



Whats Inside?

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS: UPDATES

HARA LAKE COMMUNITY CABIN BUILD

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIAN SITE VISITS





WHAT IS YA' THI NÉNÉ?

Ya' thi Néné is a non-profit organization owned by the seven Athabasca Basin communities of Hatchet Lake Denesuliné First Nation, Black Lake Denesuliné First Nation, Fond du Lac Denesuliné First Nation and the municipalities of Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Wollaston Lake, and Camsell Portage.

Our mission is to protect the lands and waters of the Athabasca Basin for the long-term benefit of its Denesuliné First Nations and Athabasca communities, guided by their knowledge, traditions, and ambitions, while being a respected partner in relations with industries, governments, and organizations who seek to develop the Athabasca Basin's resources.

A message from Garrett Schmidt, Executive Director of Ya' thi Néné:

E dlanet'e. Summer is over and fall is setting in with the lakes and rivers beginning to freeze making travel on land and water difficult until everything is fully frozen. The 4th wave of COVID appears to be waning though we remain at increased risk with so many infections continuing and our health care system under extreme pressure. Our staff throughout our four offices remain very busy executing our mission statement to protect the lands and waters of Nuhenènè for the long-term benefit of the Denesuliné First Nations and Athabasca communities.

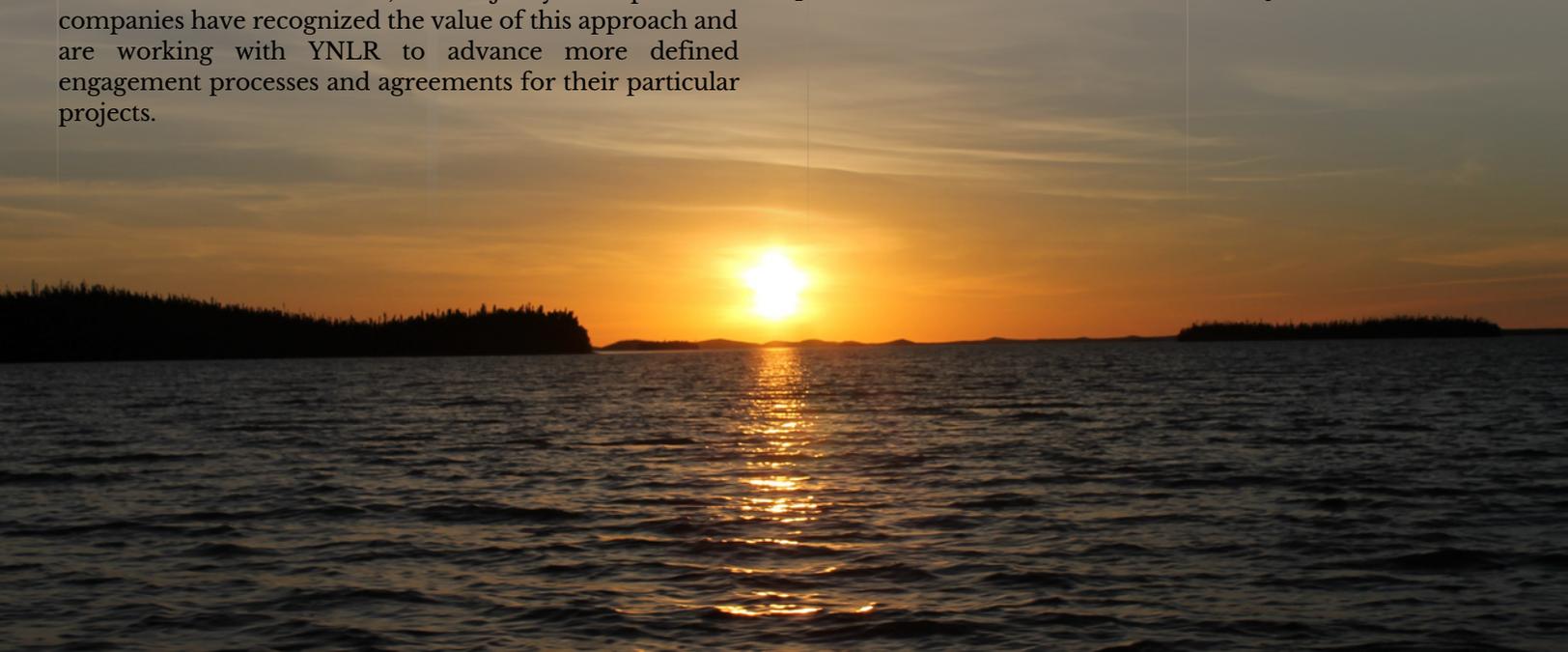
Over the past few months, we've noticed an increased interest from uranium exploration companies wanting to explore in Nuhenènè since the spot price for uranium recently went up.

YNLR continues to work with government and industry through our Mineral Exploration Guidelines (<https://www.yathinene.ca/our-publications/mineral-exploration-guidelines>) and in accordance with the direction of our Board of Directors and Basin leadership to make sure exploration happens in a manner that is acceptable to Basin members and enables benefits to flow to the communities. So far, the majority of exploration companies have recognized the value of this approach and are working with YNLR to advance more defined engagement processes and agreements for their particular projects.

YNLR will continue to prioritize those companies that work with us and the Basin communities in good-faith in advancing towards positive and mutually beneficial relationships.

As YNLR works with the communities, government and industry to advance sustainable land and resource use, we are working hard with many of the same partners to establish our Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA). We are making progress, with three of the four proposed boundaries confirmed by the communities and submitted to government for review. The fourth proposed boundary is forthcoming. Draft management plans are in development along with numerous other initiatives (e.g. cabin building, research and monitoring) that are designed to increase our understanding and eventual management of the areas.

As YNLR continues to work towards the establishment of agreements with government and industry, you can be assured that land protection for the benefit of Basin residents is at the forefront in our decision making process. We look forward to working with like-minded partners who share similar values and objectives.



When Ya' thi Néné was formally established in 2016, one of its central mandates was to assist in the Duty to Consult process and ensure that the voices and concerns of the Athabasca Denesųliné were heard and taken into account every time government and industry wanted to develop in Nuhenéné.

