

YA'THI NĒNĒ

SPRING 2024 | VOL 17  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



# What's Inside?

ATHABASCA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

UPDATES FROM THE COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS

ISOENERGY COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Ya'thi Nēnē Land and Resources' purpose is to protect the land, water, and air of Nuhenéné and to promote the people of the Denesuline First Nations and Athabasca communities that live there.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: GARRETT SCHMIDT

YNLR is pleased to present our spring community newsletter. YNLR's governance and staff have been busy advancing our mandate to promote and enhance the social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being of current and future Basin residents.

We're pleased to welcome another exploration company, IsoEnergy, as a partner in the region in support of their projects. This brings our total number of exploration company partners to 8 with more soon to be announced. Our Community Land Technicians have been busy working with the youth, Elders and other Basin organizations in supporting the practice of Treaty rights, provision of fish and wood as well as advancing our Indigenous Protected Areas. YNLR staff and board were busy presenting our work on cumulative effects at a conference in Calgary as well as presenting at a Canadian Space Agency conference on Earth Observations in Montreal.

Of most significance over the past few months was YNLR's participation and support of the Education, Training and Employment Summit in Saskatoon where over 100 people from industry, government, institutes and the Basin communities attended to share valuable insights on identifying and advancing priorities to support education, training and employment in the seven Basin communities. YNLR is grateful to our leadership for supporting the event and to sponsors Athabasca Basin Development and PrairiesCan.

YNLR has been busy these past few months and we appreciate the new partnerships we are establishing with government and industry. We continue to strengthen our existing partnerships in support of our mandate. YNLR and our leadership welcome the increasing interest from industry and government for resource development in Nuhenéné and we look forward to balancing this interest with the establishment of protected areas and partnerships that bring increased value to all Basin community members.

## NATOA Trust and Investment Conference

The 11th Annual NATOA Trust and Investment Conference was held in Montreal, Quebec from April 3rd to 4th. The purpose of the 2-day event was to bring together trustees and industry experts from across the country to knowledge-share, network, and plan for the future of Indigenous trusts and investments. TD Wealth and Indigenous Trusts invited Celeste Robillard to speak on the TD panel on behalf of the community trustees of the Athabasca Community Trust (ACT) at the conference.

The panel was titled "Community Funding for Impact" and discussion was about what is considered critical when evaluating and managing funding of projects and proposals, as well as experiences and challenges with deciding how to allocate funds, setting a strong foundation, and communication tips. Discussion points from Celeste included the successful water filters project in Uranium City, the importance of community trustees as the decision makers for the Athabasca Community Trust as well as the challenges with proposals and how to address those challenges by a pre-screen of proposals and face to face communication with applicants. The panel was a breath of fresh air on day 1 of the event and the crowd appreciated hearing from those that directly work with community members.

The Athabasca Community Trust will be accepting proposals from June 1st to June 30th for this year's spring round. For an application or more information, please contact your local Ya'thi Néné Lands & Resources office or online at [www.yathinene.ca/apply-now](http://www.yathinene.ca/apply-now)



Celeste Robillard speaks on behalf of the ACT.

## IsoEnergy Collaboration Agreement

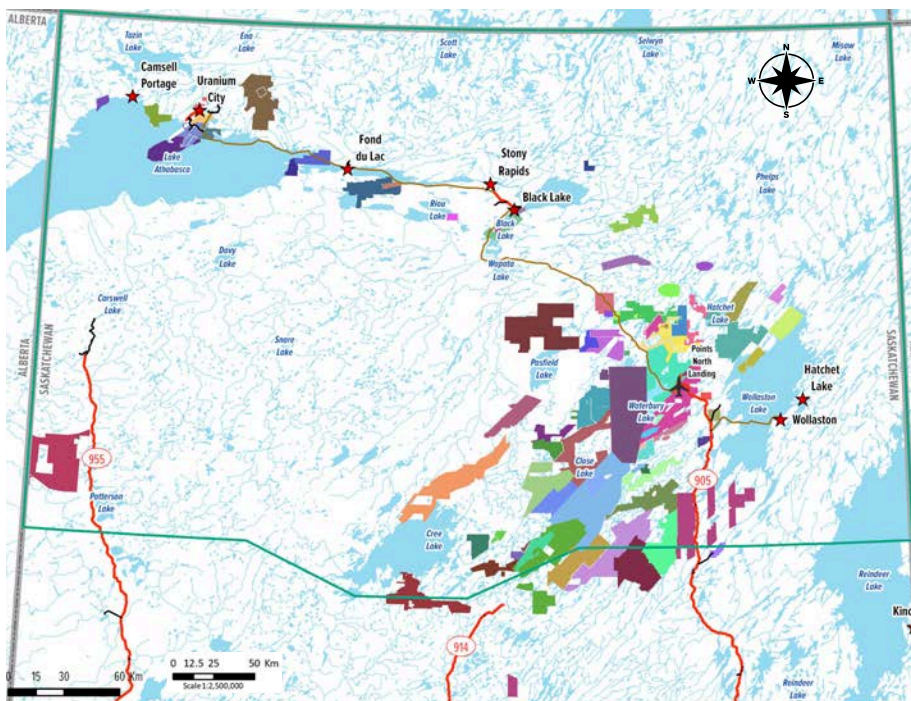
Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources is pleased to announce we have recently entered into a Collaboration Agreement with IsoEnergy Ltd.

