

WINTER 2022 | VOL 8
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Whats Inside?

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS: UPDATES

UPDATE FROM ATHABASCA COMMUNITY TRUST

COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIAN UPDATES

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:

Winter is always a busy time for Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources and with the increased interest in uranium exploration that started late last summer, we've seen a surge in land claims throughout Nuhenéné. Many of these claims have not materialized into projects but there has been a steady increase in new junior exploration companies coming into the region to explore for minerals and as a result, we've seen an increase in permit applications and in communication with YNLR. This current surge isn't new to Basin communities who have witnessed exploration and development in Nuhenéné for many generations. However, what is new, is the opportunity for Basin communities to more fully participate in the projects that are happening within Nuhenéné.

We see increased participation every day as we meet with government, industry, community members and leadership. YNLR's role in Nuhenéné is simple. We want to protect the land while promoting the interests of the people. This means that not all proposed projects or developments are acceptable to the communities based on their anticipated impacts to treaty rights, the land, water and wildlife. YNLR assesses each project based on a variety of factors and in direct consultation with community leadership. Some projects are acceptable despite the anticipated impacts and provided the appropriate accommodations and community benefits are made available. YNLR's objective is to always uphold the interests of the community and when appropriate to establish mutually beneficial relationships that provide increased certainty to both communities and companies looking to work in Nuhenéné.

In addition to exploration activities, our other programs continue to advance despite the many challenges we've experienced due to COVID-19. This includes our indigenous protected areas - all four boundaries of our proposed IPAs have been confirmed by communities and are being evaluated by our partners. 2022 will be a busy year for work related to our IPAs, as we advance our IPA management and governance structures.

Another new and exciting development for YNLR and the communities has been YNLR's recent acceptance into the Reserve Land and Environmental Management Program (RLEMP) through Indigenous Services Canada. This program will help to build YNLR's capacity to provide services to the three First Nation's (Fond du Lac, Black Lake and Hatchet Lake) reserve lands. YNLR will be directly involved in any permitting, set asides, assessments or other land and environment related requirements on the First Nation's reserve lands. We anticipate these processes will strengthen YNLR's ability to support the communities and our collective stewardship of Nuhenéné. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with Indigenous Services Canada and this important program.

Despite the current setbacks from the 5th wave of COVID, YNLR is looking forward to a productive 2022 as we advance our partnerships with government and industry while achieving our mission to protect the land and water of Nuhenéné and promote the interests of Basin residents.



Welcome YNLR NEW STAFF and DIRECTOR

It is our pleasure to introduce the following new members to the Ya'thi Néné Land and Resources team!



Archie Disain has been selected to the Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office Board of Directors representing Black Lake Denesųłiné First Nation. Archie brings significant experience in mining and strong traditional values and land based knowledge.

Archie is excited to be a part of the Yathi Nene Land and Resource Office and to bring his skills and experiences to the role.

ARCHIE DISAIN
| YNLR BOARD OF DIRECTOR, BLACK LAKE



Shanet Throassie is a member of Black Lake Denesųłiné First Nation.

Shanet accepted our offer as a Casual Community Land Technician for the community of Black Lake, working along side CLT Ian Donard. Shanet has significant experiences and skills in construction, hunting and fishing that will support him in his role as a Land Technician.

SHANET THROASSIE
CASUAL COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIAN, BLACK LAKE |



Bruce brings over 35 years of professional work experience and has two Undergraduate Degrees (Biology and Biochemistry) and a Masters Degree. He has worked extensively with indigenous organizations and provincial/territorial government, particularly with the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in in NWT. Bruce has a broad base of experiences in management, planning, negotiation, regulatory development, wildlife management, consultation, environmental assessments and cumulative effects assessment.

Bruce is excited to be a part of Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office and to bring his skills and experience to the role.

BRUCE HANBIDGE
| OPERATIONS MANAGER



Sabrina Fern is a member of Fond du Lac Denesųłiné First Nation.

Sabrina accepted our offer as a Casual Community Consultation Coordinator for the community of Fond du Lac. Sabrina has significant experiences and skills in leadership, administration and mining that she can draw on to assist her in her role.

SABRINA FERN
CASUAL CONSULTATION COORDINATOR, FOND DU LAC |



Margaret Powder has lived her whole life in Uranium City and is a member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation. Margaret has worked with YNLR since June 2016 on a part-time basis but recently accepted our offer as a full-time Community Land Technician for the community of Uranium City.

