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Welcoming Students Back: Aurora college students get settled in with orientation events. *See page 12.*



Conference shows GTC path to self government
A national indigenous self government conference in Inuvik highlighted the importance of youth to lead self governance efforts. *See page 3.*



Alberta's new wetland policy exempts oilsands
Environmentalists are concerned after the announcement that Alberta's new wetland policy will exempt oilsands for two years. *See page 6.*



'Alien' slug formally identified in the NWT
Ecology North in Hay River hosted its first speaker, a specialist on endangered molluscs, who found an alien slug in the NWT. *See page 10.*



Storytellers bring fire to Ko K'e across the NWT
The Northern Arts and Cultural Centre's programing hit the road last week to bring storytelling across the NWT. *See page 11.*

NORTHERN Journal

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Celebrating the Dark Sky: Astronomy photographer Peter McMahon completed his mission to shoot every one of Canada's Dark Sky Preserves by visiting its newest one - Wood Buffalo National Park - last week. McMahon will be showcasing Fort Smith and the park in Sky News magazine. *See page 19 for more.*

Full disclosure of Sahtu frac fluids pledged

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Oil companies have agreed to make full disclosure of all hydraulic fracturing fluids they will use to explore the potential of the Canol shale in the Sahtu. Gaetan Caron, board chairman and CEO of the National Energy Board (NEB), told *The Journal* at the Prospects North meeting in Yellowknife last week that regulators are continuing to move toward more transparency on fracking fluids. "Our legislation specifies that information filed in support of an application is privileged unless the company waives that," Caron said in the interview, and new regulations released last Friday didn't change that. According to Rebecca Taylor,

an NEB spokesperson, the Sahtu explorers have agreed to make full disclosure - if not before the wells are drilled, then soon after. The information will be available to the public on the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) website, she said Monday. Public disclosure of the ingredients used in hydraulic fracturing fluid for a proposed project are anticipated to be made at two different stages: first, prior to the consideration of an application by the NEB; and second, after the NEB makes a decision on the application, she said. Before the NEB rules on an application, a preliminary environmental screening would be conducted by the SLWB. The application to the SLWB

would include disclosure of the chemicals that could potentially be used as part of the drilling. "A company may not always be able to say with certainty which specific chemicals will be required to drill a well using hydraulic fracturing as this often depends on conditions actually encountered during drilling," Taylor said. "In light of this, it must provide the NEB with a list of chemicals that could potentially be used. This information should be consistent with the information provided to the Land and Water Board so that conclusions are based on a review of consistent information. "Following completion of the well, the company must also

provide the complete list of the chemicals that were used in the actual drilling of the well. The Board expects that once they are known, the company will publicly disclose the chemicals that were actually used in the drilling operation," Taylor said. Although the new rules ask companies to "indicate if (they are) willing to publically disclose the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracture fluids," the new arrangement seems tailored to appease recent demands from environmental lobbyists and some First Nations for full disclosure. The new NWT chapter of the Council of Canadians is demanding that Environment and Natural Resources Minister

Michael Miltenberger investigate what chemicals ConocoPhillips will use next winter to frack the first horizontal wells drilled in the Northwest Territories. The precise makeup of some fracking fluids is regarded as proprietary information and kept secret, but the council has appealed to Miltenberger under the Environmental Rights Act, which requires him to respond within 90 days. Caron said in the interview that the NEB is "working closely with GNWT to develop a companion document" to the new guidelines. "We are thinking of how to move toward more transparency, how to balance public concern and private interests."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Canadian North workers avoid strike

Canadian North Inc. reached a tentative agreement late last Tuesday night with the union representing the airline's customer service agents at airports and cargo offices. About 160 staff, whose contract expired last December, including ticket agents and cargo workers, were in a legal strike position. The employees are represented by Unifor, the organization formed this year by a merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and Communications, Energy and Paperworkers unions. The two sides met with a federal mediator in Edmonton last week. Confidential terms of the new three-year agreement will go to a ratification vote among Unifor members in the next 30 days, a release from the airline said.

Ministers' conference raises funds for Stanton Territorial Hospital

A charity auction raised nearly \$10,000 for the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation during the 2013 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference in Yellowknife from Aug. 24 - 27. Each province and territory donated locally significant items, including a soapstone carving from Nunavut, a lobster dinner shipped anywhere in Canada from Prince Edward Island and artwork from Ontario. Former NWT Commissioner Tony Whitford auctioned off items from the NWT, including a 0.74 carat diamond donated by the Diavik Diamond Mine. Louise Dundas Matthews, chair of the hospital foundation, said the money will go towards a chemo/IV treatment suite at the hospital.

NWT Youth Ambassador Program calls for applications

The NWT Youth Ambassador Program is calling all young leaders to apply for a chance to develop life and job skills and build the confidence necessary to deal with the complex challenges in modern society through a volunteer experience at major territorial, national and international events. Past events include Arctic Winter Games, North American Indigenous Games, Canada Winter Games and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. For more information on the program or to apply, visit www.nwt-youth.com, call (867) 873-7329 or email dawn_moses@gov.nt.ca. The deadline is Sept. 23.



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Gaetan Caron, chair of the National Energy Board, came under sharp criticism from industry last week in Yellowknife.

Politics Regulation

Oil industry hopes for faster reviews under devolution

Companies complain security deposits mean 'disaster' for developers

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Devolution and a streamlined regulatory system that promises a single review board

can't come soon enough, say companies exploring the Canol shale deposit in the Sahtu.

"We all know how to drill wells, yet we have a regulatory process that is putting roadblocks in our way," Ken Hansen, manager of Husky's operations in the Central Mackenzie Valley, told Prospects North, an annual business gathering in Yellowknife.

"It takes six months to a year to get approvals to drill wells, and exorbitant security deposits aren't helping," he said, adding the federal government's demand for bonding on energy projects to the oil and gas industry's litany of complaints about their Northern experience.

"There is a resource here," Hansen said. "But we need the support of business, communities and regulators to get through the exploration phase as quickly as we can. The real prize is in development. It will be big dollars and big opportunities, not just for the Sahtu, but for all of the Northwest Territories."

Hansen was the final speaker on a panel that included Allan Chatenay, president of Explor, a Calgary seismic company, and Nancy Dilts, vice-president for regulatory affairs at MGM Energy, who described similar experiences in the Northwest Territories.

Industry will spend more than \$600 million to explore the Canol's potential, Dilts told about 100 business and political leaders last week, and "needs a regulatory system that creates a predictable climate."

MGM withdrew its application earlier this year to drill

and frack two wells after it was sent to a full environmental review, and complained that the process could consume more than half of the five years the company has to explore its lease area.

The panel followed Gaetan Caron, chairman and CEO of the National Energy Board (NEB), a featured speaker on the conference agenda, and disagreed with much of what he told the lunch-hour audience.

"Devolution will be a non-event when it goes live" next April, and although the NEB will provide only technical support on the Canol shale play to territorial regulators, it will continue to oversee pipelines, offshore exploration and the Norman Wells proven area, Caron said.

Devolution "can't come soon enough" for Chatenay, who was sharply critical of the NEB and the bonding requirements Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver outlined earlier this month at the annual meeting of energy ministers in Yellowknife.

The new rules require companies to set aside enough credit to cover a worst-case environmental scenario. While the NEB has already started applying the requirements, it's giving industry until Oct. 31 to comment.

"The NEB has many good administrators, but over the last few years, it has been making strange decisions that are not improving safety," Chatenay said. "If the NEB is contracted to do work for GNWT, I would raise a strong word of caution."

Explor has been operating in the Northwest Territories for 20 years, Chatenay said,

"and for the first time we're required to put up a letter of credit. Based on the guidelines, there is no way we can meet them; there is no way that an Aboriginal business based here will ever be able to meet them."

"You require proponents to put forth a worst case scenario and prepay for it," Chatenay told Caron. "Nothing would happen in the world if industry had to prepay the worst case scenario. We wouldn't be able to leave this room. It's a disaster."

Caron said the bonding requirements grew out of a string of disasters, starting with the Gulf Oil rig explosion in 2010, the Enbridge pipeline spill in Michigan and the tragedy last summer at Lac-Mégantic, Que.

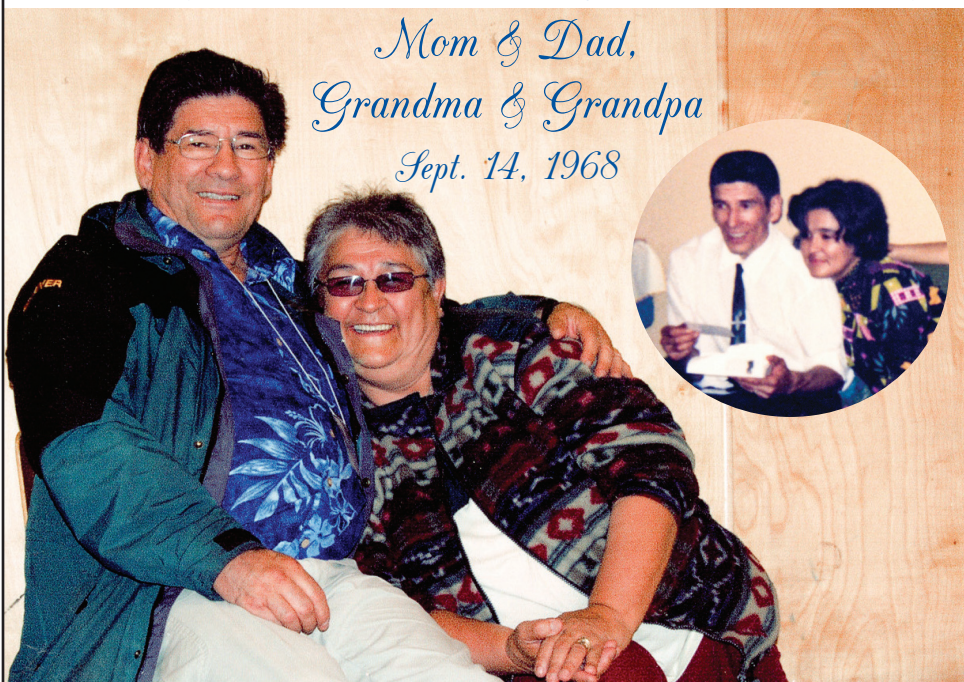
"Parliament has imposed a requirement to have companies demonstrate that they have the financial resources to deal with a pipeline rupture so the public isn't stuck with the bill," Caron explained.

Chatenay said security deposits "are being ratcheted up to \$10 million - a lot of money for a small company on an exploration well. Now it's being applied to geophysical operations, and we're seeing other agencies ask for security deposits on exactly the same program. This is an unreasonable burden being placed on industry in an already expensive working environment in the North."

Caron said "the amount is discretionary and allows the NEB to rely on the company's financial strength, a bond, or insurance coverage. The decision can be appealed."

Happy 45th wedding anniversary

Mom & Dad,
Grandma & Grandpa
Sept. 14, 1968



Love from your kids, your grandkids
and your great granddaughter

To my wife, Martha.
I love you and I am looking forward
to the next 45 years together.

Dave

‘Without an educated youth, there is no self government’

National conference unlocks keys for Gwich’in self governance

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Gwich’in Tribal Council (GTC) is moving forward with a clear head on its path to self governance following a national indigenous self government conference last week in Inuvik that surpassed everyone’s expectations, according to GTC president Robert A. Alexie.

Alexie said the intent of the conference, which brought in indigenous representatives from across Western Canada for workshops, lectures and on-the-land activities, was intended to get people talking about what self government truly means and what is required to achieve it.

