

SUMMER 2020 | VOL 2

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SUMMER IS HERE

WHAT'S INSIDE?

YOUTH CLEAN THE LAND AFTER SPRING THAW

YOUR INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS: UPDATES

TRADITIONAL MEDICINES TO GET OUT AND LOOK FOR THIS SUMMER

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:

Uncertainty resonates throughout the world while COVID-19 continues to spread impacting people's health and our economies. Like everyone, Ya' thi Néné Lands and Resources has been riding this roller-coaster for the past 6-months and like all of our communities, committees, partners and employees, we've had to adapt to many changes. The Basin communities, Saskatchewan and Canada have fared relatively well compared to many jurisdictions throughout the world that lack adequate education, public support, resources and leadership that are all needed to control the virus. While the risk of greater issues in our communities seems imminent, we must continue to be diligent and follow all public and community health orders to protect ourselves and each other.

For Ya' thi Néné, we've followed the provincial health guidelines and have slowed down many of our projects, especially those requiring staff to travel between Basin communities. We've also tried to support and contribute to the communities as much as possible on their fight against COVID-19. In March, as soon as the community lock downs were issued, Ya' thi Néné donated \$75,000 to Basin communities to support their response to COVID-19. At the same time, we provided significant in-kind support through our four Community Land Technicians as they supported the Command Centres in a variety of tasks from developing safety procedures to operating check points to delivering necessary supplies to Elders and people in need.

Through our relationship with industry, we requested and processed donations (i.e. cash and personal protective

equipment) and made sure they were distributed to Basin communities. In June, as Saskatchewan's re-opening plan was being unveiled, Ya' thi Néné supported the seven Basin leaders and Command Centre coordinators in issuing a letter to all employers and organizations operating throughout Nuhenéné requesting that any plan for employment of Basin residents must be communicated to leadership and the community Command Centres for review prior to any movement of people. The response was positive with many organizations supporting and enhancing the flow of information. Indeed, everyone has struggled with the onset of COVID-19 and have had to adapt and change. It's likely that we'll need to continue this fight for the foreseeable future.

With the future uncertain, Ya' thi Néné will continue to advance our mission of protecting the lands and water of Nuhenéné for the long-term benefit of its Denesuliné First Nations and Athabasca communities. Our work will continue but in a manner that is safe for our staff and community members. Our work with supporting communities on Duty to Consult will continue to increase as we anticipate the advancement of certain projects and an increase in exploration activity due to rising prices of gold and uranium. The Trust and Scholarship program and some Training and Employment initiatives will also continue though some modifications will be required pending industry and government's ongoing response to the pandemic. As many things in our lives remain uncertain, Ya' thi Néné's commitment to our mission statement and the health and safety of our people will remain strong as we look forward to more certain times.

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 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 that you have your say.

The Nuhenéné IPCA project is well underway!

We are interested in developing IPCAs as a way to ensure long-term commitments to protecting important areas of land and water for future generations. To date, we have accomplished 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 Denesųliné First Nation to discuss conservation, priority species and areas for protection.
3. Developed a draft Athabasca Denesųliné Guiding Values document. This document will ensure that we are on the right track, and that we are moving forward in a good way. We will use this document to guide our path forward. If we find ourselves off course, it will guide us back on track by making sure that the foundation of all work done regarding Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) is respectful and built on Denesųliné Values.

It is important that the communities have a direct say in articulating the values, objectives and priorities that will guide the work being done on the development of the IPCAs. Therefore, we will be presenting this document in community meetings (when safe to do so) for feedback and input before finalization.

“When you go somewhere you’ve never been, you have to...make an offering to the lake. You must place a spruce bough (or tobacco) on the shore, and you ask for a good day and for good weather. This makes sure that your trip starts in a positive way. These branches also help you find your way if the wind picks up and the trail is no longer visible. It serves as a marker, so you know the trail and never lose your way.”

– Elder, Hatched Lake Denesųliné First Nation

The Athabasca Denesųliné Guiding Values document will serve as a “spruce bough:” it will ensure that we are on the right track, and that we are moving forward in a good way. We will use this document to guide our path forward, and if we find ourselves off course, it will guide us back on track. By making sure that the foundation of all work done regarding IPCAs is respectful and built on Denesųliné Values.

