



SUMMER 2024 | VOL 18
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

What's Inside?

ATHABASCA BASIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

UPDATES FROM THE COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS

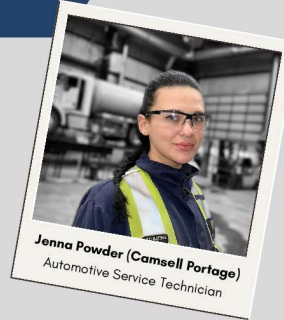
PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

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

Congrats!

Athabasca Basin

scholarship recipients



Black Lake

Jessica McDonald - B.Ed Indigenous Education
Candace (Candy) Robillard - B. Indigenous Social Work
April Beaversey - B.Sc. Nursing (4-year)
Elden John Sayazie - B.Ed Indigenous Education
Shelby Alphonse - B.Social Work (Qualifying)
Shantelle Robillard - Pre-Nursing

Fond du Lac

Gabrielle Toutsaint - Masters of Indigenous Languages
Todd Adam - Carpenter (Red Seal)
Lorine Randhile - B. Indigenous Social Work
Robbin Hanson - B. Social Work (Qualifying)
Deht'anuhzeh Noey - B.A. Undeclared (4-year)

Hatchet Lake

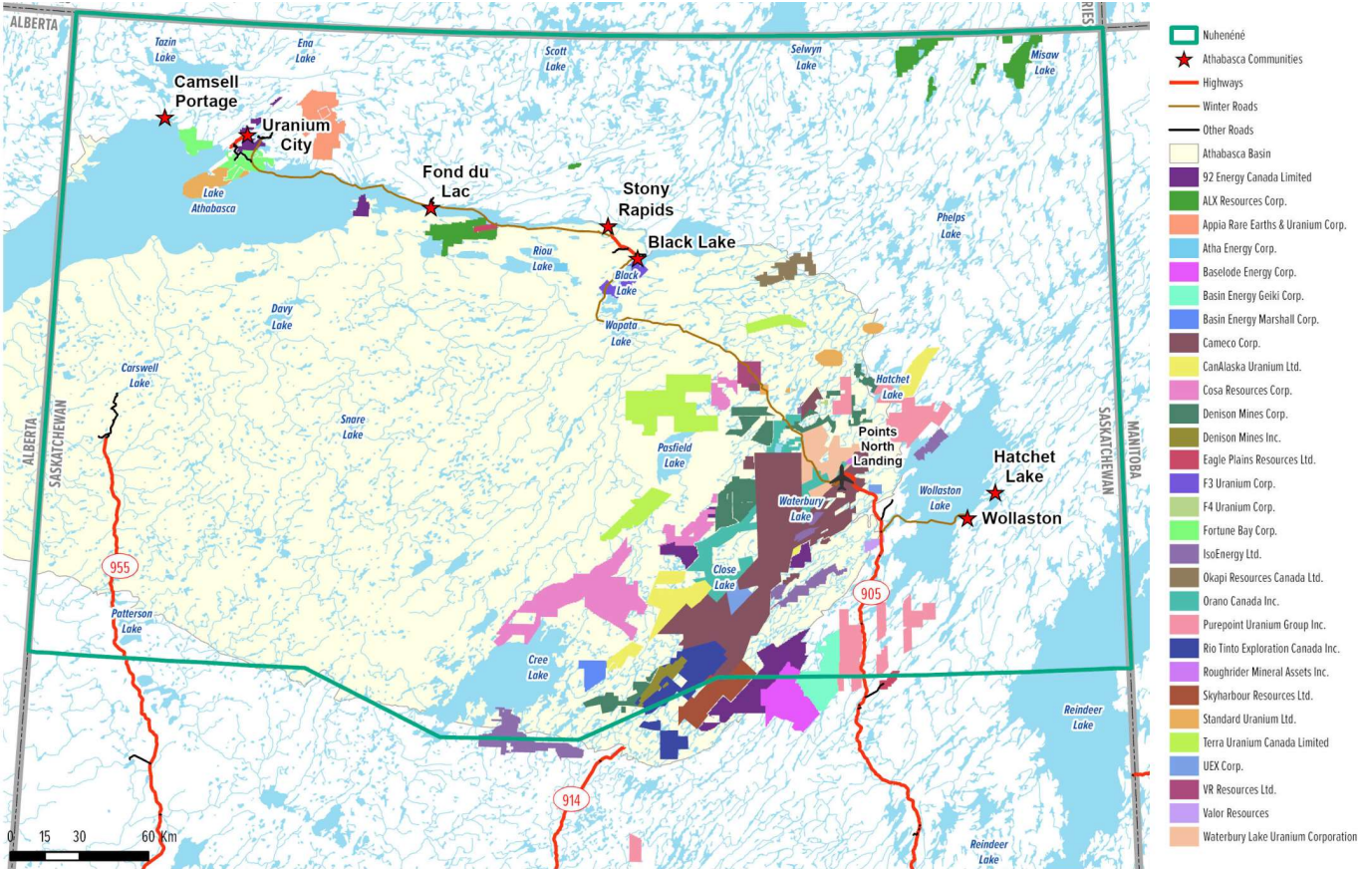
Bernadette Besskaystare - B.Ed Denesųliné Teacher Education Program
Anne (Rhonda) M. St. Pierre - B.Ed Indigenous Education