This agreement is essential for enhancing cooperation and providing mutual enrichment. IsoEnergy has shown a long-lasting commitment to working together with the Athabasca First Nations and the Athabasca Municipalities in advancing exploration and development in the region. Having this agreement in place gives us a suitable structure for engagement and collaboration in key areas such as permitting processes, environmental protection, and monitoring protocols. It will help to ensure that the Athabasca communities are involved in, and supportive of, the work happening in Nuhenéné. It also highlights the fair distribution of benefits to support community development projects.

*"I am proud to announce the signing of this agreement with IsoEnergy. This agreement marks an important milestone for our communities and future generations. Together, we are laying the groundwork for sustainable development in Nuhenéné, ensuring that our people are involved and empowered throughout the process. We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have on our communities."*

-Mary Denechezhe, YNLR Board Chair

# YA' THI NÉNÉ and the DUTY TO CONSULT



92 Energy, Clover	Denison, Hatchet Lake	IsoEnergy, Thorburn Lake
92 Energy, Cypress	Denison, Johnston Lake	NXE Energy, SW1
92 Energy, Dorado	Denison, Moon Lake North	Orano, Close Lake
92 Energy, Gemini	Denison, Moon Lake South	Orano, Midwest
92 Energy, Powerline	Denison, Murphy Lake	Orano, Waterbury UEM
92 Energy, Tower	Denison, Waterbury	Orano, Waterfound River
92 Energy, Wares	Denison, Wheeler River	Purepoint, Carson Lake
92 Energy, Wormboiler	Eagle Plains, George Lake	Purepoint, Red Willow
ALX, Sabre Uranium	Eagle Plains, Shasko Bay	Purepoint, Tabernor Group
Appia, Alces Lake	F3, Cree Bay	Purepoint, Turnor Lake
Appia, North Wollaston	F3, Hearty Bay	Rio Tinto, Russell Lake
Baselode, Hook	F4, Bird Lake	Skyharbour, Moore Lake
Basin Energy, Geikie	F4, Cree Bay	Standard Uranium Ltd., Ascent
Basin Energy, Marshall	F4, Murphy Lake	Standard Uranium Ltd., Atlantic
Cameco, Dawn Lake	Fortune Bay, Goldfields Gold	Standard Uranium Ltd., Canary
Cameco, Forsyth	Fortune Bay, Marmac	Standard Uranium Ltd., Sun Dog
Cameco, McArthur River	Fortune Bay, Strike	Terra Uranium, Hawkrock
Cameco, Road Lake	Global Uranium, Newnham	Terra Uranium, Parker
Cameco, Studer Option	IsoEnergy, CBE	Terra Uranium, Pasfield
Cameco, Waterbury Cigar Lake	IsoEnergy, East Rim	Trench Metals, Higginson Lake
CanAlaska, Frontier	IsoEnergy, Evergreen	UEC, Roughrider
CanAlaska, McTavish	IsoEnergy, Geiger	UEC, Christie Lake
CanAlaska, Waterbury South	IsoEnergy, Hawk	UEC, Horseshoe Raven
CanAlaska, West McArthur	IsoEnergy, Larouque East	UEC, McClean Lake
Cosa, Orion	IsoEnergy, Larouque West	VR Resources, Forsyth
Cosa, Ursa	IsoEnergy, North Thorburn	Valor, Hidden Bay
Denison, Bell Lake	IsoEnergy, Radio	
Denison, Crawford Lake	IsoEnergy, Ranger	

