



Husky approaches First Nation for fracking sand

Husky Energy recently met with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation about accessing sand from Whitebeach Point for use in fracking. See page 3.



More big names added to treaty conference agenda

Activists Winona LaDuke and Jody Williams will speak at "As Long as the Rivers Flow," a conference on treaties in Fort McMurray. See page 6.



New director in charge of Yk music festival

David Whitelock is the new executive director of Folk on the Rocks, Yellowknife's annual summer music festival. See page 10.



Long-promised Diamond centre opens in Yk

Crossworks Manufacturing has opened an interpretive centre in downtown Yellowknife to showcase the Northern diamond industry. See page 15.

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From left, Hay River's Brenna Beck and Fort Smith's Neva Olvera, both peewee athletes, race in the 400-m event during the Fort Smith 5000 track and field meet, held in the community last weekend. Find the story and more photos on page 18.

Photo: Maria Church

Husky withdraws Sahtu fracking plans Companies decide to sit out winter drilling in 2014-15

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

It looks like no fracking will be occurring in the Sahtu region this winter, after all.

Husky Energy has withdrawn its proposal to horizontally drill and frack up to four wells near Norman Wells, joining ConocoPhillips in sitting out the 2014-15 winter drilling season in the Canol play of the Central Mackenzie valley.

In a brief letter to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) on May 22, Ken Hansen, project manager for Husky's Slater River lease, said the company had "deferred plans for drilling until 2016/17 and intends to submit a new application to support a revised program at the appropriate time."

He noted that Husky appreciates the time and effort individuals and organizations put into providing review and comments on the application.

Husky spokesperson Mel Duvall said the company needs more time to review its plans, but would be continuing some work in the region.

"We are going to take some time to further evaluate our plans and ensure we're moving forward with the right program at the right pace," Duvall said in an email. "While this evaluation takes place, we will complete current work on the all season access road and continue with ongoing environmental baseline studies."

Duvall said the Slater River lease remains part of Husky's "long-term growth portfolio."

Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay said the withdrawal will have a "big impact" on the region's economy this winter - probably around \$100 million - but said it's important to remain positive about the economic outlook of the territory.

"They haven't made a decision to withdraw themselves completely from the North. They have been a very strong industry partner in helping us grow the economy here in the Northwest Territories, and they will be back," Ramsay told *The Journal*.

"We still have to remain positive about the economic outlook of the territory and see it developed according to our schedule and our needs and desires as a territory," he said.

ConocoPhillips out until 2016

Husky's application coincided with a separate submission from ConocoPhillips to do additional fracking in the region after finishing its first winter drilling earlier this year.

ConocoPhillips is looking to drill and frack up to 10 wells over the next five years in the Sahtu near Norman Wells, though no capital budget for this winter means work won't start again until 2016 at the earliest, the company recently announced.

ConocoPhillips' application was deemed incomplete by the SLWB in late April and the company has yet to respond with the updated information

required for a complete review, though spokesperson Lauren Stewart said it is still in process.

"This initial review is a normal and expected part of the application submission process where the SLWB reviews the information to determine if there is sufficient information to begin the review. The SLWB had some questions that they have required us to answer and so they have deemed the application incomplete until these are resolved," Stewart told *The Journal* in an email.

"We are currently working with the board staff to address these questions and expect resolution in the near term," she said.

See Withdrawal on page 3.

GNWT launches beach safety campaign for territorial parks

The GNWT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has unveiled a new public awareness campaign that aims to increase people's understanding of beach safety at territorial parks. The campaign will focus on four messages that include keeping children under 12 within arm's reach, swimming with a buddy, wearing a lifejacket and keeping an eye on youth. The campaign will target newspapers, radio and social media throughout the summer. The campaign is based on recommendations made by the Lifesaving Society of Alberta/NWT in a report released late last year on safety at Fred Henne and Hay River Territorial Park beaches.

Deline woman charged in connection with RCMP liquor bust

A woman has been charged with excessive possession of liquor by RCMP in Deline where liquor restrictions have been in place since 2008. The 45 year-old was charged on May 16 after an investigation by police found 16 cans of beer, six 375-ml bottles of vodka, two 375-ml bottles of rum and a bottle of red wine. Deline's liquor restrictions prohibit individuals to possess more than specific quantities of spirits, beer and wine at a given time. The woman is scheduled to appear in Justice of the Peace Court on Nov. 5.

Yellowknife RCMP investigating death of 2 year-old run over by truck

Police in Yellowknife are not expecting to lay charges, but are investigating the circumstances that led to the death of a 2 year-old boy who was run over by a truck in the city on May 17. RCMP were called to a business property in Kam Lake after receiving a call for service shortly after 2:00 p.m. The young boy was taken to Stanton Territorial Hospital where he later died from his injuries. The RCMP officers are currently assisting the Office of the Chief Coroner in its investigation of the incident.



Imperial Oil's artificial islands sit on the Mackenzie River near Norman Wells where the company has been extracting oil for over 70 years. The Sahtu Land and Water Board recently ruled it has jurisdiction over the closure and remediation of the project.

Photo courtesy of Town of Norman Wells

Industry Oil & Gas

Board rules it has authority over Imperial Oil's activities near Norman Wells

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
The Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) has ruled it has total jurisdiction over Imperial Oil's activities near

Norman Wells, despite the company's arguments to the contrary.

Imperial recently challenged the board's authority, stating the original agreement entered into with the National Energy Board in 1944 overrides any new legislative powers taken on by the board through the Sahtu land claim or by the territorial government through devolution.

The challenge elicited a scathing response from regional land claim organizations in the Sahtu, who received backing by both the federal and territorial governments in support of SLWB jurisdiction.

On May 16, the board made the decision official, stating that after careful review of the arguments filed by all parties, the SLWB has decided that "its jurisdiction extends to all licensed activities involving the use of water or the deposit of waste at the Norman Wells Operation of Imperial Oil Resources Ltd."

Imperial first wrote to the board in late March, expressing concerns with the SLWB's requirements for cleanup and remediation, including the requirement that the company provide a security deposit guaranteeing its financial ability to clean up the site.

The company said it already has a confidential agreement with the federal government to cover the Crown's share of the abandonment liability.

The SLWB said both agreements can apply concurrently.

"The Board is of the view that its authorities do not conflict with those granted to the National Energy Board under its legislation and that these regulatory regimes are complementary," stated the ruling, which found the SLWB has the right to regulate closure and remediation, as well as determine the appropriate amount of security.

Both the territorial and federal governments came

to the board has offered, and we are preparing for the planned water licence hearing in June on that basis," he told *The Journal* in an email. "We look forward to the hearing on our water licence renewal application."

Imperial, which has drilled oil in the Norman Wells area for over 70 years, is currently applying for a final 10-year extension to its water licence that expires at the end of August. The public hearing is

Imperial was seeking needed clarification on some jurisdictional issues affecting our pending water licence renewal. We are grateful for the clarification that the board has offered, and we are preparing for the planned water licence hearing in June on that basis.

*Pius Rolheiser
Imperial Oil Resources Ltd.*

to the board's defence last month after the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. accused the company of disrespecting the Sahtu Dene and Métis comprehensive land claim agreement, which established the SLWB.

Imperial spokesperson Pius Rolheiser said the company was fine with the response.

"Imperial was seeking needed clarification on some jurisdictional issues affecting our pending water licence renewal. We are grateful for the clarification that

scheduled for June 12-13 in Norman Wells.

Though the territorial government inherited authority over Crown lands in the NWT on Apr. 1, the devolution agreement leaves regulatory control over the Norman Wells Proven Area with the National Energy Board.

The federal government, which owns one third of the Norman Wells projects, collects a 5 per cent royalty from the wells. That money will later be paid back to the GNWT, as per the devolution deal.

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Husky courts Yellowknives in search of fracking sand

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Husky Energy may not be horizontally fracking near Norman Wells this winter, but the company already has its sights set on another Northern resource to help fuel its future shale oil exploration in the Canol play: sand.

The oil and gas company met recently with the chief and council of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) looking to potentially access the high quality white silica found at Whitebeach Point on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake.

The area falls on Crown land within YKDFN's asserted traditional territory, and contains a fine, quartz-rich sand considered ideal for use in hydraulic fracturing, an unconventional means of extracting oil and gas from shale underground.

Chief Ed Sangris told *The Journal* the company came to present at a council meeting earlier this month, but said no formal proposals or decisions have been made.

"They came and made a presentation, that's about all they did. And we said just because you come here and talk to us doesn't mean we give the okay; we have to consult our people, too,



Whitebeach Point on Yellowknives Dene traditional territory holds some of Western Canada's best silica for use in hydraulic fracturing, according to studies.

Image: Northern Journal

because the area is so significant to our traditional way of life. That's the last place that is not being developed. We've been keeping industry away from the area," Sangris said.

Councillor Bobby Drygeese said the area contains sensitive cultural sites and hunting grounds that need to be mapped and inventoried, and that any sand extraction there

would need to be done with the permission of the First Nation.

"We told them there's lots of historical sites there exactly where they want to put all that stuff," he said. "We want to bring some elders and people there just to show them, go there on our own and take archaeologists and mark it out, save the things," he said.

"Because there's old wars and all that stuff a long time

ago over there, old historical sites, and people still use that area for hunting. There's old cemeteries there, too, so people go there to clean up old burial sites and stuff."

Apart from the value to the Yellowknives membership, Sangris said YKDFN also wants to ensure they are being respectful of other Aboriginal governments who would be affected by the decision.

"There's a lot of controversy, right, about fracking, and we have to consult with the Tlicho, with the Sahtu and the Dehcho. Because we don't have any fracking in our traditional area, if we give the okay it's going to affect other people in other regions. That's what we are concerned about," Sangris said. "Now we're just in the process of talking to the other regions to see how they feel and then we'll give our decision to Husky Oil."