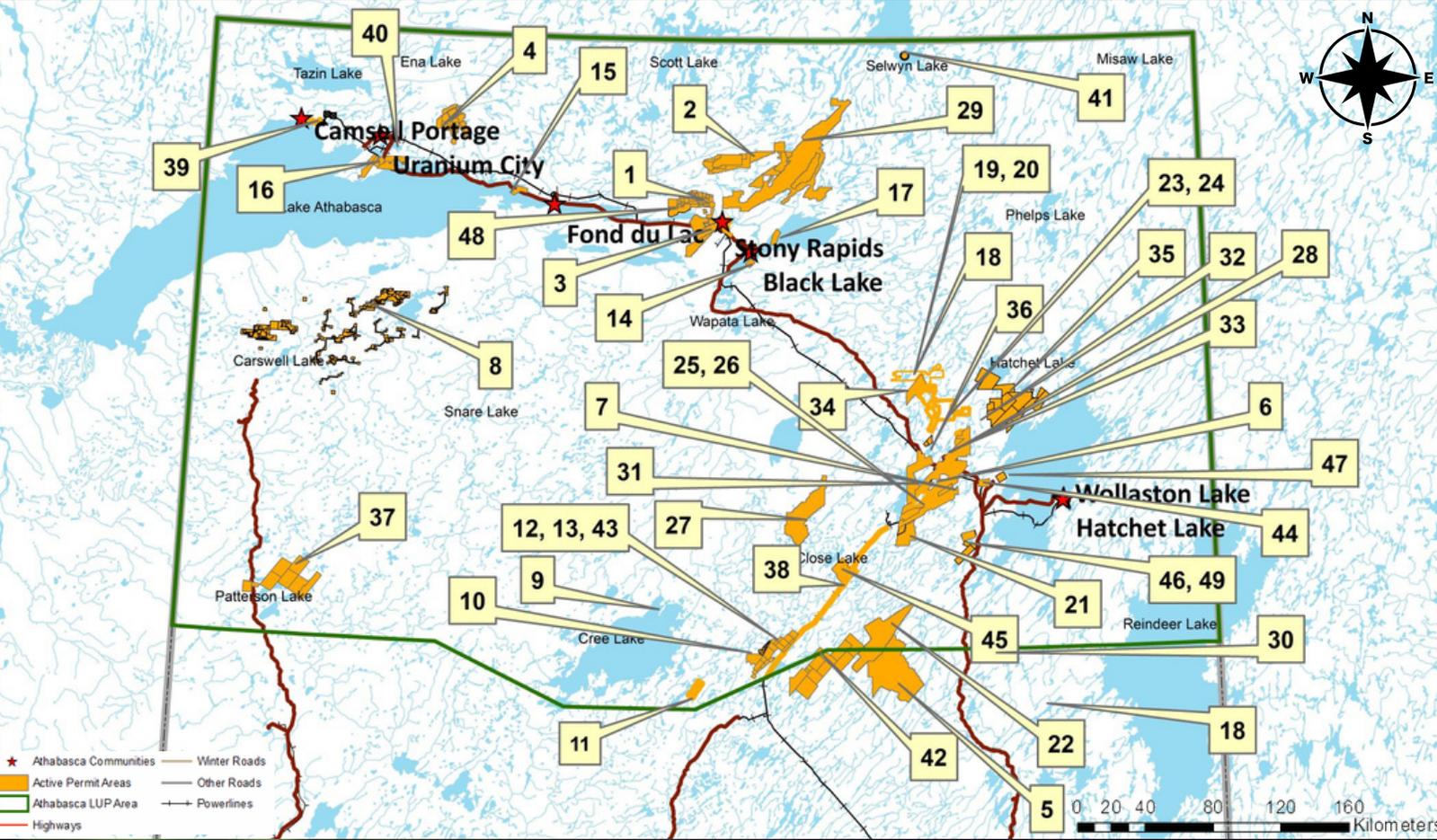
Ya' thi Néné and the DUTY TO CONSULT

Since October of 2019, we've been doing just that. Every time the Duty to Consult process is triggered by a potential project that may threaten a First Nations' right to hunt, trap, gather, or fish, the government must consult with the First Nations in question.

The 49 'Active Permits' identified on the map in our Fall 2021 edition represent permits that YNLR has been made aware of by the government or directly by the proponent. If permits expire they are removed from the map. If permits have not been issued yet by the government, they are not included. Also, some companies receive permits but do not perform work. In addition to the 49 active permits that YNLR is aware of, there are an additional 25 permit applications that we are currently reviewing and not identified on the map.

That's where we come in. When the Nation is notified, so are we— and we begin immediately to make sure your interests are being safeguarded. We make sure that government and proponents are consulting and engaging the people. We analyze the permit, we examine our Traditional Knowledge database, develop maps, and consult the chief and council, land users, and wider communities. The size of the permitted area does not imply the scale of the work. For example – there could only be 15 – 20 exploration drill holes in the entire permitted area.

These 49 icons indicate permits that YNLR has been notified of or have been shared via the proponent.



ALX Resources

- 1. Firebird Nickel Program (Exploration to 5/22)
- 2. Flying Vee (Exploration to 4/22)
- 3. Gibbons Creek (Exploration to 12/22)

Appia Energy Corp.

- 4. Alces Lake (Exploration to 3/22)

Baseload Corp.

- 5. Hook Lake (Exploration to 12/22)

Cameco

- 6. Dawn Lake (Exploration to 12/23)

CanAlaska

- 7. Waterbury (Exploration to 3/22)
- 8. Western Athabasca (Exploration to 12/22)

Cree Lake Lodge

- 9. Air Strip (Lease, 33 yrs)

Denison Mines Corp.

- 10. Moon Lake (Exploration to 12/21)
- 11. Ford Lake (Exploration to 12/21)
- 12. Wheeler River (Exploration to 12/21)
- 13. Wheeler River (Exploration-Geotech, 03/23)

Fission 3.0

- 14. Cree Bay (Exploration, 08/22)
- 15. Hearty Bay (Exploration, 08/22)

Fortune Bay

- 16. Goldfields (Exploration to 4/22)

Forum Energy

- 17. Fir Island (Exploration, 05/22)
- 18. Love Lake (Exploration, 03/22)

IsoEnergy

- 19. Larocque East (Exploration to 3/22)
- 20. Larocque East Temporary Work Camp Expansion (Exploration to 3/22)
- 21. Tower (Exploration to 10/22)
- 22. Gemini (Exploration to 12/24)
- 23. Geiger (Exploration to 12/22)
- 24. Geiger Temporary Work Camp (Exploration to 10/22)
- 25. North Thorburn (Exploration to 12/24)
- 26. Thorburn (Exploration to 12/24)
- 27. Clover (Exploration to 10/22)
- 28. Radio (Exploration to 12/24)

Kobold Energy

- 29. Energy Metals (Exploration to 10/22)

Minsitry of Energy and Resources

- 30. Johnstone (Prospecting to 08/22)

Orano Canada Inc.

- 31. Waterbury UEM (Exploration to 12/23)
- 32. Wolly (Exploration to 12/23)
- 33. Midwest (Exploration to 12/23)
- 34. Waterfound (Exploration to 12/23)

Purepoint Uranium Group Inc.