Project Name	Permit Expiration	Permit Type	Project Name	Permit Expiration	Permit Type
92 Energy Clover	Aug-25	Exploration	IsoEnergy North Thorburn	Dec-24	Exploration
92 Energy Cypress	Nov-24	Exploration	IsoEnergy Radio	Dec-24	Exploration
92 Energy Dorado	Jul-25	Exploration	IsoEnergy Ranger	Nov-24	Exploration
92 Energy Gemini	Oct-25	Exploration	IsoEnergy Thorburn Lake	Dec-24	Exploration
92 Energy Laydown Site Land Disposition	Jun-27	Exploration	MoE Wollaston Lake Geological Mapping	Unknown	Mapping
92 Energy Powerline	Nov-24	Exploration	MoH Aggregate Exploration	Unknown	Exploration
92 Energy Tower	Dec-25	Exploration	MoH Wollaston Road Culvert Replacement	Unknown	Maintenance
92 Energy Wares	Apr-25	Exploration	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease KM13	33 years	Lease
92 Energy Wormboiler	Apr-25	Exploration	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease KM115	33 years	Lease
ALX Bradley	May-25	Prospecting	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease Expansion KM152	33 years	Infrastructure
ALX Crystal Lithium Project	Dec-24	Prospecting	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease Expansion 65KM N of Points North	33 years	Expansion
ALX Sabre Uranium	Mar-27	Exploration	MoH Lease 74P004 Expansion	Mar-49	Expansion
Appia Alces Lake	Dec-29	Exploration	MoH Lease 74P008 Expansion	Mar-43	Expansion
Appia Industrial Lease	Mar-56	Exploration	MoH Lease 30KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Baselode Hook	Dec-26	Exploration	MoH Lease Expansion 22KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Basin Energy Geikie	Nov-26	Exploration	MoH Lease Expansion 33KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Brunswick Lake Athabasca	Unknown	Prospecting	MoH 74P009 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Brunswick Wollaston	Unknown	Prospecting	MoH 74P011 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Cameco Cigar Lake	Dec-24	Exploration	MoH 74P012 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Cameco Dawn Lake	Sep-25	Exploration	NexGen Rook 1	Unknown	Exploration
Cameco Forsyth	Dec-25	Exploration	NexGen SW1	Unknown	Exploration
Cameco Laydowns	Nov-28	Exploration	Okapi Newnham	Jul-24	Exploration
Cameco McArthur River	Dec-25	Exploration	Orano Close Lake	Dec-24	Exploration
Cameco Read Lake	Sep-24	Exploration	Orano McClean Lake	Jul-26	Exploration
Cameco Studer Option	Dec-24	Exploration	Orano Midwest	Dec-24	Exploration
Cameco Surface Lease Amendment	Unknown	Exploration	Orano Waterbury Cigar	Dec-25	Exploration
Cameco Waterbury/Cigar Lake	Dec-24	Exploration	Orano Waterbury UEM	Dec-24	Exploration
CanAlaska Frontier	Unknown	Exploration	Orano Waterfound River	Dec-25	Exploration
CanAlaska Laydowns	Mar-28	Exploration	Points Athabasca Gravel Pit	Unknown	Extraction
CanAlaska Marshall	Dec-24	Exploration	Potzuz Aggregate Gravel Pit	Unknown	Extraction
CanAlaska McTavish	Nov-24	Exploration	Purepoint Carson	Dec-26	Exploration
CanAlaska North Millenium	Nov-24	Exploration	Purepoint Red Willow	Mar-26	Exploration
CanAlaska Seal Lake Camp	Mar-28	Construction	Purepoint Tabernor Group	Unknown	Soil Sampling
CanAlaska Waterbury South	Upcoming	Exploration	Purepoint Turnor Lake	Aug-26	Exploration
CanAlaska West McArthur	Dec-25	Exploration	Rio Tinto Russell Lake	Apr-25	Exploration
Cosa Orion	Dec-26	Exploration	SaskPower BL501	Mar-30	Maintenance
Cosa Ursa	Sep-25	Exploration	SaskPower BS1	Dec-24	Maintenance
Cree Lake Lodge Airstrip Lease	33 years	Airstrip Lease	SaskPower C2W	Dec-24	Maintenance
Denison Bell Lake	Dec-24	Exploration	SaskPower CR403 1M4 Veg Management	Feb-29	Maintenance
Denison Crawford Lake	Dec-26	Exploration	SaskPower HDD-511 Pole/Veg Maintenance	Mar-30	Maintenance
Denison Hatchet Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower P3R Transmission Line	Dec-24	Maintenance
Denison Johnston Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower S3P SE of Stony Rapids	Upcoming	Maintenance
Denison Moon Lake North/South	Dec-26	Exploration	SaskPower Hidden Bay	Mar-30	Maintenance
Denison Murphy Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower W3B Transmission Line	Dec-24	Maintenance
Denison Wheeler River	Jun-27	Exploration	SaskPower WPMP Rebuild	Mar-24	Construction
Eagle Plains George Lake	Mar-25	Exploration	Selwyn Lake Lodge Lagoon Refurbishing	Jan-25	Construction
Eagle Plains Shasko Bay	Sep-25	Exploration	Skyharbour Moore Lake	Mar-26	Exploration
F3 Cree Bay	Jun-24	Exploration	Skyharbour Russell Lake	Apr-25	Exploration
F3 Hearty Bay	Mar-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Ascent	Oct-25	Exploration
F4 Murphy Lake	Upcoming	Exploration	Standard Uranium Atlantic	May-25	Exploration
Fortune Bay Goldfields	Oct-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Canary	Dec-25	Exploration
Fortune Bay Marmac	Nov-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Sun Dog	Upcoming	Exploration
Global Uranium Newnham	Upcoming	Exploration	Terra Uranium Hawkrock, Parker, Pasfield	Dec-25	Exploration
Imperial Oil Bushnell Inlet Cameras	Unknown	Maintenance	Traditional Cabin Use Lease	Nov-56	Lease
IsoEnergy Collins Bay Extension	Dec-24	Exploration	Trench Metals Higginson Lake	May-24	Exploration
IsoEnergy East Rim	May-24	Exploration	UEC Diabase	Dec-24	Exploration
IsoEnergy Evergreen	Nov-24	Exploration	UEC Roughrider	Mar-25	Exploration
IsoEnergy Geiger	Jun-24	Exploration	UEC Christie Lake	Dec-25	Exploration
IsoEnergy Hawk	Jun-24	Exploration	UEC Key West	Dec-24	Exploration
IsoEnergy Larouque Camp Land Disposition	Jan-27	Exploration	UEC McClean Lake South	Jul-26	Exploration
IsoEnergy Larouque East	Jun-24	Exploration	Valor Resources Hidden Bay	Dec-26	Exploration
IsoEnergy Larouque West	Dec-24	Exploration	VR Resources Forsyth	Dec-24	Exploration
			Waterbury Lake Uranium Corp. Waterbury Lake	Mar-26	Exploration

