



# Nahendeh Gondi News of Our Land



## WELCOME to our readers

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'eezhii Land and Water Board. Each board issues land use permits and water licences for their respective regions. The MVLWB convenes ad hoc Section 103 Panels to review applications in unsettled regions and for transboundary projects. In this edition of Nahendi Gondi, we feature the **Sahtu Land and Water Board** - the regional authority for land use permits and water licences in the Sahtu.

*See our feature interview on page 2.*

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### THE SAHTU: facts and figures

- Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, signed in September 1993, marked the resolution of the Sahtu Dene and Metis claims to the Sahtu area.
- The Sahtu has the NWT's only producing oil field and ships over \$500 million in oil annually via the Norman Wells - Zama Lake pipeline.
- North Slavey is the local Aboriginal language and is part of the North-western Canada group of Northern Athabaskan languages.

### THE SAHTU COMMUNITIES

Community Name	Aboriginal Name	Pronunciation	Translation	Population (2007 census)
Colville Lake	K' áhbamítúé	k-ah-ba-meenh-tway	ptarmigan net place	151
Deline	Déline	Day-linh-nay	moving or flowing water	525
Fort Good Hope	Rádeyilikóé	rah-day-inh-linh-kway	rapids place	579
Norman Wells	Taegóhti	t-hleh-gonh	where there is oil	948
Tulita	Tulít'a	Too-lee-tah	where the waters meet	527

# Get To Know KAREN CAESAR

Licence and Permit Clerk  
SAHTU LAND AND WATER BOARD



**KAREN CAESAR**  
Fort Good Hope

**Nahendeh Gondi:** *Tell us about the work you do with the Sahtu Land and Water Board.*

**Karen Caesar:** I have been with the Board for eight years and I am responsible for the technical files. The ledger keeps track of when an application comes to our office, when the application is determined to be complete and the location of the project. If the application is approved, we record the date of the approval and the date of the expiry of the permit. Right now I am scanning our files so they can go onto the website which we hope will be ready-to-go in September. Then everyone will be able to access the application files from any computer.

**NG:** *Who uses the ledger?*

**KC:** It is mostly for the office staff but if someone from outside wants some information, I refer them to the ledger. The general public can also find out about what the Board is doing through the Public Information Package.

**NG:** *What qualifications do you have for your work with the SLWB?*

**KC:** In 1997 I completed my high school upgrading at Aurora College and then did a six-month course in Basic Office Practice. I followed that with a ten-week course called "Introduction to Computers". My first job after that was here in Fort Good Hope with the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board.

**NG:** *How long did you work for the Planning Board?*

**KC:** It was for one year and I gained a lot of experience as office manager - it helped me a lot.

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*Back l to r: Jenna Grandjambe,  
George Govier (ED), Joan Gordey*

*Front l to r: Rhianna Leighton,  
Karen Caesar, Patricia McNeely.*

“ The smart thing to do when you need help is to ask ... ”

*Executive Director George Govier.*

**NG:** How do you keep your skills up-to-date?

**KC:** Every year I have a personal evaluation with my supervisor. We discuss the areas where I need more training and I find the right course. Last year I wanted to know more about GIS. It means “geographical information system” and it’s a program that handles map data. I took a course with Tyree Mullaney from the MVLWB office in Yellowknife.

**NG:** What are the highlights of your connection with the land?

**KC:** I grew up right here in Fort Good Hope but when I was young I wasn’t too familiar with how to live out on the land. My husband’s parents lived out on the land every year - one month in the spring and one month in the fall. They taught me how to work on the animals and birds. When my husband comes home from being on the land, he brings caribou, moose, or geese. I make dried meat and smoke it in a teepee outside my house.

**NG:** Is there anything else you wish to add?

**KC:** I want to say a few things about my supervisor - Executive Director George Govier. He has taught me a lot about working in an office in the past eight years. When I first got involved with the SLWB, there were a lot of high expectations of me but for some things I needed help. Mr. Govier once said to me, “The smart thing to do when you need help is to ask - there’s nothing wrong with asking someone for assistance. We all learn something every day.” I am grateful for that.



The design of the SLWB logo was created by Eric Yukon of Deline in 1998. The mountains stand for land, the water represents itself, the loon symbolizes wildlife, and the sun reminds us of the environment.

## SAHTU REGION, NWT

The Sahtu is an administrative region of the NWT covering 280,238 square kilometers. The five communities in the region are Colville Lake, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, and Tulita.

*Map prepared by A. Barker, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, GNWT, July 2, 2009*

# Standard Procedures and Consistency Working Groups

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## Progress Report

Six working groups of the land and water boards of the Mackenzie Valley have been finding ways to improve consistency amongst the four Boards. This initiative will streamline and simplify the Boards' regulatory processes and provide clarity and certainty to industry and other parties. Below are outlines of the progress and contributions made by each group.

### Working Group 1: Public Engagement and Consultation

**Purpose:** *To develop consistent and clear public engagement and consultation policies and guidelines as required by Board review processes.*

This Working Group (WG1) reviewed literature and identified consistent and inconsistent procedures amongst the four land and water boards. The group wrote a draft internal paper on key issues, findings, and recommendations and evaluated individual procedures for issues such as private lands vs. Crown lands, extensions, amendments, and access and benefits agreements.

