

March is Aboriginal Language Month

"wehkac chi kimowaw sisip ahpo wapos"

Be the first to guess the above phrase and win a language prize package!
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 The NWT Cree Language Program



Deline first community to embrace self government
The people of Deline voted 85 per cent in favour of becoming the first Aboriginal community in the NWT to attain self government. *See page 2.*



Environmental monitor training starts in Sahtu
Aboriginal and scientific knowledge are melding in the Sahtu as 12 students begin an environmental monitoring course. *See page 7.*



Folks flock to Fort Smith for Wood Buffalo Frolics
People from across the South Slave and northern Alberta gathered in Fort Smith for a weekend of music, dancing and games. *See page 13.*



Fort Smith musher happy with sled dog season
Fort Smith's David Poitras is happy with his team's results at the Hay River and Fort Providence sled dog races this season. *See page 22.*

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Zaneria Andre Blake, 6, and Cherith Ross, 9, have a blast sledding with the community in Inuvik this past weekend. More than 50 people attended the outdoor event, hosted by the Inuvik Youth Centre at the Inuvik Ski Club, to go sliding, make snowmen and enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate. *See page 12.*

Sahtu schools close doors to 'frack talk'

Officials keep fracking presentation outside classroom

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Schools in the Sahtu are shying away from hosting classroom presentations on the controversial hydraulic fracturing activity currently taking place in their backyards. Both schools in Norman Wells and Tulita were asked to host the Fort Nelson First Nation this month during their tour of the region to discuss experiences with fracking, but denied the speakers entry after concerns expressed to the minister led to further discussion on maintaining a balance of perspectives on the issue. Education, Culture and Employment Minister Jackson Lafferty was recently questioned in the Legislative

Assembly about how many presentations on fracking, either for or against, had taken place in Sahtu schools. According to assistant deputy minister Rita Mueller, the inquiry sparked a discussion with the Sahtu education council's superintendent, Seamus Quigg, who in conversation with the communities' principals decided to keep the debate out of the schools. While no presentation had been locked down, the presenters were in the process of scheduling a talk with the principal in Norman Wells. Mueller said the inquiry by the department was to garner information for the minister in response to questions. She

said the department is not out to micromanage what is taking place in schools, but wants to ensure that instructional time is kept the number one priority. "Really the school looked to encourage, instead of taking time during the instructional time of students, during the school day, that students and staff could be invited to presentations," she said. "So they weren't being pulled out of class for this type of presentation...but they would still be aware that it was available, they would be told when and where it would happen and that in off hours, if interested, they could go." As a former principal, Mueller said schools are

bombarded by requests from all sorts of groups to talk to students during the school year. While instructional time is the main issue at stake, she said the department also looks at divisive or controversial issues. "What the department always wants to make sure is that there's always a balanced approach - for any topic, not just for this particular topic," Mueller said. "It's at discretion; I mean, we're trusting that the focus of all of our schools is on the instruction and curriculum. Principals in consultation with their superintendents can make that judgement. We don't have any blanket policy. Where our department cares, generally

speaking, is how instructional time is being used." She added that the department wants students and staff to be able to participate in community and regional discussions. To date, no presentations - whether for or against fracking - have taken place in Sahtu schools, though ConocoPhillips has sponsored scientific speakers series in schools and pre-schools in Inuvik through the Aurora Research Institute. Political rifts have formed in the small communities of the Sahtu region since oil and gas company ConocoPhillips was approved for the territory's first exploratory fracking operation last summer. The company started drilling this winter.

Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

NEWS BRIEFS

Lutsel K'e elects new chief in close election race

Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation elected Chief Archie Catholique as the new chief on Friday. Catholique was one of six candidates, winning the election with only three votes over the runner up, Felix Lockhart, both former chiefs of the First Nation. Also in the race were Steven Nitah, George Marlowe, Antoine Michel and Stan Desjarlais. Catholique will serve for three years and will replace outgoing Chief Dora Enzoe, who served for two years before calling the election and choosing not to re-run. Polling stations were set up in Lutsel K'e, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. Chief candidates have five days from election day to contest the results.

Avalon partners with French plant, scraps Pine Point refinery

Avalon Rare Metals, the company behind the Nechalacho rare earth mine in the NWT, announced last week it will be sending its raw minerals to a plant in France after scrapping the plan to build a refinery at Pine Point. The company was approved by the federal government in November to build the rare earth mine 100 km from Yellowknife. Originally, the company planned to refine the minerals at a plant in Pine Point, but has since announced the plant will be in Louisiana. The rare minerals from the NWT will now travel first the US to be refined, then to France for further processing before they are ready to be sold.

GNWT funds boosts Beaufort Delta's e-learning program

Education, Culture and Employment will giving new funding to the Beaufort Delta's e-learning program that allows the students to take courses at home. Minister of Education Jackson Lafferty announced last week the government would continue funding the program, which was launched in 2013 to support the many isolated communities in the Beaufort Delta region. The online courses use live-streaming and video conferencing to allow students to take a range of classes not offered at their community schools. The program is currently offered in Inuvik and in schools in Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk and Fort McPherson.



Deline Land Corp. president Gina Dolphus and Deline First Nation Chief Leonard Kenny share their delight after hearing the favourable results of the community's self government vote on Mar. 12.

Politics First Nations

Deline overwhelmingly embraces self government

Self government agreement passes with 85 per cent in favour

By MARIA CHURCH
The people of Deline have voted overwhelmingly in

favour of becoming the first self governed Aboriginal community in the NWT.

Packed into the local hall, people danced and embraced in celebration of the news that the vote passed with 85.2 per cent of ballots saying yes to the Deline Final Self Government Agreement (FSGA) after 18 years of negotiations with the federal and territorial governments.

Deline's chief negotiator Danny Gaudet had the honour of delivering the emotional announcement late Wednesday night following the polls closing.

"I was thinking to myself, don't make this too long, so I started reading it off, telling them how many eligible voters we had, how many voted yes and before I even finished, man they just started cheering. The hall just erupted," Gaudet shared with *The Journal* Thursday after the vote.

Gaudet said he is still in shock from the news. "I'm elated, but I also can't believe it. It's going to take a few days to settle in, I guess," he said.

Of the 696 eligible voters living both inside and outside of the community, 527 cast ballots. Including the no votes from those who did not cast ballots, the agreement was approved by 64.5 per cent of the community, which was well above the 50 per cent plus one needed to pass the agreement.

In hindsight, Gaudet said he's not surprised the people voted in favour of self government.

"If you associate the issues and the problems that we have today with all of the possibilities (from self government),

people start to realize that this can work. That was the message we gave people and we never changed our story. We never tried to hide anything. Everything was public; everything was open," he said.

The FSGA will see Deline's

together for the good of our people...This is a great day and a historic moment for our community and our people," Kenny said in a press release following the vote count.

"This agreement was guided by the wisdom and

If you associate the issues and the problems that we have today with all of the possibilities (from self government), people start to realize that this can work.

Danny Gaudet
Chief negotiator for Deline

three governing bodies of the Deline First Nation, the Deline Land Corp. and the Charter Community amalgamated into one Deline Gotine Government. The new government will then have control over health care, language, social services and liquor and gaming regulations, among others.

"We've always said, 'When are we going to be ready?' But I said the day we choose to start working together and come together as one, I know we are ready. That's what we've done and that's what they've chosen," Gaudet said.

Leaders reflect on yes vote

Deline Chief Leonard Kenny and Gina Dolphus, Deline Land Corp. president, both thanked community members for their confidence in the leadership.

"We are now one big step closer to finally having one government in our community where we can all work

vision of our Elders over many years and is a legacy for our children and grandchildren," Dolphus said.

Premier Bob McLeod also congratulated Deline, likening their self governance to the territory's upcoming devolution agreement in April.

"Northerners want to speak for themselves and make their own decisions about the matters that directly affect them... Like devolution, this vote is an example of Northerners taking on greater authority and responsibility for themselves," McLeod said in a press release.

The premier told the legislature before the vote last week that, if passed, the territory would likely sign the legislation this summer.

Gaudet said he expects the legislation, which must also go through final federal ratification, to be passed before Christmas. The full transfer of powers is expected to take effect by Apr. 1 2016.

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Chief alleges signature forged on caribou tags

RCMP launches investigation into allegations by Yellowknives Dene

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

RCMP are investigating allegations that employees of the NWT department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) forged the signature of Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Chief Ed Sangris on recently awarded Bathurst caribou hunting tags.

The chief told *The Journal* that YKDFN had not yet come to an agreement with the department with respect to this year's restricted caribou harvest when he began hearing from members that they were being awarded tags with his signature on them.

"The chief and council did not authorize ENR to give out those tags on our behalf without our agreement. When they saw people hunting out there, they started giving them tags without our permission, so it's just like forgery," he said. "My name, my signature was on the year previous, and we didn't sign any agreement for 2013-14, but still they went and issued those tags without our permission. And they were issuing it themselves from their office, not out of the First Nation's office."



Photo: Alex Hall

Restricted harvest of the Bathurst caribou herd has caused strained relations between the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and government of the Northwest Territories.

Since 2010, YKDFN and ENR have made agreements for a restricted harvest of the Bathurst herd as a conservation measure until a long-term management strategy could be developed. Each year, the First Nation is given 150 tags, which it administers itself.

This year, however, Sangris said members started to see the continued restriction and tag system as unfair, and wanted

to be able to use their treaty cards as hunting ID rather than GNWT-issued tags.

Sangris said the two parties came to an agreement before Christmas that treaty cards would suffice - an agreement he said is contained within correspondence shared with the RCMP on Tuesday.

But after Christmas when hunters went out on the land, Sangris said ENR officers

demanding they have tags, on several occasions seizing guns and meat. After that, the chief alleges, ENR began allocating tags on its own.

ENR Minister Miltenberger declined to comment on the RCMP investigation.

RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Barry Ledoux said the investigation is in preliminary stages and it is too early to tell if charges will be laid.

This thing makes me feel like residential school all over again. We weren't allowed to talk our language, we weren't allowed to follow our traditional culture...Now they're restricting us, not allowing us to hunt.

Chief Ed Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Sangris said the First Nation's concern is not about conservation, but about treaty rights.

"They cannot say we're not concerned about conservation. We co-operated with them since 2010. For the sake of conservation, we'll harvest only 150. There's no problem with us conserving for future generations," he said.

"It's the mentality that we cannot hunt caribou, period, doesn't sit well with us. It doesn't follow our protocol and our treaty has been infringed upon by those legislations. If they want to sit down and have this discussion about future harvesting allocations, we're open to that. We're not shutting the doors

and saying we're going to kill every caribou that's walking in the bush."

Sangris said there are no meetings currently planned with the department. He said the incidents leading up to the investigation have now put into question a community hunt the parties were working on organizing together, and taint future discussions.

"This thing makes me feel like residential school all over again. We weren't allowed to talk our language, we weren't allowed to follow our traditional culture with residential school. Now they're restricting us, not allowing us to hunt, stuff like this," he said.

"I get the same feeling all over again."

First Nations' legal fight for Peel goes to trial in July

By MARY WALDEN

The battle over the future of the Peel watershed will be fought in Yukon Supreme Court July 7-11.

The five-day trial was scheduled after lawyers for both sides met briefly with Justice Ron Veale in the privacy of the court boardroom Mar. 11.

The suit against the Yukon government was filed in late January by Mayo's Na-cho Nyak Dun and Dawson's Tr'ondek Hwech'in, along with the Yukon Conservation Society and CPAWS-Yukon.

The four groups say the government had no right to dump the Peel commission's final recommended land use plan for their own plan, which they argue violates the land use planning process in the modern-day treaties.

The commission, made up of appointees from the Yukon and First Nation governments, including the NWT Gwich'in, spent seven years researching, analyzing and consulting on how to best manage the Yukon portion of the transboundary watershed.

It came up with a plan to protect 80 per cent of the 68,000



Photo: Shayla Snowshoe

Fred Koe of Fort McPherson protests the Yukon government's land use plan for the Peel watershed on Jan. 30.

sq.km. region - a plan which received widespread public support in the North and beyond.

However, the government's new plan, which went into effect Jan. 21, replaces most of that protection with areas that allow industrial development.

The legal suit wants to see the court force the government to accept the original plan, but the Yukon government denies it's done anything wrong by coming up with its own approach.

Aboriginal claims expert Thomas Berger is leading the legal challenge for the First Nations and conservation groups. The Yukon government has hired BC lawyer John Hunter to defend its handling of the plan.

Neither Berger nor Hunter were at the Whitehorse court hearing.

Yukon lawyer Stephen Walsh, who appeared for Berger, told reporters the trial date was agreed to beforehand, along with other procedural matters, so there were no disagreements.

The high-profile, precedent-setting case is expected to attract attention from all over the country.

