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NWT Days Media Activity Report

NWT Days was a coordinated initiative to raise the profile of the Northwest Territories and its priorities with federal Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senators, senior federal officials, stakeholders and national media. The media component of NWT Days included 25 interviews with national networks and publications, as well as a teleconference with Northern media as outlined below. These interviews resulted in several television appearances and newspaper and magazine articles. Copies/links to articles or links to streaming media have been included below.

Media Interviews: January 29 – February 1, 2013

	Outlet	Reporter	Minister
1	Globe and Mail	John Ibbotson	Premier
2	Power Play (CTV)	Don Martin	Premier
3	La Presse	Joel-Denis Bellevance	Premier
4	La Presse	Joel-Denis Bellevance	Minister Ramsay
5	The World at Six (CBC)	Susan Lunn	Premier
6	Primetime Politics (CPAC)	Peter Van Dusen	Premier
7	Battleground (Sun News Network)	David Akin	Premier
8	Canadian Press	Heather Scoffield	Premier
9	Sun News	Kirsty Kirkup	Premier
10	Hill Times	Bea Vongdouangchanh	Premier
11	Embassy Magazine	Carl Meyer	Premier
12	iPolitics	James Munson	Premier
13	CTV News Network	Todd van der Heyden & Amanda Blitz	Minister Miltenberger
14	iPolitics	Laura Stone	Minister Abernethy
15	Postmedia (National Post)	Michael Woods	Premier
16	Power and Politics (CBC)	Evan Solomon	Premier

17	Northern Journal	Meagan Wohlberg	Premier
18	Canada Live (Sun News Network)	Anita Sharma	Premier
19	Bloomberg	Editorial Board	Premier
20	The West Block (Global TV)	Tom Clark	Premier
21	The Economist	Madelaine Drohan	Premier
22	Upstream Oil and Gas	Tonya Zelinsky	Premier
23	Up Here Business	Chris Windeyer	Premier
24	CFRA Radio	Pierre Bourque	Minister Ramsay
25	Global TV	Denise Leblanc	Minister Ramsay

Teleconference – Premier Bob McLeod

CJCD (Craig Richenback), CBC North (Angela Sterritt), CKLB (Josh Long, Iman Kassam), APTN (Cullen Crozier), Globe and Mail (Paul Koring), NNSL (Laura Busch), Canadian Press (Heather Scoffield), Xinhua News (Al Campbell)

NWT Days Media Coverage

Broadcast/Web-Video

- CBC Radio - World Report: Susan Lunn, Jan. 30th (*link to follow, once uploaded to CBC website*)
- CTV News Video Network – Power Play with Don Martin – live
- CPAC – Peter van Dusen’s PrimeTime Politics 11:31 (Start @ 21:45, End 33:16)
- Sun TV – Sun News, Battleground with David Akin
- CBC Power and Politics with Evan Solomon
- Sun News Network, The Source with Ezra Levant
- Global News, The West Block with Tom Clark
- Globe and Mail Website, Video: Challenges ahead for new NWT premier (linked to John Ibbitson’s Jan. 30 article, Ottawa Ready to Cede new powers to Northwest Territories)
- CTV News Video Network: NWT seeks control of land
- CJCD Mix 100 News, HQ Yellowknife.com – Yellowknife’s Online Headquarters

Print/Web-Print Articles

- [John Ibbiston, The Globe and Mail](#)
- [Joël-Denis Bellavance, La Presse](#)
- [Michael Woods, The Ottawa Citizen](#)
- [Chris Plecash, The Hill Times](#)
- [Heather Scoffield, The Canadian Press \(syndicated\)](#)
- [Kristy Kirkup, Eye on the Hill, Sun Media](#)
- [Kristy Kirkup, Eye on the Hill, Sun Media](#)
- [Bea Vongdouangchanh, The Hill Times](#)
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- [Andy Radia, Canada Politics, Yahoo News](#)
- [Paul Koring, The Globe and Mail](#)
- [MorningWhistle.com](#)
- [Twitter, David Johnston @GGDavidJohnston](#)
It was a pleasure to welcome both the Commissioner and Premier of the Northwest Territories this morning @RideauHall.
- [Carl Meyer, Embassy Magazine](#)
- [Laura Stone, iPolitics](#)

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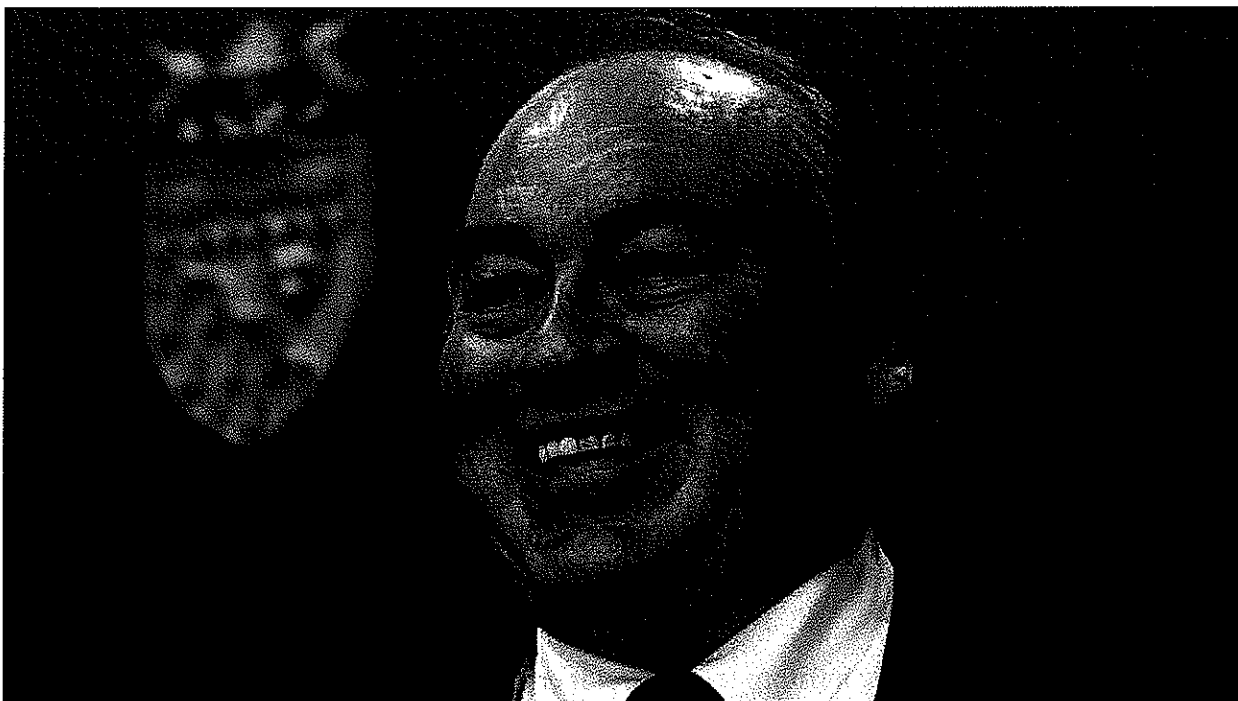
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Ottawa ready to cede new powers to Northwest Territories

JOHN IBBITSON

OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail

Last updated Wednesday, Jan. 30 2013, 7:09 AM EST



Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod begins two days of talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and officials in Ottawa. (James MacKenzie /The Canadian Press)





The Harper government is on the brink of making the Northwest Territories a province in all but name by ceding federal control over land, resources and water.

