



# FUTURES

Yukon Mine Training Association Newsletter

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## Peter Wylie: YMTA Training In Action

When Peter Wylie noticed Yukon Mine Training Association's Heavy Equipment Operator Simulator course was coming up, he didn't waste a second enrolling.

"I first learned about YMTA through Yukon Employment Central. I saw their poster and flyer for simulator training and I signed up."

The rest is history. After completing the simulator course put on by YMTA in Whitehorse, it wasn't long before he got the chance to use his new skills with Gimlex Gold Mines under the First Nations Wage Subsidy Program.

"The Wage Subsidy Program gave us the opportunity to hire Wylie and train an inexperienced worker in a variety of skills that are required in the placer industry where the job can change every day," said Gimlex Gold Mines President Tara Christie. "It's a great program. It gives industry and workers a chance to grow together."

Wylie grew up near 40-mile, working with his family on their trap line. When the price of furs dropped, they weren't able to keep the dogs they used for transport any longer so they moved into Dawson City.

After finishing grade nine, Wylie dropped out of school. His first job was working as a tutor for people with learning disabilities at LDAY. That job brought him into training situations in kitchens, and eventually, he decided to become a cook. Then, after 8 years on

the job, Wylie was ready for something new.

Going from cooking to operating bulldozers and diggers was a big change but Wylie was ready to work in a new career. Sponsored by YMTA, he headed to Yukon College to take his chainsaw safety certificate, and learned about opportunities in Heavy Equipment Operating.

Wylie is overjoyed about moving into the kind of work he is doing with Gimlex.

"It's a grand doozy of a job," he said enthusiastically. "There couldn't have been anything better. It's a small-type mine but it is a step in the door and I can only expand my skills from here."

Wylie is not the kind of person to pass up a new opportunity.

"I've always been a go-getter. Either you go hard or you go home. That's what my dad always told me," he said.

Right now Wylie is working hard, finishing the season up with Gimlex and learning new skills with every passing day.

Gimlex has also gained a new worker through partnering with YMTA and Wylie.

"YMTA was very helpful and showed Gimlex that this program



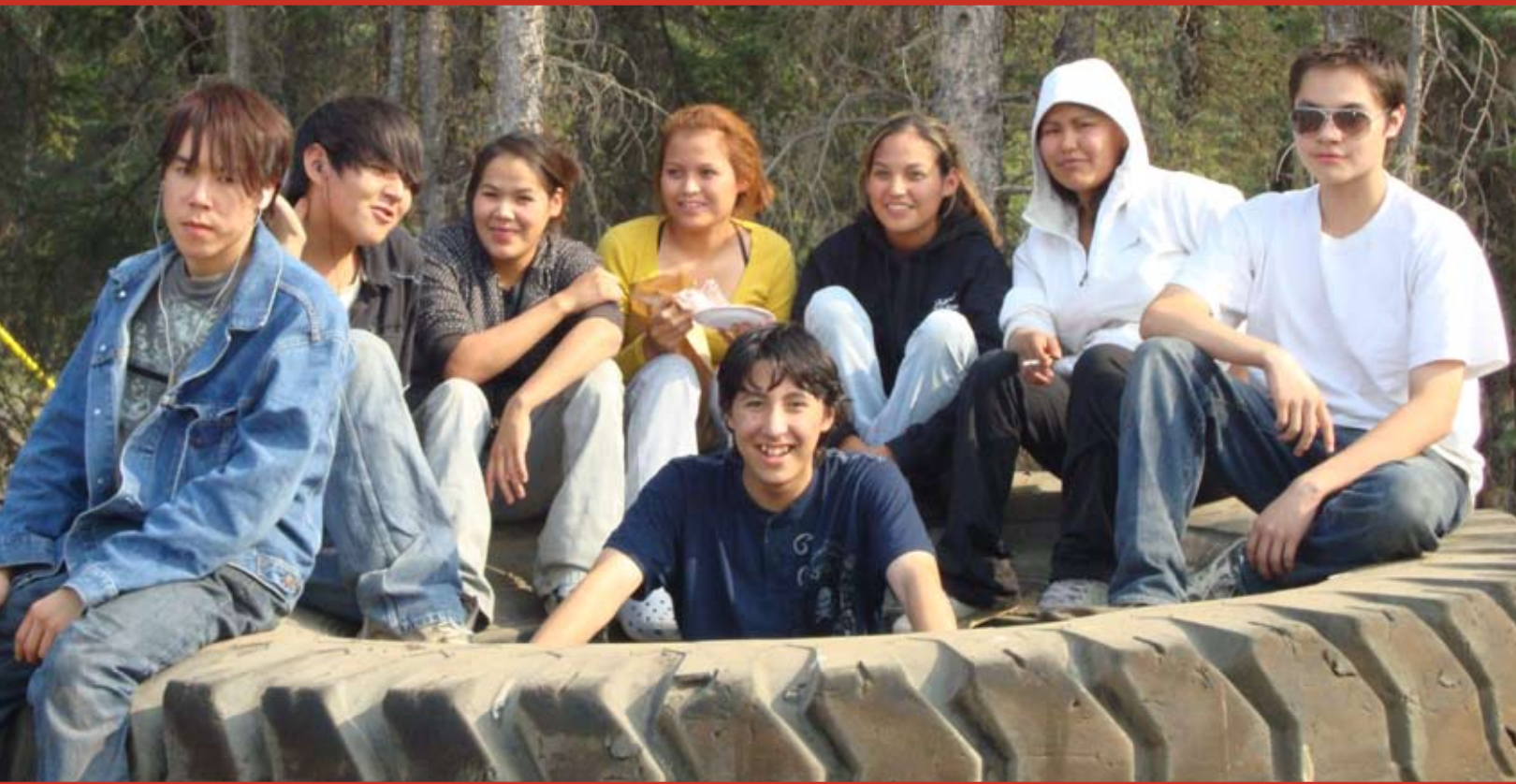
was accessible to a small business. Training new people does cost and we appreciate the assistance this program provides," said Christie.

