

The Transporter

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



TRANSPORTATION *in Motion*



Premier Joseph Handley (left) poses with members of the STRID team from the Road Licensing and Safety Division (from left), Michael Conway, Stephen Murphy, Edith Johnston-Ryder, Kelley Merrilees-Keppel, Rob Thom and Blair Barbour, after presenting the group with a Premier's Award of Excellence in June. Missing is Gary Walsh, former director of the division.

STRID team receives Premier's Award of Excellence

The team from Road Licensing and Safety Division, past and present, that developed and implemented the department's Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving recently received recognition for its work in the form of a Premier's Award of Excellence.

The awards are presented annually to public service employees in the Northwest Territories who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and dedication in their work. Criteria include finding unique and creative solutions that improve government-wide systems or processes, exceptional performance on a continuing basis and outstanding commitment to complex projects or ongoing activities.

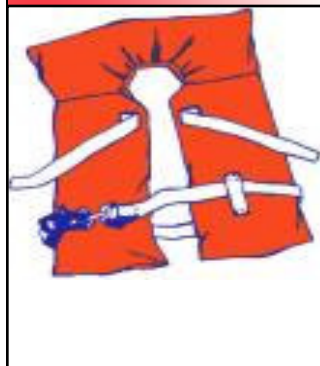


Team members Gary Walsh, Michael Conway, Blair Barbour, Edith Johnston-Ryder, Stephen Murphy, Kelley Merrilees-Keppel and Rob Thom were honoured for their "demonstrated excellence, commitment and innovation". The nomination pointed to the group's success in developing amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act and associated procedures that are the framework for STRID. The communications plan used to create public awareness and understanding of STRID was also noted. The plan included a mail-out to every NWT household, posters, buttons and other promotional material, as well as a message-rich rap song created by Yellowknife artist Aaron Hernandez. A music video created around the song aired as a public service announcement on CBC North and has generated interest in other Canadian jurisdictions who share a desire to raise awareness with young drivers about the consequences of drinking and driving.

"The STRID team is truly deserving of this prestigious award," said Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf. "The work done by this group of dedicated employees over several years will help to make our roads safer for everyone who uses them."

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod and Cst. Sheldon Robb, Hay River RCMP Traffic Services, stand before a large roadside sign on the outskirts of Hay River that reminds drivers that the NWT has new rules against impaired driving. The minister recently unveiled this first of 13 signs that will be erected throughout the territory as part of the department's broad Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving.

SAFETY *Tip*



Northern summers are unmistakably beautiful. When the ice melts from the lakes northerners take advantage of any opportunity to jump into a boat, enjoy the long hours of sunshine and great fishing.

This summer please make your boating experiences safe for you and your family by following safety rules below:

- Always wear your life jacket
- Never consume alcohol before or during your boat trip
- Let a friend know your plans and when you and your family should return home
- Bring some food and survival gear because you never know what might happen

"Find something you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life."
- Harvey Mackay



WORKING Together



Left to right: Jonathan Bembridge, Dawn Hansen, Sheldon Lundrigan, Transportation Minister Michael McLeod, Lanita Thrasher, Tom Ruth, president of Canadian North, Alisa Blake, William Blauel, Alaina Botham and Lorraine Ivey, representing NATA.

Aviation Career Development Program reaches \$200,000 milestone

The Aviation Career Development Program reached \$200,000 in total bursaries when eight more recipients were recognized at the 2005 presentation ceremonies held in Yellowknife in June.

The program achieved that milestone in its fifth year since it was established by the Department of Transportation with co-funding from Canadian North and support from the Northern Air Transport Association, umbrella organization for northern airlines. The ACDP was set up to encourage and assist northern students to pursue careers in the aviation industry.

This year's recipients - four women and four men - each receive \$5,000 to put towards their studies in various areas of aviation. The selection committee considered 31 applicants, most ever, and made its decisions on the basis of the candidates' scholastic history, career plan, an essay explaining their interest in a career

in the aviation industry and letters of recommendation.

Chosen were: Dawn Hansen and Paul Sullivan, both of Inuvik; Alisa Blake of Fort McPherson; Lanita Thrasher of Paulatuk; and Jonathan Bembridge, William Blauel, Sheldon Lundrigan and Alaina Botham, all of Yellowknife.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod, Tom Ruth, president of Canadian North, and Lorraine Ivey, representing NATA, participated in the presentation ceremonies.

"Demand for people with the specialized skills and training needed in the aviation field will only increase as the industry responds to opportunities created by more tourism and resource development, especially the construction of the Mackenzie Gas Project," Mr. McLeod said in his remarks. "For all those reasons, I believe the North is an ideal place for a student to get a good job in aviation when they've completed their schooling." "employs over 2,000 people."