Margaret is passionate about protecting the land and supporting the Basin communities. She has extensive experience in leadership roles and as an active land user.

MARGARET POWDER
| COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIAN, URANIUM CITY



Michelle Throassie is a member of Black Lake Denesųłiné First Nation.

Michelle accepted our offer as a Casual Community Consultation Coordinator for the community of Black Lake. Michelle has significant experiences and skills in administration and mining that she can draw on to assist her in her role.

MICHELLE THROASSIE
CASUAL CONSULTATION COORDINATOR, BLACK LAKE |

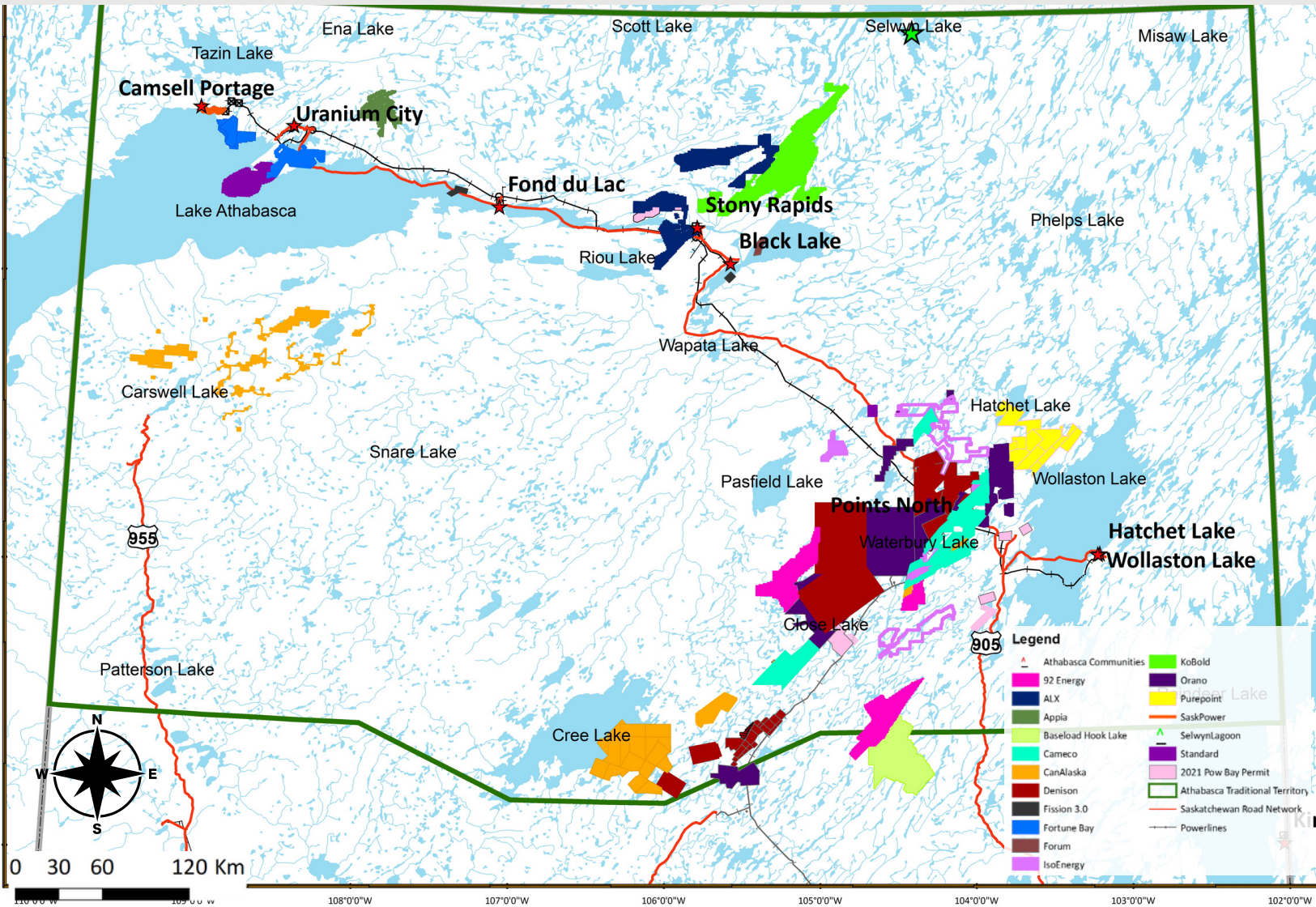
Special Thank You to Raymond MacDonald

We extend our appreciation and thanks to Raymond MacDonald for his contributions to the Board of Directors. Raymond was a Board of Director representing Black Lake First Nation since 2018. We appreciate the time and commitment Raymond contributed to the Board and value his input, experience, leadership and guidance. His contributions have strengthened YNLR and benefitted all Basin communities. We wish Raymond all the best in his future endeavors.