Much of the territorial government has arrived in Ottawa. Premier Bob McLeod, his cabinet, deputy ministers and aboriginal and business leaders begin two days of talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and officials.

- 'We're finally connected to the rest of Canada': NWT residents celebrate Deh Cho bridge
- Mackenzie River Basin Downstream development, stakes are raised in NWT
- NWT Premier throws support behind Alberta over pipeline

The people and government of the territory stand to benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in new resource revenues under the agreement, which will see the territorial and not the federal government primarily responsible for approving resource developments.

Mining output in NWT is expected to almost double in this decade. And the move fits with the Conservative government's determination to retreat from federal environmental oversight in most jurisdictions.

The principal aim is to finalize devolution, as it's called, of control over natural resources from Ottawa to Yellowknife.

"It seems like everything is coming together," Mr. McLeod said Tuesday in an interview.

The territory is "on the verge of achieving devolution. ... We are advancing on many fronts," he said.

Asked for a time frame, he replied: "I would say we are about two weeks away. We just have a couple of items to work out."

It couldn't come at a better time for the people of the territory. The Conference Board of Canada released a report this week predicting that global demand will push mining output in NWT from \$732-million in 2011 to \$1.3-billion in 2020. Four new mines are expected to open in 2015, and a fifth in 2017.

This will return mining activity in the territory to the level it enjoyed in 2007, before the recession and declining output created a slump.

"Mining is the future economic driver of Canada's North," the report concluded. The Northwest Territories will be doing much of the driving.

Jason MacDonald, spokesman for Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister John Duncan, confirmed that the government intends to reach a devolution agreement with NWT, though he would not commit to the timing of a final deal.

"Concluding an agreement will be an important and positive step in the evolution of Northern governance and will deliver economic benefits to NWT," he said in an e-mail.

“We will continue to work with our partners in NWT to reach an agreement that creates a practical, innovative and efficient governance model for the territory.”

The territory also has vast untapped reserves of oil, natural gas and hydro-electric potential. But inadequate infrastructure is a chronic obstacle, there are substantial environmental challenges and multiple regulatory hurdles can cause crippling delays. Most important, meeting aboriginal concerns is integral to any new development.

Mr. McLeod said that four of the seven aboriginal governments in NWT have signed agreements-in-principle on devolution, which he believes is sufficient for it to proceed.

Devolution should ease the regulatory burden by concentrating approvals at the territorial level.

During the meetings, territorial leaders will also be pushing for federal assistance to construct the Mackenzie Valley Highway (estimated cost, \$1.8-billion) and to lay down the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link (estimated cost, \$62-million).

Such a link would greatly expand the existing use of Inuvik as a centre for receiving satellite transmissions, while bringing education, health and economic benefits to communities along the route.

In part because native residents of the territory actively participated in the development of the diamond-mining industry in the last decade, the unemployment rate in the territory is 7.4 per cent, slightly above the national average of 7.1 per cent, but below the unemployment rate in Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

Under previous devolution agreements, the territorial government assumed responsibility for many of the major powers administered by provinces, including health care, education, social services, highways, forestry management and airport administration.

But control over resources is one of the key powers of the provinces, and something their governments jealously guard.

A previous agreement that devolved control over natural resources to Yukon in 2003 helped make it economically one of the fastest-growing parts of the country, with unemployment at only 6.1 per cent, though the territorial government is pressing Ottawa for improvements to the original deal.

The government of Nunavut has also entered into devolution talks with Ottawa.

Given its increasing wealth and prospects for growth, the Northwest Territories could make a case for one day becoming a province.

But with a population of only 43,000 Mr. McLeod believes that continued reliance on federal transfers and opposition from existing provinces make that a distant prospect.

If the resource boom is sustained, however, it could increase the territorial population to the point where it one day could make the case for provincehood.

“I think we’re just a few decades away from it,” Mr. McLeod predicted.



Hydroélectricité: l'expertise québécoise est prisée

Publié le 31 janvier 2013 à 08h03 | Mis à jour le 31 janvier 2013 à 08h03



Joël-Denis Bellavance
La Presse

Photo Reuters
Robert McLeod

(OTTAWA) Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) entretiennent de grandes ambitions hydroélectriques et leur premier ministre, Robert McLeod, songe à faire appel à l'expertise québécoise.

Le gouvernement des TNO évalue à environ 11 000 mégawatts le potentiel hydroélectrique sur son territoire, soit presque l'équivalent de la production de la Baie-James au Québec ou des Chutes Churchill à Terre-Neuve et Labrador. Mais pour développer ce potentiel, le gouvernement devra conclure des ententes avec le secteur privé et solliciter l'expertise de géant comme Hydro-Québec ou d'autres sociétés d'État.

D'ici un an, le gouvernement accouchera d'un plan de développement hydroélectrique et cognera à la porte du gouvernement fédéral et d'entreprises désirant investir dans cette énergie renouvelable, a indiqué le premier ministre dans une entrevue à *La Presse Affaires*.

À l'heure actuelle, seulement 0,5% du potentiel hydroélectrique des TNO est exploité. Ce dossier est devenu prioritaire pour les TNO pour plusieurs raisons. D'abord, de nouveaux projets hydroélectriques permettraient de réduire la dépendance du Nord au carburant diesel, de réduire les coûts d'exploitation des entreprises et le coût de la vie des résidents du territoire.

Ensuite, ils permettraient de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre. À titre d'exemple, si on doublait la capacité de transport d'électricité de l'actuelle centrale hydroélectrique sur la rivière Taltson (18 mégawatts), on éviterait d'utiliser 114 millions de litres de diesel par année, ce qui se traduirait par une baisse des émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 320 kilotonnes.

Enfin, ces projets pourraient produire suffisamment d'électricité pour alimenter des provinces limitrophes comme l'Alberta et la Saskatchewan. «Nous avons déjà quelques infrastructures hydroélectriques qui nous ont été léguées par l'industrie des diamants. Alors, la majorité des résidents du territoire ont accès à de l'hydroélectricité. Le potentiel est énorme. Mais il s'agit de gros projets qui nécessitent de gros investissements. Notre population compte seulement 43 000 habitants. Pour développer notre potentiel hydroélectrique, il faudra donc conclure des partenariats. Nous en sommes conscients et nous allons élaborer notre plan de développement en conséquence», a affirmé M. McLeod.

Pour faire avancer les nombreux projets de développement économique, M. McLeod passe la semaine à Ottawa avec six ministres de son cabinet et sept députés afin de multiplier les rencontres avec les membres du gouvernement Harper et les gens d'affaires.

Car outre les projets d'hydroélectricité, les TNO regorgent de ressources qui n'ont pas encore été exploitées, notamment du pétrole et du gaz naturel. Les TNO contiendraient l'équivalent de 7 milliards de barils de pétrole et 81,2 billions de pieds cubes de gaz naturel. Et cela exclut les gisements extracôtiers, encore plus importants.

Partager



Talks on territorial power progress

February 1, 2013 - 4:16am BY HEATHER SCOFFIELD THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA — The premier of the Northwest Territories says he and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have an understanding to do what it takes to formally expand territorial powers to near-provincial standards by April 2014.

But after a series of meetings with Harper, several ministers and top officials this week in Ottawa, Premier Bob McLeod also acknowledges that a final agreement on devolution is not a slam-dunk.

“We are moving forward. We are getting very close,” McLeod said in an interview with The Canadian Press as his meetings drew to a close.

