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**Olympic cheer!** Crowds gather in Yellowknife and Hay River to root for hometown Olympians. *See page 13.*



**Yellowknife raises Pride flags during Olympics**  
Yellowknife joined others across the world in raising their rainbow flags during the Olympics to support LGBTQ athletes and protest Russia's anti-gay laws. *See page 2.*



**Freshwater spills plague ConocoPhillips in Sahtu**  
Two separate freshwater spills have hampered ConocoPhillips' first few weeks of exploratory drilling for shale oil in the Sahtu. *See page 6.*



**Caribou Legs to deliver 'Protect the Peel' letters**  
Long-distance runner Brad 'Caribou Legs' Firth is running to Whitehorse to hand deliver 'Protect the Peel' letters to the Yukon Premier. *See page 10.*



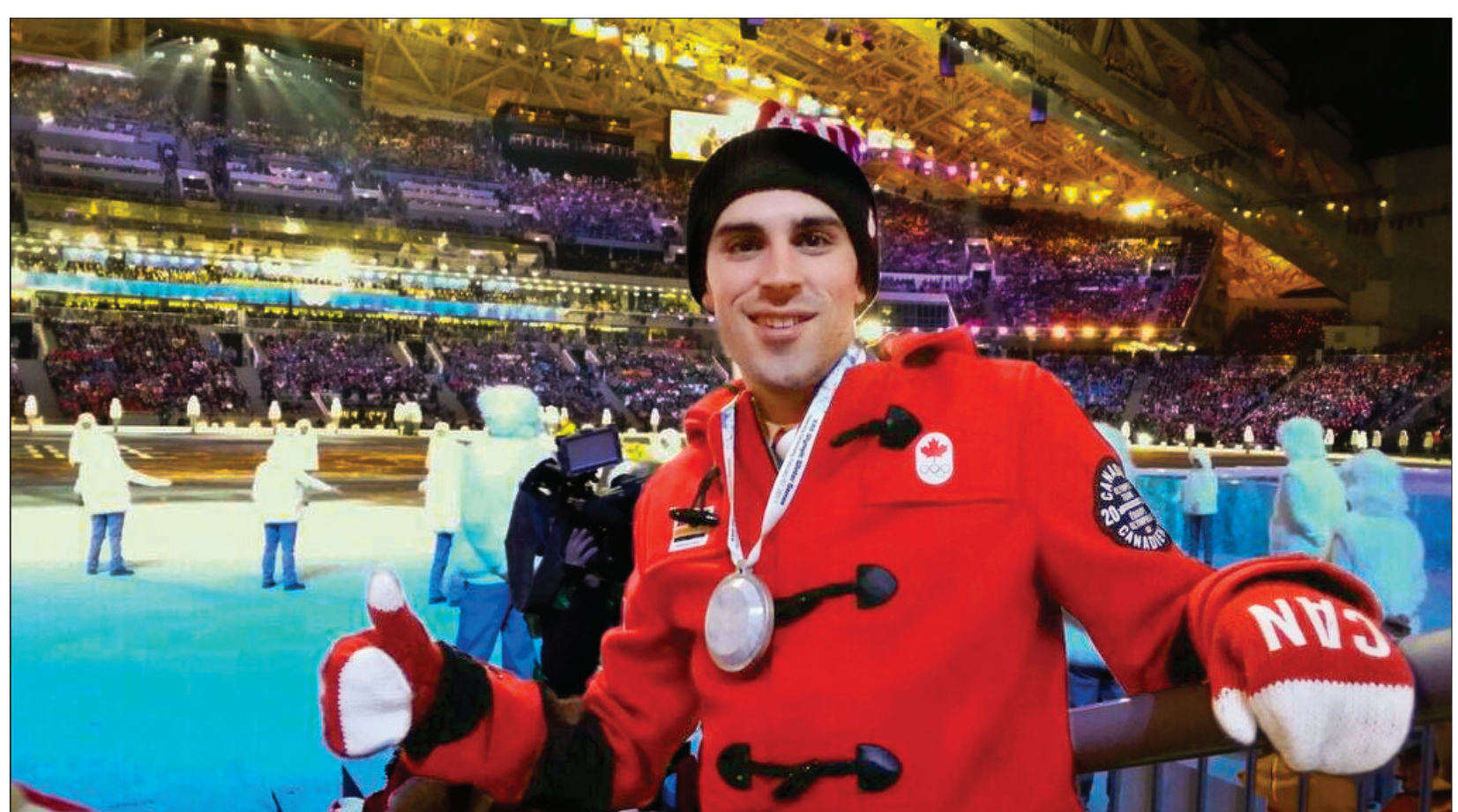
**WBNP Bison pose for international videographer**  
Internationally renowned videographer Edgardo Aragón visited Fort Smith to film bison in Wood Buffalo National Park. *See page 17.*

# NORTHERN Journal

\$1.00



February 11, 2014 Vol. 37 No. 39



Yellowknife-raised Olympian Michael Gilday gives the thumbs up during the opening ceremonies of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia last week. Gilday, a short-track speed skater, is experiencing his first Olympics and the City of Yellowknife is celebrating with him. *See story on page 13.*

## GNWT budget gears up for devolution with plan to increase population

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
As promised three years ago, the territorial government is loosening its purse strings with the 2014-15 budget in order to start building the infrastructure required to increase its economic base on "the eve of devolution."  
Starting off the third year of the 17th Assembly with a \$200-million surplus made possible by two frugal years of debt repayment and saving, the GNWT is increasing its capital plan by \$100 million over the next two years.

A total of \$27 million will be invested in new programming to address needs in health, social services and education, while \$230 million is budgeted for public infrastructure projects.  
Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger symbolically announced the shift to increased spending with the purchase of a pair of new shoes for budget day, but was sure to emphasize the government's focus on fiscal restraint is still at the fore.

"We're on our plan as we've laid out from the start: year three we would enjoy the fruits of some of our fiscal discipline of year one and two, as we kept our costs under control and replenished our reserves to the best of our ability so we can, in fact, beef up our capital plan," the minister said at a press conference Thursday morning. "We have honoured that commitment in spite of some fairly significant challenges."

Those challenges include maintaining the same level of spending on programs and services despite drops in tax revenues across the board, massive infrastructure debt and a stagnant population base that is barring increased federal grant money through the Territorial Financing Formula (TFF).  
**Benefiting from devolution**  
The biggest increase in the new budget is tied to

devolution, with \$59 million allocated to administering the transfer of responsibilities over lands, water and resources to the NWT, nearly half of which will go to establishing the new Lands department.  
Those new funds have been made available through a \$67-million increase to the TFF grant, and allow for \$9 million in flexibility to address unanticipated costs associated with devolution.  
*See Population on page 3.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Four caribou killed by trucks within days of ice road opening

Caribou casualties are already mounting since the opening of the ice road to the diamond mines in late January, with four caribou hit by trucks in two separate collisions less than two weeks ago. NWT wildlife officers told media the first incident that killed two caribou happened Jan. 30, the first day the ice road northeast of Yellowknife opened for the season. A second incident killed another two caribou the day after on the road to De Beers' Gahcho Kue mine. The last record of wildlife killed on the diamond mine winter roads was in 1999, according to wildlife reps, who are now working with the department of Environment and Natural Resources to create guidelines for drivers on the ice roads.

### Inuvik to prep Delta's future firefighters

The Inuvik Fire Hall is set to become a fully fledged fire-fighting school for recruits in the Mackenzie Delta region. Future firefighters from Inuvik and the outlying communities will now have full, formal training at the Inuvik hall, which recently acquired a new fire truck and has plans to bring in a flashover unit that simulates a burning room for training purposes. Previously trainees from the Delta had to travel to Yellowknife to complete the formal firefighter training process. The Inuvik Fire department will be looking to add 10 more firefighters to its current staff of 40.

### Fort Good Hope youth killed by alcohol and cold: NWT Coroner

Alcohol consumption and cold exposure caused the death of a 14 year-old girl from Fort Good Hope more than a year ago, according to the territory's chief coroner. Cathy Menard released the results of her investigation last week, calling the teen's death accidental. The young girl, who has not been identified, was found in December 2012 after a community search party located her body with a bottle of vodka in the bush near the town's water reservoir a day after she went missing. Menard said alcohol is the leading contributory factor of deaths in the NWT. The coroner is asking the GNWT to consider recommendations to amend the liquor act that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly last October.



Yellowknife's SnowKing Tony Foliot and NWT Pride director Iman Kassam raise a Pride flag at the city's ice castle on Monday. Both the castle and Yellowknife's City Hall have volunteered to fly the rainbow flag for the duration of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Politics Human Rights

# Yellowknife raises rainbow flag during Olympics to protest Russia's anti-gay laws

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Yellowknife's City Hall has joined others across the world in raising its flags against

homophobia and anti-gay discrimination as the Olympics take place in Russia, where new legislation has all but outlawed homosexuality.

Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck approached NWT Pride organizers on Friday afternoon asking if the two parties could join forces and raise a rainbow pride flag in support of gay athletes in Sochi and LGBTQ people around the world.

The flag was raised Tuesday at City Hall and will be flown for the duration of the Olympics.

"Yellowknife prides itself on being a tolerant and diverse community, and it's important that as the order of government representing the citizens of this city, we stand up and show our support for human rights and equality in all parts of the world," Heyck told *The Journal*. "We stand in solidarity with all of the local governments across Canada who are expressing their support for the rights of the global LGBTQ community."

According to NWT Pride director Iman Kassam, the move by Heyck says a lot about the city's support for human rights and the message of pride.

"The city has always supported NWT Pride in our initiatives, our mission and our efforts to promote equity, so it's not unexpected at all that they would approach us," she said. "It's nice to see a city supporting the LGBTQ community so much that they are coming to us and saying, 'We want to raise your flag; is that cool with you?'"

Kassam said the issue is not just about supporting gay

athletes in Sochi, but decrying human rights violations taking place in Russia and other countries where people are being violently targeted because of their sexual orientations.

"It's devastating when you hear of countries that don't support LGBTQ rights - human rights," she said.

Olympics has drawn an increase in worldwide criticism.

"This is a huge and massive response saying, 'This is not okay; the whole world disagrees with you. Our country, Canada, disagrees with you, and now Yellowknife, Northwest Territories disagrees with your laws.' So hopefully this

Yellowknife prides itself on being a tolerant and diverse community, and it's important that as the order of government representing the citizens of this city, we stand up and show our support for human rights and equality in all parts of the world.

Mayor Mark Heyck

Russia began passing laws aimed at homosexuals last June, first banning "gay propaganda," which includes everything from rainbow flags to holding hands in public, as a way to "protect" children. Pride parades, met with brutal retaliation from right-wing groups and police alike, have been banned for 100 years.

Another bill introduced last October aims to remove children from LGBT parents in Russia. Though it's been put on hold, it is expected to be taken up again once the international spotlight of the Olympics has been removed.

Kassam said the "silver lining" lies in the global solidarity that has arisen in the face of this kind of intolerance, as Russia's anti-gay stance timed with its hosting of the

will light a fire under their butts and get them to change their legislation because it's wrong," she said.

Similar flag raisings have taken place in cities across the country, including Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary, Halifax, Iqaluit, Regina and St. John's as more jump on board worldwide.

Yellowknife's iconic SnowKing ice castle also volunteered to fly the flag during the Olympics, raising one on Monday.

Kassam said NWT Pride is busy organizing this year's festival under the slogan of "Join us!" which continues off of last year's theme of unity, solidarity and working together.

The festival is scheduled for Aug. 8-10 at the Folk on the Rocks grounds.

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Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger prepares for last Thursday's budget address on opening day of the winter session.



The NWT government's mace is brought in to mark opening day of the winter session of the 17th Assembly.

Photos: Bill Braden

Politics Finance

# Population boost needed for more transfer funding

Continued from page 1

An estimated \$120 million in gross resource revenues is on the books, of which a maximum of \$45 million will actually stay with the GNWT after splitting it 50-50 with Canada and sharing 15 per cent with the Aboriginal governments.

Resource revenues will not go to programs and services, but instead to infrastructure and debt repayment. And after long debate, the originally proposed 5 per cent of resource revenues will go to the Heritage Fund, and not more, despite public criticism.

"It's an issue of disciplined choices," Miltenberger said. "We have a number of challenges; we have modest revenues and expenditures that are exceeding those revenues... So not only are we having to save money for the future, we also have an obligation here with devolution and building our economic base to put in some long-term economic infrastructure that is critical."

The \$120 million, based on a five-year average, represents 5 per cent of the territory's

gross expenditure base, the maximum the territory stands to gain from devolution. To raise that limit will require raising that base, or population of the territory.

## Increasing the population

Along with the budget details, Miltenberger announced that the GNWT is making a strategic shift in favour of boosting the territory's population by 2,000 people over the next five years in order to secure more TFF funds from Canada.

Each new resident will result in an additional \$30,000 for the territory, to a total of \$50 million if the government meets its goal, not counting the additional taxes and other spending done by individuals.

"We're not going to raise taxes, but we're determined we're going to do all the things necessary to grow our economic base," Miltenberger said. "We want as much of it as we can to stay in the North."

The GNWT has had preliminary meetings with business to get momentum

on recruiting employees to the North, but a large part of the effort will go into ensuring at least 20 per cent of Northern students return to the North after attending school elsewhere.

"What we're losing by not dealing with some of these issues is in the hundreds of millions of dollars a year in lost revenue to the Northwest Territories," Miltenberger said. "So it is a critical piece of our plan; this is not just a nice, high-profile political initiative. This is a very significant economic base-building initiative where we're bringing in all the senior players in government and the private sector to put our minds to this."