Thank you

Ya' thi Néné and the DUTY TO CONSULT



Proponent	Permitted Activity	Permit Expiration	Proponent	Permitted Activity	Permit Expiration
92 Energy Clover	Exploration	Oct-22	IsoEnergy Larocque East	Exploration	Mar-22
92 Energy Gemini	Exploration	Oct-22	IsoEnergy Larocque East Temporary Work Camp Expansion	Exploration	Mar-22
92 Energy Tower	Exploration	Oct-22	IsoEnergy North Thorburn	Exploration	Dec-24
ALX Resources Firebird	Exploration	May-22	IsoEnergy Radio	Exploration	Dec-24
ALX Resources Flying Vee	Exploration	Apr-22	IsoEnergy Thorburn	Exploration	Dec-24
ALX Resources Gibbons Creek	Exploration	Dec-22	KoBold Energy Metals	Exploration	Oct-22
Appia Alces Lake	Exploration	Mar-22	Ministry of Energy and Resources Johnstone	Prospecting	Aug-22
Baselode Hook Lake	Exploration	Dec-22	Orano Midwest	Exploration	Jun-23
Cameco Dawn Lake	Exploration	Dec-23	Orano Waterbury UEM	Exploration	Dec-23
Cameco Read Lake	Exploration	Sep-24	Orano Waterfound	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska Cree East	Exploration	May-23	Orano Wolly	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska McTavish	Exploration	May-23	Orano Close Lake	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska North Millennium	Exploration	May-23	Orano Getty Russell	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska Waterbury	Exploration	Mar-22	Orano Kernaghan Bell	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska West McArthur	Exploration	May-23	Orano Waterbury Cigar	Exploration	Jun-23
CanAlaska Western Athabasca	Exploration	Dec-22	Purepoint Turnor Lake	Exploration	Mar-23
Cree Lake Lodge	Airstrip Lease	33 years	Purepoint Red Willow	Exploration	Mar-23
Denison Bachman Crawford	Exploration	Dec-22	SaskPower Camsell Dams	Vegetation Maintenance	Dec-23
Denison Ford Lake	Exploration	Dec-22	Selwyn Lake Lodge	Legitimize an Existing Lagoon	2025
Denison Moon Lake	Exploration	Aug-22	Snake Lake	Gravel Pit Permit	Oct-22
Denison Wheeler River	Exploration	Mar-23	Standard Uranium Sundog	Exploration	Aug-22
Denison Waterbury	Exploration	22-Dec	Standard Uranium Atlantic/Canary/Ascent	Exploration	Jun-23
Fission 3.0 Cree Bay	Exploration	Aug-22	UEX Corporation Axis Lake	Exploration	Dec-22
Fission 3.0 Hearty Bay	Exploration	Aug-22	UEX Corporation Christie Lake	Exploration	Dec-23
Fortune Bay Goldfields	Exploration	Apr-22	UEX Corporation Dwyer Lake	Exploration	Dec-23
Fortune Bay Murmac	Exploration	Apr-23	UEX Corporation Pow Bay	Exploration	Dec-23
Fortune Bay Strike Lake	Exploration	Jun-23	UEX Corporation Vixen Lake	Exploration	Dec-23
Forum Fir Island	Exploration	May-22	UEX Corporation West Bear	Exploration	Mar-23
Forum Love Lake	Exploration	Mar-22			
IsoEnergy Geiger	Exploration	Dec-22			
IsoEnergy Geiger Temporary Work Camp	Exploration	Dec-22			

Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

Introducing you to our third featured IPCA Indigenous Protected Area "Tthe Yághe Néné" Indigenous Protected Area. Fond du Lac Denesųłiné First Nation

"To protect the area that is needed for all, hunting, trapping and that has been used for centuries. Future generations will be able to use it in the future and it will not be destroyed."

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

The Yághe Néné IPA proposed by Fond du Lac Denesųłiné First Nation is located in Nuhenéné, north of the community of Fond du Lac. It represents an area of approximately 440,000 ha. It includes numerous lakes and trail systems which are considered important places for the Athabasca Denesųłiné communities. This area is also part of the Mackenzie River watershed and its western boundary follows the Sub-basin of Fond-du-Lac.