The deal would give the territorial government responsibility for public land, water and resources, generating revenue that would reduce — but not eliminate — its heavy dependence on federal transfers.

But McLeod pointed out that several issues remain outstanding on the devolution file, including how much leeway the territorial government will have to move away from federal legislation, how to share the wealth of the Norman Wells oilfield and how to deal with three regional aboriginal governments that have yet to agree in principle to the devolution agreement.

Talk of expanded powers has been going for the better part of three decades, and negotiations in earnest have spanned the past 11 years.

But it’s still unclear exactly how much power the territorial government will have to take policy in its own direction once devolution occurs, the premier said. At first, most of the territory’s legislation will “mirror” federal laws and then be subject to any changes the territorial government chooses.

Other legislation will remain firmly federal, with the territorial government as administrator, despite political pressure on the NWT government to negotiate full powers.

Exactly what legislation falls into which category is still a matter of negotiation, said McLeod.

“It’s a combination of both.”

Similarly, the territorial government has yet to agree to Ottawa’s insistence on keeping the \$100 million in annual federal revenue from the Norman Wells oilfield.

And discussions about who gets what share of the bounty from future off-shore developments won’t be broached until after devolution actually takes place, McLeod added.

The territory has a population of just 41,000 people but covers 1.3 million square kilometres rich in energy, minerals and diamonds. Seven mines are poised to open by 2020, enabling the territory to double its economic output, McLeod said.

Ottawa and the territorial government signed an agreement in principle a year ago. But only four of seven regional aboriginal groups support the deal. The others are caught up in land claims negotiations and are concerned that those talks would be derailed by devolution.

Devolution would mean that about 50 per cent of resource royalties would go directly to the territory subject to a cap. The territory would have drawn in about \$62 million in 2012. A quarter of that amount would have then been distributed to the seven regional aboriginal governments.

Despite the complex negotiations, McLeod says Northwest Territories are an example for the rest of Canada to study as provincial and federal governments figure out how best to divvy up natural resource revenues with aboriginal groups.

About the Author »

By HEATHER SCOFFIELD *The Canadian Press*

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND FEDS TO DISCUSS PUSH FOR CONTROL OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

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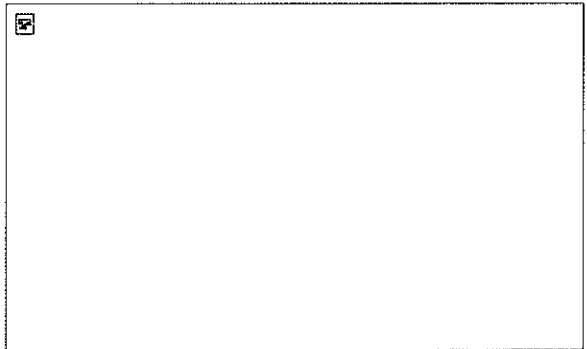
Northwest Territories and feds to discuss push for control over natural resources

3:06 pm, January 30th, 2013



CANADA'S ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOHN DUNCAN SPEAKS DURING QUESTION PERIOD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON PARLIAMENT HILL IN OTTAWA JANUARY 28, 2013. Credits: REUTERS/Chris Watlie

KRISTY KIRKUP | QMI AGENCY



OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod Wednesday to discuss a push for Ottawa to transfer land and resource control to the territory.

The process of "devolution" - which involves handing over control from one government to another - has been a longstanding goal of the N.W.T.

The federal government also views it as a priority to help northerners control their "economic and political destinies."

"The benefits of a devolution agreement are clear; Yukon signed a devolution agreement and now has one of the more robust economies in the country," said Jason MacDonald, spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan.

In 2003, the federal government handed over control of natural resources to the Yukon.

McLeod has suggested the N.W.T. is now at the tipping point of achieving devolution, but NDP MP Dennis Bevington, who represents the territory in Parliament, said there is some hesitation.

"We're very concerned that, that we actually take control over ... our affairs and that the devolution agreement is simply not a delegated authority of federal law," he said.

The N.W.T. and the Yukon are governed by a federal act that lays out powers because of their different place in Confederation.

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Unlike provinces, territorial powers are not divided by the terms of the Constitution, which dictates responsibilities for federal and provincial governments.

Under federal acts, the federal government decides what powers the territories have.

Only four of seven aboriginal groups in the territory endorse devolution. Two are currently negotiating land claims.



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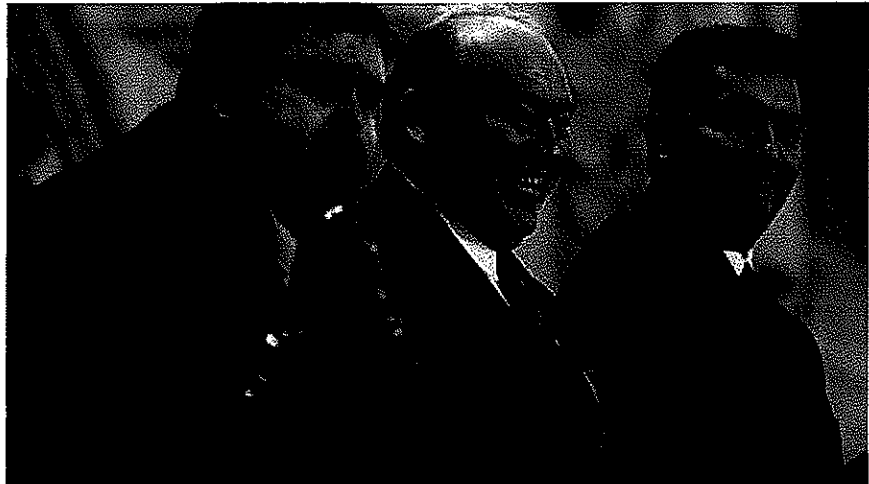
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POLITICS

NWT and feds ready to sign devolution deal

5:18 pm, January 31st, 2013



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PREMIER BOB MCLEOD (C) REACTS WHILE BEING RECOGNIZED ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION BY THE SPEAKER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON PARLIAMENT HILL IN OTTAWA JANUARY 30, 2013.

Credits: REUTERS

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KRISTY KIRKUP | QMI AGENCY

OTTAWA - Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod is hopeful the feds and territorial leaders will soon seal a devolution deal - and complete a dream at least 40 years in the making.

McLeod, who met Prime Minister Stephen Harper and territorial ministers, business people and aboriginal leaders in Ottawa this week, said a devolution agreement - to hand over federal power of lands and resources from Ottawa to Yellowknife - is likely "a couple months away."

"I think we both feel that devolution talks are ... progressing very well," McLeod said. "Devolution has been a process that has been going on for ... about 40 years."

McLeod says he has "no hesitation" about the proposed terms of an agreement that would enable the territory to control its lands and resources.



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He sees it as a way for the NWT to recognize its place as an "economic powerhouse."

In 2003, the feds handed over control of natural resources to the Yukon.

"All of the easy programs have been devolved," McLeod said. "The most complex ones are the last ones ... land and resources and royalties are the most complex."

Due to their different place in Confederation, the NWT and the Yukon are governed by federal acts which dictate what powers they have.

Unlike provinces, territorial powers are not divided by the terms of the Constitution, which carves out different federal and provincial responsibilities.

Four of seven aboriginal groups in the territory endorse devolution. Two are in the midst of negotiating land claims.

