

James Blackned: Refuses to Retire

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# WAHA MISSION STATEMENT

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority is a regional, community-focused organization, committed to providing optimum health care as close to home as possible.

## WAHA VISION STATEMENT

WAHA will distinguish itself as a provider of quality health services with a holistic approach that reflects the distinct needs of all people in the Weeneebayko region.

# SIGN-UP FOR WAHA NEWSLETTER

WAHA will be offering future editions of this newsletter by e-mail. To receive a copy, please contact Robert Gagnon at robert.gagnon@weeneebaykohealth.ca

Copies of the newsletter can also be found online at weeneebaykohealth.ca



# James Blackned: Refuses to Retire

Greg Spence WAHA Director of Community Relations

Retirement is often met with trepidation. Some of us grudgingly drag ourselves out of bed worried about those nagging bills, or mortgage to pay. Or we sigh, ahh, wouldn't it be nice to retire early?

Not James Blackned.

In 1955, James was a young man of eighteen when he moved to Moose Factory from Waskaganish, QC. Moose Factory, a tiny community then, had very few luxuries. Sandy, a local chap, owned a pickup truck. A company owned vehicle had its way on the main dirt road on the river bank. Construction had begun on the regional hospital in 1949 and the site officially opened in 1951 for patients from the James Bay region. Inuit patients from the far north and hamlets from the east occupied the Tuberculosis ward.

James worked in various jobs around the community with a short stint in a southern gold mine in 1964. Before James worked for the hospital, he was on social assistance but his real interest was "to work." On his search for work, James had been looking for a full-time job and the hospital had full-time positions in housekeeping available.

Then in 1984, working at Moose Factory General Hospital, James became a full time employee. James enjoyed it so much that he never stopped working until January 15, 2003 when he retired. But retirement was short lived. On December 9, 2009 he was called back to work part time.

When asked why he chose to stay with the hospital, James replied "this was a good place for me to work in."



Diana Chilton, WGH Housekeeping Manager and James Blackned

He can choose to retire but still likes to work. "In fact, I don't pay tax so my old age security isn't affected," he added. Filled with sentiment, James says he "enjoys this place, seeing good people work with the public. I have no problems working here. I enjoy being around good people. It's like home and it feels like it's where I should be."

James has worked for 20 plus years at the hospital in housekeeping duties which include peeling, washing and cleaning floors, cleaning staff apartments and the entire hospital.

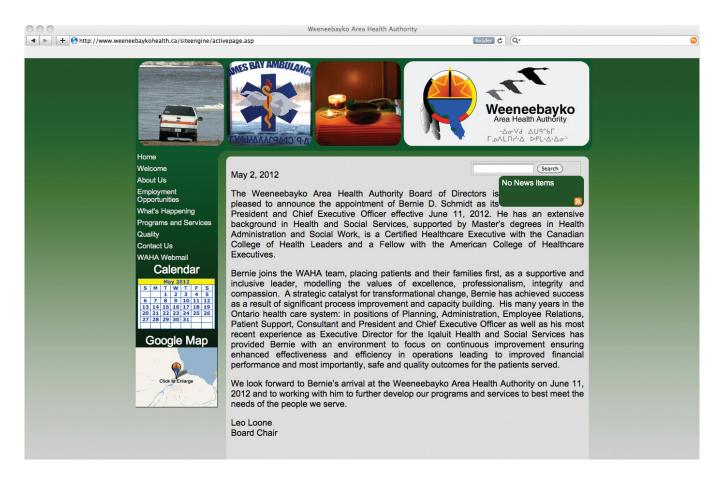
Mr. Blackned values his many years of experience and has enjoyed his work. His outlook is simple. "It's sometimes not easy to find a good job. I was lucky," he says. Personally, "this is the best, a chance to do what I can do "

When asked what the experience has given him. James says without hesitation, "when you plan to get a job, stick with it and don't lose it. And most of all make sure you can support yourself, your family and work hard. Do the best you can always."

After all these years, James may have found the secret.

## WAHA Takes Website to the Next Level: The Community!

Robert Gagnon WAHA Quality Coordinator



On January 31, 2012, WAHA announced the release of its newly designed website. The website, **weeneebaykohealth.ca**, features a fresh updated look. Constructed with the public interest in mind, the website provides vital information like:

- what services are available
- how and where to access our services
- public reporting information
- outlines important quality initiatives
- what employment opportunities are available and how to join our team
- and most importantly, how to contact us.