### Working Group 2: Plan Review Process and Guidelines

**Purpose:** *To develop a standard process for the review of management plans and to develop standard guidelines and templates for common management plans.*

WG2 has made substantial progress creating guidelines for several management plans that will help the regulatory process become clearer for all the stakeholders involved in the co-management system. This WG has been focusing on guidelines for closure and reclamation, aquatic effects monitoring programs, waste management and adaptive management.

### Working Group 3: Water/Effluent Quality Guidelines

**Purpose:** *To develop an approach for creating clear and consistent policy and procedures for deriving water/effluent quality criteria for water licences.*

This WG has finished its first draft of a Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy that will go before the MVLWB for discussion. This policy aims to describe how the land and water boards make decisions that affect water quality - for example, in the setting of discharge limits for effluent.

### Working Group 4: Terms and Conditions

**Purpose:** *To develop terms and conditions for permits and licences that provide clarity, consistency, and certainty for the Boards and clients.*

*continued on page 5*





*Rob Dobson - WG3 member  
MVLWB Information Technology Specialist*

WG4 collected and discussed standard conditions for land use permits and water licences. The WG identified consistent and inconsistent terms and conditions amongst the Boards and has contrasted MVLWB standards with those of the Yukon and Nunavut. WG4 also held a workshop with INAC Inspectors to discuss current water board conditions and rationales.

### **Working Group 5: Data Resource Sharing and Standards**

**Purpose:** *To develop and promote clear and consistent standards, guidelines, and procedures for the collection, access, and sharing of data resources between the Boards and clients.*

WG5 has been analyzing each Board's policy and procedures related to issues such as information management, GIS\* and mapping, and websites. The group has produced a Key Findings, Issues,

and Recommendations Paper and an updated "Guideline for GIS Submissions to the MVLWB" - both for internal review only. WG5 is assisting the Sahtu Land and Water Board's implementation of an online registry and group members are ongoing participants in the development of various NWT information management systems.

### **Working Group 6: Application Processes**

**Purpose:** *To develop policies, guidelines, and practices that achieve certainty, consistency, and clarity for Boards and clients in the application process.*

WG6 completed internal and external literature surveys related to application processes used by the four Land and Water Boards. The WG identified inconsistent practices and reported on key findings in a draft paper (internal use only).



### **Want to know more?**

For more information about the Working Groups, email

Patti Ewaschuk at

[pewaschuk@wlwb.ca](mailto:pewaschuk@wlwb.ca)

### **What Is GIS?**

**\*GIS is the initialism for Geographic Information Systems.**

A GIS technician maintains and updates GIS data and related information, including the production of mapping products for internal and external use.

# IT'S WHAT WE DO:

## Waste Management 101 - The Basics

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### **DRILL WASTE:**

all materials or chemicals, solid or liquid, associated with the drilling of borehole cuttings.

### **COMMERCIAL WASTE WATER:**

water and associated waste generated by the operation of a commercial enterprise but does not include toilet water or greywater.

### **WASTE ROCK:**

all unprocessed rock materials, except ore and tailings, which are produced as a result of mining and milling operations.

### **GREYWATER:**

all liquid wastes from showers, baths, sinks, kitchens and domestic washing facilities but does not include toilet wastes.

The land and water boards of the Mackenzie Valley are charged with administering the use of land and water and the deposit of waste in each of their respective management regions. Which leads to the question - what, exactly, is waste? You can find the complete, six-part, detailed definition in section 2 of the Northwest Territories Water Act, but a summation of the first two parts is:

*Any water containing a substance or any substance that, if added to water, would degrade the water to an extent that is detrimental to use by people, animals, fish or plants.*

To pinpoint exactly what it is referring to in its licence conditions, the Boards further define some types of wastes.

◀ [See side-bars.](#)

