

COMMUNITY CONTACT

For and About
Local Government
Development

Manitoba
Aboriginal and
Northern Affairs



Welcome

This is our first issue of Community Connection, the Local Government Development newsletter. Each month we will print stories of interest and importance to community leaders and employees, departmental staff and our partners who serve your community.

We welcome your stories and ideas. Submissions may be edited before use. We also welcome suggestions on how to make this newsletter serve your needs better. Contact us. See the back page of this newsletter to find out how.

Two New Programs At Keewatin Community College

The Thompson Campus of Keewatin Community College (KCC) will deliver the first year of a 3-year co-op program in Civil Technology starting in September, 2001. The first year is a ten-month program to prepare students for the Civil Technology diploma program. The emphasis will be on mathematics, physics, communication skills, drafting, and the fundamentals of using computers and computer applications.

Employment prospects are good for students graduating as Civil Engineering Technologists. Government and industry have supported this program from the start. It is being offered in Thompson in the hope

that graduates will help meet the demand in the region for qualified civil technologists. For more information about the program, call (204) 677-6392, or toll free at 1-866-677-6450.

The Pas Campus of KCC will introduce a one-year Recreation Leadership certificate program in January 2002. An instructor has been hired and course material is being developed. The program is intended to serve the needs of remote communities and offer professional development to those working in the recreation field. Call Ron Scott in The Pas at (204) 672-8672 for more information.

Construction Season is Here



As part of the Canada/Manitoba Infrastructure Program, design proposals were requested in late June for upgrading and extending sewer and water systems serving the communities of

Camperville and Duck Bay. Construction is expected to be tendered and completed by the end of October.

A regional waste disposal site, a joint effort of the communities of Aghaming, Seymourville and Manigotogan is in the

final stage of design. Construction is expected to take place in September.

Proposals were also requested June 27 for a study of community water treatment plants. The study will look at plant conditions, operations and operator effectiveness. It will also look at whether plants meet Canadian drinking water guidelines and suggest solutions to problems. The project will lead to a multi-year plan for upgrading and operator training. The study is a co-operative effort by Manitoba Conservation, the Manitoba Water Services Board and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

August 2001

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Under Review

The Northern Affairs Act

Good progress is being made on the review of the *Northern Affairs Act*. Four area meetings have been held with 75% of communities represented at the meetings. Several individuals have submitted responses to the survey workbook.

At the area meetings representatives from all of the communities were picked for a focus group. The focus group met to review responses and agree on statements about each question in the Act Review Workbook.

A Stakeholders Response report will be printed and sent to all Northern Affairs communities before the Northern Association of Community Councils annual meeting in August.

The meeting agenda will include time for communities to discuss the report, which will be presented to the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in September.

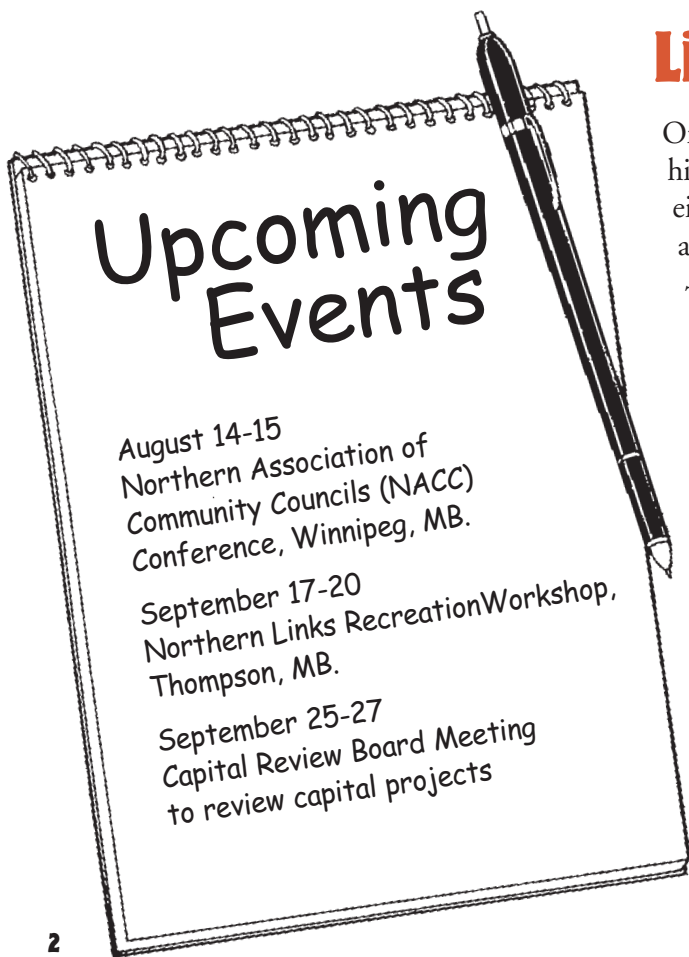
The Stakeholders Response clearly identifies issues of concern for the communities and makes recommendations to government.

