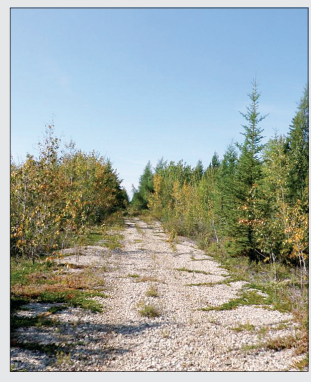


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On the Business Beat: Check inside for our special pull-out Small Business Week section. *See pages 9-15.*



Contaminant levels high on Pine Point railbed
A recent federal study shows levels of zinc and lead are a cause for concern along the railbed and warrant further research. *See page 3.*



Liquor bust in Tulita telling for Sahtu MLA
Norman Yakeleya says a recent liquor bust re-emphasizes the need for reinstating restrictions on liquor purchases in Norman Wells. *See page 7.*



'No fracking way,' protestors tell GNWT
In solidarity with the Global Frackdown, anti-fracking protestors took to the streets of Yellowknife to oppose recent projects. *See page 8.*



Serious play time at Fort Smith volleyball tourny
The annual Lawrie Hobart Memorial volleyball tournament in Fort Smith saw 44 NWT teams duke it out for the top titles. *See page 22.*

NORTHERN Journal

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Lego artist AJ Lawrance of Yellowknife, 11, shows off one of his castle creations at the second annual Ptarmicon comics and gaming convention in Yellowknife on Saturday. Around 600 people attended the one-day entertainment event at Sir John Franklin High School. *See page 21 for more.*

NWT seeks higher borrowing limit for 'legacy' hydro intertie

Grid expansion to include spur to mines, tie to Saskatchewan

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
With a current federal borrowing limit of \$800 million and a projected cost to link the territory's two key hydro systems set at around \$700 million, the government of the Northwest Territories is hoping the federal department of Finance will raise its debt ceiling to allow the NWT to move forward with a piece of "territory-building" infrastructure.

"We're talking legacy infrastructure that's going to last and be there for decades to come," NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger said last week. "It will never get any cheaper, which is why we're working so hard to get an agreement with the federal government to allow us to make those investments, because once we do that, the benefit to communities with a reasonable, affordable price of energy is

going to be dramatic. Without it, we're stuck." The territorial government plans to link the Snare hydro grid with the Taltson system by way of a 900-km transmission line shooting around the west side of Great Slave Lake, down the highway and across the new Deh Cho Bridge out to Taltson, with a potential added intertie to Saskatchewan. The grid expansion will include a spur north to the

diamond mines, meant to extend the lifespan of Rio Tinto's Diavik mine, Harry Winston's Ekati and both De Beers' operational Snap Lake and new Gahcho Kue mines. The new transmission line is also intended to supply power to metal and rare earth mineral mines, both in the North and South Slave regions, and will link several thermal communities to the hydro grid along the

way, including Kakisa and Fort Providence. A new substation built in the South Slave will eventually hook up Trout Lake, Fort Simpson and Jean Marie River to the grid, as well. While the technical plan should pose no problems, Miltenberger said the success of the project going forward hinges on the flexibility of Ottawa. *See Grid on page 3.*

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GNWT charged with exposing workers to asbestos at Heritage Centre

Zoltan Kalnay, a supervisor with the department of Public Works and Services, is being charged along with his department and the department of Education, Culture and Employment, for failing to prevent the release of asbestos at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. According to a copy of the charges, workers were exposed to the hazardous material in the boiler room of the centre. The charges have been laid by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Committee under the NWT Safety Act. Parties will appear in territorial court on Nov. 18.

Fort Simpson firefighter singled out for NWT merit award

Scott Whitmore from the Fort Simpson Fire Department was recognized for his work keeping families and homes safe from the threat of fire at the annual Fire Service Merit Awards. The awards, based on nominations from community members and fire chiefs in the NWT, are announced during Fire Prevention Week to highlight the importance of fire safety. The Yellowknife Fire Department and Hay River Fire Department also received awards.

Canadian Rangers train in Yellowknife

Around 150 Canadian Rangers, Junior Canadian Rangers leaders and 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group staff from the NWT came together in Yellowknife last weekend to pass on guidance to all the patrols, exchange ideas and plan for future training at their annual leadership training event. The event was held over two days at the Joint Task Force Headquarters in Yellowknife. Exercises focused on uniting leadership and standardizing techniques and communications. The 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group has over 1,850 Rangers in 60 patrols across the three territories and Atlin, BC.

NWT residents demand more money for Heritage Fund

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A higher percentage of resource royalties garnered after devolution should be put into the Heritage Fund to ensure future generations also benefit from the one-time extraction of non-renewable resources in the NWT, according to residents attending the government's second round of budget consultations last week in Fort Smith.

Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger was in his home constituency last Tuesday to pitch residents his proposal for using the revenues the territory stands to gain following the devolution effective date of Apr. 1, 2014.

After devolution, the NWT will be able to keep 50 per cent of resource revenues from industry in the territory.

Miltenberger's plan is to allocate five per cent of the remaining royalties - a maximum of around \$52 million after a quarter goes to Aboriginal governments - to the recently established Heritage Fund, with the rest going towards paying down debt and investing in infrastructure.

None of the resource revenues will be allocated towards programs and services, for



Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger shares his plans for the NWT's resource revenues with residents in Fort Smith. Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

which the government pays \$1.4 billion annually out of federal transfer payments.

"The position that I'm taking is it would be an absolute fatal mistake to put that money that is tied to the ups and downs of resource development into programs and services. It would be gone in a heartbeat and we'd still be left with our huge infrastructure deficits," Miltenberger said.

'Five per cent not enough'

With the largest turnout so far on the budget consultation tour, which has visited Behchoko, Fort Simpson and Hay River already this month, a dozen Fort Smith residents told Miltenberger that while they agree the money should not go into programs and services, his plan does not provide enough financial security for the future.

"If you only go with five per cent, you're not really satisfying the intended goal of what the Heritage Fund is for," resident John Blyth told the minister. "You only get to develop the resource once, so you're developing this resource in a way so that future generations who don't get the opportunity to develop that resource can still expect a similar level of service."

At present, the GNWT is "well below" the \$70-million projected cap on resource royalties, a number dependent on the territory's capital expenditures. According to the department of Finance, the five-year average would be closer to \$42 million.

With five per cent - or \$2.1 million - going into the Heritage Fund each year, plus compound interest, the NWT would be looking at a total of around \$65 million saved up in the 20 years it is to go untouched. The fund's current balance is just over \$500,000.

Blyth, along with the

majority of residents in the room, said they'd like to see a number closer to 20 or 25 per cent going into the Heritage Fund, modelled on other successful jurisdictions like Norway, which puts 100 per cent of its resource revenues - both from royalties and taxes - into its fund, and Alaska, which puts away 25 per cent.

A recent report from the Fraser Institute criticizing Alberta's heritage fund model - which also receives five per cent of resource royalties a year - argued that the percentage of contributions to the fund is "the most important" factor in explaining the poor performance of Alberta's fund compared to that of Norway's or Alaska's. Though the minister said the number could be revisited in the future, resident Adam Bathe worried that the amount would be harder to change once it's locked down.

"I would start off with it higher because I think it will be more politically difficult to raise it in the future, even if it's to six or seven per cent. I would make it as high as possible," Bathe said.

While Miltenberger said Norway's fund - currently worth over \$730 billion - is obviously the one to emulate, he said anything above five per cent a year will likely be a tough political sell, considering it took him four years to get the Heritage Fund established.

"There are some folks who would like to see us spend all the money because we need it all today - we can use it all tomorrow. The idea of putting it all into the Heritage Fund would not have support, I don't think, from anybody because we have all these other needs we're trying to meet. So the five per cent was a position we put forward as a good starting point. We anticipate there's

going to be debate about if it's enough," Miltenberger said. "There's nothing to say it can't be revisited if there's an upswing in the economy."

He added that paying down the territory's debt and building legacy infrastructure projects, such as the \$85-million fibre optic line and \$700-million Snare-Taltson hydro intertie, will also benefit future generations.

The territory currently has a \$3-billion infrastructure debt.

Royalty rates, taxes to be reviewed

The current royalty rate for mining operations in the NWT starts at 13.5 per cent of profits and moves up to 14 per cent for profits over \$40 million.

While the federal government is maintaining ownership of the "Norman Wells proven area" for oil and gas development after devolution, Miltenberger said the GNWT will still get royalties for Sahtu petroleum extraction.

Offshore oil development is yet to be negotiated.

Tax rates for large corporations are around the national average of 11.5 per cent.

Though corporate taxes will not contribute to the NWT's Heritage Fund like in Norway, Miltenberger said that is a possibility that could be reviewed in the future, keeping in mind that corporations are "fickle" and try to avoid filing their taxes in jurisdictions with higher rates.

"We're not rushing out to put additional taxes on anybody...but after Apr. 1, we will be having a discussion on the structure of our resource economy," he told *The Journal*.

The next resource revenue consultations will be held in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Norman Wells between Oct. 28 and Nov. 13.

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High levels of metals found on old Pine Point railbed

More research needed to understand possible health impacts

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Elevated levels of lead and zinc present in and around the old railbed from Hay River to the defunct Pine Point mine site could be cause for concern, according to federal scientists with the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC).

A recent study looking into the presence of metals and hydrocarbon contaminants along the historic rail line shows heightened levels of both lead and zinc at around 200 sites stringing the 70-km stretch, with some areas presenting levels far exceeding industrial guidelines.

According to project manager Emma Pike, who works in AANDC's contaminants and remediation division, the elevated levels raise concerns and warrant further research into possible health and environmental impacts next summer.

"What we haven't done yet is to look at what that means: is this metal bioavailable or is it kind of bound within the material? Is it a risk to people? We don't know that yet. That will be the next stage," she said. "It definitely is something



Environmental consultants take soil samples at a site adjacent to the defunct Pine Point mine railbed.

that raised concern at the site, and therefore we'll be putting in the proposal to do the third phase next summer."

Zinc has shown up as the primary concern in samples taken from the top 30 cm of soil, with an average level of over 2,700

parts per million (ppm) - eight times the industry standard of 360 ppm.

Lead, too, exhibited an elevated presence in the area with a mean concentration of 570 ppm. Though just under the industry guide of 600 ppm, the

average indicates many sites are above acceptable levels.

Initial testing of water in ponds adjacent to the railbed, at seven river crossings and at several lakes showed generally "very good" surface water quality, Pike said.

"The metal levels were not elevated within those water bodies. We did find, however, that there were some elevated metal concentrations in the sediment immediately adjacent to the railbed."

Along with metals, the study also looked into the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) along the rail bed. Those were primarily found to be a concern, albeit a small one, around old bridges, totaling about 25 cubic metres of contaminated soil.

"Some of the old river crossings, the abutments that were used to support the bridges, used creosote-treated timber," Pike said. "What we're finding is very localized hydrocarbon impact around those abutments. So it's a pretty minor issue, but one that's on our radar."