Meanwhile, Peel protection advocates are planning to send a musical message to the Yukon government when MLAs return to the legislature Mar. 25 for the spring sitting.

Organizers of the Playing for the Peel rally hope to attract people and their instruments to perform as the politicians get down to business.

Last spring, Premier Darrell Pasloski used his opening budget speech to attack conservation groups and their work on the Peel.

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‘Cri-me-a river,’ says egoist Putin

Russia's takeover of the Crimean peninsula is hardly shocking:

1. The Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989, signalling the end of the Cold War era and the collapse of the Soviet Union, but it was not completely resolved. The Crimean peninsula, long a part of Russia, was gifted to Ukraine in 1954 by then-president Nikita Khrushchev. Although more Ukrainians now populate Crimea, it is still inhabited by a majority of Russians and is regarded by many Russians as part of their country. President Vladimir Putin is taking back what is considered to be rightfully theirs.

2. To Putin this is personal. He has at least two villas on the Black Sea near Sochi, a beautiful area and the most temperate part of Russia. Crimea is a stone's throw across the water and has long been a favourite spot for Russians to vacation.

3. The new pro-West government in Ukraine means Crimea could be lost from Russia forever. Worse, an American-friendly Ukraine at the front of the queue for membership in NATO would eventually result in American warships in Ukrainian ports. That is why Putin will take over the Ukrainian naval bases in the Black Sea, which is strategically centered between Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

4. Putin feels entirely justified in what he is doing. If the US can invade Iraq, put troops into Afghanistan and play political games in the Middle East to access oil, Putin figures nobody can tell him what to do in the Black Sea.

5. This is also about the three Russian natural gas pipelines that traverse Ukraine to reach European markets. They are a cash cow for Russia and

Putin does not want them vulnerable. The Ukrainians may try to tax the gas or it may be much tougher to traverse an uncooperative Ukraine in the future to access the rich European market. Putin propped up deposed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich as a puppet to manage all that. The current Ukrainian citizen revolution that ousted Yanukovich is messy and inconvenient.

6. The Sochi Olympics were designed by Putin to rally the Russian people. Canadian consultants were hired to assist in a Russian “Own the Podium” program to emulate Canada's record medal haul at the Vancouver Olympics. It bolstered Canadian nationalism, and remember how Stephen Harper posed with all the Team Canada athletes, basking in their Olympic spotlight? You can bet Putin is doing a lot of that. The Sochi Olympics enhanced Russian stature worldwide, pumped up national pride and bolstered Putin's support. Now he can use that to support his ambitious geopolitical agenda.

7. Putin is an egoist who loves to pose for the cameras during “manly” pursuits. After separating from his wife of 30 years he has a beautiful young girlfriend. In the old Soviet Union he served in the KGB (Soviet secret service) and learned from cutthroat Russian survival politics. He aspires to the glory days of the Soviet Union when it was equal in might and influence to America. Much of what he does is defined by how the Americans can be outmanoeuvred. If you think partisan politics between Republicans and Democrats in the United States are nasty, consider that Putin's Russia outflanks the Republicans on the right. Obama is seen as a spineless liberal

in the final stages of his presidency, a “lame duck” to be pushed around. Putin is mistaking Obama's “Mr. Nice Guy” persona for weakness.

8. If Obama tries to fight back, Putin will play hardball. He is tuned to US media, knows Americans are war-weary after Afghanistan and Iraq and that Obama is committed to bringing troops home, not sending them out. He has an ace up his sleeve - the natural gas Russia sends to Europe provides cash, but also gives him leverage. He would be willing to cut it off for a short period at a strategic time. Winter in Europe is only seven months away.

9. Putin wants to rattle his sabre at Obama for all the world to see, but he is risking a war in the process. How far will his ego go? The unknown quantity is how the volatile Ukrainians are going to react. The “Cold War” was defined by two opposing economic systems - communism versus capitalism. Now Russia and America are quite similar. Both are evolving a form of corporate capitalism, have imperfect democracies and struggle with serious problems from factions within. Russia and the US should be major trading partners, but that won't happen now. Watch out for Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in this complex equation. Her country is the engine of the European economy and she is every bit as experienced and crafty as both Obama and Putin. He is risking a lot in provoking her and Obama at once. With Germany an economic powerhouse and a resurgent American economy, both cutting free trade deals around the world, Russia could be shut out in the long term, and lose big, thanks to Putin.



Photo: Sean Pinn

Winter anglers gather at the 2 Seasons campground to vie for big prizes at the annual Hay River fishing derby over the warm weekend, with temperatures reaching +4C. While they were out of luck when it came to fish - none were caught - \$10,000 in door prizes and a 16-ft Lund boat were given out to those lucky enough to get their names pulled. The event was organized by 2 Seasons Adventures.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

\$1-million decision

Members of the Western Caucus recommended the number of MLAs be increased in time for next fall's general election last week, after the Northwest Territories Supreme Court ruled that the various constituencies in the West were underrepresented. But it wasn't a decision supported by all caucus members, including members of the Aboriginal Summit.

Issue: March 16, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Sahtu deal starts journey into law

Last September, the Sahtu comprehensive land claim agreement was signed in Fort Norman, NWT. And now it has begun the long journey through the federal government structure.

Last week the agreement took its first step into being enacted as legislation when the Sahtu Land Claim Settlement Act was tabled in the House of Commons.

Issue: March 16, 1994

30 Years Ago...

Mono hits 'The Hub'

The “kissing disease” has hit Hay River. Public Health officials have treated 47 cases of mononucleosis since Christmas.

While the number of instances of the infectious viral disease is higher than usual, officials say there is little to worry about.

Issue: March 15, 1984

MLAs should be voted in, not appointed by Ottawa



Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox

Last week, MLAs voted in favour of a motion that will allow them to ask the federal government permission to extend their current term of office. Specifically, the members of Cabinet, supported by four ordinary MLAs (Groenewegen, Menicoche, Blake and Yakelaya) made the call.

Criticism by the public has been swift and strong, and from MLAs who voted against the motion. The MLAs putting forward this motion, Jane Groenewegen and Michael Miltener, rationalized it as a common-sense move. They say that federal, territorial and some municipal elections happening at the same time may confuse

and fatigue voters and strain resources. They also say that an extended term will allow for devolution to be implemented more smoothly if the same MLAs have an extra year in office. And finally they argue that in other territories, MLAs can have five-year terms, and some provinces are considering moving their election dates to avoid several elections being held within close timeframes.

But they seem to be forgetting one thing: elections are what gives them their positions, legitimacy and authority – not the Prime Minister or a federal law, and certainly not themselves.

Even if all of what they say is true, the heart of the issue is whether MLAs have the authority to change their own term of office. None of us as working people have the authority to change the length of our employment without our employers' consent. Once our employment term is up, we must leave. Why is it different for MLAs?

The short answer is that they are doing this because no one

can stop them. And if their employer (the people) is annoyed, MLAs will only be disciplined through the voting process after the fact: when MLAs have been in office for a longer time than they were elected for.

The legitimacy of our political system – what makes it lawful and gives it authority – rests on the consent of the voters. What voters gave their support to in the last election was to have an MLA representing them according to the existing laws: a maximum of four years. For the MLAs to seek someone else – namely, Prime Minister Harper – to extend their terms, would mean the MLAs are effectively put there by the Prime Minister. The MLAs will be in office for an extended term because they will be put there by the federal government, not by the people of the Northwest Territories.

To me, this seems to be completely at odds with the mantra that has branded devolution: more Northern control, less interference from Ottawa.

While having an election after four years may somehow inconvenience putting devolution in place (no one has told us how, so it's a bit of a mystery), the legitimacy of our government rests on having that election within the four-year mandate of this legislature.

And deep down, the MLAs know it.

Watching Cabinet on TV as they stood to vote on the motion, they looked ashamed: hands clasped in front of them, looking down or looking grim. They were caught in a stance of shame rather than of pride. That only one of them, Miltener, bothered to speak to the motion was also telling. That Groenewegen attempted to stop Bob Bromley from repeating the critical comments of ordinary citizens in the house was also telling. Premier Bob McLeod had nothing to say about this fundamental breach of democracy, or why he thinks that our MLAs should be effectively appointed by Stephen Harper rather than elected by the people of the Northwest

Territories. Surely the leader of this government might have said a few words rather than hide behind silence?

It is hard not to notice that Groenewegen is taking most of the blame for this shameful turn of events rather than the person for whom its successful conclusion will benefit the most: the premier.

Soon it will be Stephen Harper's and the Conservative government's moment to reveal their policy regarding the basis of the NWT legislature's legitimacy. How will Harper gain from extending a legislature's term this way? We are used to seeing this kind of move – a sitting legislature extending its own term in office or powers by passing a law rather than having an election – in places such as Libya, Zimbabwe or post-Soviet Russia; places which are politically unstable and viewed as having corrupt systems. It stands to reason that our Cabinet would have checked in with Harper before making its motion. Because such a potentially politically risky move would certainly not have

been made without some kind of indication from Harper that he will say yes. If it was made without an assurance from Harper first, the MLAs who voted for the motion have left themselves open to the humiliation of his refusal, and to being turfed from office by an angry electorate in October 2015, for they have hung their political futures on the possibility that the electorate will have forgotten all this in two years' time.

Getting their 'yes' from Harper must happen within one year, through a process that will likely keep this issue fresh in the minds of the electorate. If Cabinet and the MLAs supporting the motion don't get their approval during the fall of 2015, incumbents who voted for this motion will face an election where this issue will likely be front and centre among an electorate that will be a little less trusting than last time.

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, PhD, is a lifelong Northerner, political anthropologist and the mother of two boys. She lives in Yellowknife.

From the House: the new voting bill



The Conservatives have proven again with Bill C-23, the Fair Elections Act, that they have mastered the art of political double speak. We in the Official Opposition have renamed Bill C-23 the "Unfair Elections Act" because of its many provisions that will likely reduce voter turnout in the next election, and enhance the advantages for the Conservatives.

How does this work, you may ask? Aren't we all on the side of increasing voter turnout?

The percentage of people voting has dropped steadily over the past few decades. This is very pronounced among younger voters. Surely this is a trend that anyone concerned with the health of our democracy would want to change.

When one examines the proposed Conservative legislation, the opposite is the case. Take for instance voter identification cards, which have been used by hundreds of thousands of Canadian voters when they go to the polls. With C-23, these cards, which are sent by the government to all voters prior to the election, cannot be used by the voter to help establish their identity or their address when they arrive at the polling station.

Why has this been done? There are no cases on record of any voter fraud utilising these essential notices that go to Canadian citizens.

Another aspect of current voting practices that will be taken away is vouching by one person in the constituency for another who may not have proper identification with them when they get to the polls, like the 120,000 Canadians who used this process in the last election, including many people in Northern Canada. For families, seniors, disabled people and students, the vouching system was one way to establish their right to vote at the polling station, on election day. Once again, there are no cases of voter fraud in this instance

and the studies that have been done on the subject show no deliberate abuse of the vouching.

Too bad for these Canadians, who in opinion polls have shown that they are less likely to vote for the Conservative Party.

Another very contentious part of Bill C-23 is the restriction on the ability of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to promote the importance of getting out to vote. In other words, the CEO can only advertise the bare bones of his job, how to vote, proper identification and location of polling stations. Any other efforts, such as promoting youth to vote or explaining the importance of voting will be prohibited. This aspect of the law is completely ridiculous and its inclusion in Bill C-23 can only be explained as voter suppression.

Six years ago, when the Conservatives brought in the new requirements for voter identification, I took a stand against that bill, saying that it would place an unnecessary burden on Northerners and many other Canadians. That turned out to be the case. Now with this legislation, the situation will become much worse. What is the rationale for this

legislation? Do the Conservatives understand through their extensive polling that their future electoral success lies with selective voter suppression?

This type of behaviour is rampant right now in the United States, where Republican governments in different states, realizing that minorities don't vote for them, are constantly upgrading their election rules to cut these groups out. We don't need this type of anti-democratic behaviour in Canada, and all of us should be vigilant against it.

In Parliament, the Conservatives forced closure on debate on the second reading of Bill C-23. They refused at committee to hold public hearings across the country to find out what people think of the legislation. They are using their majority to push this bill through the House of Commons process. The Senate will likely be no help, as they are a majority of Conservatives who take their orders from Prime Minister Harper.

Where is our democracy going, when fundamental issues like the rights of voters are treated in this fashion?

*Dennis Bevington
MP Western Arctic*

CORRECTION

In our Mar. 4 issue, we incorrectly identified a man in one of our photos in the feature, "O Canada! anthem gets 51 new, Northern voices" as Kamal Adam of Sudan. That man is actually Henok Tesema and he is from Ethiopia. *The Journal* apologizes for the error.

