



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

EXPORT DATABASE | A NEW WAY TO FIND EMPLOYMENT

YOUR INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS: UPDATES

TRADITIONAL MEDICINES TO HARVEST BEFORE WINTER SETS IN

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





## 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:*

**Y**a' thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR) is a non-profit corporation owned by the seven Athabasca Basin communities. Our community appointed board of directors have established a vision where the lands and waters of Nuhenéné are to be protected for its members so Basin families can continue to enjoy its bounty as they have since time immemorial and for any developments that are permitted, Basin communities must benefit. The YNLR Board, staff, leadership and committee members are working hard to create this vision by continuing to grow and strengthen as an organization and to meaningfully collaborate with our partners in government, industry, business and institutes. Our partners have responded supportively as Ya' thi Néné has further established our systems and processes related to land stewardship and the promotion of Basin member's interests.

Partners recognize the value and benefit that can be created in the Basin communities by ensuring their activities do not impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights, hiring Basin members on their projects, awarding contracts to community owned businesses/local entrepreneurs, contributing financially to communities and adhering to the highest standards of environmental protection.

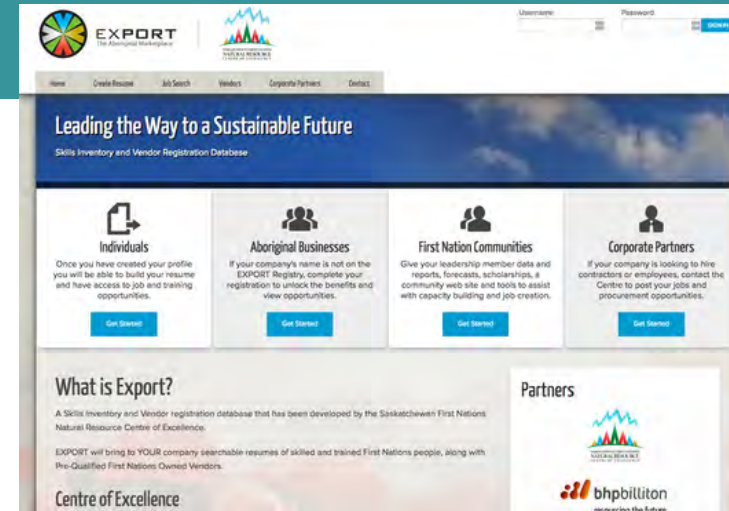
Nuhenéné is filled with natural beauty, strong people, abundant resources and sensitive ecosystems. Land and people are intrinsically connected. The land needs stewardship and Basin member's interests need to be promoted and recognized. YNLR looks forward to continuing to support this vision through meaningful collaboration with all partners.



**EXPORT**  
The Indigenous Marketplace

### Export is an easy to use tool that:

- Is free, accessible online and is mobile friendly
- Instantly starts building your resume as you create a profile
- Allows you to store your tickets and certifications so you never lose them again
- Access to search Job opportunities
- Gives you access to training Opportunities
- Helps you help your community



#### Benefits to Individuals:

The Ya' thi Néné Export Database will provide individuals with online tools, to find and prepare for work and career opportunities. Individuals can receive information and support from community personnel, community business partners and community administrators to guide their own journey to employment and career planning. Accessible from a computer or a smartphone, individuals can:

- Build and store a resume
- Search employment and training opportunities
- Unlimited access to manage and update their profile
- Receive notifications to email and/or phone
- Store tickets for easy access with automated expiration notification alerts

The Ya' thi Néné Export Database will be the online resource hub for connecting Athabasca Basin members (northern and urban) and Athabasca Basin based businesses with opportunities for training, employment and contracting. This database initiative was created to provide a platform for Basin community members / partners to have a more direct connection to community and regional businesses, employment and training goals to better meet individual and community needs, and to maximize on opportunity overall.

Post jobs, post tenders, send notifications, Export can support the Athabasca Basin communities through an innovative web-based engagement tool.

## Export is an Indigenous skills inventory database tool, linking Indigenous people to employment and training opportunities.



The Ya' thi Néné Lands & Resources (YNLR) Office has plans to launch the Ya' thi Néné Export Database by early-December 2020. This means that the online Basin-only resource hub will be ready and active for all Basin community members to create their own profiles, and to build their resume and have access to job and training opportunities!

Stay tuned on our website and/or Facebook page for further developments and updates. In the meantime, you can visit <https://exportdata.ca/> for further insight and overview on what the Export Database is all about.