The chief said Husky did not make mention of what the extent of the operation would be, but did indicate that the sand is a highly coveted alternative to the sand they would have to import from the United States to do fracking in the Sahtu region.

"They don't even know themselves what is out there; they want to do exploration to see if it's a large area or a small area," Sangris said.

Husky spokesperson Kim Guttormson said YKDFN is just one of several stakeholders with whom the company is engaged. She said the talks are preliminary.

"We are in the very early stages of evaluating potential sources of silica sand to support our exploration activities and have been having

meetings with stakeholders to discuss next steps," she told *The Journal* in an email.

"A site on the northwest arm of Great Slave Lake is one of several potential sites we are evaluating. More field work needs to be done to determine if the sand is suitable and we will work closely with all stakeholders and provide more information as the project is advanced."

Guttormson would not say who else the company was in talks with or what other sites were being evaluated.

Husky withdrew its application to drill and frack up to four wells this winter on its Slater River lease near Norman Wells but is still planning to start work in the next couple of years.

Northern consulting company Aurora Geosciences conducted a report on the Whitebeach Point site in 2012, concluding that the silica could be used for industrial projects in the NWT and is high enough grade to be sold across the country.

Whitebeach Point is just one of several sites identified in the report, which notes similar sand deposits in the Liard River valley and along the Mackenzie River.



Photo: Kevin Cappis

Husky's decision to sit out the winter drilling season means a loss of \$100 million to the economy.

Withdrawal to impact Sahtu economy: MLA

Continued from page 1.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya said the lack of exploration this winter will certainly hurt families needing employment in the region.

"When someone takes food off your table for your family and leaves you dependent on the government, it is not a good thing for your self esteem and well-being," he said.

That said, Yakeleya believes people should keep faith that jobs are on their way and prepare the youth for coming employment opportunities.

"We have a land claim, our elders have guided us

through some tough times and once again we are faced with challenges that can only make us stronger in our beliefs and values," he said. "I believe our people will step forward and realize what's important and what's best for their families and not take this temporary setback as a permanent decision."

Review recently delayed

The withdrawal comes a week after the SLWB said it would require more time to review the application, requesting more information from the new NWT regulator on a variety of issues before making a decision on issuing

a land use permit and water licence to Husky.

The board also wanted Husky to provide additional information on a number of pieces of the proposed plan, including its proposed Clean Steam system designed to dehydrate the toxic waste contained in fracking flowback fluid and return the treated water back to the ecosystem.

Husky's application attracted a substantial amount of public feedback from fracking opponents calling for a full environmental assessment of fracking in the Sahtu, though the territorial government did not feel a full public review was necessary.

Fort Smith Seniors' Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, 2014
Seniors' Room - Rec. Centre
Agenda:
Reports / Finances
By-Laws / Election of Officers
All seniors welcome!

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The Northern Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number so the author can be verified. Names will be withheld on request in special circumstances where the reasons are determined to be valid. The Journal reserves the right to edit letters for length, libel, clarity and taste. Opinions expressed in letters and columns are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor.



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Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
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Chateh	Glenevis	Peace River
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Rainbow Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Red Earth Creek
Driftpile	Grouard	Saddle Lake
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Fix Canada's health care, or it will be lost

The Canadian health care system is broken and desperately needs to be fixed. Wait times are far too long, to the point where patients are dying, and the system costs are far too great.

Free public health defines Canada as much as mounties and beavers. For over a decade, conservatives in Canada have tried to change that, making the case for profit-based medical services. A free enterprise component to health care would make the system more efficient and effective is the claim; and if you have the money, why shouldn't you be able to buy the best available services?

Left wing advocates and labour unions have been ardent defenders of leaving the system as is, adamant that allowing any for-profit components to health care is a slippery slope that would lead to inequities in the system and see the rich enjoy higher quality medical services. How much money people have (or don't have) should not determine access to the very best medical care, they say, and separate classes of Canadians would result.

The arguments for a free enterprise layer added to our universal health care system, where certain services or areas of expertise are offered on a fee-for-service basis, seem compelling. Shorter wait times would result for those who can afford it, and that would take pressure off the system

for the remainder of Canadian using public health services. The transition would be easy and seamless; after all, it is done now with dentists and plastic surgery clinics.

Of course, if that change were to take place, the problem with a too-expensive, inefficient and ponderously slow public health system would still remain, but that consideration is routinely overlooked.

The debate has raged for over a decade. Throughout that time, the Canadian medical system has grown more and more expensive making the for-profit solution more and more attractive. In spite of the high cost, inefficiencies have accumulated such that wait times continue to lengthen. The situation has gotten so bad that lives are too often at risk because treatment is delayed. Wait times for primary care, specialists, elective surgery and even emergency services are some of the longest in the developed world. The Canadian public is frustrated, often angry.

Governments meanwhile are struggling with the high cost of medicare which can chew up as much as a third of their budgets and they face the expectations of a public demanding more programming in other areas. A solution is universally sought, and the only one that is offered is to allow a broader private sector element within the health care system. The stage is

set; conservative plans will almost certainly win the day.

It is a classic situation of left versus right. The government-run solution creeps higher and higher in costs and slows, ever more encumbered due to inefficiencies within the bureaucracy. The public, meanwhile, happily takes advantage of something that is free as much as it can. The alternative offers efficiency and a lower cost solution, but at the expense of principles, particularly universality. At some point the high cost and inefficiency become unbearable and the result is a sacrifice of principles.

Be assured that the current federal government has its sights set on privatizing the Canadian health care system. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made it clear he wants to make Canada a more conservative country. It is just a matter of time before he takes on such "sacred cows" as abortion and medicare and they will go the way of environmental protection – to be pursued when the time is right.

Those who want to maintain a pure universal health care system must realize that Canadian medicare as it now exists is broken and needs to be fixed. A serious critical analysis is required and substantive changes must be made. If this does not happen soon, universal medicare in Canada, as we know it, will perish.



Around 50 fearless Yellowknifers braved bracing water at Long Lake on the long weekend to test their hypothermic resistance and raise money for Special Olympics. This year's late spring meant ice was still tight to the shore, so an RTL Enterprises backhoe was brought in to chomp out a small swimming hole. The Polar Plunge started in 2006 and is one of three annual fundraisers staged in Yellowknife, along with the First Air Herc Pull and Convoy for a Cause. Special Olympics trains and coaches mentally and physically challenged athletes around the world.

WEATHER

Inuvik



Weekly Norms:
High 11°C Low 1°C

Yellowknife



Weekly Norms:
High 14°C Low 5°C

Hay River



Weekly Norms:
High 15°C Low 4°C

Fort Smith



Weekly Norms:
High 18°C Low 5°C

Healthy Employees = Healthy Business

It is no secret that the way people feel, both physically and mentally, affects the way they work. As an employer, you can help your bottom line by helping your employees be healthier!

Conditions such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes, as well as tobacco dependency and stress, are huge risk factors when it comes to workplace injuries, lost time and work limitations.

Research has shown that workplace wellness programs can help combat those factors by lowering absences, health care costs and worker compensation claims. They can also increase employee performance and productivity!

Wellness programs in the workplace have also been reported to have a positive

influence not only on the physical and mental health of workers, but also their economic and social wellbeing, all of which can be positive for your business.

Ready to get started? The first thing you need to do is some research. What do your employees want? It is important to get employee buy-in before you implement any

program. Next, take into account the different areas of wellness – physical activity, healthy eating, and mental health, to name a few. Sometimes making healthy changes with one can have a snowball effect on the rest. Once you have the ideas in place it is time to create your plan! Make sure to include short-term and long-term goals and identify ways to get the job done. Remember to evaluate your efforts to see where changes are being made.

For more information on developing a Wellness Program for your workplace, contact Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-5465 (LINK) and ask to be directed to your local Public Health Promotion Facilitator.

Janine Gray
Public Health Promotions
Alberta Health Services

How can you help your employees stay healthy?

Here are a few ideas:

- Improve the physical environment of your workplace by providing staff with ergonomic assessments, fridges for healthy snacks and lunches, good lighting and sound/air quality.
- Develop a policy on flex time to help workers balance between home and work life and encourage employees to maintain a work-life balance.
- Try a “walking meeting” to incorporate physical activity into an otherwise sedentary task.
- Ensure catered meetings include healthy food selections (make the healthy choice the easy choice).
- Have health resources on hand to provide to employees (i.e. smoking cessation, healthy eating tips and contact information for your local Public Health Promotion Facilitator).



White Girl Missionary: Mrs. Grace Priest Part 3 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

Mrs. Grace Priest lived in the North as a Pentecostal Missionary for years. She was in her mid fifties in Fort Norman and carried on to do her work for many more years further north. She went to meet Jesus last June at the age of 102. In the Cochrane, Alberta newspaper there was a picture of her on her 102nd birthday. Mr. Priest had left on his journey first. I happened to be in Calgary when I received an email from my mother about Mrs. Priest and decided that I would go to visit her. It was then that I found out that she had already left on her next adventure.

I always smile when I remember her patience with us little girls and our spikes of twisted wool. She smelled of mothballs and damp wool and somehow managed to have “tea” for us, which included homemade cookies. Her spirit was that of water, soft to the

touch and unstoppable by force. She simply kept flowing around obstacles until she found another route on the way to her destination.

My dad has found me another kitty, a baby with black stripes and sharp claws. We have had him for only a few weeks, and he needs to learn to go outside to the bathroom, as there is no such thing as kitty litter and the dirt is frozen. There is a surprise for me. Dad shows up with a bundle in a jacket. The bundle jumps with life; what could it be? Claws dig in and the bundle is dropped on the floor. A yowl escapes as it hits the floor with a solid thud.

Mad scrambling and with wild eyes out pops my cat, Sammy! Sammy has no cat balance. He survived distemper as a kitten, and it left him without balance.

The last barge of the season breaks up new ice on the Bear River. It is on its way to close down the NTCL camp

up river. As the men watch the riverbank drift by they cannot believe their eyes. On the bank of the Bear River at the end of September is a wild Siamese cat hunched over the carcass of a dead duck. Sam refuses to leave the duck and growls at the bargemen in warning. They throw a blanket over him to trap him; they have to keep him rolled in the blanket to prevent being raked by his claws. He is a very thin cat and he is wild.

His first reaction in freedom is to kill the baby kitty with black stripes. Screams, Siamese cat howls and baby kitty mews for help, Sam’s home! He doesn’t want us to touch him; he walks like a panther, low slung with his mouth partially opened for scent. He is a feral cat. He creeps along the walls, avoiding open spaces. We are told to leave him alone, give him time to accept us again.

In the middle of the night I sense a presence by my ear

and a low rumble begins deep in a feline chest. He is on my bed beside my face. I hold my breath; I am not sure if he will bite me or lick me. He curls up and sleeps on my pillow. Tomorrow he will let me pet him I am sure. The poor little kitty needs to find another home. Sam will not tolerate him in the house and continually tries to kill him.

When company comes to visit we have to lock Sam in the bedroom. His favourite method of attack is launching himself off the top of the fridge and scaring the hell out of whomever he’s landed on. His assault is made with full wildcat fury, complete with Siamese attack yowl.

Conformity is difficult when you have lived in freedom.

P.S. Do you think that conformity may be the same as regulation?...those were the days my friend, we thought they’d never end, but they are.

Visit www.thewhitegirl.ca for past stories.

CORRECTION

In our story “Fort Chipewyan celebrates opening of elders’ care centre” published May 20, 2014, a number of oilsands producers who contributed to the funding of the Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders’ Care Home were missed. The following companies contributed: Imperial Oil, TOTAL, Cenovus, Shell, Suncor, Husky, Syncrude, Williams and Canadian Natural Resources.

On the front page preview section of the May 6, 2014 issue of Northern Journal, it was incorrectly stated that Ed Sangris was charged with illegal wood harvesting. It should have stated Fred Sangris was the individual charged. *The Journal* apologizes for the error.

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

Province warns Fort Chipewyan to limit wild egg consumption



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.



Darryl J McKay: All wildlife should not be eaten around this area.

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ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Out of money

Any prospective homeowners will now only have until May 31, 1999 to secure up to \$10,000 in down payment assistance from the GNWT. Housing Minister Floyd Roland announced last week that funds for the popular program were “nearly exhausted.”

Issue: May 26, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Lutsel K’e man faces firearms charges

Lutsel K’e RCMP have charged Felix Lockhart with careless use of a firearm in connection with the shooting of Raymond DeCorby on May 15. DeCorby was lying on the ice at Trophy Lodge near Lutsel K’e photographing Canada geese when he was shot in the leg.

Issue: May 25, 1994

30 Years Ago...

Child injured at airport

The Fort Smith airport is beefing up its safety procedures following an accident last week that injured a Fort Simpson child. Four year-old Jamie Heron suffered a fractured collar bone and abrasions to his arms when he became caught in the conveyor belt of the luggage chute.

Issue: May 24, 1984

MUKLUK



More big names added to treaty conference agenda

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

As if one Nobel Peace Prize laureate wasn't enough, renowned American human rights activist Jody Williams will join fellow laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu at what is quickly becoming a high profile conference this weekend in northern Alberta focused on honouring treaties.

Conference organizers - the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and law firm Olthuis Kleeer Townshend - announced last week that Williams, known best for her work on banning land mines, along with indigenous environmental activist and politician Winona LaDuke, will be added to the bill of speakers at "As Long as the Rivers Flow," a conference on treaties.

"Winona LaDuke and Jody Williams both speak with powerful voices about the state of our planet and the role we play as a species. We are honoured to have them come to our traditional territory to share their views about ways and means we can work together to address some of



Photo: Justin Hoch

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams has been added to the bill of speakers at "As Long as the Rivers Flow," a conference on treaties in Fort McMurray.

the biggest challenges faced on this planet," ACFN Chief Allan Adam said in a press release last week.

LaDuke, who visited Fort McMurray last year for the annual Tar Sands Healing Walk, is executive director



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Indigenous environmental activist Winona LaDuke speaks at last year's Tar Sands Healing Walk near Fort McMurray. She will be returning for the conference this weekend.

of Honor the Earth and the White Earth Land Recovery Project, both indigenous environmental justice

organizations. She ran alongside Ralph Nader as candidate for vice president of the United States during

the 1996 and 2000 federal elections.

LaDuke and Williams join the already-confirmed Tutu, along with former NWT premier Stephen Kakfwi and former Ontario premier Bob Rae, to talk about existing problems with the current treaty relationship and what resource development that respects treaty rights can look like.

Other speakers recently added to the agenda include Dr. John O'Connor, a physician whose work in Fort Chipewyan and Fort McKay found elevated rates of cancers downstream from oil-sands development, and Ovide Mercredi, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The conference is taking place May 31-June 1 in Fort McMurray at ACFN's Acden building. It is free for ACFN members, open to the public and can be viewed online via webcast.

For more details on the conference and how to register, visit www.aslongas-riversflow.com

Politics Devolution

More Aboriginal groups sign on to devolution deal

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Four Aboriginal governments added their names to the list of parties to the NWT devolution deal with Canada on Monday.

Representatives of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADK), Fort Liard Métis Local #67, Deninu K'ue First Nation (DKFN) and Salt River First Nation joined Premier Bob McLeod for a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the Legislature Monday afternoon.

"This is a good time for us to sign on to this devolution agreement," ADK Chief Harry Deneron said in a press release. "We are speaking for Fort Liard, and for us, a lot has changed. We have reached an Agreement-in-Principle, and we are ready to move forward."

DKFN Chief Louis Balsillie echoed a similar message.

"The signing of the devolution agreement is a positive step for Deninu K'ue First Nation. It will enable us to be more self-sufficient and create employment to improve the future for our youth," Balsillie said. "The devolution agreement opens the doors for Deninu K'ue First Nation to finally benefit from the resource development occurring within



NWT Premier Bob McLeod hoists the devolution agreement signed with president Ernie McLeod, left, of the Fort Liard Metis Local #67 and Chief Harry Deneron of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation while Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menecoche, right, witnesses the historic event at a ceremony in Yellowknife on May 26.

Akaiicho Territory and across the Northwest Territories," she said.

SRFN Chief Frieda Martselos called it an "historic day" for the First Nation.

"The signing of the devolution agreement has been a work in progress, and today we are accomplishing our Salt River First Nation mandate as a separate entity with the

government of the Northwest Territories," she said.

McLeod said he was "very pleased" to add four more parties to the agreement that was signed last year and came into effect on Apr. 1.

"Now that devolution has been implemented, it remains important to the Northwest Territories that Aboriginal

governments are able to participate and benefit," the premier said.

The four governments join the Inuvialuit Regional Corp., the NWT Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Gwich'in Tribal Council and Tlicho Government as parties to devolution, along with Canada and the GNWT.



Photos: Bill Braden

From left, Henry Beaver Sr. and Chief Frieda Martselos of the Salt River First Nation pose with the freshly signed devolution agreement, Premier Bob McLeod and Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger.

Currently members of the Akaiicho and Dehcho governments remain outside of the agreement.

Federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt extended his congratulations to the new signatories.

"Devolution provides Northerners with greater control over

their lands and resources and improved regulatory processes in the Northwest Territories. It also encourages investment in the Northwest Territories while ensuring that resource development proceeds in a sustainable fashion, so that the resulting economic benefits can be enjoyed by future generations," he said in a statement.

Hay River cuts the ribbon on new fire hall

By MARIA CHURCH

Hundreds of Hay River residents descended upon the new community fire and emergency medical services (EMS) hall Friday to celebrate the grand opening of the long-anticipated facility.

Firefighters, who operate jointly as EMS crew, officially moved into the new hall in late January, but held off celebrations until last week to welcome the community to tour the new digs and join them for a barbecue.

A crowd of around 400 came out for the event, which included speeches by Mayor Andrew Cassidy, Fire Chief Ross Potter and local MLAs Robert Bouchard and Jane Groenewegen, the latter presenting a service merit award to the Hay River Fire Department on behalf of Robert McLeod, minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

"It was a great turn out - the biggest event we've had in some time," Potter said.

The new hall has been in the works for the past 15 years



Photo: Scott Clouthier

Hundreds of Hay River residents file in for a free barbecue lunch and tour of the new fire hall and EMS centre.

with several "false starts," but it wasn't until 2006 when the 40 year-old hall was condemned that plans started forming to relocate, he said.

While previously emergency vehicles were spread out across two locations in town, the new hall - located

just across the street from the old hall - is now large enough to fit 10 vehicles, which means almost all of the emergency vehicles are under one roof.

"Before we had trucks in new town and trucks in old town, which interfered with

response time, particularly with ambulance highway rescue and also for servicing the corridor and old town area," Potter said. "Getting all the trucks into one hall is a huge benefit."

The facility was built with federal and territorial

funds totalling \$6.1 million and is now up to snuff to meet national codes for a post-disaster facility, meaning it is equipped to aid residents when faced with larger local emergencies such as fires, flooding and earthquakes.

For the EMS and fire crew - all of whom are community volunteers, save for Potter - having a new hall has lifted the team's collective spirits, the fire chief said.

"Morale is always relatively high in my department, but it's really peaked now. The guys feel really appreciated," Potter said.

The ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday welcomed all past and present emergency and fire crew members to join the celebration.

Currently, around 30 volunteers operate the facility. Since the fire hall was established in 1950, exactly 341 members have served on the crew, Potter said.

Over the past 37 years that he has served in Hay River, of which the last 12 and a half have been served on and off as fire chief, the department has never really struggled to find recruits, Potter said.

