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The Alberta government announced the addition of residential school lessons into all of its classrooms over the next several years. See page 15.

# NORTHERN Journal

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HAPPY EASTER!

## Fair Elections Act could hurt NWT voters

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Proposed amendments to the federal elections process contained within the Conservatives' Fair Elections Act could have an adverse effect on electors in the Northwest Territories, according to NWT's chief electoral officer (CEO) David Brock.

The CEO addressed the federal committee responsible for reviewing Bill C-23 last week in Ottawa, stating that several changes proposed within the act have the potential to make voting more difficult for people in the NWT, especially those in smaller communities.

Those changes include the elimination of vouching, the enablement of all political candidates or their representatives to examine voter identification at polling stations, and the move to limit the communications of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada.

In the 2011 territorial election, Brock said 15 out of every 1,000 voters required the use of vouching, whereby another registered elector attests to the voter's claim to residency in a specific riding.

While that number is relatively low, Brock said vouching is twice as likely to happen in a community outside of Yellowknife.

"In my view, removing vouching from the Canada Elections Act would, at least in the short term, cause a barrier to access for some electors, especially in our smaller communities," he told the committee.

He called the voter identification requirements proposed in the Fair Elections Act "somewhat excessive, particularly in our small communities where we all know each other."

### Voter fraud rationale 'unfounded': CEO

While the Conservative government has touted the act as an attempt to curb voter fraud, it has been widely criticized by opposition parties and non-governmental organizations as an attempt to limit the electoral power of demographics less likely to vote Conservative, like students, low-income and Aboriginal people.

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington (NDP) said he absolutely believes that to be the underlying rationale behind the act.

"They've looked at the situation and realized most of their voters are going to fall within these rules," he told *The Journal*.

Brock said linking vouching to increased voter fraud is "unfounded" and that the provisions to eliminate the practice should be removed from the bill, noting that the NWT is actually contemplating expanding the use of vouching by increasing the amount of times an elector may vouch for someone else.

### Rules risk voter intimidation

Having political representatives examining an elector's identification at a polling station could further deter electors from voting, Brock added.

"It is important to have partisans monitor activity at polling stations to ensure that the electoral processes are carried out in accordance with the law. However, it is equally, if not more, important that ballots be cast free from intimidation or undue delay," he said.

Part of the issue concerns confidentiality, Brock said, as in 27 of 33 NWT communities, fewer than half of residents



A snowcross racer catches some air on Sunday afternoon at Last Dock in Fort McPherson during the 56th annual Peel River Jamboree, held over the weekend. Winners took home as much as \$1,000. See page 12 for more.

Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

hold government-issued photo ID, meaning the documents used to provide proof of residence likely contain personal financial information.

"The risk of unveiling personal financial information to a polling official, especially in small communities, is already a possible deterrent to voting. I'm concerned that this deterrent will be exacerbated if these documents may also be examined by partisans," Brock said.

He said he worries the changes could worsen what is already a low voter turnout in the NWT, which falls near or below the bottom 10th percentile for federal elections.

Further changes to limit the abilities of the Canadian Chief Electoral Officer to

provide information to the public would be another blow, Brock said, especially to engaging groups "most likely to experience difficulties in exercising their democratic rights," which includes Aboriginal peoples - 51 per cent of the NWT population.

"With declining participation rates, it is not clear why it would be a policy objective to have fewer election-related messages," he said. "I am concerned that limiting the information provided by the Chief Electoral Officer may have a disproportionate effect on Aboriginal electors in Canada, a group of people who comprise a majority in the Northwest Territories."

Bevington expects there will be thousands of incidents

detering or delaying voter participation across the country if this bill passes as is.

He said he has received a "steady stream" of emails from concerned constituents opposing the changes, many of whom only have documented P.O. box addresses rather than residential ones.

"This opens up massive confusion at the polls," Bevington said. "Suppose somebody went to the last poll and got vouched in and so they believe they can do it again this time. How many people are not going to know?"

Bill C-23 has already undergone first and second reading in the House of Commons and is now under review by parliamentary committee, as well as a pre-study by the Senate committee.

## GNWT accounts now payable online

The government of the Northwest Territories has announced that its customers can now make account payments online through one of the five major Canadian banks. As of Apr. 10, residents looking to make payments on their property taxes, student loans, land leases or any other GNWT invoice can use electronic banking. According to Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger, the move to online payments is part of the territorial government's Service Innovation Strategy that aims to find new ways to use technology to improve program and service access and reduce red tape.

## Peace River flooding evacuates homes and businesses

Areas of Peace River were evacuated last week as water flooded the downtown after ice and mud blocked a main culvert and prevented the flood water from draining. An evacuation centre was set up at the Baytex Energy Centre for residents with nowhere to stay, however no one stayed overnight. Crews worked to drain the downtown by diverting the water with berms. Waters began receding early Wednesday morning when the culvert blockage was released and flow was diverted back to the Pat's Creek culvert.

## Fort Liard deputy mayor appointed chair of Mackenzie Valley board

Fort Liard's deputy mayor Joanne Deneron has been chosen as the new chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Deneron was appointed last week by the federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Bernard Valcourt. Deneron will be replacing Richard Edjericon, originally from the South Slave, who has served two separate terms as chair of the board. His most recent appointment in 2011 expired on Mar. 31. Deneron is currently the director of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation's holding company as well as the NWT Business Development and Investment Corp.



Photo: SRRB/Jean Polfus

A coordinated and regional approach to creating employment for Sahtu communities, like Fort Good Hope (above), is required to ensure local residents are benefiting from industrial development, says Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya.

### Industry Job Training

# Sahtu needs coordinated job training plan: MLA

## Feasibility study for regional technical institute underway

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Youth in the Sahtu need reassurance from the government that they will be able to find work in their communities after graduation through a coordinated education and training plan

for the region, says MLA Norman Yakeleya.

The MLA for the Sahtu said the territorial government needs to team up with community leaders in the Sahtu, where the promise of an oil and gas boom could create hundreds of local job opportunities over the next decade with the right preparedness.

"There's going to be a lot of opportunities in the North through development in the Sahtu," Yakeleya said.

"Within three years, in the Sahtu we're going to have about 150 students who are graduating from Grade 12, and we have about 81 students who are in some type of post-secondary training or institution right now in the Sahtu. We need to look at supporting them through the schools, through the post-secondary institutions, and start demanding that the jobs that we have in the Sahtu region - either oil and gas or government - that these students...get on with these jobs."

While oil companies doing exploratory work in the region have hired dozens of locals, Yakeleya said there is still "a long way to go" in addressing unemployment.

Of approximately 200 workers on site at ConocoPhillips' exploratory operations in 2013-14, 106 of those were NWT residents: 45 from the Tulita District (including Norman Wells), 20 other Sahtu beneficiaries and 41 non-beneficiaries.

Over \$17 million, or 65 per cent, of direct expenditures went to Aboriginal-owned businesses in Tulita and Norman Wells, and \$97,000 was spent on training.

Roughly 20 additional workers from Tulita and Norman Wells continue to work for Husky Oil on its road project, with the other 50 per cent

coming from other parts of the NWT or the south.

Yakeleya said more needs to be done to ensure local people are hired before people from the south.

"We have more people not working than working," he said.

### Training school study in works: ECE

Laurie Morton, director of labour development for Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), said the department has committed to completing a feasibility study for a Sahtu Regional Institute of Technology within the 2014-15 fiscal year to determine whether such a school would be viable.

The study is taking into account existing education and training facilities and programs, as well as the labour pool and projected labour market needs in the Sahtu.

ECE has also committed to completing a Sahtu Oil and Gas Needs Assessment, the first phase of which was completed in 2013. The second phase is expected to be completed by this spring.

The assessment is looking into the training requirements of industry and the effects of oil and gas development on Sahtu businesses and other stakeholders, Morton said.

"This needs assessment will provide a more informed picture of the activity and associated training needs in the Sahtu, and will assist with the development of the feasibility study for the Sahtu Technical Institute," she said.

Apart from the two research initiatives, Morton said supports do exist in the Sahtu at present, where there are two career development officers (CDOs) located in Norman Wells who provide services such as career counselling,

resume and cover letter writing, interview skill building, funding application assistance and help gaining access to educational resources.

Those CDOs travel to all Sahtu communities on a regular basis to promote career development, Morton said, talking to high school youth, industry, community groups and other agencies. They also organize career fairs.

She said the department has increased spending on career development by nearly 90 per cent over the last year, and new funding has been allocated for two new positions in Norman Wells: an additional CDO and a regional training coordinator, to be housed at Aurora College.

There is also a regional training partnership committee, which has a flexible five-year training plan to identify and guide training in the region, Morton said.

### More needed from GNWT: MLA

Still, Yakeleya said the GNWT is "dragging its feet" on getting people in the region prepared for an influx of industrial activity. While the feasibility study on a possible technical institute is "good news," Yakeleya said more is needed.

He said the territorial government needs to take the lead in working with the land corporations, band offices, industry and educational boards to create a solid plan.

The same support is needed for students who have dropped out or have yet to pursue further education or training after graduation, Yakeleya said.

"We have to give hope to the young people. When we say, 'go to school' or 'stay in school' or 'go back to school,' we have to offer something at the end of that," he said.

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# ConocoPhillips won't fund Sahtu winter drill program

## Company still putting forward application to frack 10 wells

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Global energy company ConocoPhillips has decided not to allocate capital funding for any exploratory drilling in the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories for the 2014-15 winter season, delaying any future fracking by the company until 2016 at the earliest.

ConocoPhillips spokesperson Lauren Stewart told *The Journal* that the company still plans to submit its application to do more exploratory hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," in the Canol shale oil play of the Central Mackenzie this week, but that a call made internally by management last week means there will be no capital funding to drill this year.

"We do not anticipate any drilling or testing work on EL470 for the upcoming winter season," she said. "ConocoPhillips is a global exploration and production company, so we have activities in 27 countries. Projects just like the Canol compete internally for funding, and so a decision was made to allocate funds for other projects for the 2014-2015 winter drilling season."

Stewart could not give any more information on the reason the Sahtu program is not



Photo: Roger Odgaard/Facebook

ConocoPhillips does exploratory fracking for shale oil near Norman Wells. The company has confirmed it will not be funding exploratory drilling in the Sahtu region for the 2014-2015 winter season.

being prioritized this year, or how many employees in the Sahtu would be affected by the decision.

