

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@nnsi.com. We'll get a correction or clarification in as soon as we can.

NEWS Briefs

Balanced budget for village council

The Fort Simpson Village Council passed a balanced operation and maintenance budget for the village on Dec. 20. The village estimates its revenues for the year will be \$4,586,249. There are expected to be expenditures of \$3,539,733, said Sebastien Goyer, the village's senior administrative officer.

"We have a balanced budget that allows for some growth," he said.

At this point, council isn't expecting to raise taxes. That position will be assessed when the budget is amended in April.

The pool is one area of increased spending. New equipment needs to be purchased for the new facility and the pool manager position is being extended from an approximately four- to eight-month term.

This will allow for more planning and programming, said Goyer. Last year, \$69,000 was budgeted for the pool. The amount has been increased to \$134,000.

Call for public health care inquiry

Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche is calling for a public health care inquiry into the treatment of a nine-year-old Fort Simpson boy.

Menicoche said Sakaeah Charles Winter only received cursory treatment from the Fort Simpson Health Centre for four weeks. Sakaeah lost 25 per cent of his body weight before being medevaced to Yellowknife on Dec. 6 to be treated for pneumonia and diarrhea. He was later transferred to Edmonton due to complications.

Menicoche and Denise Winter, Sakaeah's mother, met with Tom Beaulieu, the minister of Health and Social Services, on Dec. 20.

Beaulieu committed to an internal review of the case. Menicoche said he wants a public review because it will force the department to do a more thorough job and release the findings.

Walking challenge enters third year

The Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association is encouraging NWT residents to get active this winter. The association is holding its third annual Mackenzie River Walking Challenge.

The event challenges teams to collectively walk 1,658 kilometres, the equivalent distance along the Mackenzie River between Fort Providence and Tuktoyaktuk.

Teams have from Jan. 7 to March 4 to log the necessary kilometres. People of all ages and from all communities are welcomed to join in the challenge.

Potential prizes for the teams who walk the equivalent distance to Tuktoyaktuk include a flight voucher from First Air. Teams must register by Jan. 14.



Canadian Zinc Corporation hopes to receive the water licences and land use permits this year that it needs to move the Prairie Creek Mine into production.

Important year for Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc expects to receive necessary permits and licences for mine operation

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services
Deh Cho

The following 12 months are expected to be of critical importance for Canadian Zinc Corporation.

"I think it will be the pinnacle year for Prairie Creek," said Alan Taylor, Canadian Zinc's vice-president of exploration and chief operating officer.

If everything goes according to the timelines that have been laid out, the company will receive the Type A water licence and two Type A land use permits it needs to start production at Prairie Creek.

"It's an objective we've been working towards for many years," said Taylor.

Progress is also expected to be made on the permits and licences the company needs to realign, rehabilitate and operate the road that will connect the mine to Highway 7.

"We can see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

The Type A licence and permits needed to start production at the mine were the subject of an environmental assessment in 2011. The documents are now going through

the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's permitting process. There has been good progress on technical sessions and information requests, said Taylor.

The public will be able to have its say this month. The board is holding a public hearing from Jan. 29 to 31 in Fort Simpson and on Feb. 1 in Nahanni Butte.

After all the comments are received and considered, a draft licence will be written and circulated to all the appropriate parties for more comments. The final recommendation from the board will be sent to the minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. According to the tentative timetable that's been established, a decision could be released by this June, Taylor said.

There are no indications that the permits will be denied, he said.

Even with the permits, Canadian Zinc will still have to raise the funds to support putting the mine into production. The company has started this process although it's difficult to raise the money without already having the permits, said Taylor.

Canadian Zinc is examining

ways of financing at least the early stages of production. The winter access road provides an additional challenge, he said.

Canadian Zinc needs to plan ahead and order any items that will take a long time to acquire. Ideally, the company would like to have all those items and supplies in place at the winter road staging site so they can be brought in during the winter of 2014. The mine site could then be upgraded during the spring of 2014 and production started later that year.

Canadian Zinc is currently looking at the proposed budget for this summer season. The company would like to continue exploration as well as upgrade some of the facilities at the mine site and work on the access road if it has the necessary permits.

The company had some positive results from its 2012 diamond drill program.

One of the drill holes located in the main resource area near the mine returned the highest grades of silver ever reported on the property. In the sample there were also 60 ounces of silver per short tonne. The

average silver grade in the resource is five ounces of silver per short tonne of material.

"If we get more intercepts like this it will be a silver mine again," said Taylor.

Prairie Creek was originally founded as a silver mine, not zinc.

Exploratory drills done in the Casket Creek area, approximately five kilometres from the mine site, found a number of structures where they were anticipated, although they didn't contain as much mineralization as the main resource. The results show the minerals at the site extend at least 1.6 km beyond the defined resource, which will give the mine a longer life than previously contemplated, Taylor said.

There is a great opportunity at Prairie Creek for the Deh Cho region, he said. Canadian Zinc's goal remains to make sure the mine benefits the region as a whole and to develop the mine in an environmentally responsible way.

"We believe it will be a great benefit to the region to move ahead into production and we look forward to working with the region," said Taylor.