The establishment of Tthe Yághe Néné IPA will help ensure that Denesųłiné traditional ways can continue for many more generations. The proposed IPA overlaps with 1,680 land and occupancy (LUO) sites recorded in the Athabasca Denesųłiné database, including 49 gathering sites, 1280 animal harvest sites, and 351 heritage sites. The LUO sites have then been analyzed spatially to represent the cultural value of the land. This allows us to see where the land is and has been more heavily used by our communities and therefore locate the areas of highest cultural value.

Examples of areas that are very important to membership includes the route to Scott Lake, trail to Chappuis Lake and important burial sites along the way. This area is at the heart of what enables this community to continue to preserve language, culture, and way of life. This proposed area is filled with family campsites/cabins, large caribou butchering sites, intensive trail networks and areas only known by their Dene names.

An ancient trail connects the community to the barren ground caribou in the winter months for harvest. It is also a gateway to Athabasca Denesųłiné territory North of 60 into NWT.

Around the Scott Lake area, there is a burial site that is important for the entire Athabasca Denesųłiné region. A powerful medicine man, who prophesized and predicted the future is buried in this location. This gravesite is protected by a lone wolf and cannot be disturbed. The area has always been protected by the communities and it is imperative that it continues to be safeguarded.

During our community member interviews on protected areas, some of our members said:

"For me, the future generations to come will be needing these areas to hunt, fish, trap and continue our way of life."

"caribou migration routes and wintering habitat range, lakes and rivers, burial sites. We must protect lakes and rivers for clean drinking water."

Barren Ground Caribou

Barren ground caribou (Bathurst, Ahiak, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds) are the most important species for the Athabasca Denesųłiné. 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. Tthe Yághe Néné IPA overlaps entirely with the barren ground caribou range; it also includes important caribou wintering habitat, with more than 148,000 ha of old forest (50 years and older), which represents 32.6% of the total area.

Barren-ground caribou are currently being considered for listing as a "threatened" species under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA), and are currently listed under the NWT SARA. 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

Although Fond du Lac Denesųłiné First Nation is not opposed to economic development and the benefits they bring, they want to ensure a balanced approach where different tools are applied to ensure land is protected for the future, while other areas are open for development.

Mineral activities have an important impact on the land as they both modify the surface conditions which can harm wildlife habitat. Other activities and infrastructure such as cutlines and roads may be considered less damaging but can still greatly impact wildlife by fragmenting their habitat and constricting certain species to a smaller habitat or forcing them to relocate which can then lead to increased competition with other species and more limited resources. Fond du Lac First Nation is very aware of the existing disturbances contained within the Tthe Yághe Néné IPA and do not want any further disturbances from occurring.

Mineral dispositions are areas where rights are granted to a company to explore for, drill for, produce or extract minerals. The proposed IPA overlaps with 16 active mineral dispositions, representing only 2.3% of the proposed total area.



Next Steps

Now that the boundary has been selected by Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation, work will continue with our partners towards confirming the boundary and defining the management of Tthe Yághe Néné Indigenous Protected Area through a Management Plan. Governance agreements and long-term financing plans will be researched and established.

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

Tthe Yághe Néné IPA boundary was determined by looking holistically at land and water protection, cultural significance to our communities, protection of Treaty Rights and sustainable, balanced economic opportunities. Indigenous Protected Areas also have the potential to meaningfully stimulate the economy through land-based employment initiatives, cultural and language preservation, food security and ecological protection. The potential for increased employment through environmental monitoring, eco-tourism and research as well as potential for carbon sequestration, and improved certainty for the mining industry are significant advantages for all governments and stakeholders moving forward. The considerable input of funding into the region by the federal government and private foundations has and will continue to invigorate local and provincial economies. Partnership with industry presents additional opportunity for consideration.

The Yághe Néné Indigenous Protected Area boundary has been carefully selected. Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation seek to find a balance between both protection and economic opportunity in Nuhenéné. By creating this Indigenous Protected Area, we will ensure that protection of the land and water continue for future generations. This IPA will add almost 0.67% to the provincial goal of reaching 12% of protected land and water. This is a significant and exciting step towards meaningful reconciliation between the Crown and Indigenous communities.

"The Yághe Néné": Rocky Terrain Country

What's an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA)?

