

# The Transporter



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



## WORKING Together

### Brushing Up on Driving Skills

The last week of May and the first half of June saw a number of DOT employees take to the road to brush up on their driving skills. This year, a backing course was added to the program.

The training is facilitated by Karen Decker-Brien, Workplace Safety Program Coordinator, Corporate Services, and runs periodically throughout the year. Driving instructors from the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) deliver the training in a number of NWT communities.

This set of training was offered as a refresher course for DOT employees. This means that the participants have already completed all the major components of the initial training courses and are continuing to keep their skills up to speed.

In Yellowknife, from May 23 to June 2,

drivers worked on collision avoidance, and backing up safely, with 32 employees participating, including the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister. June 5 - 9 was spent in Hay River, where 13 employees did training, June 12 - 13 was spent in Fort Smith, where six people participated, and the remainder of the training took place in Fort Providence from June 14 - 15, where three employees learned how to back safely.

"This was another successful refresher course with very good participation from DOT," says Decker-Brien.

It was also the tenth year that Marg Der Fong, driving instructor from AMA, has been teaching the course in the NWT. She was presented with a DOT shirt in recognition of her services.



Marg Der Fong, AMA, does a vehicle check with Robert Larson from Fort Providence Highway Maintenance Camp before setting out to do some in-vehicle training.

### DOT Math and Science Awards

This year's Math and Science Award Program is now completed. This program, sponsored by DOT, recognizes students in Grades 7, 8 and 9 who have attained a high level of achievement in Math and Science.

The purpose of these awards is to encourage students to excel in Math and Science and to prepare them for high school and assist in achieving future career goals.

Sixty students from 24 schools across the Northwest Territories are recipients of the Math and Science awards. First-year winners receive a t-shirt, a certificate, and their name on a plaque. Second-year winners receive all of the above, plus a book, and third-year winners receive the same as second years, as well as a calculator.

Melanie Pond, Corporate Services, Yellowknife, coordinated the awards with all the schools. Her hard work ensured another successful year for this program.



Michel Lafrance, already hard at work in his new office in Fort Simpson

### Fort Simpson Gets a New Regional Superintendent

From Airport Manager to Regional Superintendent, Michel Lafrance is a man on the move.

Michel has, until recently, been Yellowknife Airport Manager, and is now settling into his new position as Regional Superintendent for the Fort Simpson Region. The new position means he'll be spending a lot of time visiting communities in the area and getting to know a different landscape, not to mention a few different aspects of

transportation.

"Life is all about adapting," says Michel, and he adds that he is looking forward to the challenge of a "multi-modal" environment, as he now takes on highways and marine operations, in addition to his experience with airports.

An avid canoer and outdoorsman, Michel is settling quite happily into Fort Simpson and even has a house overlooking the Liard River.

"Being so close to rivers," he says, "that's a bonus!"

### 'Paving the Way: a Celebration of Completion'

There's going to be a big party August 12 and everyone's invited. The event, 12 noon to 4 p.m., will celebrate the long-awaited completion of the highway that stretches from the NWT-Alberta border to Hay River and Yellowknife. Since that work at the border started 23 years ago, the Department of Transportation has invested over \$200 million to widen, straighten and pave the vital transportation link.

The public festivities, complete with a free barbecue, entertainment, prizes and give-aways, children's activities, an historical display and other features, will take place at an off-road site on Highway 3 about 20 kilometres from Yellowknife.

"This is an historic occasion of national significance," says Deputy Minister Russell Neudorf. "We're celebrating not only the completion of a major part of our territorial highway system and the last unpaved portion of the core National Highway System, we're celebrating all the hard work of Department employees to make this happen, from the Planners that sought the money, to the engineers that designed the road, to the heavy equipment operators that maintain it."

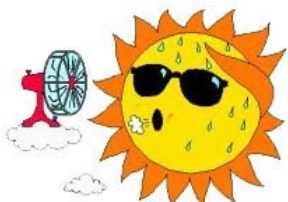


## SAFETY Tip

Safety Tip is brought to you by Occupational Health & Safety

### Cool tips for beating the heat

As much as we enjoy them, hot days can be dangerous if you're not protecting yourself from the sun's heat. Follow these tips to stay cool:



- When possible, schedule outdoor work for the early morning or late afternoon.
- Drink lots of water and avoid caffeine, as it dehydrates the body.
- Wear loose fitting, light coloured clothing. Natural fibres, like cotton, are best.
- Eat lighter foods like salads and fruits as heavy meals

produce more heat as you digest.

- Wear a light coloured hat to keep your brain cool and your head clear.
- Use sunscreen containing PABA (Para-Aminobenzoic Acid) with SPF 15 or greater to protect your skin from ultra-violet rays. Reapply throughout the day, as sunscreen becomes diluted by sweat.



