



What's Inside?

REMEMBERING ELDER MERVIN ADAM

UPDATES FROM THE COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS

PRAIRIESCAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

A MESSAGE FROM GARRETT SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF YA'THI NÉNÉ:



Ya'thi Néné works to protect the land and to make sure Basin residents benefit from any developments in their territory. We are guided by our four person board of directors and the elected leadership from the seven Athabasca basin communities. Recently, we've grown to 18 staff with offices in Saskatoon, Hatchet Lake, Black Lake, Fond du Lac and Uranium City. We work on behalf of all residents who live in the Basin communities as we recognize that current and traditional land use is shared among all Basin residents and therefore the impacts and benefits from development must also be shared. We have been busy developing our internal capacity while leveraging the strengths of our partners. Over the last few months, several partnerships have been established that formalize commitments from government, industry and businesses to the Basin communities, many of which are highlighted in articles throughout this newsletter.

Ya'thi Néné staff, directors and leadership are proud to announce the signing of two additional exploration agreements with partners Standard Uranium and Fortune Bay. These two recent agreements are celebrated along with our existing partnership with Denison Mines who we signed our first exploration agreement with in October 2022. Exploration agreements are commitments to partnerships between mineral exploration companies and the Basin communities and they enable Basin residents to participate and benefit from mineral exploration activities happening in the Athabasca Basin. We anticipate further partnership announcements with more exploration companies in the near future.

Ya'thi Néné recently extended our ongoing partnership with the Federal government through Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC) by signing a 3-year contribution agreement that will support Ya'thi Néné and the Basin communities as we advance the establishment of our Indigenous Protected Areas. Last but certainly not least, Ya'thi Néné recently signed an 18-month contribution agreement with PrairiesCan that will invest almost \$1 million into the training and employment of over 50 Basin residents in the regional economy. Cameco, Orano, Team Drilling and Bryson Drilling are the companies that have committed to training and hiring Basin residents.

Partnerships are key to leveraging value for Basin residents and organizations that operate in Nuhenéné. Respectful and mutually beneficial partnerships that grow and evolve with the expanding capacity of Basin communities allows all parties to realize value. Ya'thi Néné continues to follow our mandate of protecting the land while promoting the interests of Basin residents. We look forward to a new year ahead of us and to build on the momentum we've been able to accomplish to date. We also acknowledge and thank our community members, community leadership and existing partners for their ongoing support that has allowed us to achieve our current success.

IN MEMORIAM: ELDER MERVIN ADAM

Ya'thi Néné Lands & Resources (YNLR) is mourning the loss of our valued Elder, Mervin Adam, along with his grandson, Tristan Randhile, who both passed over the Christmas Holidays. Late Mervin was a valued and respected member of the Athabasca Land Protection Committee (ALPC); representing the community of Fond du Lac, he regularly contributed insights about land use and land protection.

Late Mervin comes from a large family; he was the oldest of 21 siblings! Mervin married the love of his life, Theresa, and they were married for 54 years, raising 12 children together. He started working as a fishing guide in 1995 and always loved spending time outdoors. He loved the land, hunting and fishing. We will miss his friendly face, knowledge, and guidance, and we extend our condolences to his family and friends and to the community of Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation.



YA'THI NÉNÉ LANDS AND RESOURCES, THE ATHABASCA FIRST NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES SIGN EXPLORATION AGREEMENT

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources has been actively negotiating Exploration Agreements with various mineral exploration companies throughout Nuhenéné in accordance with our Mineral Exploration Guidelines and Exploration Agreement template and has successfully negotiated 3 agreements that meet the threshold of an acceptable agreement for the seven Athabasca communities.

The seven Athabasca leaders approved the negotiated Exploration Agreements with Denison Mines, Standard Uranium and Fortune Bay and approved the signing of the agreements on behalf of their respective communities.

The Exploration Agreements formalize the partnership between the seven Athabasca Basin communities and our industry partners and sets the precedent for further collaboration with other industry partners involved in mineral exploration throughout Nuhenéné (traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesųliné). We look forward to continuing to strengthen these relationships with government and industry through meaningful collaboration and partnership.

Our community Leadership and Board of Directors have demonstrated their interest and willingness to work with government and industry who are prepared to respect our rights, our way of life and our connection to Nuhenéné.

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources is mandated to negotiate Exploration Agreements on behalf of the seven Athabasca Basin communities with industry proponents proposing to conduct mineral exploration activities within Nuhenéné.

The Exploration Agreement is a framework for meaningful engagement and benefits for exploration activities. The Agreement does not mean there is an approved mine site to be developed, just that exploration activities can happen with checks and balances. Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources will oversee the agreements to protect the best interests of the community members.