Another smaller issue is that of lead-based paint on the old bridge across the Buffalo River, which Pike said would

have to be considered in the final remediation plan.

The rail line between Hay River and Pine Point operated for about 25 years when it was decommissioned in the mid-1990s following the mine's closure in 1988.

The infrastructure was removed and erosion control measures put in place by CN Rail, after which the land was relinquished to the federal government, which began looking into contaminants following recent interest in the railway expressed by mining companies eyeing up the Pine Point site.

When initial testing revealed elevated levels of the metals, a more thorough assessment was launched.

Scientists made a point of focusing on sites identified by the nearby communities or through historic documentation as particular areas of concern, such as places where train cars derailed or spilled, or where there were signs of issues, like ground staining or unusual features like stressed vegetation.

Pike said the presence of contaminants along the railbed is likely the product of dust that had blown off cars during transport from the mine.

"We anticipate that was the result of uncovered railcars leaving dust on the soil. It's what we call 'fugitive dust'; it would have just blown out of the railcars and landed on the railbed," she said.

"There's likely dust impacts as you head away from the railbed, but it seems to be what you would expect from dust deposition - concentrated on the railbed and as you move away, you'll find a lower and lower value."

Pike said the findings from next summer's sampling will determine what course of remediation will take with respect to the site. Results are expected sometime in 2015.

"We would look at all options based on the risk level," she said. "If the remediation is more along the lines of a risk management approach, where it's perhaps not done in phases, then we might continue monitoring for a longer period of time. If the remediation is more along the lines of removing certain hotspots or certain areas of higher contamination, then it just might be a short-term monitoring situation until we know the risk is mitigated."



The Taltson dam expansion project will likely move forward once the hydro grids are linked, according to Michael Miltenberger, minister responsible for the NT Power Corp.

Grid connection would see Taltson expansion

Continued from page 1.

"The technical case is not the problem; we know it can be built," said the minister, who is also responsible for the NWT Power Corp. "With the business case, we have to convince Ottawa that we're a mature enough jurisdiction, that we have a very good credit rating, that we're recognized as being well run, that we're fiscally prudent."

Federal Finance spokesperson David Barnabe said he wouldn't be able to speculate on whether or not the department would consider raising the borrowing limit.

Miltenberger said the diamond mines have already indicated they would connect to the grid in a heartbeat if

it was available, and would build their own lines the 100-km distance to meet the new spur, as one year of extended mine life is worth over \$250 million.

An expanded grid would also logically lead to the long awaited Taltson hydro expansion, originally proposed to power the diamond mines via a single line north, Miltenberger said. Companies that balked at the price of power from the Taltson, along with new companies that could come aboard with a Saskatchewan intertie, will now require the added power, which would come at a lower price.

"We want to bring the power to where development

will be happening so that we can promote development. There's a potential for nine new mines in the Northwest Territories by 2020 and every one of them wants cheaper power," Premier Bob McLeod said in the House on the first day of fall session last Thursday.

"We're also talking with our colleagues south of us, Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC, who are very interested in power. For example Saskatchewan - to tie into Taltson it's only 119 km away. So we'd only need to build a transmission line of that magnitude."

Neither McLeod nor Miltenberger gave a cost estimate for the potential Saskatchewan intertie.

Foster Family Appreciation Week

October 20 - 26, 2013

To Fort Smith Foster Families

The Social Services staff at the Fort Smith Health & Social Services Authority would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the foster families in Fort Smith who provide day-to-day care to children. As a foster parent, you are an integral part of our Social Work Team and your services play a significant role in keeping children safe. Your willingness to open your homes and hearts to families and children in need is greatly appreciated. It is with the excellent support and care given by people like yourselves that children in our community are able to remain safe and secure.

Thank you.

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

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



The Northern Journal is available in the following NWT communities:

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Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
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Risk, maybe reward for entrepreneur

Running a small business offers the freedom to be your own boss, independence many people live for and thrive on. It can also be a cruel master if things do not go your way, and the pitfalls are many.

Survival of the fittest (smartest, most capable, hardworking and, yes, lucky) prevails for the small-scale entrepreneur. Any mistakes or poor decisions are borne by the maker, often with painful financial consequences. That is incentive to learn, and quickly.

Like so many things in these fast-changing times, new challenges constantly emerge threatening the future of all small business. Big box stores and the internet are the latest. Many victims litter the economic roadside. Yet small businesses are still a massive job-making machine, providing the stable foundation so essential to our national economy and offering valuable services that enhance all our lives.

Are you interested in starting or running a small business? The good news is that in our free market economy there are those who succeed, even earn substantive financial rewards in their lifetime. In a few cases, an entrepreneur's income and savings can even top that of government workers.

The bad news is most do not and the undertaking is a lifelong struggle. A labour of love, yes, but the rewards can be minimal. Too few enjoy markets where their products and services are sought after and the return for their hard work and risk provides a serious income. The chance of selling the business after decades to provide a nest-egg for retirement equivalent to a government pension is slim to none.

Add to that problems such as shoplifting, employee theft and break-ins that make that life of freedom more than a bit stressful. Operating in the remote North, the high

cost of freight, problems with suppliers and the challenge to remain current are constant. Finding good employees is always a challenge and the good ones often move on after being trained to better paying government jobs. Then there are the vagaries of the marketplace, such as fluctuating interest rates, inflation, recession and so on, all factored into the the small business bottom line.

The biggest challenge for many small businesses operating in the North is dealing with government, the dominant force in the economy. It cycles through dramatic changes in purchasing (a belt-tightening phase is due soon!) and often grows its own internal services that compete with, or even freeze out, small businesses, with no concern for cost. It also lacks consistency, flipping and flopping in different directions. It is like sleeping with an elephant - you never know when it will roll over and squish you. The GNWT once attempted to leverage its buying power to encourage the growth of small business, but its business incentive policy is outdated and flawed. Worse still, many in government arbitrarily ignore the policy. Bypassing legitimate Northern businesses and going direct to southern suppliers is all too common. Unfortunately, there appears to be no political will to do anything about that.

Some government agencies intentionally ignore local preference and go straight to the south for their needs. There are several, but Aurora College is one that stands out. In the business of training and educating people to work in the Northern economy but does not support the Northern economy? Figure that one out.

Our advice: If you want to start a small business, you had better be both smart and

lucky and be prepared to work long and hard, often for minimal rewards. We suggest you stay small so you depend on the fewest possible employees and try hard not to offer services that depend on any level of government as a client. Otherwise, good luck with your venture!

Sounds pretty dire doesn't it? Well in fact, the situation for small businesses is not good, particularly in the NWT. The fact is tacitly ignored, especially by government and unions; large corporations just don't care; and the public, well, they are too busy trying to save their hard earned money in whatever ways they can.

Not only do most small businesses struggle on multiple fronts while only a few thrive, but the situation is not great for their employees either. All those jobs created by small businesses are typically at wages well below that of a government worker. Consider that a roofing company, plumbing and heating company or grocery store pays lower wages to its staff than what the typical summer student makes working for the government - and we all know who has more skills and works the hardest. Workers who build our homes, seal them to keep the rain out and heat them so they are warm and cozy, and others who provide services we all need to live well, usually earn wages that are too low because the small companies they work for can only afford that much. That is a reality. There is something badly skewed in all that.

The predictable outcome is that over time there will be fewer and fewer small businesses, and the important services they offer will become more and more scarce. That is happening now, slowly. We are all becoming worse off for it. The system fostering that is flawed. It must be fixed.



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Lucy Bourke prepares dry meat for smoking at her home in Fort Smith.

THE NORTHERN JOURNAL'S Unanswered Question of the Week



THE TOPIC

The GNWT wants the federal government to raise its debt ceiling.



THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION

(posed to David Barnabe, Finance Canada)
Would the federal government be prepared to consider raising the NWT's borrowing limit?



THE ANSWER

We refuse to speculate on the matter.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

BHP kicks off its production season

BHP Billiton's Ekati diamond mine opened for production last week, becoming one of the world's 15th largest diamond mines.

The mine is expected to have a 25-year lifespan and during that time the company estimates they will contribute over \$6 billion to the Gross Domestic Product of Canada.

Issue: October 20, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Regional teachers attend Smith conference

Over 180 teachers and staff are expected to attend a conference to deal with regional education in the NWT.

Phylis Crosson, chair of the conference, said participants will be working in teams to create a new assessment policy to judge how and what students across the region are learning in school.

Issue: October 20, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Oil subsidy program extended

The home heating oil subsidy program developed by the federal government and administered by the government of the NWT has been extended to March 1984.

Territorial residents living outside of Yellowknife, who pay more for their home heating oil than the city rate, could be eligible for a subsidy under this program, which began in April 1980.

Issue: October 20, 1983

Comforting your crying baby

Your baby’s cry is your baby’s language. It’s your baby’s way of communicating with you.

What is your baby trying to tell you? It can be a challenge to figure out what your baby’s cries mean, especially when you are first getting to know your baby.

Here are some common reasons why babies cry: hunger; needs a diaper change; tired; needs cuddling; gas; needs to burp; too hot or cold; bored.

Responding quickly lets a baby know it can trust and depend on you. It also promotes healthy attachment.

You cannot spoil your baby by picking her up when she is crying. Research has shown that responding to your baby creates secure attachment, which means less crying!

Babies who are picked up and comforted consistently in their first six months tend to cry less in the next six months.

Here are some ways to comfort and soothe your crying baby:

- Skin-to-skin contact
- Feed your baby
- Move with your baby by walking or gently rocking
- Snuggle your baby close
- Change your baby’s diaper
- Make sure your baby is comfortable
- Sing softly to your baby or play relaxing music
- Entertain your baby by whistling, making sounds and smiling
- Create sounds that remind your baby of the womb: turn on a fan or hold your baby close to your chest so your baby can hear your heart beat
- Take a ride in the stroller or car

What should you do if your baby is still crying? When this happens, it’s normal to feel worried, sad or frustrated. It is important to have a plan to calm yourself when your baby can’t stop crying.

Here are some things you can do to calm yourself:

- Take a break: Put baby in her crib and leave the room for a few minutes and then try again

- Call a friend or relative for support
 - Close your eyes and take deep breaths
 - Try not to take it personally
 - Never shake your baby
- Shaking your baby can cause brain damage such as blindness, paralysis, learning disabilities and can even be fatal. Remember, it’s okay to ask for help.

Does crying it out really work? Is this a myth or fact?

When you let your baby cry it out, you are sending her the message that she cannot depend on you. Therefore, your baby has to work harder to get your attention and her

cries may become louder and more intense.

For more information and for help anytime day or night call Health Link Alberta toll-free at 1-866-408-LINK (5465).

Visit <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/health/pages/conditions.aspx?hwld=crybb>.

To find out about more topics like these and about parenting programs in your area, go to www.albertahealthservices.ca.

Kristie Rosenthal and
Erica Rietveld
Healthy Families Home
Visitation Program
Alberta Health Services

CORRECTION

In “Festival hands out first awards to Northern filmmakers,” published in the Oct. 8, 2013 issue, it was incorrectly stated that *Mila* won as best short. In fact, Walter Woodman and Patrick Cederberg’s film *Noah* won the best short film category. *The Journal* apologizes for this error.



