

# *Cli Lake Ecology Camp 2013*



*Participants*

# Sponsors



**AAROM**

Dehcho Aquatic Resource Management

**DEH CHO LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
*One Land One Plan*



*Ndéh Łié - Mek'ée Ats'et'ı Łié*  
**Dehcho Ndéhé T'áhagot'ı gha Sááhniogıpáh-ké**



**Northwest Territories** Municipal and Community Affairs



**Northwest Territories** Environment and Natural Resources

# Staff



Bruce Townsend  
Instructor  
AAROM



Ria Letcher  
Host  
NNNL



Loyal Letcher  
Facilitator  
NNNL



Cindy Browning  
Cook  
NNNL



Susan Betsaka  
Custodian  
NNNL



Cheryl Cli  
Supervisor  
NNNL



Dahti Tsetso  
Instructor  
DFN

Neal Phillips  
Camp Maintenance  
NNNL

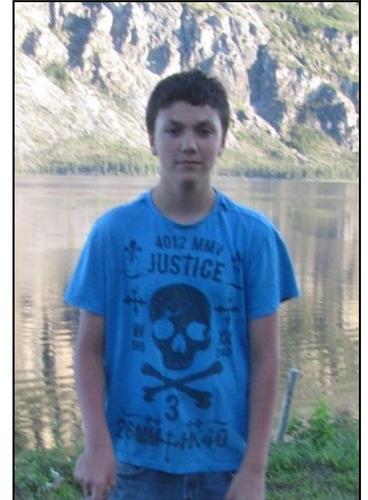
Some NNNL staff are  
not shown



# Students



Loyal Letcher Jr.  
Age:13  
Fort Simpson



Bryce Hardisty-Phillips  
Age:12  
Fort Simpson

Brandon Thom  
Age:15  
Fort Providence



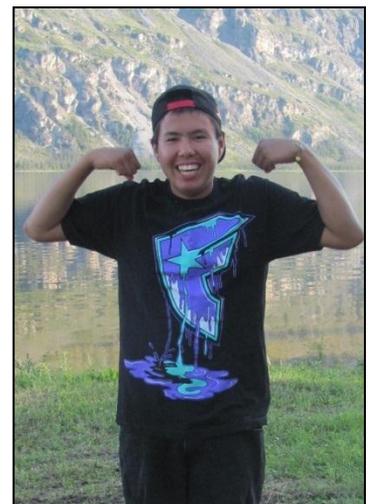
Nathaniel Minoza  
Age:16  
Fort Providence

Julien Antoine  
Age:13  
Fort Providence

Keagan Nadli  
Age:16  
Fort Providence



Kody Hardisty  
Age:15  
Jean Marie River



Adam Nadli  
Age:13  
Fort Providence

# Students



Vantasha Nadli  
Age:16  
Fort Providence



Kelsey Gargan  
Age:16  
Fort Providence



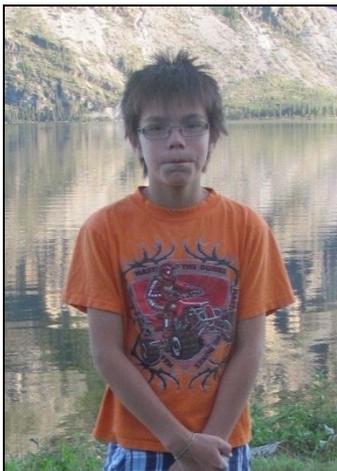
Rochelle Yendo  
Age:14  
Wrigley



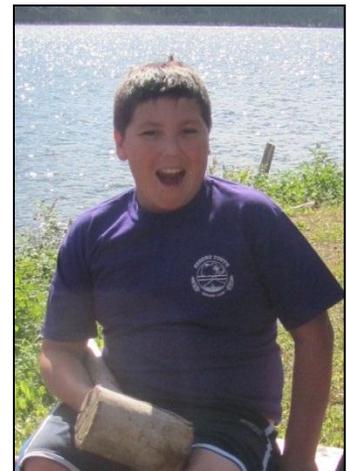
Michelle Lafferty  
Age:14  
Fort Simpson



