



**CKLB radio looking at possible shut down**  
A lack of federal funding has the NWT's only indigenous radio station, CKLB radio, facing possible closure by the end of July. *See page 2.*



**Hundreds expected for Dene meet in Fort Smith**  
Close to 1000 delegates from across the NWT are expected to descend upon Fort Smith next week for the Dene National Assembly. *See page 8.*



**Northwords celebrates authors in Yk, Fort Smith**  
"Brave New North" was this year's theme for the ninth annual Northwords festival held last weekend in Yellowknife and Fort Smith. *See page 17.*



**German begins 3,500-km trip by canoe and foot**  
Marco Marder, is attempting to canoe 2,700 km from Fort McMurray to Inuvik, then hike another 800 km to Dawson, Yukon. *See page 21.*

# NORTHERN Journal

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Abel Tingmiak, one of the original members of the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers, marks the 30th anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement with a celebratory dance during Inuvialuit Day in Inuvik last Thursday, June 5. *See page 12 for the story and more photos.*

Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

## Feds support postponed NWT election

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
The Conservative government has promised to advance legislation allowing the NWT government to postpone its 2015 election, extending the terms of MLAs in the 17th Legislative Assembly by up to one year.  
"The Northwest Territories should have the tools which are available to other provinces and territories to avoid the likely conflict of timing of your Territorial election and the next Canadian general election," Prime Minister Stephen Harper told NWT Premier Bob McLeod in a letter dated May 16, which was tabled in the house last week.

"Therefore, with legislation recently adopted by Manitoba and Saskatchewan in mind, our government will propose to Parliament

The territorial government requested it be given the power to change its election date last March following a heated debate in the legislature that saw

Groenewegen and Minister Michael Miltenberger, was based on the premise that concurrent territorial, municipal and federal elections within

Though the original motion requested the power to extend MLA terms by a year, it was later changed in the house to read up to one year.  
A five-year term was predicated in the Devolution Bill, which received Royal Assent last March, but that extension was not supposed to apply to the current assembly.  
The change requires the federal government to amend the Northwest Territories Act. Currently all other jurisdictions in Canada have the right to extend their terms without federal approval.  
*See Terms on page 3.*

The Northwest Territories should have the tools which are available to other provinces and territories to avoid the likely conflict of timing of your Territorial election and the next Canadian general election.

*Prime Minister Stephen Harper*

legislation that will permit a postponement of the upcoming Territorial election," the letter stated.

MLAs split 11-7 on the intent to extend their four-year term. The motion, put forward by Hay River South MLA Jane

the month of October 2015 would create a host of logistical issues for voters, candidates and elections staff alike.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Yellowknife construction owner facing community service

The owner of YK Construction is facing a fine and community service after pleading guilty to a charge under the NWT Safety Act that led to a worker sustaining serious injury at a worksite in Yellowknife. Dennis Tung pled guilty to one charge of failing to ensure safe practices and procedures were followed while one of his workers was attempting to cut a fuel drum to size in August 2012. The worker suffered serious burns after the fuel drum exploded when he was cutting into it with a power tool. Tung was fined \$15,000 and sentenced to seven months of probation and community service.

### New CEO for Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority

A new face will join the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority (DHSSA) as chief executive officer this fall. Jim Antoine, public administrator for the DHSSA, announced on May 28 that Donna Allen will be leaving her current role as director of Territorial Health Services to take on the CEO position for the authority in September. Allen's resumé includes jobs as a nurse, manager of home care for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority, vice president of operations for the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and managerial positions with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority.

### Highway 63 construction back in full swing this summer

With summer working conditions well on their way, the \$1-billion Hwy. 63 twinning project from Hwy. 55 to Fort McMurray is kicking into high gear. The department of Transportation is warning motorists to take caution when driving in the construction zone, which is currently a 173-km stretch between Grassland and Fort McMurray. Around 650 workers and 470 pieces of equipment are expected to be out during the summer construction season. Highway construction is currently on schedule, according to the latest update from the department. By fall 2015, 70 per cent of the 240-kilometre corridor will be complete and open to traffic.



Photo: Lesley Johnson

CKLB, the NWT's only indigenous radio station, is facing possible shut down due to lack of federal funding.

#### Northerners Radio

## CKLB radio on brink of shut down

### Lack of federal funding could see station 101.9 FM off the air by July

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT's only indigenous radio station could pull the plug before summer's end if the federal government doesn't come through with funding it needs to keep programming afloat.

CKLB Radio, which operates under the Native Communications Society (NCS), is coming to the end of its financial rope and praying that the funding it was supposed to receive months ago from

Canadian Heritage arrives in time before staff lose their jobs and the signature dial of 101.9 FM, typically booming with the voices of the North, goes silent.

"As for the immediate future, I think we probably have enough money in the bank to pay our staff maybe up until the end of July," said radio program director Deneze Nakehk'o. "It's pretty tough."

Nakehk'o said the last funding CKLB received from the federal government was in January. Additional funding, which comes in quarterly installments, was expected before the end of the fiscal year, but never came. And despite filing the necessary quarterly reports, there has still been no word from Canadian Heritage as to if, when or how much funding is coming.

"We're really behind. That handcuffs us for a lot of things," Nakehk'o said.

This is not the first time CKLB has come dangerously close to calling it quits. The station shut down for a week over Christmas in 2012 after failing to receive around \$80,000 in funding from the tail-end of the 2011 fiscal year. Nakehk'o attributes the problem to bureaucracy in Ottawa.

"We have a program that's being operated in another part of the country, and I don't believe any of those people working in Canadian Heritage have ever been up here or have any idea what it's like up here; yet they're responsible for administering the funds that we need to operate in this part of the world. So there's challenges," he said.

Nakehk'o also suspects there is systemic discrimination taking place against indigenous organizations in Canada at the political level.

"Ever since the Harper government came in, it's been harder and harder to operate. And it's not only us; it's all the First Nations, the tribal councils, the friendship centres - even the literacy councils are in the same boat," he said.

#### Funding request being assessed: Ottawa

CKLB, like 13 other Aboriginal broadcasters in the country, receives funding through the National Aboriginal Broadcast Program.

Len Westerberg, a spokesperson for Canadian Heritage, said NCS' request for 2014-15 funding is still in the assessment process required to ensure "that every taxpayer dollar is spent to achieve results that benefit Canadians."

"Doing so requires the exercise of due diligence, which includes obtaining relevant documentation from organizations in order to support funding decisions and payments," he said.

According to Westerberg, NCS has submitted the required documents for the department to release almost 80 per cent of its funding for 2013-14.

"The remaining eligible expenses are to be paid upon reception of the required final reports, due June 30 and August 31, 2014."

#### Expenses stretching station thin

Even with the core funding and its advertising revenue, Nakehk'o said the station still struggles to "walk the line" as both a private outlet and non-profit organization. While a full staff would cost around \$2 million per year, the funding from Heritage totals around \$620,000. And as technology changes, those growing costs mean CKLB is getting stretched thin.

"The policy Canadian Heritage operates under is 30 years old - before cell phones, before the internet and before all of this digital technology," Nakehk'o said. "It doesn't really accommodate all the changes that have happened in the broadcast industry, so we get the same amount as we did back then. Actually, we're getting less."

As a result, he said, the station's ability to pay for staff to travel and fix or replace outdated equipment in 30 communities across the territory has been impeded drastically, despite assistance from the Tlicho, Gwich'in and Sahtu governments.

"We haven't been in Fort Smith in over a couple of years because we don't have our core funding, not only to travel but to buy the equipment that we need in order to install so we have a reliable signal," Nakehk'o gave as an example. "I feel terrible about that, but I can't do anything. My hands are tied and waiting and hoping our core funding gets in so we're able to do those things."

#### Station looking for support

The station has been steadily working towards becoming more self-sustaining over the years, even recently hiring an extra ad sales employee, but Nakehk'o said they still need more time.

CKLB is planning a crowd-sourcing campaign to get the public's help to keep it alive. The station is also in talks with the territorial government in hopes that its stated priority of cultural revitalization will result in financial support, especially to upgrade broadcasting equipment.

"Retaining indigenous languages is supposed to be a priority for the GNWT and the federal government. That's what we do; we do that every day here at the station. If that's gone, I don't know what's going to happen with the languages. It could be one of the nails in the coffin," Nakehk'o said.

That said, no side funding has been promised, as of yet, Nakehk'o said.

"We're kind of in waiting mode on a lot of different things, and I don't know how much longer we can wait."

# The Town of Fort Smith

## is hosting a

# Visitor Information Centre Open House

As part of Tourism Week celebrations, the Town of Fort Smith is inviting everyone to visit their Open House located at the Wood Buffalo National Park Visitor Centre from

**2pm-4pm on Saturday, June 14.**



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment



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**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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Aklavik	Fort Resolution	Paulatuk
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Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekati Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
Fort Good Hope	Kakisa	Wekweeti
Fort Liard	Lutsel K'e	Whati
Fort McPherson	Nahanni Butte	Wrigley
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Cadotte Lake	Fort Vermilion	Manning
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Chatch	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

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## EDITORIAL

# Getting democracy right - the riding shuffle

The vote last week in the NWT legislature to keep the number of MLAs at 19 - one of three options - and realign ridings to make "rep by pop" numbers more pleasing to the electoral boundaries commission, has angered many and pleased few.

To create a population balance among NWT ridings, the Yellowknives Dene communities of Dettah and Ndilo that lie within Yellowknife will be shifted out of the over-large Yellowknife Weledeh riding and merged into Tu Nedhe riding. Dettah and Ndilo residents consider themselves Yellowknives Dene, but speak Tlicho. Aside from being part of the Akaitcho Territory, they have little in common with Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e, the other two communities that currently make up Tu Nedhe.

There is no easy solution to this. Another option was to eliminate one riding completely, which would have required even more boundary re-jigging and raised an even greater howl of protest. The third option, to add two new MLAs, was expensive and hard to justify. It did have a lot of supporters though.

In fact, that third option may well come to pass. The last time a similar ridings decision by the government was tested in court by a group from Yellowknife, they won. Yellowknife was given two more seats. The percentage imbalances among ridings stem from rapid growth in Yellowknife and the Tlicho. The boundaries commission does not want to see more than a 25 per cent differential between ridings. The courts usually follow that lead.

The drums started beating in the capital city last week as soon as the decision was made to stay with 19 ridings. A group of perturbed residents feel the

capital of the NWT deserves more MLAs. There is also impatience with the territorial government on other issues such as delayed 911 emergency service and early childhood education. The solution, say the dissatisfied, is to give Yellowknife another seat. They feel Dettah and Ndilo belong where they are in Weledeh. With an additional MLA and redistribution of current city boundaries, there would be a fair balance. Yellowknife, after all, is where the economic action is and that growth will continue, even increase, they say.

If a court case is successful and two more ridings are added, Monfwi riding, composed of the four Tlicho communities of Behchoko, Whati, Gameti and Wekweeti, would gain another seat as well.

No one would like that solution better than the residents of Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e, however, who are now being forced to share their riding. Joining Dettah and Ndilo with Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e in the geographically massive riding of Tu Nedhe offers its own set of problems. It contains the eastern half of Great Slave Lake - including the north shore where the upcoming Avalon Rare Earth metals mine is located as well as the beautiful East Arm, which has been under negotiations to become a national park for decades. It may soon be an economic hotspot. Beyond that, the MLA of the new Tu Nedhe riding will have to serve four communities with three Aboriginal cultures and two Aboriginal languages. That will be one very busy MLA.

