

Correction

The Nov. 27 article "Someone had essentially hunted me," should have reported Lutsel K'e teacher Jennifer Pott's age as 29 years old *News/North* apologizes for the error.

NEWS Briefs

Leadership meeting

Government and community representatives from across the territory met in Dettah last Tuesday to discuss how to strengthen inter-governmental relationships in the territory.

"We will be stronger and more effective governments for our people and their interests when we speak and work together," Premier Floyd Roland said in a release issued after the leaders' meeting, which he chaired.

Representatives attended from Akaitcho, Tlicho, and Dehcho First Nations, Northwest Territory Metis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat and Sahtu Dene Council, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the NWT Association of Communities, and MLAs Dave Ramsay and David Krutko.

— Katie May

Drug charges stayed

Drug charges against two Edmonton men were stayed in Hay River territorial court on Nov. 19.

Dustin Fiddler, 23, and Nicholas Kyriacou, 19, were charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

They were also charged with possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

The charges followed a seizure of 15 grams of crack cocaine and a small amount of marijuana on the Hay River Reserve on March 5.

Fiddler pleaded guilty to obstructing a police officer by providing a false name and was sentenced to one day of time served.

— Paul Bickford

Code of conduct review

Hay River town council has created a committee to review and further develop its code of conduct.

The committee, established on Nov. 16, consists of councillors Reiss Kruger, Kevin Wallington and Andrew Cassidy.

The council's existing code of conduct — 'Ethical Guidelines of Conduct for Members of Council' — was adopted in 1995.

— Paul Bickford

Canadians get a C on Inuit culture

Most Canadians have a C-grade-level understanding of Inuit culture, according to an Ipsos/Reid poll commissioned by the national Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami organization.

The national average was 64 per cent correct, a C grade.

The 20-question true/false poll results were released Nov. 25.

It surveyed about 1,000 Canadians from Nov. 5 to 7 on topics including whether Inuit pay taxes (75 per cent thought they didn't) and whether climate change is affecting the Inuit more than Canadians in other parts of the country (81 per cent said it is).

Only 16 per cent of those surveyed received an A grade.

— Katie May



photos courtesy of William Hill

Most of the community of Paulatuk packed into the new youth centre building at the centre of town to join in the celebrations.

A place for youth

Paulatuk opens its first youth centre

by Katie May

Northern News Services

Paulatuk

An impending blizzard didn't stop Paulatuk children from following the beat of drum dancers through the centre of town and across the threshold of their very own youth centre, behind the doors of which big screen televisions, video games, pool tables, board games and a canteen waited to delight them.

After years of waiting, Paulatuk's young and young-at-heart celebrated the opening of the community's first youth centre last weekend.

Local dignitaries, including Nunakput MLA Jackie Jacobson, Robert McLeod, minister responsible for youth, and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation CEO Nellie Cournoyea, joined in the celebration on Saturday Nov. 21 with dedication speeches in remembrance of community elders who have recently died, followed by a feast of char chowder, turkey, ham and desserts. On Sunday, the youth got used to their new digs — a pre-constructed building steps away from the arena that arrived by barge in late summer — by competing in pool tournaments, playing a plethora of board games, and rocking out to the video game Guitar Hero.

"It was pretty cool," said 14-year-old Kynwill Gordon-Ruben, who anticipates the youth centre will become a regular hang-



Elder Edward Ruben addresses the crowd alongside Nunakput MLA Jackie Jacobson, left.

out for him and his friends because it's equipped with almost everything they like. When asked how he'd stock his dream youth centre,

Kynwill said "pretty much what's in there is good."

Chris Ruben is the youth centre's new co-ordinator. He previously worked with youth and elders at Paulatuk's Brighter Futures program, and he'll keep the

centre open for about four hours a day from Wednesday to Sunday. Volunteers are already lining

up to fill in during the downtime.

"I didn't know what to expect for the opening, and after going into the building, 'wow,'" Chris said, adding more and more people showed up as the weekend went on.

"It was awesome it was something that sure made me feel good anyways, especially for our youth."

He and the community's new youth committee had their first meeting on Nov. 25 to decide what programs the new space will offer.

Chris said he hopes the youth feel at home in the space and respect it at the same time.

"It's more for them than anything else. It's their building."

Mayor Ray Ruben said the community has wanted a youth centre for several years and its opening means young people can get more involved in their community.

"Now we've got what we hope is going to be an active youth committee, just for the youth centre," Ray said. "It's the type of building that allows for the youth to branch out on their own."

Sixteen-year-old Carmen Green expects the new centre will be jam-packed every time it's open.

"Everyone in town is going, all the youth," she said. "It's real fun to play games there without being bored around this town."

"It's their building."