- 35. Red Willow (Exploration to 12/21)
- 36. Henday (Exploration to 12/21)
- 37. Hook Lake (Exploration to 12/21)

SaskPower

- 38. IP3 Transmission Line (Power Line Vegetation Maintenance to 12/21)
- 39. CR-403 Camsell Distribution Line (Vegetation Maintenance to 11/21)
- 40. Camsell Dams (Vegetations Maintenance to 12/23)

Selwyn Lake Lodge

- 41. Legitimize an Existing Lagoon (to 2025)

Skyharbour Resources Ltd.

- 42. Moore Lake (Exploration to 12/21)

Snake Lake

- 43. Gravel Pit Permit (10/22)

UEX Corporation

- 44. Vixen Lake (Exploration to 12/23)
- 45. Christie Lake (Exploration to 12/23)
- 46. Dwyer Lake (Exploration to 12/23)
- 47. Pow Bay (Exploration to 12/23)
- 48. Axis Lake (Exploration to 12/22)
- 49. West Bear (Exploration to 03/22)

Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

Introducing you to our second featured IPCA Tazin Lake Indigenous Protected Area

"It is important to protect land and water for traditional use, and to provide a sustainable environment for the wildlife."

Tazin Lake Indigenous Protected Area

For this edition of the newsletter, we would like to introduce you to our second featured Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). These IPA's will afford high level, legislated protection of land and water for future generations. IPAs are areas where the communities are leading the development, location and will decide on management.

The Uranium City/Camsell Portage area is home to a diverse group of Athabasca Denesūliné, Woodland Cree and Metis members. For the Tazin Lake IPA (name subject to change pending community input), these groups have also played a large part in the selection of the areas for protection. There is vast knowledge and traditional land use by the Cree and Metis members in this region, as well as the Denesūliné.

The proposed Tazin Lake IPA is located in Nuhenéné at the northwest corner of Saskatchewan representing an area of approximately 330,000 ha. When our Elders talk about protecting the land, they often talk about future generations, natural and Indigenous laws, and the responsibility of caring for and "watching" the land, water, and animals. The establishment of Tazin Lake IPA will help ensure that Denesūliné, Cree and Metis traditional ways can continue for many more generations.

The Tazin Lake IPA overlaps with 743 land use and occupancy (LUO) sites recorded in the Athabasca Basin and includes 16 gathering sites, 555 animal harvest sites, and 172 heritage sites. The LUO sites have then been analyzed spatially to represent the cultural value of the land. This allows us to see where the land is and has been more heavily used by our communities and therefore locate the areas of highest cultural value.

When selecting the protected area location, our community members prioritized areas important for hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and for water protection.

During the one-on-one interviews with community members, they mentioned the following for reasons why the selected areas are important to protect:

Fishing

Thluicho Lake was mentioned often for the quality of fish found in the lake. These lake trout have very vibrant orange flesh and are a favourite of locals to eat. Sandy Lake is also known for its jumbo whitefish.

Settlement areas

There used to be settlement on the north side of Tazin Lake where there were lots of cabins built there and used for traditional uses. Although this area was important to the community, it is now underwater because of the dam in the area. There were also settlements around the Nettle Lake area in the 1960s. River shacks were also found along the Tazin River. These settlements, although not in use today, demonstrate the importance of the area to these communities. They were selected due to their pristine waters, proximity to wildlife, fish and their ability to exercise Inherent and Treaty Rights in the area. Due to the high use of this area, there are numerous burial sites scattered throughout the region. There still remains over a dozen community member cabins in the boundary of the IPA that are still in use to this day.



"these are our hunting and fishing lands and needs to be protected for our future generations"

"hunting, fishing, berry picking. We like to practice our culture with our grand kids. We need fresh water for swimming and also good drinking water."

"...all traditional camping and hunting sites, old homesteads are there."

Ena Lake route

One of the main trails from Uranium City to the Tazin Lake area extends from the community, northeast to Ena Lake. From there, community members can continue into the Northwest Territories or can access more easily Tazin Lake due to the rough terrain. Ena Lake is essential for land use for this community and was important for it to be included within the IPA boundary.

