XL pipeline should be approved. That, following the re-election in May of a majority government of BC Liberals, who are on record opposing the Northern Gateway pipeline to the west coast, means Redford has a big job ahead of her.

The United States is landlocked Alberta’s only customer for oil, and is routinely finding new homegrown energy sources thanks to fracking, so Alberta oil fetches a meagre \$50 per barrel in the US, well below the market rate. Alberta very badly needs to find a way to sell that oil internationally to increase revenue.

Her post-flood popularity will hold for a while, but with three years left in her term, Alison Redford desperately needs one of those pipelines to go through.



Sid Bailey (at far left), director of photography for TSN from Calgary, arrived in the middle of Canada Festivities in downtown Fort Smith to film and “capture the flavour and energy” of the community for their bid in the Kraft and TSN Celebration Tour. There is \$25,000 at stake that could go to help Fort Smith, which just lost its arena due to a fire; or to competitor Whitehorse and its six surrounding communities to help operate their existing curling facilities. Check out www.kraftcelebrationtour.ca for details. Voting will take place July 8 for 24 hours - you can vote as often as you like. The tour has been ongoing for four years and has given out vast sums of money. This year there are 20 competitors, each up against one rival. Bailey was warmly received by hundreds from Fort Smith who swarmed Conibear Park in full Canada Day regalia during the annual fish fry served up by members of town council.

ARCHIVES

10 Years Ago...

Premiers want more

The Western Canada premiers’ conference was highlighted by calls for increased funding for health care, national infrastructure and territorial control over resources from the federal government.

The premiers are ready to guarantee that any new transfers from the federal government will be strictly spent on improving health care.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein said he was ready to “sign in blood if I have to.”

Issue: July 7, 1998

20 Years Ago...

100 fires last weekend

The Western Arctic is halfway to the record-setting 613 fires reported in 1989, and the busiest part of the season’s only just begun.

There were 101 forest fires reported last weekend, accounting for one-third of all fires so far this year. The total number was pushed to 302 by Monday afternoon. That’s around the average total every year.

Issue: July 7, 1993

30 Years Ago...

NWTEL wants rate increases

Northwestel Inc. has asked the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for a general increase in rates.

The increases would result in monthly rates for exchange service increasing by an average of \$4.29 for individual business service and \$2.21 for individual residence service. Coin telephone service would increase from 10 cents to 25 cents and long distance rates within Northwestel’s operating area by 10.5 per cent.

Issue: July 8, 1982

Varialift would be great for the North

Editor,

There are a couple of corrections that need to be pointed out in your story last week, “Pitches for unconventional aircraft fail to move experts,” concerning the Varialift.

The Varialift is not a blimp. A blimp is a gas filled balloon. The Varialift has a shell of aluminium, like a metal boat or a plane, and contains very large helium liners. For Northern operations it uses four Pratt & Whitney engines and is fully insulated for extreme temperatures. It is capable of flying at 30K feet, but for Northern Canadian operations this will probably be less, as no high mountain ranges exist. It can cruise at a speed of a Herc at altitude for 6,000 Nautical miles and take off and land vertically on a suitable flat space. The 50 metric tonne payload Varialift weighs 200 tonnes in aluminium, and measures 150 m long by 50 wide and 50 high. Its Cargo bay is vast and is much

like a ferry boat, with roll-on/roll-off capabilities. It can act as a crane as well for extreme oversize loads. I invite all to visit the Varialift website for more information www.varialift.com

A question was also made concerning the world Helium production which I answered had increased to 220 million m3 per annum in 2012, a 30 per cent increase since 2008, and new sources are discovered regularly.

I personally experienced great enthusiasm from the delegates and I thank them for their Northern hospitality. The Northwest Territories stand to gain much by phasing in Varialifts to assist in environmentally respectful growth and to take the strain off the existing and preciously low-density road infrastructure.

Ernesto Soria
Director Business Development
Varialift Airships (UK PLC)

Why is CWS not protecting cranes?

Editor,

I read Renée Francoeur’s article, “Fort Smith man stands on guard for whooping cranes.” The article mentions “Almost every long weekend there are

people out quadding in this nesting area at Foxholes. . . On the May long weekend, a big group was headed right for the nest and if I hadn’t been here to stop them, they’d most likely have run right over it. . . There’s this perception, you can go quad anywhere. You can’t. This is a restricted area.”

My question is: With the area being a restricted area, what is the Canadian Wildlife Service doing to enforce any rules for quadders to keep out or educating the public the importance of this area? Thank you!

Pam Bates

Edmonton a ‘gateway’ no more

Fellow Northerners,

I recently read, online, a rather imperious letter from a Liberal Albertan MLA by the name of Blakeman. She was giving her opinions (to persons, apparently, of lower IQs than hers) regarding our beleaguered Northern-access City Centre Airport. Before I got around to calculating the degree of her patient transfer-time miscalculation, I couldn’t help but reflect upon how the genuine respect once shown to Albertans by their government has disappeared over my lifetime of living and serving in the North.

I recall as a child being allowed to quietly sit at our kitchen table, and listen to Dad explain Northern realities to two gracious cabinet ministers who’d flown all the way out in a tiny Cessna in response to a well-written letter. Then soon thereafter, I also remember Dad - who had no political connections - accepting an invitation to visit with the (Social Credit) Premier himself, in order to be able to directly answer his questions.

It was impossible in those decades not to be a proud patriot of this once-special province! A well-reasoned argument still meant more to most politicians than money.

Edmonton itself was much different then, too. The city was still aware of its unique status as Gateway and Supplier to the North, and proud to be so. Most Edmontonians themselves seemed to be but a step or two removed from rural life; and the hinterland was of some fascination to them. The huge volume of business, and the large number of jobs brought to the city from the North were not taken for granted as they are today.

And yes, Edmontonians were bright enough then to realise that they are deeply fortunate to possess one of the most historic and colourful airfields on the planet, perhaps the only one boasting so many legends from Wop May to open-air cockpit diphtheria-vaccine runs in -40 degrees to being the airfield terminus of the aerial hunt for Albert Johnson!

Have Edmontonians now no sense or desire of becoming a Northern world-class city? Many of the greatest urban centres, such as Toronto, Chicago, New York, London, etc. (even Calgary with its current growth pattern!), cherish their culturally, medically and financially-essential downtown airports. Henry Dechant quoted some uncommonly insightful media person as saying, “City Centre Airport is a jewel which would be the envy of any forward-thinking city!”

I recall someone else writing something to this effect:

“Use the runway for a mere city street; you drive a mere mile. Use the runway as a runway; you can travel the globe!”

For what it is worth, my father wrote a book about his bush-piloting; and those adventures, too, began with flying-lessons taken at the Municipal Airport. That is also where Dad purchased our aeroplane. And the “Muni” was where he got parts and had his wooden propellers rebuilt, especially after the time he (crash) landed at Peace River on a broken ski. (On that particular mercy-flight, his unfortunate, severely-ill passenger was unconscious even before the extra excitement commenced.)

More to our present point, I recall my mum flying for hours to the Muni one anxious, frightful afternoon in an ambulance - airsick as can be, but totally occupied with getting my little brother, who came within inches of death, to the venerable Royal Alex just as quickly as conceivably possible. Had short-sighted politicians then, as now, insisted that the plane wander on past Edmonton to Leduc, I wonder if Bro would still have been around last month to publish that new book of his?

Perpetual Alberta Opposition-member Blakeman repeatedly offers us her “20-minute” patient transfer mantra; but in so doing, she is as reality-challenged as the PC Ministers opposite her in the House.

The fact is, if two ambulances took off simultaneously from the same Northern airfield, say Slave Lake’s or maybe Fort Vermilion’s, the patient who landed at the Municipal would already be in surgery next door at the Royal by the time the other plane had flown ‘round about the west side of the city, landed and taxied for miles past jetliner traffic to reach the helicopter - or, for that matter, the land-ambulance when the helicopter’s already serving a different flight. Once the patient were transferred, he and his medics would then still have another half-hour ride ahead of them, - 3/4 hour in rush-hour traffic!

Presently, City-Centre Airport holds first-place of any city across our entire Dominion for the quickest average airport-to-hospital transfer time! Isn’t it just beyond belief that: 1) We as Albertans are not at all proud of that important distinction; and 2) We are throwing this difficult achievement into the trash?

It is not too late for today’s generation of leaders to mellow out their financial fixations and determine to regain a worldview of a nobler caring and compassion!

