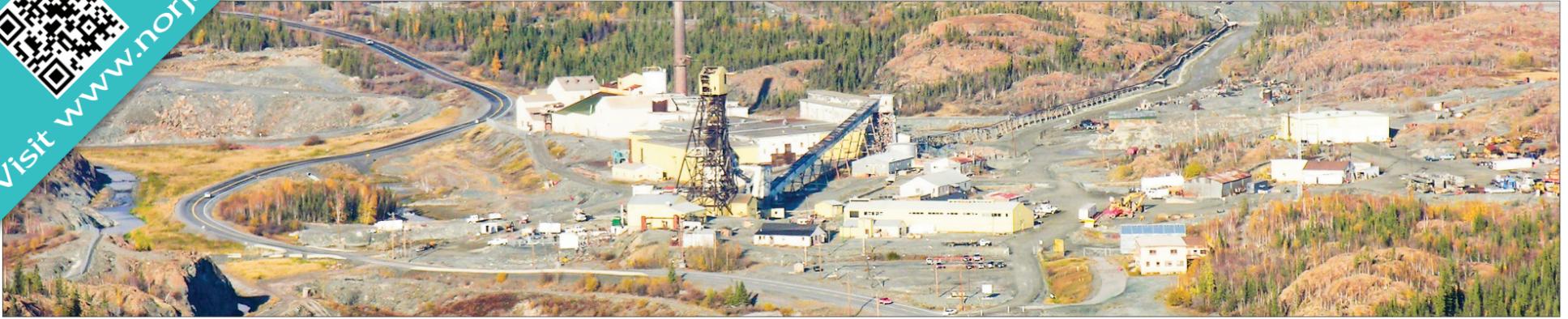


Visit www.norj.ca

Thumbs up for Giant Mine Cleanup: Minister accepts majority of mandatory measures. See page 7.



PM launches highway construction in Inuvik
 Stephen Harper confirmed a federal commitment to the North at a ceremony launching construction of the Inuvik-Tuk highway. See page 2.



NWT regulator to reflect the North: Minister Miltenberger says the new NWT regulator will reflect a Northern philosophy, not model the Alberta Energy Regulator. See page 6.



More than 50 confirmed cases of H1N1 in NWT
 NWT's health minister has restricted access to the dwindling supply of flu vaccines by limiting shots to "high risk" individuals only. See page 11.



First Northern book about judo teaches respect
 Authors of the French book *Chutes* hope that it will inspire more youth to take up the sport of judo in the NWT. See page 15.

NORTHERN Journal

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Left to right, Chelsea Elias, Justin Stewart and Kristen Elias watch Inuvik's Return of the Sun Fireworks as part of the town's annual Sunrise Festival. The party to welcome back the light included a snowmobile parade, snow sculpture competition, craft and bake sale, and more. See pages 8-9.

Photo: Nick Westover

Sahtu fracking results to be shrouded in secrecy for two years

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Sahtu residents anxious to learn about potential impact on groundwater from exploratory wells drilled and fracked in the Canol shale this month may have to wait two years for answers.

Lauren Stewart, a spokesperson for ConocoPhillips, said the company will "take the appropriate time to evaluate the large amount of data" collected to determine its next steps.

"We will report the results to regulators, and that data is kept confidential for 24 months."

Last fall, under pressure from environmental organizations and politicians, ConocoPhillips agreed to voluntary disclosure of the contents of fluids used during hydraulic fracturing. Stewart told *The Journal* the company will keep that commitment.

"As per our Sahtu Land and Water Board water (SLWB)

license and under the current regulations, which we are following, a fracturing fluid additive disclosure will be submitted to the SLWB within 30 days after completion of hydraulic fracturing. These disclosures are posted on the SLWB website."

According to federal legislation, drilling results are proprietary information and can be withheld for two years, said

Doug Matthews, an advisor on energy issues to the GNWT, but the decision to make the details public is the company's — not the regulator's — Matthews added.

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley said he questions the need for secrecy where there are concerns about the impact on water resources.

"The company should certainly be providing a report

on water use and demand during their current drilling operations. I see that as separate from product results that I can see as proprietary in the short term," said Bromley, who has been critical of the decision to allow ConocoPhillips to conduct horizontal drilling and multistage hydraulic fracturing without an environmental review.

See Information on page 3.

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Missing Fort Simpson man believed to be found dead

RCMP suspect a body found at a gazebo in Fort Simpson last week is that of Billy Cholo, a local man who had been missing since mid-December. A search party of more than 40 concerned residents was mobilized and sent out last Thursday and a body was found shortly after behind the health clinic. Police have determined the death to be sudden, meaning it will be investigated as a homicide. Family of the man in question told reporters the 45 year-old Cholo had a drinking problem, but they do not believe it to have caused his death.

Conservative MP Brian Jean resigns in Fort McMurray

Brian Jean, Alberta Conservative MP for Fort McMurray-Athabasca, is stepping down this week for unspecified reasons. Jean told the media in a written statement that the decision was difficult, but the time was right to move on, effective this Friday. The MP was first elected in 2004 and has served as parliamentary secretary to the minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. In late 2013, Jean faced criticism after a decision to include a crossword about himself in a constituency newsletter. Jean's departure follows the resignation of another Alberta MP, Ted Menzies, who bowed out of federal politics in late 2013. Both resignations will trigger by-elections in Alberta in the coming months.

CNRL sees another wellbore failure at Cold Lake oilsands site

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) is investigating another wellbore failure at its Primrose site near Cold Lake after employees discovered a parted casing in early January that allowed steam to be released into another area of the wellbore zone. The incident, found on Jan. 3, did not cause a spill or leak of bitumen, according to the company, who told *The Journal* there is "no impact to the environment nor and potential danger to people," and that the incident is "unrelated" to the four bitumen leaks found on their property in May and June of last year that impacted 20.7 hectares of land in the area. CNRL stated late last year that the wellbore failures causing the leaks were a "solvable" challenge.



From left, Northwind Industries employees Kevin Rinas and Don Campbell exchange greetings with NWT Premier Bob McLeod and Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the construction launch of the Inuvik-Tuk highway last week.

Politics Infrastructure

Harper touts Northern development at highway construction launch

By MARIA CHURCH
Prime Minister Stephen Harper missed no opportunity to confirm Canada's commitment to the North during his visit to the NWT last week to kick off construction

of the highway that will link Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

For the first time by permanent road, the highway will connect Canada from coast to coast to coast, Harper told the crowd gathered at a ceremony held in Inuvik last Wednesday, officially launching work on the 137-km stretch of highway.

The prime minister was flanked at the event by NWT Premier Bob McLeod, Nellie Cournoyea, chair and CEO of Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC), and Robert Alexie Jr., president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

"This historic project realizes the visionary initiative of Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker back in the 1960s," Harper told the crowd. "Diefenbaker knew then what our government is undertaking today: constructing a highway will improve the lives of people living in the North for generations to come, facilitating economic development, creating jobs and enabling cost-effective, safe and reliable transportation of goods to and from Northern communities."

The all-weather highway, which will extend the current Dempster Highway to the Arctic coast, will include eight bridges over water bodies as it makes its way to Tuk. An estimated completion date is set for 2018.

Touted as a route to resources, the highway will facilitate exploration of the NWT's northernmost resource pools, from oil and gas of the Beaufort and Mackenzie Delta to shale oil reserves in the Sahtu.

"Our resources have been stranded for too long. Transportation routes in all forms

and all directions are key to getting our resources to market," McLeod stated at the ceremony.

The GNWT announced late last week that a contract with EGT-Northwind Ltd., a joint company based in Inuvik and Tuk, has been finalized to the tune of \$229.3 million. The federal government

material; it's almost sand with the odd boulder in it, some of the worst material with which to build a highly challenging project in the most challenging of all environments, and we still don't know what we're paying for royalties on this under-grade stuff," Bromley said.

Transportation routes in all forms and all directions are key to getting our resources to market.

NWT Premier Bob McLeod

has pledged a total of \$200 million for construction and the territorial government will cover the rest.

Despite the majority of costs being fronted by Canada, Bob Bromley, MLA for Weledeh, voiced concern about the highway last week, calling it a "black hole project whose costs we do not even know."

Minister of Transportation Tom Beaulieu responded by saying the department is confident the highway will be within the budget of just under \$300 million, and actual construction costs will likely be "well under that."

Bromley also raised concerns about the quality of gravel being used for the highway, which will be sourced from Inuvialuit land at a yet undetermined royalty rate.

"I hear that the gravel being used is primarily fine

Expert happy with political cooperation

Internal territorial politics aside, Northern development expert Anja Jeffrey said she is pleased to see political cooperation led to the highway construction launch, but cautioned against looking at the project as a template for future investment in the North.

"It's not setting a precedent, I don't think so," Jeffrey, director of the Centre for the North, told *The Journal*. "You cannot from this project derive that we are now going to have roads across the North."

