



**Sportin' Skivvies:** Long Johns were out in full force at Yellowknife's annual winter carnival. See page 11.



**Arctic Council meets behind closed doors**  
Members of Greenpeace protested secret meetings of the Arctic Council last week in Yellowknife, calling for more public input. See page 3.



**Pilots argued as First Air flight went down: report**  
Findings on the First Air crash in Resolute Bay in August 2011 show human error, equipment failure and weather were all factors. See page 7.



**Beaufort students show science skills at fair**  
Three Beaufort Delta students are headed to nationals after showcasing winning projects at the regional science fair. See page 10.



**Scientist explores caves in Wood Buffalo park**  
Karst landscape expert Greg Horne was in Wood Buffalo National Park last week to explore hidden caves. See page 12.

# NORTHERN Journal

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Hay River's own Olympian Brendan Green was home with his girlfriend and fellow Team Canada biathlete Rosanna Crawford for the 31st annual Ptub Ski Races over the weekend, joining skiers of all ages in the NWT's final friendly cross-country ski competition of the winter. See page 19 for more.

## Devolution bills to undergo more review over concern with lack of consultation

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
The commissioner for the Northwest Territories may have signed off on the final devolution bills last week in the legislature, but Apr. 1 now marks the start of further legislative and policy review in the territorial government.  
Following concerns raised by MLAs in the most recent session that several bills related to devolution were rushed through without enough time for thorough public consultation, Premier Bob McLeod promised to launch an additional review after devolution.  
Concerns were first raised on Mar. 10 by Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro, chair of the Priorities and Planning committee, that seven of the 10

devolution bills did not follow the regular process.  
Bills typically receive second reading in the House before being referred to committee, which holds a public hearing and receives public comment before reporting it back to the House for third reading.  
While Bills 1, 2 and 3 - dealing with reindeer, archaeological sites and the Surface Rights Board - followed the process as normal, Bisaro said for the remainder that process was "hijacked" by the time constraint of the Apr. 1 deadline.  
"We didn't have the time in which we could properly consider these other bills; we didn't have time to refer them to committee; we didn't have

time for public consultation," she said.  
Those bills include the NWT Lands Act, Petroleum Resources Act, Devolution Measures Act, Waters Act and Oil and Gas Operations Act.  
While those bills are mirror legislation - pieces of law mirroring current federal legislation - two additional bills, one outlining the resource revenue sharing agreement and the other outlining the intergovernmental council with Aboriginal governments, are not.  
"I think the major concern for me...is that even though these are mirror bills, there is an interest on the part of the public and there is an interest on the part of members to look at the NWT bills and to determine whether or not there

are some gaps in these bills, whether or not there are some statements in these bills that maybe we don't agree with from a territorial perspective."  
Bisaro asked for a "broad and thorough" public review of all the devolution bills after Apr. 1. That motion was carried by MLAs and agreed to by the premier.  
"As a government, we have committed to undertake a review of the legislation and, as well, our Aboriginal government partners are very supportive of a review as well. So we'll be setting up that process," McLeod said on Mar. 10.  
"We'd be pleased to make sure that the public is aware of what we are doing so that they will have adequate time for input," he added.

**Consultation insufficient: MLAs**  
Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley, who called for a public review alongside Bisaro, voiced concern primarily with the government's failure to consult committee on the two pieces of non-mirrored legislation, both involving Aboriginal governments.  
"For this government not to have consulted with committee on this, I regard as a major shirking of the responsibility of this government and I'm very upset about that. These are not mirror legislation. So, obviously, the Premier claims we have a consensus government here and clearly we do not," Bromley said on Mar. 11.  
See Bill on page 2.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Yellowknifer wins thousands in hockey POOLS lottery

Yellowknife resident Jose Tolentino is more than \$12,000 richer after he correctly predicted all 11 outcomes of the NHL hockey games on his POOLS lottery ticket. Tolentino purchased the \$5 sports lottery card early on in the NHL season and after sitting down to watch the last hockey game in late February, learned he had won, but didn't know how much. It wasn't until he brought the ticket to the store where he had originally purchased it in Yellowknife that he found out his winnings totalled \$12,162. The lucky Yellowknife man said he plans to share the money with his family and pay down some bills.

## Wood Buffalo RCMP seize pickup truck after Suncor hit and run fatality

A tip to Wood Buffalo RCMP led officers to seize a suspicious pickup truck in Fort McMurray hours after a man was killed by a hit and run vehicle near the Suncor oilsands facility. RCMP were on scene shortly after the incident, which occurred early Friday morning. Officers conducting an investigation into the incident shut down an area of Hwy. 63 where the hit and run took place. The highway was later reopened to traffic and officers responding to a tip seized a pickup truck in the Fort McMurray area. A man is currently being questioned as a person of interest. The male pedestrian killed has yet to be identified.

## ConocoPhillips given green light for Sahtu fracking expansion

Oil company ConocoPhillips has been approved by the Sahtu Land and Water Board to expand its fracking operation in the Sahtu near Norman Wells, currently the only horizontal hydraulic fracturing project in the NWT. The board's approval includes authorization to take an additional 9,000 cubic metres of water per year from the Mackenzie River as well as store 488,000 litres of fuel on site. The approval comes shortly after an announcement from ConocoPhillips that it will be applying to frack 10 more wells in the Sahtu over the next five years despite numerous safety incidents that occurred during its winter drilling operations, including freshwater spills and wastewater truck accidents.



Minister Michael Miltenberger, left, and NWT Commissioner George Tuccaro sign the last of the devolution bills last Wednesday.

### Politics Devolution

## Bill C-15 delayed introduction of NWT bills: legal counsel

*Continued from page 1.*

"He has even said in their statement 'all parties to the agreement.' Clearly we're not regarded as a party to this agreement and neither is the public. So I just want to very clearly stress how shabby I think that process has been."

Both bills were not finalized until early March. Jamie Fulford, legal counsel with

the department of Justice, explained that the federal legislative process around Bill C-15, the NWT Devolution Act, held up the process in the NWT.

"Many of the changes to the mirror legislation were not known until relatively recently and so we could not know with any certainty what further consequential amendments would be required to the GNWT's suite of legislation... As a precautionary measure, we had to assume that further changes could be required. So everything else had to come later," he said.

Federal Bill C-15 received royal assent last Tuesday, making the final devolution transfer official.

According to the devolution office, Lands is working with a "devolve, then evolve" approach. After devolution, the department will "undertake a comprehensive review

Northern principles like sustainable land use."

Lands will also be convening with Aboriginal governments, industry and the public to ensure land management

Many of the changes to the mirror legislation were not known until relatively recently and so we could not know with any certainty what further consequential amendments would be required to the GNWT's suite of legislation.

*Jamie Fulford  
GNWT legal counsel*

### Lands doing policy review

Policy review will also be undertaken within the new department of Lands.

of existing federal and territorial policies to harmonize land management and ensure the policy framework reflects

policies and practices are reflective of the interests of NWT residents, investors and businesses.

### Politics Devolution

## GNWT will wait to celebrate Devolution Day

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Apr. 1, the day devolution officially takes effect in the Northwest Territories, will be just another day at the office for Dave Ramsay, minister of Industry Trade and Investment.

"I'm going to go to work, roll up my sleeves and continue to do the job I'm doing," Ramsay said last week.

"People have been working tirelessly to put this together. We had assent to 10 devolution bills in the

Great Hall (last Wednesday). We've got a lot of work to do."

About 50 people, including several MLAs, looked on as Commissioner George Tuccaro and Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger signed the bills, which mirror federal legislation. The Governor General gave royal assent of the federal NWT Devolution Act (Bill C-15) a day previous.

"We will try and put a celebration of some sort

together, probably in the summer when more people can attend. We will put something together in June or July."

The change will bring more statutory authority after April for oil and gas and mining, something that Ramsay said he's "looking forward to. It's a challenge.

"We'll be able to put our fingerprints squarely on the development of the economy here, and the protection of the environment as well."

## Adult Learners' Week March 29 to April 6, 2014



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Benjamin Moore  
The Colour Experts



Photo: Diego Creimer



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Members of Greenpeace protest the closed Arctic Council meetings in Yellowknife last week, demanding public participation and better regulations on Arctic offshore drilling.

Dene drummer Lawrence Nayally and flautist William Greenland entertain Arctic Council delegates at a show of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs at the Snowking's castle on Wednesday.

**Politics Arctic Council**

# Arctic Council meetings closed to public, media

## Delegates make solo appearance for Snowcastle fur show

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Without a handful of Greenpeace demonstrators and their sky-blue banner to draw public attention, a three-day meeting of the Arctic Council might have passed beneath the radar of most Yellowknifers.

"No more hiding behind closed doors," the Greenpeace banner admonished, to no avail, as councillors huddled behind closed doors in the legislative assembly last week.

The secretive intergovernmental forum comprised of Russia, Canada, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and the United States did not make its agenda public and all meetings were closed to the public and media.

"The secrecy is disturbing," said Kiera-Dawn Kolson, a Dene woman who has become the public face of Greenpeace in the NWT.

"There is a lack of transparency; people are not being engaged. Ideally, the Arctic Council meeting would mean protection of our culture and environment, and putting efforts into renewable alternatives, so that we have environmental and job security for future generations."

Instead, Kolson said the Arctic Council and its member states appear to be focused on opening the Arctic to increased mining and oil and gas development.

"When our communities hear development, the first things that come to mind are money and opportunities - that's the big

push," Kolson said. "But these are boom-bust situations and I don't think the communities truly understand the bust side."

Historically unwelcome in the North because of its past opposition to the fur harvest, Greenpeace has turned over a new leaf, Kolson said, and is reaching out to indigenous communities with new tradition-friendly policies.

"One of the parts of the campaign that we're proud of is that we've implemented indigenous peoples policy that supports not only treaty rights and stewardship responsibilities, but also the right to subsistence hunt in their communities. This is a huge step that will show that this generation is not the generation of before," Kolson said.

For that reason, Greenpeace passed on the opportunity to demonstrate at the city's Snowcastle, where Arctic Council members took a break from their deliberations for a chilly social evening of stew and bannock and an exhibition of fur garments on Wednesday.

