



Whats Inside?

DENISON-YNLR EXPLORATION AGREEMENT SIGNING

CAMECO 2023 PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWALS

BIRD MONITORING IN NUHENÉNÉ

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

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



E dlanet'e. This Fall has been particularly busy for YNLR. We continue to execute our mandate of protecting the land and promoting the interests of the people of the Athabasca Basin. We're pleased to announce the signing of our first Exploration Agreement between Denison Mines, YNLR and the seven Athabasca Basin communities. This agreement provides increased participation and benefits to Basin residents regarding all exploration activities that Denison undertakes in Nuhenéné. Exploration Agreements provide certainty to both the communities and to the companies with whom we sign. The communities are provided financial compensation, environmental monitoring by YNLR Community Land Technicians and access to business and employment opportunities. The company receives formal support from the communities for their projects to be completed.

YNLR has been busy advancing the relationship with exploration companies operating in Nuhenéné for a number of years now. Exploration agreements are the new standard for which exploration activities are supported in Nuhenéné.

These partnerships are important for advancing reconciliation with the communities as well as making sure the communities participate and benefit from projects happening on their traditional lands. Gone are the days when proponents show up in Nuhenéné, do as they please and avoid the communities. The seven Athabasca Basin communities are united and must participate and benefit from projects that impact their lands and their rights. We acknowledge and celebrate those companies that want the communities to participate and benefit from the investment they bring into the region and we look forward to advancing our partnerships to continue to add value for all parties.

With increasing global demand for energy metals such as uranium, we anticipate increased interest in exploring for minerals throughout Nuhenéné. Exploration Agreements are the preferred method to ensure certainty for both the communities and companies. YNLR and the communities look forward to working with those companies that want to proceed with their exploration activities in a mutually beneficial and respectful manner.



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

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

"The old ways of doing things are over." Exploration agreement establishes processes for community participation and benefits for Athabasca communities

On October 19, Ya' thi Néné gathered with Elders, leaders and members from the Athabasca communities to sign an exploration agreement with Denison Mines to support mineral exploration in the Nuhenéné.

The Exploration Agreement is one of the first of its kind in Saskatchewan and the region, and establishes a framework for meaningful Indigenous engagement and benefits from exploration activities undertaken on the Traditional Territories 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. The Agreement does not mean that there is an approved mine site to be developed, just that exploration activities can happen, with checks and balances in place.

YNLR will oversee the Agreement with Denison to protect the best interests of community members in the Basin. YNLR Community Land Technicians will monitor approved exploration sites to protect the environment and Treaty Rights.

Just before YNLR, community and Denison leaders signed the agreement in Prince Albert, Elder John Toutsaint encouraged all the leaders present to reflect on the promises they'd be agreeing to. He said in the past community members have been made promises and "then after we sign it off, we get ignored. We don't want to see that anymore."

YNLR Board Chair Mary Denechezhe expressed a similar sentiment, saying, "Our communities want to participate in and benefit from projects happening on our lands, which historically has not always been the case." However, she expressed confidence that the Agreement with Denison will move forward in a good way, as it establishes accountability and formalizes mutual benefits among the parties. She remarked, "We acknowledge and respect Denison's leadership in advancing reconciliation with our communities. The economic benefits will help to strengthen our communities in the Basin."

The Athabasca communities will benefit from increased communication and notification of proposed projects, training and employment opportunities, business opportunities, and benefits through the Athabasca Community Trust. Funding directed to the Trust will support community development projects in the region.

YA'THI NÉNÉ TEAM TRAINING AT WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK

The Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource staff joined the Board of Directors at the beautiful Wanuskewin Heritage Park which sits above the Opimihaw Creek and the South Saskatchewan River near Saskatoon.

The Board of Directors renewed their Governance skills and reviewed and provided recommendations on the future direction of the organization.

The Community Land Technicians participated in land-based training to assist them when out on the land this included cultural protocols, acknowledgements, and plant recognition. They also went out on the trails and took part in map and compass navigation, and they updated their site inspection knowledge.

All Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource staff and the Board of Directors jointly reviewed the 3-year strategic plan and provided input to refresh the plan to ensure it resonates with the needs of the communities.

All in all the 3 day sessions were thought-provoking, impactful, powerful, humorous, and effective. We reaffirmed that we all play an important role in contributing to our mission of protecting the land and promoting the people of Nuhenéné.