Jeffrey said it's rare to see the federal government cough up that amount of money or have the territorial government in agreement with local and Aboriginal governments towards the same end.

"These circumstances were unique and the timing was opportune," she said.

Check out Northern Journal's

2014 Car-Truck Buyers' Guide

in next week's issue for tips and the latest line-up of cars.





NWT Premier Bob McLeod (centre) and NTPC Minister Michael Miltenberger (right) get a tour of Inuvik's new liquefied natural gas facility last Wednesday.



From left, Premier Bob McLeod, NTPC CEO Emanuel DaRosa and Minister Michael Miltenberger cut the ribbon, officially opening the LNG plant.

Photos: James Tolley, GNWT

Industry Oil & Gas

Inuvik's LNG facility 'breaks trail' in the North

By MARIA CHURCH

Residents in Inuvik are finally plugging into a cheaper, greener power source following the official opening of northern Canada's first liquid natural

gas (LNG) plant in Inuvik last week.

The LNG facility, the first of its kind operating in the circumpolar world, will be up and running this week, offsetting the current diesel-fuel

electricity requirement for the Northwest Territories Power Corp. (NTPC) in the area.

NWT Premier Bob McLeod and several MLAs were in Inuvik to mark the opening of the plant - an important part of the

territory's push for cheaper energy, Michael Miltenberger, minister responsible for the Power Corp., told *The Journal*.

"It will be a more affordable, cleaner source of energy than having to go back to using very expensive diesel," he said.

The facility is expected to lower power rates by 2 per cent for the 21 communities that are not on the hydro system and eliminate 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

"The (NTPC) has broken a trail when it comes to establishing an LNG site in the North. We've shown it can be done, that you can get the supply lines, that the technology can be adapted to work in the North," Miltenberger said.

In a press release following the LNG facility opening in Inuvik, Emanuel DaRosa, president and CEO of NTPC, said the company's plan is to prove the LNG technology and benefits, then develop similar projects across the territory.

Residents in Inuvik have been paying nearly twice their usual electricity rates for almost a year following the failure of the local Ikhil natural gas well, which forced NTPC to switch to synthetic natural gas and

Two shipments of LNG have already arrived at the facility in Inuvik, allowing NTPC to offset half of the diesel needed to supply Inuvik's electricity.

In less than two years, two other LNG production plants

It will be a more affordable, cleaner source of energy than having to go back to using very expensive diesel.

*Minister Michael Miltenberger
Northwest Territories Power Corp.*

diesel in January of last year.

Under pressure to find a better solution, the process to launch the LNG plant in Inuvik took less than nine months. A contract with Ventures West Transport was settled in June of last year to ship LNG from supplier Fortis Inc. in Delta, BC, and construction of the LNG plant began in August.

are expected to open in northern BC and Alberta, which will further decrease costs, Miltenberger said.

According to the minister, the town of Inuvik is now looking at using LNG as a more permanent energy source, including for heating, as the current natural gas well is expected to dry up entirely in the near future.



ConocoPhillips drills for natural gas at its Ghost Pine plant in Morrin, Alta.

Photo: ConocoPhillips

Industry Fracking

Information will likely leak out: consultant

Continued from page 1.

"We should certainly expect to learn about any drilling issues or challenges they encountered on a much shorter time frame. Geological results, including things like water bodies and water characteristics encountered, should be provided."

Though ConocoPhillips has the right to stay mum

for two years, that doesn't mean some information won't leak out, says the GNWT.

"There are local people working onsite who would be aware if oil was found," Matthews said.

"Husky still hasn't released its results from wells drilled last year, but people who were working there saw

that the flare stacks were burning, which indicates that gas was found and that's a sure indication of oil."

Husky shelved this winter's exploration plan to drill and frack two more vertical wells. It is expected to apply in February to drill and frack two horizontal wells in the first quarter of 2015.



Town of Fort Smith Notice to Residents

The Town of Fort Smith is seeking individuals interested in sitting on the Board of Revision.

The Board of Revision is responsible for hearing appeals received relative to the assessment notices related to the 2014 Property Taxation year. If you are interested in being considered for this board, please submit a letter to the Town of Fort Smith by January 31, 2014.

*The Town of Fort Smith
P.O. Box 147, 174 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Phone: (867) 872-8400 / Fax: (867) 872-8401
Email: townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca*

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

Publisher & Managing Editor Don Jaque
867-872-3000 ext.21 • don@norj.ca

Editor Meagan Wohlberg
867-872-3000 ext.24 • news@norj.ca

Reporter Maria Church
867-872-3000 ext.25 • reporter@norj.ca

Comptroller Dixie Penner
867-872-3000 ext.23 • dix@norj.ca

Advertising Joshua Jorgensen
867-872-3000 ext.15 • sales@norj.ca

Administration Jeremy Turcotte
867-872-3000 ext.20 • admin@norj.ca

Production & Graphics Sandra Jaque
867-872-3000 ext.22 • sandra@norj.ca
Paul Bannister
867-872-3000 ext.27 • graphics@norj.ca
Anna Sierra
867-872-3000 ext.26 • design@norj.ca

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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.



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Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
Duffield	High Level	Valleyview
Edmonton	High Prairie	Wabasca
Enilda	Hythe	
Enoch	John D'or Prairie	

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2014 - truth or consequences

First let us agree on one thing. Democratic governments, supposed to be the pinnacle of what is good and just, are not really "for the people and by the people." People have little say in what goes on in the halls of power. Too often things done by leaders "for the people" are not at all what they want. That is a flaw in democracy; perhaps a fatal one.

Leaders do what they feel is best for the people, whether wanted or not - often things later revealed to be contrary to the best interests of those who gave them power. The rich get richer in the process. Something is terribly wrong with that. At

some point there will be a reckoning - there always is.

Modern governments chart their course by opinion polls, striving to enhance their popularity rather than be genuine, transparent and candidly offer up what they truly feel is right. What is offered instead is "spin" - marketing instead of truth. The number one goal is to stay in power. Anything will be done to achieve that. Lying and cheating are too common and operating outside the law is, unfortunately, not unusual.

Many elected leaders are either motivated by dogma or are influenced by others in positions of power to mutual benefit,

often enhancing the wealth of both. Positions taken and directions chosen are rationalized in the name of vague concepts such as "progress, development and job creation," even though the citizens they represent - the people who should matter most, may benefit little, if at all.

The consequence of all this is a lack of trust in all leaders, including even the good ones. That atmosphere is moving rapidly from tainted to poisoned. People no longer have faith, no longer believe in their governments. That is very unfortunate. It means our civilization is on shaky ground.

Facts hidden, conspiracy theories prevail

In things that matter, doubt has turned to disbelief. Conspiracy theories are rife. Fifty years ago people were wary of big government. ("Big Brother is watching you!"). "Area 51" in Nevada, "where remains of captured aliens are being kept," was legend. Was John Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone or was the CIA involved in a secret plot to get rid of him?

The destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, was a turning point for many things, including heightened paranoia of government. Conspiracy theories became rampant. "Was Bin Laden assisted by an internal American government plot? Look how some of the buildings collapsed, almost certainly brought down by explosives. And why did no one hear the jet that crashed into the Pentagon?"

As governments become ever more closed, the theories are more radical, yet more and more people are buying into them. The release of thousands of confidential NSA documents by Edward Snowden confirmed it all, to those who

disbelieve, demonstrating how the American government is ignoring the rights of individuals. Done in the name of "security," a paternalistic government is "doing what is right to make the people safe." Many people don't like that. The fundamental tenets of a free society are being jeopardized in the process.

It is happening everywhere. Why did the Alberta government not immediately release details of the Obed Mountain coal slurry spill? Why has Alberta Environment not done proper impact studies in the vicinity of the oilsands industry? Why is there not proper monitoring immediately downstream of the oilsands, ensuring the health of the people there? Those are not "rantings of crazy, left wing environmentalists." They are legitimate and appropriate concerns that are not being acted on. Instead, what is offered is a sales pitch.

The lack of trust is prevalent, even in the NWT. "Why is the NWT government not going to carefully monitor the impact of fracking in the Sahtu as the development is fast tracked to benefit industry?" Such

questions are in the minds of many. Will the petitions be ignored, because that is what is best for the people? Yes, that development will provide much needed benefits to the economy. Government revenues will be enhanced. Jobs will be created. But is it being done right? Will industry be carefully monitored? Because deceit by governments is too common, people do not believe.

Social media has magnified the feedback. The latest is the possible meltdown of one of the cores of the crippled nuclear reactor at Fukushima. Concern over a radioactive plume approaching North America has gone viral. The storyline is that the Canadian government is part of a plot to cover it up - to the point that radiation detector sites on the West Coast are being shut down. Is that true? Hopefully not.