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

Northerner publishes first book on the Sahtu Dene



Celebrated Northern writer and artist Bern Will Brown has a new book coming out that will be the first of its kind to tell the story of the Sahtu Dene.

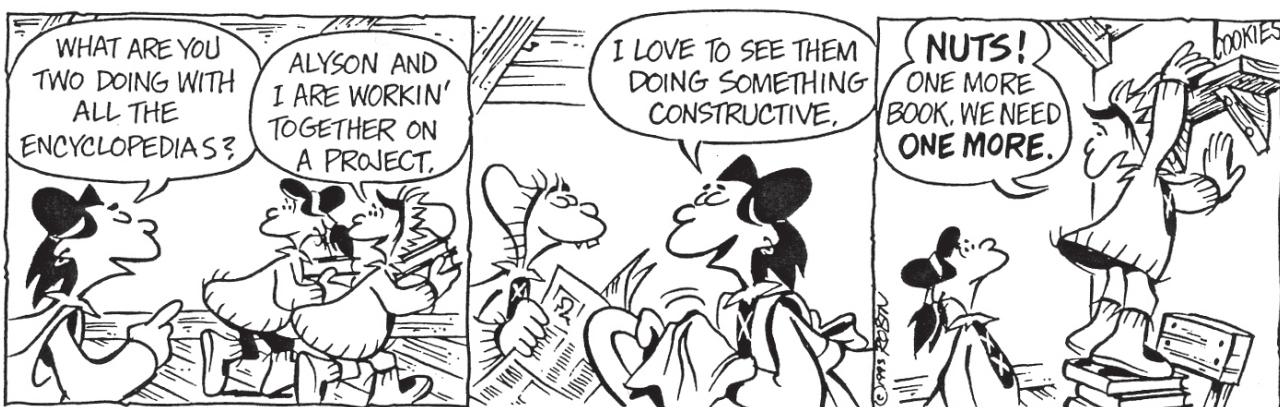


John T'seleie: with a grain of salt but a person has got to have seen something in sixty years...

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MUKLUK



Forecast

Inuvik



Norms: -17°C and -27°C

Yellowknife



Norms: -10°C and -22°C

Hay River



Norms: -7°C and -19°C

Fort Smith



Norms: -4°C and -18°C

Fracking wastewater trucks tip on winter road

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Trucks hauling wastewater from the territory’s first fracking operation are having difficulty navigating the Sahtu winter road, with two fully-loaded semi trucks operated by ConocoPhillips rolling over within four days of each other last week.

The first tanker truck rolled over on Thursday, Mar. 6 after it was unable to ascend a slippery hill on the ice road at the Saline River crossing, near kilometre 832.

“Despite having tire chains, the truck was unable to make it up the steep grade,” said ConocoPhillips spokesperson Lauren Stewart. “The truck slid backwards, resulting in the trailer entering the ditch and rolling onto its side. The tractor remained on the road and upright. The fluids in the trailer remained contained.”

A second accident involving a separate truck on Mar. 10 occurred again while the truck was attempting to climb a hill at the ConocoPhillips security gate in Norman Wells.

“A tanker truck hauling material for ConocoPhillips spun out and slid backwards,



A truck carrying wastewater from ConocoPhillips’ fracking operation jackknifes near the drill site security gate in Norman Wells on Mar. 10, the second truck to tip in four days on the winter road.

jackknifing into the ditch,” Stewart said.

“Preliminary findings indicate that road conditions were a contributing factor in both incidents.”

Stewart said there were no spills, no injuries and no environmental damage from either accident and that Environment and Natural Resources staff were on site at both incidents. In both cases, the wastewater

was successfully transferred into another truck.

While no spills occurred, Stewart said the company is taking both incidents “extremely seriously” and responds to incidents like spills as soon as they are discovered.

Both tankers were hauling flowback fluid from the company’s exploration lease site to an approved treatment

and disposal facility in either Alberta or British Columbia.

Flowback fluid is the water that was used in the fracking process that is recovered from the well after being contaminated with toxic chemical additives. It is run through a separator first to remove hydrocarbons before being transported out.

All wastewater from the operation must be removed from the Northwest Territories as a condition of the company’s water license.

The company’s contingency plan for the anticipated

closure of the winter road is to develop a government registered and approved storage facility in Norman Wells, which will store flowback fluids that cannot be trucked out this winter.

Talks needed on waste management

Deborah Simmons, executive director of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, said people in the Sahtu region have been blindsided by the fracking industry’s move into their territory and are crying for more information

to help them decide what to do with wastewater.

“It’s been a challenging situation, a) because everything’s happening so fast, so everybody’s playing catch up, and b) because the communities are really concerned, from what we’ve heard, about waste that would be staying here in the region. So there hasn’t been adequate time for the communities to have full and well-informed discussions about the options,” she said.

While the SRRB applauds actions being taken by the territorial government right now, which has formed a working group with industry and the government of Canada to discuss wastewater management in the region, Simmons said communities need to be involved fully in the conversation.

“There are so many components of the current shale oil play and exploration and prospective development that people are crying out for more education about. They really, really want to know, to have a better understanding of the various kinds of risks that are being undertaken and how those risks can be mitigated - and that’s pretty universal. Even the pro-development people want development to be responsible and balanced.”

Photo: Roger Odgaard

NORTHERN VOICES

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Dorothy Desjarlais
Cree

Dorothy Desjarlais learned to speak Cree at home and has remained fluent in her language. She strives to bring Cree back to life by speaking it at home and teaching others how to speak the language. Dorothy lives in Fort Smith and works as an interpreter-translator.

Dorothy Desjarlais ka kiskinohamâkosiht nehiyaw pekiskwewin êta wikihk mîna wîya keyapic metoni nisohtam tansi ka isipikiskweht ôma wîya pikiskwewin. Wiya kociw kawê Nehiyawewin kapetaht pimâtisiwin ohci pekiskwewin êta wikihk mîna kiskinohamowaht kotakak tanisîsi ka isipikiskwehk ôma pikiskwewin. Dorothy wikiw êta Kaskew mîna atoskew peyakwan ôtitwestamakew.

Aboriginal Languages Month MARCH

Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

LET’S TALK ABOUT YOUR WORK.

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We are looking at things like:

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- Hours of work
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- Or call 1-877-427-3731 to order a paper copy of the Discussion Guide and Survey

Deadline for feedback is April 11, 2014.



Lawrence Jackson, Charles Oudzi, John Tobac, Natanda Oudzi, instructors Adam Bathe and Geneviève Côté, Daniel Masuzumi and Louise Yukon get ready to head out to Tets'ehxe (Drum Lake) for environmental monitoring training.

Environment Monitoring



Students follow caribou tracks on Drum Lake in the search for caribou scat over the weekend.



Student John Tobac and instructor Genevieve Côté collect caribou scat samples on Drum Lake.

Photos courtesy of SRRB

Sahtu races to create monitoring plan for coming boom

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
As government scrambles to bring infrastructure and employment training to the Sahtu in preparation for a coming economic boom, people on the ground are also racing to put in place an environmental monitoring plan for the region to keep industry in check.
Training began last weekend near Drum Lake, where 12 students are spending the next two weeks working towards becoming certified environmental monitors through a program designed to combine Aboriginal traditional knowledge and Western science.
“The main purpose of that course is to support Aboriginal involvement in the monitoring activities that will be more and more required as

exploration and development expands,” said Deborah Simmons, executive director of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB).
The regional course is the result of a partnership between the board, the GNWT and Aurora College, and includes students from four of the five Sahtu communities.
It’s one of the many steps people in the Central Mackenzie are taking to ready themselves for the advent of an oil and gas rush if ongoing exploratory efforts pan out, and according to Simmons, there is no time like the present.
“It’s a really important initiative because we have been told by everyone - the communities, industry, government - that there really needs to be a stronger capacity in

monitoring in the region,” she said.
Recent speakers series ‘empowering’
Simmons said people in the Sahtu are desperate for more information on the potential impacts of not only hydraulic fracturing, but the possible cumulative effects of high-paced industrial growth on the land and wildlife that people in the small Aboriginal communities rely on.
Recently, the SRRB hosted leaders from the Fort Nelson First Nation in BC, who shared their experiences living in the midst of massive fracking operations and encouraged people in the Sahtu to get a headstart on developing and owning monitoring programs for the region.

Simmons said the presentation by Fort Nelson Chief Sharleen Gale and lands manager Lana Lowe highlighted the opportunities people in the Sahtu have to get involved and have a say in the process, based on the framework that exists with the Aboriginal governments and co-management boards.
“We were feeling very fortunate in many ways after that conversation with the Fort Nelson First Nation visitors,” Simmons said. “People were provoked to take on their role as decision makers, to take more responsibility for research and monitoring, because they were very much taking note of the message from the Fort Nelson First Nation chief and lands manager...that they not just sit back and watch things happen,

but they take ownership of their responsibilities in monitoring and in addressing impacts.”
Need for cohesive plan
While empowering in some ways, Simmons said the Fort Nelson presentation also brought to light a lack of preparedness in the Sahtu for assessing cumulative impacts.
“We’re moving into a new zone and trying to envision how that would happen and what that would look like,” she said.
Simmons hopes that gap will be filled partly by the newly trained monitors, but acknowledged that the region as a whole will have to work together on a coordinated monitoring plan, currently in its initial stages.

A new Sahtu Renewable Research and Monitoring Forum was recently established, including representatives from each community’s renewable resources council, youth, government, industry and the SRRB.
Apart from holding responsibility for establishing baseline water and wildlife conditions in the Sahtu shale oil play, the forum is also working on best practices and system cohesion.
“They’ve already met and developed a terms of reference and started to develop their vision for priority research and monitoring in the region, and I expect that they’re going to be strongly involved in the development of various guidelines and framework documents,” Simmons said.

Politics Energy

Fracking petitions tabled in legislature

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Close to 1,000 NWT residents made their dissent official last week with the tabling of two petitions expressing concern about hydraulic fracturing in the legislature, with both calling for more public say on the controversial oil and gas drilling process.
An online petition by Fracking Action North that called for guaranteed environmental assessments for all future fracking projects was signed by 790 people in at least 24 communities over the last month, while a second petition tabled last week showed around 120 residents of the Sahtu communities asking for a regional

vote on whether or not fracking should be allowed in the Central Mackenzie.
Both were tabled in the house last Wednesday by Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley and Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya.
Bromley said the petitions show without a doubt that people in the NWT are concerned about fracking and want a public hearing process for future applications, unlike the territory’s sole exploratory fracking project, which advanced to the permitting phase without an environmental assessment.
“The decision to allow fracking in the NWT without an environmental assessment

has created tension in the Sahtu and across the Northwest Territories,” he said. “Under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, every agency of this government had the authority to refer fracking applications for environmental assessment, yet fracking has already begun in the Sahtu without an environmental assessment.”
He said recent incidents at the ConocoPhillips fracking site, including wastewater truck rollovers, freshwater containment pond leaks and worker injuries are red flags that the land, water and people are being exposed to risks of serious damage.

“People are concerned and they have every right to be. Many people are talking about a moratorium on fracking, but at a very minimum we need to do environmental assessments on these projects to respond to people’s concerns,” he said.
Yakeleya asked Premier Bob McLeod what the “tipping point” is for outside influence on what goes on in the Sahtu, taking into consideration the area’s finished land claim and established local organizations with authorities to manage land use in the region.
The premier responded that the intergovernmental council set up with Aboriginal

governments through the devolution agreement will allow those issues to be addressed.
“I think that we will continue to work with the Sahtu leadership to try to work with what the people in the region want to see happen. I think that’s the way we will approach and that’s the way the land claims have been negotiated and settled on a regional basis,” McLeod said.
Lois Little, co-chair of the Council of Canadians and a member of Fracking Action North, said she was glad to see the petition shine a light on best practices for co-operative decision making on fracking in the territory.

“At the moment, the environmental assessment process is the best tool we have for making sure that the impacts of fracking are known, managed and mitigated, and if they can’t be, the project shouldn’t be approved,” she said.
“So from that perspective, we are very gratified to see the overwhelming response to the e-petition calling for the GNWT to call for an EA of future fracking project applications. I don’t recall any e-petition receiving this level of support from such a diverse and territory-wide population. This is a powerful message to the GNWT. They need to heed it.”

