

Did we get it wrong?

Deh Cho Drum is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in *Deh Cho Drum*, call the editor at (867) 695-3786, or e-mail dehchodrum@nns.com. We'll get a correction or clarification in as soon as we can.

NEWS Briefs

Wolf warning for Fort Simpson

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is warning residents in Fort Simpson to be wolf-aware.

As of Oct. 14, wolves had been reported near the community's boat launch, industrial area, landfill and the Wildrose subdivision.

The department also reported one wolf had been destroyed the evening of Oct. 13 after trying to take a person's dog.

The department is asking residents to report wolf sightings and keep an eye on their outdoor dogs.

Fiscal year deadline for health centre study

Health Minister Glen Abernethy confirmed in the legislative assembly on Oct. 14 the first-phase planning study for a new health centre in Fort Simpson is on track to be concluded during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

A schematic design for the health centre will be the second phase.

Abernethy said the department won't be in the capital plan until 2018-19 at the earliest.

"I'm committed to moving this initiative forward," Abernethy said, according to a transcript from the legislative assembly, before acknowledging the project would be competing for priority with other projects in the territory.

Abernethy also confirmed the future health centre would not include any addition of services or programs, although the department may look at using the existing health centre to add more beds to the long-term care facility.

Bi-ennial wildlife workshop returns

Representatives from communities in the Deh Cho gathered at Fort Simpson's recreation centre on Oct. 18 and 19 for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' regional wildlife workshop.

The workshop happens every two years and gives the department the opportunity to share its research with the communities.

Ferry closure warning comes early

On Oct. 18, the territorial Department of Transportation stated in an advisory that the MV Lafferty ferry to Fort Simpson was on 72-hour notice for closure.

Closure was possible sooner, according to the advisory, depending on conditions such as low water levels.

The MV Johnny Berens ferry to Wrigley could close within a week or sooner. The closure comes two weeks earlier than the 15-year average for the MV Lafferty.

Youth camp moves forward

Nahanni Butte chief says progress made on agreement with Canadian Zinc

by April Hudson
Northern News Services
Nahanni Butte

Nahanni Butte Dene Band Chief Peter Marcellais says the band is more determined than ever to get a youth wellness camp up and running after reaching the final stages of a funding agreement with Canadian Zinc Corporation.

The band has been negotiating with Canadian Zinc since early this year for funding, which is connected to a proposed all-season road Canadian Zinc hopes to build to its Prairie Creek minesite.

Alan Taylor, Canadian Zinc's chief operating officer and vice-president of exploration, said in an e-mail the final amount is still being negotiated and at this time is confidential.

Marcellais said the band is happy with how negotiations for funding have proceeded.

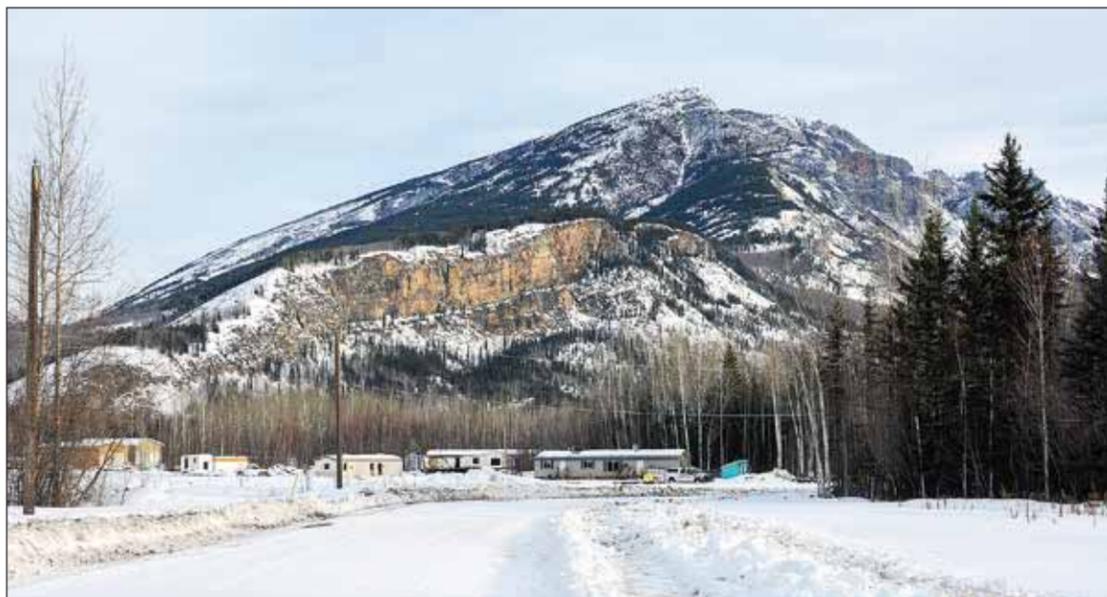
"If we just go through the government, it's going to be years and years before we see that kind of money," he said, referring to an original plan from the community to look at funding through the GNWT as well.