Arlyn H. van Enns
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

FACEBOOK
FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

A Fort Smith volleyball player is “frustrated” and “heartbroken” after being cut via email from the Northwest Territories’ beach volleyball Canada Summer Games (CSG) team because she couldn’t relocate to Yellowknife, the designated training centre, for the summer.



Volleyball player wants fairer selection process

 **Councillor Kevin Smith:** The Town of Fort Smith also passed a motion on June 11th to write a “strongly worded” letter to Sport North demanding that territorial athletes not be excluded from territorial sports that Sport North oversees. The letter was sent June 19 and cc’d to the Minister of MACA. We expect a response shortly.

 **Marnie E Villeneuve:** Sport North is supposed to support athletes from all over the north - it is not called Sport Yellowknife - or maybe it should be!!

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MUKLUK



Forecast

Inuvik

Yellowknife

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 11 High | 7 Low | Wednesday | 20 High | 17 Low |
| 12 High | 6 Low | Thursday | 22 High | 12 Low |
| 18 High | 8 Low | Friday | 21 High | 13 Low |
| 19 High | 10 Low | Saturday | 21 High | 13 Low |

Norms: 20°C and 9°C

Norms: 21°C and 12°C

Hay River

Fort Smith

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 23 High | 15 Low | Wednesday | 26 High | 15 Low |
| 20 High | 12 Low | Thursday | 26 High | 14 Low |
| 19 High | 11 Low | Friday | 25 High | 14 Low |
| 20 High | 11 Low | Saturday | 24 High | 11 Low |

Norms: 21°C and 10°C

Norms: 23°C and 10°C

Métis caribou ruling sets legal precedent in Canada

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

For the first time since the Paulette caveat 40 years ago, a Northwest Territories court has ruled on Aboriginal rights with its decision confirming the North Slave Métis Alliance's (NSMA) right to harvest Bathurst caribou - a decision that could impact the group's ongoing legal battle with the federal government.

The precedent-setting court decision came through after over a year of deliberation on the eve of Aboriginal Day, affirming the Crown's duty - and failure - to meaningfully consult with the NSMA when, in response to the Bathurst herd's decline, the GNWT along with the Tlicho government agreed to limit the annual harvest to 300 caribou.

While tags were split between the Tlicho and Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the NSMA was left out of the allowable harvest.

NWT Supreme Court Justice Shannon Smallwood applied the "Powley test" - a legal test to determine whether or not Métis have *prima facie* rights - for the first time in NWT history, concluding NSMA members do, in fact, have claim to Aboriginal rights



North Slave Métis president Bill Enge hopes the federal government will take heed of the NWT Supreme Court ruling.

under Section 35 of the Constitution in the area north of Great Slave Lake.

In her ruling, she found that ancestors of NSMA members, including Francois Beaulieu, travelled, hunted, fished, guided and trapped in the area where NSMA members continue to exercise their rights.

"It's a very significant victory," NSMA president Bill

Enge said. "We are the only Métis people in the Northwest Territories that now have judicially affirmed Section 35 Aboriginal rights, and there's now no question that the area north of Great Slave Lake is the traditional lands of the North Slave Métis people."

Smallwood ordered the GNWT to immediately consult with the NSMA and provide

reasonable accommodation, through negotiation, with respect to management of the Bathurst herd.

The victory for the Métis marks the first time in Canadian jurisprudence where a Métis organization has successfully prosecuted a consultation and accommodation lawsuit, thereby setting the foundation for other Métis groups in Canada - along with First Nations and Inuit - to use as a means to remedy wrongful decisions made by the Crown.

The ruling now has the potential to impact an ongoing legal suit taken by the alliance against the federal government, following a decision by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) Minister Bernard Valcourt stating that North Slave Métis are not a distinct rights-bearing Aboriginal group in the region.

Enge, on behalf of the NSMA, recently took the matter to a federal court to have a judge decide whether or not the group has enough evidence to prove it has *prima facie* rights in the area. That decision could impact the alliance's claim to resource

revenues from devolution along with the ability to negotiate its own land and resources agreement.

"I can't predict how the government of Canada is going to react to this decision, but what I can say is that government along with citizens have to respect the law, and right now the law says that the North Slave Métis people possess Section 35 Aboriginal rights," he said.

Enge said the AANDC minister told the NSMA in a November 2011 letter that the approach he would take regarding including the Métis in devolution negotiations would hinge upon whether or not NSMA members were deemed to be rights-bearing.

"Now we have secured a decision from the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories to the effect that we are indeed Section 35 Aboriginal rights holders. He didn't tell us what kind of approach he would take with us, but it certainly is different than the one he has taken, which is to exclude us and ignore us," Enge said.

"We have an expectation that the right thing to do now is respect the decision and

undertake a negotiation with us with a view to include us under the auspices of the devolution agreement. That's what we think he should do and that's what we would expect his approach to be."

Legal counsel for the NSMA, Chris Devlin of Devlin/Gailus Barristers and Solicitors in Victoria, BC, said he hopes the federal government will take heed of the ruling and amend its decision rather than proceed through a series of expensive lawsuits.

"At some point, both the GNWT and federal government are going to have to change their policy decisions. It's only a matter of policy that prevents them from negotiating with the NSMA...One would like to think that responsible governments will listen to the opinions of the court and change policy accordingly. That's the institutional dialogue that's supposed to happen between the courts and the legislature and the executive," Devlin said.

"So I hope that it doesn't take a series of lawsuits before reasonable people in both levels of government say, 'Perhaps our current policy isn't the best one.'"

THANK YOU

to everyone who came out to enjoy Canada Day in Fort Smith!

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The Athabasca River near Egg Lake is at full capacity, spilling over the bank for about 1 km.



The new channel of the Athabasca cuts through the trees between the river and Egg Lake. It went from being 20 feet wide to 20 metres wide within a month.

Politics First Nations

High water in Fort Chip could bring political changes

New river channel changing delta, ACFN reserve boundaries

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
With the highest water levels seen since 1997, a new channel of the Athabasca River has quickly formed near the community of Fort Chipewyan, changing not only the environment of the delta but reserve boundaries for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN).

ACFN's reserve boundaries are shaped by natural features of the landscape, such as bodies of water, which change over time and have done so since it was first surveyed in 1931.

When the reserve was first created, Alberta managed to keep control over mineral rights as well as control over the Athabasca River and any water connected to Lake Athabasca, so as those water bodies change, so does the legal situation.

"Over the years, those water bodies have changed a lot," said John Rigney, director of special projects for ACFN. "Some are no longer water bodies, in which case that became reserve land. Now a new water body is opening up, being a new channel and it will result in a legal decision of some sort at some point over jurisdiction."

"It means a little change in boundaries because the water belongs to Alberta, so if a new river cuts through, that part's Alberta's. We haven't had any big arguments with Alberta yet or in the past, but that may be just because there hasn't been any activity yet, mineral activity, in the delta," he added.

The new channel, which runs over a narrow band of land between the river and Egg Lake, was first spotted on May 26 at approximately 20 feet wide. By June 23, Rigney said it was over 20 metres wide.

"The water was spilling over a section of bank over an entire kilometre of the river bank, so that whole river bank is saturated almost like soup. Once the water runs through it, if the roots don't hold it, it just washes out the dirt."

Those with cabins along the Athabasca are seeing some flooding, but most are built on high ground with the expectation of eventual high waters and Rigney said there's been nothing major. BC Hydro began releasing water from both its Bennett

flooding, but Rigney said it's all a matter of "what if?" "It's all really dynamic at all times," he said. "Last week almost all cabin sites along the river had some flooding, but flooding is expected and not usually a problem. Anything built in the delta

is temporary because everything is changing in the delta all the time. It's a very dynamic place." As for the shifting of ACFN's reserve boundaries, Rigney said it's too new a development for any action right now. He suspects any

political changes will likely be slow ones. "It's something that sooner or later someone's going to have to put on a map, and that'll trigger something. These are slow changes; they take a generation, so there's lots of time to adapt."

It's something that sooner or later someone's going to have to put on a map, and that'll trigger something. These are slow changes; they take a generation, so there's lots of time to adapt.

John Rigney
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

So that's what's happening," he said.

Rains have caused the Athabasca to flood all over the delta, so quickly in the case of the new channel that it's washing the trees out. Rigney said it's entirely possible that the Athabasca River could become diverted along that course over the next decade.

That said, no one in Fort Chipewyan is complaining. "The thinking is the delta is all about change, and change is healthy in the delta," he said.

Egg Lake, where the channel runs through, historically produced thousands of muskrats, but according to locals, muskrats have been nearly extirpated from the delta due to low water levels caused by the W.A.C. Bennett Dam upstream on the Peace River.