"Unfortunately I can't speculate on how our drilling and

testing work would or would not affect employment numbers in the region for the 2015 winter season," she said.

"Since we will not have funds in place to operate next

year, we will be demobilizing the remaining equipment over the summer. We anticipate issuing RFPs (requests for proposals) for this work in the next week."

The regulatory application being made to the Sahtu Land and Water Board requests approval to drill and frack up to 10 horizontal wells over the next five years.

Stewart said the decision to file the application despite the lack of funding is in order to position the company to be able to move forward in 2016.

"In addition to that, we have regulatory requirements under our existing permits, so we're going to continue obviously with reporting on our environmental data through the Sahtu Land and Water Board, and on the ground water results surface monitoring," she said.

"Additionally, we're still going to be consulting in the communities so that the communities can have input on the potential future well program," Stewart added.

She said community consultations on the application would most likely begin to take place this June in the Tulita District, which includes Norman Wells, following the spring hunt.

The company has two years to report the technical results of its first exploratory horizontal drilling program, which wrapped up in March.

Though Stewart could not reveal the total cost of the 2013-14 winter drilling, she said the company had exceeded its five-year work commitment of \$66.7 million, which included seismic and drilling work.

# Husky applies to frack four wells in Sahtu

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Husky Energy submitted its application to frack up to four horizontal wells in the Canol shale play of the Sahtu region on Monday, which if approved would make it the second company to use multistage hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories.

The application to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) requests regulatory approval to conduct year-round exploratory horizontal drilling, completion and flow testing for five years using two new all-season well pads, and water taken from both the Mackenzie River and a groundwater well.

SLWB executive director Paul Dixon said the board will decide whether or not to approve the application as is or refer it to environmental assessment by May 19. The application is open for public comment until Monday, Apr. 28.

The fracking would take place on Husky's Slater River lease, located approximately 40 km southeast of Norman Wells on the west side of the Mackenzie River, where the

company already has two vertical wellsites, a base camp, airstrip, winter access road, all-weather road and barge access.

If approved, the company plans to begin construction on the two new well pads this summer. The program is slated for completion by summer 2018.

Husky anticipates the drilling program will require a total of 29,240 cubic metres of water per year for two wells.

Contaminated waste water will be dehydrated onsite using "Clean Steam" technology, after which the concentrated wastes will be trucked or barged to licensed disposal facilities outside of the NWT. The cleaned water would then be returned to the environment. "Using this process, a substantial amount of water is returned to the natural water cycle that would otherwise be disposed as waste," the company wrote in its water licence application.

Husky entered into the required access agreement with the Tulita District Land Corp. and benefits agreements with the Tulita, Norman Wells and

Métis Land Corporations for its exploratory work in 2011.

It currently conducts fracking operations in eight other project locations across Western Canada.

The Slater River lease is adjacent to ConocoPhillips' drilling site, where the first horizontal fracking for shale oil was done this winter. Conoco plans to apply to drill up to 10 more wells on the lease over the next five years.

ConocoPhillips' application for exploratory fracking bypassed environmental assessment last year, drawing public criticism. A petition calling for the territorial government to refer all future fracking applications to a full public review was tabled in the legislature last month. It held approximately 800 signatures.

The NWT Chapter of the Council of Canadians, Alternatives North and Ecology North announced last Friday they will be pushing the SLWB to direct Husky's application to an environmental assessment, urging others to do the same.

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Meagan Wohlberg

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3rd place

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

Meagan Wohlberg

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# Quebecers reject intolerance

The "Charter of Values" proposed by ex-premier Pauline Marois and her separatist Parti Quebecois (PQ) was a discriminatory policy that would have created two classes in Quebec - "Nous et les autres" - bathing la belle province in intolerance. Kudos to Quebecers for rejecting it.

Marois was leading in the polls when she called the election in early March that led to her demise. She felt certain she had already won the hearts and minds of most Quebecers with her plans for a "secular charter" and gambled her party would advance to a majority. From that coveted position of power she could impose the separatist agenda and take Quebec out of the federation. She couldn't have been more wrong. Due to her poor judgement, Canada was spared a crisis.

Oddly, had she pursued the charter in the Quebec National Assembly instead of going to the electorate, it may well have passed. The PQ held 54 seats in the legislature, nine short of the 63 required for a majority, but there was sympathy for the charter among other assembly members. Passing it would

have resulted in yet another crisis between Canada and Quebec, for it would have never passed the test of the Canadian Charter of Rights. The clash that would surely have ensued would have been wonderful for Marois. A battle over charter principles - Canada's or Quebec's - would have been a different kind of fight. Separatists would have thrived on it and many others who are intolerant of immigrants, especially those in the Muslim community, would have joined with them. Nationalist emotions would have been stirred in Quebec and the battle would have been nasty. It might well have resulted in a much more attractive scenario for Marois to call and win an election.

Everyone is used to Quebecers' insistence on language restrictions to "keep French pure" in the province. Although there is a lot of grumbling, it is accepted. Legislating control over symbols of culture and religion is a whole new level of state control over individuals. The potential for abuse is huge.

A column in the *Guardian* last month worried that when "the state has deliberately created space for power to be exercised

without accountability, those who occupy that space will protect it against enemies ..." That was a critical comment on the American National Security Agency (NSA) after revelations of its habit of spying on Americans without cause. The concern applies equally to Marois' restrictive charter.

We must always be on guard against any government's ambitions to take away the rights of the individual. The rejection by Quebecers of Pauline Marois' parochial, small-minded ideas was a victory for tolerance, fairness and understanding.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, by contrast, is inclusive and promotes multiculturalism based on dignity, self esteem, tolerance and protection. It defines Canada as a nation and is a fundamental tenant to our national identity. Promoting peace and harmony, it is a model for the rest of the world.

The Quebec election of Monday, Apr. 7, 2014, when Pauline Marois and her PQ Charter of Values was rejected overwhelmingly, should be a proud day for all Quebecers, and for all Canadians.

# Canada must embrace Quebec patriotism

New Quebec Premier Phillippe Couillard (Liberal) campaigned on the need for and the benefits of Quebec staying willingly within the Canadian federation. His majority government won 42 per cent of the popular vote and is the strongest-ever federalist government since the advent of the Quebec sovereignty movement. It is as if the election was a mini-referendum on sovereignty. Those who worry about that can take some comfort.

Couillard is very much a staunch Quebecer and in the election reminded voters that the Quebec flag, culture and collective spirit belong to all Quebecers, not just the PQ. That helped turn the election tide in his favour, though most of his support was won because he was seen to be better able to strengthen the province's ailing economy. Ironically, if he achieves that, the drive for separatism may resume anew.

This may be a new chapter for Quebec, and the rest of the country has breathed a collective sigh of relief (or more likely let go a collective yawn) because the threat appears diminished. Has it really? In fact, many separatists were unhappy with the PQ's move to the centre from its traditional spot on the left and voted for other parties or not at all. It would be folly to ignore the fact that well over half the residents of that province still have separatist yearnings. That is unhealthy for Canada, so why not take advantage of this lull when the movement is disorganized and do something about it?

What else can be done, you ask? Numerous attempts to make Quebec feel welcome within confederation have done little to quell Quebecois fervor. Canada became actively bilingual and French culture has been acknowledged across the land. There must be more the rest of Canada can do in the

coming years to win the hearts of the majority of Quebecers so that they feel it is attractive for Quebec to stay a part of Canada - and do so in a way that benefits everyone.

As with First Nations culture, the inclusion of Quebecois culture in the Canadian social fabric defines our country. We have to consciously work at making both of those a positive part of the bigger, better whole. Such efforts are a necessity in any federation. The ideal of Quebec as its own country is fostered by a sense of identity, a spirit of togetherness and a proud history. Rather than see the desire of so many Quebecers to be separate and unique as a threat, we should try to know and understand what that is about, then embrace it. It is time to celebrate Quebec's culture across Canada. What makes Quebecers special is part of what can make Canada a better, stronger country.



Fort Smith residents gather for a members' only art show at the Northern Life Museum last Thursday evening to gaze at NWT painter Jen Walden's exhibit, "The Land at the End of the Sticks," featuring landscape and wildlife of the Selwyn and Mackenzie Mountains. Left, Genevieve Coté admires Walden's work; right, Rob Kent, Dave Porter, Sarah Rosolen, Diane Seals and her daughter Sarah mingle.

## WEATHER

**Inuvik**



Weekly Norms:  
High -7°C Low -17°C

**Yellowknife**



Weekly Norms:  
High 1°C Low -10°C

**Hay River**



Weekly Norms:  
High 4°C Low -8°C

**Fort Smith**



Weekly Norms:  
High 7°C Low -6°C

# Study: Junk food makes you lazy, not just fat

A new study finds eating too much junk food doesn't only make you fat, it may also make you mentally slower or less motivated. At least that seems to be true in lab rats.

For the study, published in the journal *Physiology and Behavior*, researchers at the University of California Los Angeles put rats on two different diets. Half of the rodents ate a healthy diet of unprocessed foods, such as ground corn and fish meal. The remaining half were given a high sugar, highly processed diet, similar to the junk food humans consume.

Within three months, the researchers observed remarkable differences between the two groups of rats. Mostly, they found the rats on the junk food diet were significantly fatter than the rats on a healthy diet. But the unhealthy rats were also less motivated, indicating that a poor diet had a serious impact on their tiny rodent brains.

When the researchers put the rats through certain tasks the differences become even more apparent. All of the rats were required to press a lever for a reward of food and water. The rats on the junk food diet were slower to act on the task, even though this reward system was clearly laid out and they knew performing the task would provide them with more food and water. The rats on the unhealthy diet took breaks that averaged around 10 minutes long, versus the healthy rats whose breaks lasted for about five minutes each.

At the six-month mark, the researchers switched the diets for the two groups of rats, giving the fat rats a healthy diet and the lean rats an unhealthy diet. The overweight rats ate a healthy diet for nine days. However, the change in diet didn't help the unhealthy rats lose weight or improve their ability to perform tasks. Similarly the healthy rats didn't get fatter on the unhealthy diet

and didn't become less motivated to fulfill certain tasks.