“We talk about self government, we say ‘self government that,’ but we don’t know what it means,” he said. “That’s why we brought in people... who are implementing their own self government agreements. We tried to get people to say this is what self government means. Young people, people of all ages took a good look at that and they finally realized what self government means and how it applies to the Gwich’in. And I think we have a good



Youth engage in hand games at the Gwich’in national self government conference.

idea now about how we as Gwich’in can move on to self government.”

Among the speakers were Yukon representatives like Chief Carl Sidney of the Teslin Tlingit Council and a young councillor from Old Crow’s Vuntut First Nation, Brandon Kyikavichik. Carol Johnson of the Sioux-Valley

First Nation and John B. Zoe from the Tlicho Government also spoke, along with Matthew Coon Come, grand chief and chair of the Grand Council of the Crees.

Alexie said the key point driven home at the conference was the importance of youth in leading the journey to self government for First Nations.

“It has to involve the youth because they are the ones that are going to develop it, if you will - take self government further,” he said. “And without an educated youth, there is no self government.”

In order to achieve that level of education among young Gwich’in people, Alexie said the entire

community will need to be involved. “We can’t rely on outside organizations telling us this is how it should happen. We have to take control of that; we have to get our youth and our communities involved in the education of our youth. We can’t just take them to school at 9:00 and say ‘here, this is yours until 4:00.’ We have to be actively involved in the education of our youth, as parents, as leaders, as a community.”

*President Robert A. Alexie
Gwich’in Tribal Council*

community will need to be involved.

Alexie said the next step for the Gwich’in will be to assess their human resources and see what kind of training youth require to operate a successful future self government.

“Do we need truck drivers? Yes, we do. Do we need

carpenters? Yes, we do. But just as importantly, we need lawyers, we need doctors, we need teachers, we need administrators, we need corporate people. That’s what we need. We have to find out what self government’s going to look like, we have to go to communities and say how many jobs do we have here and what do we need - take an inventory of ourselves.”

Overall, Alexie said that he, along with the entire Gwich’in community, was “very impressed” with the conference and its outcomes, which are to be evaluated in a report over the next several months.

“It was totally beyond our expectations,” he said. “I can’t talk enough about it. It was great.”

Wood harvesting case moves to Supreme Court

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A trial date has been set for Barret “Sonny” Lenoir’s legal challenge against the territorial government defending his right to harvest wood within his treaty territory.

The executive assistant for the Dene Nation will appear in the NWT Supreme Court on Oct. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Lenoir, a Yellowknife resident and member of the Liidlii Kue First Nation, was charged under section 40 (c) of the GNWT’s Forest Management Act in September 2012 after being stopped near Behchoko by a renewable resources officer with harvested wood in the back of his pickup truck.

The section prohibits anyone from transporting timber without a permit.

Lenoir, who has pleaded not guilty, said his rights under Treaty 11 allow for traditional harvesting in his treaty territory - which includes Behchoko - and means he should not have to carry a permit to harvest wood.

Treaty ‘Indians’ do not require permission from the territorial government for traditional wood harvesting.

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, who is backing Lenoir’s fight in the courts, said the territorial government needs to start respecting treaty rights.

“Treaty ‘Indians’ do not require permission from the territorial government for traditional wood harvesting,” Erasmus said last week. “What needs to occur is that all the territorial, provincial and federal legislation acts, regulations, policies etc. need to reflect the legal reality established when Justice William Morrow made this historic decision which forever changed the relationship between Indians and the Crown.”

In the 1973 Paulette Caveat, Morrow established

in law that Treaties 8 and 11 were instruments of “peace and friendship” between the Dene and the Crown.

Erasmus said he’d like to see more collaboration between First Nations and the GNWT on legislation such as the Forest Management Act.

“The development and/or maintenance of current or future policies need to have First Nations’ involvement, interaction and ensure that it is done in an effective manner for all parties,” he said. “We need to have principles behind creating, enhancing and maintaining and respecting a harmonious and productive relationship.”



Local Authorities Election Act Notice of Nomination Day (Section 26)

**Northland School Division No. 61
Province of Alberta**

Notice is hereby given that **NOMINATION DAY** is September 23, 2013 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction offices set out below between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on nomination day.

Sub Division Number	Local School Board Committee	Number of Members to be elected	Location of Local Jurisdiction Office
NINE	Fort Chipewyan	FIVE	Athabasca Delta Community School Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

Northland School Division No. 61
Bag 1400, Peace River, Alberta T8S 1V2

*Dated at the Town of Peace River
In the Province of Alberta
This 3rd Day of September, A.D., 2013*

Dennis Walsh
Returning Officer

Nomination papers are available
at the sub-division locations listed above.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

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



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in the following NWT communities:

Aklavik	Fort Resolution	Rae Edzo
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Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekatie Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
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Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
Duffield	High Level	Valleyview
Edmonton	High Prairie	Wabasca
Enilda	Hythe	
Enoch	John D'or Prairie	

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What the frack is going on?

“Fracking” is a new word in the English language. It is a revolutionary process for deriving oil and natural gas from shale – revolutionary because it has dramatically enhanced the world’s available energy supply. Revolutionary also because it has changed the power structure of world politics as we know it, since energy supplies translate to wealth and so impact geopolitics.

The economic cascade effect - both positive and negative - from the advent of fracking only a few short years ago was dramatic and rapid. In the NWT, the Mackenzie Valley pipeline was rendered uneconomic because fracking enabled access to cheaper gas close to urban markets. The impact on the economies of the NWT and Alberta as well as Ontario and Quebec manufacturing industries, was huge. The United States, in an economic slump since 2008, emerged out of that fog with the prospect of energy independence – in particular, freed from the need for Middle Eastern oil. That was huge for our southern neighbour whose economy, the largest in the world, was on the wane, thanks to the rise of Eastern powerhouses, particularly the Chinese juggernaut. The subsequent decline of the West’s grip over the world economy over the last 300 years was put on hold. The era of fossil fuels, in the process of being wound down due to concerns over global warming, was also extended, probably for decades. All that and much more, thanks to fracking.

The fracking process involves pumping water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into underground shale beds, fracturing them to release the gas or oil they contain. The valuable oil or gas is then pumped to the surface through a second wellbore hole. The process has been around for decades, used in the oil industry to enhance the flow from individual wells, but was never used on any major scale until now.

Three serious problems are a common result of the process. In multiple locations worldwide, in places where ground stability is vulnerable, tremors have resulted. In Lancashire, England, fracking was halted because of such seismic events. There are fears that as the projected tens of thousands of new wells are drilled, regions characterized by underground faults will be destabilized on a large scale, resulting in destructive earthquakes.

It is also not uncommon, because of the massive pressures involved in the pumping, for natural gas to be forced into aquifers, contaminating groundwater. In many cases, public water supplies have been rendered undrinkable.

Lastly, the long list of chemicals used in fracking, many highly toxic to humans, contaminate the site with extensive reach underground. Each company using the fracking process has its own “proprietary” chemical mix. The US government, which sees fracking and the new availability of a vast source of cheap energy as a godsend, allowed a loophole in its Clean Water Act so companies can keep the makeup of their special cocktail of chemicals secret. The Canadian government followed suit. Provincial and territorial governments are doing the same. We know that in fracking, many toxic chemicals are pumped underground, but we are not allowed to know which ones, how toxic, nor in what quantity. Governments are giving the companies a free pass.

Many of the chemicals will be pushed into surrounding subterranean rock and shale beds as well as aquifers, contaminating a considerable area. Some of those chemicals will be suspended in the wastewater, which is either pumped back underground or trucked away and dumped elsewhere. The chemicals are also present in the oil and gas products, removed later during refining.

The tragic and terrible train crash in Lac-Mégantic, Que. involved tanker cars filled with oil derived from fracking in North Dakota. The oil contained highly flammable fracking chemicals, which was apparently a major contributing factor in the explosion that wiped out the downtown core of the community and cost so many lives. The company that produced that oil still does not have to reveal the nature of the chemicals involved to aid cleanup efforts.

The legacy of Giant Mine in Yellowknife is 237,000 tonnes of deadly arsenic trioxide stored frozen in underground chambers, in perpetuity. Cost estimates for the initial cleanup now underway are approaching a billion dollars. It will cost roughly \$2 million annually, forever, to maintain that toxic material safely in a frozen state.

The federal government website for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development presents an interesting take - that the Giant Mine remediation project “leaves a new and positive legacy.” Such optimism after the fact in the face of such terrible contamination and costly cleanup is odd. Recognizing and stopping such mistakes in advance makes much more sense. We should heed the lesson and never allow such things to happen again.

No company or corporation, no matter how much wealth or economic benefit is promised, should ever be allowed to pump toxic chemicals into the ground without divulging exactly what they are and what they do. The fracking process should not be allowed anywhere, anytime, unless it is carefully regulated and subject to ongoing stringent scrutiny and accountability. Any government that allows unhindered and unmanaged fracking is not only irresponsible, but culpable in any problems and losses that will result in the future.



Photo: Jack Dany/chuk

A lone RCMP officer stands guard Sunday over a house in N’dilo, a Yellowknives Dene community, where a 21 year-old man was fatally stabbed Saturday morning around 8:00 a.m. The victim, whose identity is being withheld, later died in Stanton Territorial Hospital. A 17 year-old girl appeared in Territorial Youth Justice Court on Monday and was formally charged with second degree murder.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Kayakers run the Slave’s ‘impossible’ pass

Three paddlers did the next to impossible on one of the Slave River’s toughest runs last week, plunging over the major ledge at Mountain Rapids into the thrashing waters known as “Molly’s Nipple”- and lived to tell about it.

20 Years Ago...

Museum of the past working for future

The Northern Life museum in Fort Smith is undergoing a face-lift that director Clarence Rhymer hopes will make it more accessible to the public.

Projects underway or starting soon include an environmentally controlled storage room, a wheel chair ramp, a handicap lift and restoration of the Radium King tug boat.

30 Years Ago...

Birds attack airplane

A threatened strike by ticket handlers this summer wouldn’t have kept PWA out of the sky, but a strike by two small birds grounded them in Fort Smith for six hours Monday.

The airline’s afternoon southbound flight was delayed after the Boeing 737, carrying 75 passengers, sucked two small birds into its engines while lifting off from Hay River.

Issue: September 15, 1998

Issue: September 15, 1993

Issue: September 15, 1983

From the House

Canada's Arctic Choices

The Arctic environment is undergoing profound change. It is the new frontier in our modern age. We are witnessing the expansion of the activities of human interest over a shrinking natural environment. We are entering into a new climatic and geographic reality in the Arctic that is being pushed not only by the Nordic nations, but by countries far from the North Pole.

Regardless of the outcome of the hotly debated timetable for the disappearance of Arctic ice, one thing is for sure: rising energy costs and declining global non-renewable resources are making the Arctic a happening place. The high cost of shipping global goods is bringing China, Korea and India to the shores of the northern ocean. They are building icebreakers, and making arrangements with Russia for passage through its North Sea Route to save 12,000 km of distance over the conventional travel routes between Asia and Europe.

Added to the mix is the increasing global appetite for non-renewable commodities, which the Arctic holds as a speculative treasure trove with

30 per cent of the remaining global fossil fuel supply and untouched mineral potential.

Canada has a major role to play in the unfolding of the Arctic's future. In the short term, our two-year chairmanship of the Arctic Council can either set the direction for international cooperation on research, environmental protection and globally accepted regulation or...push forward economic driven development and exploitation of resources. What will it be: careful and considered action or a deregulated resource rush of immense proportions?