Deanna Jumbo  
Age:13  
Trout Lake

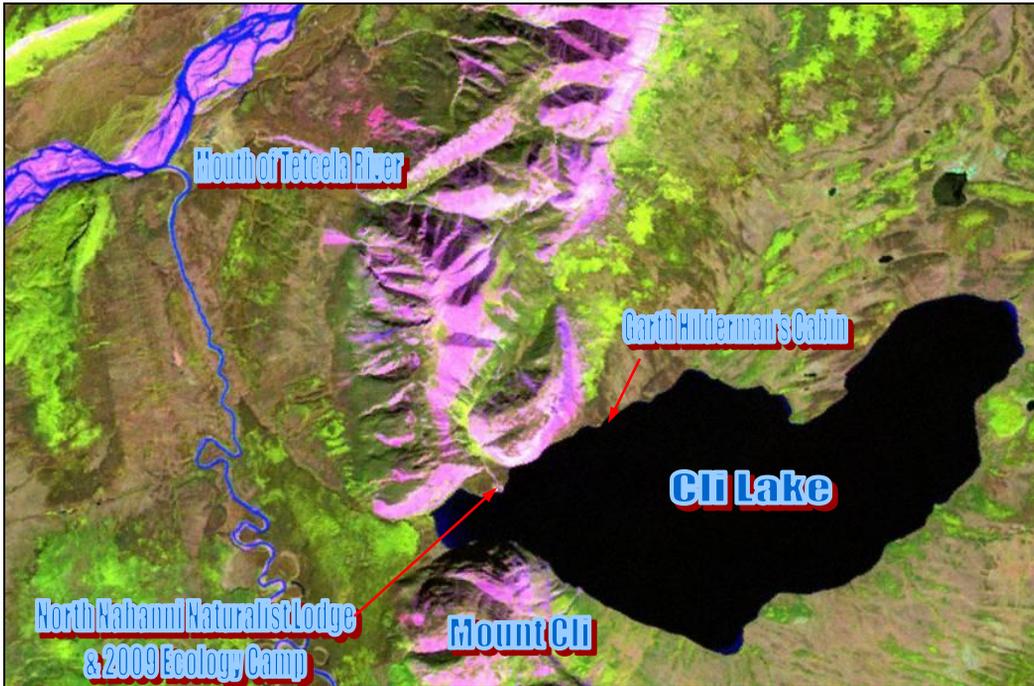


Hunter Norwegian  
Age:12  
Fort Simpson



Stanley Letcher  
Age:10  
Fort Simpson

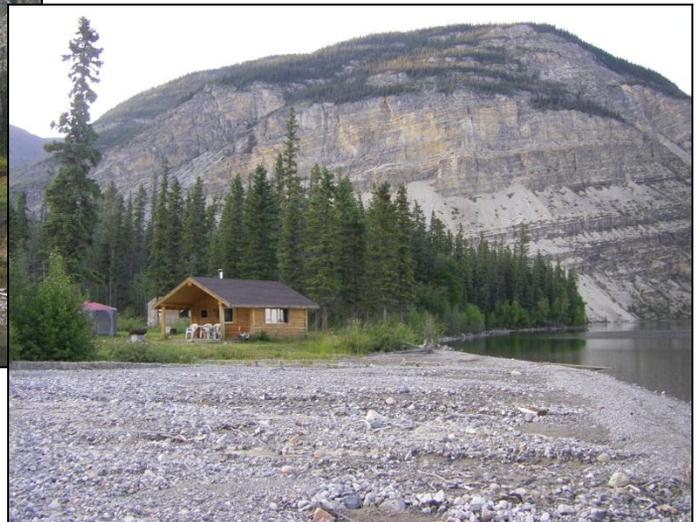
# Cli Lake Area and the Lodge



After the students unloaded the twin otter and met everyone, they were given an orientation of the camp, provided with the camp rules, and assigned their accommodations. The rest of the day the students got to know each other and familiarized themselves with the facilities.



North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge  
at Cli Lake



Staff quarters

# *Nahanni Ecosystem*

Loyal Letcher, a facilitator for the North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge (NNNL) and Bruce Townsend, an instructor from Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) taught the students about the greater Nahanni ecosystem. Discussion about the unique geographic features of the area, traditional lifestyles and the establishment of the lodge provided students with a better understanding of the area and its geography.

