

Sarina makes Xmas decor!

see Respite
page 11

INSIDE:

- Inclusion NWT on parade
- Inclusion NWT movie Dec. 22: The Muppet Christmas Carol
- Christmas Tree compost pickup service begins Jan. 4
- Yellowknife Catholic Schools raises \$6,861 for Inclusion NWT
- Dene beading workshop

STILL STAND
2 METRES
APART

STILL COUGH INTO
YOUR ELBOW!

since 1962

Inclusion NWT

WASH HANDS
OFTEN FOR
20 SECONDS

IF NEEDED,
SELF-ISOLATE
ALWAYS KEEP
ACTIVE

We provide lifelong support for individuals with disabilities and their families in the NWT, since 1962.

inclusion nwt newsletter 12/18/2020

Inclusion NWT • (867) 920-2644 • info@InclusionNWT • www.InclusionNWT.ca • facebook.com/InclusionNWT/



HO! HO! HO!

Inclusion NWT Santa Claus Parade float applauded with '2020 STRONG' award!

by Inclusion NWT Staff



SAM PAMEOGORAK of The Odd Job Squad, left, and Bryan Tuyishime, Supported Living Worker, staffed the Inclusion NWT float alongside their colleagues on Nov. 21.



CHRIS STRUS painted one of the large blocks that made up the float.



CLIENTS and staff waved to the more than 2,000 cars whose occupants honked and waved back while rolling past the Inclusion NWT Santa Claus Parade float from 5pm to 7pm on Nov. 21.

The City's 'reverse-parade' attracted a kilometres-long line of vehicles that stretched from Kam Lake to the highway past the sand pits.

The Inclusion NWT float, titled: "Home Movies with Popcorn," was among 17 floats entered in the parade by local non-profit organizations and businesses.

Our float featured

hand-painted gift boxes and giant board games decorated with lights and strings of giant paper-machier popcorn.

A 6' tree made of recycling bins was the centerpiece.

Handmade spectacle

Judges named Inclusion NWT winner of the "2020 Strong Award" for the effort and creativity our team put in to the colourful handmade spectacle.

Thanks to resident Dave Dowbush for loaning his trailer to the association for the event.

Everyone involved had a wonderful time!



ADAM LEPRIEUR and Michael Ramirez (left) built a recycling bin Xmas tree while Julie White and Sydney Peer decorated gift boxes with potato stamps.

Where are we at?

Inclusion NWT looks back at 2020 and forward to 2021

by Lynn Elkin, Executive Director

As we come to the end of this most unusual year, it seems a good moment to take stock of 2020 and where we will go in 2021.

We continue to move with an abundance of caution and with a focus on meeting the current needs of clients and families.

And how those needs have grown!

Our numbers in respite have increased 50 per cent in the last three months and we are scrambling to find wonderful casual staff to take on these new families.

In our Skills Training/YES group/Job Coaching, we have increased by 20 per cent, taking on five new clients. Normally, we add one or two a year so this is a major change.

Supported Living has seen two new clients as well with at least one more coming early in 2021. The morning literacy class is also full, something that hasn't happened for a few years.

I just have to say - our staff are amazing! They have adjusted and adapted to ensure that those we serve continue to have the opportunity to learn, to work and to have a full (COVID-safe) life in community.

They've worked extended hours, unusual hours, and outside in sun, wind, rain and snow. They've supported clients in new ways and helped clients adapt to working safely in a COVID world.

They've helped to create new space uses within our buildings, such as social rooms for indoor respite and a dedicated sorting area for refundables. Whatever they've been asked to do to support clients, they've done with a smile and good humour. I can't thank them enough for all they do!

Thank you to our community!

We have had an amazing outpouring of support from Yellowknifers who have used our services, hired the Odd Job Squad, identified part-time work for clients, and allowed us to offer them free seniors yard car/shoveling. We have also received very generous donations from many people including money and mountains of refundables.

In the months ahead, we will continue to be vigilant and approach each changing phase with an abundance of caution. We will continue to follow all recommended public



health practices and will continue to be slightly more restrictive to ensure the safety of clients, families and staff.