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FULL COMMENT

Jesse Kline: The North wants in



JESSE KLINE | Jan 31, 2013 12:01 AM ET | Last Updated: Jan 30, 2013 4:47 PM ET
More from Jesse Kline | @accessd



A Peregrine Diamond drill site in Kimberlite, Northwest Territories.

Peregrine Diamonds Ltd.

According to Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod — who, along with his cabinet, deputy ministers and a contingent of First Nations and business leaders, is in Ottawa for negotiations with the federal government — the N.W.T. is “on the verge of achieving” a historic agreement to gain control over its natural resources. If such an agreement is reached, it would be a significant marker in the long battle between Western Canadians and the federal government.

Of all the geographical divisions that make up this country, the Northwest Territories has been the most tortured. Historically used as a catch-all for large swaths of land Ottawa had no idea what to do with, the territory originally encompassed parts of modern-day British Columbia, the Yukon, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

When Ottawa purchased Rupert’s Land from the Hudson’s Bay Co. (HBC) in 1870, the territory grew immensely, but would slowly be whittled down as time went on: Manitoba and B.C. would expand north, the Yukon was created in 1898, Alberta and Saskatchewan were carved out in 1905 and Nunavut was created in 1999.

If one thing has remained fairly constant throughout these expansions and contractions, it’s the fight of Western Canadians — including Northwest Territorians — to control their own resources.

Shortly after consuming much of HBC’s North American holdings, Frederick Haultain, the premier of what was known as the Northwest Territories, would come to embody that struggle. At the time of his election in 1888, the Legislative Assembly had control only

over monies raised within the territory, which constituted a mere 10% of its budget. The rest of the money came in the form of grants from the feds and were controlled by the lieutenant-governor.

Without the ability to control finances, the elected members could not be held accountable for the government's actions — a fundamental tenant of our system of responsible government. Without control over resource revenues, the fledgling territory could not hope to raise the money needed to fund its own initiatives.

It's the same basic problems that First Nations have to deal with, in other words, writ large.

Although Mr. Haultain eventually would be successful in bringing responsible government to Western Canada, his dream of resource control could not overcome the ambitions of Liberal and Conservative prime ministers alike. Ottawa needed control over Western resources to encourage immigration into the region. But while giving away free homesteads proved very enticing to European settlers, it also put a strain on the provinces and territories responsible for providing roads, schools and other services to the new residents.

The Yukon signed an oil and gas accord with Ottawa in 1993, and an agreement dealing with other natural resources in 2003. Both agreements were amended last year, giving the Yukon control over capped resource-revenue streams. Whether the Northwest Territories comes to a similar agreement, or gains full control over resources, as the provinces now have, remains to be seen.

According to statements made by Premier McLeod and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister John Duncan's office, however, it appears as though the federal government is ready to devolve significant powers to the territorial government — a move that would set a precedent for the two other territories.

This battle for control of northern resources may seem obscure to most Canadians, yet it is part of an important Canadian narrative. The debate over central versus local control dates back to Confederation, with Westerners in particular agitating to wrest more power away from central planners in Ottawa. As Aritha van Herk wrote in her 2001 book, *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*, the federal government has often treated the regions "as if they are slightly malfunctioning limbs attached to the country's torso."

It would be surprising if the federal Conservatives gave up control over vast untapped oil reserves and a multi-million-dollar mining industry in the Northwest Territories. Yet such a move would strengthen Canadian federalism by giving Northern peoples a greater degree of control over their economies, something for which they have long been waiting.

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The North could be tomorrow's Alberta/Saskatchewan. Exciting!

Eric Shipley

I could be wrong but I don't think any part of BC was ever part of the NWT. BC is the same size and shape as it was when it was still a colony (not counting the disputed Alaska Panhandle).

nanowit

If the people and their government of the NWT are ready and able to wisely manage their resources, then I say to give them the same powers as the provinces.

When the First Nations are similarly ready and able to wisely manage their regions, then we should also give them more control. However, the FN seem to already have the control without the ability to manage wisely.

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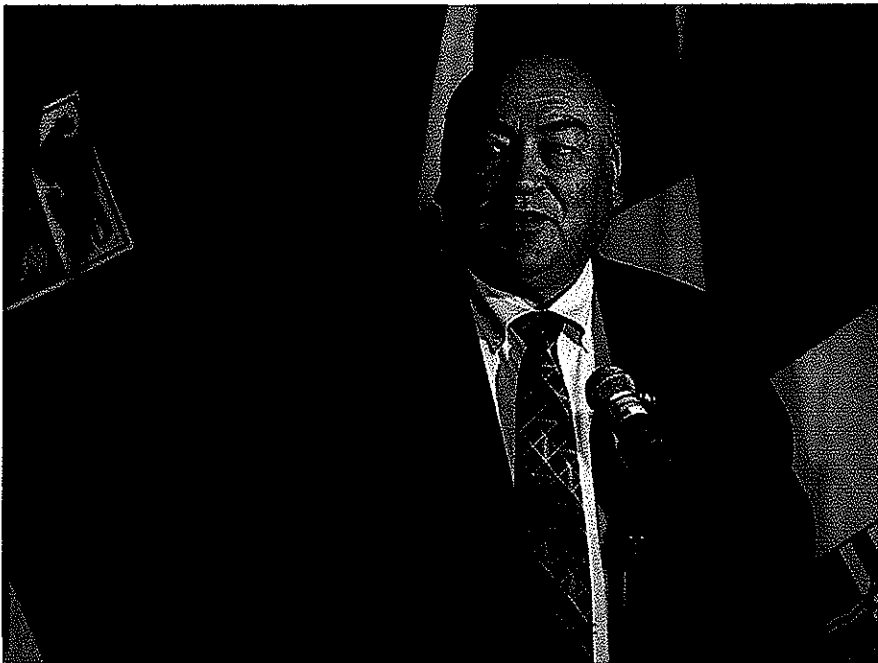
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Northwest Territories on the cusp of becoming de facto province



MICHAEL WOODS, POSTMEDIA NEWS | Jan 31, 2013 12:34 AM ET
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Northwest Territories Premier Premier Bob McLeod and his cabinet met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other government officials Wednesday to work out the details of an agreement. Andrew Vaughan / The Canadian Press

The federal government is on the cusp of ceding control over land, water and resource revenues to the Northwest Territories, a move that would render the territory a de facto province.

N.W.T. Premier Bob McLeod and his cabinet met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other government officials Wednesday to work out the details of an agreement.

The agreement, which Mr. McLeod told CTV on Wednesday is “very close” to completion, will transfer responsibility for managing public land, water and resources to the territory from the federal government by 2014.

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That means tens of millions of dollars in royalties and other resource revenues that now go to the federal government will stay in territorial coffers. Those revenues are projected to increase as the territory's mining sector expands, with its GDP expected to double

by 2020.

“Concluding an agreement with N.W.T. will be an important and positive step in the evolution of Northern governance and will deliver economic benefits to the territory,” said Jason MacDonald, a spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. He declined to give specifics of the negotiations.

The pending devolution agreement comes after more than 11 years of negotiations, which included a 2011 agreement-in-principle between the territory and the federal government.

The agreement-in-principle called for \$26-million from the federal government in one-time transition costs, as well as annual funding for the delivery of land, water and resource management programs (\$65-million in the first year). It also called for a net fiscal benefit consistent with the equalization program for provinces. In 2012, that amount would have been \$65-million.