"It has been a success for us and we hope Peter will be working with Gimlex again next season," she added.

Wylie believes that everyone who wants to learn new skills should go for it.

"Get your confidence level up, walk in there and say 'I want to do this.' It worked for me."

# Mining Opportunity with Pelly Crossing Youth



Sheila Sergy is the coordinator for one of YMTA's latest initiatives: teaching youth about the opportunities that mining can offer.

"We are aiming to expose youth to new opportunities, ignite interest in post-secondary education, and assist them in making informed career choices," she said, reflecting on her summer work with eight students from the Selkirk First Nation.

"Their enthusiasm was overwhelming," added Sergy. "The youth became more and more confident. By the end of the summer the program was seen as a real positive in the community."

Five weeks working with mentors at the Minto mine site gave the participants the chance to see just

what a career in mining might be like.

"It was great. I really liked it," said Patrick McGinty, one of the youths who participated in the program.

"The work ethic was great. I liked the work experience, learning new things, meeting new people."

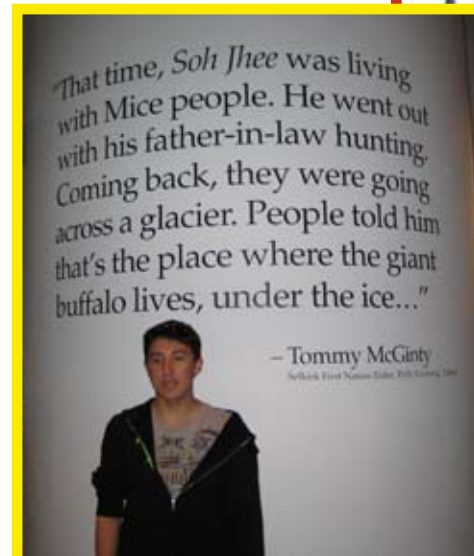
The program was a learning opportunity for McGinty but also provided some other needed resources.

"I needed the money and the experience so that I can venture further into the trades. I liked it out there – I do feel like working up there again. I'd apply for a summer job there next year."