We will continue to explore ways to support and engage individuals with intellectual and other disabilities and families across the NWT with being more included in all aspects of community life.

Inclusion NWT is hiring: spread the news!

We are hoping more people will be ready to join our team in Respite, Supported Living and Job Coaching so we try to meet the increased demand in a sustainable way. If you can help us get the message out about our hiring needs, we'd appreciate it.

The work isn't for everyone but, for the right person, it is a place to be passionate about making the world the best place it can be for our clients.

The coming vaccine will eventually be a game-changer in terms of opening up our interactions but it will take a while. We wrote to the Minister of Health, confirming the importance of vaccine priority for our clients, their families and those who work with them on a day-to-day basis.

Thanks to all those who support the work of Inclusion NWT.

~Lynn



THE ODD JOB SQUAD

3rd Yuletide Scouts partnership was awesome!

Odd Job Squad Christmas tree compost pickup service begins Jan. 4

by Inclusion NWT Staff

THE ODD JOB Squad Christmas tree delivery service has wrapped up for another season.

Thanks to experience from past years, The Squad was a well-oiled machine!

Four Squad members delivered approximately 20 trees earlier this month, as

part of what is now an annual partnership with the Yellowknife Scouts.

The Squad's curbside Christmas tree compost pick up service is just around the corner – offered

from Jan. 4 through Jan. 29 for \$8 per tree.

Customers may register anytime by texting or calling the hotline at:

(867) 445-6967

info@InclusionNWT.ca

Inclusion NWT's Odd Job Squad is working in partnership with the Scouts and will be providing tree delivery service for Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Dettah residents for \$8.

This is the third year that the group has been offering the work. Deliveries will be made within 24 hours on business days and weekend deliveries can also be arranged.

To obtain a tree from the Yellowknife Scouts with the delivery service from Odd Job Squad, residents are asked to inform the Scouts volunteers that Inclusion NWT will deliver the tree upon purchase.

Customers are then asked to write their name, address and contact number on a card provided by the Scouts and contact (867) 445-6967 by text or voice-mail with their contact information.

The Odd Job Squad will also be offering pick-up service at a later date for that service can be made in late December or early January. Inclusion NWT will be providing additional information at a later date.

8 YELLOWKNIFE, Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Scouts' Christmas trees in Co-op parking lot by end of November

400 trees will be shipped from Prince Albert, Sask. and will be in hot demand

by Simon Whitehouse
Northern News Services

Yellowknife Scouts' Christmas trees are expected to be available for purchase at the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op parking lot in the next couple of weeks.

Every year, the Scouts sell fir and Fraser firs.

Michael Kalnay, group commander for Yellowknife Scouts, said that the parking lot for sales last weekend.

He said that 400 trees will be shipped from Prince Albert, Sask., and will be in hot demand.

Kalnay said, "The money after we pay for trees and truck service goes to Scout programming in Yellowknife, like for fixing up our Scout Pontoon Lake camp and Scout house at the Folk on the Rocks site."

Customers can expect prices to range from about \$90 to \$150, however costs can be higher depending on the size. Last year an 18 foot tree went for \$450.

"Our supplier says trees are expected to ship next week and arrive in the last few days of November," Kalnay stated. "We will be open by Dec. 1."

Kalnay added that hours of operation will be from 6

p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.

Inclusion NWT's Odd Job Squad is working in partnership with the Scouts and will be providing tree delivery service for Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Dettah residents for \$8.

This is the third year that the group has been offering the work. Deliveries will be made within 24 hours on business days and weekend deliveries can also be arranged.

To obtain a tree from the Yellowknife Scouts with the delivery service from Odd Job Squad, residents are asked to inform the Scouts volunteers that Inclusion NWT will deliver the tree upon purchase.

Customers are then asked to write their name, address and contact number on a card provided by the Scouts and contact (867) 445-6967 by text or voice-mail with their contact information.

The Odd Job Squad will also be offering pick-up service at a later date for that service can be made in late December or early January. Inclusion NWT will be providing additional information at a later date.



The Yellowknife Scouts will sell Christmas trees as the first batch of supply are to reach Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op by the end of the month.