The fur show was a proud moment for Dave Ramsay, minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, who was swathed for the occasion in a luxurious coat crafted from fishers harvested in the Northwest Territories.

"The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program and Take a Kid Trapping program have been a great success," Ramsay said.

"We've been selling fur at record prices; that money goes

back into small communities where there isn't a lot of industry or opportunity for employment. Three thousand kids across the territory took part in the trapping program. It's important to get kids out on the land where they can understand the importance of trapping and fur harvesting. We see a bright future."

There was speculation before the Arctic Council session began that Russia's invasion of the Crimea might upset the agenda, but Ramsay saw no evidence of that at a formal dinner hosted by the federal government, and the mood at the Snowking's castle was relaxed.

"There is no politics at these meetings," said Ramsay, who

sees the council as an opportunity to "develop synergies technology, research and economic development."

"There is a lot of interest in the North and its resources and we're looking at how we connect business opportunities to those who need them. We could benefit from relationships with other countries around the circumpolar world that have had experience building infrastructure in the Arctic, and growing an economy," he said.

"We have resources that need to get developed. Other countries have done it. Russians are very prominent in the Arctic; they have seaports, military installations. We've just scratched the surface. We have a long way to go."

**Health & Wellness Food Security**

# Food insecurity in North requires action: report

## Canada ranked worst for indigenous food security in developed world

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A new report is calling for immediate action involving Northerners on addressing the food security crisis faced by people living in Canada's Northern and remote Aboriginal communities.

According to the study by an expert panel of the Council of Canadian Academies, about 12 per cent of Canadians wake up each morning unsure of whether or not they are going to be able to get enough to eat that day.

For Aboriginal households, that number is more than double. In Nunavut alone, the same is true of 72 per cent of Inuit households - the highest documented rate of food insecurity for any indigenous population in a developed country.

The report shows that numbers are worse for

households with children. A 2007-08 survey indicated that nearly 70 per cent of Inuit preschoolers between the ages of 3 and 5 lived in food insecure households, and 56 per cent lived with child-specific food insecurity.

Preliminary evidence also shows women are more affected than men.

It's a problem that is reaching "crisis levels" and requires not only the work of policy-makers, but people living in the North, say the study's authors.

"To fully understand the issue of food security, consideration must be given to the many factors that influence life in the North, such as environmental change, culture, governance and economies," Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein, chair of the expert panel,

said upon releasing the report last Thursday.

Among the implications of food insecurity are numerous health impacts, which link to the disproportionate rates of child mortality, obesity, chronic disease and mental health problems faced by Aboriginal people in Canada.

The report names rapid social, environmental and economic transitions as contributing factors.

"The nutrition transition, a result of moving away from nutrient rich traditional and country food-based diets towards ones based on market food, may increase the risk for diet-sensitive chronic diseases and micronutrient deficiencies in Northern Aboriginal communities," it states.

"Evidence indicates that people who are food insecure are more susceptible to

malnutrition and infection, as well as chronic health problems such as obesity, anemia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stress and child developmental issues. Mental health effects of food insecurity include reduced ability to learn, depression and social exclusion."

The combination of impacts on public health is contributing to an economic crisis, said the panel, who added that local communities, businesses and governments need to cooperate on finding lasting solutions.

Specifically, programs and policies must be responsive to locally-identified needs and enabled by traditional knowledge and the innovations of Northern communities.

"There is no single way to 'solve' food security issues in the North. A range of holistic

approaches, including poverty reduction strategies, is required," states the report.

Among promising practices listed by the report are emerging strategies like food banks and children's meal programs, along with community gardens and cooperative buying clubs and grassroots food policy networks.

The evidence-based report was created by a multidisciplinary panel of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars over 15 months, was peer-reviewed by 11 experts and includes additional evidence collected from national Aboriginal organizations.

While the panel does not provide policy prescriptions, it does hope the findings will contribute to better evidence-based policies and programs, featuring increased

participation by Northern communities.

"Canada has the capacity to address the critical issue of food insecurity as experienced disproportionately by Northern Aboriginal peoples," the report concludes. "There are clear opportunities towards achievement of food security and food sovereignty by using existing local, regional, national, and international knowledge, experiences and policies, as well as in expanding the evidence base so that Aboriginal communities, researchers, policy-makers, and Northerners can create sustainable and dignified solutions to the long-standing complex challenge of food insecurity among Aboriginal peoples in the North."

"Public health is a collective responsibility."

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

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# 'Dysfunction' and the new colonialism

The way Joe Oliver was sworn in to the finance minister portfolio two weeks ago, almost clandestinely shrouded from the public (Stephen Harper's signature way when things are not right) suggests that there were undercurrents of something other than problems with Jim Flaherty's health that led to his resignation. Did the fiery, Irish MP from Whitby-Oshawa riding have a serious falling out with his boss?

Oliver, another Toronto MP, the unabashed pitchman for the expansion of Alberta's oil-sands industry and promoter of the Keystone XL pipeline project, is no stranger to controversy. With his substantial investment banker resume, he happily stepped into the critical finance role.

Just the week before, in his former role as Natural Resources minister, Oliver insulted First Nation communities across the country when he said at a Vancouver Board of Trade address that many of them are "socially dysfunctional." He was speaking to the receptive audience about the need to further amend Canada's regulatory process to ensure mining and other resource-development projects can proceed expeditiously. Oliver alluded to upcoming amendments to the current environmental assessment process - to be introduced within the next

few months - that would ensure resource development projects are "safe for Canadians and safe for the environment." The plan is to increase the speed and volume of industrial development while tweaking regulations to ensure the environment is safe - counter-intuitive, at best.

While it is true that many Aboriginal communities across the country struggle with poor housing, a lack of clean water, inadequate education and conflicted with infighting, it should be noted that all those problems are the responsibility of the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC), which has a budget this year of \$9.1 billion. One would think that with so much wrong gone on for so long, that blatant failure on the part of that department must be indicative of a "dysfunctional" administration. How about that gets fixed first?

It would be accurate to say that Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, Flaherty's good buddy and a conservative bright light, is the epitome of what is "socially dysfunctional," but his foibles are overlooked by the conservative leadership. One of their cronies, he is celebrated for his commitment to conservative values - except for possibly the crack smoking. Ford, however, does

not have 200 years of colonial rule and sustained attempts at cultural genocide as an excuse.

The apology for residential schools to First Nations in Canada by Prime Minister Harper in 2008 was noble and appropriate. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was a serious effort in healing, but it is over. What now to solve those "socially dysfunctional" situations? With little in the way of success coming from AANDC, the plan echoed by Oliver - minimizing regulations and streamlining environmental protection to speed up resource development, in turn creating more job opportunities for First Nations - seems to be their only solution going forward.

Jobs in distant mines that require days or weeks away from family and community are not for everyone. Resource development that ravages the land and causes harm to the environment is contrary to what is at the core of traditional Aboriginal cultural values - that we are here on earth to respect and take care of the land. The premise that nearby massive resource development projects will fix struggling communities, and then blame them as "dysfunctional" if they don't buy in, is a new form of colonialism.

## Good leaders please step up

Any community will struggle without good leadership. Every bit as important as "one person, one vote," the complex process of selecting the very best candidates for the role of leader, to make available the best possible choice, is essential to the democratic process. That process does not ensure that every leader will be a good one, however. In fact, many will not be so good. The old adage, that in every population "there are

so many doctors, so many lawyers and so many Indian chiefs" - good ones especially - has wisdom to it. If all Canada's largest city can come up with for a leader is Rob Ford, how are towns and cities, in particular tiny First Nation communities that are burdened with so much from the past, supposed to do better?

Once in a while a good leader comes along. It is enough that the person will be

caaring and see to the needs of the people, uniting them in common goals. If that leader has vision, can develop and execute a plan that leads to growth and prosperity, that will surely be celebrated. If they can do all that while retaining the involvement and loyalty of the people in an honest and transparent way, well that is very special. That is the kind of leader we all hope for, no matter what community we live in.



Models showcase the vibrant and warm pieces designed by Dene Fur Clouds at the Wild Fur Fashion Show last Wednesday evening at the Snowcastle in Yellowknife. The event, sponsored by Industry, Tourism and Investment, celebrated the success of the local trapping and craft industries.

## FORECAST

**Inuvik**



Weekly Norms:  
High -12°C Low -23°C

**Yellowknife**



Weekly Norms:  
High -4°C Low -16°C

**Hay River**



Weekly Norms:  
High -1°C Low -13°C

**Fort Smith**



Weekly Norms:  
High 1°C Low -12°C

# Exxon Valdez 25th anniversary: The North deserves a better future



By KIERA-DAWN KOLSON

It's March 24, 1989, and off the coast of Alaska, one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in history has just struck.

The Exxon Valdez supertanker hit Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef at 12:04 a.m., spewing oil into pristine Arctic waters: 750,000 barrels of crude that would make this tragedy the worst in US history until the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout in the Gulf of Mexico. Three days after the spill, a storm pushed large quantities of freshly strewn oil onto the rocky shores of many of the beaches in the Knight Island chain. The damage is still visible and felt today.

Fast-forward 25 years to 2014. While two generations

of fishermen continue to cope with the aftermath of this catastrophe, the Arctic Council—a body whose original mandate included ensuring sustainable development and pan-Arctic environmental protection—met in Yellowknife, just one day after the 25th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez, to continue to peddle its year-old document meant to address exactly this kind of disaster. It's called the Co-operation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, and as only the second legally-binding document in the Council's 18-year history, they are very proud of it.

So as the Council meets in Yellowknife, the real question is: had this agreement been in place 25 years ago, would it have altered the outcome of that fateful day?

The truth is that it wouldn't have made a difference.

Despite being the first legally-binding agreement of its kind, it fails to outline any essential response equipment, methods for capping wells, or cleaning up oiled habitat and wildlife. Instead it relies on vague

statements that Arctic nations should "ensure" they try and take "appropriate steps within available resources" without even minimum requirements, leaving the door wide open for affected governments to delay and defer responsibility to execute cleanup efforts.