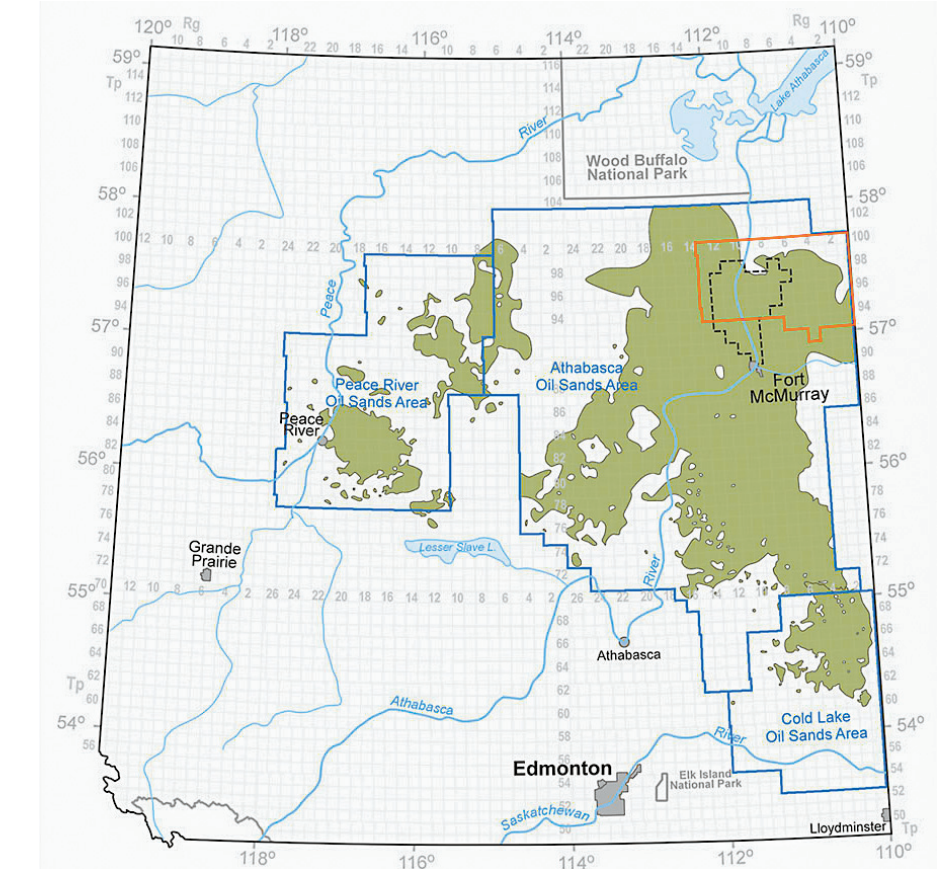
Alberta regulator halts steam-assisted oilsands mining

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) quietly put the freeze on steam-assisted bitumen mining projects in the Fort McMurray region in January due to concerns about impacts on caprock integrity.

In a bulletin issued to industry on Jan. 28, 2014, AER's vice president of operations Kirk Bailey said steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) projects would be suspended until the completion of a "thorough technical review" to determine the factors affecting reservoir containment, and that decisions on applications for thermal oilsands projects would be deferred until formal regulatory requirements are developed.

"The AER is satisfied that deferring decisions on applications under these circumstances supports safe and responsible development at these projects and will ensure the consistency of regulatory decisions until new fully consulted and



The Alberta Energy Regulator is doing a technical review of SAGD projects north of Fort McMurray (the region within the dotted line).

technically supported requirements are in place," states the bulletin.

Five companies have been affected by the freeze, which is limited to the shallow - 100 to

150 metres deep - thermal area of the Wabiskaw-McMurray deposit directly north of Fort McMurray.

According to AER spokesperson Tracie Moore, the study into reservoir containment is part of the regulator's ongoing assessments to ensure requirement appropriately mitigate risks of development, and has been a priority for many years.

SAGD is a type of in situ oilsands production that pumps steam at high pressures underground to heat the bitumen so that it can be pumped to surface.

Currently, the AER assesses reservoir containment by measuring caprock integrity and determining the maximum pressure at which steam can be pumped underground.

Caprock integrity is established, in part, by acquiring 3-D seismic data of the entire development area. Maximum pressure is calculated using a set formula.

"A caprock must have sufficient thickness and

The AER believes that the risk of steam and reservoir fluids being released at surface is greater if reservoir containment is compromised due to the shallow nature of the resource.

Tracie Moore
Alberta Energy Regulator

competency and be continuous across the project area to contain steam and heated reservoir fluids," states the bulletin.

Moore said the shallow area has been specifically chosen as a test area.

"The AER believes that the risk of steam and reservoir fluids being released at surface is greater if reservoir containment is compromised due to the shallow nature of the resource," she said.

Moore expects the technical review to take months.

"The AER has not yet established a release date for the technical regulatory review of in situ reservoir containment," she said. "Publishing formal requirements is a complex technical issue and we are committed to giving stakeholders a thorough opportunity to provide input."

Once the shallow thermal area has been reviewed, the AER intends to review the "deeper area," Moore said.

The suspension does not impact Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.'s (CNRL's) steam in situ operations near Cold Lake, where bitumen has been leaking inexplicably and unstoppably to the surface at several sites for nearly a year.

"The current regulatory focus in the Cold Lake area is to investigate the root cause of the CNRL Primrose incident and to use what is learned through the investigation to ensure reservoir containment is maintained at cyclic steam

simulation (CSS) operations," Moore said.

Caprock integrity research also underway

A second project by the AER along with the Alberta Geological Survey is doing geological mapping of a larger pilot area overlapping the shallow thermal area in northeastern Alberta to measure caprock integrity.

Started in 2009 by AER's predecessor, the Energy Resources Conservation Board, the work intends to get a better understanding of the geological factors affecting the quality of caprock seals above bitumen resources.

The Oil Sands Caprock Integrity Project (OSCRIP) works in collaboration with the technical review of reservoir containment, but is specifically aimed at geological mapping and the characterization of geology above and below bitumen reservoirs.

While an incident review database was supposed to be established for in situ projects through OSCRIP, Moore said that has now changed.

"After an initial review of incidences related to thermal in situ oilsands, we found that there was insufficient data to create a database as was initially planned as part of the Oil Sands Caprock Integrity Project. The AER now publishes all incidents on its Incident Reporting tool, on the AER website."

She said new technical reports from OSCRIP will be posted online soon, but did not give a date.

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Georgina Biscaye
Chipewyan/Déne Sųłıne

The late Georgina Biscaye was from Fort Resolution. She learned to speak Déne Sųłıne as a child. She believed it is important to pass on the language to others and showed that even just one person can make a difference in our efforts to keep our languages alive and thriving.

Georgina Biscaye ne Deninu Kų́e ts'ı́ ʔat'ı́. Sekui helı́ kú beyatı́ hureldén. Déne yatı́ bet'ádatı́-u, déne beyatı́ t'á daltı́ honeltén bet'óréʔa ʔat'e yı́dhén-u, ʔı́łágh déne hulı́ ʔeduréldzá t'á nuweyatı́ bek'ılını-u, deʔáɾı́tsér ʔane xa nı́thén ní.

Aboriginal Languages Month
MARCH

Northwest Territories
Education, Culture and Employment

Shawn Tourangeau and Kale Wyse, high school students at Paul William Kaeser in Fort Smith, fillet fish during their winter culture camp last week.

Photo: Hilary Turko

Regulator denies oil drilling start-up at site of leaks

By MARIA CHURCH

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has rejected a request from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) to resume its oil production operation near Cold Lake where bitumen has been leaking continuously for nearly a year.

CNRL applied to the AER in December to start low-pressure in situ operations on its Primrose site located near Cold Lake in northwestern Alberta, despite leaks that have been oozing in the area since May of last year with no end in sight.

“The AER determined that it was premature to approve this application in light of the ongoing investigation into the leaks at Primrose,” AER spokesperson Bob Curran told *The Journal* in an email.

CNRL chose to withdraw its application after hearing from the AER that its application would be denied, Curran said.

The Calgary-based oil company filed another application in February to begin high-pressure steam-assisted operations at its Primrose South site, which lies outside of the AER determined “restricted zone,” but in



Photo courtesy of Cold Lake First Nations

CNRL was told it would be denied an application to restart in situ drilling at lower pressure at its Primrose site where bitumen has been leaking continuously since last May.

some cases comes as close as 500 metres from the fissures. That application is currently under review by the regulator.

Environmental groups are calling on the regulator to deny the second application until more is known about the cause of the seepage and what the solutions might be.

“To me, a company that is responsible for four ongoing

spills - and they are still ongoing and no causes have yet been identified - the very prudent approach is to not allow more steam into this already heavily inundated and disastrous region,” Greenpeace campaigner Mike Hudema said.

The AER has not released a timeline for its investigation into the ongoing Primrose bitumen leaks, which were discovered

last summer and have since released millions of litres of bitumen to the surface.

The regulator ordered CNRL to contain the leak and clean up the area last fall, which included draining a lake and placing a berm around the fissure sites.

According to an email from the company last week, seepage from the fissures has slowed to an almost

“imperceptible rate,” amounting to less than a cubic metre from all sites a month, and water will be returned to the lake that was drained by spring.

CNRL claimed last fall that the Primrose leaks were the result of wellbore failures, but has since announced it will be conducting more extensive investigations before resubmitting its application to drill within the restricted zone.

“The objectives of the plan are to locate and delineate the flow path from its sources in the Clearwater (rock layer), and identify the root cause,” CNRL spokesperson, Zoe Addington, said in an email to *The Journal*.

Independent scientists and critics have suggested that the leaks are the result of weakened caprock integrity in the region, due to the overuse of high pressurized steam underground.

AER put a freeze on new steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) oilsands development near Fort McMurray in January until it completes a “thorough technical review” of the factors affecting reservoir

containment. That investigation does not, however, apply to CNRL’s operations.

Information gap unacceptable

Hudema said the lack of public and government knowledge about in situ technology is unacceptable, adding that CNRL’s leaks are just one example of the dangers of accepting industry’s assertions.

“The fact that we don’t know what is causing these spills, that we don’t know how to stop these spills once they’ve started and that we just have to keep letting them gush, for now over nine months and probably much longer than that, shows just how wide that information gap is,” he said.

Greenpeace, along with more than 20 other social justice and environmental groups, is calling for the government to launch an independent safety review of in situ technology to ask questions about safety limits.

“Until we have those (answers), we shouldn’t be approving new projects and we should be slowing down existing ones,” he said.

Enbridge completes leak detection digs on Norman Wells pipeline

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Like a carnival game of “Whack a Mole” spread over nearly 900 km of Northern wilderness, finding and stopping leaks in the Norman Wells to Zama pipeline has challenged Enbridge for the past three winters.

Since a hunter discovered a leak in May 2011 that spilled an estimated 1,600 barrels of oil near Wrigley at kilometre 380.4, Enbridge crews have excavated the company’s Line 21 at 85 different points.

Graham White, manager of business communications for Enbridge, said “the company is confident it has utilized the best technology available to detect and characterize any pipeline anomalies, and is satisfied that no additional digs are required at this time.”

Searchers found four places where soil was contaminated with petroleum and one active pinhole leak, which will delay a report on the line’s problems by the National Energy Board (NEB) until later this year or sometime in 2015.

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the

pipeline that has all but emptied Imperial’s Norman Wells field, and will be called on to deliver oil from the Canol shale play in the Sahtu, if it proves to be commercially viable.

Kirby Jang, a spokesman for the NEB, said in an email that the board “will be starting our report writing task shortly.”

The draft report will then undergo a number of reviews (both internal and external) and adjustments, as required.

“As this is an ongoing investigation, we are not able to provide details on the analysis at this time,” Jang wrote in response to question about what might have caused the line to leak.

White wouldn’t reveal the cost of the search, though Enbridge spent more than \$1 billion to clean up a spill in 2010 near Marshall, Michigan – the largest spill in US history – and was fined \$3.7 million by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

United States investigators were highly critical of the company’s safety practices

and response to spill hazards, and White said the damning reports prompted major changes in the operating culture at Enbridge.

“We have learned a great deal from our recent past events,” White wrote in a reply to emailed questions.

“We have prepared a fairly comprehensive list of lessons learned and the quantifiable actions we are taking and have taken to emerge as a better company, with a pipeline system of very high integrity.”

Among the innovations White described are “overlapping leak detection methods (pressure changes and volume inconsistencies, for example), along with our public awareness program, to detect the presence of leaks within the system.”

Enbridge introduced “integrity digs” to the Norman Wells pipeline, as “an ongoing feature of our overall pipeline integrity program and commitment to the safety and security of those lines, especially in identified sensitive environments,” White said.

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Phillip Constant
South Slavey

Phillip Constant speaks South Slavey on the Fort Providence radio station every day. He goes out to visit with Elders, interviews them and transcribes their stories from the South Slavey language to English.

Dzene taonét'e á Philip Constant, Zhahtı Kópé gogha mek'eh gondı ets'udéhtth'q k'eh dehgáh got'ıné zhatie t'áh gondeh. Gondie náhtsj gha chu ʔqhndah góts'otleh, gots'eh móóla k'éé nazhedetl'éh t'áh ʔat'ı.