These awards are made possible by the generous support of



YA' THI NÉNÉ and the DUTY TO CONSULT



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 Laydown Site Land Disposition	Jun-27	Exploration	IsoEnergy Thorburn Lake	Dec-24	Exploration
92 Energy Powerline	Nov-24	Exploration	MoE Wollaston Lake Geological Mapping	Unknown	Mapping
92 Energy Wares	Apr-25	Exploration	MoH Aggregate Exploration	Unknown	Exploration
ALX Bradley	May-25	Prospecting	MoH Wollaston Road Culvert Replacement	Unknown	Maintenance
ALX Crystal Lithium Project	Dec-24	Prospecting	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease KM13	33 years	Lease
ALX Sabre Uranium	Mar-27	Exploration	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease KM115	33 years	Lease
Appia Alces Lake	Dec-29	Exploration	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease Expansion KM152	33 years	Infrastructure
Appia Industrial Lease	Mar-56	Exploration	MoH Sand and Gravel Lease Expansion 65KM N of Points North	33 years	Expansion
Baselode Hook	Dec-26	Exploration	MoH Lease 74P004 Expansion	Mar-49	Expansion
Basin Energy Geikie	Nov-26	Exploration	MoH Lease 74P008 Expansion	Mar-43	Expansion
Brunswick Lake Athabasca	Unknown	Prospecting	MoH Lease 30KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Brunswick Wollaston	Unknown	Prospecting	MoH Lease Expansion 22KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Cameco Cigar Lake	Dec-24	Exploration	MoH Lease Expansion 33KM SW of Black Lake	Mar-57	Lease
Cameco Dawn Lake	Sep-25	Exploration	MoH 74P009 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Cameco Forsyth	Dec-25	Exploration	MoH 74P011 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Cameco Laydowns	Nov-28	Exploration	MoH 74P012 Expansion	Unknown	Expansion
Cameco McArthur River	Dec-25	Exploration	NexGen Rook 1	Unknown	Exploration
Cameco Read Lake	Sep-24	Exploration	Orano Close Lake	Dec-24	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 Red Willow	Mar-26	Exploration
CanAlaska North Millenium	Nov-24	Exploration	Purepoint Tabernor Group	Unknown	Soil Sampling
CanAlaska Seal Lake Camp	Mar-28	Construction	Purepoint Turnor Lake	Aug-26	Exploration
CanAlaska Waterbury South	Apr-27	Exploration	Rio Tinto Russell Lake	Apr-25	Exploration
CanAlaska West McArthur	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower BL501	Mar-30	Maintenance
Cosa Astro	Jul-25	Exploration	SaskPower BS1	Dec-24	Maintenance
Cosa Cosmo	Mar-26	Exploration	SaskPower C2W	Dec-24	Maintenance
Cree Lake Lodge Airstrip Lease	33 years	Airstrip Lease	SaskPower CR403 1M4 Veg Management	Feb-29	Maintenance
Denison Bell Lake	Dec-24	Exploration	SaskPower HDD-511 Pole/Veg Maintenance	Mar-30	Maintenance
Denison Crawford Lake	Dec-26	Exploration	SaskPower P3R Transmission Line	Dec-24	Maintenance
Denison Hatchet Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower S3P SE of Stony Rapids	Jul-29	Maintenance
Denison Johnston Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	SaskPower Hidden Bay	Mar-30	Maintenance
Denison Moon Lake North/South	Dec-26	Exploration	SaskPower W3B Transmission Line	Dec-24	Maintenance
Denison Murphy Lake	Dec-25	Exploration	Selwyn Lake Lodge Lagoon Refurbishing	Jan-25	Construction
Denison Waterbury	Mar-26	Exploration	Skyharbour Mann Lake	Mar-26	Exploration
Denison Wheeler River	Jun-26	Exploration	Skyharbour Moore Lake	Mar-26	Exploration
Eagle Plains George Lake	Mar-25	Exploration	Skyharbour Russell Lake	Apr-25	Exploration
F3 Cree Bay	Sep-25	Exploration	Standard Uranium Ascent	Oct-25	Exploration
Fortune Bay Goldfields	Oct-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Atlantic	May-25	Exploration
Fortune Bay Murmac	Nov-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Canary	Dec-25	Exploration
Fortune Bay Strike	Nov-24	Exploration	Standard Uranium Sun Dog	Mar-27	Exploration
Imperial Oil Bushnell Inlet Cameras	Unknown	Maintenance	Terra Uranium Hawkrock, Parker, Pasfield	Dec-25	Exploration
IsoEnergy Collins Bay Extension	Dec-24	Exploration	Traditional Cabin Use Lease	Nov-56	Lease
IsoEnergy Evergreen	Nov-24	Exploration	Trench Metals Higginson Lake	May-24	Exploration
IsoEnergy Laroque Camp Land Disposition	Jan-27	Exploration	UEX McClean Lake South	Jul-26	Exploration
IsoEnergy Laroque West	Dec-24	Exploration	VR Resources Forsyth	Dec-24	Exploration