Typically they are able to draw a good number of outgoing individuals who are willing to put in time and effort to give back to the community, he said.

Fort Smith's volunteer EMS facing staff shortage

Town wants GNWT to 'assume responsibility' for ambulance

By MARIA CHURCH

For Chris Bird, being a volunteer emergency responder in his home community of Fort Smith is something he wishes he began earlier.

"It's a hobby for me. I love it. Some people like trains or photography or whatever, but I love this," he shared with *The Journal* last week.

Bird chose to volunteer for the town's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) about three years ago after his wife experienced a medical emergency in town. He was beyond thankful for the care shown by the emergency responders and decided it was time to give back.

"For me it's the ultimate way to give back to the community by helping people that are sick and people that are not feeling well. You're able to care for them while you bring them to the hospital, whether it's a trauma injury or a medical emergency," he said.

May 25 to 31 is Canadian EMS Week, a country-wide nod to medical personnel who provide life-saving services on the front line.

In Fort Smith, the EMS crew is entirely volunteer with both emergency medical responders and ambulance drivers on the team.



Photo: Maria Church

Fort Smith's EMS crew, from left: Jonah Gordon, Adam Bathe, Chris Bird, Matthew Bird and Tony Jones. The crew is made up entirely of volunteers from the area.

EMS staff short handed

According to Bird, the Town of Fort Smith is facing a serious shortage of EMS staff that has current members stretched to their limits.

"We've had volunteer numbers go up and down with interest and right now we're in one of those low dips. We have about eight members right now and with people's jobs and schedules, sometimes that goes down to three or four," he said.

"It's quite taxing on the members," Bird said.

"Ideally we'd have 15 to be able to work with people's schedules."

When he started three years ago there were 20 people on the EMS team, which meant each member was on call for a "comfortable" one in every five weeks. With only three or four responders, Bird is almost always on call.

"There doesn't seem to be a day off," he said, citing an average of around 35 to 40 calls a month with some days completely silent and others with multiple calls.

The staff shortage is not for any specific reason, Bird said. Over the last year, the crew has lost several members, some moving away from the community and others who, for one reason or another, can no longer make the commitment.

"We've been replacing them with one here and one there, but we're losing them faster than we are getting them," he said.

The job itself is not for everyone, Bird admitted, but the most common concern

about dealing with "blood and guts" is not something the EMS staff see regularly.

While EMS staff operate under the purview of the town, Bird said he, along with co-coordinator Tony Jones, do their own recruiting mainly through word of mouth.

Because of the seriousness of the shortage, Bird said they are starting to throw around ideas on how to step up recruiting efforts in the community.

One idea is to hold an open house at the local health care centre to encourage the town to come out and support EMS staff.

Another idea comes from Hay River where the fire department and EMS work jointly, with volunteer staff trained to operate as both firefighters and emergency medical responders.

"We see what the (Fort Smith) fire department does (for recruiting) and they seem to have a lot of people gravitate to them," Bird said. The fire department currently has around 18 members.

While EMS responds to 250 to 300 calls a year in Fort Smith, the fire department averages 40 to 50 calls a year.

Shortage a territorial concern: Mayor

Fort Smith Mayor Brad Brake, who served on the EMS

team in the early 2000s, said the problem is not limited to Fort Smith, but is territorial.

Brake said he brought forward the town's concerns about emergency staff shortages at the annual general meeting of the NWT Association of Communities in Inuvik in early May. Several other communities agreed they had "issues" with EMS shortages, he said.

According to Brake, the solution should come from the territorial government.

"There should be a territorial ambulance service. It should be run by the territorial government, it should be maintained by the territorial government and it should have employed emergency medical technicians," he said.

Brake said his request for the GNWT to assume responsibility was initially declined, but he considers that only the "first of many conversations to come."

Until then, Brake said the town will be brainstorming ways to bolster volunteer recruitment and give some relief to the current members facing burnout.

For more information about Canadian EMS Week, visit <https://www.facebook.com/emsweek>

Gwich'in prepare youth to lead self-government

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is investing heavily in what its leaders believe is its most valuable asset: Gwich'in youth.

"We don't have to wait for a self-government agreement to be established to develop capacity," said GTC vice president Norman Snowshoe.

"It's so important that the youth are brought up to speed because we have this big transition period going on in our organization and our nation."

In 2012, the GTC set out three self-government goals: sign an Agreement-in-Principle in three years, a final agreement in seven years and have an effective date in 10 years.

By the time a final self-government agreement is finalized, Snowshoe said they want Gwich'in youth prepared to step in and lead.

"It's a good investment. It's a great investment, training our youth to participate in enhancing our nation," he said.

"You'll have a workforce that's capable, trained, educated, sitting there ready to take on these jobs – if they're not in there already."

In September 2012, the GTC hosted a National Conference



Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Members of the newly formed Gwich'in Regional Youth Council stand outside the Gwich'in Tribal Council's main office in Inuvik. Participants, from left: Steven Gruben, Jessi Pascal, Robert Macleod, Katherine Sittichinli, Naomi Peterson, Aiden Kunnizzi, Shayla Snowshoe, Mariyah Snowshoe, Deborah Peterson and Bobbi Rose Koe.

on Indigenous Self-Government that gave youth an opportunity to see what jobs would become available following a self-government agreement. Snowshoe said they were amazed to hear approximately 50 jobs were created with the Tlicho Agreement, and said he wants as many positions as possible to be filled with Gwich'in members.

The GTC has started organizing an annual Gwich'in Education Forum for youth

every spring and, for the first time this July, will be hosting a week-long leadership camp in Fort McPherson.

Jordan Peterson, an intergovernmental officer with the GTC who is helping organize the camp, said it would give youth an opportunity to learn about traditional Gwich'in values as well as Western teachings.

"The Gwich'in Leadership Camp is one of hopefully many in the future that's going to try and build up the

potential of the Gwich'in youth in the community," he said.

"It's going to be based on teaching them our traditional values and our lessons and teaching them a little more about our history, but we're also bringing in a university professor to talk about philosophy and Western education. There's a foot in both worlds."

In addition, participants will train to become certified in first aid, CPR and defibrillators

(AED), and will take part in daily workshops focusing on life skills and leadership. They will learn about botany, traditional Gwich'in medicines and take part in on-the-land activities like fishing.

Snowshoe said they are targeting emerging leaders and giving them the tools to succeed.

"Number one: you need a healthy nation. You need a healthy, vibrant nation to move forward," he said.

"We need to make sure they're not limited; that they realize they are not limited."

Another long-term project of the GTC is the newly formed Gwich'in Regional Youth Council, which was created earlier this year.

The council is made up of youth from across the Gwich'in Settlement Area and meets monthly to discuss issues important to Gwich'in youth. The council, which is temporary until officially approved at the Gwich'in Annual General Assembly in August, has been meeting for the past four months.

Jessi Pascal, 17, of Aklavik joined the council in February.

"Youth are the future leaders and that's what the leaders need to do. They need to get

a hold of us youth and lead us to positive situations," she said.

Steven Gruben, 19, of Aklavik joined the council in March.

"Youth need to have a voice and we have a voice that needs to be heard," he said.

Both Pascal and Gruben said there needs to be more youth involvement in championing Gwich'in issues like self-government, language and culture revitalization, and education.

"We have all these real nice goals and objectives for these kids," Snowshoe said, "but I think the message has to be put out that in order to achieve these goals you have to get involved."

In addition to the education forum, leadership camp and youth council, Snowshoe said the GTC is planning a mentorship program for post-secondary students.

The Gwich'in Leadership Camp is open to all youth aged 15 to 30. Priority will be given to Gwich'in members, but all Inuvialuit, First Nations and non-Aboriginal youth are encouraged to apply. Only travel costs from the Gwich'in Settlement Area communities of Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic will be covered.

The deadline to apply is May 30.

Education Territorial

First education renewal meeting held in Fort Smith

By MARIA CHURCH

The GNWT is reaching out to the public for the next step in its 10-year plan to "renovate" the territory's education system from the ground up.

The territorial government took the first step in November with the tabling of the Education Renewal and Innovation framework that outlines key areas to direct a future action plan.

While the original timeline slated an action plan to be introduced this spring, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty told *The Journal* in early May the document would be delayed for "several more months" in order to factor in community engagement sessions.

"It will be their document. It will be their voice," he said.

Sophie Call and Andrea Giesbrecht, both directors in charge of education renewal and innovation for ECE, hit the road last week to bring information about the plans for renewal to communities across the NWT.

Their first stop was in Fort Smith where around 25 people,



Photo: Maria Church

Sophie Call shares the latest on the GNWT's education renewal and innovation plan at a public meeting in Fort Smith last week.

many of whom were educators and parents, came out for the informational meeting held at the recreation centre Thursday.

The meeting served to gather public feedback and to allay growing concerns that the education renewal and innovation plan is going to drastically and suddenly change the system for teachers and parents.

"Education renewal is not a

program. It's not a giant white binder that is going to show up on teacher's desks in the fall with giant scary title, 'Education Renewal and Innovation.' It's really about rethinking how we do things and it's about gentle change," Call told the Fort Smith audience.

The current education system across the world is based on a model that has, for the

most part, remained the same since it was developed in the 1800s, she said.

Research into the brain and the way we learn has been raising red flags about the education system over the last 20 years and is enough of an incentive for change, Call said.

Another incentive is the "alarming" statistics for student success in the NWT.

According to early findings from ECE, graduation rates in the territory are hovering around 50 per cent - well below the national average of just below 80 per cent. In the territory's smaller, mainly Aboriginal communities, that number drops to less than 40 per cent.

With skilled workers in high demand across the territory, the low graduation rates create a disconnect between the amount of people unemployed and the amount of jobs that need employees, Call said.

"There are all kinds of drivers for change, from some very concerning statistics to some very exciting research," she said. "It's not one simple fix. The desire is to go at this systematically and deeply, not just to scratch the surface."