Rigney said the new channel will help create smaller perched basins, create new vegetation and give people a new river to travel on and build their cabins alongside

and Peace Canyon dams on June 26. The dams are expected to spill a total of 2,150 to 3,000 cubic metres per second (m3/s) of water. The maximum normal discharge from the Peace Canyon, by comparison, is 1,982 m3/s.

The spill, which may continue uninterrupted until mid-August, could cause Lake Athabasca - already at high levels - to rise more, increasing water levels in the entire delta, and having one of two consequences, according to Rigney.

"If it stays near flood stage for two weeks, then water will seep through the ground and fill up some of the perched basins, the smaller ones; and if it floods over the land, then everything will be filled up. It has to get really high to do that like it did in '97 - that's the last time they had a big spill from the dam."

Add a fierce northeast wind to the mix and the community could see some major

THANK YOU SO MUCH
for the support in the loss of our brother,
cousin, father, grandfather, uncle and friend

Cecil Frank
Phillips



Thank you to all and those who travelled to be with us during our sad time. To those who participated with the singing group during the wake. Thank you to all, and to those that prepared the lunch and gathered with us at the Roaring Rapids hall after the service.

FRANKIE WILL BE SADLY MISSED!

Clara, Dianne, Debbie, Doug, Reneltta, Carol,
Christa, Vern, Marvin and family members.

Parks Canada counts 700 bison at Sweetgrass

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

As hundreds of buffalo charged by, a group of Parks Canada staff crouched behind an old corral fence at Sweetgrass Station in Wood Buffalo National Park, shouting out “cow,” “bull” and “yearling” amidst the thundering noise and trembling ground.

They were collecting data for the annual segregation count, which provides an estimate of the number of calves, yearlings, cows and bulls in a herd.

The two-day count wrapped up earlier this month.

“We classified 700 bison,” Lucy Patterson, a Parks biologist, told *The Journal*. “That’s a high number...about seven different herds. We just lucked out they were all at Sweetgrass close together.”

The results of how many of those bison were in each category remains to be determined as Patterson continues combing through her data and audio recordings.

“We classify individual bison into age and sex categories based on factors such as body size and the shape of the head and horns,” she



Resource Conservation Officer David Campbell watches closely as bison stampede past his hiding spot behind an old corral fence at Sweetgrass Station. Campbell, along with other Parks staff, conducted a segregation bison count earlier this month.

Photo: Lucas Brown, Parks Canada

said. “It’s a bit difficult to do with them moving so fast, but with a really good look at the horns we can subclassify the bulls into class one, two

and three, with three being the oldest.”

To do the count, a crew out of Fort Smith flies out on a fixed-wing aircraft to

spot bison herds, taking GPS points and sending them back to the ground crew who then board a helicopter.

After being dropped off a short distance from the herd, the group finds a good place to hide - typically a clump of willows, Patterson said.

“Then the helicopter slowly herds the bison towards us. One of us, the classifier, shouts out the classifications as they pass,” she said.

Parks is primarily interested in the calf per 100 cows ratio, Patterson said.

“It’s a measurement of recruitment into the population. That can give us information about the population, if it’s increasing or declining.”

The data gathered from these counts is also used to determine what park management policies and goals are required to maintain a healthy bison population within the park.

According to NWT Species at Risk, wood bison were almost hunted to extinction during the 19th century. They were legally listed as threatened under the federal Species At Risk Act in June 2004.

Populations have been gradually increasing over the past several years.

A mass total count of bison is done every five years and is scheduled to happen again in March 2014.

According to Patterson, there were 5,000 bison counted in the park in 2009.

Let’s make Fort Smith a winner.

Let’s do it for the kids!
Let’s do it for us all!

Visit Fort Smith Kraft Celebration Tour Finalist facebook page for more information on where and how to vote.

Help Fort Smith win \$25,000 for our Arena!

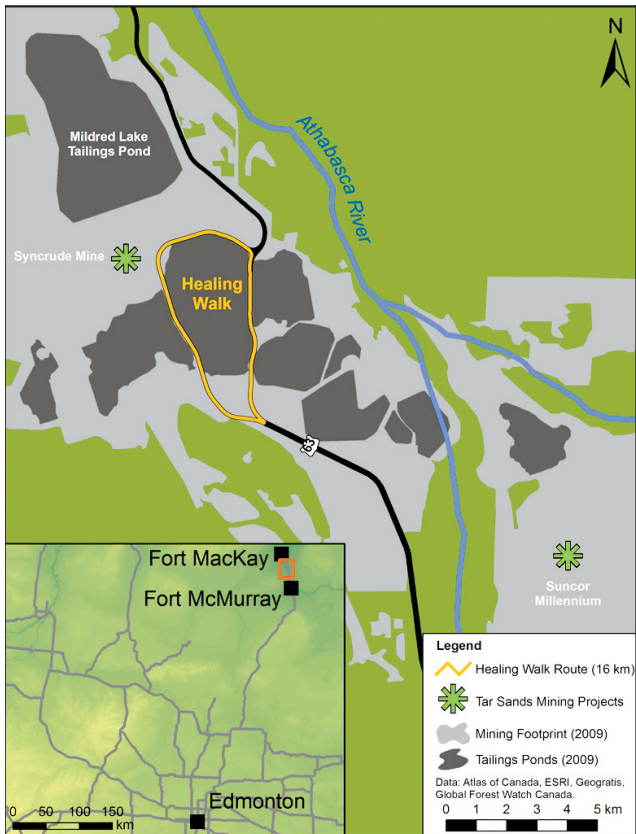
As you know, there was an early morning fire in May at the Fort Smith Centennial Arena which has resulted in our not being able to use the arena for the many activities we enjoy throughout the year.

Fort Smith has a chance to win \$25,000 to help with the cost of getting us set up for another season of Ice Sports.

We are one of 20 finalists in the Kraft Celebration Tour, sponsored by Kraft Canada. We are competing against Whitehorse, YK for our chance to win and all we need is your vote and your voice to spread the word!

Voting will take place on July 8, 2013,

starting at 12:00 p.m. ET. (which is 10:00 a.m. our time). You can vote as often as you like within a 24 hour period. Go to www.kraftcelebrationtour.ca on July 8th and vote, vote, vote! Tell all your friends, and family near and far. Spread the word across the nation - across the world. All you need is access to a computer, or a phone. Stations will be set up on the day of voting for those who may not have access otherwise to the internet.



Left: Marchers led by Clayton Thomas-Muller (centre) sing and drum during the 2011 Healing Walk

Above: The Healing Walk takes marchers around a 13-km loop in the middle of oilsands operations north of Fort McMurray.

Politics First Nations

Tar Sands Healing Walk boasts huge program

Fourth annual ceremonial march expects 500-plus people on walk of 13-km ‘tar sands loop’ near Fort McMurray

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With huge names, a complete day of concurrent workshops and an expected attendance of more than 500 people, the fourth annual Tar Sands Healing Walk near Fort McMurray has grown from being a small ceremonial march around the oilsands industrial area to a full-out educational and networking event for people from around the globe.

The Healing Walk, which will take people concerned with the impacts of the oilsands industry on their health, ways of life and the environment on a 13-km march around what is colloquially termed the “tar sands loop” on July 6, began as a small gathering at Crane Lake and has quickly evolved into a three-day event attracting big-name activists and caravans of entire organizations.

Unlike previous years, this year’s walk will feature a full Friday of workshops on July 5 on a variety of topics, from pipelines to First Nations traditional foods and ceremonies, Idle No More and Bills C-36 and C-45, oilsands mining processes and open spaces for networking and discussing the impacts of the industry.

Event organizer Eriel Deranger, who also works as communications coordinator for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

(ACFN) in Fort Chipewyan, said the move to expand the event came from participant feedback over the last couple of years.

“They wished there were more workshops and time to network with people,

Klein, author of *No Logo* and *The Shock Doctrine* and Idle No More founder Sylvia McAdam, as well as Bill McKibben, an environmental activist from the US and founder of *350.org*, a grassroots movement

pipeline route and issued a cease and desist order to Enbridge last week.

A group from Idaho fighting heavy loads and pipeline infrastructure in its area is also coming up. Around 20 people from

Driving past it, flying over it is one thing; but walking and standing there in the immensity of it, it’s an entirely visceral experience. You smell it, you see it, you hear it. You can taste it in your mouth. All of a sudden the gravity of the situation starts to set in a little bit more.

*Eriel Deranger
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation*

more structure on the Friday. So we decided to just go all out. Not only that, but we got a lot of people who said they wanted to present issues at the Healing Walk. We were getting flooded with emails of people with various groups who would really love to do a presentation... So it turned into a really fantastic schedule.”