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the FIELD

Gunnar Site Inspection

by Margaret Powder

From May 13 to 16, 2024, a team conducted thorough inspections at the Gunnar mine site. The group included Margaret Powder, Uranium City CLT, George Bihun from SK Ministry of Environment, and site managers Vince and Gilbert, alongside experts from the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC). Together, we spent 12-hour days walking through the site, covering many important areas that have undergone environmental remediation.

The purpose of this inspection was to assess the work already done to clean up the site and to plan for future monitoring. Over the four days, the team inspected several key locations:

- **Old Community on the East Side:** This area, once home to residents, was part of the walk-through.
- **Main Tailings Area:** The team visited the large piles of waste material left over from mining and inspected how they had been safely covered.
- **Acid Plant and Headframe:** These structures, key parts of the old mine, were checked to ensure safe remediation.
- **Old Offices and Warehouses:** Near the shore, these buildings were inspected, including the barge area where supplies once came in.
- **The Pit and Fuel Storage Areas:** These sites, which once stored fuel and hazardous materials, were reviewed for safety.
- **Zemmel Creek and Langley Bay:** Water flow in these areas was checked, and work on Langley Bay is still ongoing.
- **Blasting Areas:** Hills that had been blasted down into gravel were inspected to ensure that the site is stable.

The inspections covered a wide range of areas, from water flow monitoring points like weirs, to areas where clean sand had been brought in to cover contaminated ground. Every step of the way, the focus was on making sure the Gunnar site is being properly restored to protect the environment.

These inspections are an important part of ongoing efforts to ensure that the Gunnar site becomes safe for future generations. The work done during this week's inspection will help guide future monitoring and remediation activities, making sure the land continues to heal after years of mining operations.



George testing radiation levels.



Langley Bay, present area of remediation.

CBEMP Interviews and Mapping

By Trevor Lidguerre

From May to July 2024, Trevor Lidguerre and Cameco/Orano Community Liaison, Victor Fern, led a series of interviews and mapping activities as part of the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP) Food Study Survey. This important project is a collaboration between Cameco, Orano, and CanNorth.

The survey is done every year and rotates through the communities. It aims to gather valuable insights from local community members about how they use the land in the area (hunting, fishing, gathering, etc.). Through interviews and mapping, the project documents traditional land use, helping the community understand ongoing land practices.

The information gathered from this survey will be shared with the community in a meeting, where the results will be presented. This process ensures that the Fond Du Lac First Nation remains informed about how their land is being used, preserving traditional knowledge and practices.

The last time this survey was conducted was in the spring of 2019. The CBEMP Food Study Survey continues to play an important role in connecting the community with their land and traditions.

Earth Observation Forum in Montreal

by Jean Tsannie

From May 27 to 31, 2024, YNLR was honoured to participate in a conference in Montreal, Quebec. The conference focused on the use of satellites worldwide, covering important topics such as global warming and climate change.