**LEADING THE WAY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**



# Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

## What's an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)?

IPCAs 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 IPCA. That includes things like the values and objectives that the IPCA holds as sacred, the boundaries of the IPCA, the management plans for the IPCA, and the governance structures for the IPCA.

For the Nuhenéné IPCA, this means that the Athabasca Denesūliné 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 that you have your say.

## Where will the Indigenous Protected Areas be?

Ya' thi Néné has been focused on determining where the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPCAs) will be located. IPCAs will make sure that land is protected for future generations to enjoy. We are working with your communities to select areas that should be protected in this way. To date, we have gained community feedback through the following:

1. **November 2019:** Community update in each First Nation community and municipality.
2. **February 24-26, 2020:** Conducted workshops with Elders in each Denesūliné First Nation to discuss conservation, priority species and areas for protection.
3. **August 25-27, 2020:** We visited the communities of Uranium City, Fond du Lac and Black Lake to conduct Information Sessions on Protected Areas.
4. **September 16, 2020:** Elders IPCA focus group, Black Lake
5. **September 17, 2020:** Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Post Information Session on Protected Areas

Through these discussions, and through analysis of our data, we have narrowed down the priority areas that you (the communities) have identified to be important for both land-use and culturally important species, land, and water. Initial feedback indicates that the proposed provincial areas fall within the areas of interest for the communities. However, the size of the IPCA locations as proposed by the province are too small to encompass the full range of values and ecosystems that are of critical importance to them. We will work with the IPCA Project Team, which consists of representatives of Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment (SK), CPAWS, Community Land Techs and YNLR staff to keep them updated on further boundary discussions. We met on October 1st to discuss initial boundaries and priority areas based on community input.

## Next steps:

We will be working with the communities, Elder focus groups, the Athabasca Land Protection Committee and youth to further refine the boundaries. We continue to conduct research and look at best practices for IPCA governance and management.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Project Manager, Tina Giroux at 306-930-7776 or [tina.giroux@yathinene.com](mailto:tina.giroux@yathinene.com).

## community LAND TECHNICIAN IN PROFILE

When you speak to Jean Tsannie, the first thing that you notice is her infectious laugh. Her sense of humour that bleeds into every conversation, which is part of what makes her so good at her job. Jean is the Community Land Technician (CLT) for Hatchet Lake and Wollaston, and is a Canadian Ranger in her spare time. These two roles keep her on the land often, and present day-to-day challenges and problems that she loves to solve. Jean was raised on the land, trapping, hunting, and commercial fishing. To her, it's all about the land. As a Ranger and as a CLT, she uses her survival skills and knowledge about the land daily, giving back to the community whenever she can. These jobs suit her because she takes being in the bush as a sort of therapy.

Jean's favourite thing about being a CLT is when she gets to take on difficult challenges. One that had her stumped for a little while was the collection of bird recording devices that the CLTs had placed in the bush in the spring— even though she had flagged them well at the time, the brush had since grown up and hidden her markings. Though they were hard to find, Jean was able to use her years of experience as a trapper and a hunter to get in there and figure out where she had left the units.

Part of why Jean is such a good CLT is her excitement for passing on her knowledge and experience on the land to the younger generation. She knows that surviving off the land is something that will last well past new technologies. She wants to pass on her skills— hunting trapping and fishing, how to live off the land, what's edible, how to start a fire, how to find medicine— because she knows that they are important pieces of knowledge that will never become irrelevant.

Though her jobs can be stressful, Jean takes care of herself by connecting with the land, and by bringing joy to the people around her through her gospel singing. She sings at wakes, conferences, and at church, sharing her voice, her passion, and her sense of humour with those who need some light in their lives. To all the community members that Jean has the pleasure of serving, she wants to give this reminder:

**Get out onto the land, and see what it needs from you. The CLTs are here to help you, and I am always available if there is something that you want to learn about being in the bush or living the Dene way."**



## STOCKING UP FOR WINTER

*Traditional medicines to look for next time you walk in the bush.*

Wild plants can help heal and nourish us but can also harm us and make us sick if we do not know what we are harvesting and how to use the plants. The following is not meant to replace any medication you may have been prescribed but is rather a supplement to the medication, please check with your medical practitioner prior to beginning anything new.

Autumn is a time of harvest and giving thanks. During this time, Hunters and Gatherers work on their fall harvest by fishing, hunting, and foraging for plants and berries. This reinforces our ties to the land and is medicine for the mind as it connects us with nature. The hope is that the harvest will sustain us through the long Winter until Spring arrives. When the temperatures start to cool down and the leaves start to change color you may think that your foraging days are over. That could not be farther from the truth! Fall is quite the bounty for foragers and is the harvest season. Being in good health is all about immunity, a body system that is working constantly to maintain our well-being. The following are some plants and berries that can be harvested in the fall and can help build our immunity.