Additionally, the rats on the unhealthy diets were found to have a large number of tumors throughout their bodies, while the healthy rats had much smaller and fewer tumours.

Aaron Blaisdell, a professor of the psychology at UCLA's Brain Research Institute and lead researcher, says the weight and behavioural differences may indicate that junk food chemically changes the brain.

"Overweight people often get stigmatized as lazy and lacking discipline," Blaisdell said in a press release. "We interpret our results as suggesting that the idea commonly portrayed in the media that people become fat because they are lazy is wrong. Our data suggest that diet-induced obesity is a cause, rather than an effect, of laziness. Either the highly processed diet causes fatigue or the diet causes obesity, which causes fatigue."

# Cell phone designed to make your kids safe



On Friday last week Sprint introduced the WeGo, a super simple cellphone for kids. Designed for use by ages 5 to 12, it aims to give parents sophisticated tracking capabilities while letting kids master basic communications skills.

There are a number of features that make the Sprint WeGo stand out from run-of-the-mill cellular phones.

One is its simple design. There's just one button on the front for making calls and two buttons on the side for scrolling up or down through a list of people your child may contact. If your child feels like he or she is in danger, they can pull a "ring on a string" which sounds an

alarm and immediately sends parents a text. When you call the child back, the phone's microphone and camera are immediately activated.

Parents can completely control the phone. You can enter up to 20 numbers your child can call – also the only numbers that they can call.

You can put the phone in silent mode during school hours or late at night. You can use a web portal to track its location, get text messages when your

child arrives at school or at home, and get alerts if he or she is traveling in a vehicle that's exceeding the speed limit. An accelerometer in the phone can even let you know if they have gotten out of bed in time for school.

The WeGo is also durable. Sprint claims the water-resistant handheld device can withstand a drop of up to 12 feet without shattering.

Jeff Crilley  
Real News PR

## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2014

#### Devolution could pose challenge to forming national park



With responsibility for crown land changing hands last week through devolution, First Nation negotiators working to establish the Thaidene Nene national park near Lutsel K'e now have an extra party to please before the protected area can be created.



**Anne Gill:** Interesting...so they (govt) will create size of park based on valuable mineral deposits as long as it does not infringe on big companies extracting the minerals from the land in question. We have learned nothing in the NWT if this will be the logic!

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### 15 Years Ago...

#### More money for Arctic research

The Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP), a program that provides ground and air services to about 150 scientific groups from federal and territorial government agencies, is experiencing a financial boost in the arm from the federal government. In an announcement this week, Minister of Natural resources Ralph Goodale said the project would be receiving \$1 million in new funding to begin the new financial year.

Issue: April 13, 1999

### 20 Years Ago...

#### NWT rules on town boundary issue

The NWT cabinet decided not to allow the exclusion of Bell Rock from the Fort Smith municipality. The new Fort Smith town boundary will include the area set out in 1966, with the border running just outside the airport. But the new boundary also includes a strip of surveyed lots along the river. The strip includes the dump and Bell Rock residences, but not the NTCL campsite.

Issue: April 13, 1994

### 30 Years Ago...

#### Elder passes away

The patriarch of one of the North's largest families passed away peacefully at home Saturday night. Louie Mercredi, at 90 years, ended a full and extraordinary life. A Métis, he was born in Fort Smith and worked throughout the region of northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and the South Slave, until returning to his birthplace in 1947, bringing with him his wife Marie.

Issue: April 12, 1984



# White Girl

## Yamoria, A Legend: Part 1 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

From the village of Fort Norman on the Mackenzie River we are taking the junction at the Bear River in our quest to reach Fort Franklin on Great Bear Lake. It is about 100 miles (it's the old days) by canoe to Franklin. This little hamlet is part of my father's jurisdiction as Indian Agent. He has to visit Fort Franklin every few months to make sure all is well and deal with any problems and concerns of the people there. We are going to bring the church organ from Fort Franklin back to Fort Norman by canoe as well.

Two canoes are needed for this trip. In one canoe is the future chief of Fort Norman, Paul Baton, and my three brothers, Joel, John and Kurtis. I am

in the second canoe with four 45-gallon drums of fuel, my dad and Francis Baton, Paul's brother. Two of the 45 gallon drums will be used by the kickers (engines on the boats) to get us to our destination, while the empty barrels will be left behind in Franklin; we will need the remaining fuel to get us back to Norman.

My father once proposed that the official flag for the NWT should be a white background with a red fuel drum in the forefront. Red fuel drums were stacked along the banks of many rivers and the removal of them was a trying and expensive experience.

An old abandoned NTCL camp sits at the mouth of the Bear River. I swear I saw that old skeleton hanging in a tree

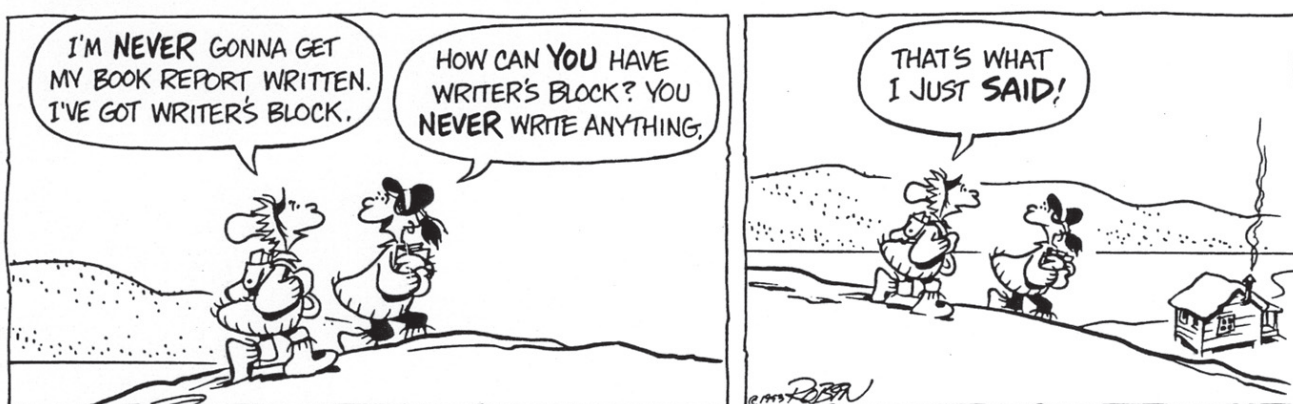
just beside that camp. His bones would rattle like wind chimes in the breeze. My friend Arnold said that it was a black army guy that hung himself, this was the story that he was told. People stayed away from this bad place, this place of evil spirits. We could feel them caressing our skin with cold fingertips. They whispered stories in your ear with frozen breath: come away with us, come away with us. The terror of it was delicious. Arnold Gaudet was our fearless leader when we built up the courage to take on the ghosts and race past the skeleton to go and raid this camp.

Inside the camp we found packages of orange flavoured Tang and Jello packages of every flavour. Why the mice and squirrels hadn't

demolished this I don't know, we were just impressed to find something sweet. In the winter if we wanted candy we had to convince somebody's mom to make fudge. This was expensive and didn't happen often. Mostly we had to wait until Christmas for candy, so candy was special when we got it.

In the between times we would melt butter in a cast iron frying pan and stir in white sugar. Cook this until it gets brown and caramel looking and throw it in the snow. We called it sugar candy and it was wonderful. Finding a cupboard full of powdered flavoured sugar was worth sneaking past that skeleton and the risk of being spirited away by the black man's ghost. Not to mention avoiding the all-encompassing bushman.

## MUKLUK



# NWT wild furs take top dollar at international auction

## Global tensions drop fur sales from last year's record high

By MARIA CHURCH

Wild martens trapped in the NWT were the star of an international fur action in Finland last month, fetching the top overall price, followed by wild lynx, wolf and wolverine.

Representing NWT trappers, representatives with the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) program under the GNWT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment attended the auction in Helsinki in March, the first of its kind in terms of scale and representation from the world's largest producers and buyers of quality fur products.

According to Francois Rossouw, a fur marketing manager for the GMVF who attended the auction, the NWT wild fur collection stood out against the best ranch fur in North America and Europe in terms of quality and interest.

"A lot of people were coming to see the wild fur," he said. "Everybody is well versed in the ranch fur, in the mink and the fox, which is kind of boring. It's beautiful, it's uniform and it's exactly the same as the next one. Wild fur, being what it is, is wild, so a lot of the folks wanted to come out and see it and check it out."



High quality furs from across the world are showcased at an international fur auction in Helsinki, Finland last March where NWT wild furs garnered the top overall prices.

Despite the popularity of the wild fur, overall fur prices were lower than what was seen last year and sales came up short of expectation, but Rossouw noted that 2013 was an "anomaly" year for the industry with some of the highest prices ever recorded.

### Global tensions drop sales

Rossouw said geopolitical reasons can account for

a lower number of sales than many producers were expecting, not the least of which is ongoing military and economic tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Russia is one the GMVF's main buyers and its spending power is mainly fueled by the country's export of petroleum. With mounting international pressure to exert economic sanctions against Russia in response to

its perceived military threat to Ukraine, the Russian market is coming up dry for fur retailers.

"We've been able to weather the financial downturns in the marketplace, but not when it comes to something like this. This geopolitical situation put a damper on things. A lot of people are in a wait and see attitude," Rossouw said.

Another factor hindering sales is the Chinese

enforcement of high import tariffs. Rossouw said China represents 80 per cent of the fur industry sales, however recent leadership changes in the country have cracked down on imports, enforcing high tariffs on manufactured goods.

Despite the drop in Russian and Chinese sales, Rossouw said GMVF delegates were able to secure 40 new clients for NWT furs, many

of whom are from eastern European countries.

### NWT trappers profit

Including profit from the Helsinki auction, NWT trappers will receive around \$700,000 in sales this year to date. The GMVF marten furs alone garnered close to \$480,000 at the Helsinki auction.

Rossouw will be attending a second auction in Helsinki this June and said he plans to take a sample of dressed furs to gauge buyer interest.

Industry Minister David Ramsay praised the GMVF program and its ability to give local hunters and trappers the opportunity to sell furs on the international market.

"The GNWT is proud to support the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program and to promote our NWT furs as some of the highest quality wild fur money can buy," he said in a press release.

