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## News Briefs

### What do you think about those driver’s licences?

The Department of Infrastructure wants residents to share their experiences with driver and vehicle licensing services by completing a short survey.

The department stated that the feedback will “help the GNWT better understand how residents access licensing services and identify opportunities to improve them — whether online, in person, or through mobile visits to remote communities. Topics include driver testing, ID cards, commercial vehicle registration, and more.”

The survey is being led by Prairie Research Associates (PRA), an research firm that will collect and analyze the responses and provide recommendations to support the GNWT’s review of the program.

All responses are confidential and you have until Nov. 1 to fill one out. You can do so at the GNWT’s Hay Your Say website.

### Funding for EV charging now available

The GNWT is accepting new applications for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (EVIP). The funding is designed to support the installation of EV charging stations in public places, workplaces, multi-unit residential buildings, and for light-duty fleet use across the Northwest Territories.

The program provides financial assistance to qualified organizations that will cover up to 50 per cent of the total eligible costs of installing new EV charging infrastructure. The program is designed to make EV adoption more accessible in the North by improving access to reliable charging networks.

Funding amounts include up to \$7,500 for Level 2 charger connectors and up to \$99,999 for Level 3 fast chargers. The program is open to The program is open to businesses and industries, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, community governments, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations and utilities, academic institutions, and GNWT agencies or Crown corporations.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2026.

### Multiple suspicious fires in Nunavut

A couple of fires over the last few days have led to investigations by police and charges being laid in one of those cases.

Whale Cove RCMP have arrested and charged a 38-year-old woman in a suspicious Whale Cove fire that engulfed a fourplex in the hamlet’s 200 block on. Sept. 29.

Roberta Etigaitok faces charges of second-degree murder and arson, police say.

The charges have not yet been proven in court. Etigaitok is in custody and her next court date is Oct. 21 in Iqaluit.

“The fire was suspicious in nature and the Nunavut RCMP’s Major Crime Unit (MCU) began investigating the incident with the assistance from the Nunavut Fire Marshal’s office and the Nunavut Coroner’s office. Investigators determined that the fire was deliberately set,” a press release from RCMP stated.

Jonathan Ekwalak, 37, died in the fire.

Ekwalak was a well-known athlete in his community, often representing Whale Cove at various sporting events across the Kivalliq region.

He was also active in his home community, most recently being acclaimed to the Whale Cove Alcohol Education Committee in October 2023.

The following day, Cambridge Bay RCMP was treating a Sept. 30 house fire as suspicious, but no injuries were reported.

Only minor damage to a Ublogiahokyok Road home was sustained. The blaze, which started after midnight, was extinguished by local volunteer firefighters.

# Jack Works set for first full professional hockey campaign



Jack Works, seen in action last season against the Cincinnati Cyclones, is gearing up for his first full season in the ECHL with the Wheeling Nailers. Photo courtesy of Wheeling Nailers

## Yellowknife-born player begins training camp with ECHL’s Wheeling Nailers on Monday

James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

The unofficial fifth season in Canada is set to get going in short order and that means hockey will be determining the emotions and feelings of otherwise normal people for the next eight months or so.

Unless you’re still watching the Toronto Blue Jays attempt to exorcise the 32-year World Series drought for Canada.

Either way, Yellowknife’s Jack Works is about to hit the ice for his first full season of professional hockey as he’s preparing for training camp with the Wheeling Nailers of the ECHL. Day one begins on Monday and he’s looking forward to getting back on the ice.

“I’m going in with the attitude of taking whatever comes and I have no expectations,” the 24-year-old centre told NNSL Media on Wednesday. “I’m hoping to be able to make an impact, but I’m just going to everything as it comes and see where it takes me.”

This won’t be Works’ first kick at the professional hockey can - he played 14 games with the Nailers after his final season of college hockey at Michigan Tech University ended last spring along with three playoff games.

“That was awesome,” said Works. “I got a text the night after the college season ended telling me that Wheeling wanted me to dress and I was on my way to play with them the next night.”

Being around faces and people he already knows won’t make it a tough go at camp, he added.

“I know a lot of the guys already,” he said. “There’s also a lot of guys who I’ve played with and against in the (ECHL).”

Making the jump from the collegiate ranks to professional is always a big one and Works said the biggest difference is the length of the season.

“Lots more games at the professional level,” he said. “In college, every game meant something because you’re only playing 35 or 40 games a season, so a loss could really hurt you. In the ECHL, it’s over 70



Jack Works is about to embark on his first training camp with the Wheeling Nailers of the ECHL. Photo courtesy of Wheeling Nailers

games and if you make the playoffs, it’s more.”

He also said the players are bigger and stronger than they were in university.

“All of the defencemen are big boys, so it makes getting to the net a lot harder,” he said. “And there’s fighting in there as well.”

The Nailers’ regular season gets underway on Oct. 18 when they visit the Cincinnati Cyclones. After that, it’s back on the road for back-to-back games versus the Maine Mariners on Oct. 25 and 26. They host their home opener against the Norfolk Admirals on Nov. 1.

A majority of games are on weekends with a few mid-week contests during the season. There’s also the added bonus of three games in a row on some occasions.

Works said that’s when the preparation and proper conditioning will come in handy.

“You have to be smarter with recovery after games,” he said. “The Sunday games on a three-in-a-row are almost always 4 p.m.

starts and you’ve played a night game the day before. You’re probably not going to be feeling good, but you just have to take care of yourself and make sure you’re ready.”

There is always the possibility of being called up during the season - Wheeling is a farm team for the Pittsburgh Penguins. But that isn’t a guarantee, especially considering Works didn’t sign his contract directly with the Penguins.

Because his contract is an ECHL one, any team in either the National Hockey League or American Hockey League, the league directly above the ECHL, can offer him what’s known as a professional tryout (PTO) at any point if they like. If it doesn’t pan out, Works would go back to the Nailers.

But he’s not thinking about that right now. Job no. 1 is getting ready to play with the Nailers.

“We’ve got three on the road to start and I’m excited about getting a chance to play full-time this year,” he said.