



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS: UPDATES

BIRD SURVEYS IN THE NORTH

MEET YOUR NEW COMMUNITY TRUSTEE

Ya'thi Néné Land and Resources' purpose is to protect the land, water, and air of Nuhenéné and to promote the people of the Denesufiné 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:*

**E**dlanet'e! Our late, cool spring has changed into a hot dry summer. Not only has our weather been heating up but so has the uncertainty in our communities with increased threats of COVID-19 surges and forest fires. These threats pose immediate risk to the communities and compound some of the other challenges that Basin communities more regularly experience related to accessibility of services, adequate housing, available employment opportunities and sufficient environmental protection. In times such as this, it's important to find strength and support within our seven Basin communities as well as from our relationships with our partners operating in the Basin including Basin businesses, the federal/provincial governments and industry. The added stress from the recent COVID-19 surges and forest fires highlight the need to have meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders so we can overcome these challenges together.

YNLR has been active in establishing and enhancing our partnerships throughout the Basin. We do this through regular communication and strategic initiatives designed to engage and enhance the Basin's interests. Indeed, one of YNLR's primary roles in the Basin is to enhance the voice of leadership and community members so government, industry and businesses understand and respect the needs of Basin communities. Historically, many of these partnerships were non-existent or adversarial and for good reason since the interests of Basin communities have often been misunderstood or ignored. By no means is the current situation perfect but we strive to make progress.

Partnerships start with YNLR's unique internal governance board and committees which have representatives from all three Athabasca Denesuliné First Nations and the four Basin municipalities. The long-standing family relationships throughout the seven Basin communities is strong and foundational to our unity. This extends to our four person community appointed Board of Directors, our eight person community appointed Athabasca Land Protection Committee (ALPC), our eight person Athabasca Education Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) and the four person elected Athabasca Community Trust (ACT). The Board, committees and the Trust have representatives from each community whom all share the same interest in protecting Nuhenéné while benefiting community members.

As YNLR continues to develop, our Board and committees become stronger alongside our partners who share in our vision for the region. The recent challenges from COVID-19 surges and forest fires are significant with deep impacts to the communities. However, through perseverance and supportive partnerships, we will overcome these challenges and be stronger in the future.

## DENISE BOUGIE

### TRADES SCHOLARSHIP



\$5000 in scholarships available for students from the Athabasca region who are enrolled in a trades program

*"I am hoping that my story will inspire others to get into the trades and/or just go for their dreams – anything is possible!"* Denise Bougie, Athabasca Basin Development's The Explorer Newsletter, March 2015.

Denise Bougie was a passionate advocate for Women in Trades & Technology, spending countless hours volunteering to help inspire women and others in her community. She was not shy about sharing her story and her struggles, and how, at age 40, she began a new journey. With a little bit of help, and a lot of hard work and determination, in 2015 Denise achieved her goal of attaining Journeyman Electrician status and was living back in her hometown with her family, using her new skills to help give back to her community.

Denise also served on the Ya' thi Néné's Permanent Residence Organization committee. Tragically, Denise passed away in 2020. Her incredible spirit, her enthusiasm, and her belief in the members of her community will never be forgotten.

Denise achieved many of the hours she needed to obtain her red seal while working at Flyer Electric. Flyer Electric is proud to help play a small role in carrying on the work that Denise was so passionate about: helping support women and Athabasca community members to enter a career in the trades by sponsoring a scholarship.

This scholarship is part of Ya' thi Néné's Athabasca Basin Scholarship program. Must be a member of an Athabasca Basin community to be eligible. Application deadline is July 31, 2021. Please visit [www.yathinene.ca/scholarship](http://www.yathinene.ca/scholarship) to apply.