Hatchet Lake CLT, Jean Tsannie attended this conference alongside other YNLR representatives, including Board Chairperson Mary Denechezhe, Board Member Archie Disain, and Environmental Land Use Planner Megan Wallace. Mary and Megan had the opportunity to present at the conference, sharing information about the work YNLR does to protect the land, as well as how our ancestors survived off the land using traditional knowledge. Their presentation highlighted the importance of preserving Denesų́liné culture and identity, especially in the context of the growing impacts of climate change.

The conference also showcased fascinating satellite technology, with visuals from space, including the moon, and demonstrations of how satellites monitor changes in our environment. We even had the exciting opportunity to meet an astronaut.

One of the highlights of the event was Mary opening the conference with a prayer and her words resonated deeply with the audience. Afterward, many attendees approached her with questions about the Denesų́liné way of life and identity. It was clear that people were eager to learn more about our community and its deep connection to the land.

This trip provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about how satellites are used around the world, but it also sparked reflections on the changes in our own communities. Technology is an important part of modern life, but it's hard not to notice how much things have changed. In the past, youth played outside and visited with one another, while today, many are more focused on their devices. Satellites provide valuable information about the world, but it's important to remember and pass on the ways our ancestors lived in harmony with nature.

The YNLR team was proud to represent the Denesų́liné people at such an important event, and the knowledge gained will help us continue our efforts to protect the land and our heritage for future generations.



L to R: Jean Tsannie, Megan Wallace, Mary Denechezhe, Archie Disain

Elders' Corner

"When you go somewhere you've never been, you have to...make an offering to the lake. You must place a spruce bough (or tobacco) on the shore, and you ask for a good day and for good weather. This makes sure that your trip starts in a positive way. These branches also help you find your way if the wind picks up and the trail is no longer visible. It serves as a marker, so you know the trail and never lose your way."

– Elder, Hatchet Lake Denesų́liné First Nation

Site Inspections

By Ian Donard

In recent months, Ian Donard, Black Lake's Community Land Technician, has been conducting site visits alongside Elder Support staff Austin Donard and Casey Throassie. These site visits, focused on drilling rigs in traditional Black Lake territory, have been both educational and adventurous for the group.

The purpose of these inspections is to ensure the protection of the land, wildlife, and the traditional practices of the community. Austin and Casey have been excellent observers, learning the critical steps required to inspect drill rigs. As part of their training, they focus on ensuring that no contaminants are left behind, and that there is no disturbance to the birds, animals, or land users such as trappers and hunters.

On August 13, 2024, Ian gave Casey the responsibility of leading the site inspection while he took on the role of observer. Casey, a young and talented land technician, has quickly demonstrated his skills as a fast learner, carrying out his duties with care and precision. The past months of inspections have taught the team a lot, and they are eager to continue this important work.

The inspections have covered several key sites, including projects by companies like Baselode, Standard Uranium, IsoEnergy, and Denison. Each of these visits plays a crucial role in ensuring that the companies working within Black Lake's traditional territory adhere to environmental standards and respect the land.

Indigenous Protected Areas

by Ian Donard

The youth were particularly engaged, and many of them expressed a wish that the camp wouldn't end. It was heartwarming to see them truly enjoying themselves and embracing the experience. The camp was well-supported by dedicated helpers, chaperones, cooks, elders, and various agencies who hosted activities.

I look forward to organizing more activities and events for our community in the future. Thank you to everyone who made this camp possible. Your support means the world to our community.