AN UPDATE ON YOUR

Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas

Next Steps:

We are now in the early stages of determining locations and potential boundaries for the IPCAs. We have started to do some analysis based on the large Traditional Land Use and Occupancy mapping database that the communities have collected over decades. This allows us to identify areas that are of high importance to the Denesųliné people and the Athabasca Basin. Here are some of the technical steps that were completed:

1. The first step of analysis was to look at areas used for gathering, animal harvesting (fishing, hunting, and trapping) and heritage sites (burial, overnight sites, other sites, special sites, and archaeological sites). This information came from historical traditional land use data that has been collected over the past twenty years through various projects in the Basin.
2. Following this, we looked at the ecological data for the region by evaluating all factors together and individually. This analysis evaluated the critical species including barren ground caribou, woodland caribou, moose, and other species (e.g. fish). This information was also combined with the habitats that were important to those various species (e.g. moose and wetlands).
3. Within the ecological analysis, we also looked at disturbances. Examples of potential disturbances in the region are mineral dispositions, line cutting for exploration, abandoned mines, trenches, and others.
4. The final phase of the data analysis looked at economic factors including but not limited to: mineral potential, gravel disposition, bedrock geology, commercial fishing, and nature tourism.

Once these technical analyses are completed, and COVID-19 is better controlled, we will be going into the communities to discuss the Denesųliné Guiding Values document, and potential locations and boundaries for your IPCAs. The communities will provide input and decide on the IPCAs before the maps are finalized. We look forward to meeting and discussing this exciting project with you all!

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

Image credit: Gabrielle Giroux

The cover image of the The Athabasca Denesųliné Guiding Values Document attempts to illustrate the meaning and intention of this document.

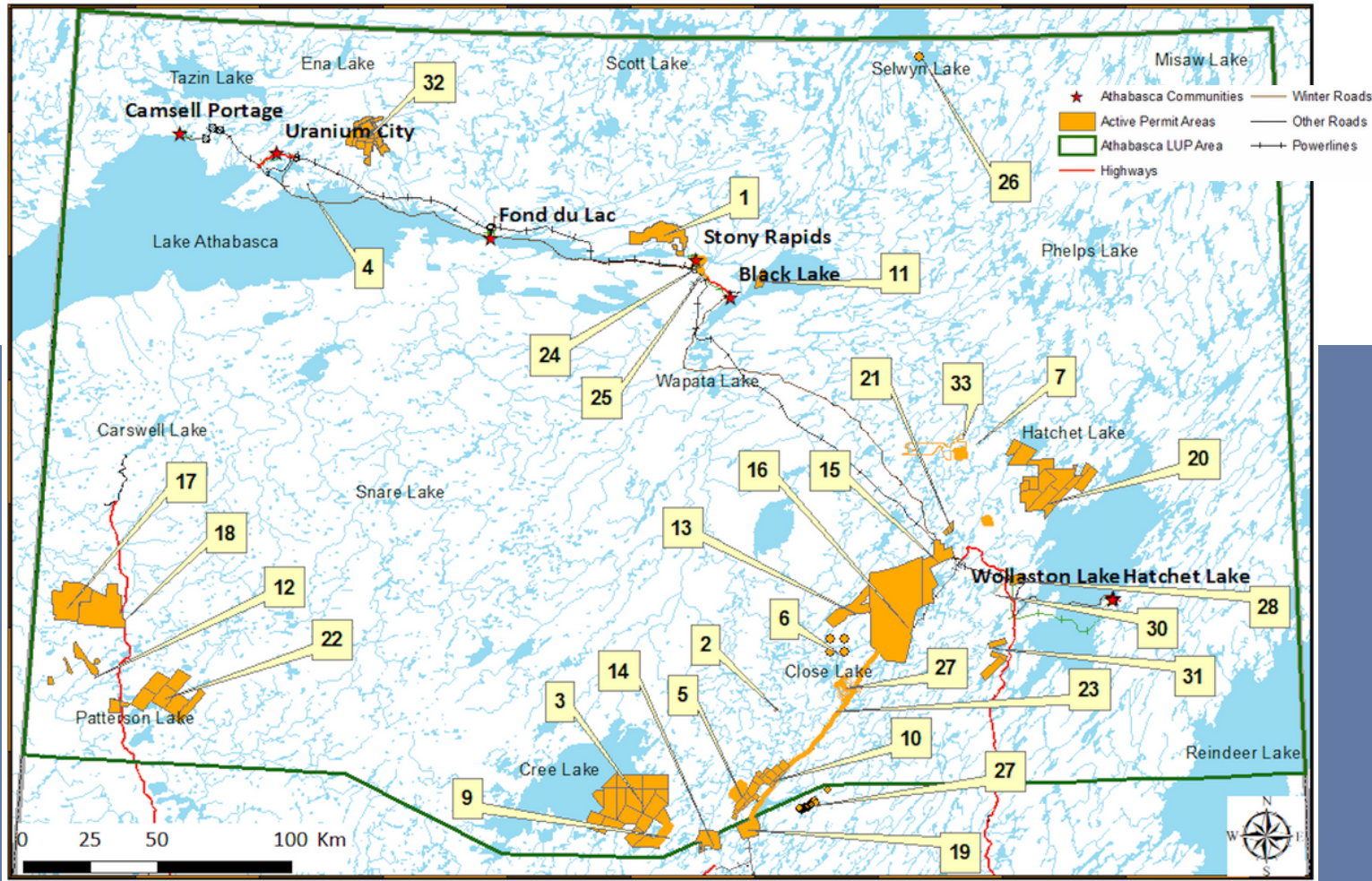
Ya' thi Néné and the DUTY TO CONSULT

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 every company is properly consulting 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 33 'Active Permits' identified on the map represent companies requesting permits from October 2019 to date of publication.



ALX Uranium Corp.

1. Falcon Nickel Program (exploration)

CanAlaska Uranium

2. West McArthur (exploration)
3. Cree East (exploration)

Cameco

4. Fishhook Bay (remediation)

Denison Mines Corp.

5. Moon Lake (exploration)
6. Darby Lake (exploration)
7. Murphy Lake (exploration)
8. Waterbury (exploration)
9. Ford Lake (exploration)
10. Wheeler River (exploration)

Forum Energy

11. Fir Island (exploration)

NexGen Energy Ltd.

12. SW1 (exploration)

Orano Canada Inc.

13. Close Lake (exploration)
14. Martin Lake (exploration)
15. Waterbury UEM (exploration)
16. Waterbury/Cigar Lake (exploration)
17. Alexandra (exploration)
18. Nikita (exploration)
19. Getty Russell (exploration)

Purepoint Uranium Group Inc.

20. Red Willow (exploration)
21. Henday (exploration)
22. Hook Lake (exploration)

SaskPower

23. IP3 Transmission Line (vegetation maintenance)
24. ST511 Distribution Line (vegetation maintenance)
25. ST512 Distribution Line (vegetation management)

Selwyn Lake Lodge

26. Legitimize an existing lagoon

Skyharbour Resources Ltd.

27. Moore Lake (exploration)

UEX Corporation

28. Vixen Lake (exploration)
29. Christie Lake (exploration)
30. Lampin Lake (clean-up)
31. West Bear (exploration)

Appia Energy Corp.

32. Alces Lake (exploration)

IsoEnergy Limited

33. Larocque East (exploration)

'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).

THE SUMMER HARVEST

*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 any new course of treatment.

Summer to me is about abundance. The land is full of growing plants and medicine for our use. My late grandfather use to say that the plants and medicine in the north are stronger and more powerful than the plants that grow down south as the growing conditions are much harder in the north. After a long cold winter, the land provides us with an abundance of plants every summer.

When you are out on the land you will see many flowering plants, The following are a few of the flowering plants that we can expect to see out on the land. Not only do they offer healing properties but they are also beautiful to look at.

The bright **pink fireweed**, the leaves and roots and flowers when chewed can be used on burns, bruises, or boils to draw out infections. The leaves and flowers can be eaten raw or cooked to build blood.

Yarrow is another flowering plant that you will see on the land. They have feathery leaves and a flat top tiny white flower with an aromatic smell. The flower heads can be chewed and applied to bee stings or boils, or they can be cooked and used as a wash for skin irritations. The plants can be used in a tea to help with chest colds.

Strawberry plants with their tiny white flowers: the whole plant including the roots and runners can be used in a tea to build blood. **Ratroot** with its tiny yellowish flowers jutting out from one side can be chewed and the juices swallowed to help with colds, coughs, sore throats, and teething pain.

Clover with either white or pink flowers: the flowers can be made into a tea that is high in vitamins and minerals. The delicious flavour can be enjoyed all year long by drying; they can then be crushed and added to cookies or baked goods.

Stinging nettles with their greenish flowers must be picked with care; don't forget your gloves! The leaves and stems are delicious when cooked and added to soups and stews. The plant is full of vitamins and minerals.

The land offers us all its abundance and diversity. Go out onto the land and enjoy all that is there for us.

Respect your body. Respect each other. Respect the land.

Masi-cho.

LINDA MCNABB

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 Denesutiné 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.

On right, from top to bottom: Fireweed, Yarrow, Stinging Nettle, Strawberry blossom, and Pink clover.



PROMOTING THE PEOPLE:

An update on the Athabasca Community Trust

In the photo to the right, Black Lake Trustee Terri-Lynn Beavereye boards a flight between communities. As we begin to recover from the ongoing uncertainty, the Board of Trustees are preparing to receive a new round of proposals from community members on September 1st, 2020.

In the past few months, the Trust has been busy despite travel and workplace restrictions. The Trust met on May 28th, 2020 via teleconference to review and approve successful applications to the Spring call for proposals. 17 completed proposals were received and reviewed by the Trustees and 7 were approved for a total disbursement of \$118,363.22 from among the 7 Basin communities. Some applications were denied by the Trustees because previous Summary Reports had not been received from the same applicant for previous projects. It is important that all successful recipients of Trust funding submit Summary Reports that justify expenses and project completion including photos, write-ups, invoices and receipts.

The Trust also held their Annual General Meeting on June 29th, 2020 from 5-7pm via Zoom and Facebook Live. Presentations were provided by the Trustees, Auditors, Investment Manager and Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources. Over 60 Basin members joined the call through their Facebook Live account and many received door prizes.



This August, Ya' thi Nene will be administering an election for the next Black Lake Trustee as Terri-Lynn Beavereye comes to the end of her term. Trustees and all personnel involved in the Trust would like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and leadership Terri-Lynn provided to the Trust since it began operating in 2016.

August 12th will be the deadline to declare for candidates interested in running for the Black Lake Trustee election. Numerous qualifications for candidates will be required. Online advance polls will be open between Aug 17-21st. The day of the Trustee election in Black Lake will be August 25th. More information will be advertised to Black Lake members in the coming weeks.

The next round of Trust proposals will open Sept 1, 2020. More info will be provided at www.yathinene.ca and on the YNLR Facebook at that time.

We also encourage you to visit www.yathinene.ca/apply-now to learn how to submit a trust proposal of your own!

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preservation of healthy natural ecosystems in Saskatchewan. When it comes to protecting large, uninterrupted tracts of land, CPAWS is a strong voice for Saskatchewan's wild places.


As a non-profit conservation organization, CPAWS is dedicated to keeping our natural world healthy for the benefit of all who call Saskatchewan home, and the future generations who will inherit the planet.

CPAWS Saskatchewan works collaboratively with all levels of governments, local communities, industry, and Indigenous Nations and organizations to protect the amazing natural places found in our province. They also strive to ensure that our national and provincial parks, as well as other existing protected areas, are managed effectively to protect the ecological integrity of the ecosystems they steward.

The CPAWS vision is that Canada will maintain pristine lakes, vast caribou herds and abundant wild fish; that we will share the land with magnificent predators like bears and wolves; that we will nourish the land ethic of Indigenous cultures; and that we will continue to enjoy the beauty of nearby natural landscapes in our daily lives.