**Rosehips** - The red fruit that grow on rose plants, full of antioxidants and vitamin C. Add them to a cup of tea, turn them into jam or marmalade, or eat them raw. Do not eat the fuzzy inside.

**Cranberries** - These tart berries are high in pectin and vitamin C, plus beta carotene and anthocyanins, and can contribute to healthy kidney and urinary tract functions. Use them to make cranberry sauce, in muffins and pancakes, in pies, and juiced with a bit of apples for sweetness.



**Dandelion Plant and Root** - Dandelion root is abundant and perfect for fall foraging. Traditionally, dandelions have been used as a diuretic or even a laxative. The leaves may have a slight laxative effect and may also improve digestion. The roots of the dandelion may be used to treat issues associated with the liver, kidneys, and the gallbladder. Dandelions may even be able to help manage diabetes. It is a highly medicinal bitter herb that can be used in teas.

**Pine and Spruce Tree Needles** - As you may have gathered, the most common way to use these needles medicinally is to make a "pine/spruce needle tea" out of them. Sip on the wonderful piney taste and get a good dose of immune boosting vitamin C. This tea was traditionally consumed throughout the winter to keep scurvy away.

**Birch Bark and Twigs** - The bark and small twigs and branches can be made into a tea. Birch is used for joint pain, kidney stones, bladder stones, urinary tract infections (UTIs), and other conditions. A tea made from the leaves of the Birch can be used as a diuretic and cleansing agent for the urinary tract. It can be used to help dissolve kidney stones and other urinary tract infections. This tea can also be used to cleanse the body of excess water. In addition, it can be used to treat gout, rheumatism, and mild arthritic pain. Other uses of Birch leaves are for cramps and wounds. Do not take too much of the bark from one tree as it can kill the tree and only harvest strips of bark do not encircle the entire tree.

**Chaga (Birch Tree Fungus)** - The fungus has a hard texture that can be dried, powdered, and used to make Chaga tea. Chaga can fight inflammation, lower blood sugar, reduce blood pressure, alleviate arthritis, and even prevent or slow the progression of cancer. Chaga is rich in fiber and essential nutrients, including vitamin D, iron, magnesium, potassium, manganese, and calcium.

As with anything you forage, respect the land, and take only what you need, leave some for the wildlife. Keep good thoughts in your mind when harvesting. Express gratitude and thanks when harvesting, leave an offering for the plants and the Creator when you harvest. As is our Dene tradition, share your harvest with your friends and family. As with anything, everything in moderation, too much of anything is not healthy or good for you. Wherever you go, avoid harvesting near busy roads or on powerline land or land that is not in its natural state since these areas may have been sprayed with pesticides or chemicals. Finally, do not be discouraged if you return home from your foraging trip empty-handed. You will have gotten exercise and enjoyed a time of solitude or quality time with friends and family. At the end of the day, the best thing about foraging is that it reconnects us with nature.

Foraging teaches us about food sources and shows us what the seasons, the land and weather are up to. Ultimately, it makes us aware and grateful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you have any topics that you would like me to cover in future newsletters.  
Respectfully,

**LINDA**

**Linda McNabb** is a grandmother first and foremost. She is a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a sister. She comes from a long line of Denesūliné healers and leaders, and was raised in a household that always used traditional medicine. Her careers have been many and varied, from mine operations to human resources, tribal councils to forestry and oil sands. Linda has a formal training in traditional medicines, and has retired to Saskatoon to be near her grandchildren. Her learning about plants, protocols, and tradition is ongoing and lifelong.



# Congrats!

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Hannah Preikschat**, from Uranium City, spends most of her time volunteering with her local Air Cadet squadron or being with her family. Though she isn't sure what field of work she wants to enter, she does have a lot of ideas; from writing to travelling the world, all Hannah knows for sure is that she wants to help others. Congratulations Hannah!



**Tammy Lidguerre** is a member of the Fond du Lac First Nation and mother to 6 children. She is currently in a Master of Indigenous Social Work Program with FNU. She chose this program to further enhance her knowledge and skills so that she can be a great resource to her community. Congratulations Tammy!



**Naomi Duff** grew up in Stony Rapids. She has always loved the outdoors and learning about nature and is pursuing a degree in Environment and Society through the University of Saskatchewan. She is excited to follow a career where she can help care for the planet, always be learning more about nature, and how to work with nature rather than against it. Congratulations Naomi!



**Sheldon Echodh** is from Black Lake. He is currently attending University in Prince Albert FNU of Canada, seeking his Bachelor of Education. Sheldon is becoming a teacher in his home community to follow in his mother's footsteps. He wants the next generation to follow their dreams and become role models themselves. Congratulations, Sheldon!



**Farrah Pische** is from Fond du Lac, Sk and is a mother of four. She is currently attending the University of Saskatchewan with hopes of becoming an elementary school teacher. She is looking forward to giving back to her community, both as a teacher and maybe someday by giving scholarships to future students like herself. Congratulations, Farrah!



**Amanda Strong** is from the Black Lake First Nation and is in her second year for Nursing. When she completes her studies, she plans to work for and with her people and is dedicated to the development of her community and the health care systems. Congratulations, Amanda!



**Veronica Kkailther** is a single mother of four. She is currently in her third year of studying to be a teacher. Veronica says "it is true when they say it is never too late to go back to school and fulfill your dreams. There have been many obstacles along the way. Everyday is a new learning process. I keep on trying," and she really means it. Congratulations, Veronica!



**Gabrielle Toutsaint** of Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation is soon to obtain a Bachelor of Education degree. Her first language is Denesuline, and she is enthusiastic about passing her love of learning and her culture on to the next generation. Congratulations Gabrielle!



## Updates from your

# DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

**FACILITATING WORKFORCE GROWTH, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, AND LIFE LONG LEARNING IN THE BASIN**

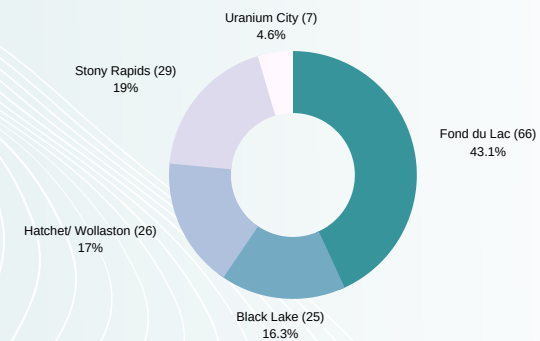
By Dene Robillard, Ya' thi Néné Development Coordinator

### Workforce and Business Development Update

Our office is currently in the process of outlining a workplan that will align with both consultation and engagement processes with regional proponents. As Development Coordinator, I am still monitoring and communicating with exploration companies, and requesting that any procurement opportunities (job title, duration, qualifications, and other considerations) be reported to myself so I can then share any and all documented information to Basin entrepreneurs, businesses, Economic Development Offices, and/or contractors for anticipated bids or hires. *Development Coordinator highlight -->*

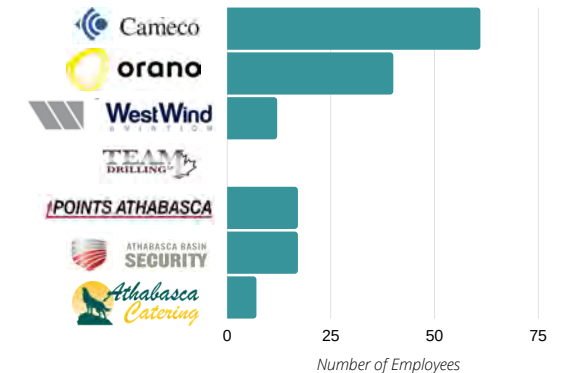
- Monthly meetings with my task force, the Athabasca Education, Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC), to discuss and report on current and upcoming employment and training initiatives throughout the Basin.
- Advancing on the Ya' thi Néné Export Database with developers. We have so far outlined a set-up & implementation strategy, and are aiming to have a website launch early-December 2020.
- Continuing to meet and support various regional initiatives with AEEDC stakeholders like the Adult Basic Education 12-Pathways program (planning phase), West Wind Aviation grounds person training (planning phase), and a Security Guard training course in November for Hatchet Lake band members (this training will be provided by Fitness 2J2 in partnership with PAGC-Dene).

### Employees by Location



It is worth noting that both Industry and Basin-owned business employment statistics for this period are still lower than anticipated due to the previous COVID-19 shutdown of operations at Cigar Lake, McClean Lake, and Rabbit Lake sites.

### Basin Employer Statistics



These charts provide the (April-June 2020) employment statistics for both Cameco and Orano, and eligible Basin-owned businesses supported through the Collaboration Agreement.