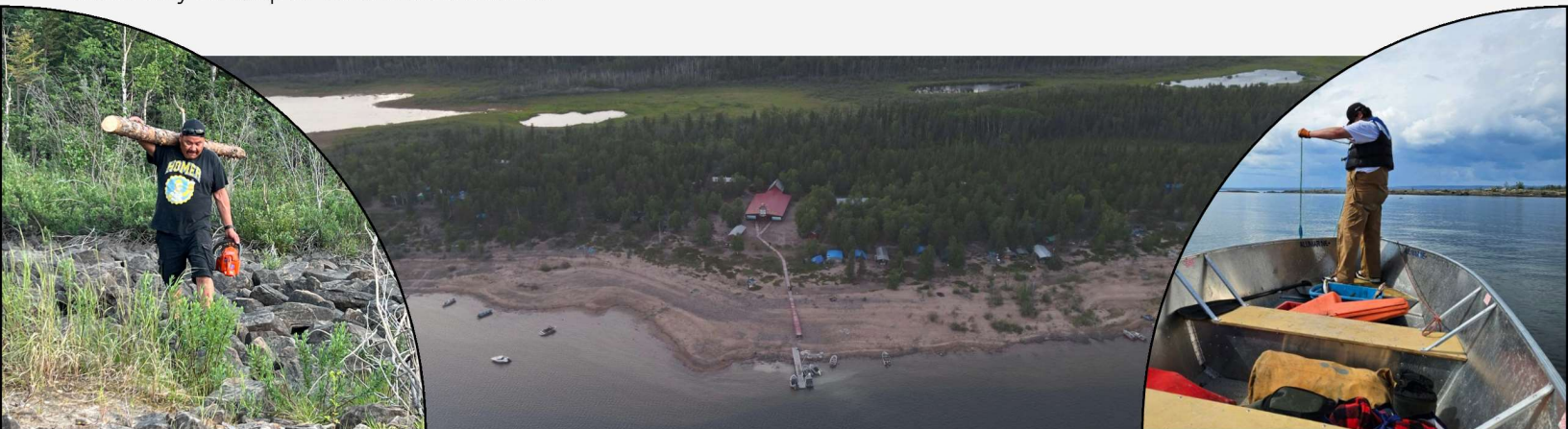
We are looking for Elders or land-users (male and female) with knowledge on Dene place names in Nuhenéné (within Saskatchewan), please see your Community Land Technician to schedule an interview!

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.

by Victor Howald and Trevor Lidguerre

The YNLR team helped with transportation, hauled gear and water, set up and took down camps, provided firewood, set nets for fishing, checked on everyone's wellness, and guided boats to and from the communities. They made sure everything ran smoothly, ensuring the Elders were well cared for. The Elders seemed very happy to have these services this year as they said, "It's nice to have people come and have a daily check up for these kinds of services."

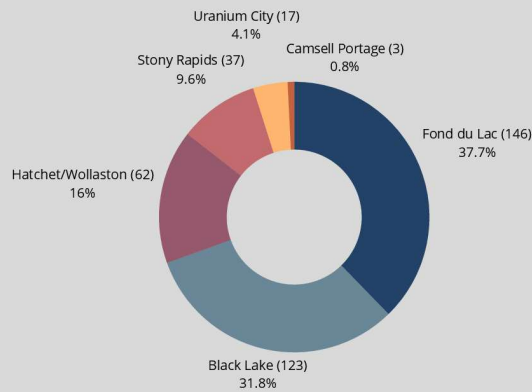


TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

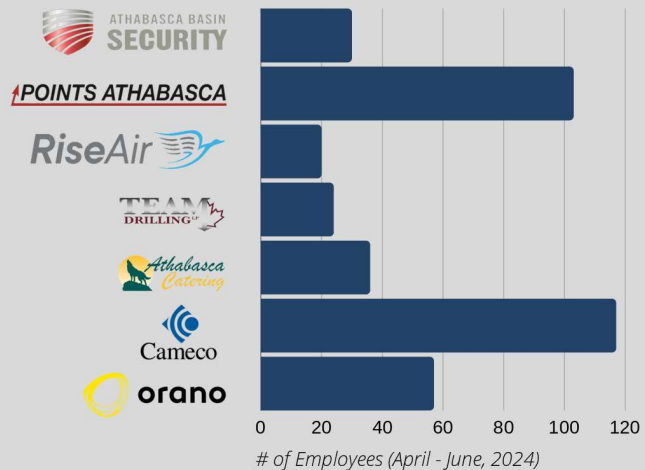
Updates in Nuhenēnē

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

Employees by Location



Basin Employer Statistics



Winner of EXPORT Survey

Congratulations to Russell Powder, our randomly drawn winner of \$500 in VISA gift cards for completing the YNLR EXPORT Database Survey!

Russell is a member of the Fond du Lac Denesųlinē First Nation, residing in Saskatoon, and works with Denison Mines. We are thrilled to have his input.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the survey! The feedback we received is so valuable for us to improve the user experience and enhance the training and employment resources available to our Athabasca Basin members and the businesses who use it.

Update your EXPORT Profile!

After reviewing several of the Athabasca Basin members' profiles we have noticed that many of you need to update your profile.