The Arctic Council, to its credit, in its brief history of 17 years, has led in the direction of international cooperation, joint research and leading work on the impacts of climate change. Close cooperation with Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic has been a hallmark of its formation. The Council has, since its inception, been engaged in seeking multinational partnerships to protect the Arctic.

The Conservative Government has come out with an agenda for Canada's term as chair of the Arctic Council

that is heavily focused on resource development. Minister Aglukkaq has indicated she wants to form a Business Forum to advise the Council. Harper's summer tour has clearly linked resource exploitation as the way forward. Unfortunately this attitude likely means the Arctic Council agenda, developed since its inception, will be frustrated and delayed for the two-year term of Canada's chairmanship.

The Harper approach to the Arctic is premature. Before we can begin developing the Arctic, we must have in place a clear framework of rules agreed to by all Arctic nations. This framework includes workable rules on Arctic marine transport, oil spill response and prevention, environmental protection, fisheries and the role of non-Arctic nations. Putting this framework in place before opening up the Arctic to resource development will allow us to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Achieving this framework will require international cooperation amongst the Arctic Nations. During the Swedish chairmanship of the Arctic



Dennis Bevington
MP Western Arctic

Council, important advances in international cooperation were achieved including an agreement on Search and Rescue coordination. The Harper government's "open for business" choice for the Arctic is counterproductive and wrong-headed.

It may be that our choices in the Arctic will turn out to be representative of our advancement as a species. In this age of global communication and shared knowledge, will this translate into a better vision and direction for the one region in the world that is so dramatically changing?

Can humanity, through its politicians and leaders, in this, the 21st century, recognize the importance of our collectivism on Earth and in this new challenge, proceed with shared knowledge, shared caution and act beyond simple self-interest?

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

The new NWT chapter of the Council of Canadians is demanding Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger launch an investigation immediately into what chemical agents are being used in the territory's sole fracking project.



Minister to investigate 'secret' frac fluids



Patricia Wasiukow: I agree! We should be protecting our environment and not at the cost of big oil companies or mining!!



Adam Bathe: Why do fracking chemicals get the special treatment as trade secrets? Doesn't this set a crazy precedent that other industries could use? "Sorry I can't tell you how much mercury we just dumped in the river, that's a trade secret."

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Australian child abuse hearings

Australia's national inquiry into child sexual abuse has begun public hearings, and more than 4,000 victims have come forward.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will examine religious groups, NGOs and state-care providers.

The commission, which launched in April, began private hearings with victims earlier this year.

It was set up amid claims of abuse in the Catholic Church.

"It is now well known that the sexual abuse of children has been widespread in the Australian community, however the full range of institutions in which it has occurred is not generally understood," commission chair Justice Peter McClellan said.

"Many of the stories we are hearing will shock many people."

'Nation-changing'

The Royal Commission was announced in November by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard. It came after a top policeman, Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox,

accused the Catholic Church of trying to silence investigations into allegations of abuse, and called for a formal inquiry.

Detective Chief Inspector Fox said many victims

were happy their voices were now being heard, and described the commission as "a nation-changing event".

Reprinted from *BBC news* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk>), Sept. 16, 2013.

THE NORTHERN JOURNAL'S

Unanswered Question of the Week



THE TOPIC

The federal government intends to eliminate regional land and water boards in the NWT by Apr. 1, 2014, leaving one "superboard" responsible for licensing and permitting.



THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION

(posed to Geneviève Guibert, spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada):

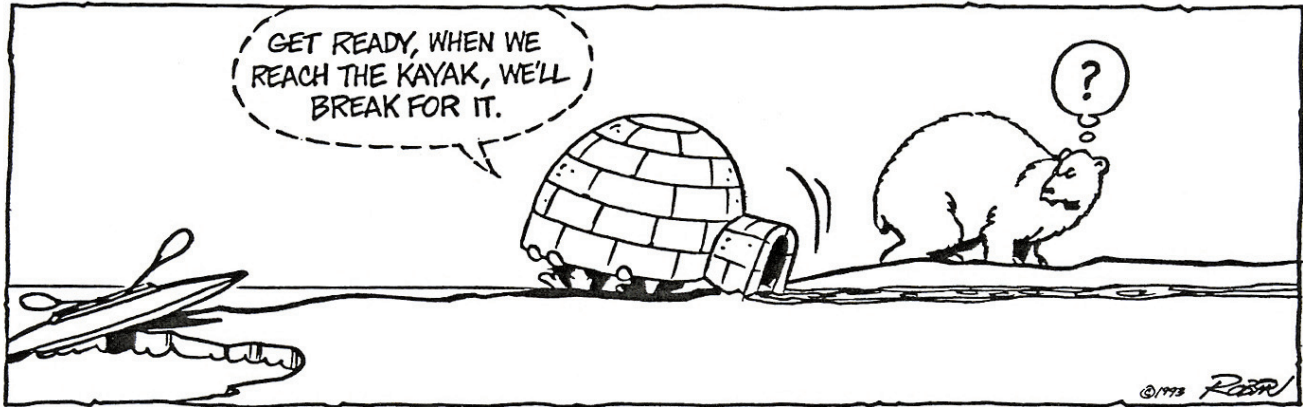
What is the involvement of the Aboriginal governments being affected by the proposed elimination of the regional land and water boards in the NWT? Are they being consulted on this issue? I understand the amendments were contemplated in the land claim agreements, but does that mean they are a given and not up for negotiation?



THE ANSWER

No response.

MUKLUK



Forecast

Inuvik

Yellowknife

Wednesday			
7 High		0 Low	
6 High		3 Low	
Thursday			
4 High		2 Low	
9 High		3 Low	
Friday			
7 High		-1 Low	
10 High		5 Low	
Saturday			
5 High		2 Low	
13 High		8 Low	

Norms: 7°C and -1°C

Norms: 9°C and 3°C

Hay River

Fort Smith

Wednesday			
7 High		5 Low	
7 High		3 Low	
Thursday			
13 High		5 Low	
10 High		4 Low	
Friday			
14 High		6 Low	
12 High		4 Low	
Saturday			
16 High		8 Low	
16 High		6 Low	

Norms: 12°C and 3°C

Norms: 12°C and 2°C

Oilsands exempt from new wetland policy for two years

Environmentalists call new guidelines a ‘missed opportunity’

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
After eight years of work on the new Alberta Wetland Policy, environmentalists in the province have two more to wait until oilsands companies become subject to new rules to protect wetlands, peat bogs and fens destroyed by mining.

The provincial government let slip last week that the policy’s implementation date for approved and in-process industrial projects on public lands will not begin until August 2015 after being prodded by media and policy think tanks about the lack of clear timelines and implementation details in the new policy, released on Tuesday during a press conference.

“It’s actually really disappointing,” said Jennifer Grant, oilsands director for the Pembina Institute, an environmental lobby group. “It’s a real missed opportunity to strengthen the existing environmental management regime. There’s no good reason why the policy could not be implemented immediately...because right now we have nothing.”

The policy focuses on three priorities for wetland protection, beginning with avoiding impact

on wetlands and followed by mitigation and replacement. Working on a value-based system, the policy provides a matrix for replacing wetlands based on their level of biodiversity, water quality improvement functions, flood reduction services and human value.

The reason given by the province for the startup delay was that it would be too onerous and costly to ask companies to meet new standards that were not in place when their projects began.

While the new policy is “better than no policy,” Grant said

commonly used elsewhere in the world. For every hectare of wetland that is destroyed by mining or whatever, three hectares is compensated for,” she said.

“Why not do that in the interim? If we’re serious as a province and as a country about responsibly managing our

If we’re serious as a province and as a country about responsibly managing our resources, and oilsands being a really prominent resource, we’ve got to walk the talk, and this is just another example of us talking.

*Minister Diana McQueen
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development*

“The policy will help us avoid impact when possible, minimize damage when necessary and guide replacement as needed,” Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Minister Diana McQueen told media at the press conference. “This policy provides the certainty, consistency and predictability we need to effectively manage wetlands across the province well into the future.”

the province could have easily adopted a less complicated system for wetland recovery for the oilsands starting right now, using a replacement strategy for impacted habitat based purely on area rather than wetland value.

“Rather than this really complicated value-based system that they’re trying to develop that looks at the abundance of wetlands and all the services it offers, just use area. I mean, that’s

resources, and oilsands being a really prominent resource, we’ve got to walk the talk, and this is just another example of us talking. It’s rhetoric.”

Grant said there is also concern around pieces of the policy that allow for “non-replacement compensation” to be achieved by way of putting money towards education, research or development rather than actual wetlands.

“Really we should be trying to achieve what the Alberta Water Council recommended years ago, which is a no-net loss policy, and that means that for every hectare lost, developers have to replace that hectare through reclamation of an old hectare or by offsetting it somewhere else,” she said.

There are 195 projects either underway or in the approval process that will be exempt from the policy over the next two years, meaning a “very significant footprint” on possibly thousands of hectares of unrecoverable wetland area in the province, Grant said.

Of the minable region, measured at roughly 4,750 square-km, 99 per cent is already under lease for oilsands mining activity. If the common assumption holds true that 60-65 per cent of that area is wetland habitat, Grant said mining activity alone could potentially result in the loss of up to 300,000 hectares of wetland over the next several years, potentially permanently.

Oilsands mining projects approved as of 2011 are expected to result in the loss of roughly 28,000 hectares of peatland on their own.

According to recent studies on wetland reclamation, the majority of that peatland in the oilsands region will be impossible to reclaim and is releasing tonnes of stored carbon into the atmosphere - emissions that are not accounted for by industry or government in their reporting.

One study by Lee Foote of the University of Alberta stated that “peatlands, the primary class of wetland cover throughout the oilsands region, cannot feasibly be replaced because of insufficient available area, time requirements for peat development, gaps in reclamation knowledge and expense.”

The study found that it would take 100-300 years to generate the 30-cm minimum of peat required to qualify an area as a peatland.

A similar study by Rebecca Rooney stated the same, partially blaming the lack of an Alberta wetland policy requiring compensation for boreal wetlands for the bleak future faced by peatlands in the oilsands region, along with post-mining topography issues and the high concentration of salts, metals and naphthenic acids left in the soil after mining.

Politics First Nations

Treaty 8 chiefs reject new Alberta consultation policy

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Chiefs of Treaty 8 collectively rejected the government of Alberta’s recently proposed draft Aboriginal consultation policy last week, claiming the province ignored three years of their input when developing the new guidelines.

In a press release sent out early last week, Grand Chief Richard Kappo of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta said the provincial government failed to take any recommendations issued by the chiefs in a September 2010 position paper into account in developing the process.

“This has been a very frustrating process,” he said. “After years of trying to improve consultation for both us and Albertans, (the chiefs) are not happy. We want to be clear that we were not just outright rejecting previous policies, but instead, we provided the government with workable alternatives, all of which were ignored.”

The Treaty 8 First Nations officially raised concerns about the province’s existing consultation policy in a paper dated Sept. 30, 2010, signed by 21 chiefs from northern Alberta, including the Mikisew Cree, Athabasca Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Dene Tha’ and Smith’s Landing First Nations, among others.

That position paper came out of meetings between chiefs

from Treaty 6, 7 and 8, and was an invitation to the provincial government to enter into negotiations on a new consultation agreement, rather than a policy.

Listed in the document, along with subsequent letters over the last three years, were a host of general concerns with the province’s approach to consultation, including a lack of standards

of the Crown and industry are adversely impacting our rights, culture and way of life, if Alberta will not work with us to develop baseline information and criteria to make those determinations?” the letter states.

