

# MACA Newsletter

Summer 2002

## Fire Fighting Training Program - Uniquely Northern

Fifteen northerners recently received their certification as professional firefighters in a ceremony at the Legislative Assembly on June 18, 2002. The presentation was made by Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen. The fifteen individuals — including 12 community firefighters and three MACA employees — form the NWT Fire Fighting Core Group.

Members of the Core Group are now accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Some members were also trained as instructors and will now be able to deliver fire fighting training in communities across the NWT. All Core Group members will take their new skills back to fire departments in their own communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Alberta Fire Training School combined forces to create the training program, which was adapted to the North.

This is a significant accomplishment. The recipients and their colleagues at home in their local fire departments will now be better able to protect their communities because of this training. All of those who were honoured have sacrificed personal and family time during three years of hard work to get through the course. Minister Steen congratulated the Core Group, saying, "these people serve as role models for all of us."



**Minister Vince Steen, Core Group Members and Department Staff**

### MACA and the Alberta Fire Training School — Partners in Firefighter Training

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, through the School of Community Government, has partnered with The Alberta Fire Training School to deliver community-based training. The priority is to train all communities to a defensive level, meaning that local fire departments will be able to confidently get to the site, control the situation and put out the fire from the exterior. Future courses will train fire fighters to put out the fire from the interior.

Through this partnership, the department trains volunteer fire

fighters to nationally recognized standards. The training provided should ensure a core of certified fire fighters in community fire departments. Northern instructors certified through this process will also be able to conduct additional training throughout the NWT.

"We are pleased that we have graduated northern instructors who will be a huge asset in delivering the defensive module of training in smaller communities in the future," said Dan Schofield, Director of the School of Community Government.

### Core Group Members

- Jean Ducasse - Norman Wells
- Lee Stroman - formerly of Fort Good Hope
- David Anderson - Tuktoyaktuk
- Julie Miller - Inuvik
- Al Harris - Fort Liard
- Bill Reimer - Fort Smith
- Stephen Moss - Yellowknife
- Dennis MacAskill - Yellowknife
- Kellie Mitchell - Hay River
- Randy Hilworth - Hay River
- Al Kuyten - Norman Wells
- Pat Rowe - Fort Simpson
- Bernie Minute - Fort Smith
- Jamie LeBlanc - Rae/Edzo
- Al German - Inuvik



## A Message from the Deputy Minister

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to introduce myself to MACA employees and stakeholders, and tell you how pleased I am to be joining the Department.

I have lived in the NWT for more than 25 years. I came north to work for the Dene Nation and also spent time in the eastern Arctic working with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. I worked with the Community of Fort Good Hope for several years, and was fortunate enough to live in bush camps for three trapping seasons. I joined the Government of the NWT 15 years ago, and have lived in Yellowknife since that time. Before joining MACA, I was an

Associate Deputy Minister in the Department of Health and Social Services.

This is an exciting time to be working in MACA. Challenges like the implementation of self-government arrangements, and the imminent pressures of oil and gas development, provide us with an opportunity for new and innovative approaches. I am looking forward to traveling to the regions, meeting all of you, and working together to achieve our departmental goals.

*Deputy Minister Debbie DeLancey joined the department on July 8, 2002.*

## Land Claim & Self Government Workshop Held

The Community Governance Division and the School of Community Government have developed a workshop for employees who want to increase their awareness of the NWT land claims and self-government negotiation processes.

The workshop covers:

- Foundation of land claims in the NWT;
- Policies and legislation that support claims;
- Different types of negotiations processes;
- Settled and unsettled negotiations processes in the NWT;
- Land claim process;
- Self-government process; and
- Role of the GNWT and MACA during and following claim processes.

Twenty-eight participants from four regional offices and a variety of headquarters divisions attended a workshop in Yellowknife recently. The course instructor was Barry Hockstein, an experienced northerner who previously developed and delivered the Land Claims Issues Awareness course for Lands Officers.

Mark Warren, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, provided an overview of the negotiations processes from the perspective of the GNWT. Dave Murray, the former MACA Deputy Minister, gave an over-

view of the role of the department in negotiations and implementation processes and the potential role and structure of the department following settlement of all claims.

Participants had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss what the NWT might be like after settling land claims. One participant said the workshop was worthwhile, "coming in with little information on land claims and self government, I left with an incredible awareness of the issues and a better understanding of our future and my role in it."

MACA employees or community government employees or officials who would like to attend a similar workshop may contact their Regional Superintendent or HQ Director.

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### For more information:

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

### Visit us on the web at:

[www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca)