

Northern Justice Symposium

May 17-19,
Ches Leach Lounge,
Prince Albert

Mayor & Councillor Gathering

June 16,
Prince Albert Travelodge

Saskatchewan Association of
Northern Communities

NEW NORTH

Monthly Newsletter April 2016

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2016 New North Waterworks a Big Hit With Men Who Wear Hats Inside and Cell Phones on Their Belts

Planning for the annual New North Waterworks—an event enabling water operators to catch up on their required Continuing Education Units (CEUs)—can be a stressful exercise for our small team.

There is, at least in theory, some comfort in knowing that we are catering to men and women who spend a good portion of their lives wading through sewage, comfortable in confined spaces which can be simultaneously too hot and too cold, experience the dual burden of both unreasonable public expectations and little recognition for the work they do, and are in addition, the last people anyone invites to the staff Christmas party. People, in other words, who might carry around lowered expectations like a water-born bacteria cell carries around a flagella.

Yet, every year we are stung by how wrong our assumptions are. When we are reminded that the sorbet is too sweet, the mattresses not fluffy enough, the swimming pool a touch too tepid, the cream puffs “clearly not made with real cream,” and the chardonnay “room temperature and [having] obviously just been opened,” we know we have a tough crowd.

This year, we went all out to give these heroes of the sewer lines

the best New North Waterworks ever.

Over two days about 80 women and men—about 70 of whom were actual water operators—packed into the ballroom of the Prince Albert Inn to hear presentations about workplace safety by Ken from A to Z in Prince Albert, and to participate in an Operators Math course, presented by Sean from KGS in Regina. The second day was dedicated to water disinfecting by ATAP’s Bert Gaudet.

The math course was quite challenging, at least for this observer, bringing to mind the TV quiz show, *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader* (a show which, incidentally, proves that no one learns anything of lasting use in the 5th grade). Thankfully, the operators didn’t have as much difficulty with the math (perhaps because they have round the clock access to the minds of grade school kids?), but no one could name three Egyptian Pharaohs. Luckily, there isn’t call for it in the water business.

Although cartoon videos instructing what to do in the event of being blasted by



radioactive plasma photons suggest the safety course was not specifically geared to water plant operators—a minor complaint—it was nevertheless pretty good at drumming home the idea that workplace safety can often—but not always—come back to choices you make on the work site.

The 0.6 CEU presentation on water disinfection techniques was also very worthwhile, leaving behind the impression that while there are alternatives to solving our water issues by dumping truckloads of chlorine into our systems, most of them are too expensive to contemplate.

In the end, we think the whole thing went well.

And once again we owe a big thanks to Kerry Desjarlais from the Water Security Agency for helping to make this happen.

Municipal Election Training for Administrators

Here is an interesting bit of trivia. Back in the original version of the municipalities acts in the 1800s, it was considered a grave breach for a candidate to supply a conveyance to a voter to get to a polling booth. So, for example, if you were a candidate, you weren't allowed to give anyone a lift on your horse, supply a wagon or even a hydrogen balloon as a means of helping someone vote, as this could be seen as influencing them.

Fortunately, we don't have anything like that anymore. Or do we? Find out by attending the local government elections workshop being put on by Government Relations, UMAAS and RMAAS at the **Prince Albert Inn on May 25th**. The day starts at 10am. Municipal elections are being held in October.

Administrators attending are asked to bring along copies of The Local Government Elections Act and The Local Government Elections Act Regulations.

To find out more about the event, go to the UMAAS website, www.umaas.ca. It's a good idea to pre-register, and registrations are about \$85. That also gets you lunch.

Victim Services in La Loche Gets Another Worker

As announced by government in early March, an additional police-based victims service worker to address the immediate needs of victims in the village of La Loche has been added to their roster.



North Sask Victim Services Inc has been a constant presence in the village since the shooting on January 22nd. The village will now have two full time workers in the community.

Police based victim services workers work closely with police and provide information, support and referrals to victims of crime to help lessen the immediate and long-term impact of victimization.

In addition to the new worker, the compensation limit for counselling available through the Victims Compensation Program was raised from \$2000 to \$5000.