An "Arab Spring" can happen anywhere. Unless governments change their ways and become honest and transparent, they will lose the trust of the people altogether. That will not be good, for anybody.



Drummers kick off the first concert on Neil Young's "Honour the Treaties" benefit tour for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Toronto on Sunday. The rocker and ACFN's leadership are touring the country to bring attention to the First Nation's struggles against the oilsands industry.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Shadowlands goes global

Fort Smith's Dome Productions will be attending MIDEM, the world's "premier international music industry marketplace" later this month. The five-day conference, held in Cannes, France, is an opportunity for Bill Wade and his wife Linda Calder, who are co-owners of Dome Productions, and their record label, Shadowlands.

Issue: January 12, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Cathedral fund reaches goal

International media attention helped Fort Smith Catholics reach their \$50,000 goal to save St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Fort Smith went national and beyond over the holidays, as a CBC report on the cathedral was run on the American news network CNN.

Issue: January 12, 1994

30 Years Ago...

'Halt studies': council

Fort Smith council has unanimously passed a motion pushing for a moratorium on all dam studies for the proposed Slave River hydro project until a deal can be made with Alberta to protect the interests of Fort Smith. Councillor Hans Seifert made the motion because he said he was concerned that the town was not being taken seriously by the Alberta government.

Issue: January 12, 1984

The NWT's Devolution Act - what's next?

This column continues from last week's issue.

The Devolution Act has been referred to committees of the House of Commons and the Senate. Our objective in Ottawa is to have the Devolution Act passed before Apr. 1, 2014 so that the NWT government and its Aboriginal counterparts can begin the smooth transition to territorial control over resource management and development jurisdiction.

You will be aware of some of the concerns with the act that have been raised by some NWT Aboriginal leaders who are concerned that their organizations will lose regional representation through consolidation of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. However, as we heard from Minister Valcourt and Premier McLeod, the restructured board will continue to make objective decisions to review developers' applications for land use permits and water licenses, with full authority to seek regional input on concerns regarding development and environmental protection. Our neighbouring territory of Nunavut, which has a larger area than the NWT and has had significantly more exploration activity than the NWT, has been operating effectively and credibly with one environmental review board which is

representative of all the regions in the territory.

While the restructured NWT board will not have permanent panels, the act allows for the chair to designate small groups of members to deal with applications before the board. Further, in response to comments received through consultations, the proposed legislation requires the chair to appoint the regionally nominated representative to this smaller committee when it is considering an application wholly within that region. This will ensure that regional knowledge and representation are reflected in the smaller committee.

The mining industry, which is the backbone of the NWT's private sector economy, has been a strong supporter of regulatory improvement, because they see the current regime as complex, costly and time consuming. We all recognize that over time, the current provisions of the act relating to resource jurisdiction in particular will be reviewed and improved. I encourage the mining industry and their oil and gas colleagues to make their views known at upcoming hearings and to make a commitment to work with federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments to design an even more effective regulatory regime as provided for in a five year review.

Your well-meaning MP, Dennis Bevington, after congratulating Premier McLeod last March when the devolution final agreement was signed with the federal government, held discussions with a select group of stakeholders and then produced a report which basically trashed the devolution package - an agreement which has received significant support from throughout the NWT. In recent pronouncements about the act, he curiously insists on using terms like "colonial" to characterize an agreement which has the support of the Legislative Assembly and most NWT Aboriginal governments and land claims institutions.

It is unfortunate the Member for the Western Arctic does not respect that the Devolution Act has clear support from the NWT government and Legislative Assembly and that the GNWT is taking a prudent approach to implementation, ensuring that the capacity will exist to deliver on resource jurisdiction which has been transferred. Our Senate Committee was most impressed when Premier McLeod described how his government has reached out to federal public servants and has achieved a remarkable success rate in the number



Dennis Patterson
Senator (Nunavut)

who have agreed to transfer to the NWT government.

The nature of our political institutions at the federal level requires that opposition parties need to hold the governing party to account. Mr. Bevington continues to provide constructive advice on many Northern policy issues, but to characterize the Devolution Act as colonial is a bit rich, especially given the level of support Premier McLeod has been able to achieve for the package.

In closing, as a former premier of the NWT, I am proud of what the NWT has achieved and am honoured to be the government sponsor of this Act in the Senate. Let the Devolution Act represent another remarkable chapter in the NWT's constitutional evolution and bring greater prosperity and an improved quality of life to all residents.

White Girl: Break up or bombs: Part 2

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

Spring breakup is a time of reclamation. Days are longer; if you put your back to a wall and stand still you can squeeze some warm out of the sun. Sol, the passive aggressive orb in the sky, smiles as it melts away the hard cold. Faces tan from sun glancing off the snow and ice. Little rivets of water are running down the road and dropping like tiny waterfalls from roofs. Bird song is heard in the willows. People who have the "sight" can see sap running in the trees and willows.

There are strangers sitting on porches and steps; they have not been seen for months. Elders have left the warmth of the woodstoves to creep outside to bask in the warmth and light of the sun for a few minutes. Cold sneaks quickly into old bones, they sigh as they are forced, reluctantly, back into the dark and fetid cabins.

Ice is rotten and unpredictable, snow gets sticky and sleds suck into slush that refuses to let go. The winter weary dogs stumble at their task. These dogs have hauled wood all winter to keep their masters warm; in the summer they rest. Their tired eyes say that it can't be soon enough. We have no cars or trucks to haul people or wood. Dogs are skinny from hard work; their rib bones stick out and rub the tracers that attach them to the sleigh. Caribou meat and stick fish ran out a month back and masters are cooking what they can for their dogs.

Commercial dog food is an inferior product, it runs right through a dogs guts. Caribou or moose hair is added to the cooked commercial feed. Hair holds the food in their gut longer in an attempt to let the dogs pull some nutrition out of this stinky mush; some are lucky enough to have tallow and oats

to add to the cooked feed; at the very least, it's warm. People are hungry, too; there is little food left at the HBC.

White men in suits with really white shirts came from Ottawa on the last plane before break-up. They have come to talk to us about bombs. They talk very loud and slow to us, like we are deaf and dumb, and we smile at their silliness. I don't remember what the outside crisis *du jour* was. Maybe they had excess funding that they had to burn off? We are told that in the event of a nuclear attack we are to put our hands behind our heads and crawl under our desks so we won't get hurt. "Try not to breathe in the fallout dust as well," they say, "it could be bad for you." "Okey, dokey!"

Today in the classroom a rumbling is heard, kids look slowly up from behind their books. Everyone is quiet trying not to breathe, listening

intently. I can feel tremors in the floor; they must have sent those bombs. All eyes focus on our teacher, she hasn't noticed yet. "Teacher, teacher can you feel that?" little voices rise in excitement; she looks puzzled at the question and the unusual behaviour. We see a light begin behind her eyes... "Oh my god!" she exclaims (This is a Catholic school and she swore, this is serious), the ice must be going out!"

Our ticket to freedom; books are dropped as kids rush to put on boots, to hell with jackets. Pencils are thrown back toward the mini bomb shelters, the big kids are running down the hall... "Run, run, the river is breaking up!" Bombs are forgotten, the breakup of the Mackenzie is far more important than southern politics.

Stay tuned for Part 3 of 3 in the Northern Journal.

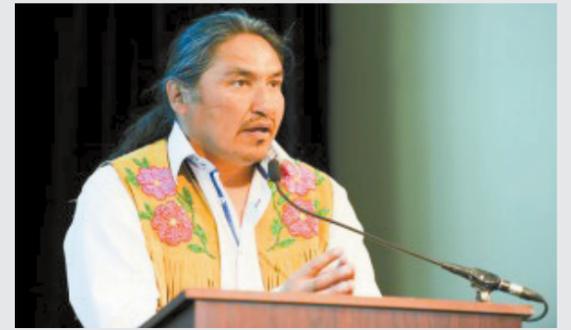
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FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

We chose Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam as our newsmaker of 2013. What do you think?



Northern Journal's Newsmaker of the Year: Relentless: Chief Allan Adam and the ACFN



Evelyn Simpson: we hear your voice.... keep goingyou will win.....good work... allan...



Mike Beaver: He's the Man...Keep Up The Good Work Allan

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
-26 High	-28 Low	-11 High	-28 Low	-23 High	-23 Low	-18 High	-23 Low
-18 High	-18 Low	-15 High	-25 Low	-12 High	-16 Low	-8 High	-14 Low
Norms: -23°C and -31°C				Norms: -23°C and -31°C			

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
-11 High	-11 Low	-9 High	-19 Low	-5 High	-11 Low	1 High	-6 Low
-3 High	-11 Low	-10 High	-20 Low	-7 High	-11 Low	-2 High	-10 Low
Norms: -19°C and -28°C				Norms: -19°C and -29°C			

New NWT regulator to be distinctly Northern: minister

New assessment process to look at broad impacts of development

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Contrary to speculation that the territory will be employing or modelling the Alberta Energy Regulator after devolution, Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger says the NWT intends to ensure business is done in accordance with the unique political philosophy of Northerners.