The province’s new draft policy, made public on Aug. 16 and expected to come into effect this fall, proposes establishing

“One of the items that First Nations in Treaty 8 requested was annual government-to-government meetings to review the consultation policy with them, to identify strengths and weaknesses in the process. This is something Minister (Robin) Campbell agreed to and is a part of the new policy,” Zahara said in an email.

Treaty 8 chiefs in determining the adequacy of consultation.

Zahara said further engagement sessions will be held between First Nations technical staff, stakeholders and the Alberta government to develop the operational guidelines considered “the meat and potatoes” of the new policy.

“Engagement in developing these guidelines will give First Nations and stakeholders significant influence on how consultation duties are carried out in Alberta,” he said.

Still, he said, the final call will be with the government.

“While our preference is a policy acceptable to all parties, ultimately it is government’s responsibility to decide whether the policy strikes the right balance between the preferences of all parties.”

Guidelines face variety of criticism

The new guidelines have already received harsh criticism from First Nations and Métis leaders from across the province, many of whom are upset that the policy overrides existing consultation policies developed by Aboriginal governments.

Eriel Deranger, spokesperson for Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, said the policy represents an erroneous attempt by the province to interpret what

section 35 rights Aboriginal people have in the province.

“They’re trying to limit (those rights) and define them in a very narrow way,” she said, noting that the rights to hunt, trap and fish are contingent upon a variety of factors left out in the policy. “(Rights) mean the protection of waterways; it means the protection of critical habitat of species; it means the protection of the boreal forest and wetlands and water level thresholds. There are so many things that those treaty rights are dependent on.”

Further criticism stems from the fact that the government will still not begin consultation at the land tenure or exploratory stages of development, an issue that recently triggered public hearings over an exploratory oilsands drilling project by Teck Resources north of Fort McMurray.

Kappo said the policy shows none of the concerns raised by chiefs over the years have been taken seriously and does not bode well for future consultation.

“We have already comprehensively laid out how to make the system better, but I don’t see any of that work reflected here (in the policy and draft guidelines),” he said. “They will have difficulty in finding receptive chiefs when recent history suggests that our input will have no influence on the outcome.”

Rocker Neil Young voices harsh critique of oilsands after visit to Fort McMurray

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Canadian music icon Neil Young, known for his political lyrics, didn't pull any punches during a press conference last week following his first visit to the Alberta oilsands, calling Fort McMurray a "wasteland" and comparing the industrial area to the site of an atomic bomb strike.

The 67 year-old visited Fort McMurray earlier this month on part of his cruise to various oil and gas projects around North America in a fossil fuel-free car, and voiced his opposition to political campaigns marketing Alberta's oil as "ethical" during a National Farmers Union event last Monday in Washington.

"The fact is, Fort McMurray looks like Hiroshima," Young said. "Fort McMurray is a wasteland."

Young, who drove through the region over the last two and a half weeks in his hybrid ethanol-electric Lincoln Continental as part of a documentary he's working on called *LincVolt*, said he could smell and taste the fumes from industry, and repeated the message from First Nations downwind and downstream of the development that the oilsands are causing illness and irreparable environmental destruction.

"People are sick; people are dying of cancer because of this. All the First Nations up there are threatened by this. Their food supply is wasted; their treaties are no good. They have a right to live on the land like they did, but there's no land left for them to live on. All the animals are dying."



Music legend Neil Young shows his support for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, in solidarity with Eriel Deranger.

He added that he's opposed "in a big way" to the notion of oilsands crude coming to the US via the Keystone XL pipeline.

"This is truly a disaster, and America is supporting this," he said.

The Keystone, which has long awaited a final verdict from US President Barack Obama, would ship bitumen from Alberta to refineries on the Gulf Coast in Texas.

Young, along with famed actress and known oilsands opponent Daryl Hannah, were hosted on their five-day visit to the McMurray area by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) out of Fort Chipewyan.

The two celebrities spent time with the ACFN chief, councillors and staff on helicopter and ground tours of the area, visited in situ sites, drove the Lincoln around the 14-km "Syncrude loop" and attended a Dene cultural celebration in Janvier.

ACFN communications coordinator Eriel Deranger said the visit wasn't publicized because, unlike a previous visit by director James Cameron that involved a "media circus," the community wanted Young's experience to be "genuine" and allow him to formulate a response by himself and on his own schedule.

All the First Nations up there are threatened by this. Their food supply is wasted; their treaties are no good. They have a right to live on the land like they did, but there's no land left for them to live on. All the animals are dying.

Neil Young

"We knew that Neil was definitely taken aback by what he saw and the experience of being there, and that he does feel a lot of passion to address things like fossil fuel destruction and climate change and all those issues - those are not secrets of Neil Young's. We just didn't know what his public sentiment would be coming out after his visit, so we were kind of surprised, but also truth be told he didn't really say anything really crazy," Deranger said.

She said ACFN is thrilled to have this newly forged alliance with someone who understands the ties indigenous peoples have to the land, who also happens to be a musical legend, no less.

"We're definitely going to continue to work along with Neil and move forward and

look at ways that we can really be partners in addressing some of these issues...It's really great that he's made those really strong remarks that indigenous people really do hold the keys to addressing the issues in the region... because the only real intact legislation that's left in this country is the foundation of our rights as Aboriginal and Treaty people," she said.

"A great Canadian musical icon standing in solidarity with us is probably a First Nation's best case scenario, so it's exciting," she added.

Minister 'not a fan' of Young's remarks

A short email response being circulated to media from Canadian Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver's office said while the

minister is a fan of Young's music, he's not a fan of his message on Keystone.

"On this matter we disagree because Keystone XL will displace heavy oil from Venezuela, which has the same or higher greenhouse gas emissions, with a stable and secure source of Canadian oil."

Rock 97.9, a radio station in Fort McMurray, has banned Young's songs indefinitely because of his remarks on the oilsands following its first "No Neil Day" last Wednesday. The station reportedly plays two to three Neil Young songs per day usually.

Young is well-known for his impassioned and sometimes controversial songwriting, touching on issues of racism, environmental degradation, government corruption and imperialism since the 1960s.

Industry Pipelines

Auditor General steps in to audit Alberta pipelines

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Widespread discontent with the results of the Alberta government's recently conducted pipeline safety review has sprung the province's auditor general into action to investigate growing concerns of failing infrastructure and lack of regulatory enforcement.

The NDP, Wildrose Party and a coalition of 54 environmental, landowner, labour and First Nations groups - the same group to spur the initial audit - all put forth calls over the last several weeks to have Auditor General Merwan Saher conduct a second audit.

Opposition parties released a letter from Saher's

office last Thursday stating the investigation will begin as soon as possible.

"We will be auditing the government's monitoring systems to ensure compliance with Alberta's pipeline regulations," Saher wrote. "Our audit would include inspection and enforcement processes."

The original report, authored by Group 10 Engineering, received abundant scorn from a variety of players in the province who said the review did little to address the issue of safety.

Though it compared Alberta's regulatory regime to other jurisdictions, finding it has "the most thorough"

system overall, the audit did not look into recent spills coming from the province's pipeline network spanning 400,000 km, nor how companies are forced to comply with regulations.

Groups calling for the secondary audit said they are pleased with Saher's announcement.

"I hope the audit will take a more thorough look at the state of regulation enforcement than the Alberta government's recent pipeline review in order to give Albertans and our energy consumers the confidence they deserve going forward," Wildrose Energy Critic Jason Hale said in a press release.

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Workers prepare to dismantle the iconic Giant Mine smokestack.

Industry Mining

Watching the fall of a giant

By JACK DANYLCHUK
The tallest structure in Yellowknife when it was erected, the 48-metre high Giant Mine roaster stack was erased from the skyline this summer the same way it went up in 1953 – brick-by-brick.

tonnes of poisonous chemicals had spewed from the stack and onto the surrounding landscape. What didn't go up in smoke – 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide – will be frozen and stored underground as part of the federal government's \$1-billion remediation and perpetual maintenance program.



Mid-summer progress highlights the brick-by-brick take-down process.



Giant Mine's smokestack has now disappeared from the skyline.

Photos: Jack Danylchuk

FORT CHIPEWYAN GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE ARCHIE SIMPSON AQUATIC EXPANSION

Residents in Fort Chipewyan are invited to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Archie Simpson Aquatic Expansion this **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**.

Join us for a **pancake breakfast** at the **Mamawi Hall starting at 9:30 a.m.**, which will be followed by the **groundbreaking ceremony** at the site of this new exciting project beside the **Archie Simpson Arena**.

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Politics Municipal

Robertson headframe granted another reprieve

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Offered a chance to be immortalized as the politicians who consigned the Robertson headframe to the scrap heap of history, Yellowknife city council decided last week to give the iconic structure one more chance.

Instead of signing the Robertson's death warrant, as city administrators recommended, council voted unanimously to ask Newmont Mining to delay demolition for six months while they again explore ways and means to preserve the landmark.

The decision came after an emotional plea from Norah Higden, who worked for 23 years in the hoist room atop the 76-metre structure, and a warning from Walt Humphries, president of the NWT Mine Heritage Society. "I'll put up a brass plaque that says how every one of you voted on this," Humphries said to a chorus of cheers and applause from the public gallery that was packed with supporters of the Robertson.

Yellowknife was founded on mining and has collected millions in tax revenue from mines, Humphries said, "but council has dithered



Yellowknife city council has asked for six more months to decide the fate of the Robertson headframe.

Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

on saving the headframe and done nothing to recognize the contribution mining has made to the community."

Higden's voice broke as she told of a hiker who used the red, black and white tower as a homing beacon after losing her way, and the thrill of seeing the sun rise and set from her aerie in the Territories' tallest structure.

"Toronto and Calgary have spent millions to build towers; they are tourist attractions, and we have our own tower with fantastic views of the city and the lake," she said.

It was the cost of preserving the Robertson that prompted council to seek possible uses for the headframe

five years ago, when demolition first loomed. Proposals ranged from a climbing wall and lookout to condominiums and all carried price tags in the millions.

According to the latest estimate from city administration, demolition would cost more than \$1 million and preservation, depending on how the headframe is used, as much as \$250,000 a year.

Higden suggested that Heritage Canada might support preservation, and Humphries said the mining industry might contribute to a fund to save the Robertson as a unique piece of mining technology.

NWT Métis Nation demands Canada finish AiP

President says Akaitcho lawsuit costing Métis millions

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Tired of being stalled by legal interference from surrounding First Nations, the NWT Métis Nation (NWTMN) is demanding the Canadian government finish its consultations with the Akaitcho Territory government and sign off on the nearly-completed Métis land and resource agreement in principle (AiP).

The federal government began consultations with the Akaitcho in February 2012 after the First Nations launched a lawsuit interfering with the Métis claim, which argued that the Crown had an obligation to deal with Treaty people first.

Now the Akaitcho are reportedly asking for another three months of talks with Canada. Several attempts to reach their negotiating team for comment were unsuccessful.

NWTMN president Garry Bailey said the delay is costing them valuable time and money, to the tune of \$2 million over the last year and a half. He wants to see the agreement in principle signed by the federal government.

“Canada, it seems like they don’t want to move forward



Photo courtesy of NWTMN

The NWT Métis Nation votes to approve its land and resources AiP in December 2012. Canada has yet to sign.

until they completely satisfy the Akaitcho or whatever the case may be, but they’ve already recognized that we have Aboriginal rights when they started to negotiate with us,” he told *The*

Journal. “So why are they so chicken to move forward and acknowledge our rights?”

Bailey said the agreement in principle has been ready to be signed since December 2011

- before the Akaitcho took the Métis to court. Members of the Métis Nation voted to approve the AiP in December 2012.