New North Gathering Confirmed for June 16

Dr Ken Coates of the U of S will be a special guest at this coming New North Mayor and Councillor Gathering, which we've booked for the Travelodge in Prince Albert on June 16. Dr Coates will be joined by a special delegation from MLTC and PAGC, and the purpose is to continue our northern strategic

Apply Now for the New North Scholarship!

Since it began way back in 2014, New North has provided \$6,000 to northern post-tertiary students to help them pursue their dreams of becoming nurses, lawyers, and even town administrators. Last year's award winners came from La Ronge, Denare Beach and Cumberland House. Previous scholarship winners have come from La Loche and Creighton.

Applications are once again open for the **New North Administration and Leadership Scholarship**. If you know of someone either continuing or going into a post-secondary course, and who could use a little financial help (which, quite frankly, is just about everyone of them), direct them to New North's website, www.newnorthsask.org, where they can download an application form.

Because this is a scholarship aimed at promoting the values of leadership and excellence, we ask applicants to write a 500 word essay telling us a little about themselves, and how they see their chosen career choices as contributing to the benefit of northern Saskatchewan residents. No biggie. Applications close June 30.

With the census coming up this year, what can we expect to see happening to your official population numbers? In our special series, *We Spent the Afternoon Fooling Around With Graphs and Such*, we take a look at what might be in store for you following ...

CENSUS 2016: That Birthrate Might Finally Be Paying Off

According to reports in the media this month, the City of Prince Albert thinks it has lost about \$5 million over 5 years because of census forms not getting filled in.

In the north, as we reported a few months ago, the situation is quite similar. Our understanding is that locals are being hired to take the census this year, and so hopefully fewer hamlets will disappear off the face of the earth. Welcome back, Turnor Lake, by the way.

So, what can we see happening this time? And what's in it for you if your population rises anyway?

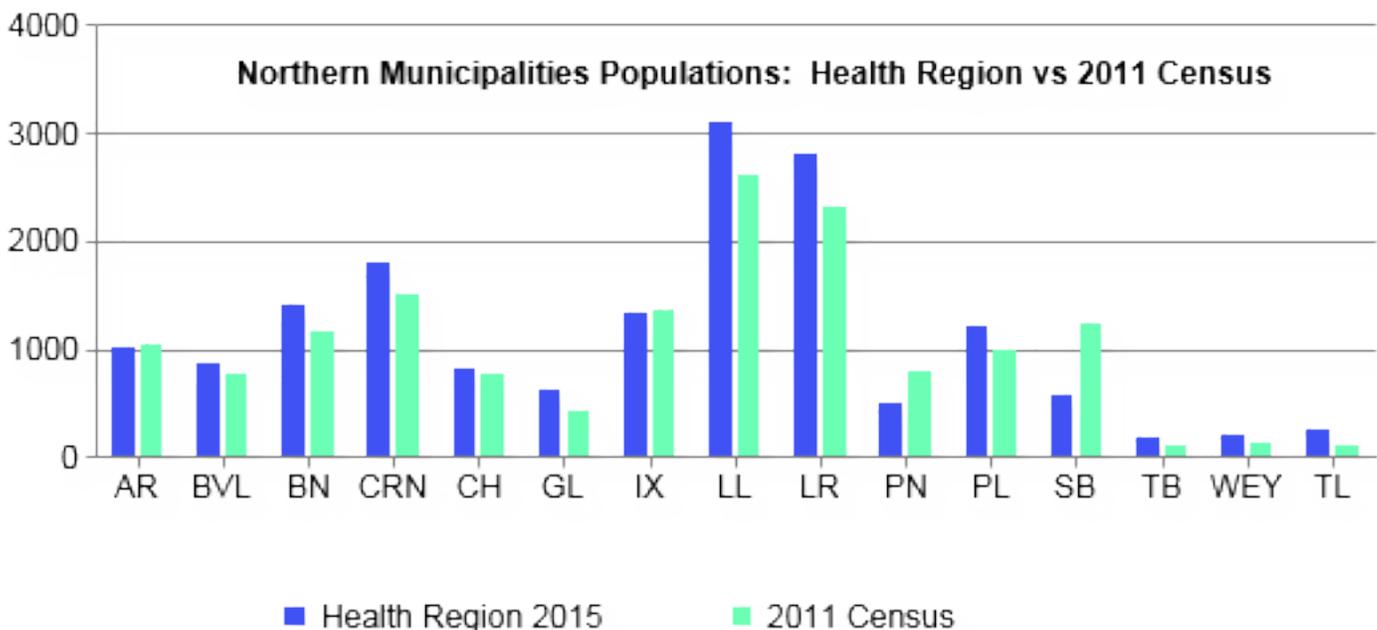
As you know, there are a number of municipal grant streams that rely on population figures to work out how much money you get. The two that stand out are the northern revenue sharing grant, which has a per capita figure built into it, and the Gas Tax Fund. As we explained last month, the per capita portion of the NRS varies depending on a number of factors. Set at about a \$110, let's say, the NV of La Loche would receive about \$287,210 in its per capita allotment based on a 2011 census population figure of 2794. However, if we were to assume that the population—as indicated by its health region enrolments in