In 2002, the GNWT launched the Take a Kid Trapping program in response to declining numbers of trappers. Last year more than 3,000 youth went through the program.

## Environment Renewables

# NWT residents cashing in on alternative energy

## GNWT hands out over \$63,000 in energy rebates in March

By MARIA CHURCH

More and more Northerners are profiting off a movement towards energy efficiency in the NWT thanks to larger rebates, more education and the coldest winter in 30 years, according to the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA).

Over the last year, the AEA's Energy Efficiency Incentive Program funded by the GNWT filed more than 1,000 rebates totalling \$378,134.42 in cash back to residents. In March alone, 113 rebates were filed to the tune of more than \$63,000.

According to Louie Azzolini, executive director of AEA, that number will likely grow as residents who purchased energy efficient products over the past year make use of the year-long deadline to file a rebate.

Azzolini said he is pleased with the number of people using the program, which was launched in 2007 by the GNWT to promote energy conservation as part of the territorial Greenhouse Gas Strategy under the direction of the



Donald Andre and Alfred Beaverho install a chimney on a home in Fort Simpson last fall. More and more NWT residents are choosing biomass fuel to heat their homes.

AEA and has since given out close to \$3 million in rebates.

"When you have that kind of take-up in a population of 43,000 people in

the Northwest Territories, it shows a significant part of the population is aware of the program and is benefiting from it. It's great," he said.

### NWT residents seeing benefits

Azzolini said the high number of users is due to a combination of factors, including the relatively high rebate incentive, which can put as much as \$1,000 back in the pocket of a new wood or pellet stove owner, increasing interest in energy conservation and the cold.

"In our business, when people use more energy they tend to come towards the Arctic Energy Alliance more frequently. This was one of the coldest winters in 30 years, so people are feeling it in their pocket-books," he said.

Azzolini admits that many people still have concerns about the initial cost of implementing brand-new, energy efficient products, particularly large appliances or heating systems, which come with a hefty price tag, often thousands of dollars

more than their less-efficient counterparts.

Beyond the AEA's rebate program, the GNWT provides separate rebates to help cover the up-front cost of installing energy efficient heating systems, including the Alternative Energy Technologies program, the Energy Conservation program for communities and the Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency program for businesses.

"There are rebates available out there for people who look at the price tag and may think that it's excessive or think that it's an energy source that would be nice to have, but for whatever reason they are not quite sure. The (rebate) incentive, I think, provides at least a second thought for people to take a look at it and evaluate it," Azzolini said.

In the long run, installing energy efficient appliances and biomass heating sources will save residents a bundle in yearly energy bills, he said.

Another hurdle for Northerners looking to make the

transition is simply unfamiliarity with new biomass alternatives, such as pellet stoves and boilers.

Azzolini said much of the goal at AEA is to educate communities in the NWT on how biomass heating systems function.

### AEA director praises GNWT

Azzolini applauded the GNWT for what he says have been years of proactive leadership on energy conservation.

"There aren't a lot of jurisdictions in Canada that can stand up and boast about the actions they are taking to make a difference on greenhouse gas emissions and alternative energy. The government of the Northwest Territories and specifically the people at the Legislative Assembly that make these decisions should be applauded," Azzolini said.

"They are really making a difference."

AEA is a not-for-profit society funded under the umbrella of the GNWT's climate change program.

# NWT to see more mining investors with devolution

## Aboriginal and public concern must be addressed: Chamber of Mines

By MARIA CHURCH

Advocates for mining and industry in the North say they are optimistic the transfer of resource control to the GNWT will mean more mineral investment in the territory, which has “languished” its resource potential for years.

The executive directors for both the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the NWT Chamber of Commerce agreed the Apr. 1 signing of devolution represents the greatest step forward for the mining industry in the territory and will bring about a series of positive changes.

“Our mineral potential is just as good here as it is in Nunavut or Yukon, even better...but because of our regulatory complexities and land claims uncertainty, it’s chased away all that money so we’ve lost opportunities for jobs and business. We now have to get it back,” Tom Hoefer, executive director of the Chamber of Mines, told *The Journal*.

Hoefer met with the NWT Chamber of Commerce last week to share his thoughts on the changes that devolution will bring to the territory, which he says comes at a time when the mining industry is facing uncertainty and a lack of investment on a global scale.



Tom Hoefer, executive director of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, addresses the NWT Chamber of Commerce on the effect devolution presents to mining during its annual general meeting last week.

“We’re going to have to work really hard now to convince investors, because we’ve had such a long string of years of uncertainty that they are going to have to see a demonstration of proof that things are different here,” he said.

### Addressing ‘regulatory uncertainty’

According to Hoefer, mining investment in the NWT has been lagging behind

other territories mainly because of regulatory uncertainty, the biggest of which included the absence of time limits on environmental assessments.

Facing a precedent of up to eight years for an environmental assessment, many companies dismissed the NWT and chose to invest elsewhere, he said.

Swept in on devolution’s omnibus Bill C-15 were

changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act that will see a mandatory two-year deadline for environmental assessments.

“That doesn’t mean that it’s less rigorous; what it means is the boards are going to have to have the capacity now, in other words the staff and the ability, to do that work in two years,” Hoefer said.

### Still work to be done

According to Hoefer, there are a number of concerns yet unresolved in the NWT that present hurdles to mining companies, not the least of which is clarification on the extent of Aboriginal consultation.

Hoefer said Aboriginal consultation rights are still a grey area and have only been defined through court cases between Aboriginal governments and the federal government. Now that the duty to consult lies with the territorial government, rules need to be established, he said.

“We still don’t have clarity. We now have to wait for regulations to be developed, which is going to take who knows how long,” Hoefer said.

Mike Bradshaw, executive director with the NWT Chamber of Commerce, said another concern is clarification on what industry projects can be halted based on public concern.

“We are not saying that there aren’t any projects of public concern, but when you have no definition of what that means, even if your intervention is of little merit, as soon as you indicate that you believe it’s a project of public concern then the wheels grind to a halt. That just doesn’t make any sense. There has to be some criteria,” he said.

According to Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay, the GNWT will be looking to address both concerns in the future as it settles into its new role as resource landlord.

“We’ll look at legislative changes, policy changes, regulations, the whole nine yards. That will come in time. We’ve only had these new authorities for 11 days and we want to have the ability to grow into our new skin a little bit,” he said.

### GNWT earmarks funds for mining

In the territorial budget released in February, the GNWT allocated \$3 million to support the implementation of both the Economic Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy, including funding to promote mining in the NWT:

- \$655,000: geoscience information and research
- \$200,000: attracting mineral investment through marketing
- \$400,000: NWT mining incentive program aimed at attracting mineral exploration

### Politics Devolution

## GNWT, industry change relationship status

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT government and business community’s relationship status has switched to “it’s complicated” now that the government is responsible for not only promotion of industry, but regulation, according to the premier.

Premier Bob McLeod briefed members of the business community last Wednesday evening during the NWT Chamber of Commerce’s annual general meeting in Yellowknife on the future of decision making in the territory now that devolution has occurred.

Sticking with his mantra of “devolve, then evolve,” McLeod said the change in relationship would be a work in progress, but unavoidable nonetheless.

“One of the things we – and you – will have to learn is how to manage the relationship between government and industry,” he told the audience. “For many years, the government of the Northwest Territories has been an active and visible promoter of development in our territory. That has often included lending our voices in support of particular projects that we believed to be of

We understand that resource development will continue to be a major component of our GDP and we will continue to support and encourage it.

*NWT Premier Bob McLeod*

potential benefit to the territory and its people.

“That was an appropriate role for a government that did not carry the responsibility of decision making and regulatory authority. With devolution, our responsibilities have changed and so has our duty to the people of the Northwest Territories. As decision makers, we are now the stewards of the land and its resources, called upon to uphold the public interest in the development decisions we will be making.”

McLeod said the government will have to respect that new role and ensure the public has confidence that its decisions are fair and unbiased, which could mean changes to the way industry and the GNWT work together.

“We continue to support

responsible balanced development,” he assured. “We understand that resource development will continue to be a major component of our GDP and we will continue to support and encourage it and all sectors of our economy.”

The NWT Chamber has been a proponent of devolution from the outset, claiming the transfer – along with changes to the regulatory system – would bring more economic opportunities to the territory.

“The devolution of control over lands and resources to the government of the Northwest Territories has been a long time coming, but has the potential to have a transformative effect on the territorial economy,” stated a recent press release from Chamber executive director Mike Bradshaw.



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# Old Town waterfront squatter defiant as city moves houseboat

By JACK DANYLCHUK

A houseboat moored at the entrance to Baker Creek was trucked away last Tuesday and its pontoons will follow when the lake opens, said Dennis Kefalas, Yellowknife's senior administrative officer.

The city accepted the owner's offer to sell, rather than move the living quarters to a lot with a two-year lease, Kefalas told *The Journal*. The total cost to the city was \$12,000, including the structure.

The move closed the book on efforts that began last summer to clear houseboats from waterfront space on Back Bay, which the city leases from the territorial government, but one squatter remains moored in Old Town.

Randy Sibbeston, son of NWT Senator Nick Sibbeston, told *The Journal* last week that



This squatting houseboat was removed from the mouth of Baker Creek and Great Slave Cruising Club last week by the city.

as a Métis, he has a right to live at the edge of a bird sanctuary known in the neighbourhood as SnowKing Point.

The area is Commissioner's Land under the jurisdiction of the NWT Lands department, which is seeking an order from the Supreme Court to evict

Sibbeston, who continues to ignore a trespass notice posted last summer.

"I'm within my rights; the territorial government has no jurisdiction over this land," said a defiant Sibbeston.

Sibbeston has not sought legal advice on his situation

– "Why would I? My father was the first lawyer from the Northwest Territories and I can read" – and is confident that the court will agree with his arguments.

"I won't have to move and the government will pay me just to keep quiet," said Sibbeston, who feels that since the eviction notice was posted on his door, he has been "smeared in the media."

In court documents, Sibbeston claims the legal battle with the territorial government has interfered with his ability to work and deprived him of \$1,000 a day in income as a musician and painter.

"The law is not on their side; it will cost them," Sibbeston said.

No court date has been set for the case.



