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Seasonal Newsletter: Fall 2020

NWT

Seniors' Society

NWT Seniors' Society AGM

Our AGM will be on Tuesday, Oct 26th from 10 to 12 noon by Zoom or telephone. If you wish to participate by Zoom or by telephone, please contact NWTSS office at 1-800-661-0878 or 920-7444 to register or send an email to ed@seniorsnwt.ca. We are looking for a Board member from Tlicho region if any senior is interested and nominated by a group of seniors.



Current Board: Andre James, Annie Goose, Don Webb, Pat Burnstad, John Hazenberg, Therese Villeneuve, Florence Barnaby, Elizabeth Kunnizzie.
Staff: Suzette Montreuil & Kassandra Spoelder.

Update on Working Together with Elders project

It has been hard for some communities to continue with the *Working Together with Elders* project. Two communities had to withdraw from the project. The Leadership team had another round of applications and selected two new communities.

Welcome Hamlet of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte Dene Band to the project. All the best to the communities who could not continue with us.



Elder in Fort Good Hope

Community Spotlight: Jean Marie River

Jean Marie River or Ttheke'ehdele (water flowing over clay) is a designaed authority in the Dehcho region. The community is located on the Jean Marie River where it joins the Mackenzie river. The population is around 77 people who speak Dene Zhatie and English. JMR does not have a health centre but has a health station called the "Jean Marie Health Cabin".

In May 2021, the Mackenzie River flooded and caused damage to 22 of the 26 homes as well as to the old school.

The community lost its power source as well. Some of the homes will be replaced this year but some people will stay in camps brought to the community. Keep safe and warm!

JMR is one of our communities in Working Together with Elders. They recently hired a new community facilitator, Jennifer Kraus.

Welcome to our project Jennifer!



Old school in Jean Marie River was flooded in May 2021.



Boats on the shore of Jean Marie River.
Photo: Kevin O'Reilly

Elder Abuse in NWT

- Most cases of elder abuse are financial in nature.
- Most abuse is done by a family member.
- NWT has a history of intergenerational trauma from colonialism and residential schools.

Most elders do not want to report cases or take legal action

How can I help?

- Talk to the elder in private
- Tell them you are worried about them
- Ask if they are ok
- Ask how you can help
- Listen to and honour what the elder wants

Our Website!

You can find us online on Facebook and through our website!

Online pages are updated and feature news stories, service announcements, and topics relevant to seniors in the NWT.

www.nwtseniorssociety.ca

www.facebook.com/NWTSeniors

Truth and Reconciliation in the NWT



Shoreline of Great Slave Lake.
Photo credit Kevin O'Reilly

Sept 30th was the first official National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We honour the 150,000 Indigenous, Inuit and Metis children and families who were impacted by residential schools across Canada. Children were cut off from their families, language, culture, and traditions in an attempt to strip them of their identity. Although some students had good experiences, many more suffered neglect and abuse. We honour especially the children who died at the residential schools and were not returned home. Many elders in the NWT have shared their stories on a path to healing and reconciliation.



Dene drummers at Yellowknife gathering following announcements of lives lost at Kamloops residential schools.

“Restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired and return what must be returned.”
The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Results of Board elections
Community profile
Winter hobbies
Updates

COVID Outbreak

There was an outbreak of Covid in the NWT with our numbers reaching 460 cases at time of release of newsletter.

Let's all help protect the elders and the vulnerable by:

- Getting vaccinated
- Washing hands often
- Keeping 2 meters apart
- Wearing face mask
- Limiting size of gathering

Respect our Elders and help keep them safe!



Questions? Contact us!
Phone: 1-800-661-0878 | 867-920-7444
Website: www.nwtseniorsociety.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwtseniors