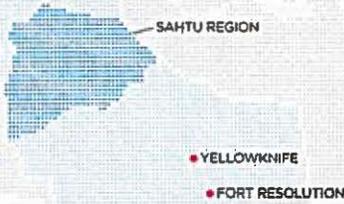


**\$21 million** The amount that aurora tourists to the NWT spent there in 2013-2014, **38% more than the previous year**



# 6.7%

Rate by which the price of groceries went up in 2014 in Yellowknife. The national average was a 3.1% increase. (See page 58)

## 6.5 parts per billion

The amount of arsenic found in some lakes surrounding Giant Mine in Yellowknife. That's higher than the recommended arsenic levels for drinking water, but not high enough to cause any alarm, says the NWT's top doctor.

### ■ NOT GOOGLE MAPS

## "Your great-grandpa was here"

A new digital map in the works might help Dene families of the Sahtu recover ancient family lore and trace the routes of their ancestors. Researchers at the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board have partnered with the Aurora Research Institute, the Alaska Native Place Names Documentation project and the University of Victoria to create a digitized map of the region featuring Dene place names recorded in the Sahtu 150 years ago. It's based on the work of one of the most controversial figures of the 19th century: Father Émile Petitot, an Oblate priest, ethnographer, explorer, and cartographer who travelled through the region for 15 years—and who reportedly had bipolar disorder and was accused of pedophilia. Still, his records have proven to be meticulous.

"NWT indigenous place names are quite long, with complex internal structures," says Leslie Saxon, a University of Victoria researcher who transliterated Petitot's records of Dene names—which were based on French—into a more accessible orthography. "Many of the place names are in a way a shorthand for a story of the place. Within a family's history of stories, there might be some place names [mentioned], especially when you're talking about things that actually happened." Sometimes, though, while the place names and the stories survive, their actual location is forgotten. "If, through Petitot's maps, the location of place names can be recovered, that can be very neat for a family to be able to trace all the places in their stories."

Sometimes, even a family name might offer a clue as to where they once lived and travelled. The Tsia Got'ine family, for instance, share the name of a bay on Great Bear Lake. "The hope is we will be bringing that material back to communities next year for verification, and to discuss how they want to use it," says Deborah Simmons, director of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board. "We think it's going to help communities in their decision making. We've had discussions with our Dene advisors, who say that some families may, in learning about their own history ... wish to revisit those places where their families once lived."

### - If they had a million dollars:

You're about to see a lot more of FOXY (Fostering Open eXpression among Youth), the NWT-based sex ed group for girls across the North, after it took home the million-dollar Arctic Inspiration award last month. With these spoils, boys and LGBTQ youth will get to join their club. [@Arctic\\_Foxy](#)



**It's like we don't exist anymore"** - **Kara King**, past president of the Fort Resolution Métis Council

Fort Resolution's Chipewyan Métis are fighting for their distinctive voice in the Northwest Territories. This April, the community's riding—the smallest in the NWT, and the North's oldest—will be amalgamated into Weledeh, the riding that encompasses the Yellowknives Dene in the capital and the Chipewyan of Łutsel K'e, as part of the devolution process. While that gives the capital region an additional seat in the legislative assembly, it also awkwardly lumps together the Chipewyan Métis with two aboriginal groups who have competing interests and concerns.

To assert their identity and preserve their language, the Chipewyan Métis are hoping to secure funding for a new facility in Fort Resolution that would house language classrooms, space for archives, artifacts, and outdoor classrooms for cultural activities such as canoe-building.

So far, they've secured the support of the NWT Métis Nation, and federal funding for a feasibility study. But getting financial backing to build the roughly \$75-million facility will have to wait until the new fiscal year.