An Alberta Transportation employee directs traffic around construction on Hwy. 63 south of Fort McMurray.

## Transportation Highways

# Hwy. 63 twinning on schedule

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The majority of Alberta's Hwy. 63 to Fort McMurray will be twinned by fall 2015, the province's transport minister announced last Friday.

Transportation Minister Wayne Drysdale said 70 per cent of the twinning on the busy roadway to Alberta's oilsands will be completed by the end of next year, with the remaining 30 per cent to be completed by fall 2016.

"Budget 2014 puts us in a solid position to stay on this aggressive construction schedule, keeping our promise to people in Fort McMurray and across Alberta," Drysdale said, referring to the \$423 million allocated to Hwy. 63 improvements this fiscal year.

That funding is more than double last year's investment, and reflects the \$250 million in twinning contracts awarded on the highway in the past five months.

"By this summer, all the contracts will have been awarded and we expect about 650 workers and 470 pieces of equipment to be out in full force," he said.

More than 20 per cent of the 240-km highway has been twinned and opened to the public, while another 60 per cent is currently under construction.

The fast-tracked twinning of Hwy. 63 is part of a province-wide roadway upgrade, and comes after years of significant public outcry about the safety of the highway, which carries large volumes of heavy industrial traffic north and south of Fort McMurray.

Just last Friday, a serious collision on Hwy. 63 north of Mariana Lake stopped traffic in both directions and redirected vehicles onto sister roadway, Hwy. 881.

The Alberta government has invested more than \$1.4 billion in Hwy. 63 and 881 since 2005, in order to provide "critical infrastructure for the Athabasca oilsands region," according to the department.

The upgrades also include projects within Fort McMurray city limits, including a new five-lane Athabasca River bridge crossing.

## Notice



## Applications for a substation transmission development near Christina Lake

Fifth Avenue Place  
Fourth Floor  
425 First Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8  
Canada

The Alberta Utilities Commission is the independent utilities regulator that will be considering these electric transmission development applications under Proceeding No. 3111. If you may be affected by these applications you may provide input for the AUC to review before making its decision.

The Alberta Electric System Operator filed an application for the need to develop the new Edwards Lake 189S substation, and associated transmission lines, to serve the oilsands loads in the Christina Lake area.

AltaLink Management Ltd. filed a facilities application requesting approval to meet the need described in the Alberta Electric System Operator's application, through the application to construct and operate the new Edwards Lake substation. To accommodate the substation transmission development, ATCO Electric Ltd. filed a facility application requesting approval to undertake modifications to the existing transmission line.

Anyone who wishes to express objections to, concerns about, or support for one or more of the applications, must make a written submission to the Alberta Utilities Commission on or before **April 30, 2014**, clearly identifying **Proceeding No. 3111** on the submission.

### How to file a submission:

The AUC prefers that all submissions be filed using the Digital Data Submission service on the AUC website found under E-filing. Guidelines on how to access and use the e-filing services are in the *AUC Electronic Filing Services* brochure, available in the news/brochures section of our website. For additional assistance with making your submission please contact the AUC at 780-643-1055.

Please include the following with your submission:

- Your name, address, phone number, email address, and description of where your land is in relation to the proposed facilities.
- How your rights may be directly and adversely affected.
- If objecting to the need application, explain why you believe the project is not in the public interest or is technically deficient.
- If objecting to the facilities application, please explain how the Commission's decision may affect you.

The AUC must consider the AESO's assessment of the need to be correct unless someone satisfies the Commission that the need application is technically deficient, or that to approve it would be contrary to the public interest.

### Privacy:

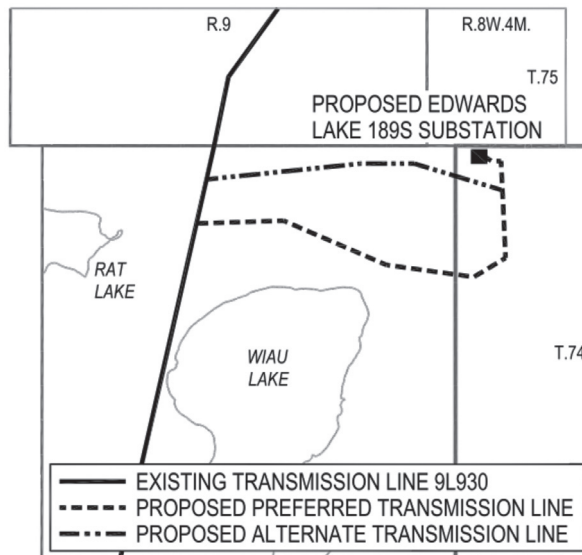
Please be aware that any information and materials you provide as part of an AUC proceeding, except information granted confidentiality, will become part of the public record and will be posted to the AUC's electronic filing system. This includes personal information, such as your name, address and any other personal information you provide.

### To obtain more information:

For the full application, please go to the E-Filing services section of our website to access the proceeding or use this link: [https://www.auc.ab.ca/eub/dds/EPS\\_Query/ProceedingDetail.aspx?ProceedingID=3111](https://www.auc.ab.ca/eub/dds/EPS_Query/ProceedingDetail.aspx?ProceedingID=3111)

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact us and we can arrange to have a paper copy of the application(s) sent to you.

AUC contact: Kal Elkassem; Phone: 403-592-4388; email: [kal.elkassem@auc.ab.ca](mailto:kal.elkassem@auc.ab.ca)



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The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.



# Merger promises to reshape Northern aviation

By JACK DANYLCHUK

A dire prediction former Canadian North president Tracy Medve made in 2009 when WestJet muscled its way into the Northern market now seems destined to come true.

Speculation about the possibility of a Canadian North-First Air merger ended last week with a joint announcement by Makivik Corp. and NorTerra that the companies are pursuing a merger of the two carriers.

“A merger would improve the sustainability of these critical Inuit birthright enterprises and would also create better air services and new economic development opportunities across the North,” said the announcement.

Flight operations and services will remain independent



Canadian North and First Air may combine to become one new, Northern airline as talks of a potential merger between Makivik and NorTerra were announced last week.

and unaffected during the negotiation and regulatory review phases, the announcement said, but as the merged airlines look for savings, reduced flights to remote

communities and job losses seem likely.

Medve’s original prediction emerged at the time when Air Canada Jazz was eating into the lucrative

Iqaluit-Ottawa and Yellowknife-Edmonton legs that subsidized Canadian North and First Air service to remote communities, leading her to say, “There isn’t

room for four carriers in this market.”

The big southern carriers were “cherry-picking,” Medve said, as the Northern carriers looked for ways to meet the competition. First Air cut back on flights and experimented with new routes, while Canadian North looked for new industrial customers.

Makivik Corp. made no secret its desire to sell First Air to Nunavut interests, but Nunasi Corp., the most likely buyer, has been pressed for capital since the 2008 recession. Earlier this month, Nunasi sold its interest in NorTerra Inc., a holding company owned by the Inuvialuit Development Corp.

Canadian North flies to 19 destinations in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, via the southern gateways of

Edmonton and Ottawa, and provides charter service to industrial customers in Fort McMurray.

First Air boasts the only two civilian owned and operated Hercules cargo aircraft in Canada and offers scheduled, cargo and charter services to more Northern destinations than any other airline.

First Air has around 1,000 employees, of which more than 450 work and live in the North; Canadian North employs about 500 people.

The companies said Friday that the potential merger of the two airlines would not result in job losses.

Makivik and NorTerra Inc. promised to keep the public informed through a website: [www.newnorthernairline.com](http://www.newnorthernairline.com).

## Transportation Safety

# Pilots fired after First Air flight veers off course

## First Air too quick to fire errant flight officers: pilots’ union



Two First Air pilots have been fired following an error that took their Boeing 737 over 250 km off course.

By JACK DANYLCHUK

With the report on the fatal crash of an off-course First Air flight fresh in their minds, company officials moved swiftly last week to fire two pilots who wandered hundreds of kilometres from their destination.

The pilots failed to follow “standard operating procedures designed to eliminate navigational errors,” the company said in a press release that announced the firing after an investigation into the Mar. 31 incident.

Following the release of the report on the August 2011 crash of Flight 6560 at Resolute Bay that killed 12 people, First Air’s executive vice-president Chris Ferris said the airline had “strengthened and become a much safer airline” through revised operating procedures and

more in-flight monitoring.

While the captain and first officer on Flight 6560 argued about whether they were on course as they approached Resolute Bay, there was no disagreement aboard Flight 955 after it left Rankin Inlet for Iqaluit, and headed north.

The crew on Flight 955 was relying on auto-pilot using GPS navigation when the crew noticed they hadn’t been handed off from air traffic control in Edmonton to Montreal. Transport Canada said radar picked up the Boeing 737 about 256 km off its planned course, 416 km northwest of Iqaluit.

Air traffic control in Montreal was able to contact Flight 955 after a second plane relayed a message. The pilots reset their course and landed without incident in Iqaluit. Maintenance crews

on the ground found no equipment problems, and cleared the plane to continue flying.

First Air officials said the crew of four and 19 passengers were never in danger, though the investigation prompted First Air to reinforce procedures with crews and dispatch staff, and increase monitoring of flights, the company said.

### Pilots union ‘deeply disappointed’

Peter Black, chair of the First Air unit of Air Line Pilots Association International, said the union is “deeply disappointed” with the decision to fire the pilots “prior to a complete and thorough investigation of the incident.”

“This rush to judgment has unfairly called into question the expertise and professionalism of a crew with more than 40 years of combined flight experience,” Black said. “We will use all of the union’s resources to investigate this incident and support the crew.”

As part of its investigation into why the plane went off course, First Air said it reviewed flight data and navigation aids on the aircraft, and conducted interviews with the pilots and cabin crew.

“During the interviews, we learned the pilots did not follow our standard operating procedures designed to eliminate navigational errors,” First Air said in a news release.

“We have gone to great lengths to update and strengthen our standard operating

procedures to ensure our pilots have the tools they need to fly safely,” the news release

said. “We have also increased in-flight oversight using data monitoring tools.”



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Cole Tuckey, right, shares his presentation on dogsledding with Julie Lys at PWK high school during last week's heritage fair.



Kezia McDonald shares her research on Arctic Sports.