The bulk of the damage inflicted by the Exxon Valdez occurred in the first few days after the disaster. Experts tell us that unless containment and recovery equipment get on scene within the first three days, the oil will spread beyond any possibility of control. Nothing in the Council's agreement ensures this rapid response. And shockingly, it has no provisions to hold companies liable for the full costs and damages of a spill.

And it's no wonder, when you dive a bit deeper and look at who actually wrote this document. Photos issued on the Arctic Council's Flickr photostream show oil industry representatives participating in the working group, including the meeting in which the document was finalized. Peter Velez represented Shell

as part of the US delegation, while Vladimir Dimitrov represented Russia's state-owned oil giant Gazprom—the two oil companies leading the charge into the Arctic.

So while oil companies are let off the hook, Northern communities will be left to deal with the fallout of a spill that will all but destroy our ability to sustain ourselves off the land. This clearly undermines Northern peoples' right to a healthy environment and sustainable development, two of the principles engraved in the inaugural mandate of the Arctic Council that are now going unheeded.

Rather than striving to avoid repeating history, the Arctic Council, with its passive leadership and pro-business agenda, is paving the way for similar tragedies on our Arctic coastlines. The Exxon Valdez should be a reminder of how unpredictable and unforgiving the Arctic can be, and a lesson as governments prepare to open up the Arctic for even more drilling and shipping. Yet here we are, 25 years later

and none the wiser for our past mistakes.

By opening the Canadian Arctic to oil and gas exploration, the conservative government is setting the course for more oil spills and new tragedies. The Arctic Council, which Canada is now chairing, has done nothing to fight against this fate. Moreover, it is helping it come true.

The irony of life and the recklessness of our government is such that two of the companies which obtained leases for oil exploration in the Canadian Arctic are ExxonMobil and British Petroleum, first and second on the podium for the world's worst offshore oil spills.

The livelihoods of traditional hunters and trappers, Inuit and First Nations fishermen, Northern inhabitants and wildlife are all in the hands of destructive companies. We have not chosen this path and we will not pursue it. Reckless development in our fragile Northern ecosystem will only bring destruction, inevitably eradicating our traditional relationship with the lands.

The North deserves a better future and we Northerners must use our voices and choose a sustainable path forward.

*Kiera-Dawn Kolson is a Greenpeace Arctic Campaigner and member of the Dene Nation*

## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2014

#### Family of slain Fort Chip woman files complaint against RCMP



The mother of a murdered Fort Chipewyan woman has filed a complaint against the Leduc RCMP, claiming the police failed to perform an adequate investigation into her daughter's disappearance and subsequent death, which remains unsolved.



**Ed Hunter:** A couple of months ago a lady was on facebook, asking what she should do because she was 99% sure she knew who the males voice was on the recording. What happened with That? Was it followed up?

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## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

#### Miltenberger snags Cabinet seat in new assembly

After months of waiting and a near miss in December, Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger will now be sitting in a Cabinet seat—the first time Fort Smith residents have had a Cabinet representative in seven and a half years. Miltenberger was elected to the NWT Legislative Assembly in 1995.

*Issue: March 30, 1999*

### 20 Years Ago...

#### Tanker base faces more delays

The territorial government seems to be in no hurry to begin construction of the proposed firefighting aircraft and tanker base in Fort Smith. Last week the GNWT cabinet sent an options paper on the tanker base back to the departments responsible, asking for some "tighter numbers."

*Issue: March 30, 1994*

### 30 Years Ago...

#### New school, new powers

Residents of Fort Chip are both excited and apprehensive about the development of local education in the area. The reason for the excitement is plans for a \$7-million school due for completion in late 1985. The school, which will provide facilities for children from kindergarten to Grade 12, will replace inadequate facilities already in the community.

*Issue: March 29, 1984*



## White Girl Village of Widows: Part 2 of 3

"What...you little bush kids, you know nothing!" "We watch TV, *The Lone Ranger* is a great show, you should see it." "We have radios and we drive around in cars, you kids are pretty dumb." The kids home from residence talk different, we talk different, all try to fit the pieces of broken times back together in this little town of less than 300 people. Personalities jostle around trying to find ways to get comfortable in their skin and their homes again. Bumps and grinds, a fight breaks out. A smaller kid gets kicked out of the bed they have been using all winter... big brother is back, it's hard to climb into bed with all of the other little kids again and Jimmy pees the bed.

"Tell us stories, tell us stories we beg." "Well, you have to be quiet and listen." "We promise, we will be good, we will listen." There are stores with every food that you can imagine, lots of chocolate bars

and they have pop and something called pizza pie. Pizza we have seen in the some of the Archie comics that arrive with the big kids. I finally had pizza when I was in my teens. In the pictures, in the Archie comic books they showed them pulling it apart with strands of sticky white stuff still connecting it to the round "pie." I thought it would be sweet, being called a pie, with stretchy strands of white taffy; the cheese and meat came as a shock.

They tell us grand tales of going to restaurants for chips and gravy, the stores have more than one style and size of gumboots...and running shoes. Sometimes they get oranges, their lives are amazing. They play basketball in a gymnasium and have school dances. Our mouths are as open in awe as are our eyes, they are so cool, they make us feel like the world is passing us by, we are missing all of this groovy stuff. They say "groovy" lots.

Years later we find out that for some of them, life was not groovy at all in the residences.

Yet they are starved for dry fish and dry meat and bannock. They teach us how to play baseball and we watch them pull cigarettes out of their sleeves and show us how they can blow smoke rings. "No, you guys are too little, but here take a pinch of this." A small can is rapped and opened with invitation. We should have noticed the hidden grins and sly eyes. "No, take a bigger pinch; put it in the front of your lip." Oh my god, it's terrible, we spit and cough and gag...teach you a lesson, never take snuff. I never would try that again! To impress them we would put a little coffee in our lip and spit. Yeah right you little devils! Good try, you don't fool us. You bush bunnies know nothing. We knew little of the outside world. Yet in truth we are all connected, the world is round; it is a circle. There are no breaks.

## MUKLUK



# Cancer report release frustrates Fort Chipewyan leaders

## Report says cancer rates overall not more elevated than rest of province

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A report released last week by Alberta's top doctor on incidences of cancer in Fort Chipewyan has caused anger, doubt and frustration in the community, whose leaders are upset the data was not shared with them first before being made public.

The report shows three types of cancer are occurring more frequently in Fort Chipewyan than the rest of the province, though rates of most cancers are normal overall.

Compiled by the office of Alberta's chief medical officer, Dr. James Talbot, the data from 1992-2011 shows that "overall, cancer rates in the region are what would be expected in the rest of Alberta."

According to the report, there were 81 cases of cancer reported in the study period where the expected number would be 79 cases.

While the numbers mean that cancers are not significantly higher than expected, Talbot said the higher-than-average frequency of cervical cancer, lung cancer and bile duct cancer are cause for concern.

Within the study period, there were four reported cases of cervical cancer when only one would be expected. For lung cancer in women, there were eight cases, while four would be expected.

For bile duct cancer – a very rare form of cancer typically affecting fewer than one in 200,000 people – there were three cases when Talbot said they



File photo

The community of Fort Chipewyan is frustrated with the province after cancer statistics were released to the public without notifying leaders beforehand.

would expect zero. A fourth case of bile duct cancer was recently detected in Fort Chip but falls outside of the study period.

While higher than average, the numbers for all three cancers are low, Talbot said.

Talbot said the human papilloma virus (HPV) has been determined to be the primary risk factor for cervical cancer and that vaccines and regular pap smears would aid in prevention. For lung cancer, he said the primary risk factor is tobacco use.

Bile duct cancer is more complicated, the doctor said. The American Cancer

Society has outlined more than a dozen causes, which include obesity, diabetes, cirrhosis and Hepatitis C, among others.

"While it's difficult to prevent because there are multiple risk factors, those risk factors can be reduced with chronic disease prevention programs," Talbot said, adding that Alberta Health Services is committed to working with the community on preventing those cancers.

### 'Gross negligence' by province: chief

Talbot released the study last Monday via a press conference, though the material

was originally supposed to be given to the community beforehand. A meeting between Talbot and the community was scheduled for February, but First Nation leaders cancelled it after the province refused to give them the data ahead of time.

Both the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and Mikisew Cree First Nation were outraged to hear the results of the cancer report through media rather than directly from the government.

"Why the government continues to undermine the leadership of Fort Chipewyan is beyond me," said Mikisew Chief Steve Courtoreille.

The government of Alberta has consistently downplayed the significance of cancer in my community and they have done that again today in their reports to the media that there is no reason for alarm.

*Chief Steven Courtoreille  
Mikisew Cree First Nation*

"Health Minister Horne had promised to get us a copy of the report prior to releasing these statistics and that didn't happen."

While a copy of the report, obtained by the Liberal Party health critic through Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy, was sent to the Nunee Health Authority in Fort Chipewyan late on Friday, it did not reach leaders until Monday morning.

The community was not otherwise notified of the press conference or invited to attend. ACFN attended the press conference via conference call.

"This is gross negligence. The leaders of Fort

Chipewyan have been requesting a thorough analysis on incidences of cancer in our community for years. Not only was this research and study done without our direct participation, we were left in the dark about key findings and the announcement of the release to the public," ACFN Chief Allan Adam said in a statement released Monday.

According to ACFN, Alberta Health Services had agreed to reschedule a new meeting date to share their findings with leaders in Fort Chipewyan first. A date had not been confirmed when the report was released.

"It's disappointing to know that our requests to be properly informed are repeatedly denied. This information is about our people, our health and our concerns," Adam said.

"Why is it that opposition leaders are more open to sharing information with our Nation than the current Alberta House leaders? Why are we almost always the last to know?"

Leaders said they question the methodology of the report, which is not peer reviewed and fails to draw conclusive results as to the causes of the three cancers in question.

"The government of Alberta has consistently downplayed the significance of cancer in my community and they have done that again today in their reports to the media that there is no reason for alarm," Courtoreille said on Monday.

"It's time for a real study, that is peer reviewed and done in partnership with our communities," Adam said.