Back left to right: Dene Robillard, Derek Cook, Jean Tsannie, Tina Giroux-Robillard, Ian Donard, Chris Toutsaint, Sabrina Fern, Garrett Schmidt. Front left to right: Margaret Powder, Mary Denechezhe, Linda McNabb, Kristen MacDonald, Dana Kellet, Bruce Hanbidge, Archie Disain, and Vickie Nilghe.



YNLR CLTs left to right: Derek Cook, Jean Tsannie, Margaret Powder, and Ian Donard

Congratulations!

Denison congratulates the Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR) Office, Athabasca Nations and Athabasca Communities on the signature of their Exploration Agreement.



Official signing of the YNLR and Denison Mines Exploration Agreement

From left to right, Garrett Schmidt, YNLR Executive Director, Daniel Powder, Mayor of Stony Rapids, Chief Kevin Mercredi, Fond du Lac Denesųłiné First Nation, Chief Corinne Sayazie, Black Lake Denesųłiné First Nation, Chief Bart Tsannie, Hatchet Lake Denesųłiné First Nation, David Cates, President & CEO Denison Mines Corp., Terri Daniels, Wollaston Lake Post Representative, Claire Larocque, Camsell Portage Representative (Harold Graisle, Uranium City Representative missing from photo).

Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

Ya'thi Nene continues to work on the development of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) in Nuhenéne! 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.

In the interim, YNLR has continued to do important work in the advancement of this project which includes:

1. **YNLR-IPA Cabins:** An exciting part of our work on IPAs is selecting the locations of our operational YNLR cabin that will be built within the boundaries of the IPAs. In order to fulfill the needs of the community in regard to the Indigenous Protected Area, infrastructure, such as cabins and trail development/maintenance is required. Another cabin was built on Selwyn Lake, SK. This cabin will be used as a base for conducting research, monitoring and other YNLR work, as well as being useful to community land-users! Good job Ian and crew for a job well done!



Left to right: Alfred Jr. Toutsaint, Bradley Laban, Ryan Laban, Billy Cook, August Cook, and Ian Donard

2. **Burial site protection:** While building our IPA cabin at Selwyn Lake, our CLT Ian Donard located a burial site not far from where they were working on the cabin. Ian and crew used some spare lumber to build a fence around the burial site, as a sign of respect and to help protect it. A GPS location was taken, and Ya'thi Nene Lands & Resources will now have a record of this site and it has been added to our burial site database. **If you know who is buried here, please contact Ian Donard or our office to notify us!**



Burial site found on Selwyn Lake by CLT Ian Donard and crew. Ian and crew took initiative to build a fence around the burial site, to show respect and ensure it is protected.

3. **Caribou Habitat Assessments:** our CLTs Derek Cook and Ian Donard were in Scott Lake, SK to conduct some fieldwork to help assess the health of caribou habitat. Derek and Ian collected some lichen and soil samples, and completed a habitat assessment in multiple locations known to be good caribou habitat. These type of assessments serve as a baseline for monitoring changes to the land over time. Special thanks to Scott Lake Lodge for providing our CLTs a boat and motor to use during this fieldwork!



4. **School Presentations:** The IPA team will be travelling throughout the communities from November 27-30, 2022. We will be providing presentations to high school students to inform them of the IPA process, gather feedback and input from them. There will also be presentations from our CLTs! Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Boreal Ecologist Steve Van Wilgenburg will also be part of the afternoon presentations. Steve will educate students about birds, their songs, how scientists record them/identify them, what birds tell us about our land and water and which birds are found in the area!

5. **CLT Education and Training Plan:** YNLR is hard at work researching and developing an Education and Training Plan for our Community Land Technicians. This plan will include certified training and education in comprehensive safety training/certification program for on-the-land travel, field skills, scientific field methods and technology, office skills, etc. Although our current CLTs have undergone numerous skills and safety training sessions with YNLR, we continue to plan for long-term development and to further build capacity.