Yellowknife benefits from all resource development throughout the NWT and about 75 per cent of tourism in the NWT. Since that is pretty much it for an NWT economy, the rest of NWT communities get to divvy up the remaining crumbs.

There is a certain irony in the assumption that "need" stemming from growth, thanks to a booming economy, justifies more representatives. The communities that lack economic growth are the ones that have real "need." Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e, the ones having their influence diluted in the riding shuffle, have suffered stagnate economies for decades. Their economic malaise is something that is really broken and needs to be fixed.

Perhaps, while we await the outcome of an eventual court case that rewards Yellowknife with more MLAs and are entertained by how the MLA for the new Tu Nedhe riding struggles to handle a suddenly doubled work load, it would be wise of the NWT government to actually do something about the non-existent economies of Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e.

Given the newfound goodwill the GNWT enjoys with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the post devolution afterglow, how about asking for fast-tracked negotiations on Thaidene Nene (East Arm) National Park? That national park would provide significant numbers of new park operations jobs for Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e, as well as a multitude of tourism and guiding opportunities. The East Arm is also the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene, so Dettah and Ndilo would benefit similarly.

In combination with that, the GNWT should negotiate agreements with resource development companies (like Avalon) to invoke options other than two week shifts that take workers away from loved ones and community for such long stretches - incompatible to so many Northerners. Please, make communities stronger and foster an economy that works for all Northerners.



Winners of the annual Aurora College Open Golf Tournament held in Fort Smith over the weekend pose with their trophies. From left to right: Theoron Daniels, junior; Joan Bevington, senior ladies; Gord McSwain, senior men; Brad Tuckey, men's Open and Gene Regan, super senior men. Missing from the photo is Brenda Stokes, ladies' open champ. Other winners from among the 60 competitors for the two day, sunny event were Kurt MacDonald, a new set of tires, Brian Blakney, \$500 in the breaking glass competition and Don Jaque who won the final draw for a trip for two to Edmonton.

## WEATHER

### Inuvik



Weekly Norms:  
High 17°C Low 5°C

### Yellowknife



Weekly Norms:  
High 18°C Low 8°C

### Hay River



Weekly Norms:  
High 18°C Low 7°C

### Fort Smith



Weekly Norms:  
High 20°C Low 7°C



# Land Protection Must Move Forward

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) was established in 1999 with the GNWT as a signatory. It was ambitiously created to provide communities, governments, and other interested parties with a forum to proactively assess and recommend the establishment of permanently protected areas in the NWT in advance of increased land and resource exploration and development. Protected areas are an essential component of an overall land use and conservation strategy. They help to conserve ecosystems, watersheds, and biodiversity; provide important benchmarks for assessing the effects of surrounding land use and environmental change; and provide long-term certainty about where industrial development is and is not acceptable.

## Protected Areas

Since 1999, a number of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas have been identified, studied, and, in some cases, recommended for protection. These include Edehzhie (the Horn Plateau) in the

Dehcho; Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake), Ka'a'gee Tu (Kakisa), Five Fish Lakes (Jean Marie River) and Buffalo Lakes and Trails areas in the Dehcho; Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and wetlands in the Sahtu); and Dinàgà Wek'èhodi along the North Arm of Great Slave Lake in the Tlicho region. Most of these have been recommended for protection under federal legislation as National Wildlife Areas (NWAs). Thaidene Nene in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake is also proposed to be protected as a national park.

## Impact of Devolution

But protection of these areas is now essentially on hold as a direct result of devolution. Prior to devolution, the GNWT effectively withdrew from the PAS process as it reviewed its pending land management responsibilities and authorities. It appears that the GNWT did not want to leave large blocks of land under federal jurisdiction at the same time that it was gaining increased land

and resource management control. The GNWT indicated that it would prefer to develop and use northern legislative "tools" to protect and conserve lands in the NWT, but has not been able to offer the communities or regions any legislation that would achieve their goals or match the protection provided under federal legislation.

## GNWT Delays

Devolution is now a reality, and communities are expecting decisions to be made regarding the lands that they have been faithfully and diligently moving forward under the PAS process. The GNWT cannot delay the process any longer, as land protection will provide a number of communities with the comfort and certainty they desire to move forward on other land and resource use initiatives, including development initiatives outside of these protected areas. The GNWT has to step forward and engage fully with communities and regions to resolve and finalize

the commitments it and the federal government have made since 1999 through the PAS process.

Resolution may include the development of new forms of territorial land protection legislation, the continued use of federal legislation, or a combination of both. Those options can only be considered through full engagement between the GNWT and affected Aboriginal governments and communities, with federal involvement where and as required, and with the support of the non-government organizations that have helped fund and resource community involvement in the PAS process since its inception.

## Balance Needed

It's in the interest of NWT residents to have the current PAS initiatives concluded. This is essential to provide one more element of certainty to the broader range of land and resource management decisions that need to be made over the next few decades

to conserve our beautiful and pristine lands, while allowing responsible and sustainable resource development to move forward. Balance is the key principle, and, as identified in the NWT's recently released Land Use and Sustainability Framework, land protection is an essential component of a

balanced approach to land use and conservation.

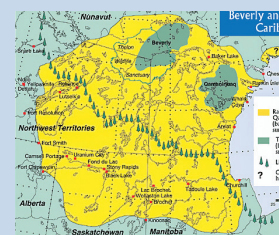
The people of the NWT need the GNWT to fully assume its new land management responsibilities and move decisively with its partners to fulfill its PAS commitments and obligations.

*NWT Chapter  
Canadian Parks and  
Wilderness Society*

## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2014

#### No industry on caribou calving grounds: board



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



**Alasdair Veitch:** That would just make total sense if people want to see barren-ground caribou in 500 years, a thousand years, two thousand years. Barren-ground caribou require large areas to roam - and they need to have calving grounds that meet their requirements. It's why we have Tuktu Nogait National Park in the NWT for the West Bluenose Caribou Herd. People have to decide what happens to the land - the animals on that land have to live with the decisions.

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## White Girl Puppy Love: Part 2 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

We are at the bottom of the barrel today in all regards. Firstly, finding the disintegrated kitty at the bottom of the water tank and now resorting to a game that we play at the Douglasses when there is absolutely nothing left to do or nothing else to be thought of.

Remember, we have no TV, no movies, no video games and no radio. We are tired of playing board games that, no matter what they are called, most often end up as war. We have a new game. I am having difficulty trying to describe it so it can be published and read by the general public.

Then I realize that there are way more important things in this world that need to be addressed other than the protocol of this story.

I hadn't had much experience with little dogs. It wasn't until I was in my twenties that they began to make an appearance in my world. My first encounter with a fou-fou - as I like to call the little darlings - was at a dinner party in Whitehorse.

Dogs, in my time, were meant for work. The concept of feeding an animal that didn't work is amazing. What do they do to earn their grub? They are very cute, rather noisy and

seem mostly agitated unless held and petted and fed continual little "treats." They were unsettling to me, but I attempt to reach out and acquaint myself with this little critter. He is my host's baby, after all.

It responds by licking my hand and looking for more ear scratching. I have a new friend. I am not paying a lot of attention to the fou-fou, now absently rubbing his ears and engaging in conversation with people at the party.

My leg has acquired a moving attachment. I try to quietly disengage the miniature Romeo without attracting too much attention to the

steamy situation. In classic mating attitude, the more I try to disengage, the more he 'loves' me.

To hell with being polite, suppressed laughter is exploding from behind the hands of the other guests who are pretending not to watch, and I am now standing on my chair. Genghis Khan is strutting below me with unrelenting lust. "Oh my little boy, you are so precious, you are such a loving little dog, but I suppose we will have to put you away so that you stop embarrassing our guest." Really...

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

## MUKLUK



## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

#### Land-use board in the dark

Jim McCaul, the executive director of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Working Group, said last week that he is frustrated by federal waffling, which is impeding the operation of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. "We need a proclamation date," said McCaul, alluding to the perceived stalling by the department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of officially naming a date that would see the entire Act take effect.

*Issue: June 8, 1999*

### 20 Years Ago...

#### Fewer whooping crane nests in 1994

Last year, a record number of whooping cranes nested in Wood Buffalo National Park. This year, numbers have dropped by half. While 45 crane pairs were counted in 1993, only 28 pairs were observed by Canadian Wildlife Services biologist Brian Johns during his most recent survey last week.

*Issue: June 8, 1994*

### 30 Years Ago...

#### CWL comes North

About 230 Catholic Women's League members and their husbands poured into Fort Smith this week following the provincial convention held in Yellowknife during the weekend. They spent some time touring the town and discussing eight major resolutions that were passed by members throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

*Issue: June 7, 1984*



# Green criteria stripped from federal Gas Tax Fund

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Criteria requiring municipalities to build environmental sustainability into their infrastructure projects funded through the \$2-billion Gas Tax Fund have been removed by the federal government, documents show.

Infrastructure Canada quietly shifted projects previously covered under the Building Canada Fund into the purview of the Gas Tax Fund with the latest federal budget, effectively stripping all reference to sustainability from its Gas Tax renewal agreements with provinces this year while leaving the moneys intact.

Northwest Territories MP Dennis Bevington said the change is a serious cause for concern, due to “the loss of green projects in Canada that are so important to the future of every municipality. If you don’t deal with the green issues, you’ve got to deal with them later on. And if you deal with them properly, it cuts your costs and sets you up for the future,” he said.

“I hate this conservative thing where we just want to



Solar panels were installed on the roof of the Paulatuk youth centre through the federal Gas Tax Fund.

spend the money, we don’t want to provide any direction, especially not for green projects. They just hate green projects, it seems like. This is the last of the infrastructure that had this green sort of dedication to it, which Jack Layton put in when he was president of the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).”

The Gas Tax Fund was originally designed to finance projects like public transit, wastewater infrastructure, drinking water, solid waste management, community energy systems, local roads and bridges and capacity building.

Municipalities were required to create sustainable development plans using best practices along with their funding applications to be approved.

While those categories are still eligible for funding, communities will now also have to go through the fund for projects like highways, airports, rail lines, broadband infrastructure, as well as those involving tourism, culture, sport and recreation.

Infrastructure Canada spokesperson Robin Strong said the change was made to give municipalities more flexibility to invest in local infrastructure

priorities, and noted that those eligible still include environmentally focused categories previously featured.

While the funding has been increased from \$1 billion to \$2 billion annually for the Gas Tax Fund, Bevington said the change will have a large impact on the sustainability of Canada’s infrastructure and ability to effectively address climate change.

“They did it so silently, but it will have a big impact. It’s \$21 billion over 10 years - that was a considerable amount of money that was going to go to green projects,” Bevington said.

They [*the federal government*] did it so silently, but it will have a big impact. It’s \$21 billion over 10 years - that was a considerable amount of money that was going to go to green projects.

Dennis Bevington, MP  
Northwest Territories

“Municipalities were leaders in thinking about changing how they’re doing business so that it’s more green, more sustainable, whether it was sewer and water, whether it was renewable energy, whether it was energy efficiency or public transit - the whole works,” he said.

“That’s where the rubber hits the road on reducing your greenhouse gas emissions: municipalities are huge players in it; they always have been. What we’re doing is putting up roadblocks or taking away opportunities for them to do the right thing.”