AN UPDATE ON YOUR

# Indigenous Protected Areas

## Collaborative Discussions with Industry Partners

In a spirit of collaboration and dialogue, the team at Ya'thi Néné Lands & Resources (YNLR), joined by Chief and Council members from Black Lake Denesųłiné First Nation, convened for a series of meetings on April 16th and 17th, 2024 in Saskatoon, SK.

These pivotal sessions involved engaging with multiple industry companies, all centered around the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) project. Each meeting, spanning an hour, was conducted with individual participating companies. This structured approach allowed for thorough discussions and meaningful exchanges, ensuring aspects of the IPA project were comprehensively addressed.

These interactions serve as a testament to our commitment to fostering partnerships and transparent processes within our community. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue to advance our shared goals together!

### What is an Indigenous Protected Area?

IPAs are usually defined as conservation areas whose creation and ongoing management are Indigenous led, with Indigenous Peoples having the primary role in determining what is important to that specific IPA. This includes things like the values and objectives that are identified as sacred, boundaries of the IPA, the management plans for the IPA, and the governance structures for the IPA.

For the Nuhenéné IPA, this means that the Athabasca Denesųłiné decide what values and priorities will guide and direct all work being done to develop protected areas. The community members participate in the process of determining where the protected areas will be located and their size. Elders, youth, leadership, and land-users are involved every step of the process. This is Nuhenéné, and it is important that everyone has the opportunity to have their input.

## Exciting News: Launch of Socio-Economic and Conservation Economy Study

In our ongoing efforts to foster a sustainable and diverse economy rooted in the traditional stewardship of our natural and cultural heritage, the Athabasca Denesųłiné First Nations and communities are embarking on a groundbreaking initiative. We are thrilled to announce the commencement of a comprehensive Socio-economic and Conservation Economy Study, focusing on Nuhenéné (SK).

Made possible through funding from our partners at Parks Canada, this study aims to explore the vast potential for building and sustaining conservation economies through the establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs).

YNLR is delighted to lead this project, which will provide a holistic overview of the socio-economic landscape in the Athabasca Denesųłiné First Nations and surrounding municipalities. Our dedicated team will identify crucial data gaps specific to Nuhenéné and devise strategic plans to address them.

To undertake this important work, we have engaged the expertise of Mark Anielski of Anielski Management Inc. Mark visited the communities in early June to share insights and seek input, ensuring that this study authentically represents the aspirations and realities of the Athabasca region.

Stay tuned for further updates as we embark on this important work together, shaping a future where our communities thrive in harmony with our cherished natural and cultural heritage.

### Elders' Corner

**"As mothers and fathers we protect our children until our last breath because we love them and they are our future. Our traditional land and waters must be treated the same as our children; we must protect them until our last breath or there will be no future."**

*- Late Chief Laurent as told to late Elder Stan Laurent as told to late Elder Helen Ganson, Fond du Lac*



## Conservation Finance Workshop

We're happy to share that Tina Giroux-Robillard, YNLR IPA Project Manager, along with IPA Project Coordinator Keesha Martin (virtually), had the opportunity to participate in the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) – Sustainable Conservation Financing in Canada: A National Workshop, held from March 24-27, 2024, in the picturesque town of Squamish, BC.



Squamish Learning Centre.



Squamish First Nations Long House.



Tina learning to weave a cedar rug.

The workshop served as an invaluable platform for Tina and Keesha to delve into the latest trends and insights in conservation finance. With a special focus on Protected and Conserved Areas, the event provided a rich learning experience, allowing our team to gain crucial knowledge to further enhance our IPA project.

Stay tuned for more updates on how this newfound knowledge will positively impact our community's conservation efforts!

