



# NORTHERN Journal

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## Scientists to monitor hydro impacts on Slave

A monitoring initiative for the Slave River system plans to determine impacts of BC Hydro's Site C dam downstream as far as the NWT. *See page 2.*



## Fort Chip warned to limit wild egg consumption

Fort Chipewyan area residents are being advised to limit consumption of gull and tern eggs due to rising mercury levels. *See page 3.*



## Fort Chip celebrates opening of elders' home

Hundreds came out to help Fort Chipewyan celebrate the opening of its elders' care centre for assisted living and end of life care. *See page 7.*



## Snakes out in full force for Wood Buffalo visitors

Red-sided garter snakes are slithering out of the crevices of Wood Buffalo National Park to put on a mating show for visitors. *See page 15.*



Photo: Dali Carmichael

Kayakers John Blyth, left, and Karl Cox play around in the foam below the Little Buffalo River falls during the Fort Smith Paddling Club's first spring run. The annual spring outing takes advantage of the small window when the Little Buffalo River is high enough to paddle. *See page 15 for more.*

## Slave River fish healthy 'for now' Athabasca can serve as 'early warning indicator' for Slave River, says fish scientist

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Fish in the Slave River are exhibiting much lower levels of contaminants than their counterparts upstream near Fort McMurray, but that could all change if inputs of pollution continue to increase in the Athabasca River or on the Peace, according to a fish scientist working in the region.

Dr. Paul Jones, who has been conducting fish health research between Fort McMurray and Fort Resolution since 2011, was in Fort Smith last week to present his most recent findings to the community on the incidence rate of abnormalities and the presence of

contaminants like metals and hydrocarbons in fish.

Across the board, he said the results are showing good news for the fish of the Slave River.

"There don't seem to be any consistent impacts on fish health at this stage. We see some changes but they're relatively small, and they're also not consistent within species," Jones said.

"But we do need to keep a watch on anomalies to see if they're changing and also monitoring the condition factors and other health measures, and we have to realize that there are yearly natural variations. That's why we need a fairly

extended period of baseline measurements so we can get an idea of what's normal for the locations around here."

### More contaminants in Athabasca fish

As part of the study, fish samples go through chemical analysis for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) - potentially carcinogenic compounds linked to oilsands development, forest fires and cigarette smoke, among other sources that tend to involve combustion.

Fish are tested for PAHs by analyzing the bile stored in the gall bladders, which indicates what chemicals they have been

exposed to within around a week, making it easier for the researchers to flag the approximate location of the source.

What Jones has found is "a really big difference" between the kinds and total concentrations of PAHs among fish caught in the Slave and Athabasca Rivers.

"We see a trend to lower concentrations in the total PAHs as we go into the Slave River downstream from Fort McMurray," he said.

### Contaminants oilsands-related

While some of the "lighter" - two or three-ringed PAH

compounds - are more likely to come from forest fires, vehicle exhaust and various other human-made sources, Jones said the heavier molecules with four or five carbon rings are petrochemical in nature and can be associated with oilsands extraction.

Those heavier PAHs are the ones being detected in higher concentrations in Athabasca fish closer to Fort McMurray despite being "almost absent" from the Slave. This difference shows up most dramatically in white-fish, but can be noted in wall-eye as well.

*See Athabasca on page 3.*



# NEWS BRIEFS

## NWT territorial parks open in time for May long weekend

As of May 15, most of the NWT's territorial campgrounds have opened their gates for the spring, summer and fall camping season, just in time for the May long weekend. All campgrounds are open save those in the Beaufort Delta where the opening date is June 1. This year, Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is promising several upgrades to campgrounds, including a new kitchen shelter for rent at Fred Henne beach, more parking at Prelude Lake, new hiking trails at Nitainlaii and Gwich'in Territorial Parks and a new shower building at Queen Elizabeth. ITI also unveiled a new online booking tool, found at [www.nwtparks.ca](http://www.nwtparks.ca)

## No one injured as fire damages single Inuvik row house

No injuries are being reported after a fire broke out in a row house on Dolphin St. in Inuvik last week. More than 20 firefighters responded to the fire call at around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday. The homeowner was inside the house when the firefighters arrived, but was able to escape unharmed. Firefighters evacuated the connected houses as a precaution, but residents were allowed to return the next day as the fire was quickly contained and prevented from spreading to neighbouring homes. The burned house has been boarded up and an investigation has begun into the cause of the fire.

## Fire consumes home in Yellowknife's Old Town

All that's left of a house in Yellowknife's Old Town is charred walls and a collapsing skeleton after firefighters battled a raging house fire for two hours last week. Fire crews were called in to tackle the blaze at the home on the corner of School Draw Ave. and 44th St. late Wednesday afternoon. The roof was already on fire and concerns about structural safety prevented firefighters from entering the building. While an ambulance was called and waited on standby, emergency crews are reporting no injuries. According to neighbours, no one was home at the time of the fire. The Northwest Territories' fire marshal has launched an investigation into the cause of the fire.



Henry McKay of Fort Resolution, left, and University of Saskatchewan hydrologist Karl Lindenschmidt drill holes in the frozen Slave River to measure ice thickness last winter as part of the initial monitoring work.

Environment Hydrology

# Scientists to monitor impacts of hydro on Slave River

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The review panel for BC Hydro's proposed Site C dam may be asserting that a third hydro project on the Peace River will have "no measurable impact" on life in the

Peace-Athabasca Delta (PAD) or further downstream, but that isn't stopping scientists from making sure that's actually the case.

Hydrologist Karl Lindenschmidt of the University of Saskatchewan and one of the members of SWEEP, a cumulative environmental impacts monitoring initiative for the Slave River system, is currently laying the groundwork for what will be a digital modeling of the entire Peace, Athabasca and Slave watersheds to see just what the impacts of hydro are on locations as far downstream from BC as the NWT.

Over the next two or three years, the model should be able to provide a big picture overview of the watershed unlike most existing studies, which stop checking for impacts when they reach Peace Point, where the Peace flows into the Slave.

"With that model, we would be able to run scenarios with and without the dam and really be able to tease out how much of the changes in the flows are attributed to climate change. So I will be able to do a lot with this model in order to answer some of these questions and tease out some of these effects that are cumulative," Lindenschmidt told *The Journal*.

"A lot of these studies stop at Peace Point, but that's one thing that we emphasized with this new hydrological modeling, is we're not going to stop there. We're going to extend the model down to Fort Resolution. I think that's a very important step forward actually. So we'll be able to assess that better now."

The water and ice flow specialist was in Fort Smith last week to present his preliminary findings on the state of ice and water in the Fort Smith and Fort Resolution areas, which look to address community concerns regarding noticed changes to water levels and ice thickness over the years.

Using satellite imagery and measurements taken during fieldwork, Lindenschmidt has begun collecting data on several areas of concern brought forward by land users, including thin ice caused by trapped air pockets and over-ice flooding during the winter.

Though changes in water levels and ice thickness are frequently-documented downstream results of river damming, ruling out other factors like climate change or variations in water levels of river or tributary inputs can be a challenge.

That has been the case with reviewing Site C. Despite concerns voiced by First Nations and scientists that further flow regulation would exacerbate the drought conditions and ecosystem changes in the PAD caused by BC Hydro's existing WAC Bennett Dam, the panel in charge of reviewing Site C said it would be impossible to differentiate the impacts of hydro from those caused by climate change or water withdrawal from the Athabasca River.

Lindenschmidt's hydrological modeling might be able to change that. By inputting meteorological data and temperature change forecasts for the next several decades along with data on water inputs, the study will be able to paint a picture of what the

Slave River Delta would look like today if it was not impacted by hydro and what it could look like in the future with further flow regulation.

"It is a long way upstream, the dam, so it is hard sometimes to correlate the flows here at Fitzgerald with the flows upstream. There are a lot of different tributaries coming in, so it's difficult," he said.

"BC Hydro I guess assumes that a lot of the impacts from the dam are attenuated as you go downstream or are masked by these other influences, like these tributaries flooding in the floodplains in the PAD, which to a certain degree is true. But there will be some impact and what we're trying to do here through this project is trying to determine how much contribution that is to the changes down here."

Apart from the modeling project, Lindenschmidt is also looking for a reference river, like the Liard or Hay River, that is not regulated by large-scale hydro to see if there are differences between that and the Slave.

SWEEP, or the Slave Watershed Environmental Effects Program, is a partnership between the University of Saskatchewan and the Slave River and Delta Partnership, a community-based organization leading the water and wildlife monitoring efforts in the region under the GNWT's Water Stewardship Strategy.

The \$500,000 monitoring program began last year and will conclude in 2015. Lindenschmidt's hydrological modeling research, being done with grad students, has additional funding.