As of Apr. 1, the NWT will have its own regulator, composed of pieces from the existing departments of ENR, Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and the newly created Lands department.

While that regulator will take a one-window approach to serving proponents looking to do anything from mining to building roads, similar to Alberta's new one-stop-shop energy regulator, Miltenberger said the NWT's body will be guided by Northern policy such as the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, Water Stewardship Strategy and the Mineral Development Strategy, among others.

"We have a significantly different approach in terms of how we do business than does Alberta," he said. "We're driven by our own political philosophies, our policies that we've developed as a government that lay out very clearly



Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger says NWT's new regulator will be guided by Northern policy.

how we want to approach development. So there's some concern that we were just going to adopt the Alberta model and approach and, in fact, just bring them in to run things on our behalf, and that's not the case."

ITI Minister Dave Ramsay stated in media reports

late last year that the NWT was looking to the Alberta Energy Regulator as a "good model" on which to base the new NWT regulator.

Though the NWT regulator will come into effect immediately as of Apr. 1, Miltenberger admitted there would likely be internal capacity issues during

We have a significantly different approach in terms of how we do business than does Alberta.

*Minister Michael Miltenberger
Environment and Natural Resources*

the transition, meaning the current filing requirements established by the National Energy Board (NEB) for fracking - a new practice in the territory - would still be referenced until the finalization of the NWT's own guidelines, and help possibly obtained from other jurisdictions, as well.

"We will be looking at using the expertise of the NEB, maybe the Alberta Energy Regulator, and we're also looking at BC and Saskatchewan to see what technical, support services we may be able to use," he said.

Miltenberger said a draft of the GNWT's proposed fracking guidelines has gone to committee and should hopefully have made its way through the industry and public consultation process by spring.

Within those guidelines, Miltenberger said, attention will be paid not only to how industrial activity such as fracking is looked at on a case-by-case

basis, but also to the cumulative impacts of development on the land.

"The fracking guidelines look at a project by project approach. We as a government and a territory have to have the discussion about the other broader, but very important, issues of pace and intensity of development," he said. "Part of that is going to be that if you agree to a fracking project, what are the best practices and guidelines that they have to follow. But of equal strategic importance is the rate and the intensity of development, and what - especially on the oil and gas side - is sustainable, what is acceptable to us as a territory. So those are important issues that have to be formalized, as well."

He said industry, along with the Aboriginal governments and communities, will be brought on board to address the concerns people have with

development like fracking in areas such as the Sahtu, poised for a coming boom.

"We live in a very environmentally sensitive area, so we have to have that holistic look," Miltenberger said.

Alignment with review board still up in air

The territory's existing review boards are the wildcard in the arrangement, as amendments continue to be made at the federal level to the NWT's main piece of regulatory legislation, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).

Miltenberger said the GNWT's priority right now is to get its own "house in order" while Canada works on sorting out the proposed consolidation of the regional land and water boards into one superboard.

"Our focus now is to make sure that we are taking care of our business and are ready to be operational, functional as of Apr. 1," he said.

While the structure of the new regulator is still in the works, Miltenberger said it would be controlled by a ministerial committee and would be centralized in Yellowknife, though it would harness the capacity of employees in other regional hubs, with ITI and ENR employees taking on the "lion's share" of the work.

Industry Mining

Yellowknife holds golden promises for mining in 2014

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The future could be shiny with gold for several mining companies hoping to exploit

mineral claims near Yellowknife this year.

North Sur Resources Inc. released the results of its

2013 exploration program at the Uptown Gold Project on Dec. 31, highlighting the promise of further mineral

extraction in the area adjacent to the city's historic Giant Mine.

Surface and shallow drill samples taken at Uptown, located approximately 3 km north of Yellowknife, between mid-September and October confirmed the presence of "significant" gold and silver mineralization in two key areas of focus - the Fox South and Rod zones - located 2.3 km apart, according to the company.

"North Sur believes the latest round of exploration work provides further evidence of the potential for precious metal mineralization at Uptown," stated a release from the company's president and CEO, Cornell McDowell.

According to the company, the Rod zone was a hub for small scale mining activities in the mid-1970s, with a reported production of 12 tons

of ore at an average grade of over 55 grams per ton (g/t). Samples from 2013 returned 92.9 g/t of gold and greater than 100 g/t of silver from the Rod site.

The Fox South zone, located next to Giant Mine and only 700 metres from the Greenstone Belt, showed increased gold and silver at depth at an average of between 2.62 g/t and 4.67 g/t for gold.

Samples taken last year showed variable levels of copper, lead, zinc and molybdenum, as well.

The company, which obtained the Uptown property from Panarc Resources in August 2013, said further evaluation activities would take place throughout the coming year in several untested target areas on the Uptown property.

"The focus for the next field program will be

property wide reconnaissance and documentation of all potential zones of surface mineralization in order to better understand the scope and potential for precious metal mineralization across the property," stated the release.

TerraX Minerals Inc. is also looking to the Yellowknife area for the draw of gold this year.

The Victoria, BC company is using its recently completed private placement of \$95,000 to finance drilling at Northbelt, a 3,562-hectare site 15 km north of Yellowknife in early 2014.

The site, covering 13 km of strike on the geology that once housed the Giant and Con gold mines, is "host to multiple shears" recognized as the hosts for gold in Yellowknife, and "contains innumerable gold showings," according to the company.



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Benjamin Moore
The Colour Experts

Ministers accept Giant Mine cleanup measures, ignore project team complaints

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Despite threats from the project team that the Giant Mine cleanup would be delayed by years due to increased financial costs, the federal ministers responsible for the remediation project gave the thumbs up over Christmas to the majority of measures set out by the review board last year.

Federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) Minister Bernard Valcourt sent a letter to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on Dec. 23, accepting 17 of the 26 mandatory measures, and suggesting minor changes in wording to the remaining nine.

“The Responsible Ministers and I are pleased and supportive of the work undertaken by the Review Board for this Environmental Assessment and acknowledge the support expressed by numerous stakeholders since the report was released,” Valcourt wrote on behalf of AANDC, Environment Canada and the department of Fisheries and Oceans.

According to the letter, AANDC has agreed to change the project timeframe to 100 years rather than look at it as a perpetual care project, as well as investigate



Kevin O'Reilly of Alternatives North says Canada's approval of the review board's report on the Giant Mine remediation was "an early Christmas present" for Yellowknifers.

Photo: Don Jaque

and report long-term funding options.

Canada has also agreed to design a broad monitoring program focused on the human health impacts of arsenic, use ion exchange technology for water treatment to meet drinking water quality standards, and consult with

both the City of Yellowknife and the nearby Yellowknives Dene First Nation to determine the end use of the site following remediation.

The cleanup efforts include the take-down and removal of all defunct buildings onsite - a project that has been in the works

since last spring. Below the surface, the team has developed a system to keep underground chambers containing 237,000 tonnes of deadly arsenic trioxide dust frozen in perpetuity, or until an improved innovation emerges for its safe containment or disposal.

Kevin O'Reilly of NGO Alternatives North, an independent watchdog overseeing the remediation, said AANDC's decision was a surprising, but welcome, "early Christmas present," considering the cleanup team's "negative and disappointing" reaction to the review board's report last fall.

The project team said in early November that measures prescribed by the review board were outside the scope of the project and would cause unnecessary delays of three to four years and cost increases to the cleanup, already tagged at \$1 billion.

"Clearly the ministers didn't accept that advice and really, I guess, were much more in line with what folks in the North have been saying about the review board report," O'Reilly said. "We want to commend the ministers for doing the right thing."

He said he believes the motions made by Yellowknife City Council and in the NWT Legislature, along with letters of support from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Métis Alliance and three Yellowknife MLAs supporting the review board's recommendations, trumped the complaints of the cleanup team.

O'Reilly said even the changes in wording proposed

by the responsible ministers were beneficial in most cases.

"Most of the wording changes are really quite minor and really help strengthen and clarify roles and responsibilities, timing, that sort of thing, and I think that's actually quite good," he said.

Over the coming year, O'Reilly said he would be paying close attention to how the yet to be negotiated independent oversight body for the cleanup project comes into play.

"They've said that they're supportive of the idea of independent oversight and an environmental agreement, and that the working group that was set up basically to negotiate that arrangement needs to get back meeting and negotiating again," he said, noting that had been a request of stakeholders since September 2012.

"Now with this kick from the ministers, hopefully that's going to get going again, and maybe we need some new faces at the table for the federal and territorial government at the table to get this arrangement finished."

Both levels of government, along with the city, First Nations and organizations like Alternatives North will be meeting to discuss the ministers' proposed amendments on Jan. 20 in Yellowknife.