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Jon Wang

This move is in line with the principle of our federalism which believe a local government normally does a better job managing the local affairs. This is definitely a positive step forward which I hope will strengthen our north and see more growth.

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Canada's Northwest Territories woos Chinese investment

Updated: 2013-02-01 10:38
(Xinhua)

VANCOUVER - The participation of China is critical to the development of Canada's Northwest Territories to realize the benefits of a "very exciting period in the north", said the region's Premier Bob McLeod on Thursday.

"There is a large potential for development. We see ourselves as a powerhouse in Canada's economy. We are promoting partnerships," McLeod said during a conference call with the media.

In the vast northern territory covering more than 1.18 million square kilometers, a place that is home to only 41,462 people, based on the 2011 Canadian census, McLeod cited the potential for fur, gold, diamonds, minerals, rare earth, natural gas and petroleum for cooperation.

Earlier this week in a Conference Board of Canada report, the think-tank forecast that mining output in the NWT would rise from C\$732 million (\$732.1 million) to \$1.3 billion in 2020.

"On oil and gas, I'm convinced that we need to find alternative markets to the United States and we need to find a way to get our oil and gas to China. They have significant demand that's increasing by leaps and bounds every year," said McLeod, who visited China last September as part of a Canadian business delegation.

"(It's the) Same with mining. They're very interested. They want to invest. They know the rich resources we have," he added. With some from the territorial government currently in Ottawa for meetings with the ruling Conservative government, what the NWT officials are seeking is "devolution".

While such an agreement wouldn't give the territory provincial status, what it would provide the NWT with is control over its land, natural resources and water.

McLeod said an agreement was expected in the near future. "What that means is northerners will take more responsibility for making decisions on those things that effect us. We will take over responsibility for oil and gas, mining and managing the land in the Northwest Territories, and of course, we will collect the royalties and we will have more resource revenues to invest in our programs and our infrastructure for the people of the Northwest Territories," he said.

"Also with our aboriginal government partners, we will be the first jurisdiction in Canada that will provide for resource- revenue sharing with aboriginal governments," said McLeod.

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Federal government poised to cede powers to the Northwest Territories



By Andy Radia | Canada Politics – Wed, 30 Jan, 2013



NWT Premier Bob McLeod

In many ways, the Northwest Territories is like the Rodney Dangerfield of Canada — it gets very little respect. That might change in the next couple of weeks.

Officials from NWT are in Ottawa this week to hammer out an agreement which would cede federal control over land, resources and water to the territorial government. It's a historical move that the *Globe and Mail* characterizes as making the Northwest Territories into "a province in all but name."

"Much of the territorial government has arrived in Ottawa. Premier Bob McLeod, his cabinet, deputy ministers and aboriginal and business leaders begin two days of talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and officials.

The people and government of the territory stand to benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in new resource revenues under the agreement, which will see the territorial and not the federal government primarily responsible for approving resource developments."

The process of devolution — as it's called — happened in the Yukon in 2003 and has contributed to that jurisdiction's buoyant economy.

For the NWT, devolution means it can take control over and earn revenues on its oil and gas reserves and growing number of mining projects. According to *Northern News Services*, the new powers will allow the territory to keep up to 50 per cent of resource revenues.

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"The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes that resource development is a primary economic driver in the territory that generates jobs and business opportunities throughout the territory," Petra White, spokesperson for the NWT Office of Devolution, told *Yahoo! Canada News* in an email exchange.

"As a part of devolution, tens of millions in resource revenues will stay in the NWT each year. These new revenues can be invested in public services, infrastructure and economic growth initiatives that will improve quality of life and create opportunities in all NWT communities."

White adds that the new agreement with Ottawa will include at least 24 acts and regulations governing public land, water and resources in the NWT that will come under the full purview of the territorial government.

"These are substantive pieces of legislation that will provide the [government of the NWT] with a suite of authorities to manage and regulate public land, rights in respect of water, oil and gas activity and mining activity," he said.

"This will include the authority to deliver related programs and services and to make changes to those programs to ensure they meet northern needs and reflect northern priorities."

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MLA Norman Yakeleya compared the devolution process to a parent/child relationship.

"The children rely on their parents to keep them safe, secure and well-fed and housed until a certain time in life that the parents just got to say, 'son or daughter, it's time to make it on your own,'" Yakeleya told *News/North*.

"It's the same thing with us in the Northwest Territories."

The deal is expected to be finalized in the next couple of weeks.

About the Northwest Territories:

Population: 43,485

Aboriginal population: Approx. 50 per cent of the population is Aboriginal

Land mass: 1,171,918 square kilometres

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

ARCTIC COUNCIL

Canada's Arctic leadership stint worries drillers, shippers and environmentalists

PAUL KORING

WASHINGTON — The Globe and Mail

Published Thursday, Jan. 31 2013, 8:00 PM EST

Last updated Friday, Feb. 01 2013, 3:30 AM EST

Canada will begin a two-year stint at the helm of the eight-nation Arctic Council amid a clamour of competing calls for leadership, as the ice recedes and the race heats up to extract resource riches while protecting a fragile and now-exposed environment.

While there's near-unanimity that Canada will need to lead when it takes over from Sweden in May, the direction and pace remain in sharp dispute. The oil industry wants to get busy drilling; ocean shippers are eyeing cost-saving shortcuts across long-frozen seas, while environmentalists fear the melting polar pack leaves the Arctic vulnerable to unrestrained ravage.

Most expect, and some fear, the Conservative government will tip towards development.

Leona Aglukkaq, the Health Minister tapped by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a surprise choice to represent Canada alongside the foreign ministers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States, "is clearly, on behalf of the government of Canada, taking a pro-development approach," said Doug Matthews, an Alberta-based energy analyst who spent decades working in the Northwest Territories. "The federal government is bending over backwards to accommodate the energy industry's interest in the Arctic," Mr. Matthews said Thursday in an interview. He expects Ottawa to try to bring a similar approach to the Arctic Council. "They're sending signals to industry that development is welcome," he said.

With a circumpolar pact on oil and gas drilling safeguards in the offing, that may be Ottawa's first chance to signal which way it intends to lead the council.

Environmentalists fear the worst. "The Arctic Council and the Canadian government should put the brakes on the madness of using climate change to extract more oil, minerals and fish from the Arctic," said Yossi Cadan, Greenpeace Canada's campaigns director. Greenpeace wants Ottawa to champion a "ban on any oil drilling and destructive fishing and develop a plan, not for the next oil drills, but for the health of the Arctic 100 years from now."

The Arctic, Mr. Cadan said, is “not Shell’s or Harper’s next tar sands project, any irresponsible development there will affect all humanity.”

There seems no chance of an Ottawa-led ban on drilling, although Ms. Aglukkaq, who grew up in Gjoa Haven, a hamlet of 1,200, and represents Nunavut, says a successful Arctic future means “we must build bridges between people who live there and the new realities.”

The stark new reality is of a massive transformation from a polar region icebound in winter and ice-choked in summer to an ocean largely ice-free in summer and, many scientists predict, increasingly warmed by human-caused climate change. For some, that means not just bridges but roads and mines and ports to ship the resources to the rest of the world.

“Development and jobs,” said NWT Premier Bob McLeod, adding that Ottawa needs to give the three northern territorial governments a “more active role” in running the circumpolar club. But Mr. McLeod has no doubt that developing the Arctic’s riches is a top priority.