“It’s a long time we’ve been ready to move forward. I think

if Akaitcho is not satisfied, the next thing that they need to do is just go through the process and have a case management conference and actually get into what the problems are, because

we don’t know. Nobody’s telling us what the problems are,” Bailey said.

“We can’t stop our process; we can’t lay people off and ask them to come back a year or two later...It took us a long time to get where we are. We’ve established a full staff that are committed and have been committed since ‘96. We can’t expect these people to just sit around and wait, as well. It’s frustrating.”

Bailey said the Akaitcho leadership has not responded to any correspondence from the Métis over the past several years asking for a meeting to work out their issues.

“I’m surrounded by family that are Treaty,” said Bailey, of Fort Resolution. “My mother’s a Treaty Indian; my uncles, my aunties, my cousins are all Treaty and I’m a Métis. But we’re all from the same land, utilized the same land, sat at the same tables, ate the same dinner all my life...Yet the leadership are fighting us. They should be more focused on their land claim and moving that forward.”

Politics First Nations

Tlicho ponders action on land-water board elimination

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Tlicho Government is coming up with a course of action to address its concerns with the federal decision to eliminate all regional land and water boards in the NWT by Apr. 1, 2014, but to say they are considering a legal challenge is premature.

John B. Zoe, senior advisor to the Tlicho Government, said they were recently given a draft of the proposed changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), which would see the regional Wek’eezhii land and water board eliminated and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board oversee all licensing and permitting within the territory as one “superboard,” and are in the process of reviewing what it means.

“The Tlicho Government hasn’t contemplated a lawsuit or legal challenge to that, because they haven’t talked about it yet... (Canada) will most likely be consulting with the affected groups, Aboriginal groups who are affected in the North by these changes. There will probably be a sneak peak on it, to see where and how far it has gone. But in the meantime, there’s no talk about a legal challenge at this point. That’s

always a last resort that hasn’t been visited yet. The picture’s still forming,” he said.

Still, he said the Tlicho Government does not agree with Canada’s vocalized intent to “streamline” regulation in the NWT - a project spoken to repeatedly over the last several years, even more so since word of the “superboard” first got out in early 2012.

“They’ve always been saying that they would because that’s part of the streamlining, making it easier access and a less cumbersome system than is in place. But that’s a mentality that we differ on,” Zoe said.

Although amendments to the act are contemplated in all three settled land claim agreements in the territory, Zoe said those exact changes should still be negotiated by each party to the agreement - the Aboriginal government, Canada and the GNWT - before being made.

As of now, he does not see that happening.

“We’re saying we should have a deeper involvement and have a say and have our voices heard on what those changes are, because that’s a three-party agreement that was made in 2005,” he said.

Zoe said the Tlicho Government wants to ensure that

whatever new system is put in place addresses the needs of the communities in the way the local panel has done for the last eight years.

“We haven’t seen it being cumbersome, but we’ve seen it as something that engaged the communities in the process,” he said. “What we don’t

know is what kind of engagement to the communities and those close to the landscape it will be, because you can only tell if it’s in practice.”

The federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development did not respond to requests for comment as of press time.

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Ecology North’s first speaker talks at-risk molluscs

Team identifies new ‘alien’ species of snail, found outside of Hay River

By MARIA CHURCH

The Banff Springs snail, less than a centimetre in length, may not come with the drama of a whooping crane, but endangered molluscs specialist Dwayne Lepitzki was in NWT last week to explain why it is just as important and just as at-risk.

Lepitzki, co-chair of the molluscs subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, was invited to share his insights on molluscs last week as the first speaker of a new Natural History Speakers Night series from the Hay River branch of Ecology North.

Lepitzki has been working with molluscs under contract with Parks Canada for the past 18 years.

His work often focuses on the rare Banff Springs snail, the first mollusc to be put on Canada’s endangered species list.

“It’s one of these areas that I kind of found a niche,” Lepitzki told *The Journal*.

Molluscs, particularly the freshwater variety, are



Photo: Robert Forsyth

Never identified before in the NWT, a grey field slug is at home just outside of Hay River.

typically at risk because of human activity, he said.

“We like to use water as a dumping ground, so a lot of pollutants get into these areas. Some of these molluscs, especially the clams and the mussels, they filter water so they can be taking

in nutrients but they can also be taking in pollution,” Lepitzki said.

They may be small, but their presence is an important part of the ecosystem, he said.

Molluscs act as nutrient recyclers by consuming

decaying material such as fungus and then becoming a food source for muskrats and waterfowl.

‘Alien’ slug species found in NWT

While in the NWT, Lepitzki, along with a team of

Canada’s foremost mollusc specialists, took a field day to search for new species. Just outside of Hay River, the team came across a grey field slug. The slug has never before been identified in the NWT.

“We were kind of expecting to find them - especially this slug. Typically it’s found everywhere in North America where people are, so it was just a matter of time before somebody found them here,” Lepitzki said.

The team also found what they believe to be a native species of glass snail and at least one species of freshwater limpet.

Both molluscs have yet to be positively identified but will potentially be a new addition to the list of molluscs found in NWT.

Lepitzki and his team were able to bring the alien specimens they collected to the presentation in Hay River.

Kim Rapati, event organizer and Ecology North’s Hay River coordinator, said

she was pleased with the event’s turnout.

“It was the first time I’ve done a natural history night in Hay River and I was totally impressed,” Rapati told *The Journal*.

“It’s kind of a strange topic so I didn’t think it would attract that many people, but it was really exciting. The room was full,” she said.

Rapati said she has yet to determine who the next speaker in the series will be, but she’s hoping to host local experts such as Gary Vizniowski on birds and Bruce Green on fossils.

“There are some really knowledgeable people in the community that have interesting stuff to share,” Rapati said.

For updates on the next Natural History Speakers Night, check out the organization’s website at ecologynorth.ca. Updates will be posted as dates are determined.

For more information about species at risk in Canada, visit sararegistry.gc.ca.



Tanya Tagaq and violinist Jesse Zubot put a modern sound to the stark images of Inuit life depicted in the 1922 silent film *Nanook of the North*.

Arts & Culture Storytelling



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

William Greenland and drummer Lawrence Nayally entertain the audience on opening night at the Ko K’e storytelling festival.

Breathing fire, Northerners take their stories on the road

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Ko K’e means fire, as in gather around one and tell stories, Deneze Nakehk’o, emcee for the opening event in the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre’s (NACC) 29th season, explained to a packed house last Friday evening.

A touring festival of music and storytelling, Ko K’e provided a vehicle that carried Northern writers and performers from Yellowknife to Norman Wells, Hay River, Inuvik and Fort Simpson as part of the NACC’s effort to take its programs to more communities this year.

“This is an important night for me,” Marie Coderre, who has just completed her first year as NACC executive and artistic director, told the opening night audience.

“This is the only theatre in the Northwest Territories and we have an eclectic population here from all across Canada. It’s a big challenge to please everyone.”

There was plenty of fire in Tanya Tagaq’s collaboration with percussionist Jean Martin and violinist Jesse Zubot to create a soundtrack for *Nanook of the North*, a 19th Century documentary prepared for Révillon Fères, a French fur company.

Adapted from a work commissioned by the Toronto International Film Festival and first performed last year, the live score of drums, violin and Tagaq’s throaty roar soared and crashed against a background of always smiling Inuit.

Much-maligned for the 19th Century attitudes displayed in the storyline, *Nanook* is also a window to a vanished world. It shows Inuit life on the northeast coast of Hudson’s Bay, where the spectre of starvation always lurked in the background.

To Tagaq, the stark black

and white images of men wrestling a two-tonne walrus from the surf, spearing fish and building an igloo present a distorted picture of a “happy Eskimo.”

“But I’m a kind of pissed off Eskimo,” Tagaq said to enthusiastic applause. “I’m honoured to be playing to Northern people because you are going to ‘get’ it.”

The scene was more subdued Saturday afternoon when Jim Green looked out on a small but attentive audience and reprised one of his favourite stories about a Yellowknife tow truck driver who doubled as the

mortician and justice of the peace.

A fixture in Fort Smith for almost 40 years, Green cracked a joke about his age, and what “happy hour” has come to mean – a nap instead of a drink in each hand, and “getting lucky” is remembering where he parked the truck.

“Things change when you get older,” he said.

Yellowknife storyteller Scott McQueen followed with vignettes drawn from his life on the land with his father Danny and mother Doris on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, near the

Rocher and Taltson rivers.

McQueen is one of the last of his generation to have lived and learned from a traditional Dene life and believes that his calling is to keep those stories alive.

Comedian Ryan McMahon closed out Ko K’e in Yellowknife on Saturday with a routine that pushes against the boundary where “Indian Country” collides with mainstream Canada. He is scheduled to close out Ko K’e at a community feast in Fort Simpson on Sept. 18 with Scott McQueen and Simpson local Jerry Antoine.

Sahtu residents voice concerns at liquor bill hearings

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Sahtu residents worried about the increasing problem of alcohol abuse and its link to violence in the region had the chance to express their thoughts last week during a series of public hearings as part of the review process for a private member's bill that would give Sahtu communities a voice in amending liquor restrictions.

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations is currently reviewing Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, brought forth by Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya earlier this year. The bill received its second reading in the House on June 6.

Bill 24 speaks to an incident in 2012 when a plebiscite narrowly lifted 40 year-old liquor restrictions in Norman Wells and voting was only open to the town's residents, despite the fact that citizens from across the Sahtu use the Norman Wells Liquor Agency—the only liquor store in the region.

The new piece of legislation seeks to enable all Sahtu communities to vote in any plebiscite to determine if liquor sales



Photo: RCMP

Tulita RCMP showcase the large amount of vodka seized in April.

should be restricted at the Norman Wells liquor store.

Public hearings - held in Deline, Tulita and Fort Good Hope - are part of the bill's consultation process before the final report is presented to the assembly again in October.

"The hearings went well and were all well attended... (with) about 40 or so people for each," Michael Nadli, chair of the committee and Dehcho MLA, said. "People are obviously concerned with the alcohol and drug problem and its growing rate. Basically that's

what people were expressing: the societal problems in their communities related to alcohol."

Hearing in Norman Wells postponed

The committee cancelled its hearing in Norman Wells on Sept. 8 due to a tragic incident that took place in the town over the weekend. A teenage boy was found dead after a canoeing accident on Jackfish Lake.

"We offer our condolences to the family and to the entire community of Norman Wells during this difficult time and

as a gesture of respect, the committee will reschedule the hearing on Bill 24," Nadli said in a press release.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Sept. 26, Nadli said.

"We were due to be finished by Sept. 16, but we've now extended it," he said. "We'll be trying to have it tabled for the Oct. 17 sitting and, if not, we're looking at another opportunity in January. It just depends how things go."

As to the overall consensus from the hearings so far, Nadli

People are obviously concerned with the alcohol and drug problem and its growing rate.

MLA Michael Nadli
Committee on Government Operations

said it's too early to speculate.

"We still have to visit Norman Wells and hear all sides. I don't want to draw any conclusions at this point. Our mandate is to review the legislation and listen to the public," he said.

"It's not just in the Sahtu, it's an issue all over the Territories and communities are asking for help," he added.

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 in Norman Wells.

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.

Earlier this year, Tulita saw a number of violent and criminal activities such as a double stabbing on Apr. 21 that left a man and woman with multiple wounds.

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

Centre on Substance Abuse meets with NWT leaders

Culturally relevant treatment, youth drug prevention hot topics

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Representatives from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) touched down in Yellowknife last week to meet with government officials, community leaders, NGOs and other stakeholders to further strategize and dialogue about collaborative solutions to substance abuse.