Thanks to all those who supported us  
in our time of great sorrow with the loss of

*Douglas Lafferty*

With Utmost Gratitude, Thank You:

Jeannie Marie Jewell  
Lloyd and Melody Jones  
Eileen Tourangeau  
Lois and Curtis Bourke  
Ruby Courtoreille  
Berro's Restaurant  
Sheena Dexter  
Karen Scott  
NWT M tis Nation  
Smith's Landing First Nation  
Health and Social Services

Salt River First Nation  
Dianne Benwell  
Lorraine McDonald  
Andrew Wandering Spirit  
Darleen Powder  
Violet Edgi  
Troy Ellsworth  
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Wes Steed  
Lorraine Tordiff

Dorothy and Dennis Rolfe  
Dan and Kate Higgins  
Albertine Gambler  
Cathy Lepine  
Melissa Johns  
Gladys Rehm  
Marie Pineda  
Martha Poitras  
Harvey Lepine  
Lesley Paulette  
and all the pallbearers

Thanks especially to my mother for her love and support.

If I left anyone out, I'm sorry and again a great big thank you.

- Jackie B and family





# Province warns Fort Chip to limit wild egg consumption

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

People in the Fort Chipewyan area are being advised to limit their consumption of gull and tern eggs from around Mamawi Lake and Lake Athabasca due to rising mercury levels identified by a study last October.

Released by Alberta's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. James Talbot to the community of Fort Chipewyan last Wednesday, the advisory warns residents to limit their egg consumption depending on which lake they were taken from, and to refrain from eating any eggs if also consuming fish regularly from either lake, where there have been existing fish advisories for a number of years

"The contamination in the eggs is in the same ballpark as the contamination in the fish, so it's important for people to recognize that the advisories shouldn't be combined, and we have a warning about that: you can eat up to the advisory for fish or up to the advisory for eggs, but you shouldn't do both," Talbot told *The Journal*.

He said pregnant women and small children should exercise the most caution when eating a traditional diet because of the impacts mercury can have on brain development.

The information was given by Talbot to the Nunece Health



Photo: Michelle Kinsey Bruns

Common tern eggs around Fort Chipewyan are to be consumed in limited amounts due to mercury contamination, according to Alberta's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. James Talbot.

Authority via conference call and emerges following a report published last fall by Parks Canada scientists with Wood Buffalo National Park and Environment Canada.

The study looked at mercury levels in tern and gull eggs collected from Egg Island and Mamawi Lake in the Peace-Athabasca Delta near Fort Chipewyan, and compared them to one site in the southern part of the province.

The researchers found that the eggs of California and Ring-billed gulls at Mamawi Lake exhibited "statistically significant increases" in mercury concentrations in 2012, up 139 per cent from levels measured in 2009 when the first sampling was done.

Caspian and Common tern eggs at Egg Island also showed an increase, though significantly smaller.

By comparison, mercury levels collected at the Langdon

Reservoir in southern Alberta declined by 57 per cent between 2008 and 2012.

While mercury concentrations in the gull and Common tern eggs were found to be generally below toxic thresholds, levels in the majority of Caspian tern eggs exceeded the lower toxicity threshold for effects in birds.

**Consumption limits already in effect**

Community members in Fort Chipewyan had asked for a human health interpretation of the data to be brought into the discussion last fall, but that information was not available until last week.

According to Bruce Maclean, a lead on the community-based biomonitoring efforts being taken by the Athabasca

Chipewyan and Mikisew Cree First Nations in Fort Chip, the advisory is unique in that it's the first he's seen for eggs, but ultimately makes little difference to the community which is already warned not to over-consume fish.

"The take-home from this is if you notice on the bottom there's a little note that says, 'Oh by the way, if you eat fish, let's call off eggs altogether.' Of course, there's a fish advisory on Lake Athabasca. They know that."

While Maclean said the community appreciates the information provided by Talbot, the issue of mercury-laden eggs simply adds to a growing list of wild food consumption limitations experienced by residents who once lived entirely off the land.

Apart from the fish advisory for the area, a separate independent wild food monitoring study by the University of Manitoba also recommends limiting consumption of organ meat, especially of waterfowl, due to heavy metals.

"This is just another blow to treaty rights and people's ability to practice those safely," Maclean said.

Maclean said it's time the Alberta government looked at the existing data to find out what might be the source of the heavy metal contamination.

"Obviously now that it's in the office of the Chief Medical Officer and they're looking at this as a human health issue, someone needs to sit down and take a good long look at that Joint Oilsands Monitoring Program (JOSM) and what the results are showing - from an Aboriginal rights perspective, too," he said.

"That is clearly infringing on people's ability to practice their traditional rights if they can go out and catch it but can't eat it."

Talbot said further investigations into the source of the mercury is being done as part of JOSM.

He said the advisory will stay in place until more is known about the cause of the rising mercury levels and there is evidence that the risk is no longer present.

"Mercury is produced any time the environment is disturbed in a major way, either naturally or man-made. Flooding and forest fires release mercury from burned or downed trees and plants, and also industrial development can release it, so identifying a source, particularly in an animal that can fly like a bird, can be a difficult process," he said.

"We're looking at working with the new monitoring agency to look at what kinds of things could be monitored to give people an idea of which animals and fish are safe to eat, and what parts of them are safe," Talbot said.

## Athabasca can serve as 'early warning' for Slave

*Continued from page 1.*

"There's dramatically higher concentrations, higher exposures around Fort McMurray, Fort McKay and Fort Chip than here in the Slave River locations," Jones said.

"High molecular weight PAHs are more prevalent in the Athabasca and related either to oilsands extraction activities or to natural seepage events. My feeling is probably oilsands activities by far outweigh natural seepage, so what we're seeing is probably oilsands extraction-related contamination."

Jones said the results suggest that as long as the Peace River remains relatively unpolluted, dilution by the cleaner water should be able to reduce the impact of PAHs from the Athabasca coming in the Slave River, "for now."

"We don't know what's going to happen with the concentrations in the Athabasca, or with concentrations in the Peace," he noted.

"We can use the Athabasca as an early warning indicator... If we start seeing things change in Fort Chip, we know it's not going to be long before they start heading up into the Slave."

**Abnormalities infrequent**

While there are some cases of abnormalities, like lesions and deformities on fish, the incident rate is low and has decreased, according to Jones' research.

Though sometimes believed to be tumours, Jones said the lesions - red, sore-like bumps found on the exterior of the fish - are being caused by a viral disease called lymphocystis, which can spike in a population just as the common cold can spike in a population of humans on an annual basis.

Around 15-16 per cent of the 835 fish caught between Fort McMurray and Fort Resolution in 2011 and 2012 showed signs of lesions or "other" deformities.

Last year, more fish caught just in the Fort Smith and Fort Resolution areas yielded 111 samples, of which only 1.8 per cent presented with lesions or other anomalies.

"Things are looking fairly good in that portion of the study," Jones said.

**Fish getting fatter, healthier**

When it comes to the "condition factor" of fish health - roughly how fat or skinny they are - Jones said results are also positive.

"How fat, how healthy the fish are doesn't seem to be varying that much up and down the river system, so that's good news," he said, noting that there's actually been a slight increase in the condition factor for walleye and whitefish.

"The fish are getting fatter; maybe the fish are getting healthier. A slight increase could be good news...and I'm sure in this case it is."

Jones said condition factor will vary from year to year, which supports the need for continued monitoring.

"What we need to do over extended periods of time - not just three years, but five or 10 years - is determine what is the average condition factor for fish in this area, and then we can start seeing if we're moving outside of that comfort zone...and know that we need to look at the situation and see what's going on."

### Food consumption advisory for gull and tern eggs\*

- CHILDREN AGED 1-4:**  
One egg every two weeks from Athabasca OR  
two eggs per week from Mamawi
- CHILDREN AGED 5-11:**  
One egg every two weeks from Athabasca OR  
three eggs per week from Mamawi
- YOUTH AGED 12-17:**  
Four eggs per week from Athabasca OR  
seven eggs per week from Mamawi

- PREGNANT WOMEN:**  
Three eggs per week from Athabasca OR  
five eggs per week from Mamawi
- OTHER ADULTS:**  
Eight eggs per week from Athabasca OR  
12 eggs per week from Mamawi

\*Residents are warned that no eggs should be consumed if eating fish regularly from either lake.

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Aklavik	Fort Resolution	Paulatuk
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Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekati Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
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Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Rainbow Lake
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Driftpile	Grouard	Saddle Lake
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Enilda	Hythe	Valleyview
Enoch	John d'Or Prairie	Wabasca

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# Canada needs inquiry on missing women

The Journal has been reporting on incidents of murdered or missing Aboriginal women since 2009, as well as calls to action to deal with the tragedy. The federal government has consistently refused to take action throughout that time.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay is the one in cabinet who should be a leader in the matter. Note that MacKay was remarkably silent during the recent furor over the appointment of a Supreme Court justice, which is obviously within the mandate of his office. That controversy was handled by the prime minister. It is safe to assume that both issues are active files for cabinet. Stephen Harper, who rarely gives up the lead on anything major, seems to have directed MacKay to handle this one.

MacKay's position has been that missing persons and murders are the responsibility of the police, that they alone should handle such cases. He also says the matter has been studied enough and "another" hearing on it will not accomplish anything.

There are several critical facts that warrant reconsideration of that assessment:

1. The problem has gone on much too long. It has been nearly a decade since it became a prominent issue. If there was a solution available to police, they would have found it by now. The problem varies in nature in different parts of the country and is too big, too general and too complex for police alone to handle;

2. It is a social issue, nationwide and pervasive, steeped in racism, poverty and historic abuse lasting over a century; as such, resolution is beyond the capabilities of the criminal justice system.

Aboriginal organizations at all levels have been calling for action in the form of a national inquiry for a long time and more and more agencies and groups have joined them. Both the NDP and Liberal parties have long been strong advocates of the need. The matter is appalling and obviously needs to be addressed in a new, different way. The federal government still refuses to budge.

In October 2012, The Journal ran a story that the Canadian Bar Association had joined the voices calling for a national inquiry. In our interview, the CBA spokesperson described Aboriginal women as a "targeted population." You would think a call from an association representing all the lawyers in the country would foster some movement from the government. It didn't.

A significant majority of Canadians support some new form of action. The need is obvious and compelling. Why won't the federal government come around?

National inquiries are expensive. If they drag on, and they always do, the tally can mount to tens of millions of dollars. The cost won't stop there. The recommendations of an inquiry will almost certainly require much more: a special national task force within the RCMP, perhaps; some form of special transportation in areas like the "Highway of Tears" in northern BC where

women from poor First Nation reserves have to travel alone, often hitchhiking on lonely stretches of highway, vulnerable and exposed to predators in the worst way. Is it the potential of escalating costs that causes the federal government to continue to avoid the issue? What price do you put on lives; on morality; on justice?

Dig deeper. Too many First Nations, Inuit and Métis Canadians live in poverty, badly need better housing, even do not have clean water to drink. All that is the responsibility of the federal government. Those shameful situations, and there are many, will be exposed by an inquiry in the most public way, then painfully and extensively detailed by the media. It would dominate the government's agenda. It would be controversial and damaging. The next election is not far off.

Aboriginal Canadians are generally a marginalized people. It is a reality that is ignored, but we all know it is true. Exposing the problems in detail, how Aboriginal women in particular pay the price for it, is the greatest reason of all for a national inquiry. A national shame hangs over Canada like a pall. The situation must change. To make that happen will take leadership and courage. That is exactly what Canadians want from their government.

We call on Justice Minister Peter MacKay to alter his position and support a national inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal Canadian women as quickly as possible. It is the right thing to do.



A host of educators, principals and support staff from Northland School Division were honoured at the division's annual Long Service and Recognition Awards, held this year in Peace River in early May. Staff were celebrated for their 20, 25, 30 and 35-year commitment to serving schools in the district. This year's Northland nominees for multiple provincial teaching awards were also announced.

## WEATHER

### Inuvik



Weekly Norms:  
High 8°C Low -1°C

### Yellowknife



Weekly Norms:  
High 13°C Low 3°C

### Hay River



Weekly Norms:  
High 13°C Low 2°C

### Fort Smith



Weekly Norms:  
High 17°C Low 3°C

Tuesday, May 20, 2014



# Alberta regulator a respected model for others

Editor,

Re: *NWT stays course on fracking despite cautionary report; Ministers believe gaps can be addressed 'going forward', May 13, 2014*

Contrary to what this article suggests, Alberta has a proven regulatory system that serves as an example of an effective regulatory framework to jurisdictions, such as the Northwest Territories, that

are establishing their own onshore petroleum industry.

In fact, the Council of Canadian Academies report describes the Alberta Energy Regulator as a "senior and respected regulatory agency" whose regulations "are widely used as guidance by other regulatory bodies in Canada."

The NWT government is taking the time to learn from jurisdictions with a proven regulatory framework as it

establishes rules for the onshore petroleum industry.

Industry operating practices, including CAPP's nationally applicable operating practices for hydraulic fracturing, complement existing provincial regulations, and we encourage other governments to adopt these practices in regulations.

As a result of science-based regulations, industry operating practices and

continuous performance improvement, our industry is highly confident the processes we use are effectively managed to protect the environment and the public wherever we operate, including in the NWT.

Aaron Miller  
Manager, Northern  
Canada Onshore  
Canadian Association  
of Petroleum Producers

## COLUMN



## From the House

### *Let's not re-start the Cold War in the Warming Arctic*

The Arctic with its rapidly melting ocean is the focused area of the globe in this new century. With its potential shipping routes, fisheries, land and sea bed resources, the Arctic holds prizes that now resonate on an ever smaller and more crowded Earth.

On the environmental side, the changes that are occurring in the polar region have implications for all countries. Understanding the pace and extent of polar warming can assist in planning for the profound alterations to our societies as climate change moves forward. We already see the effects in North America on how our jet stream, the high altitude air flow, is changing weather patterns. Europe knows that escalating ice melt in the Arctic will have a profound impact on the Atlantic Gulf Stream, their major climatic influence, and worldwide, nations fear the impact of rising water levels.

Everyone has a stake in what is happening in the

Arctic and up until very recently, cooperation and collaboration were the bywords for Arctic interaction. This wasn't always the case.

Prior to end of the Cold War, confrontation, secrecy and massive expenditures on surveillance and military were the standard practice. With the end of communism in the '90s, a great thaw began in international relations vis a vis the polar regions. Canadians played a large role in this, first by founding the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Regions and then, with the active participation from groups like the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, we stepped forward in building an institution for arctic collaboration, the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Council has been a model for partnerships of all Arctic nations and indigenous peoples and "observer" status to the Council is sought by countries from around the world.

Regardless of whether conflict was occurring in Iraq or Georgia, Afghanistan, Chechnia, Libya or Syria, international cooperation in the polar regions has moved steadily along, peacefully and progressively. Countries agreed to utilise the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to settle maritime boundaries. A search and rescue treaty was signed among all the nations. Both commercial and environmental multi-lateral issues were being advanced steadily.

But something different is happening now.

One might put it down simply to the crisis in Ukraine, but it actually began last year after Prime Minister Harper, in a candid interview with the *Globe and Mail*, said that he was not interested in international cooperation in the Arctic, only sovereignty.

"The Antarctic model is absolutely and completely unacceptable to the government of Canada and to the people of Canada. We want to make sure that (this) kind

of thinking is not part of any ... department of the government of Canada," he said.

The ensuing events in Ukraine have given an opportunity for this brash statement to play out as the chair of the Arctic Council, Minister Leona Agluk-kaq, has boycotted an important meeting in Russia on climate change factors. As well, this week it was revealed that the face to face meeting of the Arctic Council in Iqaluit this summer has been cancelled - supposedly because of a lack of agenda.

Canadians need to watch how this attitude is going to play out going forward. There is much at stake and a confrontational attitude should not be the approach we are taking in our part of the world.

Is Canada's two-year chairmanship of the Arctic Council to lead to its diminishment?

Is that what the Prime Minister wants?

Dennis Bevington  
MP Western Arctic

## CORRECTION

In our story "Keyano College celebrates more than 150 grads" published May 13, 2014, it was incorrectly stated that William Shatner was the guest speaker at this year's Keyano College convocation. Shatner was in fact the headliner for the Keyano Theatre fundraiser in Fort McMurray on Mar. 15. *The Journal* apologizes for this error.

## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2014

Fort Smith unveils big plans for upgraded, greener arena



A brand-new mezzanine, six new change rooms and energy-efficient upgrades are just a few of the renovations Fort Smith has in store for its local arena.



Erin MacDonald: Fantastic news!



Tommy Clarke: Good Stuff. I might have to come out of retirement!!

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## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

*Tragic accident claims young woman*

Michelle True, a 24 year-old Fort Smith resident, was killed in a single-vehicle accident on the weekend. True was travelling to Edmonton with her son and her sister on Saturday when the truck she was driving went off the road. They were about 50 km north of High Level when the crash happened.

Issue: May 81, 1999

### 20 Years Ago...

*Float planes face uncertain future*

Transport Canada is getting out of the business of running airports in the North and has said it will close the Four Mile Lake float plane base outside Fort Smith if no alternate operator can be found. Ottawa has offered the base to the GNWT, but the GNWT rejected the idea because the site is in Alberta.

Issue: May 18, 1994

### 30 Years Ago...

*MLAs say 'oui' to French*

The NWT will implement French as an official language, if the federal government supports similar services in native languages. MLAs gave strong support this week to the executive council's position of implementing French as part of an NWT Official Languages Ordinance.

Issue: May 17, 1984

## MUKLUK







Aboriginal protesters gather on the steps of Parliament Hill last Wednesday for the National Day of Resistance against the federal government's First Nations Education Act and lack of action on the growing count of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. The protests came just days after the UN released a report on the status of Aboriginal people in Canada.

Politics Aboriginal

# Reports differ on Canada's duty to consult

## UN calls for free, prior and informed consent, but lawyer argues Aboriginal governments don't have veto powers for resource projects

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A new report from the United Nations released last week is calling for better consultation and the full consent of Aboriginal peoples before approving resource extraction projects in Canada, but a second perspective is saying such "rigid" requirements are not actually part of Canadian law.

Dwight Newman, the Canada Research Chair in indigenous rights and constitutional and international law at the University of Saskatchewan, says Aboriginal governments opposed to proposed pipelines, mines and drilling on their territory do not have veto rights when it comes to approving said development.

"Many believe the duty to consult provides a veto over development proposals, while the courts have consistently reiterated that it does not," Newman

wrote in *The Rule and the Role of Law: The duty to consult, Aboriginal communities, and the Canadian natural resource sector*, a new paper for the Macdonald Laurier Institute published just days before the report by UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya.

"What the duty to consult does is provide protection for key Aboriginal interests, and create a lever to cause Aboriginal communities, government, and businesses to come to an agreement over resource projects that benefit all parties," Newman concluded.

Released last Monday, the much anticipated report by Anaya advises the Canadian government to adhere to international agreements on indigenous rights by refraining from approving projects on lands subject to Aboriginal

claims without adequate consultation or the "free, prior and informed" consent of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Based on information gathered in part during a visit to Canada last October, Anaya paints a picture of the country's current state of consultation: one that is contributing to a troubling relationship between Aboriginal people and the Crown that has only worsened since the previous rapporteur's visit in 2004.

"The Special Rapporteur repeatedly heard from Aboriginal leaders that they are not opposed to development in their lands generally and go to great lengths to participate in such consultation processes as are available, but that these are generally inadequate, not designed to address aboriginal and treaty rights, and usually take place at a stage when project proposals have already been developed," his report states.

"There appears to be a lack of a consistent framework or policy for the implementation of this duty to consult, which is contributing to an atmosphere of contentiousness and mistrust that is conducive neither to beneficial economic development nor social peace."

While Newman agrees the situation isn't always "rosy" between Aboriginal Canadians and the resource industry, his paper argues the assertion of consent embedded in Anaya's report would "squander" Canada's massive resource potential and the resulting economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples.

In an interview with *The Journal*, Newman said the duty to consult is an important part of Canadian jurisprudence, but should be addressed based on its spirit, intent and capacity for relationship-building rather than seen only as a rigid legal framework that governments are forced to follow.

"The idea that free, prior and informed consent is required in every case of development of resources on traditional territories - that's not really consistent with Canada's duty to consult doctrine as it's been developed, thus far," he said.

concerning the level of consultation and forms of accommodation required by the constitutional duty to consult," he wrote.

Though Aboriginal people potentially stand to gain from resource development within their territories, Anaya emphasized that they simultaneously

There appears to be a lack of a consistent framework or policy for the implementation of this duty to consult, which is contributing to an atmosphere of contentiousness and mistrust.

James Anaya  
UN Special Rapporteur

"In terms of a consultation situation, it may not be helpful to start off by thinking, 'What does the law require? Let's do that.' Focusing on the minimum legal requirements is not necessarily the best practice so much as trying to focus on relationship building from all sides and trying to find ways to further what will work for everyone."

### Consultation rife with problems: UN report

Among the problems with the consultation process listed in the UN report, Anaya said First Nations are often "bombed" with paperwork, too short of timelines, the burden of proof with respect to impacts on their rights, and are forced to present their concerns to review panels that have little understanding of Aboriginal law.

In addition, he points to the emerging trend of industry organizing the consultations, rather than the Crown.

"The federal government has acknowledged that it lacks a consistent consultation protocol or policy to provide guidance to provinces and companies

face the highest risks to health, economy and cultural identity from the associated environmental impacts, and that the long-term interests of indigenous peoples often don't easily fit into the plans of industry, especially when backed by provincial and federal governments.

"When consultation happens, resource companies have often already invested in exploration and viability studies, baseline studies are no longer possible, and accommodation of indigenous peoples' concerns requires a deviation from companies' plans," Anaya wrote.

He said development projects must be fully consistent with Aboriginal and treaty rights and, as much as possible, allow for indigenous control over and benefits from extractive operations within their lands.

### Newman's stance 'naive': lawyer

Larry Innes, a lawyer who specializes in Aboriginal and environmental law at Olthuis Kleer & Townshend, said though he agrees with Newman that duty to consult shouldn't be viewed in terms of minimum

legal requirements, he said it remains the law for an important reason: because a power balance exists whereby public governments push for resource extraction regardless of the special constitutional rights that Aboriginal people hold.

"(Newman) is coming from a perspective of naivete in expecting that governments and industry will act honourably towards First Nations when the past 250 years suggests the exact opposite," Innes said. "It's an argument for the status quo that ignores the fact that the status quo has been anything but kind to First Nations and their economic interests."

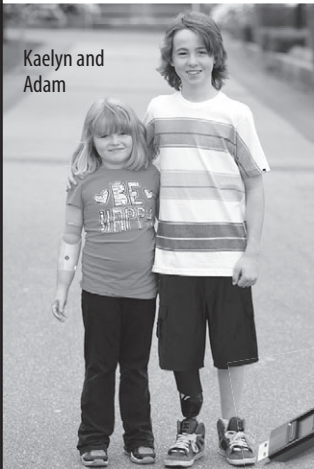
Though Newman's report turns to the Fort McKay First Nation repeatedly as an example of an Aboriginal government getting what it wants from the industry that surrounds it, Innes noted that the First Nation just very recently dropped a massive court case against both the Alberta and federal governments and Brion Energy that it used as leverage to secure greater environmental protection in relation to a proposed oilsands project on its territory.

"To pretend that there's not a power imbalance and to then suggest that the duty to consult should be interpreted as something other than the law, which it is, is to suggest that First Nations should simply stand aside and allow development to occur in the public interest, as defined by everyone else," Innes said.

He said duty to consult is extremely important for true nation-to-nation reconciliation with First Nations in Canada.

"If reconciliation to some means First Nations agree to have their lands and resources taken up by government and industry for the benefit of 'all Canadians,' then it's not a right at all; it's simply another sacrifice on the part of First Nations."

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# Fort Chip celebrates opening of elders' care centre

By MARIA CHURCH

The community of Fort Chipewyan is “thrilled” with the opening of its elders’ care centre that will mean vulnerable members requiring assisted living or end of life care can finally stay in their home community, say project organizers.

The Mikisew Cree First Nation organized a celebration for the Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders’ Care Home opening on Thursday, hosting more than 300 community members and fly-in guests for an opening prayer, drum ceremony and community feast at the local hall.

“It’s very exciting. We’re really quite thrilled by it all. It’s one of those things where it’s a dream come true,” Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, senior advisor to chief and council of Mikisew Cree First Nation and project lead, told *The Journal*.

“I think people really didn’t think it was going to happen, but now that it has happened, they are beside themselves,” she said.

The \$12-million, 12-room facility that was the remnants of the old community nursing station just 15 months ago, was built with no government funding through private Mikisew Cree funds and generous industry contributions, Merrithew-Mercredi said.



After 15 months of priority construction, Fort Chipewyan’s Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders’ Care Home has opened in the community.

A total of \$5 million was donated by industry, including Shell Canada and Cenovus, both oilsands companies operating upstream of the community.

Mikisew invited senior industry executives who contributed to the project, including Total, Syncrude, Husky and Suncor, to join them for the opening celebrations, with some coming from as far away as France to attend the ceremony.

“It’s a huge deal for the whole region,” Merrithew-Mercredi

said. “I think it shows that this community is the kind of community that when it says it can do something, in fact it can do it. It’s a very forward looking community and a very determined community.”

Fort Chipewyan has long desired to have a care facility for elders in the region. Currently, community members who require assisted living or palliative care must travel to Fort McMurray.

“They couldn’t be at home, around family with familial conditions. They

couldn’t eat familiar food, being with their friends and children, the people they’ve spent all of their lives with,” Merrithew-Mercredi said. “More often than not, they would come home in coffins.”

Given the need and the community’s support, Merrithew-Mercredi said she is not surprised by how fast the project came together.

“We had a really good project team and some fine management. When we said that was what we were going

to do, that is exactly what we did. We certainly had the backing of the chief and council,” she said.

The new building boasts a top of the line green energy addition of 44 solar panels installed on the roof to offset the facility’s energy needs, an initiative promoted by the Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Society.

The family room of the elders’ care home has been dedicated to the late Willie Courtoreille, a Mikisew Cree band councillor who

was killed tragically in a car crash last December.

With the grand opening behind them, Merrithew-Mercredi said she expects to see occupants towards the end of June. The biggest problem now is having enough space for the demand.

“We’ve already got at least twice as many applications, actually closer to three times as many applications, as we have beds,” she said.

The centre will be accepting applicants according to Alberta Health regulations.



The \$12-million, environmentally conscious facility has 12 rooms to house elders requiring assisted living or end of life care.

Photos: Trish Merrithew-Mercredi

## Health & Wellness Mental Health

# NWT plans to roll out wellness court this fall

## *Alternative court system to consider offenders’ treatment, achievements*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

While the final decision sits with the court system, the NWT department of Justice expects its pilot diversionary Wellness Court to convene this fall.

Work to establish the alternative court, created to reroute people with addictions, cognitive challenges or mental health issues away from the conventional court system, is well underway following recommendations made last year by the Minister’s Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.

The forum, which heard from residents across the territory on what they would like to see done to address mental health and addictions, told government to implement a diversionary court system, based on data showing a large portion of offenders going to jail suffer from addictions, mental health

problems or impairments like fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

“A Wellness Court is appropriate for individuals whose needs may be met

alternative court, including how and which individuals will be redirected from the standard court system.

“The Wellness Court will be much like other courts

recommended by their case manager. During the treatment time, the judge is continually overseeing and monitoring the progress of the individual,” she told *The Journal* in an email.

may speak at the hearing as well, including community representatives, the victim(s) (through the reading of a Victim Impact Statement), and counsel.”

Unlike the regular court system, she said the focus of the Wellness Court will be on wellness-based services where successful participation in wellness programming is seen as a “highly significant factor” when imposing a sentence or addressing charges.

“As in conventional court, clients appear before the court for disposition of the charge(s) or sentencing. The court will take participation in the wellness program and client achievements into consideration when addressing charges as well as any treatment a client has taken,” she said.

“Successfully completing the Wellness Plan could result in the charge(s) being

withdrawn or a stay entered, or in an absolute or conditional discharge; a suspended or conditional sentence, rather than a full charge or a sentence which might be given had the client not undergone successful treatment.”

Should a treatment program not be completed, the individual will return to the regular court system for sentencing, although “any progress they have made will be taken into consideration,” Mould said.

While the Wellness Court is primarily in the hands of the judiciary and the department of Justice, Mould said expected partners include Health and Social Services, the department of Education, Culture and Employment, housing agencies, the RCMP, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the NWT Defence Bar and community-based non-governmental organizations.

As in conventional court, clients appear before the court for disposition of the charge(s) or sentencing. The Court will take participation in the wellness program and client achievements into consideration when addressing charges as well as any treatment a client has taken.

*Ann Mould*  
*NWT department of Justice*

through community-based services,” said Ann Mould, director of court services with the GNWT.

Mould said Justice currently has a team working to define many of the processes for the

in appearance. A judge presides over the case. The person charged needs to admit their guilt or responsibility for their actions and agree to abide by conditions and enter into treatment programs as

“Once a client has completed their wellness journey, they appear before the court for the disposition, where wellness team members speak to the court about their achievements. Others



# FOXY back for round two of empowerment camps

By MARIA CHURCH

Dating and sex can be strange and uncomfortable topics for youth, but everyone has questions and young girls in the NWT need a safe place to ask them, say sexual health educators Nancy MacNeill and Candice Lys.

Both born and raised Northerners, Lys and MacNeill are the two women behind FOXY, an arts-based sexual health workshop and retreat program for young women in the territory.

FOXY, which stands for Fostering Open eXpression among Youth, is geared for girls aged 13 to 17 to allow them the freedom to share their thoughts and ask questions about body image, relationships and self-expression.

“We have a policy that every question that gets asked, gets answered. Even if it’s super awkward and uncomfortable and we talk about it and then everyone says, ‘OK, I really didn’t want to know about that,’ we say, ‘Well, better you know about it than you don’t!’” MacNeill shared with *The Journal*.

“We strongly believe that young people need a venue



Photo courtesy of FOXY

FOXY participants at the Blachford Lake retreat learn about self expression and empowerment last year.

where they can talk about these kind of things, otherwise we are throwing them into a vacuum with all this crazy information and no way to contextualize it,” she said.

“Some of the myths and rumors and things that we hear about sex in these workshops are just outrageous. It’s things that you hope nobody would ever believe, but because there’s so much information

out there, it’s really easy for someone to convince a whole lot of smart, intelligent people that something is true when it’s not.”

After a successful pilot program in Hay River in 2012, the FOXY program ran territory-wide for the first time last year, holding 25 to 30 workshops in high schools from Tuktoyaktuk to Fort Smith as well as a peer leadership retreat in August.

The FOXY program is the brainchild of Lys, a PhD student born and raised in Fort Smith, who chose to focus her research on young NWT women and sexual health. Her thesis in public health science for the University of Toronto will use information gathered through FOXY workshops.

Now in the planning stages for round two of the FOXY annual peer leadership retreat

at Blachford Lake, Lys and MacNeill have decided to focus the week-long camp on digital storytelling.

From July 24 to Aug. 1, 25 young girls from across the territory will be introduced to the basics of videography, photography and the written word in order to tell their stories through art with a wider audience using social media and blogging websites.

“You have to meet the youth where they are if we are going to have any kind of impact. They are not going to come to you. Where are they? They’re online. Giving them opportunities to share those stories and promote their art to a larger audience is a really valuable skill for them,” MacNeill said.

“These are smart, creative people. These are Northerners. Art is kind of in the bones,” she said.

Applications are now being accepted for this year’s retreat.

## FOXY in the running

FOXY is currently one of 13 Yellowknife finalists for the Field Law Community Fund contest that looks to support local initiatives across Western and Northern Canada.

Determined through online voting, the winning contestant in each region will receive \$15,000 towards their program.

For more information about the contest or to vote, visit <http://www.fieldlawcommunityfund.com/2014-vote/#Yellowknife>

## Education Federal Grants

# Families missing out on free money: Literacy Council

By MARIA CHURCH

Too many low income families in the NWT are passing up free, no-strings-attached, federal education money for youth, according to the territory’s literacy council.

The grant, called the Canada Learning Bond, allows families with a household net income of less than \$43,953 to receive up to \$2,000 towards each child’s post-secondary education.

According to statistics from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, only 8.3 per cent of eligible children in the NWT have received money as of December 2012.

“It’s free money. Imagine, there’s all these people that are eligible for it, yet nobody is taking it up. Not many people know about it. We didn’t even know about it until we started doing financial literacy courses,” Helen Balanoff, executive director of the NWT Literacy Council, told *The Journal*.

Balanoff said council staff stumbled upon statistics for the Canada Learning Bond last year and were shocked at how low the rate is in the territory, particularly in contrast to other jurisdictions. Among the provinces and territories,



Photo: NWT Literacy Council

Youth are entertained while their parents learn more about the Canada Learning Bond at an open house held by the NWT Literacy Council last week.

the NWT has the lowest participation rate save for Nunavut, which stands at a 0.9 per cent. The Canadian average is 27.5 per cent.

“The research shows that children that have access to savings are more likely to finish high school and go on to further education, so that’s obviously an area that we are very interested in,” Balanoff said.

## Council holds open house

In an effort to educate more families about the Canada Learning Bond, the NWT Literacy Council held an open house in Yellowknife last week.

The event invited two banks - the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) - and an employee from Employment

and Social Development Canada to answer questions about the bond and Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs).

The bond works in conjunction with RESPs, requiring participants to open a savings account for the government to deposit an initial \$500. The account will then see \$100 deposited each year until a student turns 15 years-old.

The research shows that children that have access to savings are more likely to finish high school and go on to further education.

*Helen Balanoff  
NWT Literacy Council*

Once the student hits post-secondary, they can withdraw the money - a total of \$2,000 - towards their schooling.