Some of that movement is already included in this budget, with \$22.6 million over three years to increase housing in smaller communities where job vacancies lie.

## Raised debt ceiling crucial

Crucial to the retention of residents in the territory is the government's ability to make

investments into economic infrastructure like roads and transmission lines, an ability currently hampered by the NWT's federal borrowing limit of \$800 million.

Though the GNWT currently has the money for its capital plan approved last fall, it is waiting to see if larger projects can also be financed.

Miltenberger, who is requesting the debt ceiling

be raised by \$1 billion, said talks of an increase have been positive, and will be necessary for the success of the territory's fiscal strategy moving forward.

"We've had very productive discussions with the federal government. They recognize that we're a well-run jurisdiction; they recognize that we've managed ourselves like a mature political

jurisdiction should...There's a whole lot of indicators that signal our ability to manage another billion-dollar bump up to our borrowing limit, should that negotiation successfully conclude," he said.

"That's an absolute major issue for us. If we can't invest significantly in economic infrastructure, it puts us on a much smaller track to try to build our economic base."

## Budget highlights

- \$59 million for devolution transfer: \$27 million for new Lands department; \$14 million for new responsibilities in Environment and Natural Resources; \$13 million for Industry, Tourism and Investment responsibilities; \$5 million for central agencies to manage new assets and administration.
- 102 new jobs outside of Yellowknife, more than half of which are a result of devolution.
- \$5 million to the NT Housing Corp. to increase public housing stock.
- \$2.6 million for the new Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework.
- \$2 million for increased early childhood education.
- \$2.6 million to fund initiatives recommended by the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.
- \$515,000 to hire two full-time midwives in Hay River.
- \$3 million to support the implementation of both the Economic Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy.
- \$1.4 million to design a 65-km transmission line connecting Whati to the Snare hydro grid.
- \$1.9 million for alternative energy projects, including biomass, solar and wind.
- \$11.5 million for increasing long-term care, emergency health and housing services.
- No new taxes, but property tax mill rates and fees have been adjusted for inflation.



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Classified ad deadline is Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
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Prices include GST. \$47.25 in Fort Smith;  
\$52.50 elsewhere in Canada;  
\$105 in the USA; overseas \$164.30.

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**Published weekly by  
Cascade Publishing Ltd.**

Printed on recycled newsprint  
with vegetable ink at Wainwright Star Chronicle.

# Trials and tribulations of finance ministering

Have you noticed federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty always looks like he needs a vacation? That demeanor of underlying fatigue may be the badge of the job. Being responsible for the fiscal management of the business of government as well as making moves that enhance the nation's economy, essentially trying to predict the future, is a pretty big responsibility - certainly the toughest of all cabinet portfolios.

It is also a thankless task. Immediately when a new budget is released, detractors abound. It gets personal too, and the author is like a target in a shooting gallery. Much of that is the nasty cut and thrust of partisan politics. Discrediting is key to the game. Accolades are nonexistent.

A new budget in some ways transcends politics, however. It's as much about the mechanics of running the country as furthering a partisan agenda. Of course the two are

intertwined; but still, creating a new budget is on a higher level than the rest of the politically motivated business of government. It also faces a higher level of criticism. The opposition does its thing, finding every possible flaw; then there are regional, corporate and other unique agendas, each with expectations and critical advocates outside party lines. It is a tough arena - impossible to please everybody, or sometimes even anyone.

The new budget last week in the NWT, although in a nonpartisan, consensus government context, faced almost identical challenges. The swords were out. Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger had the honour of being the first to face the brave new world of devolution with its upcoming flow of money from resource revenues - new rules and much greater expectations.

After several years of carefully managed,

tight NWT budgets, money for infrastructure and capital projects like schools, hospitals and gymnasiums is on hand. On top of that, the flow of new money from resources is on its way. The challenge is to chart a new course in unknown, potentially prosperous waters, avoiding missteps. It is about charting the future direction for the budding new jurisdiction - Canada's youngest and possibly most complex - that is the NWT. Miltenberger and his staff have their hands full.

As expected, the document was not perfect and in the eyes of some it was downright tawdry. Miltenberger's idea of a trust fund, setting aside 5 per cent of resource revenues for future generations, sparked particular interest. Some say the money could be better spent now on important things. Others argue that 5 per cent is paltry, pointing to Norway's overflowing vaults as evidence much more should be set aside.

## Co-managing the NWT's future needs

The initiative proposed by NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger to import 2,000 new residents into the NWT in the next five years to bolster the workforce is far fetched. Assuming high standards of skills and education would be applied, where are all these new bodies to come from? Hardworking, skilled employees are hard to find anywhere. All of Western Canada is in a decades long boom, and offering a new, better life in the NWT in competition with Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC with wages at least as high, nicer climates and urban amenities is a tough sell. Immigration as a solution is even harder. Finding and attracting newcomers from afar would not be easy, and people from other cultures and language groups come at a cost. Beyond training, language courses and orientation programs are essential and they are neither cheap nor easy. They would mean bigger government and more expenses - not a good way to go.

That aside, there may be a shortage of workers, but too many in the existing NWT

population need jobs, yet for a variety of reasons cannot connect with them. That situation should be fixed before subscribing to new problematic plans to import labour. Social and economic issues abound. Let's put our energy into rectifying them. There is the issue of poor school attendance and graduation rates of First Nation students. Obviously a different approach to education is needed. The NWT has better academic numbers than most jurisdictions and is well placed to lead the country with solutions that offer First Nation communities what they need, but a new commitment to enhancing education is needed. In addition, the NWT cannot depend only on big mining projects alone to make up the economy. They are short lived and job rotation routines with weeks away from home are not suited to everyone. The NWT government is doing a poor job of supporting local businesses in small communities, essential in fostering a strong economic foundation. There is much that could be done.

The other thing missing from the budget

was an effort to coordinate with First Nation governments in managing and seeing to the territory's needs. Devolution money will now flow to them as well and they, too, will have important roles in enhancing education, community building, extending infrastructure, economic development and so on. With that new wealth comes more responsibility of governance, which should include transparency and accountability - the hallmarks of any good government.

Many NWT communities have multiple First Nation and Métis governments in addition to a local council and an NWT government presence. In some cases, there are more governors than governed. Each have their own bureaucracy and budgets. All of the new money that will come to those governments, without exception, should be wisely applied to well planned purposes. Common goals across the NWT are needed and a shared approach in achieving them. That requires collaboration, consensus and leadership.



Photo: Bill Braden

*High-5 for Gilday: Huddled in their sleeping bags, Daphne Cloutier, Tara Stockton and Grace Clark salute Michael Gilday's qualifying success. The 27 year-old skater didn't make the next round due to a fault when judges penalized him for "bumping" another skater, but will compete again on Thursday in a relay event.*

## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

#### CBC strike?

Northerners can expect to still find live coverage of the Nunavut election on their television sets, according to CBC North, which is facing the prospect of some workers going on strike at that time. Television technicians, along with those who run cameras and take care of sound, are threatening to walk off the job if their pay is not increased.

Issue: February 9, 1999

### 20 Years Ago...

#### McMurray commits to road link

A major delegation from Fort McMurray will be coming north at the end of February to deliver a message: they want a permanent road link to connect the NWT highway system to their city. City councillor Jim Carbury, the city's representative on the road committee, said the delegation is coming up to repay the many visits Northerners have made to them.

Issue: February 9, 1994

### 30 Years Ago...

#### Council gives up

The town of Fort Smith is giving up an eight-year battle with a local resident and paying him the money they owe him. Town council voted last Tuesday to pay Armando Berton \$1,164.65 for a deposit he paid to have service installed on a lot he purchased in 1976.

Issue: February 9, 1984



# Devolution deal signed without consulting

Editor,

In response to a public announcement on CKLB from Deninu Kue First Nation (DKFN) Chief Balsillie notifying membership and public the DKFN council is in the process of signing the devolution agreement with the government of the Northwest Territories. Unfortunately, there hasn't been any consultation with the membership and the duty to consult is in question, as stated in the Canadian constitution of 1982 (Constitution Act, Section 35).

The membership was not made aware of this decision to agree with devolution. A meeting was held at the office complex without providing public notice to inform the membership that they were considering and agreeing to sign devolution.

Unfortunately, the membership has been denied an Annual General Assembly since Sept. 9, 2007, at which

time the Assembly was incomplete and was to convene the next day.

One Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, on a CBC broadcast the Deninu Kue First Nation announced its decision to sign on to the Devolution Agreement with the government of the Northwest Territories. And again on Feb. 3, the Deninu Kue First Nation announced through the local DKFN Facebook page, a controlled media, that it had made a decision to sign the devolution agreement with the government of the Northwest Territories without informing its membership of the decision. On the DKFN Facebook page, the members asking about the devolution process were immediately deleted or blocked. They've since deactivated the controlled DKFN Facebook account.

Members are concerned because there hasn't been any transparency or

accountability. Contrary to the First Nations Transparency Act (Bill C-27), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) approved the Deninu Kue First Nations audit with a Band Council Resolution and continued its formula funding. This is not in accordance with the Bill C-27. On numerous occasions members of the Deninu Kue First Nation have contacted AANDC about their concerns with the chief and council of the Deninu Kue First Nation by way of letters, dropping in at the office in Yellowknife and long distance calls from elders, to only be ignored and be told that the Deninu Kue First Nation is governed by a Customary Election Code and they would not interfere.

We are not familiar with devolution and would like a better understanding so we could make proper decisions.

I have listened to all our Akaitcho Elders talk about how important the Treaty is and that our land should not be sold or given away. Deninu Kue First Nation is not respecting the NWT Treaty 8 Process and we do not know where we stand.

I heard Chief Balsillie state on the radio that he is signing the agreement because people are suffering in Fort Resolution, but the majority of the people I see neglected are the non-related or the uneducated because they have no alternative.

As per Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution 1982, Deninu Kue First Nation membership demands the government to organize a meeting with the membership to address seven years of outstanding concerns.

Sharon Lafferty  
Concerned Member of the Deninu Kue First Nation  
(Editor's note: This letter has been edited for length)

# Members should benefit from ACFN first

To the Denesuline of K'ai Taile Nene (Fort Chipewyan):

As you know I am also under and part of the administration of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, which is, in truth, an extension of colonial rule under the department of Aboriginal Affairs. However, we, the Denesuline, are all true citizens of "Denesuline Nene," an entire country which is about 500,000 square miles or 1.2 million square kilometres in area and we number over 35,000 in 40 various communities. I learned this when I traveled to almost all of our Denesuline communities except two and attended nine out of 10 Dene gatherings that we have had in the past. Many of you know who I am, but there are also many that I have known who are gone, today. There also is a whole new generation of people, our children and their children. When our family moved away in 1973 (some of us moved to Carswell Lake), I learnt to

become a true traditional and a spiritual person within the Denesuline world. It is unlike the communities where we are all living today. Mostly and above all it has come by understanding our ancient traditional law from the elders that we, the people, are the real bosses of the land—ourselves, not the chiefs, or any other foreign authorities.

According to the statistics of the band, we number close to a thousand, but less than 250 or about 25 per cent live in the community of Fort Chipewyan. Most of our others members live in Fort McMurray, Edmonton and in Fort Smith or, like myself, live in Yellowknife. The First Nation band council of the Athabasca Chipewyan are all under our authority, including the company ACDEN (Athabasca Chipewyan Denesuline).

Also, it has come to my attention that ACDEN has less than 1 per cent of our people, the Denesuline, employed in the company, and

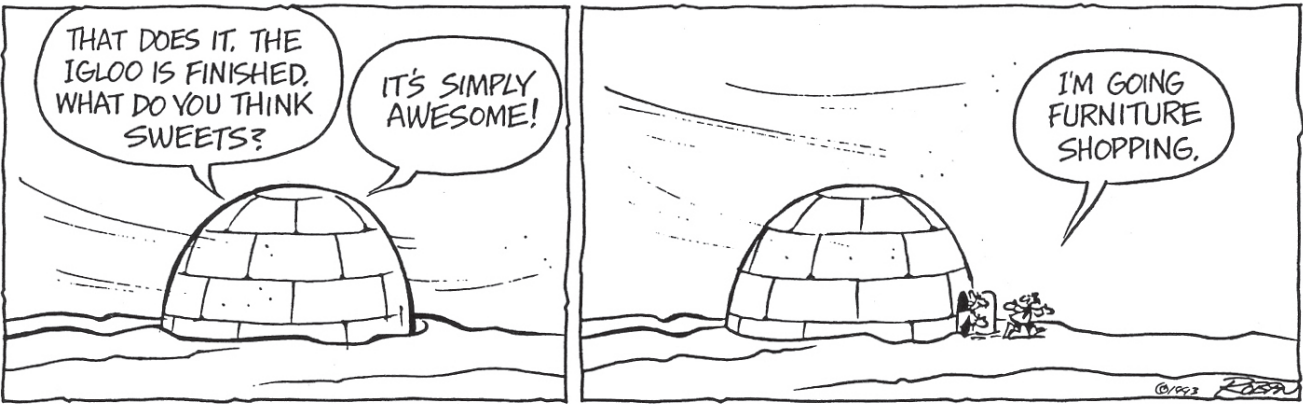
the rest are all non-natives. It also earned an estimated several hundred million dollars from the oil sector and bought a building worth \$68 million. Furthermore, it truly appears that the 99 per cent of the non-natives working for them are the ones who are benefiting. Many of them are flown into the camps from southern cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Newfoundland and so forth, and they are all living comfortably with prosperous lives. And yet, less than 70 miles away to the east of Fort McMurray, there are about 5,000 Denesuline living in La Loche, where 80 per cent of them have no jobs. It is the same in most of our Denesuline communities throughout Denesuline Nene. How can a company that uses our name "Denesuline" and is owned by a First Nation band not hire our people, the Denesuline? If they can fly people from Newfoundland, which is thousands of miles

away, why can they not fly our people out of Tadoule Lake, Lutsel K'e and Yellowknife, which are all less than 500 miles away? Every other community is closer. The Denesuline are aware of ACDEN and are wondering the same thing: why are they using our name and not hiring us, they all say.