Aboriginal Languages Month
MARCH

Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

Scientists map seafloor for future offshore drilling

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Canadian researchers, in partnership with scientists from the USA and Korea, are busy laying the groundwork for exploratory offshore drilling in the Beaufort Sea.

More than 100 scientists, technicians and crew members took part in a Canada-Korea-USA Arctic research expedition in September, whose preliminary findings were presented to a crowd of more than 30 at Aurora College in Inuvik last Wednesday.

Their main goal: to ensure offshore drilling happens in a safe and responsible way.

“Our main focus, really, is to provide the baseline geoscience information for this very likely deepwater drilling exercise that’s going to go ahead,” said Michelle Côté, a research scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada. “That’s the larger picture.”

Côté said the expedition’s goal is to provide researchers, regulators, local communities and governments with the best information possible, adding that industry will likely drill its first-ever deepwater wells in seven to 10 years.

Last fall’s research was conducted on two icebreakers, Korea’s Araon and Canada’s Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by researchers with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) of California,



More than 30 Inuvik residents attend the presentation by the Geological Survey of Canada at Aurora College, where Michelle Côté shares findings of last year’s Beaufort Sea research.

the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI).

The Geological Survey of Canada, which is part of Natural Resources Canada, is the Canadian science lead. Its goal was to undertake fundamental geoscience studies, assess active geologic processes and assess marine geohazards.

“Geohazards need to be investigated and analyzed before drilling can happen,” Côté said.

MBARI’s main focus area was seafloor habitat, while DFO focused on oceanography and KOPRI focused on oceanography and paleo-oceanography, the study of the history of the oceans.

“It’s quite a dynamic and interesting environment,”

Côté said of the outer Beaufort Sea shelf and slope.

The group’s five main tasks while in the Beaufort Sea were to conduct coring operations, free-fall cone penetration measurements, heat flow measurements and to explore the seafloor with a remotely operated underwater vehicle and autonomous underwater vehicle.

Despite a sea ice cover that was at an unexpected 20-year high, the team walked away with troves of data and samples to be analyzed.

“There’s a lot of very interesting new science,” Côté said, including the discovery of glacial striations, which indicate that glaciers were once present in the area.

“It’s just in an area that nobody expected to find glacial deposits,” she said of the surprising finding.

The expedition team collected pictures and videos of the seafloor, as well as geophysical imaging to map subsurface geology, permafrost and gas hydrate occurrence.

They now have more information relating to the stability and bearing capacity of the seafloor, which can be used by engineers when building large structures like offshore drills.

They also documented sediment deformation and marine slides on the shelf edge and in the upper slope, and collected new information on the distribution of marine permafrost.

Côté said details for the next joint Arctic research expedition will likely be in place by May, as they hope to head out again in September.

It’s difficult to set long-term research goals when funding fluctuates so much, she added, but eventually they would like to cover a wider area of the Beaufort Sea.

“It’s basically little postage stamps of the areas that we’ve investigated in this very vast ocean,” she said.

In addition, Côté said they would like to do repeat surveys to see how the sea floor and shelf changes over time.

Additional funding for the program was provided by the Program of Energy Research and Development, a federal program run by Natural Resources Canada.

Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

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Industry Power

Power Corp. seeks rate hike to offset diesel costs

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Northwest Territories Power Corp. (NTPC) has requested permission to add a fuel rider of one cent per kilowatt hour to consumers’ bills across the territory in order to counter the effects of rising diesel costs, it announced last week.

NTPC made the application to the Public Utilities Board (PUB), claiming the current power rates do not accurately reflect the cost of diesel, now eight times higher than when the Power Corp. last set its rate.

According to NTPC spokesperson Pam Coulter, that rider will apply across the board, regardless of whether or not people live in hydro-powered or thermal,

diesel-powered communities.

“The rate rider is territory-wide and no, the rider is for one cent per kWh in all communities,” she said in an email. “As part of the GNWT’s review on power rates, regulation and subsidies in 2010/11, it was decided to eliminate community based rates and create rate zones. As part of this process, NTPC was also directed to create a single, territory-wide fuel stabilization fund. Having a larger, territory-wide stabilization fund means that riders are less frequent and smaller.”

All funds collected from the rider will go directly into the fuel stabilization fund, now sitting at a deficit of \$2.5 million. The fund covers the

extra cost in fuel and does not go towards any other NTPC expenses.

Wholesale power sales to Hay River, distributed by Northland Utilities, are the exception, as they generate their own diesel backup and recover their own fuel-related costs through a separate billing process.

The application is now under review by the PUB. If approved, the new rates will take effect across the territory on Apr. 1, 2014. The average residential impact will be between \$2 and \$8 per month, according to NTPC.

Apr. 1 is also the start date for the third of four scheduled rate increases, which will see rates rise by 5.6 per cent.

Military finished cleaning up DEW Line stations

Former DEW Liner reflects on time in the coldest part of Cold War

By MARIA CHURCH

The federal government says it is finished cleaning up 21 Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line stations in Canada's Arctic, the largest environmental remediation project taken on by the government to date.

Tony Clement, president of the Treasury Board, was in Yellowknife last week to make the announcement and touted the project as Canada's most extensive environmental victory.

"The completion of this project will be the largest remediation project, in terms of scale and cost, ever undertaken by the government of Canada," he said.

Costing a total of \$575 million over 25 years, the project involved removal of contaminated soil and debris from the decommissioned radar stations that were built by the US in the 1950s as a warning system for Cold War enemy aircraft.

Extending from Alaska to Iceland, the DEW Line was



Photo: Brian Jeffrey

Former DEW Liner Brian Jeffrey visits one of the decommissioned radar sites where he spent three years in the 1960s.

historically made up of 63 radar sites and, of those, 42 were located on Canadian soil. In the 1960s, the department of National Defence (DND) took over half of the sites and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada decommissioned

and took on responsibility for the other half.

DND replaced its radar sites with the North Warning System in the late 1980s and launched the DEW Line cleanup project through contracts with Inuit and Inuvialuit construction companies.

Four of the 21 DEW Line sites still require some work to remove temporary structures used during the cleanup. A 25-year monitoring project is planned to keep tabs on the former sites.

Stories from a former DEW Liner

Former DEW Liner Brian Jeffrey was a member of the team manning radar sites from 1960 to 1963 and told *The Journal* he recalls the mentality at the time was not about reducing waste.

"When we were up there, we created all this garbage, I know that, but we gave no thought to it at all, but then nor did the rest of the world," he said. "It was a lifestyle thing, we didn't know. Now we all take much better care of our garbage."

Twenty years old at the time and trained in electronics, Jeffrey got the job on the DEW Line site through a newspaper advertisement and was the youngest operator to be sent up.

The salary was great, but it was an introvert's heaven, he said. Connecting with locals was an important part of keeping social and sane.

"Inuit that worked on the site were generally heavy equipment operators, welders, mechanics. All were extremely competent...incredible workers," Jeffrey said.

For some of the Inuit families, the DEW Line workers were their first interaction with southerners and the "outside world."

Jeffrey only worked on the DEW Line for three of his 72 years, but he said he will never forget the experience, or his encounter with a girl named Emily Nakoolak.

"Emily is a charming little lady and I had the opportunity to meet her and her parents several times across the Line. The Inuit would move from station to station as well," Jeffrey said.

Only a young child, Emily had got her finger caught in a door as it closed and her parents brought her to Jeffrey as

the resident first responder. Just before he was able to give Emily a shot of penicillin, an RCMP officer burst into the building and took over the operation.

"These guys are trained in first aid far beyond what I was, so he actually gave Emily the injection, which probably caused her a lot less pain than if I had done it," he said. Jeffrey learned later in life that Emily had died, but he was able to share a picture of her with the family.

Jeffrey, now living in Ottawa, had a chance to return to the DEW Line sites in 2012 and took many photographs during his stroll down memory lane. He said he hopes at least some of the sites are preserved to keep the heritage alive.

The former DEW Liner has shared his story of "adventures from the Coldest Part of the Cold War" in a blog called DEW Line Adventures, found at <http://www.dewlineadventures.com/>

Industry Mining

Minister wants UK mining companies in the NWT

Survey forecasts low mining investment for territory in 2014



Photo: Dave Brosha

Mining investment in the NWT is expected to take another hit this year with increasing global investor insecurity.

By MARIA CHURCH

The GNWT is hoping mining investors from the United Kingdom are part of the solution to reenergizing the territory's bleak mineral investment projections.

Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay was in London last weekend attending a conference with industry and politicians to discuss the challenges of mining in the High Arctic.

Ramsay was invited to give a presentation and answer questions on behalf of the territory's mining industry. The minister used the opportunity to tout the NWT's new mineral strategy and promote the territory's mining investment opportunities.

"We're certainly one of the leading jurisdictions when it comes to sheer resource potential...We need to attract more investment to the territory," Ramsay told *The Journal* last Thursday.

Survey predicts low investment

The NWT is in competition with other Arctic countries to attract investment, particularly in mineral exploration, which experts say has been on the decline since 2008 because of growing global market instability.

A recent survey released by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) forecasts continued low investment in all three territories this year.

The survey predicts total mineral investment in the

NWT in 2014 will reach a meager \$71.5 million, down from \$90 million in 2013 and \$108.7 in 2012.

"These continue to be challenging times in the global marketplace for the exploration and mining industry, and we are seeing even lower spending intentions than NRCan projected last fall," Brooke Clements, president of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, said in a press release last week.

Despite the low numbers, Clements said the Chamber is optimistic that spending will increase over the year with the federal and territorial governments promising regulatory improvements, infrastructure planning, geoscience investment, training development, active marketing and tax incentives.

Last fall, the GNWT unveiled its mineral strategy, which aims to capitalize on the territory's mining potential, including gold, diamonds, copper, lead, zinc and tungsten.

"We've got this glorious wealth of resources and we need to find a way to attract that investment," Ramsay said.

The implementation plan for the mining strategy is expected to be out by the end of March and with devolution taking effect Apr. 1, giving power over resource

development to the territorial government, it's perfect timing for the GNWT to be coaxing investment from

companies abroad, Ramsay said.

The minister added he will be looking at organizing a

UK business delegation visit to the NWT for potential investors to see the territory's mining potential first hand.



2014 EXTENDED STAY CAMPSITE DRAW

Prelude Lake and Reid Lake Territorial Campgrounds

The ballot draw will take place Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 1:30 pm at École St. Patrick High School Gym. Doors open at noon for registration and completion of ballots.

New this year: GST will be charged on campsite permits.

Reminder: camper trailer registration will be required to get a ballot.

Prelude Lake
20 permits available May 15 to July 15 \$525 each including GST
20 permits available July 16 to September 15 \$525 each including GST

Reid Lake
20 permits available May 15 to July 15 \$525 each including GST
20 permits available July 16 to September 15 \$525 each including GST
10 permits available May 15 to September 15 \$1,050 each including GST

For more information on the Extended Stay Campsite Draw and details regarding eligibility and payment processes, visit www.nwtparks.ca.

Reminder! The Parks Reservations System will open April 15.
Book your site at www.nwtparks.ca





Jazmyne Firth, 6, and her cousin Gracelynn Firth, 10, win for most creative snowman. "I just thought of a snowman and I put my neck warmer around it," Gracelynn said.

Sports & Recreation Snow Day

Inuvik celebrates warmer days with snow fun

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON
More than 50 people attended a day of fun and games in the snow last Saturday in Inuvik. The event, organized by the Inuvik Youth Centre, was hosted at the Inuvik

Ski Club trails from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Community members hit the slopes for a day of sliding, snowman building, s'mores and hot chocolate while temperatures rose into the negative single digits.



Ethan Francey, 8, practices popping wheelies on the Inuvik Ski Club's sliding hill.



Kaleigh Greenland, 12, takes some time from sledding to play in the snow. Greenland attended the event with her nephews Aiden Baldwin and Tristan Greenland.



Brayden John, left, Kirt Ruben, Jordanna Ruben, Amber Jensen, Cherith Ross, Felicia Elanik, front, Mackenzie Cockney, Jazmyne Firth, Ashiyah Ross and Gracelynn Firth all take home prizes in the snowman contest last Saturday.



Shinita Rogers and Amber Jensen, both 8, hit the slopes of the Inuvik Ski Club on Saturday for some sledding.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison



Jocelyn Bourke, left, and Jennel Emile enjoy some frozen maple syrup on a stick at the Sugar Shack hosted by the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre on Friday afternoon, which was declared a civic holiday by the Town of Fort Smith.



Peppie Beaulieu of Fort Resolution wins first place in the Mad Trapper contest with a pack of freshly skinned muskrat hides.

