

The Transporter



ISSUE 69 - October 2007
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



BUILDING *New Opportunities*

NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

The new Minister of Transportation is Norman Yakeleya. Minister Yakeleya was first elected as the MLA for Sahtu in December 2003. During the 15th Assembly, Minister Yakeleya served as Caucus Chair, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, and a Member of the Striking Committee and the Board of Management. Minister Yakeleya also served as a Member of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight (AOC) and on the Joint Pipeline Planning Committee. In October 2007 he was acclaimed and chosen by his colleagues to serve in Cabinet. Premier Roland appointed him Minister responsible for Transportation, Seniors, and the NWT Power Corporation.



Minister Yakeleya

Minister Yakeleya, a Sahtu Dene, was born in Yellowknife and has lived in Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Tulita. He served the Tulita Dene Band, first as band councillor and then as Chief. He also served as Chair of the Sahtu Tribal Council.

Minister Yakeleya has served as a volunteer with wellness agencies, the national and territorial residential schools healing programs, and youth programs. He enjoys reading, Dene drumming, expanding his traditional skills, and developing cultural knowledge and skills.

Minister Yakeleya and his wife Cheryl have a son, Chase, three children from a previous marriage, Jonathan, Jamie, and Joy, and two adopted children, Erica and Whitney.

Welcome to the department, Minister Yakeleya! Welcome also to the Minister's Executive Assistant, Pietro deBastiani, and his Executive Secretary, Heather Bibby.

HIGHWAY 4 REALIGNMENT

The Department's plans to improve the Ingraham Trail near the Giant Mine site are again moving forward. Three corridors have been identified and we are currently in the process of determining which corridor will be the best option for improving the highway. The final corridor decision will be based on the results of public and stakeholder consultations, environmental studies, and engineer assessments.

There will be a public consultation in Yellowknife on **November 22nd at 7 P.M. at Northern United Place**. Those unable to attend can submit their feedback to: ingrahamtrail@gov.nt.ca.

For further info: www.dot.gov.nt.ca.



SAFETY TIP *Winter Driving*

Here are a few tips for safe winter driving:

- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights before driving;
- Leave earlier to give yourself plenty of time;
- Approach an intersection with care, especially if it is icy;
- Accelerate and decelerate gradually;
- Wear your seat belt;
- Tell someone at your destination when you expect to arrive;
- Slow down, and drive according to conditions;
- Check local weather and road conditions before leaving;
- Watch for bison and other wildlife on the road.

FORT SIMPSON EOC DRILL

On Thursday, September 13, at mid-morning, the community of Fort Simpson began hearing the sounds of sirens as police, fire, and ambulance raced to the airport. This was not, however, a response to lives in peril, but rather a test of the community's emergency management practices.

Each year, DoT collaborates with Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) to put on an emergency exercise involving an aircraft mishap in one of the six largest communities. With the help of community volunteers, including fire, ambulance, and health care personnel, the Fort Simpson exercise tested the response to a scenario involving a plane collision and resulting forest fire which threatened homes and lives. Students from the Thomas Simpson Secondary School served as the crash "victims".



The Emergency Operations Centre in Fort Simpson

In any emergency exercise, there are lessons learned which are recorded, analyzed, and dealt with. This one was no different. Planners learned there was a need for better maps, better communications, and better media relations.

They also learned, however, that the community's resources can be mobilized quickly and professionally. They learned that the emergency measures system is effective in drawing on the resources of agencies outside the community. And they learned that their leadership has the capacity to take appropriate action and make the right decisions in a crisis.

DoT acknowledges and thanks all those who took part.

THANK YOU FROM UNITED AIRLINES

On September 11th, 2001, a United Airlines Boeing 777 was diverted to the Yellowknife airport following the tragic events in New York City and Washington.

Airport staff and the community of Yellowknife rallied together to meet the needs of the plane's passengers and crew.



This past September 11, on the sixth anniversary of their plane's landing, United Airlines called our airport staff to thank them for their generosity and helpfulness on that day. Special thanks again to all those who took part.

It's also important to always have the following winter equipment:

- Properly inflated winter tires and a well-maintained vehicle;
- A shovel and container of sand;
- Warm clothing and footwear;
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags for each passenger;
- A tow rope and jumper cables;
- Candles, waterproof matches, and a first aid kit;
- Flares and a flashlight with fresh batteries;
- Energy foods (fruit, nuts, and low salt snacks);
- Enough drinking water for each passenger.