“

*I learned that there is an economic value to land and water, other than resource extraction, which can negatively impact the land/water in the process. I knew previously that the land and water was important to the Denesųliné people in Nuhenéné, through cultural and traditional ties, but I did not know that conserving the land and water could also potentially bring in money. I knew about eco-tourism and that it could bring in money, but not the other possibilities.*

— Keesha Martin, IPA Project Coordinator

”

## Community Partnerships Spotlight: Strengthening for Environmental Protection

In a significant milestone for our Indigenous Protected Area project, on April 11th, 2024, Hatchet Lake Denesųliné Chief and Council, accompanied by respected Elders and YNLR staff, convened with the Honourable Christine Tell, Minister of Environment. The purpose? To delve into the advancement of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA).

The meeting unfolded as a beacon of insight, with YNLR Board Chair Mary Denechezhe eloquently and passionately speaking about the need for environmental and cultural protection in Nuhenéné. Minister Tell, in turn, expressed a firm commitment to collaborative efforts, fostering mutual understanding among all involved parties.

Moving forward, we are pleased to continue to grow our partnership with the Province and utilize the Province's Protected Conserved Area Network (PCAN) strategy in support of our work. The bonds forged and agreements reached during this pivotal meeting signal a promising path forward in balancing our conservation endeavors and responsible resource development in Nuhenéné.

## Community Visits: IPA Updates

From June 9th - 12th, the IPA team visited the communities of Uranium City, Camsell Portage, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake. Our visit to Fond du Lac has been postponed, so stay tuned for the new date!

During this tour, we provided updates on the progress of the IPA work and insights into our ongoing initiatives. We also conducted Indigenous Knowledge interviews with community members. Thank you to everyone who participated; your wisdom and experiences are invaluable in shaping our conservation efforts. Note: If you are an Elder or land-user with knowledge on Dene place names in Nuhenéné (within Saskatchewan), please see your Community Land Technician to schedule an interview!



Black Lake Community meeting, June 11, 2024.



# COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the **FIELD**

## Caribou Scouting near Fond du Lac

By Trevor Lidguerre

*In mid-March, Trevor Lidguerre went on an exciting journey with YNLR and Athabasca Denesųliné Nene Land Corporation (ADNLC) to scout for caribou. Joined by Ivan Adam, Andrew Isadore, and Ian Isadore, they set out on a five-day trip from Fond du Lac to various destinations including Scott Lake, Wignes Lake, Sandy Lake, and Small Tree Lake.*

This was my first field trip since working at YNLR and it was an exciting opportunity to explore new places, as our guide Andrew Isadore led us through some traditional hunting routes. Along the way, we saw old caribou tracks heading north on Gardiner Lake, indicating they had been there. Although we didn't spot any caribou, the trip was filled with memorable experiences exploring areas I'd never seen before.

We ended our trip by visiting the recently built ADNLC cabins at Ivanhoe Lake and Smith Lake, within the proposed IPA. The cabins had not been used this season due to lack of caribou in the Fond du Lac area, but we still cleaned up the cabin sites and stacked wood for future visitors. The cabins were in excellent condition, ready to host future travelers.

I want to thank Andrew Isadore for guiding us and Tina Giroux-Robillard for the opportunity to participate in this journey. I am looking forward to what's in store for the upcoming summer months.

## Youth Culture Camp

By Jean Tsannie

*In March, Jean Tsannie joined many community members to host a Youth Culture Camp near Misaw Lake. They came together to teach essential survival skills to youth.*

My role as a Community Land Technician (CLT) was to teach the youth how to build shelters and prepare meat. These skills are not only practical but also part of our culture.

Over five days, we worked hard. I showed the youth how to make shelters and make dry meat. They learned fast, and their smiles showed their excitement. Teaching large groups of youth is amazing because you become a kid again doing fun stuff with them. It's so rewarding to see their enthusiasm and curiosity.

As we packed up on the last day, I felt grateful for the chance to teach and for the connections we made. These skills are crucial for their future and to help keep traditional practices alive. It was a rewarding experience seeing the youth learn and grow, and I'm happy for the opportunity to pass on these important skills.



## Children and Elders Carnival

By Margaret Powder

*From Thursday, April 4, to Sunday, April 7, 2024, we hosted a carnival designed to bring healing and unity.*

The carnival was a much-needed opportunity for us to come together, support one another, and reconnect with our traditional ways of life.

Margaret Powder and Janine Dean led the coordination, planning, and organization. Wayne Powder and Ryan Charles played crucial roles in setting up tents, hauling wood, and preparing the necessary equipment for the events.



The main goal was to help our community heal from recent losses by fostering a sense of togetherness. Through a rich program that included teachings of traditions, cultural practices, sports, music, and art, participants were able to find solace and strength in shared experiences. We wanted to create a space where community members, young and old, could gather and engage in meaningful activities.

## Cabin Scouting

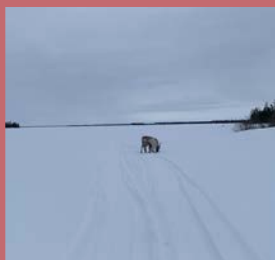
By Ian Donard

*On February 9th and 10th, Ian Donard and AJ Donard went cabin scouting with partners from the Athabasca Denesųliné Nene Land Corporation (ADNLC).*

This effort to maintain cabins ensures the preservation of traditional Denesųliné practices and supports the needs of local hunters. Many hunters depend on cabins for shelter.

The team inspected cabins and performed minor repairs on two cabins at Wholdaia Lake. We also met up with many hunters in the area, some of whom had successfully hunted caribou. After speaking with them, we gathered feedback and noted the general struggle due to a lack of sufficient cabins. Hunters expressed their hopes for more cabins in the future, which would support their activities and the Denesųliné tradition of caribou hunting.

The efforts of our Community Land Technicians highlight the dedication to preserving traditions and supporting the community. Their work ensures that both the land and the cultural practices tied to it are maintained for future generations.



## Setsune Chu Setsiekwi Beneka Neni (Caring for my grandmother and grandfather) Elder Support Project UPDATE



Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources have committed to serving our Elders in the Athabasca Basin communities through this important project funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

Our Community Land Technicians (CLTs) dedicated to this project provide support services and provision of traditional foods and essential materials to Elders to enable them to live in their familiar surroundings. Over the last several months, YNLR's CLTs have shovelled snow and sanded walkways, cleaned up outdoor areas, and provided water, wood, fish, and geese to Elders in their communities.

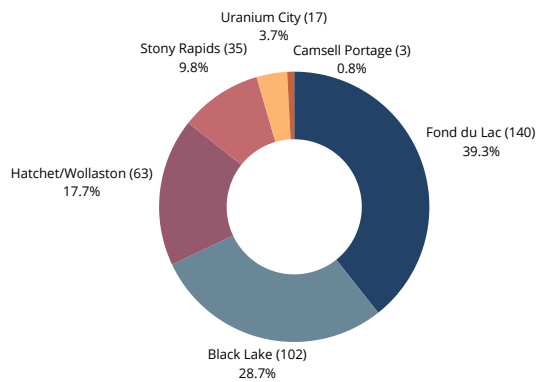
We ask for your patience with our CLTs: they are working hard to support as many Elders as possible. Funding for this program is intended to provide some support to Elders and not all of their food or firewood needs.

# TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

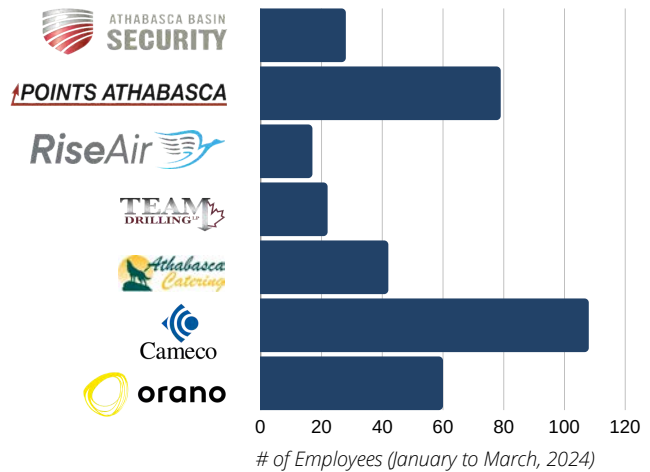
## Updates in Nuhenēnē

Facilitating workforce growth, business development, and lifelong learning in the Basin.

Employees by Location



Basin Employer Statistics



### EXPORT Update - Community Visits

Visits with the Grade 12 youth in the communities of Wollaston Lake/Hatchet Lake, Fond du Lac and Black Lake in the month of March were successful. The students were eager and entered their skills and experiences in the EXPORT portal so they have access to scholarships, summer employment and potential full-time employment that are shared by Corporate Partners with EXPORT.

May-Britt will continue to travel in the communities, build relationship with residents and advocate for them so they have access to employment, training and scholarship opportunities that may present themselves for Basin residents. Watch for future dates, times, and locations posted on the YNLR Facebook page to know when May-Britt will be in the communities to support residents on updating their EXPORT profile or becoming a first-time user of the platform.

### EXPORT Survey

We are always looking for ways to improve our services to community members in the Athabasca Basin. This summer, we will be conducting a survey to see how we can progress and expand the EXPORT platform. Users and non-users of EXPORT are eligible to participate in the survey. Further details will be forthcoming shortly.

## Athabasca SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024-25

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS **JULY 31, 2024**



### Who can apply?

The scholarships are available to members and residents of the following communities:

- ✓ Black Lake Denesuline First Nation
- ✓ Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation
- ✓ Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation
- ✓ Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids
- ✓ Northern Settlement of Uranium City
- ✓ Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake
- ✓ Northern Settlement of Camsell Portage

Candidates for the scholarships must:

- ✓ Qualify as an Athabasca Basin Resident or Member
- ✓ Be accepted into a Post-Secondary Program and provide proof of enrollment at the time of application
- ✓ Be willing to sign an agreement accepting the terms of the scholarship

APPLY NOW

[www.yathinene.ca/scholarships](http://www.yathinene.ca/scholarships)

Questions? Please contact us.  
**306-477-1271**

# Athabasca Basin Education, Training, and Employment Summit

On March 13 -14, 2024, the Athabasca Education Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) held an Education, Training and Employment Summit in Saskatoon to bring together interest groups that live, work, or operate in the Athabasca Basin to build consensus on strategic priorities and actions moving forward.