As for the Shell's Jackpine mine expansion, I would say just let it go because we, the members of ACFN, are getting nothing out of it. Stop all the protest, for no one is listening. Nobody cares. As I travel throughout Denesuline Nene, our greatest problem is money. Ironically speaking, 80 per cent of the oilsands are within Denesuline Nene and are worth trillions of dollars, so how can we be so unfortunate? It is the time now for us, the people, who are the real bosses to make this change. Let's bring our relatives into ACDEN.

Roger Deranger  
Citizen of Denesuline Nene

## MUKLUK



## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2014

A new inn has opened its doors to weary travelers wanting to cozy up for the night in Fort Smith, promising all the amenities of one's own home.



### New Fort Smith B&B offers home away from home.



Alison White: Congrats Janie!



Myra Gillis Congrats, Janie! Way to go!



Sonny Lenoir June 16th weekend is the Annual Dene National Assembly! Another great place to stay

### Join us online!

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## Forecast

### Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday	
-27 High	-30 Low
Thursday	
-29 High	-32 Low
Friday	
-28 High	-34 Low
Saturday	
-28 High	-36 Low

Norms: -22°C and -31°C Norms: -19°C and -28°C

### Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday	
-24 High	-34 Low
Thursday	
-20 High	-27 Low
Friday	
-20 High	-30 Low
Saturday	
-16 High	-23 Low

Norms: -15°C and -26°C Norms: -14°C and -26°C



# Freshwater spills plague ConocoPhillips' first weeks

## Exploratory fracking delayed by a week after water melts ice pad

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Millions of litres of spilled fresh water, an accident involving a water truck and a domestic sewage wastewater spill in January and February have hampered ConocoPhillips' first weeks of exploratory drilling for shale oil in the Sahtu region.

The oil and gas company, currently conducting the first horizontal fracking in the territory this winter, confirmed that 2,700 cubic metres of fresh water spilled from a raised containment pond at its drill site on Feb. 5.

ConocoPhillips spokesperson Lauren Stewart said the company is still investigating the cause of the spill.

While no environmental damage is expected, she said the incident has caused delays due to the ice pad having been melted by the heated water.

"This will delay our fracturing operations by approximately one week, but we will take the time to do what needs to be done to ensure the site



A water truck on its way to the drill site tipped over on Jan. 12 on the winter road.

is safe to proceed," Stewart said in an email.

The wastewater spill follows an accident involving a

water truck on Jan. 12. The truck tipped over on a hill on the winter road between the river and construction camp.

Contractors for ConocoPhillips told the regulators in an email that the driver received two stitches, but

the truck received minimal damage.

According to Paul Dixon, executive director of the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB), the truck spilled a "substantial" amount of freshwater with no expected impact to the environment, but said he had not received a spill report as of yet.

Documents on the SLWB's public registry highlighted a small glycol spill in relation to the tipped truck, while an undisclosed quantity of freshwater poured out of the top hatch of the truck.

The truck, which tipped approximately 150 metres from the river, was removed according to the spill plan and reports say only 0.25 litres of oil were found to have spilled. The contaminated snow was shovelled into an enviro and disposed of.

"The truck was on its side for two days while the proper towing equipment was brought in to remove it," Stewart said.

The same contractors also reported to the SLWB that a sewage spill had taken place on Jan. 11 and was now frozen.

According to the contractor, 500 litres of "domestic sewage wastewater" from several wellsite trailers spilled onto a 6 square-metre area near the trailers.

"After the rig has been moved out of the way, the frozen spilled sewage will be recovered and disposed of into our environmental waste storage containers for proper disposal," Stewart said.

Work continues on construction at the P-20 wellsite pad and on the Mackenzie River crossing, which is now rated for 32,000 kg.

The surface portion of the well at the drilling rig on lease E-76 has been completed and the crew is now working on the intermediate section.

There are approximately 55 people working at the construction camp.

### Environment Oilsands

# Alberta doctors asked to treat oilsands-related illness

## Open letter a response to alleged treatment refusal in Peace River

By MARIA CHURCH

A group of 26 organizations is calling on the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) to investigate why doctors in Peace River refused to

treat oilsands-related illness after evidence emerged last month documenting treatment refusal when health problems were linked to bitumen emissions.

Environmental, health and landowner rights organizations sent an open letter to the AMA last Friday urging the association to determine whether physicians are

reluctant to treat oil-related illness "potentially due to fears of political or industry retribution."

The letter is in response to research requested by

the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) made public last month documenting that physicians in the Peace River area refused care or would not diagnose patients who professed to have health problems caused by bitumen emissions.

The research was based on testimony from residents near Baytex Energy's cold heavy oil production (CHOP) project close to Peace River, who say they were turned away after suggesting their health concerns were connected to the oil project's emissions.

"Due to the seriousness of these allegations, we believe the AMA needs to look into this matter to see if there is anything the AMA can do to further support physicians so that they feel able to fully advocate on behalf of their patients," the open letter states.

Mike Hudema of Greenpeace Canada, one of the 26 organizations behind the open letter, said Greenpeace has been monitoring the situation in Peace River for some time, but after weeks of inaction following the AER's report, felt compelled to take action.

"More than three weeks now have gone by since that report was first tabled and we heard absolutely nothing, so we really felt something needs to be done," he told *The Journal*.

Hudema said Albertans should not be questioning whether or not their doctor is doing everything in their power to understand their illness and suggest treatments without fear of repercussions from industry or government.

"In some cases (doctors) told residents their best option was to move because they were just a small cog in a large machine," he said.

"To me it feels like doctors in the area are scared to make any link to the tar sands industry either because of loyalty to that industry or, more potentially, because of fear of reprisals from either industry or the government."

Hudema said the problem is not limited to the Peace River area, as Greenpeace has received other reports from Albertans claiming doctors have refused to consider the link between oilsands emissions and illness.

Dr. John O'Connor, a physician in the Fort Chipewyan area, drew harsh criticism from government and industry a few years ago, nearly losing his medical license after raising red flags about the presence of rare cancers in the community and the potential link to upstream oilsands industry.

Hudema said the AMA needs to ensure physicians in the province feel comfortable making connections to the oil and gas industry if there is potential for concern.

## You say you want a DEVOLUTION?

New laws have been proposed to transfer responsibility for public lands, waters, and resources to the Government of the Northwest Territories from Canada. The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, consisting of 11 Regular Members, wants to hear from you on these laws.


**Submissions must be received by the Committee Clerk by **Friday, February 28, 2014.****

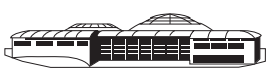
For more information or to submit feedback, contact the Committee Clerk:

Doug Schauerte, Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning  
E-mail: [doug\\_schauerte@gov.nt.ca](mailto:doug_schauerte@gov.nt.ca)  
Telephone: 867-669-2277; Toll-free: 1-800-661-0784  
Fax: 867-873-4735  
[www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/documents-proceedings/bills/17/5](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/documents-proceedings/bills/17/5)

**"This is about management of our land, water, resources, environment, and economy. We want to hear from everyone in the NWT who has an opinion on this. This law will affect us all."**

— Wendy Bisaro, Committee Chair

 Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly  
Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning





# MLA wants full review of Sahtu water license renewal

## Imperial Oil asking for another 10 years of drilling near Norman Wells

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya says Imperial Oil's application to renew its water license for drilling near Norman Wells should go to a full environmental assessment so concerns about water quality from people downstream can be addressed beforehand.

Imperial, whose water license expires at the end of August this year, is applying for a 10-year extension from the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) on its operations in the Norman Wells Proven Area.

Technical sessions regarding the company's application took place in mid-January and public hearings are scheduled for April.

Yakeleya said the people of Fort Good Hope, who draw their water from the Mackenzie River downstream, have been asking for a water monitoring station and laboratory for years, and are concerned that 10 more years of drilling by Imperial could negatively impact the water.

"When you have 1.5 billion litres going back into the Mackenzie River, (the people of Fort Good Hope) don't really have the resources to question Imperial's



Imperial Oil's water license to drill near Norman Wells, including on the artificial islands, expires this August.

operations, to know what types of effects it's going to have on people in the long term," Yakeleya said.

The license under review allows for the removal of 3.5 billion litres of fresh water from the Mackenzie River each year to be used in its operations. Between 2004 and 2012, the company drew an average of 2.63 billion litres.

Of the water drawn from the Mackenzie, about half is injected into the reservoir for pressure maintenance and the other half returned to the river.

Water used for cooling is discharged into a settling pond where it is tested for oil and grease, hydrocarbons, pH, suspended solids, chlorine and conductivity before it is released. Test results are submitted to the SLWB.

According to Imperial spokesperson Pius Rolheiser, there have been no water quality issues with the water discharged into the Mackenzie over the last decade.

"All of the downstream testing that Imperial has done to date indicates that

there are no adverse effects on river water quality downstream of our operation," he told *The Journal*. "We will certainly be speaking to that in much greater detail at the hearing itself, and I don't want to preempt that."

Aside from minor changes to the license, which do not affect water withdrawal or treatment, the application remains largely the same.

"The amount of the water that Imperial intends to withdraw remains the same," Rolheiser said.

Though the discharged water is tested for all contaminants, Yakeleya said the release of it back into the river still raises questions about quality and the health of fish, wildlife and humans.

A study in 2010 by the department of Fisheries and Oceans showed levels of mercury, PCBs and DDT were rising rapidly in Mackenzie River fish near Fort Good Hope, a trend linked to climate change.

Yakeleya said people in Fort Good Hope complain

of abnormally high rates of cancer in their community, and have not ruled out industry's possible role.

"They should really be asking for an environmental assessment on the water. We have never taken this water license through an EA. It immediately went to the land and water board," he said. "What are the long-term effects on the fish, on the animals and, more importantly, does it have any effects on the people, in regards to their cancer?"

He wants to see an assessment of the cumulative impacts done by independent monitors to address those concerns.

"I think it's so important that the people in Fort Good Hope feel some sense of comfort. Their concerns are legitimate," Yakeleya said.

Rolheiser said the company is looking forward to the upcoming hearings, where all technical staff will be on board to explain the water use, treatment and discharge process.

"There will be ample opportunity for people to voice concerns if they have them, to ask questions and to get answers to those questions," he said.

I'm voting...  
for my language

"Self-government will help us strengthen the D  l  n   Got'  n   language and culture. It will be possible for us to use our own language in our government and our community."

Laura Tutcho

Lives and works in Yellowknife and speaks her language fluently.

OUR PEOPLE  
OUR FUTURE  
OUR D  L  N  

your  
vote

D  l  n   Self-Government

### 3 ways to vote:

- By mail:** Mail in ballots will go out at the end of January
- Advance polls:** in D  l  n   and Yellowknife (Feb. 25 and 26)
- On Voting Day:** in D  l  n   and Yellowknife (Mar. 10, 11 and 12)

Your vote matters. If you don't vote, it will be counted as a "NO" regardless of how you feel about self-government. It's important to vote so we truly know what everyone wants.

### For information:

[www.ourdeline.ca](http://www.ourdeline.ca)  
1-855-428-5522 (toll-free)  
D  l  n   Self-Government Office (Cultural Centre)  
Yellowknife Self-Government Office  
(upstairs from North Wright Airways at the airport)

Ratification Manager: Gina Bayha  
(867) 589-8120

[gbayha@hotmail.com](mailto:gbayha@hotmail.com)

www.ourdeline.ca



# NWT-Alberta water agreement hits ‘home stretch’

By MARIA CHURCH

Negotiations to see a transboundary water agreement for the Mackenzie River Basin, which began with federal, provincial and territorial signatures in 1997, are now in the

“home stretch” between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, according to the NWT’s Environment minister. The negotiating teams for the province and territory are aiming to conclude

talks by May of this year, a significant milestone after years of discussions, scientific research and millions of dollars, Michael Miltenberger said at a constituency meeting in Fort Smith last week.

“We’re in the home stretch with Alberta,” he said. “We’re over 90 per cent done. We’re just trying to get some of the thornier issues done.”

The GNWT entered into serious negotiations for a bilateral water agreement with the province in 2007 with a memorandum of understanding.

NWT negotiators expected years of discussions to yield a draft agreement with Alberta last summer, but political shifts prevented any concrete action between the governments, Miltenberger said.

“This (May) deadline we think is going to be the one that gets us there,” he said.

Once a draft agreement is presented to the GNWT, the next step will see the document brought to communities and First Nations across the territory for consultation before the final agreement is signed.

The Mackenzie River Basin, which begins in Peace River, AB and flows North up to the Arctic Ocean, is the largest watershed in Canada and crosses borders in the NWT, Yukon, BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

As the downstream jurisdiction for the basin, the NWT is heavily affected by what’s happening upstream, Miltenberger said. As such, the territory has taken the lead on transboundary water agreements.

Alberta, he said, is considered a priority for the GNWT because of the volume and pace of industrial growth.