Thanks,
Scouts!

Call: 920-2644
to order yours
today!

THE ODD JOB SQUAD

GIFT CERTIFICATES!

The perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list!

Redeem for jobs such as:

- snow shoveling
- furniture deliveries
- dump runs
- pet waste disposal
- gardening prep
- leaf-raking
- lawn-mowing
- construction assistance
- shed-cleaning
- garage organization
- stringing Xmas lights
- stacking firewood

Christmas couriers

Business Services Team delivers cards in Kam Lake and Yellowknife South



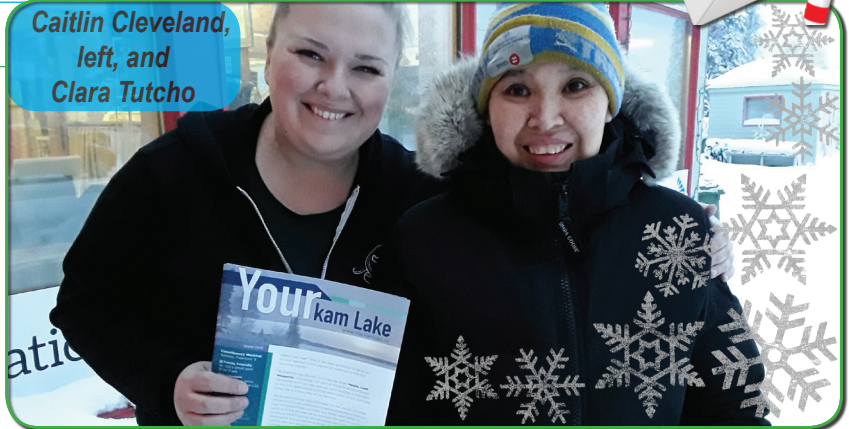
by Inclusion NWT Staff

MLA **CAITLIN CLEVELAND** and MLA Caroline Wawzonek each hired the Inclusion NWT Business Services Team to deliver Christmas cards to constituents in the Kam Lake and Yellowknife South ridings this month.

Twenty individuals delivered the cards to more than 700 households, which represented about 30 hours of walking.

Frame Lake MLA Kevin O'Reilly also hired the Team to deliver newsletters in November.

Caitlin Cleveland,
left, and
Clara Tutcho



Caitlin is on the job!

CAITLIN VANDERMEER joined the Skills Training & Community Inclusion team in November. So far, her favourite part of the experience is shoveling snow for customers as a member of The Odd Job Squad.

"It's fun," she said, adding she appreciates hearing customers thank her with a smile and the words "Great job!" whenever she is done clearing a sidewalk.

"They're very glad," she said, describing her customers' reaction when they inspect the quality of her work.

In addition to her outdoor work, Caitlin picks up mail for the City of Yellowknife and collects refundable recycling from customers, which is a free service.

Off work, Caitlin enjoys drawing and sharing her art with her mom.



920-2644

STRICTLY SANITIZING!

FOR OFFICE & WORKPLACE

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Our offices will be closed to the public from Dec. 24th – Jan. 3rd.

Services will continue 24/7 for our Supported Living clients.

Thank you to everyone for all your co-operation and support in 2020!

Inclusion NWT clients and staff wish all our friends and neighbours a peaceful holiday season.



THANK YOU to Rebecca's Flowers for the gift of a giant wreath to decorate our Abe Miller Bldg. Odd Job Squad member Jasmine Powder installed the wreath alongside colleague Julie White.

HAPPY

The Odd Job Squad will take a break from Dec. 24 – Jan 3rd. Have a Merry Xmas!

HOLIDAYS!

since 1962
Inclusion NWT



InclusionNWT.ca

Art enthusiast wanted

- Good conversationalist
- Patient & kind
- Avid reader
- References

Inclusion NWT

ed@InclusionNWT.ca

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inclusion NWT news

New Respite space



STAFF & CLIENTS transformed office space in the Community Living Centre into a bright and colourful exploratory station for Respite clients of all ages, earlier this month.

The open-concept rooms are stocked with board games, sensory play opportunities and comfortable furniture, with large windows that let in plenty of sunlight.