Departmental Web Site

Be sure to check out the Aboriginal and Northern Affairs web pages on the Government of Manitoba Web site. The Aboriginal and Northern Affairs pages include information on community management, community

profiles and many other issues affecting the north. There are also links to external sites like Canada's Aboriginal Portal and the Community Access Program Web site. Check it out at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/ana/>



Living History

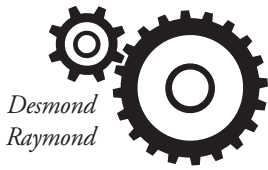
On Sunday, July 1 a made-for-reality TV re-enactment of Manitoba history began. Called **Quest for the Bay**, the adventure involves eight people travelling by York boat from The Forks, Winnipeg, all the way to York Factory at the mouth of the Hayes River.

The crew of York boaters will be living as many of our ancestors lived, ate and travelled 200 or more years ago. A daily ration of pemmican will fuel a lot of rowing, unless they manage to catch a good wind in their sail.

The group plans to arrive at York Factory by September 1 this fall. The crew will take the west side of Lake Winnipeg, crossing over to the east side as they go through the narrow strip between Matheson Island and Princess Harbour. Eventually, they will reach Norway House and Playgreen Lake. The crew will then follow the traditional fur-trading route using a stretch of the Nelson River and portage into the Hayes River system, heading downstream to York Factory.

The voyage adventure is being filmed for a History Channel presentation in January 2002. Those who live along the route may well see the York boat and its crew heading north this summer.

“technically speaking”



Recent deadly outbreaks of waterborne disease in Walkerton, Ontario and North Battleford, Saskatchewan have forced the public health issue of water treatment front and centre. Tragedies in these communities have made the public realize that safe water is not something to be taken for granted. Proper disinfection and chlorination of water have become frequent topics.

How and when did chlorination come to be used in water treatment? Chlorination began in Britain in the early 1900s, where its application sharply reduced typhoid deaths. Not long after, chlorination was introduced with filtration in the US, where it virtually eliminated waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

What is chlorination? It is the process of introducing chlorine, usually in liquid form, into a treated water system to disinfect the water before it is distributed to consumers. In any treatment system, it is usually the last step in the treatment process. In a proper treatment process, chlorination is an excellent way to disinfect drinking water. With adequate residual chlorine and contact time between the disinfectant and the micro-organisms, chlorination effectively kills many disease-causing bacteria. Additionally, chlorine is inexpensive, easy to control, generally safe to use and adapts well to municipal or private systems.

Unfortunately, though it is the most common disinfection method for

The Need for Chlorination of Water

public and private drinking water systems, chlorination is not suitable for heavily contaminated wells or springs, or sources where hazardous materials are present.

Why use chlorine? Chlorinated water's primary benefit is the protection of public health through the control of waterborne diseases. Chlorine also has the following benefits:

- It is a potent germicide. If used properly, it reduces the level of disease-causing micro-organisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- It has great residual effect, meaning the chlorine maintains the quality of drinking water from the treatment plant to the consumer.
- It helps control taste and odour. Chlorine helps to rid the water of taste and odours that may be caused by algae secretions and decaying vegetation.
- It controls biological growth. Due to its powerful germicidal action, chlorine eliminates slime bacteria, moulds and algae growth. Such organisms can grow in reservoirs if proper chlorination is not followed.
- Chlorine controls chemicals that can cause unpleasant tastes and odours.

Is there a risk to the consumer from chlorine? Over the last 25 years, many research projects and studies have been carried out to determine whether the use of chlorine in drinking water poses a risk to consumers.