Factors being discussed in some 20 education renewal working groups include the relationship between the school and community, student and teacher wellness and styles of learning.

A big concern for many Aboriginal communities is the inclusion of on-the-land learning, Call said, referencing a story

of a student being taken out of school for a week to go on a moose hunt with their family.

"There's some crazy learning that happens on that moose hunt, so how do we value that? How does that become valued in the education system?" Call asked the crowd.

"We are learning this as we go. We don't have all the answers and we have to work through these things together," Giesbrecht added.

According to Call, the completed framework means the easy part is now over and the hard part begins to identify how to bring about that change. Much of that is tied to funding.

Once an action plan is introduced in the legislature, ECE will begin work on a cost analysis of the education renewal, which is expected sometime next year.

Giesbrecht and Call are scheduled to visit and hear from 15 to 20 communities before the end of the school year.

For more information about ERI and to submit feedback, go to www.nwtedrenewal.wikispaces.com



Instructor George Roberts, left, teaches the class how to make hide scrapers last week.



Stephanie Poole of Lutsel K'e sands down a scraper to be used for tanning hides.



Students made a variety of cutting and scraping tools to be used for tanning hides.

Photos: Tania Larsson

Arts & Culture Traditional Arts

Traditional tool-making workshop equips new generation of young hide tanners

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Antler, wood, steel and traditional knowledge fused last week in Whitehorse, where a group of aspiring and practicing hide tanners from the NWT ventured to learn the art of traditional tool making in the workshop of a practiced expert.

With the goal of “reconnecting to the land and culture,” 10 individuals from communities throughout the NWT met with artist George Roberts last week at his workshop to make scrapers and knives - precious resources for being on the land, hunting and tanning moose and caribou hides.

“A lot of us are learning to tan hides in the NWT, and what I found was that I didn’t have enough tools to tan hides, and most of the tools you have to make yourself because they’re pretty specific,” said workshop organizer Tania Larsson, a Gwich’in woman based in Yellowknife.

“Because the tools are so specific, it’s really hard to get a hold of any if you didn’t inherit some.”

Larsson said she had met Roberts several years ago at the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik while she was first learning to tan moose hides and became enamored with the idea of creating her own tools. He thought holding a workshop would be a great idea and the two teamed up.

Over the five days, participants set out with the goal of each creating two tools made from wood, antler and steel - knives to be used for hunting or general bush living, and hide scrapers for tanning - learning to cut, grind and sand the materials using power tools.

Larsson said knowing how to properly make tools ensures they stay sharper longer, which makes the challenging process of tanning hides less discouraging for beginners and ensures the tools’ longevity.

Aside from a group of burgeoning young tanners, Larsson also invited her first tanning teacher Judy Lafferty and sister Lucy Ann Yakeleya - both elders from Fort Good Hope with valuable experience - to be part of the workshop.

Connecting to land and culture

Larsson, who spent a large part of her life in France, said she found her passion for tanning while on a personal journey to reconnect with the land and her Gwich’in roots following her return to the North.

“I found that tanning hide was one of the most effective ways of doing that. What I really wanted to do was make myself a pair of moccasins, but it was just so hard to find beautiful hide and it’s so expensive, so I said I just want to learn how to do it. That was about five years ago,” she shared.

Finding elders with the knowledge and spending time with them has been crucial for building those skills, Larsson said.

“Just being around elders with so much knowledge is a real blessing because they can teach you so much and all you have to do is give your time to them and you’ll get so much out of it.”

The process of tanning has also brought her closer to the land, she said.

“I realized that once you’re out there working with the moose hides, you also have to know which wood to pick

up to smoke the hides, how to go in the bush to find the raw materials. Your respect for the land grows, and your appreciation for it.”

Tanning workshops, conference also planned

The tool-making workshop was the first activity to be organized officially under the auspices of Dene Nahjo (“our way of life”), a new grassroots organization of young indigenous and non-indigenous Northerners interested in developing a new generation of leaders and community builders through the guidance of elders.

“We wanted to do cultural revitalization and promote leadership in young people, with the whole culture of respecting your elders and connecting to the land and being part of your community, and also maybe starting some political engagement for young people,” Larsson said.

With their inaugural activity successfully completed, members of the group are now moving on to the 8-Miles site near Fort McPherson this week to tan caribou hides for three weeks.

“We wanted to do a workshop that was outside of Yellowknife so we could connect with elders in the Gwich’in region and learn how to tan caribou hides, because mostly people have been tanning moose hides so far,” Larsson said.

Others, such as Stephanie Poole of Lutsel K’e, will be taking her new skills and tools home for a community moose hide tanning workshop in early June, Larsson said.

The final initiative underway by Dene Nahjo is a Northern leadership conference for

indigenous women, planned for this November in Yellowknife.

“It’s going to be a series of leadership and capacity-building sessions organized for establishing emerging

indigenous women leaders in the circumpolar world. So we’re going to be focusing on issues that are important to us and to our communities, and that will help to create a

network of leaders and change-makers,” Larsson said.

For more information on Dene Nahjo and its activities, visit denenahjo.com or email contact@denenahjo.com



Thank you to all Hay River’s Fire and Emergency Medical Service Volunteers

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New director steering 34th annual Folk on the Rocks *Yellowknife's music festival looking for public feedback*

By MARIA CHURCH

Folk on the Rocks has found a new executive director who is looking to build on the Yellowknife music festival's growing reputation in the Northern, national and international music scenes.

With 39 major music festivals on his resumé, David Whitelock is bringing a wealth of experience to the job.

Whitelock uprooted from Scotland five years ago to pursue his events services career in Canada. He started in Vancouver before moving to Fort McMurray, and two months ago came North to Yellowknife to take the reins of Folk on the Rocks.

"I absolutely love the community so far. I have no complaints. I'm so happy to be here," Whitelock shared in an interview last week.

The new director said he's pleased to be working with a festival that is already a staple in the Northern music scene and the "envy" of many other Canadian music festivals.

Whitelock said he has hopes to evolve Folk on the Rocks over time, but this year plans to simply get a feel for the festival. This means not introducing any big changes.



Photo courtesy of David Whitelock

David Whitelock is the new executive director of Folk on the Rocks, Yellowknife's annual music festival.

"I don't want to implement changes too fast," he said. "Having culturally the best program is what it's all about for me. It's supporting local artists in the North and supporting Canadian artists where we can, too, but without losing sight of the international audiences."

Attracting worldwide attention through international artists

- "be they Aboriginal artists, indigenous or world music" - is an avenue Whitelock said he'd like to explore in the future.

"The festival already has a great reputation locally and that's starting to reach others," he said.

Folk on the Rocks was recently mentioned on the popular social news and entertainment

Having culturally the best program is what it's all about for me. It's supporting local artists in the North and supporting Canadian artists where we can, too, but without losing sight of the international audiences.

David Whitelock

website *buzzfeed.com*, which boasts more than 130 million viewers. The Yellowknife festival was listed amongst Japan's Fuji Rock Festival and Iceland's Airwaves under the grouping of international music festivals that "make you want to travel."

"That really excited us. It's quite cool to be quoted in the same lines as Airwaves and the Montreux Jazz Festival," Whitelock said.

This will be year 34 of Folk on the Rocks and with the lineup already announced and generating buzz with bands like Juno award-winning rocker Matt Mays, indie band Reuben and the Dark, Newfoundland's The Dardanelles and the Québec Redneck Bluegrass Project, Whitelock said he's expecting this year to be a "resounding success."

The local connection is extremely important to the

festival, he added, with Northern bands like Yukon Blonde and The Strumbellas likely to bring many people through the gates this time around.

The new director expects to see around 5,000 people this year.

Public feedback sought

Whitelock said a focus for himself at this year's festival will be data collection and gathering public feedback in anticipation for next year's 35th anniversary of Folk on the Rocks.

"I want to get as much public consultation as possible. I want to know what people really feel and I want to get a good sample. A couple hundred people is not enough. You need to get between 500 and 1,000 so you can actually correlate that information and make some really

solid recommendations to move forward," he said.

Whitelock is hoping to have a booth at the event this year that gives festival goers the opportunity to reminisce about the past 34 years of Folk on the Rocks in order to collect stories and archival photographs to highlight at next year's anniversary.

Volunteers still needed

Scheduled to run on the shores of Long Lake July 17-20, Folk on the Rocks is still looking for volunteers and is less than halfway to the goal of 350 "boots on the ground," Whitelock said.

Volunteer roles include hospitality service, which assists festival performers backstage.

For the latest Folk on the Rock news, a list of performers, early-bird tickets, and volunteer information, visit <http://folkontherocks.com/>

Northerners Entrepreneurs

Tutu-making mom launches business in Fort Smith *Princess garments headed to Hollywood for The Ellen Degeneres Show*

By MARIA CHURCH

Kristie Vyse, a Fort Smith mother of two, never planned on becoming an artisan. She definitely didn't consider herself crafty.

Yet what began as a cost-saving Christmas craft project seven months ago has turned into a thriving entrepreneurship for Vyse, thanks to an unexpectedly huge demand for bright, flouncy tutus.

"Every little girl wants to be a princess," she said while threading silken white ribbon around the elastic waistband of her latest tutu creation. Thick strands of pink, purple and sparkly blue tulle complete the princess garment.

"These ones are going to the Ellen show," Vyse said, citing a recent client's request for tutus after getting tickets for the popular TV talk show that includes giving a gift. The tutus will be going to Rosie McClelland and Sophia Grace Brownlee, two young girls who frequently perform on *The Ellen Degeneres Show*.



Photo: Maria Church

Kristie Vyse launched her tutu-making business Tiny Dancer Tutus earlier this year.