Bevington said the sustainability aspect of the fund had

an even more important role to play in creating cost and energy efficiencies in the North.

“We are desperate for sustainability. Our costs are so high,” he said. “We’re using imported fuels in most of our communities for heating, and in some cases for electricity. These costs have gone through the roof...We have an opportunity to go green and save a lot of money. We need to improve our systems up here...So it means more to us. We have a responsibility.”

The Gas Tax transfer agreements with the provinces and territories are set to expire by 2016.

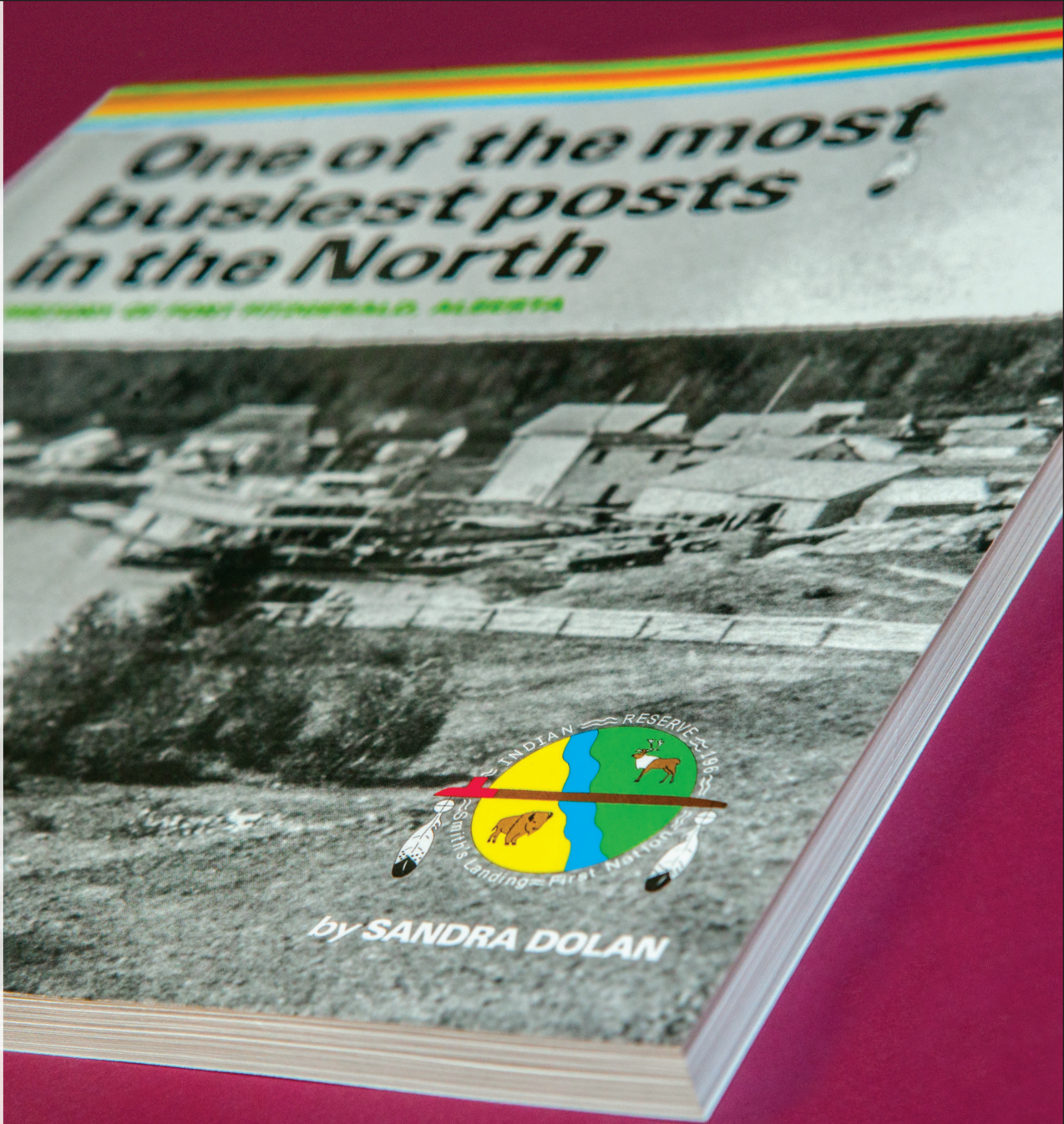


## SMITH’S LANDING FIRST NATION

Chief and Council, membership and office administration would like to congratulate Sandra Dolan on her NorthWords award for the book *One of the Most Busiest Posts in the North*.

**THE BOOK** was commissioned by the Smith’s Landing First Nation and tells the story of the once bustling portage town of Fitzgerald, Alberta which is, today, the centre of the SLFN treaty entitlement area.

**THE STORY** is symbolic of the dynamic past and a promising future for our First Nation.







The Solnova thermal solar plant in Spain generates and stores power using the heat of the sun.

Environment Clean Energy

# Solar heat holds potential for steam-assisted oilsands: engineer

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The heat of the sun captured by large-scale solar power plants could lower costs for companies using steam-assisted bitumen extraction techniques in the oilsands, according to a power engineer.

David Babich, a first class power engineer and president of Ecomizer Consulting Group Inc. based in Fort McMurray, is currently looking into ways that solar energy can be harnessed by oil companies looking to reduce their operational costs by weaning off of natural gas.

Unlike the standard photovoltaic solar panels that capture the sun's energy and convert it into electricity, thermal solar power stations use large arrays of mirrors - about 500 acres for a 100-MW plant - to capture the heat from the sun, store it and then use it to supply heat or electricity at double the rate of a photovoltaic system.

"Photovoltaic is not commercially viable here in northern Alberta because we have so much cloud and because the direct radiance is so low, so that's why you're seeing more photovoltaic in places like Ontario," he told *The Journal*.

"The aspect of making it commercially viable here will be to replace the natural gas, because of course many of the oil industries here are looking for ways to reduce their costs. So that's the big advantage."

Though several solar plants exist throughout the world, including a demo plant in

Medicine Hat, Alta. that is currently supplying 1MW of heat to the municipal power plant, no such application exists in Alberta's oilsands where massive quantities of natural gas are used in both the extraction and refining processes.

Babich is thinking about changing that.

"The essence of my interest is that a large array of mirrors can be used to concentrate energy from the sun to be used to generate heat and displace the consumption of natural gas in SAGD," he said.

SAGD, or steam-assisted gravity drainage, is a kind of in situ bitumen extraction method that works by injecting high-pressurized steam underground to soften the rigid bitumen before pumping it to the surface.

While it would be a "stretch" to replace all natural gas usage with solar in the oilsands, Babich believes it is economically viable to displace a substantial amount.

"I think in the short term, we can replace some. In the longer term, it will replace a lot," he said.

"What I imagine is that this would be used first of all in the hottest three months of the summer, and then you'd expand it out to four or six months, and then who knows? Perhaps we can use some of the exhausted SAGD facilities underground for storage and draw it out in the other six months of the year when it's cold."

Though his interest lies in larger industrial applications, Babich said heat-generating

solar plants can displace any type of fuel, making it a viable option for thermal communities in the North, as well.

"It's adapting local technology and new cutting edge for use in northern Alberta and perhaps even in the Northwest Territories," he said.

While the short-term capital costs are high, Babich said the long-term benefit of having virtually no operational costs brings the net cost down to a much more reasonable level.

The additional cost comes from the storage system that would be required. Typically solar heat is stored within molten salt or carbon. But Babich said those costs are dropping, and expects them to come down even further.

"What I know is that the capital costs for the installation of solar power plants have been cut in half in recent years. They used to be about \$10 a watt, and now they're down to about \$5 a watt, so that's a number that's a drastic reduction," he said.


"Commercially viable plants for natural gas are in the range of about \$2.5 a watt, so we've dropped from four times as expensive to two times as expensive. I would think that within five years, they will be within \$2.5 per watt or systems that can generate power even at night. So that will make them competitive with all systems."

Babich said energy company Chevron is already starting to employ the use of thermal solar in the United

States. The technology is popular in Spain, Israel, Brazil and much of the southern US.

While he is still in the preliminary stages of his research and development, Babich said he has garnered interest from others in working out an actual plan.

"My intention is to see if I can get it going...but in terms of actually doing something practical, we're a long ways off from that," he said. "I will do it. It's just a matter of how soon and where."



## The Town of Fort Smith

is accepting nominations for

### Elder of the Year Award Citizen of the Year Award Paul Currie Volunteer of the Year Award

Fort Smith is fortunate to have many people who contribute to the betterment of life in Fort Smith. Please take the time to nominate these wonderful citizens.

**Nomination deadline: June 16, 2014 at 12:00 noon**  
Nomination forms available from Town Hall or on our website at [www.fortsmith.ca](http://www.fortsmith.ca)



# Hundreds expected at Dene Assembly in Fort Smith

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Close to a thousand leaders, elders and delegates from across the NWT are expected to descend upon Fort Smith for the 44th Dene National Assembly, taking place June 16-20.

“We were quoted between 500 and 1,000 people in town,” said Kathleen Graham of Salt River First Nation (SRFN), who is working as the event coordinator for the assembly.

Under the theme “Honour the Treaties,” representatives from around 30 First Nations from as far north as Gwich’in country down to northern Alberta will gather for meetings at the rec centre to discuss issues concerning the land, the treaty relationship and industrial development.

Along with the three full days of meetings, the assembly will feature a wide variety of evening activities, including a special anniversary celebration marking the signing of Treaty 8 on the evening of June 17.

Hosted in tandem by SRFN and Smith’s Landing First Nation, the event will commemorate 115 years since the



Dene Nation delegates play hand games at the 2012 assembly in Whati.

Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

signing of the original treaty in Fort Fitzgerald, a 20-minute drive into Alberta from Fort

Smith. The ceremony will be followed by a traditional feast and hand games.

For those arriving on the Monday, the 4th Annual Charlie Casaway golf tournament

is taking place that afternoon. Registration for teams of four costs \$400 and starts at noon

at the Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club.

A talent show on the Wednesday evening should have toes tapping and feet shuffling to the tunes of hometown band North Country Rock.

A Dene arts and crafts marketplace will also be open throughout the assembly for artisans to sell their wares.

Mass is scheduled to take place every morning and at the start and finish of the gathering.

And as usual, traditional hand games and drum dancing will take participants late into the evening throughout the week of meetings, to be held either in Fitzgerald or on the SRFN lot located on McDougal Rd. and Breynat St.

“All the drummers from all the different regions, whenever they’re done, just start a drum dance. And there will be songs from all over the NWT,” Graham said.

“It’s always so exciting whenever the Dene Nation assemblies come together. It’s awesome seeing everybody drum dancing.”

Health & Wellness Seniors

## GNWT promises more support for seniors

### Seniors’ society stresses importance of reversing ageism

By MARIA CHURCH

Two days into the first-ever territorial recognition of June as Seniors’ Month, the GNWT announced a new framework last week promising improvements to the care of elders and seniors in the territory.

“Every day, seniors across the NWT make important contributions to their families, their friends and their communities,” Glen Abernethy, minister of Health and Social Services, stated

in the legislature Monday as he tabled the new framework.

“Elders and seniors should be given the best care possible, and our government is committed to meeting their health-care and social needs,” he said.

Titled *Our Elders: Our Communities*, the framework introduces seven broad measures to guide future programming and services, including working with communities, providing up to date information, finding best practices

and supporting caregivers. Seniors are currently the fastest growing population in the NWT, rising more than 5 per cent each year over the past decade.

Several members of the territorial and Yellowknife seniors’ societies were present for the tabling of the new framework.

Barbara Hood, executive director of the NWT Seniors’ Society, said the framework affirms positive movement that has been going on for the past

several years to reverse ageism and provide much-needed recognition to older adults.

“It’s not just in the North; ageist attitudes exist everywhere in the world where people see older people as being less valuable. Older adults become invisible to the rest of the community,” Hood said.

“This new document is a continuation of the work within the government to recognize older adults and to give them the prominence in the communities that they deserve.”

Over a period of 31 years since its creation, the NWT society has led numerous projects focused on education and awareness of seniors issues.



Photo courtesy of Barbara Hood

Barbara Hood, executive director of the NWT Seniors’ Society, says the GNWT’s new framework is a positive step towards addressing ageism.

A recent project has seen the distribution of a seniors’ information handbook with contact numbers for caregivers and services provided for every community in the NWT.

Hood said the society’s new focuses this year are on reducing the cost of living for seniors in the NWT and bridging the gap between seniors and youth.

With federal funding for the territorial society - a total \$725,000 over three years - scheduled to dry up by March 2015 with no promise of renewal, Hood said programming

may be “scaled down” for a while, but she does not believe they will be forced to scrap any initiatives.

“I don’t perceive that there is going to be a problem...I’m hopeful that the federal government will come up with another pot of money,” she said.

“We will be able to continue with our GNWT money for a period of time at least.”

While the territory has marked Seniors’ Day and Seniors’ Week for around 30 years, this is the first year that the NWT has dedicated a full

month to honouring its older population.

A number of communities across the territory are holding events throughout June in celebration of elders and seniors with barbecues, luncheons and open houses.

The GNWT will also mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. People are asked to wear purple to show their support.

For a list of Seniors’ Month events across the NWT, visit <http://www.nwtseniorssociety.ca/?p=491>

## 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)





# GNWT defends territory-wide jr. kindergarten

## Minister promises extra funding to understaffed schools

By MARIA CHURCH

The department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is defending its controversial rollout of junior kindergarten this fall after being hit with criticism over lack of funding and overlap with the federal Aboriginal Head Start program.

Gabriela Eggenhofer, deputy minister of ECE, responded to concerns with a media briefing last week. Those concerns are primarily centered on the decision to stretch existing funding to cover the new age group.

By 2016, the addition of schooling for 4 year-olds across the territory will come at an estimated cost of \$7.4 million annually. That cost will be absorbed by the NWT district education authorities and will be felt most in Yellowknife, the only jurisdiction in the territory where enrollment is increasing.

In late May, a petition was sent from residents in Yellowknife to their elected officials expressing concern about the impact junior kindergarten will have on the local education budget. Though Yellowknife is not getting junior kindergarten until 2016, it will

help bankroll 23 smaller NWT communities in the first and second year.

Any reductions to education funding is “unacceptable,” the petition argued.

“I understand that innovation and progress are paramount in long-term education planning but I will not accept any reduction in the existing quality of education in the NWT,” it stated.

According to Eggenhofer, a decrease in ECE funding to Yellowknife over the next two years of implementation is accurate, but fails to take into account year three.

“Absolutely, in year one and two, the two Yellowknife education authorities will have reductions to the funding in order to enable everyone in the NWT to introduce junior kindergarten. I want to note it’s not just the Yellowknife education authorities who will contribute to the potluck, if you will,” she said. “In year three, in the year that they actually run the program and offer it, there will be funding that they will have access to.”

According to GNWT estimates, Yellowknife’s education authorities will receive



Minister Jackson Lafferty, picture here with a young student from Tulita, plans to introduce junior kindergarten in 23 NWT communities this fall.

a net injection of between \$500,000 to more than \$1 million in additional funding in year three of the rollout. Those numbers account for reductions experienced in the first two years. This estimate includes ECE Minister

Jackson Lafferty’s recent announcement that the department will offer extra funding to education authorities where student populations exceed the territorial goal of 16 students to one teacher. Since announcing the junior

kindergarten rollout in February, the GNWT has also reversed its decision to mandate the September implementation of junior kindergarten in all 29 small communities.

As a result, six communities chose to back out, bringing the total down to 23 schools that will offer the curriculum this fall. Five of those communities are under the Tlicho government, which is in the middle of developing a regional plan for early education, Eggenhofer said.

The government projects around 600 children will enter the education system in junior kindergarten.

### Junior kindergarten vs. Aboriginal Head Start

Another concern Eggenhofer brought up is the question of junior kindergarten competing with the federal Aboriginal Head Start program, which is offered to 3 and 4 year-olds in communities across Canada. The deputy minister said ECE has been “engaging” all stakeholders of junior kindergarten, including those running the Head Start program, for years.

“Theirs is optional and theirs is free. Ours is optional and ours is free. The reality is not every parent can afford to pay anywhere between \$750 and \$1,000 a month for a child. I think principally we are not taking a dissimilar approach,” she said.

As well, the junior kindergarten curriculum will not be “foreign” to Aboriginal students as it’s based on the Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit curriculums used across the NWT focused on Aboriginal relationships and culture, Eggenhofer said.

“I’m very confident that what we have produced here shouldn’t be something that is at odds with the tenets of Aboriginal Head Start,” she said. “All we are doing is providing more choices to parents. None of the parents need to access any of these programs if they don’t choose to, but we think it is important that parents have choices available to them.”

Eggenhofer noted the Aboriginal Head Start program is only offered in eight small communities in the NWT, while in 10 of the communities there are no early childhood programs offered.

# Welcome!

## Dene Nation assembly delegates

Fort Smith is proud to host the 44th Dene National Assembly.

The mayor and council and members of the community welcome you. Please enjoy your time in our lovely town. Consider it as your own.



- Mayor B.G. (Brad) Brake and Fort Smith Town Council



# Farmer’s Market Delights on a Chilly Day

By BILL BRADEN

Toques and fleecies were the dress code on a chilly June 3 Tuesday afternoon at the 2014 opening the Yellowknife Farmer's Market. Hundreds of shoppers swarmed the booths and tables, scooping up home-baked pastries, smoked Great Slave Lake fish,

bedding plants and hand-made crafts. The most popular tables were the ones offering hot supper munchies like butter chicken and spicy samosas. The market, now in its second year run by the Yellowknife Commons Cooperative, will open every Tuesday evening until Sept. 16.



Hundreds of hungry and curious Yellowknifers flocked to the first day of this year’s Farmer’s Market.



Home-made soaps, were just some of the crafts offered at the opening market in Yellowknife Tuesday.



Amy Hendricks sells some hardy bedding plants she helped grow for a school fundraiser.



Rick MacPherson and his daughter Abbie buy hot homemade Indian take-out from Mita Nahar and Mohammed Kahn.

Photos: Bill Braden

# Anglicans renew appeal for Iqaluit cathedral donations

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Anglican parishioners are being asked to pledge \$20 a week to pay off \$1.9 million still owing to the receiver for the bankrupt Dowland Group on the church’s landmark cathedral in Iqaluit. “We believe it will be possible to pay off our cathedral by December 2015,” David Parsons, bishop of the Arctic Diocese, announced just before the May long weekend. The diocese was forced to redouble its fundraising efforts when NCC-Dowland, contractor on the \$8-million reconstruction of the igloo-shaped St. Jude’s, went down in the financial collapse of the Dowland Group. Cash flow problems drove Dowland into receivership in May 2013 with liabilities of \$135 million against \$75 million in assets – \$55 million of it in receivables from

We are asking every Anglican in the diocese to join us in a great financial sacrifice so that we can pay off the balance owing by December 2015.

David Parsons  
Anglican Arctic Diocese

projects, including St. Jude’s cathedral, which owed \$3 million. Among the secured creditors, the Royal Bank was owed \$21 million. Bonding companies that backed Dowland on several of the more than 30 projects that were stopped in mid-stride by the crash were owed as much as \$60 million. Dowland’s failure shook hundreds of companies large and small across the North and West - unsecured creditors that the receiver said are

unlikely to see a penny of the \$53 million they are owed. St. Jude’s re-opened in 2012, but the fundraising campaign has not kept pace with construction. Dowland agreed to carry the debt, but when it failed, the receiver demanded payment. Parsons told *The Journal* that continued fundraising efforts reduced the debt to \$1.9 million, which was covered by a loan from the Nunavut Construction Corp. Investment Group at prime plus 1 per cent.

“We are asking every Anglican in the diocese to join us in a great financial sacrifice so that we can pay off the balance owing by December 2015,” he said. Until it crashed last spring, the Dowland Group was a Northern success story. Founded in Tuktoyaktuk in 1983 by Guy Pemberton, the company grew to 350 employees, with offices and projects scattered across the North and Western Canada.

The Dowland Group was down to 85 employees last May when it was handed over to receiver Alvarez and Marsal Canada Inc., who said the collapse began in March 2013 after being “set off by disputes with owners and contractors over various projects,” and ended when the Royal Bank cut off its operating loans. Nellie Cournoyea, chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corp., severed ties with Dowland in 2011, blaming the construction group’s failure on its rapid growth. Pemberton, who re-located to Calgary several years ago, is again a familiar face on the streets of Inuvik, she said. “He’s doing good,” Cournoyea said. “He bought up Dowland assets in the bankruptcy sale last summer and he’s picked up some of the people who were left stranded. They’ve got a couple of contracts and they are rebuilding themselves.”

Pemberton was easing into retirement when Dowland went under and had reduced his stake in 6070 NWT Ltd., the holding company that controlled the group, to about 25 per cent. The majority owner was Patrick McGuinness, who joined Dowland in 2003 and led the company’s rapid expansion. McGuinness intended to make a place for the Dowland Group among the top 10 construction companies in Canada. Contacted at his home in an upscale neighbourhood in Edmonton, McGuinness declined to answer questions about the bankruptcy. Pemberton said he has not spoken with McGuinness since Dowland went under. He blamed Dowland’s failure on “growing too fast and problems in getting qualified people to manage” numerous projects scattered across Canada.



# NWT doctor needs votes to help heal the North

## Dr. Redvers in the running for \$100,000 entrepreneur award

By MARIA CHURCH

Dr. Nicole Redvers describes her naturopathic practice like she does her Métis background. “I always joke that because by blood I’m a Métis person, I’m kind of stuck between worlds, literally, with my Aboriginal and European background. Same thing with my medicine. I’m between both worlds with my training in conventional medicine, but also in natural medicine and trying to bridge the gap between the two,” she shared.

Born in Fort Resolution, Redvers was raised in Hay River and Fort Smith before going south for post secondary. It was in university that Redvers was first introduced to naturopathic medicine after accidentally stumbling into a lunchtime seminar on the subject.

“That very day I went to student services to change my degree and start my pre-med,” she recalled with a laugh.

When Redvers started up her naturopathic practice in Yellowknife three years ago, she did it with the goal of offering Northerners a unique blend of traditional and Western medicine.

“Part of the motivation was this realization of the limited options that we have up here



Photo courtesy of Nicole Redvers

Nicole Redvers, a naturopathic doctor in Yellowknife, is in the running for a \$100,000 young entrepreneur award.

in terms of being able to access other forms of care. My passion was to be able to bring that back and provide those options that I didn’t have when I grew up,” she said. Redvers said it was “disheartening” to realize that despite her Aboriginal background, her first introduction to traditional forms of medicine was in the south.

