

## Nahendeh Gondi News of Our Land



# WELCOME to our readers

The distribution of this edition of our newsletter closely follows the appointment of two executive directors. Zabey Nevitt is the new Executive Director of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and Mark Cliffe-Phillips is the new Executive Director of the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board.

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is composed of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, and the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board. The MVLWB convenes an ad hoc Section 103 Panel to review applications for work in areas in which land claims have not been settled and an ad hoc Transboundary Panel for applications whose effects overlap regional boundaries.

In this edition of Nahendi Gondi, we feature the WLWB, the authority for land use permitting and water licensing in the Wek'èezhì Management Area.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>WLWB Employee Interview</b> MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS	2
<b>Wek'èezhì Management Area</b> Communities	4
<b>MVLWB:</b> Activities	5 & 6
<b>Public hearings</b>	7
<b>MVLWB:</b> Welcome and Farewell	8



### APPOINTMENT: ZABEY NEVITT, Executive Director Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

The Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water (MVLWB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Zabey Nevitt as the Executive Director of the MVLWB. Mr. Nevitt was the Executive Director of the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board since its creation in 2005. Zabey has a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and has worked for a number of years in northern communities where his focus has been Aboriginal governance and environmental management and regulation.

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act established the MVLWB in 1998. The Act authorizes the Board to regulate the use of land and water and the deposit of waste in the Mackenzie Valley through the issuance of land use permits and water licences.

All Board Members and staff welcome Zabey to the MVLWB and look forward to working with him in the coming year.

*Willard Hagen, Chair/CEO  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board*

# Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

## Background

The Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) regulates the use of land and water and the deposit of waste throughout the area. The Board provides for the conservation, development, and utilization of land and water resources to provide the optimum benefit for all Canadians and, in particular, for residents of Wek'èezhì.

In 2005, the Tłìchq̓ people of the Northwest Territories signed the Tłìchq̓ Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The agreement describes the land, resources, and self-government rights to the Tłìchq̓ people. With the signing of the agreement, the WLWB was created, becoming a legally recognized management authority for the area known as Wek'èezhì. (See map.)

The Board's members are appointed by the federal and the Tłìchq̓ governments. The Board is a decision-making authority whose decisions are legally binding on both government and for developers applying for project authorizations. The main office is located in the community of Wekweetì.



You will find more information at the WLWB website:  
[www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)

## Interview With Mark Cliffe-Phillips

Mark talks about his role as a Regulatory Specialist; he was recently appointed Executive Director of the WLWB.

*As Chair of the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips. Mr. Cliffe-Phillips has served as a Regulatory Specialist with the WLWB since 2007 and began his role as Executive Director on January 25, 2010.*

*All Board Members and staff of the WLWB welcome Mark to his new position as Executive Director and look forward to working with him.*

*Violet Camsell-Blondin, Chair  
Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board*

Mark's educational background is in physical geography and natural resource sciences. He has worked for the Sahtu Land and Water Board and the Sahtu Educational Council/GNWT-RWED on the Turton Lake Trapping School Program. His employment with the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board started in 2007

**Nahendi Gondi:** *Describe your job for us.*

**Mark Cliffe-Phillips:** My primary tasks involve the process of applications for water licences and land use permits, from when we first receive the application through to the issuance, plus the administration of the file after issuance. Each file has a technical component, such as lab reports and engineering drawings, and a regulatory aspect. I deal more with the regulatory side while the other staff review the technical aspects.

**NG:** *Tell us more about the regulatory aspect.*



**MC-P:** It's how the application fits within the legislation, policies, and board practices. My job is to make sure that everything within a certain file is meeting the regulatory requirements.

**NG:** *This sounds similar to what happens in the Gwich'in and Sahtu regions.*

**MC-P:** We are a little different because of the Tłı̄chǫ Agreement. The Tłı̄chǫ have self government powers, which allows them to make laws relating to land use. A lot of our regulatory framework has to meld with these laws and with the Tłı̄chǫ Agreement; for example, how we handle consultation and land access may differ from what happens in the other regions.

**NG:** *Your office does not work in isolation. What is your interaction with other agencies?*

**MC-P:** We are a member of the Wek'èezhìi Forum. Wek'èezhìi forum is made up of the Tłı̄chǫ Lands Protection Department, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, and the WLWB. It was formed to improve communication and develop programs between the resource management organizations within the Wek'èezhìi. One project we have de-

veloped is the Marion Lake Watershed Management Program. The watershed encompasses the majority of the Tłı̄chǫ lands and some areas outside that flow through the Tłı̄chǫ and the program sets a framework for monitoring. One big advantage is that agencies who partner with us can gain access to additional funding or monitoring data.