Left to right: Garrett Schmidt (YNLR Executive Director), Mayor Daniel Powder, Chief Kevin Mercredi, Chief Coreen Sayazie, Chief Bart Tsannie, David Cates (CEO Denison), Chairperson Terri Daniels, and Chairperson Claire Larocque. Missing from photo, Chairperson Harold Grasley

Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

By Tina Giroux-Robillard

Ya'thi Néné continues to work on the development of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) in Nuhenéné! To date, through much input from our communities (community meetings, individual interviews, TLUO database, Elder Traditional Knowledge interviews, focus groups, data analysis, etc.), proposed boundaries for the IPAs have been developed. The initial difficult work of identifying areas for priority protection has resulted in boundaries being drafted and submitted for review with the Province of Saskatchewan.

YNLR at COP15!



Ya'thi Néné Lands & Resources was honoured to be invited to the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity – “COP 15” held in Montreal, QC in December 2022. A Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was developed at this conference, with 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. One such target, specific to reducing threats to biodiversity includes:

“TARGET 3 – Reducing threats to biodiversity.

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.”

The Government of Canada has been very vocal about their commitment to protect and conserve 30% of the land and water in Canada by 2030. They will only be able to reach this goal with help from Indigenous communities across Canada, through the development and designation of Indigenous Protected Areas. This is one of the reasons that the work that YNLR, our Athabasca basin communities and Denesųliné First Nations and our partners do is so important to the provincial, national and global stage. Once our IPAs are designated, they will count significantly towards protecting 30% of land and water in Canada.

On December 9, 2022, YNLR Athabasca Land Protection Committee member, Elder Freddie Throassie, and IPA Project Manager, Tina Giroux-Robillard were invited to speak at a CPAWS event, the reception included the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

On December 7th, IPA Project Manager Tina Giroux-Robillard was also able to present at a panel discussion at the Canada Pavilion about the proposed Indigenous Protected Areas in Nuhenéné (SK), alongside other indigenous groups in Canada that are also trying to establish IPAs.

YNLR would like to thank our partner, CPAWS, for sponsoring this trip and for providing us with the opportunity to participate and highlight our work on an international stage!



What's an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA)?

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 Denesųliné 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.



Elder Freddie Throassie (left) and the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

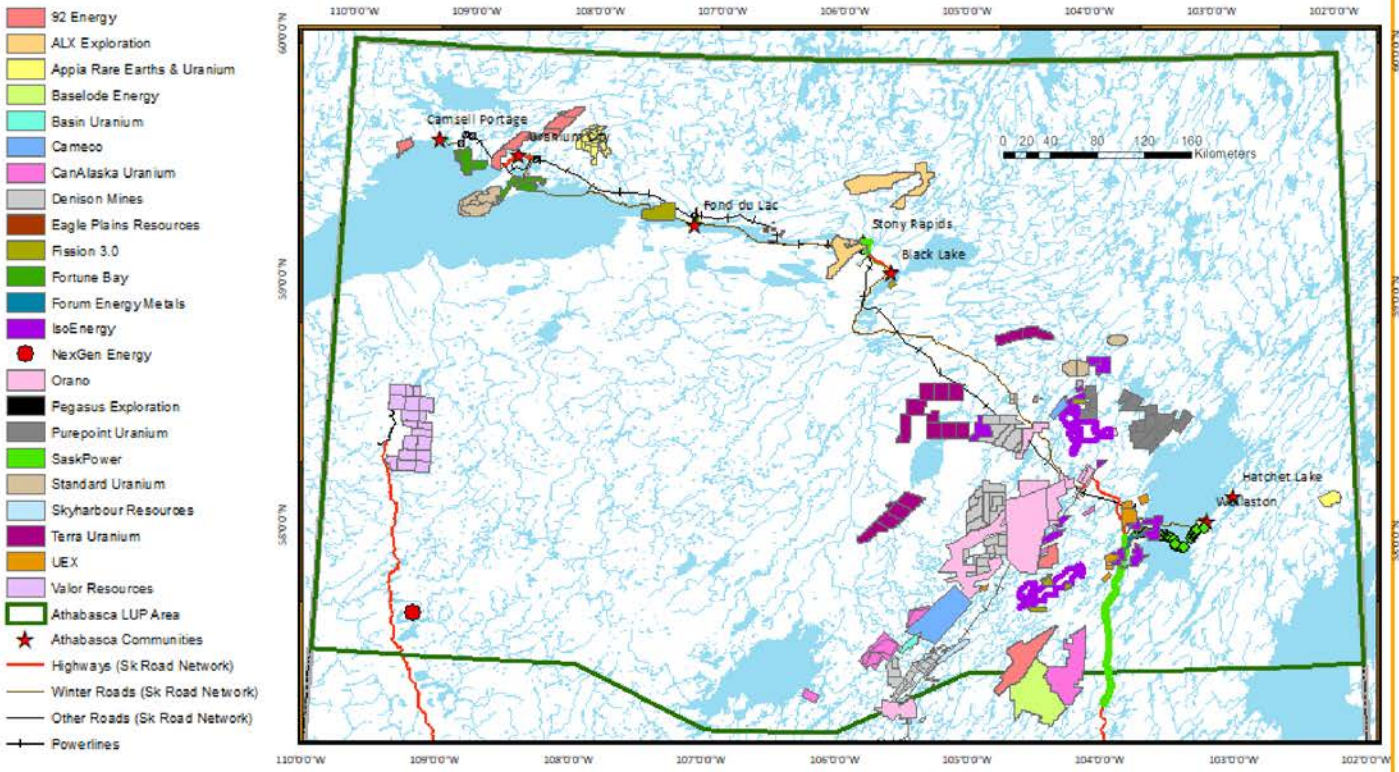
IPA Project Manager, Tina Giroux-Robillard (third from left), presents at a panel discussion at the Canada Pavilion at COP15 in Montreal, QC.



IPA Project Manager, Tina Giroux-Robillard, and Elder Freddie Throassie speak at a CPAWS event.

YA' THI NÉNÉ and the

DUTY TO CONSULT



| Project Name | Permit Length | Permitted Activity | Project Name | Permit Length | Permitted Activity |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 92 Energy Cypress | Dec-23 | exploration | IsoEnergy North Thorburn | Dec-24 | exploration |
| 92 Energy Gemini | Mar-24 | exploration | IsoEnergy Radio | Dec-24 | exploration |
| 92 Energy laydown site land disposition | 2027 | exploration | IsoEnergy Ranger | Jul-23 | exploration |
| 92 Energy Powerline | Dec-23 | exploration | IsoEnergy Thorburn | Dec-24 | exploration |
| 92 Energy Tower | Mar-24 | exploration | IsoEnergy Trident | Dec-23 | exploration |
| ALX Resources Gibbons Creek | Mar-24 | exploration | NexGen Rook Island site infrastructure and confirmation | ... | exploration |
| ALX Resources Flying Vee | Mar-24 | exploration | Orano Close Lake | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Appia Alces Lake | Mar-24 | exploration | Orano Getty Russell | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Appia Eastside | Nov-23 | exploration | Orano Kernaghan Bell | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Basin Uranium Mann Lake | Sep-23 | exploration | Orano Midwest | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Cameco Dawn Lake | Dec-23 | exploration | Orano Waterbury Cigar | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Cameco Read Lake | Sep-24 | exploration | Orano Waterbury UEM | Dec-23 | exploration |
| CanAlaska Cree East | May-23 | exploration | Orano Waterfound | Jun-23 | exploration |
| CanAlaska Geikie exploration | Dec-23 | exploration | Orano Woolly | Jun-23 | exploration |
| CanAlaska McTavish | May-23 | exploration | Pegasus Pine Channel | Aug-23 | exploration |
| CanAlaska North Millennium | May-23 | exploration | Potzus Aggregate Extraction | 2043 | gravel pit |
| CanAlaska Waterbury | May-23 | exploration | Purepoint Red Willow | Mar-23 | exploration |
| CanAlaska West McArthur | May-23 | exploration | Purepoint Turnor Lake | Mar-23 | exploration |
| Cree Lake Lodge | 33 years | airstrip lease | SaskPower C2W | Dec-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Bell | Dec-23 | exploration | SaskPower Camsell Dams | Dec-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Candle, Darby & Johnston Lake | Dec-23 | exploration | SaskPower Courtney Lake | Mar-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Moon Lake and Moon Lake South | Dec-23 | exploration | SaskPower helipad near 905 | Mar-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Johnston | Dec-23 | exploration | SaskPower Island Falls | 2027 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Wheeler drill & surveys | Aug-25 | exploration | SaskPower ST511 Distribution Line | Dec-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Denison Wheeler River | Mar-23 | exploration | SaskPower ST512 Distribution Line | Dec-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Dension Advanced Wheeler R Project Area | 2027 | exploration | SaskPower Wollaston Line helipads | Mar-23 | vegetation clearing/maintenance |
| Eagle Plains Pine Channel | Aug-23 | exploration | Selwyn Lake Lodge | 2025 | legitimize an existing lagoon |
| Fission 3.0 Bird | Feb-24 | exploration | Skyharbour Russell Lake | Apr-25 | exploration |
| Fission 3.0 Murphy Lake | Sep-23 | exploration | Standard Uranium Atlantic | Dec-23 | exploration |
| Fission 3.0 Seahorse | Dec-23 | exploration | Standard Uranium Ascent | Jun-23 | exploration |
| Fission 3.0 Hearty Bay | Mar-24 | exploration | Standard Uranium Canary | Feb-24 | exploration |
| Fission 3.0 Cree | Mar-24 | exploration | Standard Uranium Sundog | Jun-24 | exploration |
| Fortune Bay Murrac (Goldfields West) | Apr-23 | exploration | Terra Uranium Parker Pasfield HawkRock | Dec-23 | exploration |
| Fortune Bay Strike Lake | Jun-23 | exploration | UEX Christie Lake | Mar-24 | exploration |
| Forum Wollaston AMENDMENT | Apr-23 | exploration | UEX Dwyer Lake | Dec-23 | exploration |
| IsoEnergy Edge | Nov-23 | exploration | UEX Pow Bay | Dec-23 | exploration |
| IsoEnergy Geiger | Jun-24 | exploration | UEX Vixen Lake | Dec-23 | exploration |
| IsoEnergy Hawk | Jul-23 | exploration | UEX West Bear | Mar-23 | exploration |
| IsoEnergy Larocque camp land disposition | 2027 | exploration | UEX Horseshoe Raven | Mar-24 | exploration |
| IsoEnergy Larocque East | Mar-25 | exploration | Valor Cluff Lake | Feb-24 | exploration |