## New NWT Driver's Licences and GICs Start Rolling Out

After 15 months of planning, the Department of Transportation began issuing its new Driver's Licence and General Identification Card (GIC) on June 29 in Yellowknife before rolling the program out across the territory in July.

At a brief ceremony at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Issuing Office, NWT Commissioner Tony Whitford went through the steps to renew his Driver's Licence to officially inaugurate the new program and launch the department's plan to convert all 16 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Offices across the territory to the new system by about July 19.

Behchoko and Inuvik, both scheduled for July



*Jean Dickau, Issuing Officer, North Slave, takes a photo for a new Driver's Licence*

10, were next on the list of communities where the new system will be introduced. The schedule for when the new, more secure documents will be available at the other issuing offices is available on the department's website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca), along with the list of issuing offices, or from Road Licensing and Safety Division at 873-7406.

The new Driver's Licence and GIC, besides being more durable, are designed with security features that protect against tampering and identity fraud and also make them more acceptable as travel documents. The current Driver's Licence and GIC had to be replaced because they don't meet new security standards for those types of documents that were adopted across North America following the events of September 11, 2001.


Drivers will notice one significant difference in the process to apply for or renew a new driver's licence through the new system. After identification requirements are satisfied, they will be issued a Temporary Driver's Licence and receive a final licence by mail two to four weeks later. There is no temporary GIC.

Terms for a Driver's Licence have also changed and are now available for one, three or five years. The term for a GIC remains unchanged at five years. Anyone who wants to



*NWT Commissioner Tony Whitford with his new Temporary Driver's Licence.*

apply for or renew a Driver's Licence or GIC must produce three documents: a birth certificate, a photo ID and proof of residency. A complete list of identification requirements, along with general information about the program and details on when and where the new documents will be available, is on the department website.

"The outstanding efforts of the team from Road Licensing and Safety made this successful launch possible," said Russell Neudorf, Deputy Minister, "They've worked hard to make it happen and their dedication is appreciated." 

## CELEBRATING *Us*

### DM's Dues

This is a new section that will become a regular feature of *The Transporter*. In each issue, Deputy Minister Russell Neudorf will recognize DOT employees for their hard work and contributions to the department.



*Earl Evans (left), Supervisor of Highway Operations in Fort Smith, presents a long service award to Gordon Pischer, Highway Equipment Operator at the Fort Smith site. Six long service awards were handed out in Fort Smith on June 8:*

- Louis Mercredi - 10 years*
- John Loutit - 10 years*
- Bill Hval - 15 years*
- Freda Shumann - 15 years*
- Gordon Pischer - 25 years*
- Earl Evans - 30 years*



Regional Superintendent Michael Conway and his North Slave staff, in partnership with the Mine Training Society, recently co-organized a one-week training program on the Dettah access road. Students learned about surveying and road construction. This is an excellent example of partnering.

The Airports Division, in association with the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) Review Secretariat, hosted a one-day public consultation session on airport security. Marvin Zaozirny, Director, Airports, and his staff organized the event and presented the Department of Transportation's perspective on the subject. The presentation and follow-up letter were very comprehensive in providing the Department's view on this important subject.

Last, but not least, DOT would like to acknowledge the excellent work by all Highway Operation personnel during this rainy spring to get the NWT highway system back into shape for the summer driving season. This work is fundamentally important to the Department to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

The ongoing efforts of these and all other Department employees are appreciated.

Russell Neudorf,  
Deputy Minister



*A DOT Barbecue was held for Yellowknife staff in the Lahm Ridge Tower parking lot on June 23.*



### Upcoming Events in YK:

**July 22**  
Yellowknife International Airshow

**August 12**  
Highway Completion Celebration

Every payday  
50/50 Draw!

## HUMAN RESOURCE *Updates*

### Farewell

**Planning & Policy** - Michael Brown  
**YK Airport** - Michel Lafrance, Philip Gibson  
**Airports** - Louise Boettger  
**Maternity/Parental leave** - (RL&S) Stephanie Lewis, Deanna Tupik, (Policy & Planning) Jayleen Robertson

### Welcome

**Corporate Services** - Robin Sutherland  
**RL&S** - Alayna Krutko, Nerys Connel, Jackie Brien  
**Summer Students** - Samantha Digness, Christian Dolphus, Chris Dunne, Maia England, Donna Evans, Michelle Larocque, Grant White  
**Fort Simpson** - Michel Lafrance

Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact: **Adrienne Cartwright**, Communications Coordinator, DOT: [adrienne\\_cartwright@gov.nt.ca](mailto:adrienne_cartwright@gov.nt.ca), Tel: (867) 873-7956 Fax: (867) 873-0363



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