### The Government of the Northwest Territories PROCUREMENT SHARED SERVICES CENTRES

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or if you have GNWT procurement questions, please contact us at  
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# Pilots argued as First Air flight hurtled toward disaster at Resolute Bay

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Human error, weather and equipment failure were among 18 factors that contributed to the fatal crash of a First Air Boeing 737 in August 2011, according to a Transportation Safety Board report released last week.

Three people survived the crash that killed 12, including the pilot and co-pilot who disagreed over what to do in the final minutes as Flight 6560 attempted to land at Resolute Bay on a rainy, foggy day.

"I don't like this," First Officer David Hare told Captain Blair Rutherford a second before the plane's ground proximity warning system sounded. In the next instant, the plane crashed, strewn debris on a low hill a kilometre from the airport.

Flight 6560 was the only Boeing 737 in the First Air fleet not equipped with a more advanced terrain awareness and warning system (TAWS), which became mandatory for commercial passenger aircraft a year after the Resolute Bay crash.

TAWS would have enhanced the crew's awareness of their situation and given them more time to react, the report said, but lead investigator Brian MacDonald told *The Journal* that it's not certain it would have prevented the crash that



Photo: Abdallah

Human error, weather and equipment failure combined to cause the deadly First Air crash in Resolute Bay in 2011, according to the Transportation Safety Board.

was characterized as a controlled flight into terrain.

"This accident was the product of a complex series of events, all of them lining up together," MacDonald said. "But what ultimately tied all these things together was that as the flight progressed, each pilot developed a different understanding of the situation and they were unable to reconcile that difference."

Trouble began for Flight 6560 when Rutherford began the descent into Resolute

Bay. The angle was too steep and the plane was travelling too fast as it approached the runway; a brisk tail wind was pushing it off course and toward the hill where it crashed.

The plane's compass was 17 degrees out and the autopilot was accidentally disengaged as 6560 made its final approach, adding to confusion and tension on the flight deck that was evident in the verbal exchanges between Rutherford and Hare.

Within seconds after that final turn, the co-pilot realized the plane was off course and repeatedly told the pilot, reminding him about the large hill to the right of the runway. Rutherford replied that the autopilot was working fine.

Puzzled as to why the plane's navigational instruments weren't lining up with ground-based systems, Hare asked if they'd done something wrong. Five seconds later, he suggested they pull up and go around for another approach.

Rutherford, fully focused on landing the plane and on figuring out why his instruments were giving confusing readings, refused.

"It is likely that the captain did not fully comprehend information that indicated that his original plan was no longer viable," the report said.

Less than 10 seconds after first suggesting they pull up, Hare asked again, pointing out that the plane wasn't configured for a landing. The report suggested Rutherford is likely to have understood the remark as a request to prepare the plane for landing.

"The captain's mental model was likely that the approach and landing could be salvaged, and the (co-pilot's) mental model was almost certainly that there was significant risk to the safety of flight and that a go-around was required. These divergent mental models compromised the pilots' ability to communicate and work together," the report said.

The report made one main recommendation: improving communication between crew members on all planes. Blair and Rutherford had received outdated crew management training in a two-day course that was compressed into four hours.

"The first officer's suggestions weren't compelling enough to alter the captain's mindset and the first officer likely felt inhibited from taking control of the aircraft from the captain," board member Kathy Fox told reporters in Ottawa where the report was released.

"Crew resource management is supposed to help flight crews in exactly these kinds of situations."

Fox said Transport Canada is updating its training, but she warned there will be "gaps" unless all airlines are required to apply the standards on a daily basis.

A blizzard of lawsuits followed in the wake of the crash, naming First Air, Nav Canada and the department of National Defence as defendants. Canadian Forces sovereignty Operation Nanook was in full swing in Resolute Bay, and there was speculation that it might have interfered with Flight 6560, but it was not among the factors that investigators included.

The board earlier revealed that another plane was in the same area at the time and posed the risk of a mid-air collision. MacDonald said further investigation showed both were aware of each other and the other aircraft landed safely.

## Justice Homicide

# Fort Good Hope looks for healing after murder

## Leaders concerned with RCMP response time

By MARIA CHURCH

Fort Good Hope residents will need time and community support to deal with the death of Charlotte Lafferty, a mother of three who was murdered in the community last week, but they have dealt with tragedy before and will do it again, says the chief.

Greg Laboucan, chief of Fort Good Hope, told *The Journal* the community will be supporting all who have been affected by the tragedy, which includes the family and friends of the 17-year-old charged with the murder of Lafferty.

"They are also victims in all this, as well, and we have nothing but support for them," Laboucan said.

Lafferty was found dead in the early morning of Monday, Mar. 24 near the seniors complex. RCMP were later on scene and charged a young man from the community with first-degree murder.

"This is something that is going to take a long, long time, if ever, to get over. It's just a horrible tragedy and one that, you know, we have

a big empty hole right now in our community," Laboucan said.

The community held a candlelight vigil for Lafferty Monday night, organized hours after news circulated of the murder and charges. More than 40 people were in attendance, including the family of the victim.

A trauma team has been brought into the community from Tulita to provide grief counselling.

Reports that alcohol was a factor in the assault prompted the chief and council to request an emergency 30-day ban on importing liquor into the community.

### RCMP response time a concern

Fort Good Hope chief and council met with RCMP officers Tuesday to discuss residents' concerns about response time after rumours circulated that the body was left in the street for more than an hour before RCMP showed up to investigate.

"Some people were saying it took over an hour for them to respond, but according

to (RCMP) records, it was all within 15 minutes from the time the initial call happened," Laboucan said.

The community is generally content with the performance of RCMP officers in Fort Good Hope, he said, but the meeting was an important debrief following the rattling tragedy.

Laboucan said there are still some concerns that emergency calls made outside of the Fort Good Hope office hours go through Yellowknife dispatchers, which can slow down response time.

"It delays (things) because there are so many questions

and answers they are trying to get and sometimes we feel that they are the ones determining if they should call the RCMP or if they shouldn't," he said. "It can get frustrating, especially with an emergency such as this one, to go through all of that. That just takes

another five minutes away from the response time."

RCMP officers in the community suggested in the future that residents inform the dispatcher of the emergency, ask them to contact the Fort Good Hope officers, then leave their name and number to avoid lengthy questioning.

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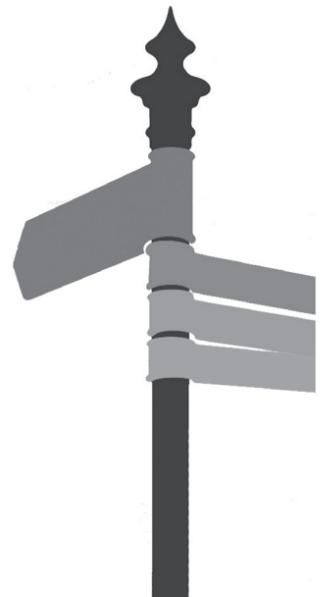
Masi,



Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Minister Education, Culture and Employment



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment



# Counselling relocation causes concern in Fort Smith

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The planned relocation of the community counselling program in Fort Smith to the newly renovated health centre this spring has raised concerns among some residents about the confidentiality of the service in a hospital setting.

At present, community wellness workers are based out of a separate facility, the Jack Taylor Building, but are expected to relocate to the health centre by June.

While the relocation was premeditated in the re-design of the health centre and part of the plan since the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority took over mental health and addictions programming in Fort Smith in 2004, some worry the move will see clients leave the program once it enters a hospital setting.

"People have told me that if it moves to the hospital, they won't come back," said Clayton Burke, who recently addressed a letter of concern to the health authority, hospital board, Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger and the Health and Social Services minister.

Burke, who was on the board of directors for the

If you're really thinking about people that are reaching out for help, you need to make it as easy as possible for them because it's a big, big step. Confidentiality would be a big issue, but I think even greater than that would be the place itself. It's so intimidating to go there.

*David Poitras  
Minister's Forum on Addictions*

original community counselling program when it was federally funded, located at Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre and outside the auspices of the health authority, said his main concern is confidentiality.

"Confidentiality is not maintained should people have to go to the hospital to see a counsellor," he said. "If you have to sit in a waiting room area like a clinic, and someone asks you what you're there for, well you don't want to tell them. Those are things that are key to the confidentiality of a program."

He said consultation should have been done with the public and the program's participants before the decision was made to move the services.

David Poitras, a former counsellor with the program and a member of the Minister's Forum on Addictions, said he too doesn't understand the reason for the move to a hospital setting, which will be more intimidating for people with addictions making the move to get help.

"I know when I was addicted, there was a lot of shame and it was hard to reach out for help. I think a place like the health centre could be a really intimidating place for someone reaching out for the first time," he said. "It's been sitting where it is now for a number of years and I think the community is comfortable with it."

Poitras echoed the concerns about confidentiality,

adding that the newly renovated space is hard to navigate and could turn people away.

"If you're really thinking about people that are reaching out for help, you need to make it as easy as possible for them because it's a big, big step. Confidentiality would be a big issue, but I think even greater than that would be the place itself. It's so intimidating to go there. I went there to look for the physiotherapy and had a hard time to find it. If I was looking for the wellness program, I would probably have just given up," he said.

"The people who are making this decision I don't think have an understanding of addictions."

## Intake process still in planning stages

Though the "flow" of the intake process for the counselling program at the health centre is still in the works, health authority CEO Phyllis Mawdsley said the health centre successfully deals with a variety of programs and services that require respect for confidentiality, and that the counselling program will be no different.

"In respect to confidentiality, Fort Smith Health and Social Services delivers a number of highly sensitive and confidential programs, so confidentiality is a key fundamental principle behind all the program delivery, so this will be no exception in terms of confidentiality considerations and workflow and patient flow," Mawdsley said. "We're just in the process of finalizing those workflow plans."

While a receptionist currently does intake solely for the counselling program at the Jack Taylor Building, the move will see that casual position eliminated in favour of the existing centralized reception setup at the health centre. No other positions will be impacted.

Mawdsley said the new space was constructed to give each wellness worker his or

her own office, and includes a large room for meetings or group sessions. She said the new space will be "modern," more accessible and put all the community's health and social services under one roof.