For many NWT families, a major hurdle is the federal paperwork, which requires a social insurance number (SIN) for both the parents and the child. In order to be issued a SIN, residents must have a birth certificate.

“Those services are not as accessible as they are in the larger centres,” Balanoff said.

The open house offered the paperwork for families to fill out, including birth certificate and SIN forms, but it could still be weeks, even months, before they can open an account.

The council hopes news of the free education money will reach the families of more

than 2,500 NWT children who were considered eligible but unregistered by the latest count. As of December 2012, the NWT has only seen 255 youth recipients.

Around 18 people came out to the event, held Monday at Northern United Place, and while the turnout wasn’t as high as organizers had hoped, they’ve had a spike in inquiries about the Canada Learning Bond, NWT Literacy Council coordinator Katie Randall told *The Journal*.

“The word is getting out,” she said.

For more information about the Canada Learning Bond, visit <http://www.smartsaver.org/canada-learning-bond.shtml> or contact the NWT Literacy Council at 1 (867) 873-9262.



# Students flock to Yk for 10th annual heritage fair

## Fair helps ‘bridge the gap’ between community and school

By MARIA CHURCH

Traditional medicine, family history, snowshoes and wolves were just a few of the topics students presented on at this year’s 10th anniversary of the Territorial Heritage Fair Showcase.

More than 40 students from middle and high schools across the territory were in Yellowknife May 9-11 for the annual heritage fair after coming out winners at their own regional or school fairs.

Booths were set up for judging at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on the Friday, though the students were in Yellowknife for multiple days to experience the city and explore the museum’s cultural offerings.

Monique Marinier organized the territorial event this year and said the heritage fair is an important interaction for students to meet and learn from their peers in other regions.

“It’s beautiful to see the kids interacting and connecting. We’re trying to connect all of the different regions of the North, not just to showcase



The wining students of this year’s Territorial Heritage Fair Showcase display their prizes.

the projects that they’ve created,” she said.

Marinier said it’s evident each year that the students are becoming more creative and growing in their ability to research and present on a given topic.

“The kids are improving by leaps and bounds. It’s more than *wikipedia.com*. They’re doing the research and practicing their presentations,” she

said. “If you speak to any of the judges, you will see that the kids, the minute you show interest in their project, just light up.”

Former organizer Mindy Willett said it’s the students’ personal connection to the material that makes the heritage fair different from other course material.

“All the research skills that we want kids to learn are there,

but it’s more special because the kids are excited about their project because they got to choose their topic. Then they go into further depth and work harder because they care about it,” she said.

The fair is also a good opportunity to “bridge the gap” between the community and schools, Willett said.

“We have a history of residential schools. Not

everybody feels comfortable to go into the schools, but when their child or their grandchild has done a project that they’ve participated in or shared some knowledge towards, they come in and they check it out. The kids are so happy when their families are there supporting them,” she said.

The overall winner for the Territorial Heritage Fair

Showcase was Mia MacInnis for her project entitled *L’histoire de ma Famille*.

The two winners of the History Canada certificates were Rae Panayi for *Le Voyage d’une Pagageuse* and Mary Chocolate and Kaitlyn Taylor for *Uses of Traditional Medicine*.

Minister of Education Jackson Lafferty was on hand to present this year’s Minister Awards, which are handed out to individuals in each participating region for the presentation that best represents Northern heritage and culture.

In the Beaufort Delta, Dwight Stefansson won for his presentation called *The Legacy of Vilhjalmur*. In the Sahtu, Arianna Laboucan won for *My Late Grandmother, Janet Grandjambe*. The Deh Cho’s Sage Dimsdale won for *Hip Hop Dance vs. Drum Dance*.

In the South Slave, Jessica Tordiff and Eyzaah Arnason-Bousza won for their presentation on Métis culture. The Tlicho’s Jayanna Wedawin won for *Traditional Tlicho Footwear*. And in Yellowknife, Stanley Mackenzie won for his presentation on snowshoes.

Education Workplace Safety

# Norman Wells student’s safety video Northern finalist

By MARIA CHURCH

A video shot by a Mackenzie Mountain School student in Norman Wells has been selected as the NWT and Nunavut winner of a national contest that highlights the importance of workplace safety.

Sonya Wall’s video titled *Bad Janitor* was chosen by the Workers’ Safety Compensation Commission (WSCC) as the top regional entrant in It’s Your Job, a video contest to encourage safety consciousness among Canadian youth.

In Wall’s video, shot at her school, drama student Darren Whiteman fills the role of a custodian making classic mistakes on the job, such as forgetting to put out a “wet floor” sign after mopping or leaving obstacles in front of doorways.

Student actors, playing themselves, give a convincing performance of slips, trips and stumbles to emphasize the hazards created by the bad janitor’s workplace wrongs.

The principal, played by Mackenzie Mountain’s own principal Michael Duclos, decides to instruct the



From left, actors Brendan Gully, Darren Whiteman and Michael Duclos star in Sonya Wall’s *Bad Janitor*.

school custodian on how to correct the safety errors. Together they put up signs, remove obstacles and learn to pause before careening around corners with a cart.

Cue the original Rocky theme song as the not-so-bad janitor gives the thumbs up

for earning the employee of the month award.

The WSCC announced on May 8 that *Bad Janitor* won first place in the WSCC video contest for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The prize was \$1,000 for both Wall and her school.

Duclos described Wall as a model student in the classroom, always ready to take on new projects to the best of her abilities.

“She’s super involved. She always gets her work done and always gives it her all. She came up with the hilarious

idea for this video,” he told *The Journal*.

Duclos said the school plans to use its \$1,000 to buy more video equipment for Mackenzie Mountain students to continue using film as a learning medium. According to the principal,

new media is an important part of educating.

“The students, as 21st century learners, this is what they are already into,” he said. “A lot of what the youth are talking about - remixing, blogging and doing all this video and audio stuff - is completely foreign to some of the older generation. Teachers should be able to capitalize on that and play into the hands of the kids because they are those kind of learners.”

According to Duclos’ sources, Wall plans to use her \$1,000 to take the students who helped act and shoot her video out to lunch before going on a much-deserved shopping spree.

As the regional winning entry, *Bad Janitor* moved on to the Canada-wide pool to find the fan favourite for the best safety video in the country. Voting closed May 12 and the winners will be announced shortly on [http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/health\\_safety/contest/index.shtml](http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/health_safety/contest/index.shtml)

To watch Wall’s winning video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC7e3khDmMw>

Photo: Monique Marinier

Photo courtesy of Michael Duclos



# Landshare program lends soil to Yellowknife growers

## Initiative pairs local land owners with fellow gardening enthusiasts

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Agricultural enthusiasts looking for rare plots of land in Yellowknife to grow their own food are getting a hand up from the Yellowknife Farmers Market through a new formalized landshare program.

The program, launched last week, seeks to increase Yellowknifers' access to gardening space and ultimately increase local food security in a city where land is expensive and soil is hard to find.

Through the program, Yellowknife residents who want to grow food will be linked up with other residents who have garden, lawn, backyard or greenhouse space they are willing to share.

"Similar programs are cropping up all over because there are lots of folks with land, lawns or gardens that they may not have time to use fully, or lawns they'd like to see turned into growing spaces, so the landshare program's about connecting

those areas that do exist - maybe not a big plot, but lots of little plots - with folks who have the capacity, time and energy and desire to be growing local food," landshare program coordinator Rosanna Nicol told *The Journal*.

Adopting the practices of Small Plot Intensive (SPIN) gardening, the landshare program is based on the idea that much local food can be produced with access to a small number of growing areas, from flower beds to bits of lawn.

"There is more space around, I think, than we immediately see," Nicol said. "We imagine a farm being a big, vast field, but with lots of little plots all over, there's quite a lot of opportunity...Little flower beds, lawns, yard space that could accommodate raised beds - there's a whole variety."

The new landshare program follows a test run done over the winter, which was so successful it has resulted



France Benoit of the Yellowknife Farmers Market sells vegetables at the market last summer.

in two new vendors for this summer's farmers market.

Nicol said she is currently landsharing with a friend on four different garden spaces

- from existing raised bed gardens and greenhouses to small soil plots and a yard where the raised beds still need to be built and soil purchased.

She said the arrangement between the landowner and gardener will vary from situation to situation, but advises those coming together on a landshare talk about access to vegetables, water costs and gardening schedules, among other expectations.

While new growers can produce food strictly for their growing partners, families and friends, the landshare program also provides them with access to two new themed tables planned for this summer's market.

People who have a surplus of vegetables can donate their extras to the community donation table, from which all proceeds will return to the farmers market, or sell it themselves at the "budding farmer table," where the weekly fee will be waived in exchange for 10 per cent of revenues.