# Ya' thi Néné and the DUTY TO CONSULT

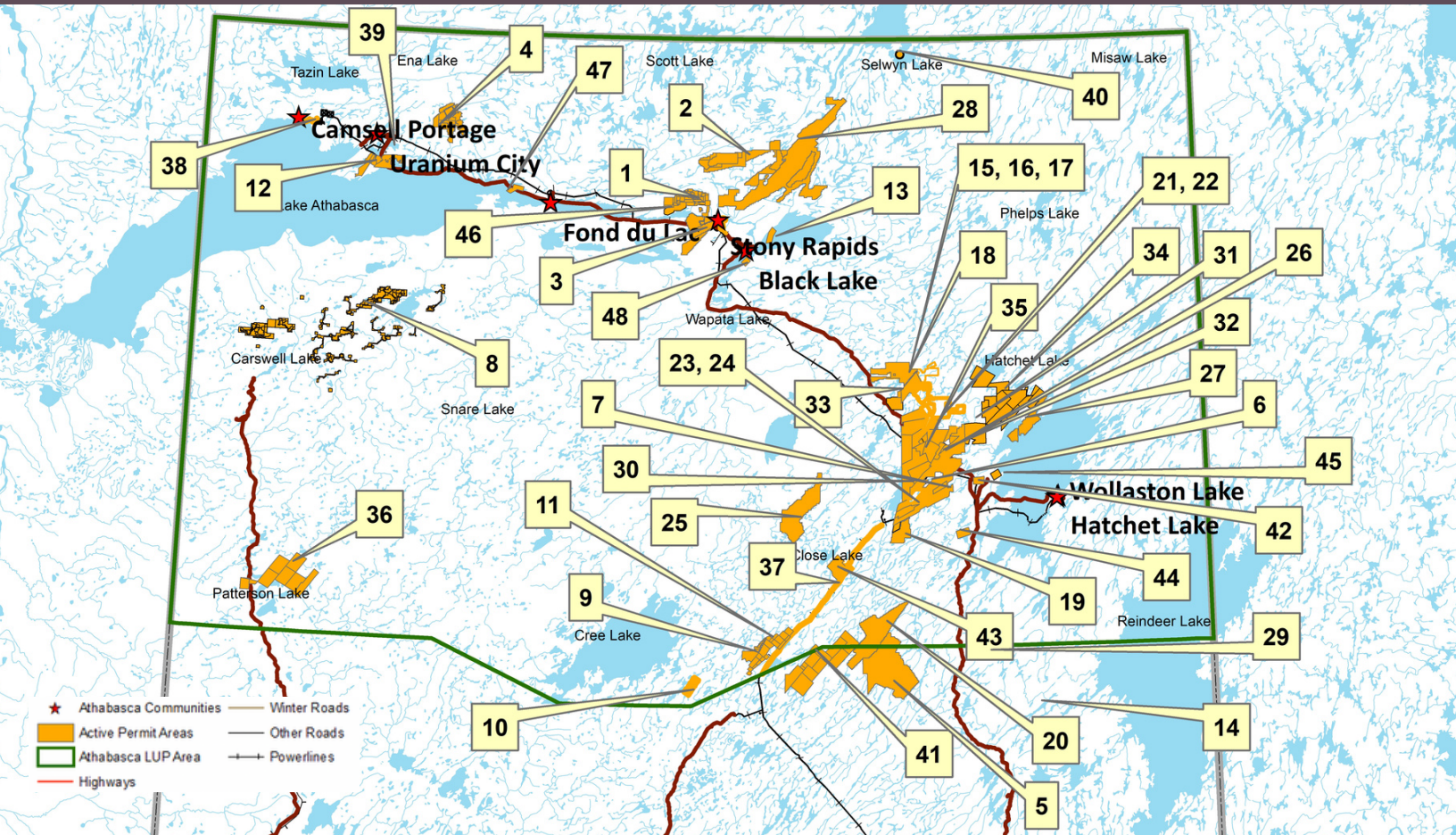
When Ya' thi Néné was formally established in 2016, one of its central mandates was to assist in the Duty to Consult process and ensure that the voices and concerns of the Athabasca Denesūliné were heard and taken into account every time government and industry wanted to develop in Nuhenéné.

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, gather, or fish, the government 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 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 leadership, land users, and community members.

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 48 'Active Permits' identified on the map in our Summer 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.

These 48 projects 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)

## Denison Mines Corp.

9. Moon Lake (Exploration to 12/21)
10. Ford Lake (Exploration to 12/21)
11. Wheeler River (Exploration to 12/21)

## Fortune Bay

12. Goldfields (Exploration to 4/22)

## Forum Energy

13. Fir Island (Exploration to 5/22)
14. Love Lake (Exploration to 3/22)

## IsoEnergy

15. Larocque East (Exploration to 3/22)
16. Larocque East Temporary Work Camp Expansion (Exploration to 3/22)
17. Western Larocque (Exploration to 12/24)
18. Larocque West (Exploration to 12/24)
19. Tower (Exploration to 10/22)
20. Gemini (Exploration to 10/22)
21. Geiger (Exploration to 10/22)
22. Geiger Temporary Work Camp (Exploration to 12/22)
23. North Thorburn (Exploration to 12/24)
24. Thorburn (Exploration to 12/24)
25. Clover (Exploration to 10/22)
26. Radio (Exploration to 12/24)
27. Collins Bay (Exploration to 12/24)