There are six (6) Profile Fields:

- Skills and Experience
- Education and Training
- Tickets
- Working Conditions
- Employment Experience
- Activities and Interests

Please take the time to update all the fields and ensure your information is current. By doing this, it will allow businesses who are seeking employees to access your profile and offer you potential employment. EXPORT is a useful tool. Did you know EXPORT can create a resume with your skills and store all your training and safety tickets?

If you require support in updating your profile please reach out to May-Britt at may-britt.jensen@yathinene.com or call 780-370-5059.

Exciting News for the Athabasca Basin: Fully-Funded Pilot Training Program Launches

By Dene Robillard

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering residents from the Athabasca Basin with exceptional career opportunities in aviation. Starting this October, 15 talented students will embark on the Elevated Skills Program, a fully-funded training course designed to prepare them for advanced pilot training. By December 2024, ten of these students will be selected to continue their journey with Mitchinson Flight Centre, setting the stage for their transition into professional piloting roles. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be employed as First Officers with Rise Air, operating King Air or Twin Otter aircraft.

This program is a significant milestone, especially with a notable increase in female applicants—a promising sign for the aviation industry, which has long struggled with gender disparity in both piloting and leadership roles. By offering these opportunities to Basin residents, we are not only fostering local talent but also setting a powerful precedent for the region's future in aviation. This initiative highlights Ya'thi Nene's commitment to collaboration and workforce development, made possible through the invaluable support of our industry, government, and business partners. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan), the SK Ministry of Immigration & Career Training (MICT), Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC-Dene), Rise Air/Mitchinson Flight Centre, Cameco, Orano, and SSR Mining for their unwavering support in making this transformative project a reality.



orano

2024 Athabasca Basin Summer Students: Learning and Growing with Orano

This summer, Orano Canada is proud to welcome a group of enthusiastic students from the Athabasca Basin communities to our McClean Lake Operation and Saskatoon head office. These students are gaining valuable work experience and contributing to our operations in various capacities.

At the McClean Lake Operation, we have:

- Laynee Danttouze-Josie: Radiation Protection Student, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation
- Lauren Campbell: Laboratory Student, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation
- Abie Randhile: Warehouse Summer Student, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation
- Dixie McDonald: Warehouse Summer Student, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation

At the Saskatoon Office we are joined by:

- Marian Josie: Corporate Social Responsibility Student, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation

Orano is committed to supporting the development of young talent from the Athabasca Basin. We are thrilled to have these students with us and look forward to their continued growth and success. We are also excited to watch their paths unfold and see what the future holds for them.

Planned Fall Community Engagement

Orano representatives are looking forward to visiting the Athabasca Basin communities this fall to hear directly from residents and leadership. The tour is scheduled from October 1 to 4 and will include school activities, an Athabasca Community Trust meeting, community meals, updates from industry and announcement of the Athabasca Student Awards. There are many opportunities to ask questions and share knowledge, so please watch for details in your community.

Student Spotlight: Lauren Campbell

Lauren Campbell, from Black Lake First Nation, has recently completed her first year at the University of Saskatchewan and will be starting her second year this fall. As a Laboratory Student at McClean Lake, Lauren has been an integral part of the team.

Lauren received an orientation to familiarize herself with laboratory operations and equipment. She also underwent training on safety protocols and Orano's radiation protocols regarding radioactive sources. Over the summer, Lauren has been working in the McClean Lake Chem Lab, where she has gained proficiency in performing Radium and Total Suspended Solids analysis for Jeb and Sue Water Treatment Plant environment samples. Additionally, she has been responsible for conducting Quality Control checks to maintain our Canadian Association for Laboratory accreditation. Her contributions have been highly valued, enabling the lab to complete numerous project samples and long-standing projects.



Student Spotlight: Marian Josie

Marian Josie, from Hatchet Lake First Nation, has been a valuable addition to the CSR team at our Saskatoon Office. As the proud mother of her three-year-old daughter Raelee, Marian balances her professional and personal responsibilities with grace and dedication. Her primary role has been administering Orano's Northern Scholarship Program, where she has made a significant impact in the intake process. Marian also actively participates as a member of the Sponsorship and Donations Committee, and assists with office events such as the employee BBQ.

Marian graduated with distinction from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Business program and will be attending Edward's School of Business this fall to pursue a degree in commerce, finance, or accounting. She's been an important part of the CSR team this summer, and we are excited to see her continue to grow and succeed.