**Education Heritage**

# Heritage a proud focus for Fort Smith students

By MARIA CHURCH

Grade 7 and 8 students at Paul William Kaeser high school in Fort Smith were given an opportunity to show off their diverse backgrounds at a school heritage fair last Thursday, inviting the whole community to come check out their research.

With presentation topics ranging from countries like Singapore and Belarus to Northern Métis culture, Arctic sports and dog sledding, every student had a personal connection to their chosen subject.

Students presented their displays to judges on

Wednesday while the community was invited the day after to check out the heritage displays and enjoy traditional foods and crafts.

The top two winners of the heritage fair will go on to represent PWK at the territorial heritage fair in Yellowknife from May 8 to 11.

### *PWK heritage fair winners:*

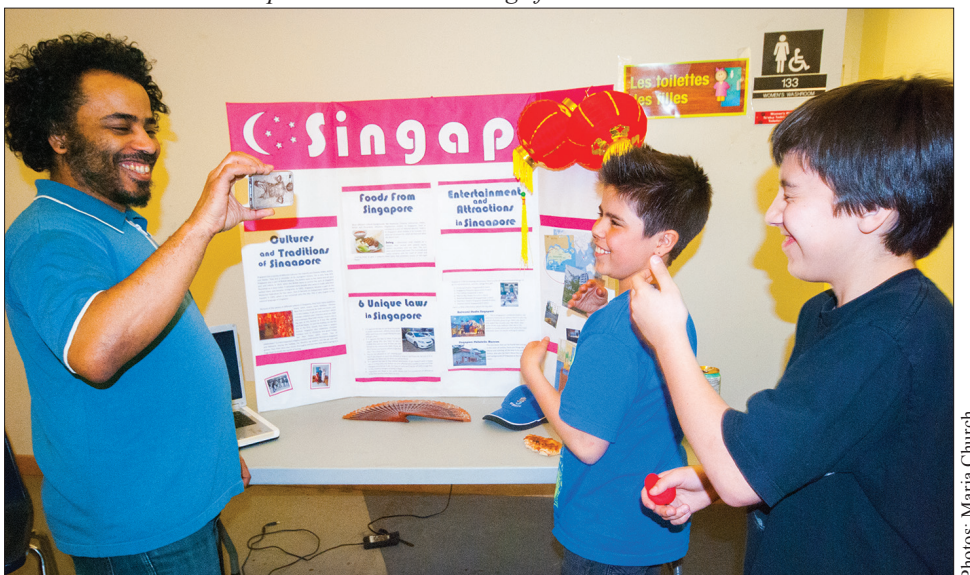
- 1st place: Jomei Newkirk - Singapore
- 2nd place: Jessica Tordiff and Eyzaah Arnason-Bonza - Métis
- 3rd place: Shae McMahan - Belarus



PWK instructor Brenda Mercredi oversees as student Sadie McMahon creates fish scale art, one of the activities held at PWK high school Thursday in celebration of heritage.



Eyzaah Arnason-Bonza and Jessica Tordiff sit proudly in front of their display on Métis culture that won second place at PWK's heritage fair last week.



Jomei Newkirk, centre, is filmed by his father as he shares his first place heritage fair presentation on Singapore, while classmate Cole Tuckey gets in on the fun.

Photos: Maria Church



Ethan McKay shares his presentation with RCMP officer Al L'Abbe.



Jordan Boucher shares his research on hand games at Deninu School's heritage fair last week.



Chaslyn McKay, right, presents on hand games to a heritage fair judge.



From left, Darryl Balsille, Johnny Bailey and Jacob Boucher show off their heritage displays.



Dezmond Rabisca is ready to present on games to train hunters at the Deninu School heritage fair.

## Education Heritage

# Fort Resolution students delve into their heritage

By MARIA CHURCH

Students at Deninu School in Fort Resolution are feeling a little more connected to their culture after a school-wide heritage fair had them delve into traditional topics like hand games, hunting and jigging.

Students were given free range to choose any heritage-based topic and spent weeks researching for presentations and displays to share what they learned at the school's heritage fair last Wednesday.

Topics included Canadian Rangers, fishing and Jack Knox - a Wood Buffalo warden from the early 1900s.

Brent Kaulback, assistant superintendent for the South

Slave Divisional Education Council, was on hand to judge the heritage projects and said the students' enthusiasm for their research was further evidence of the importance of inquiry-based learning.

"It's something the students have an interest in and they are encouraged to go deeper into the research," he said. "You're giving the kids different ways to collect that information and share that information. You don't always have to do it with a pencil and paper."

Grade 4 and 5 teacher Laura Boucher said the students were "hyped up" to learn more about their

heritage and many of them brought that excitement into their homes by getting their parents and siblings involved in the research.

Boucher said the students interviewed elders to learn more about their topics, participated in practices such as hunting, fishing or traditional games as part of their research and visited the historical homes of people like Knox.

"They're finally proud of their culture," she said.

Retired nurse Ozell Borden has judged the heritage fair at Deninu for years and said she saw a vast improvement in student confidence and interaction with the judges this year.

"They're very open to tell you about their culture and their heritage, which is awesome, really, because you have kids with such an interest in their history and that comes out now," she said.

The first place winner of the heritage fair will go on to present their research at the territorial heritage fair in Yellowknife from May 8 to 11.

The heritage fair was followed by a career fair in the afternoon that introduced the high school students to potential post-secondary options at Aurora College and employment options with various organizations and businesses around the territory.

## Deninu heritage fair winners:

1st place: Alexa Mandeville  
Traditional Foods

2nd place: Aiden Moes  
Jack Knox

3rd place (tie): Issac Simon - Berries  
and Michelle Lafferty - Jigging



Snowmobiles race around on the Peel River at Happy's Landing and Last Dock in Fort McPherson at the 56th annual Peel River Jamboree. Winners took home as much as \$1,000.



Eddie Greenland, Danny Gordon and Wayne Greenland compete in the elder men's snowshoe competition on the Peel River. Eddie Greenland took first place.



Ida Stewart takes in the final day of skidoo races down at Last Dock in Fort McPherson.

**Arts & Culture Spring Carnival**

# Peel River Jamboree marks spring in Fort McPherson

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

The 56th annual Peel River Jamboree in Fort McPherson kicked off with a feast last Friday afternoon at the Johnny D. Charlie complex hall.

Games like hot potato and flour packing were held until the \$10,000 bingo at 8:00 p.m., and resumed afterward until early in the morning. A dance wasn't held as the community was observing Lent.

Saturday events at Happy's Landing on the Peel River included a rifle shoot competition, mixed games and men's and women's snowmobile races. That evening, a talent show was

held at Chief Julius School to a packed house.

The jamboree concluded on Sunday with a dog race, church service, snowshoe races and open class cross-country snowmobile races.

Closing ceremonies were held at the complex.

The jamboree was dedicated to the ongoing "Protect the Peel" campaign, calling for more environmental protection of the Peel

watershed, as well as past community club member Mary Teya and elders Mary and Peter Kay. Mary Ann Robert and Herbie Snowshoe were crowned king and queen.



John Semple sings a Dwight Yoakam tune to the packed house at Chief Julius School Saturday night. Erwin Elias won first place in the talent show.



Louisa Kay and Kathy Nerysoo sell chili, donuts and more at their tent at Happy's Landing during the Peel River Jamboree.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

# Council backs Beaufort Delta AWG bid

*Resolutions also passed on cost of living, transportation, climate change*

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Members of the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council (BDRC) voted last week to support Inuvik's bid to host the 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

The council, made up of the region's mayors and representatives from each Inuvialuit community, was unanimous in its support.

"This would give us the opportunity to put Arctic back in the Arctic Winter Games," said Inuvik Mayor Floyd Roland. "It's going to be huge."

The joint bid is being put forth by Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Fort McPherson.

The council cited its support for youth health and wellness as a main reason for its backing.

The BDRC met from Apr. 8 to 10 in Inuvik at Ingamo Hall. On the last day of meetings, members approved 13 other resolutions, including motions to expand the Inuvik airport runway and extend ferry service in Tsiigehtchic by moving the Merv Hardie Ferry from its former post near Fort Providence to the region.

They also requested the GNWT undertake an extensive review of the cost of living factors that resulted in a change to Northern Allowance rates, citing inequalities in the most recent rates.

In addition, council called for an immediate inspection of Moose Kerr School in Aklavik for air quality and safety, and additional funding for an education assistant at Inu-althuyak School in Sachs Harbour.

The council also requested the GNWT create a fund and immediate action plan to address shoreline erosion and other climate change impacts.

"Climate change and global warming is a reality and coastal communities are facing serious changes to their shoreline and subsidence of communities from permafrost melting," the council stated in their motion.

One of the reasons the BDRC meets and passes resolutions annually is to highlight the unique needs of the region and its communities.

"It's easier to do territorial programs than look at specific initiatives for any one region," said Bob Simpson, director of intergovernmental relations for the



Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Members of the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council draft and approve resolutions on the last day of meetings April 10. The council approved 14 resolutions, including motions to support the region's bid for the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, expand the Inuvik airport runway and extend ferry service in Tsiigehtchic.

Inuvialuit Regional Corp.

He added the BDRC has become a reporting and consulting mechanism for the Beaufort Delta communities. "We've been trying to push that," he said.

Over the past 20 years, the council has approved more than 300 resolutions, he added.

The BDRC meetings also included presentations by the premier and his cabinet,

and discussions between the GNWT and IRC regarding an intergovernmental agreement on programs and services.

Simpson said it has yet to be formalized, but that more

discussions would be held over the next six months.

"It basically is a framework agreement to work together in improving programs and services," he said.

Premier Bob McLeod made

a presentation to the council on Apr. 8, with a focus on Aboriginal affairs and intergovernmental relations, the status of women and new energy initiatives.

Ministers Michael Miltenberger, Robert C. McLeod, David Ramsay, Tom Beaulieu, Jackson Lafferty and Glen Abernethy also spoke to the council.

During their time in Inuvik, cabinet also met the new staff of the department of Lands and the petroleum resources division of Industry, Tourism and Investment created through devolution. They also toured the construction site for the new Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

In addition, the Beaufort Delta Education Council, Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority and Aurora College made presentations on Apr. 9.