The meeting is a part of a series of cross country discussions CCSA is undertaking to "gain a greater understanding" of local community issues and move forward with partnerships.

"The purpose was to talk about the issue of alcohol and drugs in the North and particularity in the Territories," Michel Perron, CCSA's CEO, told *The Journal*. "This was an opportunity to explain some of the national strategies we are working on that are relevant to the NWT and, by the same token, we also heard from local representatives of activities that are underway - and there are many - and how we can contribute to that work and

how that work here may be instructive for other areas of the country."

NWT Health Minister Tom Beaulieu said the meeting has "opened the door" for future partnerships when it comes to substance abuse.

"We will be moving

a broad range of ideas and they (the CCSA) have a rich history in substance abuse," Beaulieu told *The Journal*.

"This is about adding to that and building the relationship so that we have a good handle on what are the specific priorities here

part of the DNA of how we deal with this issue for First Nations peoples. That was very telling," he said.

The CCSA thought such programming could be applicable on reserves in the south, Beaulieu said, also noting that the department

Talking youth and addiction

For Beaulieu, the challenge of youth addiction treatment was also an interesting roundtable topic of discussion, one he hopes to have a solution for in the future.

"We can't really build a centre to treat youth, but we might be able to dedicate a location for a centre that could be used for youth treatment programming," he said. "In the past, we've treated youth in the south mostly...This time, we're trying to work with the youth to identify that they actually have an addiction issue. It's very difficult to get a kid that's 14, 16 or even 20 to admit they have an addiction problem. They're so young, so it's hard to move forward."

Beaulieu said they may look into strategies where youth can come together to benefit each other in their healing processes.

Prevention standards concerning youth drug use is something the CCSA has worked on over the past few years, Perron said, which could help the NWT down the road.

"It's all very new...within the last year and a half or so," Perron said. "The standards

articulate in a clear way what is effective programming for youth. Those standards that we launched were recently adopted by the United Nations and are being applied internationally, so there's a lot of applicability. If they're applicable in Somalia, I think they're applicable here in the NWT."

The standards are designed to support new and existing prevention teams in planning, implementing and evaluating their initiatives. They are composed of standards for substance abuse prevention in schools and communities, along with guidelines for family-based prevention initiatives. They include a monitoring and evaluation tool kit as well as other interactive resources for youth and youth workers.

"Essentially, the door is open for us to contact them and for them to contact us," Beaulieu said of the CCSA.

According to Perron, there was a "real, genuine interest" expressed by attendees at the meeting to continue working with the CCSA.

"We're not going to show up and never return. Our commitment is to come back to the NWT regularly."

We will be moving forward with our plan for on-the-land treatment when it comes to addictions, as we heard from the communities during the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness in June.

NWT Health and Social Services Minister Tom Beaulieu

forward with our plan for on-the-land treatment when it comes to addictions, as we heard from the communities during the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness in June...And we're open to have as many partners as possible working with us on our initiatives because we'd certainly like to have

so we can best respond to them," Perron said.

Cultural healing as the centre of recovery and addiction treatment was a topic the CCSA took great interest in at the table, Perron said.

"It is quite a powerful notion and that whole cultural piece has to be not only embedded, but really

is currently preparing to roll out a few pilot programs focused on healing through an on the land agenda.

"More proposals for this programming have come in than we have money to fund, so we'll be looking at all of them and rolling out some pilot programs immediately," Beaulieu said.



Students participate in a demonstration of Dene hand games at Thebacha campus in Fort Smith for orientation week.



Cherie Stewart and Francois Paulette place offerings in the fire during Thebacha's feeding the fire ceremony.

Education Post-Secondary

College students hit the books after orientation events

By MARIA CHURCH

With summer holidays come and gone, new and returning Aurora College students at campuses across the NWT are hitting the books.

To help students settle into their new lives, each of the three main campuses, Aurora in Inuvik, Thebacha in Fort Smith and North Slave in Yellowknife, held orientation events.

"All of our orientations are geared towards helping students develop a sense of community on campus and a familiarity with the college and the community. A lot of our students are coming in

from the small communities, so this is a great chance for them," Sarah Tilley, campus director at Yellowknife's North Slave Campus, told *The Journal*.

"This is one of the few times that all of our different programs can interact, so it's great for the first week," she said.

This year, the Yellowknife campus introduced self defense workshops during orientation week. Students from all programs were encouraged to take part as both a learning experience and a meet and greet activity.

"With students who come from the communities, we want to make them aware of personal safety when you're in the city - how to be aware of your surroundings and handle yourself," Tilley said.

At the Thebacha campus, orientation week continued

with the tradition of holding cultural events such as the Dene hand games demonstration and the feeding of the fire ceremony.

This is the sixth year that Peter Paulette of the Smith's Landing First Nation, a hand games player and instructor, was invited by campus staff to hold a workshop.

"Hand games is one of the bigger parts of our culture when we get together," Paulette said. "We get students from up North who do play it back home, so it's for them to gather and come together."

Glenn Bourke, campus manager at Thebacha, said he felt this year's orientation went well for helping new students feel at ease.

"That's why we have orientation, to try and make them feel more comfortable," he said.

Initial estimates from Thebacha show an increase

in student enrollment at the campus this year.

"Our residences are full; we actually have waiting lists for our residences," Bourke said.

Kara Hendrie, a returning student from Norman Wells, said she's happy there are more students around campus.

"It will make the school more interesting with more faces," she said.

Hendrie is in her second and last year of the Environment and Natural Resources Technology program. She said she expects this year will be more challenging, but she's looking forward to it.

At the Aurora campus in Inuvik, orientation day, titled The Sky's the Limit, included events such as merchandise bingo, street hockey, a softball tournament and children's games for students with families.



The Town of Fort Smith

Annual Fall Clean-up September 23-28, 2013

The Town of Fort Smith

will be running a fall clean-up from September 23-28, 2013 with a hazardous waste round-up on Saturday, September 28 at the Rec Centre parking lot from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Residents may have large items and yard cleaning debris collected by the Town from the curbside only. The pick up fee is \$40 per location and must be prepaid at Town Hall. Tipping fees at the landfill site will be waived for household items during this time. There will also be a backyard composter sale at the Rec. Centre on September 28 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

As of September 9, 2013

the Town of Fort Smith will no longer accept e-waste at the landfill. Please take all discarded electronics to the **RTL RECYCLING BOTTLE DEPOT** where they will be collected free of charge and sent to an e-waste recycling facility in Edmonton.



Aurora College board of governors chair Sydney O'Sullivan addresses students and staff during the opening ceremonies at Thebacha campus.

Educational speaker shares brain magic in SSDEC schools

By MARIA CHURCH

Armed with nearly 30 years of teaching experience, a background in cognitive psychology, charisma and a little bit of magic, educational presenter Terry Small brought a simple message to five communities in the South Slave region last week: how to get better grades in school.

“It all has to do with the brain,” Small shared with *The Journal*.

Small, considered a leading educator in his field, has taken his presentation on learning and memory techniques across the globe for the past 10 years.

Using magic tricks as examples, Small shared his presentation with students and parents in Hay River, the K’atl’odeeche First Nation reserve, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Lutsel K’e last week.

Small’s goal is to explain to students and parents that everyone can learn to control their brains and, by doing so, can study smarter instead of harder and set goals that will see them achieve more.

“The message I want them to walk out of here with is, ‘Hey, my brain’s pretty cool, I need to learn more about it. I can grow a better brain and



Photo: Maria Church

Educational speaker Terry Small introduces himself to an audience member during his presentation at PWK High School.

I’m never stuck with the brain I’ve got, and if my brain is fantastic I better look after it because it can go away,” he said.

“All the issues that schools and parents deal with, getting

homework done, alcohol, drugs, relationship issues, my diet, how much time it’s okay to be in front of video games, all these things are relevant from our brain’s point of view because

neuroscience is shedding a fascinating light on all of this.”

His suggestion to parents and students was to utilize simple techniques such as cue cards that allow students

to physically hold the answers, or to create future report cards with realistic grade goals. On top of that, Small recommended daily physical activity to increase brain power.

Small admitted that while the subject material can sometimes be boring, he keeps his audience engaged by using magic tricks.

“Magic sheds a fascinating light on how brains engage with their environment,” he said. “The reason magic tricks work is because your brain is wired to think about what is essential, not what is real. Brains get good at seeing what they are looking for.”

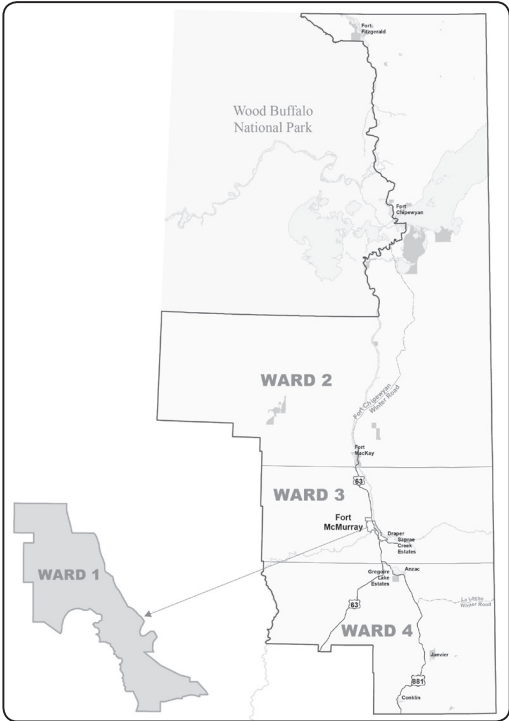
Similarly, a student who doesn’t set realistic goals will continue to see themselves as an average or failing student, which will not allow the brain to reach its full potential, Small said.

While formal feedback from parents and students is encouraged, for Small it’s evident if his presentation has hit home.

“The feedback that’s important is what I see in the audience. Nobody has to tell me how I’ve done. Faces mirror what’s going on in your brain, so in real times I’m monitoring audiences and I know how I’m doing and I know what I’ve done,” he said.

To learn more about Small and his learning and memory techniques, visit www.terrysmall.com.

NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAY



Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26) Local Jurisdiction: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is Monday, September 23, 2013, and that the nomination(s) for the following offices will be received at the locations set below between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon on Nomination Day.

Office	Number of Vacancies	Ward Number
Mayor	One (1)	At Large
Councillors	Six (6)	One (1)
Councillors	Two (2)	Two (2)
Councillor	One (1)	Three (3)
Councillor	One (1)	Four (4)

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

- Ward 1 – Fort McMurray – Council Chamber
(Jubilee Centre, 9909 Franklin Avenue)
- Ward 2 – Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office (101 Loutit Street)
– Fort McKay School (Range Road 110A)
- Ward 3 – Saprae Creek – Vista Ridge (Spruce Valley Road)
- Ward 4 – Anzac Municipal Office (105B-4 Christina Drive)
– Conklin Municipal Office (245 Northland Drive)
– Janvier Municipal Office (110 Janvier Drive)

Dated at Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, in the Province of Alberta, this 10th day of September, 2013.

Darlene Soucy, Returning Officer.



ELECTION 2013

Nomination Papers may be picked up at the following locations during normal office hours or online at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/elections.

- Ward 1 – Fort McMurray, Central Front Counter, Main Floor
(Jubilee Centre, 9909 Franklin Avenue)
- Ward 2 – Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office (101 Loutit Street)
– Fort McKay School (Range Road 110A)
- Ward 3 – Fort McMurray, Central Front Counter, Main Floor
(Jubilee Centre, 9909 Franklin Avenue)
- Ward 4 – Anzac Municipal Office (105B-4 Christina Drive)
– Conklin Municipal Office (245 Northland Drive)
– Janvier Municipal Office (110 Janvier Drive)

Filing of Nomination

All candidates running for Mayor or Councillor must submit completed nomination papers accompanied by the required deposit of \$250 for the position of Mayor or \$100 for the position of Councillor. The nomination fee must be paid by cash, certified cheque or money order.