My mom sits up front with the pilot; this is his first trip into Fort Norman. Dad is stuffed into the back with four wide-eyed and frozen kids. Bear Rock is a “mountain” located at the confluence of Deh Cho (the Mackenzie River) and Sahtu Deh (the Bear River). It is a sacred mountain, which is the home of the legend of Yamoria, a monument that announces you will be landing in the village of Fort Norman within minutes. It is also an area of great wind shears. Senior pilots know to give Bear Rock a wide berth. Our pilot is new; he is not aware of this danger.

In front of us is the mountain. The sinewy fingers of the Giant Beavers of Yamoria fame clench suddenly over our plane and hurl us

White Girl (Part 4) The Beginning: New Year’s Eve 1965

toward the ragged river ice. Our plane plunges and dives toward a cruel and sudden death on the mighty Mackenzie River. Engine screaming, my mom is screaming, I can’t hear her, her mouth is open in terror but I can only hear the screaming of the plane engine as we plummet.

My mom is beside the pilot and has a front row seat as our plane is driven hard toward jagged ice. We are pushed into each other and lumped up against the back of her seat and the pilots. I look away from her and can see nothing through the windshield but huge shards of ice and hard packed snow. Point zero is coming up fast!

Suddenly our pilot takes command of his plane, and with a roar the nose of the plane is righted! In a drama that only real life can present we are hurtling skyward in our little rocket ship, wings tipping wildly as our pilot

fight to control our tiny plane. A few more seconds and we would have been dashed into bits of raven bait on the frozen Mackenzie.

“Wow, what a ride, that was pretty crazy!” My mom’s face matches the snow. We will relive this adventure for days to come; I maintain a fear of flying to this day. “Did you feel your tummy come into your mouth?” “We were gonna smash into the ice!” “Our guts would be everywhere!” “Do you think it would hurt when we crashed down?” I am glad that we won’t be flying outside for awhile.

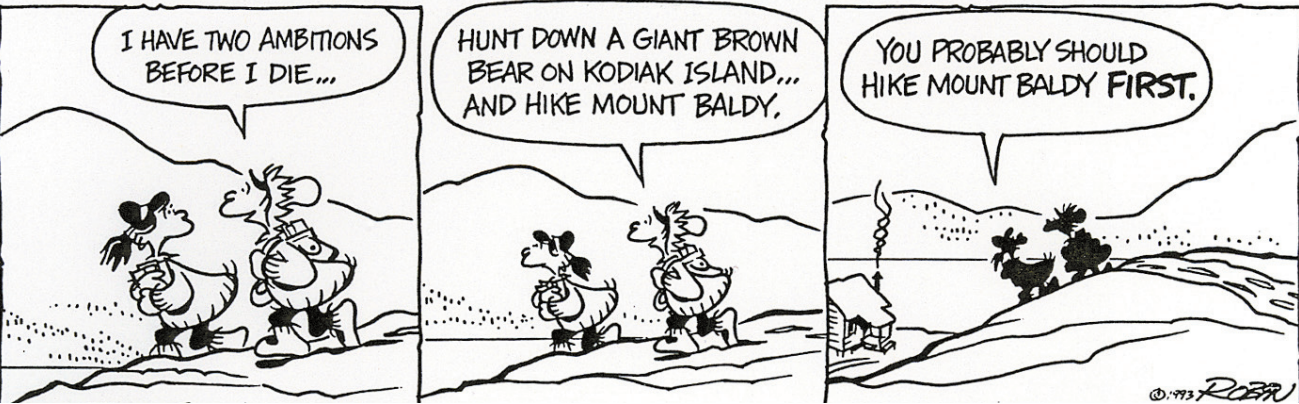
A bombardier arrives to pick us up at the “airport” in Fort Norman. The airport is a simple gravel and snow runway with no outbuildings. It is cleared when needed by an old D-4 cat. Bart Hawkins is a member of the welcoming committee; I think he must be a giant. He is bundled up in traditional RCMP winter

garb; his fur hat completes the picture. With a huge smile, he welcomes us to Fort Norman. He picks me up like I am a feather and puts me inside of this dark metal box that runs on tracks over the snow.

The future chief of Fort Norman, Paul Baton ushers my brothers in, in much the same way. Kurtis, the baby, is handed to me for safekeeping; I am his seatbelt. With a wild lurch, the tracks break free of the snow they have already frozen to and we are off. Swaying and jerking, we climb snow banks and drop into gullies. Our breath freezes and creates a cloud inside of this ponderous tank; talk is limited. All concentration is used to maintain our position on the frozen benches that run along the sides of the bombardier, it is so very, very cold!

Stay tuned for Part 5 of 5 in the Northern Journal.

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

Researchers looked at levels of mercury in tern and gull eggs collected from two sites in northern Alberta, at Egg Island and Mamawi Lake near Fort Chipewyan, and one site in the southern part of the province in 2012.



Mercury rising in bird eggs near oilsands



Brandon Kikoak: If anyone is wondering why mercury is so deadly, watch this short video from the University of Calgary. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73XyJq9Z3-k>

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday	
-1 High	-3 Low
Thursday	
-5 High	-6 Low
Friday	
-4 High	-8 Low
Saturday	
-7 High	-9 Low

Norms: -8°C and -15°C Norms: -2°C and -7°C

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday	
2 High	1 Low
Thursday	
6 High	-1 Low
Friday	
4 High	-1 Low
Saturday	
1 High	-2 Low

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

Fort McKay pulls out of joint oilsands monitoring

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Citing a “frustrating and futile process” of attempting to have its concerns met, the Fort McKay First Nation withdrew from the Canada-Alberta Joint Oil Sands Monitoring (JOSM) program earlier this month.

The first to leave the process, the First Nation’s director of sustainability Alvaro Pinto told federal and provincial officials that Fort McKay would be pulling out after a year of attempting to have its own terms of reference on how to “effectively engage Fort McKay and other Aboriginal groups in the JOSM program” incorporated into the new monitoring program.

The First Nation had tried “to develop a meaningful process, which was then ignored and superseded by a process developed by Alberta and Canada,” Pinto wrote.

Complaints about the process began early for Fort McKay, after they were “explicitly denied” direct participation in the early scoping phase of the JOSM program, according to the letter.

Of key concern was Canada and Alberta’s decision to relegate First Nations and Métis concerns to a separate



Photo: Francois Paulette

Fort McKay First Nation became the first to pull out of the federal-provincial Joint Oil Sands Monitoring program earlier this month, claiming its requests have been ignored.

sub-table with other members of the Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC).

“We have repeatedly stated that the integration of TEK (traditional environmental knowledge) needs to be done in connection with Western science monitoring and not segregated into an add-on process,” Pinto said, adding that Fort McKay’s concerns extended beyond TEK into the areas of science and governance.

Monthly meetings of the ATC sub-table, whose arranged goal was to create a coordinated approach to addressing environmental subjects of interest, were frustrated due to “the evolving and uncoordinated development of JOSM by Alberta and Canada,” Pinto said, which was not communicated to the stakeholders.

Though Pinto said the First Nation was told by Alberta’s CEO of Environmental

Monitoring in July that its terms of reference - meant to address concerns around meaningful engagement with Aboriginal groups, the management of environmental monitoring data and connections between the regulatory and environmental arms of government - were accepted in full, a month later they were told his position had changed.

The First Nation has yet to receive a formal response outlining the reasons for the

rejection of its terms of reference. When a following meeting of the ATC sub-table with Alberta and Canada was not well attended by government officials, Pinto said First Nations walked out.

“These developments have seriously undermined our confidence that JOSM was being developed in a manner responsive to all stakeholders,” he said. “While we don’t expect that all of our proposals are met without discussion, we do expect timely discussion and reasonable dialog between parties.”

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) spokesperson Jason Maloney told *The Journal* the delay in approving Fort McKay’s terms of reference had to do with ESRD’s desire to consider the terms of reference supplied by all five ATC nations “in case there were similar items that could be looked at the same time.”

He said ESRD continues to support participation of all Aboriginal communities in the JOSM implementation plan.

“The input of all First Nations, including Fort McKay, is important in the responsible development and monitoring of our oilsands,” Maloney

said in an email. “Alberta and Canada remain interested in talking to Fort McKay about their concerns and their terms of reference and encourage them to rejoin us at the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring table.”

He said that the sub-table structure was created for First Nations in order to increase the effectiveness of discussions, not to segregate Aboriginal groups from other parts of the process.

“Having every single party around one table could result in unfocused discussions, less focus on priority issues and scheduling problems to get everyone there. The sub-table approach leverages existing practices,” he said.

“The sub-table approach is used out of respect for Aboriginal governments as it sets out that chief and minister endorse and set the high level direction for work. Recommendations from these sub-tables are part of the decision-making process, as it is in this case for the JOSM initiative.”

Pinto noted that the First Nation would be interested in rejoining in the future if changes in the relationship and process are made to reflect concerns outlined in the terms of reference.

Industry Mining

Mining slowdown hurts Northern economies *NWT to come out with ‘weakest’ regional economy in Canada 2013*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Lower commodity prices for minerals will hold back the previously “robust” economic growth in Canada’s North in 2013, but stronger growth is expected next year, according to a new report by the Conference Board of Canada released last Wednesday.

The autumn “Territorial Outlook” report, released at Canada’s North Summit in Whitehorse, forecasts that gross domestic products in the three territories will grow by a menial 0.5 per cent this year.

“A once-thriving mining sector is now re-evaluating development and exploration plans due to lower commodity prices and tight capital markets, which makes it difficult for mining companies to obtain financing,” Glen Hodgson, senior vice-president and chief economist with the Conference Board, said in a press release.

Real GDP is expected to bounce back next year, however, with a 3.2 per cent

The outlook beyond this year is more promising.

Conference Board of Canada

increase in 2014 and 4.2 per cent boost in 2015, based on a “favourable global demand for metals” that will highlight Canada and, particularly, the North over the next decade.

“The outlook beyond this year is more promising. Economic growth in the territories over the next few years is expected to easily outpace growth in most other Canadian regions,” Hodgson said.

The Northwest Territories will come out with the weakest regional economy in Canada this year, according to the report, with no real GDP growth, but those shortfalls are expected to be short-lived as new mines begin production. Growth is expected to rise by 1.3 per cent in 2014 and 2.5 per cent in 2015.

Yukon’s mining industry

saw both production and staffing cutbacks, with Victoria Gold delaying construction of its Eagle mine by a year. Yukon Zinc and Alexco Resource also both announced they were cutting production and laying off employees in the summer. The board predicts growth in the Yukon will be limited to 0.6 per cent in 2013, rising to 5.7 per cent next year.

Nunavut is facing the largest decline in spending on mineral exploration this year, which the board blames on lower production at the Meadowbank mine, limiting the territory’s growth to 1.6 per cent this year. Next year, however, GDP growth is predicted to reach 3.7 per cent with the development of Baffinland’s Mary River iron ore project.



