

THE GNWT CORRECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Alcantara – How Traditions are Maintained in Corrections

Just recently the newly appointed Director of Corrections, Herb Castle, had an opportunity to visit Alcantara, a Corrections Wilderness Camp at Kozo Lake.

Along for the trip were Joe Sheppard and Perry Cambell, two Case Managers at NSCC and Scott Mills the Acting Camp Coordinator for Corrections.

The purpose of the trip was to help promote the use of Wilderness Camps within Corrections. Wilderness Camps offer the offender an opportunity to return to a traditional way of life.

Corrections has had some type of camp program for more than 30 years.

In the 1960's there was a camp for Adults set up at Yellowknife River. Over the years there have been camps spread out over the different regions in the Territory.

Wilderness camps also exist for Youth, they are known as Alternative Open Custody Homes. These homes help Youth foster a relation with Elders

as well as give them a better understanding and respect for the Land.

Community people started to get involved with the camp program about 15 – 20 years ago. Contractors who were caring for Young Offenders in their homes started taking them out on the land for short periods of time.

Corrections is in the process of trying to rebuild the Alternative home program for youth throughout the North.



A winter snapshot of Alcantara.

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Employee Profile:

Janelle Minute started working for GNWT Justice at the Territorial Women's Correctional Center as a casual employee in 1995. In 2000 the RCMP in Fort Smith swore her in as an auxiliary constable. This encouraged her to apply for an indeterminate CO1 position, which she obtained in 2001. Before going on maternity leave, Janelle gained more experience in an acting supervisory position. In 2004

Janelle advanced herself to the CSW position at TWCC. She continues to provide a positive and cohesive team atmosphere through laughter and hard work. Janelle was raised in Fort Smith, and continues to live there with her supportive husband Bernie, and two beautiful children, Robyn age 3 and Garret age 1. Janelle enjoys scrapbooking, cooking, and spending time with her family.



River Ridge gets a new Manager

The Department of Justice is pleased to announce Warren Gillis is the new Facility Manager at River Ridge Correctional Centre in Fort Smith. Warren has been employed in various capacities throughout his 15 years as an employee for the Department of Justice.

Warren has a thorough knowledge of Correctional issues in Fort Smith and throughout the territory that will be of great benefit to the Department of Justice as we move forward to meet the needs of our

culturally diverse population. His experience, knowledge, integrity, sense of humour and willingness to listen to co-workers, employees as well as inmates will be a great asset to River Ridge and the Department of Justice as a whole.

A few Comments from the Interim Director

We will continue to be challenged with northern economic development issues and its impact upon both the community and institutional aspects of our Division. We are also facing challenges within our offender base including a hardening of inmate profiles.

I am also aware of the significant organizational change that you have undergone and is still being experienced. Having been a part of such evolution within other

Corrections Services I encourage you to embrace change and invest in the development of this Division. It is truly a remarkable service. In the brief time that I have spent with you to date I am impressed by the care provided to our clientele and the ideas for programming to assist offenders. We need to continue to explore and develop this innovation in the management of offenders with NWT solutions made/relevant to our population.

We are all responsible to manage our business in an open and transparent fashion. We are accountable on all fronts to the government and the public. As such, we are expected to conduct ourselves in a fashion that is a credit to everyone within our organization and to the profession.

I look forward to working with and for you.

Herb Castle

THE END OF AN ERA

All good things must come to an end and so it is with Dene K'onia. Dene K'onia opened its doors in 1985 being the first Young Offender Facility in the Northwest Territories. Over the years we have been a triple designated/coed facility adapting from time to time as need demanded.

We have had many staff begin at Dene K'onia and move on to other facilities and/or jobs

within the department. Being such a small facility we feel more like family than coworkers and it definitely showed in our dedication and work with the youth. We have felt the rewards of our work over the years seeing youth on the street, having them call us, send letters to let us know that they are doing well and to thank us for helping them during their stay with us. We will definitely miss working with each

other and the youth in our care.

As we all know, it takes a special person to work in this field and to keep doing it for so many years as many of us have. All the staff would like to thank those of you that we have worked with over the years for your professionalism, integrity and hard work that has contributed in making the Division what it is today.



