


MACA Christmas 2003
Newsletter

Minister Zoe's Christmas Message

As the new Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all MACA employees and your families a Merry Christmas and the very best of the holiday season.

I know that the past year has been one of challenges and accomplishments for everyone in MACA, and I want to thank you for your hard work and commitment. As a former Senior Administrative Officer for the Hamlet of Rae-Edzo and Executive Director of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, I am well aware of the issues facing the Department and the importance of MACA's contributions to the development of northern communities.

Again, I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season, and I look forward to working with you in the New Year. With your dedication and support, I know that together we can truly make a difference in the lives of all Northerners!

Sincerely,

Hon. Henry Zoe



Hon. Glenna F. Hansen, Commissioner of the NWT, and Hon. Henry Zoe, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.



Julie Vaillancourt, DM Debbie DeLancey, Jenn Sharman and Sarah Joy Kallos at the MACA Staff Christmas party. Photo by Sherry Wiseman.

Deputy Minister's Christmas Message

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone and although 2003 seems to have passed far too quickly, it certainly was a busy and productive year for all of us here at MACA!

Noteworthy among our many accomplishments in 2003 was the finalization and passing of the *Municipal Statutes Replacement Act*, the roll out of the Main Street Chip Seal program and the Community Initiatives program, and finalization of several policies including Community Government Funding Policy, Community Land Development Policy and Water Licence Contribution Policy. Our list of achievements also included approval

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MACA Achievers in 2003!

MACA staff were achievers both in and out of the office in 2003! Some of the MACA newsmakers in the past year were Sharon Firth, Dan Schofield, Mike Kalnay, Roslyn Smith and Penny Johnson – just to name a few!

Sharon Firth launched her autobiographical video “Northern Gold: The Sharon Anne Firth Story” to a crowd of nearly 150 people in the Legislative Assembly on October 8, 2003. Sharon will use the 15-minute video, which tells of the dedication and determination that it took to become a four-time Olympian, to inspire young people throughout the NWT.



Two-month old Jace Menton, son of Jonathon and Holly Menton, with Santa at the MACA children's Christmas party. Thanks to Mike Kalnay for inviting Santa to the party! Photo by Sherry Wiseman

DAI's Christmas Message

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of training guidelines and commencement of the departmental staff training initiative.

In 2003, we also made great progress on our strategic planning initiative which was launched in response to concerns expressed by staff about a lack of shared vision and the corporate interest in affirming our common direction. By all accounts, the strategic planning sessions have proved to be a successful opportunity for regional and headquarters staff to meet, share views and work together to define a common vision for MACA.

On the lighter side, 2003 also saw the debut issue of the MACA Yearbook which is being distributed this week. We owe a big thanks to summer student and NWT athlete par excellence Sarah Daitch for spearheading this project along with the members of her Team MACA in the South Slave Region office in Fort Smith.

I wish everyone the very best of the holiday season and I look forward to working with you again in 2004 – which promises to be yet another busy and exciting year!

Merry Christmas!

Debbie DeLancey

Dan Schofield's work as a Novice/Atom hockey coach earned him a nomination for a new national recognition program that is being sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada, the Hockey Hall of Fame and hockey commentator Ron MacLean. A quote in the *Yellowknifer* on November 7 described Dan's commitment: "You see a lot of team family and hockey family with Dan. He treats them like his own. All the parents who have kids on the team feel the same, he doesn't get the recognition he deserves." (*Award winners will be announced in 2004.*)

Roslyn Smith was one of five Yellowknifers who competed in the 24th annual Royal Victoria Marathon in October 2003. Despite terrible weather that forced some runners to the sidelines with hypothermia, Roslyn placed third overall in her division with a time of 3:35:59 for an average of 8:14 minutes per mile!

Mike Kalnay was honoured with the Premier's Award for Excellence for his efforts as part of the Tlicho Land Claim Team. Mike received his award on October 1, 2003 from former Premier Stephen Kakfwi in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

Penny Johnson was once again selected as Yellowknife's regional coordinator for the 2004 Arctic Winter Games in Alberta. It's a tough job that involves overseeing AWG trials in curling, bantam hockey, female hockey, speed skating, gymnastics, snowboarding, male and female volleyball and junior female soccer. Penny told the *Yellowknifer* that she's looking forward to the challenges involved and that "It should be fun".

Other MACA staff accomplishments included Tom Beard and Robert Stone both passing milestones in their pursuit of accounting designations.

MACA staff also deserve congratulations for group efforts such as raising funds to help save the lives of dozens of dogs at the SPCA shelter in Yellowknife, and for coming to the aid of a family in need through the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program.

MACA staffers are encouraged to pass along any and all good news about honours and accomplishments – your own or those of your colleagues – so that we can share the good news with everyone else in the Department! Send them to brad_heath@gov.nt.ca.

**Sharon Firth
during the launch
of her video in the
Great Hall of the
NWT Legislative
Assembly in
October 2003!**



Merry Christmas
from the staff of
MACA's Inuvik
Regional Office!



Sarah Taggart discusses presents with Santa while below the MACA choir sings its rendition of the 12 Days of MACA!



Coming in the New Year...

One of the initiatives MACA will be undertaking in the New Year is the roll out and continued implementation of the MACA Communications Strategy.

The strategy was developed by Tait Communications and Consulting for MACA earlier this year. It is the end result of thorough consultation with MACA employees and outside stakeholders – all of whom identified communications as a priority and as a means of strengthening our partnerships with communities.

One of the many recommendations in the communications strategy is the establishment of a MACA communications committee with representation from each division and region. The strategy also calls for the revitalization of the MACA website, so we've combined these two recommendations and kick started the process by forming a website committee that is currently updating the overviews found on the MACA website.

Brad Heath, our Communications/Policy Advisory, is chairing the website committee and he hopes to have the new text on the website in the first weeks of January. An RFP will also go out early in the new year for a contractor to work with the website committee to completely revamp the MACA website based upon website guidelines currently being developed for all GNWT departments.

The next step in the process is an introductory presentation on the communication strategy to all divisions and regions (a.k.a. a "roll out" of the strategy). Brad assures us that this something to look forward to and nowhere near as painful as a root canal! See you in the New Year!