## Kobold Metals Co.

28. Metals (Exploration to 10/22)

## Minsitry of Energy and Resources

29. Johnstone (Prospecting to 8/22)

## Orano Canada Inc.

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

## Purepoint Uranium Group Inc.

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

## SaskPower

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

## Selwyn Lake Lodge

40. Legitimize an Existing Lagoon (to 2025)

## Skyharbour Resources Ltd.

41. Moore Lake (Exploration to 12/21)

## UEX Corporation

42. Vixen Lake (Exploration to 12/23)
43. Christie Lake (Exploration to 12/23)
44. Dwyer Lake (Exploration to 12/23)

45. Pow Bay (Exploration to 12/23)
46. Axis Lake (Exploration to 12/22)

## Fission 3.0

47. Cree Bay (Exploration to 8/22)
48. Hearty Bay (Exploration to 8/22)





# AN UPDATE ON YOUR Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

**On behalf of the community of Hatchet Lake First Nation,  
we are pleased to announce the proposed boundary for the Dene Ch'ąłk'e Tulué IPA!**

To narrow down areas for priority protection, we worked with the community to consider cultural, environmental, and economic development factors. Cultural value, ecological value, and disturbance maps for the region were developed and then combined to depict areas of high, medium, and low potential for an IPA. To better guide decisions on where to establish IPAs, any areas identified as important in past projects by our Elders and land users were overlapped to create focus areas. These focus areas were a very important step in this project as they carry the voice of numerous community members, including those of previous generations. The combined map and focus areas were then used to conduct over 50 individual interviews in Hatchet Lake First Nation in order to gather detailed input and feedback on the best IPA locations. Following this, Chief and Council of Hatchet Lake Denesųliné First Nation approved the identified area with some minor boundary modifications. The result of all this cumulative work is the boundary presented today.

Dene Ch'ąłk'e Tulué IPA represents an area of approx. 5000 km<sup>2</sup> (500,000 ha.) and includes important areas like Tthai Cho Nįlįnj (Cochrane River cultural site) and Tthai Nu (Sandy Island Pilgrimage site). These areas were identified as being very important for the Athabasca Denesųliné community. The Dene Ch'ąłk'e Tulué IPA overlaps with 6,746 LUO sites recorded in the Athabasca Denesųliné database, including 79 gathering sites, 6,237 animal harvest sites, and 460 heritage sites!

The establishment of Dene Ch'ąłk'e Tulué IPA will help ensure that Denesųliné traditional ways can continue for many more generations. The Athabasca Denesųliné have always maintained that all land and water is important and must be protected and that we have an inherent obligation to be stewards of the land.

## **Tthai Nu**

Sandy Island, also referred to as Tthai Nu is in the northeast part of Wollaston Lake on the Cochrane River. Tthai Nu is a traditional ground for spirituality, connection to caribou hunting and harvesting. The Tthai Nu pilgrimage site is approximately 72 kilometers from the Wollaston Lake Settlement/Hatchet Lake First Nation. Tthai Nu is also a caribou crossing and hunting route for hunters. Hatchet Lake Denesųliné and Elders frequently identify Tthai Nu as a historical landmark. It is an area where Denesųliné hunters harvested caribou for millennia. There are stories told that were significant to when Denesųliné co-existed with spiritual beings, animals, and wonders that the landscape offered. The Denesųliné will continue to use our territory to maintain the Denesųliné way of life. Denesųliné perceive our traditional land as spiritual, and we have lived in this area for centuries.

Between 1975-1980, discussions to build a shrine began. The founders of the pilgrimage site and Church leaders made the site a reality. This Spiritual Island, founded in 1990, is the location of an apparition of the Virgin Mary. Children found the nearby pond to having healing waters. Since then, two significant events commemorate the site, an Easter Spiritual Walk and a pilgrimage in late July or early August.

## **Tthai Cho Nįlįnj - Cochrane River Cultural Camp/School**

There is a culture camp/school at the Cochrane River for cultural and traditional education for students from Hatchet Lake and Wollaston Lake. Before the Hatchet Lake First Nations community was established, the school was a settlement of trappers. This site is used multiple times a year by the school and by the community to hold culture camps, healing workshops and numerous other functions. It is especially important due to its proximity to caribou, fresh water, and multiple cabins/infrastructure available at the camp.

## **Charcoal Lake**

Charcoal lake is important to the community for caribou hunting, trapping, traditional activity and harvesting. It is found along the main trail system that accesses Nuhenéné in Nunavut and NWT. During our community member interviews on protected areas, some of our members said:

"Charcoal Lake, it is like our home, our ancestors' roots. The importance of Charcoal Lake is the water flows, caribou migrate, people gather."

"Charcoal Lake, our roots and our ancestors used this land to survive [by] hunting, fishing and [by the] water, rivers".

## **Phelps Lake**

Phelps Lake is also important to the community for caribou hunting, trapping, traditional activity and harvesting. During our intensive community interviews, some of the members mentioned:

"that is where my late dad grew up, also he raised his siblings when his parents passed on. The burial site of my great grandpa is somewhere there, but unsure of its exact location."

"This area has the hunting routes for our community, trapping area of our ancestors, it should be kept for generations and generations. Phelps Lake, there are hunting routes all the way to Misaw Lake and Hasbala Lake. People still trap around that area. That's where caribou come down in fall, that's where we hunt, where the river flows, that's where caribou follows."

**Dene Ch'ąłk'e Tulué - "the great road to the area where Dene harvest caribou for sustenance."**



## Caribou Habitat

Barren ground caribou are an important species for the Athabasca Denesųliné. For this reason, habitat that is important for caribou was identified as some of the most critical for protection. Because of this, we made sure to include Traditional Knowledge on barren-ground caribou habitat, behaviour and cultural use when looking to define areas for fulsome protection. By protecting land that is an important wintering habitat for caribou, we know that we will be preserving our Dene ch'aniyé (culture) and Dene ɗat'ú gheḡa (way of life). Old-growth forests are particularly important to barren ground caribou as they contain lichen, which is barren ground caribou main source of food in the winter. Dene Ch'alk'e Tulué IPA overlaps entirely with the barren ground caribou range, and includes more than 240,000 ha of old-growth forest. Large tracts of land are important to caribou to be able to fulfill their need to forage. It is especially important, as their numbers decline, that their habitat is protected, especially since there is currently little barren-ground caribou winter feeding habitat protected through legislation.

## Existing Interests

Hatchet Lake First Nation members have already felt the impact of industry within their territory. Numerous uranium mines are found in the region, west of Wollaston Lake in the Athabasca Basin. In addition, extensive dispositions and various levels of exploration are occurring in this area. Barren-ground caribou no longer migrate through this corridor and remain north of Wollaston Lake. The ability to exercise our treaty rights to fish, hunt, trap, and gather have been significantly 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 minerals. The proposed IPA overlaps with some mineral dispositions. However, Dene Ch'alk'e Tulué IPA has low mineral potential using the rating scale used by the Government of Saskatchewan. This scale ranges from 1 to 6, with 6 representing the highest potential. The IPA boundary includes only 1-3 ratings.

## Next Steps

Now that the boundary has been selected by Hatchet Lake First Nation, the boundaries will be shared with our partners, and work will continue towards defining the management of Dene Ch'alk'e Tulué Protected Area through a Management Plan. Governance agreements and long-term financing plans will be researched and established.

## Conclusion

The Dene Ch'alk'e Tulué Protected Area boundary has been carefully selected. The Hatchet Lake Denesųliné First Nation and Wollaston Lake Post seek to find a balance between both protection and economic opportunity in Nuhenéḡé. By creating this Indigenous Protected Area, we will ensure that protection of the land and water continue for future generations. Dene Ch'alk'e Tulué will add almost 0.75% to the provincial goal of reaching 17% 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 Nuhenéḡé 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 Nuhenéḡé, and it is important to us so you have your say.

## 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 Nuhenéḡé. 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.



Elder, Marie Benonie



# EXPLORATION SITE VISITS

By Ian Donard

Since the project started with the northeast exploration of Stony Rapids, I have been going out to visit the drill sites on the ALX Firebird project, to monitor and to take care of any concerns.

Having myself out here on the drilling sites, to monitor our lands and waters is a dream come true for our people. Before enrolling with Ya' thi Néné, I as a land user have heard my people express that it would be nice to have someone monitoring the drilling sites, to see what type of activities are happening before and after the project.

Now with myself as a Community Land Technician, I'm here to listen, and work with my people and other resources that are exploring our lands.

I have also made numerous visits to the Fir Island project. Before the project started, I have done community consultations with land users, board members, and leadership that included negotiations for a community cabin. I have also documented the site after the project ended for the season. Right now, the Fir Island clean up and community cabin are both in progress.



## MOOSE AND FISH HARVESTING IN THE NORTH

Community Land Technician Bruce Martin harvested 3 moose during July, on the west side of Lake Athabasca and distributed all the meat to local elders in Fond Du Lac, SK.

At the same time he harvested fish that was also distributed to elders. Bruce's work is similar to what other Community Land Technicians are doing in other communities to support Elders during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## EARMP

Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program



Collecting and testing traditional country foods since 2011!  
Visit [www.earmp.com](http://www.earmp.com) to learn more.





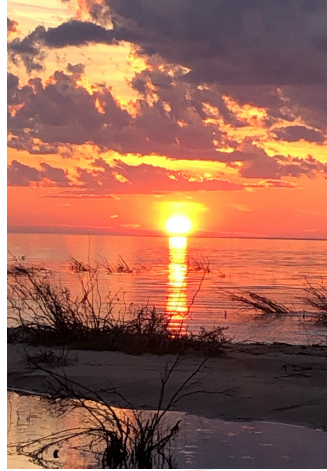
# BIRD SURVEYS

*Lake Athabasca & Tazin Lake*  
*By Derek Cook*

It was a great experience for myself being out here on Lake Athabasca for a week along with my co-workers and Birds Canada team to explore and record what types of birds are out there especially in our region. It was also amazing to learn how far some of these birds migrate North especially the California gulls. Bird populations are an excellent way to monitor the health of our land.

I hope our younger generations learn about our fish, birds, wildlife and ecosystems in the north so they can pass on the knowledge to future generations to come.

You must come out here and see it for yourself, to see how beautiful our Lake Athabasca and Sand Dunes are, and what they have to offer.



*Ian Donard and  
Conservation Officer Steve  
Asselstine on Stony Lake*

## A RIDE WITH THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

*By Ian Donard*

The ride along with Conservation Officer was a good experience, I had a chance to learn some of the duties from him. This short ride along had got me thinking about we need to learn more of the Conservation Officers duties.

It seems to me there has been some misinformation brought upon our people in the North. One of the things I learnt from the officer is: these Officers are here to protect our lakes, animals, species, etc. They are out here to help us, therefore, as a YNLR Community Land Technician, I'm here to listen, and be the eyes for our future.

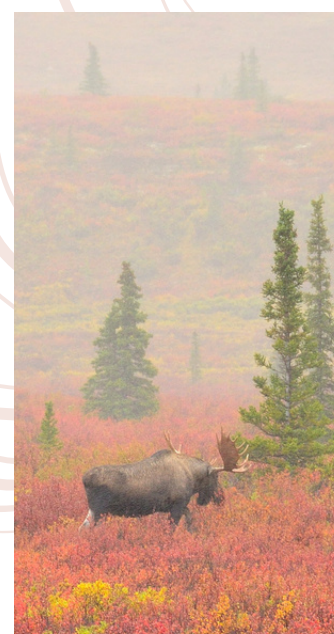
## COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM

*Uranium City & Camsell Portage*

YNLR will be an active contributor to the 2021/22 CBEMP program that will occur this year in Uranium City and Camsell Portage. The program is funded by Cameco and Orano through the Ya'thi Nènè Collaboration Agreement with support from CanNorth as the consultant. This year's program will be different from previous CBEMP programs conducted in the other Basin communities as YNLR will take a more active role in its design and execution. With YNLR more actively participating in the project, our employee's skills and knowledge will also increase which will better support our other environmental monitoring initiatives throughout Nuhenènè.

The project will start in early August when our staff receive training by CanNorth on a Direct-to-Digital computer software. From there, YNLR Community Land Technicians and the Cameco/Orano Community Liaison will conduct interviews of residents in Uranium City and Camsell Portage about the traditional foods they harvest and eat. This information will then be used to determine food and water samples to collect. The samples will be collected by community members and sent to a lab for analysis. The results from the study will be shared with community leaders and members in a report and at a community meeting.

Previous studies conducted in Hatchet Lake/Wollaston Lake, Stony Rapids/Black Lake and Fond du Lac all confirmed that traditional foods harvested by community members throughout Nuhenènè are safe to eat.





## YNLR NEW STAFF AND DIRECTOR

***YNLR continues to grow and strengthen as an organization that serves the seven Athabasca Basin communities.***



YNLR welcomes Christopher Toutsaint as our new Board of Director representing Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation. Chris brings a wealth of experience from the mining industry and is an active land-user with strong traditional values and land-based knowledge. Chris also enjoys volunteering with the community youth and recreation group.