"We want to make sure we run that youth camp. That's for the whole Deh Cho."

Band to co-manage studies

The agreement comes on the heels of a decision for the band to take a lead role in heritage studies, road surveying and wildlife monitoring for the proposed all-season road, which is currently in the stages of an environmental assessment.

According to documents forwarded to the *Deh Cho Drum* by Marcellais, Nahanni Butte's co-management of road-related studies comes after Canadian Zinc submitted a report on fish habitat to the



Nestled at the foot of this mountain, Nahanni Butte will be co-managing studies for a proposed all-season road to Prairie Creek Mine.

Mackenzie Valley Review Board on Sept. 6.

Marcellais said that report violated the band's policy in place that requires they co-manage any environmental and wildlife monitoring fieldwork on their traditional lands.

It also prompted an apology from Canadian Zinc Corporation's vice-president for environment and permitting affairs, David Harpley.

"We regret that, in our haste, we did not further inform the band of our plans," Harpley wrote in that letter.

"We have agreed that band members will accompany survey crews and lead the search for heritage resources. We will now also agree that band members will be involved in field studies related to stream crossings by the road on (Nahanni Butte's) traditional lands."

In an e-mail to the *Deh Cho Drum* regarding the letters, Mar-

cellais said they signify matters of importance to the people in the Deh Cho region as a whole.

"(They are important) especially since we are working with all parties on a framework for co-managing this important economic development project that hopefully could be expanded to include regional First Nations engagement," Marcellais stated.

Parks Canada seeks additional information

On Sept. 30, Nahanni National Park Reserve superintendent Jonathon Tsetso outlined a list of deficiencies in the existing studies related to the road and requested follow-up studies be done to address those deficiencies.

In particular, six wildlife studies completed between 1981 and 2016 failed to provide enough baseline data about migratory birds for Parks Canada to confirm which

species are present in the area, and in what numbers, he wrote.

Parks Canada is also asking for a survey of the collared pika, a species listed as special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Lastly, the department wants baseline vegetation surveys completed within the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

"Our request addresses the need to construct fine-scale field assessments in representative habitats and high priority areas for rare, valued and protected plants and assemblages," Tsetso wrote.

But Marcellais said Parks Canada's request will unnecessarily prolong the environmental review process.

"That's just going to delay everything," he said.

"We want to make sure they don't start messing around with the studies."



ALL PEOPLE, BIG AND SMALL

Eleven people turned up outside the CIBC in Fort Simpson for CIBC's Run For Our Lives on Oct. 1. From left are Chris Stipdonk, with Tommy and Lindsay Stipdonk in the carriage, Amy Stipdonk, Vanessa Gerlock, Janelle McKee, CIBC branch manager Courtney Squirrel, Kristen Campbell, Travis Wright, Jacqueline Demers and Ber Rethore. Squirrel said the event raised about \$3,400 in total, including through pledges, fundraising efforts, bake sales and chili lunches.