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the FIELD

Capacity Building

Strength in Knowledge

By Margaret Powder

We have been busy in our communities with Duty to Consult and community update meetings with exploration activities in the Athabasca. The Community Land Technicians (CLTs) have participated in various training activities from October 2022 to present.

We received training on the Dene Laws and protocols regarding land, water and all living things, as well as the medicines on our Land. I had the opportunity to attend a conference for Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects, and attended the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians (SALT) seminar on "Duty to Consult." We received training in Microsoft Office programs as well. All the training helps build our capacity and our ability to do our Community Land Technician job.

In November, the CLTs were invited to attend a meeting with the Beverly and Qamanirjauq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB). We did a presentation on our work as Community Land Technicians in the Athabasca. We were recognized for the good work we are doing and for holding the exploration companies accountable for their actions. In addition, we presented a report on caribou hunting and issues that come up during the caribou hunting season, and we are out watching and reporting any negative hunting practices. I look forward to meeting with the BQCMB in the future and to meet with other Land Guardians.



CLTs participated in Microsoft training in Saskatoon February 7-9, 2023.
Back L to R: Alfred Toutsaint, Marc Robillard, Bradley Laban, Ian Donard, Derek Cook, Dennis Larocque, Angela Fern, Margaret Powder, Deon Man (SBC instructor).
Front L to R: Bruce Hanbidge, Chris Isodore



YNLR CLTs presented to the BQCMB. Pictured L to R: Sabrina Fern, Jean Tsannie, Margaret Powder, and Derek Cook.

At the end of November, Ya'thi Nene Lands & Resources, along with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), conducted presentations to school children as we conducted school tours in each of the Athabasca communities. The CLTs assist ECCC (and also Birds Canada) by going out on the land in habitat areas all across the North and across the Northwest Territories border to mount audio recording devices, which are programmed to record in the morning, during the day, or evening to pick up bird songs. The devices are left for a few weeks, then we go out and retrieve them and send to ECCC or Birds Canada for analysis. Some of the recordings have picked up rare birds that are nowhere else in the world.

We continue to learn, train, and teach each other and our communities for our future generations. I am grateful for my position as a Community Land Technician.

Capacity Building

Strength in Numbers

By Bruce Hanbidge

In order to increase its capacity to protect the lands and waters of Nuhenéné, YNLR has hired 7 new CLTs in full-time term positions (1 in Uranium City/Camsell Portage; 3 in Fond du Lac; 2 in Stony Rapids/Black Lake and 1 in Hatchet Lake). YNLR has also undertaken a training program to give these new employees the capability to carry out their multiple responsibilities including: monitoring of exploration activities, conducting and participating in research projects, and conducting interviews with residents of Basin communities to inform them of industrial activities in their community use areas and to collect their information and concerns to ensure that companies operate in a safe and respectful manner.

These new full-time term CLTs are Dennis Larocque in Camsell Portage; Angela Fern, Marc Robillard and Chris Isadore in Fond du Lac; Bradley Laban and Alfred Toutsaint in Black Lake; and Curtis Tsannie in Hatchet Lake.

Progressive training of these new CLTs began in Saskatoon in December 2022. Subjects included computer skills (in Excel and MS Word Processing) for all CLTs, as well as leadership, and staff supervisory skills for the senior CLTs in each community (Margaret Powder, Derek Cook, Ian Donard, and Jean Tsannie). Further training sessions are set for February and March 2023 with additional training sessions to be planned throughout 2023 in computer skills, leadership, staff supervision, chainsaw safety, wilderness first aid, and other necessary skills.

It is shaping up to be a very busy 2023 in Nuhenéné for exploration, research, and other activities. YNLR continues to develop the capacity of our staff to make sure all approved activities are conducted in a safe and responsible manner and that Basin residents continue to be informed and engaged in protecting the land and waters of Nuhenéné.

Capacity Building

Strength in Teamwork

By Jean Tsannie and Ian Donard

Two of our CLTs, Jean Tsannie and Curtis Tsannie, from Hatchet Lake made a trip to Hara Lake in the IPA boundary near the Manitoba border. They were there to familiarize themselves with the land and to stock firewood for the hunters, while also checking to make sure the cabin recently built there was still intact. During their trip, while marking harvesting sites, they located some caribou tracks on the Saskatchewan side of the border and also saw a moose.

In December, the CLTs from the Hatchet Lake area were also involved in aerial caribou scouting over Wollaston within the IPA boundary. This type of activity typically requires 4-5 people to accurately record their findings. It is common to have an eyeperson, someone marking the points, someone taking coordinates, and someone counting the herds. Many of the areas are covered in trees or are near open waters so this task requires a small team working together to effectively navigate and compile all the data from their sightings without error.

In September, the CLTs (Ian Donard, Alfred Toutsaint, Bradley Laban, Ryan Laban, August Cook, and Billy Cook) from Black Lake kept busy building an IPA cabin near Selwyn Lake. Cabins built within IPA boundaries are intended for use by hunters and are equipped with basic shelter needs like beds, cupboards, a wood stove, and firewood.

Shortly after New Year's Day, the CLTs were back at the cabin near Selwyn Lake to build some beds and cabinets inside. During this trip, they eagerly assisted a group of three hunters who had broken down while hunting. One of the hunters traveled to the cabin on snowmobile to find help, leaving the other two hunters with their snowmobiles. As luck would have it, the CLTs were there and able to travel back on snowmobiles to rescue the other two hunters.

Ya' thi Néné awarded close to \$1M in funding for workforce development programs in the Athabasca Basin



December 16, 2022 – Saskatoon, SK – The Ya' thi Néné Land and Resource Office (YNLR) is very pleased to be the recipient of a \$997,221 contribution from Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) under the Jobs and Growth Fund to support the implementation of workforce development programs in the Northern Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan.

The workforce development programs include Driller Helper, Digital Literacy and Mill Utility Programs. These programs will be developed and implemented in collaboration with industry partners that will provide training and work experience for over 50 Indigenous Athabasca Basin residents. YNLR and the industry partners will receive support and guidance on the project from the Athabasca Education Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) which is a community-led consortium of Athabasca organizations that support education, training and employment initiatives throughout Nuhenéné (traditional territory of the Athabasca Basin communities).

“Our government is supporting the continued growth and diversification of the Indigenous workforce in the Athabasca Basin,” said the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister for PrairiesCan. “This collaboration provides opportunities for local workers to develop their skills and knowledge for new jobs and, at the same time, provides employers with a resident workforce, keeping employment dollars in these communities.”

“ **Support from PrairiesCan and industry partners for this workforce development project is greatly appreciated and will advance the inclusion of Athabasca Basin residents into developments projects within their traditional territories. YNLR is proud to support the advancement of meaningful partnerships between government, industry, and the communities.** ”

Garrett Schmidt, YNLR Executive Director and Chair of the AEEDC

Project activities include the development and promotion of a skills database of Athabasca Basin residents and the recruitment, selection, and assessments of trainees in the work placements. The three (3) month work placements will be subsidized by Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) in collaboration with funding and in-kind support from YNLR and industry partners. Participants who successfully complete the work placement and who meet eligibility requirements will be eligible for permanent positions with the industry partners. The program will help to address the training and employment needs in the Athabasca communities.

TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Updates in Nuhenéné

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

Ed'lenate, Happy New Year! Here are some of the highlights from October to December of 2022. -Dene Robillard

Northlands College: Introduction to Scaffolding

The Introduction to Scaffolding course was a 6-week program that ran from October 31st to December 9th with 9 candidates successfully completing the program in Stony Rapids, SK. This program was offered through Northlands College and accredited by the Prairie Arctic Trades Training Centre (PATTC). Learners were taught practical skills and the basic knowledge required to gain employment in the scaffolding industry.

Final candidate selections for this program were made through the Athabasca Education, Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) comprised of community and business representatives working with and for the Athabasca Basin.

2023 Athabasca Summer Student Program

Athabasca Basin Development (ABD) is readying for their upcoming Athabasca Summer Student Program for its third year! ABD's Summer Student Program works in partnership with Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and five of their investment companies, including Athabasca Basin Security, Points Athabasca, Arctic Beverages, Team Drilling, Flyer Electric, and Rise Air.

The program will be opening applications in February and will be looking to employ up to 30 post-secondary students from the Athabasca Basin Region, with 24 from ABD companies and 2 for each First Nations Economic Development Offices, including Black Lake Ventures LP, Fond du Lac Development Corp., and Hatchet Lake Development LP.

Positions will include Information Technology (IT), labour, yard, mechanics, admin, Human Resources (HR), accounting, marketing, and communications. Students applied to a range of positions based on the needs of the organization, which provided opportunities that best matched the students' past experiences, areas of interest, and levels of study.