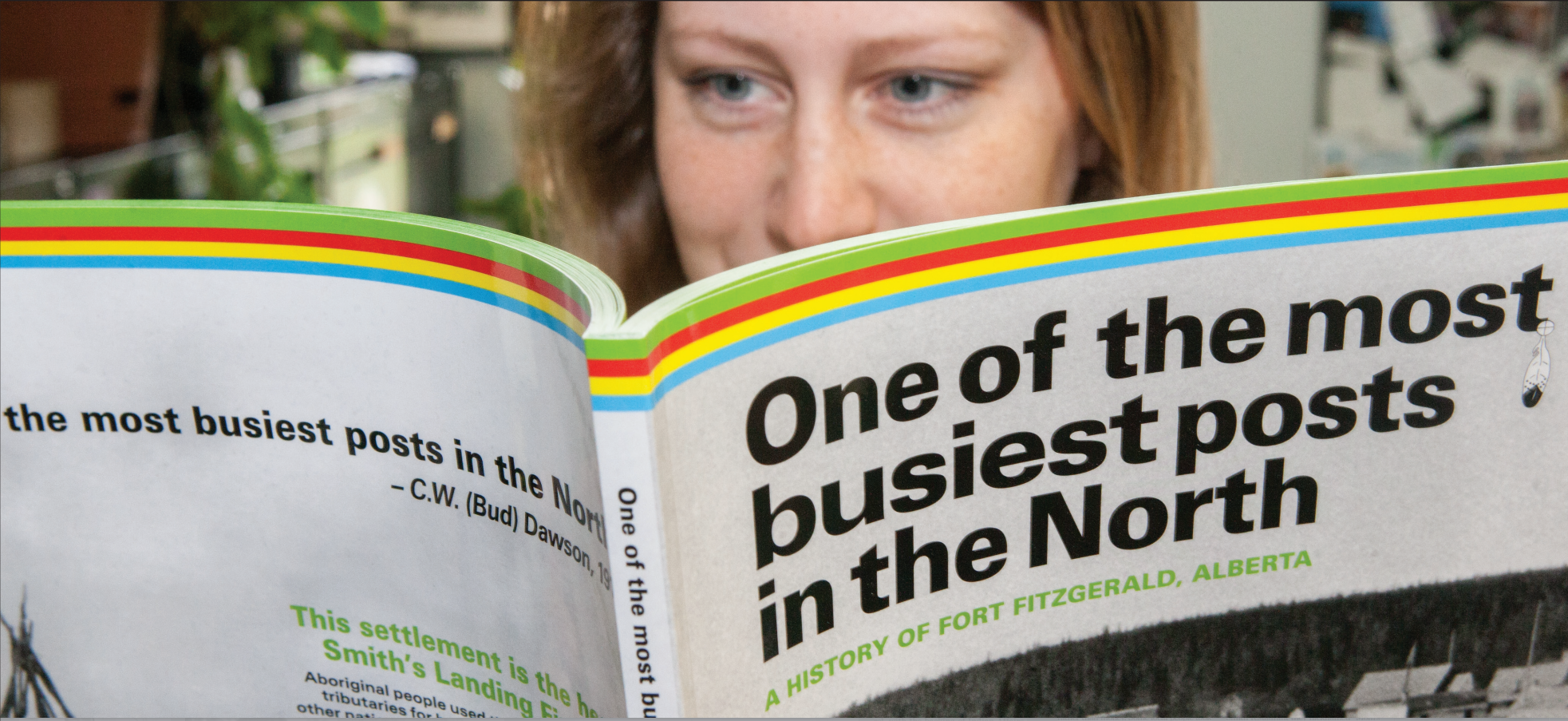
“Bringing my children back here, I’m always looking at them and wanting to provide the care that I would have wanted to receive at that time. Not that our care is suboptimal by any means, but in terms of being Aboriginal, it was more important to me to have more holistic forms of care in a safe and culturally appropriate environment and just, literally, have the option,” she said.

**Healing for the North** The health care system, like many areas under government control in the North, is affected by the legacy of residential schools, Redvers said. “Most of the residential schools had nursing stations in there and it’s really created a divide or barrier for Aboriginal people to access care. That was their first experience of health care,” she said.

Naturopathic medicine can offer a bridge for Aboriginals harbouring concerns about conventional health care by offering indigenous forms of healing as well as modern medicine, Redvers said. “This is one form of medicine that is still addressing those current needs that we need with modern medical testing, prevention and the rest of it, but providing it in a more holistic framework that would mold better with traditional principles, hopefully making people feel more comfortable,” she said. When an Aboriginal person with a cold or sore throat comes in to her naturopathic clinic, the treatment might be the same as in a conventional health clinic, but it’s the approach that’s different, Redvers said.

**Finalist for entrepreneur award** The young doctor and her naturopathic practice have been voted a finalist in the 2014 BDC Young Entrepreneur Award, competing for a grand prize of \$100,000. “The territory is my home so it’s nice to feel like I can attempt to represent our

interests here and also the people coming from small communities,” she said. Since opening in 2011, Redvers’s practice Gaia Integrative Clinic has grown from a basement practice in her home to a downtown Yellowknife location “bursting at the rafters” with patient files for more than 10 trained practitioners. In May, Redvers opened a free-of-charge naturopathic drop-in clinic at the Yellowknife Centre for Northern Families. “We wanted to be able to target a population, in this case it’s the homeless population, with a service that they wouldn’t otherwise be able to access,” Redvers said. Ideally, the practice will expand into the smaller communities, but it needs a bigger base in Yellowknife before that would be feasible, she said. To vote for Redvers in the BDC Young Entrepreneur Award contest, visit <https://www.bdcyoungentrepreneuraward.ca/en/home> and click on Northern Exposure. The contest closes June 12.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

To author Sandra Dolan on her much deserved Northwords award

The Cascade Graphics team is proud to have played a role in the creation of the historic book, *One of the most busiest posts in the North*.

We look forward to our next collaboration!



Do you recognize this handsome couple? Are they your grandparents? Chip and Jean-Baptiste Tourangeau, 1911.

**Smith's Landing**

In 1870, the HBC required land at both ends of the rapids. At the north end they built "The Rapids" post consisting of a house and some small sheds. The house was unoccupied in winter but each spring a company employee was sent downriver with a consignment of trade goods. The southern community was named "Smith's Landing," after Donald Smith who, at that time, was in charge

Jean-Baptiste Tourangeau, 1911.

In the fall of 1870, the Dene went to the bush. Jean-Baptiste Tourangeau (1809-1882) and his family lived there and his mother's (Helen Tourangeau nee Paultier) family helped that.

In the summer we lived in Fitz and worked for the Bay. In winter, in these days, we had to move around.

Two Chipewyan girls and their cat going to the house, 1911.

There was a canvas teepee and the whole family would live in it all winter. Spruce boughs were used on the sides.

Persons travelling through to the North. They would stop for supplies in the summertime. Many came by canoe.

Taken from the west edge of the community, Fort Fitzgerald suffers occasional inundations, 1911.

The Department of the Interior's Advisory Board of Wild Life Protection recommended that no buffalo or wood bison had been seen within 50 miles of the Salt Plains in its opinion unimpaired.

In 1922 following a report identifying two distinct bison ranges west of the Slave River which needed protection. At the time the park believing officials would place the interests of the bison ahead of the livelihood of the Aboriginal people who had

again requested a reserve, a smaller one at the mouth of the Salt River and the one of 11,220 acres at the Salt Plains for horses and cattle. The Department of the Interior's Advisory Board of Wild Life Protection recommended that no buffalo or wood bison had been seen within 50 miles of the Salt Plains in its opinion unimpaired.

H.A. Conroy, the Treaty 8 Inspector, was in Fort Fitzgerald in June of the year for two months, to see again what was the best way to handle the land. He was in the Treaty 8 area for two months, to see again what was the best way to handle the land. He was in the Treaty 8 area for two months, to see again what was the best way to handle the land.

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The creation of Wood Buffalo Park also led to plans to build a railway along the Slave River. The Department of the Interior's Advisory Board of Wild Life Protection recommended that no buffalo or wood bison had been seen within 50 miles of the Salt Plains in its opinion unimpaired.

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Louie Goose performs for the crowd outside the Inuvialuit Corporate Centre during Inuvialuit Day celebrations.



Christine and Jesabell Day show off their new temporary tattoos, courtesy of Parks Canada.



Hundreds of community members take part in Inuvialuit Day celebrations, including a free barbecue, live music, kids activities and a performance by the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

**Northerners Land Claims**

# Inuvialuit celebrate 30th anniversary of agreement

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON  
Inuvialuit across the North celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement on June 5.  
The agreement is the first comprehensive land claim agreement of its kind North of the 60th parallel and the second in Canada. It gives the Inuvialuit exclusive rights over their land and wildlife and established the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC) and its subsidiaries.

Celebrations were held in all six Inuvialuit communities – Inuvik, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok – with the largest being held in Inuvik outside the newly reopened Inuvialuit Corporate Centre.  
The building, which acts as the headquarters of the IRC, was damaged in a fire last year.  
Inuvialuit Day events in Inuvik included a free barbecue and feast of traditional

foods, live music, a performance by the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers and children’s activities.  
Mackenzie Road, Inuvik’s main street, was closed off as hundreds of community members took the day off to celebrate.  
There was trout from Tuktoyaktuk, whitefish from Aklavik, rabbit from the Mackenzie Delta and even traditional Middle Eastern fare donated by the Inuvik Muslim Society.

The celebration was organized by the IRC, Inuvik Community Corp. and the game council.  
“It’s our 30th anniversary and that’s significant for all of us,” Nellie Cournoyea, chair and CEO of IRC, said to the crowd.  
“It’s a good day to be Inuvialuit,” added Duane Smith, chair of Inuvik Community Corp. and president of Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada.  
In a letter to Cournoyea on behalf of the government of

Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper congratulated the Inuvialuit people on their achievements.  
“Over the past three decades, the Inuvialuit have accomplished great things. As a people, they have attained sustained economic success, demonstrated resilient leadership and strengthened traditional knowledge and practices,” he said.  
“Through this agreement, the Inuvialuit have gained

a firm, authoritative voice regarding the development of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region for the present and future generations.”  
Premier Bob McLeod also acknowledged the milestone, stating in a press release that the agreement was the Inuvialuit’s first step to self-sufficiency.  
“In the 30 years since the signing, the Inuvialuit have been leaders in promoting the growth and evolution of the territory,” he said.



Zayden Sittichinli shows off his moves during the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers performance on Mackenzie Rd. during Inuvialuit Day.



Erin Baldwin helps spin cotton candy for a long line of children at Inuvialuit Day celebrations.





Undertaker Mike Carruthers explains his job to students visiting the morgue. "If you think you're bullet proof, you're not," he told them.



Julie Spindler, a physiotherapy student at the Inuvik Regional Hospital, shows Paul O'Connor first-hand what it would be like to have a spinal cord injury as the result of an accident.



The Inuvik volunteer firefighter department transports the collision's fatality to a hearse waiting outside the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex.



Nurse Jamie Young explains to Grade 9 students visiting the emergency room what injuries you could sustain following a drunk driving collision.

