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newsletter

August 2005

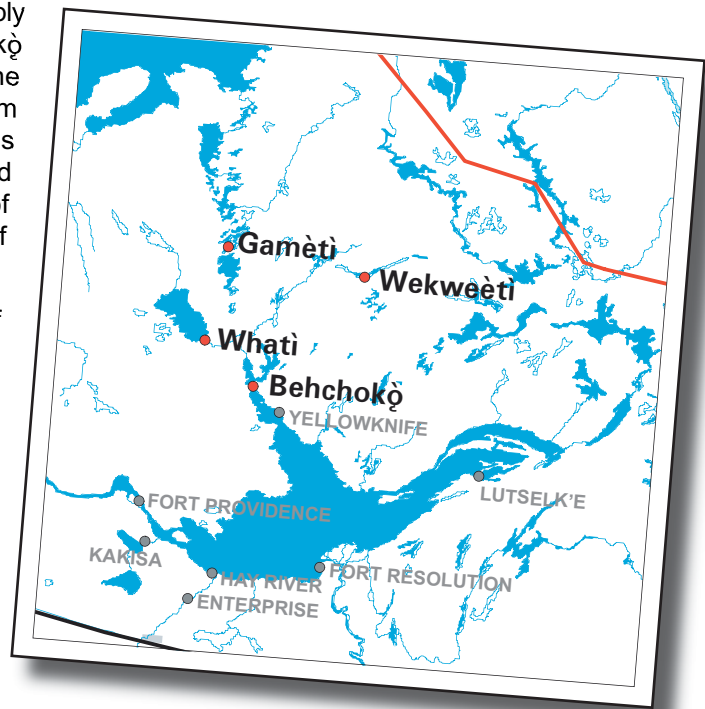
Tłıchō Community Governments Four new self-governing communities in the NWT

After nearly fifteen years of negotiations, the Tłıchō Assembly convened for the first time in the community of Behchokò on August 4, 2005 to celebrate a monumental event in the history of the Tłıchō people. Hundreds of people came from across the Tłıchō region, the North and Canada to witness and participate in the historic event. Attendees included Premier Joseph L. Handley, Western Arctic Member of Parliament Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Lucienne Robillard.

As of August 4th, 2005, the Community Governments of Behchokò, Whatì, Wekweèti and Gamèti officially became self-governing communities and the Tłıchō Government succeeds the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Indian bands in the Tłıchō communities. New laws have given the Tłıchō Government control over 39,000 square kilometres of land, including both surface and subsurface resources, in the North Slave Region.

The Tłıchō community governments in each of the four Tłıchō communities replace existing local governments, and are made up of a Chief and several councillors. All are elected by residents of the community. These elected officials gather together to form the Tłıchō Assembly. The Assembly is expected to elect a Grand Chief when they convene this fall.

MACA has been pleased to assist and support the four communities as they have prepared to become the Community Governments of Behchokò, Whatì, Wekweèti and Gamèti.



Pipeline Hearings as Early as November Communities prepare to share views and concerns

Development of a Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) will have a significant impact on the people, programs and infrastructure in a large number of Northwest Territories Communities. Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is working in partnership with community governments to identify these impacts and opportunities, and to assist communities to prepare for them.

The next stage in the process - the public hearings - will provide community governments and residents with the opportunity to share their views and concerns with the Joint Review Panel (JRP).

Even though Imperial Oil announced they were going to halt geo-technical and engineering work related to the proposed MGP, the pace of addressing outstanding issues has quickened. The federal government has agreed to a \$500 million deal over ten years to address social problems in the NWT; and the Dehcho have settled their lawsuit with the Federal Government. The JRP has determined that there is sufficient information in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to move the regulatory process forward.

While Imperial Oil works with the different levels of government to rectify some of the outstanding issues, the JRP has made an announcement that subject to certain information being submitted within the allotted time frame, they will proceed to the public hearings. The official announcement is expected by early October, with the hearings to start 45 days after the announcement, no earlier than November 15th, 2005.