## PROMOTING THE PEOPLE: An update on the Athabasca Community Trust

Ya' thi Néné Lands and Resources provides administrative support to the Athabasca Community Trust (ACT). The ACT administers payments received from Cameco and Orano under the Collaboration Agreement for the long-term benefit of the Athabasca First Nations and the Athabasca Communities. The Trust's guiding principles are protection of capital and growth of income over the long-term. It sets out strict rules about how funds can be used and invested, who can access funds, and what the funds can be used for.

The Fall intake of Trust applications were due on September 30th and the Trustees met on October 14th and 15th to review the 22 completed proposals. The Trustees evaluated all of the proposals against the Permitted Purposes and awarded approximately \$296,000 to 15 successful projects. Examples of some of the successful projects include Youth Hunting trips in Fond du Lac, Christmas Hampers in Black Lake, an Automated Weather Observing System in Hatchet Lake, Sensory Room Equipment in Stony Rapids and Apparel for a Community Walk in Uranium City. Approved projects are contingent on applicants providing additional supporting documentation.

The Trust separates funds under its management from community operating budgets, enabling long-term planning for future community needs. The Trust is managed by one Corporate Trustee (The Canada Trust Company - a subsidiary of TD Bank) and a Community Trustee from each of the 3 First Nations including Earl Lidguerre from Fond du Lac, Tina Alphonse from Black Lake, Charlie Denecheze from Hatchet Lake and Margaret Powder on behalf of the 4 communities of Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Wollaston Lake and Camsell Portage.

For more information on the Trust, interested applicants can go to our website (<https://yathinene.ca/the-trust/>) and apply online or they can contact our office (306-477-1251) or speak to their community Trustee.



# Ya' thi Néné and the DUTY TO CONSULT

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.

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 for food, gather, or fish, the company or government that proposed the project must consult with the First Nations in question.

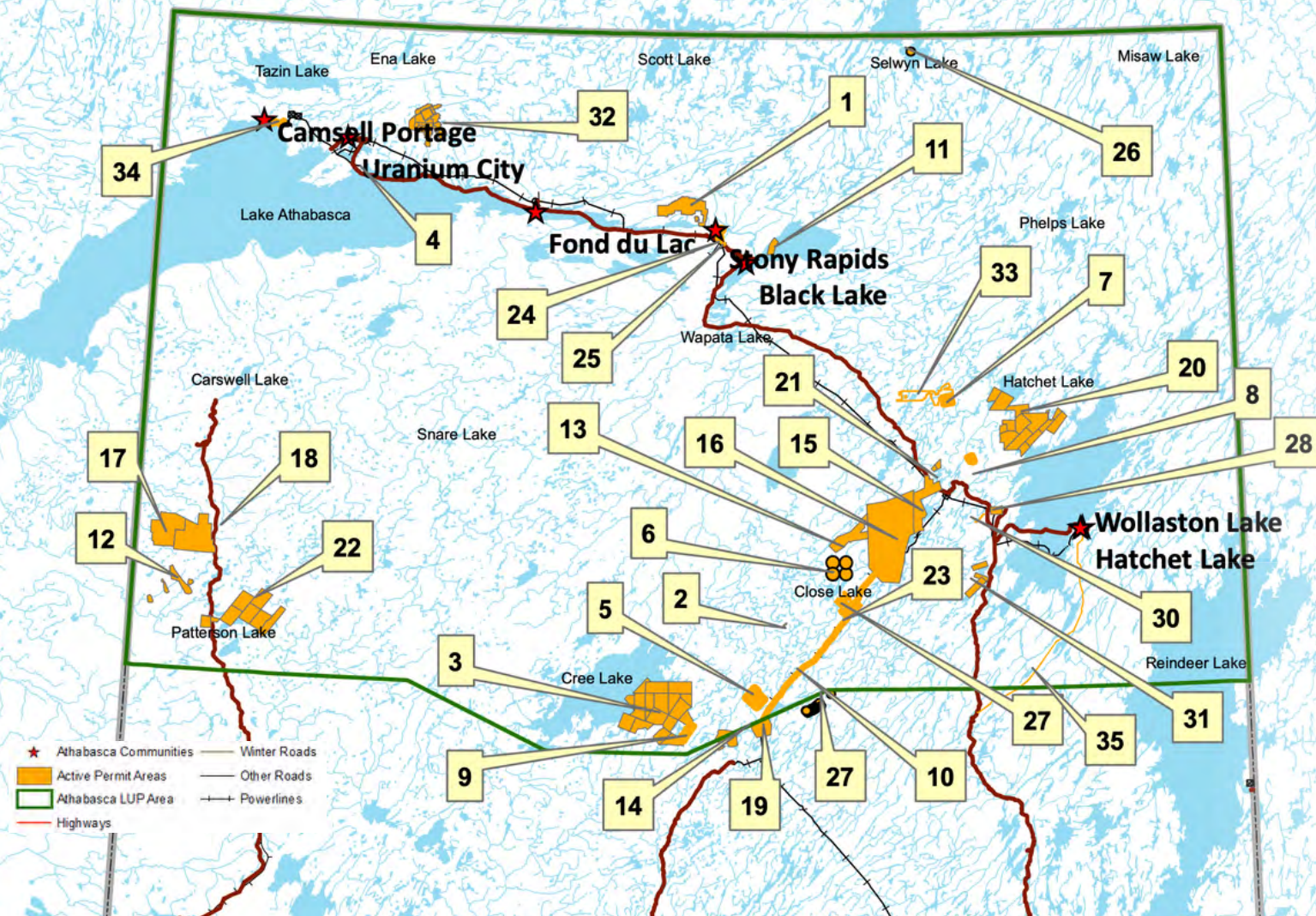
That's where we come in. When the Nation is notified, so are we— and we begin immediately to make sure your interests are being safeguarded. We act as a go-between, making sure that government and proponents are consulting and engaging the people. We analyze the permit, we examine our Traditional Knowledge 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. The 35 'Active Permits' identified on the map represent companies requesting permits from October 2019 to date of publication.