2015—is actually closer to 3086, that per capita figure comes up to \$340,000 or so. Over five years, that's an extra \$250,000.

It's a similar situation for the Gas Tax Fund. At \$56 per person, La Loche is currently sitting on about \$150,000 a year, but would move to \$172,000—or an extra \$100,000 over five years.

Of course, things are not as simple as that. With a higher global population and a fixed amount of global funding, the per capita allotments get pared down as population rises. So, if we assume a global population increase of 10%, but a stagnant funding pool, per capita allocations would fall relative to the global population increase.

Looking at the graph below, we can see where either the census figures were not correctly tallied, or the population has grown (or fallen) since 2011. Either way, if the census is at all more accurate this time around (and assuming health region population figures are legit), then we can expect an increase in the northern municipal population figures of about 10-15% following the 2016 census.



New North Politics Club
2016 Election
Corner

NDP Celebr8s as Northerners Don't 4 Get 2 Vote Vermette

Cumberland candidate, Doyle Vermette along with Athabasca's Buckley Belanger, completed the trifecta for the NDP April 4, after Georgina Jolibois' surprise win for the northern riding in the federal election back in October.

The overall result of the provincial election, while not unexpected, nevertheless had a bizarre twist, with NDP leader Cam Broten losing his seat to a trucker. The only other candidate to be dislodged was, as expected, Victoria Jurgens down in Prince Albert.

To complete the year of elections, we're all set to cast our ballots again this October in the municipal elections. This will be the first local elections following the government's legislative amendments to tighten conflict interest provisions, including mandatory public disclosure. Will we see a drop in candidates as a result?



Alan Blakeney was once Premier of Saskatchewan



Local Candidate Revels in Slogans

In amongst the cynicism and cheap jabs that can often characterize a hard-fought election campaign, it was nice to see the return of catchy political slogans invented by local school children in this year's election, with Doyle Vermette's push featuring **Stay Loyal, Vote Doyle** and **Don't 4 Get, Vote Vermette** on buttons, badges and signs.

Doyle's employment of 9 year olds in his Dickensian-era rhyme-writing workhouse made us think of all the opportunities for other candidates to cash in on a political ear-worm.

Slogans not embraced by the candidates included Buckley Belanger's **It's pronounced Belang-jay**, which we thought had the virtue of being both accurate and containing useful information. Green candidate Mick Lessard missed out by not using **Go Hard, Go Lessard** or **Vote 4 the Lesser Bard!**

Not to be forgotten is Cumberland candidate Thomas Sierzycki, who could have gone with **Vote for more Thomases, Not Empty Promises**, or our personal choice, **You voted Hordyksi, Now Vote Sierzycki**, a homage to 2011's Sask. Party candidate Joe Hordyski.

The premier in the end didn't need **Don't Be Mad, Bro, Vote Brad, Yo**, but we feel Jim Reiter could have benefited from **Nothing Could be Tighter than Voting Jim Reiter**, given that he won his Rosetown-Elrose constituency by a mere 4400 votes.

Upcoming Municipal Elections

It's not too late for you to get in on the action, though. With municipal elections in October, we'd like to know if you're planning to go in with a slogan, catchphrase, pithy saying, jingle or even a slant rhyme.