In 1990, the International Agency for Research on Cancer evaluated the

body of research concerning the potential health effects of chlorinated drinking water and concluded that it is “not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans.” It means there is no direct link between cancer in humans and chlorinated water.

Further to that, the World Health Organization noted that “the risks associated to health from disinfection by-products are extremely small in comparison with the risks associated with inadequate disinfection or no disinfection.” In a nutshell, there are no

proven risks from chlorination to date and you are at greater risk if your water is not properly chlorinated.

Are there other disinfection methods available? Yes, there are. Such methods as ultraviolet radiation, ozonation, pasteurization or the

good old method of boiling water. To date, except for boiling, none of these methods has proved as reliable as chlorination.

If you think your water is not acceptable, you should contact your local public health officer, WTP operator, council or Aboriginal and Northern Affairs regional representative. Even if you have no specific concern, they will be happy to provide information about safe water to you.

Remember, good quality water is not a given. It is a right of all citizens to expect that water supplied to them is safe. This can only be assured by a sound water treatment system, well-trained operators and competent supervision.

Safe water is not something to be taken for granted.

Treaty Land Entitlement in Northern Communities

The Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process sets out the specific principles for selection of Crown lands within Manitoba and the process for acquiring lands if the Entitlement First Nation is eligible to acquire lands under the Framework Agreement as listed in “Schedule-B.” It is defined in the TLE Framework Agreement, signed by Canada, Manitoba and the TLE Committee representing 19 Entitlement First Nations throughout Manitoba.

In the Framework Agreement a “northern community” is a community or incorporated community as defined in *The Northern Affairs Act*. A northern community may receive notification that land within its boundaries may be subject to a selection or acquisition by an Entitlement First Nation (EFN) to address that First Nation’s TLE obligations. Section 3.08 of the Framework Agreement sets out the specific principles for the selection or acquisition of that land.

- The EFN may select or acquire land in a northern community.
- The EFN gives Canada, Manitoba and the northern community notice in writing of its intention to select or acquire the land;

- Consultation regarding the selection/acquisition and the intent of the EFN to request that the land be set apart as Reserve must occur with the community council.

Where an EFN intends to select or acquire all, or substantially all of the land in a northern community, Canada, Manitoba and the EFN enter into an agreement to address the timing of the selection/Acquisition of land and the setting apart of the land as Reserve, the transfer and operation of infrastructure land related costs, ongoing provision of social and public services to members of the EFN and the other residents of the community and other matters that may be addressed in a Municipal Development and Services Agreement (MDSA).

If the EFN is not intending to select or acquire all or substantially all of a northern community, the principles set out in section 3.07 of the Framework Agreement shall apply (*Specific Principles for Selection or Acquisition of Land in a Municipality*).

Selection of all, or significantly all of the land in a community results when the selection or acquisition of land by an EFN would mean that more than 25 percent of the area of the northern community would be set apart as reserve.



Does your community have surplus equipment or materials they are want to dispose with? If so, send the editors detailed information about the equipment or materials and give us a selling price. We’ll post your info in our classified section. Our deadline for all such classified information is the first week of the month to have it appear in the following month’s issue.

If land is selected within eight kilometres of the boundary, Manitoba will not confirm whether the land is eligible to be set apart as reserve until the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has consulted with the community in accordance with subsection 9(2) of *The Northern Affairs Act*.

For specific interpretation, we direct you to contact a development co-ordinator with the Agreements Management and Co-ordination unit of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in the Winnipeg or the Thompson office. Copies of specific agreements are available by calling (204) 945-2507.



LEGAL-EASE

Understanding Regulations and Legislation

The question for this issue is:

“Does a council member need to resign to carry out some duties normally carried out by a community employee?”

In many communities, there may not be a stand-by for a water or sewage plant operator leaving the employee feeling “on call” and “on the job” 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Sometimes, council may ask one of its

members to take over the functions for a short period of time to give the employee a break, or to fill in while the employee is unable to work.

For a short term, a council member may do the work of the employee. The council member need not resign for this.