Arts & Culture Winter Festivals

Northern spirit celebrated at Wood Buffalo Frolics

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Folks from across the South Slave and northern Alberta flocked to Fort Smith over the weekend for the annual winter festival, Wood Buffalo Frolics. Families made the trip from Hay River, Fort Resolution, Fort Chipewyan and across the North to take part in the festivities, which included everything from the traditional Northern events to outdoor winter fun. The weekend kicked off with a kids' carnival and community feast, including indoor Northern games on Friday night. Saturday and Sunday followed with the highly

anticipated Northern events competition, which saw teams compete in everything from tea boiling to wood cutting and trap setting. Saturday evening drew a sold-out crowd to the Roaring Rapids Hall for the annual Mad Trappers' Ball and Talent Show where people from across the North competed in jigging, singing, jiving and for the coveted title of Mad Trapper. The weekend also featured a fun three-on-three hockey tournament, hosted by Woods Homes at the Trailcross rink. Adult and junior teams both competed for bragging rights and enjoyed the warm temperatures out on the ice.



Robert Grandjambe Jr. wins the tea boiling contest during the outdoor Northern events portion of the weekend.



Olga Aviugana from Hay River takes third place in the jigging contest Saturday night at the Mad Trappers' Ball.



The ladies' Goal Diggers team and the team from Trailcross enjoy some friendly competition during the three-on-three pond hockey tournament held over the weekend.



Julia Gibot of Fort Chipewyan sings during the talent show at the Mad Trappers' Ball on Saturday night at the Roaring Rapids Hall.

Photos: Meagan Wohlberg & Paul Bannister

NWT job market feels growing pains, inside and out

New recruitment strategy targets locals while looking to grow population

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With a lack of skilled local labour and the challenge of competing with southern jurisdictions to fill similar jobs, the territorial government has no easy task ahead of itself in filling its current vacancies while it struggles to both find jobs for Northerners and draw in 2,000 new residents over the next five years.

The department of Human Resources, already tasked with helping departments across the board to staff approximately 571 hard-to-fill positions throughout the territory, now has the added responsibility of aiding in the recruitment of hundreds of newcomers to the NWT.

It's a task that's both a solution and a challenge, and one that has to be balanced with the government's concurrent priority to provide employment opportunities to its own residents, says deputy minister Sheila Bassi-Kellett.

"It's a balancing act; it's not an either/or situation," she told *The Journal*.

"There is not a one-size-fits-all approach (to recruitment), because clearly we're trying to reconcile a really strong interest in making sure there are opportunities for Northerners" along with the new growth strategy, she said.

"To me, these are not necessarily competing against each other. They're concurrent priorities because we've got to do both. There's never a time when we could say we're fine, we've got the labour force here, we won't even bother with people applying from outside."

Local recruitment

While new efforts are being taken to pitch the GNWT as an attractive



Human Resources staff advertise jobs with the GNWT at the 2013 Winterlude fair in Ottawa.

employer to the rest of Canada with a new careers website and stops at job fairs, Bassi-Kellett says just as much is going on within the territory to match up residents with available jobs in their educational range and

provide on-the-job training to boost people into permanent placement.

Right now, about 75 per cent of GNWT jobs require some form of postsecondary education, from a college diploma to a graduate degree.

Of the other quarter, about 23 per cent require a Grade 12 education while the remainder expect people to demonstrate basic literacy.

Around 55 per cent of positions presently being actively staffed are in Yellowknife and

The best long-term investment we can make is really encouraging Northerners to complete high school, consider postsecondary, just look at those opportunities.

Sheila Bassi-Kellett
Deputy Minister of Human Resources

the rest are scattered across the other 32 communities.

Last fall, a regional recruitment strategy was launched to match up job seekers with available positions in their own communities by meeting people at their level and promising additional professional development along the way.

"If there is a job opening, a vacant job that we have in the community, where typically the knowledge, skills and abilities you need to do the job is high school, then we want to match it with someone who's in the community," Bassi-Kellett said.

After one year of training on the job, those people are generally made permanent hires.

"It works out really well because it's increasing employment opportunities, it's supporting someone to be successful, and then it's someone who's living in the community, so housing isn't an issue, because that's another dilemma for us."

Besides the new efforts at regional recruitment, she said Northerners continue to benefit from affirmative action hiring policies in the NWT.

The most recent report on employee distribution from 2012 shows 32 per cent of GNWT positions are filled by "Priority 1" (Aboriginal, indigenous) hires, 13 per cent are indigenous, non-Aboriginal "Priority 2" hires and the remaining 55 per cent are staffed by those who don't identify or aren't priority.

Attracting students and graduates

As part of its growth strategy, Human Resources is focusing in on the postsecondary students - Northern or otherwise - that are currently joining the job market south of 60 instead of returning or venturing North.

"We know we have a lot of students going out for postsecondary education, so what do we do to attract them back and make the public service

something that looks more glamorous? We find we attract some of our own back for summer employment or internships, but it seems like there's a higher turnover rate in our younger staff," Bassi-Kellett said.

The department is hoping that its internship programs, improved last week through extensions to the internship periods, along with co-op partnerships with universities, will be the hooks needed to snag graduates before they get caught in the southward brain drain.

"That's a means of attracting students to come and have a grand adventure, come North and do some cool stuff, and hopefully lure those students back once they've graduated because they've come here, have the experience, have a work history here," Bassi-Kellett said.

Training remains tough challenge

Solutions to address limited housing and costs of living are underway in the NWT, which could see more outside employees make their way North, but Bassi-Kellett said the long-term solution for filling labour needs is to build a stronger local workforce.

"The best long-term investment we can make is really encouraging Northerners to complete high school, consider postsecondary, just look at those opportunities," she said.

That's why HR has partnered with Education to move into middle schools and high schools in order to promote the opportunities available to students in the GNWT, from wildlife biologists to social workers.

"That's not a short-term thing. To be blunt, our regional recruitment strategy is supposed to be a short-term, but the longer term is also continuing Northerners to really get education and good skills and have your pick of the cool opportunities that are here."



Number of vacant positions actively being staffed within GNWT



Percentage of GNWT job vacancies located in Yellowknife



Percentage of GNWT jobs requiring postsecondary education



Percentage of GNWT jobs currently filled by Northerners (priority hires)



Number of residents GNWT wants added to population within five years



Number of total vacant positions, some of which aren't being actively staffed

Yellowknife man petitions for early NWT election

Petition wants MLA terms shortened in protest of Monday's vote

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A Yellowknife resident is petitioning territorial MLAs to reduce their term by a year in response to a motion passed by the Legislative Assembly last Monday asking for the ability to postpone the 2015 territorial election by up to a year.

The petition authored by Paul Falvo went online within hours of the decision by MLAs Monday afternoon to ask the federal government for the ability to extend their terms by up to one year, in order to evade complications that could arise by having the territorial, federal and NWT municipal elections all take place in October 2015.

Falvo's petition asks the current Legislative Assembly to amend its length of term by reducing it by one year rather than extending its four-year mandate to five years.

While he doesn't expect the petition to result in the requested change, he said the point of the document is to highlight concerns about the lack of public input that went into last Monday's debate and point out alternatives to the one-year



The request by MLAs to obtain the ability to lengthen their terms has caused great debate among NWT residents since the motion was introduced last Monday in the Legislature.

extension proposed by Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen.

"I'm very unhappy about that (motion)," Falvo told *The Journal*. "I think there were a number of ways they could have solved the problem. They picked one, but there are other better ways they could have solved it."

He said elections could be combined into one polling station as a way to save money and increase efficiency for voters, or take place a few months or weeks earlier. Instead, he feels the motion was undemocratic and perhaps an excuse for MLAs to stick around longer during the devolution transfer.

"It shows contempt for people because they're saying we're too dumb to figure out how elections work, or they want to be doing this work on devolution regardless of what the people say," Falvo said. "Regardless of the reason, I think it doesn't matter. Your mandate goes until a certain time."

Though the petition finally appeared on the Legislative Assembly's website last Monday evening, Falvo had intended it to be made public by Friday, allowing residents to have a say before the decision was made by MLAs.

"I would have preferred to have done it before they made their vote, but that's part of the problem here," he said. "They didn't give anybody any notice. There wasn't public consultation; it was just arbitrary, and I'm sure there had been discussions going on behind the scenes...They were surely talking to the feds or they wouldn't have been so confident putting this forward."

The motion passed with a vote of 11-7, with most regular MLAs objecting to the request and all of cabinet voting in favour. Several MLAs who spoke in favour of the motion said they wanted the authority to be able to amend the length of their terms, but would not necessarily be in favour of an extension.

Currently, the NWT is the only jurisdiction in Canada whose government does not have the powers to extend the terms of its elected representatives. The move from a four to five-year assembly is included in the NWT Devolution Act, which is currently awaiting royal assent, but would only apply to future assemblies.

Though the original motion asked for an election date of October 2016, that was amended before the vote based on concerns from constituents that flexibility could mean delaying the election by weeks or months rather than a full year.

It's that potential flexibility that Falvo said could also work in the other direction, resulting in an early election. He said he's not set on having an election take place exactly a year earlier, but wants to make a political point.

As of press time, the petition had over 230 signatures. People can sign the petition online until Apr. 14 at http://epetition.lant.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/2660

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Five women in the spotlight for Wise Women Awards

Women’s Parliament under consideration by GNWT

By MARIA CHURCH

Five women, one from every region in the NWT, are the latest in the territory to receive recognition for supporting their communities in ways that often go unnoticed.

Pamela Faith Gordon from the Beaufort Delta region, Harriet Geddes from the Dehcho, Karen Willy of the North Slave, Patricia Modeste from the Sahtu region and Sister Margaret Ann Beaudette from the South Slave were all given Wise Women awards in Yellowknife this month.

“It’s the work that’s done by caretakers, by volunteers and by women in general that often goes unnoticed in the community,” Lorraine Phaneuf, executive director of the Status of Women Council of the NWT, told *The Journal*.

“In this case, it’s five women and they’re all are very humble. Every one of



Left to right, Harriet Geddes, Pamela Faith Gordon, Patricia Modeste, Karen Willy and Sister Margaret (Maggie) Ann Beaudette receive their Wise Women awards.

them was shocked when they got the award even though everyone else knows they deserve them. It’s amazing that people don’t realize how much they do in the community,” she said.

To date, 103 women have received Wise Women designation in the territory.

Premier Bob McLeod, the minister responsible for women, was a guest speaker at the awards night to congratulate the latest award winners.

The event Saturday was followed by a celebration of urban, Aboriginal women in the evening that highlighted

traditional clothing and arts. Both events marked International Women’s Day.

Women’s Parliament proposed

At the council’s bi-annual board meeting with McLeod in early March, the premier’s proposal to

develop a Women’s Parliament caused a stir of excitement from those in attendance.

“I am pleased that the board is supportive of a proposed idea to hold a Women’s Parliament,” McLeod said in a recent press release.

Women’s Parliament would be modeled after the current Youth and Elders’ Parliaments that allow participants to shadow MLAs in the legislature to get an idea of what political life would entail.

While no date has been set to launch the Women’s Parliament, Phaneuf said she expects it will start up before the federal, territorial and municipal elections, currently all scheduled for 2015.

With the onslaught of elections next year, the Status for Women Council in the NWT plans to once again offer a campaign school for women looking

to learn more about running in an election or organizing a political campaign. Dates have not yet been set, but organizers are aiming to start them up soon.

Women in the NWT face many hurdles when it comes to running a political campaign, which can include isolation and lack of support or confidence, Phaneuf said.

“In the last (territorial) election we did have a fair number of women running, but only two got in,” she said. “There are challenges around getting people to vote for women. It’s just so complex.”

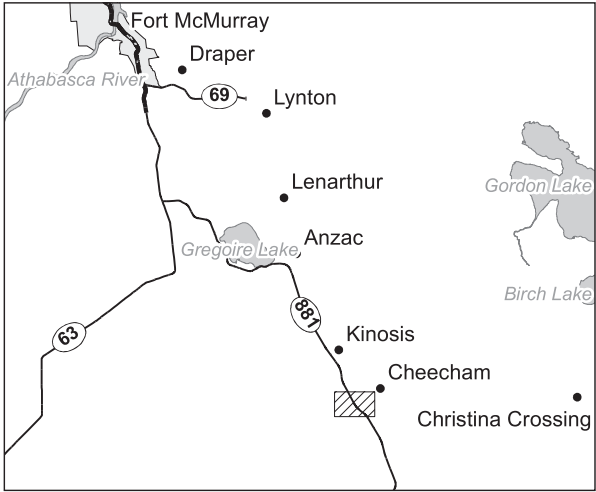
Phaneuf said the campaign school and a Women’s Parliament can both go a long way towards highlighting the importance and validity of women in office.

In June, the NWT will host a meeting of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the Status of Women.