- *Mike Gagnier - 6 years service with the GNWT - Has bought his own tractor trailer, going truck driving!*
- *Dennis Parker - Casual 1 year - Going back to his full time job!*
- *Ruth Lafferty - 18 years service with the GNWT - Retiring!*
- *Ellen Alexie - 21 years service with the GNWT - Going to Court Services in Hay River as a Clerk of the Court!*
- *Faye Johns - 23 years service with the GNWT - Giving up her cooking career and going to RiverRidge as a Corrections Officer!*
- *Margaret Jerome, ISSP (Intensive Support and Supervision Program) Officer - Going to Probation Services in Hay River as a Probation Officer!*

- *Bobbi Hamilton - 35 years service with the GNWT - Retiring!*
- *Drew Thomson - 7 years service with the GNWT - Staying on the Staff Retention List for a year, still looking for a job!*
- *Diane St.John - 11 years service with the GNWT - Moving over to SMCC!*
- *Hollis Dimion - 16 years service with the GNWT - Moving to Yellowknife as Manager of NSYOF!*
- *Colleen Maurice - Casual 5 years - Going back to her full time job!*
- *Andy McKay - Casual 8 years - Has found other employment in Hay River!*

Missing from picture:

- *Lionel Gagnier - 6 years service with the GNWT - Taking education leave!*
- *Charlie MacDonald - 10 years service with the GNWT - Moving to Yellowknife to Probation Services!*
- *Brenda McAllister - Casual 7 years - Still looking for a job!*
- *Renie Squirrel - Casual 5 years - Has found other employment in Hay River!*
- *Diana Young - Casual 1 year - Has found other employment in Hay River!*

New Staff and Staff on the Move

The following competitions are in process

- 3 Indeterminate positions for Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility (offers pending)
- 2 Indeterminate positions for North Slave Correctional Centre (interviews under way)
- 4 Case Manager position for North Slave Correctional Centre
- Coordinator, Corporate Services, Corrections Headquarters
- Director, Corrections Service

New staff movements

Head Office

- Herb Castle, as Interim Director
- Curtis Debogorski, Senior Youth Officer North Slave Young Offender Facility to a 2 year transfer as Corrections Training Officer, Corporate Human Resources
- Heidi Nikiforuk, Senior Youth Officer, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to 1 year transfer from Career Counsellor to Aurora College
- W.J. Pogson, Director, Corrections (Retired) to British Columbia and Mexico

Community Corrections

- April Conway, Administrative Assistant Probation to a 6 month term position as Director's Secretary at Headquarters
- Twyla Wouters, 2 year term position as Administrative Assistant, Yellowknife Community Corrections
- Debra Beck, Indeterminate Probation Officer, Hay River Regional Office
- Nancy Chinna, Acting Regional Supervisor for the Inuvik Regional Office

Court

- Kim Bernhardt, Youth Officer, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to 1 year transfer as Clerk of the Court, Inuvik Departures

NSYOF

- Amanda Washburn 1 year term as a Youth Officer, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- T.J. Zavlanos, 1 year term as a Youth Officer, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- Kevin Joudrie, 6 month term as a Youth Officer, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- Suzanne Carmichael, 6 month term as a Youth Officer, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- Richard Deutschman, 3 month transfer assignment to Senior Youth Officer Oct-Dec 05, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- Chris Potyok, 3 month transfer assignment to Senior Youth Officer Jan-Mar /06, North Slave Young Offender Facility
- Sharon Gairdner, Manager, Arctic Tern Young Offender to a 2 year transfer as Program/ Security Officer, North Slave Young Offender Facility

RRCC

- Warren Gillis, Correctional Officer II, River Ridge Correctional Centre, Indeterminate as Deputy Warden, River Ridge Correctional Centre
- Faye Johns, Indeterminate as Corrections Officer I, River Ridge Correctional Centre
- Rainer Semsch, Casual (13 years), River Ridge Correctional Centre

TWCC

- Tracy MacPherson, leaving Inuvik Regional Supervisor to join TWCC as Deputy Warden.
- May Tourangeau, Indeterminate as Correctional Officer, Territorial Women's Correctional Centre
- Sharon Pierrot, Indeterminate as Correctional Officer, Territorial Women's Correctional Centre
- Lorretta Laviolette, Indeterminate as Correctional Officer, Territorial Women's Correctional Centre
- Andrea Steed, Correctional Officer at River Ridge Correctional Centre to a 1 year transfer as Program/Case Manager, Territorial Women's Correctional Centre

ATYOF

- Roslyn Watters, Program Coordinator, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to a 6 month transfer as Manager, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility
- Beatrice Donovan, Senior Youth Officer, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to a 6 month transfer as Program Coordinator, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility
- Margaret Hope, Youth Officer, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to a 6 month transfer as Senior Youth Officer, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility
- Rayomand Pestonji, Psychologist, Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility to Australia

NSCC

- Jack Barnett, Outside Crew Officer (Retired), North Slave Correctional Centre
- Robert Forrest, Maintenance Officer (Retired), North Slave Correctional Centre
- Raymond Tuccaro, Aboriginal Liaison Officer (Retired), North Slave Correctional Centre

Where the Big Fish Roam

During the month of August a glorious event took place. An event so big that it took the M.S. Norweta to contain it. Yes, it was the 2nd Annual NSCC Fishing trip.