The agenda for the Summit included presentations of activities related to education, training and employment in the Athabasca Basin, panels representing these areas, and various stakeholder addresses and industry contributions. We appreciate the comments provided by MLA Jim Lemaigre of the Saskatchewan Government and Minister Dan Vandal of the Federal Government to help kick off the event. The activities included Ice Breakers, Keynote Speakers, Panel Discussions, Visioning and Action Workshops.

A significant number of attendees approved of the assigned working groups and found it extremely valuable to be introduced to and work alongside individuals from different sectors. This format encouraged relationship-building, knowledge, and resource sharing, and resulted in strong, meaningful consensus on future visions, goals, and actions. A key takeaway from the engagement findings is the need for continuous collaboration. Events such as the Summit are seen as highly valuable by attendees and there is a shared desire for more opportunities to come together regularly.

A draft overview of the 10 Recommendations identified included "Establish a Governance Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Modernize Infrastructure, Develop Workforce Capabilities, Enhance Educational Facilities, Curriculum Development, Promote Health and Wellness, Foster Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth, Cultural Preservation and Integration and a Needs Assessment Framework and Program Evaluation."



Keynote Address: Joel Pedersen, Fond du Lac Member.

Guiding Principles were also identified, which included "Respecting Language and Culture, Consistent Communication, Consultation and Negotiation, Prioritizing Youth and Elder Input, Focus on Holistic Well-being and Be Community-driven".

Once the report and its findings are reviewed and confirmed by leadership, this analysis will be used to begin work on the strategic action plan. The anticipated action plan will break down the recommendations into deliverables with associated tasks, objectives, and milestones. These plans will then be shared with key government, institute and industry partners.

The AEEDC would like to thank the organizations from all sectors, government, keynote speakers, panel speakers and participants who attended and provided their participation and contribution for a successful Summit that was made possible by financial contributions from PrairiesCan and Athabasca Basin Development.

## Cumulative Effects Conference

YNLR recently attended the 12th National Symposium on Cumulative Effects Assessment and Environmental Management, held in Calgary, AB on April 9-10, 2024.

At the symposium, we learned more about current and future practices in cumulative effects and environmental management, with an emphasis on Indigenous Rights, Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA), and Regulatory Processes.

Bruce Hanbidge, our Strategic Advisor, and Kathy Hay, Manager of Corporate Affairs, shared a presentation titled "Assessing Cumulative Effects in the Athabasca Dene Traditional Territory (Nuhenene) of Northern Saskatchewan" with members of the mining industry, regulatory bodies, and Indigenous groups.

The presentation focused on the threats faced by the Woodland Caribou, the overall ecological integrity of the area, and the Denesųliné culture. We emphasized the Denesųliné community's efforts to protect and preserve our land while supporting mineral exploration and extraction at levels that are both ecologically and socially sustainable. We remain committed to advancing sustainable practices and encouraging meaningful partnerships that prioritize environmental stewardship and Indigenous rights.



Bruce Hanbidge and Kathy Hay share their presentation.

## Earth Observation Forum

In May, YNLR was invited to Canada Space Agency's 2024 Earth Observation Forum in St. Hubert, QC. Mary Denechezhe (Board Chair, Hatchet Lake), Archie Disain (Board Director, Black Lake), Jean Tsannie (Community Land Technician, Hatchet Lake), and Megan Wallace (Environmental Land Use Planner) attended on behalf of YNLR.



L to R: Leonard Tipewan (Executive Director, SALT), Jean Tsannie, Megan Wallace, Mary Denechezhe, Archie Disain.

The focus of this conference was to review the recent missions for satellite imagery completed by Canada Space Agency and to look at what is planned in the coming years. One interesting mission is a new satellite that is targeted to monitor and identify potential forest fire locations and track the size and severity of burns.

Mary opened the conference with words of wisdom and opportunity that resonated with attendees. YNLR was also asked to participate in a session called "Sharing Stories about Indigenous Wisdom, Earth Observation and Mapping." Mary and Megan gave a presentation highlighting some of the challenges faced by Nuhené with ongoing disturbance from resource development, impacts from climate change, and how we are presently using satellite imagery to help identify ground disturbance. The reception to the session was astounding and indicated by many as the highlight of the conference. We challenged Canada Space Agency to expand on data sharing and accessibility, particularly for Indigenous organizations.



# orano

## Update on Orano Exploration Activities

The 2024 winter exploration programs in Waterbury-Cigar, Waterfound River and Midwest ended during the first week of April. All the planned drilling activities were completed consisting of 38 drill holes, totaling 17,938m. The Orano team and contractors have been utilizing Points North and McClean Lake as bases for this work.