Sitting in her workshop at her home in Fort Smith surrounded by bright rolls of tulle and ribbon, Vyse explained that her tutu-making business launched back in November when she was online shopping for tutus to give as Christmas presents.

The mother of two young boys doubles as a day home operator and has been running Kristie's Kiddie Garden

out of her home for the past three years. The tutus were Christmas gifts for the young girls under her care.

"To purchase five or six of them was going to be too expensive for the day home, so I learned to make them on Youtube. I ordered my supplies in and made up the first five," she said.

When the tutu-making newbie posted photos of her

Christmas crafts on her personal Facebook page, she had 12 requests overnight.

After a couple of successful months pumping out tutus for gifts, birthday parties and flower girl dresses - typically around five orders a week from across the North, Canada and even some going to international destinations - Tiny Dancer Tutus was officially born.

"It's been going good, but it's definitely not something I had planned to get into," she said with a laugh. "But people seem to really like them and I really like making them."

Vyse estimates that she has made close to 150 custom tutus to date. She sells her wares mainly by word of mouth, social media and through a retail store in High Level.

Some of her more elaborate tutus have been styled to look like *Despicable Me* minions, Disney princesses like Elsa from the recent animated movie *Frozen*, or grand, peacock-feathered gowns of her own creation.

Because of the custom nature of the tutus, prices can range from as little as \$20 to more than \$100 for elaborate, multi-piece creations.

While she has sometimes struggled to keep up with demand, Vyse recently found time to expand her tutu-making business to offer matching necklaces and headbands.

As far as she knows, Vyse said Tiny Dancer Tutus is

the only business that offers custom-made tutus in the NWT. One reason might be the unique challenges to operating a product-based business in the North, she said.

"My beads are coming from China and my tulle is coming from the US, so shipping can take a really long time to get my supplies up here and it can cost just as much in shipping as it does for the supply itself," Vyse said.

On the other hand, having a product marketed as "made in the North" is certainly a benefit for the new entrepreneur.

"Whenever people hear anything is made in Northern Canada, they'll say, 'We want it,'" Vyse said.

The tutu-maker said she plans to apply for Made in the NWT tags, a joint initiative offered by the NWT Chamber of Commerce and the GNWT to promote the territory's crafters and artisans.

To check out Tiny Dancer Tutus, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TinyDancerTutusByKristie>

Paintings bring Mackenzie mountains to Yk gallery

By JACK DANYLCHUK
 “Prepare to be wowed,” was Barb Cameron’s advice to people taking in *Dechenla: Land at the End of the Sticks*, an exhibition of paintings based on artist Jen Walden’s experience at a wilderness lodge on the Canol Trail.

Cameron, director of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, was referring to three towering triptychs and 20 smaller paintings that bring the dramatic vistas of the Mackenzie mountains into the museum.

Walden drew on her experience as a theatre set designer to produce the triptychs that measure 10 by 12 feet - too high by six inches to be shown in Fort Smith, where the smaller pieces were exhibited for a month before opening in Yellowknife last week.

The collection represents a year of labour by Walden, a self-taught artist who traces her influences and inspiration to the Group of Seven and Drawnward, a contemporary Toronto collective of landscape painters.

Walden studied theatre and set design at the University of Ottawa before moving to



Jenn Walden sits with her 10x12 foot triptych “Atop Garnet”, one of three massive paintings she created from her 2012 exploration of the Selwyn Mountains.

Yellowknife in 2002 “to work as a dog musher. I planned to stay for just a year, but like a lot of people, I fell in love with the place.”

Painting was always her first love, and two years after

the encouragement that followed her first gallery exhibition in 2006, she decided to paint full time.

Norm and Barb Barichello, operators of the Dechenla Lodge, saw her paintings and



“The Big Guys” (30x40” acrylic) features large bull caribou seen by Walden along Poppy Ridge - the biggest caribou seen during her stay at Dechenla Lodge near the NWT/Yukon border. The exhibit is on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

“said they loved my work; they thought the surrounding land would fit with my painting.”

In exchange for a painting, Walden and three Yukon artists were guests

of the lodge for a week, and spent hours walking, sketching and photographing the land, 200 km southwest of Norman Wells.

Chasing Light Studios, an independent film company,

documented Walden’s creative process. The company’s video is playing as part of the exhibit, which shares space with a moose skin boat made in the Mackenzie mountains.

Arts & Culture Spoken Word

Spoken word artists shout it out from the rooftop *Dechinta launches ‘Bringing the Bush to U’ initiative*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The on-the-land university known for placing students in a wilderness classroom is bringing the bush to the city this summer, starting with a rooftop event last Thursday night in Yellowknife.

Yellowknifers celebrated the arrival of spring by shouting it out from the top of the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning headquarters on McDonald Dr. on Thursday evening with a spoken word workshop.

Hosted by Dechinta’s summer intern Tiffany Harrington, a spoken word poet based in Yellowknife, the workshop was meant to inspire people to express themselves both through writing and voice by introducing them to some new techniques and letting them perform.

“We’re getting people used to performing and giving tips on how to start writing, kind of setting up tempos and rhythm and rhyme,” she told *The Journal*.

“It’s really great to see people being inspired and



Four participants in Tiffany Harrington’s spoken word workshop helped inaugurate Dechinta University’s “Bringing the Bush to U” initiative last Thursday evening.

realizing they have a voice, and how to use that voice.”

Harrington, who is Métis, said her poetry is a form of resistance, infused with a lot of indigenous content, and a way to channel her thoughts and feelings in a positive way.

“For me, it’s a really great way to appease the frustrations that I have by putting them into spoken word and letting people know concisely how I feel about an issue.”

Throughout the workshop, participants experimented

with exercises in freestyle rhyming and composition with a large focus on memorization through images and gestures, which is not only a practical skill for doing spoken word but reflective of an indigenous tradition of storytelling. That itself sparked a

discussion about literacy and decolonization.

“Spoken word is more than just a form of poetry to me; it’s passing on the skills that I’ve learned from my grandmother. It teaches you about patience and all these things. This benchmark in Western society is to be literate...and we don’t have that capacity any more to really remember and to listen and to orate, so we talked about those power dynamics and can you be literate in a different way that doesn’t involve written words?” she said.

Though she always enjoyed poetry, it wasn’t until one day about eight years ago, listening to Somali hip-hop artist K’naan, that Harrington decided to write her own rhymes.

“I didn’t really know what spoken word was until then,” she said. “So I just started writing a poem, and I found out that it had some flow to it. People started labelling me as a rapper or spoken word artist.”

Connecting the city to the bush

The workshop kicked off Dechinta’s “Bringing the Bush to U” summer initiative, a plan by the accredited “bush university” to get more connected with communities.

“A lot of people don’t know what Dechinta is or what we do, so we’re going to be doing various workshops and also just community engagement over the course of the summer to let people know what it is that we do and also encourage them to come out, learn new skills or contribute something to the community,” Harrington said.

That will be turned around later in the year, when the city will be invited to the bush for fall programming at Blachford Lake Lodge, the school’s wilderness headquarters. It will also include more efforts to keep the community interested and apprised of what’s happening out on the land through online photos and blogs.

Sport North doles out territory's top sports awards

NWT junior men's basketball team named 'Team of the Year'

By MARIA CHURCH

The territory's most notable athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers in sport over the past year were applauded last Saturday at the annual Sport North Federation awards banquet.

Awards were given out for youth, junior and senior athletes, team of the year, official of the year, community contributor, corporate contributor and the overall contributor to sport.

Each year, Sport North gives out awards based on nominations, which include detailed information about nominees' sporting accomplishments.

Sport North has been doling out the territorial awards since 1977 when the first Ruth Inch Memorial: Contributor to Sport award was given to Arvard Pohlak. Since then, awards have been added to recognize athletes, coaches and volunteers.

According to the organization, the awards help encourage athlete success, volunteer efforts and recognize the NWT's growing talent in sports.



Photo courtesy of Sport North Federation

The NWT junior men's basketball team receives the Team of the Year award at the Sport North banquet and awards night in Yellowknife on Friday.

Team of the Year

This year, the prestigious award for Team of the Year went to the NWT junior men's basketball team, who beat out the NWT Rebels women's broomball team and the Yellowknife First Air Flyers hockey team, runners up for the award.

The basketball juniors began the past season at the 2013 Canada Summer Games

in Sherbrooke, Que. last summer. The NWT players went in as underdogs, but made a name for themselves at the tournament for their goodwill and sportsmanship.

The team learned from its losses at the summer games and fought hard during the territorial season, taking gold at invitationals in Fort Smith and Inuvik.

The basketball team ended its season on the highest of notes at the Arctic Winter Games(AWGs) in Fairbanks, Alaska this past February, where they made it to the gold medal game against Team Alaska and brought home the win.

The junior men are the first basketball team from the NWT to bring home a gold from the AWGs.

SPORT NORTH FEDERATION AWARD WINNERS:

Youth Male & Female

Bryn Hill – Hay River
Donny Boake – Yellowknife

Junior Male & Female

Veronica McDonald – Fort Smith
Andrew Lirette – Hay River

Senior Male & Female

Molly Milligan – Yellowknife
Ryan Nichols – Yellowknife

Dennis Crane Memorial: Official of the Year

Don Gillis – Yellowknife

Delma Kisoun Memorial: Community Contributor

Les Skinner – Inuvik

Corporate Contributor

NWT Power Corporation

Ruth Inch Memorial: Contributor to Sport

Juneva Green – Fort Smith

Team of the Year

NWT Junior Men's Basketball

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Robertson headframe supporters struggle to maintain teetering landmark

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Depending on who's doing the math, \$500,000 is either a little or a lot of money to spend on the Robertson headframe.

"I think we should save the thing," Walt Humphreys, president of the NWT Mining Heritage Society, said last week after a consultant's report on the territory's tallest building was made public.

According to the report by Concentric Associates, the city would have to spend \$235,000 in the first year to shore up the building and another \$200,000 on repairs over the next decade.