"It isn't anything new; it's been in the works for a long time. The staff have been quite aware because they've been involved with the planning all along, as well as more recently picking out the new furniture for the space and determining what's coming over and what isn't," she said.

Though the Alcoholics Anonymous group, which has been regularly using the Jack Taylor Building to meet despite being separate from the purview of the authority, will no longer have a designated meeting space within the counselling program space, Mawdsley said there are multi-purpose rooms within the health centre facility that will be open to public use.

"Everything that was available at the Jack Taylor Building will be available at the Fort Smith health centre," she said.

Mawdsley said the public will be apprised of the details of the relocation closer to the move date via mail drops and advertisements.

## Health & Wellness Homelessness

# Salt River asks for help with homeless shelter

## First Nation says shelter could close if funding keeps decreasing

By MARIA CHURCH

The Salt River First Nation (SRFN) has formally asked the Town of Fort Smith to help fund its band-run homeless shelter, saying the facility, which is open to all members of the community, could close without assistance.

Salt River's chief and council met with town councillors at a special meeting last week to discuss the homeless shelter, among other joint initiatives.

Addressing the councillors, SRFN Chief Frieda Martselos said the First Nation isn't looking for the town to include the homeless shelter in its long-term budget, but would like to see a municipal contribution to the community's only operating shelter for homeless individuals.

"It's time that other organizations contribute to this service that we offer at Salt River," she said. "We're not asking for an arm and a leg, we are asking for a contribution...I don't



Salt River First Nation leaders say their band-run homeless shelter, which opened to the Fort Smith community in 2009, is facing closure if they don't receive funding from government.

think the community recognizes the importance of this shelter."

The SRFN homeless shelter, a 10-bedroom facility that opened in 2009, was originally built to house band members only, but organizers dropped all restrictions and welcomed the community shortly after opening.

"Salt River built it, it's Salt River property, but it's housed everybody right from the beginning," Martselos said.

## Government funding dropping

Currently 84 per cent of the homeless shelter's nearly \$300,000 per-year operating budget is funded by SRFN. The remaining 16 per cent of the budget is split between donations and funds from the GNWT department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

In previous years, ECE has given as much as \$50,000 to the shelter. This

year that number dropped to \$10,000.

SRFN councillor Ken Laviolette said Fort Smith town council needs to make concrete decisions about funding the shelter soon.

"I'm not sure Salt River is going to be able to provide this service if we don't get any help. I'm prepared for council to make some hard decisions here. If you don't, it becomes your problem," he told the councillors.

Some town councillors expressed concern that SRFN wasn't able to access funds through the territorial wellness fund. Martselos said the band has gone to Health and Social Services for funding, but was refused because the shelter does not fit into their specific criteria.

In response to a request for information on territorial funding for homeless shelters, Health and Social Services directed the question to the NWT Housing Corp. (NWTHC), which provides funding through application to the Small Community Homelessness Fund.

In an email to *The Journal*, NWTHC spokesperson Cara Bryant said she could not provide information about successful or unsuccessful funding applicants because of privacy concerns.

## Homelessness not municipal mandate

Fort Smith councillor Chris Westwell said funding for social services is a "tough issue" for all municipalities since it is

not technically in their mandate and "everyone wants to pass the buck."

The responsibility for social services, including homelessness, should lie with the territorial government, Fort Smith councillor Don Webb told the First Nation.

"We are seeing more and more of the territorial government downloading the responsibility onto municipalities and we know it's a slippery slope," Webb said.

Shelters in Yellowknife are 100 per cent funded by territorial and federal funds, he added. "They might be hanging you out to dry."

Mayor Brad Brake told Salt River the lack of concrete decisions at the meeting was not an indication of future inaction. He said council plans to discuss Salt River's shelter and reconvene again at a joint meeting with the band to plan for the future.

"Don't drag it on for too long," Laviolette warned. "It's only so long that we can hold on."



Iron Chefs Leah Desjarlais, right, and Derise Rehm create the winning dish: buffalo stuffed peppers.



Fort Smith dietitian and Iron Chef chairman Jared Tam relays the instructions to the chefs at PWK high school.



The competitors use an assortment of everyday ingredients to create their healthy dishes.



### The Winning Recipe: Buffalo Stuffed Peppers

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1lb. ground bison       | 1 tsp. ground cinnamon           |
| ¼ cup Basmati rice      | 1 tsp. seasoning salt            |
| ¼ cup black beans       | 1 tbs. herb and garlic seasoning |
| ½ onion, diced          | 2 red bell peppers               |
| 4 cloves garlic, minced | 2 tomatoes                       |
| 1 egg                   | 1 lime                           |
| 2 tsp. chili powder     | ½ cup shredded cheese (any kind) |

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Parboil the Basmati rice in ½ cup water for about 10 minutes. In a separate bowl mix together the ground bison, rice, black beans, onion, garlic, egg, chilli powder, cinnamon, seasoning salt, and herb and garlic seasoning. Clean your peppers, cut peppers in half and clean out all the seeds and ribs. Dry the peppers off and then rub with olive oil. Stuff each half with the bison mixture. Place on a baking sheet and put in the oven for 30 minutes. At 30 minutes check to make sure rice is not dried out. Squeeze the fresh tomatoes over top of the peppers to create moisture and squeeze the lime over each pepper. Top with cheese and broil for another four minutes. Serves 4.

We served our stuffed peppers with a side of roasted zucchini and asparagus. Seasoned with lemon dill dip mix and seasoning salt.

#### Health & Wellness Nutrition

## Fort Smith chefs dish out some iron

By MARIA CHURCH

Ground buffalo was the secret ingredient for five culinary teams duking it out in Fort Smith's Kitchen Stadium last week for the title of Iron Chef.

The wild meat inspired a plethora of unique menu

choices, including a Caribbean-style dish, spaghetti and meatballs, tacos and a stuffed meatloaf.

The event put on by Health and Social Services community dietitian Jared Tam was held last week

at the PWK high school kitchen with the goal of promoting healthy eating for Nutrition Month.

Food provided for the competition was from local grocery store Kaeser's to make the cooking experience one

the competitors can repeat at home, Tam said.

The winning dish came from chef duo Leah Desjarlais and Derise Rehm, who together created a tasty buffalo stuffed peppers recipe from scratch.

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 Wood Buffalo National Park



Philip Elanik, a Grade 8 student at Moose Kerr School in Aklavik, found that frozen pucks travel faster than non-frozen ones for his science fair project.

Education Science Fair

# Beaufort students inspired by science

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Three Inuvik youth are headed to the Canada Wide Science Fair after successfully competing in the Beaufort Delta Regional Science Fair last weekend.

Mikaela Cockney-MacNeil, Grade 12, Deklen Crocker, Grade 9, and Karis Dekwant, Grade 8, will join 500 other young Canadian students at the national science fair in Windsor, Ont. in May.

Cockney-MacNeil will present her project titled "Enhancing Conceptual Memory Through Sleep Learning, Part II," which follows the study she conducted on local students. Crocker will present his project on electromagnets and Dekwant will present her project on hidden bacteria.

### Elementary winners

- First place*  
Colin Mitchener - *Is it ripe yet?* (Inuvik)
- Second place*  
Julia McCormack - *How long does it take to teach a dog a new trick?* (Fort McPherson)
- Third place*  
Sam Skinner - *Do objects float better in salt or fresh water?* (Inuvik)

### Junior winners:

- First place*  
Karis Dewant - *Hidden bacteria* (Inuvik)
- Second place*  
Simera Bleakney - *Phantom Power* (Inuvik)
- Third place*  
Tyra Cockney-Goose and Nicole Wilkinson - *Does music affect your education?* (Inuvik)

### Senior winners:

- First place:*  
Deklen Crocker - *Strength of an electromagnet* (Inuvik)
- Second place:*  
Mikaela Cockney-MacNeil - *Enhancing Conceptual Memory Through Sleep Learning Part II* (Inuvik)
- Third place:*  
Chad Colin - *Can you purify water through evaporation?* (Fort McPherson)



Nancy Papik, a Grade 6 student at Moose Kerr school in Aklavik, demonstrates how to make a homemade lava lamp at the Beaufort Delta regional science fair.



Mikaela Cockney-MacNeil, Grade 12, conducted a study on sleep learning where students listened to lessons in their sleep and later wrote tests to see if their learning improved. She hopes to study neuroscience at the University of Western Ontario upon graduation.



Colin Mitchener, a Grade 5 student at East Three Elementary in Inuvik, compared avocados for his science fair project. He found that they ripened faster when placed with other ripe fruit and won first place in the elementary division of the Beaufort Delta regional science fair.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison



Gawain Jones performs with fire poi during Saturday night's Fire and Ice event on the lakefront.



Twins Kyle and Kim Galbaransingh win first place in the beard and leg hair growing contest, one of the jamboree's unique Northern competitions.



Emcee Janet Pacey keeps the energy up during the celebrations



Chris Foltz from Kiel, Wisconsin places first in the ice carving contest with his sculpture, Space Cowboy.



Yellowknife's annual winter festival, the Long John Jamboree drew hundreds to the frozen bay for music, ice sculptures and an array of wacky contests despite -45 temperatures over the weekend.



Heidi Kane, left, chats with Kathrine Geraghty, who dressed as the Red Raven for the Flaunt Yer Skivvies Fer Kids contest.



Titan represents Saint Bernards in the glamorous Terriers and Tiaras dog show contest.



Jamboree volunteers take a bow on stage after getting some warm recognition from the crowd down at the frozen bay.



Winter Stag, a sculpture by Aaron Costic and Jeff Meyers of Broadview Heights., Ohio, glimmers in the sunlight after taking the People's Choice award in the carving contest.

Photos: Paul Bannister

# Cave explorer takes stock of hidden holes in Wood Buffalo National Park

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Parks Canada resource management officer Greg Horne admittedly likes to get dirty and damp while exploring some of the world's darkest, tightest spaces, but caves and other features of karst geology also provide a plethora of scientific information beneficial for understanding the history of the earth and people, too.

The karst landscape expert from Jasper National Park, who has spent 20 years caving, was in Fort Smith last week for fieldwork, exploring the handful of known caves in Wood Buffalo National Park to assess their scientific merits and potential for recreational use.