IPAs are usually defined as conservation areas whose creation and ongoing management are Indigenous led, with Indigenous Peoples having the primary role in determining what is important to that specific IPA. That includes things like the values and objectives that the IPA holds as sacred, the boundaries of the IPA, the management plans for the IPA, and the governance structures for the IPA.

For the Nuhenéné IPA, this means that the Athabasca Denesųliné decide what values and priorities will guide and direct all work being done to develop protected areas. The communities also all get participation in the process of determining where the protected areas will be located and their size. Elders, youth, leadership, and land-users are involved every step of the way. This is Nuhenéné, and it is important to us so you have your say.



Denison would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy start to the new year.

We have been working on some exciting projects and are looking forward to reconnecting with your communities soon. Watch for upcoming meetings on your local community Facebook page.

Learn more about Denison, the Wheeler River Project and ISR at WheelerRiverProject.ca





The Athabasca Community Trust was set up to administer payments received from Cameco and Orano under the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement for the long-term benefit of the Athabasca First Nations (Fond du Lac, Hatchet Lake and Black Lake) and the Athabasca Municipalities (Camsell Portage, Uranium City, Wollaston Lake and Stony Rapids). The Trust will promote and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and well-being of the beneficiaries for present and future generations.

Each year, the Trust receives funds based on the production of Uranium in the Athabasca Basin. A portion of the Trust income is saved and invested for future generations in a long-term fund, with the remainder available for annual distributions to the communities. The Trust accepts proposals to fund community projects twice a year. The distributions are for the benefit of the whole Community. The individual member/resident-driven Proposals are to be used for Permitted Purposes, which are defined in the Trust, and are generally for the benefit of the Members and Northern Residents to support health, education, social services, economic development, the environment and preservation of culture. Funds can also be made available for disaster relief on behalf of a Nation or Settlement, if requested. A portion of the funds received each year from Cameco and Orano are used to cover some costs for the operation of the Ya'thi Nene Land and Resource Office, as it provides administrative support to the Trust and Trustees.



There are currently 3 Community Trustees – One for each of the First Nations: Tina Alphonse (Black Lake), Charlie Denechezhe (Hatchet Lake) and Gabe (Jr) Stenne (Fond du Lac). There is currently a vacancy for a 4th Community Trustee (for the Northern Settlements), and if you are interested in being appointed to this position, please contact Kristen MacDonald at the YNLR Office (306) 477-1251.

There is also a Corporate Trustee, which manages the investments and ensures that the Trust Deed provisions are followed. Currently, The Canada Trust Company is the Corporate Trustee. The contacts for the Corporate Trustee are: Michelle Samagalski (Executive Trust Officer, Prairies), Bob Long (Trust Officer, Calgary), Charlene Gill (Associate Trust Officer, Winnipeg) and Matt Genaille (Private Client Service Associate, Winnipeg). Matt is originally from Cormorant, Manitoba, and a proud member of the Metis Nation.

As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has shaken the world and we have had to learn to do things differently, with limited resources. In 2020, production levels of Uranium were low, and many mines were closed to ensure the safety of the employees who worked there, until a vaccine could be rolled out.

Despite these setbacks, the Trust did receive funding from Cameco and Orano in 2021, and was able to distribute amounts to both the Nations and Settlements in the Athabasca, as well as make funds available for Proposals to those Members and Northern Residents who applied.

One innovative Proposal that came from Stony Rapids was for a projector and screen that could be used outdoors. The "Drive-In" was created, so everyone could safely gather in their own vehicles and watch a movie.

Dream big and bring your ideas to the Trust for ways to enhance the life of those in your communities. Contact YNLR Office for more information about how you can do this! The Athabasca Community Trust is for you.



COMMUNITY LAND TECHNICIANS in the FIELD



My name is Dennis Larocque from Camsell Portage, SK. I am a casual Community Land Technician for Ya'thi Néné, I work with Margaret Powder the CLT from Uranium City. Last fall on Oct 14/21 I went to see a couple of sites in a helicopter with a company called Standard Uranium they're planning to start drilling in February or March of 2022. They will be drilling on Lake Athabasca, a few meters from the shore line of Stewart Island and Johnston Island, that's around Gunnar Mine.

I could see from the air, all the white and green lichen, more commonly known to the northern people as "caribou moss", which is good for caribou habitat. Lots of caribou moss, but also lots of garbage. Old drill rods sticking up everywhere. That's why we must make sure this kind of stuff never happens again.