If the employee has resigned and council is in the process of hiring a replacement, then a council member

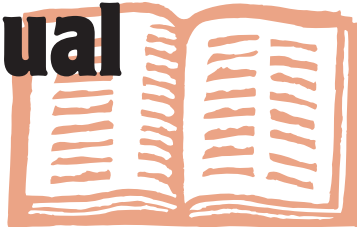
If you have a general question about a Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs-related regulation, submit it to us and we'll consider answering it in this newsletter. Questions of a specific, personal or private nature will be re-directed to an appropriate council or departmental authority.

may fill in without having to resign. In fact, the council member may apply for the position and resign only if accepted for hiring. The council member would be excluded from hiring discussions by the council.

For more information, refer to the Manitoba regulation 43/93, Northern Manitoba Elections Regulations. Copies should be available at your council office or from a community election official.

just released

Reference Manual for Municipal Development and Services Agreements



To help implement Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) in Manitoba, Eric Robinson, Manitoba's minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, has released a “Reference Manual for Municipal Development and Services Agreements.” The manual provides guidance to municipalities and First Nations in the negotiation of agreements to support the selection and acquisition of lands within municipal boundaries.

The manual will also be useful for communities entering negotiations for municipal development and services agreements on TLE lands.

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and Manitoba Justice co-operated to produce the manual.

The TLE Framework Agreement addresses outstanding land entitlements from treaties signed by Canada and Manitoba First Nations. Canada, Manitoba and a TLE committee representing 19 First Nations in Manitoba signed the Framework Agreement in 1997.

Call Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs at (204) 945-2507 for a copy of the manual and other TLE information.

**Recreation
Tip**



Recreation is essential to the development of our children and youth—we develop motor skills, social skills, creativity and intellectual capacity through play and sports.

Recreation *Wellness*

September 17 to 21, 2001

Northern Links Recreation Workshop

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs will host a one-week recreation workshop, called "Northern Links" in The Pas from September 17 to 21, 2001.

The workshop targets Aboriginal (Métis and First Nation) recreation directors and youth co-ordinators from across the province.

Details like accommodations and costs are being worked out and information letters will be sent out to communities.

Professional development for community recreation directors and youth co-ordinators in Aboriginal communities is a priority. Your community is encouraged to participate in this Northern Links workshop.

Workshops will

- provide essential information on basic topics to help participants be more effective in their communities;
- ask participants to develop community-based objectives;
- promote and nurture networking and co-operation; and
- identify regional and provincial resources.

For more information, contact either:

Stew Sabiston in Dauphin (SSabiston@gov.mb.ca) phone (204) 622-2148 or Mike Thomas in Thompson (MiThomas@gov.mb.ca) phone (204) 677-6874.

Integrated Waste Management

Coming North

Increasing costs of waste site development and growing concern about the environment are fuelling interest in recycling in northern communities. Opportunities for partnerships and funding have recently led to a pilot project to develop a regional waste management system for the north.

Northern communities and First Nations, including Norway House, Wabowden, Nelson House, Leaf Rapids, Split Lake, Gillam and Fox Lake are looking at collaborating with the Thompson Recycling Centre on the project. The project is being led by North Central Community Futures Development Corporation with funding from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and Manitoba Conservation's Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Fund (WRAPP).

The pilot project, called "The Northern Manitoba Integrated Waste Management System" deals with residential recyclables, used motor oil, used tires, scrap metal and

other reusable materials. Within a regional system, programs will be tailored to suit individual communities.

The first major objective is to minimize costs, maximize revenue and create jobs in recycling for participating communities. The second major objective is to co-operate on a regional and provincial basis, involving the Thompson Recycling Centre and existing provincial recycling systems.

An environmental consultant has met with communities to assess local needs and a project co-ordinator has been hired. The project will significantly reduce the waste entering landfills each year. Economic benefits will come from local employment opportunities, revenues from recycled products and reduced pressure to construct new landfill sites.

For more information about recycling in the north, call Nicole Perry at the North Central Community Futures Development Corporation at (204) 677-1493 or toll free at 1-888-847-7878.



Introducing...

New Faces in Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs



Desmond Raymond

“Des” Raymond, a certified engineering technologist, tested the waters on both the east and west coasts before finding himself in the heart of the continent, working as a technical and public works consultant in The Pas. From St. John’s, Newfoundland, Des is a graduate of the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He also has diplomas in naval architecture technology and mechanical systems design.

