

A step in the right direction

Kristen Kodakin-Yakeleya involved in internship

by **Kassina Ryder**
Northern News Services
Tulita/Fort Norman

Kristen Kodakin-Yakeleya has big plans as an intern for the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board in Tulita.

The 22-year-old was hired earlier this month and said she is already busy learning the ropes and participating in projects.

Her first assignment involves creating a report on a recent environmental monitoring program. Kodakin-Yakeleya participated in the program and said one of her internship duties now includes

interviewing other participants and compiling a report, which she will then present to board members.

Another project she'll be helping with is assisting a Toronto researcher who is visiting Tulita to explore the role of women in the community.

But first, Kodakin-Yakeleya said she will be busy learning all she can about the board and her role within it.

"Before all this happens, I have to read the policy book and the rule book before I get

down to business," she said. "I need to know how the whole company and office works."

Kodakin-Yakeleya spent five years with the community's recreation department before being chosen for the internship.

"In the last five years I was a recreation assistant, so I was basically playing with the kids for five years and opening up gyms and organizing events," she said. "This is a totally different page than that."

Before she could start her

internship, Kodakin-Yakeleya said she was finishing up math upgrading courses at Tulita's Aurora College campus.

She said her ultimate goal is to become a civil engineer.

"In the end, I do want to become a civil engineer, building roads and stuff," she said.

Kodakin-Yakeleya said her father is a civil engineer and while she doesn't know which post-secondary school she will choose, she plans to rely on his guidance.

"He has all these connections with schools and teach-

ers," she said. "He knows quite a few people here and there who could help me get on the path."

After her year-long internship, she hopes to get a job with the board before moving on to post secondary school.

In the meantime, Kodakin-Yakeleya said she's got plenty to keep her busy.

"I always wanted to be a part of the renewable resources department, no matter what job I had, I just wanted to be a part of it," she said. "I just want to know how they work from the inside and out and how can I help."



KRISTEN KODAKIN-YAKELEYA : is a new intern at the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board in Tulita.

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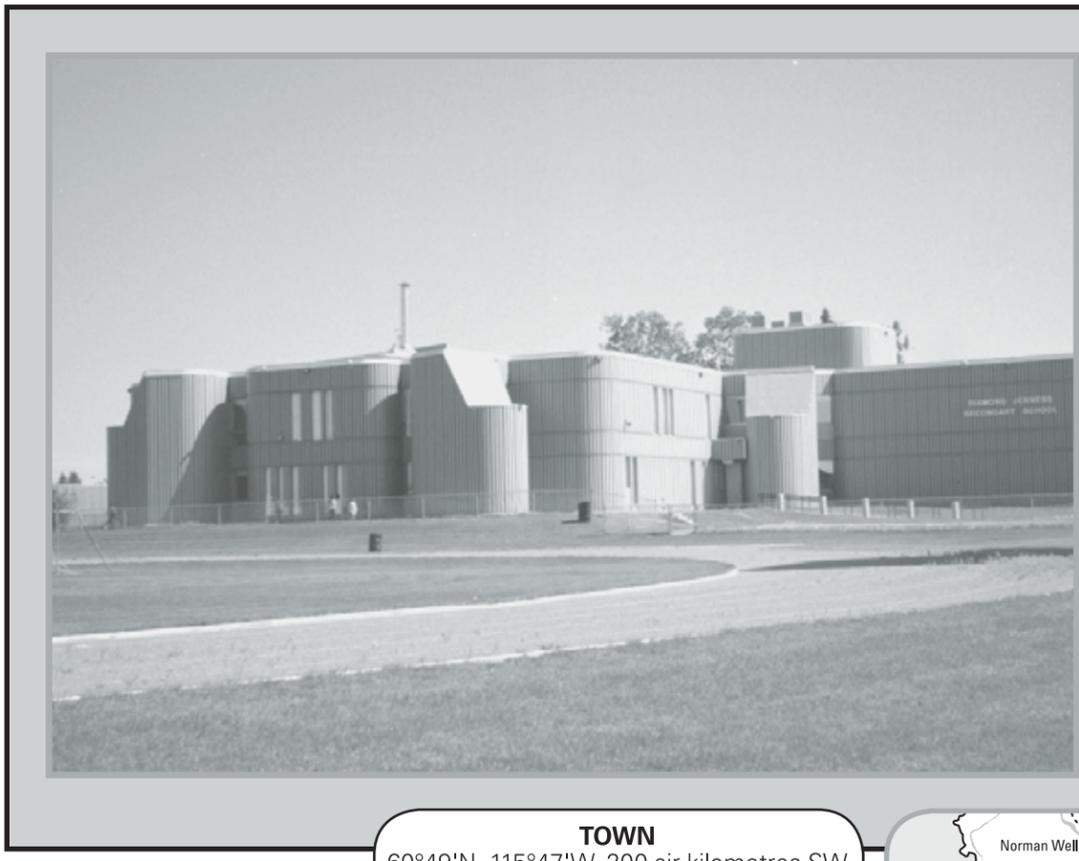
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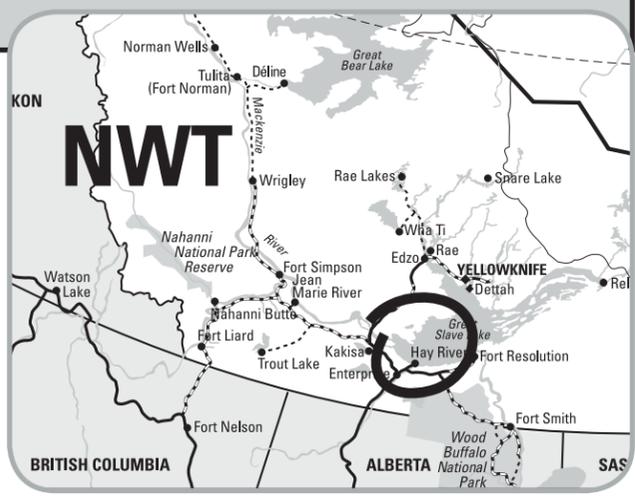
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