Here's a few to get you started. See if you can guess who these are about (you might be surprised):

Get on the D-Train

Just Sayin' Vote Say-n

Isidore Gives You More

Rompin' Stompin'

Answers:

Duane Favel

Al Sayn

Isidore Desjarlais

Matt Heley



NewNorth News & Updates

Govt. Unleashes Landfill SWAT, ah, Team

The Ministry of Environment's Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)—of which New North is a member—held its second meeting during April, to deliberate upon a terms of reference for the group, and more importantly, to come up with a cool new name.

The previous name, the Rural Landfill Advisory Team, not only lacked a certain elegance, a certain *je ne sais quoi* shall we say, but didn't quite capture the amount of rappelling from helicopters, door busting, perp interrogations and high speed car chases the group was finding itself involved in.

Seriously, though, what is this about?

The SWAT has been set up to perform a number of key roles. The chief of these is to provide advice and recommendations to municipalities struggling with landfill and solid waste management issues, particularly compliance. However, when we say compliance we are not talking about water sitting in the trench or plastic bags blowing up against the fence—I mean, assuming you have one.

The team is more about helping municipalities of 2000 people and less with some of the bigger

issues: how to move to a regional waste system; what to do about recycling; who might be the person to ask about where to get dirt from.

Let's say your community is thinking about moving to regional system. Who would you go see to start that process? What communities have gone through it, and what advice can they provide you?

And what about decommissioning? What is the deal with that?

The team—which will meet every quarter or so—is comprised of mayors and councillors, ministry officials, and us, who have a great deal of experience in answering these types of questions.

The idea is that if you are a community facing any “big picture” type issues with your landfill or solid waste system, you come to one of our meetings and just, like, totally lay it on the line.

The teams is there to help, and there is no judging. Promise.

If you want to know more about the SWAT, send us an email right away at matt.newnorth@sasktel.net.

Infrastructure Funding Picture Not Clear Yet

The election of a new federal government brought about a renewed commitment to double-up on infrastructure funding for municipalities.

The federal budget delivered much needed millions for First Nations infrastructure, but the picture about how any commitments to municipal funding will roll out is still very much up in the air. The problem, as you can surely guess, is that any new money promised by the

federal government will need to be matched, in one way or another, by the provincial government. As we all know, this is no easy matter—given the huge deficit.

The good news is that the new infrastructure program, when we see it, will be quite broad in its focus—meaning that is a good chance you'll get that giant mouse wheel you've be hankering after. More news when we get it.

Community Police Board Funding Done for Now

Although we only had it for about 4 months it seems like forever ago that New North began rolling out the funding for the CPBs. For now, the funding is done, but we still hold out

hope that the agreement will be renewed for 2016-17. Everything depends on the budget.

In the meantime, we hope the CPBs continue to do the good work they have been doing; we will let you know right away if there is any developments on this file.

Book Review

WE READ THREE CHAPTERS OF THIS BOOK AND FEEL QUALIFIED TO WRITE A REVIEW OF IT NOW

“FROM TREATY PEOPLES TO TREATY NATION: A ROAD MAP FOR ALL CANADIANS” BY DR KEN COATES & DR GREG POELZER

REVIEWED BY MATT HELEY

If there is one takeaway in Ken Coates’ and Greg Poelzer’s new book, *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation*, it’s not hard to find; it’s right there in the title: Canada, they argue, ought to move from thinking about “Aboriginal issues,” the “Indian question,” reconciliation—or however you want to put that—as an atomized issue within a galaxy of atomized issues, to one that is central to the very idea of what it means for Canadians to think about who they are *as* Canadians.

The treaties, after all, had two parties to them. Have non-Aboriginal Canadians fulfilled their side of the bargain? Not on your life.

In essence, the authors maintain, Canada has always been a “treaty nation”; we just didn’t know it, or if we knew it, we haven’t faced up to the reality of it yet.