Caribou were here in the early 60's, by the thousands. There's four other big Islands in this area. You'll find moose, bears, wolves, and beavers here. Also, bald eagles and peregrine falcons' nest on these islands. Lots of other birds.

Let's keep the north beautiful, safe, and clean for the next generation, the lichen is so plentiful, and I know the caribou will one day come back. Thank you Ya'thi Ne'ne' for letting me be part of your organization, you guys are doing an awesome job.

PROTECTING OUR LAND

By: Derek Cook

On September of 2021 there was a fine issued to an individual from one of the Athabasca communities for littering on the seasonal road highway 905. A fine issued for littering two bags of garbage was \$580.00. These types of actions can impact the land, the wildlife and water and we must remain diligent and use proper disposal methods.

We are working on setting up mini-incinerators throughout the north and for our Cabins up north for properly disposing of garbage. This will ensure we help keep our land and water clean. These incinerators will have a filter like bin on top to prevent ashes and potential sparks to go on to the land.

"It is important to properly dispose waste in proper containers or take them back to your communities if you are out on the land or travelling anywhere else on the road. Wildlife such as bears become vulnerable to waste out on the land which will have effects on their health, which also makes them unhealthy to eat. Waste can have a negative impact on wildlife and humans, reoccurring practice will eventually lead to environmental damage especially if it is not biodegradable. Littering starts with us, let's not make it a habit and instead own up to your actions and start making the right decisions to clean up after yourselves and to take waste with us to properly dispose of."



Photo Credit: Facebook, Brittany Mercredi

COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN URANIUM CITY

By: Margaret Powder



I have been busy with the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program – Traditional Food Study, interviews with community members about their harvesting areas are ongoing. The study will look at what is eaten, how often and where foods are being harvested. Foods will be sampled and tested from areas of concern. A Moose survey on the harvesting areas is underway with our local hunters. It has been busy with exploration activity in our community, Duty to Consult interviews regarding Fortune Bay and Standard Uranium properties are ongoing, My Coworker Dennis Larocque of Camsell Portage, and I have had the opportunity to conduct site visit of the properties and the exploration work that is planned for 2022. A community focus group meeting for the IPA north of our communities was held on November 22, 2021, we had a great turn out and good discussions, we look forward to continuing to work with our community members.

AN UPDATE FROM.. Your Development Co ordinator

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

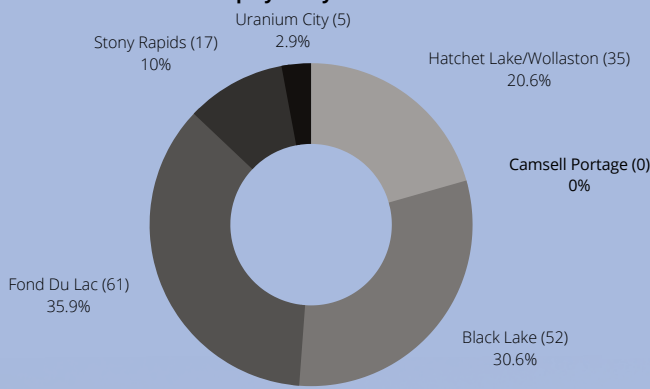
Ed'lenate, hello again and Happy New Year! Here are highlights for this quarter. -Dene Robillard

Team Drilling Work Experience Program

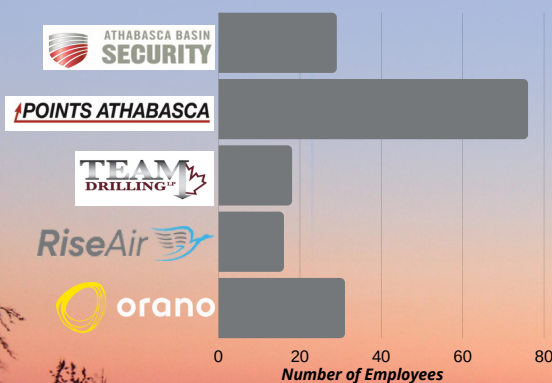
YNLR in partnership with both the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and Team Drilling, has recently put out an advertisement for a paid 6-month Drill Helper work experience program, where all the project work will be done throughout the Basin region starting this January. Team Drilling has committed to hiring 8 Drill Helpers for this program, with a likelihood to advance and continue once the 6-month period is completed. This is an exciting and very rewarding opportunity for our community members who are looking for a challenging but rewarding career as a driller.