**Health & Wellness** Impaired Driving

# Inuvik students act out lesson on impaired driving

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Grade 9 students at East Three Secondary School in Inuvik were treated to a shock last week when they discovered four classmates were involved in a violent drunk driving collision.

The crash and its ensuing emergency response was staged as part of the PARTY Program, a one-day workshop that aims to prevent alcohol and risk-related trauma in youth.

"We create the world we choose to live in one decision at a time," said Adam Fortier, a bylaw officer with the Town of Inuvik. "It's about learning from real people and their very real experience."

The program began with a mock funeral for a classmate, which was interrupted when emergency services were called to the scene of a two-car collision.

Students were led outside where one student, acting as

a drunk driver, was arrested on the scene.

For the next hour, the Inuvik volunteer fire department and Blue Ice paramedics worked to save three student actors injured in the mock crash.

Two were rushed to the Inuvik Regional Hospital, while the third, a dummy, was taken away in a hearse to the morgue.

The Grade 9 students followed the ambulance to the hospital where they visited the emergency room, the rehabilitation clinic and the

morgue to find out first hand the consequences of drinking and driving.

"If you think you're bullet proof, you're not," undertaker Mike Carruthers told the visiting students.

In addition to learning about the dangers of drinking and driving, the PARTY Program also included workshops on boat and snowmobile safety, the importance of wearing a seatbelt and dangers of distracted driving.

Ali McConnell, executive director of the Inuvik Youth Centre, helped organize the event and said the program was a direct result of students at East Three asking for more education on the dangers of drinking and driving.

"Is drinking and reckless behaviour a problem in Inuvik? Yes," she said. "One of the things that the PARTY Program really stresses is that you have the choice and that accidents are preventable."

Connor Campbell, a Grade 12 who acted as a driver in the mock

collision, said drinking and driving is "100 per cent" a problem in Inuvik and hopes the program makes students think twice before driving while impaired.

"You shouldn't drink and drive," he said.

The PARTY Program is an initiative of the Inuvik Interagency Committee's youth sub-committee.

More than 30 youth took part in the PARTY program this year, which was funded by the department of Municipal and Community Affairs.



Firefighters place cribbing underneath the vehicle to secure it before working to extract the crash victims.



More than 30 youth were involved in the PARTY Program, which took place at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex and the Inuvik Regional Hospital.



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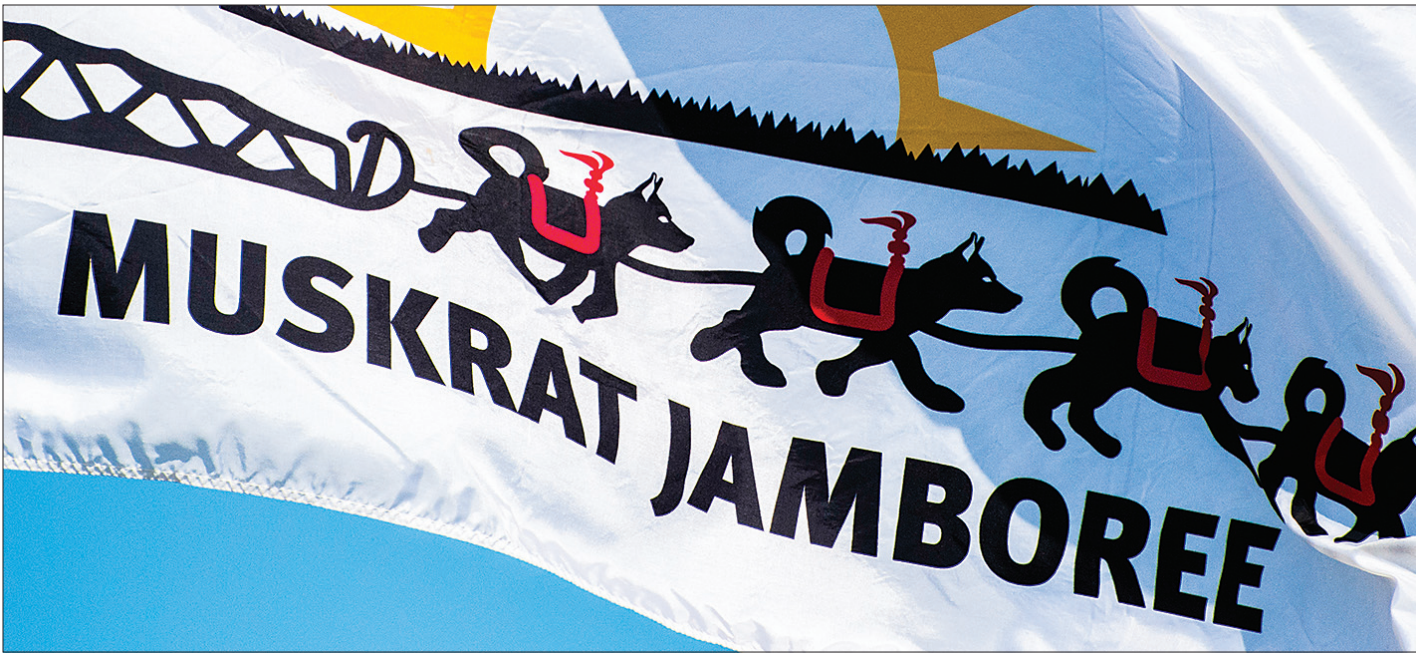
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The Muskrat Jamboree Committee organized a two-day Kiddies Carnival for youth in Inuvik. Prince and princess contestants raised more than \$30,000 for the event.



Antoine Sydney races to the finish line during a bike race Sunday afternoon.



Twins Lakeisha and Shalayah Raymond enjoy the Kiddies Carnival with friend Alexia Baldwin Sunday afternoon.



Telley Banksland, left, and Justin Stewart compete in the bottle sucking contest during the second annual Muskrat Jamboree Kiddies Carnival.

Arts & Culture Festivals

# Inuvik youth all smiles at Muskrat Jamboree Kiddies Carnival and fundraiser

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON  
The second annual Muskrat Jamboree Kiddies

Carnival was a hit in Inuvik last weekend. The carnival, which is for youth 15 and under, was held

June 7 and 8 at Jim Koe Park and included a parade, games, jigging contest, barbecue and bike races. Festivities

concluded on Sunday evening with a talent show. The 2014 prince and princess contestants were Orlando

Day, Jade Jerome, Ryder Ciboci-Gordon, Madison Parsons, and winners Dallas Krutko and Kaycee Campbell.

Altogether they raised more than \$30,000 for the two-day carnival and fundraiser event.

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Phone: 867-765-6622  
Fax: 867-873-2652  
Website: [www.nwtgeoscience.ca/minerals](http://www.nwtgeoscience.ca/minerals)

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# Fort Smith rocker celebrates first album launch

## *Paulette's Hard Road Out of Hell to be released June 13*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

If the album title is any indication, it's been a long road for Fort Smith musician Geronimo Paulette in churning out his first solo album.

"It's been five or six years," he said. "When I went to the States to record – I was there for about a month – I thought I'd have it done when I walked out the door. When I got it back, it just felt like it was missing something...I felt I wasn't ready to finish it because it wasn't what I had in mind. I'm pretty fussy about sound. I wanted it to sound good if you crank it up."

More time has been taken to reach perfection, however, and Paulette said he's 100 per cent happy with every aspect of his debut, *Hard Road Out of Hell*, to be released on June 13.

From the quality of the sound to the album artwork - photographed by Fort Smith's own Melanie Jewell – the whole package of the solo instrumentalist's melodic metal album is exactly what Paulette was hoping for.

"I'm excited for it. It's been too long," he said. "I hope people like it."

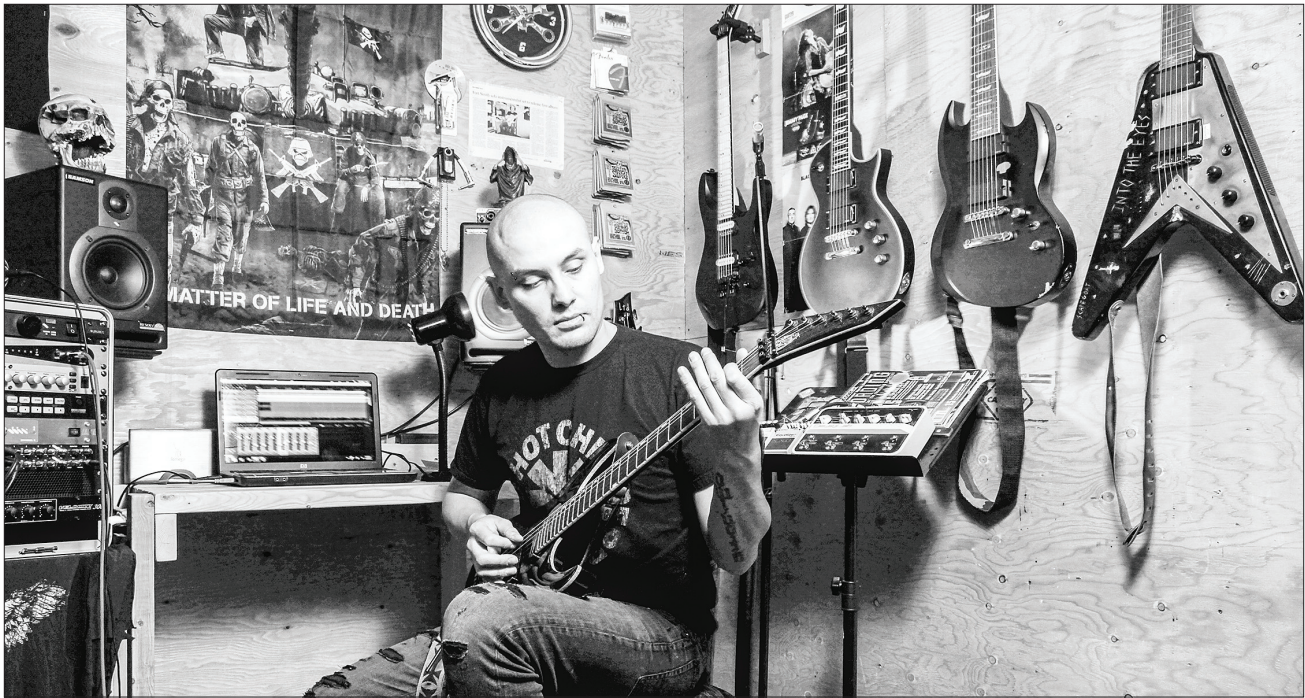


Photo: Melanie Jewell

Fort Smith's Geronimo Paulette is planning a listening party for his debut album *Hard Road Out of Hell*, after its release on June 13.

The music, which sounds like an inspired fusion of classic metal and the score of an action film, features Paulette on bass, rhythm and lead guitar. While devoid of lyrics, the drawn-out technical solos bring an emotive voice to the seven tracks, most prominently on the opener "Ghost Town,"

written in the dead of winter outside of Fort Smith. Paulette said the songs don't need words to tell stories. "You don't necessarily need vocals at all," he said. "I think everybody probably has a different take on them. Most of it to me is sound, but it does come from emotion or what you're thinking

about, just about the world in general, from things that have happened – whether it be government stuff or just life in general." Paulette's talents have garnered international attention throughout the album creation process, beginning in Phoenix, Arizona after the young Aboriginal musician

was discovered online by musician Dan Gold. Gold pulled Paulette down to an Arizona studio a few years ago to record with a studio drummer and work with producer Aaron Carey, a sound engineer who has done tracks for Megadeth, Stevie Nicks and Sheryl Crow.