While community gardens are taking root across the city, with much of the produce being donated to the local food bank, demand

is extremely high for those plots and what is grown there is not allowed to be sold. Having the landshare program offers more space and spreads the bounty even further by making it available for purchase by non-growers, Nicol said.

And regardless of who gets to eat it, Nicol said there are many benefits to local food production.

"Having local food is so exciting and important on so many levels, in terms of community business development and just enjoyment of community, and in terms of food security and connection to the land and healthy living," she said.

This summer's farmers market is scheduled to run every Tuesday from 5:15-7:30 p.m. at the Somba K'e Civic Plaza from June 3 to Sept. 16.

Those wanting to register for the landshare program, either as a grower or a sharer, can do so online at [www.yellowknifefarmersmarket.ca](http://www.yellowknifefarmersmarket.ca)

## Public Meeting

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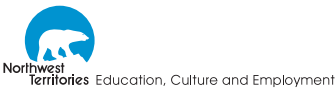
RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, FORT SMITH

### DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION RENEWAL IN THE NWT

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# Prime Minister to attend Inuit Circumpolar gathering

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Plans are well underway for the Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Inuvik July 21 to 24, and include Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the assembly’s honorary patron.

The event, being organized locally by the Inuvialuit Regional Council and hosted by ICC Canada, is held every four years and includes Inuit representatives from Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Chukotka, Russia.

It is a celebration of Inuit unity through formal discussions and cultural activities, according to conference co-ordinator Peggy Jay.

“It will bring awareness and visibility to the conference and region,” Jay said of Harper’s involvement.

A conservative estimate of 600 delegates, youth, elders, cultural performers, NGOs, media, observers, VIPs and sponsors will attend.

The general assembly, whose theme this year is One Arctic – One Future, will be held at East



Craig Gruben performs the one-foot high kick, a traditional Northern game.



The Inuvik Drummers and Dancers will be one of five Inuvialuit drum dancing groups performing at the upcoming ICC General Assembly in Inuvik.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

concurrently with the ICC General Assembly, from July 21 to 27, and their combined budget is set at \$2 million. In addition to fundraising, the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. is also responsible for venue preparation, accommodations, meals, interpretation in eight different languages, volunteers, media, transportation and cultural activities.

Jay said that as host, the IRC hopes to highlight the food, culture and athletes of the region.

In addition to the Northern Games, cultural activities will also be held at Jim Koe Park, the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex, the Igloo Church, the long-term care unit at the Inuvik Regional Hospital and in other Inuvialuit communities.

Entertainment will be a mix of international, national and regional talent, including Alaskan drum dancing groups, throat singers and the Jerry Cans, a band from Iqaluit.

The ICC General Assembly was last held in Inuvik in 1992.

# Heritage committee rejects bill for Robertson report

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Members of Yellowknife’s heritage committee balked last week when they were asked by the city to pay some or all of a \$7,791.00 bill for an engineering report on the Robertson headframe.

The report by Concentric Associates International Inc. holds the key to the future of the landmark that is facing demolition as Newmont Mining remediates the site of the former Con Mine.

“We have the funds and it’s within our mandate, but we have no information,” Ruth McKeown, acting chair, told committee members at their monthly meeting.

Some members were annoyed that city administrators would ask the committee to contribute to the report without providing any details.

“We didn’t commission the report, we haven’t seen it and we don’t know what’s in it,” said Ronnie Hemming before the committee voted to return the invoice to Mayor Mark Heyck with a request for details.



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Yellowknife’s iconic Robertson Headframe is likely facing demolition later this fall.

City councillors commissioned the report last year after the NWT Mining Heritage Society challenged them to find a way to preserve the 76-metre building, the tallest free-standing structure in the Northwest Territories.

The report from Concentric has been in the city’s hands for weeks, and although it has not been released to the public, Heyck and senior administrative officer Dennis Kefalas have indicated that it won’t save the Robertson.

“It’s about what we expected,” said Kefalas, who

recommended last year that the city should tell Newmont Mining to proceed with demolition of the headframe that serves as a beacon for boaters and aviators.

Newmont has applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for a four-year extension of a water license needed to complete remediation work, but Heyck told *The Journal* last week that the move should not be seen as a possible reprieve for the headframe.

The city has plans to eventually turn the remediated site into a recreation area.



File photo

# GNWT introduces bill to establish Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

After almost a decade of planning with the Sahtu Dene and Métis and the governments of Canada and Yukon, the GNWT has introduced a bill to formally establish the Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in the Sahtu region. Bill S-5 was introduced in the legislature last week, welcomed by Bob McLeod in a news release as “a balanced approach that creates prosperity for the NWT and Canada while ensuring that the natural heritage of the territory is protected and conserved according to Northern priorities and values.”

Adjacent to the Nahanni National Park Reserve, Nááts'ihch'oh will be Canada’s 44th national park. Together the two parks reserve almost 35,000 square-km and protect 86 per cent of the South Nahanni watershed.



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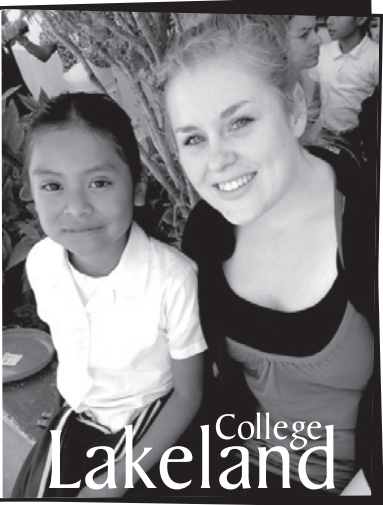
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**General inquiries to:** Procurement Shared Services  
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Contractors may obtain tender documents by emailing psstenders@gov.nt.ca. Tender documents will be available on May 12, 2014.

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### Request for Proposals

#### Inuvik Regional Hospital Isolation Room and Secure Room Renovations SC794848

**- Inuvik, NT -**

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is to provide the consultant design services for the renovation of the existing isolation room and secure room at the Inuvik Regional Hospital.


RFP Reference Number 610-17041.

Sealed proposal submissions to be addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Procurement Shared Services, Government of the NWT, Bag Service #1, Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 (delivered to third floor in the GNWT Government Building 106 Veterans Way, Inuvik) will be received until:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MAY 30, 2014**

RFP documents will be available on May 9, 2014. Interested proponents are asked to contact the following in order to receive the RFP package:

**Inquiries:** Ann Lindsay  
Contract Administrator  
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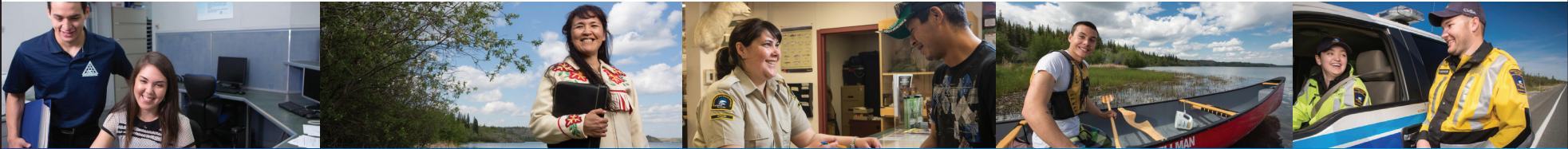


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# SALT RIVER FIRST NATION RESERVE TRESPASS BY-LAW

**WHEREAS** the Salt River First Nation is a signatory to Treaty No.8 (signed July 17, 1899) with Her Majesty the Queen and also a signatory to the Salt River First Nation Treaty Settlement Agreement (signed June 22, 2002) with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada;

**WHEREAS** by Orders-in-Council dated September 5, 2008, July 30, 2009 and May 23, 2011 Her Majesty the Queen set aside lands to be known as the Salt River First Nation Reserve #195;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Salt River First Nation has the traditional governance of the Salt River First Nation and also exercises all of the powers of a "council of the band" under the Indian Act of Canada, including the power to make by-laws under section 81 (1 )(n), (p), (q) and (r) of that Act;

**WHEREAS** Council deems it to be expedient and necessary for the benefit, comfort and safety of the members of the Salt River First Nation and residents of the Salt River First Nation Reserve #195 and the protection of the Reserve, to regulate the conduct and activities of persons entering upon the Reserve and to provide for the removal from the Reserve of persons trespassing on the Reserve or frequenting the reserves for prohibited purposes; NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Salt River First Nation hereby enacts the following by-law:

## ***TITLE***

**1. This By-law may be cited as The Salt River First Nation Reserve Trespass By-Law.**

## ***DEFINITIONS***

**2. In this By-Law:**

"*Council*" means the Council of the Salt River First Nation; "hawking and peddling" means and includes going from place to place on the Reserve to buy, sell, or otherwise deal in wares or merchandise or services, or offering or exposing for sale on the Reserve to any person by means of samples, patterns, cuts, blueprints, or pictures, merchandise to be afterwards delivered or shipped onto the Reserve;

"*Officer*" means any police officer, peace officer or other person charged with the duty to preserve and maintain the public peace, and any person appointed by Council for the purpose of maintaining law and order on the Reserve; and, for purposes of clarity it includes members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Parks Canada Law Enforcement Wardens and Territorial Wildlife Officers;

"*Reserve*" means the lands set aside for the Salt River First Nation as Salt River First Nation Reserve #195 by Orders-in-Council No. PC2008-1666, No. PC2009-1244, PC2011-0752 and such other Orders-in-Council that may be issued by Her Majesty the Queen as required in accordance with the Salt River First Nation Treaty Settlement Agreement; and includes, for clarity, the lands formerly known as the Salt Plains Reserve #195.

