

### Menicoche-Moses VP

Lorayne Menicoche-Moses, of Fort Simpson, is the new vice-president of the Status of Women Council of the NWT. Gerri Sharpe-Staples, of Inuvik, was chosen as president. Other members of the executive elected last week are: Lynn Brooks and Natasha McCagg of Yellowknife, Fort Resolution's Dolly Lafferty and Betty Tsetso of Deline.

### Register all firearms

The Fort Liard RCMP are trying to organize a week at the end of October to assist community members with licensing and registering their firearms, which federal legislation requires by Jan. 1. Volunteers are needed, especially to help with translation for the elders.

Everyone who registers their firearms must first be licenced, but a submitted licence application doesn't automatically register a gun, Cpl. Craig Seafoot noted. The gun must be registered separately.

Licence applications are available through the Fort Liard detachment or via a toll free phone number. Registration can be done toll-free by phone or via the Internet.

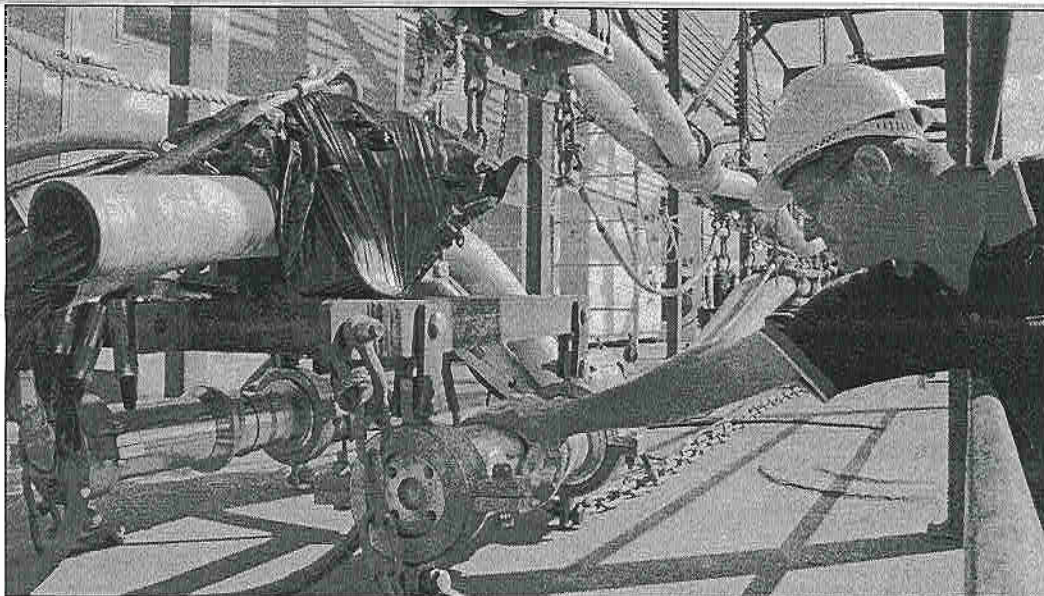
### Time to read

NWT Literacy Week will be marked around the Deh Cho from Sept. 29-Oct. 5. The Read for 15 challenge will be held on Oct. 1. The NWT Literacy Council encourages everyone to pick up a book, a newspaper or a magazine and read.

### 'Not bound by old deals'

Jim Antoine, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, says Canada is not bound by treaties, agreements and statutes from 25 years ago. Federal Minister of Natural Resources Herb Dhaliwal has told American lawmakers who support subsidies for an Alaskan natural gas that a pipeline will not pass through Canada without the support of the Canadian government. They have suggested Canada must abide by the 1977 agreements.

"We are by no means restrained from responding to an ill-advised measure proposed by the American Congress," Antoine said.



Paul Rickford/NWNS photo

**WesternGeco is proposing** to conduct a \$20 million seismic project next summer over the length of the NWT's Liard and Mackenzie Rivers, approximately 1,800 kilometres. The technology, which underwent environmental assessment several weeks ago, involves releasing oscillating bubbles of compressed air that create recordable sound waves. The Liidlii Kue First Nation has indicated that it supports the seismic project, contrary to the Deh Cho First Nations' stance on the issue.

# Seismic dissension

*Liidlii Kue leaning toward Mackenzie program; DCFN negotiator critical*

by Derek Neary  
Northern News Services  
Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

The Liidlii Kue First Nation may sign in support of a seismic program on the Liard and Mackenzie rivers.

In a letter to seismic company WesternGeco in July, the LKFN stated that it plans to sign a memorandum of understanding pending the outcome of an environmental assessment. Chief Rita Cli said last week that seismic technology has vastly improved since the days when dynamite was used.

"There's seismic that's happened on other traditional lands and you wouldn't even know it happened. There's no devastation," Cli said, adding that band members would get jobs from the Mackenzie river seismic project.

Because seismic programs are often a precursor to exploratory drilling for oil and gas, Cli would not rule out the possibility of drilling on the rivers if the

LKFN is involved in the regulatory process and "as long as it meets all the guidelines."

Approval of band members would be a key and other affected First Nations would have to be in favour, she added.

The LKFN's letter to WesternGeco rebuked Deh Cho First Nations assistant negotiator Herb Norwegian, who had unequivocally condemned the proposed seismic program in a recent *Drum* article.

Cli, who was on leave when the letter was written, said Norwegian should not have spoken against the project publicly before consulting the Liidlii Kue First Nation.

"It might be his opinion and not ours," Cli said. "I guess there's a fine line you tow."

Norwegian said he had every confidence in his posture. "That has been a long-held position right from the chiefs and the harvesters time and time again," said Norwegian. "The whole (Deh Cho) declaration was actually based on protecting the waters

... it's a pillar of what we believe in. I'm not going to flex on that, of course not."

The Deh Cho First Nations have been trying to establish a buffer zone on the Mackenzie and Liard rivers through self-government negotiations. Cli said she would like the buffer zone to allow for development if it is approved by First Nations.

Norwegian argued that a buffer zone would have to be all-inclusive or it would essentially be rendered meaningless.

"You can't really say, 'We'll just do a little bit here and there' ... when you do open-heart surgery you don't do a little bit of an operation. You open it right up, and that's the way development has always been done," he said. "Maybe people need to take a trip up to Norman Wells and see these man-made islands. That's what we're dealing with."

A decision on the proposed river seismic program is expected from federal regulators later this year.

*Deh Cho Drum Sept 26/02*