“Alberta, if you look at their registry, they have spills regularly. Some are major, some are small, but there’s such intense development. Just mathematically the amount of work that they are doing, pipelines they have and the amount of drilling they are doing, there’s enormous concern.

“Everything they’re doing, the repercussions tend to

We’re over 90 per cent done. We’re just trying to get some of the thornier issues done.

*Minister Michael Miltenberger  
Environment and Natural Resources*

“It’s a major province with a very pressing development agenda,” Miltenberger said.

The Obed coal spill late last year, which saw 90,000 tonnes of coal slurry flow down two northern Alberta tributaries and into the Athabasca River before reaching the Slave in the NWT, is one example of environmental concerns frequent in Alberta, he said.

come this way,” Miltenberger said. “Our goal is to make sure the waters are protected and abundant and clean for all.”

Miltenberger said the end-game for the GNWT is to see water agreements with all bordering jurisdictions, including Nunavut, which is a downstream jurisdiction for the NWT’s water sources.



Photo: Bill Braden

## Terrax Minerals plans to drill for gold

Joe Campbell, president of TerraX Minerals Inc., holds a public consultation meeting in Yellowknife on Jan. 23. The junior company is looking into several deposits north of the defunct Giant Mine. Though the company is primarily exploring for gold, there is also evidence of copper and silver in the deposits. Pending permitting, TerraX will be doing more drilling this spring.

  
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly  
Standing Committee on Social Programs

**Do you have concerns  
about how your personal  
health information  
is collected, used,  
and disclosed?**

**TELL US WHAT  
YOU THINK!**

Bill 4: *Health Information Act* sets out rules regarding the collection, use, disclosure, and security of your personal health information. The legislation aims to find a balance between competing goals: protecting individual privacy and delivering efficient health-care services.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs, chaired by Mr. Alfred Moses, is reviewing Bill 4 and wants to know what you think. For a copy of Bill 4, visit our website [www.assembly.gov.nt.ca](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca) and look under Documents & Proceedings, Bills & Legislation.

**We want to hear from you**  
**Public Hearing:**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm**  
**Committee Room ‘A’ at the Legislative Assembly**

The *Health Information Act* will impact all residents of the NWT and will have a lasting effect on our health care system. For this reason, the Committee is encouraging written submissions until **5pm on Friday, February 21, 2014.**

Submissions and any questions may be addressed to:  
Gail Bennett, Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Social Programs  
Telephone: (867) 669-2343 | Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784  
Fax: (867) 873-0432 | E-mail: [gail\\_bennett@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gail_bennett@gov.nt.ca)

If you wish to use one of the official languages of the Northwest Territories other than English, please advise the Committee Clerk by Monday, February 17, 2014.





# Policy group gives recommendations for Heritage Fund

## ‘Long-term public engagement crucial for proper fund management’

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

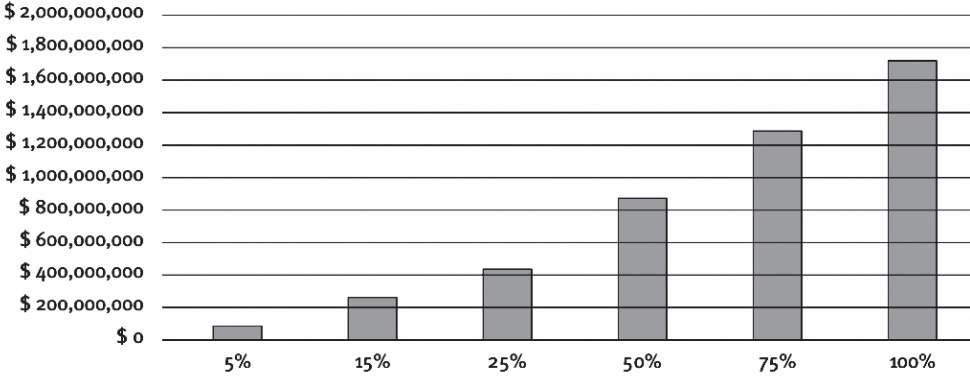
Five per cent of annual resource revenues won’t be enough to satisfy all the recommendations a national policy group is putting forth for the NWT Heritage Fund, but is a start.

Action Canada fellows released their final report detailing best practices for obtaining future prosperity in the NWT through the development of a heritage fund on Friday morning in Ottawa.

The report, compiled over the last few months based on interviews with other fund-holding jurisdictions and roundtable discussions with economists and politicians, outlines six recommendations for the territorial government in moving forward with its new fund.

The first of those recommends establishing a fund capable of achieving a dual objective of saving and stabilising a resource-based economy, for which more than 5 per cent of revenues per annum would be required.

“Resource prices are often quite volatile, and so the amount of taxes a government can expect from resources will go up and down a lot in any given year. So having a stabilisation component to that



Predicted Size of NWT Heritage Fund in 20 years if annual average royalties are 54 million and the fund achieves a 5% rate of return.

Those decisions made today, though they can be revisited by future governments, will have a significant impact on what’s going to be there (in the future).

Action Canada fellow Sarah Daitch

fund allows you to basically normalize the amount of taxes you would expect to receive per year, and you could take it out when your budgetary inputs are lower than expected,” fellow Andre Dias told *The Journal*.

“Having a stabilisation component to the fund prevents one from actually having the urge to dip into the savings piece when times are tough, because you already have a piece to tap

into when times are tough. It’s in the context of that objective that we said you would need to allocate more than 5 per cent.”

As it stands, the NWT’s fund is only looking to save money from resource royalties for future generations. At a 5 per cent input rate, the fund will hold a maximum of \$100 million after 20 years if annual average royalties are \$54 million and

the fund achieves a 5 per cent rate of return.

The group did not point out a specific percentage it thought would be best for fund contributions, saying it lies with government priorities.

“It basically depends on what you want to leave for future generations,” Dias said.

NWT Finance Minister Miltenberger announced during last Thursday’s budget address that

the government cannot currently afford to save more than 5 per cent of resource revenues and simultaneously follow through on legacy economic infrastructure.

“If we were a mature jurisdiction in a country like Norway that has a hundreds of years’ head start on us in terms of being built up, infrastructure needs met, small geographically, we’d all love to be in that position to put all that money away. But our reality is different, so we have to balance,” he said.

Miltenberger said the 5 per cent is not set in stone and can be looked at again by future assemblies if the territory begins to amass large amounts of royalties.

Though that is the case, Sarah Daitch, an Action Canada fellow from the NWT, cautioned against deferring savings to the future.

“Those decisions made today, though they can be revisited by future governments, will have a significant impact on what’s going to be there,” she said.

Apart from the stabilisation piece, the Action Canada group made several recommendations addressing the actual governance of the fund, from

the protection of the savings to making smart investments, while also ensuring public input and transparency.

“Sometimes it doesn’t matter if you put in 5 per cent, 50 per cent or 100 per cent into the fund if you don’t have good withdrawal or deposit rules,” fellow Julia Fan-Li said. “Even though Alberta had a heritage fund set up in 1976, its deposit rules were not very clear and therefore it allowed successive governments to change their minds every now and then about exactly what to put in the fund.”

All the fellows agreed that the fund should be protected by the strongest legislation possible to guarantee savings for the future. Currently, the NWT Heritage Fund is protected from political tampering for 20 years.

Keeping political hands out of the fund is where the civic engagement piece becomes so important, said the group.

“What we’ve learned on our research in Norway is that when citizens are engaged about the topic and they demand that the savings be kept in the fund, that’s when every single political party and every single consensus government that may form will keep to the wishes of the public,” Fan-Li said.

# Budget gets good grades from NWT Chamber

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

In what the NWT Chamber of Commerce is praising as the “beginning of a new era,” the GNWT’s budget received much better grades this year than last from the business lobby group on its annual report card.

The government received a B+ on its third budget of the 17th Assembly, whose three-year term so far has been characterized by fiscal prudence.

Last year, the NWT Chamber awarded the GNWT a C- for “lack of foresight and investment in the economy,” chamber president Kathy Gray said.

The 2014-25 budget, she said, is much more promising.

“For the past few years the budget address hasn’t been very exciting. The first priority was fiscal discipline. In that regard, the government gets an A+ for generating surpluses and paying down debt,” Gray said, noting the move from a \$1.3-million surplus to an estimated \$200-million

For the past few years the Budget Address hasn’t been very exciting. The first priority was fiscal discipline. In that regard, the government gets an A+ for generating surpluses and paying down debt.

Kathy Gray  
NWT Chamber of Commerce

operating surplus in this budget.

During its two years of fiscal discipline, the government was also able to pay down some of its long-term debt, restoring a positive variance of \$176 million to the federal borrowing limit of \$800 million.

“All of which means that the GNWT can begin addressing our \$3-billion infrastructure deficit this year, including the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link which we’ve been advocating for

several years,” Gray said.

She also praised the GNWT’s new initiative to bring up the territory’s population by 2,000 over the next five years.

“This commitment illustrates the government intention to stem the decline and turn things around. We believe it’s an important announcement not just for government revenues, but also for the economy,” she said.

Equally important was seeing no increases in taxes, she added.



## Town of Fort Smith Notice

### Fines for Dogs Not Registered within the Municipality of Fort Smith

All residents of Fort Smith who own a dog are required to register their dog with the Town of Fort Smith as per Dog Control Bylaw #678, Section 3.1. Possession of an unlicensed and/or untagged dog in the Town of Fort Smith will be subject to the following fines:

First Offence - \$75<sup>00</sup>  
Second Offence - \$150<sup>00</sup>  
Third Offense - \$300<sup>00</sup>

Please fill in this form and bring it to the Fort Smith Town Hall. It costs \$12 +GST to register a fixed pet (a certificate from a veterinarian must be supplied) and \$29 +GST to register an unfixed pet.

<b>PET TAG LICENSE</b>		DOG <input type="checkbox"/>	TAG NO. <input type="text"/>
			YEAR <b>2014</b>
The Corporation of the .....			
Name of Owner .....		Address .....	
Name of Pet .....		Markings .....	
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	BOXER
			COLLIE
			HOUND
			MONGREL
			POLICE
			POODLE
			SETTER
			SHEPARD
			SPANIEL
			SCOTTIE
			TERRIER
			WHITE
			BLACK
			BROWN
			RED
			TAN
License fee of ..... dollars received this ..... day of ..... 20.....			
PET TAG LICENSE FEE COLLECTOR			



# Marathoner to hand deliver ‘Protect the Peel’ message

## Caribou Legs to run 1,200 km to Whitehorse with letters for Yukon premier

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Communities on the Northwest Territories’ side of the Peel watershed are prepared to hand deliver their message of opposition to the Yukon government on its new land use plan for the region if need be, starting with a 1,200-km trek.

Brad “Caribou Legs” Firth, a Gwich’in ultra long-distance runner from Inuvik, announced last week that he is preparing to run the entire Dempster Highway from Inuvik to Whitehorse this April with a bag - and support car - full of letters from concerned residents to Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski.

“I’m really worried about what’s happening there in the Yukon and how it’s all eventually going to come here, through the water and the air and the land,” Firth said. “There could be less caribou and less everything. So I think carrying that message, getting the kids to understand what that means, is important.”

Letters, being accepted at the Gwich’in Tribal Council office in Inuvik, have



Photo courtesy of Brad Firth

Long-distance runner Brad “Caribou Legs” Firth is dedicating his next trek to the protection of the Peel watershed.

already started coming in and Caribou Legs says he will have no problem picking them up - along with any interested runners - along the route.

“I’m hoping more people will jump on board,” he said. The Yukon Government recently opened up 71 per cent of the previously untouched 68,000 square-km

Peel watershed to development, despite recommendations by the land use planning commission, based on the feedback of residents, to protect 80 per cent.

Two Yukon Aboriginal governments, along with two environmental groups, have since taken the government to court over the plan, which they argue contravenes the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement land claim.

The Gwich’in Tribal Council launched its own separate lawsuit last week.

Firth said the government’s decision allowing so much industrial development in the region puts people’s culture, history and traditional ties to the land at risk.

“People don’t understand that you can drink out of those rivers; nowhere else in Canada can you do that. That is so rare that you can go into a river today and drink actual water. That’s what’s in jeopardy here. The Gwich’in people have such a close tie to that,” he said. “It’s important to let people know what’s at stake here.”

Caribou Legs is joined by hundreds of other concerned

residents of Aklavik, Inuvik and Fort McPherson who are mounting their own political action against the Yukon’s land use plan.

In Aklavik, 125 people have signed and sent off a petition to Pasloski’s office, the Yukon environment and industry ministers, and MPs Ryan Leef (Yukon) and Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic) protesting the Peel plan.

Another petition online at [avaaz.org](http://avaaz.org) is making the rounds, with over 7,000 signatories currently asking Pasloski to protect the Peel.

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan said people in Aklavik feel ignored by the Yukon government and want to make sure their dissent is noted.

“The watershed is situated mostly in the Yukon, but because the tributaries connect and flow down, eventually it goes through parts of the Northwest Territories and right by Aklavik, which is our municipal home, and then down into the Beaufort Sea,” she said.

“Aside from the cultural importance, what it also

comes down to for us is a human health issue,” she said. “We live here and it’s our home and the Peel is our drinking water source. We want them to know we’re here and asking them to think beyond the short-term benefits, looking more at the long-term and future generations.”

Greenland-Morgan said folks in Aklavik will definitely be sending letters for Firth to take to the Yukon legislature this spring.

