



**Music from the Heart:** Yellowknife tunes in to the Elmer Iseler Singers on Valentine's Day. *See page 10.*



**Petition calls on GNWT to make fracking promise**

A group called "Fracking Action North" is asking the GNWT to promise full environmental assessments for future fracking projects. *See page 2.*



**Federal budget focuses on Northern Sovereignty**

The Canadian federal budget promises \$90 million towards "asserting Canada's sovereignty" in the North over the next two years. *See page 13.*



**Snowshoe making workshop weaves in tradition**

Aurora College students in Fort Smith made snowshoes from scratch in a workshop that highlighted their traditional use. *See page 15.*



**New youth leadership camps planned in NWT**

The Northern Youth Leadership Society is holding three new winter camps as the organization continues to expand. *See page 24.*

# NORTHERN Journal

\$1.00

February 18, 2014 Vol. 37 No. 40



Ryan Joseph Gould Jr. of LJ's Sabres shoots on Northwind's Patrick Blake during the teams' first game at the 26th annual IRC Cup Thursday. Inuvik's Northwind team took second place in the 26th annual tournament after losing 8-1 to the E. Gruben's Transport Nanooks from Tuktoyaktuk. *See page 22.*

Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

## Devolution bill amendments blocked *Conservatives stop attempt to take out MVRMA changes*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Despite hours of impassioned appeals to the Conservative government to remove proposed changes to the NWT's regulatory system from devolution Bill C-15 last week in the House of Commons, the NDP's motion was defeated by 20 votes Wednesday evening.

Opposition leader Thomas Mulcair's motion to delete sections 136 and 137 from the bill, which would create a single regulatory board for lands and waters in the NWT and eliminate the regional

land and water boards, was voted down 150-130 at the report stage last week.

Though he didn't expect the motion to go through, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington said he was glad they were able to prove their point that the superboard should not have been included in the bill, despite recommendations by federal advisor Neil McCrank in his report.

"Even industry came out and said that there was good cooperation with the regional boards," he told *The Journal* from Ottawa. "And we proved

that McCrank didn't get the idea to remove the boards from the hearings; they came from his head."

Despite the negative vote, Bevington did end up voting in favour of the bill in the end, which received support, 279-2.

"It was a difficult vote for me," he said. "I was conflicted, but in the end I felt it was the appropriate move. The questions of First Nations land claims, the only way they can be settled now will be in court, and that's the step they should go to

because we couldn't get this amendment."

The Tlicho Government has already said it will go to court in order to save its Wek'ezhii Land and Water Board.

It was the second attempt by the NDP opposition to divide the omnibus bill, which also includes legislation necessary to devolve authority over lands, water and resources from Canada to the territorial government.

Bevington tried splitting the bill at the committee stage after hearings in Yellowknife on the bill were overwhelmed

by First Nations opposition. While Aboriginal governments in the NWT support devolution, those with land claims are loathe to see their regional land and water boards, established through the modern treaty process, eliminated.

"The changes to the system of land and water boards created through First Nations land claim agreements are disrespectful to the Dene and Métis of the Northwest Territories," Mulcair argued during last Tuesday's debates.

*See Legal on page 3.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### *Deline launches new website to promote 'cultural' tourism*

The community of Deline has launched its own tourism website and social media channels to attract cultural tourists to the remote, fly-in community in the Sahtu region. Called Destination Deline ([destinationdeline.com](http://destinationdeline.com)), the campaign - created by a tourism consultancy company based in BC - shares local events, stories and photos from the region, all the while enticing future visitors with the promise of experiencing unique Dene cultural practices. Summer activities such as fishing, North-Wright Airways "flight" seeing tours and ATV tours are promoted.

### *University of Alberta to study cancer screening access in NWT*

A team of researchers from the University of Alberta is planning to study access to cancer screening in the NWT after recent reports from the territorial government show some communities are utilizing cancer screening services far below the national average. Researchers are looking to understand why residents are less likely to be tested for cancer, a potentially life-saving process, despite the NWT having the highest incidence of cancer in the country. The research team will conduct surveys in the NWT with a focus on the remote communities where there is a high Aboriginal population. Results are expected in 2015 and will be shared with the federal and territorial governments with the goal of finding solutions to better access for cancer screening.

### *Shell puts Pierre River oilsands mine development on hold*

Oilsands giant Royal Dutch Shell has announced an indefinite halt to development of its Pierre River oilsands mine in northern Alberta, telling regulators the extent of the delay is not yet known. Shell said development of the 200,000 barrel-per-day mine will be pushed back in order for the company to re-evaluate with a "focus on maintaining a competitive business and successful delivery of near-term growth projects." Until then, company executives said they are not prepared to proceed to a hearing on the project. This year, Shell also cancelled development plans for drilling in Alaska's Arctic and postponed a liquified natural gas project in Australia.



Anti-fracking protesters voice their opposition outside of the Yellowknife Court House last fall during a global day of action against hydraulic fracturing. ConocoPhillips began the territory's first fracking project this winter.

#### Environment Fracking

## Petition calls for government promise on future NWT fracking

### *Groups want all fracking applications to go through full assessment*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A coalition calling itself "Fracking Action North" launched a petition last week

calling for the territorial government to use its regulatory authority to refer all future fracking applications to a full environmental assessment, including public hearings.

The NWT chapter of the Council of Canadians, Alternatives North and Ecology North posted their online petition on Feb. 7, asking all concerned residents of the NWT to sign the request to have the GNWT invoke its authority under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).

The petition will collect signatures until Mar. 7. Once closed, it will be presented to the Legislative Assembly in hopes that government will commit to referring all future fracking applications to the assessment stage.

"Such huge decisions of this nature should never happen without a full, comprehensive public environmental assessment," said Lois Little, co-chair of the NWT Council of Canadians. "That is the process that we have to table all of the information and to allow people to have a voice and question various practices. In one way, that's really a validation that people's concerns are important; people who have to live with the consequences of this should never have decisions made without them being involved in it."

The petition was created in response to the approval of the territory's first and only existing horizontal hydraulic fracturing project in the Sahtu. Last summer, the

Sahtu Land and Water Board allowed the application by oil company ConocoPhillips to bypass the environmental assessment process and go straight to the permitting phase.

Despite public outcry in the region and elsewhere across the territory, ConocoPhillips is currently fracking its first exploratory shale oil wells this winter near Norman Wells.

"The fact that the previous one went ahead without environmental assessment left people with a lot of questions," said Christine Wenman of Ecology North. "And there seems to be a lot of potential in the area, so we're anticipating a couple more (applications) soon, and perhaps more after that. So those issues should have been looked at previously, but it's certainly not too late to look at them now."

Husky Oil, which holds leases in the Sahtu region, is rumoured to be bringing forth a fracking application within the next month.

Wenman said a full environmental assessment is important, not just for allowing people to voice concerns and have questions answered, but to open up a dialogue on the cumulative effects of industry.

"Unless there's a broader environmental review, then the opportunity to really look at cumulative impacts isn't there. Because the potential in this one region is so high and so many leases are out there, we expect the cumulative impacts to be significant.

So that, I would say, is one of the more pressing concerns," she said.

Both Wenman and Little believe support for the petition is going to be huge, taking into consideration local petitions in the Sahtu requesting a ban on fracking received 200 signatures in Tulita and 900 more in Fort Good Hope, alone.

The petition had just over 200 signatures as of Monday afternoon.

"People in the Sahtu region and throughout the Northwest Territories seem to have a lot of questions and they're trying to figure out the right avenues to have those questions answered. So this just seems like a good next step because the regulatory system is there to make sure public concern is addressed and environmental concerns are mitigated," Wenman said.

Though the focus is on the next move of the Legislative Assembly, Little said the petition will also give a heads-up to regulators and other public bodies capable of triggering an environmental assessment that doing so is in the public's will.

"There obviously will be hundreds if not thousands of names on this petition, and that's going to cause all orders of governments to really take a look at what their authority is with respect to this," she said.

The petition is available online at [http://petition.lant.public-i.tv/petition\\_core/community/petition/2614](http://petition.lant.public-i.tv/petition_core/community/petition/2614)



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# Tlicho lawsuit won't stop devolution bill: Ottawa

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Legal action threatened by the Tlicho Government will not stop the government of Canada from passing its devolution bill, federal spokespeople told *The Journal* last week.

Michelle Perron with the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) said in an email response to questions that the lawsuit filed in early February will not prevent the bill from being passed or attaining royal assent.

MPs debated Bill C-15 in the House of Commons last week after it was reintroduced with amendments on Tuesday morning before moving on to another meeting of the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources.

Citing extreme disappointment with Canada's move to table the devolution bill as an omnibus bill tied to changes to the NWT's regulatory system, Tlicho leaders recently said they would not allow their Wek'ezhii Land and Water Board to be eliminated along with the territory's other regional boards in order to establish a superboard.



Aboriginal leaders and federal representatives gather for hearings on devolution bill C-15 in Yellowknife on Jan. 27.

Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus wrote to AANDC earlier this month, asking Minister Bernard Valcourt to "reconsider the path Canada is currently on" in relation to the regulatory changes made to the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act (MVRMA). "Canada is proceeding with an approach that is inconsistent with a proper interpretation of provisions in our Agreement and will

constitute a breach of our Agreement and the honour of the Crown," the letter states. "This would result in the MVRMA being constitutionally unsound and of no force and effect to the extent that it breaches our Agreement. Canada's current approach will also damage our relationship and create regulatory uncertainty...We hope this does not come to pass. There is a better way to move forward."

Though the Tlicho Government argues the proposed changes to the MVRMA tied to the bill will weaken environmental protection and take away Aboriginal governments' say on development, Perron said the amendments are designed to strengthen and modernize the regulatory regime through measures such as time limits on decision-making. "The mandate of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water

Board will not change," she said, noting that the terms of Aboriginal representation are set out in all three settled land claim agreements in the territory, which accommodate Aboriginal representation into the 11-member superboard. Perron said accommodations have been made through "extensive consultation" with Aboriginal groups over the past three years to address the Tlicho, Gwich'in and Sahtu desires to be represented regionally on issues of development in the territory. "As a result of consultations, for example, an accommodation measure was incorporated in to Bill C-15 to require the chairperson, unless it is not possible, to designate the First Nation/Tlicho member from the region, to which that application relates, to the smaller three member committee of the board," she said. She said the federal government continues to seek engagement with all Aboriginal groups and provide financial assistance toward their participation in the devolution and regulatory review process. Tlicho Government officials did not want to comment

on the lawsuit, but are not the only party in the North with concerns about the regulatory changes contained within Bill C-15. Northern policy think tank Alternatives North and environmental NGO Ecology North expressed their concerns again last week, arguing that the amendments give more federal government influence over the boards, which could see decisions made for political reasons rather than evidence-based ones. "The minister has the power to force policy on the land and water boards now, but this will be changed to also include the land use planning boards, the Environmental Review board and the territorial land and water board. The minister will also appoint the chairperson of the territorial board," the groups stated in a new document called Our Land, Our Water, Our Responsibility. Rather than eliminate the regional boards, the two groups advise the federal government to finish its outstanding land claims and land use plans with many of the territory's First Nations.

Politics Devolution

## Legal action expected on NWT devolution bill

Continued from page 1. "The Conservatives heard over and over from the NWT's Aboriginal governments and many concerned residents that they did not support these changes, but the Conservatives, unfortunately, were deaf to these concerns," Mulcair said.

Mark Strahl, parliamentary secretary to the minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, countered that because the creation of one, central superboard in the NWT was contemplated within the territory's settled land claims and notice given to First Nations over several years of the coming changes, the bill should proceed as currently structured. He said the changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) contained within C-15 "modernize" the NWT in time for devolution, establishing time limits on environmental assessments, streamlining licensing, increasing fines for environmental violations and, most importantly, aligning the MVRMA with the federal environmental assessment legislation amended over the past year.

