



Z A T T M F Y R S N G Q B J V X G G V O U N I O M
U Z D N A K T E U T R B U J O N N R S L N C R A U
J U E E C V B G Z Z Q E W A D X P U E X E J D G J
I Q L M K Q R U I K S U H L L W P S D A L A A Q W
C H I N E S H L G N Z O I T Q I E J W F T T V B C
F L N R N P S A C V I O W E R E F I W Z B B U W E
F Z E E Z D V T A E N T K C T O O I E L N X E M O
B S D V I U D O M A R A I T S A N I C M O B V A I
G L J O E Y Z R V Q H E I A U Q Q L D A T D P X R
T E J G B H B Y V S V M M T T K S Q J T T J W F X
D E Q W T X W Z D E M S V O A I C M B A H I J F H
P M Z B F D T N N O Q S E P N P V W K A J R O W F
I O G G S A A B C O V U R M M Y G E A P M L J N Y
O F G V J H O G J O C M N W A M U R D Y M Z X Y S
R F E O S X N C Z Z N M W A H G V W R O M N B O G
D O E F E I F K E A O E I J P Q K R M W F Y S E H
S O L N N M K Z Z I Y R T V D U O P G H T F Z M Y
L I P I J Y R M K D J G K T X U J O A J D B H O B
E P A V T V U F F E T B D F P S G Q T B U Q B L G
T R K L C A U F L M C D N P R S L J D G R P X P C
T M C C R A N K F T J Y G E X G G P J S V Q N S O
G G C F E Y T C K F K A D A I M X F H E F M D X S
H D X R P U G D E N U L L Q C R H Z X Z L M T P J
P V I S I V H B N M E Q E Y G J C C G L Z L L G S
L A N O I T A N D D F B O P O L Y M P I C S R B M

Regulatory
National
Olympics
Mackenzie
Drum
Ceremony
Great Bear
Training
Northern
Initiative
Deline
McCrank
Summer
Government
Handshake
Elders
Media
Qualifications
Committee
Games



Investing in Training, Investing in Northerners



On August 27, 2008 the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announced a nine-million dollar investment to help Northerners with skills and training to take advantage of job opportunities in the North and across Canada.

Minister Strahl announced the Mine Training Society funding while he was in Yellowknife for the Northern Development Minister's Forum.

"Canada's Government is committed to creating the best educated, most skilled, most flexible workforce in the world. This is a good news story about co-operation between government, First Nations, the training sector and industry," said Minister Strahl. "It will enable Northerners to participate in greater numbers and at higher skill levels in the mining industry."

Under Human Resources and Social Development Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program, the Mine Training Society will prepare Aboriginal people for long-term employment in the NWT mining sector. Over a three year period, the project is expected to provide training and skills development to at least 500 Aboriginal people, leading to career opportunities in the Northwest Territories' mining and mine service sectors.

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program is an opportunity-driven initiative that focuses on maximizing Aboriginal employment on major projects through formalized partnerships. ASEP was initially launched in October 2003 as a five-year \$85 million initiative. In July 2007, the Government of Canada expanded and extended the ASEP program to 2012.

In Budget 2007, the Government of Canada committed to fostering private and public sector partnerships that help Aboriginal people with the skills and training they need to take advantage of opportunities in the North and across Canada.

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Just Plain Fun

Got something to tell us?

Here's who to contact:

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Plain Talk on Land and Self-government is produced by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the NWT to help northerners understand these concepts, how they work, and what they mean in our day-to-day lives. It is not a legal document.

Our Vision

The NWT region of INAC is a respected partner in a strong and healthy Northwest Territories. We strive for:

- respectful, effective relationships with Aboriginal people;
- creating and enhancing opportunities for all Northerners;
- responsible resource development in healthy ecosystems;
- northern control over northern resources;
- responsive and accountable northern government as partners; and
- national initiatives that reflect the interests of all Northerners.

On the Web

Government of Canada programs and services
www.gc.ca

INAC - NWT Region
nwt.inac.gc.ca

Youthbuzz on the NWT:
nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/yb/yb-0-eng.asp

Agreements
nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/atr/ent-agr-eng.asp

Plain Talk on the web
nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/atr/fp-pt-eng.asp



The purpose of our newsletter is to keep you informed on the progress of land and self government negotiations in the Northwest Territories, and to provide some answers to frequently asked questions. We also feature the people and communities involved in negotiations, celebrate milestones, and announce upcoming events. On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), we hope you will find our newsletter informative and easy to read.

Fall Edition/
Summer Roll Up

Canada

National Aboriginal Day

Share the Celebration

Photos by PATRICK KANE



Granddaughters of the Drum



Hank Big Charles dances with his children, Bradley and Summer Big Charles alongside Garret Jones



Michele Paper



Garret Jones and Charlotte Overvold led the crowd in a ceremonial dance. Jones, Overvold and Hank Big Charles hosted this year's National Aboriginal Day festivities



The crowd watches Garret Jones perform a hoop dance

On June 21st, 2008, National Aboriginal Day celebrations were held across Canada. Northerners from all walks of life participated in the many National Aboriginal Day activities in their communities. In Yellowknife, residents spent the sunny day celebrating at the Yellowknife Community Arena near Frame Lake.

National Aboriginal Day is a time for all Canadians to honour Canada's First Peoples for their important contributions to our culture and national identity. It is a day to take pride in the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of Canada and their achievements. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to celebrate rich traditions and to recognize the important role of Aboriginal Peoples in the creation of a proud and strong future for all Canadians. 🐾



The Dettah Drummers



Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada addresses the crowd

Déline Self-Government: Celebrating Successes

Photos by TAWNIA BROWN

On June 19, 2008, negotiations towards a Déline self-government agreement reached an important milestone. The three chief negotiators from Déline, Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories shook hands in a symbolic gesture to show they had reached agreement on all major issues in the text of the Déline Final Self-Government Agreement. The handshake was part of a day-long celebration in the community.

The day began with an open house at the school, where community members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues about

the agreement with members of the Government of Canada, Déline, and Government of the Northwest Territories' negotiating teams. The Elders held a group discussion with youth about Dene governance practices. Later in the afternoon, a fire feeding ceremony was held at the Prophet's House, led by Charlie Neyelle.

This was followed by the formal handshake ceremony among negotiators, Darrel McLeod (Canada), Danny Gaudet (Déline) and Fred Talen (GNWT). The event was also an opportunity for the Chief Negotiators to thank the many people in Déline who have

contributed towards reaching this important milestone in the self-government process.

The ceremony included recognition of three elders who have guided the Déline team during the negotiations: Leon Modeste, Alfred Taniton, and Andrew John (A.J.) Kenny.

The day was made complete with a community feast, hand games and a drum dance.

Déline was the first Sahtu community to pursue a self-government agreement, beginning negotiations in 1996. The residents of Déline will have greater control over decisions in their community and a final agreement will see they have practical tools and opportunities to strengthen their social and economic well-being. 🐾



Drummers at the fire feeding ceremony



Chief Negotiators Danny Gaudet (Déline), Fred Talen (GNWT), Darrel McLeod (Canada) pose after shaking hands over the Déline Final Self-Government Agreement

NWT Water Board Office Opening

Photos by INAC

The NWT Water Board has opened its new office in Inuvik. The official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 11, 2008, the same week as the Inuvik Petroleum Show. Several well-known Northerners attended the reception, including representatives from Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. 🐾



Former NWT Water Board Interim Chair Rudy Cockney is pictured cutting the ribbon for the official opening with Nellie Cournoyea, CEO/Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and INAC Regional Director General Trish Merrithew-Mercredi