**NG:** *Why was it necessary to start the program?*

**MC-P:** Monitoring of water, caribou, forests, or fish has never had an overall regional game plan, and this program coordinates the monitoring that goes on within the watershed. And there has been a lack of community involvement; studies are going on, but most of the information does not come back to the people. One thing we can do is to coordinate the researchers going into the communities to present their findings; or, we could report the findings to the communities as part of our community visits.

**NG:** *How do you plan to involve the communities?*

**MC-P:** One way is to ask what they think is missing in terms of the monitoring they need. We want to fill those needs by partnering with universities or federal agencies that could do the monitoring or by setting up community-based monitoring with technical assistance from outside agencies.

**NG:** *How will the WLWB assist in this process?*

**MC-P:** To increase community capacity what we want to do is to train Roberta Judas, our technician in Wekweeti, in the appropriate sampling techniques. Through her, we could help build up a pool of trained people within a community and also help to organize lab support. This is important because everything has always been downloaded onto the communities and we want to find support options so the community will not be left on its own.

**NG:** *How will members of the WLWB and others in the Forum benefit from the monitoring program?*

**MC-P:** We needed a way to come up with reliable information upon which we could make management decisions. Too often, monitoring of water quality does not occur at the levels that we would like to see. The community just wants to know if their water is safe to drink, whereas we want the data for other purposes, such as cumulative effect monitoring.

**NG:** *Thank you Mark.*

# Wek'èezhì Management Area



Map prepared by A. Barker, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, GNWT

## Communities of the Wek'èezhì Management Area

The total population is nearly 3,000 people who reside principally in four communities: Gamètì, Wekweètì, Whatì, and Behchokò. Some families have migrated to Yellowknife to find employment and to be close to relatives.

**Language:** Tłìchọ

**Behchokò** (comprised of the formerly twin communities of Rae and Edzo)

**Population:** 2,016 (2007 census)

**Location:** Rae is on the southeast shore of Marian Lake. Edzo is bound on the east side by the West Channel flowing between Marian and Great Slave lakes.

The communities are approximately 110 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife on the Mackenzie Highway.

The Dogrib have lived in the area for centuries. Permanent housing arrived in the 1940s and medical care was available from Yellowknife following World War II. Electricity was introduced in 1959 and an access road to the highway was built in 1960. Behchokò is the largest Dene community in the NWT.

**Gamètì** (formerly Rae Lake)

**Population:** 307 (2007 census)

**Location:** 177 air kilometres northwest of Yellowknife. It is an important link in the chain of lakes which connects Great Slave Lake to Great Bear Lake. The shore of Gamètì was once used by the Tłìchọ as a hunting camp and it wasn't until the 1970s that it became a permanent settlement with the construction of a community hall, school, store, homes, and an airstrip.

**Wekweètì** (formerly Snare Lake)

**Population:** 143 (2007 census)

**Location:** 195 air kilometres north of Yellowknife. Wekweètì was not a permanent community until 1962, and prior to that it was an outpost hunting camp.

**Whatì** (formerly Lac LaMartre)

**Population:** 460 (2006 census)

**Location:** 164 air kilometres northwest of Yellowknife.

The community changed its name to Whatì from Lac La Martre in 1996. Whatì is an area rich in wildlife and is a traditional hunting area of the Tłìchọ people. The Northwest Company set up a permanent post in the area in 1793 although most of the trade occurred at the larger posts at Rae, now known as Behchokò, and Wrigley. In 1955 a federal school opened.



## Activities of the Section 103 Panel for applications in areas in which land claims have not been settled.

### July, August, September 2009

New applications received	46
LUPs Issued	19
WLs Issued	10
Amendments (renewals, extensions, storage authorizations)	11
Referrals to Environmental Assessment	0
Closures	16
Report and Plan Approvals	5