Politics First Nations

Deline self government decision in hands of the people

Ratification vote scheduled for Mar. 10 to 12

By MARIA CHURCH

The decision on whether the Sahtu community of Deline will be the first in the NWT to achieve self government is now in the hands of the people who will be affected by it.

Chief negotiators initialed the Final Self-Government Agreement on Dec. 16, effectively giving the go ahead to the document, which has been in the works for 18 years this month.

The next and final step is a ratification vote from members of the Deline First Nation and beneficiaries of the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement registered with the Deline Land Corp.

In order to pass, more than 50 per cent of voters must be in favour.

To prepare for the ratification step, the Deline negotiators have launched a massive communication strategy to inform voters of the now-public



Danny Gaudet, chief negotiator for Deline, initials the Deline Self-Government Agreement on Dec. 16. Final approval is now up to the people of Deline with a vote this March.

Photo: Tait Communications

agreement and encourage them to vote.

Danny Gaudet, chief negotiator for Deline, told *The Journal* the ratification vote will be the end of the self government

negotiations with the federal and territorial governments, regardless of a 'yes' or 'no' vote from the community.

If members vote in favour, Deline will only just begin the

process of transferring powers to a centralized Deline Government that will deliver programs and services and have greater control over the community's future.

"I keep explaining to people that we've changed over a 60-year period from being nomadic people to where we are today; don't expect the change to self government overnight," Gaudet said. "It's going to take a lot of energy and time."

If it's a 'no' vote, everything will stay the same, he said. "Nothing changes; we all go home. I don't want to think about it."

Gaudet and the team of negotiators held an informational workshop with Deline's community elders last week. Several issues such as traditional healing funds and access to Aboriginal health benefits were brought up, but quickly clarified.

"The elders understand what we are trying to do, so they are quite supportive of it," Gaudet said.

Several more informational sessions have been scheduled in the community as well as across the territory and in

Edmonton and Calgary, as 50 per cent of eligible voters do not reside solely in the community of Deline.

"The community alone might not be able to pass this agreement, so we will have to work really hard with members outside the community to make sure they all vote," Gaudet said.

As part of the communication strategy, the negotiators rolled out a new website called *ourdeline.ca* and have created social media pages on Facebook and Youtube.

"We are trying to reach youth through social media, but we are also trying to have face-to-face with them. It's better to have face-to-face so we can explain things properly, give them ideas of how it will work and squash any misunderstandings," Gaudet said.

For information about the Deline agreement and a schedule of informational sessions, visit www.ourdeline.ca



Renowned Tuktoyaktuk carver Joe Nasogaluak participates in the Sunrise Festival's snow carving competition with his first-prize winning entry of a figure sticking his tongue out at the newly risen winter sun, a memory from his childhood when he and his siblings would run out and joke with the January sun.

Inuvik celebrates return of the li



Lorna (left) and Delanie Elias watch fireworks while a bonfire burns behind them as part of Inuvik's annual Sunrise Festival.



Arctic Winter Games athletes in a snowmobile parade. Team members include Darcie Setzer, Nina Verbanac,



Kelsey (left) and Nicole Mc... Inuvik's Igloo Church as part of the Sunrise Festival.



Firemen and spectators, with their backs to the bonfire, watch a grand display of fireworks at Inuvik's Sunrise Festival.

Light with annual Sunrise Festival



Members of Inuvik make up the "Team NWT" snowmobile in the Sunrise Festival's snowmobile competition, playing Bantam, Midget & Jr. Female hockey, from left to right: Alex Skinner, Shannon Baetz, Marjorie Baetz (mascot) and River Ross.



Chris Gruben puts some last minute touches on his mother and baby polar bear snow sculpture just before judging starts for the snow carving competition at the 2014 Inuvik Sunrise Festival. About snow carving: "I love it, it's like being a kid again!"



Donald pose with their snow replica of the Inuvik Sunrise Festival at the snow carving competition at the Inuvik Sunrise Festival.



Moses and Margaret Gordon, along with their grandchildren Tyra and Tamara, sell homemade bread, eskimo donuts and raffle off a "2014 Inuvik Sunrise Festival" chocolate cake at the Midnight Sun Complex.



Aubrey and Logan Bullock warm themselves in front of the Sunrise Festival bonfire.

Photos: Nick Westover

NWT confirms 53 sick with H1N1 flu virus

Territory running out of flu vaccine supply, limits to 'high-risk' residents

By MARIA CHURCH

A spike in the number of flu cases in the NWT this year is causing a strain on vaccine supplies, according to the territory's top doctor, but it's too early to tell if it will be a record high year.

Dr. André Corriveau, NWT's Chief Public Health Officer, confirmed with *The Journal* that H1N1 - the influenza strain that ravaged the world in 2009 causing an estimated 500,000 deaths - is once again the predominant strain this year.

As of late last week, there were 53 lab-confirmed influenza cases in the territory and all were found to be the H1N1 virus.

"That's really the tip of the iceberg because those that get diagnosed are the ones that are sick enough to go to a health centre or the emergency room," Corriveau said.

Eight people have been hospitalized because of severe reaction to the influenza, but thus far there have been no deaths in the territory attributed to the flu.



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

André Corriveau, NWT's Chief Public Health Officer, says cold, dry weather could be to blame for the early and sharp increase of flu cases in the territory.

Children and young adults are particularly susceptible to the H1N1 virus and are more likely to have a severe infection, Corriveau said. Several of the confirmed cases are children under 5 years old.

Across Canada, unease is spreading as the prairie provinces continue to report startlingly high numbers of

hospitalization and deaths from the flu virus, and the Alberta government confirmed last week that there was even an isolated death from the rare Avian influenza, H5N1.

Cold, dry weather might be to blame for the early and "sharp increase" of flu cases in the NWT, Corriveau said, since "very cold, dry air does

seem to facilitate the spread of respiratory viruses."

Vaccine limited to high-risk only

Due to "unprecedented demand," Glen Abernethy, NWT's health minister, announced late last week that it is limiting vaccine supply to high risk individuals only. Priority is being given

to pregnant mothers and children under the age of five.

"We are now running low on our flu vaccination supplies for 2014. This is because of an overwhelming response from the general public over the last week," the minister said at a press conference Friday.

The government ordered more than 15,000 doses, enough to vaccinate 36 per cent of the population this year. As of Friday, there were approximately 700 left.

According to the minister, the government is working with federal and provincial authorities to restock the depleting vaccine supply.

Slow 2013 flu season gave 'false security'

Over the past two flu seasons, Canada recorded lower than average influenza cases, which likely gave people a false sense of security, Corriveau told *The Journal*.

Last year, only 20 per cent of the population in the NWT received the flu vaccine, with some communities as high as

60 per cent and others less than 15. Yellowknife had one of the lower percentages of participation, pushing the territory below average.

"I think many people had decided it wasn't that big of a deal and I won't get my flu shot," Corriveau said. "All of a sudden there is a big demand for influenza vaccine again because people are hearing the news from Alberta and Saskatchewan and they've had a number of deaths."

In Fort Smith, public health nurse and supervisor Melanie Kearley confirmed that pre-Christmas vaccine numbers were lower than usual, but they saw a flood of people in the new year.

"I'm guessing people are watching the news and seeing the increase of influenza and H1N1 in Alberta. People are getting scared and want to be protected," Kearley said.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, there have been localized influenza activity in Inuvik and sporadic activity in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River.

Sports & Recreation Arctic Winter Games

More non-Yellowknife athletes expected for AWG 2014

Yellowknife dominates Team NWT roster after first round of trials

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

This year's Team NWT roster for the Arctic Winter Games (AWG) in Fairbanks, Alaska should see a mixed bag in terms of representation from across the territory, according to officials with the Sport North Federation.

With the majority of the territory's population and organized sports, Yellowknife naturally has the upper hand when it comes to qualifying for major sporting events as NWT representatives, including this year's AWG in Fairbanks, Alaska.

While Yellowknife is still expected to dominate the roster in terms of representation, the AWG's chef de mission Doug Rentmeister said he expects an increase in numbers of athletes coming from the surrounding communities this time around in the individual sport categories.

"We should see a lot more communities represented... because there are a lot more individual sports being played," he told *The Journal*.

Trials for most of those individual sports, which include Arctic sports, Dene games, dog mushing, gymnastics,



Photo: Tim Hogan

Fort Smith athlete Dezmond McDonald goes up for a block against Team Yukon at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

snowboarding, speed skating, badminton and wrestling, have yet to take place and are scheduled for later

in the month.

Those sports, especially Dene games and Arctic sports, tend to see greater

For these games we even went as far as to allocate specific funds to territorial sport organizations to prepare 'non tax based' athletes for each set of territorial trials.

*Doug Rentmeister
Sport North Federation*

numbers of community representation, according to Sport North.