The ground geophysical surveys planned at Close Lake, Waterfound River and Waterbury-Cigar were shortened or postponed due to challenging weather conditions and early snowmelt that could not ensure safe activities.

On the west side of the province, at the Preston Lake project, south of Patterson Lake, the planned ground geophysical survey has been completed. The geophysical program for the Marguerite River was canceled due to poor ground conditions again due to early snowmelt.

Orano will commence drilling operations again in June for the Waterfound River project along with a revised ground geophysics that was not completed this winter. Crews will once again be based in Points North. Consideration will also be made to perform geophysical survey adapted to the dry conditions in Close Lake and Waterbury-Cigar.

For the west side of the province, a soil sampling program of 1,100 soil samples is also scheduled during the summer at Preston Lake.

Orano exploration team is ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 certified and plans projects to prioritize the health and safety of the team and minimize potential impacts to the environment.

## Introducing Lesley Schmalz & Walter Smith

Orano Canada has a new Regulatory Manager working in Saskatoon! Meet Lesley Schmalz, who has returned to Orano after a 5-year hiatus with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

Prior to working with the Province, Lesley worked at the McClean Lake Operation as a Regulatory Relations Coordinator for 11 years. Lesley is excited to be back and is looking forward to visiting the northern communities and reconnecting with former co-workers and meeting new people.



We are also pleased to welcome Walter Smith as the Senior Indigenous Engagement Specialist for the company. Walter brings a broad spectrum of lived experience achieved from blending his professional career, academic education and Indigenous knowledge.

Walter and his wife Laurie currently live in Martensville with their family. Hailing from Pinehouse, Walter is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and someone with over thirty years experience in the mining

industry and community development. Most recently he was employed as the Environment, Education and Training Manager at Kineepik Metis Local. He enjoys the northern lifestyle and cultural practices and will continue to work on his fluency in the Cree language. He also looks forward to learning more of the Dene language once again.

**Contact Us:** As always, we welcome questions and comments any time. Please call us at: 306-343-4500 or reach out through our website: [oranocanada.com](https://www.oranocanada.com) or social media.



***Energizing a clean-air world***

## **Beaverlodge Annual Public Meetings**

The 2024 Beaverlodge annual public meetings occurred on May 27 and 28, 2024 in Uranium City. Cameco has submitted an application requesting a release from Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licensing requirements. A public hearing with the CNSC regarding this application has been scheduled for January 29, 2025.

For those interested in participating in the hearing process, the CNSC has made funding available through the Participant Funding Program. Participant funding applications are due June 21, 2024. Interventions are due on December 10, 2024.



*Beaverlodge Fookes Delta Site Visit, May 2024*

More information can be found on the Beaverlodge website: <https://www.beaverlodgesites.com>



## **Northern Saskatchewan Scholarships**

**Up to \$5,000 for northern students  
in post-secondary trades, technical  
or university programs.**

**Applications open early June**

*Marian Josie, Wollaston Lake  
2023 Recipient*



## Your Community Land Technicians are here for you.

Ya' thi Néné's purpose is to protect the land, water, and air of Nuhenéné and to promote the people of the Denesųłiné First Nations and Athabasca communities that reside there.

That's why we're always on the lookout for issues and observations from residents of the Basin. If you or someone you know has an observation, notices something, or hears a concern related to the land and water, we ask that you report it to one of our Community Land Technicians (CLTs).

When you make a report to your CLT, they will take the time to listen to your concerns and ask you questions. After collecting as much information as possible they will refer the issue to our head office, where research and analysis will be done and actions to resolve the issue will be determined.

Updates will be provided to the person(s) who reported the issue on a regular basis. Issues that are successfully resolved will be communicated to the communities.

Some examples of issues that could be reported include:

- Seeing an outfitter abandoning an out-post camp, leaving debris and garbage
- Finding an abandoned exploration camp with waste left behind
- A sick or diseased animal (e.g. fish with unknown cysts)
- Observations on changes to the environment (animal behaviour, habitat, etc.)
- Issues with hunting/trapping/fishing/gathering

For more information, contact your local Community Land Technician or Dana Kellett, YNLR Manager of Environment [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com) or call (306) 477-1251.



# EXPORT

EXPORT is a web-based skills inventory and business registration database built to increase communication between community members and partners operating in the region in order to maximize training, employment and business opportunities in the Basin.

### WHAT CAN EXPORT DO FOR YOU?

EXPORT brings companies and communities together with a database of resumes of skilled individuals. EXPORT was built by and for Basin communities and people, providing a platform to give regional partners a direct connection to Basin residents and Basin businesses to better meet community needs and to maximize regional opportunity.

JOIN EXPORT NOW TO  
FIND YOUR NEXT  
EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITY.



WE NEED CONTENT FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send your photos to  
[admin@yathinene.com](mailto:admin@yathinene.com) with the  
subject line "YNLR Newsletter" to  
be featured in our Summer 2024  
issue!



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