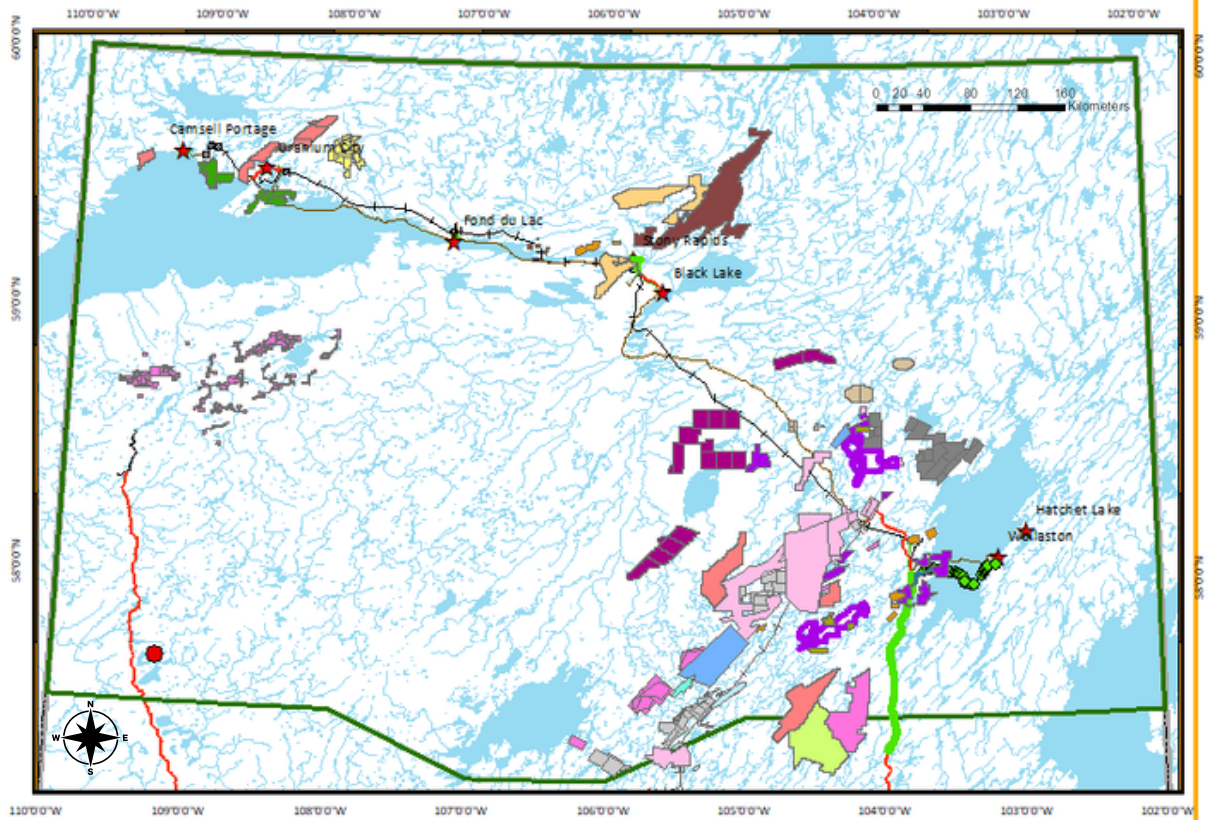
6. **IPA Business Plan Development:** YNLR has identified the need to develop an IPA Business Plan that will look at how money can be generated from these IPAs. This Plan is early in its development and we are looking forward to what we will learn from this process!

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 Nuhenéne IPA, this means that the Athabasca Denesūliné 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 Nuhenéne, and it is important that everyone has the opportunity to have their input.

- 92 Energy
- ALX Exploration
- Appia Rare Earths & Uranium
- Baselode Energy
- Basin Uranium
- Cameco
- CanAlaska Uranium
- Denison Mines
- Eagle Plains Resources
- Fission 3.0
- Fortune Bay
- Forum Energy Metals
- IsoEnergy
- Kobold Metals
- NexGen Energy
- Orano
- Pegasus Exploration
- Purepoint Uranium
- SaskPower
- Standard Uranium
- Skyharbour Resources
- Terra Uranium
- UEX
- Athabasca Communities
- Athabasca LUP Area
- Highways (Sk Road Network)
- Winter Roads (Sk Road Network)
- Other Roads (Sk Road Network)
- Powerlines