It is quite obvious to me that the Aboriginal governments are not satisfied with the composition that is being proposed.  
*Yvonne Jones*  
*MP Labrador (Liberal)*

Though Conservatives were unsympathetic to the proposed amendments made by the NDP, Mulcair's motion did receive wide support from Liberal and Green Party MPs. "It is quite obvious to me that the Aboriginal governments are not satisfied with the composition that is being proposed. They felt that under the current structure, as Aboriginal governments, they have more say and more control over the lands upon which they live," noted Liberal MP Yvonne Jones. Green Party leader Elizabeth May said she would not be surprised to see these opposed changes to the review board structure dealt with at the Supreme Court level.

"It is astonishing to me...that the Conservative administration refuses to take seriously numerous Supreme Court decisions," May said. "With regard to the elimination of four regional boards that have been the result of negotiation and treaty, that are part of a government-to-government relationship, it is not really a matter of 'We've told them about it for years, so they should be ready for it by now.' That is not consultation." While authority over the MVRMA will not be transferred to the territorial government as of the devolution effective date of Apr. 1, territorial officials expect changes made to the regulatory system will be open to review in five years' time.

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Prices include GST. \$47.25 in Fort Smith;  
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**Published weekly by  
Cascade Publishing Ltd.**

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

# Another government at odds with its people

The northern Yukon has become the latest battleground in Canada where a government is pitted against its own people over its approach to development. The Peel River watershed is a vast, pristine wilderness and the ancestral home of the Gwich'in, replete with wildlife including the Porcupine caribou herd; a land of infinite natural beauty. It is also filled with mineral riches and the two are about to collide head-on.

A land use planning commission spent five years leading an extensive community consultation process whereafter an overwhelming consensus emerged that any development allowed should be small, only in certain areas and with minimal impact. At the core of the commission's recommendations were restrictions to development on 80 per cent of the land. On the other side, Chevron, the world's

fourth largest oil company, has its sights set on a massive iron ore deposit known as the Crest Deposit, located along the Lower Snake River, along with significant coal reserves relatively close by that could allow ore processing on site. Exploration is also active for copper, lead-zinc, nickel, platinum and uranium.

This all came to a head last month when the Yukon government ignored the commission's recommendations and the majority of citizen voices and went ahead with its own plan, which protects only 29 per cent of the area. It will allow unrestricted development on 27 per cent of the land area - predictably that being all the known valued minerals - and partially protect about 44 per cent such that some mining will be allowed and, with it, road access.

The Yukon government's rhetoric has all the all-too-common phrasing of a

government trying to justify itself, arguing that the new plan offers balance and respects all sectors of the economy, including future mineral exploration.

There are 8,431 active mineral claims in the Peel watershed, and 6,773 of those were staked after the Peel land use planning process began. Indeed, the current culture in the Yukon assumes mining is a sacrosanct way of life - a natural right not unlike the way many Americans feel about their guns.

The future of the Peel watershed is at tipping point and it is obvious that if the Yukon government has its way, development will get underway soon. A who's who of environmental groups are facing off against them, lined up shoulder to shoulder with First Nations of the region. Lawsuits have already commenced. It will be yet another lengthy make-work project for lawyers.

## Protecting the Peel – a national state of mind

The battle for the protection of the Peel watershed is not just about the Yukon government portioning off much of the northern territory for mining, listening to business and corporate interests while overlooking the concerns of most residents who live in the region. It is also about a conflict within the Canadian psyche. The same drama is being played out in the massive Alberta oilsands development and around fracking in northern British Columbia, as well as many other major resource developments. Canadians as a people love natural beauty, worship wilderness and cry foul any time the environment is sullied. At the same time, we love our material life and happily succumb to rationalizations when a wild river is dammed, a big new mine is allowed to transform the landscape or a pristine lake is turned into a tailings pond.

The oilsands are toughest on our conscience. There is no doubt the industrialization of the northeastern corner of Alberta has only just begun, that the damage to the land will get immeasurably worse and that the health of the people in the region will be seriously impacted. We know the platitudes and promises of the Alberta government are only marketing spin. We listen to the messages about the importance of jobs being created, and yet we know the real goal is to accumulate wealth - often for faraway corporate benefactors.

Over 50 years ago, in December 1969, a writer highlighted the plight of the Peel in a *Globe and Mail* article, noting its amazing beauty and the wishes of the First Nations residents to protect what could be lost.

The writer, Bruce Kirkby, concluded: "The bottom line is that no roads or industrial

development should be allowed in the Peel. A wild and untamed frontier remains intrinsic to Canadian identity. That once-limitless bounty on the edge of the map - and on the edge of our psyche - is running out."

The decision by the Yukon government, "in the best interests of the economy and Yukon residents," means the region is to be opened to development for all time. We all know that once commenced, that process is unstoppable. The vast area that is the Peel watershed will soon no longer be pristine, nor a wilderness.

What is to become of Canada and Canadians then, as we let go of the land we love? Are we willing to so casually give up our birthright - those tracts of wilderness that we are tasked to watch over? After the Peel watershed is gone, what will be next?



Photo: Don Jaque

*Last Friday on St. Valentine's Day under the full moon, acclaimed Northern author Richard Van Camp and Keavy Martin celebrated their wedding in Edmonton with over 200 guests from across Canada and the USA. The newlyweds make their home in Edmonton where Keavy is a professor at the University of Alberta.*

### ARCHIVES

#### 15 Years Ago...

*Nunavut votes*

Nunavut is now set for division following the election of the first 19-member Legislative Assembly Monday night, an election marked by a number of surprises, including the defeat of current Northwest Territories Deputy Premier Goo Arlooktoo. Arlooktoo, who had previously said he would be interested in running for premier of the new territory, lost his South Baffin seat to Olayuk Akesuk.

*Issue: February 16, 1999*

#### 20 Years Ago...

*RCMP will form community watch*

The recent rash of break and enter crimes across town has inspired the Fort Smith RCMP to form a community watch program. Sgt. Rod Douthwright said members of the Fort Smith detachment will visit houses in the near future asking for opinions on crime in Fort Smith.

*Issue: February 16, 1994*

#### 30 Years Ago...

*Trappers found safe and sound*

Two trappers who failed to appear at their destination apparently took a wrong turn on their way to Large Pike Lake but were located by an air search last Friday. Clayton Burke and Magulore Paulette were flown to Large Pike Lake after their snowmobile was spotted late Friday on the wrong trail.

*Issue: February 16, 1984*



# Fair Elections Act not what it seems

Editor,

Earlier this month the Conservative government introduced a piece of legislation called the Fair Elections Act. The legislation has already moved passed second reading. It is more than passing reasonable that this bill will become law before the month is out and change the way elections are run in this country.

If you ask the Minister of State, Pierre Poilievre, he'll tell you the law is designed to combat election fraud. This is a smokescreen.

Election fraud is *not* a major problem in this country, at least not because the wrong people are voting.

The fraud that occurred in the last election was perpetrated by political parties who overspent, misdirected and cheated voters. Elections Canada has been painstakingly trying to reconstruct what happened over the last few elections and has only begun to bring some to some kind of justice. But Elections Canada was not only toothless in its punishments, but in its

abilities to investigate. The new legislation actually weakens Elections Canada and moves the power to hold parties accountable.

Other bizarre changes will make it so Elections Canada will merely oversee elections, and not even advertise elections to Canadians. Laws will be tightened to make it harder for the poor, the transient, students and seniors to vote. The individual donation limit will be raised which at the current time is a benefit to the Conservative Party.

Leading journalists have concluded that something untoward happened in the last election. Rules were bent, if not broken, in such cases as the former Labrador MP and Mr. Dean Del Mastro. Instead of improving our election laws this bill is poised to make abuse easier and consequences less likely. It causes me great anxiety, and like many things in this country, it will pass unnoticed and the risk not fully realized until after 2015.

Steven Lee  
Fort Smith, NT

# Big oil is Jim Flaherty's family

## Numbers just don't add up

Editor,

Finance Minister Flaherty says his budget will "support Canadian families."

In January 2013, the IMF reported that Canada's

implicit subsidies to oil, gas and coal companies amount to 1.52 per cent of GDP, or about \$787 per Canadian. That's over \$3,000 a year for a Canadian family

of four. Remarkably, despite cutting spending elsewhere, this budget did nothing to reduce these unnecessary subsidies for one of the world's most profitable industries.

Perhaps Mr. Flaherty considers the fossil fuel sector to be "family?"

Blaise Salmon  
Victoria, BC

## COLUMN



# White Girl

## Spirit of spring: Part 1 of 3

under the mud, in the bath water, that is slowly covering my legs.

This mud comes directly from the tap; the blessing in this dirty situation is that it is warm mud. I know I would possibly pay for the benefits of this "spa" treatment now, but this makes no sense to an 8-year-old girl. Considering that we are miles downstream from communities who leave their garbage on the river ice over the winter, maybe not. Where does your spa mud come from?

It is shortly after the mighty, and in the spring-time muddy, Mackenzie River has broken up. In the fall the men go down to

the river when it has frozen into ice with a depth of two feet. They take saws and hand-cut blocks of ice two feet square that are hauled to our icehouse. Inside the icehouse it is cool and damp, even in the heat of the summer. Blocks of ice are covered with sawdust to insulate them and keep them frozen. This will be our drinking water over breakup.

My dad washes the sawdust off and puts the ice in a pail to thaw; a dipper hangs inside so you can take a drink. This sits in the kitchen beside our warm diesel cook stove. Muddy water from the Mackenzie is hauled to fill our water

tank in the basement. These are the muddy waters that we "wash" ourselves, the dishes and our clothes in.

When the water settles it layers out into grey water and mud with grit. Sitting in the bathtub is an exfoliating experience. People from the North may have the softest butts in Canada. Am I clean? The towel certainly is not. Do you sweat when you are 8 years old? I don't remember. Maybe it sloshed the sweat off of harder working people than me; I never felt better for it, I can tell you, and to a little girl it was disgusting bathing in mud.

Stay tuned for part 2 in next week's Northern Journal.

## MUKLUK

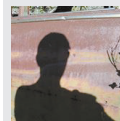
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## Northern Journal 2014

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.



## NWT-Alberta water agreement hits 'home stretch'



**Jack Danylchuk:** Odd. I recall the minister saying the same thing last year. And the year before. And the year before that. Maybe, this time his dream will come true.

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## Forecast

## Inuvik

## Yellowknife

Wednesday	
-31 High	-34 Low
Thursday	
-28 High	-35 Low
Friday	
-28 High	-35 Low
Saturday	
-23 High	-31 Low
Norms: -22°C and -30°C	

## Hay River

## Fort Smith

Wednesday	
-18 High	-23 Low
Thursday	
-22 High	-25 Low
Friday	
-22 High	-31 Low
Saturday	
-21 High	-29 Low
Norms: -14°C and -25°C	



# Fort Liard one step closer to settling land claim

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Acho Dene Koe First Nation and Fort Liard Métis moved one step closer to finalizing their land claim and community self-government agreement last week with the signing of an agreement in principle with the territorial government.

The signing represents the start of negotiations on a land and resources final agreement for the community, which will deal with land, financial payments, public community government and the harvesting of wildlife, trees and plants, among other issues tied to lands and citizenship.

“This signing is an important milestone along the journey of providing clarity and certainty on the land and resource rights of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation within the Northwest Territories,” NWT Premier Bob McLeod said in a press release last week.

The initial framework agreement for the community comprehensive land claims process was



Acho Dene Koe Chief Harry Deneron, left, and NWT Premier Bob McLeod sign an agreement-in-principle on lands and resources as part of the community of Fort Liard’s comprehensive land claim and self-government negotiations.

signed in July of 2008, committing the parties to two phases of negotiations, starting with land

and resources before moving on to self-government. While the land and resources agreement will

be community based, the framework agreement notes that self-government negotiations will be looked at

within a regional context. Negotiations on self-government won’t take place until at least 10 years after

the lands and resources agreement in signed.