Note: A nomination is not valid unless accompanied by the required fee and signed by at least five eligible voters.

www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/elections



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Children’s First Centre celebrates official opening

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A handful of Inuvik youngsters cut the ribbon last Monday as politicians stood by, officially opening the highly-anticipated Children’s First Centre, Inuvik’s new, state of the art childcare facility.

“The dream of the Children’s First Centre has always been about having a purpose-built facility for the kids,” Melinda Gillis, Children’s First Society board chair, said in a recent press release. “What better way to highlight that than having the kids open the centre.”

The vibrant \$6.5-million centre was a long time coming - taking 10 years of planning, fundraising and construction. Cofly Construction finally wrapped work up in early August after a soggy July slowed the process and delayed the official opening.

“It was a great day with a really good turnout with community members, leaders and elders,” Patricia Davison, the centre’s executive director, told *The Journal*. “There are currently 80 children enrolled...We’ve been running for about three weeks now.”

Davison said the centre received its licensing for 104 spots last Monday and that some age groups are already full, with waiting lists beginning. The



Photo: Terry Halifax

Left to right, Inuvik Mayor Floyd Roland, Education Minister Jackson Lafferty and Children’s First Society chair Melinda Gillis gather with society board members and a bunch of Inuvik children to cut the ribbon and officially open the new Children’s First Centre last Monday.

number of spots is nearly double the childcare capacity that previously existed in the small town of about 3,500 located just above the Arctic Circle.

“One of the major issues in Inuvik and something other communities struggle with is space for early childhood programs. Certainly in Inuvik, the program moved from one building that was about to be torn down to another. There was a lot of movement around and the buildings they were in were not

necessarily big and conducive to early childhood, so it was a struggle,” Davison said.

Waiting lists were also a concern in the community. Davison said she’d talked with parents who’d been waiting for early childhood care for years.

“We’ve had lots of comments from parents that they need this care to be able to work or go back to school,” she said. “This is a beautiful facility that has opened up more spaces and we don’t have to worry

about having to move out because someone else needs the building or that it needs to be torn down. We’re very fortunate this way.”

With over 13,000 square-feet of space, the centre includes programs for children from six months to 12 years-old, including half-day, full-day and after-school care.

In attendance for the ribbon cutting was Mayor Floyd Roland, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Jackson Lafferty, regional director of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) Kevin Lewis and Nellie Cournoyea, chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corp.

“Everyone that came out and supported us at the official opening and supported us all along - I can’t thank them enough,” Davison said. “We really pulled together as a community to make this happen.”

While the centre continues pushing forward with its fundraising, the campaign has been widely successful, Davison said.

The Town of Inuvik donated \$2.3 million, providing the foundation to move the project out of the design phase. CanNor put forth \$500,000 to make a commercial-grade kitchen possible and the government of the Northwest Territories extended a helping hand worth \$1.1 million for construction.

Local businesses and individuals within the community boosted funds further, adding over \$1.7 million. Northwind Industries was one of the largest local contributors, donating over \$300,000 worth of material and labour to the project.

“The Children’s First Centre is about Inuvik’s future,” Roland said in a press release. “Council, both past and present, saw that this facility would help build a strong community and give our kids a leg-up at the beginning of their education careers.”

The centre, though complete, will continue to work on landscaping around the cranberry and orange structure.

“The kids love the mud pit outside, but the parents not so much,” Davison said with a laugh. “We’re finishing off the toppings, so to speak, right now.”

Great news for seniors!

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is making it easier to stay warm this winter with changes to the Senior Home Heating Subsidy.

Effective September 1, 2013:

- The household income test only includes the applicant and his or her spouse
- Applicants no longer have to declare financial support received from their children

If you are 60 or older and own your home, apply for the Senior Home Heating Subsidy today. Depending on your annual income, you could get help covering the cost of your heating bills.

To apply, visit your ECE Service Centre or call 1-866-973-7252.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

The Senior Home Heating Subsidy is a part of the Income Security Program.

www.ece.gov.nt.ca

Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

Northerners Elders

Akaitcho government honours Elder of the Year

By MARIA CHURCH

The Akaitcho Territory Government acknowledged a Smith’s Landing First Nation elder last week for a lifetime of contribution to the community with the title of Elder of the Year.

At 89 years old, John Denego has a lifetime of knowledge that he’s been sharing with his community for years.

“John never married or had children; therefore, he always helped people to make life easier and provided assistance to large families, widows and elders,” Lorraine MacDonald, band manager for Smith’s Landing First Nation, told *The Journal* in an email.

Born in 1924 in Fort Fitzgerald, Alta., Denego lived a traditional lifestyle, both hunting and fishing to make a living. In the late 1960s, he moved to Fort Smith and has called it home since.

Denego speaks fluent Chipewyan as his primary language.

Now retired and living at the Northern Lights



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Sihikal

Smith’s Landing First Nation councillor Agnes Cheezie presents 89 year-old John Denego of Fort Smith with the Elder of the Year award, recognizing a lifetime of contributions.

Special Care home in Fort Smith, Denego’s optimism and commitment to sharing traditional knowledge has not gone unnoticed by his band.

“John still gets around town with his wheelchair and continues to be happy and easygoing and never complains about his ailments,” MacDonald said.



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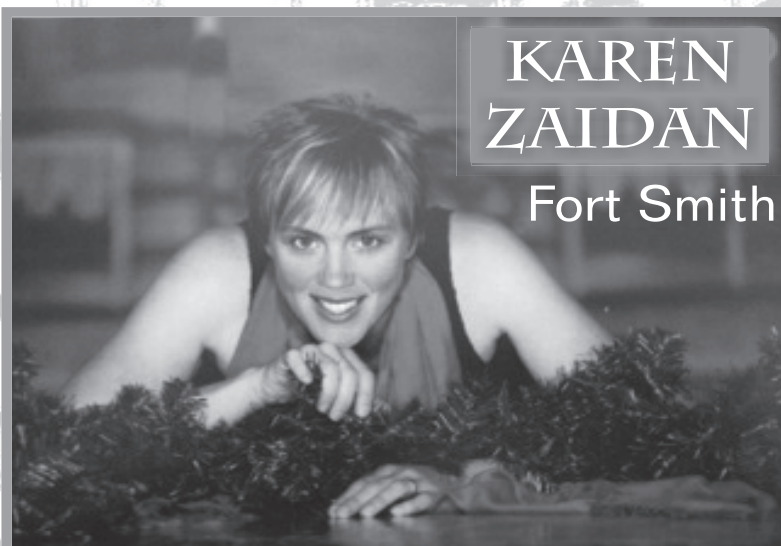
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Thursday, September 26 at 7:00pm

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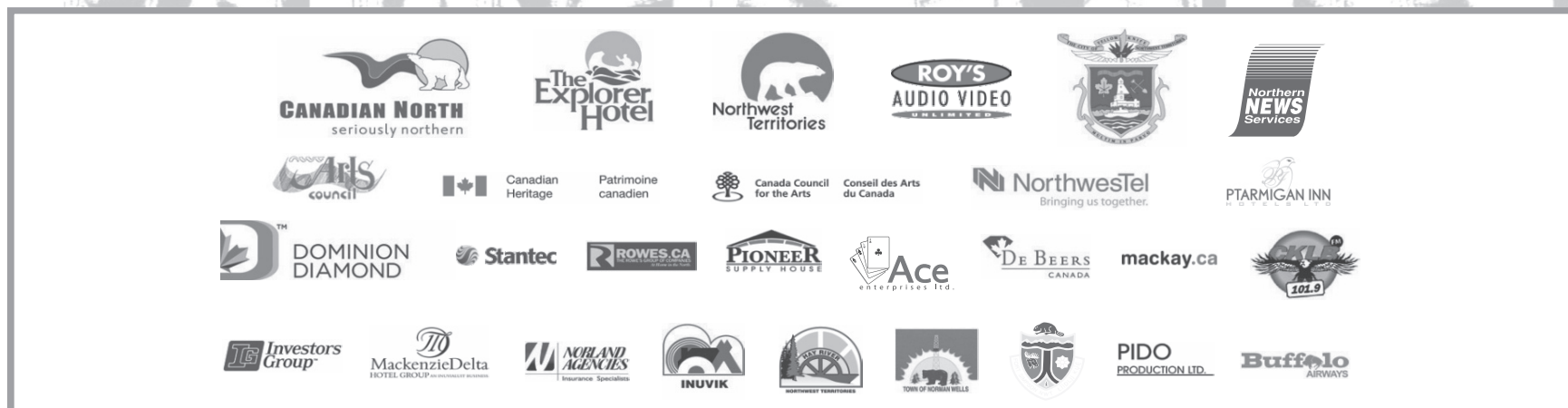
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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Zone 6 Winter Road
CT101345**

– Wrigley, NT –

Construction and maintenance of Highway 1 Winter Road from km 690 (Wrigley) to km 784.1 (Blackwater River).

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

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

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of September 10, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, September 19, 2013, Fort Simpson Regional Boardroom.

General inquiries to: Jacqueline Demers
Phone: (867) 695-7653

Technical inquiries to: John Suwala
Phone: (867) 695-7660

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

*For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca*



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Zone 5 Winter Road
CT101343**

– Déline and Tulita, NT –

Construction and maintenance of the Déline Winter Access Road, 106 km in length. Term of two years.

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

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

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of September 9, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 2:00 pm, September 19, 2013, Fort Simpson Regional Boardroom.

General inquiries to: Jacqueline Demers
Phone: (867) 695-7653

Technical inquiries to: John Suwala
Phone: (867) 695-7660

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

*For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca*



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Tsiigehtchic School
and Gymnasium Upgrade
CT101347**

– Tsiigehtchic, NT –

Upgrade the Tsiigehtchic school and gymnasium envelope with galvalume cladding and replace a portion of the gymnasium roof.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, Bag Service #1, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0 (delivered to the 3rd Floor GNWT Building, 106 Veterans Way), will be received until:

4:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013.

General inquiries to: Ann Lindsay
Contracts Administrator
Phone: (867) 777-7146
Fax: (867) 777-7109
E-mail ann_lindsay@gov.nt.ca

Technical inquiries to: Saifuddin Quazi
Project Officer
Phone: (867) 777-7391
Fax: (867) 777-7109
E-mail: saifudin_quazi@gov.nt.ca

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

*For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca*



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Zone 8 Ice Bridges
CT101344**

– Tulita, NT –

Construction and maintenance of the Highway 1 Ice Bridges crossing the Mackenzie River from Tulita at km 936 to km 943, two year term.

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

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

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of September 9, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 1:00 pm, September 19, 2013, Fort Simpson Regional Boardroom.

General inquiries to: Jacqueline Demers
Phone: (867) 695-7653

Technical inquiries to: John Suwala
Phone: (867) 695-7660

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

*For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca*

LEGAL NOTICE

TO AMBER MARTEN

TAKE NOTICE THAT Civil Claim No. 1202000180 was issued in The Provincial Court of Alberta, Civil Division by Syncrude Canada Ltd. of the City of Fort McMurray in the Province of Alberta claiming the sum of \$2,069.12, plus interest and costs.

If you dispute the Plaintiff's claim, you are required to file a Dispute Note within 20 days of the publication of this Notice. A copy of the Civil Claim and Dispute Note may be obtained from the Clerk of the Provincial Court, Civil Division, 9700 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta.