“We need to make sure there are job and business opportunities,” he said in an interview Thursday. As for new big-ticket projects that would signal Ottawa’s commitment, he’d like to see a second deep-water harbour, this one in the Northwest Territories, that would spur development of mines by providing an export route to global markets.

So it’s no surprise that trading nations as distant as South Korea and China, and regional groupings including the European Union, are all clamouring for a seat at the Arctic Council table. So far the existing founding eight have been offering “observer” status, although some worry that will lead to even greater pressure as non-Arctic nations seek a piece of the polar pie.

“We would very much like to have a stake into this by becoming an observer in the Arctic Council,” an EU official said. “We’re going to launch a campaign in order to convince the eight members of the Arctic Council to have a positive answer to our request.”

Chairing the Arctic Council as the planet’s northern polar region becomes more accessible will add even greater visibility to Mr. Harper’s annual summer pilgrimage to Canada’s North. But the Prime Minister needs to do more than wave the flag and trumpet Canadian sovereignty, say critics who want the government to take a more measured and international approach to emerging problems.

Michael Byers, who has written extensively about Canadian Arctic policy, says it’s past time that Mr. Harper stop playing “domestic politics rather than thinking about Canada’s chairmanship with a global perspective.” Prof. Byers, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia, suggests that if the Prime Minister was serious about “sending a big signal that Canada’s leadership was to be about circumpolar co-operating and environmental protection,” then declaring a moratorium on commercial fishing in the Beaufort waters north and west of the Canadian Arctic archipelago would be a responsible first step.

The moratorium would, at a stroke, accomplish several things, Prof. Byers said. It would match a U.S. moratorium in the waters north of Alaska. In doing so, it would put the two countries in step, not only on protecting a potential fishery until its vulnerability can be assessed, but also by erasing the current confusion over the extent of the U.S. moratorium, which spills into waters claimed by Canada given the still-unresolved dispute over the maritime boundary north of the Yukon and Alaska. More importantly, it would signal a willingness to protect and assess a resource before deciding whether, and how, to exploit it.

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February 1, 9:37 am

Canada's northwest territories seek Chinese investment

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The participation of China is critical to the development of Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT) to realize the benefits of a "very exciting period in the north", said the region's Premier Bob McLeod on Thursday.

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Earlier this week in a Conference Board of Canada report, the think-tank forecast that mining output in the NWT would rise from 732 million Canadian dollar (732.1 million U.S. dollars) to 1.3 billion U.S. dollars in 2020.

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News



NWT Politicians Promoting the North, Preparing for Devolution



VOID

Thursday, January 31, 2013 - 3:04 PM

Yellowknife, NWT - NWT Premier Bob McLeod is basking in the limelight in the nation's capital.

The Premier has been the focus of NWT Days in Ottawa.

He's been interviewed on the devolution issue by scores of

national reporters.

McLeod said it's been a productive week.

"We've had a very good trip here to Ottawa. Most of our delegation, which is consisting of all of our cabinet, the majority of our MLA's, aboriginal leaders, business leaders, so we've had a host of meetings with the Prime Minister, including a number of ministers."

The Premier said a final agreement on the devolution process is near.

"It's a very important part. We're very close. We expect to have an agreement in the very near future, and what that means is that Northerners will take more responsibility for making decisions on those things that affect us."

McLeod said federal politicians are taking a close look at the NWT.

He said they're particularly interested in what's expected to be booming mining and oil and gas industries over the next few years.

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NEWS

RESOURCES



Resources boom coming. Pictured clockwise from top left: Conservative MP Greg Rickford, Parliamentary secretary to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan, NDP MP and northern economic development critic Dawn Stinson, NDP MP and northern economic development critic Dawn Stinson and Mining Association of Canada president Pierre Gratton.

Mining industry, feds set sights on the North

Industry has big plans for resource development in the territories, but Environment Commissioner says 'significant gaps' in oversight of northern mining.

By CHRIS PLECASH

The Mining Association of Canada predicts that its industry will bring more than \$8-billion in investment in the North over the next decade, but the outgoing federal environment commissioner's latest report raises serious questions about the federal government's ability to monitor resource development in the territories.

According to MAC's annual industry report, mining exploration and production contributed \$35.6-billion to Canada's GDP and directly employed more than 220,000 people across the country last year. The total value of mineral production in Canada has increased by 257 per cent in the last decade, and 21 per cent over the past year.

"We've been breaking records lately, and that speaks to what's happening in the commodities market globally," MAC president and CEO Pierre Gratton told the

House Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Committee last week.

Booyed by high commodity prices, the industry lobby predicts \$140-billion in mining investment across Canada in the next decade, with the northern territories seeing \$8-billion in investment and 4,500 in new jobs.

Mr. Gratton appeared before the committee to testify on Bill C-47, the federal government's Northern Jobs and Growth Act, which harmonizes the regulatory process for natural resource projects across the territories and provides the Northwest Territories and Nunavut governments with greater control of resource development to their respective jurisdictions.

"We are certainly hopeful that this new legislation will help increase these opportunities, and turn these opportunities into reality," Mr. Gratton told the committee. "To ensure that the mining industry's contribution to our economy

remains robust, a competitive and predictable investment and regulatory environment is crucial."

N.W.T. Premier Bob McLeod was recently in Ottawa to talk to several Cabinet ministers and top officials to expand the powers of the Northwest Territories to meet provincial standards by April 2014, allowing it to have responsibility for public land, water and resources.

Arctic resource development and the devolution of power to the territories are central to the federal government's Northern Strategy, which aims to strengthen Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic territory. Canada plans to promote this agenda when Luna Aglukkaq (Nunavut) begins her two-year chairmanship of the eight-member International Arctic Council in May.

Briefing notes prepared for Ms. Aglukkaq and obtained by The Hill Times emphasize that the federal government is committed to giving territorial governments

and financial resources, and is not currently able to take steps required to prepare for implementation of the act."

Sharon Fhaloak, executive director of the Nunavut Planning Commission, agreed that the commission would be unable to meet its new obligations under Bill C-47 without additional funding, and warned that the organization could be sued by project proponents if it were unable to meet new review timelines.

"Government has told us it's moving forward as cost neutral—that's been unacceptable. We will not be able to fulfill the obligations with the legislation moving forward without the funding," she told the committee.

While MAC and the planning commission were briefing the committee on the impact that Bill C-47 would have on resource development in the North, Environment Commissioner Scott Vaughan lambasted his latest report to Parliament, which found "significant gaps" in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's enforcement of required mining inspections.

"Given the expected increase in activity in the natural resource sector, we found that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the department responsible for resource development in the North, were not conducting the required inspections that are essential for ensuring that the terms and conditions of project approvals are being met," the report states.

The commissioner's report found that AANDC failed to conduct follow-up inspections on mining permits in the North in 70 per cent of reviewed cases. Mr. Vaughan said that the federal government had clear jurisdiction over conducting inspections on mining permits in the territories.

"The inspections required are a clear mandate of the federal government," Mr. Vaughan said following the report's release. "70 per cent those inspections—which are required by the federal regulations, so it wasn't an ambiguity related to jurisdictions—70 per cent were not done."

Jan O'Driscoll, press secretary to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan (Vancouver Island North, B.C.), said that the department monitors northern resource projects in "a careful and considered manner."

"While some operations require monthly inspections, lower risk operations require less frequent inspections," Mr. O'Driscoll stated in an email. "Inspectors assess each (S) based on possible impacts on people, property, and the environment."