What will the hearings consist of?

The location and specifics of the JRP hearings have not been announced but from what is known, they will consist of three different phases:

1. Community Hearings

- ▶ oral or written submissions accepted
- ▶ open to the public, but will request registration
- ▶ will target communities nearest to the proposed project

2. General Hearings

- ▶ registration required 30 days before the scheduled hearing
- ▶ copies of presentations will be requested in advance of the hearings

3. Technical Hearings

- ▶ open only to those who have previously registered as an Intervener for the JRP
- ▶ copies of speaking notes will be requested in advance of the hearings

How to get involved?

There will only be one round of JRP hearings, so there is no better time than the present to get involved. You can start planning on what it is you or your community will want to say at the hearings and how it will be presented. Registration for the hearings will also be required so keep your ears to the ground for the JRP announcement of location, dates and times. There are also MACA regional staff that are available to provide your community assistance.

For more information contact your regional MACA office.

New Deal Consultations Positive feedback from NWT communities

The first phase of consultations on the New Deal for NWT Community Governments is well underway. MACA staff have visited approximately one half of all NWT communities to discuss the New Deal with NWT Community Governments.

Feedback to date has been positive. Once all communities have been visited, a summary of the comments will be prepared and shared with all communities.

There are a number of task teams comprised of MACA staff and external stakeholders working on components of the New Deal and as these teams produce information and options for consideration, we will once again visit communities to present the information and obtain feedback.

We appreciate the time taken by everyone who has participated in the consultations to date and look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to make this initiative a success.

NWT Summer Games A successful event in Inuvik

In early July young people from across the Northwest Territories gathered in Inuvik to participate in the inaugural NWT Summer Games. 217 athletes and 55 coaches and officials from 28 communities participated in a spirit of friendship and sportsmanship.



In order to have been considered eligible to participate in the Games, young people could not have participated in any other major sporting event such as the Arctic Winter Games or the Canada Games. All NWT communities were asked to select four male and four female youth between the ages of 10 to 14. A male and female chaperone/coach were also selected from each community.

Sports featured at the Games included swimming, flag football, softball, soccer, swimming and Dene and Inuit Games.

Partners in the NWT Games program include the Sport North Federation, the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic, the Mackenzie Recreation Association and the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association. Sport North partnered with the host committee in Inuvik to coordinate and oversee the Games.

MACA Summer Students in Fort Simpson Helping Dehcho youth get active this summer!

The spring and summer have been very busy for the three MACA summer students in Fort Simpson. This year, the Dehcho regional office was pleased to add Keri-Ann Loutit, Dawn Moses and Gabriel Byatt to their staff complement.

Over the past few months, the students have focused most of their attentions on helping support recreation opportunities for the young people of the Dehcho. They have participated in different capacities in a variety of sport and recreation events including coaching the Thomas Simpson School track team at the Territorial Track Meet, attending a Rediscovery Wilderness Leadership Training Program and attending a Whitewater Raft Guiding and Swift Water Rescue course in Kakisa Lake.

Both the Leadership Training and the Guiding and Rescue course were partially funded through MACA's Youth Corps program and they represent the culmination of a three-year Cultural Interpretation and Guide training program for youth in Fort Simpson. This year a total of 11 young people received certification in Wilderness First Aid and the Rediscovery Wilderness Leadership Training Program during the nine day course. The young people learned a variety of skills such as emergency shelter building, camp logistics, canoe paddling and canoe rescue, first aid, and traditional Dene drumming.

Four youth completed the White-water Raft Guiding and Swift Water Rescue course at Kakisa Lake, a challenging seven-day program providing certification as a White Water Paddle Guide Level III, and Swift Water Rescue Level II. Two more youth received Swift Water Rescue Level I certification. While at Kakisa Lake, participants learned about river trip preparation, safety precautions, river features, paddling skills, Mechanical Advantage Systems, knots, throw bagging, and a number of techniques used during river rescues. Dawn and Gabriel acted as assistants and leaders for the youth participants from Fort Simpson and also received certification in these two programs.