Team sports, which had their qualifiers done by mid-December, are once again dominated by Yellowknife athletes, with the exception of a few. The male volleyball team is almost entirely composed of athletes from Fort Smith, while the male curling team will hail from Hay River. The girls' curling team is forged from athletes from Inuvik and Fort McPherson.

Basketball, soccer and women's volleyball are almost, if not completely, made up of Yellowknifers, though hockey, which has a higher

rate of participation than some other sports outside of Yellowknife, has resulted in more of a mixed bag with respect to Team NWT's roster. The male bantam and midget teams along with the female team contain a solid mix of players from Yellowknife, the Beaufort Delta and the South Slave.

Individual sports like biathlon, as predicted by Rentmeister, are already showing a much greater degree of variety in representation. Both ski and snowshoe biathletes are coming largely from Hay River, with others from Aklavik, Fort Good Hope, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson.

Cross country skiing features the odd Fort McPherson athlete, as well, mixed in among its primarily Yellowknife-based roster, and figure skating has seen a split between Yellowknife and Inuvik.

Rentmeister attributed some of the increased community participation to additional effort and financing by Sport North.

"We...make a conscious effort to try to get as many 'non tax based' athletes at a level that they can compete with the 'tax based athletes,'" he said in an email. "For these games we even went as far as to allocate specific funds to territorial sport organizations to prepare 'non tax based' athletes for each set of territorial trials."

Still, Rentmeister said, the composition of athletes on Team NWT varies from year to year.

"In some games we have a significant number of 'non tax based' athletes; some games not," he said.

For a full list of Team NWT's roster to date and trial schedules, visit <https://sport-north.com/our-programs/team-nwt/arctic-winter-games>

Dead of winter inspires chilling horror film fest

Dead North film competition comes back for second scare

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Organizers behind the North's second annual horror film competition are hoping the madness of cabin fever and sinister quietude of the frigid Northern winter produce some creepy and gory cinematic masterpieces over the coming weeks.

The Dead North short film challenge is back for another scare this winter, and organizer Jay Bulckaert wants to see even more Northerners brave the dead of winter to create a chilling set of horror films in a wide variety of subgenres, from the classic slasher to the psychologically torturous.

Bulckaert, a Yellowknife filmmaker and horror junkie, got the film competition rolling last year as a way to force both first-time and professional producers to try something different while promoting a genre that sees a lot of buy-in in the North.

The results, he said, were beyond his wildest expectations.

"I was actually blown away, to be honest," he

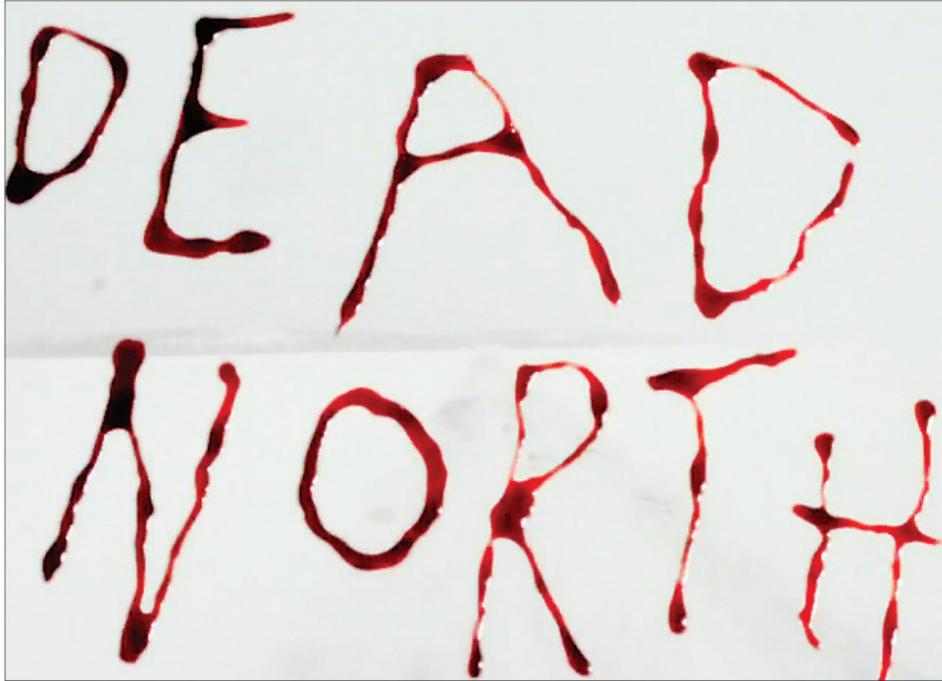


Photo courtesy of Artless Collective

The Dead North horror film challenge is back for another round this winter. Teams wanting to create their own horror masterpiece must register by Jan. 18.

said. "Seeing these films - I thought I was a decent filmmaker, but they just came out of the woodworks."

Though horror is admittedly not everybody's cup of

tea, Bulckaert said its fans are die hard in their dedication to the genre, as can be seen from the myriad of horror fests found around the globe.

"For those of us who are into it, we're really into it. And it's super fun to go shoot. It's not just fun to watch a movie; it's fun to figure out how to stab someone on

camera and use fake blood. That's fun."

While it's less enjoyable having to shoot these films in the dead of winter, Bulckaert said he made the conscious choice to stick with February for the contest because of the eerie aesthetic the cold provides.

"It makes it more sinister that you have to go out and shoot in -35," he said. "People can act out their revenge fantasies on the weather in film format."

With five teams already registered and many more interested, Bulckaert is hoping to have at least 10 entries this year.

Teams are asked to register and pay the \$100 entry fee by Jan. 18. NWT author and avid horror fan Richard Van Camp, who will be judging the contest again this year, will release the guidelines on Jan. 27 and teams will be asked to have their scripts handed in by Feb. 10.

Those scripts will be reviewed to ensure they include the mandatory Northern components - still to be announced - and filmmakers will have from

Feb. 13 to 27 to shoot and edit their 5-10 minute production, due by midnight on Feb. 28.

Submitted films will hit the walls of Yellowknife's Snowcastle on Mar. 5 during the official festival screening, where winners will receive their gory "zombear" trophies, handmade by Bulckaert.

Though Bulckaert plans to compete rather than judge, he said he hopes to see other filmmakers push the boundaries further with their films this year, even into the realm of the surreal.

"I'd like to see something that's really creepy, that doesn't necessarily need to involve blood or whatever...With more people competing, I think people are going to have to come up with some more originality and creepier elements with their flicks - even more controversial, too...It's about finding an element that is subtle, but worms its way into your brain and just doesn't leave."

Teams interested in registering should contact artlesscollectiveofficial@gmail.com by Jan. 18.

Northerners Entrepreneurs

Yellowknife chef competes on TV's *Chopped Canada*

Chef credits Yellowknife with wild menu inspirations

By MARIA CHURCH

He's not allowed to tell you whether he won or not, but Robin Wasicuna, the NWT's first chef to compete on the brand-new Food Network show *Chopped Canada*, can tell you it's the craziest thing he's ever done.

"There are cameras in your face, there's the lights, you are cooking against some of Canada's best chefs and you're cooking for Canada's best chefs," the 42 year-old chef from Yellowknife shared with *The Journal*. "It's pretty much the most intense thing I've ever done in my entire life. It was crazy."

Chopped Canada's television premiere last week was a smashing success for the Food Network, proving Canadians have just as much appetite for the program as the popular US show *Chopped* it is based on.

In every episode, four chefs face off in a series of culinary challenges to produce the best dish with a bizarre list of secret basket ingredients. Each round, judged by some of Canada's top chefs, sees one competitor "chopped" until the winner stands alone.



Photo courtesy of Robin Wasicuna

Robin Wasicuna is the chef behind Wiseguy Foods in Yellowknife. The NWT chef was selected to compete on the first season of Chopped Canada and his episode, "Food, Sweat and Tears," airs on the Food Network on Jan. 16.

Owner and operator of the popular Wiseguy Foods mobile food truck in Yellowknife, Wasicuna was approached repeatedly by the producers of the show after initially ignoring multiple emails to apply. Finally, after a convincing phone call, he agreed to submit an application and was chosen as one of 104 Canadian

chefs from more than 1,000 applicants.

"Just to be selected I felt pretty honoured," he said.

Wasicuna has been a chef in Yellowknife for the past six years and has been running a successful food truck in the summer and a catering service during the winter for the past three. Though

his chef's background is in fine dining, his interest lies in what he calls "comfort food."

"That's what I really enjoy, the comfort food; the food you grew up eating that your grandma made you or your mom made you - doesn't matter which country you came from," he said.

Yellowknife is an inspiration for his cooking, in many ways, Wasicuna said. His original incentive to open the food truck came because he couldn't find a good burger in Yellowknife.