The closing date for applications was Monday, December 13th, 2021 – where 70+ resumes were received and reviewed by both Team Drilling management and Athabasca Education Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC) members.

Employees by Location



Basin Employer Statistics



These charts provide the employment statistics from October to December 2021.

Regional AES-Pathways Program

The Adult Essential Skills (AES) Pathways program in Stony Rapids will be seeking another intake of students to start February 7th, 2022. The regional AES-Pathways program is a readiness program intended to prepare grade 12 graduates for post-secondary, technical/trades programming in upgrading their academic skills in math, science, and reading/writing literacy comprehension. Once the AES curriculum portion is completed, students will be signed up for a 30-level credit course upgrading program (online), which will better enable and support successful students in applying for post-secondary, technical/trades programming once they've completed the AES-Pathways program portion. The Athabasca Education, Employment & Development Committee (AEEDC), in partnership with Northlands College and SIIT, will be seeking interest from those who are fully vaccinated and are willing and able to relocate for their studies for a semester (4 months) starting Monday, February 7th. There are currently six students enrolled in this regional program as of January 2022, which means we will be seeking further enrolment into the program for nine available spots.

Volunteer Youth-Committee Member

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR) is currently seeking a youth representative (18-30 years of age) who is energetic, professional, and proactive to join our Athabasca Education, Employment and Development Committee (AEEDC). The AEEDC serves as a forum to discuss, develop, and collaborate on all things related to education, training, and employment opportunities throughout the Athabasca region. It is important that the candidate selected be from one of the member communities (Black Lake, Fond du Lac and Hatchet Lake Denesūliné First Nations, Stony Rapids, Wollaston Lake, Camsell Portage and Uranium City), and enrolled in a post-secondary, technical/trades educational institute. The intent of the Volunteer Youth / Committee member role is to provide a learning opportunity for an individual to gain an understanding of the environment that AEEDC members and their organizations operates in. The position will be for a maximum of a two-year term. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, identifying, and sharing insights related to education, training, and employment opportunities, influencing AEEDC projects and programs in collaboration with fellow Committee members, and participating in monthly AEEDC meetings. If you or anyone you know are interested or would like to learn more about what this role offers, please feel free to send me an email at dene.robillard@yathinene.com.

Masi-cho.

Basin Employer Statistics

"I am Victor Fern, community relations liaison under the Ya'thi Néné collaboration agreement and a member of the Fond du Lac First Nation. I want to provide community members in the Athabasca Basin with an overview and update on what has been happening with the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties near Uranium City as we approach the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission public hearing in March 2022. Cameco is committed to keeping those interested in northern Saskatchewan informed and engaged."

From 1952 to 1982, Eldorado Resources, a federal Crown corporation, mined and milled the Beaverlodge site. The Beaverlodge site was then decommissioned and reclaimed between 1982 and 1985 to standards approved by federal and provincial regulators and was the first Canadian uranium mining operation to be formally decommissioned. When Cameco was established in 1988, they were given responsibility for the ongoing management of the Beaverlodge properties, while a federal Crown corporation, Canada Eldor Inc., maintained financial responsibility for the properties. As a result of historic operations and the accepted environmental practices of the time, the recovery of the properties has been and continues to be monitored and will be monitored in the future.

Since 1988, Cameco has carried out routine environmental monitoring, environmental investigations, maintenance work, targeted remediation and community engagement activities related to the 70 separate decommissioned Beaverlodge properties that originally made up the Beaverlodge site.

Following the Beaverlodge management framework, Cameco is working to ensure the decommissioned properties are performing as expected and, where required, additional remedial options are implemented. Once properties are safe, secure, and stable/improving, they are eligible for release from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licence and can be transferred to the Institutional Control (IC) program managed by the province of Saskatchewan.

Since 2009, 24 of the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties, that have met the regulatory expectations and are considered to be safe, secure and stable, have been released from Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licensing and returned to the province. Cameco has applied to release 18 more properties from Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licensing, which will be discussed at the upcoming hearing.

As decommissioned properties are transferred to the IC program, funding is provided up front to ensure ongoing monitoring and maintenance is in place. Funds are also provided to respond to any unforeseen event that may occur in the future. This helps to ensure that properties continue to be safe, secure, and stable/improving as well as pose minimal risk to public safety or the environment.