In Saskatchewan, we work to make this vision a reality by partnering with Indigenous communities and organizations like Ya' thi Néné to help establish protected areas and promote responsible land use that is sustainable for nature, communities, and the economy.



 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

YA' THI NÉNÉ

In Action



by Derek Cook
Fond Du Lac Community Land Technician

This spring, the YNLR Community Land Technicians (CLTs) wanted to do something for their community that involved youth and the environment. It was decided that spring clean-up was a great project to do during COVID-19 restrictions. It provided an activity for the youth to do outside, interact with their CLT, and improve the community at the same time!

With the return of summer here in the North, the local people are heading back out onto the land. It has been several long months of being trapped indoors, and the Corona Virus pandemic has kept the people from doing things they would normally do.

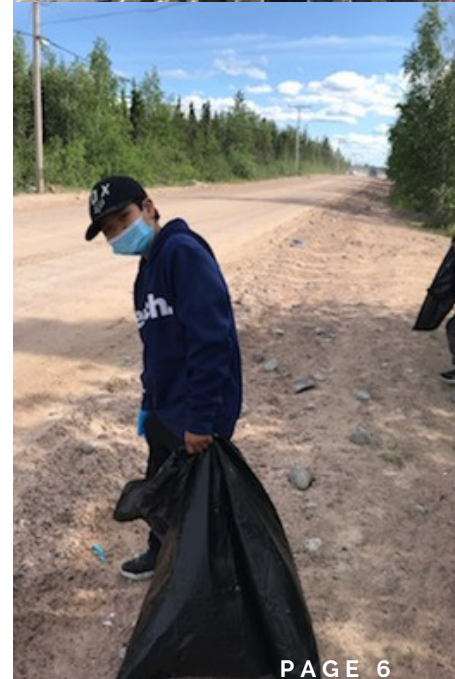
Unfortunately, with the change of seasons comes another pandemic: one that infects the land rather than the people. One of the biggest issues as more people get outdoors is the littering; where people go out onto the land and don't clean up after their camping trips.

The animals and fish that we eat are the most vulnerable to the destructive power of the unwanted garbage that is left behind. They eat it, or get trapped in it, or are otherwise hurt by it. You might be done with your food wrappers and empty cans, but by leaving them on the land, they will continue to be a problem for the animals there for many years.

It is our responsibility to keep our lands and animals free of harm. It is up to you to take your garbage back with you after you finish camping.

Though Fond Du Lac, Uranium City and Camsell Portage are the closest communities to the Athabasca Sand Dunes, we are seeing visitors from communities across the Athabasca (especially from northern Alberta) come out to Lake Athabasca to explore, hunt and camp out. Even though the space is being used by many, it remains up to the people who live here to keep the lakes and lands clean so future generations to come can enjoy the outdoors just as much as we do.

As you get out on the land this summer, remember to always take garbage bags with you to clean up after yourself, especially when travelling to and from your destinations.



By Dene Robillard, Ya' thi Néné Development Coordinator

Edlenate/tansi, Athabasca community members!

I am extremely pleased to provide this second report to you on the advancement and progress of our important mandate. As you might know, the global pandemic has impacted our ability to conduct some of our work to its fullest. Despite the challenges in front of us in this regard, our team continues to do our utmost to stay on track. Our objective is to ensure that our communities and citizens remain engaged with the opportunities facilitated through our partnerships.

I will now take this opportunity to update you on some of the work we have been doing this past quarter.

Skills Database Update

You will recall from our previous newsletter, I let you know about this project that we are confident will provide a very useful tool for our communities going forward. In partnership with Cameco and Orano, Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources has revisited discussions surrounding the Basin-Specific Skills Database that was in early development prior to Covid-19. Again, with this database project established and operating, we will be able to collect and maintain critical information that will help us to identify the skills and training needs and resources among our Athabasca Basin residents. Through the operation of this database we will be able to effectively:

- Identify skill sets of Basin Residents
- Post job opportunities
- Post training opportunities
- Post procurement opportunities for Basin businesses

It is important that we reassure you that all information collected and maintained for the database will be done in compliance with federal and provincial privacy laws.