Firth, who ran from Fort Smith to Yellowknife last fall, has been practicing with runs in the Mackenzie Delta region, heading halfway to Aklavik during the Christmas holidays - a trip he plans to finish in the next couple of weeks - and to Tsiigehtchic last weekend.

His latest trek to Tsiigehtchic - the equivalent of three marathons - took a total of 20 hours, but the -9C weather and soft, powdery snow made it an enjoyable outing, he said.

“It was one of my best runs in the Arctic so far.”

He plans to head to the Sahtu communities this month in preparation for longer running days.

# Gwich’in Tribal Council joins lawsuit against Yukon

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Gwich’in Tribal Council (GTC) leaders announced last week they will be taking the Yukon Government to court over its new land use plan for the Peel watershed, arguing the plan violates rights established through various Crown-recognized agreements.

GTC vice president Norman Snowshoe said the Yukon’s regional plan for the 68,000 square-km area does not take into account the concerns of the Gwich’in and goes against land use planning process requirements.

“The Peel River watershed is in our shared traditional territory with the North Yukon First Nations of Nacho Nyak Dun, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and Vuntut Gwitchin,” Snowshoe said. “Inherent rights to hunt, trap, fish and to have access to water are provided for in the Transboundary Agreement of the Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The Gwich’in also has fee simple title to land in the Primary Use Area.”

He said it also violates the connection Gwich’in people have to the watershed established through the Peel River Preserve in 1921, the



Around 100 residents of Aklavik, NWT protest the Yukon Government’s land use plan for the Peel watershed in late January.

creation of the Fort McPherson Group Trapping Area in the early 1950s and the protection of Gwich’in rights enshrined within the Yukon Transboundary Agreement of 1992.

Those rights guaranteed the GTC a spot in the land use planning commission’s five years of consultations

across the region, which produced a report recommending 80 per cent protection for the watershed.

Unhappy with the recommendations, the Yukon Government followed up with its own consultations in the communities, and released a new plan last month offering up 71 per cent of the previously

untouched area to development following the removal of the staking ban on Jan. 21.

Two Yukon First Nations and environmental groups filed suit against the Yukon Government in late January, stating the plan for the Peel violates the Umbrella Final Agreement, the land claim for Yukon First Nations.

Though not tied in with the existing lawsuit, Snowshoe said the GTC’s case will be supportive of the action filed by the Nacho Nyak Dun and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nations in Yukon.

Snowshoe said the GTC agreed with the commission’s report and was optimistic the planning exercise would

protect Gwich’in rights, but now condemns the government’s “drastically and unilaterally rewritten” plan.

“The Yukon government’s new plan will allow substantial development in critical parts of the Peel Watershed, threatening Gwich’in’s continued connection to this sacred area,” he said.



# Tlicho take feds to court over superboard issue

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Tlicho Government is taking legal action against the federal government over its legislation that both implements devolution and makes changes to the NWT’s regulatory system, eliminating the regional land and water boards established through land claims.

While the Tlicho have said they support the section of devolution Bill C-15 that allows for the transfer of authority over lands, water and resources to the territorial government, they oppose the inclusion of amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) that would see the local Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board dismantled in favour of one territorial superboard.

Though officials with the Tlicho Government did not wish to comment on the case, Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus expressed his “deep disappointment” to the federal committee at hearings on Bill C-15 in Yellowknife on Jan. 27.

“This way we find a balance between the interest of Canada and the interest of



Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

Tlicho in preserving our way of life. We have an equal say about development that could profoundly affect our way of life. How it works,” he said.

He said it took 13 years to negotiate the Tlicho land claim and self-government agreement, central to which was the co-management

Our voice is being silenced. It is contrary to our agreement and the constitutional promises that we will be joint decision-makers about the use of land and waters in Wek’eezhii.

*Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus*

promised by the creation of Wek’eezhii, and that the board has been praised by the Auditor General of Canada for being more efficient than any other board in the NWT.

“The Tlicho Land and Water Board has been a huge success here in the North. It has approved development that has done a great job of taking into account the Tlicho way of life. In fact, the Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board has never turned down development proposals...Better yet, because we are involved in the process as equals none of the decisions made by the board have ever been legally challenged.”

The way the board is being eliminated, Erasmus said, is “colonial.”

“Bill C-15 becomes law and Tlicho no longer have equal decision-makers because of the use of land and water in Wek’eezhii. In fact, decisions about development in the heart of our territory, Wek’eezhii, will be made with no Tlicho input whatsoever. This is devastating to our ability to protect our way of life. Our voice is being silenced. It is contrary to our agreement and the constitutional promises that we will be joint decision-makers about the use of land and waters in Wek’eezhii. We cannot and will not let this happen.”

NWT Premier Bob McLeod would not say if the court case could affect devolution moving forward as of Apr. 1, as he did not want to comment on anything that is currently before the courts.

Officials with the federal government did not respond to requests for comment as of press time Monday, but an online “Myths and Facts” sheet on Bill C-15 argues that the NWT regulatory system does, indeed, require modernization, despite claims that it is fine as it is.

“The current regulatory processes in the Northwest Territories are complex, costly, unpredictable and time consuming,” states the document.

It states that consultation on the changes has been ongoing with the territory’s Aboriginal governments for years, and that the changes will not weaken environmental protection in the North.

“The proposed amendments will not change the existing environmental assessment process. Rather, the changes will strengthen environmental stewardship by providing regulators with modern enforcement and compliance tools,” the document states.

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### Yellowknife participates in 10th annual Delta basketball tourney

For the first time in the history of the Beaufort Delta Regional Basketball Tournament, a team from outside the region made the trip to the north-west corner of the NWT to compete against the regional schools. The City of Yellowknife sent a team of high performance players to the 10th annual tournament held in Inuvik two weekends ago. The Yellowknife team was one of 15 that played in the weekend of round robin games, including nine from Inuvik, one from Fort McPherson, three from Tuktoyaktuk and one from Paulatuk. Yellowknife's squad took home the top spot in the sr. boys and adult divisions by winning all of their playoff games, while Tuk U took second place and the Basket Brawlers took third. The E3SS Junior Boys team of Inuvik won the B division and the Mangilaluk 1 team won the A division.



Photo: Siavash Chazvini

### Sport North invites AWG athletes to hear motivational speaker

Spencer West, an Albertan motivational speaker who has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and raised thousands of dollars for charity from a wheelchair, is visiting the NWT this month and Sport North is encouraging athletes from across the territory to come hear him speak. West will be in Yellowknife on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at William McDonald Middle School Gym. His presentation will be geared towards motivating athletes for the Arctic Winter Games and is free to attend. For more information or to reserve seats, contact Sport North Federation or email [lauren.c.seabrook@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.c.seabrook@gmail.com).



Photo courtesy of Brendan Green

### Olympians among grant recipients for high performance athletes in NWT

Biathlete Brendan Green and short-track speed skater Michael Gilday, both Olympians competing in Sochi, Russia this week, were among the 23 high performance athletes awarded a grant by the territorial government last week. The grants, given in partnership with the NWT's Sport North Federation, are intended to provide financial assistance to the territory's potential podium placers. A judoka, a rower and a snowboarder were also among the grant recipients. Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, awarded on the basis of athletic achievement and recognition at the national and international level, according to the department of Municipal and Community Affairs.



Team Logan Gagnier wins the A division banner.



Team Alice PWA from Yellowknife takes the C division banner.

### Sports & Recreation Curling

## Camaraderie upheld at NWT school curling championships

By MARIA CHURCH

Armed with brooms and sliders, 14 young curling teams from Hay River, Yellowknife and Fort Smith duked it out on the ice during the 14th annual NWT School Curling Championships in Hay River last weekend.

While the competition was fierce between the four age and skill level categories, the curling championships also upheld a tradition of camaraderie between the communities, Gary Hoffman, organizer of the championships, told *The Journal*.

"Sometimes when they can't make up a full team, we'll combine teams," he said.

"In the past we've had a team made up of kids from four communities. It's one of those things where any kids who want to come, bring them; don't leave them at home."

The championships divide teams into four categories of age and skill level: A is for more experienced and competitive junior curlers, B is for less experienced junior curlers, C is 13 years of age and under, and D is for those nine years of age and under, also called "Little Rockers."

Seven teams from Hay River participated in the championships, while Yellowknife sent three teams and Fort Smith sent four.

"It's nice to see how they improve over the weekend," Hoffman said.

#### Fewer communities travel to championships

The school curling championships are hosted each year by the Hay River Curling Club as a sanctioned event by the NWT Curling Association.

Hoffman has been organizing the championships every year since they began and said each year seems to be seeing less participation from NWT communities. Several years ago the competition would have included teams from Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Fort Simpson.

"Travel costs are getting higher and higher," he acknowledged, which is why Hay River - a central location for schools that are driving - hosts the event.

In order to keep costs down, the Hay River Curling Club has not increased the \$50 team registration fee for the last 10 years. Students and coaches have the option of sleeping in the curling club and the club hosts a banquet for all teams Saturday night.

"The main thing is they go out and have fun," Hoffman said. "The coaches, the parents and the chaperones, they all have fun."

### Sports & Recreation Track & Field

## NWT track athletes warming up for grand prix in Toronto

By MARIA CHURCH

High school students in Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife are already hitting the gym and running laps in preparation for the future hurdles, high jumps and 400-metre tracks they will be facing in Toronto against peers from across the country.

A team of 23 students has been selected to compete for NWT Storm, the territory's high school track and field team, at the Nike High School Grand Prix in Toronto.

This is the third year marketing agency TrojanOne Ltd. and School Sport Canada have partnered to host the national track and field meet in Toronto, the only Canada-wide high school competition in any sport.

Last year, NWT Storm brought home four medals, one silver and three bronze. The boys' team finished fifth and the girls' team finished seventh overall.

Three-time coach Joe LeBlanc from Diamond Jenness High School in Hay River

TEAM ROSTER			
Female Team		Male Team	
Hannah Mantla	SPHS	Melsik Balasanyan	SPHS
Sara Ibey	SPHS	Alex Keefe	SPHS
Kierra Mandeville	DJSS	Alfred Chikopera	SPHS
Kara Schaefer	DJSS	Andrey Balasanyan	SPHS
Brooke Schaefer	DJSS	Jared Leblanc	DJSS
Paige Kruger	DJSS	Joel Demarcke	DJSS
McKenzie Clowe	SFJ	Daniel Melanson	DJSS
Nancy Ngo	SJF	Kaed Blake	DJSS
Alison Fleming	SJF	Andrew Lirette	DJSS
Desiree Brown	SJF	Thomas Rohne	PWK
Kandis Villebrun	SJF		
Clair Littlefair	SJF		

said he has even higher hopes for this year's team.

"I think we are up to match those results this year because I think we have more of a senior group this year," he said, adding that at least six of the students are returning athletes to the grand prix, which will be a benefit to the brand-new athletes who are less experienced.

"With the repeat athletes, they make it easier for the

athletes to transition to the event. It's a pretty huge event that's streamed live on the internet with lots of video cameras around - they really make a big deal of it. For some of those athletes, it will be their first time at a big event like that," LeBlanc said.

Each high school has its own coach for Team Storm in order to keep students practicing the minimum of three

times a week. In Hay River, students have been conditioning in the gym since October and recently began track and field training exercises.

A drawback of living in the North is that students will not likely have many chances to practice outside before the grand prix meet, which runs May 8 to 11, LeBlanc said.

It's a big disadvantage, but it's not insurmountable, he said. "It's just another obstacle that we overcome."

Each athlete must raise \$675 to cover travel costs from Yellowknife. Hay River and Fort Smith athletes must also cover the cost to get to Yellowknife.

Going off last year's fundraising success, LeBlanc said they are not worried about finding financial support for the athletes.

This year's Nike High School Grand Prix weekend will see 24 teams from 12 provinces and territories compete in a 10-event track and field competition.

For more information, visit [www.highschoolgrandprix.ca](http://www.highschoolgrandprix.ca)





Around 80 people wearing red cheer on Gilday during his debut Olympic race early Saturday morning.



Young Michael Gilday fans gather for a sleep-over at the Yellowknife multiplex to cheer on their hometown Olympian.



Brendan Green's hometown supporters congregate at the Hay River fire hall last Friday.



Travis Darling and Kim Tybring put up a poster celebrating Brendan Green at the Hay River Arena last week.

Sports & Recreation Olympics

# NWT Olympian feels support from the territory

## Youth, be 'passionate' about your sport: Gilday

By MARIA CHURCH  
When Bob White found a newspaper clipping from 1995 showing the youth winners of the Hay River Ptub ski race that year included Brendan Green and Michael Gilday, two NWT-bred Olympic athletes currently in Sochi, Russia for the 2014 Winter Olympics, he happily shared the article in the community.  
"It's exciting for the community and for people who volunteered and who

the sparkle in a young skier's eye before he or she launches from the start line is a great incentive to keep organizing ski races in the community.  
To know that some of the young athletes in those races have taken their sports all the way to the Olympics is even more rewarding, he said.  
Speaking to *The Journal* from Sochi, Russia on Wednesday, less than a week before his debut Olympic short track-speed

pummeled by him. He's got to be six inches taller than me, so as a runner he was far superior to me," he said with a laugh.  
Racing in the Ptub against Green in his element, Gilday said that while he liked to think of himself as a pretty good skier, Green was the territorial benchmark for the youth racers. "I was always gunning for him, but he was always better than me," he laughed.  
Local racing, Gilday said, was "unequivocally" important to his success as an athlete. While there are certainly some drawbacks for youth pursuing sport in the NWT, such as long travel to races, he was quick to point out advantages as well.  
"It's true there is definitely more to overcome, but I think what we have in a smaller community is that when people see young kids that are passionate, that are trying really hard to improve themselves, that are applying themselves as much as they can to anything, it could be a sport or art, anything, they see that and they want to help," he said.

community, which happens to be the entire territory. In his hometown of Yellowknife, the city proclaimed Feb. 10 Red Shirt Day and encouraged people to wear red in solidarity with Gilday's debut on Olympic short track ice.