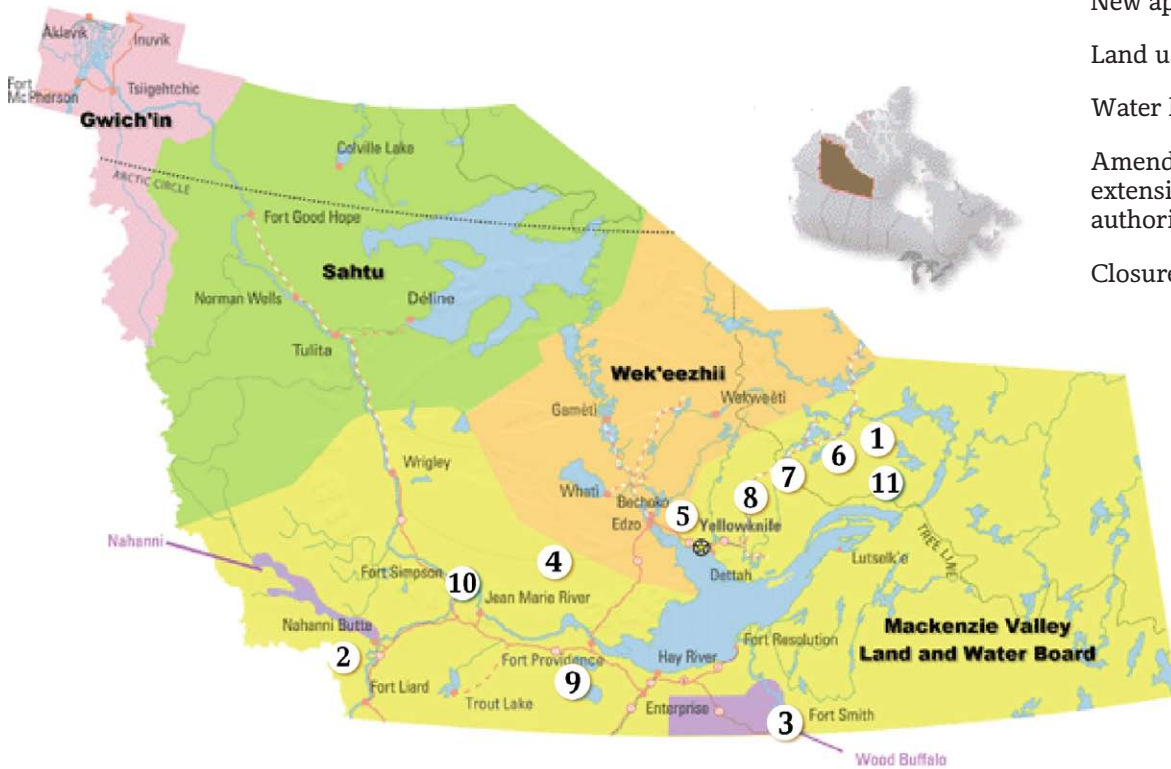
When the Board staff receives an application for a development, it is assigned to a Regulatory Officer who looks closely for the presence of substances that could be toxic, form deposits, create undesirable tastes or smells in water, and/or deplete oxygen by overloading the water with nutrients. The task then is to build conditions into the licence that eliminate or significantly reduce the harmful effects of the pollutant. One approach to achieving this goal is to look for solutions in a step-by-step, 'sliding-scale' manner - a hierarchy of opportunities - to deal with the waste.

Three of the possibilities are:

- 1. Source control** – the prevention of pollution at the source of the waste.
- 2. Reuse/recycle** – if #1 does not eliminate the waste, the re-using and recycling of waste substances may be appropriate.
- 3. Treatment by technology** – if waste persists after #1 and #2, the pollutant should be treated with the best available technology.

Once a development is underway, a watchful eye must be kept on the project to verify that the water protection measures are effective. The most common method to achieve this is by implementing a surveillance network program (SNP). An SNP delineates specific sites for the measurement of water quality and quantity and is often necessary beyond the active life of a development.

# MVLWB Activities: April, May, June 2009



New applications	13
Land use permits issued	3
Water licences issued	1
Amendments, renewals, extensions, storage authorizations	11
Closures	6

## MAP KEY

LAND USE PERMITS	COMPANY	PROJECT	LOCATION
1 MV2008C0022	De Beers Canada Inc	Mineral Exploration,	Gahcho Kue
2 MV2009X0007	Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	Wellsite Remediation,	North Liard
3 MV2009Q0010	Trappers Trucking Ltd	Quarrying,	Salt Mountain
4 MV2007C0039	Avalon Ventures Ltd	2-year extension, Mineral Exploration,	Thor Lake
5 MV2004F0005	NTPC	2-year extension	
6 MV2001C0012	De Beers Canada Inc	2-year extension	
7 MV2004F0006	RTL Robinson Enterprises Ltd.	2-year extension	
8 MV2004F0007	RTL Robinson Enterprises Ltd.	2-year extension	
9 MV2002E0058	GNWT-DOT	Amendment- salt shed,	Hwy #3
WATER LICENCES			
10 MV2009L4-0002	NTPC	In-stream Turbine Research,	Fort Simpson
11 MV2003L2-0005	De Beers Canada Inc.	5-year renewal, Mineral Exploration,	Gahcho Kue

## More from Working Group 2...

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The successful closure and reclamation of mines in the NWT is important to all Canadian residents, especially northerners. Considering the numerous historical examples of environmental degradation after a company has simply walked away, it is necessary to ensure that these projects are on their way to reclamation or remediation long before the development comes to an end.

WG2 has developed a document entitled "Approach to Closure and Reclamation of Mines in the Mackenzie Valley". This document provides the roadmap for co-management for all stakeholders in the closure and reclamation process.

To view the draft document, visit the website at [mvlwb.ca](http://mvlwb.ca), click on the "Working Groups" link on the left hand side; at the bottom of the page, under Working Group Announcements, click on "Draft Closure and Reclamation Plan Guidelines".

If you have any questions about the draft closure and reclamation document or about any of the other projects this working group is undertaking, please contact Ryan Fequet at [rfequet@wlwb.ca](mailto:rfequet@wlwb.ca)

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



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