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Tulita liquor bust reinforces need for restrictions: MLA

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Another major liquor and drug bust in the Sahtu community of Tulita over the Thanksgiving weekend reinforces the need for re-establishing liquor restrictions in neighbouring community and regional liquor retail hub Norman Wells, says Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya.

A loot of 75 “mickeys,” one 26-oz bottle and another 1-litre bottle of vodka and 12 tall cans (750 ml) of beer were seized on Saturday, Oct. 12.

Three individuals from Tulita have been charged under the GNWT Liquor Act and are scheduled to appear in Justice of the Peace court on Nov. 12, 2013.

Tulita liquor restrictions allow individuals to possess one 40-oz bottle of spirits, 12 regular-sized (355 ml) cans of beer and three mickeys (375 ml) in a 24-hour period.

The liquor is believed to have been purchased in Norman Wells, where liquor restrictions from the 1970s were removed after the town’s residents voted narrowly in favour of doing so in December 2011, causing controversy in the surrounding communities where people were not allowed to vote and limits on alcohol still apply.



RCMP seized a large amount of liquor intended for bootlegging in Tulita over the Thanksgiving weekend. MLA Norman Yakeleya said the bust supports a need for more liquor restrictions.

Yakeleya said the seizure lends support to the desire for reinstating restrictions on liquor purchases in Norman Wells, an issue brought forth in the Legislature in Bill 24, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act.

“It certainly reinforces our need to put some controls in our communities from a regional perspective,” he said. “(The bill) will help with some of the controls. The amount of alcohol being seized indicates that, yes, there is an issue with

the lifting of the restrictions on liquor sales at the Norman Wells liquor store.”

The bill would allow all Sahtu communities to be able to vote referendum-style on the government’s previous decision to lift liquor restrictions in Norman Wells. Public consultations on the bill have been ongoing in the communities and the bill is expected to go through third reading in the current session.

Though the Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce has

made it clear that business is opposed to government restriction on sales of alcohol, Yakeleya said there’s “quite a significant amount of support” for the bill in the Sahtu.

“Bill 24 is really setting up a structure for a regional decision making process,” he said. “We have that in our land claims, the Wildlife Act, through our education boards, through our health boards, so those types of regional decision making models are already in the Sahtu.”

Besides the discussion on limits for liquor sales, the public forums have also opened up dialogue on the need for on-the-land treatment programs for addictions and different ways of controlling bootlegging in communities.

Lutsel K’e and communities in the Tlicho are considering installing an airport scanner for Air Tindi flights to control booze coming in via air, though no such controls exist for bootleggers bringing alcohol in by boat or snowmobile.

While Sahtu communities have touched upon those kinds of measures, Yakeleya said most residents want a new system for reporting and convicting bootleggers that understands the predicaments of small communities with large families.

Though “100 per cent” of people at the hearings in Tulita want to see liquor restrictions replaced in Norman Wells, bootleggers continue to thrive in the community.

“There needs to be some development work from Justice on how do we establish an effective mechanism for reporting bootleggers, and stronger fines for bootlegging,” Yakeleya said. “The way the existing laws are makes it very difficult for any community member to convict

a bootlegger because the family ties are so close; the social setting makes it difficult for people to report any type of bootlegging going on.”

Presently, people are required to physically witness and testify in court that they bought a bottle from a bootlegger in order to convict them.

“You have to bait them. Then once that’s done, of course, in a small town, everybody knows in five minutes. The social ramifications are very, very strong. Then in maybe three months, you’ve got to testify. So if you and your family are living in that community, you might have a large family, you’ll have to put up with harassment. The social backlash is pretty strong.”

Even if the bill to reinstate liquor restrictions in Norman Wells does not pass, Yakeleya said the community discussions on the issue have been fruitful, and will likely lead to more attention being placed on healing around addictions.

“We’re having all this booze coming in from Norman Wells; people are bringing cases and cases. Alcohol is a highly addictive drug and families do want to stop, yet there’s no suitable program for them to go and say we want to put the booze away,” Yakeleya said.

Government challenged on addictions centre closing, spending plans

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Health Minister Tom Beaulieu came under pressure on the opening day of the legislative session last week to explain why he shuttered the Nats’ejee K’eh addictions treatment centre in Hay River.

The government produced a pair of reports on addictions and treatment last year, “and neither mentioned closing the treatment centre,” Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny said as he challenged the health minister to come up with answers.

Beaulieu said the government opted for on-the-land programs in place of Natse’ejee K’eh and has contracts with southern institutions to provide medical detox services, but Dolynny is demanding more detail.

Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Alfred Moses challenged Beaulieu on the time it takes to find a detox bed, and told the Legislature that some of his constituents have waited more than a month.

The government’s capital budget also got a rough ride from MLAs whose regions were overlooked in the \$222-million spending plan that allocates \$70 million to the construction of an all-season Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway and nothing to the renovation of the Stanton Territorial Hospital.

“This is a very unbalanced capital budget,” said Weledah MLA Bob Bromley. “The highways are way over-represented while education, which is our second-largest department and an extremely high priority on which we’re failing, is down at three per cent.”

Norman Yakeleya, whose private member’s bill giving all Sahtu communities a say on the future of the Norman Wells liquor store will be debated this week, was also critical of the Tuktoyaktuk allocation, and said that investment is needed on a southern leg of the Mackenzie

Highway to service the developing Canol shale oil play.

Bromley also challenged the government to flesh-out its \$700-million plan to export hydro-electric power to Alberta and Saskatchewan from the Taltson dam.

Premier Bob McLeod, who promoted the plan heavily in his opening statement to the legislature, said the project, which would require an increase in the territory’s borrowing limit, depends on a business case.

“We are working on a business case,” said the premier. “If it’s feasible to export power after we look after Northern demands, then it’s something we’re looking at.”

The intense three-week session is expected to deal with three key pieces of legislation – a new Wildlife Act that has been 10 years in the making, amendments to the Education and Liquor acts, and a report on electoral boundaries.



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‘No fracking way,’ marchers tell NWT government

Fracking foes aim to make controversial process an election issue

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Chanting “no fracking way,” 75 people marched through downtown Yellowknife on Saturday to demonstrate their opposition to hydraulic fracturing, the controversial method of extracting oil and gas.

Sponsored by the Council of Canadians, the march was part of a global protest and was preceded by a rally by First Nations from northeastern Alberta in Fort McMurray on Friday to demonstrate solidarity with Mi’kmaq in New Brunswick, who clashed with RCMP last week at blockades protesting hydraulic fracturing on their lands.

“This is a non-violent event,” Hewlett said before marchers set out from Somba K’e Plaza on their circuitous route that took them to the courthouse and then to Northern United Place to view a documentary on the impact of horizontal fracturing in Alberta.

“We are joining people all over the planet who are protesting the same thing: we are all concerned with people’s health and the health of the land,” Hewlett said.

“Horizontal fracking is moving forward in the Sahtu



Lucia Nakehk'o, Maslyn Scott and Alexis Head lead a march through downtown Yellowknife Saturday to protest hydrauling fracturing - one of 30 demonstrations across the country.

without even an environmental assessment. We have no detailed inventory of the water resource, we don’t know the full details of the composition or quantity of chemicals being used, and we have no idea of the potential for permanent damage to our waters.”

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus joined the march with his brother Georges, a past president of the Assembly

of First Nations, but Weledeh’s Bob Bromley was the only MLA to lend his name to Saturday’s demonstration. He met with marchers at an informational session at Northern United Place.

In Fort McMurray, dozens gathered outside the RCMP station for a peaceful rally and response to a confrontation earlier in the week in New Brunswick between police and

Mi’kmaq from the Elsipogtog First Nation who were protesting fracking exploration on traditional lands and territory.

Gitz Crazyboy, organizer of the Fort McMurray rally, said First Nations in northern Alberta are no strangers to the loss of lands and treaty rights through resource extraction.

“Whether it’s tar sands expansion or fracking or simply the protection of our lands,

water and animals, or missing and murdered women, First Nations people are not being treated as equals,” Crazyboy said.

The rally in Fort McMurray included Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, George Poitras, former chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation, Fort McMurray First Nation councillor Cleo Reece and Roland LeFort, president of UNIFOR Local 707, a Suncor Unit.

Unlike in New Brunswick, where protests ended with half a dozen police vehicles in flames and the arrest of 40 protesters, Hewlett made it clear that police who escorted the march through Yellowknife “are here to keep us safe.”

“If there is anyone here with any intent other than a peaceful demonstration, you shouldn’t be in our group; our demonstration is peaceful and meant to be educational,” Hewlett said before the marchers set out.

“We understand there can be a lot of anger around the issue of fracking; I certainly understand why people would be angry and we’ll have discussions about how we can make change without anybody getting hurt.”

One way to bring change is to make fracking an election issue, Hewlett said, noting the Council has had some success in setting the government’s agenda on the issue.

The Council challenged the territorial government earlier this year to require ConocoPhillips to reveal details of the chemicals it will use in the Sahtu this winter. The National Energy Board later announced that oil companies have agreed to disclose all fluids used in hydraulic fracturing, despite no requirements forcing them to.

The territorial government is promoting the economic potential of the Canol shale formation in the Sahtu and supports ConocoPhillips in its plan to conduct horizontal fracturing on two exploratory wells without an environmental review.

The Council is looking to the next territorial election in 2015 when the results of the ConocoPhillips exploration program will be known and the potential of the Canol shale will be clearer.

“We need to ask all the candidates where they stand on the question of hydraulic fracturing,” Hewlett said.

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On October 9, 2013, the GNWT Department of Transportation (DOT), together with its partners, successfully completed an airport live emergency exercise. This exercise provided the opportunity for the various emergency agencies to work together in responding to a significant critical incident.

