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**Adorned with Horns:** Inuvik crafters learn to make jewellery out of muskox horn. *See page 23.*



**Beloved Tsiigehtchic ferry captain passes away**  
Tsiigehtchic community members share stories of Ed Grouette, their ferry captain for nearly two decades, who passed away in May. *See page 3.*



**Government investigates NWT-wide 911 service**  
The GNWT has surveyed communities across the territory as part of a study toward implementing a NWT-wide 911 service. *See page 8.*



**NWT muskox hides return first thousands**  
The test run for the GNWT's new muskox marketing program has yielded thousands in revenue to the first participants. *See page 10.*



**NWT man to co-coach reality show *Hit The Ice***  
Greg Hopf will be the first Northern hockey coach on APTN's reality TV show *Hit The Ice* when season three films this fall. *See page 27.*

# NORTHERN Journal

\$1.00

2014 Vol. 38 No. 05



Graduate Kim Bennett dances with her two escorts, sons Caydyn and Kai, at the grand march celebrations on Friday night in Fort Smith. Bennett is a graduate of the Phoenix School, an adult program at Paul William Kaeser (PWK) high school. *See pages 13-16 for more on PWK grad.*

## MLAs vote to merge Tu Nedhe and Weledeh, despite opposition

### *Yellowknifers consider legal action over under-representation*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Voters in the NWT are already considering legal action against a bill passed by MLAs last week that will see the ridings of Tu Nedhe and Weledeh amalgamated, despite fervent opposition from the two regions' representatives and residents.

Confident that a challenge to the boundaries "would have a reasonable chance of success," Yellowknife business leader Bill Aho told *The Journal* in an email that he is now "looking for ways to begin a public discussion."

Aho is part of a delegation called "Friends of Democracy" that urged Yellowknife

city councillors last fall to lobby the territorial government for an increase in the capital's share of seats in the legislature to nine from seven.

Based on a February 2013 report by the Electoral Boundaries Commission, MLAs were given the choice of eliminating one riding, keeping the legislature at 19 seats or adding two more MLAs to combat the under-representation experienced right now in Yellowknife.

Last Wednesday, members voted 11-7 in favour of keeping the number of seats at 19 by removing the Yellowknives Dene communities of Dettah

and N'dilo from the Weledeh riding and adding them to Tu Nedhe - the same decision made last November with a vote of 10-7.

In an impassioned last-minute plea, Tu Nedhe MLA Tom Beaulieu reiterated the strong opposition to the changes voiced by his communities of Lutsel K'e and Fort Resolution.

Sharing concerns voiced by Tu Nedhe elder Violet Beaulieu during the recent convening of the NWT Elders Parliament, Beaulieu said the difference in language, culture, socioeconomics and geography of the Tu Nedhe and Weledeh communities

presents a host of problems for a single person to adequately represent in the legislature.

While people in Lutsel K'e and Fort Resolution speak Chipewyan, residents of Dettah and N'dilo speak Tlicho.

"The residents of Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e speak a different language than the group in YK Dene. By combining the two Aboriginal groups, we will lose a culture and a language of one of the groups," Beaulieu said.

"We have very different issues from people living in Yellowknife. The rate of employment in Yellowknife is high and very low in the small communities of Fort

Resolution and Lutsel K'e. In our small, remote communities, we have social and economic issues, things like lack of good housing, high rates of addictions, low education levels that must be dealt with by our MLA on a regular basis," he said.

Beaulieu suggested that eliminating the Tu Nedhe riding after 40 years could result in the loss of Chipewyan from the house, and subsequent constitutional challenges.

He said a better option - one that is off the table - is to give an extra MLA to Yellowknife and another to the Tlicho.

*See Ridings page 3.*

Photo: Maria Church

# NEWS BRIEFS

## RCMP investigating 'suspicious' building fire in Inuvik

Police in Inuvik are investigating a fire that consumed an abandoned building in the community on May 24. RCMP and the fire department responded to the fire on McKenzie Dr. around 12:30 p.m. The structure, which was unoccupied at the time, was already engulfed in flames when crews arrived. RCMP are currently investigating the incident, which they have deemed suspicious, but no suspects or cause have been identified. Anyone with information is asked to call RCMP at 777-1111 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. This is the second fire in Inuvik this month. An earlier fire on May 14 damaged a row house on Dolphin St.

## Trial for man charged with murder of Yvonne Desjarlais

David Harrison, the 29 year-old male charged with the first-degree murder of Yvonne Desjarlais, will stand trial for her death. Harrison was arrested in July last year for the murder of Desjarlais, a 63 year-old woman from Lutsel K'e whose body was found in an alley in downtown Yellowknife in December 2012. At a preliminary inquiry held at the Yellowknife courthouse two weeks ago, judge Bernadette Schmaltz determined there was enough evidence for a trial to proceed. The case will move to the Supreme Court for all future appearances. No trial dates have yet been set.

## Police recapture escaped prisoner

RCMP officers in Yellowknife are breathing a sigh of relief after hunting down a prisoner who escaped from police custody last week. On Monday, a 34 year-old male prisoner from Yellowknife was being transported in a police cruiser to the detachment's cells when the officer guarding him was called away from the vehicle. While unsupervised, the prisoner was able to escape through the unlocked patrol screen and took off. Shortly after the escape, RCMP began a search of the city and less than 2 hours later, found the man in question at the YK Centre Mall. The prisoner was apprehended without incident. He faced charges of escaping lawful custody at his court appearance the next day.



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre in Fort Smith has had to cancel its after school and weekend youth programming due to the loss of a major funding component from the federal government. Its staff are currently looking for local donors.

### Health & Wellness Friendship Centres

# Funding changes leave some NWT friendship centres hanging

## Fort Smith youth centre closes doors

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A massive overhaul in federal funding to friendship centres across Canada has left no organization unaffected, including some in the NWT that are struggling to keep youth programming running.

The government of Canada announced in February that funding to the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) would be "streamlined" from four programs into two, totalling \$43 million per year to be shared with centres across Canada over the next two years.

While one of those streams - the core funding - began flowing as of Apr. 1, the second has yet to be finalized. And with the overhaul cancelling the \$1.1-million Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) initiative outright, many centres are now in a tight position when it comes to youth programming.

### Uncle Gabe's cancels youth programming

Among those is Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre in Fort Smith, whose evening and weekend youth program, T-Rev's Youth Hub, has been shut down since the CCAY funds ran out on Mar. 31.

"The cut that we got was quite a bit of money," said Uncle Gabe's youth coordinator, Amy Harris. "Right now without funding or even salaries, we don't have the funding to keep the staff afloat."

T-Rev's Youth Hub provides a "safe haven" for youth in Fort Smith who can't afford to participate in other recreational activities in town, Harris said. Apart from giving youth a space to hang out in with access to computers and gym equipment, the centre also offers cultural camps and drumming circles, takes youth on trips to conferences and gives workshops on things like life skills and addictions.

Uncle Gabe's is now scrambling to partner with community organizations to re-open the doors, sending letters out

last week pleading for financial support and seeking out other available grants.

"We are trying as hard as we can, because this is really important for (the youth)," Harris said. "If we can't get this going, I don't know what's going to happen. A lot of our programs are all free to the youth, and we do have a percentage of the youth who can't afford other kinds of programs, like sports and stuff. They can come here and drop in."

Uncle Gabe's is not alone, said Brenda Jerome, executive director of the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre in Inuvik, who is also dealing with the repercussions of the restructured funding.

"We're all feeling it," Jerome said. "It is a concern. If you look at the budget that we did have, we used to have the core budget and then we had a CCAY budget for our youth and elders coordinators. They basically took that away and gave us very little more in our core budget."

According to the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the changes to funding have been done in part to reduce administrative burdens and save costs.

### Funding changes welcome: Tree of Peace

While the short-term effects are being felt across the country, not all friendship centres believe it is an overall negative occurrence.

Byrne Richards, executive director of the Tree of Peace friendship centre in Yellowknife, said his organization was prepared for the "re-profiling" of NAFC moneys and, while disappointed with the interruption in funding, welcomes those changes.

"What we need to have is a consistent reporting structure and a consistent accounting structure, and in the past that has been a challenge. So is there an interruption in the flow of dollars? Yes. Is the interruption creating a negative thing? To me, this is not a bad thing. It's becoming more structured so that we can have a solid base to work from, so we have a consistent model that we can deliver across the country," he said.

"Would it be nice if it didn't have to come with an interruption of service? Yes, but you have to stop one thing to start another."

Richards said he has faith that the second stream of funding, currently under negotiation between Canada and NAFC, will be worked out soon and hopes it will be in place by at least next September for the coming school year.

While it is lacking the CCAY funds, Richards said the Tree of Peace has always been able to diversify its funding sources and partners to stay afloat, though he recognized not all friendship centres are equipped to do so.

"Many of our centres were very reliant only on what was there and they weren't expanding or taking advantage of all of the pieces that are out there, and truly the restructuring of the money talks about involving partnerships and community to help in the sustainability of whatever programming is there," Richards said.

"To me, it takes outside of the box kind of thinking and it's a little bit more than writing proposals and relying on a single source to deliver the money. We're not sole-sourced."

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NorthWords Writers Festival

Generation North



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Monique Gray Smith

### The Making of a Story

Readings and chat with Monique Gray Smith, author of the highly acclaimed autobiographical novel *Tilly. A Story of Hope and Resilience*, and Fort Smith authors Michelle Swallow, Jeri Miltenberger, Jamesie Fournier, Patti-Kay Hamilton and Jim Green.

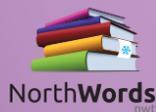
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Thursday, June 5, 2014, 7-9 pm

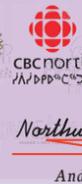
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# 'He was a gentle man and a gentleman'

## Tsiigehtchic ferry captain Ed Grouette spent nearly 20 years in the delta

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON  
Ed Grouette might just have had the best office view in the world.

For nearly two decades, the Grand Forks, BC ship captain worked in Tsiigehtchic, ferrying passengers on the MV Louis Cardinal ferry across the mighty Mackenzie River.

Until he passed away on May 7, he was like family to those who lived in Tsiigehtchic and those who travelled the Dempster Highway often.

"They really miss him here," said Peter Ross, former chief of Tsiigehtchic.

Much of Ed's life was spent on the water. In BC he worked both as a fisherman and tug-boat driver before beginning seasonal work in Tsiigehtchic in the mid-1990s.

While Ed's summers were spent in Tsiigehtchic, his winters were spent back home in Grand Forks with his wife Marilyn, with whom he was together 47 years.

He returned every year until his declining health forced him into retirement.

"He liked the people there," said Marilyn. "He'd do anything for them."



Ed Grouette worked as captain of the MV Louis Cardinal ferry in Tsiigehtchic for nearly 20 years. He died on May 7 in Grand Forks, BC at the age of 75.

Charlie Fowler, a senior chief engineer on the MV Louis Cardinal, worked with Ed for 17 years.

"He did his job to perfection, the best he could, and he was like an iron man. If

he had to do a double shift he could work 16 hours," Fowler said. "He was a great guy. He was a gentleman."

Fowler said Ed was a storyteller, and would often talk of his time fishing on the West

Coast, getting stuck in storms or falling into the river.

"He was quite the guy."

Kjell Bodin worked under Ed as an engineer for four seasons in Tsiigehtchic and said even though Ed was the

captain, he always listened to the people he worked alongside.

"If you said to park the boat, he did that. He never questioned that," Bodin said. "He was very well liked – a hell of a nice person."

Bodin remembers Ed often rushing back to camp at the end of the day, in an attempt to outrun the mosquitoes that are so often at your tail in the summer months.

Once, Bodin said, he challenged Ed to a race and the two of them took off in an instant.

"He did very well," Bodin said.

Peter Ross met Ed when he first came to Tsiigehtchic for work and said he could always be relied on to land the ferry, no matter the weather. His talents as captain were widely known across the Mackenzie Delta.

"He was an all around good guy, everybody liked him. After he got sick and different captains came on, it'd be, 'Gee, if Ed was on he would have landed in that weather,'" Ross recounted.

Ed would often invite kids up to get a tour of the bridge and try their hand at steering the ferry. Once it landed, he

would often leave the wheelhouse for the deck and help load trucks.

"He was well liked by the community members," Ross said.

Tsiigehtchic resident Lawrence Norbert said Ed was a welcome voice to hear as you topped the hill before the ferry camp.

"You knew you were in good hands," Norbert said. "(He was) a gentle man and a gentleman."

Grouette liked to putter in the yard, travel the surrounding logging roads, go exploring and visit museums. Every fall, Ed and Marilyn would travel to visit their son in Calgary.

"He was just a happy guy," Marilyn said. "He just lived life and that was it."

Ed loved to play pool and crib and, while he liked the Minnesota Wild, cheered for anybody but the Vancouver Canucks.

"I think he did that just because I liked them," Marilyn said.

Ed was in palliative care at home since March and never once complained, Marilyn said.

"He said we made a good team."

### Politics Electoral Boundaries

## Ridings still under and over-represented

Continued from page 1.

More Tlicho representation is needed, stressed Monfwi MLA Jackson Lafferty, who said his under-represented riding is only growing in population. While separating Dettah and N'dilo from Yellowknife will likely result in another Tlicho speaker in the house, the Education, Culture and Employment minister asked at what cost.

"I certainly don't want to lose one of the official languages," Lafferty said.

According to the boundaries commission, no electoral district should be over or under-represented by more than 25 per cent from the mean population. As of last February, 10 out of 19 districts were either over or under-represented.

Those under-represented include Monfwi, Sahtu and most of Yellowknife's seven seats. While Yellowknife holds 48 per cent of the territory's population, it has only 36 per cent of the seats.

The disproportionality has only increased since the report's issuance, said Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley, who also

I just want to say, let the record show and mark my words today that if we go ahead with what is proposed in this bill, we are going to live to regret it very, very soon.

*Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen*

spoke out against the bill. He told *The Journal* that court action would neither be surprising, nor unwelcome in securing the level of representation required.

"A lot of people are going without proper representation. At 40-some per cent and climbing above average riding numbers, my workload seems significantly larger than others. Court direction would probably be quite objective, and welcome by many," he said in an email.

"I don't know whether it would more likely come from the Tlicho communities (Monfwi), or from Yellowknife as it did last time."

Bromley called it "colonial" and "embarrassing" that

MLAs would make decisions based on out of date information - a sentiment echoed by Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen, who portended future legal challenges similar to one in the past that ended in Yellowknife securing three more MLAs.