Where are we at with this project? Thus far, our Athabasca Education, Employment & Development Committee (AEEDC) has identified and reviewed data software options and have agreed on a software developer to support the development of the project. We will continue to consult with residents, industry, partners and other stakeholders to identify needs and priorities when it comes to skills and training.

These engagements will also serve to guide the development of the database website platform. As the platform will host information that is subject to privacy laws, all partners participating in the project will have to sign an agreement to formalize their participation. That said, we will soon be in contact with our Athabasca Basin community leadership to formally advance this project.

Fitness 2J2 – Security Guard Courses

Another exciting project that is increasing our community members' work force marketability is the offering of community-based Security Guard courses. This program stems from a partnership between the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC-Dene) Labour Force Development Program and Fitness 2J2 of Saskatoon. Two sessions of Security Guard Courses are booked for July 23rd- August 1st, and August 3rd-12th, 2020 in Stony Rapids. These courses are accessible to, and will benefit, all seven Athabasca Basin community members who apply for this training. I would like to note that the Fitness 2J2 training is approved by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice as a certified Investigators & Security Guard Course.

To ensure the safety of participants and instructors throughout the training, we needed to secure a facility large enough to accommodate 17 people. In-person training has proven to be a challenge during this pandemic and Fitness 2J2 has responded by developing and adopting a "safe bubble" environment concept. The safe bubble concept ensures all participants train together, accommodations and meals are together, and that everyone stay within their own eco-environment. This practise will minimize the potential virus spread while in community.

Non-medical PPE (facemasks) will be provided to all participants when outdoors or moving to different locations as per COVID-19 protocol. These health and safety measures will be strictly applied during both training sessions. Moving forward, Ya' thi Néné Lands & Resources and the AEEDC will evaluate the effectiveness of this program, and we may continue to offer this course in collaboration with PAGC and Fitness 2J2.

Ya'thi Nene Basin Scholarship Program

As of July 28th, the Ya'thi Néné Basin scholarship program has received a total of 30 applications from Basin post-secondary students. We are looking forward to receiving more applications before the July 31st deadline. Between August 1st-19th, I will be preparing the applicant binders for the Scholarship Selection Committee review meeting that is being scheduled for August 20th.

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), Cameco and Orano for their generous contribution and support of our Athabasca Basin post-secondary students.

17 Basin residents took part in the 1st session of the 2J2 Personal & Public Safety Security Guard Training, which took place at Al's Place in Stony Rapids, SK. from July 23rd- August 1st. The 2nd session will run from August 3rd to 12th. We would like to thank the participants for their diligence in protecting themselves, each other and their families by wearing protective masks and conscious of maintaining their distance throughout their time together.



community LAND TECHNICIAN IN PROFILE

With regard to workforce development, I am still in the process of monitoring local procurement and employment opportunities with all relevant mineral exploration companies with permit applications in the Basin. Additionally, Cameco and Orano recently announced they would be reopening their operations after temporarily putting them into care and maintenance in March over COVID-19 concerns. These changes had significant impacts on employment figures within the Basin. The companies expect it will take weeks to get the operations back into production, and will only reopen if it is safe to do so. Fortunately, Cameco and Orano basin employees were still maintaining a percentage of their salary while off-site, as well, both Cameco and Orano have held to their committed summer student hires of 7 (Cameco) and 5 (Orano) this year.

For Ian Robillard, keeping the Denesúliné culture alive is all about trusting his instincts. Whether this means listening to his intuition for when to go out on the land to hunt, or when a neighbour needs help more than they will say, Ian makes a point of being a good role model to his community, and to make the traditional ways part of his everyday life.

When we spoke to Ian to ask him how he made sure that he was someone that the kids could look up to, he told us that it's all about giving back to your community. He will lend help to anyone who needs it, and he trusts his instincts to let him know when someone isn't saying what they mean. He puts others first, and he watches closely to know when his fellow community members need a hand.

Being so good at watching is why Ian makes a great CLT, too! He is the eyes and the ears of the people out on the land, monitoring the plants and animals around him to make sure they are healthy, and that the people who rely on them are healthy too.