Label	Proponent	Permitted Activity	Permit Expiration
1	ALX Uranium Corp. Firebird Nickel Program	Exploration	March 2021
2	CanAlaska Uranium West McArthur	Exploration	March 2021
3	CanAlaska Uranium Cree East	Remediation	March 2021
4	Cameco Corp. Fishhook Bay	Exploration	March 2021
5	Denison Mines Corp. Moon Lake	Exploration	December 2020
6	Denison Mines Corp. Darby Lake	Exploration	March 2021
7	Denison Mines Corp. Murphy Lake	Exploration	March 2021
8	Denison Mines Corp. Waterbury	Exploration	March 2021
9	Denison Mines Corp. Ford Lake	Exploration	March 2021
10	Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River	Exploration	December 2021
11	Forum Energy Fir Island	Exploration	March 2021
12	NexGen Energy Ltd. SW1	Exploration	March 2021
13	Orano Canada Inc. Close Lake	Exploration	December 2020
14	Orano Canada Inc. Martin Lake	Exploration	March 2021
15	Orano Canada Inc. Waterbury UEM	Exploration	March 2021
16	Orano Canada Inc. Waterbury/Cigar Lake	Exploration	March 2021
17	Orano Canada Inc. Alexandra	Exploration	March 2021
18	Orano Canada Inc. Nikita	Exploration	March 2021
19	Orano Canada Inc. Getty Russell	Exploration	March 2021
20	Purepoint Uranium Group Inc. Red Willow	Exploration	December 2020
21	Purepoint Uranium Group Inc. Henday	Exploration	December 2020
22	Purepoint Uranium Group Inc. Hook Lake	Exploration	December 2021
23	SaskPower IP3 Transmission Line	Power Line Vegetation Maintenance	December 2021
24	SaskPower ST511 Distribution Line	Power Line Vegetation Maintenance	March 2021
25	SaskPower ST512 Distribution Line	Power Line Vegetation Maintenance	March 2021
26	Selwyn Lake Lodge	Legitimize an Existing Lagoon	2025
27	Skyharbour Resources Ltd. Moore Lake	Exploration	March 2021
28	UEX Corporation Vixen Lake	Exploration	December 2020
29	UEX Corporation Christie Lake	Exploration	March 2021
30	UEX Corporation Lampin Lake	Ice Road and Core Recovery	March 2021
31	UEX Corporation West Bear	Exploration	March 2021
32	Appia Energy Corp. Alces Lake	Exploration	March 2021
33	IsoEnergy Limited Larocque East	Exploration	March 2021
34	SaskPower CR-403 Camsell Distribution Line	Power Line Vegetation Maintenance	Fall 2021
35	Associated Engineering Wollaston Lake Road	Proposed Easement	March 2021

The respective companies represented on the map (see list) have all granted approval for Ya' thi Nene Land and Resource Office to share their permitted areas. Other permits exist but would have been issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment before October 2019 and are not illustrated on the map.