After that, Paulette jumped around looking for a mixer for the final product, eventually settling on Grindhouse Studios in Athens, Greece, which managed to master the exact sound Paulette was looking for.

Most recently, while in the finishing stages of the album, some songs he posted online caught the attention of a hard/melodic rock magazine called *Fireworks*, which decided to do a feature on him in the next issue and promote his music to labels and radio across the UK for a year.

Paulette is planning a listening party for the CD launch in Fort Smith, venue TBA, and plans to send copies to distributors and radio stations across the world.

While he's in celebration mode right now, the musician is already planning his second album. Having gone through the process once, he said he now feels more prepared and able to walk out of the studio this time with disc in hand.

"Right now I feel ready to go into the studio for my next album," he said. "I have a lot of material – I think more than enough for an album. It's just a matter of piecing it together."

## Junior Kindergarten in the NWT

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Dear Parents,

Our names are Melinda and Josh Pedersen, and we are parents of three children in Yellowknife. Lucas is just going into grade one in the Catholic system, and we couldn't be more pleased with how he's doing. He started in the pre kindergarten program, and he's gone from a shy kid to one who's a ringleader with lots of friends. He's more outgoing, confident and curious, and he's telling *us* how things work. He's also teaching a lot of things he learns in French to 4-year old Emma, who's just about to enter the program.

We always try to include our children in everything. We read to them daily, expose them to new activities, give them the option of what they want to participate in, and take them on outings. This is a great city for children's programming, and we take full advantage of it. Our kids love it, and we think it's important that they get the opportunity to choose what they want to do and what they're interested in.

Our youngest, Jocelyn, was born late last year, so she will be able to enter the junior kindergarten program in Yellowknife when she's 4. We were pretty excited to hear that a free program focused on kids learning and having fun would be available for her at least; with three kids attending school so close together, the costs for children's programs add up pretty quickly. We want to make sure our kids are getting the best education that we can provide for them, and it sounds like the JK program is a good start.



Melinda and Josh Pedersen  
Yellowknife, NWT





# ‘Brave New North’ at 2014 Northwords festival

## Fort Smith author Sandra Dolan celebrated with book award

By MARIA CHURCH

More Northern authors experimenting in more genres to tell more Northern stories is a reason to celebrate, according to Northwords NWT.

“Brave New North” was this year’s theme for the ninth annual Northwords festival held last weekend in Yellowknife and Fort Smith, with Northern authors and southern guest authors sharing their work in celebration of the written word.

Northwords director Annelies Pool said the theme covers two focuses: welcoming award-winning science fiction authors and the courage of Northern writers.

“There’s a lot of Northern writers who are taking risks in their writing, in the kind of stuff that they are writing about and in telling their personal stories,” she said.

“Right now, we live in an age where Northern writers are telling their own stories of the North and we are no longer dependent on people coming up here temporarily from the south to tell the Northern stories.



Fort Smith’s Jeri Miltenberger shares snippets of author Sandra Dolan’s award-winning book *One of the most busiest posts in the North: a History of Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta*, during the Northwords celebration in Fort Smith last week.

Not that there’s anything wrong with that, there’s a place for that, but you really need the stories from the North by Northern writers,” Pool said.

“Brave New North” is also a play on science fiction author Aldous Huxley’s book *Brave New World*, in keeping with the collection of high profile science fiction writers who were invited to this year’s festival.

Authors included international award-winning science fiction author Robert

Sawyer and husband and wife science fiction writing duo Hayden Trenholm and Liz Westbrook-Trenholm.

Pool said science fiction was an underlying theme, but the annual celebration of words is never limited to any one genre or style.

“We always try and cast a pretty wide net so we also have novelists and we also have poets,” she said. The list included a “tonne” of Northern authors in a smorgasbord of genres and styles.

Over the four days of Northword celebrations in Yellowknife, events included author readings, panel discussions, workshops and open mics. For the second year in a row, the festival had a presence in Fort Smith and this time it was guest author Monique Gray Smith who shared her highly acclaimed autobiographical novel *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience* with the community.

Local Fort Smith authors Michelle Swallow, Jeri Miltenberger, Jamesie Fournier,



Guest author Monique Gray Smith shares stories from her book *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience* with the Fort Smith crowd.

Jim Green and Patti-Kay Hamilton also shared their work at the public event, held Thursday evening at Mission Park.

“Writers often work in isolation,” Hamilton, organizer of the Fort Smith event, told the crowd before her recitation. “The great thing about Northwords is it gathers all the writers together to share.”

**Fort Smith author wins book award**  
Fort Smith author Sandra Dolan received a particular

honour during the festival as the recipient of a Northwords book award for her most recent publication.

*One of the most busiest posts in the North: a History of Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta*, which was published late last year, was chosen for the 2014 Northwords prize for an NWT-based book.

Dolan accepted the award with fellow Fort Smith resident Jeri Miltenberger, who helped with the production of the book.



**Biologist brings street art to Yellowknife**  
Yellowknife artist and biologist Diane Boudreau staged a noon-hour street art exhibit at the Yellowknife Post Office last Thursday. The exhibit, described by Boudreau as “an ephemeral garden of painting to increase public art in town,” featured works from different artists at an Artists Run Coop (ARCC) workshop in May.

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&  
Wednesday, June 18, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Where**

Fort Smith Métis Council  
25 Camsell St., (upstairs)



Contact Tracy Hoff at (867) 872-2770 or by email at [health.nwtmn@northwestel.net](mailto:health.nwtmn@northwestel.net)



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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



### 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, 5009-49th 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

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*

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### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

#### Exterior Siding – Aurora College

#### CT101424

#### – Fort Smith, NT –

Supply materials, labour and equipment to replace siding, exterior doors and windows on Phase I and II of Aurora College.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator at the Fort Smith, Hay River or Yellowknife Procurement Shared Services Centre, Government of the NWT, will be received until:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 20, 2014.**

Contract documents are available through the NWT Construction Association electronic plans room at nwtca.ca. Please email bulletin@nwtca.ca or phone (867) 873-3949 for more information.

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

Pre-tender meeting: 1:00 pm, June 17, 2014, Aurora College, Fort Smith.

**General Inquiries :**  
Contracts Administrator  
Procurement Shared Services  
Government of the NWT  
Fort Smith  
Phone: (867) 872-7411

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

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

### Finance and Administration Clerk

**Department of Lands** **Norman Wells, NT**  
*Indeterminate*

Salary starts at \$31.26 per hour (Approximately \$60,957 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$18,234.

**Job Opening ID#:** 11723 **Closing Date:** June 20, 2014

### Lands Officer

**Department of Lands** **Norman Wells, NT**  
*Indeterminate*

Salary starts at \$41.39 per hour (Approximately \$80,711 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$18,234.

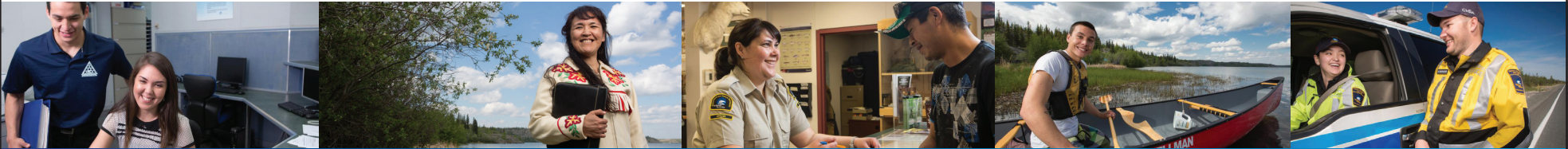
**Job Opening ID#:** 11659 **Closing Date:** June 20, 2014

► **Apply Online:** [www.gnwtjobs.ca](http://www.gnwtjobs.ca)  
**Inquiries Only:** Sahtu River Human Resource Service Centre  
P.O. Box 360, Edward G. Hodgson Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0, Fax: (867) 587-2173,  
E-mail: [jobssahtu@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobssahtu@gov.nt.ca)

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



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### 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!





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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

#### Furniture Supply

#### PO440915

#### – Yellowknife, NT –

Procurement Shared Services, on behalf of Environment and Natural Resources, is inviting tenders for the supply of furniture for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Scotia Center.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009-49<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stuart Hodgson Building, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, will be received before:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 25, 2014.**

To obtain a copy of the tender, please email: [psstenders@gov.nt.ca](mailto:psstenders@gov.nt.ca)

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

**General Inquiries :**

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

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


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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**

### FREE SYMPOSIUM

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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### FINANCIAL ANALYST

#### Hay River, NT

Reporting to the Manager, Budgeting and Regulatory Affairs, the Financial Analyst is a key member of the Finance team that compiles and prepares capital and operational budgets, develops the Corporation's various forecasts, and conducts variance analyses for both management and regulatory purposes. Also provides advice to internal and external customers regarding rates and the Corporation's Terms and Conditions of Service.

**Qualifications:** Professional Accounting Designation (CPA, CMA, CGA, CA), or currently enrolled in a professional designation program with 2+ years experience conducting budget forecasts and variance analysis, preferably in a regulatory environment. Candidates with lesser qualifications may be considered at a lower level. Any regulatory experience or knowledge of electrical rate regulation will be considered an asset.

**Salary Range:** Salary starts at \$46.35 per hour, plus location, & accommodation allowances of approximately \$7,773 per annum. We offer a comprehensive benefits package which includes defined benefits pension plan. Send resumes to: Human Resources, Northwest Territories Power Corporation, #4 Capital Drive, Hay River NT XOE 1G2, Fax: (867) 874-5229 or email: [careers@ntpc.com](mailto:careers@ntpc.com). **Competition #: 15-HR-14**

**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.*




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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

### 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)*



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)*



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# A banner year for whooping crane nests

## Record-breaking number of nests counted

By DALI CARMICHAEL

An annual survey tallying nests of endangered whooping cranes in and around Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) has been completed and the final results are record-breaking.

This year, 82 whooping crane nests were counted, up from 74 discovered this time last year. This number surpasses a previous record of 76 nests, set after a survey conducted in spring 2011.

“The general trend is for the number of nests to be increasing year after year as the population grows,” said Mark Bidwell, a species at risk biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

While Bidwell and his colleagues at Environment Canada and Parks Canada were delighted with the increase in nests discovered, they weren’t surprised by the results.

“On the same survey last year we observed a large number of pairs of whooping cranes without nests,” Bidwell said. “It is likely that some of the pairs were too young to breed last year...and some of those pairs that didn’t have a nest have come into the breeding population this year.”



Photo: Klaus Nigge

A record 82 whooping crane nests were counted in an annual survey around the Wood Buffalo National Park region. The record marks a victory for a number of conservationist groups fighting to save the endangered species.

Aside from the record-breaking number of nests located, surveyors also noted an increase in nests found outside WBNP. A total of seven nests were seen outside the park’s border, with five to the north and two on Salt River First Nation reserve land.

According to Bidwell, one of the nests found north of the park is in a location historically unvisited by whooping cranes.

“This is actually quite an exciting result because it highlights the range expansion that we have observed in

recent years,” Bidwell said. “Cranes have been expanding their territories into new areas within the park but also outside the park. That range expansion means we’re seeing cranes using bigger areas and more extensive areas than we have seen before.”