ABD's goal is to develop tomorrow's leaders by providing meaningful work experiences for students from the Athabasca Basin region. Please visit their website at www.athabascabasin.ca for more information about the different positions offered.

TEAM DRILLING: Driller Helper/Assistant Work Experience program

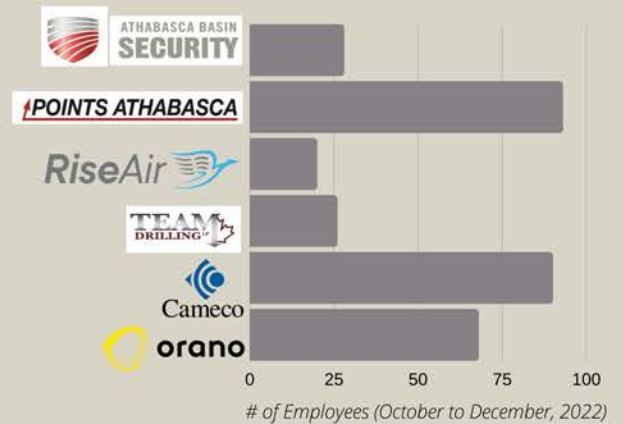
The original posting for this program had gained a lot of positive attention since we opened it up to applications this past December! This work experience opportunity with Team Drilling will have two intake groups who will participate in a three-month on-site work experience program, and the wages will be subsidized by YNLR through funding from WD PrairiesCan. Those who successfully complete the program may be offered positions by Team Drilling. The first intake of four trainees started on January 25th, and the second intake of another five started on February 8th.

Team Drilling focuses on building solid, team-based relationships with clients, providing a safe and empowering workplace for their employees, and are proudly partnering with both YNLR and PAGC-Dene on this upcoming work experience project. All YNLR's upcoming work experience projects with industry partners are supported and advanced with the help of the WD PrairiesCan grant.

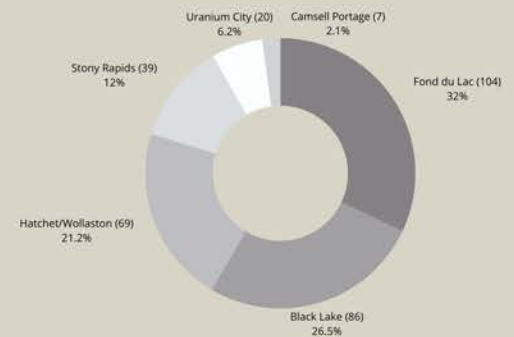
Please stay connected to Team Drilling by following them on LinkedIn and/or Facebook for their latest job postings and news, or check out their website at www.teamdrilling.com.

Please keep up to date with any current and upcoming employment & training initiatives on our Facebook page, and the Ya'thi Nene EXPORT database website: <https://www.yathinene.ca/export-user>

Basin Employer Statistics



Employees by Location



Bryson drilling is extremely excited to partner in the upcoming Diamond Drilling training and Work Experience program with the Ya'thi Nene Land and Resource (YNLR) office and all associated communities in the Athabasca Basin region. Bryson Drilling is a locally owned and family operated business based in Archerwill, Saskatchewan. We have a long history of employment and support with the communities we are working in. The partnerships that develop and grow, such as this program, continue to provide valuable personnel and long-term employment for northern residents in a key Saskatchewan industry.

The partnership developed under this program highlights the strength in collaboration present in the exploration industry, along with adding local workforce personnel to worksites.

We are looking forward to funding and implementing this training and support system associated with the EXPORT Database software platform, and excited to be partnering with YNLR for this work experience project.

The skills and experience that can be obtained through this program will be invaluable for many Northern individuals, along with the skills for these individuals to obtain long-term employment, creating a continuing bright future for northern communities.

For more information on our company and our drilling operations, please visit our website at <https://www.brysondrilling.ca/>

YA'THI NÉNÉ NEW STAFF

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF!

BRIANDA ROBILLARD
WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT ASSISTANT



We are excited to announce that we have eight new staff who have joined the Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office team, they are as follows:

Brianda Robillard is the new Workforce Engagement Assistant. Brianda is a member of Black Lake First Nation and is a student at the U of S, where she is pursuing her Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Brianda will be working 2 to 3 days per week supporting the Development Coordinator in the marketing and promotion of the EXPORT Database with the goal of increasing the number of Athabasca Basin EXPORT profiles and partner postings. She has extensive practice and experience in self-management, leadership, and business administration. Her work experience includes HR administration, Environmental Health & Safety, and mining that will support her in the new role.

CELESTE ROBILLARD
ADMINISTRATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT



Celeste Robillard is the new Administrative/Communications Assistant and joined the team on December 19, 2022. She grew up in Saskatoon, SK and has roots to Black Lake First Nation, as well as Yellow Quill First Nation. She graduated in Spring 2022 from the Edwards School of Business in Business Administration while working in Finance at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. She has over 2 years of experience in administration, finance, and event management for various student and Indigenous organizations.