Once phase one is completed, the First Nation and Métis in Fort Liard will have the opportunity to begin discussions with Canada, BC and Yukon to clarify their rights around their asserted territory, which crosses into other jurisdictions.

The finalized agreement in principle has now been forwarded to Canada, also a party to the negotiations, for signing now that it has been signed on behalf of the GNWT.

Once complete, it will become the first community-based land and resources agreement in the NWT, according to GNWT officials.

“Today’s signing is an important step towards a positive future for the people of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation,” said Chief Harry Deneron. “Our people look forward to joining with the government of the Northwest Territories in creating a strong, prosperous Northwest Territories where we can all succeed.

Photo: GNWT

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Photo: Bill Braden

## Craftsman given heritage award

Norman Wells-based craftsman Rick Muyres was awarded the 2013 Heritage Award by the City of Yellowknife last week for his work restoring the 1930s vintage log Wildcat Cafe. Muyres is known for his log construction and large-scale furniture around Yellowknife and Norman Wells. Muyres, above, works on the Wildcat project in September 2011.



# Three more NWT species identified as ‘at risk’

By MARIA CHURCH  
Another three species in the territory are at risk according to the 2013 assessment results from the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) released last week.

The Dolphin and Union Caribou herds have been identified as a “special concern” and the northern leopard frog has been assessed as “threatened.”

According to the SARC categories, a species identified as a special concern may become endangered or threatened because of threats and biological factors, while threatened means they are likely to become endangered if nothing is done.

This is the second batch of species to be assessed by the 2 year-old committee, established by the GNWT’s Species at Risk Act in 2010. In December, the first grouping of species assessed, which included the boreal caribou, Peary caribou, polar bear and the hairy braya plant, were the first to make the NWT’s official list of Species at Risk.

James Firth, chair of SARC, told *The Journal* the assessments are a slow-going process



The Dolphin and Union Caribou herds, along with the northern leopard frog, have been identified as “at risk” by the 2 year-old NWT Species at Risk Committee.

with only three or four done a year in order for the committee to consult with all stakeholders in the territory and factor in all available knowledge, including traditional, community and scientific.

**Threats identified**  
Firth said the committee has

consistently identified climate change as a threat factor for all species assessed. Other concerns specific to the northern leopard frog include pollution and proposed hydroelectric developments, while caribou face threats from big-game hunting and increased coastal shipping traffic.

SARC’s risk and threat assessment will now be submitted to the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA), the body responsible for determining the Species at Risk in the NWT.  
Based on the committee’s recommendations, the CMA will decide on what actions to

People that are on the land, people that live up here, are the eyes and ears of what’s going on and they speak for the species.

*James Firth  
Species at Risk Committee*

take to recover the species and prevent future threats. All decisions by the CMA must be approved and implemented by the territorial government.

**Residents called to protect**  
SARC recently put out a call asking communities across the territory to apply to the 2014-15 Species at Risk Stewardship Program. The program encourages locals to start up projects that aim to protect species at risk, offering up to \$5,000 per region to fund the efforts.  
“People that are on the land, people that live up here, are the eyes and ears of what’s going on and they speak

for the species,” Firth said. “We’ve come up with lots of little projects that we work on, with schools and with on-the-land projects, and I think it’s worked quite well.”  
Firth, who is a retired trapper in Inuvik, said protecting threatened species in his community is close to his heart.  
According to the Species at Risk Act, protection of wild animals, plants or other species at risk managed by the GNWT applies to all public and private lands in the NWT, including those owned under land claim agreements.  
In 2014, SARC will assess the wolverine, the western toad and the nahanni aster.

Photo: Kim Poole

## WE WANT YOUR ACTION SHOTS!

The Cree Language Program is printing Hockey Cards!

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NWT Cree Language Program

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Feb. 22, 2014 Fort Smith Rec. Centre

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**WILD** Tastes & Wine Tasting 9pm-11pm - \$35

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## **Personal Credits Notice**



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**The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.  
The healing continues.**

Since 2007, almost 80,000 former students have received a Common Experience Payment (“CEP”) as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. CEP recipients are now eligible to receive non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3,000, for either themselves or certain family members, for educational programs and services.

**What are Personal Credits?** Personal Credits may be used for a wide range of educational programs and services, including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning, or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services related to Aboriginal identities, histories, cultures or languages.

**How much are Personal Credits?** Adequate funds are available for each CEP recipient to receive up to \$3,000 in Personal Credits, depending on your approved educational expenses.

**Which educational entities and groups are included?** A list of approved educational entities and groups has been jointly developed by Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives. If an educational entity or group is not on the list, please consult the website for more information.

**Will I receive a cheque?** No. Cheques will be issued directly to the educational entity or group providing the service.

**Who can use Personal Credits?** CEP recipients can use the full amount themselves or give part or all of their Personal Credits to certain family members such as a spouse, child, grandchild or sibling, as defined in

the terms and conditions. Personal Credits of multiple CEP recipients can be combined to support a group learning activity.

**How can I get Personal Credits?** Each CEP recipient will be mailed an Acknowledgement Form. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement Form by the end of January 2014, please call 1-866-343-1858. Completed Acknowledgement Forms should be returned as soon as possible and must be postmarked no later than **October 31, 2014**.

**How do I redeem my Personal Credits?** Once approved, you will be sent a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using Personal Credits at each educational entity

or group. Once the Form is received, provide it to the educational entity or group listed. The educational entity or group must then complete and mail back the Redemption Form postmarked no later than **December 1, 2014**.

**What happens to unused Personal Credits?** The value of unused Personal Credits will be transferred to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund and Inuvialuit Education Foundation for educational programs.

For more information, including how Personal Credits can be redeemed by certain family members of CEP recipients that are deceased, visit [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca) or call 1-866-343-1858.

The IRS Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

CEP recipients have the option of sharing their Personal Credits with certain family members, such as:

- **Children**
- **Spouses**
- **Grandchildren**
- **Siblings**

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# Overdose sparks look into opioid treatment in NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT’s chief coroner is calling for a review of the territory’s prescription of chronic pain medications and subsequent addictions treatment following the overdose of an Aklavik woman in December 2012.

Coroner Cathy Menard released her official report on the death of Arlene Carmichael, 47, who was found to have accidentally died from aspiration pneumonia caused by the ingestion of multiple drugs in her home.

Post-mortem toxicology revealed the presence of several opioids and benzodiazepines in her bloodstream, including morphine, codeine, diazepam, paroxetine and zopiclone, among others. The combined effects of the drugs were capable of causing aspiration pneumonia, Menard said.

Though Carmichael received an “excellent” quality of care, Menard said “it appeared evident (her care providers) lacked training and expertise in the management of prescription opioid and benzodiazepine addiction” to deal with Carmichael’s ongoing dependency.



NWT Coroner Cathy Menard says the NWT needs to review its protocols for opioid and benzodiazepine prescription and addiction treatment.

Carmichael regularly saw doctors for narcotic and sedative medications. Her medical records showed she suffered from chronic pain, osteoarthritis, migraines, anxiety and depression, hypothyroidism,

diabetes and long-term alcohol and drug abuse, and that withdrawal symptoms may also have contributed to her hospital visits. “On several occasions she received early refills on opioids

and benzodiazepines from her primary care physician, and on different occasions she presented to the emergency department requesting early refills on her medications,” Menard wrote.

It appeared evident (her care providers) lacked training and expertise in the management of prescription opioid and benzodiazepine addiction.

*NWT Chief Coroner Cathy Menard*

Menard said it’s time the NWT department of Health and Social Services established a working group to set standards for doctors and nurses on the prescribing of chronic pain medications, and review its eligibility criteria for the coverage of suboxone, a drug used in opioid replacement therapy.

Though less effective than methadone, suboxone is less likely to cause overdosing and can be prescribed without a special license. It is given through “structured opioid therapy,” which limits misuse through frequent dispensing, regular doctor visits for urine drug screening and a gradual reduction in dosages.

A similar tapering approach is used for benzodiazepine addiction.

In establishing services for prescription drug addiction, Menard said the regional health authorities must work closely in conjunction with communities and Aboriginal governments, noting that in northern Ontario, where opioid abuse is high, some suboxone programs are run independently by First Nations.

Menard added that more training and support is needed for physicians and nurse practitioners in the NWT to identify and manage opioid misuse and addiction, through telemedicine and by providing access to a long-distance clinical support network. She said one or more physicians should be intensively trained on suboxone administration in the NWT.

## Justice Defamation

# Former NWT doctor wants name cleared after 10 years living with child abuse allegations

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Ten years ago on Feb. 4, Dr. Richard Bargaen’s world came crashing down around him.

The physician, now 68, was working for public health in Yellowknife when he was called into the department head’s office and accused of being a “certified pedophile” and “known child pornographer” in the United States.

The allegations, never to be confirmed by evidence, would lead to the second largest defamation settlement in Canadian history, and would also tear his life apart.

“In a few days, I lost every friend I had,” said Bargaen, along with his job and his life in the North.

He contemplated suicide and had difficulty finding work for years.

The following weeks, months and years would become a blur, but the repetition of that one conversation has stuck with him since:

At 3:00 p.m. he was called into a meeting with Greg

Cummings, the former CEO of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority who would go on to become deputy minister of the department of Health in 2006.

The allegations that he was a “known pedophile,” was in possession of child pornography and had breached patient confidentiality, would lead to his termination without any of the proper protocols being followed by the department.

In fact, it would be admitted after an eight-year legal process that Cummings had actually looked into the background of Bargaen before firing him, only to be told by the RCMP that there was no evidence for the accusations, which were based on hearsay.

He proceeded to terminate Bargaen’s position, regardless.

Those allegations and the wrongful dismissal that followed would lead to one of the largest defamation and slander settlements in the country, costing the territorial government and Northern

media - specifically CBC - massive amounts of money in a pre-trial settlement.

Yet it is a settlement almost no one knows about.

While Bargaen would receive the financial reparations

After “a horrible decade” of coming to terms with what happened to him, the only thing he wants now is for his grandchildren to read the truth when they are searching online.

You can’t run a government and also give out large legal awards that are a consequence of a remediable flaw in philosophy. That’s how it appears to me. I trust and hope this never happens again, to anyone.

*Dr. Richard Bargaen*

needed to establish a life elsewhere and pay back his debts from years of joblessness, the lack of a trial would leave his name uncleared. And because media were legally implicated, he said they chose to never again mention the name of Dr. Richard Bargaen.

“That was sort of one thing that was missing from all this, because I settled before going to a trial,” he said.

“I had no public venue, and it’s quite disturbing to me to think that...that’s all that’s ever been reported

since March or April of 2004. Nothing else has been heard of me. I’ve long passed the point of wanting to say how badly I was done by, but I realize that when my grandkids start looking things up, that will be the publicity about me if they google me. There will be nothing else about a settlement.”

After the settlement, which finally came to an end in September 2012, Bargaen said he attempted to have the media correct the misinformation they had published, but they refused to even print a paid advertisement following the settlement.

He said he was not prepared for the shadow the false accusations would cast over the rest of his life.

“Google makes the world a different place,” he said.

Reflecting back on the ordeal, he is mystified about the force and swiftness with which the government bureaucracy dismissed him, without due process that would have allowed him to respond to the allegations

and get his job back, rather than lose his medical license briefly, forever scarring his professional career.

He said he now sees the health department in the GNWT as having been a “harsh environment” where cutthroat individuals would resort to unethical actions to maintain their positions.

“I never met a single government employee in the North who wouldn’t swear his mother was a chipmunk if he was threatened with the loss of his job,” Bargaen said. “Canadians down south have no idea of how powerful the idea of consensus, of being on board, of not rocking the boat, how powerful these concepts are.”