The hub of Brendan Green's support is his hometown, Hay River, where Feb. 7 was declared Green Day.  
The town also held a pancake breakfast on Saturday during the broadcast of Green's first race.

Gilday's message to aspiring athletes in the NWT: "The biggest thing is to be passionate about your sport," he said.  
"If they are passionate, if they apply themselves, there are always going to be people there to help them get over boundaries."

I think what we have in a smaller community is that when people see young kids that are passionate, that are trying really hard to improve themselves, that are applying themselves as much as they can to anything, it could be a sport or art, anything, they see that and they want to help.

*Michael Gilday  
Team Canada*

were out there for them," White said. "When you find out about their stories, you learn their early start played a role."  
White, a foundational member of the Hay River ski club, said watching

skating race, Gilday recalled competing with Green as a young athlete growing up in the NWT.  
"I remember specifically racing against him in the Hay River track and field meet and getting absolutely

Gilday said he's always had a huge team of volunteers supporting him in his athletic goals.  
Even today, Gilday said he is backed by his

## Canada at the Olympics

### Monday, Feb. 10, 2014

Medal count: 3 3 1

#### Medal count

Sport				Total
Freestyle Skiing	2	2	0	4
Short Track	1	0	0	1
Figure Skating	0	1	0	1
Snowboard	0	0	1	1

#### Medal standings

Country				Total
1  Canada	3	3	1	7
2  Netherlands	3	2	2	7
3  Norway	2	1	4	7
4  United States	2	0	3	5



# Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival

Schedule of Events Feb. 20 – 23, 2014



## King & Queen of the North

### Age Categories

Jr. King & Queen of the North (Ages 15-17)  
King & Queen of the North (Ages 18-54)  
Sr. King & Queen of the North (Ages 55+)

### Indoor Events

Trap setting  
Jigging Contest  
Moose Calling  
Traditional Dress

### Outdoor Events

Log Sawing  
Tea Boiling  
Nail Pounding  
Snow Shoe Contest

Each event will receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place along with points; 3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd place. The contestants with the most points in each age category will be declared the winner.

## Thursday, Feb. 20

Opening Remarks  
6 p.m.

Mushum and Kukum Pageant  
6:15 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Admission: Carnival Button

Participants will compete in Traditional Dress, Impromptu Question, Talent and Selling Winter Carnival buttons. If you are 60 years of age or older or have any inquires about this event, please feel free to contact Blue Eyes Simpson at 780-697-9017.

## Friday, Feb. 21

### Indoor Events

6 p.m. - 11 p.m. at Mamawi Hall  
Admission: Carnival Button

Jr. King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling  
King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling  
Sr. King & Queen of the North  
Trap Setting, Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling

## Saturday, Feb. 22

### Pancake Breakfast

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Mamawi Hall

### Kids Indoor & Outdoor Events

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Youth Centre  
Admission: Carnival Button

Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20 and 3rd \$10

Ages 0-3: Jigging, Traditional Dress

Ages 4-6: Jigging, Traditional Dress, Nail Pounding

Ages 7-9: Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

Ages 10-14: Jigging, Traditional Dress, Moose Calling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

### Dog Sled Races

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lake Front

Categories: 10 dog - 10 mile race

6 dog - 6 mile race

Contact: Marg Villebrun for all inquiries at (780) 697-3600 or 215-5069.

### Skidoo and Bike Races

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Lake Front

Categories: Bikes, Ice Race, Cross Country, Snow Cross and Drag

Contact: "Cowboy" Marcel at (780) 799-2981

### Fun Bingo

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Mamawi Hall

Organized by Métis Local #125

### Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

6 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Mamawi Hall (Middle Room)

### Family Entertainment

#### Traditional Pow-Wow Dancers

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Mamawi Hall

Admission: Carnival Button

### Adult Dance

9 p.m. - 3 a.m.

DJ Music

Admission: \$20.00 each

Organized by Métis Local #125.

## Sunday, Feb. 23

### Pancake Breakfast

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Mamawi Hall

### Dog Sled Races

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Lake Front

### Skidoo and Bike Races

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Lake Front

### Outdoor Events

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Mamawi Hall

Jr. King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

Sr. King & Queen of the North  
Tea Boiling, Snow Shoeing, Log Sawing, Nail Pounding

### Community Awards and Dinner

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Mamawi Hall  
Admission: \$5.00 each

Menu: Spaghetti & Meat Balls, Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, Desserts, Refreshments

Please register for all events!

## 2014 Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival Sponsors

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125, Extreme Sno Riders, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Acden Group of Companies, Nunee Health Board, Lake Shore Contractors, Fort Chipewyan Museum

On behalf of the RMWB and Fort Chipewyan Winter Carnival Committee, we thank you all for participating.

To our visitors, we hope that you enjoy your visit to Fort Chipewyan and hope to see you again in the future.

To the community, sponsors and volunteers: our sincere appreciation for your support. Thank you all!

Any questions, please contact Flossie Cyprien at (780) 697-3724 or (780) 714-0569.



# Junior kindergartens to spring up across NWT

## Every school in territory to include 4 year-olds by 2017

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Four year-olds will soon be attending every school in the Northwest Territories thanks to a reallocation of funding within the department of Education, Culture and Employment aimed at boosting the territory's early childhood development programming.

Announced in the 2014-15 budget released last Thursday, \$1.8 million of existing school contribution funding will be transferred within the department to establish junior kindergarten classrooms in every community in the territory, starting this fall in the 29 smallest communities, 10 of which currently have no licensed early childhood programming.

The following year will see similar kindergartens established in all four regional centres, with Yellowknife's schools following in 2016-17.

"All 49 schools in all 33 communities, we want to cover them with junior kindergarten into our existing school system. That's our overall objective," Education Minister Jackson Lafferty told *The Journal*.

He said the new initiative is part of the department's ongoing Aboriginal Student



Photo courtesy of GNWT

Education Minister Jackson Lafferty says the move to bring 4 year-olds into NWT schools comes from expert and community feedback.

Achievement Initiative and the Early Childhood Development Framework, which involves the department of Health and Social Services.

"We've heard ideas and voices and suggestions from those people that we engaged with, community members and parents, so we wanted to

provide some options for the parents and also quality early childhood development into our schools," Lafferty said.

"So far, I've been hearing positive comments on this particular subject, especially in the small, isolated communities - very positive feedback. It came directly from the parents,

This junior kindergarten is very exciting because it will provide parents and families with opportunities for their 4 year-old children to participate in safe, high quality, play-based programming.

*Minister Jackson Lafferty*  
*Education, Culture and Employment*

the grandparents and the educators in the 33 communities that we have...especially the 10 communities that do not have licensed early childhood programming."

The initiative is also supported by the work of world-renowned experts in early childhood development, one of which recently visited the NWT to provide his insights, which included establishing a junior kindergarten program.

"This junior kindergarten is very exciting because it will provide parents and families with opportunities for their 4 year-old children to participate in safe, high quality, play-based programming," he said. "It's

also hands-on programming, focused on helping our kids develop their language and social skills and physical health."

The junior kindergarten students will be combined in classrooms with the kindergartens, using existing staff. In the regional centres, the territory has qualified people already employed in the school system, along with 120 early childhood workers across the territory.

"Once we take the 4 year-olds out of the day care establishments, the daycare's primary focus will be ages 0-3," Lafferty said. "Our overall enrollment is down, so that leaves plenty of space

for these 4 year-olds to enter our school system."

Curtis Brown, superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), said he's excited about the new program.

"I'm really pleased to see the addition of junior kindergarten to our schools. It's becoming more and more obvious that early childhood education is critical to the development of children, not only for their literacy, numeracy, their social responsibility, but general readiness for school," he said.

That said, he is concerned about the affordability of an additional 100 students per year after full implementation. Though the new students will be captured as part of the federal formula funding, which will help to increase funds for the division, the SSDEC will experience a net reduction of \$200,000.

"We're pleased to have access to 4 year-olds, but concerned that it is not coming with new funding," Brown said.

The department expects around 600 new youngsters to enter the school system in junior kindergarten this fall.

Education Literacy

# Tlicho government challenges youth to read

By MARIA CHURCH

A new literacy initiative by the Tlicho Government that is challenging students to read as many books as possible has been embraced by teachers and students alike.

Called the Book Passport Reading Challenge, students in all five schools in the Tlicho region have received a book passport to record titles, authors and signatures from their teachers. The students with the most books read receive prizes.

Andrea Adams, a teacher at Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Behchoko, said it's exciting to see the unique ways teachers are encouraging their students to complete the challenge.

"One of the best parts that I like about it is each class is doing it in a different way depending on the teaching style," she said. Some teachers have incorporated the passports into independent reading blocks during class, some are reading books together and some are given the passports to take home.

The students seem to be excited by the challenge, which

started on Jan. 27 and runs until Feb. 28, and are happily filling out the passports with each new book they tackle, Adams said.

"They're smiling as they fill it out," she said.

The book passports are an initiative of the Tlicho Government and feature the Tlicho flag on the front and back cover. The inside pages have pictures of beadwork and other cultural images throughout, which is helping students identify with the material, Adams said.

"It's not something that you would pick up at a store or through a school catalog," she said. "It's really unique and relatable."

While literacy initiatives are not new to the Tlicho schools, Adams said it's nice to see both the community and the government encouraging literacy.

"It's a way of tracking their progress and it's a different way that's not coming from the teachers, so that's kind of nice, too," she said.

The challenge is hopefully another way of getting students interested in reading and, through that, gaining literacy skills, Adams said,

which translate into all areas of learning.

"They'll be more confident in their learning so they'll attend school," she said.

Giselle Marion organized the book passport reading challenge on behalf of the Tlicho Government and said while she can't speak for the government, it's widely known that literacy is an important part of everyday life.

"Whether it is in English or in Tlicho, literacy is a necessary tool for development. Promoting and supporting literacy increases awareness, educates and provides the skills necessary for a child to flourish in school," she said.

The book passports have room for 36 books to be recorded, but it's not likely a student will be turned away if they run out of room and ask for another one. With a month to read and unlimited access to their school's libraries, there's no limit on the young bookworms.

Winners of the passport challenge will be announced on Mar. 1 during the Tlicho Government's Aboriginal language awareness month launch event.

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Hay River subsistence trapper Andrew Stanley Checks his trap line.



Stanley and his four-legged companion Charlie check beaver traps for the new reality TV show, Fur Harvesters NWT.

Photos courtesy of Artless Collective

Arts & Culture Television

# True North: show profiles real life of NWT trapper

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
There will be no need to fake the intensity or stage the drama in the brand new

reality adventure TV series, *Fur Harvesters NWT*, say the producers; the reality is hardcore enough.

The new 10-part series currently in production has Yellowknife producers Maxim Bloudov of *Maximum Limit*

*Fishing* and Artless Collective duo Jay Bulckaert and Pablo Saravanja following third-generation trapper Andrew Stanley of Hay River on his backcountry trails where he kills to make a living.

The show, set to air this summer, documents Stanley’s work as a subsistence trapper out on the land, harvesting pelts to be auctioned in the spring. “It will be very rare that we edit this show to look more dramatic than it is,” Bulckaert said. “No ‘dun, dun, dun’ music. It will be dramatic because trapping is inherently dangerous. He is around wolverines who are maybe not dead in his

and species of wildlife, from beaver to marten, lynx and wolverine, mixed in with a daily dose of what it takes to survive out at his cabin, and Stanley’s Northern charisma that makes the show genuinely made-in-the-NWT. “This is a single-character show; it’s all about Andrew Stanley and celebrating his kind of unique Northernness,” Saravanja said. “We know it’s a lifestyle show as well, so we show him preparing his cabin for the winter, cutting down enough wood for three or four months of deep snow, fetching water each day. We know that there’s these little stories we

“He essentially hitchhiked into town and bartered in Enterprise a couple of pelts for a replacement Bravo - like fur for cash,” Saravanja said. “All of a sudden it dawned on us that we were watching the fur trade in action, in real life,” Bulckaert added. “Right - you have pelts and you can go trade them for things. This is how this has always happened. This is still alive and people still do this.”

Stanley isn’t just a character in the show, either; he helps direct the shoots based on his knowledge and experience, and even turns the cameras on the film crew every once in a while for his own youtube channel, *The Wild North*, where his videos of life out on the trapline routinely get 12,000 views each and are part of the reason the crew hunted him down.

“We fell in love with it,” Bulckaert said. “He just had so much character and charisma.” “And we thought, how cool would that be to make a reality show that’s really real - with a real person who is himself on camera?” Saravanja added. “It seemed like an excellent opportunity.”

Bulckaert said the show will be unique among similar outdoor reality series in that it will be entirely Northern produced rather than the work of producers from L.A., Vancouver or Toronto. “If people up here can look at this and be like, ‘Nice job, boys; that’s how it is,’ then we’ll have done the right thing,” he said, “and I think that will make it even more popular for people who live in Texas.”

It will be very rare that we edit this show to look more dramatic than it is. No ‘dun, dun, dun’ music. It will be dramatic because trapping is inherently dangerous.

