

Correction

A photo caption on page A1 in the Aug. 21 edition of *News/North* incorrectly referred to mountain goat legs being carried by Dinah Blake back to a wilderness camp.

News/North regrets the error and apologizes for any confusion it may have caused.

NEWS Briefs

Inquiry will visit more NWT communities

NWT

The community visit to Yellowknife and Behchoko this week is not the only one the missing women's inquiry will make.

Melissa Carlick, community liaison officer for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, said the inquiry will visit other NWT communities next year. She was not able to confirm which communities the inquiry will visit yet.

Communications advisor Caroline Hotte said further information will be provided later this year.

The national inquiry, established in 2016, has a mandate to examine systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls and make recommendations for their solutions before December 2018.

— Emelie Peacock

Airline investigation wraps up

Somba K'e/Yellowknife

The Competition Bureau announced Tuesday it has found no evidence Canadian North and First Air engaged in anti-competitive acts. The bureau conducted investigations into a codeshare agreement between the two airlines and allegations First Air and Canadian North were using predatory pricing to freeze out competitors, specifically on the Iqaluit-Ottawa route. The companies have since terminated the agreement.

— Jessica Davey-Quantick

Should sun rise on festival?

Inuvik

A suggestion has been made to move the date of the annual Inuvik Sunrise Festival to better capitalize on the tourism potential.

"We're just not bringing enough people up," said Kylik Kisouni Taylor of Tundra North Tours.

Taylor was speaking at the first public planning meeting for the 2018 event.

Taylor said he's had customers who wanted to go to the festival but switched to the Muskrat Jamboree, which falls in April.

"It's almost like push it forward (to make it a New Year's celebration) or move it back a month," said Taylor.

In addition to the poor timing of the date, the sunrise festival occurs at a time of the year when — obviously — Inuvik is very dark which is poor for tourism.

— Stewart Burnett

Premier voices support for LGBTQ+ community

Inuvik

During NWT Pride weekend earlier this month, Premier Bob McLeod issued a statement voicing his support for the LGBTQ+ community.

"All residents of the Northwest Territories deserve to live their lives free of discrimination and persecution, regardless of who they love or their sexual identity," he stated in a news release.

"I commend NWT Pride for bringing people together to celebrate the diversity and courage of the community.

"Because of this work, NWT Pride has created a space where everyone is welcomed, and inspires residents through the workshops, events and activities it hosts over the weekend."

The GNWT recently became the first jurisdiction in Canada to offer a third gender identity on government certificates without the need for reassignment surgery.

There was no public Pride event held in Inuvik this year.

— Stewart Burnett



Emelie Peacock/NISL photos

Connor Beaton, left, Jacob Kudlak, Alannis McKee and Sasha Clouston are four of the trailblazers behind *Voices for Youth: Northern Narratives on Disability*. The publication features 12 youth from Yellowknife and across the NWT, telling their own stories of challenges, successes, hopes, dreams and their daily lives lived with a disability.

Disability doesn't define Aklavik's Carly Sayers

Trailblazing NWT youth shares their stories in book of narratives

by Emelie Peacock
Northern News Services
Aklavik

Carly Sayers is a young woman with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder who is not about to let her disability define her.

The 24-year-old Aklavik resident said she has met the challenges of the disability she lives with head on, the main hurdle for her now is how others look at and judge people with disabilities.

"Our disability is the first barrier," she said, adding it is up to people with disabilities to work through this. The second barrier, the more difficult one, is judgment from the outside world.

"People tend to look at us and say we can't do anything for ourselves," she said. "People tend to see us as just that, just our disability. They don't really see what's behind the disability."

Carly is one of 12 young people from the communities of Aklavik, Hay River and Yellowknife who are sharing their stories for the first time in the publication *Voices of Youth: Northern Narratives on Disability*. It is a publication founder Alannis McKee wants every MLA and every member of the Department of Health and Social Services and Department of Education, Culture and Employment to read.

"I think that a lot of the time we talk about disability, we are talking about early childhood or the aging population. There's also not a lot of resources that talk about disability in a Northern context," she said.

The narratives, told in an question and answer format, illustrate some of the difficulties youth in the North face. While the 12 people live with differ-

ent developmental and emotional disabilities, many echo challenges of finding employment, getting around, dealing with self-isolation and finding acceptance.

For young people in the communities, McKee said there are virtually no resources compared to Yellowknife. One contributor, Jenna Aitken, relocated from Hay River to Grande Prairie because of isolation and a lack of work and volunteer opportunities.

Sayers would like to see more counselling in Aklavik, but she added she is able to access some services through the local health centre and has found some work

opportunities as well.

The young people sharing their stories in the book are adamant the focus not be solely on doom and gloom, but also perseverance.

Connor Beaton, a 19-year-old living with autism, said he's faced a tough time learning and getting good grades, but wanted to tell his story about making the honour roll and finding employment after high school.

"One of the best things about putting ourselves out there is that it just shows we're not afraid to show what we went through in life and how much we've grown," he said.

For people who don't know about FASD, Sayers urges them to read the book and understand before they pass judgement.

"I would like to say to them, study before you say something back. Study what the disability means and how it can be over-passed," she said.

For the youth living with disability, Sayers has words of encouragement she shares in the book.

"Make a living out of yourself. Don't just stay home in doom and gloom. Suicide is not an answer as well. Just keep living and doing your best," she writes.



Connor Beaton, left, Jacob Kudlak, Alannis McKee and Sasha Clouston all met at St. Patrick High School's Best Buddies Club. They shared stories of coming out of their shell and coming into their own while at high school, and are now sharing their stories of living with disability in a new publication called *Voices of Youth*.