**A success story for conservationists**

According to Bidwell, these nest surveys have been conducted over four decades. In that time, bird enthusiasts and conservationists have watched the wild whooping crane population soar to over 300, based

on studies completed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

At their lowest point in the early 1940s, there were as few as 16 whooping cranes in total. The birds were officially declared an endangered species in 2000.

The population of whooping cranes that visits WBNP is the only self-sustaining group of whooping cranes in the world. After waiting out the winters at a wildlife reserve in Aransas, Texas, the cranes fly to their nesting grounds in the northeastern section of WBNP, west of Fort Smith, for the summer.

### Next survey to be done in late summer

Within the next few weeks, whooping crane chicks will be hatching from their nests.

Sometime during late July and early August, surveyors from all the partnering organizations will return to the park to conduct a productivity or chick survey.

The goal is to measure how many chicks have survived to become fledglings, an age where they can fly and could conceivably survive the entire migration to their winter home.

# HONOUR THE TREATIES: DENE LAND

## Join us in the celebration!

The public is invited to attended these events in Fitzgerald:



Chief Squirrel



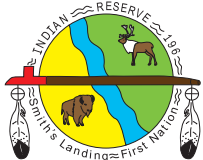
**June 17, 4:00pm**  
**Commemorative Ceremony**  
115-years of Treaty #8 (Ft. Fitzgerald, AB)

**June 17, 5:30pm**  
**SLFN Community Feast**  
(Ft. Fitzgerald, AB)

**June 17, 6:30pm**  
**Men’s Traditional Handgames (Day 2)**  
(Ft. Fitzgerald, AB)  
*Drum Dance to follow.*



Chief Abraham



“... to live in peace and friendship for as long as the sun shines and the waters flow.”



# Nature novice on 3,500-km trip by canoe, foot

## Traveller landed in Fort Smith June 3, portaged past rapids

By DALI CARMICHAEL

One man is attempting to canoe 2,700 km from Fort McMurray to Inuvik before ditching his boat and hiking another 800 km to Dawson, Yukon.

The only hitch in his plan? Before coming to Canada about two months ago, he'd never paddled a canoe before.

Germany's Marco Marder, 26, is a recent university graduate who decided to set out on a great trek looking for adventure before entering his career. He spoke with *The Journal* about his travels while portaging through Fort Smith on June 5.

"I was studying for the last five and a half years; almost all my buddies have spent half a year abroad or did an exchange somewhere," Marder said. "When I came to the end of my studies, I noticed that I'd never done such a thing and the problem is when you start your working life, you never have time to get half a year off. I realized it's my last chance to do something big."

Marder took to the internet, eventually deciding upon Canada as his destination.

"I always liked Northern countries more than the southern (ones) and Canada especially I liked because of the wide distances, the huge net of waterways, the possibility to be really alone out there," Marder said.

### Planning and preparation

For over half a year, Marder planned his excursion from his home in Germany, mapping routes and figuring out just how long it would take him to complete the journey.

Before coming to Canada, Marder got in touch with Calgary-based couple Darin and Jennifer Zandee, who happen to be canoe experts. Upon crossing the ocean, Marder stayed with the Zandeas for six weeks while Darin – the former president of Fort McMurray's canoe club – helped him learn how to canoe and prep for the lengthy excursion, dehydrating hundreds of fruits and stocking up on other necessary supplies.

The Zandeas also helped Marder connect with people



Marco Marder, en route to Inuvik, was ready to get back in the water after portaging through Fort Smith on June 6.

along his route who would hold on to packages of extra supplies and provide temporary relief from the elements.

Marder finally set out on his journey from Fort McMurray on May 23, with the Zandeas and a team of paddlers joining him on the water for the first day.

Photo courtesy of Marco Marder

### On the water

So far, Marder's route has taken him from Fort McMurray to Lake Athabasca where he ran into his first obstacle: winds that left him pinned against the south shore of the lake.

"I realized, 'Hey, you will not survive the night if you keep sitting in that boat!' so I started going upstream again and looking for a campsite," Marder said. He explained how he fought against the storm for about three hours before finding a bank that wasn't covered in mud, where he waited out the weather in his one-person tent.

After the storm finally passed, he paddled down the Slave River towards Great Slave Lake.

Upon reaching Fort Fitzgerald on June 3, Marder was forced to portage with his gear to Fort Smith, taking several days and two trips to transport everything.

While in town, he stored supplies at the Parks Canada office, slept at the local Whooping Crane bed and breakfast, stocked up on food and had clothing repaired.

Mostly he spent his time enjoying company in the community, even stopping in for dinner with some of the locals.

"It's like I expected it to be," Marder said of his trip. "Life is pretty hard out there, but there are also a few very nice moments, like when you are waking up and it's a nice, sunny morning."

On average, Marder is covering about 60 km a day, canoeing approximately 10 hours before setting up camp at night. From Fort Smith, he plans to paddle Great Slave Lake to the Mackenzie River, eventually reaching Inuvik before turning in his canoe for a pair of hiking shoes and following the Dempster Highway to Dawson City.

Marder said he plans to finish his adventures by the end of August, but, if he has time, may drive from Dawson City to Calgary to explore more of the Canadian West before departing for Germany on Oct. 6.

To follow Marder's adventures, like his Facebook page Marcos 3500km Canada Adventure at <https://www.facebook.com/3500kmCanada>



Grade 10 students at Athabasca Delta Community school in Fort Chipewyan proudly hold chicks they hatched for biology class.



The students hatched a total of 26 chicks.

Photos: Kara Mundy

### Education Biology

# Fort Chip students hatch chicks for biology class

By MARIA CHURCH

The entire Grade 10 class at Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan recently became parents.

Their babies are dozens of tiny, fluffy, peeping chicks.

For several weeks, the high school science students have been incubating chicken eggs as part of an experiential

learning biology project led by teacher Kara Mundy.

The eggs, 30 in total, were brought in from a hatchery in Edmonton and set up in an incubation system right in the classroom. For weeks, the students ensured the eggs received the right amount of heat by turning them over three to five times a day.

When 26 chicks were born on a Sunday two weeks ago, Mundy said she was surprised there were so many peeps.

"I knew we were doing everything right, but I was honestly very surprised," she said with a laugh.

Since they hatched, the students have been caring for the chicks with daily

feedings, cleanings and lots of love and attention.

Mundy said the project teaches the students about life cycles, but it's also been a good lesson in leadership.

The class invited younger grades to come check out their peeping babies and were able to share what they learned through the experiment.

"It was an opportunity for the Grade 10 students to be leaders because the little kids were really excited to see the baby chickens," Mundy said. "They were so proud because it was something to show that they worked on. They took ownership of those eggs and then the baby chicks."

The Grade 10 class will continue to take care of their charges in the classroom for the next week, but the young fowl will soon be heading out to good homes in the community.

Mundy said there are still a few chicks yet unspoken for and encouraged those interested to contact the school at (780) 697-3933.





Hay River's Brenna Beck is cheered on by the crowd at the 24th annual track and field territorialials held in Hay River last week.

Sports & Recreation Track & Field

# Eight NWT records at track and field territorialials

By MARIA CHURCH

Several NWT records were broken this year at the 24th annual track and field territorial championships held in Hay River last week.

Organizers couldn't have asked for better weather during the three-day event, which saw more than 1,100 athletes attend from more than 30 schools across the territory.

Eight records were broken in shot put, long jump and triple jump, as well as the 1,000-m, 1,500-m, 100-m and 400-m races.

For the first time, results from each event were immediately posted online for those at home to keep up to date on the competition. For

the second year in a row, a photo finish kept results as accurate as possible.

Joe LeBlanc, president of the NWT Track and Field Association and track coach based in Hay River, said the territorial meet has been held in Hay River since he came to the community 20 years ago.

"Basically the only place that can hold the event right now is Hay River. Fort Smith has a track but they don't have the field facilities. Yellowknife, they don't have a regulation track. Hay River has both," he said.

Jennifer Tweedie is on the steering committee for the territorial event and said the community pulled together with

around 300 volunteers keeping things running smoothly. Many of those were repeat volunteers who have been helping out for years.

"A lot of the people take on the same jobs every year. It's basically a well-oiled machine. People already know what to do each year so it pretty much runs itself - with the help of 300 people of course!" she said.

"The highlight is the same every year. It's the smiles on the kids' faces. It's the culmination of hard work over the entire school year," Tweedie said.


For full results from the meet, visit <http://itechnt.com/2014/05/20/2014-nwt-track-field-championships/>

## RECORDS BROKEN


<b>SHOT PUT (Juvenile)</b> .....	13.03 metres....	Josh Gauthier, PWK
<b>LONG JUMP (Master Women)</b> ....	3.89 metres ....	Tobi Dusome, St. Pat's
<b>TRIPLE JUMP (Second Year)</b> ....	7.95 metres ....	Declan Munro, Ecole Boreale
<b>1000-M (Peewee)</b> .....	03:40 .....	Luke Kotaska, J.H. Sissons
<b>1500-M (Master Women)</b> .....	06:06 .....	Shannon Ferreira, Sir John
<b>100-M (Bantam)</b> .....	00:13.90 .....	Madison McPhee, Princess Alexandra
<b>100-M (Bantam)</b> .....	00:12.80 .....	Lance Dizon, St. Joseph's
<b>400-M (Master Men)</b> .....	0:57.46 .....	Joel Hubert, Ecole Boreale



Paul William Kaeser high school's Krystal Gambler races ahead of her competitors during last week's territorial track meet in Hay River.



**NWT SENIORS' SOCIETY**  
nwtseniorsociety.ca



# SENIOR CITIZENS' MONTH 2014 & WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 15

I call upon everyone in our communities to join in the celebration of Senior Citizens' Month and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 to recognize the valuable contributions of seniors and elders.

## SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Now, therefore, I, the President of NWT Seniors' Society in the Northwest Territories, do hereby Proclaim the month of June, 2014, to be Senior Citizens' Month and the special day World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, more seniors and elders are independent and active, and by challenging the stereotypes of aging, are leading the way for future seniors and elders;

**WHEREAS**, a more positive attitude toward aging is creating new opportunities for seniors and elders;

**WHEREAS**, seniors and elders are a vital part of our families, giving generously of their wisdom, experience, time, leadership and love;

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that seniors and elders have made, and continue to make, many contributions to strengthen our communities and throughout our daily lives;

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that some seniors and elders have the right to feel secure and safe in this community;

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate that a special month be set aside to recognize and show respect to seniors and elders.

Leon Peterson  
President  
NWT Seniors' Society



# Celebrating the spirit and wisdom of our Elders.

In Aboriginal culture, no one is held in higher regard than Elders.

That's why the grand opening of the Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders Care Facility in Fort Chipewyan was such a momentous event. This facility not only provides Elders with expert care, it enables them to be close to their families and in their community. It also stands as a symbol of respect for the wisdom and teachings Elders share with the people of Fort Chipewyan. That is why Syncrude is proud to be a partner in making this facility a reality.

Please join us in thanking the Elders who have helped guide, strengthen and brighten our shared communities. Learn more at **[syncrude.ca](http://syncrude.ca)**



The Syncrude Project is a joint venture undertaking among Canadian Oil Sands Partnership #1, Imperial Oil Resources, Mocal Energy Limited, Murphy Oil Company Ltd., Nexen Oil Sands Partnership, Sinopec Oil Sands Partnership, and Suncor Energy Ventures Partnership.