Horne presented his 35 years of knowledge on caves, bats and other features of the dissolving rock landscape to an audience of all ages on Thursday evening at the Parks theatre, from how they form to what they can tell us.

As part of his work in Wood Buffalo, which began in 2012, Horne is doing a resource inventory, looking for types of minerals and evidence of biological life, from invertebrates to bats, as well as a hazards assessment, which applies to human exploration.



Photo: Greg Horne/Parks Canada

Wood Buffalo National Park scientist Sharon Irwin investigates one of three known caves in the park south of Fort Smith, along with cave specialist Greg Horne.

Currently caves in Wood Buffalo National Park are located kilometres off the road and trail system and are not open to recreational use, but Horne is helping to review that.

"You would evaluate the hazards that are in the cave, where the hazards are the rock and things falling; there can be flooding, bad air, there can be dust, disease possibilities from

the guano of bats, there can be steep terrain that requires rope," he said generally of performing cave hazard inventories.

When it comes to caves in Wood Buffalo, Horne said the type of rock - made of dissolving limestone, dolomite and gypsum - is very risky, with walls and ceilings threatening to crumble with even a slight disturbance. One of the park's few known caves actually closed up

following a massive summer windstorm in 2013.

Photographs taken within one of the caves shows a large piece of rock, a metre wide and several metres long, curling off of the ceiling like a rock shaving.

"The stability of the caves in Wood Buffalo is definitely suspect," he said. "You get here and you don't want to touch the walls, you don't

want to touch the ceiling unless you have to, because it could be a kind of domino chain reaction. You bump that rock there and this thing is ready to fall down on you. So they can give you pretty good shivers."

The number of known caves in Wood Buffalo National Park is around three, though the vastness of the park, the difficulty in accessing the majority of the landscape and the known presence of thousands of sinkholes - the most in Canada - indicates there could be many more within the park's boundaries.

"Given all the sinkholes and all the karst topography, in theory there could be dozens to hundreds," Horne said, noting that Wood Buffalo has the most karst landforms of any national park in Canada. "The thing is, as everyone knows here, the landscape is huge and travel is slow, before and after a fire."

While Google Earth is helping to find caves and sinkholes in more barren landscapes elsewhere on the planet, it does little good in forested regions, Horne said.

Plus, he said, he tends to find most caves by accident.

"I never find caves when I go to look for caves. I find caves

when I'm doing something else out on the landscape."

Horne, who has explored some of the world's deepest and biggest caves throughout his life, said they aren't just interesting from an adventurer standpoint, but provide valuable information for the fields of paleontology, archaeology, microbiology and climate scientists.

"In Wood Buffalo, the sediment and ice layers give a fire history, a history of flood events and periods of deforestation from fire," he said.

Caves are also home to many species of bats, who are currently at risk of extinction due to the spread of white nose syndrome, a fungus that infects their nose and wings during hibernation and has killed at least 5 million bats since 2006.

Parks Canada is currently working with other agencies to provide a unified response to the spread of the disease, including closing off bat hibernaculum to recreational caving.

According to Horne, Nahanni National Park boasts the largest number of caves of any national park in Canada, and along with caves in northern Alberta and Wood Buffalo, host three species of bats each year.





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# Moose skin boats keep Tulita's oral history alive

## Archeologist visits Fort Smith for historical presentation

By MARIA CHURCH

Built about 40 feet long out of white and black spruce, willow and eight to 10 untanned moose hides, moose skin boats are perhaps one of the most culturally significant treasures of the Mountain Dene.

"For the Shuhtaot'ine (Mountain Dene), they are a cultural icon. It defines who the Mountain Dene are in many ways," territorial archaeologist Tom Andrews told a crowd of students and community members in Fort Smith last week at Aurora College.

Andrews and Leon Andrew from Tulita were both in Fort Smith Thursday at the request of the South Slave Aurora Research Institute for the screening of *Tie-cho-ka: Quelques images du Grand Nord*, a 30-minute silent documentary produced by French anthropologist Jean Michéa documenting his time spent with the Mountain Dene in the 1950s.

Maximizing his time at the college, Andrews also gave a presentation on the importance of moose skin boats to the Mountain Dene, which covered the history of the



Territorial archaeologist Tom Andrews shares the history of the Mountain Dene's moose skin boats at Aurora College's Thebacha campus last week.

boats and detailed how they are made.

"All through the 20th century, we have this wonderful photographic archive of moose skin boats," Andrews said. Using the photos as well as extensive oral history from Mountain Dene elders, Andrews said he is able to piece

together much of the history of the boats, which are next to impossible to find preserved today.

The boats were invented as a necessary mode of transportation for the Mountain Dene who would travel up into the mountains for the winter to hunt sheep and

moose but, come spring, needed a way to bring their heavy haul of meat back down to Tulita.

Using the fresh moose hides they had harvested, the Dene built one-way boats that would sustain the weight of the meat. The hides were sewn together and stretched

over a spruce frame while a supply of animal fat was used to make sure the seams were moist and sealed.

The trip down from the mountains brought their cargo through hundreds of kilometres of sometimes treacherous waters, past landmarks such as the sacred Red Dog Mountain, to the shores of Tulita.

Once they reached their destination, the green hides would dry, shrink and destroy the wooden frame of the boat, making them next to impossible to reuse, nevermind preserve for historical purposes, so those hides were recycled for other items.

For Andrew, who was featured as a boy in Michéa's film and whose father and grandfather built moose skin boats, the importance of keeping the knowledge alive is what inspires him to share the story of the boats with others.

"Most communities have their oral history. For us, the moose skin boat gives us some of the background knowledge from the Mountain Dene. The knowledge should be shared with everyone and hopefully people can learn from it," Andrew told *The Journal*.

Last summer, the community of Tulita spearheaded a moose skin boat revitalization project that saw a group of nearly 50 people plan and execute a three-week project to build a boat. Andrews was a part of the team building the boat and said the moment it touched water caused a flood of emotion.

"It's a moment of laughter and a moment of tears when the boat hits the water. There was a drum dance to pray and christen the boat," he shared with the crowd.

The Mountain Dene have built moose skin boats at least once every generation in order to keep the practice alive in the community.

"The skills and knowledge are being passed down from generation to generation," Andrews said. "Hopefully there will be another one made in the next generation."

In order to preserve last year's moose skin boat, the community removed the raw hides and plan to cover the frame with canvas made to look like moose hide. The frame is currently displayed at the community's airport to welcome visitors to the home of the Mountain Dene.

Photo: Maria Church

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# Future water leaders gather in Yellowknife

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

First Nations youth from across Canada joined together in Yellowknife last week as part of an ongoing program hoping to foster environmental stewardship in future “water leaders.”

The project, created by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), takes youth on a journey across Canada to learn about the importance of protecting water and develop action plans to educate others about the issues.

Sixteen teens from four First Nations, including four from Fort Smith, gathered for the third time last week in the NWT to learn from experts and create a series of community-based projects that each group will implement over the next five weeks.

It was the second last meeting of the year-long program that has seen the same group take turns visiting each other’s home regions to share their unique experiences around water issues.

Last fall, the group met for the first time at the Beausoleil First Nation in Ontario before heading to the Lower Similkameen in B.C. In May, they will meet for a final time near Winnipeg during their



Photo: Stephanie Yuill

*Youth from four First Nations across Canada meet in Yellowknife to learn about water stewardship from a number of experts.*

visit to the Iskatewizaagegan First Nation, where they will have time to debrief and reflect on their experiences with the program.

According to Stephanie Yuill, public education specialist for the GNWT department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and chaperone for the program, the last seven months have been an eye-opening journey for the youth involved.

“We tend to get, especially in the NWT, wrapped up in the oilsands because that is so close to us and I think we forget about a lot of the other

issues that are happening in Canada, because the issues that are happening within each community are really different,” she said.

The four communities represented in the program bring a variety of concerns with them, from the threat of hydro dams to decreasing water levels and the pollution caused by agricultural runoff, she said.

“Probably one of the biggest things that the kids are getting, is this incredible overview of what’s going on in Canada,” Yuill said. “I think their breadth of knowledge has really expanded from this.”

Each section of the four-staged program has the youth focus on different areas of organizing for change. Apart from teachings on water and the environment, the youth are also learning how to create project proposals, receive funding and successfully implement an educational program.

Over the past week in Yellowknife, the youth heard from ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger about local water issues and the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, various experts on incorporating traditional knowledge with science, and Aboriginal leader and former

national chief Phil Fontaine on marketing their cause.

“He talked about the art of persuasion and how to bring people on board and onto your side...how to persuade people to believe in water, how to get them to listen to your story and buy in to your story,” Yuill said.

Last week, the groups finished their project proposals and applied for funding for their action plans, which range from talking to elementary school students about water, hosting community workshops and creating household tool kits for water conservation.

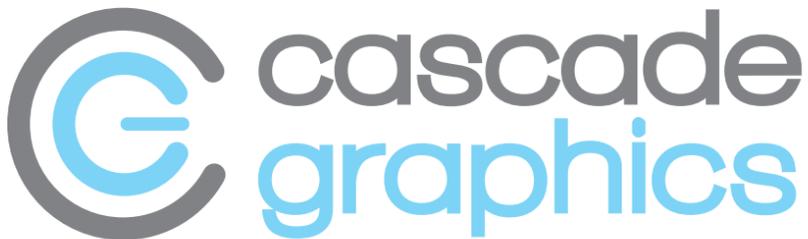
They also were able to get hands-on exposure to the social, cultural and ecological importance of ice by going dog sledding and visiting the Snowcastle, the float plane base, Cameron Falls and the Yellowknife Bay houseboats.

Yuill said the program has been challenging for the youth, but said the teens are keen moving forward.

“I think some of it is overwhelming, but I think the topics are overwhelming for everyone, not just youth. The idea of putting together a proposal for funding is challenging to most adults,” she said. “But I know they’re all super excited about doing their projects in their communities, so I think once that hands-on part comes on, I think it’s all going to fall into place.”

Dalton Beamish, 15, who is one of the representatives from Fort Smith, said he is looking forward to engaging the K-6 students in his community on respecting water.