GDL start date drives interest

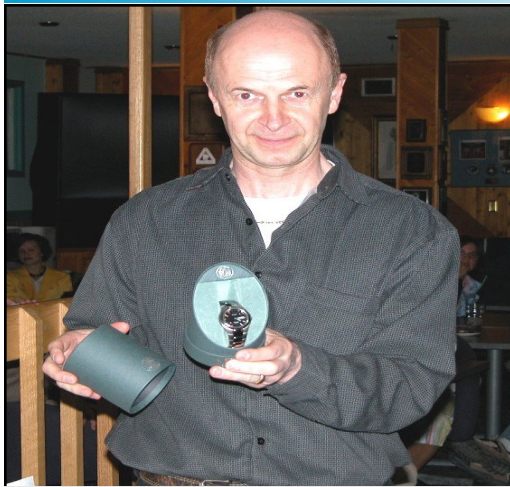
Bob Powless, North Slave Driver Examiner, prepares two aspiring drivers for their driver examinations during a visit to service clients in the Tli Cho community of Rae-Edzo recently. Bob and Bobbi-Jo Walsh, Licensing and Administration Assistant in the North Slave Regional Office, tested 30 candidates during the one-day visit. Because so many people wanted to write driver exams, the testing was moved from the Band Office to the Rae Sportsplex. Demand for driver examinations and driving tests has been brisk in advance of the August 1 implementation date for the Graduated Drivers Licensing Program that will bring in new rules for new drivers.



Yellowknife Airport Firefighters aid city department

Yellowknife Airport firefighters came to the aid of their Yellowknife city colleagues to extinguish a stubborn fire at Yellowknife dump on June 4. The airport crew responded with "Red 4", a 5,500-litre crash and rescue truck. During the two and one-half hours airport firefighters were at the fire scene, they put 12 loads of water on the blaze, equal to 66,000 litres.

CELEBRATING Us



Earle Gaetz displays one of the gifts he received at a retirement function in his honour in June. Earle, Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator, spent 35 years with the department.

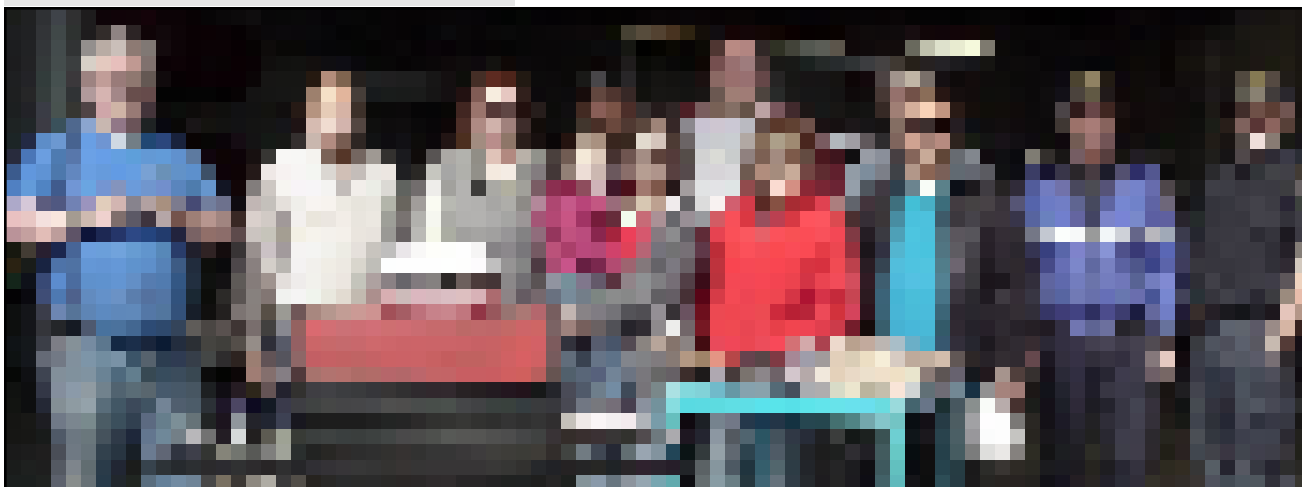
Retirement in Thailand for Earle Gaetz

Earle Gaetz bid farewell to colleagues and friends in June as he ended a 35-year career with the GNWT and headed off to retirement in Bangkok, Thailand in July.

Earle, the department's Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator, began his public service career with what was then the Department of Public Works and Highways in 1970. Since then, he's held many positions, among them Deputy Highway Transport Inspector, Chief Highway Transport Inspector and Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

In recent years, Earle was best known within the department for helping to develop and implement the employee driving training program.

Earle grew up in Hay River and went to high school in Hay River and Jasper, Alberta. He went on to obtain a diploma in Business Administration.



Inuvik Team Appreciation Event

Inuvik Region employees recently gathered for a barbecue for a staff appreciation event

From left: Alex White, Gurdev Jagpal, Karen King, Charleigh Blake, Hank Rogers, Carol Maring, Adam Binder, Bernice Furlong, Bruce Krutko, Arvind Vashishtha, Calvin Adams and Harris Beaulieu

HUMAN RESOURCE Updates

Welcome...

Road Licensing and Safety (Yellowknife)
Cindy Camsell,
Administrative Assistant

Highways (Yellowknife)
Raymond Swain
Michael Poitras
Sean Fradsham

Highways (Yellowknife)

Raymond Swain
Michael Poitras
Sean Fradsham

Highways (Edzo)

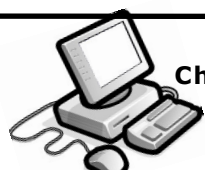
Francis Thomas
Bobby Wanazah
Daniel Zoe

Highways (Edzo)

Francis Thomas
Bobby Wanazah
Daniel Zoe

Transfer Regional Office

North Slave- Mike Borden from Highways



Check out *The Transporter* at:
www.dot.gov.nt.ca

Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact:

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I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with catcher's mitts on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

- Maya Angelou