Also bigger at this year’s walk is the profile of some of its participants. Joining the walk will be Naomi

aimed at addressing climate change.

Indigenous activist and author Winona Laduke will also be giving a keynote address, along with Tzeporah Berman, an environmental activist and author.

People are expected to arrive in droves from all over the continent and beyond, Deranger said. Bus loads of people will be caravanning from the Yinka Dene territory in northern BC, who live along the proposed Northern Gateway

Quebec NGO Alternatives are making the journey, along with more sects from the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New York, San Francisco and even the Peruvian Amazon.

“We have people biking from Nova Scotia, and we have some crews who are walking some portions of the Keystone XL (route),” Deranger added.

Though the event is attracting people from around the world, Deranger said the

event remains a local one, started by local people, with priority given to the voices of the surrounding First Nations most affected by the oilsands industry.

Members of ACFN, the Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Fort McMurray First Nation, Métis Nation of Alberta, Smith’s Landing First Nation and Dene Nation will all be present to give remarks, welcomes and prayers.

The event will also include meals, storytelling, music and hand games.

The walk, which begins Saturday morning, will begin traditionally with a pipe ceremony and will be led by elders and ceremony people, who will give prayers along the way. Clayton Thomas Muller of the Indigenous Environmental Network will be master of ceremonies during the walk and will explain the prayers and how to participate.

Participants are asked not to bring signs or banners, as the event is meant to be a peaceful, ceremonial walk rather than a protest or rally.

A Saturday night feast following the walk will include remarks from indigenous CBC broadcaster and musician Wab Kinew, Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus and drumming.

Along with the logistical additions to the event, also new this year is the

enhanced focus on inviting Canadian elected officials to come to the walk. Individuals were encouraged to send emails to federal Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver and Alberta Premier Alison Redford to join the walk, though Deranger said she understands flooding in southern Alberta is likely of more concern to Redford at the moment.

“Driving past it, flying over it is one thing; but walking and standing there in the immensity of it, it’s an entirely visceral experience. You smell it, you see it, you hear it. You can taste it in your mouth. All of a sudden the gravity of the situation starts to set in a little bit more,” Deranger said of the oilsands.

“And having officials come to not only meet those people that are dealing with it and have issues with the tar sands, but to experience walking through that zone and have that visceral experience is a little bit life-changing. Many of our participants from previous years have said the healing walk was a life-changing experience for them.”

The Healing Walk begins Friday morning with registration at Indian Lake campground. For more information on the walk, visit www.healingwalk.org. To volunteer, contact Annie Banks at anniembanks@gmail.com.



Front row: AANDC Minister Bernard Valcourt, NWT Premier Bob McLeod. Back row, from left: William Koe, Duane Smith, Robert Alexie Jr., Charlie Football (purple shirt), Clifford Daniels (blue shirt), Jake Heron (suit), Nellie Cournoyea, Garry Bailey, Paul Komaromi and Michael Miltenberger.



From left: Chiefs Charlie Football and Clifford Daniels of the Tlicho Government shake hands after signing the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement as the other signatories look on.



Fort McPherson jiggers try to teach Inuvik Drummer and Dancer Dang Dang Gruben how to dance during the celebrations following the devolution signing.



Inuvialuit Regional Corp. chair Nellie Cournoyea addresses the crowd on her home turf during the devolution signing ceremony in Inuvik.

Politics Devolution

Sixty-years in the making, devolution deal signed

Party in Inuvik celebrates governments joining together

By SAMANTHA STOKELL

Inuvik helped dignitaries from across the NWT and Canada celebrate the final step to devolution last week as government leaders descended on the community to sign the agreement.

Heads of government from the GNWT, Canada, the Métis, Inuvialuit, Tlicho and Gwich'in signed the Northwest Territories Land and Resources Devolution Agreement on June 25 at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex in Inuvik, surrounded by over 200 people.

The historic day marked years of work since the 1950s to gain decision-making powers similar to provinces for NWT residents. While over the years, the GNWT gained that power over health, highways and education, it was not until last week that it became responsible for land, water and resources.

Inuvik elder Shirley Elias said she had been waiting for this day for years.

"It's good to see the people sign it in public," she said.

"It's good to see them in person so we can deal with the issues and deal with it face to face. There's no liaison people to bring our messages down for us. They can come to us and deal with it."

The GNWT will officially implement the final devolution agreement starting Apr. 1, 2014. Leading up to that time, the territorial government must create job descriptions and offer positions to the federal employees who currently take care of the land and resources.

"There's still a lot of work we need to do internally as a government," NWT Premier Bob McLeod told *The Journal*. "(We need to) deal with legislation, work with the federal government to make sure we're coordinated and set up as an organization, figure out where everyone will be located, make job offers in time so that we have a seamless transition by April 1. We need a lot of coordination on records, IT, computers, infrastructure, those type of things

to make sure clientele isn't affected."

Leaders of the Aboriginal governments had questions not only about what comes next, but what devolution it, who's going to clean it, who's going to skin it and who's going to stretch it?" Cournoyea said. "I think that's the phase we're in. How do we go from here; the implementation? That's the most difficult part. It's going to take a lot of determination."

*Nellie Cournoyea
Inuvialuit Regional Corp.*

Anyone can go out and shoot the head off a muskrat, but who's going to gut it, who's going to clean it, who's going to skin it and who's going to stretch it? I think that's the phase we're in. How do we go from here; the implementation? That's the most difficult part. It's going to take a lot of determination."

But before that difficult work, the town, signatories and their witnesses celebrated with a community feast and jigging led by the

Tetlit Gwich'in Dancers from Fort McPherson along with the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers. As the government leaders entered, the crowd held a standing ovation for the occasion, recognizing the significance of the moment.

"This agreement marks an important and historic milestone for the people of the territory," said Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, who signed the agreement on behalf of the federal government. "We believe that whenever possible, the people of the Northwest Territories should be making decisions about regional issues. The final agreement signed today will provide jurisdiction over land and resources, giving residents control over their destinies, responsibilities for their own decisions and creating the conditions for economic growth."

As noted, work still needs to be done. The attached agreement defining resource royalty sharing with Aboriginal governments is in its final stages and includes a provision to review after the first year of implementation.

The agreement with the Inuvialuit on Beaufort Sea oil was signed on June 25.

While the Sahtu Secretariat was also party to the devolution agreement, it missed the event due to travel difficulties. Only the Akaitcho and Dehcho have yet to sign the agreement. The Akaitcho are currently in active discussions, while the Dehcho are waiting to discuss outstanding land issues. McLeod said the GNWT can help.

"Not only will we make advances on devolution, we can make advances to try and get their land claim settled," McLeod said.

In the meantime, many residents of the NWT feel a tentative thrill knowing that more decisions about their land will happen at home.

"We'll find out what's going to happen, but we're excited to hear what the topic is going to be," Elias said. "They're here to work with people and that's a good stride."

Boy drowns at unsupervised beach in Yellowknife City, territorial governments to discuss issue of lifeguards

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
A 7 year-old boy has drowned at Long Lake in Yellowknife.

The investigation is ongoing with Yellowknife RCMP assisting the Office of the Chief Coroner. When police arrived on the scene last Thursday, a citizen was performing CPR. Emergency Medical Services transported the child to the Stanton Territorial Hospital. The child was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

The name of the deceased is not being released

at the request of the family. “It’s a very tragic event and we certainly offer our deepest condolences to the families affected by this. We don’t have a lot of information about what happened precisely so we’ll await the outcome of that investigation before moving forward,” Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck told *The Journal* Friday morning.

Another small child came close to drowning at the same lake last July.

In 2003, three young children were pulled to

safety by two 11 year-old girls when they swam out too far.

qualified adults constantly supervise children. Lifeguards were once

The territorial government is responsible for the park at Long Lake and in the past we had partnered with them to provide lifeguard services, but one of the biggest challenges was finding qualified individuals to be lifeguards.

Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck

There are no lifeguards at Long Lake. Police recommend parents or

hired to work at Long Lake thanks to an agreement between the city and

the territorial government. The city stopped hiring lifeguards in 2003.

“The territorial government is responsible for the park at Long Lake and in the past we had partnered with them to provide lifeguard services, but one of the biggest challenges was finding qualified individuals to be lifeguards. It’s a different level of certification for beach lifeguards versus pool lifeguards,” Heyck said.

“So it’s not necessarily a matter of saying let’s take some pool lifeguards and

put them at the beach, and even at the pools we’ve had trouble finding enough qualified lifeguards to keep the facility running at the hours we want to keep it open.”