Chris is excited to be a part of Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources and to bring his skills and experience to the role.

YNLR welcomes Kristen MacDonald as our new Administrative/Communications Assistant based out of our Saskatoon office. Kristen is a member of Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation and has a certificate in Office Administration along with other certifications, training and skills. Kristen is eager to support YNLR in our mission to help protect the land in the Athabasca Basin for the benefit of all Basin residents.



## ATHABASCA COMMUNITY TRUST

Ya'thi Nene 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 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 newly elected Gabriel Stenne from Fond du Lac, Tina Alphonse from Black Lake and Charlie Denechezhe from Hatchet Lake. There is currently a vacancy for the Trustee from the PRO communities which include the four municipalities of Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Wollaston Lake and Camsell Portage.

Due to the pandemic and the decision by the mines to halt production, the spring intake of Trust applications was postponed. The Fall intake of Trust applications will be due on September 30th, 2021.

The Trustees will meet and evaluate all the proposals against the Permitted Purposes and award funding to the successful projects.

The following are permitted purposes that funding can be invested towards: Community planning; Health and well-being of members and permanent long term residents; Community housing; Community infrastructure; Preservation or protection of language, culture, and traditional land use; Community-based environmental projects or to advance community environmental priorities; Support community events and gatherings; Provide educational and economic opportunities for members and permanent long-term residents (including scholarship programs, trade, apprenticeship and internship programs); and Community business development and capacity building.

Approved projects are contingent on applicants providing supporting documentation.

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

## COVID SUPPORT IN HATCHET LAKE

*By Jean Tsannie*

There has been increase of COVID-19 variant cases in the community of Hatchet Lake during the month of July, 2021. I was asked to help at the Community Command Centre during the crisis. We have been delivering groceries, care packages, shopping for families that are under isolation, also picking up mail, and cashing cheques when needed. From unloading freight to sorting out donations, and getting them ready for delivery, our work has come with some challenges. Such as power outages in the community, that had forced us to use satellite phones for communication. During that time we had to bring burners to the Command Centre and make coffee for elders that needed to be taken care of. As of today, the cases are slowly declining. Hopefully it will all go away soon. Please, friends and family stay home for the safety of your families.



***Gabriel Stenne, newly elected Fond du Lac Community Trustee***





# DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

FACILITATING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE LONG LEARNING IN THE BASIN

By Dene Robillard, Ya'thi Néné Development Coordinator

## EXPORT Database

Ed'lenate, welcome back! As you're all aware, the EXPORT Database is our online Basin-only resource hub that's meant to benefit all Basin community members by helping to create professional profiles, and to build resumes, and to have access to job and training opportunities in and around the Basin! Our office is still in our roll-out phase, where we've planned for prize giveaways up to \$2,000 once we've reached 250 online BASIN PROFILES! Sign up for FREE by creating an online profile and you will be entered to win prizes!

Additional benefits of creating an EXPORT Database profile include:

- Building and storing your resume online on a safe and secure platform
- Searching for employment and training opportunities for Basin residents only
- Receive instant notifications to your phone or email on jobs that match your skills
- Save tickets and certifications for easy access

Stay tuned for the draw date once we've reached our goal of 250 online Basin profiles, as we'll begin to announce winners via our Ya'thi Nene Land & Resource Office Facebook page – please visit our website or our Facebook page for further developments and updates. In the meantime, you can visit <https://www.yathinene.ca/export-gateway> for further insight and overview on what the EXPORT Database is all about.

## Adult 12-Pathways

Another exciting project I'm happy to update everyone on is the Adult 12-Pathways program – this one-of-a-kind pilot project is meant to increase our community members' academic success in post-secondary programming (i.e., University, technical/trade). A readiness program that Northlands College and SIIT, in partnership with the communities of Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Hatchet Lake, are currently structuring and developing a curriculum for, based on the current needs of Basin residents. The intent is to have programming available for previous grade 12 graduates who want to further their academic skills in preparation for future post-secondary studies. An instructor for the program is currently being considered for the project – more information will be released once they have confirmed. The assessment week for Hatchet Lake/Wollaston was scheduled for early June, however, was cancelled due to a low number in sign-up interest. The AEEDC is currently looking into alternative options to assess Hatchet Lake/Wollaston candidates. If you'd like to know further information or have any questions regarding this pilot project, please feel free to reach out to me at [dene.robillard@yathinene.com](mailto:dene.robillard@yathinene.com).