"I just want to say let the record show and mark my words today that if we go ahead with what is proposed in this bill, we are going to live to regret it very, very soon," she said.

According to recent estimates, the cost of creating two new MLA positions in Yellowknife would amount to \$2.4 million over a term.

*\*with files from Jack Danylchuk*

## Public Meeting Announcements

### DISCUSSIONS ON EDUCATION RENEWAL IN THE NWT

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) in partnership with District Education Authorities (DEA) and Divisional Education Councils (DEC) across the NWT is inviting parents, students, school staff, community members and leaders to attend public meetings.

Join us to discuss and ask questions on the proposed directions to improve the education system in the NWT.

All are welcome to attend.

#### Monday, June 9

N'Dilo • 6-8pm, location to be determined

#### Tuesday, June 10

Fort Liard • 6:30-8:30pm at Echo Dene School  
Wrigley • Lunch-Hour at Chief Julian Yendo School

#### Wednesday, June 11

Hay River • 7-9pm at Princess Alexandra School

For dates in other communities and to confirm locations and times, contact:

Amber George • ph: 1-867-920-3059

email: amber\_george@gov.nt.ca

or visit: <http://nwtedrenewal.wikispaces.com>



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

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

**Publisher & Managing Editor Don Jaque**  
867-872-3000 ext.21 • [don@norj.ca](mailto:don@norj.ca)

**Editor Meagan Wohlberg**  
867-872-3000 ext.24 • [news@norj.ca](mailto:news@norj.ca)

**Reporter Maria Church**  
867-872-3000 ext.25 • [reporter@norj.ca](mailto:reporter@norj.ca)

**Comptroller Dixie Penner**  
867-872-3000 ext.23 • [dix@norj.ca](mailto:dix@norj.ca)

**Advertising** ..... 867-872-3000 ext.26  
[sales@norj.ca](mailto:sales@norj.ca)

**Administration Jeremy Turcotte**  
867-872-3000 ext.26 • [admin@norj.ca](mailto:admin@norj.ca)

**Production & Graphics Sandra Jaque**  
867-872-3000 ext.22 • [sandra@norj.ca](mailto:sandra@norj.ca)  
**Paul Bannister**  
867-872-3000 ext.27 • [graphics@norj.ca](mailto:graphics@norj.ca)  
**Anna Sierra**  
867-872-3000 ext.20 • [design@norj.ca](mailto:design@norj.ca)

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## Subscription Rates

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Prices include GST. \$47.25 in Fort Smith;  
\$52.50 elsewhere in Canada;  
\$105 in the USA; overseas \$164.30.

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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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Aklavik	Fort Resolution	Paulatuk
Behchoko	Fort Simpson	Sachs Harbour
Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtich
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekati Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
Fort Good Hope	Kakisa	Wekweeti
Fort Liard	Lutsel K'e	Whati
Fort McPherson	Nahanni Butte	Wrigley
Fort Providence	Norman Wells	Yellowknife

Available in Alberta at:

Anzac	Fort Chipewyan	Kehewin
Atikameg	Fort MacKay	Kinuso
Brownvale	Fort McMurray	Lac La Biche
Cadotte Lake	Fort Vermilion	Manning
Chard	Frog Lake	Morinville
Chateh	Glenevis	Peace River
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Rainbow Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Red Earth Creek
Driftpile	Grouard	Saddle Lake
Duffield	High Level	Slave Lake
Edmonton	High Prairie	St. Paul
Enilda	Hythe	Valleyview
Enoch	John d'Or Prairie	Wabasca

Published weekly by  
**Cascade Publishing Ltd.**

Printed on recycled newsprint  
with vegetable ink at Wainwright Star Chronicle.

# The path to a fit, healthy, better life

Advocates for good health Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod, who have for years urged Canadians to go out, get fit and have fun doing it, are bringing their message to southern NWT centres this month to create awareness about the need to deal with the epidemic of obesity in the North that often results in diabetes. It is an important message.

Coincidentally, two studies have recently been released on the same subject cautioning that there is an obesity problem among both children and adults across Canada and especially in the North. The International Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) investigated 34 countries and found that obesity is a common issue, and Northern Canadians are particularly badly off. Additionally, a study by the University of British Columbia found that obesity rates across Canada are reaching alarming levels and continue to climb. The NWT and Nunavut have the highest rates in the country, it says.

This is a problem that will just not go away, and a greater effort is needed to deal with it. *The Journal* publishes numerous stories on the subject each year and took a look back. In early 2011 we reported the following:

"Today's Canadian youth are taller, fatter and weaker than they were 30 years ago. "With junk food in nearly every home and a culture that promotes television, the internet and video games over physical activity, Canada is setting itself up for a future of extreme obesity, unhealthy adults and skyrocketing health care costs, says the lead

researcher of a new study on children's health in Canada published by Statistics Canada."

In March 2011, we reported that a study on childhood obesity blames parents who either refuse to acknowledge their child's weight problem or do nothing to help them lose weight.

One of the latest was in March 2013, when *The Journal* reported that the NWT Health department is considering insuring surgical procedures, such as stomach stapling, to assist obese people.

A Sept. 2012 *Journal* editorial ("You are what you eat") noted that "Canadians are following the same path to obesity as our American cousins - as usual a little bit behind, but striving to do it even better."

We pointed out the striking similarity of this malaise to smoking. Both lead to serious physical ailments, decreased lifespans, huge costs added to the beleaguered medicare system and reduced quality of life. Generally the individual addicted wants to be cured, but struggles.

We observed that in the Canadian North, Aboriginal communities suffer from exorbitant food prices as well as issues with a diet of processed, sugary and salty foods, resulting in a high incidence of chronic diabetes. We suggested a freight subsidy on all items listed in the Canada food guide, combined with a pervasive education campaign. Resulting reduced medical costs would more than pay for the freight subsidy. Foresight and a tenacious, dedicated, decades-long commitment are needed. As with the reduction of smoking, the results could be amazing.

We still think it is a good plan, but unfortunately little has been done since that time.

Obesity is a "modifiable risk", second only to smoking as a contributor to ailments such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, gallstones, high blood pressure and some cancers. Obviously, the tools used to keep people from smoking can also help with other public health issues like diabetes and overeating. The government of the Northwest Territories has noted its success in decreasing the number of youth smokers by 19 per cent over a decade since implementing a tobacco strategy. Similar initiatives used to promote fitness and healthy eating could help people change their habits and live healthier, more active lifestyles to prevent both obesity and the onset of diabetes.

Popular education must also include a refocusing on traditional foods and lifestyles, like a program we covered in May 2013 that showcased researchers from the University of Ottawa helping schools in Fort Providence and Fort Resolution set up snack programs, cooking classes and nutrition workshops for youth and families centered around country foods.

There is no question that both obesity and diabetes can be substantially diminished by exercise and better diet - while lives are dramatically improved in the process. A concerted effort is needed to make that happen - by families, communities, First Nations and all levels of government. The advice of the Body Break gurus - to eat well, exercise, have fun doing it, and make sure your kids do it too - is important to us all. Only good things can come from it.



Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) pilots battle a small forest fire that broke out mid-afternoon on Saturday near Hay River at the sand dunes, located a couple kilometres northwest of town. Two CL-215 bombers brought in from Yellowknife worked with ENR choppers to battle the blaze all afternoon, getting it under control by around 6:00 p.m. The fire was out by Sunday morning.

## WEATHER

### Inuvik



Weekly Norms:  
High 15C Low 3C

### Yellowknife



Weekly Norms:  
High 16C Low 6C

### Hay River



Weekly Norms:  
High 16C Low 5C

### Fort Smith



Weekly Norms:  
High 19C Low 6C

# Medicare needs strong leadership

Editor,

I agree with the general thesis of your editorial regarding the current status of Medicare in Canada: the unwavering commitment of the federal government to the cult of the private market suggests ever more health care privatisation is likely to come.

Two points the editorial addresses need qualification. First, you say that the idea that allowing wealthy Canadians to purchase desired services will shorten waiting lists for the rest of us “seems compelling.” On

the contrary, unless those purchasing medical services can somehow buy completely new services not presently available in the system, they are consuming services that otherwise would be available to us all. Allowing some to purchase services is queue jumping, and will surely make the waiting lists for the rest of us even longer.

Secondly, your editorial says that current inefficiencies in the health system are attributable to burgeoning bureaucracy. Although in some instances this may be

the case, the far more likely cause for the present malaise is the complete and utter failure on the part of the federal government to provide any leadership or incentive for things to change for the better. Instead of taking an active role in improving the system, the federal government has washed its hands of it. There is no coordination, no incentives to adopt best practices; in a word, no leadership. Research shows clearly that the public sector can and does innovate when the conditions encourage it. Unfortunately, in Canada for

the last couple decades of shrinking federal involvement, these conditions are too rarely found.

Medicare – as a universal public service – can be made to work, but it won’t be through the magic of the market. It will be through our federal government rolling up its sleeves and helping territorial and provincial governments get on with delivering the kind of health care system Canadians want and deserve.

Ben McDonald  
Yellowknife

COLUMN



## White Girl Puppy Love: Part 1 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK  
Fasten your seatbelts, this story jumps time and space and content, but you are smart people; you will figure it out.

“Bored” was a word I don’t recall using as a child, or hearing it used either. My grandfather stated that “idle persons had weak minds.”

If you had nothing to do, it was your own fault in this world of wonders. Right now, we are wondering if stuffing candle ice and iodized salt into this old wooden ice cream maker will actually produce some form of ice cream.

We all take turns hand-cranking the cracked wooden handle. Our main ingredient is Pacific canned milk; we have sweetened this with white sugar. Candle ice is rotten ice left over from the river breaking up; we have dug the silt-covered remains from under bushes

on the banks of the Mackenzie River. There isn’t a lot of ice left; we should have thought of this two weeks ago when the banks were covered in massive remnants of ice from break-up.

I am looking with trepidation at the old hand-crank ice cream maker. There are about half a dozen of us kids at the Douglass house. They have a water tank in their basement because their dad works for the government. The water at the Douglass house has tasted bad for “awhile now.” They have an ice bucket for drinking water but are still washing dishes and clothes with the water from the tank in the basement.

My cat’s name is Sam. He is a Siamese cat that I got for passing Grade 1. Sam promptly got distemper and very nearly died. He survived, but was left without some basic cat survival skills. He can’t climb

trees and when you hold him tummy up and drop him, he doesn’t flip and land on his feet like a cool cat should, but hits the ground with dead weight. He can hold off three dogs though, as long as he has his back to the wall.

Poor Sam has been the only cat in town for months now; the Douglasses have a Siamese cat also, but he has not been seen for a long while. I am hoping to bring Sam over for a visit. There is a great possibility that if a loose dog has not killed that other kitty, a roaming wolf pack has.

I recently read a letter in one of the Whitehorse newspapers about people negligently letting their dogs run free from their chains, with the suggestion that this enabled wolves to kill the dogs. I have to say that the NWT wolves preferred to come into town and kill the

dogs that were chained up. Way less work that way, I suppose. They didn’t have to chase the dog down to eat it, they walked in and had hot dog on a chain... I think they must have a different breed of wolf in Whitehorse.

Back to the old hand-crank ice cream maker that I am trying not to think too much about. It was determined this afternoon that my cat Sam will be the only kitty in Fort Norman for a while. The Douglass cat was found, in the silt at the bottom of their water tank. To our fascination there is only a funny little skeleton left. Mrs. Douglass threw up. I am hoping that they haven’t washed the ice cream maker in months.

We produce a grainy runny canned milk ice cream that is marvelous!

Visit [www.thewhitegirl.ca](http://www.thewhitegirl.ca) for past stories.

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FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

Husky withdraws Sahtu fracking plans



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



**Ron Gwynne:** And who is saying an environmental assessment isn’t necessary? “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.” Frack Off!!



**Carol Collins:** Lol good one!!



**Last Tango for Che:** Wowww -- Good ... and am with Ron -- Frack Off!!

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ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Gas in the NWT

The Acho Dene Koe board announced last week it is signing an agreement in principle with Westcoast Energy Inc. in order to develop natural gas infrastructure in the NWT. “Now we have significant interest in the development of natural gas,” said Chief Henry Deneron. “With Westcoast we can build a long-term relationship and take advantage of long-term benefits.”

Issue: June 1, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Lost canoeist found resting comfortably in Germany

The search for a canoeist feared lost on the Athabasca River between Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan has been called off after indications the man turned back to Fort McMurray, then returned to his native Germany. Police heard reports that Helmut Spiegelburg was no longer on the river and had issued a request through the media for anyone having information to come forward.

Issue: June 1, 1994

30 Years Ago...

Flood risk for Hay River

The federal and territorial governments have declared Hay River a flood risk area, effective today. The announcement was made earlier this week, and will affect the kind of projects the government will support in Hay River. Designation of a flood risk area indicates that an area is subject to severe, recurrent flooding.

Issue: May 31, 1984

# GNWT investigates territory-wide 911 service

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

The territorial government is taking its first steps toward potentially implementing an NWT-wide 911 service.

Together with the RCMP, Northwestel and the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC), the GNWT is carrying out a 911 Implementation Study to explore its options and gauge the territory's current state of readiness, according to Kevin Brezinski, director of public safety.

"There's a lot of work to do to get to the point where key decisions can be made," he said. "We want to know what people think of this."

The initiative got underway with a survey of community leaders and senior community government officials at the NWTAC annual general meeting in May, said Tom Williams, deputy minister of MACA.

"We want to build a case," Williams said. "We're one of the few jurisdictions that doesn't have (911 service), but then we have the infrastructure needs here that other jurisdictions don't have."

Larry Baran, senior administrative officer in Whati,



Photo: Bill Braden

The territorial government is looking into creating a 911 emergency phone service for the entire Northwest Territories.

was one of the many NWTAC delegates to take part in the survey. He said he supports MACA's efforts.

"Even if it means moving one community at a time, it will be progress," he said. "I am a strong believer in the importance of the implementation because a 911 service saves lives."

During his career as a municipal administrator, Baran oversaw the implementation of 911 service in two Alberta communities – Delburne and Fox Creek.

Fox Creek was the second-to-last community in Alberta to make the switch to 911 service, and Baran said the conversion took more than two years.

"It isn't easy and there is often push-back," he said. "There was a great deal of work, negotiations and set-up before it went live."

Like in many NWT communities, Fox Creek didn't have a standardized addressing system, and it took time to attach official civic addresses to each house and landline.

Another hurdle in the NWT is that many communities don't have ground ambulance services and other first responders available.

"It wasn't a simple process," Baran said. "But it was worth the effort."