YA' THI NÉNÉ and the DUTY TO CONSULT

Project Name	Permit Length	Permitted Activity	Project Name	Permit Length	Permitted Activity
92 Energy Clover	Oct-22	exploration	IsoEnergy North Thorburn	Dec-24	exploration
92 Energy Cypress	Dec-23	exploration	IsoEnergy Radio	Dec-24	exploration
92 Energy Gemini	Mar-24	exploration	IsoEnergy Ranger	Jul-23	exploration
92 Energy laydown site land disposition	2027	exploration	IsoEnergy Thorburn	Dec-24	exploration
92 Energy Powerline	Dec-23	exploration	IsoEnergy Trident	Dec-23	exploration
92 Energy Tower	Mar-24	exploration	Kobold Metals Stony Rapids	Oct-22	exploration
ALX Resources Gibbons Creek	Mar-24	exploration	NexGen Rook One	Nov-22	exploration
ALX Resources Flying Vee	Mar-24	exploration	Orano Close Lake	Jun-23	exploration
Appia Alces Lake	Dec-22	exploration	Orano Getty Russell	Jun-23	exploration
Baselode Hook Lake	Dec-22	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 Wolly	Jun-23	exploration
CanAlaska McTavish	May-23	exploration	Pegasus Pine Channel	Aug-23	exploration
CanAlaska North Millennium	May-23	exploration	Purepoint Red Willow	Mar-23	exploration
CanAlaska Waterbury	May-23	exploration	Purepoint Turnor Lake	Mar-23	exploration
CanAlaska West McArthur	May-23	exploration	SaskPower C2W	Dec-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
CanAlaska Western Athabasca	Dec-22	exploration	SaskPower Camsell Dams	Dec-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Cree Lake Lodge	33 years	airstrip lease	SaskPower Courtney Lake	Mar-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Bachman Crawford	Dec-22	exploration	SaskPower helipad near 905	Mar-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Ford Lake	Dec-22	exploration	SaskPower Island Falls	2027	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Candle, Darby & Johnston Lake	Dec-23	exploration	SaskPower ST511 Distribution Line	Dec-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Moon Lake	Aug-22	exploration	SaskPower ST512 Distribution Line	Dec-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Waterbury	Dec-22	exploration	SaskPower Wollaston Line helipads	Mar-23	vegetation clearing/maintenance
Denison Wheeler drill & surveys	Aug-25	exploration	Selwyn Lake Lodge	2025	legitimize an existing lagoon
Denison Wheeler River	Mar-23	exploration	Skyharbour Russell Lake	Apr-25	exploration
Denison Advanced Wheeler R Project Area	2027	exploration	Snake Lake	Oct-22	gravel pit
Eagle Plains Pine Channel	Aug-23	exploration	Standard Uranium Atlantic	Dec-23	exploration
Fission 3.0 Bird	Feb-24	exploration	Standard Uranium Ascent	Jun-23	exploration
Fission 3.0 Murphy Lake	Sep-23	exploration	Standard Uranium Canary	Feb-24	exploration
Fission 3.0 Seahorse	Dec-23	exploration	Terra Uranium Parker Pasfield HawkRock	Dec-23	exploration
Fortune Bay Murmac (Goldfields West)	Apr-23	exploration	UEX Axis Lake	Dec-22	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	Dec-22	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			
IsoEnergy Larocque East	Mar-25	exploration			

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the FIELD

DEPLOYING BIRD ARU TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF AND PROTECT THE LAND

This past winter, Jean Tsannie and another CLT coworker, Curtis Tsannie, hopped on snowmobiles to undertake a trek to install bird Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) at Hara Lake. The installations took them about two days.

"We're given the coordinates and a compass, a map and shown 'here, this is where you go and we have to plot the locations.'"

Jean Tsannie said it was kind of tough but a good experience. *"You know, there are challenges, and you learn from it,"* she said. *"You learn where it's not safe to go. Where there's open water. Where there's trees, cliffs, and rocks. So you observe the area and determine from there where you need to go and how you have to go about it."*

The pair set up 14 ARUs in the area around the lake. The units were left out for about three weeks before they went back to pick them up.

Bird ARUs track bird migrations and the different species that are out there. But it's more than that.

"It's about protecting the land and gaining more knowledge every time you are out there. You have to be dedicated and willing to learn the skill set you need to bring with you to do the job," said Jean Tsannie.



YNLR CLT's Curtis Tsannie and Jean Tsannie

AUTONOMOUS RECORDING UNITS (ARU) RETRIEVALS

In collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), YNLR staff retrieved automated recording units (ARUs) in August and September that were deployed at many locations in Nuhenéné this past spring and winter.

ARUs are programmed to record bird calls during the breeding season. These recorded bird songs will be analyzed by ECCC personnel. The resulting data are used to link bird species with forest habitat, providing baseline data about which bird species nest in the Basin.

For part of this work, YNLR staff utilized the new cabin at Hara Lake and enjoyed unseasonably warm weather in late September. The autumn colours were spectacular!



YNLR CLT's Curtis Tsannie, Jean Tsannie, and YNLR Environmental Specialist Dana Kellet retrieving ARUs in Nuhenéné's back country.

PROTECTING THE LAND: HABITAT ASSESSMENTS IMPORTANT TO SUSTAIN TRADITIONAL WAYS

"It's a tradition and part of our culture to be passed on."

Ian Donard reflects on the importance of caribou hunting to Dene people and the knowledge and stewardship of the animal's habitat. Ian, together with Derek Cook, recently travelled to the far north to conduct a caribou habitat assessment – conducting surveys and collecting lichen samples. This is part of their work as Community Land Technicians.

Both Ian and Derek have many years of experience working on the land and keeping the traditional ways alive.

Derek tells a story of when he was six years old and his father took him out to hunt caribou. It was the first time Derek shot a rifle and the first caribou he harvested. "I was six years old and I was very fortunate to experience getting my first caribou myself," he said. "After I experienced that, I knew it was going to be a lifetime thing for me to provide for my family ... And that's the knowledge that I have to pass on to my kids too."

Now in his role as CLT, Derek has even more knowledge to pass on to his children and his community. For Ian Donard, this is what makes the CLTs' work so important – they gain the skills and knowledge to help the people and protect the land but, most importantly, pass on the lessons they've learned while doing this work.

Both were grateful for the experience and knowledge they gained.

"It was a really exciting time and something new, and I was just glad to do it up there," Cook said. He talked about some of the challenges in getting to the right locations – rough terrain and rough weather – he said they were well equipped with the tools and resources to do the job and were happy to assist the biologist. Cook adds that the work is not just to support the scientists but also supports all of the Athabasca Basin communities. The sampling of these areas in the north, helps to preserve information for colleagues and for community members, so they know where there is healthy food for the caribou.

"You select the location – where you think it's a good caribou habitat. You collect the [lichen] samples there and just make sure there's nothing unhealthy in the food they will be eating" explained Donard.

He was excited when he found caribou antlers where they were collecting samples, saying "It's my hope that the caribou will come down to us."

For Cook, their work is all about knowledge. *"It means everything, about the land and about yourself. Once you see the area, there's a lot to take in., that knowledge is very, very important. Because that's the knowledge you have to take and pass on to your kids and to your community as well."*



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM (IEMP) PUTS LAND PROTECTION IN THE HANDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Margaret Powder grew up in Camsell Portage and Uranium City. Raised by her mother, grandmother and great grandfather, Margaret grew up with her language and learning her family's traditional ways.

Now a Community Land Technician with Ya' thi Néné, Margaret reflects on growing up in a northern mining community and how she got to where she is today, as a land protector. She said it wasn't an easy road, and that being witness to the devastation that came in those early days after the mining shut down has been a huge driver for her to do this work.

"So from growing up in a boom town to what I live with today, the damage that was left behind from mining and communities being created ... Throughout my life, it's always been a problem for me that government has left us in the state we're in today," said Margaret.

Margaret watched her boom town turn to a "nothing town" once the uranium mine shut down. *"It's a tough life to balance when you had all the employment in your community down to nothing. For me, thankfully, I was raised by a grandmother who always taught us to live off the land. My culture is no different than the Dene – I was raised Cree. We have common beliefs and were always taught to respect our water, our land, and that everything around us is connected,"* she said.

Today, Margaret is grateful to be a CLT and support the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program, and to have the knowledge and skills to do this work. Originally, environmental monitoring was the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments alone, with local First Nation people like Margaret wondering, *"Why are we not doing this with them?"*

"We've always had others coming into our communities and monitoring and using our local people. The only way we're going to get our children into these programs is if we're taught so we can teach them ... We need to show them [our children], what we do by all of us working together – provincial, federal, and YNLR" said Margaret.

One of Margaret's first experiences as a CLT was to put up bird ARUs along the northwest shore of Lake Athabasca. As she walked onto the property, she didn't realize there was an exploration camp there. She described the experience as "heartbreaking," witnessing the damage to the land. It was her first experience to document the impacts of exploration activities and she thought, *"was I getting myself personally into trouble or am I helping to get it fixed for the future?"*

Margaret documented and reported her findings and continues to work to protect her traditional territory, recently spending time doing environmental monitoring at Rabbit and Wollaston Lakes.