Bargaen said he hopes, but doubts, improvements have been made.

“You can’t run a government and also give out large legal awards that are a consequence of a remediable flaw in philosophy,” he said. “That’s how it appears to me. I trust and hope this never happens again, to anyone.”





AVENS residents are treated to a Valentine's Day themed recital put on by eight members of the Elmer Iseler Singers, currently touring the NWT for their 35th anniversary.

Arts & Culture Music

# National choir reaches out to Yellowknife seniors

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The renowned Elmer Iseler Singers of Toronto kicked off their Northern

tour last Friday, Feb. 14 with a performance at the AVENS seniors community in Yellowknife.

Eight of the 30-person choir gave a Valentine's Day themed recital that had even some residents and staff singing along.

The choir also made a stop in Hay River and is scheduled to perform Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the St. Joseph Cathedral in Fort Smith before moving on to Fort Simpson, where they will perform at the Bompas Elementary School on Feb. 20.

The tour is being put on by the Northern Arts & Cultural Centre.

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Amy Dodington and Nelson Lohnes croon a love song from the musical Porgie and Bess.



Nelson Lohnes sings The Impossible Dream from the the Broadway classic Man of La Mancha.



# Rainbow club forms for LGBTQ youth in Inuvik

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Inuvik’s new club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth had its first meeting on Monday.

The Rainbow Club, which is scheduled to run every Monday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Inuvik Youth Centre, was created to offer much-needed support to the community’s LGBTQ community.

“I really want them to see that there is support in the community and that there’s people that they can talk openly and act openly in front of without fear of judgment,” said Ali McConnell, executive director of the Inuvik Youth Centre.

“I just want it to be a safe space. They deserve a safe space to hang out and have fun.”

The club, which is open to LGBTQ youth as well as community members who support them, held a kick-off dance on Friday night sponsored by the Girls Action Foundation.

More than 30 youth from Inuvik and surrounding communities were in attendance.

One Inuvik youth, who asked not to be identified, said they were eager to attend the club’s weekly meetings.

“I’m looking forward to it, because it’s a great way for



Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Derrien Firth, left, and Danny Jellema take part in a relay game at the Inuvik Rainbow Club’s kick off dance last Friday night. The event was sponsored by Girls Action Foundation through its National Day of Action.

people to meet like-minded others outside of school.”

Another said it would be a great way to safely express gay pride in the Northern community. “It’s about time someone made a club like this,” they said.

Danny Jellema, a teacher at East 3 Secondary School, is helping McConnell get the club off the ground and brings with her years of experience working with Rainbow Clubs in other parts of Canada.

“There was always an LGBT club in every school I ever worked in - I was always a part of it - and I came up here and there was nothing. I thought it was odd,” she said.

“I think if you’re in the North you might feel like

you’re the only self-identified LGBT kid. It’s not like you’re going to school in downtown Toronto where there is a whole high school just for LGBT kids. I think here you might feel a lot more social isolation.”

McConnell and Jellema set about creating the club after being approached by numerous youth who shared personal struggles with their sexuality.

“Hopefully by giving them an area where they are together and can be social, seeing other people are going through the same experiences, they can connect those links and might feel more comfortable stepping out and having a voice,” McConnell said.

“One of the kids looked at me when I mentioned we were going to do it and her comment was, ‘You mean there’s adults that aren’t going to be mad at me?’”

Jellema said another goal of the club is to give youth the opportunity to get involved with national organizations aimed at LGBTQ youth.

“We want to give them leadership opportunities and opportunities to travel outside of Inuvik to find other LGBT clubs and kids to broaden their scope,” she said.

“It’s a chance for kids to get together and see what’s outside of Inuvik, where the opportunities are.”

“However they see activism, and however they see fighting for their own rights and developing their own voice, I’d like to see that develop out of it,” McConnell added.

## Politics Municipal

# Councillor decries Canadian Pride flag on Yk city hall

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A flag fusing both the Canadian and Pride flags was removed from Yellowknife’s city hall last week and replaced with the internationally recognized rainbow flag after a councillor complained that it “bastardized” the national symbol.

City councillor Niels Konge sparked an online debate last week after complaining on his official Facebook page that the flag, featuring a maple leaf between bands of rainbow stripes, was “completely disrespectful to ALL Canadians” and did not follow proper flag etiquette.

“Council was never consulted. I support a pride flag. Not a bastardized Canadian flag. My issue is the flag, not the tromping of people’s human rights,” he posted online.

Konge’s comments offended members of Yellowknife’s LGBTQ community, including NWT Pride director Iman Kassam, who said the Canadianized flag - which is flown each year at city hall during the Pride festival - is flown at similar



Photo: Iman Kassam

Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck swapped the above flag with a standard rainbow flag after a city councillor said the Canadianized version was disrespectful to the nation’s flag. Heyck said he didn’t want the controversy to detract from the real issue at hand, which is about human rights.

events across the country every year.

“It is not disrespectful at all. In my opinion it shows unity, solidarity, and pride for all Canadians,” Kassam said. “The LGBTQ+ rainbow doesn’t degrade, lower

in worth or value, corrupt, brutalize, violate or demoralize the Canadian flag.”

Despite the difference of opinion, Kassam delivered a regular rainbow flag to city hall on Wednesday, which Mayor Mark Heyck swapped

for the one that was creating controversy.

“In order to not detract from the real issues at hand - respect for diversity, human rights and equality around the world - we will be replacing the flag that’s currently flying at City Hall

with the more typical Pride flag tomorrow morning,” he announced Wednesday afternoon. “Thanks to NWT Pride for providing these flags. The City of Yellowknife is proud to support the rights of the LGBTQ community here and abroad.”

Heyck told *The Journal* the flag would continue to fly for the duration of the Winter Olympics in solidarity with LGBTQ athletes competing in Sochi, Russia, where legislation outlaws public displays of homosexuality.



# Heritage Fund contributions upped to 25 per cent

## Finance minister moved by ‘spirit of consensus’ after MLAs object

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Widespread dissatisfaction by regular MLAs over the department of Finance’s decision to allocate only 5 per cent to the territory’s burgeoning Heritage Fund has since pushed the minister to boost contributions to 25 per cent of incoming resource revenues from devolution.

A maximum of 5 per cent had been set out in the 2014-15 budget, announced Feb. 6, with the remainder of the anticipated \$45 million per annum in first-time royalties going towards infrastructure and debt repayment.

But after staunch disapproval from several MLAs, Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger announced on Tuesday afternoon that 25 per cent of revenues from non-renewable resources would be put away for future generations.

“While public reaction to the budget has generally been positive, members have clearly indicated that they disagree with the proposed allocation for the Heritage Fund,” Miltenberger told the House.

“We have heard these concerns and, in the spirit of consensus government, will be taking members’ wishes on this matter into account by allocating 25 per cent of resource revenues to the Heritage Fund beginning in



Territorial MLAs sit down for the start of winter session on Feb. 6.

2015-16 when revenues begin to flow to the government.”

Miltenberger said the decision, while accommodating the interests of MLAs, will have an impact on future budgets, meaning less money for infrastructure, as the government’s fiscal responsibility policy limits the amount the territory can borrow for projects.

With many infrastructure projects on the books, funding will have to come from elsewhere.

“We will have to revisit our fiscal strategy,” Miltenberger

said. “We will need to find offsetting reduction from the O&M (operations and maintenance) base and protect the infrastructure budget.”

Miltenberger said the change in proposed Heritage Fund savings will see an estimated \$10 million taken from other parts of next year’s spending.

The increased allocation will see over \$400 million in Heritage Fund savings in 20 years if the GNWT captures the maximum revenues of \$54 million per annum at a 5 per cent rate of return. Conversely, there would have been \$100

million saved in two decades at the same rate.

Budget consultations carried out last fall heard a variety of input from residents across the territory. Though some agreed with the government’s original plan to allocate 5 per cent, with some saying all revenues should go to infrastructure, the majority called for more savings on a range varying from 25 to 100 per cent.

It was that public feedback that had Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro particularly disappointed with the department’s decision to stick to the

5 per cent plan. Both she and Hay River North MLA Robert Bouchard led the charge the day after the budget was released, condemning the decision to ignore the united front of regular members calling for 25 per cent last fall.

“All input except that of Cabinet was ignored, and yesterday’s budget planned around 5 per cent of the resource revenues going to the Heritage Fund, and that decision was made long before any consultation with residents or MLAs took place. Why bother to consult? Why

bother to spend the money to consult? Why bother to give residents and MLAs hope that their opinions matter?” Bisaro said.

Similar speeches meant to criticize the 5 per cent were subsequently put aside on Tuesday in the House, though MLAs continued to chide Miltenberger for his flip-flop, with Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny calling the announcement “nothing less than a last minute gong show before regular members.”

Sarah Daitch, an NWT representative of the national public policy group Action Canada, lauded the change in tone from Miltenberger as the group’s recommendations for the fund were tabled in the legislature on Tuesday.

Action Canada, which released a report on the NWT Heritage Fund in time with the budget, called for more than 5 per cent and made several other recommendations for ensuring the transparency and sound management of the fund itself.

“Minister Miltenberger’s announcement of 25% into the Heritage Fund is huge step forward for future generations of Northerners,” she voiced online via Twitter, adding that the announcement “shows that consensus gov’t can be effective.”

Daitch said now it is time for the GNWT to focus on “good fund governance.”

# Federal budget brings ‘good news’ for NWT: minister

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With extensions granted on health and infrastructure funding for the Northern territories, NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger said the 2014 federal budget brings good news for the territory.

While it was clear the federal budget, aimed at balancing the books by 2015, wasn’t going to be a “big spending” plan, Miltenberger said it does address some critical infrastructure needs in the North.

“The big good news story for us is the Build Canada Fund, for which our share is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$250 million over 10 years, so it will be \$26 million a year that we can add to our capital plan for different projects,” he said. “Communities will get some of the funding.”

The majority of the Building Canada funding will go to transportation infrastructure, Miltenberger said, from roads to bridges.

He said the GNWT is now anxiously awaiting details



NWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger

on when Building Canada funding will begin flowing and how much will be on the table this year, but said none of that money will be taken for granted.

“Given our fiscal prudence, we’re going to be ready to take full advantage of all that money that comes available,” he said. “The last time it came around in the

last government, over three years we put over a billion dollars of infrastructure on the ground in the Northwest Territories, so this is going to be a boon for us.”

The other positive, he said, is that the funding partnership with the federal government is split at 25/75, which allows the territory to make its money go further.

The NWT also got an unexpected three-year extension on the territorial health system sustainability initiative funding, which was supposed to have been phased out.

The \$70 million over three years is split between the three territories, giving the NWT around \$7 million per year in additional funding to boost health programming, which has led to an increase in nurse practitioners and midwives.

Miltenberger said it is a welcome extension that allows more time to ready for the coming phase-out.

“That gives us three years to plan for an exit strategy, because they indicated that that was it,” he said. “Most of the programs have become very important and they’re not the kind of programs Northerners would like to see rolled up, so we are going to be looking at how do we shift some of our resources over the next few years to make sure that

there’s no loss in programs and services.”

Additional money for the P3 Canada funding will also likely lend support to the territory’s major infrastructure project, the \$350-million renovation slated for Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Enhanced annual funding for the \$60-million Nutrition North program will also benefit the territory’s remote, circumpolar communities, Miltenberger added.

“Even with all the problems with that particular program, I think that’s good news for us, as well,” he said.

Exploration tax program extensions for the mining industry will have some positive impacts, too, he said.

**Budget short on details: MP**

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington said this year’s federal budget seemed sparse in details, mainly reiterating funding for the North that had already been in place.

That said, he noted that he looks forward to hearing more details over the coming months on the specific announcement pledging \$305 million for telecommunications upgrades to remote and rural communities across Canada.