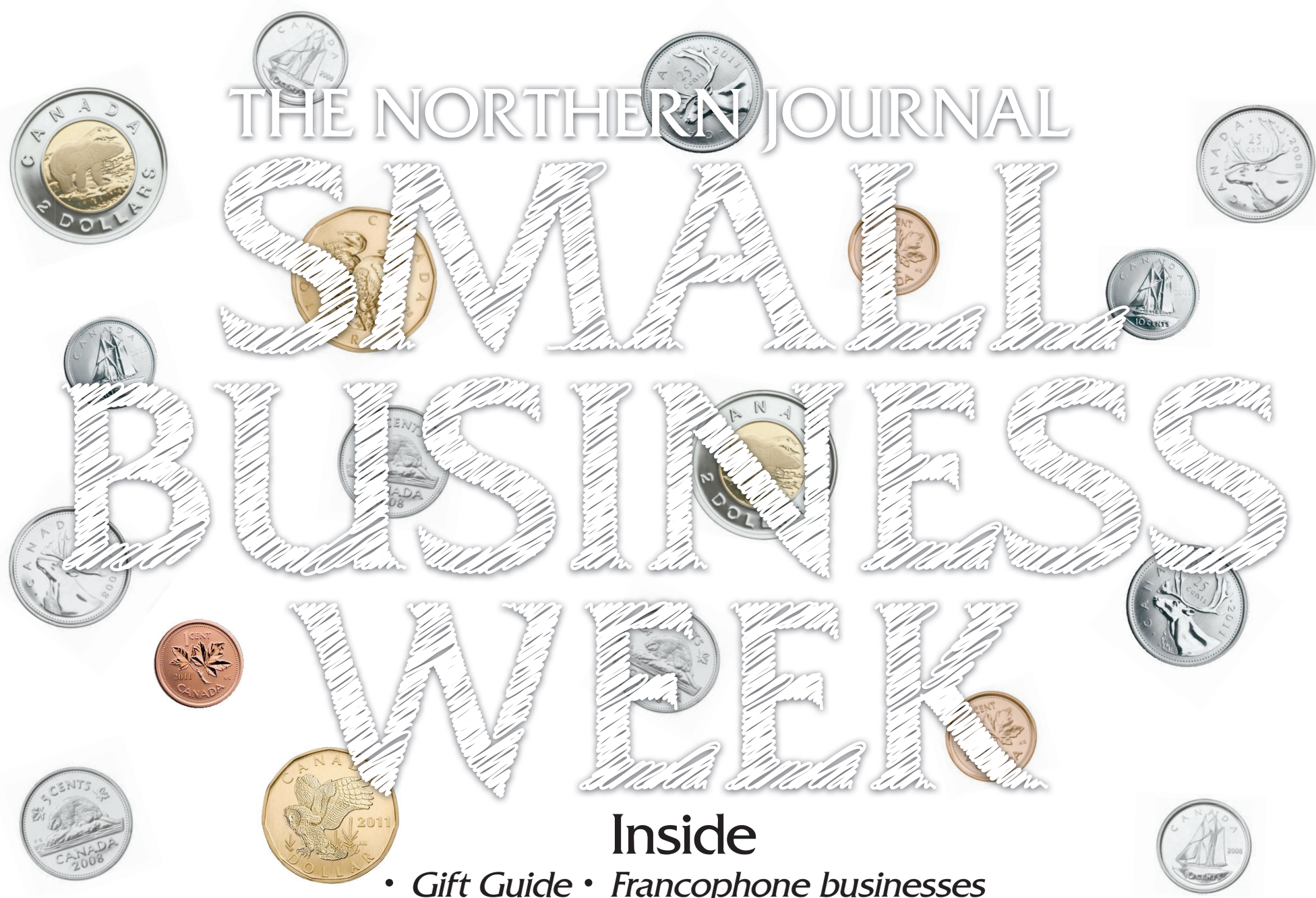


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DOT would also like to thank our volunteer “casualties” who lent realism to this exercise.





- Inside
- Gift Guide • Francophone businesses
 - Young entrepreneurs • Aboriginal ventures

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Dene Tha First Nation purchases hotel in High Level

Leaders say arm's length corporation a model for success

By MARIA CHURCH

The Dene Tha First Nation in northern Alberta recently purchased the Executive House Suites hotel and conference centre in High Level, the result of years of negotiation by Dene Tha's economic operations arm, Ehda Cho Corp.

Nancy MacIntyre, manager of the hotel throughout the ownership change, told *The Journal* she thinks First Nation ownership will be positive for both the hotel and the community.

"I think it will give the people some pride and opportunity to teach them in the hospitality business that isn't lottery machines and VLTs," she said.

MacIntyre said she hopes the new ownership will encourage more business from government employees and executives who may have dealings with the Dene Tha to use the hotel during their stay in High Level.

Executive House Suites was built in 2004 by a local High Level businessman. For the past three years, the Ehda Cho Corp. has been negotiating the purchase of



After years of negotiations, the Executive House Suites hotel and conference centre in High Level has reopened under Dene Tha First Nation ownership.

the hotel, and in September it was reopened under Dene Tha ownership.

MacIntyre said little has changed as far as management is concerned and it appears the new owners are looking to keep things as they were.

Currently, the hotel's staff is 75 per cent Aboriginal as

of a recent hiring unrelated to the hotel takeover by the Dene Tha.

The hotel purchase comes on the heels of several recent investments by the Ehda Cho Corp. on behalf of the Dene Tha, including a new general store in Chateh and a gas station in Meander River, both Dene Tha communities.

In High Level, Dene Tha currently owns rental properties as well as the High Level Trailer Court.

Arm's length corporation key

Pat Cabezas, a Dene Tha member and the CEO of the Ndeh Limited Partnership, an organization created as

the general partner of the the Edha Cho Corp., said the corporation is owned by the Dene Tha First Nations, but is solely a revenue generator purposefully kept separate from chief and council.

"The Dene Tha First Nation saw the need to evolve from dependency into selfreliance," Cabezas said. In 2008, after extensive consultation with other First Nations and outside advisors, the conclusion was made to create a corporation to operate on behalf of the Dene Tha government.

"Our mandate is to generate wealth and, in order to do so, we get involved with different companies and we do work for them and the money we receive, we invest it in order to create the economic base for the Dene Tha First Nation, that in reality is becoming sort of a safety net," he said.

Cabezas explained that the secret to their success has been a clear division between the politics of the Dene Tha leadership and the economic activity of the corporation.

"As long as we keep the division between the political world and the corporation world, the economic activities, then growth will happen

because there is a very strict control between what's going on," he said. To keep that division requires discipline, he added.

"We have seen other nations that have had that separation, but then it was altered and immediately you could see that the economic performance of the business activities decreases because of this political influence," he said.

The model of an arm's length corporation is not new, but is somewhat unique in Canada, with only a few First Nations successfully utilizing it, such as the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Sawridge First Nations in Slave Lake, Cabezas said.

A move to separate business and politics was also the focus of recent Gwich'in Tribal Council meetings in Inuvik.

Cabezas said he doesn't believe other First Nations are "hesitant" to adopt the model, but their current structures of government do not allow them to separate the economic activity from the political world.

The Dene Tha have around 2,400 members living in and around the communities of Bushe River, Meander River and Chateh in northwestern Alberta.

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Francophone businesses boosted by annual awards

By MARIA CHURCH

When Sébastien Lévesque started his residential and commercial finishings business, S.L. Painting, in Yellowknife six years ago bookings started out strong, but recent years have seen a concerning decline.

“At first I was busy; I never really needed to look for work,” Lévesque said. “Six years down the road things change, and in 2013 for me there was a slow down there for sure.”

But this September, his business got some much needed exposure when S.L. Painting was one of three Francophone businesses selected for the 2013 NWT Francophone Entrepreneurship Awards, held by Conseil de développement économique des TNO (CDETNO), the NWT’s French economic development organization, in Yellowknife.

“It felt good; I was happy. I know at least I’m doing the right thing and my work is appreciated,” Lévesque said.

S.L. Painting won the Micro-Business award, a nod to Lévesque’s financially sound business model and commitment to using



CDETNO’s Jean-Francois Pitre (left) celebrates with Sébastien Lévesque, winner of the Micro-Business award for his company, S.L. Painting, in Yellowknife.

environmentally friendly materials in his work.

“Painting stuff can be tricky on the environmental

side, but he’s really trying to use less water and use products that are not hard on the environment,

so that is why he was chosen,” said Anne-Christine Boudreau, executive director of CDETNO.

For Lévesque, the award means exposure for his company in both francophone and anglophone markets, which will hopefully lead to more business.

“That event puts my name out there, so that will help for sure,” he said.

Now in its third year, the CDETNO awards aim to recognize francophone and francophile businesses for their successful business models and contributions to the community, both francophone and otherwise, Boudreau said.

A new award given out this year was the Francophile Business of the Year, which went to Yellowknife’s Office Compliments for their efforts to recruit bilingual employees and their partnership with CDETNO to hold Café-emploi, a biannual, bilingual recruitment event in Yellowknife.

“It’s a new prize that we decided to give this year because a lot of English businesses that we deal with are either really interested in hiring bilingual people because they see the added value or they’ve been partnering with us,” Boudreau said.

Marking its 10th anniversary this year, CDETNO honoured board member Jean-Francois Pitre, owner of Pido Productions in Yellowknife, for his full 10 years of commitment to the organization.

Francophone business owners such as Lévesque are a target group that CDETNO was designed to support. The advocacy group, based in Yellowknife, operates with the broad goal of promoting economic development and employability of francophones and francophiles in the NWT.

“We’ve been attracting people to come here either to work or to start their business,” Boudreau said. “There’s a French community in the NWT and since we are working for them and the francophile community, we want to make sure that we are promoting what they are doing and making sure that they are recognized for all the work they are doing for the NWT in general.”

Currently, statistics put the number of francophones in the NWT at around 1,000 and the number of residents with the ability to speak French at around 3,700.

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SMALL BUSINESS



La Dee Dah Boutique

Suite 5-4 Courtoreille St., Hay River

Over the last seven years, the fashionable proprietors behind Hay River's La Dee Dah Boutique have noticed a growing sense of couture-courage in their clientele.

While the clothing store may not be completely responsible for the rise in flair-friendly fashionistas showing up at their door, sisters and co-owners Dayna King, 30, and Nikki Ashton, 31, have a good feeling their shop has given an added boost to Hay River's wardrobes.

"The styles that people are wearing have changed over the years. When we first opened...people in town here were more nervous to try new things, and a lot of people have told us that now they're not as scared," King said.

"It could be that having that boutique atmosphere in a small town has given people more options to try new things with their fashion, but I can't take full credit," she said with a laugh.

The sisters of La Lee Dah try to focus on business casual and "trendy without going over the top" so it can appeal to a variety of ages, sizes and tastes.

"Being a small business in the North, you have to make sure that you have something for everyone," King said, noting that there's an added challenge of competing with retailers in the south.

King, who dreamt of having a clothing store as a child, never thought she would actually end up owning one, but it turned out to be a perfect fit with her and Nikki's goals.

"We wanted to work for ourselves and we wanted to see what we could accomplish, and there wasn't this niche of clothing store in town...so we wanted to fill it."

She said she's excited to celebrate the boutique's seventh anniversary on Nov. 6.

"It's been really great; it's been awesome getting to know people in the community that we wouldn't necessarily have known without the store, and it's been a huge learning experience for us."

What to give

Cuddly and comfortable, the popular Bedroom Athletics slippers will be making their way back to La Dee Dah's shelves in time for another holiday season. Covered in a mass of soft faux fur reaching up to mid-calf, "they're like teddy bears for your feet," King says.

ORIGINALS on Mackenzie

171 Mackenzie Rd., Inuvik

Thirty-five years ago, Arlene Hansen came to Inuvik in search of adventure. Adventure she found, and it wasn't long before she, like many before her, fell in love with the community and settled in for the long haul.

But after 12 years of working in the human resources field, there was still something missing.

Things made sense again after Hansen made the career switch to small business owner, opening the first gift shop in the Northern community, aptly named Originals on Mackenzie.

This November, Originals will mark 23 years of successful business in Inuvik.

"I opened Nov. 1, 1990," Hansen said. "There was nothing like it here, so it was a novelty to have a nice store and I would suggest that our store is on par, if not better, than a lot of stores in West Edmonton Mall. It's pretty special."