That does not include the price of removing unknown hazards such as asbestos and PCBs, liability insurance if the public is given access to the headframe, annual maintenance costs or the bill for eventually tearing it down — estimated at \$1.6 million or \$90,000 over the next 25 years.

City administrators think that adds up to more than taxpayers can afford, and recommended that council advise Newmont Mining to destroy the structure that has



A consultant report estimates Yellowknife will have to spend \$500,000 to preserve the Robertson headframe.

Photo: Jack Danylchuk

been a beacon on Yellowknife's skyline since 1976.

"It's a part of Yellowknife; I would hate to see it gone," said Humphreys, whose threat to immortalize the

current council as the authors of the Robertson's destruction in a bronze plaque led to the report by Concentric.

"Compared to some of the beautification projects,

the costs are minimal," Humphreys said. "Think how much money they've spent on putting pieces of blast rock around town. People, when they come up

here want to see the headframe; it's an iconic part of Yellowknife."

Humphreys will consult with society members before June 9 when the report will

go to city council, "to rally the public to the cause."

If the city decides to maintain the headframe, it might be able to trim the demolition cost from the budget. Newmont Mining hasn't been asked and hasn't volunteered funds to cover the eventual destruction of the structure.

"When Miramar Mining owned it, they offered to put up one or two million dollars if the city would take the headframe off their hands," Humphreys said. "But the city kept procrastinating."

Rob Warburton believes that city administrators have already relegated the headframe to the scrap heap.

A partner in a crowd-sourcing company, Warburton said the \$500,000 price tag for simple preservation is "doable," but turning the headframe into a paying tourist attraction would require a more detailed and expensive study.

Potential environmental issues loom largest, Warburton said, and it would require another \$30,000 or more to thoroughly examine the headframe and develop a business plan.

Politics Economy

Report card gives high grades to NWT economy

By MARIA CHURCH

The NWT has been given multiple A grades for economic performance by the Conference Board of Canada, which, combined with high scores for Yukon and Nunavut, has the territories "outperforming" most provincial counterparts.

The high marks were doled out in the board's *How Canada Performs: Economy* report card, one of six to be released over the next year.

The report gave the NWT an A+ for per capita income, solidifying a trend that has put the territory "well above" every Canadian province since the early 2000s when data became available as a separate territory from Nunavut.

The Northwest Territories was also found to have the highest labour productivity level in Canada and is second only to Norway

among the 16 "advanced" international countries chosen for comparison in the report.

Other A grades went to the NWT for GDP growth and inflation, while its unemployment rate was given a B grade.

According to Anja Jeffrey, director for the board's research arm Centre for the North, the territories' relatively high scores in economic performance is "not surprising."

"Despite a downturn in global commodity markets, natural resource development activities continue to bolster these economies with growth rates well above the national average," she said in a news release.

The territory received its worst grades for employment growth and labour productivity growth, graded C and D- respectively.

Despite overall high

labour productivity, the NWT is the worst Canadian jurisdiction for productivity growth due to a 4 per cent decline between 2008 and 2012.

According to the report, the decline was caused by weakness in the mining industry, which accounts for around 35 per cent of the territory's GDP. The majority of the territory's mining industry is in diamonds, which has seen international demand wane over the last number of years along with production.

"Mining will be one of the most important economic drivers in Northern Canada in the years to come," Glen Hodgson, senior vice president and chief economist with the Conference Board of Canada, said in the release.

Read the full report here: <http://www.conference-board.ca/hcp/provincial/economy.aspx/>



Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Youth take in target practice

Jordan Dayman takes aim during target shooting practice last week at the Inuvik Youth Centre. Target shooting is held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the youth centre. Other weekly activities include jigging, fiddling lessons and knitting.

No industry on caribou calving grounds: board

Industry, commercial hunting hurting barren ground herds

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The agency advocating for the health of two of the largest herds of barren ground caribou in the North is warning Nunavut's land use planning commission to make calving and post-calving grounds off limits to mining companies.

Representing the NWT, Nunavut, northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) told the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) again last month that permits awarded to companies on the

migratory herds' sensitive summer grounds will be devastating to the animals and subsistence hunters.

The commission is expected to release its draft land use plan for the territory, including the Kitikmeot region - a hotspot of uranium and metal mining - in late June before opening it up for public comment. A hearing on the plan will take place in November.

Apart from its demands that calving and post-calving feeding grounds receive total protection from development,

the board is advising a slow in pace of development that has seen an influx of mines and the accompanying roads and traffic impact the caribou's migration already.

"If you look at all the permits in possible places the mines can go, the whole Nunavut countryside is completely covered with interests, and they're all in different stages of development: some are exploratory, some there's work going on to different degrees," said Earl Evans, a traditional harvester from Fort Smith and chair of BQCMB.

"There's no stopping development; it's going ahead. But what we want them to do is scale down the development. It doesn't have to be so big, such a big glut of development all at once."

Evans cited Areva's proposed Kiggavik uranium mine as an example. Located near Baker Lake, the first uranium mine on the tundra is planned to include several open pits along with an underground mine and an all-weather road.

Baker Lake is also the site of the Meadowbank gold mine, which Evans said has noticeably impacted the caribou since 2010. While some have been killed by vehicles,

for caribou conservation by submitting their thoughts to the NPC.

Caribou moving south-west

Evans said the mining boom happening east in Nunavut is pushing caribou further west and south, bringing them into the southern NWT and northern Saskatchewan.

"The last two years, the trend for the Qamanirjuaq herd is to move west - way west. They're coming into our Fort Smith area. Actually talking to one of the pilots here just about three weeks ago, they spotted some caribou about 30 miles

Social media part of problem

Though mine and road development is a major force of impact on caribou health, Evans said over-hunting and wastage encouraged by a growing, social media-fuelled commercial hunt is contributing to the extirpation of caribou from certain areas.

"People are selling caribou with recorded sales of up to \$600, but the average is between \$350 and \$400 for one caribou," he said. "With this social media, all they do is put on Facebook that they want four caribou, and they specify what they want: four cow caribou. That's just about decimated that population on Baffin Island. It's a huge problem. They've wiped that one out and now they're moving to the Qamanirjuaq herd."

Evans said some of the communities are now looking at a total allowable harvest because the drop in numbers is becoming frightening.

"They want to have a lesser harvest, with more bulls taken, and controlled to a certain extent so it's not open ended. They'll have to assess the herds and assess the community needs. That's what it's coming to."

Though harvesting limits are bound to "ruffle a few feathers," Evans said they are currently one of the only tools out there to help herds bounce back from population decline in an era when stressors like migration disturbance and habitat loss from industry and climate change are hitting caribou all at once.

"Everybody has to do their part if they want this to work," he said. "Just because people have the right doesn't mean it's the right thing to use it."

Everybody has to do their part if they want this to work. Just because people have the right doesn't mean it's the right thing to use it.

*Earl Evans
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Management Board*

the all-season road has predominantly increased hunting, which has moved the caribou further away, making them less accessible.

Though the board, along with multiple hunting and trapping organizations, has been calling for permanent protection of calving and post-calving areas for years, Evans said no one is listening. He said more communities, organizations and individuals need to join the call

west of town here. That's the first time that's happened in probably 60 years - '78 there were some around 40 miles out of here. In the '50s was the last time the caribou were that close. All the development in the east is moving the caribou," he said.

While that's good for hunters in the NWT, it means those in places like Arviat where caribou once could be found in people's backyards are now going without meat.



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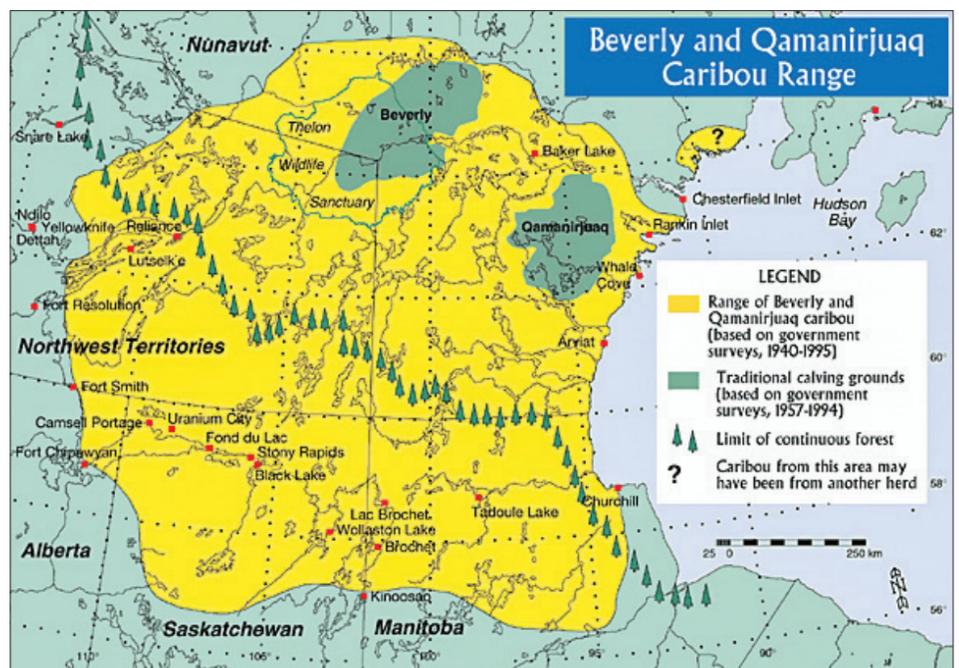
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www.nwtparks.ca



The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board is demanding the Nunavut land use planning commission keep calving and post-calving grounds of the two migrating herds free of development.

New centre puts shine on Diamond Capital status

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Three years after it was promised, Crossworks Manufacturing has finally opened an interpretive centre in downtown Yellowknife tracing diamonds from Kimberlite pipes to showcases glittering with cut and polished gems.