By Bevington’s calculations, he foresees about one-seventh of that funding going to all three Northern territories if it is divided equally amongst the 280,000 national households noted in the budget.

If that’s the case, “the money is not likely to be adequate for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Yukon,” he said, based on Northwestel’s recent \$233-million plan to upgrade broadband services in the North alone.

“Our share might amount to \$8-10 million over five years, split between the three territories,” Bevington said. “That said, if there’s some other plan in place and we get the lion’s share, then that will be very good.”





Photo courtesy of MP Jim Flaherty

Despite a projected \$2.9-billion deficit, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says the 2014-15 budget should result in balanced books by the next fiscal year.

Politics Finance

# Federal budget focuses on ‘Northern sovereignty’

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
The federal government did not overlook the North in its 2014-15 budget released last Tuesday, with \$90 million allocated for “asserting Canada’s

sovereignty” over the next two years. Though it projects a \$2.9-billion deficit for the year, the federal budget promises \$47 million worth of investments in

the North in 2014-15, with \$20 million dedicated to supporting Northern economic development and \$27 million this year for the Territorial Health Investment Fund.

A host of cost-cutting measures in other areas is expected to result in a surplus of \$6.4 billion in 2015-16, in time for election year. New spending, totaling \$1.8 billion, will mostly be paid

for by a steep increase in tobacco taxes, up \$4 per carton or 50 cents per pack. “Building on the government’s vision for a new North, Economic Action Plan 2014 is taking action

to ensure that the North realizes its full potential by exercising our Northern sovereignty, promoting economic prosperity and supporting the health of Northerners,” states the budget plan.

## Sovereignty through development

A total of \$40 million over two years for economic development comes as a renewal of the ongoing Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) funding delivered over the past year. That money flows through CanNor’s Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) fund. Though it includes no budget line, the government’s move to claim the North Pole as part of Canada by securing recognition of Canada’s extended continental shelf at the international level is also made a priority of the sovereignty portion of the budget. “The Government must define and assert its national borders and control access across them. This exercise of sovereignty is a core Government priority,” the budget states.

As previously announced in the 2013 budget, Ottawa’s move to facilitate resource development in the North will provide an additional \$100 million over seven years to complete geological mapping of Canada’s North by 2020 and extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for investors. The NWT Mine Training Society also received its second year of funding, amounting to \$5.8 million, as announced in the 2013 budget. On the energy front, the National Energy Board is receiving a cash boost of \$28 million over two years for project reviews, including TransCanada’s proposed Energy East pipeline. That money, Ottawa says, will be “fully cost-recovered” from industry.

## Funding for Aboriginals

The budget promises \$350 million per year through the continuing Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy to provide training and employment services to Aboriginal peoples. Project-specific training for Aboriginal

people will continue through the five-year, \$210-million Skills and Partnership fund announced in 2010. Funds totalling \$25 million over five years will continue to go towards reducing violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

## Health and nutrition funding

Territorial health funding will see a total of \$70 million over the next three years to increase health services in all three territories in “priority health areas” and reduce patient reliance on outside health care systems and medical travel.

The Nutrition North program, currently being reviewed by the auditor general, will also see a funding boost to its existing \$60-million per year budget. Details will be announced in the coming months.

## Infrastructure

The previously announced \$200 million in federal funding for the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway is also included in the budget, along with a promise from the Canadian government to work with territorial governments and local municipalities to develop transportation infrastructure to promote ecotourism and investment in resource extraction. The government’s 10-year, \$53-billion Building Canada plan announced last budget continues this year, with more investments promised for transportation infrastructure across the

country. For the NWT, that translates into \$421 million divided between Building Canada and the Gas Tax Fund. The Investment in Affordable Housing plan also continues from last year, accessing some of the \$1.25 billion over five years promised in the 2013 budget. The program allows provinces and territories to match federal investments on initiatives including construction, renovation, home ownership assistance, rent supplements, shelter allowances and accommodations of family violence.

## Telecommunications

The budget promises \$305 million over five years to extend and enhance broadband internet service in rural and Northern communities across Canada, with \$1 million flowing through this year and \$80 million more in 2015-16.

The improvement initiative targets an internet speed goal of 5 megabits per second for up to an additional 280,000 Canadian households. “Enhancing and extending access will create jobs, growth and prosperity for rural and Northern Canadians by increasing their

ability to participate in the digital economy. Additionally, small and medium-sized businesses will benefit by having increased access to information and markets,” the budget concludes. More details on the program will be announced in the coming months.



# First Nation builds kennel after stray dogs cause social unrest in Fort Chipewyan

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Unfixed, loose and running in packs.

Tensions over Fort Chipewyan’s stray dog problem came to a head last week, with outside agencies and local First Nations finally coming together on an emergency response plan to address a growing threat of dangerous animals roaming the community last week.

With complaints pouring online last week, some threatening to shoot the loose dogs, the Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN) and Fort McMurray SPCA have agreed to do something to put an end to the dog problem that has many residents concerned about the safety of their children.

MCFN hired a dog catcher and built a kennel in Allison Bay last week to hold all loose dogs caught on both the Allison Bay and Doghead reserves.

“All dogs will have shelter, hay and will be fed on a daily basis,” stated a press release from the First Nation’s CEO George Poitras last week.



The Mikisew Cree First Nation has hired a dog catcher and built a kennel to address the growing issue of dangerous stray dogs on its Doghead and Allison Bay reserves.

“It is our hope that any owners not knowing the whereabouts of your dogs will come to the kennel to claim them. We are also hoping that any community residents willing to adopt any of the unclaimed dogs will do so. We will assist with spay and neuter, education on dog

owner responsibilities, provide tags, etc.”

Though there is currently no mention of a fee for the owners, Poitras said the kennel would not be “a dog sitting service,” but rather a temporary service to catch stray dogs and locate homes for them. A spay and neuter

program is to be established in the near future.

The action was taken with the support of the Fort McMurray SPCA and the Alberta Spay and Neuter Network, which got on board after a string of community members, angry with the lack of action being taken, started

threatening to shoot any loose dogs around the community if nothing was done to take care of the packs of unfixed animals that had resulted in several close scares involving children in the community.

“As our region’s only no-kill advocacy organization, we wanted to reach out to some community leaders to understand what they are experiencing and to see if they would be open to our support and participation in finding a long-term, sustainable solution that would address their concerns without the culling of healthy dogs,” said Tara Clarke, executive director of the Fort McMurray SPCA.

The organization recently completed its Northern Animal Management and Education program, which will begin reaching out to rural communities this June, and has informed the regional municipality’s leadership that it is willing to work on ensuring Fort Chipewyan doesn’t end up in this kind of situation again.

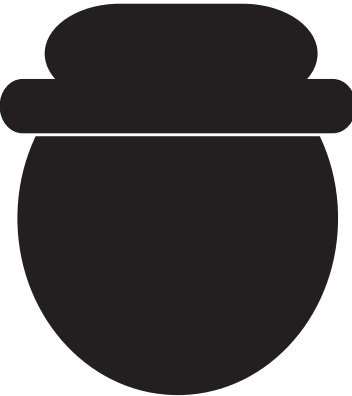
Officials from the RM of Wood Buffalo said the municipality is currently working on

developing solutions to the off-leash dog issue in Fort Chip, but Elena Jacobs, manager of Aboriginal relations for the RM, said their reach is limited by the fact that Fort Chipewyan opted out of the 2002 Animal Control Bylaw.

“We are currently establishing a multi-stakeholder steering committee to develop timely, meaningful and effective options,” she said, including dealing with negligent owners and potentially creating an animal shelter.

Poitras said MCFN is grateful for the outside support, and noted that public safety is the number one concern for the First Nation, along with the wellbeing of the animals.

“It is the intention of Chief Courtoreille and council to keep our communities safe for the children and others and to provide a safe home for all our dogs. We encourage all members to please take ownership of your responsibility as a dog owner and not allow your dogs to be running free thereby avoiding any unnecessary demise for our dogs.”

Read all  about it!

## Community newspaper readership remains strong

Three quarters of Canadians (73%) in non-urban centres read a community newspaper according to the 2013 study, *Connecting to Canadians with Community Newspapers*.

The survey was managed by Totum Research on behalf of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA) with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Telephone interviews were conducted from January to April 2013 in non-urban centres in five provinces.

The study was designed to measure readership of community newspapers in non-urban centres across Canada and examined reasons for reading community newspapers. A total of 1,000 telephone interviews were conducted with adults aged 18 or older that lived in areas with population less than 100,000, served by community newspapers. Five regions were selected (AB, SK, MB, Northern ON, NS) and 200 interviews were conducted within each. The response rate of the study was 43.2%.

## Community newspapers remain relevant

The steady readership suggests that community newspapers continue to have strong readership in today’s new media landscape. Community newspapers continue to remain relevant to local residents for news, information and advertising.

- 95% said their reason for reading community newspapers was for **Local News** or **Local Events**
- 76% are reading for the **Advertising** or the **Flyers/Inserts**
- 72% are looking for **Classified Ads, Real Estate** or **Employment ads**
- 60% read for the **Editorial**



# Snowshoe workshop weaves tradition with present

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Babiche was not the only thing to be woven through the freshly harvested birch wood snowshoes fashioned by Aurora College students, teachers and community members over the last several months.

For instructor Lawrence Cheezie, the true fabric is tradition.

Cheezie, whose family tree holds roots in Fort Chipewyan and Fort Smith, was taught the art of snowshoe building by his parents and has used handmade pairs his whole life. As one of the only people around still making his own snowshoes, he said he passes on the knowledge so that it won't disappear.

"They're gone now, but I still have what they taught me," he said of his parents. "I don't want it to die. Nobody makes these anymore, so I'm trying to teach the young fellas how to do it. Hopefully next year we can do this again."

Last Thursday wrapped up the third snowshoe making



Instructor Lawrence Cheezie of Fort Smith, left, celebrates his students' success in creating their very own pairs of traditional birch snowshoes at Aurora College's Thebacha campus.

course taught by Cheezie at Aurora College's Thebacha campus in Fort Smith, where students looking for a challenge are taught to build a pair of intricate and functional snowshoes from scratch over the winter.

Starting in October, students were challenged with

harvesting the birch to make the frame, steaming it into shape and finally binding it with babiche.

"All of us went out there in the bush, cut the birch down, brought it here, took an axe and started cutting it down to shape. Then around the middle of November

we started bending it. We bent it and let it dry for a couple of weeks, then we started putting the loops on and started lacing it. The lacing took a long time; it's hard to catch on to that. They had to lace it and redo it and take it apart," Cheezie said. "I think they

got frustrated a little bit, but they stuck to it."

Elder Violet Edji of Fort Good Hope, who was taking the course for the first time, said it was indeed a tough course.

"Frustrating," she said. "Makes you want to cry when you're undoing it and redoing it, and then you undo it again. I think crocheting is easier!"

The lengthy and demanding process engaged students for two hours, two evenings per week, but the final products made it worth it for participants.

Norris Ricketts, an international student in the teachers education program (TEP), now has a pair of authentic, Northern snowshoes to take back to Jamaica.

"It's something unique to me. Doing the TEP program, I really do appreciate Aboriginal people's artwork, everything associated with their skills. So this came in as something for me to try out, so I got involved."

He said it was challenging to take on a task so foreign.

"Where I'm from, we have nothing like this," he said with a laugh. "So doing something like this, I can take it home and show it off to my people that I've been here in Canada, in the North of Canada, with the Aboriginal people and they taught me how to do this. That's something interesting."

