

## Nicole Spencer

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**From:** Tawanis Testart  
**Sent:** January 12, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** Nicole Spencer  
**Subject:** Please post to registry as Letter of Concern from Jean Carter

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**From:** jccarter@northwestel.net [mailto:jccarter@northwestel.net]  
**Sent:** January 11, 2010 7:48 PM  
**To:** Tawanis Testart  
**Subject:** Re: History and Concerns of the Carter Family Nonacho Lake

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are here not to stop this project. We are here to give you a brief (and) brief it is but appreciate the time we were allotted to enlighten you about the history our family has with Nonacho Lake. It has been a lifeline for over a half century and still is. It is not just a business, it is a way of life for 5 generations.

My late husband Merlyn Carter, pioneered tourism in the Northwest Territories. Because of our contribution to the Tourism Industry, we were inducted into the Canadian Tourism Hall of Fame, June 3, 2009 and was presented with a trophy while attending a banquet being held in our honor in Ottawa.

We have invested over a half century developing our tourist operation in the N.W.T. Our family have built establishments at Point Lake, Mackay Lake, Dogface Lake, Mouth of the Mackenzie River, known today as Brabant Lodge, Thubun Lake and Nonacho Lake. We eventually sold the other establishments and concentrated on Nonacho Lake.

Merlyn started flying into Nonacho Lake in 1957 looking to expand his Dad's Commerical Fishery which he operated on Great Slave Lake - Carter Fisheries that he started in 1949. It was not feasible to fly fish from Nonacho Lake to Hay River, so Merlyn started flying Sports fishermen in 1962 into Nonacho Lake. Housing them in tents and fishing from home built wooden boats, which still remain at Nonacho Lake.

We have since built 6 cabins and are licensed to accommodate 32 guests. We added a store with living quarter, a guides cabin, 2 shower houses with hot and cold running water and a generator to supply power. We have 23 boats and 18 motors, a Ford tractor model 770A, a quad and a skidoo. Every single thing item at Nonacho Lake was flown out by Merlyn and the pilots that flew for us. All members of our family worked out there as soon as they were old enough to do so and some still do.

This is just a brief history of our affair with Nonacho Lake. We have very strong emotional attachments to Nonacho Lake. We have held a wedding out there (pictures on display board). People have had their honeymoon out there. Merlyn and I, have celebrated our Anniversary (weather permitting-Oct.6) out there. Guests have had their ashes scattered over Nonacho Lake. One being the Speaker of the House for the NWT Government - the late Honorable Don Stewart. Merlyn's request was to have his ashes scattered over Nonacho Lake, which has not been done yet.

Memories - there many memories but too many to mention.

Our main concerns about this project and the impact it will have on Nonacho Lake and the Carter Family is this.

1. Drawdown of Nonacho Lake - what will be the duration of this drawdown.? Any length of time can effect the plant life that is essential for minnow survival. A lengthy drawdown can affect the temperature of the water and cause algae to grow. What speed will the drawdown be? Any sudden change in pressure will have devastating effect on the fish. What are the minimum and maximum levels of this drawdown? What point or level will the drawdown start and stop? Some fish spawn from May to September and in shallow water. Any drawdown at that time would destroy the spawn. From our experience at Nonacho Lake, Lake Trout is one fish that spawn between May and September because many fish caught in late June - August have eggs like they are ready to spawn. The loons also nest right on shore in the shrubs that are near the water.

2. Flucuations of water levels. Any flucuation will erode the shore line. We see the effects from the first Dam that was built back in 1967-1968. The shoreline where ever you look is full of dead trees - some still standing and many have fallen. Sand esker still eroding away. My coveted cranberry hill is being destroyed. It breaks my heart. The effects of the first dam is still very evident.

3. Acid Rock and other contaminants from explosives being used for blasting. Has there been any test done on this? If so we want to see them. If there is acid rock what effect will this have on the water and aquatic life? Where will the remains of the blasting of these rocks be stored?

4. Road Access. I lived in this country too long to know better than to believe that this road will be effectively monitored. The idea is great but it just will not work. You can get any place under any condition with the equiment that is available today. We have a lot of assets at Nonacho Lake, that have cost us a great amount of money to fly it there besides all the fishing equipment we store for our guests. Vandalism is real and it is a real concern for us. This road being built is going to effect us in more ways than one can imagine. Our camp is advertised as a Fly-in Fishing only and that is what draws many of our guests to Nonacho Lake.

I am sure many of these questions could have been answered if we would have been included in the discussions of this project. We have never been contacted by phone, fax, letter or email. I find that somewhat disturbing considering we are the only tenants on Nonacho Lake.

Over the years we endured the devastation. Do we want to see more devastation? NO. Any more construction at Nonacho Lake should not be allowed until the damage from the first Dam is cleaned up. I have one letter in mind when I think of Dams - DDD - dams do damage and the effects are EEE - they affect the environment, the ecosystem and emotions.

I want to make one last comment among many we receive every year:

A few year ago one of my grandsons travelled to Hawaii, Europe, Austrailia and Thailand for a few months. When he returned home I asked him "Jason, how was your trip?" He replied "Grama, it was just beautiful but you know what? The most beautiful place in the world is still Nonacho Lake". And we want to keep it that way.