Barren Ground Caribou

Barren-ground caribou are known as cultural keystone species, species that are so significant to the local Cree, Metis and Denesūliné, that they ensure the ongoing survival of our people, the ability to be on the land and guide how we interact with the land. Caribou are intrinsically linked to the health, sustenance, and culture of the Denesūliné. Safeguarding the barren-ground caribou herd, its habitat, and migration corridors is paramount when selecting protected areas. Tazin Lake IPA would overlap entirely with the barren ground caribou range, it will also include 87,149ha of old forest (50 years and older) which represents 26.3% of the total area. Numerous wetlands are also present throughout the proposed IPCA covering 3,000ha which is important moose habitat. Moose often eat vegetation from marshes, shallow lakes, and swamps. They especially rely on aquatic vegetation in the spring and summer while they rely on willow shrubs in the winter.

Existing Interests

Uranium City and Camsell Portage community members have already felt the impact of industry within their territory. Historical uranium mines are found near their communities in the Athabasca Basin, which continue to leave a legacy of environmental degradation. In addition, extensive dispositions and various levels of exploration are occurring in this area. The ability to exercise Treaty rights to fish, hunt, trap, and gather have been impacted in these developed areas, and we now rely heavily on the proposed IPA area to support our Treaty Rights and cultural activities.

Mineral dispositions are areas where rights are granted to a company to explore for, drill for, produce or extract any mineral. The proposed IPA overlaps with 16 active mineral dispositions, representing only 3.1% of the proposed total area.



Next Steps

Now that the boundary has been selected by Uranium City and Camsell Portage (and reviewed by Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation), work will continue with our partners towards defining the management of the Tazin Lake Indigenous Protected Area through a Management Plan. Governance agreements and long-term financing plans will be researched and established.

Please note that Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources will be working with partner organizations on addressing existing dispositions found within the boundary. Additionally, we will be looking at securing an interim land withdrawal or other appropriate mechanism to prevent future dispositions and limit nuisance stakers within the IPA boundary.

Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource office has been busy moving the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) project forward!

There are many tools that are available to the Athabasca Denesųliné to protect the land, water and animals. Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are an important and exciting option for Nuhenéné. IPAs will afford high level, legislated protection from impacts of development. Indigenous Protected Areas are areas where the communities will lead the development, location, and management of these areas. The Athabasca Denesųliné have always been guardians or stewards of the land and water. By developing Indigenous Protected Areas, the communities will have a tool to ensure that future generations can enjoy and practice their Denesųliné culture.

The goals of Ya'thi Néné when working to establish these IPAs are:

- Protecting the land and water,
- Safeguarding these areas for future generations,
- Be guided by our Elders every step of the way,
- Ensuring that Denesųliné continue to use the land for Treaty Rights (hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering),
- Supporting Denesųliné language.

Conclusion

Tazin Lake IPA boundaries were determined by looking holistically at land and water protection, cultural significance to our communities, protection of Treaty Rights and sustainable, balanced economic opportunities.

Indigenous Protected Areas also have the potential to meaningfully stimulate the economy through land-based employment initiatives, cultural and language preservation, food security and ecological protection. The potential for increased employment through environmental monitoring, eco-tourism and research as well as potential for carbon sequestration, and improved certainty for the mining industry are significant advantages for all governments and stakeholders moving forward. The considerable input of funding into the region by the federal government and private foundations has and will continue to invigorate local and provincial economies. Partnership with industry presents additional opportunity for consideration.

The Tazin Lake Indigenous Protected Area boundary has been carefully selected. Uranium City and Camsell Portage seek to find a balance between both protection and economic opportunity in Nuhenéné. By creating this Indigenous Protected Area, we will ensure that protection of the land and water continue for future generations. Tazin Lake will add almost 0.51% to the provincial goal of reaching 12% of protected land and water. This is a significant and exciting step towards meaningful reconciliation between the Crown and Indigenous communities.

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. That includes things like the values and objectives that the IPA holds as sacred, the 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 communities also all get participation 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 way. This is Nuhenéné, and it is important to us so you have your say.



Thank you Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resource Office for your support with our recent Wheeler River Project public meeting. And thanks to all who attended the meeting virtually. We appreciate your interest and input.

POWERING PEOPLE
WHEELER RIVER



Drill core from the Wheeler River Project Phoenix deposit.

wheelerriverproject.ca

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the FIELD

WITH CLT IAN DONARD

SELWYN LAKE EXPLORATION

Visiting Selwyn Lake and conducting barren ground habitat assessments during the summer season was one of the best experiences I had. Travelling with casual Community Land Technician Eric Cook, we had a good experience taking samples of soil and lichens. First, we landed at an old tourist camp, where we were able to use a boat, and take us around on Selwyn Lake. The nature, land and waters were beautiful to see, it seemed like every time we stopped on the lake to fish for supper, there was always some trout to catch. Personally, this trip was our first time on that lake during the summer time, but we had both been there many times on caribou hunts in the winter. We both really enjoyed this trip.