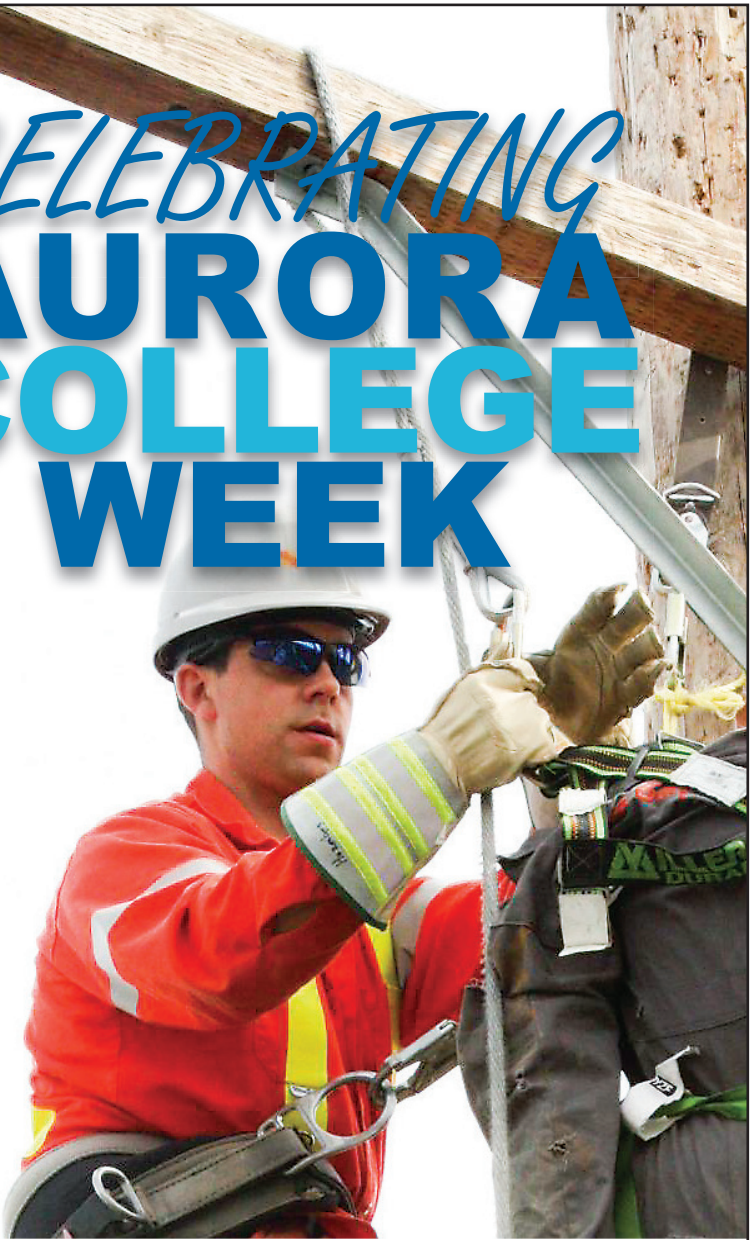
For others like Debbie Dillon, a business admin student from Inuvik, it was their second time taking the course.

"I didn't really completely finish my first pair, but I also wanted to make another one the traditional way," she said, motioning that she'd be giving her newly finished pair to her mother.


Though it was challenging, Dillon said it was "a good learning experience."

Good enough that she said, if offered again, she would probably take it once more.

Photo: Meagan Wohlberg



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# No-poverty group happy GNWT ‘walking the talk’

## Government pledges \$2.6 million toward new anti-poverty strategy

By MARIA CHURCH

Local social justice advocates are pleased to see the territorial government finally “walking the talk” after releasing its anti-poverty strategy last week, which promises new funds for programs that support low-income households.

Julie Green, coordinator with No Place For Poverty, said the announcement is a personal victory as well as a win for the coalition, which has been lobbying for four years to see an anti-poverty strategy from the GNWT.

“For me, personally, to hear the anti-poverty strategy mentioned in the budget and to have money attached to the initiative was really thrilling because it’s been such a long road to get to this point,” Green said. “It represents a really good start.”

Glen Abernethy, NWT minister of Health and Social Services, updated the Assembly last week on the breakdown of the \$2.6 million earmarked in the recent budget for anti-poverty programming.

“A strong territory needs a strong society and all residents of the NWT should have the chance to enjoy the benefits of living in a prosperous, well-governed territory and to participate fully in a healthy, just society,” he said.

The new funding will support day shelter programs in Yellowknife and Inuvik, see new housing units



Photo courtesy of Julie Green

Julie Green with No Place For Poverty says the GNWT’s anti-poverty budget commitment is a modest start.

in four small communities for residents who may need additional support, and put \$1 million in new spending every year towards providing food to youth through established programs.

The budget includes \$500,000 for communities, Aboriginal governments and

non-governmental organizations launching community-led projects.

Funding has also been allocated for the establishment of an advisory committee to work with territorial stakeholders and lead the development of the anti-poverty action plan over the next year.

We need other people to join in. It’s not just the government’s job. The NGOs are doing what they can and now we want businesses and Aboriginal government and community governments to come in as well.

Julie Green  
No Place For Poverty

Green said the funding amount is “modest” in the scope of the entire budget, but the coalition welcomes any move to support programs that buffer the income gap in the NWT.

### GNWT looks for partnership

In his address at the legislature, Abernethy acknowledged that the GNWT will need to work with all sectors of society if the anti-poverty strategy is to be a success.

Green confirmed that the onus for poverty reduction is not just on the territorial government.

“We need other people to join in. It’s not just the government’s job. The NGOs are doing what they can and now we want businesses and Aboriginal government and community governments to come in as well,” she said.

### Areas overlooked in strategy

Green said No Place For Poverty is still advocating for two areas of concern that have been overlooked in the anti-poverty strategy thus far. One of those is affordable childcare for children aged 0 to 3 years old.

“There is not a lot of childcare available for that age group and what is available is mostly unaffordable except for two income families, so we would like to see some movement on making childcare more accessible,” she said.

The coalition would also like to see discussions around implementing a living wage. Unlike minimum wage that is enforced across the board, a living wage takes into account cost of living in each community.

Green said there have been numerous successful moves toward creating living wages across Canada and would like to see a similar concept discussed in the NWT where recent statistics show the wage gap is higher than the country-wide average.

“We would like to see not so much that gap closed as the bottom 40 per cent of people brought up to a better income that would cover their basic need. It’s not about making those people rich; it’s about meeting their needs so they are not hungry, and they are not living in overcrowded conditions or they are in relationships of convenience because they need a place to stay.

“That’s a long term goal,” she said. “We are not going to eliminate poverty overnight, but I feel like we have the government’s attention.”



Northwest Territories  
Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

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### Study of high-speed rail in Alberta

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Your opinion is important to the Committee. If you would like to present at a public input meeting, register with the Committee Clerk by February 20, 2014. A schedule of presenters will be posted online by February 21. Unable to attend? Share your thoughts in a written submission to the Committee Clerk by March 31, 2014.

Standing Committee on Alberta’s Economic Future  
801 Legislature Annex, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1E4  
EconomicFuture.Committee@assembly.ab.ca  
780.427.1350 (Call toll free by dialing 310.0000)

#### Public Input Meetings

Calgary	Red Deer	Edmonton
February 24 6:30 p.m. Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre 1316 - 33rd St, NE	February 25 6:30 p.m. Red Deer Lodge Hotel and Conference Centre 4311 - 49th Avenue	February 26 6:30 p.m. Committee Room A 4th Floor, Legislature Annex 9718 - 107 Street

Please note: all submissions/presentations and the identities of the authors/presenters will be made public. For more information regarding the Committee’s review of high-speed rail please visit the website at:

assembly.ab.ca/committees/abeconomicfuture



# Questions raised about mental health services in NWT

## GNWT pledges more on-the-land mental health service delivery

By MARIA CHURCH

Questions about the success of mental health programs in the NWT are being raised following a government announcement outlining the allocation of \$2.6 million in new funding towards mental health initiatives in the territory.

Glen Abernethy, NWT minister of Health and Social Services, announced last week that the 2014-15 budget commitments for addictions and community wellness will take into account recommendations made in a report tabled last June by the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.

"The NWT is a diverse region made up of many different cultures, with their own traditional beliefs and practices. We need as many options as possible to allow people to decide what works for them," Abernethy told the Assembly last week.

Andy Langford, director of territorial social programs for the department of Health and Social Services, said



Photo courtesy of GNWT

Paul Andrews, who led the Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness, says education is a foremost concern.

the biggest concern identified by the minister's forum was a need for access to on the land healing programs.

"The message is very clear, and that is that the land itself heals people," he said.

Broken down, the funding will see \$900,000 go

towards on-the-land healing programs, \$305,000 towards a wellness court, \$895,000 for integrated case management and \$500,000 for child and youth resilience through programs and education.

Last year, the GNWT drew criticism when it decided to

pull funding from the NWT's only residential treatment centre for addictions near Hay River, forcing Northerners to seek treatment at similar centres in the south.

According to Langford, the now defunct Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre on the K'atl'odeeche First Nation reserve cost the government \$2.1 million in its last year of operating. Those funds have now been reallocated to cover the costs of sending residents to treatment at four different specialized addictions centres in Alberta.

### Mental health education needed

Paul Andrews, who led the Minister's Forum across the territory in 2012 seeking residents' input on mental health and addictions concerns, said a prevailing issue in most communities is a lack of understanding about what mental health actually is.

"When you talk about somebody having mental health issues, the translation

almost goes to somebody being crazy. So right off the bat there is a question about whether we agree what the problem is, particularly for the unilingual people," he said.

Langford said the government is looking into translating mental health services for all languages in the territory, but part of the problem is the stigma around mental health versus addictions.

"One of the challenges we have has to do with people not wanting to access the mental health system for addictions issues because it implies that if they have an addiction, they have a mental health problem. We are trying to develop a degree of separation between addictions programming and mental health programming," he said.

The justice system also came under scrutiny during the forum's consultations, with questions raised as to why the majority of those in jail are suffering from a mental illness.

"It certainly doesn't help the problem that the way we deal

with a lot of the mental health cases in the NWT is by hoping that by locking them up, they'll go away," Andrews said. The wellness court, which looks to divert those suffering from mental health concerns from the usual court system, is an avenue for change, he said.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities also raised the issue of the history of cultural oppression experienced by Aboriginal peoples, which can lead to mental health issues, Andrews said.

Funding for on-the-land wellness programs is a step in the right direction, he said, but the real solution needs to come from a desire to change in the communities.

"Us, as Aboriginal people, we have to start talking to our younger people about the people we come from," he said. "We have to try and reconnect some of the young people with their spirituality, with their cultures, and start talking more about addictions in general and no longer accept them as normal or everyday."

# National mental health campaign seeks public access to psychologists

By MARIA CHURCH

The Association of Psychologists of the NWT (APNWT) has joined forces with a national campaign to advocate for more access to mental health services in the public healthcare system.

This month marked the launch of the national campaign, Mind Your Mental Health, which aims to both raise the profile of mental illness and pressure provincial and territorial governments to provide more access to psychologists.

Rehman Abdulrehman, a clinical psychologist in Winnipeg and spokesperson for the Canada-wide campaign, said recent research suggests access to mental health care in the territories, along with the rest of Canada, is decreasing.

"Our advocacy is to increase the access to psychologists in the public healthcare system. Right now it's gone down, access to psychologists is getting worse - even just the numbers of psychologists, forget the ones that are in the public healthcare system," he said.



Photo: Nik Thavison

Psychologist Rehman Abdulrehman says public access to mental health care is decreasing.

Conservative statistics suggest as many as one in five Canadians will be diagnosed with a mental illness, but many in wellness professions believe that number to be higher, Abdulrehman said.

He said the association is hearing less and less concern about the negative stigmas

around mental illness and more concern about the lack of affordable access.

Abdulrehman said there are few stats coming out of the territories, however recent news about high suicide rates in the North suggests a growing mental health problem.