“We’re going to teach the kids the importance of water, about the Slave River and teach them how to respect the water,” Beamish said. “I just think that it’s very important for the kids to start to know the responsibilities about water at a young age.”



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# National award praises regional board on chopping block

By MARIA CHURCH

The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board has received national recognition for its efforts to promote water quality in the Tlcho region, less than two weeks before federal Bill C-15 will begin the process of eradicating all regional land and water boards in the NWT.

Premier Bob McLeod announced the Tlcho board as the 2014 winner of the Council of the Federation's Excellence in Water Stewardship Award, which is given each year for outstanding and innovative water protection programs and strategies.

McLeod praised Wek'èezhii's contributions to the territory in a press release following the announcement, just days before Bill C-15 was given royal assent.

"This is an excellent example of how innovative, locally-focussed and action-oriented programs delivered through a regional board can educate communities in water conservation and water quality protection at the local level," he said.

Once devolution takes effect on Apr. 1, the GNWT will start the process of creating a superboard to replace the territory's current regional land and water boards, a move



Photo courtesy of Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board

*The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board team has received national recognition for engaging the local community in water stewardship.*

condemned by First Nations across the territory, including the Tlcho.

In February, the Tlcho government announced it would be taking legal action against the federal government, in part, because of the dismantling of the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board. Tlcho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus called the

bill "devastating" to the Tlcho's ability to protect their way of life.

The Wek'èezhii board, which flows out of the Tlcho's self government agreement, was recommended by the GNWT to receive the council's water award, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger told *The Journal* last week.

Miltenberger confirmed the Wek'èezhii board will "cease to exist" after the superboard is created, though the region will still have a seat at the table.

"It's a decision that was made; it wasn't a decision that we made," Miltenberger said. "We are accepting the fact that the federal government is using its authority to make these changes. They are

controversial in the Northwest Territories. They are contemplated in the land claim agreements. It's caused considerable consternation."

Miltenberger said the GNWT will be spending the next several years implementing devolution and could revisit the idea of regional boards in the future.

## Board staff happy with recognition

Despite Wek'èezhii's impending amalgamation into the superboard, which will take full effect on Apr. 1, 2015, board staff are beyond pleased to receive national recognition for their efforts that go beyond a land and water board's intended mandate.

Wek'èezhii was created nine years ago to regulate land and water use in Tlcho communities, but over the last five years has been running programs to build local capacity for water quality monitoring.

"It's always really nice to be recognized, especially for some of these extra projects the organization is involved in. These projects working with the communities and with the Tlcho government are outside of the core business and workload of the Wek'èezhii

Land and Water Board," Brett Wheler, executive director of the board, told *The Journal*.

## Programs could continue in future

Wheler said the board is currently focused on the immediate changes headed its way via devolution on Apr. 1, including altered licensing procedures created by the mirroring of federal resource management legislation and the addition of the new GNWT Lands department.

Once Wek'èezhii staff get a handle on the immediate changes, it will be looking at long-term changes resulting from Bill C-15, he said.

"We do really value these programs and we really want to focus on how land and water board staff are going to be able to maintain these programs going forward," Wheler said.

Wek'èezhii staff are not expecting any layoffs or significant change to the regulatory work of the board once it's amalgamated under a superboard, he added.

"That's not going to change, because we draw the lines differently on the map," Wheler said. "I think our staff are pretty comfortable with that situation."

## Education Youth

# New youth network budding in Sahtu region

## Group to explore climate change, health and traditional economy

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Youth in the Sahtu are exercising their voices on the issues of climate change, health, the traditional economy and industrial development through a blossoming regional youth network, established by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), local resource councils and the Pembina Institute.

Tee Lim, a policy analyst with Pembina and lead on the project, said the idea for a youth network was sparked by a cross-community learning forum held last November in Tulita, which brought together youth, elders and other knowledge holders from all of the Sahtu communities for a week.

"There was a really clear call from youth in particular for greater networking and gatherings and coordination amongst themselves, capacity building and general exposure to a lot of these issues, ranging from climate change and health through to development, including the shale oil development that's taking place in their region," Lim said.

That forum was the first stage in one of two main



Photo: Jean Poffus

*Youth and elders in the Sahtu meet in Tulita in November to learn and share information on climate change and health.*

initiatives being undertaken by the budding youth council. Funded by Health Canada, the project is looking into the impacts of climate change on people's health in the region, taking into account scientific information and the traditional knowledge of land users.

Lim said the project is giving youth in the Sahtu "some of the latest (Western) climate science, first-hand," paired with elders' experiences of climate change on the land.

While the project is in its initial stages, having just recently

received funding, Lim said there are plans underway to hold another regional gathering later this year where each community can present the results of their own community-based, self-directed research.

"The idea is that each group of youth picks an identified component of potential vulnerability to climate change and they pursue certain questions, try to dig down into a certain environmental determinant of health and go off and explore that in their own community context, and then

bring that back (to the network)," Lim said.

As well, there are plans for more on-the-land activities like fall hunts.

"One of the hopes of the community health and climate change project for 2014-15... is getting high school groups possibly out on their community fall hunts, which we were able to help facilitate in Tulita last year," Lim said. "The idea would be to expand that, having youth from each community get out on their own community fall hunt."

## Supporting the traditional economy

The second project in which the youth are currently involved deals with the traditional economy, linking youth, elders and prominent harvesters together to talk about ways in which new and traditional ways of making a living can be brought together to improve the economic livelihoods of people in the region.

"The broad objective of that project is to examine how to maintain and strengthen the traditional economy in a context of fairly rapid industrial activity and expansion," Lim said, "again with a really strong youth focus in there."

Representatives from all the Sahtu communities met on the traditional economy program in Deline in February - the end of the first year of the two-year project - where Lim said there was a really strong call for more on-the-land activities and further bridge-building between elders and youth, particularly around traditional skills.

"While there's definitely talk about the increasing implications of wage work, a lot of the discussion actually

focused on the strong desire on the part of youth to learn from their elders and learn traditional activities and basically keep the traditional economy strong," he said.

"How do they mutually support each other in a positive way; how can skills inherent to traditional activities be transferred into successful wage employment?"

The ultimate goal is to come out with an action plan for a mixed regional economy at the end of year two.

Lim said it's essential to have youth involved in the important discussions dealing with the future of the region, environmentally, culturally and economically.

"There's just a real interest in these issues when you engage youth; there's a real hunger for more information and opportunities to engage, and a general desire to have a voice and say over some of what's occurring in the territories that not only these youth but their families have lived on for generations," he said. "These are the folks that are going to take over the stewardship and governance of the region."

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Visit the Department of Health and Social Services website at [www.hss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca) to read the Discussion Paper and get more information.

### The Department welcomes your opinions on the Discussion Paper and proposed legislation.

Please send us your comments by April 22, 2014 using the feedback form on the department's website, by fax at (867) 873-0204 to the attention of "Ground Ambulance Comments," by email at [gaact@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gaact@gov.nt.ca), or by mailing them to:

Policy, Legislation and Communications  
Health and Social Services, GNWT  
P.O. Box 1320  
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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



**Government of the Northwest Territories**

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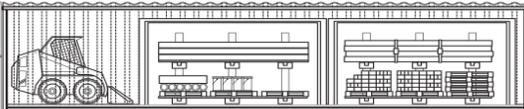
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- Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration
- The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities,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

**Yellowknife, Airport Terminal Building  
Pellet Boiler Installation  
CT101391  
- Yellowknife, NT-**

Supply and install wood pellet boiler(s) at the Yellowknife Air Terminal Building.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> received before:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, APRIL 25TH 2014**

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

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

Pre-tender meeting: 10 am, April 2, 2014, Yellowknife Air Terminal Building.

**General inquiries to:** Tanya-Louise Gray  
Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230

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

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

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CT101397  
- Hay River, NT -**

Provision for design, construction and installation of a Wood Pellet Boiler system at South Mackenzie Correctional Centre.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Procurement Shared Services, Government of the NWT, 301-76 Capital Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, B&R Rowe Bldg., Hay River, NT X0E 1G2, or to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Procurement Shared Services, Government of the NWT, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stuart Hodgson Bldg., Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, will be received before:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, APRIL 23, 2014.**

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the NWT Construction Association at (867) 873-3949 or [www.nwtca.ca](http://www.nwtca.ca).

To be considered, each tender must be accompanied by security stated in tender documents.

Pre-tender meeting: 1:00 pm, April 8, 2014, SMCC, #34 Studney Drive, Hay River.

**General inquiries to:** Audrey Mabbitt  
Contracts Administrator  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 874-7003

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

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# South Slave school board wins gold for literacy

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC) is once again being recognized for its successful literacy program, winning gold for education at the recent national Public Sector Leadership Awards.

The awards, handed out by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) and Deloitte, celebrate innovation and excellence in the public sector.

SSDEC took home the top honour for its groundbreaking Leadership 4 Literacy initiative, which has boosted student success in the region and resulted in leading edge Aboriginal language instruction in the country.

Though students in the South Slave were already achieving better academic results than other NWT school boards, nearly half were below the Canadian standards for reading and math, which prompted the initiative to bring students up to the norm.

What followed was the creation of valuable community partnerships and a new approach to Aboriginal language instruction that



SSDEC superintendent Curtis Brown, centre, and assistant superintendent Brent Kaulback accept their gold award from Marilyn Scott, chief of staff at Centennial College in Toronto and one of the jury panel members.

Photo courtesy of SSDEC

have resulted in numerous awards since the program's inception.

"Several schools have seen a remarkable turnaround in enthusiasm, commitment and results, and the program has been embraced, adopted or adapted by several other jurisdictions," states the awards website.

"Importantly, this program has helped the South Slave Divisional Education Council develop new tools, embrace technologies (smart boards) while applying other evidence-based techniques in Aboriginal language instruction and assessment with impressive results to preserve the indigenous languages

of the South Slave region."

The award was accepted in Toronto in February and marks the first time that both a school board and an organization from within the Northwest Territories have won an IPAC leadership award.

SSDEC superintendent Curtis Brown and assistant superintendent Brent

Our teachers, parents and students need to hear about and see this award as a testament to their hard work and our collective improvement.