## Ya'thi Nene Basin Scholarship Program

The Ya'thi Nene Basin scholarship program received a total of 40 applications from Basin post-secondary students. The deadline for applications closed on July 31st. The Scholarship Selection Committee will be meeting on August 20th to review all applications and award the scholarships.

Students can expect to hear back from us by end of August.

At this time, we would like to extend our gratitude to our partners, Athabasca Basin Development (ABD), Flyer Electric, Cameco, and Orano for their generous contribution and support of our Athabasca Basin post-secondary students.

Financial contributions to the Scholarship fund are provided by:



These charts provides employment statistics as of May 31, 2021, for both Cameco and Orano mining operations, and June 30, 2021 for Basin-owned businesses. The Basin-owned business Q1 statistics are exceptionally higher due to the gradual lifting of government COVID-19 restrictions.



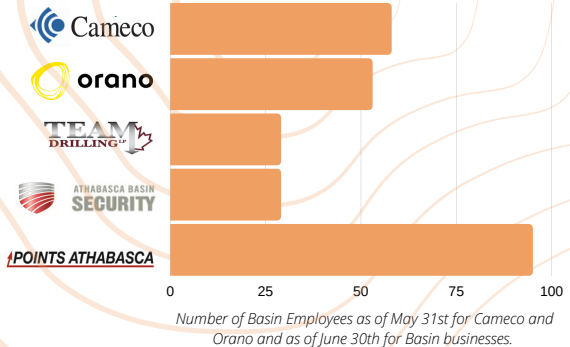
The Adult 12-Pathways assessment week in Black Lake took place the week of June 21st, where Northlands College and SIIT worked with 9 Black Lake residents on Academic Testing and Career Pathing. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to take part in the inaugural regional Pathways program that is expected to run from September 2021 to June 2022. Photo taken at the Northlands College classroom in Black Lake, SK.



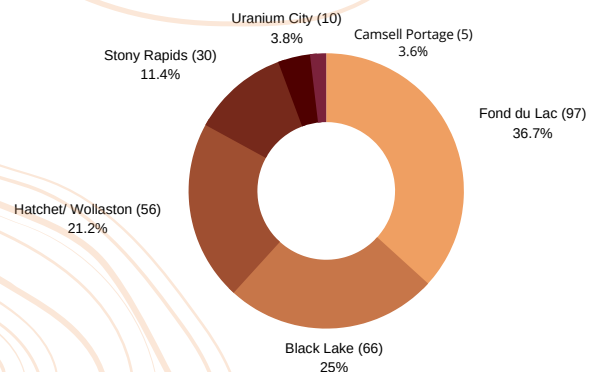
For the week of June 14th, 14 Fond du Lac residents took part in the "Phase One: Academic Testing and Career Pathing" portion of the Adult 12-Pathways program. The Adult-12 Pathways is an academic upgrading program that is scheduled to be held at the A & L building in Stony Rapids for a Fall 2021 or Winter 2022 start date (pending review of Academic Testing results) to allow for a regional training approach for Basin communities.

This Athabasca, Education, Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) pilot project is in partnership with both Northlands College and SIIT. Picture taken at Father Gamache Memorial School in Fond du Lac, SK.

## Basin Employer Statistics



## Employees by Location







**Energizing a clean-air world**

## FUN IN THE FIELD AT FOOKES DELTA

The proof is in the pudding, as the saying goes. But when it comes to the Fookes Delta near Uranium City, the proof is in the moosing.

At a recent Beaverlodge public meeting, a local stakeholder raised concerns about hunting and eating moose that potentially graze on the plants growing on the Fookes Delta. Previous studies have shown that living a traditional lifestyle and consuming country foods from the area, while respecting the water and fish advisories, is safe.

Nonetheless, the community feedback offered Cameco the opportunity to actively address concerns and involve youth in environmental monitoring. Working closely with Canada North Environmental Services Ltd., Cameco established the Fookes Delta Community Based Program to reinforce it is safe to eat moose on the delta.

The program kicked off with a presentation given to students from both public school and home schools, explaining scientific experiments, previous country foods studies, food webs, plant/wildlife identification and how to use various data collection tools.

But the real fun came after the presentations were done, as the field component of the program took students, parents, school staff, CanNorth biologists and Cameco representatives out to Fookes Delta.

“Working on the Beaverlodge project, in such a remote community, you really get to know the stakeholders. These relationships and connections drive us to want to do right by them and go that extra mile to show the environment is safe and protected” said Alyse Swerhone, Cameco representative and project lead.