Edwin Isaiah enjoys rafting on Kakisa Lake.

2005 has been an exciting summer for MACA's Fort Simpson summer students, with lots more excitement on the horizon. All have agreed the opportunity to work with young people through their positions at MACA has been a rewarding way to spend their summer.

*Submitted by Dawn Moses, Summer Student,
MACA Dehcho Regional Office*

Do you have
something you would like to
see included in the MACA newsletter?

We are always looking for content submissions.

Please forward your ideas to:

amy_hacala@gov.nt.ca

STAFF CORNER

Photos of our active MACA staff over the past few months.



Go Blue Team! Unfortunately, the team made up of summer students and SMC members went down to the regular staff members by a score of 6 - 4 at the MACA Summer BBQ. Here we see an enthusiastic group from Sport and Recreation: Ian Legaree, Jonathon Buckle, and Lynda Ruptash. Also cheering on the Blue Team are Ben Scott from Community Operations and Stewart Mackenzie from Lands Administration.



Penny Johnson with the School of Community Government and Jason Goudie with Corporate Affairs prepare to race the Olympic Distance Triathlon at Long Lake Beach on July 10.



The MACA Band serenaded staff at the MACA Summer BBQ at Hideaway Island. Pictured here are three very musical people from the Community Operations Division, banjo player Mark Davy, songstress Gail Cyr, and guitar player Perry Heath.

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What's Going On? MACA News & Events

New Deal for NWT Community Governments

As part of the consultation process for the New Deal for NWT Community Governments, MACA staff will be visiting all regions in the NWT to discuss the New Deal. For more information, visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

NWT Delegation off to Canada Summer Games

The 2005 Jeux du Canada Games were held this summer in Regina, Saskatchewan from August 6-20. MACA staff travelled to the event to support the NWT delegation as they participated in the biennial competition. Congratulations on the great results achieved by all NWT athletes, you represented the NWT well! For more information on the 2005 Jeux du Canada Games, visit the website at www.2005jeuxducanaadagames.ca.

Volunteer NWT is holding a Photo Contest!

In recognition of the NWT's many volunteers, Volunteer NWT is holding a photo contest! Do you have a picture of someone you know who volunteers their time coaching, helping out an elderly neighbor, or working with a charitable organization? Take their picture and submit it to Volunteer NWT and you could win one of three great prizes. For more information on the contest, please visit the Volunteer NWT website at www.volunteernwt.ca.

For more info:

Contact the Regional Superintendent in your region to learn more about MACA's programs and services.

Community Capacity Building Fund Premier announces funding for NWT Communities

On August 8, 2005, Premier Joseph L. Handley announced how the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) proposes to spend \$40 million in the Northwest Territories. The Community Capacity Building Fund, if approved by the Legislative Assembly, will be established to provide communities with financial support to address their priorities.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will administer the Community Capacity Building Fund and will contact you with more specific details respecting the Fund once it has been given final approval. The MACA Regional Superintendent for your area will be visiting each community over the next few months to discuss the Fund.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Community Capacity Building Fund, please contact your Regional Superintendent.

MACA partners with the NWTRPA Recreational Trails to be built across the NWT

In late July, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) announced an agreement that will inject a total of \$660,000 into new community recreational trails in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The announcement outlined the \$500,000 in new funding that will be provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories to support trail development. This investment, combined with Trans Canada Trail development funding and the NWTRPA Trail Building Fund, creates a \$660,000 fund to support all NWT communities with the construction of new recreation trails.

Community trails provide Northerners with the opportunity to be active while enjoying the natural beauty of the land. Everyone in the community can use trails – individually, in groups or for community-wide celebrations and events. Trails also provide valuable opportunities to learn about the history, traditions and natural environment of communities and regions in the NWT.

For more information contact: Ian Legaree, Director of Sport, Recreation and Youth Programs (867) 873-7245 or Geoff Ray, Executive Director of the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (867) 873-5340.