Robert O'Rourke, president of APNWT, said there's an array of mental health service providers in the NWT, including traditional healers, psychiatrists, psychologists and wellness workers, but getting access to these services can still be difficult for residents who fall through the cracks of coverage.

O'Rourke said the NWT association backs the campaign's mandate to ask the government to include those services in insured public health care.

"Open up the door a little more," he urged.

For more information on the Mind Your Mental Health campaign, go online to [mymh.ca](http://mymh.ca)



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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  
Fort Smith, NT X0E0P0  
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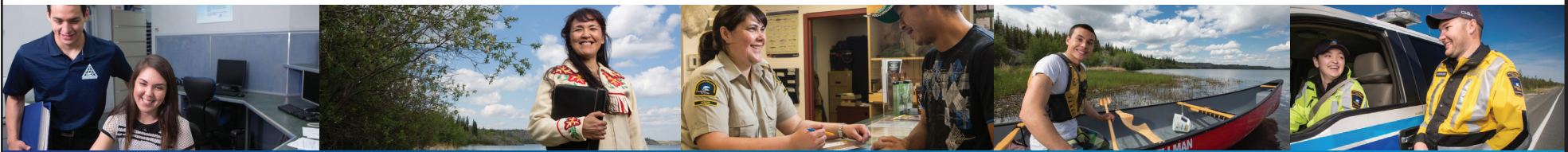
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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

**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

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

*For contract opportunities visit*  
[www.contractregistry.nt.ca](http://www.contractregistry.nt.ca)



Northwest Territories Transportation

**REQUEST FOR TENDERS**

**Single Asphaltic Surface Treatment Overlay**  
**CT101377**

**– Highways 1 and 3, NT –**

The Supply and Application of a Single Asphaltic Surface Treatment Overlay.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MARCH 20, 2014.**

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of February 17, 2014.


Pre-tender meeting: 1:30 pm, February 24, 2014, 76 Capital Drive, Suite 201, Hay River, NT.

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

**Technical inquiries to:** Gilles Roy  
Phone: (867) 874-5019

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

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

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**– Northwest Territories –**

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Public Works and Services is inviting interested parties to submit responses indicating their interest in and qualifications for the following categories:

**Mine Design and Construction, Contaminated Site and Risk Assessment, Acid Rock Drainage, Mine Closure and Reclamation, Mine Closure and Remediation Assessments, Geotechnical Engineering, Permafrost, Hydrogeology, Hydrology, Hydroelectric Facility Design, Operation and Transmission, Oil and Gas Exploration, Hydraulic Fracking, Development, Production, and Transmission, Aquatic Monitoring, Environmental Quality Objectives and Environmental Effects Assessments.**

Responses 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, MARCH 17, 2014.**

Documents are available electronically from the address below as of February 17, 2014.

**General inquiries to:** Contracts Administrator  
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Itoah Scott-Inns says her fellowship will focus on land stewardship in the North.



Nina Larsson says her research will explore Indigenous women in leadership.

Photos courtesy of the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation

Northerners Fellowship

# Connecting culture with research in the North

## NWT women choose Aboriginal focus for Northern fellowship

Two First Nations women from the NWT who were chosen for the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship have elected to study Aboriginal leadership and stewardship in the North for their contributions to the fellowship's research. Itoah Scott-Inns and Nina Larsson were selected along with seven other fellows from the NWT, Nunavut, Yukon and Nunatsiavut for the 18-month program that brings together young, self-directed Northerners to study issues relating to their communities. Northern Journal profiled both women and their unique connection to their cultures.

By MARIA CHURCH

### Itoah Scott-Inns

Itoah Scott-Inns, raised in a culturally-rich home with seven siblings in Fort Simpson before moving to Yellowknife, was taught by her parents to always be proud of her Tlicho heritage.

"My Tlicho culture is super important to me. It's really shaped how I understand the world," she said.

But it wasn't until she left home and the North to study at the University of Toronto that she understood the true value of being surrounded by that culture.

"This was really the biggest change for me, moving really far away. To be honest, the first time I came here was a bit of a culture shock to me," she shared from Toronto.

While the 26 year-old admits she still misses home, Scott-Inns said studying in Toronto has allowed her to experience and learn from many other cultures in southern Ontario. But the biggest lesson, she said, was learning that her own culture is a part of her regardless of where she goes.

"My Tlicho culture, I think it's just inherent in anything I do. My parents always raised me to have a strong sense of pride and connection to our culture. All of the work that I do, the learning that I do, is all grounded in my Tlicho beliefs," she said.

My Tlicho culture, I think it's just inherent in anything I do. My parents always raised me to have a strong sense of pride and connection to our culture. All of the work that I do, the learning that I do, is all grounded in my Tlicho beliefs.

Itoah Scott-Inns  
Jane Glassco Northern Fellow

Scott-Inns is just months away from finishing a Bachelor in Aboriginal Studies and Ethics, Society and Law. Her plan is to go to law school - a goal born out of a desire to serve the North.

"I started learning more about what's happening in the North with land claims and self government agreements and this struggle for self determination, so I felt like that was an area where I had the skills and ability to make some sort of contribution," she said.

In keeping with her interest in land issues, Scott-Inns chose to study land stewardship for the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship. Her research will look at ways to strengthen collaborative land stewardship in light of growing resource development, particularly in Denendeh.

"Historically, we have a collective responsibility as

Dene people to steward all of Denendeh, regardless of the lines drawn on the map of different land claim territories," she said.

Scott-Inns said that recently there has been movement towards more collaboration in the Denendeh and she hopes her fellowship research can strengthen those efforts. "It's an opportunity (for me) to work towards making meaningful contributions to the North, to cause change and to find ways to strengthen the North for future generations," she said.

### Nina Larsson

For Nina Larson, the importance of connecting with her Dene culture knows no limits.

The 28 year-old, born and raised in France to a Gwich'in mother and Swedish father, elected to

uproot her life and move to Yellowknife five years ago to be closer to her cultural roots.

"I wanted to learn more about my culture and be connected to the North," she explained.

While her mother had raised her with an appreciation for her Gwich'in heritage, Larsson said she wanted to be closer to the rich traditions and be able to practice them.

"I think culture is a very important facet of a person's life and it is essential to their well-being," she said. "To have a clear vision of my future, I really needed to have an understanding of where I come from and what it means to me."

Over the last five years, Larsson has taken to a path of self-discovery that included studying at Dechinta University, connecting with family in Inuvik and participating in the Aboriginal Peoples Television

Network's *Dene A Journey* TV series.

Larsson said her experience reconnecting with her culture has made her more confident about her identity as an Aboriginal woman and future leader. It was

said. "That can also give a picture to younger indigenous girls who can know what it takes to be a leader. Being a leader is not just on the political side; it can mean being a leader in the community, in your workplace, with

To have a clear vision of my future, I really needed to have an understanding of where I come from and what it means to me.

Nina Larsson  
Jane Glassco Northern Fellow

with that in mind that she chose to focus on indigenous women in leadership for her Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship.

"The key question that I hope to answer is, what does it mean to be an indigenous woman leader today?" she

your friends and family."

Larsson said she hopes to draw on successful examples of Northern women-centered leadership initiatives in the circumpolar world in order to suggest effective policy measures in Canada's North.



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## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Challenger Soccer Camps to be held in four NWT communities

Back by popular demand, Challenger Soccer Camps are returning to the NWT this summer and this time the specialized sport camp will be offered in Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. Run by Challenger Sports, the largest soccer camp operator in the US and Canada, the camps are taught by soccer coaches trained in the UK. Last year's camp, held in Yellowknife, saw participation from youth across the territory. Coaches focus on player development in skills such as passing, tackling, defending and shooting. Registration for the Challenger Soccer Camps is now open and can be done online at <http://challenger.mycustomevent.com/content/search>



Photo: NWTRPA

### Fort Good Hope man honoured with Active Elder award

Wilfred Jackson from Fort Good Hope has been recognized by the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) for keeping active and encouraging others to do so as an elder in his community. Jackson is this year's recipient of the Elders in Motion Active Elder Award, given out each year during the Elders In Motion Training event in Yellowknife. According to the NWTRPA, Jackson's wife kept the news of his win secret so that while both were attending the event the announcement of his win left him "shocked and excited." The Active Elder Award is part of an initiative to the physical fitness and well-being of older adults in the NWT.



Northwind celebrates after a goal during their semifinal game against LJ's Sabres on Sunday during the IRC Cup.



LJ's Sabres' Corey Baetz faces off against Northwind's Greg Connell during the semi-finals on Sunday.



Matthew Ryan Gould celebrates with his LJ's Sabres teammates after a goal Thursday at the 26th annual IRC Cup.



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## NOTICE GENERAL MEETING UPDATES FOR ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION MEMBERS

**March 5, 2014**

Mamawi Community Hall - Fort Chipewyan, AB

**March 6, 2014**

ACDEN Building  
220 Taiganova Cres.  
Fort McMurray, AB

**Both meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.**

**Refreshments will be served.**



Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Fans congratulate LJ's Sabres' Kyle Kuptana after the team won third place at the 26th annual IRC Cup. The tournament was held at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex.

### Sports & Recreation Hockey

## Construction companies battle it out at IRC Cup

By MARIA CHURCH

Construction companies E. Gruben's Transport from Tuktoyaktuk and Northwind from Inuvik are no strangers to duelling it out on the ice in the final game of the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC) Cup, but this is the first year they did it as the two companies with a joint-venture contract to build the Inuvik-Tuk Highway.

Both teams dominated through the tournament's

12 games last weekend during the 26th annual tournament, playing against teams from across the Mackenzie Delta, to meet head to head at yet another showdown in the final match Sunday.

Northwind was looking to recapture the cup after E. Gruben's Transport's Nanooks team nabbed it last year, recovering from a four-year losing streak, but the defending champions brought their A

game for the second year in a row and overtook Northwind's team with a 8-1 win.

Cody Pederson of the Nanooks was named MVP.

LJ's Sabres beat out the Paulatuk Storm for third place in the A division with a score of 9-6.

There were a whopping nine teams in the B division, which went to the PCM Pro team who beat out the Akavik Outlaws for first.



# Week one brings mixed results for NWT Olympians

## Michael Gilday takes stock after ‘devastating’ team relay race

By MARIA CHURCH

Residents in the NWT are sending their love to the hometown Olympic athletes in Sochi, Russia after week one of the Olympic games brought a mixed bag of success to speed skater Michael Gilday and bi-athlete Brendan Green.

Gilday and the rest of the Canadian men’s short-track relay team are back at training and gunning for a 6th place finish in the relay race after a disappointing crash by teammate Francois Hamelin last week put the team in last place in their group.

The relay was Gilday’s last chance to make the podium after his individual 1,500-metre short track race on Feb. 8 got him to the semifinals, but a bump with another skater in the race disqualified him.

Speaking to *The Journal* from Sochi, Russia, Gilday shared his disappointment about the results.

“I’ve long ago accepted the fact that the unpredictability of the sport is the nature of the sport,” he said. “We know that if we train to absolute perfection and we have perfect form and everything, you can’t control everything on the ice. You can always



Michael Gilday warms up at the Iceberg Skating Palace in Sochi, Russia.

have a mishap or something go wrong.”

Gilday said his main goal now is focusing on the B final relay event on Feb. 21. After that he will be supporting the rest of his team and looking forward to the speed skating World Championships in March.

Gilday said throughout the games he’s been feeling the love from supporters in the NWT.

“I’m getting lots of messages and tweets and stuff from people

and everybody has been really supportive despite the fact that the results haven’t been phenomenal. Everybody is really proud of what I have achieved,” he said.

“You did awesome, Michael! Proud to know you,” Marla Kishimoto (@MarlaYuriko) tweeted to Gilday following the disappointing relay race last week.

“Bad luck man but good job either way. Now you can just enjoy the rest of the games,”

another tweeter, Chris Van Dyke (@cvd\_yk), told the speed skater.