"There was nothing really creative going on in the other restaurants. It's all very similar. The burgers were very standard," he said. "We make these crazy burgers and Yellowknife's really responded to them."

Among Wiseguy Foods' mobile menu arsenal is the Numb Nuts, a peanut butter, bacon jam, cheese and mayo mash, and last summer's hit, the Lil' Kim, a Korean kimchi burger concoction. Little it is not.

Now that he has developed a reputation for quality food, Wasicuna has made it his mandate to search for quality ingredients locally where, again, Yellowknife is full of inspiration for the chef.

"Spruce tips. The wild onions that we have. There's tons of lettuce and salad stuff all over the floors of the forest if you just take a walk. There's a lot of things available that a lot of people don't realize we can use," he said. "I like

to really embrace that local, wild foraging."

Wasicuna is currently working on opening a restaurant in Yellowknife to house Wiseguy Foods, which could see customers as early as June this year.

Reflecting on his *Chopped Canada* filming experience, Wasicuna said he's glad he did it, but is not looking for a do-over. He did what he set out to do.

"I didn't have anything to prove; I just wanted to put myself out there and see how I compared to some of the chefs from across Canada," he said. "I've been doing this for 25 years and there's always room for improvement. You never stop learning," he said. "I know that I'm a great chef, I know that my food tastes great, but we are always as good as our last dish, that's just the way it is in this industry."

The question remains whether Wasicuna's last dish for *Chopped Canada* was better than the competitors - perhaps even good enough to take home the \$10,000 in winnings.

His episode, called "Food, Sweat and Tears," will air on the Food Network on Jan. 16.

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES

Independent Commission to Review MLAs Compensation and Benefits

What do you think about MLAs Salaries and Benefits?

The Independent Commission, chaired by Mr. Geoffrey Wiest, would like to hear what members of the public have to say about the salaries, benefits and allowances for Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly.

To tell the Commission what you think please contact the Commission at (867) 920-4151 or by email at info@nwtmlapay.ca.

The Commission also encourages written submissions. These can be emailed to info@nwtmlapay.ca, faxed to (867) 920-4252, or mailed to:

Independent Commission to Review MLAs' Compensation and Benefits
Box 2910,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2R2

Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2014

For more information please visit our website at www.nwtmlapay.ca

General Foreman – Welding Elkford, BC

Reporting to the Service Manager, this position organizes, directs and supervises Welding Services for the Elkford Branch.

Qualifications

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- Minimum 5 years' experience at a supervisory level is preferred
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PUBLIC HEARING



Town of Fort Smith 2013 Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw Review

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY PLAN AND ZONING BYLAWS

Town Council has given First Reading to Community Plan Bylaw 935 and Zoning Bylaw 936. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Council Chambers.

Copies of the proposed Bylaws are available at Town Office, Mary Kaeser Library, or pdf copies can be downloaded from the Town website: www.fortsmith.ca.

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) was engaged by the Town in August 2013 to complete this work. A public open house was held on October 10, 2013, where ideas and opinions were gathered. Draft revisions were available for review in December, and all comments received by December 10, 2013, were considered in preparing the proposed bylaws.

For more information contact:

Ann Peters at apeters@dillon.ca or by phone at (867) 920-4555

Or

Jim Hood, Senior Administrative Officer,
Town of Fort Smith

at jhood@fortsmith.ca or by phone at 872-8403



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HEALTH AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Professional Air Ambulance Services for the Northwest Territories

Reference No 13134

- Yellowknife, NT -

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority is requesting proposals from qualified contractors for the provision of Professional Air Ambulance Services on an as and when required basis. This will include both dedicated Air Ambulance Carrier Services (including Flight Crews) and Air Medical Crew Services (Clinical Care Providers).

Sealed Proposals addressed to Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Materials Management Department, 1st Floor Stanton Territorial Hospital, 550 Byrne Road, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1, must be received prior to:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 28, 2014.

Proponents may obtain the RFP document by emailing: STH_airambulanceRFP@gov.nt.ca or by calling (867) 669-4172.

Inquiries to:

Stanton Territorial Health Authority
Materials Management Department
Phone: (867) 669-4172
Email: STH_airambulanceRFP@gov.nt.ca

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

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Come work with us! Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Job opportunities

The GNWT is responsible for providing programs and services to 44,000 residents across 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. This requires a large and diverse group of employees dedicated to, and reflective of, the public we serve.

The GNWT offers a variety of benefits that help our employees manage their work/life balance. Our generous compensation package includes salary, pension, annual leave and other benefits.

If you are interested in working for the GNWT, consider applying by viewing current opportunities at www.gnwtjobs.ca.

Don't forget to join our talent community to receive automated job alerts so you don't miss out on our exciting career opportunities!



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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Aklavik Warehouse Addition
CT101361
- Aklavik, NT -

This Tender is for the Aklavik Warehouse Addition in Aklavik, NT, including new office, new garage, new ramp and other related work.

Tender Reference Number 17035.

Sealed Tender submissions to be addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, Bag Service #1, Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 OR delivered to third floor in the GNWT Government Building on Veterans Way Inuvik, will be received until:

4:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 22, 2014.

Tender documents will be available January 2, 2014.

Interested bidders are asked to contact one of the following in order to receive the Tender:

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

Technical Inquiries: Patrick Wong
 Project Officer
 Phone: (867) 777-7211
 Fax: (867) 777-7109

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

For contract opportunities visit
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Government of the Northwest Territories

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Executive Director, NWT Water Board

Environment and Natural Resources Inuvik, NT
Finance and Administration

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Job Opening ID#: 11171 **Closing Date:** January 24, 2014

Apply Online: www.gnwtjobs.ca

Inquiries Only: Devolution HR Planning and Implementation, P.O. Box 1320, Nova Coast Plaza, 2nd Floor, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, Fax: (867) 920-8879, E-mail: jobsyk@gov.nt.ca

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



TRADITIONAL GAMES COORDINATOR

Yellowknife, NT

The Aboriginal Sport Circle of the NWT (ASCNWT) is a non-profit organization that aims at promoting and enhancing community wellness through Sport, Cultural and Recreation. The ASCNWT supports the Physical, Mental, Spiritual, and Cultural development of our Aboriginal People through sport and healthy living by providing youth, families, and communities with Leadership and programming.

There is currently a Job Opening within our organization. We are looking to hire a permanent Traditional Games Coordinator as part of our team.

Reporting to the Traditional Games Manager, the Traditional Games Coordinator is responsible for developing, delivering, evaluating and reporting on all aspects of the Traditional Games Program. They are also responsible for assisting in the delivery and planning of other ASCNWT programs. These programs encourage and support NWT community resident's participation in sport, culture and recreation. As a related role, the Traditional Games Coordinator will be required to work with other sport and recreation organizations in the Northwest Territories in order to advance the priorities of ASCNWT.

ASCNWT delivers programs in all communities in the NWT. An important aspect of this position is that it requires extensive travel to deliver these programs.

Qualifications:

The ideal Candidate should

- Have a Diploma or Degree in the related field
- Have experience in Sport, Culture, and Recreation
- Be politically and culturally sensitive towards our Northern Communities
- Strong Administrative skills
- Program Planning Capacity
- Class 5 Drivers License

Priority will be given to candidates of aboriginal descent. To see a detailed job description please contact our office. The ASCNWT Office is located in Yellowknife, NT. For more information on ASCNWT and our programs please visit our website at www.ascnwt.ca

Competition will be open until Jan. 17, 2014

Please submit your resume to:

Greg Hopf – Executive Director ASCNWT
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P2 Tel: (867) 669-8346
 Fax: (867) 669-8327

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Northern book about judo teaches respect

Nordic Tour de Yellowknife stretches into new year

The first ever Nordic Tour de Yellowknife races, held by the Yellowknife Ski Club as a free, fun, family event, are continuing into the new year with a 300-metre individual start race to be held this Thursday. The cross-country ski race, a hill climb free technique, is open to ages eight and up. Organizers of the inaugural Tour de Yellowknife encourage all skiers from beginners to experts to use the race as an opportunity to practice techniques in a fun, but competitive environment. To check the standings from previous Tour de Yellowknife races held in December last year, go online to <http://skiyellowknife.com/nordic-tour-de-yellowknife/>

Inuvik teams to represent NWT at National Jr. Curling Champs

Two teams from Inuvik will be representing the territory at the Canadian Junior Men's and Women's Curling Championships held this year in Liverpool, NS. Team McKay-Saturnino and Team Miller won the NWT junior curling championships in Hay River last month and will be continuing on to Nova Scotia to compete in the national competition on Jan. 18 to 26. Team McKay-Saturnino, coached by Nick Saturnino, is skipped by Carina McKay-Saturnino and includes Karly King Simpson, Rayna Vittrekwa and Hilary Charlie. Matthew Miller, the skip for Team Miller, will be returning to nationals after a good showing last year. Coached by Maureen Miller, Team Miller's other members include Randy Hiebert, Cody Snyder and Deklen Crocker.