The students focused on their areas of interest: metallurgy, environment, health & safety, mill operations, or maintenance. Patrick's

area was mechanics.

"I learned how to be a mechanic. I repaired trucks, and fixed the mill. I learned a lot over the



course of my time there.”

Near the end of the summer, the students were part of a series of training courses where Selkirk First Nation members, geologists, and surveyors shared their expertise. Lastly, they were given a tour of the Yukon College and shared a meal with their mentors and instructors.

“At the celebration dinner they spoke so well and confidently about the program and the skills that they learned,” said Sergy.

The students have also been role models in their community, presenting material to the membership at the Selkirk First Nation General Assembly.

“They had a display and talked to people who came and went, so all the people in the community would have had a chance to talk with them about their experience.”

“YMTA is proud to support Selkirk First Nation and encourage youth to finish high school and pursue further education,” said Tracy Thomas, YMTA Executive Director. “The strong partnership between Minto Mine, SFN and YMTA made this project a success.”

Thomas hopes that more



companies will partner with YMTA and Yukon First Nations to provide youth with a real picture of the opportunities available in mining and mining-related resource industries in the North.

McGinty sees the summer program as a valuable stepping-stone

toward long-term success. He also expects to do more work in Yukon's Mining industry.

“Hopefully this will take me good places. Once I graduate school I'll go to college but first I'll work a year at the mine to save money.”





# Culture and Science Come Together at Dechen la'

This summer, Ross River Dena Council decided to create a learning opportunity for First Nations youth in the Yukon. The Council brought together Elders, scientists, and 14 youth at the Dechen la' Lodge on the Yukon-NWT border. The experts and the students spent twenty-one days together studying the land, plants, and animals of the area.

The Dechen la' lodge is near many landforms, wetlands, and forest and has a great deal of cultural significance for First Nations in the

area. The participants were able to learn about the many facets of the region through experience, Elder's teachings, and from the biologists and environmental scientists who joined them at the Lodge.

The course was part of an effort by the First Nation to supplement the efforts of the mining sector when it comes to hiring local people by showing youth the variety of jobs available within the mining and mining-related industries, including mining assessment, environmental stewardship, and advanced exploration.

"The course proved a success, and YMTA is satisfied that a sense

of the importance of culture-based approaches in the field of environmental management, and awareness of job opportunities was created over the three weeks of this course," said YMTA Executive Director Tracy Thomas. "It is initiatives like this one that continue to cultivate partnerships between First Nations, industry, NGO's and the academic community," she concluded.



## YMTA Funded Programs

### **First Aid Training** **YMTA**

7 Placer Miners received Standard First Aid training at a placer mine site to increase the skills and safety of the employees on site.

### **Environmental Monitor Training** **YMTA partner:** Champagne-Aishihik First Nation

Training for 6 CAFN citizens in water sampling, groundwater flow measurements, environmental investigation and use of field meters and equipment.

### **First Nations Wage Subsidy Program** **YMTA**

Employees in the areas of construction, rock truck driving, placer mining, and renewable resources have joined this growing program.

### **Office Administration Program** **YMTA partner:** Yukon College, Dawson City Campus

A 9-month program preparing graduates for positions in the office administration field, that includes a 4-week work practicum.

### **Helicopter Pilot Training** **YMTA Partners:** Tr'ondek Hwech'in and Advanced Education

A Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation citizen is currently training with Chinook Helicopters to become a helicopter pilot.

### **Computer-based/ Web-based Training** **YMTA**

Online safety awareness courses and mining-related online courses through EDUMINE. Advanced certificate courses in environmental, health, safety and mining are available.

### **Field Course in Environmental Management and Cultural Awareness** **YMTA partner:** Ross River Dena Council

A 21-day field course designed to give 14 northern youth an appreciation for and some technical skills for environmental management and monitoring.

### **Heavy Equipment Operator Training** **YMTA partners:** Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation and Tr'ondek Hwech'in

Two workers are enrolled in Heavy Equipment Operator Training at the Interior Heavy Equipment School in Winfield, B.C. They are receiving in-class and hands-on experience on excavator, rock truck, loader and dozer.