Loyal explaining the geography and traditional lifestyles of the region to the students



Bruce taught the students about the rich history of the area

# Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

Loyal and Bruce taught the students water, boat and canoe safety and rescue. Bruce helped instruct the boat safety portion of the course and helped pilot the boats during the camp. Loyal taught water safety and rescue to the students. They were taught how to properly get into and out of a canoe and how to do proper canoe strokes (forward, draw, pry and sweep). All activities were taught in the classroom and then practiced on dry land during the morning. The practical portion of the course was completed in front of the camp during the afternoon, all students participated.



Loyal instructing the students on water rescue



Loyal reviewing paddling strokes with the students



Camp going for a boat ride



Two students waiting to be rescued

# Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

All students had to wear life jackets while on the water during boating trips and they had to be supervised while doing recreational activities on the lake. Each student was fitted with a lifejacket according to their weight and size.

Students practiced canoe-over-canoe rescues out on the lake. Students intentionally flipped their canoe to be rescued by another group of students with a canoe. All students took part in the exercise, which provided them with invaluable experience.



All students helped to get the submerged canoe out of the water



After the submerged canoe was out of the water, it was placed in the middle



Students getting ready to flip a canoe



2 students stabilized the empty canoe as another two try to get in

# Medicinal Plant Identification

Cheryl Cli taught the students about some common plants found in the north during a hike to the cultural camp. Cheryl showed the students medicinal plants that were used to cure ailments before hospitals were in the north. The students picked Labrador tea, berries and high bush cranberries that are used in traditional medicines. The plant walk tour concluded with students participating in a scavenger hunt for plants using the ENR Wild and Wacky Plants of the NWT booklet as a guide.



Cheryl reviewing with the students which plants they found



Students collected some important medicinal plants



Some of the plant that were picked. ENR Wild and Wacky plants of the NWT booklets were used to identify them



# Wilderness and Bear Safety

Loyal taught the students about bear safety, basic wilderness survival techniques, including survival essentials (warmth, water, sleep, food), STOP (stop, think, observe and plan), the importance of a fire and what you need to make a fire. The students learned how to make a proper signal fire in case of an emergency. The signal fire practical portion was taught later.



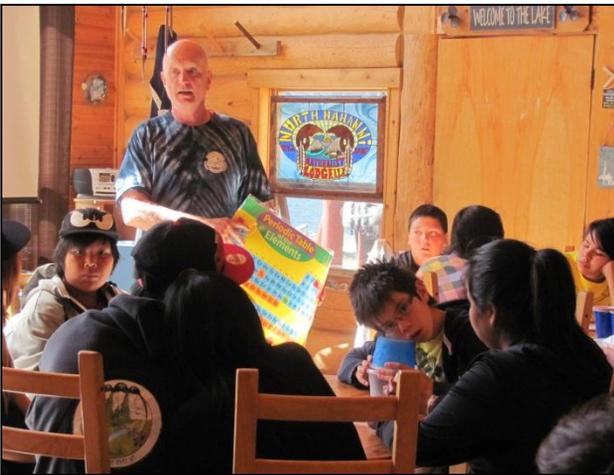
Loyal taught the students about wilderness safety and survival

Bear safety manuals used during the bear safety course



# Water Ecology

During the course of the camp, Bruce taught 8 modules on water ecology to the students. Freshwater zooplankton, the water cycle, dissecting fish, contaminants, bio-magnification and food web dynamics were some of topics taught to the students. Some examples of contaminants were discussed like the AAROM mercury testing on fish from lakes in the NWT. Students went out on field trips and used scientific equipment to do experiments.



Bruce reviewed the periodic table with the students



Students were taught about water ecology and contaminants



Bruce taught the students about different types of fish and their different adaptations



Bruce explaining how elements like mercury occur in lakes naturally and why they are increasing

# Hiking to the Landslide

Hiking and mountaineering safety were taught to the students by Loyal. A landslide occurred at Cli Lake near the Nahanni Naturalist Lodge in the mid 2000's. Students and staff went to the landslide at the end of the day for a hiking trip.



Students waiting for their trip to the landslide



Students and staff preparing to depart



Students on their way to the landslide



Cli Lake landslide

# Signal Fire

Students were split into three groups, they gathered firewood and made signal fires on the shore of Cli Lake. The purpose of making a signal fire was to show the students how to make one in case of an emergency.