Another hurdle is the increasing prevalence of cell phone usage. Like in Fox Creek, Baran said the NWT doesn't have sufficient towers to triangulate the location of a cell phone. The solution they came up with there, he said, was to create a sticker with relevant addresses and contact information that each resident could place near their phone.

"Everybody knew to look for that," Baran said.

#### Cost would be in millions

In the survey circulated at the NWTAC annual general meeting, delegates were asked how 911 service, if implemented, should be funded.

Their options: the GNWT, community governments, a monthly charge per phone line (between \$1 and \$1.50) or through other means.

"If I were speaking as the SAO, I would say the GNWT should absorb all the costs," Baran said, "but in reality, in Alberta, the costs were shared by residents, the community, and the provincial government. That is the logical way of dealing with it."

The 911 Implementation Study is being carried out by POMAX Consulting Inc., the same company that completed a 911 feasibility

study for Newfoundland and Labrador.

The study, released in 2012, found that an initial capital investment of \$1.5 million and annual investments of \$2.3 million would be needed. At the time, 40 per cent of the province was covered by 911 services.

Brezinski and Williams said it's impossible to say what kind of costs might be involved in the NWT, or what kind of timeline 911 implementation would follow, but a 2008 feasibility study completed for the city of Yellowknife put the cost in the millions.

Brezinski noted that in a period of "belt tightening," full 911 service is a long-term goal and one that will involve much consultation.

Williams said they aren't ruling out any options, like placing a call centre abroad in places like Romania, that could help the bottom line.

"We'll consider any proposal," he said.

#### 911 reduces delays, saves lives

The study in Newfoundland and Labrador noted that having to dial seven-digit numbers for police, fire and ambulance was a source of confusion and delays, especially considering that Yellowknife and the larger communities have a high proportion of transient residents from parts of Canada with 911 service already available.

Baran said the fact that 911 is the universally recognized emergency number in most parts of North America is reason enough to make the change.

"There are amazing stories where even toddlers have been known to call 911 because their parent has become incapacitated and the toddler knows that you are supposed to call 911 in an emergency," he said.

"The problem you have is when you have to dial a seven or 10 digit number. It's too easy to make a mistake. When you're dealing with three digits, you could almost be having a stroke and dial the number."

The problem you have is when you have to dial a seven or 10 digit number. It's too easy to make a mistake.

Larry Baran  
Whati Community Government

That study, carried out by Planetworks Consulting Corp., recommended implementing service in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Norman Wells and Behchoko.

This option, which would follow implementation in Yellowknife and precede coverage across the NWT, was estimated to cost just over \$1 million in initial costs and \$1.29 million annually.

"This would cover more than 77 per cent of the territorial population," the study said. "Providing service to the remaining 25 smallest communities is technically possible but would require major telecommunications network upgrades and take several years to complete."

Unlike with -1111 and -2222 emergency calls, if a 911 call comes in and there is no response on the other end, first responders will automatically be dispatched to the corresponding address.

If the caller is choking, harmed or in danger and unable to speak, they will still receive emergency services.

To emphasize this point, Baran told the story of a woman in Fox Creek who called 911 after the community made the switch from a seven digit emergency number.

She was being assaulted by her husband and was only able to dial 911 before dropping the phone. The RCMP responded immediately.

"She didn't have to say a thing," Baran said.

# Public involvement key to robust Heritage Fund: group

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Maintaining public interest in the NWT Heritage Fund may be the greatest challenge for those who want the territorial government to continue to sock away a quarter of resource royalties for future generations.

A public discussion on the new heritage fund drew fewer than 20 people to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre last week, on a warm evening busy with meetings, gardening and slo-pitch.

Sparse as it was, the turnout encouraged Sarah Daitch, a Fort Smith native and one of six graduate students chosen for an Action Canada project that developed a position paper on the heritage fund.

"I think there is interest in different parts of the territory," Daitch said in an interview with *The Journal*. "People need information to get involved, and I think there is an appetite for details on the fund and how it's being managed."



Action Canada fellows host a public dialogue on the NWT Heritage Fund last week in Yellowknife.

Photo: Robert Wilson

To establish and maintain a robust fund, the Action Canada paper recommended independent oversight, statutory requirements for deposits and

withdrawals, transparent financial disclosure and citizen involvement.

The territorial government launched the fund with a contribution of 5 per

cent of royalty revenue, but bowed to public pressure and increased annual payments to 25 per cent, which will add up to more than \$400 million in 20 years.

The fund is managed internally by finance department officials. While that strategy may have suited the modest 5 per cent annual contribution, Daitch said her

hope is that the government will adopt a different structure for oversight.

"With a 25 per cent contribution, the fund will accrue rapidly and with it the need for external oversight," Daitch said.

The fund now holds just over \$500,000. Based on what people said last week and during community meetings on the territorial budget, "people want to see all the details on the fund, a guaranteed contribution and they want external oversight."

Informal agreements on contributions and withdrawals could undermine the fund, Daitch said, and cited Alberta's heritage fund as an example of what can happen in the absence of legal requirements for annual deposits.

"Continuity from government to government requires regulation and legislation," Daitch said. "That makes it possible for the public to hold the government to account. An informal agreement isn't enough."

# Strong economic growth forecast for NWT in 2014

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Economic growth in the Northwest Territories is expected to be strong in 2014, led by both public and private investment in mining and transportation infrastructure, according to the Conference Board of Canada's semi-annual Territorial Outlook report.

The report, which came out last Tuesday, forecasts growth across the board for Canada's three Northern territories based on a long-term demand for mining world-wide.

"Uncertainty in the global economy has hurt commodity prices and clouded the outlook for the mining industry in the territories," said board associate director Marie-Christine Bernard. "However, with long-term global demand for minerals and metals expected to remain positive, there is still a solid business case for many of the mining projects in the North."

For the NWT alone, the GDP is expected to advance again by 1.7 per cent in 2014 following a 1.9-per cent increase in 2013.

"NWT's existing mining operations have long passed their peak production, thus, mining output is expected

High public sector investment, together with the anticipated development of a new diamond mine and three new metal mines this decade, will help the NWT economy grow.

*Conference Board of Canada*

to contract in 2014. However, high public sector investment, together with the anticipated development of a new diamond mine and three new metal mines this decade, will help the NWT economy grow and generate new jobs between 2016 and 2019," the report forecasts.

Real GDP across the NWT, Nunavut and Yukon is expected to grow by 3 per cent for the second consecutive year.

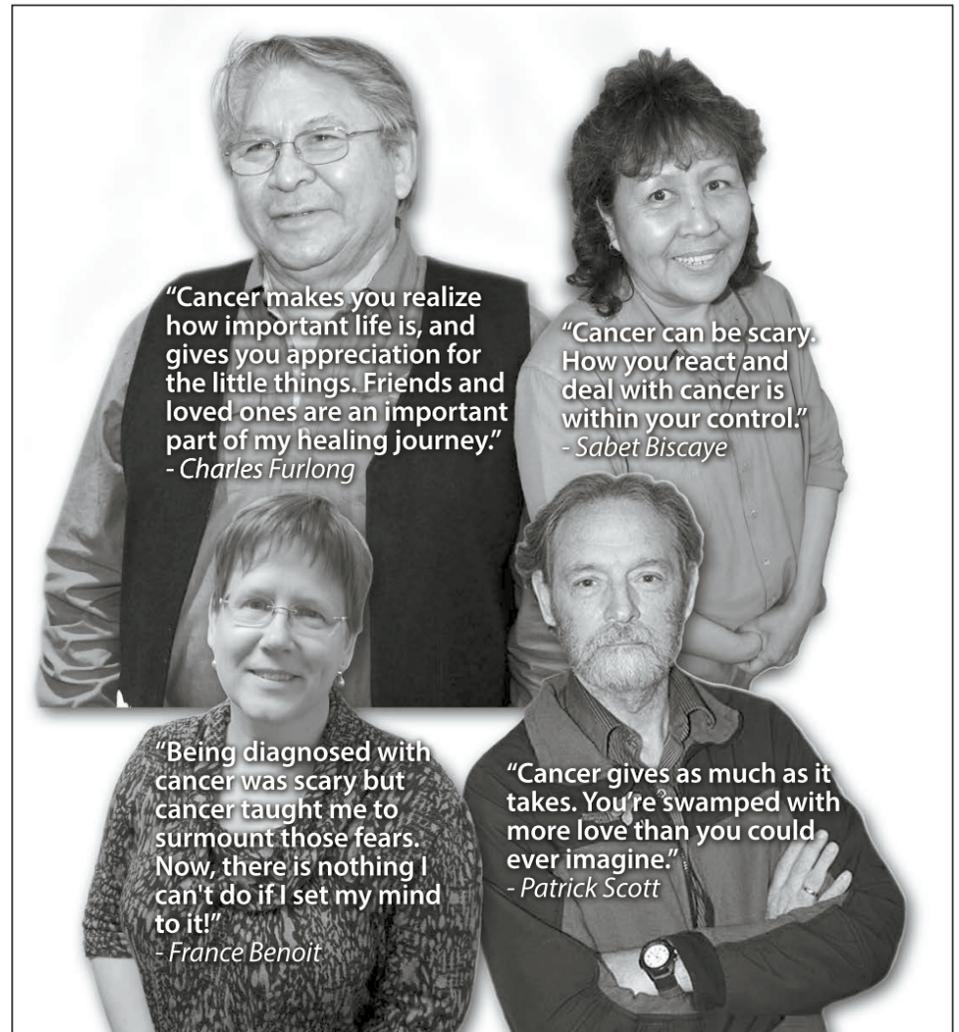
Nunavut's economy is expected to grow the most, with an increase of 4.4 per cent forecast for this year, despite predictions that mining exploration is expected to fall an additional 7 per cent in 2014.

"Stronger gold production at the Meadowbank mine, a

ramping-up in construction activity at the Mary River iron ore project and a number of public infrastructure projects will contribute to overall growth," the board predicts.

In Yukon, whose economy only grew by 1.3 per cent last year, prospects are improving. The board estimates that the number of mining companies investing in infrastructure, exploration and equipment in an effort to start or resume operations signals a rise in GDP amounting to 3.7 per cent in 2014.

The Territorial Outlook, published twice a year, examines the fiscal outlook of each territory by industry and labour market and is funded by the board's Centre for the North.



"Cancer makes you realize how important life is, and gives you appreciation for the little things. Friends and loved ones are an important part of my healing journey."  
- Charles Furlong

"Cancer can be scary. How you react and deal with cancer is within your control."  
- Sabet Biscaye

"Being diagnosed with cancer was scary but cancer taught me to surmount those fears. Now, there is nothing I can't do if I set my mind to it!"  
- France Benoit

"Cancer gives as much as it takes. You're swamped with more love than you could ever imagine."  
- Patrick Scott

**June 1st is National Cancer Survivors Day. Celebrate the cancer survivors you know.**

If you have been diagnosed with cancer, if you are going through treatment, or if you are now cancer-free, we support you in your journey.





Photo: Erin Freeland-Ballantyne

Students of Dechinta's winter/spring semester show off their hand-made beaver mittens, trapped and sewn with the help of elders throughout the land-based course.

**Education On The Land**

# Dene youth connect with culture at Dechinta

## Bush University boasts 11 graduates from winter/spring semester

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
At 19, Pascal Erasmus of Yellowknife has just begun his pursuit of post-secondary education, but has already

seen major transformations in how he views learning, his culture and himself. The young Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)

member recently completed the six-week winter/spring semester at the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning along with 10 other graduates

- a valuable experience that has changed his view of the classroom.

"It's shifted my perception on education and what I prioritize in my own personal life, because before I wasn't fully in tune with my culture, with my identity. I was very conformed to a certain narrative in society - assimilated, almost, you could say," he shared with *The Journal*. "Since going there, the whole experience, I feel like I have a better appreciation for my identity that I hold here."

The semester featured courses in indigenous self-determination, social determinants of Aboriginal health, community governance and sustainability, along with time spent on the land with elders harvesting moose, beaver and fish.

Erasmus said the way in which both classroom and land-based components were equally prioritized in the program was, for him, profound.

"They were on par with each other; they were equal to each other. One wasn't more valuable than the other in this case. So I really appreciated that, and I think it made me appreciate my own culture, where I come from, as an Aboriginal person," he said.

As well, having a space to share ideas with like-minded people provided him with a "sense of hope," he said.

Currently completing his final project for the course, Erasmus is busy putting together a feasibility study for the community of N'dilo on ways that YKDFN can help to reduce its carbon footprint and contributions to climate change.

Erasmus was recently accepted to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC where he plans to study sociology starting this fall. Dechinta, he said, was a great way to prepare without having to leave his home territory.

"The experience helped to refine the way that I view education now, any form of education that may be, whether it's cultural or institutional, whatever. I just view it in a more mature way," he said. "I highly recommend it to anybody that wants to pursue post-secondary education. It's a great first step and it's very fun."

### Dechinta churning out young leaders

In its fourth year of delivering land-based, university-accredited programming out at Blachford Lake Lodge north of Yellowknife, Dechinta has evolved into having a stronger faculty, attracting and producing engaged young people interested in cultural revitalization, decolonization and healthy leadership.

"I think what we're seeing is Dechinta becoming a destination for young people who are interested in leadership in the most broad sense," said Dechinta's program director, Erin Freeland-Ballantyne. "Over the last number of years, people are coming having already been involved in their communities and wanting to make them even better, and really wanting to mobilize that knowledge."

Over the years, she said she's seen the formation of a strong network of alumni doing incredible work.

"As we track our grads over the long term, we can see that

the program is really transformative and helps people set off in a good direction, whether they're going to go back and work for their negotiating team or continuing on in post-secondary," Freeland-Ballantyne said. "No matter where people go, it's kind of a definitive experience and having that positive education experience that's really supportive can really be life-changing for people."

This spring's cohort of students came from communities across the NWT, from Tulita to Colville Lake, Lutsel K'e, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution and Yellowknife, as well as Ross River, Yukon.

"It was a really cool mix of students," Freeland-Ballantyne said. "The students really taught each other a lot from the regions of the North in terms of what's going on."

At the semester's peak, there were also a total of seven children out at Blachford Lake Lodge with their parents attending "Kids U", Dechinta's on-the-land program for kids.

Fall semester is planned to start Sept. 7 and go through all of September and October. The deadline to apply is July 1.

The semester may see students participate in a community caribou hunt along with courses on indigenous law, Dene Chanie, indigenous self-determination and more on-the-land learning with elders.

Two short courses are also planned for this August: one for NWT educators and a one-week indigenous self-determination course with Leanne Simpson and Glen Coulthard.