Originals specializes in unique carvings, prints and ivory, often depicting cultural activities or NWT wildlife, but also carries what Hansen calls "giftware," including everything from wine stoppers to jewelry.

Today, Originals caters to a wide clientele, ranging from locals in the community looking for quality, handmade gifts, to tourists in the summer months looking to pick up a locally-made memento of their trip to Inuvik.

"That's when we have tourism, in June, July and August. The rest of the year is local or NWT based because we have a lot of customers that come from Yellowknife and Fort Smith and Hay River and our local, outlying communities as well. Whenever anybody is in town visiting, they do come to the store and usually purchase something," Hansen said.

What to give

With winter weather approaching, gloves are always a good bet for gift giving and Originals has a "striking" one-of-a-kind pair of handmade sealskin gloves that won't disappoint, Hansen said.

The bright blue, seal skin gloves are dyed, embroidered and crafted by a local artist in Ulukhaktok.

Acho Dene Native Crafts

Liard Hwy, Fort Liard

When you have a 37-year reputation for selling beautiful, handmade, traditional arts and crafts, it's not surprising that the biggest challenge for Fort Liard's Acho Dene Native Crafts store is keeping up with demand.

"Because it's original work, there is so much demand for their products," said Pawan Chugh, CEO of the NWT Business Development and Investment Corp. (BDIC) and board member of Acho Dene Native Crafts Ltd.

The craft store has a unique formula for success, though, which includes a helping of government support and a dash of community resourcefulness.

In 1976, Acho Dene Native Crafts opened in Fort Liard as a project of the GNWT to encourage local craftspeople and provide a market for selling their goods. BDIC took over operations of the store in 1992 to continue the original goal of marketing traditional crafts.

Today, BDIC continues to run operations with all proceeds of sales going to the artists, with a small percentage covering the costs of shipping and materials. BDIC makes no profit off the sales and, in fact, subsidizes the materials.

"It a concept based on the cottage industry where the people make their craft, they work in groups in their own houses, and then bring it back to sell," Chugh said. "We don't keep even a cent. It all goes back into the community and to the artists."

Over the years, BDIC has cultivated a nationwide market for the products they retail, targeting art galleries and quality gift shops. Currently the biggest market for their wares is Ontario, specifically Toronto.

Chugh said he encourages any craft makers in the NWT to connect with the BDIC and the Acho Dene store to inquire about retailing their products.

What to give

Acho Dene Native Crafts is currently promoting its line of handmade birch bark products, including baskets and bowls, and will feature them in a video explaining the process for creating them, to be released later this year.

"This is all handmade. Once people see how much hard work is there, how people put in their personal labour to make these things, they appreciate the cost," Chugh said.

BUSINESS WEEK



HAROKITI SALON & EPIC PINK ESTHETICS

57 Portage Ave., Fort Smith

Both Fort Smith girls at heart, entrepreneurs Brittany McArthur-Cahill and Tegan Marsh recently decided to return to their home community and launch their first ever small business after years of training and working in the south.

The reasons: to fill a niche doing something they love and be their own bosses while they're at it.

"The community needed it," Marsh said. "There was nothing else really the same here as what I could offer, and it's nice coming back to where you know everybody...And I want to make my own hours, do what I want. I have an idea of what I think should be done and somebody else probably doesn't have the same standards. It's an awesome sense of control."

The salon, which opened in April and recruited Marsh in September, aims to be "updated and modern," said McArthur-Cahill, who specializes in creating trendy cuts and a rainbow of hair colours for her clientele, and is also the only certified extensionist in town.

Marsh is also uniquely qualified, having for the last three years been the only certified Dermalogica skin care expert in Alberta. The training she received in Vancouver allows her to work with clientele on all kinds of skin conditions, from acne to pigmentation and aging.

On the pampering side, which includes manicures and pedicures featuring fun gel nail art, lash tinting and waxing, she said she enjoys making people feel good.

"I like boosting their self confidence, because there's not a whole lot here, so it can get pretty drab and dreary," she said with a laugh. "It's nice to add some fun and colour sometimes."

Both ladies say the response from the community has been overwhelming, and reaffirms their hunch that there was a hole in the market that needed to be filled.

"It's more than I could have ever imagined," McArthur-Cahill said.

WHAT TO GIVE

With the holiday season approaching, both McArthur-Cahill and Marsh are packaging up combo deals that would make perfect gifts for anyone who needs some special pampering, whether it be a hair-do and mani-pedi for the nails, or the more pricey facial and cut-and-colour combo.

The salon also offers an array of Tigi's label.m hair care and Dermalogica skin care products, as well as fun nail colours, for purchase.

SHE TAKES THE CAKE CAFÉ

#1-68 Industrial Dr., Hay River

Every community needs its gathering place; a place where a group of new moms can come for a chat, where local artists can exhibit and local bands share their tunes.

In Hay River, Melissa Beck wants that place to be her new café and bakery, aptly called She Takes the Cake.

Born and raised in Hay River, Beck is well known in the community for baking beautiful custom cakes.

Her baking history started years ago as a way to save money on store bought cakes for her two daughters.

"I just didn't want to spend the money on a cake that I wasn't happy with from the store, so I started to make them. It turned from making for them, to the family to the friends, then to the friends of friends, and grew from there," she explained.

This year, Beck made the huge leap to quit her bookkeeping day job and move her franchise from a home kitchen to a full-blown community café.

"I always wanted a store front, but it had to be the right time," Beck said. "The only reason I really did it is because I had so much support from the community. They just kept saying, 'Do it, do it, do it and we'll be there to support you,' and they have been."

The café now has two full-time staff and two part-timers to keep up with growing demand for baked goods and specialty beverages.

As a front-line worker herself, Beck said the café has kept her so busy she hasn't been able to introduce her unique cakes to their product line.

"The funny thing is I haven't had any time to do my custom cakes since the business opened," she said with a laugh.

A typical three-tiered custom cake takes Beck roughly 10 hours to complete. All aspects from the batter to the moulding, frosting and fondant are made from scratch, so not only are they beautiful but delicious, too.

For now, She Takes the Cake Café will stick to offering pies, muffins and cupcakes, though Beck said she hopes to start making cakes again by the new year.

WHAT TO GIVE

Fresh food and drink is a delightful, though somewhat impractical gift since it's tricky to wrap. Luckily, She Takes the Cake supplies gift cards so you can still give the gift of happiness in a warm mug of gourmet coffee.

Beck's drink of choice is the seasonal pumpkin pie latte. This drink won't last long, so get it while it's hot!

Bijou Boutique

5004 50th Ave., Yellowknife

Sometimes an idea just needs a perfect place to come to fruition. In the case of Jill Groenewegen's new Yellowknife gift shop, Bijou Boutique, that place was a perfect storefront that magically opened this spring in the heart of downtown.

"I wasn't really sure what my next move was going to be, and then this space became available right downtown and I was really excited about it," said Groenewegen, who spent the last five years working in retail and decided to take the plunge and open her own store in May this year.

"It's something that I would have done in my lifetime. Whether I would have done it right now or not was really dependent on the space. It was just a really good opportunity."

Groenewegen said she tries to carry a little bit of everything in her store, all of which can be purchased as personal items or gifts. Home decor and bedding makes up a large portion of the merchandise, along with everything from jewelry to handbags, kitchenware and towels.

"I want it to be really gifty and welcoming to everyone, providing different price ranges and all sorts of different products," she said. "If you just want to come in and get a little gift for someone, you don't have to spend a lot, or if you want to buy some things for your home - anyone can come here and find something."

She said what sets Bijou apart from other gift shops in town is its elegant boutique feel with "specially selected items."

On the home front, Groenewegen said she is most excited about her luxurious bedding, which includes duvets, down pillows, cover sets, Egyptian cotton sheet sets and even feather mattress toppers.

With the help of social media - her store has become a hit on Facebook - Groenewegen said her biggest challenge is keeping up with orders.

"I feel so blessed. The response from everyone has been wonderful since day one," she said. "The government ladies all come down from their offices within minutes (of posting something on Facebook)...It's kind of a neat little social tool that we have."

What to give

With winter approaching, Groenewegen said Bijou's new line of Sloane teas are perfect gifts for yourself or someone you care about. "I just think they'll be really cozy and nice for Christmas," she said.

Bijou is planning on hosting a tea party at the shop this coming Saturday to celebrate, so it will be a perfect time to pick out a favourite flavour.

Young consultants say NWT ‘open for business’

Environmental entrepreneurs take advantage of market opportunities

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Contrary to the popular belief that doing business is hard in the Northwest Territories, small business owners Adam Bathe and John Blyth say there is likely no other jurisdiction in the country where two people like themselves, under the age of 30, could successfully start up their own consulting firm.

“We really need to push entrepreneurial development in the Territories,” Bathe said. “Look at us: we’ve done fairly well where we’re quite comfortable and we like our lifestyles...And I think there’s probably a lot of people in the territory with a number of good ideas who, if they realized there is the support out there for them, could be working on their own dreams rather than for someone else.”

The two environmental consultants and instructors, both with anthropology backgrounds from the University of Calgary, launched their firm Blyth & Bathe in 2010 and have taken on a steady stream of contracts from industry and community governments ever since - partly benefitted, they say, by the industry complaints that the NWT is somehow closed for business.



Environmental consultants John Blyth (left) and Adam Bathe of NWT firm Blyth & Bathe perform surveying duties for a mining company in the Dehcho region.

“The perception of it being difficult to run a business, to be in business, has been a bonus for us because we can help people navigate through a system that these big companies dealing with the regulatory system feel is confusing,” Bathe said.

Joined in 2011 by John’s father Chuck, former superintendent of Nahanni National Park Reserve, the trio provides services for an array of clientele in the areas of wildlife surveys, land use permits, remediation,

traditional knowledge, impact-benefit negotiations, energy feasibility studies, and environmental assessment and monitoring.

“Our core backgrounds and the principles of the company are social sciences like anthropology and archaeology, as well as the natural sciences like biology, and having Chuck’s background in cooperative management and parks,” Bathe said.

Apart from offering consulting services for industry

and communities, Blyth & Bathe also provides practical instruction to certify people in the areas of environmental monitoring and firearms safety, and offers more general sessional courses on the regulatory system, land claims and self government, and contaminated sites remediation.

Though obviously good for their own business, Blyth and Bathe said it’s exciting to know they are also helping the larger

territorial economy, either by pushing large resource-based industries to be proactive in fulfilling the requirements of doing business in the NWT or by helping to equip Northerners with the training they need to get jobs.

“Sometimes there are the most simple barriers to employment for people, like they could be hired as a wildlife monitor, but they don’t have a firearms license,” Blyth said.

While many businesses in the territory list staffing as one of their key challenges, Blyth & Bathe has found a way to tap into human resources around the world when necessary rather than requiring a full body of permanent staff with specialized knowledge.

“We have a peer group of thought partners who we can easily lean on if we don’t, ourselves, have those skills,” Bathe said.

Those associates include engineers in Sweden, remediation specialists in Montreal and archaeologists in Kingston - “people who want the similar sort of lifestyle where we’re not doing the nine-to-five.”