Deposit Renaming with Cultural Mindfulness

In 2002, Orano Canada Inc. (at the time known as AREVA) discovered a new uranium deposit; it is about 90 m long, 30 m wide and 15 to 20 m thick. The discovered deposit and proposed development is within the McClean Lake surface lease, and was named after the Caribou Lakes in the area. The Caribou Lakes are a group of relatively small, shallow lakes surrounded by muskeg. There are six lakes in this group: Caribou Lake, Flame Lake and Ponds A, B, C and D. Caribou Lake (pictured) is the largest of all with the surface area of 3.2 hectare (ha), Flame Lake is a little bit smaller at 2.6 ha, and the ponds are smaller yet. The lakes are very shallow, about 0.5 – 1.5m in depth. The environmental surveys conducted in the area showed that there is no fish in Caribou Lakes.

Orano acknowledges that caribou are a species of special significance for people in the North. Denesųtlné have especially strong cultural and spiritual connection with caribou. A long-standing tradition of caribou harvest has provided livelihood for many generations and is an important aspect of Indigenous peoples lives today. Orano decided to find a new, more appropriate name for the deposit and future mining site. Since the new ore body is located in close proximity to formerly mined Sue A, B, C, and E pits (actively mined in the early 2000s), and is along the same geological trend, the “Sue Trend”, it was proposed to use “Sue F” as a new name for the deposit.

The Sue F deposit was approved in 2009 to be mined as an open pit mine. Orano is considering changing the mining approach and using the Surface Access Borehole Resource Extraction non-entry method. This innovative approach to mining reduces resources, has a smaller environmental footprint, and minimizes health and safety risks for workers. Further development on the deposit is expected sometime over the next five years.



Caribou Lake



Caribou Lake Map

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



YNLR, Denison, and SK Ministry of Environment staff at Elizabeth Falls.

New Mining Technology shared during Denison Community Tour

by Steven Foti

How do you mine without moving a rock? This question came up during a tour of the Athabasca Basin from June 10th to June 13th. The Ministry of Environment, Denison Mines, and Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR) talked about some new mining projects and a new mining method in Saskatchewan.

Denison Mines wants to open two mines in Nuhenéné, at Wheeler River and Waterbury Lake. They plan to use a new technique called in situ recovery mining, or ISR mining. This method pumps an acid solution underground to dissolve the uranium, which is then pumped back up to the surface for extraction.

During the tour, presentations were given to the communities of Black Lake FN, Hatchet Lake FN, Stony Rapids, and Uranium City. The meeting attendees learned about the mines, the ISR technology, and the role of the Saskatchewan Government in approving and regulating these projects. YNLR is actively involved in ongoing environmental assessment and approval processes and has been instrumental in the process to date by organizing this tour to ensure the government and Denison Mines came to speak directly to the communities, addressing their questions and concerns.

There will be more discussions and follow-up meetings about these mines. Community members are encouraged to attend and participate to ensure they understand the proposed projects, the technology being used, and how this impacts their lands, waters, and people. Attending these meetings will also give them a chance to voice their concerns and make sure they are heard.



Energizing a clean-air world

Rabbit Lake

Rabbit Lake opened in 1975 and was the longest operating uranium mine in North America when it transitioned into safe care and maintenance in 2016. While there are no plans to decommission Rabbit Lake, Cameco is exploring progressive reclamation options for the B-Zone Pond. The B-Zone ore body was mined from 1984 to 1991. Once mining was complete the ore body was flooded, creating the contained pond in 1992.

Proposed reclamation plans involve the reconnection of the B-zone Pond with Collins Bay. To do this, the coffer dam separating the pond from Wollaston Lake would be removed - similar to the successful reclamations of A-Zone in 2006 and D-Zone in 2010. The reclamation of B-Zone is expected to have no impact on conditions in Collins Bay, much like we've seen from continued water quality monitoring for A-Zone and D-Zone.

Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee and Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee representatives will be visiting the B-Zone Pond area this summer to learn more about the proposed reclamation work and provide feedback which will inform the final design.

In 2025, Rabbit Lake will host 10 students in partnership with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies for a six-month pilot program introducing them to the trades. Participants will get an introduction to carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, and industrial and heavy-duty mechanics through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning. If you are interested in participating in this exciting pilot program that is free to students, please contact your local community liaison for more information.



