

Did we get it wrong?

Inuvik 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 *Inuvik Drum*, contact the editor at (867) 777-4545 or e-mail inuvikdrum@nns.com.

NEWS Briefs

Leela Gilday concert on Friday

Aboriginal singer and songwriter Leela Gilday will perform at the Midnight Sun Recreation Centre on Friday, Sept. 10. The Yellowknife-based Juno and multi-Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards winner will perform at 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Inuvik to host World Religions Conference

The Midnight Sun Complex will play host to a World Religions Conference on Sunday, Sept. 26.

The event, which will run from 3 to 7 p.m., will centre on one key question: "the existence of God, fact or fiction?"

Several scholars of a variety of faiths including aboriginal beliefs, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, are expected to make presentations.

Join the Terry Fox Run

The Town of Inuvik Recreation Department will be putting on the annual Terry Fox Run fundraiser for cancer research on Sunday, Sept. 19. Registration begins at the Inuvik Family Centre at noon and the run begins at 1 p.m.

A barbecue will be held after the run for participants.

For more information, contact the recreation department.

Figure skating coaches wanted

The Inuvik Figure Skating Club is looking for coaches for the upcoming season.

The season runs from October to March and coaches are needed particularly for both the CanSkate and StarSkate programs.

Any amount of volunteer time would be appreciated.

For more information, contact Theresa Ross.

Curling's back

Registration for curlers ages seven to nine opens the week of Oct. 4, at the Curling Club at 7 p.m.

The eight-week season is expected to get underway soon after sign-up week.

Junior curling for Grades 4 to 12 is also expected to get underway in October. Four one hour sessions from Monday to Thursday will be held at the rink weekly from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Players of all ages must play with clean shoes and track pants, if possible.

Join the Delta Girls

The Youth Centre is offering a program aimed at creative girls between the ages of nine and 11.

Delta Girls will be held at the centre from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include a variety of stimulating activities including media workshops, cooking and sewing classes. Participants are free to drop in.



Andrew Rankin/NNSL photo

Amy Thompson, executive director of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, presents Robert Charlie with one of several parting gifts last Friday.

Stepping aside

Robert Charlie resigns as chair of Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board after 16 years

by Andrew Rankin
Northern News Services

During his 16 years chairing the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Robert Charlie said he always strived to give beneficiaries a voice in the management of their resources.

Over the years he had become respected for reaching out to settlement communities, ensuring decisions centering on wildlife management were done with input from each of them.

On Friday afternoon a small group of people gathered at the Alex Moses Greenland building on Veteran's Way for a celebratory lunch to mark the end of Charlie's tenure as chair.

Robert Alexie, former vice president of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, had worked closely

with Charlie over the years. He said the fact that his former colleague and friend remained in the position for so long speaks to the confidence that his fellow board members and beneficiaries had in him.

"He understands the people; he has knowledge of traditional ways and the land. He's brought stability through his passion," said Alexie.

At the send-off several outside organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, recognized his commitment to environmental sustainability. Board executive director Amy Thompson, who worked under Charlie's guidance for four years, presented him with parting gifts, which included a framed photo of Charlie surrounded by warm sentiments from friends and colleagues.

"He's always been generous with his time."

Besides overseeing board meetings and giving a voice to settlement communities, Charlie was responsible for overseeing conservation projects, representing the board to other government groups.

"He's always been key in bringing the communities' perspectives to the table and he's been heavily involved in lots of different projects from the caribou management plan to the Rat River Fishing Plan," said Thompson. "He's always been generous with his time. He'll be missed."

No leadership experience

When Charlie stepped into the role in 1994, after being approached by the board, he had no formal leadership experience. He said he was forced to learn fast but he said all the effort was worth it.

"I've really enjoyed it," said Charlie. "Having the communities involved in the management side is a really big thing. In the past we

never had any control of resources that we depended on. I take a lot of pride in that we were able to fix that together."

He'll be stepping into the position of director of Gwich'in Services for the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The position is human resources heavy with an emphasis on helping beneficiaries advance their educational training. He said he hopes more of them will further their education and return to give back to their communities.

He said he also hopes residents of settlement communities will continue to work with all the Gwich'in governing bodies.

"We need to provide them with more support," he said. "They can take on more responsibilities and not let the Gwich'in Tribal Council take so much of a lead in governance. The question is how do you engage the people to get them more involved?"