I believe it is important that northern residents have confidence that it is safe to practice a traditional lifestyle, and Cameco is playing a role in the work being done to make sure that happens. Under the 2016 collaboration agreement with the Basin communities, the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP), formerly the Athabasca Working Group, has been collecting data since it was initiated in 2000. In addition, the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) was initiated as part of their Boreal Watershed Initiative in 2011 and is managed by the Government of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and industry partners. Both programs are focused on environmental monitoring in the Athabasca Basin and involve community members in sample collection. The results of both programs continue to show that traditional foods and water in the Athabasca Basin are safe to eat and drink.

I am a land and resource user and I believe it is important that we continue to practice a traditional lifestyle – to hunt, fish, gather and trap. I also believe it is important that northerners continue to be provided with an understanding on the process for transferring the properties to the IC Program and the funding required for the future protection of these areas. The IC Program provides industry an end point to achieve for the responsible decommissioning of mine sites. The Beaverlodge Management Framework and IC program assures the environment is protected and safe for land users.

For more information, please contact me at **306-686-2343** or check out the website **www.beaverlodgesites.com** to watch a virtual tour of the properties.





orano

Athabasca Basin Summer Student Employment

Orano Canada will be looking for a minimum of five summer students to work at the McClean Lake operation from May to August 2022. We have a number of positions available in the warehouse and with the site services team, as well as a position with administration and radiation technology. Post-secondary students from the Basin communities should watch our social media channels and Careers page at www.oranocanada.com for more details on positions and deadlines for applications. The Athabasca Export Database will also soon have the information for viewing.



Sky Mercedes, Former Orano Summer Student

CBEMP Project in Uranium City and Camsell Portage

The 2021-2022 Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP) is currently underway at Uranium City and Camsell Portage. To increase community involvement in the program, Ya' thi Néné Lands and Resource Office (YNLR) has partnered with CanNorth to conduct the program.

YNLR has developed a team of Land Technicians and Engagement Coordinators to monitor the land, seek input from land users, and provide guidance on responsible development. YNLR appointed their Uranium City Land Technician (Margaret Powder) to work closely with Victor Fern (Orano/Cameco Community Liaison) to conduct the interviews and collect samples from community members in Uranium City and Camsell Portage.

CanNorth also worked with community members in Uranium City and Camsell Portage to collect samples for the CBEMP. While flight schedules and inclement weather did create logistical challenges this year, interviews are nearly complete, and the community-led sampling program will be wrapping up later this month.

Community meetings are earmarked for June 2022 where the team will be able to share the results of the program with community members. Orano is proud to support this program that monitors and reports on the health of the environment near our activities.



Wayne Powder, CBEMP/EARMP Sampling Team, and Uranium City Resident

Mill Operations Training Program

Orano is pleased to restart the Mill Operator Training Program in 2022 with an intake of nine participants now at the McClean Lake operation. The program is funded by Northern Career Quest (NCQ) and Orano and will train students on mill processes, power mobile equipment, lockout/tagout, WHMIS, radiation protection and more. It's a great way to learn about the industry, try out the 2 weeks in/2 weeks out schedule, and gain important skills.

Individuals who successfully complete the entire program and meet employment criteria will be eligible for employment at the McClean Lake operation.

READ Saskatoon Partnership to Boost Employment Skills

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

If you or someone you know is interested in being trained to help people improve their literacy skills, please contact your local community liaison. Volunteers will be given all of the necessary training and can work one on one with the program applicants virtually. Once the volunteer trainers are prepared, we will be taking names for those interested in the training later this spring.



Bernard Sr. "Sonny" Powder from Camsell Portage and the fish sample he donated.

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 Shea Shirley at shea.shirley@yathinene.com or call (306) 477-1251.

Interested in a career in IT and live in the Athabasca Region?

We're looking for 6 Athabasca residents to participate in the Spark Mentorship Program to train remote IT Support Technicians. This is a brand-new program exclusively available to the Athabasca region.

- 12-weeks of learning plus 6 months paid internship (internship is part time hours)
- Learn online and complete your internship from the comfort of your own home – no need to travel
- Experienced and knowledgeable IT professional mentors will meet with you regularly to help you learn and stay on track
- Earn a certificate that is recognized industry-wide as an excellent starting place for IT professionals: Google IT Support Professional Certificate

What we're looking for:

- You're a life-long learner. This is a MUST because technology is always changing.
- You're disciplined enough to get started and work on your own.
- You're a team player.

Interview dates will be announced soon. For more information, please contact Dene Robillard, at the YNLR Office (306) 477-1251



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 2022 issue!



YA' THI NÉNÉ LANDS AND RESOURCES

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