#### MAP KEY

LAND AND WATER	COMPANY	PROJECT, LOCATION
1 MV2009A0017 (L1-0006)	Paramount Resources Inc.	Oil and gas monitoring, Liard South
2 MV2009X0020/ L8-0009	GNWT-DOT	Remediation, Checkpoint Highway Maintenance Camp
3 MV2009X0023 / L8-0011	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 1, km 2.9
4 MV2009X0024 / L8-0012	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 7, km 77.0
5 MV2009X0025 / L8-0013	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 1, km 180.1
6 MV2009X0026 / L8-0014	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 1, km 41.1
7 MV2009X0027 / L8-0015	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 1, km 28.1
8 MV2009X0038 / L8-0021	GNWT-DOT	Bridge replacement, Shale Creek
LAND USE PERMITS		
9 MV2008C0020	Aurora Resources Inc.	Diamond exploration, Wrigley Zinc property
10 MV2008C0023	Tamerlane Ventures Inc.	Mineral exploration, Pine Point
11 MV2009F0008	GNWT-Aurora College	Heavy equipment training, Salt Mountain
12 MV2006C0001	North American Tungsten Ltd.	Diamond exploration, Rifle Range Creek
13 MV2009C0009	North Arrow Minerals Inc.	Mining exploration, 340 km north of Yellowknife
14 MV2008C0008	Solid Resources Inc.	Mineral exploration, Bear Property, Sunset Lake
15 MV2009Q0013	Nuni (Ye) Development Corporation	Gravel quarrying, hwy 6, km 62
16 MV2009L0021	Northwestel Inc.	Existing microwave tower, Prelude Lake
17 MV2009X0031	GNWT-DOT	Construction, Reid Lake Territorial Park
18 MV2009Q0030	Trade Show Direct Ltd.	Quarrying, Hay River
19 MV2009Q0015	Nogha Enterprises Ltd.	Quarrying, hwy 1, km 521
20 MV2005C0005	Lumina Copper Corp.	2-year extension
WATER LICENCES		
21 MV2009L4-0003	Aurora Research Institute	Hydro power research, Fort Simpson
22 MV2008L3-0004	Hamlet of Enterprise	Municipal waste and water, Enterprise
EXTENSIONS/RENEWALS		
MV2005C0005	Lumina Copper Corp.	
AMENDMENTS		
MV2002E0060	GNWT-DOT	Construction of salt shed
MV2003Q0037	Les Norm Contracting	
MV2008Q0025	Rowe's Construction	



## Activities of the Section 103 Panel for applications in areas in which land claims have not been settled.

### October, November, December 2009

New applications received	12
LUPs Issued	14
WLs Issued	8
Amendments (renewals, extensions, storage authorizations)	7
Referrals to Environmental Assessment	0
Closures	13
Report and Plan Approvals	11

#### MAP KEY

LAND AND WATER	COMPANY	PROJECT, LOCATION	
1	MV2009X0041 / MV2009L8-0022	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 7, km 206.1
2	MV2009X0042 / MV2009L8-0023	GNWT-DOT	Culvert replacement, hwy 7, km 133.6
3	MV2009A0033 / MV2009L1-0016	Paramount Resources	Wellsite B-11, Cameron Hills
	MV2009A0034 / MV2009L1-0017	Paramount Resources	Wellsite P-17, Cameron Hills
	MV2009A0035 / MV2009L1-0018	Paramount Resources	Wellsite F-77, Cameron Hills
	MV2009A0036 / MV2009L1-0019	Paramount Resources	Wellsite I-72, Cameron Hills
	MV2009A0037 / MV2009L1-0020	Paramount Resources	Wellsite L-09, Cameron Hills
4	MV2009X0019 / MV2009L8-0008	INAC-CARD	Mine site remediation, Tundra Mine site
LAND USE PERMITS			
5	MV2009Q0022	Cherdon Enterprises	Quarrying, Fort Providence
6	MV2009X0043	GNWT-DOT	Airport expansion, Trout Lake
7	MV2009X011	GNWT-ITI	Camping loop, Twin Falls Park
8	MV2009E0014	GNWT-DOT	Highway maintenance, hwy 7
9	MV2009X0044	GNWT-DOT	Test Quarrying, Trout Lake
10	MV2009X0047	Joint Ventures Management Committee	Maintenance and camp, Tibbit to Contwoyto Winter Road
AMENDMENTS / EXTENSIONS			
	MV2003C0023	Snowfield Development Corp.	2-year extension
	MV2005C0001	Tyhee NWT Corp.	2-year extension
	MV2006C0010	Boxxer Gold	2-year extension
	MV2007Q0047	GNWT-PWS	2-year extension
	MV2005W0029	Patterson Sawmill Ltd.	2-year extension
	MV2004C0050	Viking Gold Exploration Inc.	2-year extension
	MV2001L2-0002	De Beers Canada Inc.	SNP Amendment

# Public Hearings

## Part two

The public hearing is an opportunity for organizations and interested individuals to give their views on a proposed activity. It is similar to a court where people give evidence in support of their view on the project. Anyone is allowed to speak at a public hearing, but there is a formal process that sets out the order in which people can speak and when they can ask questions. The Board may choose to hold a hearing if it finds that doing so would be in the public interest. However, the Board must convene a public hearing for class A water licences.

The Board has the option of holding a pre-hearing conference. These conferences are useful for clarifying issues, exploring the possible admission of facts and proof of facts, reviewing procedures, and determining who is responsible for the production of this information.

At a hearing, the Chair begins with opening remarks and introduces the principle participants such as Board Members, Board staff, technical consultants, and those who represent the applicant and other parties. During the proceedings, the Chair may ask for an 'undertaking' – a request for information that is not available at the hearing. The Board will review the content of the undertaking before it makes its decision on the matter it is considering.

A hearing is conducted in one of the official languages of Canada and the Board arranges for interpretation services in any language(s) which it deems necessary.

For more information about public hearings, contact the MVLWB at [permits@mvlwb.com](mailto:permits@mvlwb.com).



*Public hearing for City of Yellowknife's type A water licence application, January 19, 2010.*



*Public hearing, Yellowknife, January 19, 2010.  
Board Members and Chair L-R: Sabet Biscaye, Willard Hagen, Chair,  
Pat Larocque, Floyd Adlem*

### Recent hearings

- **November 4, 2009, Yellowknife.** The hearing addressed the Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's application for a type A water licence at the Tundra Mine site.
- **January 19, 2010, Yellowknife.** This hearing was for the City of Yellowknife's application for renewal of its Type A Water Licence for operation and maintenance of its municipal sewage and solid waste facility.
- **January 26–27, 2010, Hay River.** The hearing addressed the Town of Hay River's application for the renewal of its Type A Water Licence for operation and maintenance of its municipal sewage and solid waste facility.

# Welcome and Farewell at MVLWB

# 8



## **Amanda Gauthier, Admin Assistant**

Amanda Gauthier is our new Admin Assistant. She was born and raised in Hay River and moved to Yellowknife in the fall of 2005 to attend the Office Administration – Mining Co-Op Program. She graduated from the program

with honors and was soon hired by a local mining company. In the summer of 2008, she began life as a mother with the birth of her son. A year later, she returned to the workforce as a temp with the MVLWB where she was offered permanent employment.

## **Lynn Carter, Regulatory Officer**

Lynn completed a two-year contract with the MVLWB from 2005–2007 and returned to the Board in the fall of 2009. She has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree and a Planning and Land Information Technology Diploma. Regarding her position with the Board, Lynn says, "As a Regulatory Officer, I facilitate the public's input into



the regulatory process and then, after processing and organizing what I have learned, I forward the information to the Board to help them make a decision".

Lynn is also a volunteer with St. John Ambulance as a member of the Yellowknife Therapy Dog Group. The group takes their dogs to local nursing homes, the library, and will soon be visiting other places in the City. "We need to find more places in town to visit with our dogs and always welcome new volunteers".

## **Shannon Hayden, Regulatory Officer**

Shannon started as Regulatory Officer in September of 2009. She has an Advanced Graduate Diploma in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management and a BA in English and Physical Anthropology/Archaeology. She is working on her Masters Degree

and the focus of her research is the archaeology and history around Old Fort Rae (on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake). Prior to starting at the MVLWB, she did a short stint with Environment Canada in Ottawa and worked as an Environmental Assistant and Heritage Specialist with the North Slave Métis Alliance.



## **Rhonda Miller, Administrative Clerk**

We welcome back Rhonda Miller who has been away from the office on maternity leave since Feb, 2009. Rhonda's 12-month old son Chainer is doing well and is happy and healthy. As Administrative Clerk, Rhonda will be helping with the online registries and basic IT support.



## **Shelley Tucker, Finance and Administration Advisor**

Shelley was born and raised in the NWT and spent most of her years in Inuvik and Norman Wells. More recently she moved to Cold Lake, Alberta and has come back to do a six-month contract in the Finance and Administration area with



the Board. Her background is mostly in the financial area, having spent many years with the GNWT, various Boards, and the Municipal Government. Shelley has also worked in the areas of Income Security Programs as well as a one-year term with the NWTCHC as a Programs Advisor.

### **Shannon Ward, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director**

Shannon is joining the MVLWB as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director. A member of the Senior Management Team, she will be working on governance and organizational development initiatives and providing support and facilitation on valley-wide initiatives, transboundary projects, and consultation issues.

Shannon has a BA in Cultural Geography and Northern Studies and a Masters in Natural Resources Management. She has



been living in the NWT since 1996, and has worked on a broad range of issues including comprehensive land claim agreements and self-government implementation and negotiations, community-based and regional land management policy and program development, environmental impact assessment, land and water regulation, and protected areas establishment. Shannon's work experience in the NWT includes positions with Indigenous organizations and co-management Boards and as policy analyst and manager in the federal government.

### **Jason Ash**



We say good-bye to Jason Ash. Jason has been working as a Regulatory Officer with the Board since November 2007 and has taken a position as Permitting and Environmental Superintendent for Snap Lake Mine with De Beers Canada in Yellowknife. We have very much appreciated his excellent work over the past two years and wish Jason well in his new job.

Working together to make  
the best decisions for  
the land, the water,  
and the people.



## **Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board**

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We're on the web at  
<http://www.mvlwb.ca>