Bradley Laban and **Alfred Junior Toutsaint** are the new Black Lake Community Land Technicians who will be supporting Ian Donard in the office and out on the land.

Angela Fern, **Chris Isadore** and **Marc Robillard** are the new Fond du Lac Community Land Technicians who will be supporting Derek Cook in the office and out on the land.

Curtis Tsannie is the new Hatchet Lake Community Land Technician who will be supporting Jean Tsannie in the office and out on the land.

BEAVERLODGE MINE AND MILL SITE: WEIGHING IN ON SAFE LAND PRACTICES AND EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES ON TREATY RIGHTS

By Dana Kellett

The Beaverlodge mine and mill site and associated properties, located 8 km east of Uranium City, operated from 1952 to 1982. Decommissioning was completed by 1985 in which buildings were removed and mine openings were permanently sealed. The mill operated without an effluent treatment process from 1952 to 1977, resulting in a legacy of environmental damage to the area: limitations and moratoriums on fish and water consumption currently exist for many water bodies due to elevated levels of uranium and selenium.

The Beaverlodge Project is licensed to Cameco. Comprised of 70 separate properties, all but 27 properties have been transferred from regulatory oversight by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program (ICP). Cameco's original proposed schedule of transfer to ICP by the end of the current license term is no longer feasible due to required timelines. As such, Cameco is requesting a license renewal of 2 years, to 31 May 2025.

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources provides feedback on many of CNSC's responsibilities, including for Beaverlodge. YNLR does not oppose the request to extend the term of Cameco's license. However, YNLR has asked that several studies and investigations need to be conducted during the next two years of license extension, such as (1) revisiting the standards that state what is 'safe' for land users and (2) determining cumulative effects of industrial activities on Treaty rights. YNLR believes that these investigations require a collaborative approach between the Basin communities, YNLR, CNSC, and Cameco.





Energizing a clean-air world

Cameco 2023 Licence Renewals: Rabbit Lake, Key Lake and McArthur River Operations

In April 2021, Cameco applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to begin the process to renew the McArthur River, Key Lake and Rabbit Lake licences. The current licences are valid until October 31, 2023, and a public hearing has been scheduled for the beginning of June.

Cameco has an over 40-year history in northern Saskatchewan and has developed long-term relationships with communities in the Athabasca Basin. During the current licence term, Cameco has been a qualified operator with strong channels of communication and an engagement process established under the collaboration agreement.

We have mature management systems in place at these sites and demonstrated strong performance, particularly in the areas of safety, health and environmental protection. Uranium mining is one of the most regulated industries, and we would continue to monitor and report on the environment, radiation protection, and health and safety performance at the operations. Regulatory inspections of our operations by both provincial and federal agencies would continue.

Country food monitoring programs, such as Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) and the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP), continually demonstrate that the fish, wild game, vegetation, and water near the communities downstream of these operations are not being impacted and that they are safe to eat and drink.



Community meetings were held in November 2022 – representatives from Cameco and its regulatory, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, participated.

We are committed to keeping the Athabasca Basin communities engaged and informed. For more information on our licence renewals, check out our northern website at www.cameconorth.com or reach out to your community relations liaisons for more information on the operations.

Victor Fern, Fond du Lac FN/Uranium City/Camsell Portage
Victor_FernSr@Cameco.com or (306) 960-9156

Rick Robillard, Black Lake FN/Stony Rapids
Rick_Robillard@Cameco.com or (306) 961-2189

Darlene Gazandlare, Hatchet Lake FN/Wollaston Lake
Darlene_Gazandlare@Cameco.com or (306) 930-9404

The Decommissioned Beaverlodge Uranium Mine and Mill

The decommissioned Beaverlodge uranium mine and mill and associated properties near the Uranium City area were operated by Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited (a Federal Crown Corporation) between 1952 and 1982. From 1982 to 1985, the site was decommissioned and remediated following a plan that was approved by federal and provincial government regulators.

Since 1988, Cameco has carried out environmental monitoring, targeted environmental investigations, maintenance work, targeted remediation and engagement activities on behalf of the federal government. Cameco's objective in managing the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties is to protect the health and safety of the public and environment, and to meet the requirements for release from CNSC licensing and transfer to the Province of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control (IC) Program.

In 2013, Cameco was granted a 10-year licence by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). Throughout the licence term, Cameco performed additional studies that further characterized the site, and completed targeted remedial activities to ensure the properties are safe, secure, and stable, while supporting traditional activities such as hunting/gathering of country foods and collection of firewood.

The current licence expires on May 31, 2023. To allow time for additional public engagement, regulatory processes, and document preparation associated with the release of the final set of decommissioned properties, Cameco has applied for a two-year licence renewal. The request is largely administrative in nature and does not involve a change to the authorized activities of the current licensing basis.



