

news/north

Published Mondays

YELLOWKNIFE OFFICE:
Box 2820, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2S1
Phone: (867) 873-4331
Fax: (867) 873-6557
Toll free: (855) 873-6675
Email: nns@nns.com
editor@nns.com
subscriptions@nns.com
circulation@nns.com
nnsadmin@nns.com
Website: www.nns.com

DEH QUA OFFICE, FORT SIMPSON:
Rosanna Thompson, Bureau Chief
Phone: (867) 635-CRUM
Fax: (867) 635-3186
Email: deb@nns.com
Website: www.nns.com/dehquadrum

SOUTHEAST OFFICE, HAY RIVER:
Paul Beaufort, Bureau Chief
Phone: (867) 874-2802 Fax: (867) 874-2804
Email: editor@saamicro.com

MACKENZIE DELTA OFFICE, INUVIK:
Shawn Giddick
Phone: (867) 777-4545 Fax: (867) 777-4412
Email: news@nns.com
Website: www.nns.com/inuvikdelta

RAFFIN OFFICE, IQUALUIT:
Miranda Scottland + Hayes Dolphin
Phone: (867) 979-9393 Fax: (867) 979-6010
Email: editor@nns.com
Website: www.nns.com/raffin

HOVLIQ OFFICE, RAMONH INLET:
Duffell Greer - Bureau Chief
Phone: (867) 649-3223 Fax: (867) 649-3225
Email: hovaliq@nns.com
Website: www.nns.com/hovaliqnews

PUBLISHER: J.W. (Jag) Sigurdsson - jag@nns.com
GENERAL MANAGER: Michael Scott - mscott@nns.com
MANAGING EDITOR: Bruce Valpy - valpy@nns.com

ACCOUNTING: nnsadmin@nns.com
Judy Triffo - Florie Mariano - Myra Bowerman
Meredith Fontanella - Courtney Gieseler

Senior editor: Mike W. Bryant
News/North editor: Chris Puglia
Photo production: Doree MacLean

News editors:
Mike W. Bryant • Chris Puglia
Glenn Weikman • Michele LaTourneau
Graeme McNaughton • Laura Busch
Karen McKinley • Josh Long • Dan Shobe

Sections:
Sports: James McCarthy - sports@nns.com
Business: Aaron Lantis - business@nns.com
Arts: Sarah Brockfield - entertainment@nns.com

Reporters: Lyndee Herman
Daniel Campbell • Candace Thompson • Doree Punter

Editorial board:
Bruce Valpy • Chris Puglia • Josh Long

Advertising production:
Production coordinator: Jennifer Reyes
B.V. Longden • Diana Morrison
Joyce Dale • Zdena Rindelik
Jamie Dean Walowski • Haylee Shouhka

Classification:
Yamass Chykowski

ADVERTISING:
advertising@nns.com
Advertising manager: Petra Merritt
Representatives: Orlene Williams • Ed Hermdale
Tory Dobbin • Dawn Jaro • Alex MacLennan
Sandra Bourgeois • Chad Alkovic • Heather Foubert
Tara Chang • Selene Thompson • Torina Sanderson
Feature co-ordinator: Beau Stobbs

CIRCULATION:
circulation@nns.com
David Hovey • Sy Hagen
Subscriptions:
One year mail \$90 • Two year mail \$125
Canada (includes GST) \$50/year
Individual subscriptions, multiple user rates on request

NORTHERN NEWS SERVICES LIMITED
2004, Northern owned and operated

Members of:
Canadian Community Newspapers Association
Ontario Community Newspapers Association
Maritimes Community Newspapers Association
Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association
Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association
Ontario, Maritimes and Alberta Press Council
National Chamber of Commerce
Copyright © printed in the North by Canadian Newspapers Limited

Member of the Ontario Press Council: The Ontario Press Council was created to defend freedom of the press and the role of the media and press, and to consider specific, qualified complaints from readers about the conduct of the press in gathering and publishing news, opinion and advertising.
Complaints should go to:
The Ontario Press Council, 20 Queen St., Suite 1700 Toronto, Ont. M5G 1S3
E-mail: info@oprc.com Fax: 416-940-6724
www.oprc.com