Notification of AESO Regulatory Filing Addressing the Need for the New Meadow Creek 2081S Substation in the Fort McMurray Area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file a Needs Identification Document (NID) for the Meadow Creek 2081S substation with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after April 1, 2014.

ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) has requested system access service to supply a new industrial load in the Fort McMurray area. ATCO’s request can be addressed by developing a new 144/25 kV substation, to be called Meadow Creek 2081S, and a new 144 kV transmission line to connect the substation to the existing transmission system.



The marked area indicates the approximate area where the proposed transmission development is needed. In a separate application called a Facility Application, ATCO, the transmission facility owner (TFO) in the area, will describe the specific routes and sites for the proposed transmission development, and request AUC approval to construct and operate these transmission facilities. The specific substation sites and transmission line routes applied for by ATCO may extend beyond the area shown.

The AESO and ATCO presented this need to stakeholders, including residents, occupants and landowners, from November 2013 to April 2014. The AESO has considered feedback gathered from stakeholders, and technical and cost considerations, and will apply to the AUC for approval of the need for this transmission development. Once filed, the NID will be posted on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/29624.html>

Please visit our website, www.aeso.ca for more information, or contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aesocanada.com



Back row, left to right: Shania Desjarlais, Tianna Herman, Northland School Division Superintendent of Schools Donna Barrett and Alex Dashcavich. Front row, left to right: Renay Herman, Brian Burgin, Rachel Cheechum, Parker Flett and Hailey Bouchier.

First Nations Awards

Eight Northland students receive RARA awards

By MARIA CHURCH

Eight young students from the Northland School division were honoured at the 26th annual Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) for their positive contributions to life in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB).

The awards recognize

each of the students as Junior Achievers for their hard work in areas of school life like attendance, tradition and language, sports and community involvement.

The students were from Anzac Community School, Bill Woodward School in Anzac, Conklin Community School, Athabasca Delta Community School

in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay School and Father R. Perin School in Janvier.

Each year, RARA lauds select Aboriginal role models in RMWB who are making strides towards promoting their culture in the community.

This year’s awards were given out at the Quality Hotel in Gregoire.

New NWT Health approach targets social ills

Department shifting focus onto holistic wellness: deputy minister

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT department of Health and Social Services is shifting its focus away from top-down service delivery and onto addressing social determinants of health, like poverty, early childhood education and addiction prevention through solutions from the ground up, says deputy minister Debbie Delancey.

Facing pervasive statistics of poorer-than-average health and a recent scathing report on social services by the Auditor General, Delancey told *The Journal* that the department is now making fundamental changes to its approach to health delivery by aiming at supporting at-risk families, listening to communities and modernizing the system for more accountability and cost-effectiveness.

“I think in the past we’ve tended to think about facility-based programming... that can be designed at

factors like colonization, residential schools and rapid cultural change over the past 100 years, Delancey said.

“I think we see higher rates of mental health and addictions issues. Then you overlay that with the impact of changing lifestyles; you hear about the nutrition transition, people moving from healthy traditional foods to unhealthy processed foods, the role that physical activity plays in their daily lives - just a fundamental shift from living on the land to sedentary lifestyle,” she said.

“The challenge is finding effective ways to help people engage with healthy choices in a whole new way of life, a whole new cultural context, and finding ways to support those at-risk people, at-risk families, families with addiction issues and people for whom all these factors together have created some really serious issues.”

The challenge is finding effective ways to help people engage with healthy choices in a whole new way of life, a whole new cultural context, and finding ways to support those at-risk people.

Debbie Delancey
Deputy Minister of Health & Social Services

headquarters and rolled out across the territory,” she said.

When it became all-too-obvious that such an approach was ineffective, she said the department began gravitating towards leading edge best practices being recognized internationally.

“I think there was growing recognition that our system, for whatever reason, had failed to take into account in a conscious way that 50 per cent of the clients and the patients are Aboriginal and that there are different needs,” Delancey said.

“I really think the focus is on the social determinants of health...We really need to focus those on people in the communities who are at risk.”

Focus on Aboriginal health

The new approach comes from an understanding that the population health status of Aboriginal people in the NWT - 50 per cent of the population - is significantly worse than non-Aboriginal people, based largely on historical and ongoing external

Part of that has seen the development of a new Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness division within the department, which is setting up staff in each region to help communities facilitate their own wellness plans rather than take a one-sized-fits-all approach.

The department is also enacting three key action plans focused on early childhood development, mental health and addictions, and eradicating poverty.

One aspect of that planning includes new funding in this year’s budget for on-the-land healing programs - a direct outcome of last year’s Minister’s Forum on Addictions that heard firsthand from residents.

“(On-the-land healing) is an example of where we looked at primary care and a holistic approach to social determinants...in an NWT context,” Delancey said.

“If we can support at-risk families before kids need to be taken into care, if we can support them by finding families where the parents do have addictions

issues and dealing with that early on, I think that’s going to be our biggest chance of success.”

Identifying cost drivers

Along with the general paradigm shift to client-centered care, Delancey said the department is

also actively upgrading its information technology system to ensure all authorities are networked rather than working in isolation, and that duplications within the system are eliminated.

Efforts are underway to have finances reported

consistently across the board so that resources can be properly measured and cost drivers identified and reduced - key to balancing the department’s accumulated \$19-million deficit.

“We’re actually investing a fair amount of money in setting systems in place

and putting people on common systems,” Delancey said. “I think what we recognize is we have to invest some money if we’re going to attain efficiencies because right now, to a great extent, we’re guessing what the cost drivers are. We don’t know in some cases.”



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Public Notice

On April 1, 2014, administration and control of public lands and resources will be transferred from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to the Government of the Northwest Territories. This transfer includes the administration, control and management of onshore lands, waters, mines, minerals, and oil and gas in the NWT.

What does this mean to you?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada will maintain an office in Yellowknife that will:

- Advocate, advise and support Aboriginal organizations and First Nations through our new Governance & Partnerships Directorate
- Provide front line services to our clients: assistance with applications for Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards, applications for Indian status and information on the University and College Entrance Preparation Program
- Clean up contaminated sites through our Contaminated Sites Directorate and the Giant Mine Project Office
- Manage remaining Crown lands in the NWT (approximately 10% excluded from transfer due to other interests)

Learn more about the re-launch of the AANDC web site on April 1st by visiting www.aandc.gc.ca/nt

Visit the GNWT online at www.gov.nt.ca for information on devolving programs after April 1, 2014.

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<http://ntdevo.aandc.gc.ca>

PLEASE NOTE: In preparation for Devolution on April 1st, AANDC’s Land Administration and Mining Recorder’s Office will offer **reduced service on Friday, March 28th** and will **be closed on Monday, March 31st** in order to complete final preparations associated with Devolution of these programs. The offices will re-open on Tuesday, April 1st.

After April 1st AANDC will continue to be located at:

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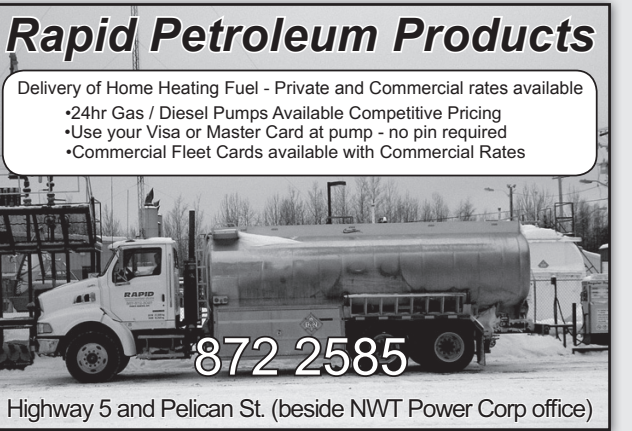


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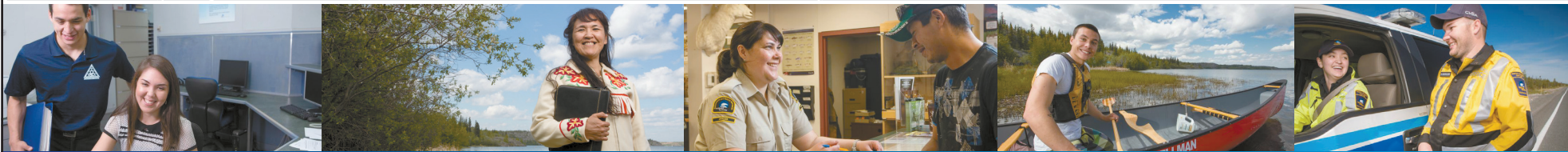
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Children's book author Anita Daher gives a high energy, musical performance, including puppets and songs on her ukulele, at the Mary Kaeser Library in Fort Smith Thursday evening.

Arts & Culture Literature

Visiting author connects with all ages in Fort Smith

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
From puppet shows for preschoolers to an intensive writing “sweatshop” for aspiring writers over the weekend, author Anita Daher managed to connect with a wide cross-section of Fort Smith residents during her four-day visit to the community.

on a Northwords festival sponsored visit, where she got to promote her new kids’ book, *Itty Bitty Bits*, speak to junior high and college aged students, and share her knowledge on how to start - and finish - a creative writing project with a group of adults over the weekend.

her reason for writing: to connect with others. “I write for connection,” she said. “That’s what drives me to wake up at 5:30 every morning and to write these stories that I don’t even know if anyone will want to read... But I’m writing to connect with other people. I’m still that shy kid that finds it easier to connect through characters and story then to walk up to

somebody on the street and shake their hand.” The visit started with an interactive reading for children at the Mary Kaeser Library on Thursday evening, where Daher brought out her array of puppets and ukulele melodies to entertain the packed room of squirming youngsters who quickly became fixated on the fun and helpful message of “getting things done” behind *Itty Bitty Bits* - a book aimed at kids with varying attention spans.

aware that any sort of presentation should have lots of different aspects so that it’s going to be entertaining and hold the attention of young people, because with young people, there’s no two that are alike,” she said. “One may have ADHD, one might have Asperger’s and one might just be incredibly shy, but what they all want to do is connect.”

begin, it’s finding that starting point and getting it done. It’s overwhelming because you think, ‘I have a story idea’ but it can be very blocking to think, ‘Where’s the right moment to start this story?’” Daher said. “That’s where we start Saturday morning; we start with beginnings and with self-discipline and process.”

NORTHERN VOICES

In the Northwest Territories our northern voices are important. Throughout our vast territory, nine official Aboriginal languages are spoken with pride.

To celebrate this diversity, regional language communities nominated individuals committed to cultivating our northern voices. These champions are leaders in our Aboriginal languages community and we thank them for their efforts and contributions to the survival of our languages.

Fibbi Tatti
North Slavey

Fibbi Tatti is a fluent speaker of the Sahtúot’íne language and a member of the Sahtúot’íne First Nation. Fibbi is recognized as a strong and effective advocate for Aboriginal languages and culture, and has been a major force in bringing Dene languages and culture to prominence. Major accomplishments include leading the development of the Dene Kede curriculum (Grades K-6 & 7-9), and co-chairing the NWT Language Task Force.

Fibbi Tatti sǰǰ la suré nezǰ Sahtúot’íne gokedé t’á gode há gots’ę Sahtúot’íne gots’ę nǰdenenǰhǎ. Fibbi sǰǰ suré Dene Kədə há gots’ę Dene Náoweré hǎruǰá há gots’ę bet’á dene gháunutę gha egháǰǰá gha berezhǰ. Dene Kede erǰhǰ’é (Grades K-6 & 7-9) há NWT gogha kədə ǰeǰa hóǰǰ k’óla kǎ egháǰǰá.

Aboriginal Languages Month MARCH

Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

“Performing has almost become an extension of storytelling. It’s not just about writing the story, but it’s also about presenting the story,” Daher said of her musical, tactile and visual presentation format. “Because I have some of these other skills in my background - I used to do theatre, music has been a part of my life for a long time, and who doesn’t like playing with puppets? - it’s just been a reason to incorporate that.”

Daher said her experience living in an ADHD household has greatly influenced her writing style, almost unconsciously.

“I try to write in such a way that’s going to capture interest, but I’m also very

On Friday, Daher met with a range of students at Aurora College and the Grade 7 class at PWK High School where, instead of reading, she had a heart-to-heart with her audience.

“(I talked about) my journey as a writer and what writing has brought to my life,” she said. “I just talked about how I came to writing, my life and moving around so much and how that affected me...It was just basically an honest conversation...It was just connection as human beings through life experiences.”

Over the weekend, Daher worked with a group of writing keeners to develop their story ideas into a written work, from settings to character development.

“I think people who love stories and want to write, it’s not knowing really where to

Daher, who works in publishing as well as writing, also took part in an open discussion on Friday afternoon on the future of the book in the electronic age.