For more information or to apply, visit [dechinta.ca](http://dechinta.ca)

**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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**Benjamin Moore**  
The Colour Experts



Classmates, dressed to the nines, embrace for yet another photo at the St. Patrick's high school graduation in Yellowknife last week.



St. Pat's graduates, brimming with nervous excitement, line up for the grand march at their prom on Friday night.



Ben Debogorski escorts Caitlin Collier at the St. Pat's Grand March on prom night.

**Education High School Grad**

# Yellowknife's St. Pat's students graduate in style



Clockwise from top left: Mikaela Cuvelier, Sue Langenhaven, Taylor Broddy and Ben Mills pose on the St. Pat's rocks.



Elegant gowns and handsome tuxedos are the dress code for graduating students at the St. Patrick's high school prom on Friday night. The students gather around the rocks at the high school for the traditional class photo.

Photos: Bill Braden

# Marketed NWT muskox hides return first thousands

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Harvesters who participated in the test run of a new muskox hide marketing program received over \$10,700 in new revenue last month to help cover the costs of their subsistence hunt.

Modelled after the GNWT's existing Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program, which sells wild pelts trapped in the NWT at international auctions to support trappers, the muskox hide procurement program gives a further boost to the traditional economy by allowing subsistence harvesters to sell their hides to a southern market.

At a scale of \$150-\$250 per hide, depending on size, harvesters are given advances and bonuses based on the sale price.

"I'm running it just like a regular fur; in other words, we advance the hunter and then when we sell it we turn around and recover our advance and whatever's left over, we give back to the harvester," said Francois Rossouw, the manager of fur marketing and traditional economy for the territorial government.



Photo courtesy of Francois Rossouw

Hides from muskox hunted by subsistence harvesters are now able to be sold through the NWT government to southern buyers.

Fifteen harvesters from Ulukhaktok participated in the pilot program, which started in April and ended mid-May. Those hunters turned in 41 cleaned, good

quality hides, guaranteed to be sold to qiviut buyers in the south on a first come, first served basis.

"I basically have a guaranteed sale for every hide

I get, which is good, so I bump it up a bit to cover our costs and make sure the hunter gets a little extra," Rossouw said. "There's no issue selling them."

I basically have a guaranteed sale for every hide I get, which is good, so I bump it up a bit to cover our costs and make sure the hunter gets a little extra...There's no issue selling them.

*Francois Rossouw  
Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur*

The expansion of the procurement program to include muskox hides is a way of ensuring subsistence hunters can share in the economic benefits of the traditional economy.

"It's nice to be able to give them something back for what they've done," Rossouw said. "We definitely stress that this is not just a hide hunt. Guys are going out and doing a subsistence harvest, getting meat, and there's a value in the hide for them. Basically the way we look at it is it takes care

of their fuel costs...We're not promoting a commercial harvest in any way, shape or form, we're just taking care of what's available."

The muskox hunt is now over and will start up again in the fall. Harvesters from all communities with access to muskox are able to participate.

"Folks in Paulatuk are able to be part of it, Sachs Harbour, Tuk, even Aklavik and possibly folks down in Norman Wells who also get muskox, too, can be part of it," Rossouw said.



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#### Industry Oilsands

## Total shelves Joslyn oilsands mine indefinitely

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Total Canada is putting its \$11-million Joslyn North oilsands on hold indefinitely due to high costs that have rendered the project financially non-viable.

French energy giant Total SA and its partners in the Joslyn project announced last Thursday during a conference call with media that cost pressures running throughout the energy industry are "squeezing margins" and "cannot be sustainable in the long term."

"Joslyn is facing the same challenge as most of the industry worldwide in the sense that costs are continuing to inflate when the oil price and specifically the netbacks for the oilsands are remaining stable, at best," said André Goffart, the head of Total's Canadian division.

"We are still in the cycle within this industry where cost inflation in general is going much faster than price adjustments. We know that there is a rebalancing that needs to be done."

As part of that rebalancing, Total plans to layoff up to 150 Canadian employees



Photo courtesy of Total Canada

Total's Joslyn North oilsands mine has been put on hold, indefinitely.

- mostly in Calgary - by the end of the year, though some employees may be moved to other projects.

The mine, a joint venture with Suncor Energy Inc., Occidental Petroleum and Inpex Canada, was supposed to begin producing 100,000 barrels of bitumen per day as of 2020.

Goffart said the decision was made unanimously among the partners, who have struggled to make the project economical since it was approved in 2011 after years of review.

There is "no precise timeline" to revive the project.

Joslyn faced troubles in the past when an over-pressurized well blew up, creating a crater in the landscape and forcing the company to abandon its in-situ plans in favour of open pit extraction.

Total also owns a 39.2 per cent stake in Suncor's Fort Hills oilsands mine, currently under development, and operates a steam-assisted oilsands project with ConocoPhillips called Surmount, which has plans to expand production from 27,000 to 136,000 barrels per day by 2015.



Ken Schaefer displays the haul of beavers he and his wife, Mary, hunted one day while out at their cabin.



Schaefer uses hoops to stretch and dry beaver pelts.

Photos: Mary Schaefer

**Northerners Trappers**

# Fort Smith trapping couple back from month-long hunt *Schaefers want to set an example for youth in the community*

By MARIA CHURCH

After spending a month in the bush collecting hundreds of beaver and muskrat pelts, one couple in Fort Smith has returned home to share stories of the adventure with their family.

For Mary and Ken Schaefer, 45 and 47, the hunting trip was not only a way to reconnect with life on the land, but a way to practice what they preach. The thought of their grandchildren was never far from their minds, they shared with *The Journal*.

"We have grandkids now, so it's something for them to see us doing. When we come back, they hear how we spent our days there going about the hunt. They're always interested and they love to hear the stories," Mary said.

The Schaefers have been meaning to go on a month-long hunt since their last lengthy outing in 2006, but it wasn't until this year that they had the opportunity to go.

"It all depends on when the river opens," Ken said.

The Schaefers began the excursion in late April, crossing the Slave River with two friends on snowmobiles - and a sled dog team in tow - before heading northeast to Hanging Ice River where they have a cabin. Their friends dropped them off and returned to Fort Smith on the sleds.

At their home off the grid, the Schaefers spent a grueling, yet peaceful 29 days collecting furs at an average of 20 per day. Each morning they woke up around 7:00 a.m. to begin fleshing the animals they had hunted the day before. Muskrats are relatively easy, they said, but the beavers are a tedious process.

"We always make sure we wash all the beaver hides, hang them up and dry them and when we start fleshing them, that takes a long time. They're so fat, it's like a seal skin," Ken said. "It's lot of work."

After the pelts are fit for freezing and transport, the two would grab their guns and head back onto the river to hunt more beavers and muskrat.

An important lesson, learned over years of hunting, is not to shoot too many animals in one day because that means too much work the next day, Ken said.

"She's got an itchy trigger finger," he said with a chuckle, referring to his wife. "She did the shooting, I did the swearing."

One day while they were on the boat hunting, Mary shot a large beaver and when Ken went to haul it into the boat, grabbing it by the hind leg, the animal fought back. Quick thinking and speedy reflexes allowed Ken to reach

beavers, 270 muskrats, one otter and a bear. The money they will receive from the pelt sales will only just break even with the cost of the trip and the time off work, they said. But the experience is priceless.

"It's a way of life. We've grown up doing this kind of thing. I've been out trapping for 35 years and I'm not going to stop now. It's always nice to be in the bush," Ken said while Mary nodded in agreement.

**Reaching young ears**

For one of the Schaefers' daughters, Farrah Freund - a mother herself to two little ones - having parents that practice a traditional lifestyle is an important part of raising her children.

If we don't, if we stop, our kids will probably go out but there will be gaps in the teachings. It's quite important for our kids, our grandkids and other young people.

*Mary Schaefer*

his axe and finish the kill, just barely avoiding a nasty bite.

The couple shared another story of when they lucked out and stumbled upon a nest of fresh goose eggs.

"I cooked Mary a Mother's Day breakfast of eggs. One each fed us; they're huge," Ken said.

Once they were satisfied with their fur haul, the Schaefers returned to Fort Smith on May 24 and 25 by float plane, which required multiple trips to transport the pelts and the dog team.

In total, the Schaefers brought home pelts from 121

"That's how my parents raised my brother, sister and I. They raised and fed us on a hunter's and trapper's income," she said. "They're just trying to keep the tradition alive."

Freund said her children love to hear the stories from their grandparents and, in the future, she hopes their interest will grow and eventually encourage them to go into the bush themselves.

According to the Schaefers, setting the example for their grandchildren and the community youth is one of their main motivations to continue going out on the land.

"If we don't, if we stop, our kids will probably go out but there will be gaps in the teachings. It's quite important for our kids, our grandkids and other young people," Mary said.

She said many youth in the community are no longer seeking out knowledge of traditional lifestyles from elders or practitioners, preferring to stay indoors on

the computer or phone, or watching TV.

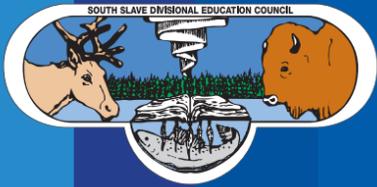
"Something that's always in the back of my mind is our youth. They need help," Mary said. "It's not just Ken and I. There are a lot of people out there with a lot of knowledge for these young people, but nobody is saying anything."

It's up to the community to bridge the gap between the youth and the knowledge

keepers, she said. One idea is to hold short camps, even just for the day, led by elders and knowledge holders that would be close to town but still in the bush, to introduce the youth to a traditional lifestyle and open communication between generations.

"I'm sure we would all be a lot stronger and a lot more open around a campfire," Mary said.

Creating Futures



The South Slave Divisional Education Council would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the

2014 South Slave High School Graduates!

Best wishes as you begin to create your own future. Remember, graduation is not the end; it's a new beginning.

South Slave Divisional Education Council  
[www.ssdec.nt.ca](http://www.ssdec.nt.ca)



Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod are all smiles at PWK high school in Fort Smith where they gave a presentation on preventing, treating and beating diabetes last week.



Fort Smith youth take in the presentation by Johnson and McLeod last Monday at PWK high school.



McLeod and Johnson share stories about their time as competitors on The Amazing Race Canada.

Photos: Maria Church

**Health & Wellness Diabetes**

# Body Break gurus tour NWT, share advice on diabetes

By MARIA CHURCH

Audiences in Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife tuned into Canadian fitness celebrities Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod

last week during the Body Break duo's NWT visit to talk about diabetes.

The fitness stars toured the three communities sharing tips and tricks to help prevent, deal

with and even reverse diabetes - a chronic disease characterized by the body's inability to produce enough insulin or properly use insulin to break down sugars in the blood.

Johnson and McLeod's first stop was in Fort Smith for the community's Diabetes Expo. Around 80 people came out to Paul William Kaeser high school Monday night to hear from the guest speakers.

The focus of the presentation was "Change your Life, Change your Habits" and touched on everything from recognizing pre-diabetes symptoms to dealing with diabetes by creating habits of eating well and exercising regularly.

During their presentation, Johnson and McLeod spoke to the parents in the room, stressing the importance of setting an example for their children.

"As parents, it's so important that we are all role models. We'd rather sit back and listen to music or watch TV, but if we don't set a good example for our kids, they will learn all kinds of bad habits," McLeod told the crowd in Fort Smith.

Despite the heavy topic, the fitness stars kept the audience's mood light with sporadic jokes and humorous references to their celebrity lifestyle.

Johnson and McLeod put on similar presentations in Hay River and Yellowknife last week, all organized by the Canadian Diabetes Association to educate residents in the NWT about the disease.

**Diabetes a Canadian 'epidemic'**

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, more than 9 million Canadians are living with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

In a news release sent out by the association, it stated that prevalence rates among

Aboriginal people are "at least three times higher" than the general population. Aboriginal people also face a higher risk for pre-diabetes, obesity and the development of type 2 diabetes at a younger age.

In an interview with *The Journal*, McLeod said diet and exercise go a long way in preventing the onset of diabetes, but despite all the knowledge, the numbers are still reaching an alarming level.

"There's been such an increase of type 2 diabetes,

"We are all confused sometimes about what we should do, what we should eat, what's healthy this week. These are the things that everyone faces across the country," he said.

In order to break the glass ceiling, a person must be ready to make lifestyle changes and slowly create habits that become more powerful than cravings, Johnson said.

It's not about the latest exercise machine or the most efficient fat-burning technique,

As parents, it's so important that we are all role models. We'd rather sit back and listen to music or watch TV, but if we don't set a good example for our kids, they will learn all kinds of bad habits.

*Joanne McLeod  
Body Break*

not only with adults, but with children. It's at a point where it's an epidemic and something has to be done," she said. "Public health departments are able to provide the education, but it's still up to everyone to use services provided and to use the gym or fitness centres."

**Northern communities not alone**

Johnson said every community in Canada wrestles with unique barriers to healthy eating and exercise, but none of them are insurmountable.

it's about each person choosing the best method they enjoy and can commit to, be it running, walking, weights or sports, he said.

For healthy eating - even in the NWT where it can be more difficult or expensive to access fresh foods - choosing the food that has the least processing possible, even if frozen or canned, will always be the best option, McLeod said.

For more information about diabetes from the Canadian Diabetes Association, visit <http://www.diabetes.ca/>

**Congratulations PWK Grads of 2014!**

All will benefit from the long hours of work and study you each have put into graduating.

 **Town of Fort Smith**  
[www.fortsmith.ca](http://www.fortsmith.ca)

# Hats off to Fort Smith's graduating class of 2014

By MARIA CHURCH

Fort Smith's future architects, hairdressers, power engineers and business leaders strutted past their first major educational milestone last week during the high school's annual convocation ceremony.

For 25 graduating students and their hundreds of beaming parents, relatives and well wishers, the cap and gown ceremony held at the community curling rink Thursday was a tribute to years of hard work and dedication.

Northwest Territories Commissioner George Tuccaro was one of the first to congratulate the Fort Smith class of 2014, wishing them luck in their future travels, educational pursuits and careers.

For those students headed south to school after graduation, "come back to the Northwest Territories," Tuccaro urged in his address to the graduates.

"Remember, Fort Smith is your home and there are people here that love you," Fort Smith Mayor Brad Brake told the group.

This year, nine graduates emerged from the Phoenix School program, a high school education alternative in the community. Many of

them were adult learners who returned to complete their high school diploma.

Jamie Schaefer was one of those students recognized in a special way during the convocation ceremony. The adult learner has been attending school at the same time as his son, Ryan.

