

WHAT'S INSIDE:

The reorganization of the Emergency Management Function at MACA has been in effect for almost a year, find out more on how it's going **PAGE 2**

New Deal Staff Workshops were held across the North to prepare staff to support communities through the implementation of the NWT New Deal, find out more **PAGE 4**



newsletter

October 2005

Fort Providence Aquatic Centre Officially Open for Business!

The Hamlet of Fort Providence officially opened the new Fort Providence Aquatic Centre on September 14, 2005. The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Her Worship Mayor Maggie Levavasseur officiated. Elder Margaret Vandell led the ceremony with an opening prayer in Slavey followed by remarks in English.

In her comments, Elder Margaret Vandell told the crowd that "water is sacred, it is used to nourish, to cleanse and to bless." She thanked the Minister and everyone involved in making "this beautiful pool" available to the people of Fort Providence.

Minister McLeod reminded the crowd that it was their dedication that made this dream a reality. After the old pool had been in operation for over 30 years of service, the community approached their local MLA expressing the need for a new pool. "It was a community project, the school, youth, Recreation Committee, Hamlet Council and Community all pulled together," said Minister McLeod. In less than six months Fort Providence had raised over \$100,000 to help fund a new pool. "Thanks to the hard work of the people of Fort Providence, we now have a community designed pool, a home-grown swimming instructor and local staff operating the facility. The children have a safe place to swim," added the Minister.

Mayor Maggie Levavasseur noted the swimming pool program in Fort Providence was one of the most successful recreation programs in the community. She said the old pool "was very well used by our youth, the school's physical education program and local residents. So we all looked forward to the day when we would have a new pool building. Today we have a very nice facility."

A community reception was held at the Deh Gah School Gymnasium to commemorate the event.



Minister Michael McLeod at the opening of the new Fort Providence Aquatic Centre with Aquatics Instructor Charlene Bonnetrouge, Elder Margaret Vandell and Her Worship Mayor Maggie Levavasseur.

Fire Service Merit Awards Recognizing Excellence in the NWT

As a part of National Fire Prevention Week, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs announced the 2005 recipients of the Fire Service Merit Awards. The Fire Service Merit Awards were established in 2002 to recognize the important contribution of individual fire fighters and fire departments in the Northwest Territories.

Individual nominations are assessed by a committee of local and territorial fire service and community government officials, against a set of established criteria. The individual Fire Service Merit Award recipients for 2005 are:

- Randy Hilworth of the Hay River Fire Department; and
- Cyril Fyfe of the Yellowknife Fire Department, who died in the line of duty on March 21, 2005.

Mr. Hilworth has also been selected as the recipient of the 2005 Territorial Fire Service Merit Award.

The Department also received nominations for the Community Fire Service Merit Award. This award is presented annually to recognize the success of a community Fire Department in improving the overall fire protection system in the community over the past year.

The recipient of the 2005 Community Fire Service Merit Award is awarded to the Town of Hay River Fire Department.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Program and a nomination form for the 2006 Awards, please visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca. The deadline for 2006 nominations is June 30, 2006.



Changing to Serve you Better Reorganizing Emergency Management

As part of the Departmental re-organization that took effect on April 1, 2005, MACA changed how it fulfills its emergency management responsibilities. These changes are meant to better position MACA, and the GNWT as a whole, to respond to new developments in emergency management at the national level including the creation of the new federal emergency management department (Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada) and the passage of the National Security Policy.

MACA's emergency management changes will also enable the Department to better support community emergency preparedness and response activities through the new Community Emergency Management Section in the new Community Operations Division.

The Department's key emergency management officials are now called the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinator (TEMC) and the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC).

Eric Bussey is the TEMC and as a part of the changes, his office has been moved to the RCMP "G" Division headquarters. This co-location initiative with the RCMP's territorial emergency management official and a new PSEPC Regional Director position, will create an integrated Emergency Operations Centre to ensure that effective communications and operational coordination occurs during any territorial response to an emergency. This arrangement supports the effective integration of the GNWT's primary responsibility for managing the consequences of territorial emergencies with the RCMP's primary national security and public protection mandate.

Kevin Rowe is the CEMC, supported in carrying out the work of this Section by the Emergency Logistics Officer, Debbie Decker. The Community Emergency Management Section is primarily focused on supporting community government activities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Kevin and Debbie also have a functional link to the TEMC during activations of the Territorial Emergency Operations Committee (TERC) and the integrated Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). They each have specific responsibilities as a TERC member and each have assigned roles in the Territorial EOC.

These organizational changes allow MACA to actively participate in the national activities related to the changes in emergency management with the new threat environment of the 21st century, while at the same time being able to maintain a focus on providing support to communities.



TEMC Eric Bussey and
RCMP Emergency Planning Coordina-



CEMC Kevin Rowe and
Emergency Logistics Officer Debbie Decker.