Heyck said in the days ahead the city plans to meet with its territorial counterparts to “explore some options” in regards to Long Lake and safety.

Long Lake is located on the outskirts of Yellowknife, adjacent to the airport, in Fred Henne Territorial Park. Its sandy beaches make it a popular recreation spot.

Politics First Nations

Smith’s Landing election race begins in controversy

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Votes haven’t even been cast yet, and there is already controversy surrounding the election of Smith’s Landing First Nation’s new chief and council.

Former chief and councillor Fred Daniels is running for the position of chief, but some members say he shouldn’t be allowed due to issues arising from the First Nation’s 2011 forensic audit.

The audit, done after it was found that hundreds of thousands of dollars of the First Nation’s money were unaccounted for, implicates Daniels in the alleged disappearance or misallocation of funding, along with another member and non-member previously employed by the First Nation.

According to the audit, which has been turned over to the RCMP, Daniels had signing authority over several accounts alleged to have been used for the embezzlement of money.

Through these accounts, the audit indicates Daniels and the two other individuals allegedly wrote each

other “suspicious” cheques for thousands of dollars, unsupported by proper invoices or receipts for work or purchases.

Daniels was unavailable for comment.

Copies of the forensic audit were circulated during a candidates forum last Monday evening as the issue was raised. The issue was also brought to the attention of the band manager and electoral officer, who did not want to comment on the matter.

Running against Daniels are current Chief Andrew Wandering Spirit, who was elected last fall following the resignation of Cheyenne Paulette, and current councillor Elizabeth Stirrett.

Running for the four-person council are Thaidene Paulette, Geronimo Paulette, Dianne Benwell, Agnes Cheezie and current councillor John Tourangeau.

Issues considered by the membership include candidates’ standpoints on the potential of hydro development on the Slave River.

Proposed plans by energy companies ATCO and

TransCanada would see parts of SLFN land flooded to create the reservoir.

Advanced polls opened on June 25. Election day is set for July 2, with polls

open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Pelican Rapids Inn

in Fort Smith and at the Chateau Louis Hotel in Edmonton.



Floods, wildfires, power failures and many other natural and man-made emergency situations are a part of life in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs wants to gather information from residents about what risks and threats they are concerned about.

You can help make the NWT a safer place. To provide your feedback, you can attend a regional workshop or visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca to take the online survey to tell us about what risks your community faces.

Regional Workshops

- Fort Simpson on June 11, 2013 at the Community Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Fort Smith on June 13, 2013 at Aurora College from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Norman Wells on July 8, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Inuvik on July 10, 2013 at Ingamo Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Yellowknife (session for community governments only) on July 12, 2013 at the Tree of Peace from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Yellowknife (open session) on July 12, 2013 at the Tree of Peace from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

For more information contact (867) 873-7334 or visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca



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Matla Jr. Mantla gives his fellow grads words of encouragement in his valedictorian speech.



The Gameti grads proudly hold their diplomas. Left to right, principal Brendan Mulcahy, Matla Jr. Mantla, Lisa Ekendia, Patti Wedawin, Chelsea Wetrade, Kathleen Gon, Katrina Mantla, Davina Chocolate, Boris Eyakfwo and Rita Mueller.



Left to right, Lisa Ekendia, Davina Chocolate, Katrina Mantla, Kathleen Gon and Patti Wedawin show off their ball gown attire for the prom.



Left to right, Lisa Ekendia, Patti Wedawin and Chelsea Wetrade wait eagerly to throw their hats in the air at the end of the ceremony.

Photos: Michelle Reid

Education Graduation

Gameti holds first high school graduation

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

It was all glitter and glamour for students in Gameti as they celebrated the community's first high school graduation last Wednesday surrounded by hundreds of twinkling stars.

"It's a huge deal. This is something the community can be proud of. We've worked hard for this," said Brendan Mulcahy, principal at Jean Wetrade Gameti School. "They don't have to leave home any more to graduate high school."

Eight Grade 12 students received diplomas, beaming as they walked across the stage in caps and gowns.

"The excitement trickles down, too, because the younger kids haven't seen anything like this," Mulcahy said, adding that it gives junior grades something concrete to aspire to.

When Mulcahy first arrived in Gameti five years ago, education was only available for kindergarten through Grade

It's a huge deal. This is something the community can be proud of.

*Principal Brendan Mulcahy
Jean Wetrade Gameti School*

9. High schoolers were sent to Behchoko for their last three years.

"Kids were having a lot of trouble when they got to Behchoko because they were either in the boarding program or staying with family. It wasn't easy," Mulcahy said.

After years of pushing the territorial government, an agreement was achieved and an \$8-million addition was built onto the school, featuring a new gymnasium, cultural centre and more classrooms.

"We did it in phases. One year we phased in Grade 10, the next Grade 11 and this year was our first year with Grade 12 students," Mulcahy said.

The school "went all out" for graduation, decorating the gymnasium and halls to compliment the prom's "Starry Night" theme.

After the ceremony, graduates took part in a banquet followed by the dance.

"It's a special time. Other schools take it for granted because students graduate each year; you won't see anything being taken for granted here," Mulcahy said. "It took time and a lot of political pressure from a small group of people here to get this to happen, so this graduation is the long-term reward of that battle."

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Chris Lirette (left) receives the Chris Warden Memorial award.



Joel Gordon and Victoria Boyce are all smiles after the ceremony.



Class valedictorian Rhona Cruzpe quotes Dr. Suess.



The 2013 Diamond Jenness graduating class throw their caps in the air and let out loud cheers as they mark the end of high school.



Guest speaker Chuck Lirette, who taught most of the students throughout their school careers, addresses the graduating class.

Photos: Diana Smith

Education Graduation

Grads honoured in newly renovated Hay River school

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The swanky graduation theme of Casino Royale for the class of 2013 from Diamond Jenness Secondary in Hay River worked even better than imagined thanks to the school’s recent renovations.

The convocation ceremony last Thursday took place in the freshly completed concourse, complete with a new, wide stairway and open carpeted area.

“The whole school is just beautiful now and it’s nice for the students to be able to have their graduation here,” Diamond Jenness principal Heather Pedjase said. “There is a lot of glass, you can see right through the library into the outside from the concourse and there’s a beautiful wood sound absorber that goes around the top.”

About 37 graduates graced the well-lit concourse with their caps and

The whole school is just beautiful now and it’s nice for the students to be able to have their graduation here.

*Principal Heather Pedjase
Diamond Jenness Secondary School*

gowns, later cutting a rug at the arena in honour of the milestone.

Three years of construction and \$28 million later, the school is now more energy efficient and has a longer life expectancy.

It boasts a complete energy efficient ventilation system upgrade with heat recovery, a modern building control system operating in conjunction with the biomass district heating

system and the introduction of efficient, long lasting, low maintenance LED lighting fixtures throughout the school’s concourse – a first for public infrastructure in the NWT, according to Glen Abernethy, minister of Human Resources.

Pedjase said she looks forward to celebrating more graduations in the “stunning” concourse for years to come.



in community

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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

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Fort Chipewyan students graduate in style



The Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) graduates glow in their prom attire. Left to right, Dalton Flett, Paul Piche, Kayla Tuccaro, Lucas Ladouceur, Hana Wylie, Logan Marten and Tyler Flett.



The seven graduates from Fort Chipewyan let out a roaring cheer as they toss up their caps.



Photo: Carol MacPherson

Retiring Fort Smith teachers honoured

Three retiring teachers were honoured last week at Joseph Burr Tyrrell (JBT) school in Fort Smith during their year end awards ceremony. With a combined total of over 60 years at JBT, Lori Robinson (left) started as a classroom teacher and ended her years there as a reading specialist. Doreen Daniels (centre) went from custodian to Cree language teacher and Edith Bourke began her career as a classroom assistant and finished up as a Grade Two teacher.



Photos: Kara Mundy

The graduates are all smiles in their gowns as they receive gifts from various community councils and associations on Friday evening before heading to the masquerade themed prom.



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Nate Heron (left) rides the King George's B&B float to a third prize victory in the Fort Smith Canada Day Parade.



The flamboyant Filipino community, with amazing costumes, feather headdresses and smooth moves, was one of the highlights of the Yellowknife Canada Day parade.

HAPPY CANADA DAY!



The parade rolls down Woodland Drive in Hay River. It was a hot and smoky day across the South Slave with fires burning throughout the area.



George Tuccaro, Commissioner of the NWT, enjoys celebrations in Fort Smith.



From left: Don MacDonald, Father Paul and John Schleirer of Team RC cook hot-diggity-dogs in Fort Smith.