Once again the trip was a smashing success. With good friends, food, and fish there was little missing.

Blair VanMetre stole the biggest fish trophy with his monstrous 39.8lbs trout. Apparently it was a battle worthy of an epic story, but in the end the fish swam away with promises of growing fatter for next year.

Even though Blair caught the biggest, everyone caught lots of fish with many in the high twenties, with about five being donated to the nightly fish fry. The nights on the beach around the camp fire brought stories of the ones that got away, which always seemed to get bigger the later the hour got. The screeching melodies of songs to keep even the bravest of bears away.

With next years trip already looking like it will be another sell-out, I recommend starting to compliment Dave Paul when you see him in the halls if you want a spot.

Everyone who enjoyed themselves on the trip would like to thank Dave Paul and Ginny Jordan for making the trip possible with their great organization skills.

Till next year, Cheers.

Photo from left to right.

*Top: Clint, Rhonda, Jason, Greg S., Greg P., Rob, David, Blair.
Bottom: Wayne, Darrin, Ginny, Daryl, Sally, Laura.
Missing: Dave P., Andrea, Betty, Detroit John,*



HR Action Plan

A new status report will be tabled this month in the Legislative Assembly. A copy will be provided to staff through e-mail. We would welcome comments from staff and invite you to send your responses to Herb Castle, Interim Director.

OC Spray Training

It was a very emotional month for some of the staff at NSCC. Many were seen crying and being carried around by others.

What was the cause... were staff upset that Orrell had stopped the Case Workers from eating the Security lunches? No, it was the evil skills of Curtis, Toko, and Gord instructing the OC Spray training. OC Spray is more commonly known as Pepper spray.

Being one of the privileged staff to have to stand still, eyes open, and hands down and get a healthy dose right in the eyes... twice (thanks Jones). I'd like to say it was an eye opening experience, but unfortunately there were not a lot of open eyes present. It did however add some spice to my life... sorry I will stop the puns now.

OC Spray is an amazing tool that offers Security an avenue of control in situations, often stopping offenders from escalating the situation.

I highly recommend taking the course if it becomes available at your Centre.

Community Corrections

Community Corrections is in its fifth year of operations under the Department of Justice. Operational Directives for youth Community Corrections were completed this month and adult directives should be completed by December 2005. A formal Manual will be published by January 2006.

The Community Corrections Supervisors meeting meeting is being planned and be held in Hay River this year. The Regional Supervisors and Coordinator will join in with the Wardens and Managers and the rest of the Headquarters staff on Nov 24th, 2005.

Photo Left to Right: Paul Fleury (ON - Adult), Wayne Payne (NFLD), Neil Warner (AB), Chris Hill (CSC), Gary Dupuis (NS), Bethan Williams (NT), Jon Gaudry (YT), Gilbert Tayles (ON - Youth), Doug Strader (NU), Carole Fiedelleck (SK), Bob Dojack (MB), Michel Roberge (QC), Mike Boudreau (NB), Rob Watts (BC), Dr. James Bonta (PSEPC) Missing: Karen MacDonald (PEI)

Picture of HOCC members (Heads of Community Corrections) that was held in Yellowknife, 2005.

Credits:

On September 29/05 a meeting was held with your new Newsletter Editorial Board - The committee representatives will be involved in guiding and directing the publication of the quarterly newsletter through submissions of articles and photographs to that reflect staff and organizational interests.

Editorial Board:

ATYOF: Shari Eaton (YO) / NSYOF: John Dzurka (YO) / NSCC: Greg Spronken (COI) ,Marnie Stebner (CO I) and Riel Vasas (COI) / SMCC: Lila Belanger (CO II) / TWCC and RRCC: Barry Bernhardt (Program Delivery Officer) / Community: Bethan Williams

All are invited to submit ideas and articles for future newsletters.

All text files should be in MS Word and any pictures should not exceed 500 kb in size.