Students searched the delta for signs of moose (tracks and droppings) and collected vegetation samples while COVID-19 protocols and field safety measures were communicated to everyone involved.



“This activity provided us with a great opportunity to engage face-to-face and involve the local community” said Victor Fern Cameco/Orano community relations liaison for Uranium City, Camsell Portage and Fond du Lac First Nation.

The field component also provided a platform for Fern to share his Indigenous knowledge systems. He also spoke to students about giving back to the land and respecting it. He was even prompted by an eagle flying over the group, as he spoke, to share more about the great spirits.



“It is important to work with the communities and educate the young people, having them participate and explain what is being done and what you are wanting to achieve. It was a pleasure to be a part of the event sharing a story about my Dene culture, traditional lifestyle and my experience working in the mining industry,” said Fern.

Data collected from the program will now feed into a risk assessment that is currently being developed and results will be shared at the next public meeting tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2022.

Cameco wants to thank all the community members for their participation and contributing to such a fun and educational event!

### **Beaverlodge & Fookes Delta History**

The decommissioned Beaverlodge uranium mine/mill site and associated properties in the Uranium City area were operated by Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited between 1952 and 1982.

In 1988, the management of the properties became the responsibility of Cameco, while the Government of Canada retained financial responsibility. Prior to decommissioning, the historic uranium mine and mill moved waste (i.e., tailings) to the shore of Fookes Reservoir located roughly 10 km east of Uranium City. This practice resulted in Fookes Delta being formed.

When the mine closed and clean-up began in the 1980s, the waste was covered with rock leftover from the mining activities (i.e., waste rock). Additional remedial work was completed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This included applying a more protective cover of sand and gravel on top of the original waste rock cover to further control gamma radiation, prevent the historic waste from being exposed.

Results from a 2014 gamma survey met applicable guidelines and in 2021 third-party geotechnical engineers concluded that the delta remains stable. Cameco continues to conduct annual inspections of Fookes Delta to ensure it remains safe and protected.

To learn more about the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties, please visit [www.beaverlodgesites.com](http://www.beaverlodgesites.com).





### Summer Students Contribute at McClean Lake

We are pleased to have a number of summer students at the McClean Lake mill from Athabasca Basin communities. Darian Joseyounen from Hatchet Lake, and Sky Mercredi from Fond du Lac, are both warehouse summer students this year, and they are bringing their energy and good ideas to their tasks on site. Welcome! We hope you enjoy your experience.



Darian Joseyounen, Orano Summer Student

### TMF Expansion Project Hearing Approaches

The tailings management facility (TMF) expansion at McClean Lake is an important project to secure the longevity of the mill. As we prepare for the public hearing with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Orano Canada team members continue to meet with interested northern and Athabasca Basin organizations, including the successful workshop held in May with the AJES (Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environment Subcommittee).

Due to the recent implementation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which will be observed on September 30, the public hearing will be moved to October 4, 2021. More information will be forthcoming from the CNSC on the revised agenda for the day. Watch for more community information on the project and feel free to talk with your AJES rep or community liaison to raise any questions.

### SABRE Project Advances

This spring and summer we have been moving ahead with the test program for SABRE - the Surface Access Borehole Resource Extraction mining method. This method uses a high-pressure water jet placed at the bottom of a drill hole to extract the ore, which is then pumped to surface. The concept is similar to the Jet Boring System (JBS) invented for and currently being used at Cigar Lake. We believe SABRE could be a game-changer for relatively small orebodies too deep to be mined by open-pit and too small to warrant the infrastructure of an underground mine. Orano has conducted a series of tests with this method, and is evaluating its potential for future mining operations.

The current field test runs from May to September. We have completed the mining of the first hole despite a late start because of the wintry spring weather followed by forest fire threats and smoky conditions. There have been no significant safety, environmental or radiation incidents. It's a steep learning curve with a new mining method and a mix of different equipment and technology, but our agile team has been troubleshooting along the way and has managed to get ore hauled again in our 100t trucks, waiting to be processed at McClean Lake mill in the fall. The multi-cultural team includes members from Germany, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan's North.

#### 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.



Sky Mercredi, Orano Summer Student



# 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 spring 2021 issue!



## YA' THI NÉNÉ LANDS AND RESOURCES

100 – 335 Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7N 4S1

Phone: 306-477-1251  
Fax: 306-802-4800  
Email: admin@yathinene.com

Office Hours 9:00 to 5:00 weekdays