Politics Regional

# Ministers meet with Gwich'in in Inuvik

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Territorial government ministers met with the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) board of directors in Inuvik last week, their fourth meeting since the two parties signed an intergovernmental agreement in October 2012.

Moving forward from the memorandum of understanding signed at their last meeting in December 2013, the GNWT and GTC signed the terms of reference for the Capacity Building Framework at the meeting on Apr. 8.

The agreement commits the two parties to working together on designing and implementing a framework to enhance socio-economic capacity for the Gwich'in, including increased opportunities for internships, transfer assignments, secondments and

other developmental tools to build capacity and enhance understanding between the two governments.

The meeting also included discussions on shared areas of interest, including ferry services at the Tsiigehtchic crossing,

contracting opportunities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and development of Gwich'in parks.

The intergovernmental agreement between the GNWT and GTC commits the two groups to meeting twice per year.

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BMO	Government of the Northwest Territories

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Once you have set up the GNWT as a payee you can now select it and then enter the amount that you wish to pay. If you have multiple invoices outstanding you can pay them all at one time by entering the total amount,

however it is recommended that you contact the issuing department to advise of any specific application to invoices.

The GNWT will receive daily notification of all online payments made at any of the 5 major banks. Payments made online will be credited to a customer's account on the next business day.

**Have a Question?**

If you have a question about setting up this service at your bank please call Accounting Service, Department of Finance at (867) 920-3401.

If you have a question about an online payment you have made please call Financial Shared Services, Department of Finance at (867) 873-7527.



# Winter brings big wins for NWT high performance athletes

## Air rifle and air pistol annual championships to hit Yellowknife

The 2014 Northwest Territories Federation of Shooting Sports' annual air rifle and air pistol championships are scheduled to take place in Yellowknife on Apr. 25 to 26. Hosted by the Yellowknife Shooting Club, the championships will be held at the Shooting Performance Centre in Yellowknife. The matches for both men and women will see one 60 shot 10-m air rifle match and one 60 shot 10-m air pistol match. Junior competitor standings in the matches may be used in the selection of the NWT Canada Winter Games team. For more information, visit <http://www.yellowknifeshootingclub.ca/>



Photo: NWT Soccer Assoc.

Charlie's Angels win the ASS tournament in 2013.

## Adult Super Soccer tournament returning to Yellowknife

The annual Adult Super Soccer Tournament is scheduled to kick off this year at the Yellowknife Fieldhouse where the first whistle will blow on Friday, Apr. 18. Geared for men and women aged 16 and up, the tournament will see teams from across the NWT participate in the annual celebration of indoor soccer in Canada's North. The tournament is run by the NWT Soccer Association with an emphasis on friendly competition. For more information, visit: <http://www.nwtkicks.ca/tournaments/adult-super-soccer>

By MARIA CHURCH

Results are flooding in for the territory's high performance winter athletes who wrapped up their seasons with national and international competitions where they gave it their all and brought home big wins for the NWT.

Professional snowboarders Andrew Matthews and Molly Milligan, both originally from Yellowknife, shredded up a storm at competitions this year, both ending the season on a high note at the national Dew Tour Am Series - a new event on the World Snowboard Tour held at Sun Peaks Resort in BC in late March.

Still riding a high from a first place finish at the Canadian nationals in Calgary the week before, Milligan outperformed all other female snowboarders to finish in first place at the Dew Tour Am Series competition.

Matthews also competed in the Dew Tour and gave a solid performance in the men's category, finishing flawless runs, but avoiding the more difficult tricks. He landed in fifth place overall ahead of multiple athletes on the national development team.

Despite not making it to the Olympics, both snowboarders said they were pleased with their performances over the

season and are now focused on enjoying the last of the spring snowboarding conditions.

"I'm feeling strong, healthy and more confident than ever!" Milligan said in a press release following her Dew Tour win.

"Ah, the never ending quest of pursuing excellence...you've got to love it!" Matthews said of his own results.

## Young cross-country skier in top 10

Fort McPherson cross-country skier Annah Hanthorn ended her ski season with a bang after her performance at a national competition in eastern Canada landed her a top 10 finish in every event.

Hanthorn attended the Haywood Ski Nationals held in Corner Brook, Nfld. in mid-March where she skied against some of the best cross-country athletes in the country, including two Olympic skiers who represented Canada during the games in Sochi, Russia this past February.

Success was sweet for the young NWT skier, who was not long ago recovering from a torn ligament in her ankle that prevented her from competing at the Canadian Eastern Championships in February.

Ah, the never ending quest of pursuing excellence...you've got to love it!

Andrew Matthews

Hanthorn more than redeemed herself for lost time at nationals by receiving three bronze medals and a second place overall aggregate award for her age.

"I had a huge amount of support racing this week," she said in a press release following her big win. "My goal coming here to nationals was to race hard and do my very best, whatever place I come, and I feel like I was able to do that thanks to my coaches and teammates."

Upon returning to the NWT to wind down the ski season, the cross-country skier received news of a full sponsorship offer from the ski-brand company Fisher for next year's season.

## NWT Olympians back home

NWT Olympians Brendan Green and Michael Gilday kept

the territory on its toes throughout the Olympics in February and despite not bringing home any medals, were treated nothing less than royally upon returning to the NWT for a short break in their training.

Green and his girlfriend, fellow Olympic biathlete Rosanna Crawford, were back in Hay River for the annual Ptub ski races in late March and hundreds came out to ski the trails with their hometown hero.

Gilday was back in Yellowknife in early April following a disappointing showing for the Canadian speed skating team at the world short track speed skating championships held in Montreal that saw the relay team finish last in their heat.

Gilday spent some quality time in the city before heading up north to hang out with the speed skating club in Inuvik.

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# Residential schools legacy to be taught in all Alberta classrooms

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta government is committing to the reconciliation process of addressing its own residential schools legacy by incorporating lessons on the difficult subject, along with more general Aboriginal content, into all of its classrooms over the next few years.

Both Education Minister Jeff Johnson and Aboriginal Relations Minister Frank Oberle recently announced the government's plan to incorporate mandatory lessons on residential schools into its K-12 curriculum, currently undergoing a total redesign, by around 2016-17.

Johnson's press secretary Dan Powers said the redesign is in its early stages, having just begun in February, meaning lesson plans are unclear as of yet, but he said the sensitive content will be adjusted for age and course appropriately.

"There's a lot of good to be taught as well as the bad. FNMI (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) communities have such a rich history, and there's so much there that the minister feels that it's important to start early with our students and have that content available to them from a young age, right through their education," Powers said.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Johnson

Alberta Education Minister Jeff Johnson is aiming to have residential schools included in the new K-12 curriculum by 2016-17.

Right now, the only mandated lessons on residential schools are included in Grade 10 social studies classes, which the department no longer feels is adequate.

"We're proud that that's there, but we need to go further," Powers said. "This is the first step in that."

The department is now engaging with Aboriginal partners from Treaties 6, 7 and 8, Powers said. The general reaction thus far has been great support for the initiative.

"It's been really warmly received...People are thrilled about it. I think it's a big step forward for the education

People are thrilled about it. I think it's a big step forward for the education system and for Alberta.

*Dan Powers  
Alberta Education*

system and for Alberta," Powers said.

Though much of the initiative was sparked by the last meeting of Canada's education ministers in Iqaluit, Powers said the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission across the country has been an inspiration and an incentive to the education system to take bigger steps toward creating awareness and healing.

"I think there's just a general recognition amongst our government and our party and most Albertans that the time really has come to move forward and to include this content into the curriculum. It's also part of the healing process with our Aboriginal partners," he said.

An arbitrary roll-out date of 2016-17 has been set by the department, but Powers noted the priority is getting things done

properly rather than by a specific deadline.

"There is no deadline for this; we're going to take our time to get it right. So if it takes three years, if it takes four years, five years, as long as the government feels that adequate time has been put into it and there's been exhaustive consultation with all of our partners, not until then would we move forward with implementing the redesigned curriculum," he said.

## Aboriginal content part of general overhaul

The addition of more Aboriginal content to the Alberta K-12 curriculum is part of a system-wide review currently underway in the province, which began in February.

The efforts are being led by the school boards, who are in the midst of an engagement and consultation process with

a variety of stakeholders, from First Nations to non-profits and, more controversially, the private sector, including oil companies.

The inclusion of industry at the table, specifically on the development of K-3 curriculum being headed by the Edmonton Public School Board, has caused considerable public concern in Alberta.

An NDP-backed petition tabled last week in the Legislative Assembly contains 26,000 signatures asking the government to remove Cenovus, Syncrude and Suncor Energy from the list of partners helping to draft the future curriculum.

Powers said there are many members of the private sector adding their voice to the consultations, including Microsoft, Cisco Systems and environmental reclamation companies, and that the notion of oil companies writing classroom curriculum is "patently false."

"At the end of the day, Alberta education designs the curriculum, writes the curriculum, determines what's going to be in it and has final say over everything," he said. "We just want a broad cross-section of representation from all sectors in the curriculum redesign process."

## Health & Wellness Safety

# More awareness needed on carbon monoxide: coroner

## Coroner calls for awareness campaign following accidental deaths

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The office of the NWT Chief Coroner is calling for a public awareness campaign about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from propane/gas heating appliances following the deaths of a couple at a cabin outside Hay River last fall.

Coroner James Forsey found that the accidental deaths of common-law partners Robert Bradley and Florence Lavolette-Rapp, aged 52 and 58 respectively, on Oct. 12, 2013 were caused by acute carbon monoxide toxicity stemming from the use of indoor propane lamps.

The couple had been renting a cabin at the Mount Aven campground outside of Hay River when they were found deceased by RCMP after the owner showed up to collect rent and received no answer.

According to the coroner's report, a local propane dealer and GNWT gas inspector examined the propane system in the cabin, which consisted of an exterior tank, interior stove, furnace and lamps.

The lamps revealed evidence

of inefficient burning. Further inspection found the lamps to be working properly, and when left burning at a low setting for over eight hours in the airtight cabin revealed lethal levels of carbon monoxide.

Both individuals were transported to Edmonton for post-mortem examination, where it was determined that the levels of carbon monoxide inhaled had been high enough to account for death.

The coroner's office made a single, broad recommendation to the NWT premier to develop and implement a public awareness campaign for people across the territory, whether they be landlords, property owners or tenants, in relation to propane appliances.