"*Trespass*" means entering or remaining on the Reserve without lawful justification and includes injury or damage to the Reserve or property on the Reserve of any type whatsoever caused by or resulting from entering on or remaining on the Reserve without lawful justification.

## ***TRESPASS***

**3. No person shall trespass on the Reserve.**

## ***PROHIBITED PURPOSES AND TRESPASS***

**4. A person, other than a person referred to in Section 5, who conducts any of the following activities on the Reserve,**

- Hunting, fishing or trapping;
- Hawking or peddling of wares or merchandise;
- Loitering;
- Camping;
- Operating an all-terrain vehicle (A TV) or snowmobile or other motorized or non- motorized vehicle on the Reserve;
- Dumping refuse or waste; and
- Any other activity that is prohibited by federal or territorial law or by Salt River First Nation By-Law; shall be deemed to be frequenting the Reserve for a prohibited purpose and to be trespassing on the Reserve.

## ***LAWFUL JUSTIFICATION***

**5. Section 3 and Section 4 do not apply to the following persons who have a right of access to the Reserve:**

- Members of the Salt River First Nation, except that they have no right of access to the cabin locations or areas within the Reserve that Council has designated for the use and occupation of specific individuals or their families, whether or not those individuals are present;
- A person invited onto the Reserve by a member of the Salt River First Nation and who, being accompanied by that member, shares that member's right of access;
- A person who has entered onto the Reserve, who is carrying Council's written authorization and is conducting himself in accordance with Council's written authorization;
- A person authorized by federal or territorial law or by Salt River First Nation By-Law;
- A person travelling on a public road on or through the Reserve;
- A person participating in activities on the Reserve that are authorized by Council; and
- An Officer in the course of duty.

## ***ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES***

**6. If an Officer reasonably believes a person is trespassing on the Reserve the Officer may order that person to leave the Reserve immediately.**

**7. If an Officer reasonably believes a person is frequenting the Reserve for a prohibited purpose the Officer may order that person to leave the Reserve immediately.**

**8. Where a person fails or refuses to obey an order made under Section 6 or Section 7, an Officer may take such reasonable measures as may be necessary to remove the person from the Reserve.**

Any person who fails to comply with an order made under Section 6 or Section 7  
or who resists or interferes with an Officer acting under Section 8 is guilty of an offence under this By-Law  
and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.

# ***IN EFFECT AS OF MAY 11, 2014.***



# Paddlers make spring official with first run down Little Buffalo River

By DALI CARMICHAEL

As part of an annual tradition, Fort Smith kayakers celebrated their first run of the year at the Little Buffalo River falls last week, officially kicking off paddling season in the region.

A group of about 15 people gathered at the falls the evening of May 13, ready to flex their muscles after a long and harsh winter out of the water. Paddling on the Little Buffalo is limited, as the run is only accessible for a few weeks in the spring after the ice thaws, while water levels are still high.

For those who have participated in the run over the last few years, the flow of the tradition is familiar.

First, the Northern adventurers arm themselves with water safety equipment. They then pop on their helmets, strap on lifejackets and don warming thermal layers to stave off the frigid cold of the recently thawed river water.

Next, they clamber their way down a steep embankment, carrying with them all of the needed gear: a machete to cut away obstacles, a doubled ended paddle and, most importantly, the kayaks. Even a canoe was helped down the hill as participants slipped through sand, mud and moss-covered rocks to reach their launch point at the churning pool below the falls.

From there, the run was about a kilometre long and



Photo: Dali Carmichael

From left: Paddlers Don Jaque, Karl Cox and Jason Panter sit at the base of the Little Buffalo falls on May 13, as they wait for the rest of their crew to slip their boats into the water and take their first kayak run of the season. This route is only open for a short time, while water levels are still high from the winter ice thaw.

took about half an hour to complete. While on their run, kayakers were able to take in the beauty of the tree-lined river, embedded in a limestone riverbed. There was

plenty of wildlife fluttering around, with one highlight for the kayakers being an eagle spotted overhead. The kayakers decided their first time through was

so much fun that they would tackle the run a second time. The local geography, with its water-logged karsts and white water rapids, makes the region especially conducive

to paddling activities like kayaking and canoeing. The annual Little Buffalo falls run is seen by locals as a trial run before they take on the bigger rapids on the

Slave River once the weather is warmer. The Little Buffalo River Falls Territorial Park is located about 50 km west of Fort Smith on Hwy. 5.

## Environment Wildlife

# Red-sided garter snakes make annual mating appearance

By DALI CARMICHAEL

The red-sided garter snakes have slithered out of the crevices of Wood Buffalo National Park, drawing tourists to the area to see an annual natural phenomenon.

Every year after they emerge from hibernation, the snakes gather by the Salt River day use area where they create mating balls and in turn, neonates (baby snakes). This area is just one of 11 known snake dens scattered throughout the park.

Janna Jaque, a Parks Canada representative for Wood Buffalo National Park, said there was no unusual activity noticed with the snakes this year, though some visitors did reporting seeing a black bear in the area. Notifications were posted around local hiking and day use areas warning of the dangers of bears, which are



Photo: Karen Palmer

Every spring from late April to early May, the red-sided garter snake makes its first seasonal appearance, creating mating balls throughout Wood Buffalo National Park before finding a swampy area to make its nest.

notoriously more aggressive after awakening from hibernation in the early spring. The red-sided garter snakes of Wood Buffalo National Park

are unique in that the snake colony is not only the most northern snake found in North America, but also the most northern reptile. Deep fractures in the

ground created by karst geology provide ideal hibernation dens for the snakes, allowing them to stay warm enough to survive the winters unharmed.

Once every five years, Parks Canada conducts a mark and recapture survey study on a number of snakes. Over the course of a two-year

period, the reptiles will be caught, measured, weighed and have a few of their scales clipped so that they will be easy to spot and re-measure the following year. The most recent studies were conducted in 2011-2012. Parks Canada also attempts to study the population size of the snakes, but due to the quick departure made by the female snakes to their nesting grounds, it is much easier to measure male populations. The male population was last measured in 2012, and it was estimated that there were about 95 snakes at the time. The snakes will be out again in mid to late August, just in time to give birth to their neonates. The majority of the snakes will be found at Lost Marsh, about 4 km north of the Salt River.



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Monthly payment is \$194,955/\$189,955/\$184,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 456 months. Monthly payment is \$199,955/\$194,955/\$189,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 468 months. Monthly payment is \$204,955/\$199,955/\$194,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 480 months. Monthly payment is \$209,955/\$204,955/\$199,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 492 months. Monthly payment is \$214,955/\$209,955/\$204,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 504 months. Monthly payment is \$219,955/\$214,955/\$209,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 516 months. Monthly payment is \$224,955/\$219,955/\$214,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 528 months. Monthly payment is \$229,955/\$224,955/\$219,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 540 months. Monthly payment is \$234,955/\$229,955/\$224,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 552 months. Monthly payment is \$239,955/\$234,955/\$229,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 564 months. Monthly payment is \$244,955/\$239,955/\$234,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 576 months. Monthly payment is \$249,955/\$244,955/\$239,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 588 months. Monthly payment is \$254,955/\$249,955/\$244,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 600 months. Monthly payment is \$259,955/\$254,955/\$249,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 612 months. Monthly payment is \$264,955/\$259,955/\$254,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 624 months. Monthly payment is \$269,955/\$264,955/\$259,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 636 months. 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Monthly payment is \$354,955/\$349,955/\$344,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495. APR for 840 months. Monthly payment is \$359,955/\$354,955/\$349,955 with a down payment of \$2,495/\$1,995/\$1,495