'Active Permits' represent which companies (e.g. Denison Mines Corp.) possess valid permits and may or may not be performing work. For more information on project status, Basin residents are encouraged to contact Ya' thi Nene directly (Shea Shirley, shea.shirley@yathinene.com).



## October 5, 2020 Goldfields Site Visit from Fond Du Lac, SK By Derek Cook, CLT

On October 5th, we went to the Goldfields Property to see the land at these sites prior to the proposed drilling project in 2021. I have heard a lot of stories about Uranium City in general growing up, especially from my grandfather Simon Robillard from Black lake, SK. Stories dating back to when Uranium City first opened in the 30's and how my grandfather use to travel by dog team from Black Lake to Uranium City to work and provide for his family. As for myself having heavy equipment operations back ground it is great to see the remediation projects happening at Gunnar site and at the same time mineral exploration at Alces Lake and drilling for gold at Goldfields are all an reassuring site to see especially for employment and contracting opportunities for the people of the north.

## Reports from YA' THI NÉNÉ in the field

## Aug31- Sept 6, 2020 Youth Suicide Prevention Camp Ennadai Lake, NU Jean Tsannie, CLT

August 31st was a travel day for Hunters and camp workers who took the time to set up the camp site for the youth that would arrive the following day. The purpose of the camping trip was to connect Elders and hunters to youth, and to teach them about our way of living as First Nation Dene.

On September 1st, we flew in with the youth and several additional helpers (Vincent Olson, Preston Kkaikka, Tayden Tsannie, Dione Tsannie and Marvin Hansen). When we got to Ennadai Lake, the hunters brought in fresh meat, and the boys were eager to walk out and carry the meat on their backs (about 6km there and back, through some muskeg and water, but they got the job done!).

The next day more youth arrived, and as they got off the plane they were shown how to offer tobacco to the land, and how to properly show their respect. Back at the camp site, Elders Melanie St. Pierre and Maire Benonie demonstrated how to make dry meat, bannock, and how to prepare hides. One of the cooks (Florence) showed the youth how to cut up meat, and the girls helped them cook for the entire camp.

James Hugarth (YNLR Community Land Technician) taught the youth how to choose and cut wood, and he and the youth built the six tents that we used in camp for the next six days. Joseph Shaouille and Soloman Joseyounen went to check nets, and when they came back from fishing the ladies at camp showed the youth how to gut and dry fish

On day three, the youth went picking blue berries and cranberries. When they got back to camp, they were taught how to cook the berries by Pauline and Marguerite. The next day, James and a few of the youth went caribou hunting and returned with three caribou. The caribou meat was divided amongst the youth to take home to their families. On the morning of day six, the youth started packing their gear, then breakfast morning prayer along with a drum song by the Elders, followed by the youth. It was beautiful; you could feel the heartbeat of the song.

I had a wonderful time with the entire crew who were out there to make this a successful trip for the youth that took part in this Ennadai Lake Youth Suicide Prevention Camp.







## Energizing a clean-air world

The Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP) is a component of the collaboration agreement (CA) signed between Cameco, Orano, four municipalities and three First Nations in northern Saskatchewan.

This summer, the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) awarded Cameco one of its prestigious Towards Sustainable Mining® (TSM) Excellence Awards in June, in recognition of the CBEMP program and its innovative and sustainable focus on community engagement and environmental stewardship.

CBEMP demonstrates the partnership between the community and industry and builds off 18 years of regional data collection through the former Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program. The AWG Monitoring Program had more of a regional focus but the signing of the CA signaled a switch in focus to a single community and rebranding the program as CBEMP.

Since then, CBEMP has tackled studies in Black Lake and Stony Rapids in 2018, Fond du Lac in 2019 while Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Lake are currently underway. The remaining communities of Uranium City and Camsell Portage are planned for 2021. In the program, traditional foods and areas are tested to ensure they remain safe for consumption. The program brings training and employment to community members, who are responsible for leading interviews, mapping harvesting sites, taking samples of foods for analysis and communicating this information to the broader community.



By involving community members directly in CBEMP's design and implementation, communities can have significant input into the way information is collected, submitted and reported. At the end, each community has their own tailored country foods study that they were closely involved with and local community members can have confidence that traditionally harvested foods remain safe to eat and water remains safe to drink.

Most importantly, the program provides peace of mind that the surrounding areas have not been influenced by the active uranium mining and milling operations in the region, all while also providing opportunities to local community members – a win-win.