Student pretended they heard an airplane and rushed to start their signal fires



Students starting their signal fire



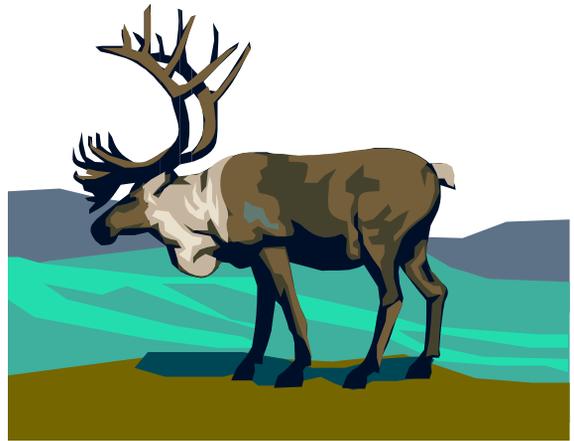
Fire burning on shoreline



Students watching their signal fire burn

# Species At Risk

Dahti Tsetso taught the youth about Species at Risk, this year's focus was on boreal caribou in the NWT. Dahti explained what causes species to become at risk (habitat destruction, predation, climate change etc.), the NWT species at risk legislation and its history, how the listing process works and the roles of the Conference of Management Authorities and the species at risk committee. Information provided from the ENR boreal caribou monitoring program was used to show how caribou collars are used to study caribou. Dahti showed the students how the caribou collars work and why they are important for researchers. Unfortunately the photographer was the instructor for this portion of the camp. The students enjoyed the practical exercises and participated wholeheartedly.



# Dehcho Landuse Plan

This year there was a new component introduced to the camp. We thank the staff of the Dehcho Landuse Planning Committee (DLUPC) for participating this year so that youth could be exposed to the plan. Sophie Bonnetrouge introduced the Dehcho Landuse Plan to the students. Lynette Sabourin discussed the plan in more detail, describing the six different zones and the five key land use activities. Elder Joachim Bonnetrouge discussed his perspective on the plan. After the presentations there were activities associated with the plan for the students to participate in.



DLUPC staff preparing for their presentations



Students doing their practical exercise



Student identifying the six different types of Zones



Lynette looking at some maps before doing her presentation

# Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge was taught by Cheryl and Ricky Tsetso. Cheryl taught the students about medicinal plants. Ricky set the fish nets and checked them daily with some of the students. The instructors taught the students how to feed the fire and water. The students found it quite interesting and participated every step of the way.



Traditional teepee



Staff prepared these fish for a meal



Students picking blueberries



Ricky taking the youth berry picking

# Recreational Activities

During the evenings students spent time swimming, tubing, boating, using the hot tub and sauna. They were supervised during swimming and other water activities. Indoor evening activities included story telling, card games, and board games. The students thoroughly enjoyed their free time, they took advantage of the nice weather and swam in the lake each day.



Students getting towed on a tube by a boat



Students enjoying their leisure time



Boys enjoying the hot tub



Students going for a boat ride



During the last regional wildlife workshop held in October 2012, there was consensus that the youth ecology camp should continue to be held at different locations throughout the Dehcho region. Holding the camp in different locations would allow different communities the opportunity of hosting and conducting the youth ecology camp as well as providing the chance for participants to experience different areas of the Dehcho. The 2003 and 2004 camps were at the Trout Lake Fire Base. The 2005 camp was at Trout River. The 2006 and 2012 camps were at Sandy Creek. The 2007 and 2009 camps were at Cli Lake. The 2008 camp was at Paradise Creek. The 2010 camp was at Ekali Lake. The 2011 camp was at Rabbitkettle Lake. This year's camp was at Cli Lake. We would like to thank AAROM for providing additional funding and expertise for the camp this year, without their help we would have been unable to hold a camp this year.

Previous camps taught a variety of traditional and scientific skills. This year's camp had a great mixture of both. Students learned a lot of new tools which should help them in future endeavours. The elders, supervisors and facilitators played an key role in the ecology camp's success as did the group of students from throughout the Dehcho. All students wholeheartedly participated in and became involved with all of the different experiences provided to them during the camp. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the 2013 camp and made friendships that will last a lifetime.