"I think you going back to school and getting your diploma, when you entered the same door as your son, is extremely admirable. You, as a father, show the value of education to your son and the community of Fort Smith," Frieda Martselos, chief of Salt River First Nation, said in her address to the graduating class.

Throughout the ceremony, congratulations to all the graduates flowed in from speeches by PWK principal Al Karasiuk, Jessica Cox on behalf of the District Education Authority, Smith's Landing First Nation councillor Thaidene Paulette, Fort Smith Métis Council's vice president Darrell Loutit and South Slave Divisional Education Council superintendent Curtis Brown.

"I don't know if there was ever a more prepared graduating class than you to accept, adapt and to lead change. Whether you feel it or not,



Photo: Paul Bannister

you are all already leaders," Brown, the last to give an address, told the class.

The graduates continued celebrations the next day with a dinner and traditional

grand march, followed by a dry dance, all held at the recreation centre.

The general awards ceremony for the high school will be held on June 13.

## 2014 GRADUATING CLASS OF PWK

Crystal Andersen  
Ferron Beamish  
Kimberly Bennett  
Kaitlynn Bourke  
Shannon Coleman

Czarina Concepcion  
Noel Dube  
Jordan Evoy  
Alexa Funk  
Gina Heron

Larrisa Johnson  
Rose Lepine  
Dominique Longpre  
Kiana MacDonald  
Destiny Mercredi

Stephanie Mercredi  
Bret Moore  
Miranda Norn  
Alicia Norris  
Graham Olsen

Brayden Phillips  
Jamie Schaefer  
Malinda Skippings  
Emily Sturgeon  
Megan Walsh

### PWK GRADUATION CEREMONY AWARDS

**Fort Smith Phoenix School: Outstanding Achievement Award**

Presented to the student who demonstrated the most overall achievement while attending the Phoenix School

Sponsor: Salt River First Nation Recipient: Jamie Schaefer

**Fort Smith Phoenix School: Heart and Dedication award**

Presented to the student who displayed consistent commitment and effort while attending the Phoenix school

Sponsor: UNW Local 2 Recipient: Jamie Schaefer

**Greatest Improvement Award**

Presented to the student who exhibited the most improvement in Grade 12

Sponsor: UNW Local 2 Recipient: Graham Olsen

**Academic Achievement Award**

Presented to the student with the second highest average

Sponsor: DEA Recipient: Megan Walsh

**Highest Achievement Award**

Presented to the student with the highest average

Sponsor: Northern Stores Recipient: Emily Sturgeon

**The Mary Kaeser Memorial Award**

Presented to a student for high academic achievement in Grade 12

Sponsor: Kaeser's Recipient: Crystal Andersen

**The Aurora College award for Excellence, Leadership and Innovation**

Presented to the student who exhibits dedication to excellence, leadership and innovation in Northern education and research, throughout their high school education

Sponsor: Aurora College Recipient: Crystal Andersen

**Diavik Scholarships**

Presented to two students who exhibit a pursuit of excellence, motivation, good work ethic and academic standing Recipients: Megan Walsh and Crystal Andersen

**Jack Piche Award**

Presented to graduates of PWK who demonstrate academic/athletic merit and who will continue their studies at an institute of higher learning

Recipients: Megan Walsh and Crystal Andersen

**Graduates' Choice Award**

Selected by the graduating class, the award is presented to the student who is a strong positive ambassador for the school and community, respectful to teachers and students alike, supportive of fellow students and is an overall, well rounded, outgoing individual

Sponsor: Northern Stores Recipient: Crystal Andersen

## Congratulations PWK Grads 2014!

*As MLA for Thebacha,  
I am proud to be able to recognize  
your achievements.*

*I wish you all the best in the future,*




**J. Michael Miltenberger**  
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Valedictorian Megan Walsh embraces a well-wisher after receiving her high school diploma.



Graduate Brayden Phillips dances with his date, Rebecca Wiltzen.



Shannon Coleman is overwhelmed with flowers from wellwishers at the PWK high school graduation ceremony last week.

# Fun, flowers and finery featured at PWK High grad events



Graduate Jamie Schaefer receives the Phoenix School Outstanding Achievement Award, presented by Salt River First Nation chief Frieda Martselos and Phoenix School instructor Heather Villeneuve.



Northwest Territories commi...



Stephanie Mercredi receives her high school diploma from PWK principal Al Karasiuk.



Malinda Skippings and her father, George, at the graduation dance on Friday.



Dressed in their finery, graduates gather on stage for photos during the traditional Grand March held at the recreation centre Friday night.



Minister George Tuccaro congratulates Alexa Funk on her high school graduation.



Graduate Dominique Longpré hugs a fellow graduate.

Photos: Maria Church and Paul Bannister

# Megan Walsh delivers PWK valedictorian speech

*GOOD EVENING FELLOW GRADUATES, parents, teachers, dignitaries, and other welcomed guests. I would like to start by thanking all my classmates for nominating me for the wonderful honour of delivering this commencement speech.*

**I WAS SITTING AT MY HOUSE** trying to think about how I should start this speech and it made me think of a project we were given in English class this year. We were shown the movie *Dead Poets Society* and we were asked to write a commencement speech from the point of view of one of the main characters from the film. In this movie, Robin Williams plays John Keating, a new teacher at an all-boys academy. He educates his students in the most important lesson he knows: "Carpe Diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary." What John Keating meant was to live in the moment, and don't dwell on the past. Do whatever you can to make every day amazing and worth living for.

**IN ORDER FOR US TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE**, it is sometimes necessary to reflect on the past and what moments we shared. When I hear "Seize the Day" I think about making memories that count. I believe that the biggest thing that I will take from school is all the memories that were made in the past 12 years. From the beginning of our lives, we make memories and there are memories made about us. When we ask our parents about their memories

of us they will list of a string of about 100 things that made them laugh, smile or even cry: the day we took our first step, then the many days after that when they couldn't turn their backs on us. Spending that first year of our lives waiting for us to say our first words and then spending the next 17 years after that wishing we would just stop talking. Sending us off on our first day of school wondering how those five years went by so fast, and then blinking and all of a sudden watching us cross the stage today to get our diplomas. Looking around now I see many parents with tears in their eyes reminiscing in these memories, as well as my fellow graduates who are thinking about their own special moments.

**IN HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** there were many more experiences that stood out. How many of you remember playing silent ball in JBT? How about net ball? And then there was the huge excitement over when we were ever allowed to chew bubble gum in class? The anticipation of when they were going to put up the tetherballs in the summer on the playground. Or how about running down the hallways getting high-fives from the rest of the school



PWK valedictorian Megan Walsh accepts a bounty of praise in the convocation receiving line.

Photo: Paul Bannister

whenever we went on sports trips? Grade 6 grad, which really only feels like yesterday to me! Then there was high school, which came with even more memories. Walking through the hallways in packs to all our classes because we were too afraid to be separated. Starving in the 30 hour famine but not really noticing how hungry we really were because we were with friends. Pep rallies before the Lawrie Hobart Memorial Tournament every year. Debates in Social Studies, where it is acceptable to cut people off and yell at them in school. Cheering on our school every year in every single sport we play. And, of course, Clan Activities when the Road Runners always win! And to all you Phoenix grads, my best memory will be the fact that I am able to say that I walked across this stage with you wonderful people who showed us

that it is never too late to seize your day and reach your goals!

**WITHOUT THESE MEMORIES** our school years would be very boring and our class would not be as close as we are today. These experiences are what define us as people and the thought of what memories are to come is what pushes us to strive further in life. Next year I encourage all of you to seize your day, whether you are going off to post-secondary school, going travelling or staying back and bringing in the money. Live your lives like you will die tomorrow, make memories, follow your dreams and seize the day every chance you get! And as Ann Landers said, "Nobody gets to live life backward; look ahead. That is where your future lies."



# Wood Buffalo surveyors get an earful of rare owls

By MARIA CHURCH

It's a big year for rare owls in Wood Buffalo National Park.

For the fourth year in a row, volunteer owl surveyors led by Parks Canada staff combed the Wood Buffalo woods after dark to count hoots, and for the third year, an unusual owl was heard.

Only this time around, the nocturnal birders picked up the sounds of not one, but three non-native owls.

Sharon Irwin, the lead surveyor for Wood Buffalo, said the team heard the call of two barred owls and a northern saw-whet owl during the four-week survey.

According to Irwin, both species of owl are not normally found this far north, but over the years seem to have been expanding their range.

"The range map shows them further south, but we've heard them a few times before," she said.

The annual survey, which is split into two periods from Mar. 20 to Apr. 10 and Apr. 11 to May 5, has volunteer owlers tromping around eight to 11 routes and stopping every few kilometres to play pre-recorded owl



Surveyors found 12 great grey owls in an annual survey of Wood Buffalo National Park.

calls. The teams, usually in twos, would then strain their ears for the sound of a return hoot.

"It can be really fun, especially in the second period when the frogs are starting to sing and you might hear other birds," Irwin said.

This year's total owl count is down, but that's mainly due to the cold

spring that kept the owls quiet during the first period, she said.

"It was really cold and really windy, so the conditions were not very good for owling. They tell you not to go out if it's a lot colder than average. Some people did go out anyways and they either heard nothing or maybe one owl," Irwin said.

The colder temperatures were good news for a few new surveyors this year who joined the team from Fort Chipewyan. They were able to take on a new southern route during the first period while the ice road into Wood Buffalo was still open.

In total, 38 owls were counted in the park, comprised of 19 boreal owls, three great horned owls, 12 great grey



The northern saw-whet owl was one of several foreign owls heard.

owls, the three rare owls and one unknown owl.

While the data shows a decrease - last year there were 63 and the year before 49 - the survey style is not yet reliable enough to use for trend-setting purposes by the park's scientists, Irwin said.

"We depend on volunteers, and sometimes people are busy or sometimes people say they'll come out, but the weather

doesn't work out or timing doesn't work out. Compared to the last two years, we had fewer routes done," she said.

The data is not for nothing, though. The number of owls counted in Alberta is sent to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory near Edmonton for its annual Alberta Nocturnal Owl Survey, while the total count is sent by the observatory to a North American equivalent.

**Congratulations**  
**2014**  
**PWK Graduates!**

**A wish for the graduate:  
 Hope your future blooms  
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# Yellowknife's Dene Ko Day Shelter closes doors

## Health authority looking to reopen shelter in new location

By MARIA CHURCH

After a rocky 2014 spent balancing on the edge of closure, the Dene Ko Day Shelter in Yellowknife has officially shut its doors.

The Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA) announced two weeks ago the downtown day shelter would be closing for good on May 31.

Since it opened four and a half years ago, the day shelter was run by the John Howard Society until that organization relinquished the role in late March, forcing the health authority to look for a new contractor to run day services and thwart a scheduled demolition of the building.

In late March, weeks before scheduled closure, the NWT Disabilities Council took up the call and agreed to run the day shelter for another two months.

"We said we would be willing to step in and take it over because at that time it was still quite cold. We were saying, 'At least keep it open until the warmer weather,'" Denise McKee, executive



Photo: NWT Disabilities Council

A chess tournament is held at the Dene Ko Day Shelter in Yellowknife. The shelter, which was run for two months by the NWT Disabilities Council, is now closed.

director of the NWT Disabilities Council, told *The Journal* last week.

McKee said the authority was only able to secure a two-month extension with the

building's landlord. Demolition will still take place shortly after the council vacates.

### Running the shelter was a joy: Council

According to McKee, the council "enjoyed the time" running the day shelter and was happy to offer a range of services and activities to the visitors.

"We had a lot of support from the community. We had a hair cutting day, there was a chess tournament held, so we had lots of things that went on," McKee said.

"I think there was a new focus on (the shelter) that went away from that corrections, judicial kind of lens to a more health-related, disability lens," she said.

During the two months, the council employed a total of seven staff members and provided services to an average of 45 to 50 visitors a day. During peak times on holiday weekends, the day shelter would see 70 or 80 visitors daily.

"One of the things we did anticipate, and which was present the whole time, was that feeling of anxiety for the people accessing it, thinking 'What's going to happen after this?'" McKee said. "It

is warmer weather so we're not fighting 50 below temperatures, but they're just around the corner."

### Health authority plans to reopen by fall

According to Nathalie Nadeau, acting CEO with the YHSSA, the health authority has already committed a total budget of \$300,000 towards the city's day shelter for 2014-2015.

With meetings planned for June with the shelter's stakeholders, the goal is to reopen the shelter in a new location this fall, Nadeau said in an email.

McKee said the NWT Disabilities Council will be attending meetings to share stories and data collected during its time running the shelter.

"Hopefully everyone will be able to put their heads together and come up with a solution that's going to be long term and give the supports that people need," she said.

In the interim, overnight sheltering services are available for women at the Centre for Northern Families and for men at the Salvation Army.

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# Local boost for Behchoko health care services

By MARIA CHURCH

New Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) graduates from Behchoko are the integral part of a much-needed rejuvenation of the Behchoko ambulance services, according to the Tlicho Community Services Agency (TCSA).

Three new graduates were recently hired after undergoing EMR training in the community in partnership with the Tlicho Government and Stanton Territorial Hospital.

All eight of the graduates from the EMR training are local Tlicho community members. With the three new hires to the ambulance services, eight out of 10 of the first responders are now Tlicho.

Kevin Armstrong, TCSA's chief executive officer, told *The Journal* last week that the ambulance department at the Mary Adele Bishop Health Centre in Behchoko has struggled with retaining trained staff for years, with most being recruited from outside the community.

"We were really dependent on southern workers. Our local staff before was only trained to drive the ambulance and they couldn't attend patients,



Behchoko's EMS staff, from left: Lawrence Lafferty, Samantha Drybones, Tracey Debaie and Darin Daniels stand in front of their new ambulance.

so we had to keep recruiting from the south," he said.

Last year the Tlicho Government partnered with the TCSA and provided \$50,000 towards EMR training for local residents with Arctic Response Ltd.

"It seems like a no-brainer. To build up local capacity in the community has always been one of our goals," Armstrong said.

Some of the graduates were also trained in taking blood samples, lab work and chest x-rays, duties typically done by nurses at the health centre.

Dave Harnum, manager of the Behchoko ambulance department, said having the ambulance members take on small tasks at the health

centre goes a long way in taking stress off the nursing staff.

"Nurses have so many tasks they have to complete, so in the morning we basically do all the blood work so the nurses can focus on their programs," Harnum said.

Robert Simpson is one of the three new recruits to the ambulance service after

It seems like a no-brainer. To build up local capacity in the community has always been one of our goals.