"WAHA is extremely proud of the new look and feel of its website. Our executive team believes it is a key component in helping us improve public access to important information about our organization. We focused our phase one development plan with this in mind and look forward to continuing work on the website in the upcoming months. We encourage the public to visit **weeneebaykohealth.ca** to experience all the site has to offer," commented Greg Spence, WAHA's Director of Community Relations.

The website as it currently appears is the result of WAHA's phase one development plan and more updates will be made to improve it on an ongoing basis.

For comments or questions about the website, please contact Greg Spence at greg.spence@weeneebaykohealth.ca.

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#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

WAHA has 12 Full-Time Physicians, 1 Surgeon and 1 Anesthetist working within the organization.

#### **SPECIALTY CLINICS**

WAHA is proud to offer 22 different specialty clinic services to people residing in the WAHA region.

Please note that appointments can only be booked through physician referrals.

If you need to cancel or re-book your appointment, please contact WAHA's Family Medicine Clinical Coordinator at (705) 658-4544 ext. 2334.

#### **NOTICE**

 Inpatient Surveys Now Offered Online

WAHA has recently posted their inpatient satisfaction survey online. All people who have received care within WAHA's inpatient department are encouraged to print and fill out a copy of the survey, to provide feedback on the care they received.

Copies of the survey can be found at www.weeneebaykohealth.ca under the "Quality" main heading, sub menu "Client" (patient satisfaction).

Completed surveys can be returned to greg.spence@weeneebaykohealth.ca or to the following address:

Greg Spence Director of Community Relations Weeneebayko Area Health Authority 19 Hospital Drive Moose Factory, ON POL 1W0

## A Nurse's Story

Nicole Blackman WAHA Director of Professional Practice

Denis Gagné came to the James Bay region in 2000 when he started working in Fort Albany as a floor nurse, following an extensive nursing career in New Brunswick, Montreal and Quebec City.



Denis grew up in Gaspé Peninsula, a small rural community in Quebec similar to Fort Albany, which was one of his reasons for choosing to work in this region. Denis has always enjoyed working in a small community, as it provides him with the opportunity to better connect with the people he is caring for. He also made the decision to work in the James Bay region for the opportunities it offered. He wanted to learn the cultural aspect of the area and the history of those who lived here.

Denis also looked at the work venture as an opportunity to improve his English and become independent in his nursing practice.

In 2008, Denis transitioned from his role as a staff nurse to become the Patient Care Coordinator for the Fort Albany site. This role involves knowing all the patients in the community, as well as monitoring their health and working with them to enhance or maintain it. Denis sees himself as an advocate for members of the Fort Albany community and says he "pushes here or there for patients to get better control of their health." He also believes that in order to work in this type of position, an individual needs to work closely with community members. Having this close working relationship allows Denis to provide a higher quality of care to each person he sees. In his role, Denis works in collaboration with the Director of Patient Care in order to oversee nursing care and ensure the appropriate knowledge and skills of the nursing staff are up-to-date. Denis also works with WAHA Liaison Services Department to arrange consultation and follow-up care for appointments attended by patients from the community.

Denis came to the James Bay region to work for a variety of reasons, and he has continued to work in this community for the past 12 years to help meet the health needs of the community members. He takes it to heart to stay and work towards making a difference in providing the best health care services possible to the people of Fort Albany. Denis states, "sometimes it is challenging but I want to work to make it better." He works diligently to create community outreach programs encouraging people to live healthy lifestyles, such as generating awareness of proper nutrition, building community gardens and focusing on prenatal care in order to "spread the word of better health to the children and the adults." Denis feels that is important to build bridges with the people in the community and work with them to improve their health, in order to ensure engagement and build trust.

For Denis, his time in Fort Albany has been the experience of a lifetime. When asked what he likes best about working in the community, he responds, "developing a connection with the community members and seeing them get better."

# COMUNITY INPUT

If you have stories that you would like to suggest, or community event information on health that we might be able to feature, please contact Robert.gagnon@weeneebaykohealth.ca or call 705-658-4544 ext. 2332.



#### **CONTACT**

WAHA is a national leader in improving and enhancing health care for its communities. Interested in pursuing a career at Weeneebayko Area Health Authority or just want to learn more about our organization? Please connect with us:

#### Director, Community Relations ext. 2222

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