Flu clinic popular



TERRY KULIKTANA got vaccinated Dec. 7.

INCLUSION NWT offered a flu vaccination clinic for clients, staff and their families in the Abe Miller Building on Dec. 7. Dozens of people were vaccinated.

Our organization plans further collaborations with the NWT Health and Social Services Authority-Yellowknife Region.



HAPPY HOLIDAY DECORATING COMPETITION:

JOEY OOGAAQ decorated his household's Christmas tree alongside his roommate Sam Pameogorak. All Inclusion NWT Supported Living clients participated in a Christmas tree decorating competition this month. Clients and staff will award prizes for creativity and design tonight!

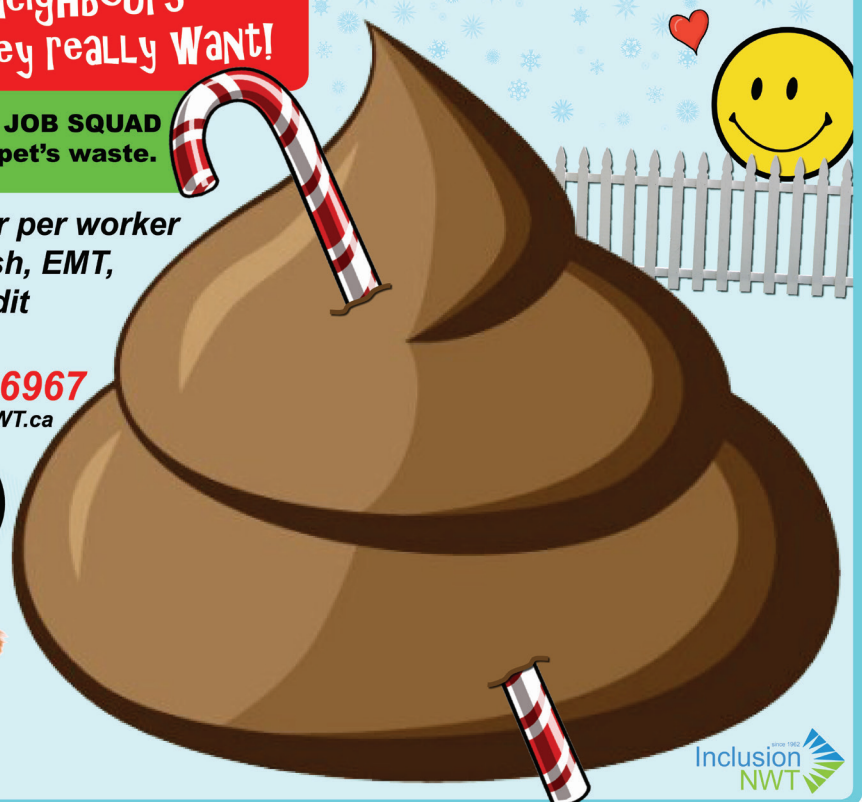
Give your Neighbours the gift they really Want!

...hire **THE ODD JOB SQUAD** to remove your pet's waste.

- \$15 per hour per worker
- Cheque, cash, EMT, debit or credit
- Call or text:

(867) 445-6967
info@InclusionNWT.ca

Gift certificates available!



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dene Beading

Susan Chaffee shares beading knowledge & skills with clients

by Inclusion NWT Staff

SUSAN CHAFFEE is leading a Dene beading workshop series for Inclusion NWT clients Kineta Michel, Clara Tutcho and Adam LePrieur this winter.

Participants are well on their way to creating beaded cardholders in time for Christmas.

"Susan has a tremendous amount of traditional knowledge and we are just so fortunate that she shares her skills with our clients," said Donna Meserah-Zdyb, Skills Training Manager.

"We know the students are enjoying the workshops because we often have to tell them to stop at the end of the day!"

Workshops continue in the new year.



SUSAN CHAFFEE leads a series of beading workshops at Inclusion NWT this winter.

Inclusion NWT news

On stage before The Nutcracker



ODD JOB SQUAD members Adam LePrieur, Kevin Scottie and staff from Inclusion NWT gave a helping hand to one of our Business Service partners, Bella Dance Academy, with the set-up for The Nutcracker.