Call goes out to badminton coaches for AWG

Badminton NT (BNT) has put a call out for volunteer badminton coaches to travel with the territorial team to the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks, Alaska this March. The organization will select two coaches from the applicants, one male and one female, to assist with coaching during the games, which run Mar. 15-22. Applicants must be a member of the BNT, have a level one badminton coaching certification, a passport and be willing to have a criminal record check. For more info and to apply, email info@badminton.ca

By MARIA CHURCH

A teen book about judo has been published in the North, the first of its kind, and its authors hope it will encourage more youth to join the sport.

The book, *Chutes*, is co-authored by Maxence Jaillet and Mario Des Forges, both judo instructors in Yellowknife and first-time novelists.

Written in French, *Chutes* follows fictional characters Ryan Grandjambe and Claire Lafontaine, both young judokas - the term for students of judo - living in the NWT.

Lafontaine is a new resident from Quebec who is adjusting to Northern life. Grandjambe, from Fort Simpson, is forced to take judo and learn to escape a rough past. Both Judokas face challenges in their lives as they train for an international competition in Edmonton, and are able to take them on with the help of friends, family and the sport.

In an interview with *The Journal*, Jaillet said the book was written for Northern youth with the hope that they can relate to the characters, based loosely on the experiences of their own judo students after years of instructing in the NWT.

"It's so the kids from the Northwest Territories could see themselves, and also realize that you make most of your choices in your life and you have to live with the consequences and, really, judo could help," Jaillet said. "If you are following the code of conduct of judo, it helps you to make better choices and have a healthy lifestyle, and also, sometimes, to fulfill your dreams."



Chutes follows the lives of two judokas living in the NWT.

Jaillet said judo is not only fun for youth, but teaches students discipline and, most importantly, respect.

"Judo is about controlling yourself and respecting yourself. When you respect yourself, you are able to respect others. So when you are fighting, the idea is to be able to control yourself and the other fighter," he said.

Since it is the first novel about judo written in the North, the authors wanted *Chutes* to emphasize what life is like North of 60 for those growing up there.

"We wanted to really illustrate what is the North - the harsh reality of the

North sometimes, but also the beauty of the North," Jaillet said.

There are around 250 judokas practicing in the NWT in various community clubs, which will often see children and teens from struggling families blossom under the direction of judo instructors and the friendly team environment, Jaillet said.

Judo is also an accessible sport for any budget, since it requires little in terms of equipment.

As first-time authors, Jaillet and Des Forges knew it was going to be a challenging task, but working closely together



Authors Maxence Jaillet and Mario Des Forges, on right, sign copies of *Chutes* at the official book launch last week.

Judo is about controlling yourself and respecting yourself. When you respect yourself, you are able to respect others.

Maxence Jaillet
NWT Judo Association

and not rushing the process allowed them to produce a story they are happy with, Jaillet said.

"Doing that as a team, we feel stronger now. It's a beautiful book, well printed and I think well written, too. I think we are happy with that achievement," he said.

The NWT Judo Association held a book launch last week at the Association Franco-culturelle de Yellowknife building, with around 40 people showing up to chat with the authors and purchase signed copies of the brand-new book.

Jaillet said there are plans to publish an

English-language version of *Chutes* in the future and the authors have already been musing about a sequel, possibly taking the characters to the Olympics.

"Some of the kids that we train have some Olympic dreams, so why not? We will get inspired for sure!" he said.

All proceeds from book sales go directly to the NWT Judo Association, which will be used to fund members' participation in future competitions. To inquire about purchasing a book, contact Jaillet directly at nwtjudocontact@gmail.com.

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Northwest Territories Human Resources



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First Nations worried about Peace River dam

Treaty 8 BC First Nations threaten blockades if Site C approved

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

First Nations from British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories are saying “no” to BC Hydro’s proposed Site C dam, claiming the third hydro project on the Peace River will hold disastrous consequences for the environment downstream.

Hearings for the \$9.7-billion hydro proposal in northern BC began in December and are making their way into impacted communities in both northern BC and Alberta, where members of the Treaty 8 First Nations have expressed firm opposition to the project that would see their lands flooded and wildlife impacted.

Public hearings heated up in Halfway River, BC last week, where First Nation elders threatened to blockade construction if the project moves ahead. The 1,100-megawatt facility just south west of Fort St. John would create a reservoir flooding 83 km of the Peace River and 14 km of the Halfway River, covering traditional hunting grounds, burial sites and gathering places.

Representatives of the Halfway River First Nation,



Representatives of Treaty 8 First Nations in northern BC make a strong showing at Site C’s first hearing in Fort St. John, BC in December.

including youth, leaders and elders, said they have already been negatively impacted by BC Hydro’s WAC Bennett and Peace Canyon dam projects and refuse to see their traditional way of life further compromised.

“I told some of our group that if they are going to build the dam they’re making, they are starting, let’s all go there and just blockade them,” Halfway River elder Maisie Metecheah said before the panel. “If we all get together, we will do it, from each community. I’m not afraid to blockade. I

don’t care if I go to jail. I don’t care. That’s for my land. I’m just going to save my land.”

First Nations further downstream in Alberta are also fretting the threat to traditional livelihoods posed by the dam. A joint submission by the Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations from Fort Chipewyan expressed dire concern about the impact of further flow regulation on the quickly changing Peace-Athabasca Delta (PAD).

The submission argues that BC Hydro’s two existing dams

on the Peace have radically changed the delta ecosystem by preventing ice jamming and the subsequent recharging of the delta’s highest perched basins. The result has seen aquatic landscapes taken over by trees because of lack of flooding, and the almost complete extirpation of the muskrat.

“Once a pristine resilient system, the PAD is now a vulnerable system due to prolonged and rising negative pressure on the recharge of its wetlands and lakes,” states the submission. “Any assessment

We’re forced to respond rather than sit down and all talk about what’s in the best interest of all of us...If they push this through, it’s going to end up in the courts.

*Chief Bill Erasmus
Dene Nation*

of future development must take into account this current condition because it suggests a reduced ability to withstand incremental rising pressure.”

In the Northwest Territories, Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus said he has been hearing concerns about Site C from Dene chiefs across the North for years, many of whom have moved resolutions at Dene Nation meetings opposing the hydro project.

“In the event that this goes forward, they have to have hearings come North because this directly affects the North,” Erasmus told *The Journal*. “They should go to Fort Chip and Yellowknife and even Inuvik because even with the

original Bennett dam, that has affected all the people up to the Beaufort Delta. That used to be the muskrat capital of the land; now you’re lucky if you can get 100 a year.”

Erasmus said it’s time that First Nations were consulted on a region-wide plan for industrial development rather than being forced to react to industrial projects on a case-by-case basis, which he said does not meaningfully engage First Nations as a legitimate government.

“We’re forced to respond rather than sit down and all talk about what’s in the best interest of all of us,” Erasmus said. “If they push this through, it’s going to end up in the courts.”

Costs mounting on Obed spill disaster cleanup

By JACK DANYLCHUK

It will be months before there is a cost estimate for the cleanup of the Obed Mine coal spill, including restoring miles of silt-clogged waterways to productive fish habitat.

Sean McCaughan, senior vice-president of Sherritt International’s coal division – soon to be sold off to two separate buyers – told *The Journal* that cost assessment, remediation and monitoring will continue “for multiple years” and run into “millions of dollars.”

Sherritt announced at Christmas that it expects to complete the sale of its coal division by Apr. 1, but will retain responsibility for all remediation costs.

Last Halloween, a dyke ruptured on a tailings pond at the dormant mine 30 km east of Hinton, Alta., sending 670,000 cubic metres of contaminated water and 90,000 tonnes of sludge down two tributaries and into the Athabasca River.

It will be months before there is a cost estimate for the cleanup of the Obed Mine coal spill, including restoring miles of silt-clogged waterways to productive fish habitat.

By comparison, estimated cleanup cost of the Enbridge pipeline spill, which sent 3 million litres of oilsands bitumen into a tributary of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan in July 2010, has surpassed \$1 billion.

The Kalamazoo disaster also generated \$3.7 million in fines for Enbridge from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

So far, no charges have been brought against Sherritt for the Obed spill, though an environmental protection order was issued by the Alberta government three weeks after the spill,

ordering the company to clean it up.

Independent monitoring is being carried out by both the Athabasca Chipewyan and Mikisew Cree First Nations in the Fort Chipewyan area. The First Nations are set to meet with Sherritt in the near future to discuss financial remuneration for their sampling efforts, though no date has been set.

The company was expected to hold a meeting in Fort Chipewyan in early December, but that forum was cancelled due to a string of deaths in the community.

**with files from Meagan Wohlberg*

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