But this is an ambitious concept. There is no “road map” to get there, very little in the way of consensus among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal thinkers and activists about how to reach that goal. And so, Coates and Poelzer, write:

The political challenge of reconciliation ... now involves moving beyond philosophical positions into the realm of administrative practicalities and financial realities. (122)

This is not a book that spends a great deal of time labouring over competing “philosophical” positions. It does enough to identify—in the first 3 or 4 chapters—some of the key arguments of a representative group of thinkers from across the political spectrum. On the far left, we might say, are those Aboriginal intellectuals who want to see indigenous people striking out as separate nations governed along traditional principles (the “traditionalists”)—with all that entails. We have non-Aboriginal thinkers at the other end of the spectrum who favour greater assimilation. And, in the middle, we have a group they call “Treaty Federalists,” who embody what is sometimes referred to as the “two wampum” concept, where a Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal polity exist side by side, but separate, facing each other “nation to nation.”

Coates and Poelzer respond to each position with a key question: yes, but how realistic, how

practical, are they to ultimately achieving the goal of true reconciliation?

The final third of the book is the “road map” itself, their suggestions for achieving social, political and economic equality for indigenous people within the political realities of Canada today.

There are too many of these to go through, but a few are worth mentioning.

Commonwealth of Aboriginal Peoples

This would be an elected organization that represents all indigenous groups. It would be responsible for the control and distribution of the funding for First Nations—a kind of indigenous-controlled INAC.

Resource Revenue Sharing

Part of the funding for the Commonwealth could be based on wealth generated from “land and resources”—in symbolic recognition of the spirit of the treaties—based on their percentage contribution to Canada’s GDP.

Block funding of Social Welfare

As a kind of “work for the dole,” social welfare income could be provided to bands to create employment for their residents.

True to the authors’ aim, a particular strength of *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation* is the positioning of each suggestion within a mostly already existing frame or narrative that would be familiar and acceptable to most Canadians. If, for example, we accept the right of Quebec fully fund tertiary education or childcare, why do we make a fuss when First Nations seek to do the same thing? We accept different orders of government in Canada (ie, provincial, federal, municipal) without question, why do we balk when First Nations seek the same privilege?

The authors take positions that some of you will disagree with—the need for a MMIW Inquiry, for example (not because it’s not an important issue, mind you, but because they believe there is another way). But it is precisely their point that for true reconciliation to have a chance, we all need to move away from set-in-stone positions and challenge received orthodoxies. For no matter how powerfully-held our convictions might be, there is always a middle ground, a path toward an achievable and mutually beneficial consensus.

12th Annual Northern Justice Symposium

May 17-19, 2016, at the Ches Leach Lounge, Prince Albert

A highlight of this year's Northern Justice Symposium will be the Northern Excellence Awards, to be handed out during the Wednesday of the event. The Excellence Awards recognize the efforts of people who are working hard to make the north a better place.

Awards will be presented in the categories of RCMP member of the Year, Community of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

Other highlights will include the Elder's Wisdom wrapping up, and possibly starting off each day, motivational speaker "Indian Ernie," and a presentation from Harold Johnson on the northern alcohol strategy.

Also, be sure not to miss Dr Ken Coates' Keynote. We review Ken's book (look left), which is a great read. But as good as he a writer he is twice as good a speaker.

- To register for 2016 NJS, go to our website, www.newnorthsask.org.

2016 NJS Agenda

TUESDAY MAY 17, 2016

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration
 8:30-8:45 Opening Prayer & Opening Ceremonies
 MCs: Duane Favel, Roberta McKale
 Dignitaries: Al Sayn – New North
 RCMP - Brenda Butterworth-Carr
 8:45 - 9:30 Motivational Speaker:
 9:30 - 10:30 Northern Engagement Presentation
 10:30 - 11:00 Nutrition Break/Draws
 11:00 - 12:00 Restorative Practices - NLDS #113
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break (Provided)
 1:00 - 2:00 Domestic Violence Initiatives and Strategies
 2:00 - 3:00 Bill C32 - The Victims Bill of Rights
 Presenter
 3:00 - 3:15 Nutrition Break/Draws
 3:15- 4:15 RADA "Reserves against Drugs & Alcohol:
 4:15 - 4:30 Closing Remarks & Draws

WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2016

- 8:30 - 8:45 Opening Prayer
 8:45 - 9:30 "When We Know Each Other"
 Motivational Speaker: Ernie Loutit
 9:30 - 10:30 Effects of Drugs & Alcohol in Northern Saskatchewan
 10:30 - 11:00 Nutrition Break / Draws
 11:00 - 12:00 Search & Rescue MOU
 12:00 - 1:00 Northern Excellence Awards Luncheon
 1:00 - 2:00 FNPP - Aboriginal Policing Renewal Community Tripartite Agreement
 2:00 - 3:00 Band Bylaws & Bylaw Enforcement
 3:00 - 3:15 Nutrition Break/Draws
 3:15 - 4:15 RCMP Crime Prevention & Crime Reduction
 Recruiting - Community Services -
 4:15 - 4:30 Closing Remarks & Draws

THURSDAY MAY 19, 2016

- 8:30 - 8:45 Opening Prayer
 8:45 - 9:30 MMIW - "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women"
 9:30 - 11:30 Domestic Violence Panel
 11:30 Closing Comments: New North, RCMP, Ministry of Justice
 12:00 Lunch (provided)

CAMECO/AREVA ANNOUNCE “SIX RIVERS FUND” FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

“April is the cruellest month,” said English poet T.S. Eliot, and this could not have been truer for uranium giant Cameco and its workers.

This month we saw not only the closing of the Rabbit Lake mine and the loss of 500 jobs, but a further \$6 million loss for the quarter. The miner declared it would be facing a tough year as prices of U308 continue to flounder.

Still, despite all that—or because of it—Cameco and Areva have gone ahead to unveil of “legacy fund,” called the Six Rivers Fund.

The trust fund idea has been in the works for quite some time, and is (in our view) the result of complaints by many northerners that the mining giants haven’t been contributing enough to the economic and social development of the northern communities. With a small hand full of First Nations and municipalities benefiting from IBAs, the uranium miners have worn criticism for only doing as much as they are legally obligated to do to compensate communities for the impact of mining. The branding of the fund as a “legacy fund” addresses the concern of northerners that uranium miners are not doing enough to provide for northern needs once the mining is gone.

Also impacting the reputation of the uranium miners as good “corporate citizens” is the ongoing legal action by Canada Revenue Agency, which is claiming that Cameco has dodged about \$800 million to 1 billion in taxes since 1999 as a result of a “transfer pricing” agreement it was with a subsidiary it owns in Europe. The CRA alleges that the effect of the transfer pricing deal was to shift all its operating profit offshore where taxes are lower, while keeping all its operating losses in Canada. As a result, Cameco

has racked up millions in tax losses that it can use to offset future Canadian tax bills.

Initially, the Six Rivers Fund will make about \$100,000 available in 2016 to get things rolling, with the fund having about \$200,000 in capital right now. The amount of capital Cameco and Areva add to the fund will depend on the price of uranium and the production out of Key Lake. With uranium going for a song right now, the fund will build quite slowly. However, it is anticipated that at some point the fund will contain about \$50 million in the decades to come. Like all trust funds, the money available to be distributed is the interest on the capital.

Trust funds like this are pretty common in northern Saskatchewan, and can be quite effective in providing one-off funding to small community-driven projects. However, as PLEDCO have found (PLEDCO is the trust fund created out of the bombing range settlement on the westside), finding a balance between drip-feeding small one-off projects and bankrolling a big and self-sustaining project, can be tricky.

The Six Rivers fund has chosen Youth, Education, Health and Wellness and Sport and Recreation as priority areas for funding. The fund will provide up to 75% of the cost of any project—meaning you will need to come up with 25% yourself or from some other source.

While the legacy fund sounds great, we need to keep the amount distributed in perspective: the Community Initiatives Fund, which many of you are familiar with, often doles out up to \$100,000 a year in the north—and will fund 80% of a project.

More information about the Six Rivers Fund can be found on the website, www.sixriversfund.ca.

Telling STORIES about
ALCOHOL

HAROLD JOHNSON



Harold Johnson, appearing in his beautiful and extraordinary video, *The Story About Alcohol*

Many people know Harold Johnson from his time as a defense lawyer, and then a Crown Prosecutor, in the La Ronge area.