We were there for five days, during which we had both bad and beautiful weather. The rainy days didn't stop us from enjoying this beautiful experience. We will have great memories.

We really enjoyed the work and the beauty of mother nature. One thing that was exciting was finding the caribou antler. Finding that antler made my heart skip a beat. For me, I believe that finding that means that our caribou are coming back to the area because they have marked it, it is their territory. All in all, this trip was a good experience, five days out there wasn't enough for us. But while it lasted, we made the best of it. We cannot wait to go back.

BARREN GROUND CARIBOU HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Barren ground caribou are one of the many reasons why we protect the land and water. In order to do this, we need to monitor critical barren ground habitat availability in Nuhenéné. Part of this monitoring included some field work that identified and measured tree, plant and lichen species relevant to caribou nutrition, and determined the value of habitat based on scientific and cultural awareness of the caribou. Samples of soil and lichen were also collected for chemical analysis. Human impact to the environment, as well as wolf presence was also documented.

Our Community Land Technicians were trained on sample collection and field methods and conducted the fieldwork independently. We also used their knowledge of the lake and caribou in determining good caribou habitat locations. This fieldwork was conducted in several locations across Nuhenéné (SK). These four important areas included Thluicho Lake, Scott Lake, Selwyn Lake and Hara Lake, SK.

Samples and field data have been collected and sent to be analyzed. A report will be prepared with results.

Special thank you to:

Scott Lake Lodge - for providing boats to our CLTs on Selwyn and Scott Lake

Cheemo Lodge - for providing a boat to our CLTs on Thluicho Lake



COMMUNITY CABIN BUILD AT HARA LAKE

WITH CLT JEAN TSANNIE

As part of our need to build infrastructure within Nuhenéné (SK), Ya' thi Nene Lands & Resources is pleased to announce that we have built our first cabin at Hara Lake, SK. Hara Lake is located northeast of Wollaston Lake near the Manitoba border.

This cabin was built by five local Hatchet Lake band members: Soloman Joseyounen, David Tsannie, Angus Kkailther, Logan Denechezhe and councilor Peter Gazandlare. Community Land Technician Jean Tsannie and Casual Land Technician Curtis Tsannie were also at Hara Lake during the cabin's construction working on their caribou habitat field assessments. The place where the cabin was built on Hara Lake is part of a historic site where our elders and ancestors use to live years ago. There is an old cabin that collapsed nearby but is still visible. There is also a beautiful sand beach along the shoreline.

The cabin will be used as a base for conducting research, monitoring and other YNLR work, as well as being useful to community land-users! The cabin will benefit the hunters/harvesters that use the land during different seasons, it can also be used for cultural activities and gatherings.

More cabins are being planned and will be built in locations near our other Denesųliné and provincial communities!

By Jean Tsannie, Ya'thi Nene CLT

When visiting the cabins, please follow the Ya'thi Néné Cabin Rules:

We hope that you enjoy your stay here. We promote safe and respectful land-use on Nuhenéné.

Please follow the rules below:

1. Please pick up all garbage inside and outside the cabin
2. If you use some of the firewood provided, please restock before leaving
3. No drug or alcohol use allowed
4. Be respectful of the cabin, staff, and other land-users
5. Make sure the door is closed/locked if last one to leave
6. Leave rifles outside the cabin and make sure they are not loaded
7. Respect your Elders, assist them
8. Do not leave fuel in or near the cabin



SITE VISIT AT THLUICHO LAKE

WITH CLTS MARGARET POWDER AND DENNIS LAROCQUE

Summer has gone by so fast, this fall the CLT's completed a Caribou Habitat Training Program. Each CLT and team were sent into an Indigenous Protected Area to do Caribou Habitat sampling. Myself, and fellow Community Land Technician Dennis Larocque had the opportunity to visit the Thluicho Lake area and conduct the assessment.

"Thluicho Lake is the hunting, trapping, fishing, and traditional areas of our ancestors. This lake connects to Tazin Lake and is a Caribou Habitat area. It was an honor to witness such beauty in our North. I am grateful for my position with Ya'thi Nene as a Community Land Technician." - Margaret Powder



AN UPDATE FROM..

Your Development Co ordinator

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

Ed'lenate, hello again! Here are highlights for this quarter

- Dene Robillard

EXPORT Database

With the support and assistance of our economic development offices and Cameco/Orano Community Liaisons in the Basin, we are continuing our work in building awareness and in increasing the number of community member profiles within the Export Database. As mentioned in previous updates, the Export Database is an online platform that helps create and store resumes and certification tickets, as well as helps to guide Basin members in finding training and employment opportunities within the Basin.