"We're proud to add the centre to the fabric of the city," Dylan Dix, marketing director for Crossworks, told about 50 guests who attended the opening last Thursday, sharing the multimedia views of Northern mines and their products.

"This is a new day; we look forward to operating here for years to come," Dix said as Crossworks president Uri Ariel looked on.

Headquartered in Vancouver, Crossworks describes itself as the largest manufacturer of Canadian branded diamonds in the world - "one with global reach," Dix said.

"We have markets in China, Japan, Singapore, Italy and the UK."

Opened in 2008, a year before the last diamond processor on Yellowknife's 'Diamond Row' shut its doors, Dix said the Crossworks' factory, interpretive centre and store are the northernmost outlet in the world for



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

From left: Uri Ariel, president of Crossworks Manufacturing Ltd., leads ITI Minister Dave Ramsay and Peter Vician, ITI deputy minister, on a tour of the company's diamond interpretive centre last Thursday.

Forevermark, the trademark of De Beers.

The Northwest Territories' own Polar Bear brand

hasn't been produced since 2009. The territorial government gave the rights to the brand to Deepak

International Ltd. 18 months ago, but the company has yet to open a factory in Yellowknife.

Dave Ramsay, minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, told the crowd of mining executives, politicians

and public officials that the diamond industry "continues to grow, with even more to come" from established mines and new discoveries.

Diamond indicator minerals have been found in the Mackenzie valley, around Jean Marie River, and "closer to our road network and hydro," Ramsay said.

Kathy Bolstad, executive director of NWT Tourism, said the interpretive centre will feed the interests of tourists who "say they have an appetite for all things related to the diamond industry" that is mostly off-limits to tourists.

"We can't offer tours; it's not an option," Bolstad said. "This is a terrific opportunity for tourists who want information about the industry. We have a retail outlet, as well, and a showcase for Northern diamonds."

Bolstad sees the interpretive centre as "a unique addition for visitors, and a seed of new ideas."

Aurora enthusiasts from Asia dominate winter tourism in the territory, and Bolstad sees an opportunity to "leverage the marketing investment we're making in Japan and China to strengthen the NWT as a great destination and a place where this beautiful spectacular product comes from."

Health & Wellness Infrastructure

Stanton takes first steps toward renovation

Contract not expected to be awarded until after June 2015



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

The successful proponent behind the \$300-million renovations to Stanton Territorial Hospital likely won't be chosen until June 2015.

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

There's a long way to go before construction begins on the anticipated \$300 million in renovations to Stanton Territorial Hospital, but the request for qualifications (RFQ) issued last week is

a celebratory first step, according to the department of Health and Social Services (HSS).

The territorial government launched its call for submissions last week, looking for proponents who will

meet the required qualifications to apply by July 31, 2014.

Among the required qualifications is the ability to fund the project as a public-private partnership (P3) in accordance with the GNWT's P3 management framework, which the department of Finance concluded offered the most savings while reducing financial risks.

"Essentially, we're looking for a contractor or consortium that has experience delivering P3s, and in particular hospital-based P3s. They have to have experience in design, they have to have experience in construction, experience in health care, in being a service provider, and they have to have the overall financial capacity to be able to enter into an agreement of this type," said Perry Heath, director

of infrastructure planning with HSS.

Heath said the immense scope of the project will require careful evaluation.

"The biggest complexity around Stanton is we're going to be running and operating a hospital. We

expect the same services that Stanton delivers now will be delivered throughout the life of this renovation, so that really drives the complexities around this: how do you build or renovate a hospital while it's still operating?"

The three candidates who most strongly qualify will be shortlisted and asked to submit detailed proposals.

Because of the complexity of the project and the expertise required, the successful proponent is not expected to be chosen before June 2015.

Devolution Legislation

To review or comment on legislation governing the GNWT responsibilities for managing public land, water and resources, go to the devolution website and click on the devolution legislation button.

Any questions? Use the form on the website to submit, and they will be answered promptly.

devolution.gov.nt.ca/legislation



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REAL ESTATE & Farm Auction (Terry & Dianna Coverly, 780-525-2530). Sunday, June 8, 10:30 a.m., Grassland, Alberta. Farm equipment, boats, etc. Complete listings & photos on all auctions: AndruchowAuctions.com; www.andruchowauctions.com.

UNRESERVED METAL Fabricating Auction. Thursday, June 5, 11 a.m. Preview: Wednesday 10 - 5. CNC Plasma cutting, loaders, saws and ironworker, welding vehicles. A must view at: www.foothillsauctions.com. 780-922-6090.

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



Request for Tenders

**Materials for Bridge Deck retrofit
PO440883**

- Wrigley, NT -

Steel grating, panels, plates and hardware; Rough-sawn pressure treated spruce planks and timbers.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009-49th Street Floor 1 Stuart Hodgson Building will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 12, 2014

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

Inquiries: Contracts Administrator
Procurement Shared Services
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7230

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

For contract opportunities visit
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**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HOUSING CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Supply, Ship and Erect
CT441086**

- Inuvik, NT -

Supply, ship and erect a new Singles Complex in Inuvik.

Sealed tenders addressed to either: GNWT, Contracts Administrator, Procurement Shared Services, 106 Veteran's Way, 3rd Floor, Multi Use Facility, Inuvik, NT. X0E 0T0 OR GNWT, Contracts Administrator, Procurement Shared Services, Stuart Hodgson Building, 1st Floor, 5009 49th Street, Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2L9 will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 17, 2014

Contractors may obtain tender documents as of May 20, 2014 at psstendersinuvik@gov.nt.ca or through the NWT Construction Association's electronic plans room at www.nwtca.ca.

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

General inquiries to:

Ann Lindsay
Contract Administrator
Procurement Shared Services
Phone: (867) 777-7146
Email: psstendersinuvik@gov.nt.ca

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

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HOUSING CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Furnace Replacement
Partially Supply, Ship and
Erect/Labour Only
CT441046**

- Norman Wells, NT -

Sealed tenders addressed to: Contracts Administrator,
Procurement Shared Services 106 Veteran's Way,
3rd Floor, Inuvik, NT will be received before:

3:00PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 11, 2014

Contractors may obtain tender documents from
the above address as of May 20, 2014 or through
the NWT Construction Association's electronic
plans room at www.nwtca.ca

Each tender must be submitted on the forms provided
in the tender documents to be considered.

General inquiries to:

Ann Lindsay
Contract Administrator
Procurement Shared Services
(867) 777-7146
Email: psstendersinuvik@gov.nt.ca

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Northwest
Territories Public Works and Services

Request for Qualifications

**Stanton Territorial Hospital
Renewal Project
SC442039**

-Yellowknife, NT-

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
is inviting interested parties to submit responses
indicating their interest in, and qualifications for,
the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project.

Sealed responses addressed to the Contracts Administrator,
Department of Public Works and Services, Government of
the Northwest Territories, 5009-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT,
will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JULY 31, 2014

Contractors may obtain documents from the following:

General Inquiries:

Contracts Administrator
Procurement Shared Services
Public Works and Services
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 873-7230
Facsimile: (867) 920-4112
E-mail: psstenders@gov.nt.ca

Chapter 5 of the Agreement on Internal Trade will apply to
this procurement.

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Professional Services for Child
and Family Services
Information System Replacement
PM016314**

-Yellowknife, NT-

The GNWT Department of Health and Social Services is
requesting proposals from qualified proponents for the
provision of informatics professional services.

Submissions addressed to Dept. of Health and Social
Services - Contracts/Purchasing, 5022 - 49th Street, Centre
Square Office Tower - 7th Floor, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3R8,
Fax: (867) 920-4969 will be received until:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 13, 2014

You can request a copy of RFP document by emailing:
clayton_ravndal@gov.nt.ca

General Enquiries:

Clayton Ravndal
Purchasing Officer
Contract and Procurement Services Unit,
Health & Social Services
Phone: (867) 873-7766
Fax: (867) 920-4969

Technical Enquiries:

Clayton Ravndal
E-mail: clayton_ravndal@gov.nt.ca
Phone: (867) 873-7766
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At the sound of the gun, racers launch off the 100-m start line during the Fort Smith 5000 annual track and field meet last weekend.

Sports & Recreation Track & Field

Record – and bone – broken at track meet

By MARIA CHURCH

Dark clouds and the threat of rain was not enough to slow down track and field athletes at the Fort Smith 5000 last Saturday.

Just over 100 athletes of all ages from Fort Smith and Hay River competed in the annual track and field event, gunning for the gold, silver and bronze medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m and 5,000m and, for the first time, a javelin and a shot put event.

For one bantam athlete, Hay River's Madison McPhee, her determination broke an NWT

record during the meet when she clocked 13.92 seconds in the 100-m race.

Fort Smith contestant Billie Bourque also stood-out during the meet as a model of perseverance. The young girl fell during her race, but despite later learning the fall had fractured her collarbone, got back up and finished the race to win a medal.

"My Billie girl broke her collarbone yesterday at the track. Tough as nails. Finished the race with a broken collarbone," Jessica Hval, the young girl's mother, wrote on Facebook.

Janie Hobart, one of the event's organizers, said she was more than pleased with how the town came together to put on the annual meet.

"It was so much fun. I was really really impressed with the volunteers," she told *The Journal*. "It was such a great example of a community-based event."

For many athletes, the Fort Smith event was the first track and field meet of the season. The next event is in Yellowknife on May 31, followed by the NWT Track and Field Championships to be held in Hay River on June 4-6.



Joel Gordon crosses the finish line during the 400-m race.



Peewee racers rest-up before their 400-m event begins.



Isaac Zimmer, left, and Canan Olvera take their positions at the start line, preparing for the 50-m mite sprint race.



A javelin event was added to the meet this year.

Photos: Paul Bannister and Maria Church



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