While still in University, Des was self-employed as a marine consultant. After graduating in 1996, he headed to the west coast where he initially worked as a naval architect and marine systems designer/draftsman before

getting into the water and sewer business. He has experience in water and sewer co-ordination, design and management. His experience includes laying water pipe, upgrading water treatment facilities and the construction and start-up of a sewage pumping station.

Des met his wife Ramona, originally from Winnipeg, in Vancouver—where she proposed to him! They were married in July last year. Ramona is finishing her university degree this year but regularly accompanies her husband to visit communities he serves.

Above left: Desmond with his “better half” Ramona. Above right: Des receiving a picture from the Minister of Conservation at the official opening of The Pas office.

Morley Nagle

Morley Nagle knows community living from the ground up—literally. He was born and raised in Cormorant, Manitoba. He graduated from the Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute in The Pas from Structural Engineering Technology at Red River College. After graduating, he worked in the south for businesses including a lumber company and a design-build general contractor.

A certified engineering technologist, Morley moved to Thompson last April to work as a technical and public works consultant for the Northern Region. Morley and his partner Brandi are proud parents of a wonderful 14 month-old daughter, Mikaila.



Above: Morley – hard at work. Left: Morley’s daughter Mikaila.

review

Web Site

The Internet is a good place to learn about community development in other jurisdictions. Despite differences in legislation, policy and procedures, local governments in Canada’s north have many challenges in common.

If you visit <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/resources/resources.html> part of the community affairs site of the Northwest Territories

(NWT) government, you’ll see the page “More Than Dogs, Ditches & Dumps.” It is a result of a Canadian Rural Partnership pilot project developed by Agriculture and Agrifoods Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the NWT department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The project brought together experienced councillors to discuss the roles and responsibilities of first-time councillors and the governance issues they face. The site features a list of the top ten things councillors need to know about.

Young Entrepreneurs Program



The Young Entrepreneurs Program is an initiative to encourage Manitoba's young people to start full-time businesses in Manitoba.

The program will provide approved applicants aged 18 to 29 with grants between \$1,000 and \$4,000 to help with the costs of setting up a business. Applicants must not be planning to return to school—they must work at the business full-time and they may not be employed full-time elsewhere. A three-day training program is provided based on need.

Businesses must also meet certain criteria. They must be year-round and permanent in nature. They must operate in Manitoba and must be started with the intent of generating a profit. A business plan must accompany each

application. Business plan development help is available free of charge from Intergovernmental Affairs offices and the Canada - Manitoba Business Service Centre. Only one grant per business will be issued.

During the 2000/01 fiscal year, 68 new applications were received, 51 of which were approved for grants. Of these, 12 were submitted by Aboriginal youth, 10 of which were accepted. So far, there have been 36 applications for 2001/02, six from Aboriginal youth.

For more information on the Young Entrepreneurs Program, call (204) 726-6708 (Brandon) or (204) 945-5396 (Winnipeg). Alternately, contact Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs or your local Community Development Corporation office.

Contact Information

Please send all comments, ideas, suggestions and submissions to the Editors.

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A Real **TEAM** Effort

Oswald Sawh

The TEAM program's mandate is to promote a "culture of commerce" in northern Manitoba. It was launched full-time in January 2001. TEAM hopes to accomplish its mandate by supporting the grassroots development of micro-enterprise through the three services it provides:

Technical Assistance—help that is only a phone call away. The resources of the Northern Business Resources Centre, and the trained business staff of the Communities Economic Development Fund are available to assist TEAM members in solving any business problem they encounter. TEAM will provide training and help you start your business.

Peer Support—TEAM will encourage small business people to network and share ideas and concerns.

Capital Support—with the Communities Economic Development fund, TEAM can provide loan capital to viable businesses. TEAM will help assess capital needs as part of the business planning process.

In June 2001, TEAM was working with about 62 individuals in 14 incorporated, non-incorporated and First Nation communities in northern Manitoba. The goal is to establish the TEAM program in 40 more communities over the next two years. TEAM is also helping establishing a craft cooperative in Sherridon. For more information on TEAM, or if you wish to receive our newsletter (The Scoresheet), please contact Oswald Sawh toll free at 1-866-778-8887 or visit our web site at cedf.mb.ca.