Conservative MP Greg Rickford (Kenora, Ont.), Parliamentary secretary to Minister Duncan, told The Hill Times that the government was taking additional funding for territorial review panels into account, adding that it was inappropriate to include the commission's funding in Bill C-47.

"It would not be appropriate for it to be part of this piece of legislation, because the funding agreements occur between the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal government," Mr. Rickford said.

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NEWS

LOBBYING

Oil, banking, mining top three lobbying issues in 2012: lobbying registry

Canada's natural resources is expected to be worth \$600-billion over the next decade.

Continued from Page 1

The majority of the topics discussed were energy and environment, but CAPP also discussed fisheries, international trade, taxation and finance, science and technology, security, employment and training, and labour issues with various officials. With CAPP met with departments such as Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Industry Canada and Finance as well as those relevant ministers and officials in the Prime Minister's Office, among the more interesting developments public officials held a meeting at Canada's embassy in Washington D.C. in late January, Canadian Security Intelligence Service director Michael Thibault and Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Guy Soubrier.

Although the organizations do not say specifically what was discussed other than those top-level subjects, it's likely CAPP was discussing the 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Public Affairs Association of Canada president John Capobianco, a senior vice-president of lobbying firm Fishburne-Tilford, said he was not surprised with the number of meetings CAPP had with officials. "I wouldn't say there's anything significant about that, because really meetings with various groups of associations tend to be up and down based on issues. So certainly whenever there's an issue that comes up that pertains to their members or their association as a whole, you're see a robust number of activity with meetings and so forth," he told the *ITN* team.

Other lobbyists, who spoke to the *ITN* team on background, also said they were not surprised given the federal government's agenda and focus on energy and natural resource issues. They said CAPP has many "balls in the air," with advocating for Canada's oil lands on various issues such as emissions, pipelines and international trade. In addition, they are seen as a powerful lobby group. "They're really good at having a presence. People see them when they ask," said one lobbyist.

The Canadian Business Association came in second for leading

the most meetings with officials and politicians, at 66. The majority of its meetings were with Finance Canada, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada and Industry Canada. The association met with 640 and 600 officials on occasion as well. Some of the topics discussed ranged from financial institutions, consumer issues, budget and positions to agricultural, labor, constitutional issues and justice and law enforcement.

One lobbyist said it's natural for the CRA to have a high number of meetings. "Not only that, the banks in any given year will be doing a lot," the lobbyist said. "People don't realize the bank system is really an extension of the country's monetary system. You can't very well regulate most and monetary policy without the banks. They're so interdependent on one another."

The third highest number of meetings came between The Mining Association of Canada and the government. SAC had 157 meetings with designated public office holders over the last year. Among the departments lobbied were Fisheries and Oceans, Aboriginal Affairs, Veterans Affairs, Health, Natural Resources, Environment, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Transport. Topics listed included mining, taxation and financial, international affairs, international trade, environment and transportation. One lobbyist said some specific issues the mining industry is taking on are climate change, flow through shares, corporate social responsibility and some concerns that the Canadian International Development Agency is "getting into bed with the mining companies."

The Mining Association of Canada is registered to lobby the federal government on several issues such as shipping mineral products, mining skills development, the Pipeline Act, and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. In total, there was 11,605 meetings between lobbyists and designated public office holders last year. That means lobbyists met with government officials on average 32 times a day. According to the lobbying registry, there were 1,024 organizations or committees who had contact with government officials. On average, each had 11 meetings with officials. There were 243 organizations that only had one meeting each with government officials.

The meetings registered do not indicate what type of meeting occurred. For instance, many associations and organizations hold "lobby days" each year, a half hour to an hour meeting with officials as they can. If the meeting was protracted, each MP or Senator or official they met—perhaps even at a cocktail reception—must



Please allow me to introduce myself: Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, right, meets CAPP's Lindsay president and CEO of Forest Products Association of Canada.

be recorded in a meeting record-keepers' being. This could help up the numbers if the association met with 100 people that day.

The lobbyist last week told the *ITN* team that the number of meetings does not necessarily correlate to a successful lobbying campaign. Switzer Strategic Vice-president Tim Powers said that the number of meetings "don't matter. It is impact. Some people just do meetings to look busy." He noted that "many campaigns with good results, communications and the right strategy execution" are what matter in a lobby effort. "Anybody can get a meeting, not everybody can get a win," Mr. Powers said.

One lobbyist said that it's not unheard of to have meetings with elected and unelected officials and "sell your story."

"Sometimes it's not necessary. It's to be a complaint or try to change legislation or ask for funding. Often times, the lobbyist said, it's to update relevant people on files they may be interested in. "I mean, you're trying to build a relationship over time but you've got to be careful you don't waste their time because you very quickly get on the do not see list if you're there wasting their time. It's just a basic professional courtesy," the lobbyist said. "You've also got to provide something of value to the person you're meeting with. It can't always be about 'hey, why don't you make me rich?'"

One lobbyist agreed, saying that face time with a minister does not necessarily have the same impact as it did years ago because there are so many more avenues for influencing public policy. For instance, social media such as Twitter is changing how people communicate with their officials.

"Events can mean something because the politicians watch Twitter like a hawk. This doesn't exist a few years ago," the lobbyist said, adding also that the media are covering a wider range of issues which put policy on the public agenda, while

corporations and organizations are using common tactics and PR strategies to get their messages out. "The days of the single meeting are over. You've got to do the whole package. You've got to do some mass agreement through the media, through outreach to stakeholder groups who can support you, corporate social responsibility," the lobbyist said. "So I think 20 minutes of face time will have less and less importance as governments get complicated and as various things compete for public office holders' attention."

N.W.T. government in Ottawa to lobby for devolution, more infrastructure funding

Northwest Territories Premier Rob McLeod, who was in Ottawa last week with his entire Cabinet taking for MPs and officials about the N.W.T.'s desire for control over its resources, land, and water, is "optimistic" his territorial government and the federal government will soon come to a final agreement on devolving powers. But he said "it doesn't end there, it's done."

Devolution is important, Mr. McLeod told *The ITN* team and *ITN* last week, because it brings decision-making power closer to those who will be affected by the decisions.

"We will take over responsibilities for 24 stations and gas, so oil and gas, mining, land, water, and all of the programs, all of the funding and human resources a need said with those programs will be devolved to the government of Northwest Territories," he said.

"We will also obtain resource royalties, so the resource royalties that have gone to the government of Canada will come to the government of the Northwest Territories and that will allow us more flexibility in investing in our programs and services, and it will allow us to have powerful skills power. We see it as having the best of both worlds where we'll have provincial like powers as

well while maintaining our funding levels from the government of Canada," said Mr. McLeod.

Mr. McLeod said a deadline for the end of 2012 to come to a final agreement was pushed back into this year, but he expects a conclusion to negotiations in the coming weeks. "We have to get ratification and we're still looking at a target for date of April 2013," he said. "I say we're a lot closer, we're very close to the finish line. We have a lot more parties' aboriginal government partners that have signed onto the agreement in principle. There are seven aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories. We're still talking to the other three, we're still optimistic that we'll get an agreement signed on or before the end of the year. I think that the negotiations are coming to an end."

When devolution does happen, the Northwest Territories will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to have an official resource-revenue sharing structure with First Nations.

"With devolution, we'll be able to do business and all you have to do is look at the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline which has been approved. Once it goes ahead, aboriginal businesses will have a one-third equity of ownership in that pipeline," Mr. McLeod said. "The more development, the more resource royalties we collect, the more money we'll share [with aboriginal governments]."