For example, on a successful hunt last week, Ian brought home a moose, followed up by some good fishing a few days after. Ian always honours the land by offering tobacco and a prayer when he is rewarded on the hunt, giving thanks and asking that his next hunt is just as successful.

Company	Number of Employees (approx.)
Cameco	70
Orano	40
WestWind Aviation	15
TEAM DRILLING LP	25
POINTS ATHABASCA	25
ATHABASCA BASIN SECURITY	25

These charts provide the Q1 (Jan-Mar 2020) employment statistics for both Cameco and Orano, and eligible Basin-owned businesses supported through the Collaboration Agreement (excluding Athabasca Catering).

Community	Population	Percentage
Fond du Lac	73	35.6%
Black Lake	47	22.9%
Hatchet/ Wollaston	40	19.5%
Stony Rapids	32	15.6%
Uranium City	10	4.9%
Camsell Portage	3	1.5%

It is worth noting that the Basin-owned business Q1 statistics are lower than anticipated due to the necessary shutdown in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.





Energizing a clean-air world

CIGAR LAKE RELICENSING

In November 2019, Cameco applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to begin the process to renew the Cigar Lake license. Cameco is requesting a 10-year license and anticipates the hearing to be held in early 2021. The current license is valid until June 30, 2021. During the current license term Cigar Lake completed construction activities and successfully transitioned through commissioning to commercial production. Throughout this period:

- Workers were safe and properly protected.
- There were no releases that harmed the environment or health and safety of people nearby.
- All treated water released from the facility met regulatory requirements and was safe.
- Environmental monitoring consistently showed that fish and plants were safe to eat.
- Cameco engaged with northern stakeholders to keep them informed of our activities.



DECOMMISSIONED BEAVERLODGE PROPERTIES

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, Eldorado was merged with the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation to form Cameco Corporation. At that time, the management of the properties became the obligation of Cameco, while the Government of Canada retained financial responsibility. Cameco has since carried out routine environmental monitoring, targeted environmental investigations, maintenance work and targeted remediation on the 70 separate decommissioned properties that make up the Beaverlodge site.

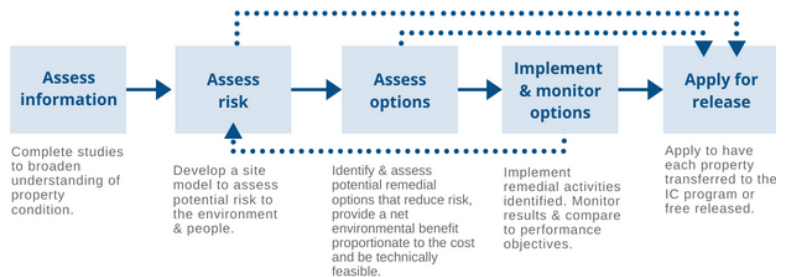


Path Forward

Cameco's objective is to:

1. Protect the health and safety of the public and environment.
2. Transfer the properties to the Institutional Control (IC) program.

The IC program is managed by the Government of Saskatchewan and the long-term monitoring and maintenance performed under the program will ensure the properties continue to be protective of the health and safety of the public and the environment. Properties transferred will support traditional activities.



Progress:

2009 - 5 properties transferred to IC.

2020 - 19 properties transferred to IC, 1 free released.

2021- Initiating the process to potentially transfer an additional 19 properties to IC.

THE FISHHOOK BAY MINE

A satellite mine of the former Eldorado Resources Ltd., this facility is located approximately 17 km southeast of Uranium City on the north shore of Lake Athabasca. The mine was decommissioned in the 1980s. The property was removed from the Beaverlodge uranium mine/mill Saskatchewan Surface Lease in 1986 and was not included in the CNSC licence for Beaverlodge.

Under a work permit provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, it is Cameco's intention to complete clean-up and maintenance activities in 2020. All work will be conducted in previously disturbed areas and is required to ensure the area remains safe, secure and stable/improving in the long-term, as well as to facilitate the transfer of the Fishhook Bay Mine Area into the Province of Saskatchewan's IC Program for long-term stewardship. To complete this work, a small temporary work camp was set up, and it is anticipated that the camp will be utilized at various times throughout the summer to facilitate efficient clean-up and maintenance activities. The camp is expected to be removed in the fall once work is completed and a regulatory inspection is conducted.