Gilday won’t be bringing home an Olympic medal this time around, but he said he’s still grateful for the opportunity to be in Sochi cheering on the rest of Team Canada.

“Just experiencing all of this for the first time is pretty phenomenal and I still have to remember to open my eyes and just take it all in,” he said.

### Brendan Green just shy of podium

Green, who has now competed in four of five of his Olympic biathlon events, came out as the top Canadian in the men’s 20-km on Feb. 13, where missing two of his shots gave him a two-minute penalty and pushed him off the podium to 21st.

“I’m very excited about how he is doing. Brendan is so close,” said Bob White, a founding member of the Hay River Ski Club who has been following Green’s racing carefully along with many fans from the biathlete’s hometown.

“It doesn’t take much to take you right off the podium,” said Bruce Green, Brendan’s father in Hay River, who noted that the biathlete has been battling a sinus infection for the last two weeks.

Despite his infection, Green has been keeping up a solid performance throughout the Olympics. His first two races on Feb. 8 and 10 placed him 23rd in the men’s 10-km sprint and 35th in the 12.5-km men’s pursuit.

With the top 30 finish last week, Green qualified for the men’s 15-km mass start,

which was scheduled for Sunday, but thick fog on the course caused a rolling delay that stretched into Tuesday.

Green, who spent much of 2012 and early 2013 in rehab for a back injury, told *Fasterskier* that he is “fairly happy,” with his skiing thus far, but knows he has to give it more to make the podium.

“I actually felt not too bad on the skis today, which was nice,” Green said. “I think I skied all right. I had two penalties...which usually is okay, but I guess on this range you need a little more than that.”

White said Green’s supporters in Hay River couldn’t be more excited about watching their hometown Olympic hero make such a strong showing.

“It’s absolutely crazy here. What’s happening is the people who always supported him, but didn’t really understand biathlon, are now getting how biathlon works. They’re meeting in little groups now. We showed the first two races publicly and we’ll show the last big relay at the community hall,” he said.

Green’s relay race will air live on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 a.m.

## Canada at the Olympics

### Monday, Feb. 17, 2014

#### Medal count

Sport				Total
Freestyle Skiing	3	2	1	6
Short Track	1	0	0	1
Figure Skating	0	3	0	3
Snowboard	0	1	1	2
Speed Skating	0	1	1	2
Alpine Skiing	0	0	1	1

#### Medal standings

Country				Total
1  Germany	8	3	2	13
2  Russia	5	7	6	18
3  Netherlands	5	5	7	17
4  United States	5	4	9	18
8  Canada	4	7	4	15

Images: google.ca

# 9TH ANNUAL FORT SMITH TRADE SHOW

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# New Northern Youth leadership camps planned

By MARIA CHURCH

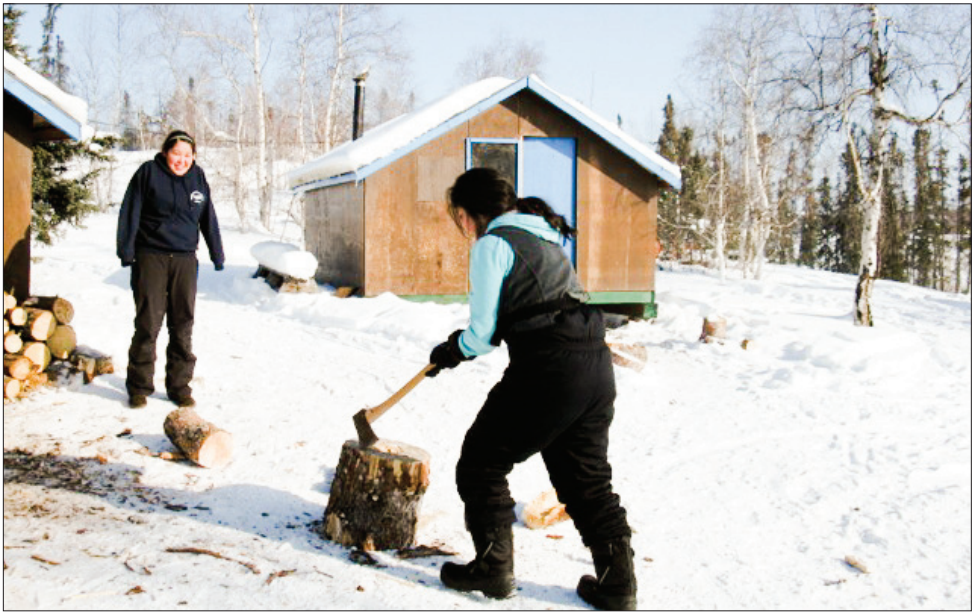
The non-profit Northern Youth Leadership Society is once again expanding its reach in the Northwest Territories by holding three new winter camps in March to teach youth leadership skills directly on the land.

Jill Gilday, Northern Youth's new executive director, said that for the first time, two of the upcoming winter camps will be held exclusively for 11 to 14 year-olds - a younger group than previous camps have catered to - in order to give the youngsters a taste of what the leadership camps can offer.

"It is kind of an introduction to our camps for the younger kids in hopes that they have a great time and want to come with us again for a different one in the summertime," Gilday said.

The introduction camps will be held in Hay River with the help of Shawn Buckley, a local commercial fisherman who has volunteered to teach the budding leaders the basics of winter fishing.

Buckley, who has worked successfully as a fisherman for the last 25 years, told *The Journal* he is looking forward to sharing his



Shania Desjarlais, right, chops firewood for the first time with Chelsea Elias next in line during the Northern Youth winter leadership camp last year.

on-the-land skills with the young campers.

"These kids, they have to be stimulated in different ways. If you are teaching them hands-on, it's quite different than learning in a classroom," he said. "I think it's very, very important and it's not talked about enough."

Gilday said Buckley's life-long connection to the Hay River fishing industry is ideal for teaching the youth the importance of protecting

the natural environment. As an added bonus, campers will get to sample fresh winter fish.

"We'll be having a bit of a fish fry, which hopefully the kids will enjoy," Gilday said.

The third camp that Northern Youth has planned for this March will run more along the lines of previous years' excursions. Held at Yaya Lake just north of Inuvik for youth aged 14 to 17, the week-long camp will challenge

participants to live off the grid and connect with the land through hunting, trapping and fishing.

"It incorporates traditional knowledge from the region that we are functioning in as well as leadership training in the hopes that youth learn a little bit more about their surroundings and their culture, but then also create an attachment to their environment...to protect it in the future," Gilday said.

These kids, they have to be stimulated in different ways. If you are teaching them hands-on, it's quite different than learning in a classroom.

Shawn Buckley

Northern Youth, formerly known as Taiga, was born in 2008 as a subsidiary of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) with the mandate of empowering young female leaders in the NWT.

The organization has since expanded into its own non-profit organization and branched out the mandate to include camps tailored to just girls, just boys and several co-ed camps.

This is the second year Northern Youth has offered camps during the winter season. Last year's winter camp, held at Bliss Lake just outside of Yellowknife, was an encouraging success, Gilday said.

A local of Yellowknife, Gilday started her position as executive director for Northern Youth a month ago

and said she only regrets not working for them earlier.

"I was always too old to be a camper, but looking back I always knew about them so now I wish that when I was a student, I'd worked for Taiga in the summertime," she shared with a laugh.

The Northern Youth camps cost \$100 per camper, a charge that doesn't come close to covering the expense of a week-long camp, but is made possible through GNWT grants and community sponsorship, Gilday said.

"We would never want the registry fee to be a barrier," she said. "We want to make sure that all youth have opportunities like these."

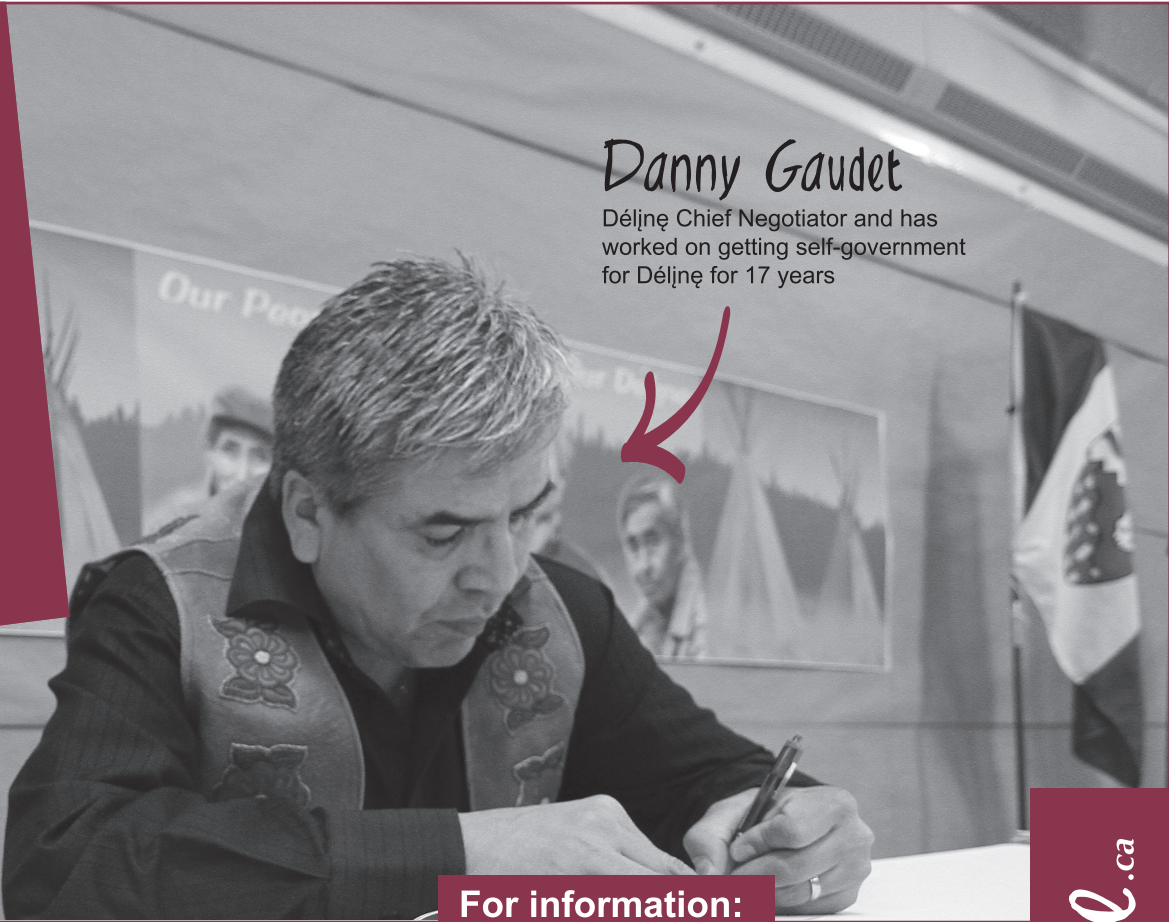
For more information or to register for the camps, go online to [www.northernyouth.ca](http://www.northernyouth.ca)

I'm voting...  
for my kids

"This agreement is not for me and my generation. If it can help my kids work together with other children to share the benefits and responsibilities of governing ourselves, that's the most important thing for me. Then I wouldn't have to worry about my kids in the future."

Danny Gaudet

Déliné Chief Negotiator and has worked on getting self-government for Déliné for 17 years



### 3 ways to vote:

- By mail:** Mail in ballots will go out at the end of January
- Advance polls:** in Déliné and Yellowknife **(Feb. 25 and 26)**
- On Voting Day:** in Déliné 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)  
Déliné Self-Government Office (Cultural Centre)  
Yellowknife Self-Government Office  
(upstairs from North Wright Airways at the airport)

Ratification Manager: Gina Bayha  
(867) 589-8120

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