Others know him as an author of novels like *Billy Tinker*, a book based off his experiences as a labourer in mining and logging camps.

Now, we know Harold Johnson as the teller of stories about alcohol.

As the man in charge of the Northern Alcohol Strategy, Harold Johnson has seen the worst that alcohol addiction can do: two brothers killed in drunk driving incidents.

He also speaks from his experience as a rough and ready drinker, and as a lawyer, representing and prosecuting men and women in northern Saskatchewan.

It is from his involvement as a lawyer in the criminal justice system that comes his claim that 95% of cases coming before the courts are related to incidents committed while

under the influence of alcohol. He says that 75% of a policeman's job is "babysitting drunks."

Johnson's 30 minute video (which you can find on Youtube by typing in "Harold Johnson" and "alcohol" in the search bar) is bold and imaginative in its approach to the subject. Few people, in fact, would dare to use quantum physics as a mixer, but there he is, adding one part uncertainty principle to one part poetry and one part history.

"Everything is story," he says. "I am story, the universe is story. When you go out at night and look up at the stars ... You are not seeing stars where they are.

"All the light from those stars has travelled for millions of miles and all you are seeing is

the history of the universe written in light."

"Canada doesn't exist other than the story we tell about it. The 49th parallel is not there; you can drive down, there is no line," he says, disappointing anyone planning to make that a summer destination.

The point, of course, is that if these things that we see as having a material relation to us are "just stories we tell ourselves," then can we think about everything else in the

same way ... including alcohol addiction.

"We discovered that things become what we are looking for," he says.

“When we look at northern Saskatchewan we see a pile of problems. If we take alcohol out of that our problems will shrink by half.”

But, he says, stories have power.

"There's a story going around, and I'm sure you've heard of it. It's called the dirty drunken Indian story. I had a young person tell me that to be a real Indian you had to drink," he says. "We've internalized that story. We believe that to be real Indians we have to drink."

He says that "we change the story by recognizing the story we tell ourselves is a lie. It was created. It was made up."

Instead, he says, "we need to tell ourselves sober stories."

Howard Johnson, lawyer and novelist, is one of our special guest speakers at this year's Northern Justice Symposium, in Prince Albert on May 17-19.

Emergency Management Planning

Communities have already begun reviewing their Emergency Management Plans, which are mandatory for you to have under *The Emergency Planning Act*. The province has a 68 page document outlining the 9 steps of emergency planning. If you've forgotten how to find that, go to our website, www.newnorthsask.org; we've got a link to it there. Or you can Google Emergency Management Saskatchewan.

FROM THE CEO

BY AL LOKE, CEO OF NORTH

With the provincial election out of the way we turn our attention to an uncertain future. The loss of 500 jobs at Rabbit Lake is a tough blow for northern workers and the northern economy. Depressed commodity prices, which have eaten away at communities in the south, are now starting to bite us here as well. It's a reminder of how vulnerable we all are—no matter where we are—to the ill-mannered gales of the global economy. And, of course, we have a bleak outlook for the provincial budget. Our feeling is that as bad as this year's budget will be, next year's could be worse, especially for the municipal

sector, with the likelihood of tax increases through the Education Property Tax. Compounding the squeeze is the 2017 revaluation. After each of the last two revaluations, northern property taxes have increased substantially. To add to our worries, we have another fire season rapidly approaching. So far, with fire bans already in place in some communities, prospects are not looking good for a peaceful, undisturbed summer. We are hoping that the province's rethinking of its wildfire management strategies, combined with a good spring rain, and a bit of luck, will help prevent another disaster. If you're like me you'll be watching those summer storms roll in from the west, hoping for the best, planning for the worst.

About New North ...

Since 1996 New North has been the voice of the municipalities of Northern Saskatchewan. Our goal, as defined by our mission statement, is advocate, negotiate and initiate improvements in well-being of the residents of the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District. Organized on the basis of strength through unity, New North partners with all northern stakeholders, from government and non-government agencies, associations and First Nations, to enhance the quality of life, create opportunities and build futures, for the people of the north.

New North Executive

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Mayor **Duane Favel** (Vice Chair)
Mayor **Gordon Stomp** (Treasurer)
Mayor **Val Deschambeault**
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