At Wollaston, she said there are concerns from community members about the water in the lakes from nearby industry and from everything that's been going on in mining, *"so they want to make sure that everything is being tested and monitored so that we know areas that need to be taken care of,"* she said.

Her work includes going out onto the lake to do water sampling and to test fish in different locations. She said they also go onto the land and pick the berries, adding that *"Everything on the land is medicine. All the berries, all the plants."*

That's the positive path forward that she sees – the mutual learning and holding others accountable. Accountable, *"not to us because we were part of the damage as well,"* but to the future generations.

"So with the government, the federal and provincial and YNLR all working together, that's the way we feel that we're all going to learn. We're all doing the job to ensure that we keep Mother Earth safe," she said.

"When water is damaged in certain lakes, then we can't drink out of it. Whereas before, it's all our ancestors did. Eat the fish, pick the berries, get the medicine. That's all gone for us in areas around Uranium City. In order for that to come back for future generations, we have to fix Mother Earth and they [government] have to teach us how, and we teach them as well, so it's going both ways," said Margaret.



Training and Employment updates in Nuhenéné

By Development Coordinator, Dene Robillard

Northlands College Adult 12: Individualized Credit Study Program

Black Lake, September 13, 2022 – June 23, 2023

This program is an on-reserve program in partnership with Black Lake Ventures and SIIT and is geared for students who have a Grade 12 and wish to upgrade their marks, or students who have 20 and/or 30 level credits and are only a few credits short of obtaining their Adult 12. Accepted students are assessed by the instructor at the beginning of the program and provided with an individualized study plan that includes in-class work.

Areas of study for this program may include:

- English Language Arts A30 and B30
- Math: Workplace & Apprenticeship 20 & 30
- Math: Foundations 20 & 30
- Math: Pre-Calculus 20 & 30
- Physical Science 20, Health Science 20, Environmental Science 20
- Chemistry 30, Biology 30, Physics 30
- Native Studies 30
- 30 Level Electives

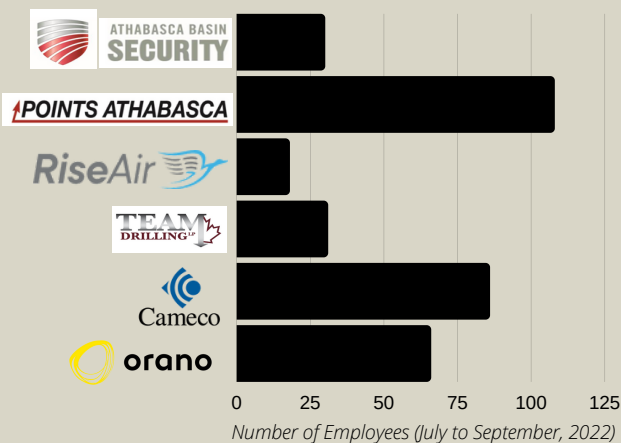
Athabasca Student Awards Program to return

I am pleased to announce the return of the Athabasca Student Awards for students in the Athabasca Basin in grades 7-12! In partnership with Cameco and Orano, and the Athabasca Denesuline Education Authority, we hope to promote student achievement and to celebrate academic success in a wide range of areas. Most importantly, our goal is to promote and reflect the unique cultural fabric of our Athabasca region. As in the past, the success of the Athabasca Awards Program will be evaluated by:

- Increased levels of academic achievement;
- Increased student attendance and lower school drop out rates; and,
- Evaluation data provided by participating schools.

Further details have yet to be finalized but please stay tuned to our Facebook page for further updates. Masi-tcho.

Basin Employer Statistics



CONGRATULATIONS

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

In September, YNLR, Cameco, Orano, Athabasca Basin Development and Flyer Electric awarded \$65,000 in scholarships to 27 post-secondary students from the Athabasca Basin. We're proud to profile two of the well-deserving recipients.



Darlene Sandypoint-Janvier, of Black Lake First Nation, is currently in her 4th year of Indigenous Social Work at First Nation University in Prince Albert.

"As a student in university, I have faced a lot of obstacles in my path – and, although I've faced many hardships along the way, I've never given up, and I am grateful to all those who helped me along the way, including my classmates, my instructors, and my children. Being a recipient of this year's Ya'thi Nene Basin Scholarship program has allowed me to focus on what's most important to me, my education. Your financial generosity has helped me reach my goal and inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. In the future, I hope to assist other students in achieving their goals as you have helped me.