*Dated at Fort McMurray, Alberta
the 6th day of September, 2013.*

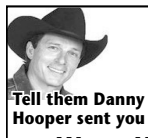
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Town of Fort Smith Water Plant Operator I

The Town of Fort Smith is seeking to fill two full time Water Plant Operator I positions to assist with the operation and regular maintenance of the Water Treatment Plant, Water Distribution System, Wastewater Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Qualifications: A Grade 12 or equivalent education, Level 1 Water Treatment Certification or related training would be an asset. Applicants must possess a valid NWT driver's license and air brake endorsement would be considered an asset.

The deadline to submit applications is September 20, 2013, 3 pm local time. The job description is available at www.fortsmith.ca. Please submit applications to:

Keith Morrison

Director of Municipal Services

Town of Fort Smith

Box 147, 174 McDougall Road

Fort Smith NT X0E 0P0

Phone: 872-8400 / Fax: 872-8401

Email: kmorrison@fortsmith.ca

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Government of the Northwest Territories

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

Relief Corrections Officer

Justice

Fort Smith, NT

Fort Smith Correctional Complex

Eight Relief Positions

Limited to candidates residing within a 25 km radius of Fort Smith.

Salary starts at \$35.21 per hour, plus a Northern Allowance of \$3.62 per hour.

Job Opening ID#: 10880 Closing Date: September 27, 2013

► **Apply Online:** www.gnwtjobs.ca

Inquiries Only: Fort Smith Human Resource Service Centre, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca

Apprentice Carpenter

Public Works and Services

Hay River, NT

Four Year Term Position

Salary starts at \$19.64 per hour (approximately \$40,851 per annum which represents 60% of Pay Level 11), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$5,410.

Job Opening ID#: 10858 Closing Date: September 20, 2013

► **Apply Online:** www.gnwtjobs.ca

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

• Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.

• The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require support, you are encouraged to identify your needs if you are contacted for an interview or assignment, so that you may be accommodated.

• Equivalencies may be considered.

• Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.

• Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.





Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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Yellowknife, TNO

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N° du concours : 10730 Date limite : 24 septembre 2013

► **Posez votre candidature en ligne au :** www.gnwtjobs.ca

Utilisez les coordonnées suivantes uniquement pour nous faire parvenir vos questions : Ministère des Ressources humaines, Services de gestion et de recrutement, Édifice Laing, 2^e étage, C. P. 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9. Fax : 867-873-0281; courriel : jobsyk@gov.nt.ca

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• Nous établirons une liste de candidats admissibles à partir de ce concours afin de pourvoir des postes semblables à durée déterminée ou indéterminée.

• Un certificat de santé et la vérification du casier judiciaire sont des conditions préalables pour certains postes.





South Slave Divisional Education Council

Special Needs Assistant

JBT Elementary School

Fort Smith, NT

Part-Time Term Position to June 30, 2014 (17.5 hours per week)

Limited to candidates residing within 25 km of Fort Smith. Salary starts at \$29.44 per hour, plus a Northern Allowance of \$3.62 per hour.

Job Opening ID #: 10877 Closing Date: September 27, 2013

Apply Online: www.gnwtjobs.ca

Inquiries Only: Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca

• Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.

• The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require support, you are encouraged to identify your needs if you are contacted for an interview or assignment, so that you may be accommodated.

• Equivalencies may be considered.

• Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.

• Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.

• For copies of the job description please visit www.gnwtjobs.ca





Government of the Northwest Territories

For copies of the job description please visit www.gnwtjobs.ca

Advisor, French Language Services

Human Resources

Yellowknife, NT

Human Resources Strategy and Policy

Indeterminate

Salary ranges from \$46.30 to \$55.28 per hour (approximately \$90,285 to \$107,796 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$3,450.

Job Opening: 10730 Closing Date: September 24, 2013

► **Apply Online:** www.gnwtjobs.ca

Inquiries Only: Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, P.O. Box 1320, Laing Building 2nd Floor, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9 Fax: 867-873-0281, E-mail: jobsyk@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.

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Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Astronomer completes Dark Sky mission in NWT

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

An award-winning science journalist, night sky photographer and overall adventurer has wrapped up his mission to shoot all of Canada’s Dark Sky preserves with a stop in Wood Buffalo National Park last week.

Peter McMahon, a columnist for *Sky News* - the Canadian magazine of astronomy and stargazing - set up his tripod for the first time in the Northwest Territories to capture the twinkling northern lights for a feature on the world’s newest and largest Dark Sky Preserve, designated just this August by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

“Ironically, this is sort of the last step in rendering me not a massive poser in terms of what I do because I’d never been to the North before and it’s dark,” McMahon, also a children’s author and the former online producer for Discovery Channel Canada, told *The Journal*. “I’d been in Yukon in the summer but never the NWT. It’s beautiful. I was just blown away by my first night out at the Salt Plains shooting the sky.”

McMahon, who has spent the last two years exploring the country’s dark sky preserves from Nova Scotia to Alberta for his column,



Peter McMahon gazes at a band of aurora borealis illuminating the Salt Plains in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Photo: Peter McMahon

presented a collection of his photos to interested members of the public last Wednesday evening in Fort Smith.

“You have such a resource in Fort Smith. When you go and look up at the sky from anywhere here, you are viewing an endangered ecosystem,” he told a packed room at the Parks Canada office, referring to the growing problem of light pollution. “As someone from Ontario, I’ve seen the northern lights but

very rarely do you get the solid curtains and pillars of aurora that I saw here. You get a glow if you’re lucky.”

According to McMahon, Canada is a world leader in dark skies.

“Canada has almost 20 (preserves) and there’s maybe about 35 in the world...When I found that out a few years ago, I was very heartened by it because I’ve always been a fan of the night sky and popularizing astronomy,” he said.

McMahon’s breathtaking photos use a variety of lens and camera settings to showcase snapshots such as a vast Milky Way in New Brunswick’s Mount Carleton Provincial Park - what McMahon said was probably the darkest spot in the Maritimes - and a bejewelled shot of the heavens in Quebec’s Mont-Mégantic National Park where McMahon saw over 2,000 meteors fall over a mere two days.

A shot from Nova Scotia’s historic St. John’s Anglican Church in Lunenburg was one of the most interesting images to the public as McMahon described it as a 250 year-old planetarium.

“There are stars on the ceiling of this church - which has been restored basically from scratch after a fire - that show the sky as it would have looked from Lunenburg on the night of the first Christmas,” McMahon said in his

presentation, followed by a series of impressed gasps from the group.

Other photographs highlighted nebulas, shown as purple-tinged clusters of stars, elegant bird shadows plastered against a vibrant capture of the transit of Venus from Point Pelee National Park, or a misty bright spot that McMahon pointed out as the Andromeda Galaxy, 2.5 million light-years from Earth.

A two to three-page spread about Wood Buffalo National Park along with three or four photos of the illuminated night sky will be featured in *Sky News*, plus details about Fort Smith and all its amenities from dining to accommodations sometime in mid to late 2014, McMahon said.

“As far as I know, I’m the world’s only astronomy food critic,” he joked. “This was the place with the best donair pizza by far, by the way.”

McMahon called Fort Smith and the surrounding park the “surprise” of his entire Dark Sky Preserve tour across the country.

“What an amazing community...It was spectacular, as you can see by the photos, and more than what I was expecting.”

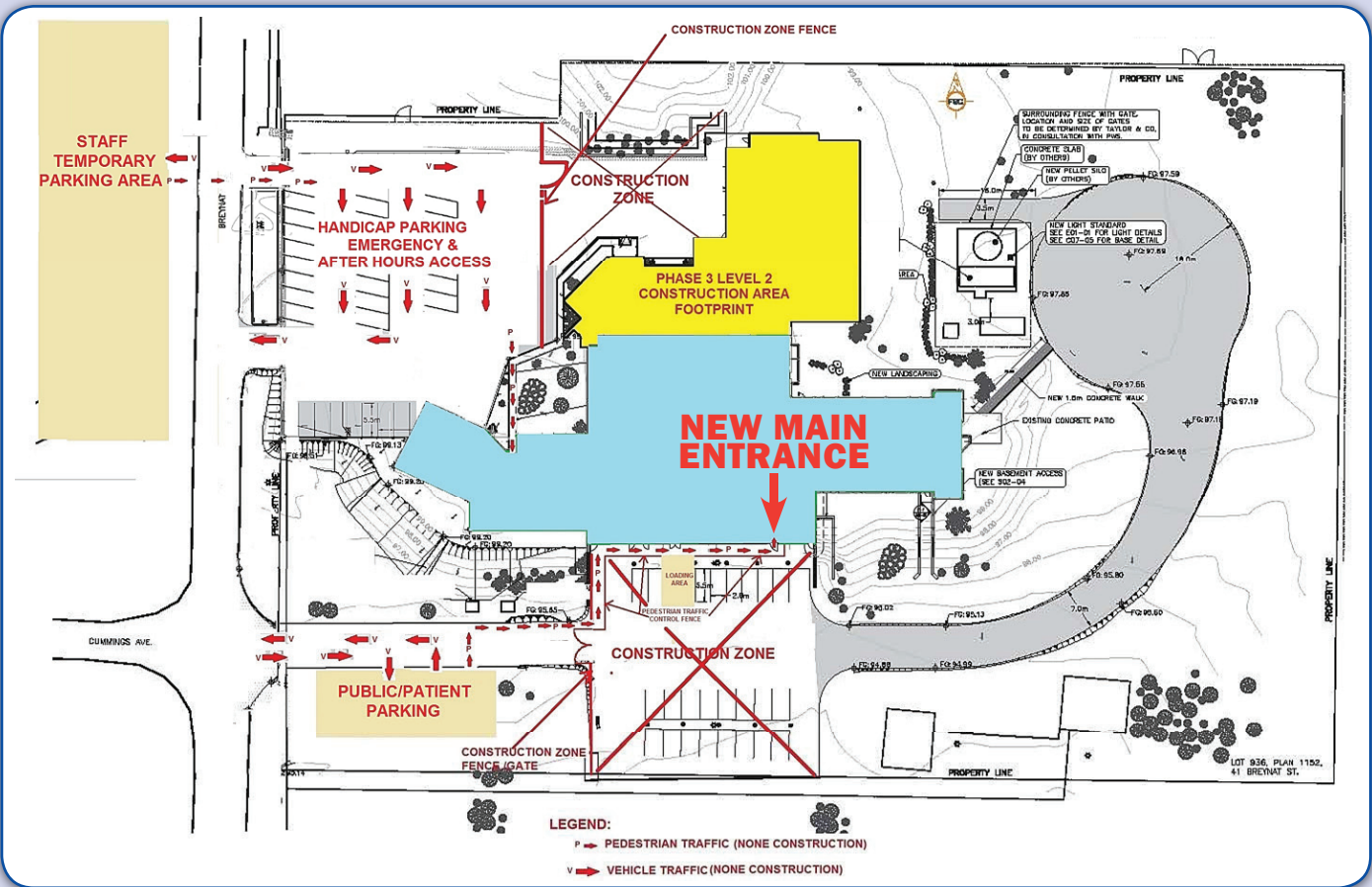
Fort Smith Health Centre Main Entrance is Changing



Effective September 16, the **NEW MAIN ENTRANCE** will be located on the south side of the building and Reception Services will be available at this NEW Main Entrance.

A **NEW PUBLIC PARKING LOT** will be located on the south side of the Health Centre. The current Main Entrance (through tunnel) will be closed September 16 for renovations.

The **NEW Main Entrance** is a temporary entrance until renovations are completed.



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