Caring for our Clients

Striving to serve you better

With staff expressing a desire to continue to better serve clients, the Department held five client service workshops in all regions during September 2005.

Participants went through a variety of activities including individual and small groups and larger team functions. Topics include stellar service, seamless service, caring service and relationships with clients.

The workshops were intended to provide staff with the knowledge and skills needed to better serve our clients - community governments.

Client satisfaction was identified by staff as an area of interest through earlier strategic planning exercises and by our clients in a client satisfaction survey. Additional activities planned by the Department to further support our clients include:

- annual client satisfaction survey;
- more involvement by third parties in Department committees;
- increased staff training events; and
- coordinated visits to community governments.

World Town Planning Day November 8th, 2005

Each year, on November 8th, planning organizations, schools and communities celebrate World Town Planning Day. World Town Planning Day was established in 1949 as a way to recognize the role community planning plays in shaping our communities. Communities across Canada and around the world mark this day by hosting exhibits, design workshops and seminars.

Has your community taken the time to develop a community plan? If not or if it has been some time since your community has reviewed its existing plan, your community government may want to consider the benefits community planning has to offer.

Community planning provides community leaders with one of the best opportunities to obtain feedback from all members of the community. What types of recreational equipment do the youth in your community want? In which area should the new housing units be constructed? These are just a few of the questions that can be discussed and decided upon during the preparation of a community plan.

If you are interested in preparing a community plan or reviewing an existing plan and need assistance, please contact the MACA superintendent in your region.

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.



MACA's representation on Team NWT at the Canada Summer Games in Regina consisted of (L-R) Sharon Firth, Youth Programs Advisor, Gary Schauerte, Manager of Sport and Recreation Programs, Minister Michael McLeod, Ian Legaree, Director of Sport, Recreation and Youth and Deputy Minister Debbie DeLancey.



Terry Testart, Superintendent - North Slave, Steve Moss, Assistant Fire Marshal - North Slave, Gil Lafferty, Coordinator, Capital Planning and Works - South Slave, Elaine MacIntyre, Manager, Regional Financial Services - Inuvik Region and Dave Wilcox, Assistant Fire Marshal - Sahtu participate in the New Deal Workshop in Detah on September 23, 2005.



Gwen Mercredi sitting at her new desk in the South Slave Regional Office in Fort Smith.

Contact us at:

MACA Newsletter
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Suite 600, 5201-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9
email: amy_hacala@gov.nt.ca
www.maca.gov.nt.ca

What's Going On? MACA News & Events

Community Capacity Building Fund Available

Funding associated with the Community Capacity Building Fund is in place and available to all Northwest Territories communities. The Community Capacity Building Fund provides one-time funding of \$35 million, available from the federal government through the Northern Strategy, directly to communities to assist them with advancing their community capacity building priorities. For more information on the Community Capacity Building Fund and how your community can access it, please visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

World Town Planning Day - November 8

Tuesday, November 8, 2005 is World Town Planning Day. This day focuses on the progress of community planning in Canada. It highlights the valuable contributions that sound planning has made to the quality of the human environment and provides recognition of the ideals of community planning among planners and the general public. On November 8, track down your town planner and give them a pat on the back.

For more info:

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

MACA's Emergency Plan Being Prepared to Handle a Crisis

Just as community governments need to have an Emergency Plan, MACA needs to prepare to respond in case of events like fire, flooded buildings, or sudden staff illness. MACA's specific departmental role in responding to emergencies is outlined in the Northwest Territories' (NWT) Emergency Plan, issued under the authority of the Civil Emergency Measures Act. The Department's Emergency Plan provides standard operating procedures for MACA staff's participation in GNWT emergency operations.

As a part of fulfilling its emergency management responsibility, the Deputy Minister tasked senior staff to revise the department emergency plan and broaden the scope to better reflect the current work environment.

The revised plan includes procedures to guide MACA staff involved in responding to emergencies. It also helps staff address a crisis situation that may affect any individual staff member, group of staff, clients working with the Department, or visitors to any MACA office.

This is an expansion of the usual scope of a department emergency plan and it will provide all staff with better guidelines for handling threats, crisis and emergencies that may arise and had not been considered under the Department's previous emergency management system.

The Department emergency plan will be offered as a model for other departments and agencies with designated emergency responsibilities under the NWT Emergency Plan.

NWT New Deal Workshops Helping Staff to Support Communities

In September 2005, MACA held a series of workshops throughout the Northwest Territories on the New Deal for NWT Community Governments. The workshops were well attended by MACA staff from all regions of the NWT.

The purpose of the workshops was to:

1. Provide staff with information on the New Deal;
2. Obtain feedback on issues and ideas related to the New Deal and;
3. Discuss with staff how, or if, the New Deal will change job functions and relationship with clients.