I am dedicated to helping youth in my community and learning how to work in an environment that encourages my success as a youth worker. Helping youth overcome obstacles and difficulties is one of the most rewarding yet challenging careers you can pursue."

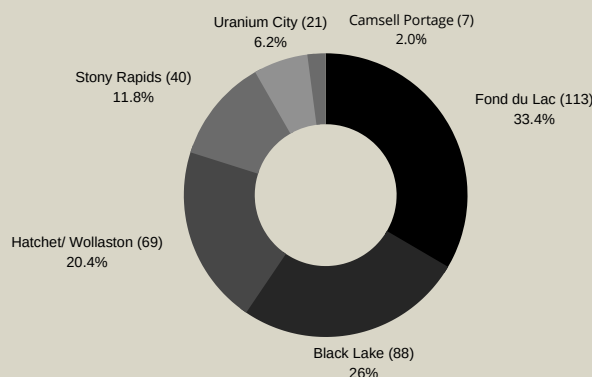


Jackie Valois is a member of the Fond du Lac First Nation and is currently pursuing her Medical Doctor (M.D.) degree in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

"Prior to entering Medicine, I began my nursing career as a Licensed Practical Nurse, then received my BScN in nursing, completed my Master of Nursing, and recently finished a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with distinction prior to entering Medicine. I choose Medicine based on personal interest, to expand my knowledge of the human body, a passion for a life-long commitment to learning, and the possibility to create positive social and political changes for Indigenous youth and/or medical students. I am in the process of applying for a leadership role with the Saskatchewan Medical Student Society as a Junior Indigenous Health Representative. I look forward to this next chapter as I begin my pathway into Medicine.

For those interested in Medicine, I strongly encourage you to stay positive, dedicated, and remain grounded while pursuing your dreams. A special thankyou to Ya'thi Nene Basin Scholarship Award Program for the award. Marsi-nensthen!"

Employees by Location





Energizing a clean-air world

Cameco 2023 License 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, please see the Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding for more information.

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 and the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program, 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.

We are committed to keeping the Athabasca Basin communities engaged and informed. For more information on our licence renewals, click on the Key Lake/McArthur River and Rabbit Lake links or reach out to your Community Relations Liaisons for more information on the operations and our upcoming community meetings with the CNSC mid-November.

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



Rabbit Lake Site Tour, August 31, 2022, with local community members and AJES representatives

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.

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.

Beaverlodge Site Tour, September 13, 2022 with local community members and AJES representatives.





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Long Service Employees Contribute at McClean Lake

This month Orano Canada has been celebrating its long serving employees who have contributed to the continued success of mill operations. We are pleased to recognize seven Athabasca Basin residents who celebrated significant milestones this year. On October 4 and October 18 we enjoyed a special meal at McClean Lake and reflected on the highlights of 2021.

Rodney Clarke and Victor MacDonald both celebrated 25 years with the company and Eugene Mercredi marked 20 years. These are remarkable achievements and we appreciate that these employees have grown to be experts in their areas and role models at site. Aaron Powder, Kristen Clarke, Tiffany Churchward and Tyler Mercredi were also each recognized for 10 years with Orano at the McClean Lake operation.

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

With a goal of increasing the number of local people working at McClean Lake, Orano is running a Mill Operations Training Program this fall with eight participants, entirely from the Athabasca Basin. The program is funded by Northern Career Quest and Orano to train students on mill processes, power mobile equipment, lockout/tagout, WHMIS, radiation protection and more. In September we welcomed trainees from Fond du Lac, Wollaston Lake, Stony Rapids and Black Lake into the program, and they will finish the training by December 14, 2022.

Individuals who successfully complete the entire program and meet employment criteria will be eligible for employment at the McClean Lake operation. The program has proven to be an excellent first step in the door for those wanting a career in the industry.



Congratulations to 10-year Long Service Award recipient Kristen Clarke, presented by Jerry Morin.



Fall 2022 Athabasca Basin Mill Operator Training program participants with their trainer Mike Voss.



Our thanks to 25-year Long Service Award recipient Rodney Clarke, presented by Todd McCorrison.

Cluff Lake Hearing

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 or 2, 2023. Intervenor have now applied for funding and must send submissions to the CNSC by January 2023. Decommissioning is complete, so Orano is requesting that the site be returned to the Government of Saskatchewan under the Institutional Control Program.

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 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 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!



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