It's innovative programs like CBEMP that have helped Cameco maintain its gold-level status in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business recognized Cameco for the sixth time in September. The distinction is given to select companies that excel at working with aboriginal communities and businesses.

In its report, the jury noted that Cameco's long-term strategic plan is aligned with PAR's four pillars: employment, business development, individual skills development and community relations. As one of Canada's largest employers of aboriginal people, PAR noted that Cameco has leveraged the opportunity to hire locally and have the added advantage of creating and establishing an able and capable employee pool in which to hire from.

The jury also recognized the inclusion of local and aboriginal businesses in the supply chain. Through December 2019, Cameco has procured \$3.85 billion for services from northern businesses since 2004.

The negotiation and implementation of CA's also plays an important role in developing "strong, lasting and trusting partnerships with their CA holders," the jury wrote.



# orano

As a signatory to the Ya' thi Néné collaboration agreement and a business and community partner in the Athabasca Basin, Orano Canada is pleased to reach out to Basin people through this newsletter to maintain our close relationship, especially in this challenging time. We demonstrate our commitment to the Basin and to the North through community investments, hiring, training, business opportunities, and scholarships.

### Meet Tina Searcy, Orano Canada Regulatory and Environmental Science Manager

You may be seeing more of Tina Searcy in the coming months as she has taken the lead on some important Orano projects such as the expansion of the JEB Tailings Management Facility (TMF) at McClean Lake and the stewardship of the Cluff Lake decommissioned mine. Tina has worked for Orano and its predecessor companies for 20 years and with a background in environmental monitoring, management and protection has worked in the mining industry for 25 years.

Recently, Tina joined the Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (AJES) for a presentation and tour of the JEB TMF at McClean Lake to discuss the importance of the project and the need for tailings capacity as uranium companies make decisions on future mining projects. Tina has a passion for sustainable development of uranium projects in Saskatchewan and the importance of community engagement. She is always open to hearing any concerns or questions that community members or leadership might have about the operations or future plans.

### Status of McClean Lake Operation

Following an announcement in late July, and the safe restart of the Cigar Lake mine and the McClean Lake uranium mill, the operations were able to begin processing uranium in mid September. Working closely with employees, contractors and northern communities, McClean Lake maintained safety protocols put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic threat.

Those procedures were tested in September when the mill experienced one positive case of COVID-19 at site. It was determined that the source of the infection was from outside the work environment. Through quick isolation and the testing of close contacts, Orano was able to limit the risk. Working with the Population Health Unit of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, site management ensured the safety of the workforce, resulting in only the one positive case.

While it was a difficult situation, Orano employees handled it calmly and the event served as a good reminder of why COVID safety protocols must be respected.



**Our congratulations to the 2020-2021 Basin Scholarship recipients. We wish all 23 recipients a successful year and we look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.**

As Orano prepares for a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) public hearing in the fall of 2021 on the tailings expansion you will hear more from the company on the details of the project, and there will be opportunities for feedback, questions and participation in the hearing process.

### 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](http://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.

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

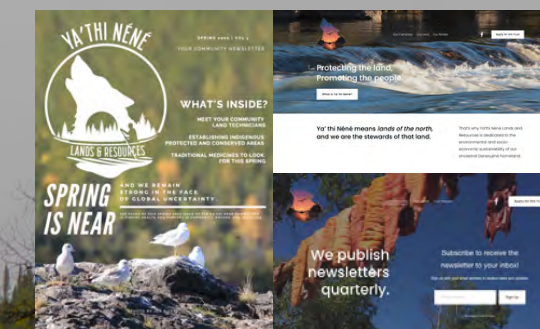
That's why we're always on the lookout for issues and observations from residents of the Basin. If you or someone you know has an observation, notices something, or hears a concern related to the land and water, we ask that you report it to one of our Community Land Technicians (CLTs).

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIAN OR SHEA SHIRLEY AT [SHEA.SHIRLEY@YATHINENE.COM](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com) OR CALL (306) 477-1251.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR REDESIGNED WEBSITE?  
[WWW.YATHINENE.CA](http://WWW.YATHINENE.CA)

Learn more about who Ya' thi Néné is and what we do, get regular updates on the communities of the Athabasca Basin, and download older editions of our newsletter that you might have missed!



WE NEED CONTENT FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Send your photos to [admin@yathinene.com](mailto:admin@yathinene.com) with the subject line "YNLR Newsletter" to be featured in our winter 2021 issue!



## YA' THI NÉNÉ LANDS AND RESOURCES

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