Jay Bulckaert  
Artless Collective

traps; his skidoo could break down 30 km out on the trail. We don’t really need to pump up the drama or the danger of anything. It’s straight up dangerous work.” So far, the crew has shot four episodes with the assistance of its main sponsor, NWT Fur Harvester Auctions Inc., which will start airing in July on WildTV, NWTel cable and an online Vimeo channel. Episodes are themed along the lines of trapping styles

need to make a complete picture of his life out there, and we go from that. But essentially the first story is the trapping.” Along with his sense of humour and down-to-earth attitude, Stanley’s ingenuity comes out with every challenge, most notably on a recent shoot when his small Yamaha Bravo snowmobile broke down, making it impossible for him to check his traps on the narrow bush trails - and for the crew to film.

**Monday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.** Opening Ceremonies  
 Coffee/Tea and Snacks  
**12:00 p.m.** Weiner Roast and Hot Chocolate  
 Campus Courtyard  
**12:30 p.m.** Tug-a-war -Campus Courtyard

**Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:45-9:00 a.m.** Pancake Breakfast -Campus Foyer Sponsored by the BE.d Program  
**12 Noon** Pizza Lunch \$2.00 slice  
**12:30 p.m.** Relay Race with four stations  
 Board walking, Sled riding, Snowshoe race and Bottle sucking

**Wednesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.** Healthy Snacks with Dietitian Jared  
 Tam Campus Foyer  
**12:00 p.m.** Grad Fundraiser Lunch  
**12:30 p.m.** Tea Boiling or Bannock Making  
 Sponsored by BE.d program  
**4:00 p.m.** Community BBQ Campus Foyer  
**7:00 p.m.** Traditional Handgames Campus Foyer

**Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.** Grad Bake Sale Campus Foyer  
**12:00 Noon** Chili Challenge

**Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.** Coffee n’ Muffin with the President – Jane Arychuk Campus Foyer  
**12:00 p.m.** Grad Lunch  
 Fundraiser Campus Foyer  
**12:30 -1:30 p.m.** College Idol  
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**2:15 p.m.** Closing Ceremonies  
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# Wood Buffalo bison pose for international videographer

## Artist says bison migration parallels US-Mexican border struggles

By MARIA CHURCH

Edgardo Aragón, an artist from Oaxaca, Mexico who had never been north of Toronto or seen a bison before, was in Wood Buffalo National Park last weekend doing both for the first time as part of an art project to film bison in North America.

Aragón was greeted by Parks Canada staff and a blast of cold weather when he touched down in Fort Smith with his camera gear, assistant Alfredo Mora and translator José Teodoro last Friday.

“It was really interesting, cold, wild and dangerous,” the photographer shared about his first thoughts on the subarctic community.

Aragón, who speaks some English, but communicated mainly through the translator, explained that his decision to film bison is because of the parallels he sees between the ancient migratory patterns of the bovines and the history of the US-Mexico border.

“Aboriginal people from Mexico used to be able to move freely through all of their territories. Now because of borders and all the of the politics that come with those borders they can no longer do that, and in the case of Mexicans, often if



Edgardo Aragón, a videographer from Mexico, says historically both bison and Aboriginal people from Mexico would travel freely across North America.

they do they wind up dead,” he said.

Bison, similarly, would migrate freely across North

America in the past, Aragón explained. “Now they are totally domesticated animals that are not allowed to

stray from the parks where they are protected. If they do, they can be hunted,” he said.

Aragón has received international attention for his photography and videography that often reflect on the history of violence in his country. His work has been featured in exhibitions in Mexico City, Paris, New York and Los Angeles.

The artist said the inspiration behind this, his latest project, was recent news out of the United States that a US border guard shot and killed a Mexican child.

“There were no consequences. He’s considered a hero in his country,” Aragón said. “That is why we are making this. It’s about that border and the question is, how is it possible that an American can kill a Mexican child and get away with it?”

The video project will take Aragón and his crew all over North America to study bison and the history of the border. His goal is awareness, but as an art project, Aragón said it’s a work in progress and his message is still forming.

“I really don’t know yet and I don’t think about that,” he said. “All the possibilities of the project are different because from the beginning you are thinking different goals, but in the process, everything changes, always.”

Biologists and staff from Parks Canada volunteered to show Aragón and the crew around Wood Buffalo. Mike Keizer, spokesperson for Parks, was tasked with coordinating the efforts to find the elusive ungulate for the film crew.

“It’s an art piece, not a science piece, so that’s a bit unique for us because we tend to work with the scientists,” Keizer said. “It’s an interesting perspective.”

While Aragón’s hope on Friday was to gather some footage of the massive bovines in Wood Buffalo, he said they were prepared to simply shoot the landscape of the vast subarctic environment.

“In a way, the real subject of the video project does not exist,” he said. “It’s an invisible phantom.”

Aragón’s work in Wood Buffalo is funded by a residency grant as a finalist in the Art Gallery of Ontario’s photography prize. Other aspects of the film will be shot in New Orleans, Louisiana and El Paso, Texas. He hopes to have the video finished by this summer.

To learn more about Aragón’s art work, visit <http://www.aimiaago-photographyprize.com/edgardo-aragon>

Photo courtesy of Edgardo Aragón

# Long-lost documentary on Dene life screened in NWT

By MARIA CHURCH

A lost film about Dene life in the Sahtu shot in 1957 was recently located by an NWT archeologist after an 18-year search and shared with the people of the Sahtu last week.

*Tie-cho-ka: Quelques images du Grand Nord* is a 30-minute silent film produced by French anthropologist Jean Michéa that documents his trip to Yellowknife, Norman Wells and Tulita in the 1950s.

Tom Andrews, a territorial archaeologist at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, first heard about the little-known French documentarian and his footage in 1995 while working on an oral history project in Drum Lake.

While listening to Mountain Dene elders, Andrews heard them reminiscing about a French filmmaker who visited them years ago. After learning more from the elders about Michéa and his trip to the NWT, the archaeologist



Mountain Dene living in the Sahtu are immortalized in a book by Jean Michéa, published in 1967, the same year he shot the documentary Tie-cho-ka.

agreed to look for the lost documentary.

Andrews thought it would take him less than a year to track down Michéa and ask

for a copy of the film. Little did he know, he was taking on an 18-year mission to locate a lost piece of Sahtu history.

“At the time it was all pre-internet, so there was very little trace of him on the internet,” he said. “It became a matter of reaching out to people who might know of him and following their leads down. Most of them ended in dead ends.”

Over the years, each time Andrews met someone who expressed interest in the story, he would recruit them to find out more.

“It was kind of like putting out a whole bunch of fishing lines,” he said.

Less than two months ago on Christmas Eve, Andrews got an unexpected gift from a contact in France. Michéa had been found and the documentary was within his reach.

Andrews learned Michéa, now 95 years old, was living in Paris and could be contacted through his daughter. The documentary had been digitized and was sent to him by email.

“To watch it for the very first time was a rich, rewarding experience for sure,” he shared.

### Tulita receives documentary with joy

Tulita was given the honour of screening the documentary for the first time in the NWT.

More than 70 people crowded into Chief Albert Wright School in Tulita last week to watch the silent film. Andrews, who was there for the screening, said the room was overwhelmed with joy.

“People were really happy and laughing and animated. It was quite something,” he said, adding that each time they saw someone they knew, perhaps a relative no longer with them, they would shout out their name.

Several of the elders, including Chief Frank Andrews, were included in the film as youth.

### Lasting legacy for youth

Andrews said he hopes the documentary’s greatest legacy will be as an educational tool for Dene youth to learn about their past.

“Children today live in a completely different world. Nobody walks up into the mountains anymore with their dogs and dog packs, although there is still a rich oral tradition about it. To be able to provide this visual documentation of that life along with the oral tradition makes it easy for children to understand what life was like in those days.”

Andrews gave out 300 DVD copies of the documentary in Tulita - one for every household, he said.

*Tie-cho-ka: Quelques images du Grand Nord* was also screened at the Norman Wells Historical Centre last week and will be showing at Yellowknife’s Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on Feb. 19.

Photo: Jean Michéa



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REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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The Fort Smith Housing Authority is accepting Tender prices for **As and When Electrical Services** and **As and When Janitorial Services** for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

Tender packages are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority office, 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT.

**Closing Date:**  
**February 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.**

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins  
Fort Smith Housing Authority  
89 King Street, P.O. Box 1287  
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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

### Standing Offer Agreements

### EXCLUSIVE SERVICES – NORTH SLAVE REGION INCLUDING LUTSEL K'E, NT

**SO438639 – Electrical Services**

**SO438652 – Sprinkler Inspection and Maintenance**

**SO438661 – Flooring Services**

**SO438665 – General Building Services Maintenance**

**SO438666 – Groundskeeping / Landscaping Services**

**SO438670 – Glazier / Door Hardware Repairs**

**SO438672 – Refrigeration / Appliance Services**

**SO438673 – Hazmat Investigation / Abatement**

**SO438676 – Overhead Door Services**

**SO438677 – Fire Extinguishers Inspection and Service**

**SO438707 – Fire Alarm / BSCS Maintenance Services**

**SO438721 – Fencing Services**

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**SO438720 – Steam Cleaning Services**

**SO433724 – Carpet / Ventilation System Cleaning Services**

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**SO438668 – General Building Maintenance Services**

### NON-EXCLUSIVE SERVICES – NORTH SLAVE REGION INCLUDING LUTSEL K'E, NT

**SO438646 – Carpentry Services**

**SO438648 – Professional Painting Services**

### – Various Communities, NT –

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Public Works and Services is requesting bids from qualified vendors for the Services.

Sealed bids addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009–49<sup>th</sup> Street (SMH-1), Yellowknife, NT, will be received prior to:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 24, 2014.**

Tender documents are available electronically from the above address as of February 10, 2014.

**General inquiries to:** Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230  
Fax: (867) 920-4112  
E-mail: [pwstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:pwstenders@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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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Family Law Mediation Services SC438820

### – Northwest Territories –

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Department of Justice, is requesting proposals for the provision of family law mediation services to the Family Law Mediation Program on an "as required" ongoing basis.

Sealed proposals addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, 5009 – 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT, will be received before:

**3:00PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 11, 2014.**

Contractors may obtain proposal documents from the following:

**General inquiries to:** Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services  
Corporate Services  
Public Works and Services  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230  
Facsimile: (867) 920-4112  
E-mail: [pwstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:pwstenders@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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## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

### Commvault Software PO439180

### – Yellowknife, NT –

Commvault Software.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009–49<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Stuart Hodgson Building, Yellowknife, NT, will be received before:

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

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above address as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, or by e-mailing [pwstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:pwstenders@gov.nt.ca)

**General inquiries to:** Contracts Administrator  
GNWT, Public Works and Services  
Procurement Shared Services  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230  
Facsimile: (867) 920-4112  
E-mail: [pwstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:pwstenders@gov.nt.ca)

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

For contract opportunities visit  
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO CFO Hay River, NT

The Administrative Assistant provides confidential administrative and secretarial support services to the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation and the committees and project teams for which this position is responsible.

**Qualifications:** High School Diploma and certificate in Office Administration with 5 or more years related office experience, including administrative experience. Equivalencies may be considered. Must possess advance knowledge of Microsoft Office which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. Experience with Great Plains and Joe Software is an asset. Must have tact, diplomacy, be a self-starter and be able to multi-task. Excellent communication skills, analytical skills and problem-solving skills required.

**Salary Range:** Starts at \$31.26 per hour plus annual allowances of approximately \$7,773. We offer a comprehensive benefits package including a defined benefit pension plan. Please submit a detailed resume quoting Competition No.: 04-HR-14 Attention: Human Resources, 4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT X0E 1G2 Fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: [careers@ntpc.com](mailto:careers@ntpc.com)

**Closing date:** Open until suitable candidate found.

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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### ELECTRICIAL METERING TECHNICIAN Hay River, NT

Reporting to the Director of T&D Operations, this position is responsible for the accuracy and timeliness of the corporation's customer billing, as it relates to the selection, programming, installation and ongoing operation of electricity meters in accordance with national standards. Some travel is required.

**Qualifications:** Completion of Electrical or Instrumental Technologist course with three years related experience, preferably in the revenue metering field. Equivalencies may be considered. Strong computer skills and above average communication skills are required. Must have a Class 5 Drivers license.

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# Arsenic leaks through cracks in Giant Mine

## System failure poses no risk to families of affected workers: officials

By JACK DANYLCHUK

With work suspended for the winter, the lead contractor and federal officials managing the Giant Mine remediation project are looking for reasons why as many as 31 of 175 workers tested above allowable limits for arsenic last year.

Jane Amphlett, operations manager for Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada, said there was no single incident that contributed to the workers' elevated arsenic levels during deconstruction on Canada's most contaminated industrial site.

When weekly tests revealed elevated levels of arsenic in the urine of the 31 workers, the contractor conducted a detailed analysis of their activities to determine the cause and take corrective action, Amphlett told *The Journal* last week in an email.

Deconstruction of the Giant Mine roaster complex – decaying hulks clad in crumbling asbestos sheets where gold was extracted from ore and left behind a residue of deadly arsenic trioxide – started last spring and is to be completed later this year.

The \$25.7-million contract was awarded to Parsons Canada Ltd. which sub-contracted work to Det'on Cho Corp. and Deton'Cho Nahanni, as Aboriginal workers were to comprise 33 per cent of the labour force.

Amphlett said that in addition to removing affected workers from high-risk areas, the contractor also coached them on potential causes of high arsenic levels, such as diet, hygiene, inspection of personal protective equipment and/or review of decontamination techniques.