Yellowknife bicycle paraders get crazy with their antics.



Cst. Frank Côté and his daughter Oceanne Payton-Côté get ready for the Fort Smith Parade.



Two patriotic parade viewers line the sidewalk in Yellowknife.



Hayden Esau (left) won 2nd prize in the Fort Smith five-and-under bike parade contest.



Suzanne Thompson, Darlene Powder and Jeanne Leguerrier represent the Fort Smith Seniors.

Photos: Paul Bannister, Don Jaque, Jack Danychuk and Diana Smith

Study says bitumen not more corrosive to pipelines

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Diluted bitumen from Alberta's oilsands is no more corrosive to pipelines than other types of crude oil, according to a new study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences in the US.

The study, released last week, was commissioned by the US Secretary of Transportation to determine if the type of crude that would be carried by the controversial proposed Keystone XL pipeline would pose a greater risk of spilling.

It found there were no causes of pipeline failure unique to the transportation of bitumen, a dense and viscous form of oil typically diluted with lighter oils for pipeline transport.

Furthermore, the study found no evidence of unique or extreme chemical or physical properties possessed by diluted bitumen that would make it more likely than other crude oils to cause leaks, specifically with respect to its ability to corrode or erode pipelines.

The committee thus determined that pipeline operators have no reason to change the way they handle the product as compared to other types of crude oil.



Photo: Suncor Energy

A new study finds that bitumen, when diluted for pipeline transport, is no more corrosive than conventional oil.

The report gives fodder to Keystone supporters, who have long argued that oilsands crude can be safely shipped through

the existing pipeline network in the US. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to finally make a recommendation

to US President Barack Obama this year on whether or not the 1,900-km pipeline should get the go-ahead.

Canadian Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver praised the report as backing up what the department has

long said in response to concerns from the public in both Canada and the US.

"The science is settled," he said in a statement. "The myth that oilsands crude is more corrosive has been consistently proven false by objective research. We hope all groups will base their comments on the facts. Pipelines are a safe and efficient method of transporting large volumes of crude oil and petroleum products."


While the study assessed the risk of shipping bitumen, it admittedly did not look at whether or not bitumen spills have worse consequences than spills involving other types of oil - an omission that has angered some environmentalists.

Opponents maintain bitumen is more harmful to the environment in the event of a pipeline breach. The Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmentalists against Keystone point to the continuing cleanup of the 2010 Enbridge Energy spill in Michigan as evidence Alberta bitumen is more difficult to remediate, and recommend another study looking at the consequences of pipeline breaks involving bitumen compared to conventional oil spills.

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Industry Mining

De Beers and GNWT sign Gahcho Kué deal

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The government of the Northwest Territories and diamond mining corporation De Beers Canada have taken another step forward in their commitment to the proposed Gahcho Kué mine, located at Kennady Lake about 280 km northeast of Yellowknife.

Both partners signed a socio-economic agreement last Friday, outlining the benefits the mine will have on the NWT as a whole.

"We believe this mine is going to provide tremendous opportunity for years to come," Tony Guthrie, De Beers CEO and president, said at the press conference. "There will be hundreds of jobs during the two year period for the construction - about \$25 million worth of wages during that period. The mine itself will offer somewhere between 360-380 jobs. These are full time, permanent jobs and that results in more than \$200 million worth of additional income for the NWT over the life of the mine."

The agreement reflects De Beers' stated commitments

and predictions when it comes to Gahcho Kué, including employment and business opportunities, sustainable development, net effects on government, cultural well-being and First Nations relations.

"De Beers has made commitments to improve relations between the mining industry and our Aboriginal communities," Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay said. "We will be able to maximize Northern employment, making our people and economy much stronger. Developing our economy can only happen when our land, water and people are respected, and I believe that De Beers Canada and the GNWT have developed an agreement that will support a sustainable future."

Ramsay said the Gahcho Kué mine is an investment that will see jobs and business opportunities continuing for a solid 20 to 25 years.

The agreement also provides a framework for ongoing transparent reporting and monitoring, a "cornerstone" of the partnership, said Glen

Koropchuk, De Beers chief operating officer.

"De Beers will also provide new finance support to Northwest Territories students for professional development training. This is one of the areas we want to focus on moving forward. We believe that through training new leaders - basically starting when kids are in high school - will enable a profound new opportunity," Koropchuk said.

Hiring all across the NWT is also a priority highlighted in the agreement, including expanded points of pick-up that include all five regional centres in addition to Tlicho and Akaitcho communities, allowing for more Northern residents to access employment opportunities at the mine site.

"It's important to us to show that through this agreement we are interested in hiring outside of Yellowknife," Ramsay said.

The company is in the final stages of the review process and will move on to the land permitting and water licensing processes within the near future.

"We have an obligation to our residents to make sure information is being disseminated through every possible channel as quickly as possible," but delivering the message door-to-door "would be up to the remediation team. That's not how the city has gotten the message out."

Photo: Jack Danvlchuk

The Rio Tinto diamond unit, with operations in Australia, Canada and Zimbabwe, reported a \$43-million loss in 2012, down from a profit of \$10 million a year earlier.

The logo for the Kraft Celebration Tour is prominently displayed at the top. It features a red and white shield-like shape with a blue outline. Inside the shield, the word "Kraft" is written in blue on a white background, and "CELEBRATION TOUR" is written in white on a red background. Below the shield, the TSN logo is visible in red and white.

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Voting will take place on July 8, 2013, starting at 12:00 p.m. ET, which is 10:00 a.m. our time. You can vote as often as you like within a 24 hour period. Go to www.kraftcelebrationtour.ca on July 8 and vote, vote, vote.

Tell all your friends, and family near and far. Spread the word across the nation- across the world. All you need is access to a computer, or a phone. Stations will be set up on the day of voting for those who may not have access otherwise to the internet.

Visit Fort Smith Kraft Celebration Tour Finalist Facebook page for more information on where and how to vote.

**Let's make Fort Smith a winner.
Let's do it for the kids!! Let's do it for us all!!**

Kraft

The Ice Sports logo is a red and white shield-like shape with a blue outline, featuring a stylized "S" and "I" inside.

The Facebook logo is a blue square with a white lowercase "f" inside.

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Traditional Gwich'in place names recognized

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Nanaa'ih K'adh is the new Bushman Lake. Deep Lake has become Teedaghao. The former Sheep Creek is now Chii Ezhah Njik. The list goes on.

Over 400 traditional Gwich'in place names reflecting their land use across the Gwich'in Settlement Area are being recognized by the government of the Northwest Territories as of June 21.

Many of the traditional geographical names were lost during the 19th and 20th centuries when they were replaced by colonial names, such as Rat Lake, Pointed Hill and Martin House.

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) has worked since 1992 with Gwich'in elders to restore the traditional names.

"Many of our staff travelled out on the land with the elders and collected the stories," Sharon Snowshoe, GSCI's executive director, told *The Journal*. "We are



Ingrid Kritsch of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Walter Alexie work on the Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names Project in Fort McPherson in 2008.

so thankful for all the time the elders gave us to preserve this part of our history."

As they collected information about place names, the stories about how far Gwich'in people walked, portaged and dogsled "amazed" Snowshoe.

"Children had to walk too and on one area they had to build moose skin boats to

come down the river. They travelled such long distances. There's lots of stories like that and lots about hunting," she said.

"The names speak to the importance of our people's knowledge of marking places, our sustenance way of living, the hunting, trapping. The place names are a record of all the activities

that happened there and a way to keep our language alive, since we don't use it daily."

According to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's website, traditional geographical names are significant to the North because they "mark our long historical connection with the cultural landscape. They

preserve ancient aspects of language no longer used in daily speech, they teach us about people and events that have marked our cultural development and they record our knowledge about the land by marking places where important subsistence resources can be found."

The new names will appear on official topographical maps, which are created by the federal department of Natural Resources, as each map comes up for renewal within the federal system, a process that can take many months.

These newly recognized names will also eventually appear on online mapping services such as Google Maps, Google Earth, MapQuest and Bing Maps, as they also use the national database.

"We are very pleased to see these names recognized in our official records," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said in a recent press release. "Our efforts

in language revitalization and preservation, providing opportunities for cultural projects and artisans across the North and educating our youth on the importance of their heritage are all part of our identity as Northerners. The Gwich'in language is one of the most endangered Aboriginal languages in all of Canada, so every initiative promoting its use is of paramount importance."

GSCI has opened an exhibit at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's museum featuring the new place names and maps, which detail their cultural and historical significance.