Despite doing some advertising, nearly all of Blyth & Bathe’s contracts have been

obtained just by word of mouth, and have seen them work in nearly every community in the NWT.

“Most of how people get jobs in this industry is you do a good job at something and then people are like, ‘Hey, that person did this work well.’ So your reputation and the quality of work is everything,” Blyth said.

Both Blyth and Bathe encourage other young, entrepreneurial minded Northerners to take advantage of the opportunities available to them in the NWT, and recommend that government continues to increase its offerings for small businesses.

“I feel like one of the best economic things the territory can do in terms of development would be to push small business development, to get away from really thinking about economic development as mega projects, resource extraction, and really work on secondary industry, whether it’s people like us who make money off of those resource industries at arm’s length, or other people starting smaller businesses,” Bathe said. “It’s awesome that there are young people in the territory who get to have these opportunities.”

Photo: Chuck Blyth

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Slow solar maximum dims aurora, but not tourism

By JACK DANYLCHUK

As solar maximums go, the 24th has been a bust – the least active in 100 years – but the show isn’t over yet, says Andrew Yau, lead scientist on a Canadian research team that launched a satellite probe of the aurora last month.

Astronomers have come to expect 150 or more eruptions from the Sun’s surface at the peak of the 11-year cycle, but so far this year, watchers have counted about 60 explosions that set the aurora dancing and have the strength to crash power grids and navigation systems.

“Activity has picked up in the last six months, and there is no reason to think the Sun will go back to sleep,” Yau said in an interview with The Journal. “There may be another peak this winter.”

The current solar maximum is a lesson in humility, Yau said. “We think we understand the Sun, and we know much more than 50 years ago, but the more we learn about the Sun, solar storms and the aurora, the more we understand how little we know.”

Yau, of the University of Calgary, is co-ordinating



Light stations installed by Astronomy North around Yellowknife alert residents and tourists when conditions are right for special aurora displays.

research being conducted by a satellite launched Sept. 30 on a north-south orbit from California by SpaceX, a commercial operator, for

the Canadian Space Agency. Over the next two years, Cassiope will gather data to help researchers better understand how space storms

It’s a real thrill for visitors to the North – even if they don’t see the aurora, just to experience all that space and wilderness. I saw the aurora when I lived in Ottawa, and it’s not the same.

*Andrew Yau
Cassiope research team*

in the upper atmosphere impact radio communications, GPS navigation and other technologies.

“By flying our instruments into the eye of the space storms, so to speak, we will be able to make measurements at rather unprecedented resolution and get a much sharper and much more in-depth pictures of their effects on the upper atmosphere,” Yau said.

“The long-term goal of the research is to advance our capability to forecast space weather and mitigate its impact on daily life and on society, the way we are forecasting terrestrial weather today.”

At present, space weather is monitored at ground level. Known as 10.7 cm radio flux (F10.7), the world standard

measurement has been made by the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, and reported once a day, since 1947.

“It’s the best single measure of solar activity and it is a product of Canada, but outside of scientific circles, few people are aware of that,” said Yau, who attributes the obscurity to typical Canadian modesty.

The F10.7 readings are also used to predict aurora displays, and Yau’s friends in Japan frequently seek his advice on the best time to experience the phenomenon.

“This year, the chance of seeing the aurora is better than it was a few years back,” Yau said.

Last winter in anticipation of the solar maximum, 15,700

people came to the Northwest Territories to view the aurora, eclipsing the previous record crowd of 12,000 during the previous solar maximum in 2000.

Aurora tour operators in Yellowknife were busy through August and September, guiding visitors from Japan and China.

“It’s a real thrill for visitors to the North – even if they don’t see the aurora, just to experience all that space and wilderness,” Yau said. “I saw the aurora when I lived in Ottawa, and it’s not the same.”

If solar activity follows the pattern of the past 200 years, the aurora will subside next year and remain low for several years, taking aurora tourism with it until the next peak arrives around 2022 or 2024.

Yau said some of his colleagues have suggested that the less than spectacular display during the current solar maximum may mark the beginning of a lengthy silence on the Sun.

“It has happened in the past; there were zero sun spots for an extended period and that could occur again, but there is no indication that such a period is just around the corner,” he said.

October 20-26 is Small Business Week



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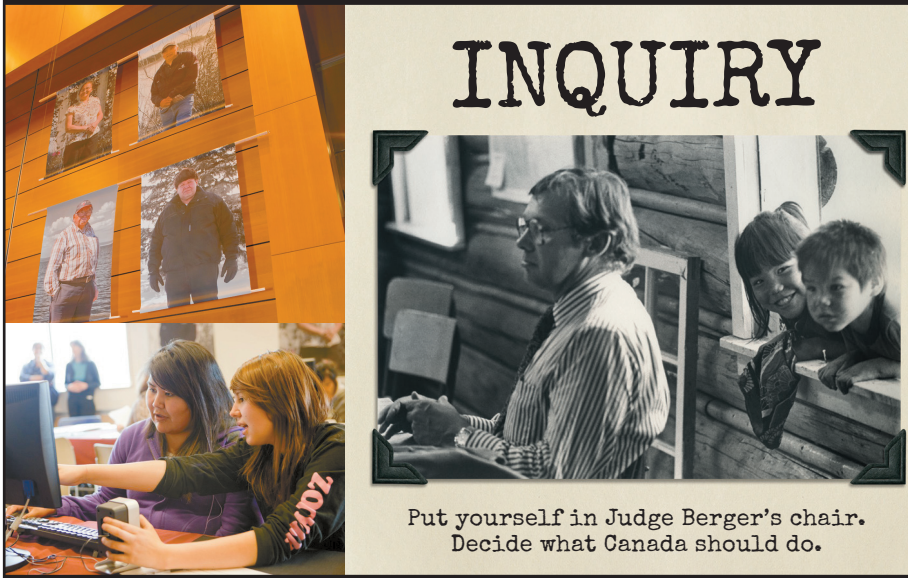


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Protest heads off zoning change to Yk waterfront

By JACK DANYLCHUK

City council took a step back from its plans for the Government Dock in Old Town last week after hearing that some commercial users are concerned about the potential impact of a planned change in zoning.

The present Old Town mixed zoning accommodates commercial fishermen, the East Arm Freight Company and travellers from Great Slave Lake communities on the city's only working dock, Aleta Fowler told a public hearing in council chambers.

"Should the zoning change to parks and recreation, I don't see the protection of those working interests," said Fowler, a houseboat resident, whose presentation was applauded by a dozen supporters – none of them fishermen or freight haulers.

Jeff Humble, the city's director of planning and lands, told the public hearing that the 30-year lease signed last year with Ottawa stipulates that it will remain a working dock.

Improving public access to the waterfront is the overarching goal of the city's harbour plan. Since it took over management of the area last year, bike racks, planters and



Work crews pump cement for a picnic area on Yellowknife's Government Dock.

picnic tables have replaced derelict vehicles and abandoned canoes.

"Parks and rec allows us to regulate parking, commercial vending space, resolve

conflict between day users and commercial operators," Humble said.

Should the zoning change to parks and recreation, I don't see the protection of those working interests.

Aleta Fowler
Houseboat resident

The proposed zoning change also gives city administration discretionary powers over the dock, Humble said, which prompted a whistle from somewhere in the public gallery.

Mike Burns, a former city councillor who, like Fowler, said he represented people too intimidated by the hearing process to speak for themselves, was critical of the consultation process that seemed to under-represent the dock's traditional users.

"They were consulted, but not heard," said Burns, who advised that "the best way is to engage with them, have coffee, talk. We need a better method of engagement."

Humble said administrators and consultants met with all the commercial operators, and pointed out that most of the dock is dedicated to commercial use with only a small part allocated to what Burns disparaged as "a party patio."

For most of the summer, the dock was left to fishers and freighters while the city experimented with placement of picnic tables, bicycle racks and potted shrubs. Last week, work crews began pouring cement in the picnic area, and didn't stop when council decided to delay the zoning change.

Architect Wayne Guy, one of two private property owners on the dock, said in an interview the city didn't give the public a chance to enjoy the dock as a potential park "before it bulldozed ahead" with the zoning change.

Moving to parks and recreation from mixed commercial could make future development more difficult, said Guy, who saw plans for a brew pub on his property abandoned in the face of concerns about competition for scarce parking spaces in the neighbourhood.



Cyclists rally at the annual Ramble and Ride in August to demonstrate the need for bicycle lanes on Yellowknife's busiest streets.

Politics Municipal

Yellowknife puts bicycle lane plan in motion

By JACK DANYLCHUK

After several false starts, Yellowknife is rolling out a plan for bike lanes that in five years could link every neighbourhood in the capital.

Council voted last week to begin public discussion on the proposed routes that could include sections of Franklin Ave., the most direct and contentious link to the downtown business and government centre.

"We need to have the long

overdue political discussion about how to proceed on that street," said Councillor Dan Wong, who wanted the city to experiment with a temporary bicycle lane on lower Franklin last summer.

The current plan proposes School Draw Ave. as the main bicycle route between Old Town and the city centre, and Wong wants part of the Franklin Ave. hill included in consultation with the community.

In an interview with *The Journal*, Wong said it's important that cyclists ride safely, and not on the sidewalk, as some do on busy sections of Franklin Ave.

"We hear from constituents how unsafe that is for pedestrians. Bike lanes aren't all about safety for cyclists; it's also to protect cars from bad cyclists who weave in and out of traffic," Wong said.



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The Fort Smith District Education Authority

The Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday,

October 17, 2013

at 6:30 p.m. Room 113 at JBT

(Meetings will be every third Thursday of the month)

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday,

November 21, 2013

at 7:00 p.m. Room 113 at JBT

(Changes or cancellations will be posted at JBT)

Regular DEA meetings had previously been stated as starting at 7:00 p.m. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Delegates wishing to address the authority may do so by contacting our office in writing 72 hours prior to the meeting at P.O. Box 131 or by fax: (867) 872-2448

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Tuesday, October 22, 2013

NORTHERN Journal

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



APPRENTICE POWER LINEPERSON Fort Smith, NT

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Qualifications: High School Diploma with overall average of minimum 70% and a pass in grade 11 pure math or applied math. Some related experience also required. Successful candidates will be required to write and pass the appropriate Trades Entrance exam. You must have good written and verbal communication skills. You must be willing to travel in small aircraft and winter roads to remote communities for extended periods of time.

Salary Range: Starts at \$24.65 per hour for an apprentice and goes up to \$47.56 per hour for journeyman certification. Salary increases are based on experience and successful completion of training. We also offer accommodation and location allowances. We offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a Defined-Benefit Pension Plan. Qualified applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume and high school transcripts, quoting 39-SM-13 to: NTPC Attention: Human Resources, #4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT, X0E 1G2 or fax (867) 874-5229 or email careers@ntpc.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Closing date: Open until suitable candidate is found.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER Inuvik, NT

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Kaw Tay Whee School Storage, Detah
CT101352**

- Yellowknife/Detah, NT -

Exterior storage addition, interior millwork storage and kitchen renovation. Includes flooring, drywall, painting, mechanical & electrical.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5015-44th Street, Yellowknife, NT (delivered to the North Slave Regional Office), will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 6, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the NWT Construction Association at (867) 873-3949.