The awareness campaign should be aimed at ensuring people understand the risks of improperly installed or poorly maintained appliances, and to highlight the importance of proper installation, along with the use of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, both of which were absent from the cabin, according to the report.

While the lamps in the cabin were professionally installed, Chief Coroner Cathy Menard said it's important for everyone in the North to have an understanding of the hazards of using such appliances.

"Safety begins with knowledge," she told *The Journal*.

"In the North, so many people have cabins and so many people use different appliances, so we kind of made that recommendation sort of broad because, although in this case it was a lamp, it could have been the other things we listed in the cabin."

While individual community fire departments sometimes put on awareness-raising events or campaigns related to things like furnace maintenance and carbon monoxide detection, Menard said there needs to be a coordinated effort by government to ensure

that message reaches all NWT residents.

"We just wanted it to be broad across the whole Northwest Territories, to get that message out to everybody, whether you live in Fort Smith or in Deline or in Yellowknife," she said.



**Liquor bust in Fort Good Hope:** A load of liquor was recently seized by Fort Good Hope RCMP on its way into the community, where liquor restrictions are in effect following the murder of a woman in late March. Reports that alcohol was a factor in the crime led chief and council to put in place a 30-day ban on liquor entering the Sahtu community.

Photo courtesy of Norman Yakeleya

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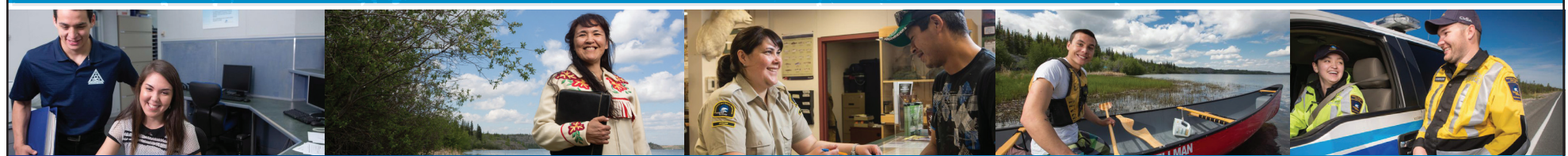
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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



**Government of the Northwest Territories**

For copies of the job description please visit [www.gnwtjobs.ca](http://www.gnwtjobs.ca)

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**Environment and Natural Resources Fort Smith, NT Forest Management Division**

Seasonal Training Position to August 2016

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Applicants must possess proficient knowledge in forest fire fighting principles and practices, and forest fire suppression techniques. Demonstrated analytical and problem solving skills are required. Good oral and written communication skills along with effective organizational and interpersonal skills are essential.

Continued employment as an Air Attack Officer Trainee is conditional upon the successful completion of the Level 1 Air Attack Officer training course, required flight hours of front and back seat experience, favourable check rides combined with in-house training annually, to Level 3 Air Attack Officer Certification. Successful completion of the training program includes successful completion of a 2 year Environment and Natural Resource Technology Program or Forest Technology Diploma Program in the years of training outlined.

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**Job Opening ID#:** 11527 **Closing Date:** April 25, 2014

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**Inquiries Only:** Fort Smith Human Resource Service Centre, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT. X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: [jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca)

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- Equivalencies may be considered.
- Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.



**Government of the Northwest Territories**

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**Environment and Natural Resources Inuvik, NT Inuvik Regional Office**

Indeterminate

Salary starts at \$45.36 per hour, (Approximately \$88,452 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$13,756.

**Job Opening ID#:** 11514 **Closing Date:** April 30, 2014

## Water Resources Officer

**Environment and Natural Resources Inuvik, NT Inuvik Regional Office**

Indeterminate

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**Job Opening ID#:** 11515 **Closing Date:** April 30, 2014

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# Reality TV episode to be shot in Yellowknife

## Star of show looking for 'seduction' in the NWT

By MARIA CHURCH

Yellowknife is about to get an opportunity to show off on national television with the announcement that TV show *La Petite Séduction* is headed North for the first time this summer and looking to be wowed.

A French Canadian-produced reality show, each episode of *La Petite Séduction* follows a guest celebrity as they partake in community events that aim to "seduce" them with culture and charm.

It's the perfect premise for Yellowknife to shine, Marie-Eve Duperré, economic development officer with the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDETNO), told *The Journal*.

"I think for Yellowknife it will be easy to charm this person because Yellowknife is very special," Duperré said. "We would like to show the vibrancy here, to show the energy in the community and maybe the local institutions."

CDETNO partnered with the Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) to bring the TV show to Yellowknife, which has taken a year of applying



Photo courtesy of Édith Butler

Canadian singer-songwriter Édith Butler will be in Yellowknife this June for the filming of *La Petite Séduction*, a French Canadian-produced reality TV show.

and communicating with the show's directors.

It's been worth it, Duperré said, as it will be the first time the show comes North.

"It's the first time in one of the three territories," she said. "For Yellowknife, it is a very good opportunity to be on the spot on national TV.

To do a show that represents the reality of Yellowknife, we have to show the diversity of Yellowknife and we have to work with organizations that are not in the Francophone community. We want to include everybody.

*Nicolas Carrière  
Fédération franco-ténoise*

We will showcase our touristic attractions, the local culture and the local colours."

The show, launched by CBC in 2006, for years focused on small-town Quebec, but over the last few seasons the producers have branched out to French communities in Ontario, the East Coast and Western provinces.

The star slated to be seduced by Yellowknife is Édith Butler, an Acadian singer-songwriter and author from New Brunswick.

Butler has distinguished herself in Canadian song lore since her career began in the 1960s. She was recently made a recipient of the Governor General's Performing

Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement and was named to the Order of Canada in 1975.

"We have been told by the producers of the show that she likes small towns and I think that she also likes nature, small animals and such, so it's a very good fit for us," Duperré said.

The episode is scheduled to be filmed in Yellowknife June 13 to 15, which gives the organizing team a few months to prepare.

"We have to organize five activities, a welcome activity and a final big activity and basically through those activities we try to charm the celebrity. These activities will reflect

the local culture, like fishing, Aboriginal culture and all that kind of stuff," FFT's Nicolas Carrière explained.

The organizing committee met on Apr. 1 to brainstorm a "seduction strategy" for Butler and to generate community interest.

Mayor of Yellowknife Mark Heyck is already on board, announcing in a joint press release that the community is "excited to showcase our vibrant Northern community, local personalities and unique businesses to French speaking audiences."

Carrière stressed that it will take the entire community of Yellowknife to seduce the star, not just the Francophone population.

"To do a show that represents the reality of Yellowknife, we have to show the diversity of Yellowknife and we have to work with organizations that are not in the Francophone community," he said. "We want to include everybody."

To volunteer for the show, which could include screen time in the episode, residents can contact any one of the three Francophone organizations.

### Industry Small Business

# Toronto chef serves up gourmet comfort in Fort Smith

## New restaurateur hopes to start hot meals program for elders

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Gourmet burgers, Louisiana-style shrimp hoagies and deep-fried ice cream and are just a few of the creative twists on comfort food bursting off the menu at Fort Smith's newest restaurant, S&S Desirable Delicacies.

The new diner is housed at the canteen in the Rec Centre where a brand new food court setup allows people to dine in or dash with their breakfast, lunch or dinner from a rotating menu of unique daily specials, seven days a week.

Co-owner and executive chef Steve Thom decided to set up shop in the vacant space almost by accident while "passing through" on a visit to see family and friends last December.

"I was here for a month and a bit, and started cooking for people in the town and people just said they absolutely loved my cooking and I should open a restaurant," he said. "So I checked out the demographics in the area, and basically there were really only two restaurants for a population of 3,500. It's just a different venue - something new, something



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

*S&S Desirable Delicacies is firing up hot gourmet eats at the canteen in the Rec Centre.*

exciting, something that you don't have up here."

The restaurant opened last week despite significant hiccups in the food delivery process. Much of the food supply shipment was misdirected to the wrong location and, when it finally arrived, nearly all of the load consisted of the wrong food.

Thom decided to roll with the punches, donating hundreds of pounds of

groceries to the local food bank, homeless shelter and women's shelter.

"I'd rather make people happy and have good food and show them that I'm here not only to help the community, but I want people to have fun. Good food, good times - that's what life's about. You don't always have to make money."

"Chef Steve," as he likes to be called, is originally from Toronto, but says he

has successfully started up 14 restaurants across Canada. A graduate of the Cordon Bleu chef school, he has worked everywhere from chicken wing restaurants to homestyle Caribbean joints and five-star hotels.

"I worked under some really excellent European chefs," he said. "I've been across Canada three times; I've opened 14 successful restaurants; I've met some great chefs along the way."

The idea behind S&S is fusion: mixing American, European and Asian cuisines to delicious ends, where everything, from soups to sauces, comes homemade - including the chef's own hot sauce, which he plans to market around the North.

Among the standard fare, the menu offers handmade 7-oz gourmet burgers made from ground steak and stuffed with cheese, and real American-style hoagie sandwiches loaded with hot meat, cheese and other tasty toppings.

Each day's menu also offers a variety of sides, salads and a soup or bread bowl option, from New England chowder to chilli, lobster bisque and real Vietnamese pho.

The chef will also be dishing up snacks like real curd-topped poutine, deep-fried pickles and mushrooms, and desserts like funnel cakes, deep-fried ice cream and Mars bars.

"You're going to have your originals for all your meat-and-potatoes types...but it's also a really unique twist on food," he said.

Highlights of the morning wake-up menu include breakfast burritos and sandwiches, along with triple decker monte carlos and crispy hashbrowns.

The canteen opens its gates at 6:30 a.m. for the early risers and serves food until 10:00 p.m. every weekday, opening later on Saturdays and Sundays, keeping with the Rec Centre's hours.

### Serving the community

Apart from living his passion for cooking, Chef Steve said his interest lies in giving back to the community.

While S&S is his first gig in Fort Smith, he said he has other plans up his sleeve, including a door-to-door hot meal service called Angels Catering for elders in the community.

"I'm friends with a lot of seniors. These people are your mothers, your fathers, your mentors in life. As they get older, they need help just like we did when we were infants. So it's a great thing to be able to help them."

S&S also has specials for students, and is available to cater weddings, meetings and other events.