For More Information

The Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (AJES) continues to meet, enhancing knowledge, understanding and programs to ensure the safety of the environment and building capacity. The AJES members (from each of the First Nations, one to represent the municipal communities and the Ya' thi Néné Executive Director) are the first point of contact for Cameco and Orano under the Ya' thi Néné Collaboration Agreement. These representatives have the responsibility and accountability for environmental management and/or community engagement matters to their respective community/communities. For more information on Cameco and Orano operations, please visit us online or contact your local Cameco/Orano community liaisons.



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.

Status of McClean Lake Operation

During the spring of 2020, the McClean Lake uranium mill suspended production and kept the operation in a safe state of care and maintenance through the summer months. The McClean Lake teams used this time to complete critical project and maintenance work, such as the 55kt project, while the plant was down. These planned activities were able to be completed with smaller workforces, minimizing exposure and keeping our camp at less than full capacity.

On July 29th it was announced that as long as it remains safe to do so, Orano Canada plans to restart the McClean Lake mill at the beginning of September. In tandem with the successful restart of Cigar Lake operations, we expect to be processing uranium by mid-September. While we will not be able to make up the lost production of the past five months, we are targeting 10.5 million lbs of packaged production for 2020.

We are working with Basin leaderships on the appropriate timing for Basin employees to return to site, and we will continue to communicate with our teams as this planning becomes clearer. Safety is always our first priority, so as we increase our workforce on site and ramp up activities to restart the mill, we will maintain our safety protocols that have been put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic threat.

We have implemented robust health and safety procedures, including pre-screening of employees, mandatory COVID-specific training, temperature monitoring, increased sanitation and isolation procedures. With the continued commitment of our employees and contractors we can maintain our site as a safe and healthy workplace.



Mill operator Gabrielle Iron hard at work

Tailings Management Facility Expansion

Despite the current environment, many projects must continue, including planning for the JEB Tailings Management Facility expansion. We submitted our proposal for the TMF expansion in November 2019 and have recently been advised by the CNSC that the project will require a decision by the Commission tribunal. We will now prepare for that decision hearing. We continue to believe that expansion of the current TMF is not only the best option from operational and financial standpoints, but as importantly from an environmental one. Basin residents should have recently received more information in their mailboxes on the project, and we encourage your questions and comments. Alternatively, reach out to your AJES committee members as they have been provided with detailed information at quarterly meetings.

Cluff Lake – Safe and Stable for the future

On the Cluff Lake project, we continue our monitoring and engagement work, although it has been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to pick up the pace when we're able to this fall. Ongoing environmental monitoring shows that decommissioning was successful. Orano Canada plans to return the land to the Government of Saskatchewan under the Institutional Control (IC) Program. Orano will provide funds for long-term monitoring and maintenance of the site and an assurance fund to cover costs related to unexpected events.

Aerial view of McClean Lake operation



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.

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). You can read more about our CLTs on page 3.

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.

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.

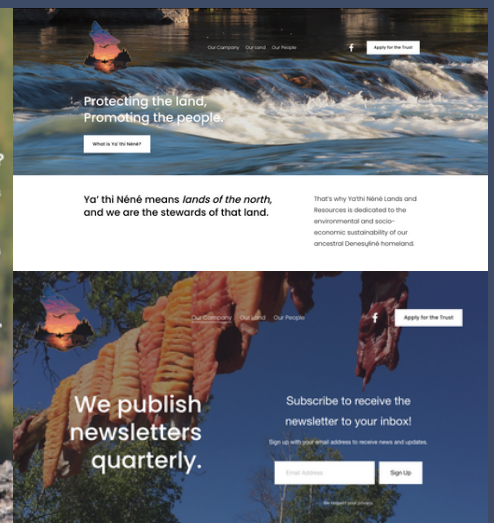
Updates will be provided to the person(s) who reported the issue on a regular basis. Issues that are successfully resolved will be communicated to the communities.

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

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR REDESIGNED
WEBSITE?
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! Scan this QR code with your phone to go to the website.



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 autumn 2020 issue!



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