This is not the first time names have reverted to their mother tongue titles in the NWT. Over the years, Fort Franklin became Deline, Fort Norman became Tulita and Snare Lake became Wekweeti, among others.

Additionally, 306 Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun place names were changed in 2003 in the Ulukhaktok area.

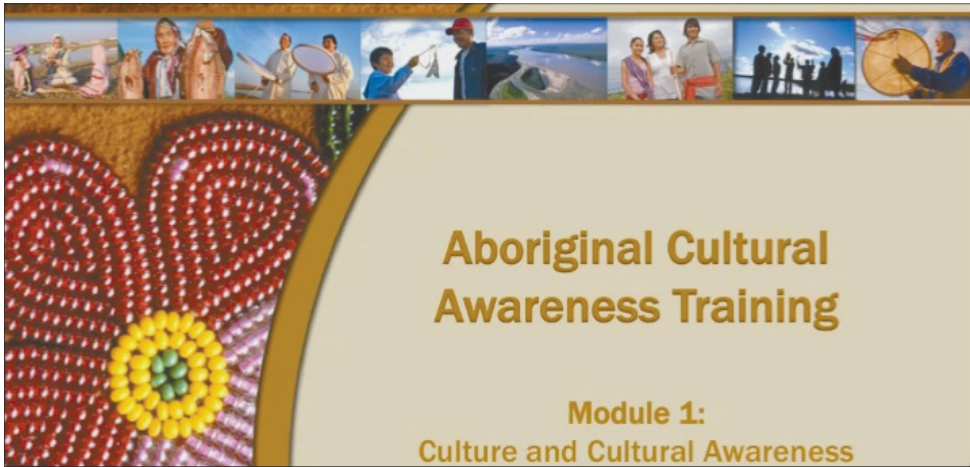
Education Cultural Training

Online training program supports cultural awareness

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new online training program for employees with the government of the Northwest Territories aims to increase understanding and awareness of Aboriginal culture.

"Diversity in the public service is one of the GNWT's great strengths," Glen Abernethy, Minister of Human Resources, said in a recent press release. "The training gives all of our employees more understanding of Aboriginal cultures and promotes a spirit of inclusion in the workplace. It was developed with Aboriginal governments throughout the NWT and reaffirms that Aboriginal



The new training is also available to the public online in the form of video modules.

values and partnerships are key for our government. In many ways, our staff are the

public face of our government, and they carry out their work guided by a philosophy

of respect, recognition and responsibility."

The training is specific to the Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit in the NWT, Lorraine Tordiff, director of Aboriginal Employment with the GNWT, said in an email.

"It ties in the work that GNWT employees do with the communities they live in and the Aboriginal groups who live in those communities/regions. The modules contain specific information on Aboriginal individuals, groups and organizations in the NWT," she said.

The program consists of an introduction and four modules:

- Culture and Cultural Awareness
- Aboriginal People of the Northwest Territories
- History of the Northwest Territories from an Aboriginal Perspective

We are committed to improving working relationships within our government and in our communities through broadened cultural understanding.

Bob McLeod
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

• Present and Future Issues for Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. Each of the sessions includes Northern-specific content in videos, photos, artwork, stories, audio recordings and interactive activities such as quizzes designed to provoke discussion and promote an inclusive work environment through broadened cultural understanding.

According to Tordiff, there was no specific cultural awareness training for GNWT employees in place previously, but there were "several mechanisms to ensure that GNWT employees are aware of and sensitive to this issue," such as the GNWT's Aboriginal Engagement Strategy (Respect, Recognition and Responsibility) and traditional knowledge.

"We are committed to improving working relationships within our government and in our communities through broadened cultural

understanding," Bob McLeod, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, said in the release. "Our staff need to be aware of the ways Aboriginal values and traditions inspire our programs and services. New residents need information and context for the regions they now make home and the residents who are their new neighbours and clients."

Facilitated training sessions are slated to begin for GNWT employees this fall.

While the training is not requisite, Tordiff explained that many departments will choose to make it mandatory and that the department of Human Resources has already done so.

To download the videos, which are also open to the general public, visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/acat.

The GNWT was one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers and made the list for Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2013.



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Northern youth gear up for first co-ed camps

Taiga Adventure camp also prepares for first delta canoe trip

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Taiga Adventure camps are about to kick off another summer of campfires, dryfish, team building skills and all around, open air fun - only this year, participants in the girls-only outdoors program won't be the only ones paddling Northern lakes and rivers.

The Northern Youth Leadership Society (NYLS), which runs Taiga, is now also offering co-ed canoe trips for the first time, beginning this August.

"It sparked from the requests we've had from parents about including boys... and Northern Youth wants to increase its presence, get into more year-round programming, as we've seen with our first Taiga winter camp this year. We want to provide for all youth in the NWT," Jenny Crawford, Taiga's executive director, said.

The canoe trips, scheduled for Aug. 5-9 and 12-16, will take about 10 boys and girls, aged 13-17, along the breathtaking Ingraham Trail.



Taiga camps strive to foster leadership and team building skills.



Taiga girls are all smiles paddling along the Mackenzie River.

Photos: Jaya Bastedo

Other fun events include a "Bush Woman Competition," where the girls compete for prizes in a number of on the land tests such as firemaking.

Taiga is also offering a girls-only "Canoe to the Sea" camp from July 17-27 where paddlers embark on a journey from Inuvik up the East Channel of the Mackenzie to its mouth on the Beaufort Sea.

"This is our first canoe trip in the Delta," Huberman said. "We cross over from the treeline to the tundra, and seeing that contrast is just a stark, breathtaking thing to see...The route is rich with historical sites, like an old abandoned Inuit settlement where hopefully we have someone from ENR (Environment and Natural Resources) meet up with us and tell us more about it."

According to Huberman, the voyage is about 160 km.

"It may seem intimidating, but we will be picked up at the end and boated back," she said. "We'll sing in the boats; it'll just be a blast."

For more information or to register for one of the camps, visit www.taigacamp.com.

"They'll be paddling about 15 km a day," Crawford said. "They'll do a lot of paddling techniques and rescue activities the first day."

According to trip leader Catherine Mallet, the group will start at either Reid Lake or Powder Point, a bay on Prelude Lake and finish in the city at the Yellowknife Bridge.

"They'll be portaging along the route and really building on team skills, like making camp, gathering wood, helping with food," Mallet said.

According to Crawford, the overall objective of the canoe trips, like the Taiga camps, is to develop leadership skills, increase self-esteem and polish goal-setting methodology.

"That being said, having fun is one of the most important things," Crawford added with a laugh. "And they do have a lot of fun."

Meanwhile, Taiga's first summer girls' camp of 2013 launches Friday, just 30 minutes outside of Fort McPherson on the Peel River.

Activities include fishing, making dryfish, nature hikes,

boat rides, crafts and swimming, said Bella Huberman, camp leader and programmer.

"It's what we call a 'cultural and fishing camp' for the girls and it's really special because they get to work with Gwich'in elder Mary Essie Snowshoe," she said. "They make dryfish with her and she's just a fascinating storyteller."

Sports & Recreation Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers train outdoors in Whitehorse

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Nearly 60 Junior Canadian Rangers from the Northwest Territories joined others from Nunavut, Yukon and Atlin, BC to whitewater raft, zip-line, trap and canoe, among other activities, in an Enhanced Training Session Basic that wrapped up Saturday.

The week-long camp was based in Whitehorse and pulled about 190 Rangers from 36 communities across the North into a series of adrenaline-rushing events to enhance and test their outdoor training skills as well as foster leadership qualities.

"The goal is to instill self confidence in the youth. We challenge them in height activities and water rescue events," said Sharon Low, commanding officer for the

self rescue are big ones to focus on."

During the camp, the youth, aged 12-18, were also exposed to opportunities not available in their home communities, many of which are isolated.

"For some, going to camp means seeing trees for the first time or meeting other young people of different backgrounds. For others, camp marks an opportunity to practice their second language or to learn a new skill," stated a news release on the camp.

Additionally, the training session further emphasizes traditional and Ranger skills worked on throughout the year, such as marksmanship.

Other activities include woodsmanship, archery, swiftwater rescue, rappelling

Providence told *The Journal* last Tuesday. "My favourite is the skeet shooting. I'm not that good, but I did get 19 out of 25. Next I'm excited to go horseback riding; they didn't have that last year."

Thom, 16, has been involved with the Rangers for two years and was selected this year to take part in a new

leadership component of the Whitehorse camp.

"We do a lot of team building work and even more drills, like at attention and stuff. I'm the leader of our group and when we go back home, I'll continue that leadership, use what I learn," Thom said.

Low said the leadership portion is new to the program.