"The contractor continues to work closely with and under the direction of the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC), to ensure the standard operating procedures align with



Giant Mine remediation contractors are looking into why 31 of 175 workers tested above allowable limits for arsenic last year.

Public health studies undertaken in the 1960s suggested a possible link between arsenic exposure and elevated cancer rates in Yellowknife, but these studies were not made public until the 1970s.

John Sandlos and Arn Keeling

regulations and further reduces risk of exposure in future work," Amphlett said.

Despite the appearance of cracks in the standard operating procedures for the remediation project, Amphlett said there is no evidence that the affected workers inadvertently spread arsenic contamination beyond the former mine site to their homes and families.

According to procedures, Amphlett said the contractor required workers to go through a complete decontamination before leaving the site. No work clothing or equipment was to leave medium or high-risk work areas without decontamination, and personal items including clothing are not allowed in contaminated areas.

"Workers receive extensive training around these decontamination practices. As a result of these measures, employee vehicle and at-home tests were not determined to be required as a part of the standard operating procedure," Amphlett said.

If contamination did spread beyond the Giant Mine site, the issue should be addressed by the territory's public health authority, Amphlett said. Dr. André Corriveau, chief public health officer for the Northwest Territories, disagreed.

"This issue is under the jurisdiction of the WSCC, being an occupational workplace setting," Corriveau said in an email.

Dave Gundy, WSCC president and CEO, said the commission "only deals with workers and not their families. All are aware of the issues. To my knowledge the company has not tested anyone outside the workers."

**Mines leave legacy of poisoning**

Disagreements over who should take action on pollution from Yellowknife's mines have been part of the fabric of community life since Con and Giant began extracting gold from arsenic-laden ore in 1948, according to the authors of a book looking at the impacts of Northern historic mines on Aboriginal communities.

Working with researchers at the universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, John Sandlos and Arn Keeling, professors at Memorial University, found that the first documented victim of arsenic emissions was a Dene child living in N'dilo on Latham Island, directly downwind from Giant Mine.

Though Con Mine installed a scrubber in 1949, Giant Mine (the source of most of the arsenic) did not install pollution control equipment until the end of 1951, after the 2 year-old boy died of acute arsenic poisoning, Sandlos and Keeling reported.

"Local livestock also died from arsenic poisoning. Government and mine officials met at the time to discuss how to address the problem of arsenic pollution, but never contemplated even a temporary shutdown of the mine," they wrote in a summary of their findings.

"Public health studies undertaken in the 1960s suggested a possible link between arsenic exposure and elevated cancer rates in Yellowknife, but these studies were not made public until the 1970s," Sandlos and Keeling reported.

A series of independent and government studies followed the revelations as public concern mounted over the health effects of long-term arsenic exposure. Further reductions in arsenic emissions from Giant were achieved, and the mine constructed a tailings effluent treatment system in 1981.

While local activists again raised concerns about sulphur dioxide and arsenic emissions in the early 1990s, territorial government studies concluded the emissions did not pose a public health risk.

For the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in particular, memories of mine development and subsequent arsenic pollution of their traditional lands are painful, Sandlos and Keeling wrote.

Native communities were at far greater risk because of their location in proximity to the roasting facility and the fact that residents relied on polluted snow and lake water for their drinking water.

At a meeting of government officials in June 1951 to assess the arsenic situation, the minutes suggest that inspectors of the department of Resources and Development had noticed large concentrations of arsenic in snow in the Yellowknife area, "particularly at the northern end of Latham Island."

A coroner's inquest ruled that the Dene boy died in April 1951 from "acute gastroenteritis caused by arsenical poisoning administered by unknown means."

Subsequent reports clarified the precise cause of death. I.F. Kirkby, then-superintendent of Indian Affairs, reported that the boy had died from contaminated drinking water. Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines, Ltd. provided the family with \$750 for the loss of their son.

The local media did not mention the death of the Dene boy, and did not run any stories on the issue of arsenic contamination in 1951. Local officials did make some attempt to warn people of the dangers from arsenic.

Dr. O.L. Stanton, the Yellowknife Medical Health Officer, placed small advertisements in the back pages of six issues of *News of the North* in 1951 and signs around the area warning people to be cautious with their use of water during spring runoff.

The Yellowknife Indian Agent claimed he had previously warned the local chief of the arsenic danger, but government officials at the June 1951 meeting suggested that, "in spite of these precautions, certain Indians living on the north end of Latham Island used the water in the vicinity, with the result that a number of them had to be given hospital treatment and one died."

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Photo courtesy of the NACC

The Elmer Iseler Singers of Toronto will be performing in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Fort Simpson over the next two weeks.

Arts & Culture Music

# Northern music lovers graced with major choir gig

## Elmer Iseler Singers to celebrate 35th birthday in the NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
One of Canada’s most decorated and celebrated choirs is marking its 35th birthday by touring communities across the Northwest Territories this month, starting in Yellowknife and reaching out to folks in Hay River, Fort Smith and Fort Simpson.

Promoted by the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC), the Elmer Iseler Singers will arrive in Yellowknife on Feb. 13 on their ground tour of Western Canada.

NACC director Marie Coderre said it is rare for the North to be given access to such a grandiose scale of choral performance, and hopes the small communities who also get a chance to experience it will take advantage. “They have 500 years of repertoire. It’s one of the most decorated and honoured choirs in all of Canada,” Coderre said. “Really all the effort put into this project will really inspire. It’s going to be pivotal to the development

of the performing arts in the Northwest Territories, since it’s probably the biggest crew that will be touring in the smaller communities.”  
Apart from delivering their own scheduled performances, the choir will be performing with local musicians in the communities.  
Yellowknife soprano Theresa Baird will join the tour to perform a special piece composed by fellow Yellowknife musician Carmen Braden. The

singers will also be hosting a workshop with the local choir in Yellowknife before the concert.  
In Fort Smith, the community choir will also be holding a workshop with the singers before its performance at the St. Joseph Cathedral on Tuesday, Feb. 18, where the choir will have a chance to join the Elmer Iseler Singers on stage.  
“It was important to me that we stop in Fort Smith because there is a choir there and it’s a ground transportation tour, as opposed to

normally we often tour by plane,” Coderre said.  
It is one of the first times in the last several years that a NACC performance has made its way to Fort Smith, so Coderre hopes the church is packed.  
“This choir has set standards for all choirs in Canada, so they are a big show coming into town. I’m hoping that the community will show up because it’s not going to happen often,” Coderre said.  
“It is a very unique event happening in the

communities...It’s a privilege to have them touring with us and they are so excited about coming in the smaller communities. They are really, really all about outreach.”  
The Elmer Iseler Singers will perform at NACC in Yellowknife on Feb. 15, at Hay River’s Roman Catholic Church on Feb. 17, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Fort Smith on Feb. 18 and at the Bompas Elementary School in Fort Simpson on Feb. 20.  
Concert tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth and seniors.

Health & Wellness Tourette Syndrome

# Fort Smith mom launches first NWT Trek for Tourette

By MARIA CHURCH  
It took years of frustration, confusion and misdiagnosis for Kim Bennett’s two sons to finally be diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome.  
Caydyn and Kai Bennett, 10 and 8 years-old respectively, both have the neurological disorder that’s characterized by tics, a term for rapid, sudden movements or vocalizations that are involuntarily repeated.  
“It is hard,” Bennett, a Fort Smith local, shared about her son’s disorders. “They both have it, but they are completely different. One could be doing really well one month and then the next month they could not be.”

For the boys, dealing with Tourette symptoms challenges their ability to focus. Simple tasks like drawing, reading a book or even having a conversation become an effort when they lose control of their motor skills.  
Lynda Thickett, a caretaker with the NWT Disabilities Council, works with Caydyn and Kai after school. She described



Photo: Maria Church

From left, Caydyn Bennett, Kim Bennett, Kai Bennett and Lynda Thickett make up Team Angry Birds for the Trek for Tourette.

watching Caydyn struggle to read a book when she went to pick him up at school last week.  
“I was about 10 minutes early so I was just watching him and he was reading. It was so hard for him because both his hands were twitching and his head was moving. I thought, how can he focus on that book?”

**Education paramount**  
To date, researchers have found no cause or cure for Tourettes. A recent estimate from the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada (TSFC) suggests that as many as one in 100 people suffer from some degree of Tourettes. Most of those are undiagnosed.  
While there is medication

available and some success in physiotherapy to reduce the symptoms of the disorder, for diagnosed youth like Caydyn and Kai the most important thing is educating the community, particularly other youth, Bennett said.  
“The movements and the tics, they can be very noticeable, and in a classroom

where a child is sitting by a child with Tourettes, they will say, ‘Can you stop moving around? You’re driving me nuts,’ but they can’t. The stress of that student getting angry with them makes it worse,” she said.  
Bennett said getting the message out is her best method of helping her boys adjust in school.

**Trek for Tourette in March**  
The TSFC organizes an annual national fundraiser, the Trek for Tourette, to raise awareness and money for the foundation’s research.  
The NWT will be participating for the first time this year thanks to efforts from Bennett and Thickett to organize the walk in Fort Smith.  
Bennett said they are still looking for many volunteers and participants for the walk, which will be held at the Fort Smith recreation centre on Mar. 30.  
Participants are encouraged to form teams and choose a name. The Bennett-Thickett group are calling themselves Team Angry Birds, chosen by the boys.  
Providing the weather is not dangerously cold, the trek will be held outdoors to simulate the challenges and unpredictability of Tourette Syndrome.  
For more details on the Fort Smith fundraiser walk, visit the Facebook page Fort Smith Trek for Tourette, or contact Bennett at (867) 621-0533.  
Register for the Trek for Tourette online at [www.tourette.ca](http://www.tourette.ca)



# Hay River family business lands deal with Total

## *Bassett Petroleum to handle oil company's launch into Western Canada*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Oil and gas company Total Canada Inc. launched its first entry into the Western Canadian distribution market last week, and it's a Northern, Aboriginal and family-owned business that is going to be handling its precious cargo.

Bassett Petroleum Distributors of Hay River signed a deal with Total last week to distribute the energy company's industrial line of lubricants, high-performance engine oils, greases and specialty products used in the energy, automotive, metallurgy and food processing sectors.

Norm Bassett, vice president and general manager of Bassett, said it's a deal that can grow "as big as we want it to," and based on the company's 25-year evolution from a small heating oil service in the Northwest Territories to a multi-city fleet with contracts across the North and Alberta, that means a lot.

"We started off in Hay River just doing local heating



Total Canada and Bassett Petroleum team up on Total's first Western Canadian distribution efforts.

oil delivery for Shell in 1989," Bassett said. "The growth of it is basically due to our work ethic. We never say no to work, so that's what helped us grow."

Bassett said his father Steve, the company's owner, originally intended to have a small, local company, but requests from other communities and companies continued to expand the distributor's reach.

"Based on that concept and that kind of philosophy, through the years, step by step, it started just getting bigger," he said.

Apart from ground fuels, the company now delivers road salt, airport sand, dust suppressant, emulsion oil, aviation fuels and much more.

Because the company was able to complete its jobs safely and efficiently and meet all

of its customers' demands, Bassett was soon asked to manage Shell's Yellowknife location when the branch manager retired.

Since then, Steve and his sons have opened up regional branches in Fort McMurray and Sherwood Park, Alta., where Total recently opened its first Western distribution centre.

Bassett said the success of the new deal with Total now

hinges upon both companies' ability to market a new product into the Western Canadian market.

"It's such a new brand to the Western part of Canada that it all depends on how it's perceived in the market and how well we market it. We'll go to our existing customers and offer this along with the fuel delivery we already do and see if we have any bite,"

Bassett said. "It is a great product; it's just a matter of going out there and creating product awareness."

Total Canada president Stephen McGarvie said the company is delighted to be partnering with Bassett in creating a base for expansion into the west.

"Working with a local family-run business makes Bassett Petroleum an ideal distribution company for Total Lubricants' high-quality products," he said in a press release. "Their deep roots and close ties to local residents and businesses make this an excellent fit with our worldwide business model."

For now, Bassett has one truck to deliver for Total in the Edmonton-Sherwood Park area, and will be adding to the fleet as their needs grow.

As for other areas the company would like to move into, Bassett said they are open minded.

"Whatever we get our hands on," he said with a laugh.

Photo courtesy of Total Canada Inc.



## BUILDING CANADA'S FUTURE

Pacific NorthWest LNG is seeking Canadian businesses who want to participate in building its proposed natural gas liquefaction and export facility in Port Edward, near Prince Rupert, BC.

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  - Heavy industrial project freight forwarders

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TSH Consortium  
TSH@technip.com

KBR/JGC joint venture  
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If the project proceeds to construction, tenders will be issued in 2015 and beyond.

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# Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders Care Home

The Mikisew Cree First Nation is currently seeking applications from individuals who are interested in **PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT** at the new Elders Care Home as:

- Registered Nurses (or Degree Nurses)**
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If you wish to apply, please submit a copy of your resume, certificates, diploma or degrees and a covering letter explaining why you wish to work at the Home to: Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Senior Advisor at [advisor@mikisewcree.ca](mailto:advisor@mikisewcree.ca) / (780) 792-6116 by no later than February 21, 2014. We will conduct interviews in March and those selected for employment will be expected to begin work by no later than May, 2014.

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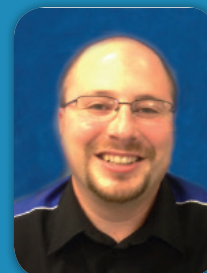
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