Cigar Lake

Cigar Lake is the world's highest-grade uranium mine. In March 2024, Cameco requested approval for the proposed expansion of surface infrastructure to facilitate continued mining of the Cigar Lake orebody. Activities related to surface infrastructure expansion were initiated in 2024, with additional construction activities proposed for 2025.

The proposed work was discussed with the AJES and NSEQC in February and June 2024.

Key Lake and McArthur River

McArthur River/Key Lake are the world's largest high-grade uranium mine and mill. While target production for 2024 is 18 million pounds U3O8, Key Lake is licensed to produce up to 25 million pounds. Cameco is evaluating what would be needed to expand production.

As part of ongoing clean up and reclamation work, and to address safety concerns, Key Lake is planning for the removal of obsolete buildings such as the contractor camp, old sewage plant and the curling rink. McArthur River is also planning for the removal of the May Creek Bridge on the Fox Lake Road in 2025 as part of continuing decommissioning efforts.

Key Lake and McArthur River also participate in Cameco's apprentice program, which currently has 14 apprentices who call northern Saskatchewan home.

Beaverlodge

Cameco has applied for 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. Interventions are due by December 10, 2024. More information can be found on the Beaverlodge website: <https://www.beaverlodgesites.com>.

Cameco is committed to keeping the Athabasca Basin communities engaged and informed. Please reach out to your community relations liaisons for more information or visit our northern website at www.cameconorth.com.

Cameco will also be visiting the Athabasca Basin communities in early October as part of its fall tour. Please contact your Cameco/Orano community relations liaisons for more information.



Meet Our People: Elder Georgie McDonald

Working at uranium mines requires some employees to be away from their communities and families for extended periods of time, which can be challenging. If an employee wants someone to talk to, Georgie McDonald is there.

McDonald joined Cameco's Elder program in February, working at Cameco's Cigar Lake and Key Lake facilities. He also worked as a site Elder with Orano from 2018 to 2023.

"I decided I wanted to help out young people working there."

In northern Saskatchewan, 50% of Cameco's workforce is Indigenous and the company has recognized the need to create a culturally relevant work environment for them.

In 2023 Cameco reinstated its Elder Advisor/Knowledge Keeper program at its northern Saskatchewan mines, hiring four Elder and Knowledge Keeper rotational positions from the local communities of English River First Nation, Northern Village of Pinehouse, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and Fond du Lac First Nation.

An Elder or Knowledge Keeper is an Indigenous individual who holds spiritual and cultural knowledge in areas such as traditional medicine, languages, cultural teachings, or ceremonies. This provides workers with on-site support and counselling, helping to promote well-being and encouraging them to bring their whole selves to work. Cameco plans to hire two more from the Athabasca Basin communities in 2024.

McDonald says it's good for the workers, many of whom are young Northerners starting their careers, to have an Elder on site.

He has an office but is more likely to chat with people during lunch and supper breaks, in either English or Dene. He's available to offer counselling on workplace and personal difficulties – even staying with people when they learn they've lost a loved one.

McDonald has extensive mining experience himself. He started his career with El Dorado in Uranium City in 1979, later working at Rabbit Lake from 1980-1989 and McClean Lake from 1995-2002. He then served as a band councilor in Fond du Lac First Nation from 2003-2017.

McDonald says he enjoys being around the atmosphere at mine sites.

"I see a lot of young people working, I like to see that. They're just starting, they're from up north."

Cameco Site Update – July 2024

Athabasca Community Trust Summer Round 2024

By Celeste Robillard

On July 12th, 13th & 24th, YNLR Administrative & Communications Assistant, Celeste Robillard, met with the Community Trustees in Prince Albert (virtually on July 24th) to review the Summer 2024 round of proposals for the Athabasca Community Trust. Trustees Charlie Denecheze (Hatchet Lake), Tina Alphonse (Black Lake), Gabriel Stenne Jr. (Fond-du-Lac), Lillian Laprise (PRO), Robert Long (Corporate Trustee for TD Bank) and Samuel Robbie (Corporate Trustee for TD Bank) were all in attendance. Over the course of 2 days, a total of 28 proposals were reviewed, 17 of which were approved for funding. The total amount of funding approved for proposals was \$864,508.23.

Note: Dollar amounts vary based on number of proposals & funds available per community.



Trust proposals can help to fund community initiatives like culture camps.

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 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 with the
subject line "YNLR Newsletter" to
be featured in our Fall 2024 issue!



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