We are still working toward reaching our goal of 250 online Basin profiles, once we reach our goal we will be drawing names for prizes. Any Basin resident can have their name entered for prize giveaways once you've created an Export Database profile. Please visit our website or our Facebook page for further developments and updates.

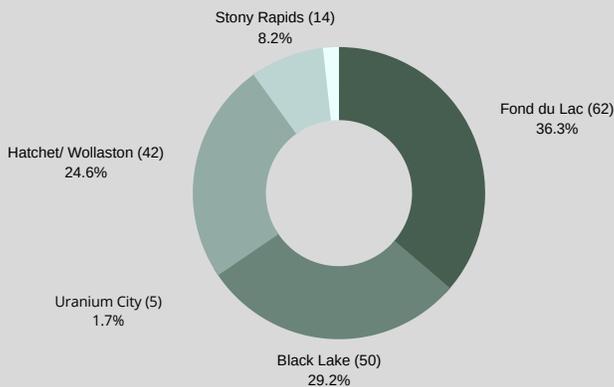
To sign up and create a profile, you can visit <https://www.yathinene.ca/export-user> or speak with your local economic development office or Cameco/Orano Community Liaison for assistance.

Regional AES-Pathways Program

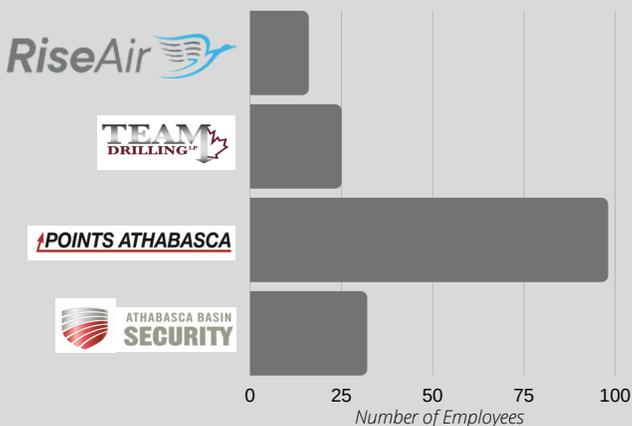
The Adult Essential Skills (AES) Pathways program, formerly the Adult 12-Pathways program, is a readiness program intended to prepare grade 12 graduates for post-secondary, technical/trades programming in upgrading their academic skills in math, science, and reading/writing literacy comprehension. This regional program is a joint effort with Northlands College and SIIT and is a first of its kind open to all Basin communities. There are currently eight students enrolled in this regional program as of this Fall 2021 start. We are seeking further enrolment into the program as there are seven more seats available. If you or anyone you know are interested or would like to learn more about what this program offers, please feel free to send me an email at dene.robillard@yathinene.com.

Northlands College has changed its Covid-19 protocols to a mandatory testing program for those that are not vaccinated and will be conducted by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. By November 15th, all students enrolled in Northlands College courses will either require Proof of Vaccination or will require mandatory testing once a week until further notice.

Employees by Location



Basin Employer Statistics



These charts provide the employment statistics from July to September 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS

2021 Scholarship Recipients!

Doris Robillard

I am originally from Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Saskatchewan, married and have four wonderful children. I am currently attending First Nations University of Canada in my second year of the Bachelor of Education program.



Cassidy Renie

I am from Black Lake First Nation, currently studying my third year of Indigenous Social Work at the First Nations University of Canada. The reason I chose this career is to be a resource that my community needs with the knowledge and skills I will achieve from this program.



Lorraine Randhile

Hello, Edlanet'e, I am from Fond du Lac First Nation. I am a fluent Dene speaker. I am into my second year of the Indigenous Social Work program at the First Nations University of Canada at the Saskatoon campus. I was very happy to have the chance to be awarded.



Terri Ann Randhile

I am from the Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation. I am 22 years old and have a 4 year old son who motivates me to continue my education. I am currently a full time student, in my 4th year of the Indigenous Social Work program at FNUC in Saskatoon.



This year, the Ya' thi Néné Scholarship Committee selected 26 scholarship recipients to be awarded for the 2021-22 academic year. By the July 31st deadline, the Ya' thi Néné Basin Scholarship program received a total of 39 completed applications. All applications were reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee, who are comprised of the three Athabasca First Nations Post-Secondary Counsellors, a member of the Permanent Residents Organization (PRO), an Industry representative, and the Ya' thi Néné Executive Director, who all make the final award decisions.