She said the multiple forms of personal connection established between authors, readers and other storytellers on tours such as this have become an expected and celebrated part of the job, and Daher’s key priority as a writer.

“I think that the days of a writer being finished with ‘the end’ are gone. No matter what genre you write, there is an expectation and a hope among publishers that authors will be a partner in promoting those books, because the reading public has different expectations now... Their expectation is to also get to know the creator behind the work. So there’s that extra element.”

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Benjamin Moore
The Colour Experts



Fresh pasta is the order of the day at the Hay River Community Kitchen's inaugural cooking night last week.



Each of the eight participants that signed up take on a different aspect of the tasty group meal.



The dinner's spoils are divvied up into containers for the cooks to take home.

Photos: Franziska Ulbricht and Kate Latour

Health & Wellness Nutrition

Fresh pasta connects community in Hay River kitchen

By MARIA CHURCH

Homemade pasta was the perfect recipe to bring a group of gourmets together at Hay River's brand new community kitchen last week.

Eight hungry learners showed up to the kitchen's first night of preparing and dishing out a healthy and hearty meal from scratch.

By using bulk, fresh ingredients to cook the meals, food prepared at the Hay River Community Kitchen costs only \$3.00 a portion or \$1.50 for children, which makes it a much cheaper option than eating out or buying premade meals.

Participants were encouraged to make and purchase multiple portions to bring home and freeze for a tasty and healthy meal option later in the week.

Franziska Ulbricht, who is coordinating the program alongside Rosie Wallington, said feedback from the participants was nothing but positive at their inaugural night.

"Everybody was just kind of absorbed in the cooking and chatting and socializing so it was a really, really nice atmosphere," she said. "It's almost like a night out. You go out and meet people, but you come home with all this cooked food."

Ulbricht said there was a good mix of skill levels involved in making the pasta, which meant everybody was learning and sharing at the kitchen counter.

"It was fun to share with others, and I look forward to the next time! Well done y'all!" Terri Laffin Murrell

posted on the community kitchen's Facebook page after participating last week.

Justin Carey, another foodie cooking up a storm at the community kitchen last week, said as someone who lives by himself, he doesn't often take the time to cook a big, gourmet meal.

"It's always better to cook for other people than for just yourself," he said. "I like to cook a big meal and then have people over or give some to other people, so it was really cool to cook with other people."

Carey said he had yet to chow down on the portions

of pasta he brought home, but was looking forward to it.

"I'll be able to eat it all throughout the week, for lunches and then maybe one supper. It's quite cheap," he said.

Ulbricht said the first night went off with very few glitches and the organizers

are steaming ahead with a full schedule of kitchen nights for March.

Hay River's dietitian, Kaylynne Parks, is also on board to offer a full nutritional information sheet for the next several meals that the community kitchen whips up for the month of March, which

is Nutrition Month across Canada.

To sign up for the next community kitchen night in Hay River, held at the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. building, go online to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HayRiverCommunityKitchen/>

NWT Social Work Week is March 16-22, 2014



Minister of Health and Social Services
Glen Abernethy

As Minister of Health and Social Services, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to our social workers as they celebrate National Social Work Week March 16 – 22, 2014. This year's theme is *Promoting Equity, Defending Social Programs for a Stronger Canada.*

Social work is a profession dedicated to helping individuals, families, groups and communities enhance their individual and collective well-being. It aims to help people develop their skills and their ability to use their own resources and those of the community to resolve problems. Social work is concerned with individual and personal problems but also with broader

"Social Workers Promoting Social Programs for Stronger Communities"

social issues such as poverty, unemployment and domestic violence. Our social workers address gaps in our social systems that impede the full participation of individuals or groups in our communities. Social work is not often recognized, yet social

workers have a tremendous capacity to influence our society for the betterment of all.

As this year's theme suggests — Social Workers do defend social programs for stronger communities. I invite you to join me in celebrating and supporting the Social Work profession.



March 2014 | www.hss.gov.nt.ca

SPORTS

BRIEFS

NWT speed skaters face off at championships in Yellowknife

More than 80 speed skaters from across the territory gathered in Yellowknife last week to duke it out at the 2014 Speed Skating Championships. Athletes representing Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik and Yellowknife gave it their all on the ice at the season's last competition in the NWT and one of the last in the country. The top skaters in the territory are now at the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks, Alaska representing Team NWT in the circumpolar sports event. See results from the NWT speed skating championships at <https://sportnorth.com/news/nwt-speed-skating-championships>



Photo: Team NWT

Team NWT starts AWG off strong with day one win

Team NWT took its first win at the Arctic Winter Games last weekend on the first day of the international sports competition, this year held in Fairbanks, Alaska. The NWT Juvenile Girls soccer team won a solid 2-1 victory over Greenland on Sunday, setting the bar high for the NWT team. The AWG, held over two weeks, kicked off Sunday with the opening ceremonies in the evening, which went off smoothly despite a brief power outage 20 minutes before the event started. Around 2,000 athletes from the circumpolar world are participating in this year's games.

Hay River wraps up successful snowcross season

More than 500 entries from the NWT and northern Alberta made Hay River's first multiple snowcross race season in years a smashing success. The snowmobile races finished up the last of three weekends of racing on Mar. 9, and while they lost some spectators to the Kamba Carnival also held in Hay River that weekend, organizers of the Hay River Snowcross Racing Committee said it was a great weekend. A new feature this year had spectators tune in to the radio to hear a play-by-play of the races for each event. Organizers say they will likely see another multiple race event held during next year's snowcross season and are talking about holding a summer series for dirt bikes, quads and off-road vehicles.

Yellowknife gearing up to host annual Frostbite 45

The city of Yellowknife is almost ready to play host to the annual classic ski or continuous foot event, Frostbite 45, which will see solo skiers and runners or teams of up to five cover 45 km of ungroomed trail north of the capital city on Mar. 29. The 10-hour event challenges even the best of nordic athletes, since weather conditions are unpredictable. Participants have a lengthy list of requirements to ensure the 10 hours are skied or snowshoed safely, including a personal first aid kit, fire starter, red LED light and a whistle. The event will see six categories: men's solo ski, men's solo run/snowshoe, women's solo ski, women's solo run/snowshoe, team ski and team run/snowshoe. For more information and to register, go online to <http://www.ykmultisport.com/2014/01/frostbite-45-2/#more-2029>

Sports & Recreation Dog Racing

Sled dog season off to good start for Fort Smith racer

By MARIA CHURCH

With two races down in the season, Fort Smith's returning sled dog musher David Poitras is more than happy with his results thus far.

Poitras and his team of sled dogs, raced by son Matthew Poitras, have taken second and third place at the Hay River and Fort Providence sled dog races over the last two weeks.

"It's been great. We always thought we have a good team, but you don't know until you race," Poitras said.

A former chief of Salt River First Nation, Poitras has been training and racing dogs since 1973, but took a five-year hiatus from the sport before returning to it with his son as the musher this year.

Poitras told *The Journal* no one was expecting his team to place so well in its first year back. Some people told them they had performed a small miracle.

"To come back and come in second right off the bat is mainly unheard of. We think we did a good job. It was good training and good endurance and conditioning on (the dogs)," he said.

In Hay River, 22 teams were in the running against Poitras on Mar. 1 and 2. The race was held on the frozen river, which made for a flat, easy travel for the dogs, he said. Team Badine took first place in the race, Poitras took second and R. Campbell came in third.

In Fort Providence, the



Photo: Maria Church

Roland Campbell from Fort Chipewyan races his dogs during the Fort Chip Winter Carnival in February. Fort Chip will be hosting sled dog races again this weekend.

third annual Dehcho Sled Dog Championships hosted by the Deh Gah Dog Mushers Club on Mar. 7 to 8 saw 16 teams compete from Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence and Saskatchewan and Alberta. The 10-dog teams went for 20 miles and the six-dog teams raced for seven.

"In Fort Providence there is a lot of up and down. It was a lot harder than Hay River, so the dogs seemed to be sluggish on the runs," Poitras said.

Anthony Beck from Hay River took the top prize in the 10 dog team race, Roger Beck from Fort Resolution took second and Trevor Lizotte from Yellowknife came in third. The six-dog race was won by Keith Fabien from Fort Resolution while TJ Fordy from Hay River took second and Matthew Poitras came in third.

Poitras said he has seen several new faces in the races this year, but more and more of the former

mushers, like himself, are returning to the sport after taking a break.

"It's because once it's in your blood it's hard to get out. I always tell my son we are just like rodeo riders. Once you're on the circuit, it's kind of a way of life. We have a lot of fun. We get along together and spend a lot of time together," he said.

Poitras, his son and his grandson will be heading to Fort Chip's sled dog races this weekend.



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Iron Chef competition stewing in Fort Smith

By MARIA CHURCH

Allez cuisine, Fort Smith. For those who’ve fantasized about cooking in Kitchen Stadium, the battleground of the popular Food Network cook-off show Iron Chef America, Fort Smith dietitian Jared Tam has a plan simmering to make their dreams come true - almost.

March is Nutrition Month and to get the community excited about preparing healthy food and eating well, Tam will be hosting an Iron Chef-style competition in town.

Iron Chef America pits two chefs and their team of sous against each other with one secret ingredient and one hour to prepare a variety of dishes for a panel of distinguished judges. While the show always features a guest chef battling a legendary “Iron Chef,” Tam is planning to change up the rules so that the battle is open to anyone in the community, with or without culinary confidence.

It is shaping up to be a fierce competition and there will certainly be a tasty



Fort Smith dietitian Jared Tam hopes his Iron Chef-style competition encourages more people to spend time in the kitchen.

reward for the top chefs, but the whole point of the battle is to show people how easy it is to cook, even if it means flying blind in the kitchen, Tam said.

“The best way to cook is sometimes using no recipe, and that’s the whole point of Iron Chef. You have this mystery ingredient and you just go into the kitchen and cook,” he said.

“At the end of the day we’re trying to inspire the town of Fort Smith and youth and adults to get back into the kitchen and to transfer these cooking skills to the next generation. That skill is getting lost.”

Although there is little direct evidence, good nutrition and cooking skills have an undeniable connection, Tam said.

“Cooking skills equip us with the ability to make homemade meals, which can improve dietary quality. By cooking meals from scratch, we can use fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and whole grain products instead of reaching for that box that we can’t control the quality of,” he said.

Dietitians across Canada have been encouraging their communities to mark

If people realize how fun and creative and exciting cooking can be, I think more people would do it. It can be easy, too; that’s the whole point of Iron Chef because it can be so easy to come up with a recipe in an hour.

Jared Tam
Fort Smith Health Authority

Nutrition Month, a Canada-wide campaign promoted annually by the association Dietitians of Canada. This year’s theme of “simply cook and enjoy” is what gave Tam the idea to host the Iron Chef spin-off in Fort Smith.

“If people realize how fun and creative and exciting cooking can be, I think more people would do it. It can be easy, too; that’s the whole point of Iron Chef because it can be so easy to come up with a recipe in an hour,” he said.

All the ingredients used in the cook-off will come from Fort Smith’s grocery stores so that participants

can recreate their dishes post-battle.

Tam will be looking to recruit 15 pseudo-chefs for the cook-off competition, composing five teams of three. He plans to set up a booth at Kaeser’s in Fort Smith with more Nutrition Month information and a signup sheet for the first 15 gutsy participants.

Knives will be drawn and the culinary battle will ensue at Paul William Kaeser High School on Tuesday, Mar. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

To sign up directly, call the Fort Smith health centre at (867) 872-6203 or Tam at (867) 872-6218.

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To find a dietitian in your area, contact your health centre, your public health centre, hospital or the Department of Health and Social Services.



Message from the Northern Nutrition Association



HELPFUL HINTS for healthy Northern eating

- Add small amounts of raisins or cheese to bannock for more Vitamin C and calcium.
- Eat veggies raw or steamed to keep in more nutrients.
- Use spices like pepper, garlic and rosemary to flavour your foods instead of salt.

Follow André Corriveau, NWT’s Chief Public Health Officer, on Twitter this month for more health tips: @NWT_CPHO

More nutrition facts

- A serving size of potatoes, rice, pasta and other starches should be the size of your fist.
- Frozen and canned vegetables and fruit have just as much vitamins and minerals as fresh produce.
- Red peppers have even more Vitamin C than strawberries.
- Most country meats, like caribou and moose, are lower in fat and higher in iron than meat you get from the store.
- One bottle of cola contains 17 teaspoons of sugar.
- A package of instant noodles can contain up to a day’s worth of sodium.
- You will eat less if you use a smaller plate, bowl or glass.



Wood Buffalo Frolics 2014

THANK YOU

to all those who made the Frolics happen!

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We apologize to anyone not mentioned above.

The Wood Buffalo Frolics would not be possible without the generous support of:



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**