*Kevin Armstrong  
Tlicho Community Services Agency*

taking the training course last year.

"I really enjoy it. I'm learning new things every day," Simpson said.

Born in Yellowknife and raised in Whati, Simpson has been living in Behchoko for the last 20 years and said the community, particularly the elders, are happy to see locals working for the health centre.

"It's really good that most of the ambulance crew are Dene. Most of them can talk in our language and help to translate for the elders. The elders really appreciate their own people working in the clinic," he said.

Simpson said he hopes more youth in the community are drawn to work for the health clinic or ambulance services in order to keep up the Tlicho language in the workforce.

## New, upgraded ambulance

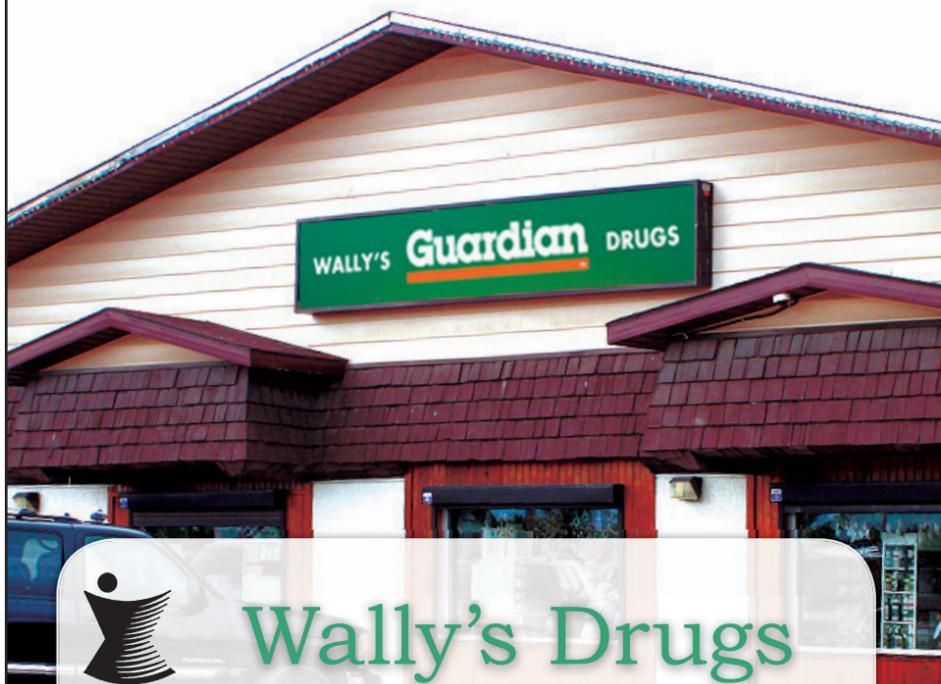
On top of the new recruits, the health centre also received a brand new ambulance, custom made for the challenges associated with serving a remote area.

In total, the Mary Adele Bishop Health Centre services around 2,000 residents in the Behchoko area as well as a large portion of Hwy. 3.

Harnum said the average call for first responders takes around four hours. The ambulance was custom built as a 4x4 with a larger fuel capacity and more head room.

"For us, we have a huge highway, we have all the ice roads and everything that we carry so we need to have a bigger unit to carry more equipment and make it more comfortable for the patient," he said.

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# NWT woman voted first Northern president of national medical lab organization

By MARIA CHURCH

A resident of the NWT has taken on the role of president of the Canadian Society of Medical Lab Science (CSMLS) as the first Northerner to hold the position.

Natalie Campbell, who moved to Fort Smith 15 years ago from Manitoba, was voted in as president late last year and has been heading the not-for-profit organization as part of her four-year term since January.

Campbell currently works at the Fort Smith Health and Social Services authority as the director of quality and risk management.

She started in the health centre as a medical laboratory technologist before taking on her current role in 2006.

In her new hat as president of CSMLS, a job held on top of her position with the authority, Campbell advocates for lab professionals across Canada and speaks on behalf of just under 15,000 members of the fourth largest health-care profession in Canada.

The organization's mandate covers certification for new medical laboratory



Photo: Maria Church

Natalie Campbell of Fort Smith is the first Northerner to be named president of the Canadian Society of Medical Lab Science.

technologists and assistants entering the field, research into qualification standards and advocacy for the membership, which includes internationally-educated technologists.

"It's quite an honour to represent the society," Campbell told *The Journal*.

Campbell said she has been involved with the organization for several years in volunteer, directorial and vice president capacities, so taking on the presidency has not been a huge change for her, but does mean more meetings and travel than usual.

### Loving the Northern life

The Fort Smith local said she was first drawn to the North when she moved with her husband for a placement in Churchill, Man. After three and a half years in northern Manitoba, the pair moved to Winnipeg, but it wasn't long

before they decided city life wasn't for them.

When the Fort Smith job opportunity came up for Campbell, she and her husband jumped on it.

"I'm a small town person. I grew up in a small town so I don't really enjoy the cities. I love the outdoors and I love the pace up here," Campbell said. "We took the opportunity to come back to the North and haven't looked back."

### Profession expecting shortages

According to Campbell, much of CSMLS's current focus is based on the prediction that Canada will soon be dealing with a massive shortage of skilled medical lab professionals.

"We're anticipating 42 per cent retirement in 10 years," she said. "It could be a pretty big wave."

One avenue to combat the shortage is through the integration of internationally-educated professionals by bridging their experience and qualifications to meet Canadian standards.

Another advocacy area the organization is pushing for is the inclusion of laboratory

technologists and assistants in the federal student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses.

"That will be incentive for us to recruit to places like Fort Smith if we had a shortage here," Campbell said.

Fort Smith has been fortunate in recruiting medical laboratory professionals over the past 15 years since Campbell has been working there, but other remote towns across Canada aren't always so fortunate and are starting to see shortages, she said.

"My message is that it's an excellent career to get into," Campbell said, "especially for people that are science focused. You learn a lot about health and physiology; it's not just pushing buttons on a machine.

"It's a great career beginning to end, but it's also a great stepping stone...you can work medically, you can work in research labs and you can work in veterinary medicine. You can choose to specialize or you can remain a generalist. You can advance to management or remain on the frontline," she said.

"The options are endless and future job prospects are good."

## Congratulations 2014 PWK Graduates!

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# Judges weigh Prose & Cons at Yk slam poetry night

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Yellowknife officially joins the nationwide network of slam poetry this week with the launch of its first regular spoken word competition night on Tuesday, June 3.

Taking place on the first and third Tuesday of each month, the new Prose & Cons slam poetry event hopes to draw out Yellowknife's closet poets and rowdy fans to create an energetic and interactive evening of stimulating spoken word.

"There's a poetry community in Yellowknife and, for me, I wanted it to be more visible," said Jacq Brass, a slam poet who is organizing the event along with friend and creative writing student Makenzie Zouboules.

Brass, who has been competing in slams in Regina where she goes to university, decided this summer to bring the action home to Yellowknife. Though the city has been lagging on the national front in terms of events, Brass said it's definitely not for lack of talent.

"Poetry is so great, and I know there's a lot of poets in Yellowknife and a lot of even just writers and people who are interested in writing and the literary arts, so I knew there



Slam poet Jacq Brass performs on stage at the Northwest Territories' Pride Festival in Yellowknife last summer.

Photo: James Mackenzie

were people here who were interested," she said.

Each event will allow for a minimum of five and a maximum of 10 competitors, whose poems will be marked on a scale of 1-10 by five audience judges during several rounds of performance throughout the night.

Audience members are encouraged to participate by showing their appreciation and taking part in some of the standard slam trends from across the

country, like the traditional "We want blood!" chant that kicks off the first poem of the night - which, in the slam scene, is read by "the sacrificial poet."

Having the audience members as judges and active participants keeps the event lively and fun, Brass said.

"The really cool thing about slam poetry...is it's made poetry really accessible, and that's the other cool thing about having audience members as judges:

you don't need to be an expert to be a judge, you just need to be able to communicate with people and hear what they have to say, and whatever you think of it is whatever you think of it."

Anyone can register to compete, either by contacting the organizers ahead of time or showing up early on the night of the slam. All poems must be under 3 minutes long and there's no requirement that they be memorized.

The slam night draws its inspiration from other spoken word events that have been held around the city, from the annual open mics at the Northwords writers' festival to the spoken word event organized by poet Batiste Foisy at the SnowCastle each winter.

Where the slam night differs is that it's a competition - one that can qualify individuals or teams to compete at the national level under Spoken

Word Canada (SpoCan) rules. "All that makes something a slam is that it's a competitive process," Brass said.

While content can range across the board, she said it's the more political pieces - the ones about racism, sexism, anti-violence, poverty and addictions - that drew Brass to the passionate medium.

"It's these people telling their stories or other people's stories through poetry and beautiful metaphors and really beautiful wordplay and creative use of imagery, and I just found that really unique," she said. "So often politics, that type of political mind and activism, seem really scary to people, but when you bring art into it, it makes people more passionate and wanting to get involved."

Prose & Cons will be held at the Trek Resto-Lounge on the third floor of the Days Inn. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00. Poets are advised to show up before 7:30 if they want to sign up.

Though it's open to all ages, Brass said she can't guarantee all of the content will be appropriate for children.

To sign up, email Brass at [jacqbrasseur@gmail.com](mailto:jacqbrasseur@gmail.com)

## Politics Municipal

# Helmets to be mandatory for Yellowknife youth

By JACK DANYLCHUK

In a move driven by public opinion, Yellowknife city councillors voted last week to make helmets mandatory for cyclists, skateboarders and scooter riders aged 18 years and younger.

"It's an idea whose time has come," said Bob Brooks, who told fellow councillors that a helmet law has been discussed in Yellowknife for 20 years, "but during the last election, I heard the topic raised at almost every door."

What sealed the deal for most councillors was an IP-SOS-Reid survey that found 84 per cent of more than 800 Yellowknifers polled favoured mandatory helmets for youth, while 64 per cent wanted helmets for all ages.

The survey also reported that mandatory helmet use is least popular in the 18 to 34 age group.

The only dissenting councillors were Niels Konge, who said the bylaw is a step toward turning Yellowknife into a "nanny state," and Cory Vanthuyne, who wanted an all-age bylaw.

"I believe in helmets, but



Verena Faber of Dominion Diamonds helps Hilary Kolback adjust her helmet straps at Yellowknife's annual bike rodeo.

Photo: Jack Danylchuk

not all the time; it's not the way to go about it," said Konge, who cited reports that ridership declines in jurisdictions where helmet use is made mandatory.

Konge pointed out that Holland and Denmark, two countries where cycling is most common, don't require helmets.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia have all-age legislation, while Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario have limited requirements. Quebec, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Yukon

are without helmet laws.

The bylaw is expected to receive third reading later this month and take effect July 1, but will include a six-month grace period before municipal enforcement officers start handing out tickets.

The maximum fine for non-compliance is \$25 levied against the parents of young scoot-laws.

"The intention is to be compliance driven rather than punitive," said Mayor Mark Heyck. "Municipal enforcement use it as a tool to help educate and encourage the use of helmets by youth."

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE 2014 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DUE MONDAY JUNE 30, 2014

Tax Notices were mailed to all property owners on Friday May 30, 2014. Payments are due **Monday June 30, 2014**.

A Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) is available for your convenience. You may find this an easy and cost-effective way of paying your annual tax bill.

If you have not received your **Property Tax Notice**, please contact the Taxation branch.

Information regarding your **Property Tax Notice** and the TIPP program are available on our website at [www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca) or by calling **780.743.7900** or toll free at **1.800.973.9663**.

**Payments are due June 30, 2014  
Regardless of circumstances**

[www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca)



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Photo: Dave Broshta

Aaron "Godson" Hernandez, a hip hop artist from Yellowknife, says his latest album *Aliens* is a testament to four years of growth since his last album.

Arts & Culture Music

# Hip hop artist releases album after four-year hiatus

By MARIA CHURCH

For Aaron "Godson" Hernandez, Yellowknife's biggest name in hip hop, his latest album is a testament not only

to his own growth, but the growth of music in the NWT.

Hernandez recently held a release party in Yellowknife for his 11th album, *Aliens*,

and a brand-new music video after taking a four-year break from recording.

A total of 10 songs make up the latest Godson CD

and while the tunes resonate with the familiar rap of the hip hop artist, this CD was about exploring new sounds, Hernandez said.

"When you listen to the album, it's all over the place. I wasn't afraid to cross genres or try different styles," the artist shared with *The Journal* last week.

One of the songs, called *Stand as One*, was written featuring the vocals and influence of Grey Gritt, Yellowknife's award-winning soul and blues artist.

Released in time with the album, the artist's music video for the single *Friday Night*, featuring Jessa Garcia, has been uploaded to YouTube and viewed more than 1,700 times already.

The video was shot in various locations across Yellowknife by videographer Andrew Silke and depicts scenarios that play out the popular internet meme, "What society thinks I do."

When asked who's in it, Hernandez responded with, "who's not?"

## Hip hop growing in Yellowknife

Hernandez laughed when he recollected his early years championing underground hip hop in Yellowknife.

"The hip hop scene compared to 10 years ago has grown year by year. I'm always discovering new rappers coming up and asking for tips and looking for some sense of direction. It's nice to not be the only one anymore," he said with a chuckle.

The seasoned rapper, who got his start in his senior year of high school in Yellowknife, has been writing and producing music for around 15 years now. His previous album, *The Resurrection*, was released in 2010 and has a whopping 19 tracks.

"It was awesome to get out and meet the kids in the different communities," Hernandez said about the workshops.

During his time off, the hip hop artist also embraced fatherhood.

"I have two kids now so that's definitely been part of the reason why I took a break. It's been about spending time with the family. Doing recording takes up a lot of time, so I realistically couldn't wrap my head around it. Different priorities now," he said.

As a result, Hernandez said his latest music reflects

When you listen to the album, it's all over the place. I wasn't afraid to cross genres or try different styles.

Aaron "Godson" Hernandez

While the four-year hiatus was necessary to "take a step back and live life," Hernandez was far from idle during that time.

For two years, Hernandez led youth video workshops for My Voice, My Choice, a campaign of the department of Health and Social Services that encourages youth to express themselves on the pressures of drugs and alcohol.

that life experience and growth.

