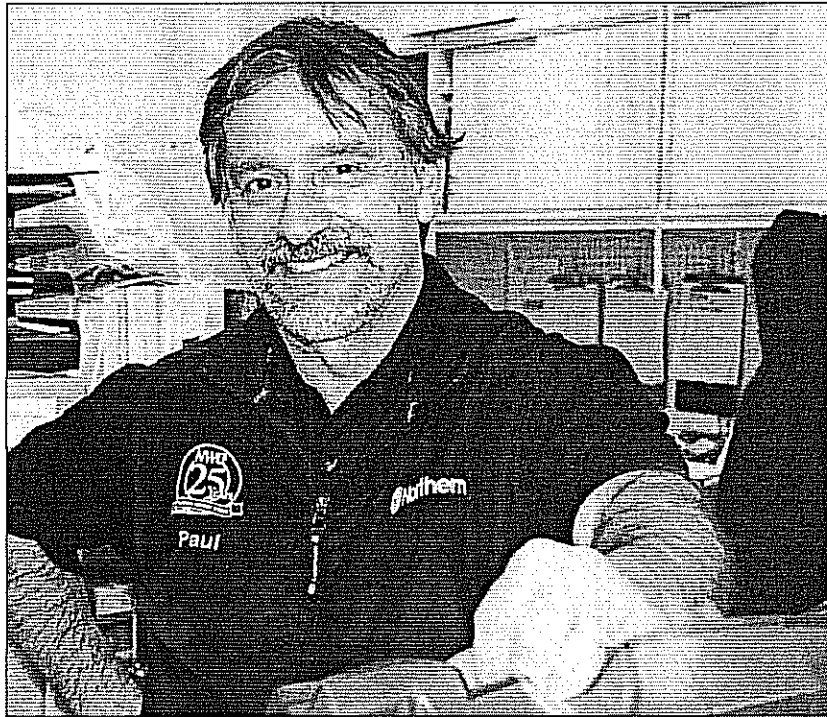


Lotto returns to Rankin Inlet



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Store manager Paul Delaney is curious to see who will buy the first lucky ticket when the Lotto terminal returns to the Northern store in Rankin Inlet this coming month.

Terminal expected online at Northern store in October

by Darrell Greor
Northern News Services
Rankin Inlet

Those who enjoy playing the lottery, or laying down a few dollars to test their prediction skills in the world of sports, will soon be able to get back into the action in Rankin Inlet.

The community has been without a Lotto terminal since the Rankin Inlet Minor Hockey Association walked

away from its retailer's licence for a lottery booth at the Northern store on Jan. 31, 2006.

But now the Northern store is bringing the terminal back.

Store manager Paul Delaney said the equipment is already in place at the store.

He said he's waiting for software upgrades to be done before he can take the next step.

"The upgrades are all that's holding us up right now, but I still can't give an exact date as to when the terminal will be up and running," said Delaney.

"We thought we'd actually be good to go this week, but, unfortunately, when the equipment arrived it didn't have the right software.

"I talked to the Western Lottery Corp. this past Wednesday (Sept. 11), and was

told we were probably looking at sometime during the first couple of weeks of October before we're set."

Trained to operate system
Delaney said there will be a number of dedicated staff members trained to operate the system properly.

He said if all goes well, staff members will begin their training on Sept. 23.

"I have not heard one single employee say, 'Oh no, not this again.'"

"In fact, they all seem pretty keen about it," Delaney said it will be strictly Northern store staff members running the Lotto booth.

He said the store was simply responding to the requests of the community in bringing back the terminal.

"Basically, this whole

decision was based on customer response.

"Our customers have been asking us to bring it back since long before I arrived more than two years ago.

"Our head office looked at it and decided to go ahead with it.

"Then we brought the proposal to hamlet council for approval, so council voted on it and had no problem with the idea."

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