*Supt. Curtis Brown  
South Slave Divisional Education Council*

Kaulback accepted the awards on behalf of the school division, though Brown remarked that the entire region deserves to share in the recognition.

"Our staff, DEAs and council members do an incredible job and deserve to be recognized for their success. Our administrators deserve credit for having courage and taking risks in order to ensure a better lot for staff and students. Our teachers, parents and students need to hear about and see this award as a testament to their hard work and our collective improvement," he said upon receiving the award.

Both he and Kaulback noted the spinoff benefits to Aboriginal language promotion in the region - an aspect highlighted by the awards committee in making its selection.

Most recently, representatives from the Nunavut government were in the South Slave to learn as much as they could about modeling the Leadership 4 Literacy program in their own classrooms.

"Our improvements in English literacy have spilled over to new techniques in Aboriginal-language instruction with very promising results," Kaulback said.

## Education Schools

# No ruling on GNWT French school appeal

## Lawyer anticipates months before appeal decision

By MARIA CHURCH

The NWT Court of Appeal has reserved judgement on a case that would overturn a court order requiring the territorial government to provide French schools in Yellowknife and Hay River with new gyms and specialty classrooms.

Roger Lepage, lawyer for the French school board, Commission scolaire francophone (CSF), announced Wednesday the court chose to delay the appeal ruling, which some are calling a defining case for French first language rights in the NWT.

"When a Court of Appeal reserves a decision, there is no set date for the decision to be rendered. We anticipate that it could be anywhere between four to six months before we receive a decision," Lepage said.



École Boréale in Hay River is one of two French schools fighting for equal services.

Photo: École Boréale

The GNWT is appealing a court order from 2012 that determined the government is constitutionally responsible for providing French schools with equal services, which are estimated to cost

\$26 million in additions and upgrades.

The court is also hearing an appeal from CSF on whether French preschool is also a constitutional guarantee under Article 23, as a

right for children to be able to speak French before entering kindergarten.

In December of last year, the territorial government proposed a school swap, suggesting students from

The process can be fairly lengthy yet, however we are satisfied that the Court of Appeal heard all of our arguments and that we are looking forward to a favourable ruling.

*Roger Lepage  
Commission scolaire francophone*

French schools use the gymnasiums and classrooms at nearby English schools where student enrolment has been steadily decreasing.

Both English and French school boards in Hay River rejected the school swap proposal in early March after hearing the idea unanimously condemned by parents at a community meeting.

The Yellowknife school board has scheduled a

discussion with parents on the GNWT's proposed school swap in May.

Once the Court of Appeal does make a ruling, both the GNWT and CSF will have 60 days to further appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

"The process can be fairly lengthy yet, however we are satisfied that the Court of Appeal heard all of our arguments and that we are looking forward to a favourable ruling," Lepage said.



Photos: Sean Pinn

Skiers cheer at the annual Ptub race in Hay River last weekend. While cold temperatures cancelled racing on Saturday, Sunday's sunny skies kept the racers warm and happy for the 31st annual skiing event.

**Sports & Recreation Skiing**

# Ptub skiers joined by home-town Olympian

By MARIA CHURCH

Hay River welcomed home its Olympic hero Brendan Green last weekend by joining him on the ski trails at the 31st annual Ptub Ski Races.

Green and his girlfriend, honorary Hay River resident Rosanna Crawford, both Olympic biathletes who represented Team Canada at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia in February, took part in the annual ski event this year, an extra treat for the community and those who travelled to partake in the chilly fun.

The Hay River Ptub - sponsored by the Ptarmigan Inn and the Hay River Hub, from which the unique name is generated - draws hundreds of snow-loving participants each year to the local ski trails. This year was no exception

with registration "sold out," according to Hay River Ski Club member Bob White.

Participants from as far away as Fort Smith and Yellowknife made the trek for the last big winter event of the season. The annual banquet, sponsored by the Ptarmigan Inn, was full to overflowing, White said.

While races on Saturday were cancelled with the thermostat showing lower than -30 degrees including wind chill, Sunday had skiers basking in the sunlight at a modest -15.

Racers competed in categories for all ages and skill levels, including mini-atoms, pee wees, juniors, seniors and masters. Results for the races are posted online at <http://zone4.ca/results.asp?ID=6723&cat=all>



The event featured race categories for all ages and skill levels.



Olympic biathlete Rosanna Crawford joins the Ptub racers at this year's chilly cross-country ski event.

## SPORTS

## BRIEFS

### B.C. man named national sled dog champion in Yellowknife

Canada's top sled dog racers went head to head at the annual Canadian Championship Dog Derby held in Yellowknife over the weekend. Eight teams registered for the classic 10-dog event that took the dogs and mushers onto the frozen lake front. Blaine Streeper of Streeper Kennels in Fort Nelson, B.C. was a clear frontrunner throughout the races and nabbed this year's championship title and \$5,000 purse. Lina Gladh, also from Fort Nelson, B.C., was a close second-place finisher, and Fort Resolution's Richard Beck came in third. A six-dog race was added to the championships this year and a whopping 14 registrants signed up to race for the title. Beck was once again in the lead pack and managed to nab first place and the \$700 purse. Trevor Lizotte came in a close second place while Kirk Fabien was at their heels to come in third.



Photo: Becca Denley

Team TNMT wins the award for best costume at this year's snow beach volleyball tournament.

### Frozen faces and sunny skies for Yellowknife snow beach volleyball

The weather was perfectly chilly for the annual Long John Jamboree's snow beach volleyball competition last weekend where eight teams went head to head on the icy courts in -45 weather with the wind chill. Teams of two to four players bundled up, some in outrageous costumes, to bump, set and spike for a good cause Saturday. A total of \$750 was raised by players this year, which went to the NWT SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) animal shelter. Team Great Balls of Fire won first place in the round robin tournament, followed by It's Snot Right and Ice Ice Baby. The title of best costume went to team Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (TMNT). Team Abusement Park won the award for most funds raised.

### Dogs and skiers brave cold weather for annual skijoring event

Eight competitors and their humans braved the cold temperatures in Yellowknife last weekend for the Long John Jamboree's annual SPCA Skijoring race. Faced with -45 temperatures with the windchill, competitors were bundled up for the race that has skiers tied to their energetic pooches. Jake and his human Rosanna Nicol came in first place, followed by Mimosa and Maria Eklund. Mooka with Lara Mountain and Ringo with Devin Lake were runners up. All proceeds from the fur-friendly race went to the SPCA animal shelter in Yellowknife.



Photo: NWTSPCA

Skijoring racers strapped to skis and their best friends for the annual SPCA skijoring fundraising race.

# Canadian senior curlers get a taste of the North

## *Nova Scotia and Manitoba take the championship titles*

By MARIA CHURCH

For the 106 athletes and more than 60 accompanying visitors that swept into Yellowknife last week for the Canadian Senior Curling Championships, the icy sport wasn't the only activity on tap.

"I think they got a good taste of the North as a whole. They went out to Aurora Village, some have gone on dog sled rides, a lot have taken in the Snowcastle and were planning to go down to the Long John Jamboree this weekend," Maureen Miller, organizer and president of the NWT Curling Association, told *The Journal* last Friday, the penultimate day of the championships.

Miller said the 10-day tournament went smoothly for the organizing team, partly due to good ol' Northern hospitality.

Throughout the week, multiple community curling clubs hosted evenings of entertainment for the championship crowd, including those from Hay River and Fort Smith, both of whom shared food, music and information about what their communities have to offer.

"We tried to provide the visitors with an opportunity to learn more than just what



The NWT men's team plays at the Canadian Senior Championships in Yellowknife last week.

Photo: Bill Braden

Yellowknife has to offer. We've had a lot of them say they want to come back, they want to go fishing in the summer, they want to try new things," Miller said.

### Home teams give a good show

Up against the country's best senior curlers, the home teams represented

the territory well during the championships with many of their games ending just shy of a win, Miller said.

The NWT men's team - comprised of Glen Hudy, Brian Kelln, Ben McDonald and Richard Klakowich of the hosting Yellowknife Curling Club - ended the tournament with three wins and eight losses. Also from Yellowknife,

the women's team made up of Ann McKellar-Gillis, Wendy Ondrack, Louise Marcinkoski and Natalie Kelln, finished with one win and 10 losses.

"The women, towards the end, probably didn't have as close of games, but early on we had a number of games for the NWT women that could have gone either way. Then on the men's side the guys

did really well. They started slow and then they built and they finished in a tie with New Brunswick," Miller said.

### Manitoba wins women's title

Miller said the results on the women's side were not surprising, as the front runners kept up a steady lead and played hard throughout the tournament.

Saskatchewan's team Lorraine Arguin and Manitoba's Lois Fowler took early leads and maintained their winning streaks right up to the semi-finals, both going into playoffs with 10 wins and one loss. Ontario's Marilyn Bodogh followed them into the semis with an eight win, three loss score.

In the semi finals, Bodogh was knocked out of the tournament by Arguin 7-4, pitting Saskatchewan against Manitoba for the final round. Manitoba's Fowler showed their skill early on in the final game and took the championship title with a solid 5-1 win.

### Nova Scotia takes men's title

On the men's side, the championship title was open to all teams after last year's defending champions from

New Brunswick failed to make the top spot in their provincial pool.

Nova Scotia's Alan O'Leary and Manitoba's Kelly Robertson showed their curling prowess early on by taking the lead in the standings, while Alberta's Mark Johnson beat Northern Ontario's Robbie Gordon in a tiebreaker round for third, just squeezing into the playoffs.

In the semis, Robertson took the lead ahead of Johnson and nabbed his spot in the final game with a 10-8 win. The final game was a nail biter, with Manitoba's Robertson and Nova Scotia's O'Leary neck and neck until the latter sealed the championship title by one point with a final score of nine.

### Winners to represent Canada

With a national championship now under their belts, O'Leary and Fowler will represent Canada at the 2015 World Senior Curling Championships.

Last year's Canadian Senior champions, Nova Scotia's Colleen Pinkney and New Brunswick's Wayne Tallon, will represent Canada at this year's worlds, to be held Apr. 23-30 in Dumfries, Scotland.

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