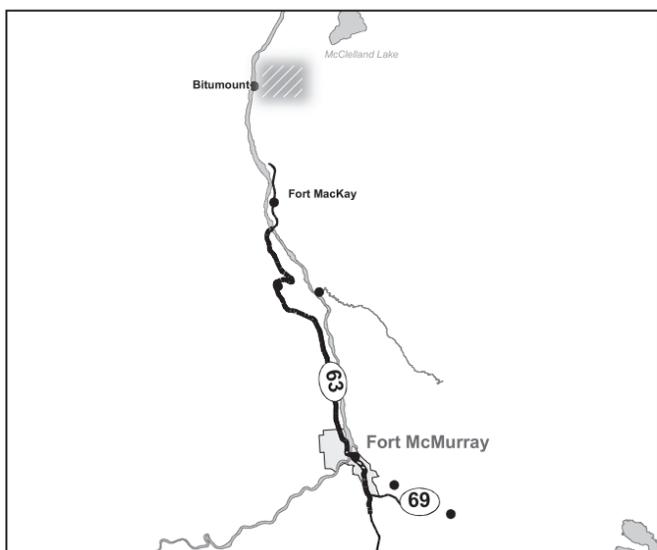
"In this album, I'm not afraid to get a little personal," he said. "It's more real for me. I think with every album I put out I always learn something. It's always a progression and I feel this is my best recording to date."

Check out Godson's latest CD and music video on his website, found at <http://www.thegodson.com/>

## Notification of AESO Regulatory Filing Addressing the Need for the New Secord 2005S Substation in the Fort McMurray Area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file a Needs Identification Document (NID) for the Secord 2005S substation with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after June 20, 2014.

Fort Hills Energy Corporation (FHEC) has requested system access service for its proposed Fort Hills oilsands operation in the Fort McMurray area. FHEC's request can be addressed by developing a new substation, to be called Secord 2005S, which will be connected to the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L32. The transmission line 9L32 will be modified by adding two new short line sections and decommissioning a small section of the line to facilitate connection.



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

The AESO first notified stakeholders, including occupants, residents, and landowners, about the need for this transmission development in January 2014. Stakeholder feedback has been considered and the AESO is preparing to file its NID application with the AUC. Once filed, the NID will be posted on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/30056.html>

Please visit our website, [www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca) for more information, or contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or [stakeholder.relations@aesocanada.com](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aesocanada.com)



## 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](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca/legislation)

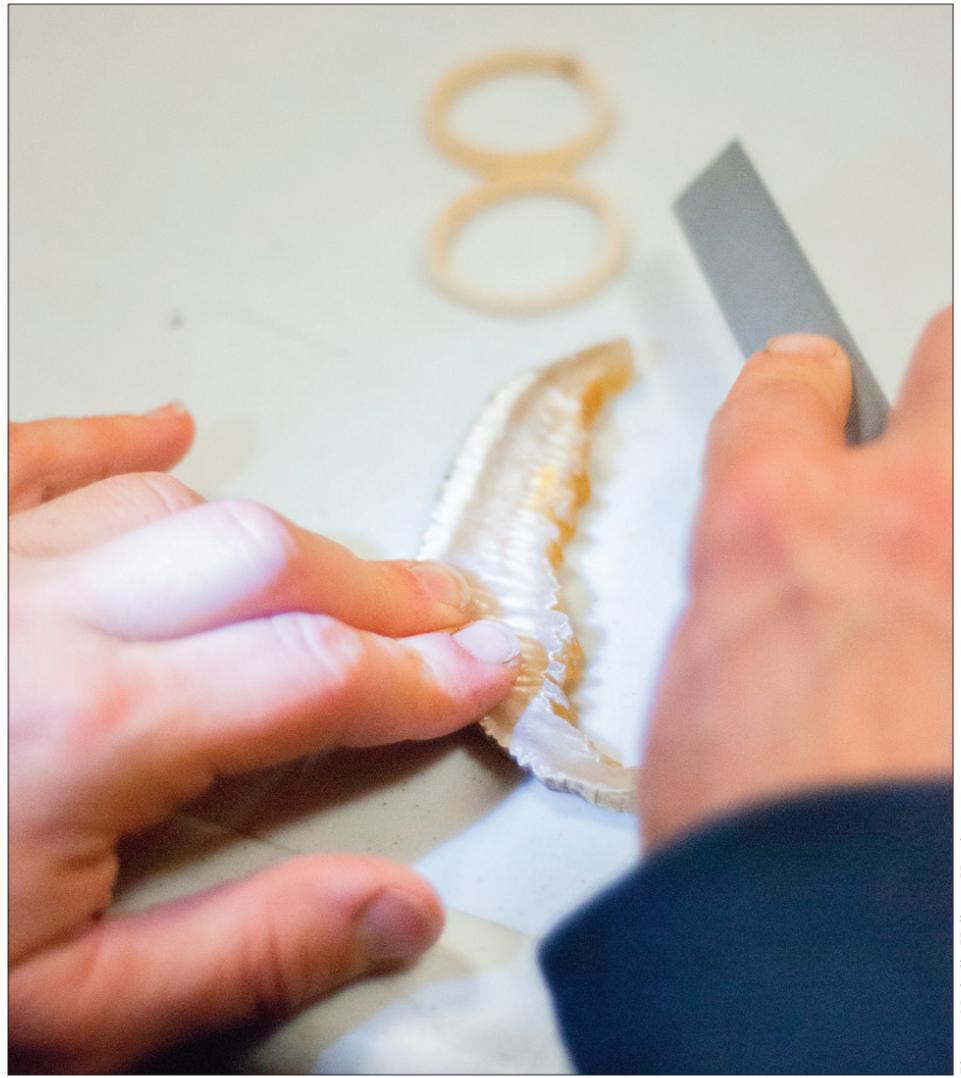




Tiffany Dwyer, Janet Boxwell, Doris Marshall, Jamie Look, Nataka Melmycky and Jennifer Rafferty show off their completed muskox horn jewellery pieces at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre in Inuvik.



The jewellers were able to work with various shapes and sizes of muskox horn.



The jewellery workshop in Inuvik on June 1 was the last of five regional workshops sponsored by the GNWT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

**Arts & Culture Jewellery**

# Carvers turn natural materials into wearable designs

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Aspiring artists got to coax muskox horns into jewellery last weekend under the watchful eye of Northern artist Jamie Look.

The one-day jewellery making course in Inuvik was part of a territory-wide initiative, sponsored by the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), to encourage the development of NWT-based products.

It was the fifth and final regional workshop, following courses in Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife.

"I think that I've opened a lot of people's eyes to the beauty of muskox horn," said Look. "Its beautiful colouring; its organic shapes; its versatility as a working material."

Look first began working with muskox horn in 2009 after Fort Smith carver Sonny MacDonald sent her a box of "bits and pieces" of everything he had worked with, from balaen and mammoth ivory to bison and muskox horn.

"That's all thanks to Sonny MacDonald giving me that gift, that gift of natural materials," she said.

Look is based out of Ottawa but, as a third generation Northerner, said it's important for her to delve into traditional materials.

"My family has been in the North for almost 100 years, and I come from a family of craftspeople, mechanics, hunters and trappers and farmers, people who live very close with nature," she said.

"My desire to represent natural materials from my home environment is most definitely important to me as an artist."

Look has a formal education in fashion design and started jewellery making 10 years ago.

"I needed to put my creative energy into something that was more potent to me, more timeless," she said.

She returned to the North and spent a year in Karen Wright-Fraser's studio, learning traditional arts.

Following her time there, she moved into a studio of carvers.

"I love carving. It's an endless fascination and it's very inspiring art."

Look helped her five students in Inuvik carve

earrings and necklaces from muskox horn and said seeing their faces light up when they complete their work is her favourite part of teaching.

"When you're carving, you'll face a lot of moments,"

she said. "It will get frustrating and you'll want to give up."

The advice she gave to students, which she said was the most helpful advice she ever received, was "Don't let it beat you."

# Congratulations!



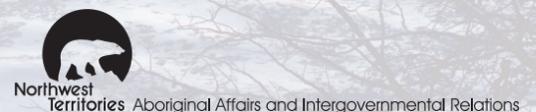
*Robert R. McLeod*

Robert R. McLeod  
Premier of the  
Northwest Territories

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Inuvialuit celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. As the first comprehensive land claim agreement settled in the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement represented a commitment by all parties to a brighter future, one based on the recognition of Aboriginal rights and the aspirations of the Inuvialuit people.

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement was the first step to self-sufficiency and gave the Inuvialuit greater ability to control their future. It enabled the Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in decisions affecting land, water and wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Congratulations to the Inuvialuit people on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement!



# COMMUNITY TRADING POST

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or fax it to 872-2754  
or call 872-3000 ext. 26

**FOR SALE: FIREWOOD.** Custom cut sizes - split green, dry, bagged. Wood Gasification/Outdoor wood boilers. Delivery from Fort Smith to Hay River & Yellowknife. Contact Dave at (867) 872-3435 or cell 872-0229 or email [dhehn@northwestel.net](mailto:dhehn@northwestel.net). (UFN)

For sale: 1998 Nissan Pathfinder Chilkoot Trail 4x4. Good condition. 5000 km on new tires. Well maintained. Touch-screen stereo with built-in Sirius Radio. Power locks, windows, steering, brakes. 5-speed manual transmission. Reasonable offers considered. Call 872-3366.

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### Auctions

**UNRESERVED PUBLIC FARM & Horse Ritchie Bros Auction.** June 7, 2104 at Teepee Creek, Alberta for North Fork Farms. Featuring 2008 Charnac 8' X 37' 3 horse angle c/w living quarters, tack room. Hardwood, bathroom Onan 3600 gen set, slide-out, roof storage, loaded. One way C-Cans 8', 15' & 20'; 12' X 20' one car garage, 12' X 19' cabin. 2008 Honda 680 quad, 2007 Redneck 800 side X side. Over 60 free standing panels many

with gates. Bobcat T250 & JD 250 skidsteers - 6way dozer blade, new sweeper, buckets, pallet forks, pallet forks extensions & bale forks all to fit skidsteers. 2008 GMC 3500 Dually & 2003 Dodge 3500 both rigged to pull. Horses 2 teams, 3 saddle horses & 1 reg. foundation Quarter Horse Stallion (Grullo colour) all demo the day of sale. Mega new horse equipment featuring new 16" Billy Cook Pro Roping Saddle, quality harness sold right off of teams, new collars, eveners, neck yoke. 3 Bobsleighs one new and original, 6 horse wagons - 2 horse trailer. For complete list of details & photos visit: [rbauctions.com](http://rbauctions.com). Phone owner, George James 780-831-0089 or Mike Slon, Territory Manager 780-518-6249.

**NEED TO ADVERTISE?** Province wide classifieds. Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only \$269. + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details or call 1-800-282-6903 ext. 228.

**MEIER GUN AUCTION.** Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m., 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns - Handguns, rifles, shotguns, hunting and sporting equipment. To consign call 780-440-1860.

**AUCTION SALE.** Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. Welding & heavy duty mechanic tools/equipment. Acreage equipment. SW of Stony Plain, Alberta. Details: [www.spectrmauctioneering.com](http://www.spectrmauctioneering.com). 780-960-3370 / 780-903-9393.

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE AUCTION.** June 7, Namao Elementary School, 10 a.m. Car models, Coca-Cola, vintage soda shop/ice cream parlor, antique/vintage tools, furniture, much more. Details: [www.spectrmauctioneering.com](http://www.spectrmauctioneering.com). 780-903-9393.

**UNRESERVED AUCTION SALE - Leroy Rasmussen Estate.** Friday, June 13 at 10 a.m., Nanton, Alberta. Tractors & shop equipment; [www.theauctioncompany.ca](http://www.theauctioncompany.ca).

**AUCTION SALE.** Wednesday, June 18, 5:30 p.m. Acreage North of Onoway. Toyota RAV4, 2 western saddles/tack, Massey 44, Yamaha 350 quad, more. Details: [www.spectrmauctioneering.com](http://www.spectrmauctioneering.com).

eering.com. Call 780-960-3370 / 780-903-9393.

**UNRESERVED AUCTIONS.** June 11, Onoway - Waldowski, 780-967-5603; 2-JD 2010's, JD 60, M & AR Tractors. June 12, Kitscoty - Weirs, 780-846-2487; Inland 2000 bale picker; Enrossi 12 wheel rake; NH 660; NH 499; JD 77221 P. type; Case 2390 & 2090; grain bins & more. June 14, Athabasca - Johnson, 780-689-6205; Scat Trac 1500 skidsteer; Wilson stock trailer; Case 2390; 2004 Duramax; NH499; Case 8460; JD 9350 H.drills; 1998 20' Marathon jet boat; 2009-3 pontoon 24' Crestliner boat; guns, Skidoo's, quads. June 21 & 22, Redwater, 780-446-9555; 3-2012 JD 568's 2-956 Moco's; F. King 2450 bale picker; yard will be full. June 22, Redwater - Antiques, Collector Tractors & Vehicles; 1970 & 72 SS Chevelles; 1974 GTX; 2008 Viper; 1951 Merc.; clear vision pumps, windmills, huge amount. View online: [www.prodaniukauctions.com](http://www.prodaniukauctions.com).

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### Career Training

**MEDICAL BILLING Trainees needed!** Learn to process & submit billing claims for hospitals and doctors! No experience needed! Local training gets you ready to work! 1-888-627-0297.

### Coming Events

**7TH CALGARY ANTIQUE SHOW & Sale.** June 7 & 8. Sat. 10 - 5:30 and Sun. 10 - 4. Garrison Curling Rink, 2288 - 47 Ave. SW. Over 50 vendors. Free parking! Carswell's 403-343-1614.

### Employment Opportunities

**HD LICENSED TECHNICIAN** for several Alberta areas. Must

have or willing to obtain CVIP licence. Please email or fax applications to: Carillion Canada Inc.; [dlefsrud@carillionalberta.ca](mailto:dlefsrud@carillionalberta.ca). Fax 780-336-2461.

**AN ALBERTA OILFIELD** company is hiring experienced dozer and excavator operators, meals and lodging provided. Drug testing required. 780-723-5051.

**FREIGHTLAND CARRIERS,** a tri-axle air ride flatdeck carrier is looking for Owner/Operators to run Alberta only or 4 Western Provinces. Average gross \$18 - 25,000/month. 1-800-917-9021. Email: [ed@freightland.ca](mailto:ed@freightland.ca).

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**SEEKING A CAREER** in the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: [awna.com/job-seekers](http://awna.com/job-seekers).

**LOOKING FOR COMBOVAC** and Hydrovac Operators for Whitecourt, Alberta area. Competitive wages and benefits immediately. Resume to Laurier Laprise at [laurier.l@ironwing.ca](mailto:laurier.l@ironwing.ca) or fax 780-396-0078.