Beaverlodge Site Tour, September 13, 2022, with local community members and Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental subcommittee representatives.

For more information on the application for renewal, and the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties, please visit www.beaverlodgesites.com or contact the Uranium City, Camsell Portage and Fond du Lac community relations liaison Victor Fern, Victor_FernSr@Cameco.com or by calling (306) 960-9156.

New report highlights safety of food and water near Cameco's northern Sask. operations

Cameco's comprehensive environmental protection programs are supported by independent monitoring of fish, animals and water quality near communities downstream of our operations undertaken through the **Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP)**, as well as the former Athabasca Working Group's community monitoring, now the **Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP)**.

EARMP was established in 2011 under the Province of Saskatchewan's Boreal Watershed Initiative. This industry-government partnership is supported by stakeholders including Cameco, Orano, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

The recent 10-year anniversary of the EARMP program provided an opportunity to summarize and highlight the positive findings over the past decade.

Since its inception, community members have collected and submitted 431 fish samples, 121 moose/caribou samples, 47 water samples, 16 spruce grouse samples, 34 organ samples and 28 snowshoe hare samples for testing. The results have continued to show that traditional foods are safe for consumption with chemical profiles for water, fish, and mammal tissue samples similar to natural background.

Community involvement is essential to the success of the EARMP program. To meet this objective, samples are collected independently by community members or in conjunction with Canada North Environmental Services, a third-party consultant 100% owned by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Community members are trained in sample collection, storage and shipping procedures and their knowledge helps determine sample locations for water sampling near each community during the training sessions.

Sample locations for fish, berries and mammals are determined annually by community members and focus on areas where members routinely fish, hunt and gather. "We, the people of the north rely on the animals, birds, fish and berries to provide us with traditional foods. That's why it's good to have EARMP to monitor everything from animals, air, plants, fish and birds. It is important for us to keep our traditional ways alive, but at the same time respecting the land, water and the wildlife" said Dennis Laroque from Camsell Portage. There is also an opportunity for community members to submit samples whenever they like.

"Community-based monitoring is important for all parties, as it provides transparency and demonstrates that the food and water near our operations remains safe, and that it is a healthy dietary choice for Athabasca Basin residents," says Brady Balicki, Manager of Environment and Licensing. "EARMP is a great example of Two-Eyed Seeing, where western science and Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are combined to provide a benefit for all."

To learn more visit cameconorth.com/environment/monitoring

Dennis Laroque pictured. Photo credit: CanNorth





orano

Athabasca Basin Career Presentations

Orano employees from Saskatoon and McClean Lake were happy to share information about opportunities in mining at Career Presentations on November 30 in Fond du Lac and December 1 in Black Lake. Staff spoke to students about their roles in radiation protection, training, mill operations and human resources. It was a good opportunity for students to ask questions and understand what is needed to start a career in mining.



The full Orano crew presenting "A future to build together"

Cluff Lake Hearing Approaches

Preparations for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) public hearing regarding the decommissioned Cluff Lake Project are progressing towards a hearing date of March 1, 2023. Decommissioning is complete and the site is safe and unrestricted for traditional use, so Orano is requesting that the site be returned to the Government of Saskatchewan under the Institutional Control Program.

On January 25, 2023 Orano held a virtual public information night, which brought together company experts, regulators and stakeholders. There were presentations by Orano and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources, followed by a Q&A session. A recording of the event is available on the Orano Canada YouTube channel.

Exploration teams back in the field

The drills have started turning on a number of exploration projects in northern Saskatchewan, with Orano employees and contractors now on site at three projects in the Athabasca Basin. All three projects this winter will be operated out of Points North.



Orano employees and contractors on site at Points North.



Aaron Powder from Camsell Portage, is a journeyman scaffolder with Orano



Christin Adam from Fond du Lac is Senior Administrative Assistant

Santa in the North

Orano was pleased to join with Cameco, Rise Air, Athabasca Basin Development and SSR Mining to bring the annual Santa in the North Tour to communities of the far north in mid December. Children received an orange, a toy, and a book, most of which were written by Indigenous authors. It's always a pleasure to visit the communities with our business partners.

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 or social media.

At Waterfound River, the exploration team is planning a winter and summer campaign, while at Waterbury UEM, only winter drilling is planned. At Waterbury Cigar Lake, the drills are not in action yet as they are still making ice for the equipment to rest on. The unseasonably warm weather in early January delayed the start slightly.

This month the exploration department celebrated a remarkable milestone: four years LTI (lost-time injury) free! Congratulations to the team and contractors on this safety achievement.

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 Denesųliné 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 Bruce Hanbidge, YNLR Operations Manager at bruce.hanbidge@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 Winter 2023 issue!



YA' THI NÉNÉ LANDS AND RESOURCES

100 – 335 Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 4S1

Phone: 306-477-1251
Fax: 306-802-4800

Email: admin@yathinene.com

Office Hours 9:00 to 5:00 weekdays