Extra hands were needed to erect the large Christmas tree that is the backdrop for the family scenes and to set up the Candyland backdrop.

Stocking up the Food Bank



ODD JOB SQUAD members were happy to help move 45 boxes of food donations gathered by staff and students of St. Joseph Catholic School to the Yellowknife Food Bank on Dec 16.

Despite the extreme -40°C temperatures, clients had fun making the delivery.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

**RSVP
ASAP!**



CLIENT, STAFF & FAMILY MOVIE SCREENING!

Arrive at Capitol Theatre at 1pm Tuesday, Dec. 22 (All guests **MUST** pre-register by noon Monday, Dec. 21: 920-2644)

Aurora at the Dome Theatre

by the class at the Literacy Outreach Centre

We are the class at the Literacy Outreach Centre. On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, we went to the Dome Theatre at Centre Ice Plaza. We sat in long chairs. We watched a movie about the Northern lights.

- Julie liked when it talked about the dancing spirits.
- Kineta liked looking at the cities.
- Caitlin liked looking at the colours changing in the northern lights.
- Susan liked looking at lights at night.
- Chris liked the different colours of the northern lights.
- Phoebe really enjoyed it.
- Gilbert missed it!



THE LOC CLASS, pictured, from left: Smart Communities intern Quinn Sanders, students Susan Chaffee, Phoebe Harris, and Chris Strus; Instructor Thomas Gagnon-van Leeuwen; students Julie White, Caitlin Vandermeer and Kineta Michel.

STAFF

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Why I work at Inclusion NWT...

by Abby Goodwin

I WORK AT INCLUSION NWT because I like to make a difference!

I am currently working on projects, mostly in an office, but I love to get out into the community and work with the clients.

The work that our clients do in the community is incredible. It is not only meaningful and fulfilling work for them, but it also builds social capacity within our community to be a more inclusive, welcoming and diverse place to live.

Part of something bigger

In my mind, it is part of something bigger and I love being able to contribute to it.

The staff at Inclusion NWT made me feel welcome on my first day and continue to do each and every day.



We all share a common goal, to support those living with an intellectual disability or ASD and their families.

I believe that is why there is a sense of community or family when you walk into the Abe Miller Building.

RESPIRE WORKER Tracey MacLean receives a high-five from client Darian Bohnet in 2012.



Ten-year service award!

Tracey MacLean

Five-year service award!

John Kayizzi Balamaga

Richard Castada

William (Willy) Chidowe

Junn Gesmundo

Glenn Emerson Malaque

Shervin Malaque

Thubelihle (Thuba) Nyoni



RESPITE SERVICES

Xmas crafts

Respite clients get creative
for the festive season

by Inclusion NWT staff

SARINA SYED created a collection of Christmas decorations as a fun activity for a cold afternoon earlier this month, alongside Respite Worker Farah Abdollahifar.

Inclusion NWT Respite services provide safe, individualized and flexible short-break relief for families supporting people with disabilities in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah, as well as offering individuals with disabilities opportunities for activities in their community.

Those interested in meaningful work six to 10 hours a week, please send your resume and cover letter to: ed@InclusionNWT.ca



SARINA SYED enjoys creating artwork in the lead-up to the holiday season, alongside Respite Worker Farah Abdollahifar. Inclusion NWT is hiring Respite Workers this month. Apply today!

THANK YOU!

...for supporting Inclusion NWT services, such as:

- Respite
- Adult Literacy
- Job Coaching
- Skills Training
- EmployABILITY
- Supported Living
- and more!

**YCS STAFF RAISED
\$6,861.84**

as part of the board's 2020 Casual Fridays
Annual Charity Fundraiser!

**Inclusion
NWT**



Terry Kulitana (Odd Job Squad), left, and Ai Matsui (Skills Training Facilitator) accepted a cheque for \$6,861.84, presented by Simone Gessler (Superintendent, Yellowknife Catholic Schools)

Inclusion NWT provides lifelong support for individuals with disabilities and their families in the NWT, since 1962.