**RELIABLE SHOP/YARD worker** needed. Must have knowledge in small and heavy equipment. Lifting is required, drivers licence. Send resume to: [eastendrentals@mcsnet.ca](mailto:eastendrentals@mcsnet.ca). St. Paul, Alberta.

**PCL ENERGY.** Now hiring Journeyman Pipefitters (\$40+/hour) and Scaffolders (\$38+/hour) for an industrial project in Vascoy, SK. LOA of \$145/day worked, travel and bonuses paid! We offer competitive wages and benefits. Send resume to: [pclenergyjobs@pcl.com](mailto:pclenergyjobs@pcl.com).

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### Feed and Seed

**FEED BARLEY.** Paskal Cattle Company in Picture Butte area is looking for Feed Barley. Put more \$ in your pocket. Sell direct to us. Please call Main Office for details. 403-732-5641.

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668-5422; [www.pioneersteel.ca](http://www.pioneersteel.ca).

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### Real Estate

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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, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> 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  
[www.contractregistry.nt.ca](http://www.contractregistry.nt.ca)



## Request for Proposals Stanton Hospital - Extended Care Flooring (2014) CT101403 - Yellowknife, NT -

Replace estimated 750 m<sup>2</sup> of carpet with resilient flooring. Infection Control is observed for this project.

Tender documents available electronically from NWT Construction Association (867) 873-3949.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 20, 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.

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

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

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



## 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, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.contractregistry.nt.ca)



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or visit this community newspaper

## BALANCE Life. EXPERIENCE Living.



## Come work with us! Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Job opportunities

The GNWT is responsible for providing programs and services to 44,000 residents across 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. This requires a large and diverse group of employees dedicated to, and representative of, the public we serve.

The GNWT offers a variety of benefits that help our employees manage their work/life balance. Our generous compensation package includes salary, pension, annual leave and other benefits.

**If you are interested in working for the GNWT, consider applying by viewing current opportunities at [www.gnwtjobs.ca](http://www.gnwtjobs.ca).**

Don't forget to join our talent community to receive automated job alerts so you don't miss out on our exciting career opportunities!



**GNWTJOBS.CA**



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GOOD JOB?

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The Northern Journal is looking for a newspaper advertising sales person. You would be part of a team in a positive work environment. The Journal is dedicated to telling the important stories of the people of the North and you would be a part of that. You must be outgoing and good with people. You should have at least a high school diploma. You should be mature, capable and organized. Experience would be an asset but training is offered.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience. Salary range is from \$35,000 – \$65,000 per annum DOE. Additional commission would be considered for someone experienced. A benefits package is offered.

E-mail your resume with references to [don@norj.ca](mailto:don@norj.ca) or apply in person with resume to:



207 McDougal Rd., Fort Smith, NT

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

### Request for Proposals Executive Project Director, Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project SC440825

– Yellowknife, NT –

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is requesting proposals for the purpose of establishing a contract for the services of an experienced Executive Project Director for the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project. The Executive Project Director will be the single point of contact for the GNWT and will manage and coordinate services for the successful delivery of the project.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 24, 2014.**

Contractors may obtain proposal documents from the following:

**General inquiries to:** Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services  
Government of the NWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230  
Fax: (867) 920-4112  
E-mail: [psstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:psstenders@gov.nt.ca)

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

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



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

### Request for Proposals Retail Liquor Store SC794872

– Norman Wells, NT –

The Northwest Territories Liquor Commission (NWTLC) is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or businesses for the provision and operation of a liquor store in Norman Wells, NT.

Sealed proposals can be addressed to any of the following locations: Contracts Administrator, Procurement Shared Services, GNWT, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9; Contracts Administrator, Procurement Shared Services Inuvik, Bag Service # 1, Inuvik, NT (Delivered to 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor GNWT Building, 106 Veterans Way, Inuvik X0E 0T0) must be received prior to:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JULY 4, 2014.**

Interested proponents may obtain proposal documents from the Yellowknife office and the contact below as of May 27, 2014:

**General inquiries to:**  
Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services, GNWT  
Phone: (867) 873-7230  
Government of the NWT  
Email: [psstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:psstenders@gov.nt.ca)

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

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

### Looking for a Career and want to play Hockey. This may be your opportunity

AGI Envirotank has long term openings for welders, painters, drafters, construction, metal fabricators, warehouse, professional sales or administration positions. Willing to train or apprentice.

- We are interested in anyone interested in joining the senior hockey team in Biggar.
- AGI is a leading manufacturer of above ground storage tanks used in every major industry including oil, gas, mining transportation, construction and waste management.
- We are interested in any players, coaches, managers or other supporting officers for the senior hockey club.

Requirements: • must reside in the area or willing to relocate  
• must qualify for senior hockey team  
• must be motivated, self starters looking for long term employment

Interested candidates should submit resumes in confidence to [kkernohan@enviro tank.com](mailto:kkernohan@enviro tank.com) or contact Ken Kernohan directly at 1-306-948-5262

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### DIESEL MECHANIC Inuvik, NT

NTPC is a fully integrated utility that distributes electricity to the end use customer in 27 communities within the Northwest Territories. Inuvik has a population of 3200+ people and is situated on the bank of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest corner of the NWT.

Servicing the Beaufort-Delta area, based out of Inuvik, you will perform journeyman level mechanical work on diesel and natural gas generators, LNG facilities, and associated support equipment including pumps, compressors, radiators, heat exchangers, lubricating oil systems, fuel oil systems and cooling systems in the Delta-Beaufort. Note: Travel to remote communities is required.

**Qualifications:** Journeyman Diesel Mechanic and several years' related experience on large stationary diesel and/or gas engines, preferably in a utility. Experience with natural gas engines is an asset. Class 5 Driver's license is required. Ability to interpret drawings, diagrams, and specifications of a variety of types of mechanical equipment, including manufacturer's manuals and parts books is also required.

**Salary Range:** Salary range is \$40.11 to \$48.75 per hour. We offer an accommodation allowance of \$4,200 and location allowance of \$11,558 per annum. We offer a comprehensive benefits package including defined benefit pension plan and relocation assistance. Qualified candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume quoting Competition: 14-NK-14, Attention: Human Resources, Northwest Territories Power Corporation, 4 Capital Drive, Hay River NT X0E 1G2; fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: [careers@ntpc.com](mailto:careers@ntpc.com)

**Closing date:** Open until suitable candidate found.

*Affirmative Action Employer - Candidates must clearly identify eligibility status in order to receive priority consideration. We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*

## REQUEST FOR TENDER

### FORT SMITH HOUSING AUTHORITY INVITATION TO TENDER

- Project #2014-04** – Foundation Repairs – 1 Unit
- Project #2014-05** – Roof Covering Replacement (Shingles) – Sunset Chalet
- Project #2014-06** – Roof Covering Replacement (Metal) 2 Units
- Project #2014-07** – Roof Covering Replacement (metal)/Wh. Chair Ramp 1 Unit
- Project #2014-08** – Roof Covering Replacement (Shingles) 1 Duplex
- Project #2014-09** – Interior Retrofit 1 Unit
- Project #2014-10** – Interior/Exterior Retrofit 1 Unit

Sealed tenders for the above projects will be accepted at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT until June 20, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.

Tender documents are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins  
Maintenance Foreman  
Telephone: (867)872-2311  
Fax: (867)872-4083

*Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.*

*The Business Incentive Policy of the GNWT shall be in effect for all the above projects. Local, for these projects refers to the community of Fort Smith.*

# Hockey dad to co-coach reality show *Hit The Ice*

## Greg Hopf promises to bring a Northern flair to the show

By MARIA CHURCH

When Greg Hopf found out he would be co-coaching the next season of the reality TV show *Hit The Ice*, he was literally “jumping up and down” with excitement.

“It’s a huge thrill and it’s a huge honour. I’m so ecstatic,” he shared with *The Journal* last Thursday, just days after hearing the news.

Hopf, a member of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and executive director of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the NWT, said he is first and foremost a hockey dad.

For six years, Hopf has been coaching his son’s and daughter’s hockey teams as well as territorial teams that attend the annual National Aboriginal Hockey Championships tournament.

Over the years, Hopf’s coaching style drew attention from ex-NHLer John Chabot, who happens to be the head coach for the Aboriginal People’s Television Network’s (APTN) popular reality show, *Hit The Ice*.

Currently in its second season, the TV show follows Aboriginal hockey hopefuls as they take on an NHL-style training camp.



Photo courtesy of Greg Hopf

Greg Hopf, right, coaches the AAA NWT North Stars hockey team in Kelowna in 2003. Hopf has been selected to co-coach on season 3 of APTN’s *Hit The Ice*.

The goal of the show is to groom the players for a final exhibition game in front of scouts from hockey leagues and post-secondary institutions across Canada.

“John’s no stranger to the North; he’s been up here a few times. He saw me last year, he saw how I was with the kids, my coaching and my style, (and) he said ‘I really like what you do with

the program and I really like your coaching style...I really want you to apply for next season’s coaching,’” Hopf said.

Not expecting to be successful, but a fan of the show, Hopf applied in February and found out last week he was selected among applicants from across the country.

He and one other selected coach will be Chabot’s

assistants for season three of the show, which begins filming in Montreal at the end of July.

For the NWT coach, being filmed during ice time won’t likely affect his coaching, but being on camera outside of the arena will be an “adjustment,” he said.

Hopf said he’s proud to be a part of the APTN show, which is giving young Aboriginal

I’m going to bring a lot of things from the North down to the show: my ideas, my systems, my cultures, my traditions and my philosophies, because that’s what I have to offer. I really believe that is why he picked me.

*Greg Hopf*

athletes, especially those in the North, a fighting chance in the world of professional hockey.

In season two of *Hit The Ice*, two of the hockey players on the roster, Jaden Beck and Carter Hill, are from the Northwest Territories.

“I really think our Northern kids can benefit the most from this show. If you’re a hockey player in the North and you want to get to the next level and play junior or play semi-pro, you have to leave the North at 13, 14 or 15 years old to get on these elite teams,” he said.

“When they do get on these teams, they have to work twice as hard because they are taking spots away from those athletes from the community.”

### Hopf will bring Northern style

As the first coach from the North on the show, Hopf said he’s not going to shy away from sharing his unique, Northern style on and off the ice.

“I’m going to bring a lot of things from the North down to the show: my ideas, my systems, my cultures, my traditions and my philosophies, because that’s what I have to offer. I really believe that is why he picked me,” Hopf said.

To watch season one and season two of *Hit The Ice*, which is wrapping up its final episodes now, go online to <http://www.hittheice.tv/index.php> or to <http://aptn.ca/hittheice/>

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# Doing what's best for our children.

Alberta's students are among the best in the world. To keep it that way, quality teaching is critical. Our teachers are dealing with significant challenges like new technology and curriculum, diverse student needs – and too many young teachers are leaving the profession. At the same time, Albertans want more accountability for what students are accomplishing in school.

**'Doing what's best for our children.'** That was the direction I gave last year when I formed the independent blue-ribbon Task Force on Teaching Excellence. This dedicated group of educators, school leaders, educational consultants and community leaders used their combined knowledge and experience to make recommendations to achieve continuous improvement in teaching excellence.

## Task Force membership includes:

- **Chair Dr. Glenn Feltham** – President and CEO of NAIT with an extensive academic and professional background
- **Vice Chair Sandra Jansen** – Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety, MLA for Calgary-North West
- **Naresh Bhardwaj** – Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities, MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie and former teacher
- **David Dorward** – MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar, Chartered Accountant and Certified Management Accountant
- **David Fraser** – Executive Director of Corporate Services with Edmonton Public Schools with more than 30 years of human resources experience
- **Dr. Sharon Friesen** – Vice Dean and Associate Dean of Professional and Community Engagement in the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary, recipient of a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence
- **Dr. Irene Lewis** – a former teacher and the President Emeritus of SAIT Polytechnic, named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women 2010/2012
- **Dr. Craig Loewen** – Dean of Education at the University of Lethbridge, recipient of ATA's Educational Research Award
- **Mackenzie Martin** – a University of Alberta education student, former representative on the Alberta Education Minister's Student Advisory Committee, recipient of the TD scholarship for Community Leadership
- **Everett McDonald** – MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky, former reeve, former trustee
- **Brent McDonough** – former teacher serving as an advisor to the Masters in Educational Studies Program at the University of Alberta, co-chair of Inspiring Education Steering Committee, former chair Edmonton Public Library, former member U of A Senate
- **Michele Mulder** – Executive Director of the Alberta School Councils Association, former president of the Alberta School Boards Association
- **Andy Neigel** – President and CEO of Careers: The Next Generation, has taught at NAIT and the University of Alberta
- **Shelley Ralston** – National Director of Talent and Culture for a Fortune 500 company, Chair of the Red Deer College Board of Directors, recipient of the Women of Excellence Award 2008
- **Laurie Thompson** – a current teacher and ATA member, principal at Kikino School – recognized as one of the top 25 Schools in Canada in Today's Parent magazine
- **Ron Young** – a current teacher, principal and ATA member with more than 30 years of experience

## After hearing from 3,000 Albertans, their report is in. Some of their recommendations include:

- Increasing the time available to teachers for preparation and collaboration
- Internships and reduced workload for first year teachers
- Adopting a formal mentorship program to provide more support for beginner teachers, as well as new school and district leaders
- Improving evaluation process for teachers and the professional growth plan process
- Requiring teachers to maintain certification, with evaluations conducted – with the purpose of demonstrating professional growth and continual evidence of performance – every five years
- Increasing access teachers have to technology and specialized supports and services
- Requiring new school leaders to complete a leadership program
- At education faculties, increasing the amount of current practicum requirements to provide student teachers with more classroom experience before they graduate
- Requiring post-secondary institutions to look beyond grades to suitability when admitting education faculty applicants
- Increasing transparency and effectiveness of process for complaints of teacher competence or unprofessional conduct – the Task Force report does not recommend splitting the ATA into a college and a union, it prefers the government to work with the ATA to resolve the current issues
- Increasing empowerment for principals to deal with teachers that need to improve their skills – the Task Force report does not recommend removing principals from the ATA, it prefers the government to work with the ATA to resolve the current issues

Your government won't make any decisions without hearing from parents, teachers and everyone who cares about our children's education. It's your turn to have a say.

**Provide your feedback by June 15, 2014 at [education.alberta.ca/TeachingExcellence](http://education.alberta.ca/TeachingExcellence)**



Jeff Johnson  
Minister of Education



Alberta  
Government