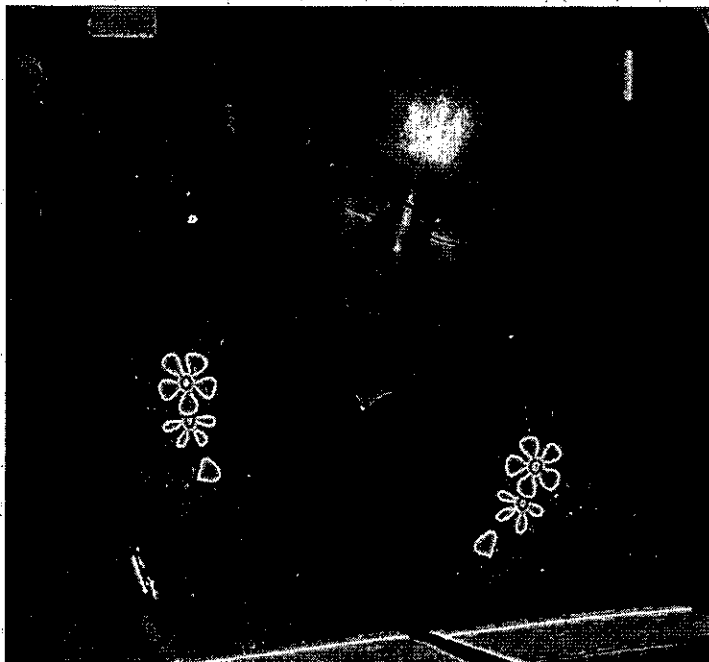
SEND US YOUR COMMENTS
Email us at: editorial@nns.com with the subject line "My opinion", or send mail to News/North Box 2820, Yellowknife, X1A 2S1. Or drop your letter off at our office at 5108-50 Street. All letters submitted must be signed with a return address and daytime telephone number. We will do our best to ensure that letters submitted by 3 p.m. on Thursdays are printed in Monday's News/North.

Editorial & Opinions

COMMENTS AND VIEWS FROM NEWS/NORTH AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Robert Alexie, president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, was one of the dignitaries signing off on the devolution agreement June 25, 2012. The territorial government has betrayed the trust of Tiicho, Gwich'in and Sahtu signatories to devolution by not standing against changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act being lumped in with the devolution bill.



Devolution dishonored

Premier sold out aboriginal partners to get devolution deal

Northern News Services

Has Premier Bob McLeod and cabinet traded the recently hard-won trust of Tiicho, Sahtu and Gwich'in people for devolution?

At a meeting last week in Yellowknife to address the devolution and regulatory system omnibus bill with the federal Special Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, McLeod said, "Whatever their views on this specific legislation, I hope everyone in the Northwest Territories supports the basic premise that decisions about the North should be made as close to home as possible."

Ironically, input over those decisions - despite the government's continued assertions to the contrary - will be seriously diluted by the other half of the devolution bill which will dissolve regional land and water boards for the creation of a single super board.

It's not the first time cabinet crumbled when given a choice between standing up to Ottawa and the security of its devolution negotiations.

In February 2013, cabinet teamed up to help defeat a motion made by MLA Bob Bromley to criticize the conservative government for its lack of consultation regarding changes to national

THE ISSUE:
SUPER BOARD

WE SAY:
NOT WORTH THE PRICE OF DEVOLUTION

environmental legislation. The debate at that time demonstrated that criticizing Ottawa was off bounds.

Whether Ottawa has the right to create a super board in the NWT is irrelevant. What matters is three groups of people fought hard for the right to self-government and negotiated in good faith for the right to help shape decisions at the regional level. They have been abandoned by their government.

Accepting the linkage of the two distinctly different legislative bills affecting the NWT betrays the Sahtu, Tiicho and Gwich'in governments who all worked with the GNWT until they had built the trust to sign onto the devolution. The Gwich'in went so far as to drop a lawsuit that might have held up the deal. Premier McLeod's leadership was applauded.

Then, on a political whim, Bill C-15 turned devolution into Ottawa's proverbial carrot on the stick. The GNWT leadership chose

to sacrifice its relations with aboriginal governments, a stark contrast to the goal the assembly began with, which was to strengthen those bonds.

While devolution is undeniably good for the NWT, what the GNWT is losing in return - regional input, trust and co-operation, not to mention political integrity - tarnishes the accomplishment.

Worse, this so-called super board is nothing more than a public relations move to placate the global, cash-starved mining industry at the expense of Northerners.

The regional boards, by all accounts, worked with industry and bolstered public confidence that development was being done to the benefit of the people affected.

It was the federally anointed, unmovable Mackenzie pipeline review board, the patronage-riddled Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board and successive name-changing, game-changing federal cabinet ministers which were all directly responsible, yet unaccountable, for stalling any projects.

Yet neither McLeod nor cabinet uttered one public word of defence. To lose after a good fight brings honor. Offering no resistance brings the opposite.