"Each evening, we're introducing these leaders into leadership activities and discussion and they're actually acting in camp counsellor type roles this week with the younger ones, and it's been very successful," she said.

Rangers for the session were chosen by adult committee members and the

Canadian Ranger Patrol in each community based upon their performance throughout the year.

There are over 1,600 youth participating in 41 Junior Canadian Ranger patrols across the North and in Atlin. The program is the largest youth organization in these communities.

The goal is to instill self confidence in the youth. We challenge them in height activities and water rescue events.

Sharon Low
Junior Ranger Commanding Officer

Northern Junior Rangers. "Safety is also a huge component. The percentage of deaths in the North from drowning is really quite high so, for me, water rescue and

and monkido, an outdoor obstacle course.

"I'm enjoying it because I like camp, being outside, being with other people, that sort of thing," Brandon Thom of Fort

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Highway Windening and Reconstruction CT101306

– Ingraham Trail (No. 4), Km 40.0 to Km 43.8, NT –

Roadway excavation, embankment construction, base and subbase courses, guardrail, culverts and stockpiling of aggregates.

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, AUGUST 1, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 2:00 pm, July 18, 2013,
1st Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue
Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

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

Technical inquiries to: Muhammad Abu Bakar
Phone: (867) 873 7309

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

For contract opportunities visit
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REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Runway Paving CT101198

– Hay River, NT –

Mill and pave with hot mix asphalt to repair dips in Runway 14-32, located at the Hay River Airport.

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, JULY 18, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, July 11, 2013, Hay River Airport Boardroom, Hay River, NT.

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

Technical inquiries to: Bill Chapple
Phone: (867) 873-7809

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

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AC203-06-21

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To obtain a proposal package please contact :

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Manager Purchasing & Contracts
Aurora College, Office of the President, Box 600
Fort Smith NT X0E 0P0
867-872-7008 fax 867-872-4730
Email: gpischinger@auroracollege.nt.ca



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Government of the Northwest Territories

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South Slave Region**

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Inquiries Only: Fort Smith Human Resource Service Centre,
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E-mail: jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca

- Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require support, you are encouraged to identify your needs if you are contacted for an interview or assignment, so that you may be accommodated.
- Equivalencies may be considered. • Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions. • Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.



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REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Highway Resurfacing CT101315

– Liard Highway (No.7), Km 104 to Km 111, NT –

Roadway preparation and Base course construction.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 1, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, July 19, 2013,
1st Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue
Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

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

Technical inquiries to: Ziaur Rahman
Phone: (867) 920-6472

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

For contract opportunities visit
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Under the direction of the Director, Hydro Division, you will provide direct supervision and team leadership to the Hydro mechanical services group in planning and administering plant maintenance, preventative maintenance, and capital works to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of diesel/hydro units and systems. You will assist the Director in planning and obtaining regional goals, objectives, and programs as one of six Managers in a team managed organizational structure.

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

Fun Fact

The Northwest Territories RCMP is divided into two districts (North & South) and Yellowknife City Detachment. In total there are currently 21 detachments in the NWT of which 11 are fly-in remote communities.



A group of happy festival-goers soaks up the perfect weather during the weekend in Fort Simpson.



Yellowknife singer/songwriter Jasmine Netsena strums a soulful song as part of the impressive Northern lineup at the festival.



Inuvik songstress Leanne Goose charms the audience with her edgy country on Sunday.



Mary Caroline performs in the Open Sky gallery in front of a radiant Terry Pamplin piece.



A soapstone carving workshop was one of the many events of the weekend festival, run by the Open Sky Gallery.



Betty Hardisty threads her needle to begin some delicate beading.



Acrylic artist Genevieve Clark works on her paintings.

Photos: Lynn Canney

Arts & Culture Festivals

13th Open Sky Festival ‘believes’ in Northern artists

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With an entirely Northern lineup this year, the 13th annual Open Sky Festival in Fort Simpson kept especially true to its mission of promoting local artists and performers. With the overarching theme of “belief” informing the showcase of visual arts, music, storytelling and workshops, festival organizers said the event explored ideas of meaning and the way beliefs contribute to the creation of art.

“We started thinking about what belief means for an artist and in the art world,” said Lynn Canney, programming coordinator for the Open Sky Gallery, which puts on the festival. “As human beings, we make meaning; we’re meaning-making machines. For an artist, it’s important to have belief in your process and belief in yourself. Art is often based on personal and cultural beliefs, and art can either support or call into question beliefs.”

Giving the Friday night’s opening artist talk was Terry Pamplin, a visual artist from Yellowknife, whose show at the gallery, titled “One Door Opens and Another Door Closes: Searching for God,” Canney said fit perfectly with the belief theme of the festival. “That slipped right in there because, of course, God is all about belief - no absolute truth there,” she said. This year’s festival also stretched itself a bit, both

temporally and spatially, with performances happening before and scheduled for later on in the month. NWT singer-songwriter Leela Gilday performed last Wednesday night during the Dehcho Assembly in Fort Providence, and Dehcho fiddler Wesley Hardisty will be putting on two shows in Fort Simpson on July 12-13. “So that’s really exciting for us; that’s sort of expanding in a way that I really like. That

to me is very special,” Canney said. “We’re reaching out a little bit more because we’re a regional organization, although we’re based in Fort Simpson.” Also performing at the event was, straight from Inuvik, Leanne Goose, who performed her country-blues-rock styles both on Saturday afternoon and at the dance. Randy Sibbeston, Dana Cross, Mary Caroline, Jasmine Natsena and Lindsey

Waugh also performed during the musical showcase. Sunday featured an open mic, more artist workshops and demonstrations, followed by the traditional community feast. Canney said the quality of the art and performance was exceptionally high this festival. “The richness of art here is fairly astounding this year. The variety of mediums used here, especially in the Dehcho, is just fantastic,” she said.

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Visitors pay their respects to the people who have lived in Hay River and passed away at a special memorial wall.



Bonnie and Roy Crowther show off their 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 at the Kingland Show and Shine.



Children play during homecoming while a coastguard vessel blesses the fleet of ships on the Great Slave Lake.

Arts & Culture Homecoming

Huge turnout for Hay River Homecoming

By DIANA SMITH

Over 1,000 visitors flooded into Hay River on the weekend to celebrate Homecoming 2013, a weekend packed with events to welcome residents who have since moved away. Flags in orange, yellow and red lined the streets to brighten up the town with the Homecoming Committee's signature colours and a buzz spread through town as camper vans paraded in and parked in old friends' yards. The weekend was meant to celebrate the people who lived in and built Hay River and who have moved away. Many of them returned to

greet old friends and create new memories. There was much for visitors to do during their stay: an on going hospitality room provided refreshments throughout the weekend; a meet and greet event reunited old friends; an exhibition softball game let the old star athletes perform for their friends once again; a fish fry brought everyone together on Saturday evening; a church service gave everyone a chance to worship together; and a dance on Sunday night capped off the fun. Sheila Cook, who sits on the committee, said she was

a bit nervous at the start of the weekend after the many months of preparation. "I think it's gone really well, though," she said. "People have been saying the whole schedule could fall apart and they'd still be happy just visiting their old friends." Over 1,000 people registered for the event, many of them at the last minute. Kandee Froese, chair of the committee, said that since they were only expecting about 700 visitors, there was a lot of last-minute preparation. "We've been getting complements non-stop about how


wonderful everything is," she said. Sue Roberts was born and raised in Hay River and has been living in Ontario since 1981. She comes back every year for a visit, but has not seen some of her old friends in a long time. "This has been the most awesome weekend of my recent memory," she said. She had been speaking with an old friend who told her, "It was worth every second it took to get here." Doris Caudron lived in Hay River from 1969 - 1982 and now lives in Jossard, near Slave Lake. She said

the closeness of Hay River is what keeps her coming back. "The people are so friendly, just like they were when I lived here," she said. "When I come back, everybody still treats me like family. I am family when I'm here. It's like coming home." Brenda Dick came up with her husband Wally. They left Hay River in 1981 as well and lived in Alberta followed by Ontario. She said she appreciated the events, but was also taking time alone to get in touch with her old stomping grounds. For her, the weekend was a roller coaster of emotions - seeing old friends

and saying goodbye to some, as well. According to Froese, the meet and greet event was mostly just people finding each other and hugging, and a minute later being scooped up by another friend followed by another. "It was overwhelming," she said. "Definitely went through a few Kleenex." The committee couldn't say whether they'd be organizing another Homecoming event in the future. "It will be up to the next generation to carry on with this," Froese said. "It's a lot of work, but to see people reconnect is worth it."

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