Richie Robillard

I am from Black Lake, Saskatchewan. My Aircraft Maintenance Engineer course at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology has given me an excellent understanding and much appreciation for this field of engineering.



This year, the Scholarship Committee had the pleasure of awarding 2 recipients in the trades/technical areas of study for the inaugural Denise Bougie Trades Scholarship Award. This Trades Scholarship will be part of the Basin Scholarship Award program – where this year, it was proudly supported and contributed by Flyer Electric.

Shawna Sha'Oulle

Edlanét'e, I am a dene woman from Wollaston Lake, SK. I am taking Bachelor of Administration majoring in Management. Family is most important to me, and I am a mother to three beautiful daughters. I have an amazing partner who supports me.



Sharina Toutsaint

Hi there! I am part of the Black Lake First Nation. I am currently in my 4th year at the Edward's School of Business at the U of S. I am majoring in Management. This award has allowed me to focus on my studies without worrying about finances. Thanks again for the Ya' thi Néné basin scholarship.



Ya' thi Néné would like to thank everyone who applied to our scholarship and congratulate all successful recipients this year. We wish all Basin students a healthy, safe, and successful academic year!

A big thank you to our supporters





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Sally Cook and Lindsay Mercredi,
Cigar Lake contractors
Athabasca Catering Limited





orano



Christin Adam, Orano Administrative Professional

Duncan Brown, Orano Mill Operations Supervisor



Celebrating Long Service at McClean Lake

This month Orano Canada has been celebrating its long serving employees who have contributed to the continued success of our operations. There has been no shortage of challenges over the past two years and we are pleased to recognize five Athabasca Basin residents who celebrated significant milestones this year. On October 6 and October 20 we enjoyed a special meal at McClean Lake and reflected on the highlights of 2021.

Duncan Brown of Stony Rapids celebrated 20 years with the company, while Doreen Josie of Wollaston Lake and Gabriel Stenne Jr of Fond du Lac both reached a milestone of 15 years. Both Christin Adam and Jamie Naldzil of Fond du Lac celebrated 5 years of service. Of course, many more Athabasca Basin residents have contributed to the success of the company and we look forward to marking their achievements in the years ahead.

Mill Operations Training Program

Orano is pleased to restart the Mill Operations Training Program with an intake of eight participants in January 2022. The program will be fully funded by Orano this time around and will train students on mill processes, power mobile equipment, lockout/tagout, WHMIS, radiation protection and more.

Individuals who successfully complete the entire program and meet employment criteria will be eligible for employment at the McClean Lake operation. We look forward to meeting our next group of trainees and anyone with questions about the program is encouraged to contact Northern Affairs Manager Glenn Lafleur.

READ Saskatoon Partnership to Boost Employment Skills

This fall Orano entered into a partnership with experts at READ Saskatoon to design a program that will offer Athabasca Basin residents a way to boost their reading and math skills. We see this virtual program as a way to help more people be successful at the TOWES (Test of Workplace Essential Skills) exam, which is used by Orano to measure skills that will be needed at McClean Lake.

We are working on the details of how the training for volunteers will be delivered and how we will accept applications to receive the virtual program. More to come in the New Year!

2021 TMF Expansion Construction Complete

The previously approved 2021 TMF (tailings management facility) construction project this summer involved the building of an earth embankment from ground level to 457.5m above sea level to ensure enough tailings capacity for Cigar Lake Phase 1. Heavy equipment was brought to site in the winter to ensure that teams were ready to go prior to spring road bans.

During construction, a third party contractor was onsite monitoring construction, surveying, and testing materials to ensure the work met all specifications. Tree clearing was completed in April in advance of the bird nesting season. The main construction started in late May with excavation and subgrade preparation to ensure a suitable foundation for the embankment. Construction of the embankment started in mid-June and used existing clean waste rock from the site. Construction was completed in mid-September and finishing work including monitoring instrumentation, safety berms and erosion control were completed in early October. A liner will be placed in future years to maintain containment of pond water while storing the tailings.

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.

Your Community Land Technicians are here for you.

YA' THI NÉNÉ'S PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT THE LAND, WATER, AND AIR OF NUHENÉNEÉ AND TO PROMOTE THE PEOPLE OF THE DENESŪHINÉ 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 SHEA SHIRLEY AT
SHEA.SHIRLEY@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 2021 issue!



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