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

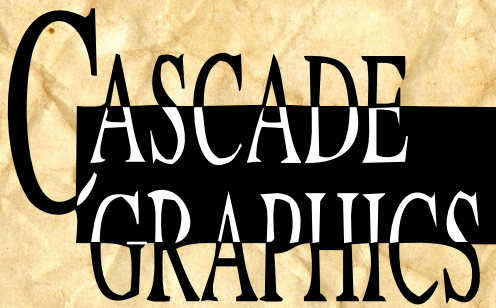
Pre-tender meeting: 3:45 PM, October 29, 2013, Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah, NT.

General inquiries to: Contract Administrator
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7662

Technical inquiries to: Alan McOuat
Project Officer
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7625
-OR-
Simon Taylor
Architect
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Stormtrooper JR Chamberlin and Boba Fett David Arbeau call a temporary truce to pose with Han Solo Glen Abernethy and wife Princess Leia Carolyn Smith.



Ghostbusters Mel and Liam Leonard get ready to take care of business.

Arts & Culture Entertainment

Hundreds flock to Ptarmicon

By JOSH LONG

Long-time and new friends mingled at the Sir John Franklin School gym Saturday for the second annual Ptarmicon. “We all share a love of nerdy things,” said Samantha Sanderson, dressed as Deidara from anime series Naruto, referring to herself and four friends. Some, like her sister, she’d known forever. Others, she’d met more recently. In all, 600 people passed through the high school doors.

“That’s a rough estimate,” said organizer Roya Grinsted, who carried a Pikachu backpack throughout the day. “We had a lot of people participate in a lot of events,” she said, “some really great costumes, some really great vendors.” For comic book vendor Jaysen Knight, the event was for a love of the art. “I’m going to lose money on this show just because I’m paying for that wall,” he said, referring to a display

shelf assembled of wire and aluminum brackets at a cost of \$300. “For us, it’s not about breaking even,” said Knight’s unpaid volunteer, Jerry Plant. “We actually enjoy doing this.” Organizers plan to have a meeting within the next month to talk about what went well and where there’s room for improvement, Grinsted said. The plan is to incorporate that into next year’s convention.

Protecting the Slave River

Organization and Planning Meeting at Aurora College's Thebacha Campus Saturday, Oct. 26 1 p.m. Room 146

Everyone welcome. Snacks will be provided.

For more information contact Francois Paulette at 872.5556



Organizer Jeremy Scott (left) accepts entry fees for the Yu-Gi-Oh contest.



Dax Lucas plans his next move on the Warhammer 40k board.



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Students flock to Fort Smith for volleyball tourney

By MARIA CHURCH

Fort Smith schools served up a healthy amount of competition last weekend with 44 teams from across the NWT participating in the annual Lawrie Hobart Memorial Volleyball Tournament.

“It’s been a great weekend,” Al Karasiuk, principal of Paul William Kaeser High School in Fort Smith and tournament organizer, told *The Journal*.

With 33 teams from out of town showing up for the weekend, roughly 350 players were housed in classrooms of both the high school and elementary school in Fort Smith.

Karasiuk laughed when he said that, by Sunday, the schools’ hallways appeared to be filled with “zombie students” finally crashing after a weekend of physical activity and socializing, with little sleep.

Fatigue wasn’t an option for the top teams of the tournament Sunday when the gold, silver and bronze medal games were played. This year, the organizers decided to organize the finals as best of five sets, giving each game two hours of play.

Yellowknife’s Sir John Franklin High School girls



Yellowknife’s St. Patrick High School under 19 girls team plays to win at the weekend tournament in Fort Smith.

and boys teams both took home gold in the under 15 categories, while Yellowknife’s St. Patrick High School girls won gold in under 19, and Sir John Franklin took gold in senior boys.

PWK kept the gold medals at home for the Grades 6/7 girls and boys teams, as well as the Grade 8 boys team, while Hay River’s Diamond Jenness School won the Grade 8 girls gold medal game.

Karasiuk said that when it comes to sport tournaments in the North, it is typical for teams to travel for hours to participate in a weekend competition, as Fort Smith’s closest neighbour, Hay River, is still 262 km away.

“For a community our size, it’s a pretty big event,” he said. “People really pull together and pitch in to put it on.”

The invitational volleyball tournament has been hosted



Yellowknife’s Sir John Franklin High School boys under 19 team celebrates after winning the gold medal game against the home team from Paul William Kaeser High School.

by the Fort Smith schools for more than 25 years, but it wasn’t until several years ago that the tournament was officially named after its founder, the late Lawrie Hobart, Karasiuk explained.

“Lawrie started it and after he passed we thought it was fitting. As a lifelong Northern educator and a person who was involved with volleyball and sports, it was good to rechristen it,” he said.

Several tweaks to the tournament this year included closing the schools to the public in order to minimize traffic. Karasiuk said the out-of-town coaches as well as the janitorial staff were very appreciative of the increased security and decreased loitering. Players and coaches received wristbands to distinguish them from spectators and the recreation centre’s gym was kept open to the public as a venue to watch games.

Though an adults rec category is usually a part of the tournament, this year focused only on the students, while a new event saw an all-star coaches’ game held on Friday.

“We had so many people wanting to play, coaches and kids all mixed together. That was a highlight and a fun way to end the day Friday,” Karasiuk said. “Obviously, that’s going to be a keeper.”

Sports & Recreation Coaching

NWT Coaching Symposium back on after eight years

By MARIA CHURCH

After an eight-year hiatus, Sport North will be running a 2013 NWT Coaching Symposium this month in an effort to raise interest in coaching, volunteering and officiating, while providing much needed training and support.

“Certainly, there is an expense to developing coaches in the North and it’s not necessarily an easy task,” Rita Bertolini, organizer with Sport North, told *The Journal*. “I think we have a lot of volunteer coaches that commit a lot of time in the North and are really dedicated to delivering their sport. Could we use more? Absolutely.”

This is the first year a coaching symposium in the NWT will include a stream of sessions geared specifically toward those who officiate sports.

Sessions for officials will focus on issues such as conflict management, relations with coaches, decision making and problem solving, the model for which was recently developed by a sport organization in Quebec and translated for use across the country, Bertolini explained.



Presenter Don McGavern (left) is assisted by Sport North’s Gary Brennan at the 2005 Coaching symposium.

“Our coaching and volunteer symposium has always really catered to coaches and those that administer sports. We really haven’t had anything specific for officials in the past, so this is a fairly new program, even out of Sport Quebec. So we’re really excited that we can offer something specific,” she said.

All symposium sessions will be divided into one of four streams: coaches,

Canadian Sport for Life, officials and volunteers. Over the two-day symposium, participants will have the freedom to pick and choose between sessions and streams according to their interests.

Carolyn Taylor, a biomechanist at the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario and future performance technology specialist for the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games,

will be leading several of the symposium’s coaching sessions, including one on using new technology.

The session, called “Don’t Worry, Be Appy,” will focus on simplifying coaching through the use of cellphone applications.

“iPads and iPhones and android phones have changed the way I do my work and it’s something that coaches are easily able to

apply within training scenarios and competitions themselves,” Taylor said.

The NWT Coaching Symposium will be her first time in the territory and Taylor said she is excited to bring her specialized expertise as a biomechanist - one who works with technology to understand and maximize athletic performance - to the Northern sport community.

“Hopefully I can bring a snippet of the most important things that I’ve found and things that have been the most applicable,” she said. “Even working with a lot of high performance coaches, those that make it to the Olympic level are those that have nailed the basics and apply the basics in the best manner. To me that’s the huge importance when working with coaches at any level.”

As well as providing training and support to participants, the symposium will be a good way for enthusiasts to network in the NWT sports community, Bertolini said.

“It’s an opportunity to bring together all stakeholders in sport; whether you’re a teacher, whether you are someone delivering some type of recreation program or even a dayhome person, there is something there for everyone,” she said.

The symposium will be held at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife and run Oct. 26-27. For more information and to register, go online to sportnorth.com/our-programs/coach-development/2013-nwt-coaching-symposium

Fort Smith program funds traditional eating for elders

By MARIA CHURCH

The Fort Smith Métis Council has received a government grant to fund a program that will see elders in Fort Smith and the surrounding area provided with a free supply of freshly hunted meat this fall.

Funding to the tune of \$54,000 came from the GNWT department of Health and Social Services to support the pilot program called TAASTE, or Time-honoured Aboriginal Actions Sustaining Traditional Eating.

Ken Hudson, president of the Métis council and the one spearheading the program, said that with a little success, the project could act as a blueprint for other communities in the NWT.

“It brings healthier food into the community for elders who don’t really have access,” Hudson told *The Journal*. “As you get older, you don’t hunt as much as you did when you were young, and you don’t have access to meat...Those elders grew up on that meat and we’d like to continue to make it available to them.”

The first meat was given out last week to more than 30 elders who showed up



Gord McSwain (left) hands a free package of fish to elder Dave Beamish at the Fort Smith Métis Council's cabin in Fort Smith.

at the Métis council’s secretariat building where the meat is being stored in freezers. The meat included buffalo from Hudson’s most

recent hunting trip as well as fish purchased from Hay River.

“This program’s for everybody, not just for Métis,

or status - it’s for all elders,” said Gord McSwain, a Métis member who was handing out meat on Thursday. McSwain estimated that Fort Smith

and the surrounding area has close to 800 elders who could access meat through the program.

Dave Beamish was one of the elders who came out last Thursday to pick up a portion of fish. He said the program is a good idea.

“Lots of people need it, use it, like it,” he said.

TAASTE is upholding what Hudson explained is a tradition in Aboriginal culture to give a portion of one’s hunting harvest to elders the community.

“Naturally when we do any kind of hunting, we usually hand out a good portion of what we kill to elders,” he said. The program will expand on that tradition to make healthy meat available to elders more frequently.

“With some freezers, a place to store all this stuff and contributions from hunters in the community we can distribute the meat to elders on a more regular basis rather than just once a year,” Hudson said.

The program also hopes to bring youth in the community out into the bush to learn hunting and survival skills, an aspect of

Aboriginal culture that Hudson says has seen a worrisome decline in interest.

“We all started fairly young, but the kids these days they don’t have as much interest. It’s nice to introduce these things when kids are young and see if they pick it up,” Hudson said. “We live in the North; there’s lots of game around. People should take advantage of living in a place like this and develop hunting skills young and you can carry it throughout life.”

Hudson said with the funding available, he hopes a group can be formed to take youth out in the bush and teach them basics such as setting up tents, shooting, cleaning and cooking small game and making bannock on a stick.


A final aspect to the program would see greenhouses built at the Northern Lights Special Care Home to give elders an opportunity to cultivate their own food.

Throughout the program, staff from the Métis council will be documenting the activities and plan to compile footage into a short video.

Photo: Maria Church

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We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
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