Mr. McLeod said infrastructure is another key issue that needs to be addressed in the Northwest Territories. He said of the 33 communities there, 25 have populations of 1,000 people or less. Many communities are not connected by all-weather roads, and city accessibility by air is low in the winter.

"It's a very expensive place to live, and the more infrastructure that we can give, the better. More infrastructure will mean reduced cost of operation, reduced cost of living, all of those things," Mr. McLeod said, noting that the Conservative government has a particular interest in the North, and hopes the territory's infrastructure needs can be met.

"We have tremendous potential that we can be a power house that can contribute to Canada's economy, that we think we can show the rest of the Canada how to have balanced development and how to work with aboriginal governments."

Through the devolution process we're also negotiating an agreement on how we manage the land and water resources together because aboriginal governments are and will be the largest land holders in the Northwest Territories on all the land claims and some government agreements are settled."

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NWT and Northern Alberta News

IPolitics – February 2, 2013

What Canada should really exploit in the North

James Munson

After an Algonquin elder welcomed a visiting delegation of politicians from the Northwest Territories to Ottawa at a reception held at the Chateau Laurier Wednesday night, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan took the stage to praise his government's own regulatory reforms.

But despite the strong aboriginal representation in the room — teeming with people wearing moosehide vests and Inuit furs — Duncan didn't get any flak for the policies that, at least in part, sparked the Idle No More movement. He got impromptu applause.

Maybe it was mere politeness. Or maybe it was the half-dozen or so Conservative ministers, MPs and senators who cheered. But beneath that warm reception is a lesson Canada can learn from its often-overlooked northern territories as it struggles with the current disquiet over the place of aboriginal life in this country.

In the south, First Nations are a sideshow to the real conversations of the day, whether they are scary economic figures coming from this or that faraway country, the latest 24-hour political scandal — or whatever the Ikea monkey is up to these days.

Here, aboriginals can be dismissed, ignored and viewed from afar. When they force themselves into the national consciousness, they remain an outside power pushing in — leading many Canadians to interpret the situation by asking, “What do they want now?” usually followed by the brutally transactional response, “Don't we give them enough money already?”

That's not how people talk in the North. Yes, there are racists who demean aboriginal culture by pretending to be wannabe anthropologists and yapping about Stone Age societies. And yes, there are aboriginal spokespeople who defend policies out of synch with modern needs, whether they're about hunting regulations or government transparency. The North has plenty of good old fashioned fights over aboriginal rights that lead to fierce words, protests and hurt feelings.

But for the most part, northerners work, mingle and enjoy life as one big family because they have to — and because it's more fun that way. There, the aboriginal question, if there really even is one, is largely settled. It's just day-to-day life.

The northern perspective is shaped by practical considerations — but also legal ones. The colonization of North America in the north happened much slower, much later and with a smaller footprint than anywhere in southern Canada, leaving aboriginal life intact in ways you don't see

in the south. Today, most land claims in the North are settled and self-governments are living and breathing entities, performing critical services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

It's like an alternate universe compared to the grandiose calls for quasi-mythical nation-to-nation talks that some in the Idle No Movement are requesting down south.

Nation-to-nation talks? Been there, done that.

That's not to say that First Nations and Métis in the provinces — who might be governed by century-old treaties they feel have been broken or have no land agreement at all — don't have a reason to be angry at the way Ottawa has neglected them. It's just important to remember that, in some parts of Canada, aboriginal-white relations are far more advanced and far more collegial.

Now, back to Duncan.

The economic bonanza the Harper government has been pressing for in the resource sector cuts right to the heart of the aboriginal situation. That has always been the case in the North — there, however, it's been much more obvious and legally necessary. That's why the region hasn't been the same kind of venom when it comes to talk about regulatory reform.

But if Ottawa and the provincial capitals want their coffers filled with those sweet, sweet royalty dollars, and if big mining and petroleum firms want to turn Canada into the world's resource backbone, they're going to have to adapt to aboriginal demands and, in the end, their rights.

It's not fair that we treat the aboriginal parts of this country like quarries when we feel like it — and promise in our great benevolence to bring them jobs and prosperity on our terms — without changing the rules on how we go about that on their terms.

That's how the North works. The extractive sector has to play by rules laid out in land claims agreements, and generally has to play ball with local governments. Elsewhere in Canada — as Idle No more attests — the gulf between the corporate and aboriginal worlds seems much greater, though there are plenty of exceptions.

The Harper government has earned some of the ire it's getting from First Nations. Legislation to introduce more private property ownership on reserves feels more like it came from Tom Flanagan's brain than from any countrywide consultations. And the double-barrel omnibus budget bill body-slam of 2012 didn't exactly get much vetting before it became the law of the land.

But in the North, consultation is a must. You don't get far without framing future plans within the reality of shared life experiences between aboriginals and everyone else.

Before the south benefits from all the North's minerals and petroleum, maybe we should focus on adopting its more sophisticated spirit of inclusivity, and realize that the practical reality that fosters it is a reality for the whole of Canada too.

CKLB – January 31, 2013

A draft devolution agreement is underway

Those who haven't already signed onto the AIP may have missed their opportunity to be at the negotiating table.

The regions that signed on to the devolution agreement in principle are deciding, amongst themselves, how resource revenue sharing will be split up between the nations.

Premier Bob McLeod and his cabinet are in Ottawa this week finalizing a devolution agreement.

He expects the first draft to be ready in two weeks.

"We're almost done, so... but we want them to sign on a some point, if they don't sign on already before we finish negotiations."

The premier says devolution will not negatively impact land claims negotiations and treaty rights.

"We feel very comfortable that there's no reason why we have to wait until all the land claims and self-government agreements are settled."

In October, K'alt'odeeche First Nation Chief Roy Fabian voiced his opposition to devolution and accused the GNWT of giving away his land and his rights.

"You're dealing with all the claimant groups because you say they have a land claim. I have a land claim, it's called Treaty 8. Come and deal with me. You didn't sign a treaty with me, so the Government of the Northwest Territories has no right to say anything about my land."

Once the draft agreement is done, there are four steps that need to happen before the final agreement is signed.

First, the signed aboriginal governments will have to approve the draft.

Following that, the devolution team will hold public engagement meetings and further consultation with aboriginal governments.

Then, the premier will consult with the cabinet for their approval.

When approved, the regions will gather for a formal signing of the devolution agreement.

Joining the premier and ministers in Ottawa right now is the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the NWT Metis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat, Dehcho First Nation, and nearly a dozen industry delegates.

Canadian Press – February 1, 2013

Talks on territorial power progress

Heather Scofield

OTTAWA — The premier of the Northwest Territories says he and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have an understanding to do what it takes to formally expand territorial powers to near-provincial standards by April 2014.

But after a series of meetings with Harper, several ministers and top officials this week in Ottawa, Premier Bob McLeod also acknowledges that a final agreement on devolution is not a slam-dunk.

“We are moving forward. We are getting very close,” McLeod said in an interview with The Canadian Press as his meetings drew to a close.

The deal would give the territorial government responsibility for public land, water and resources, generating revenue that would reduce — but not eliminate — its heavy dependence on federal transfers.

But McLeod pointed out that several issues remain outstanding on the devolution file, including how much leeway the territorial government will have to move away from federal legislation, how to share the wealth of the Norman Wells oilfield and how to deal with three regional aboriginal governments that have yet to agree in principle to the devolution agreement.

Talk of expanded powers has been going for the better part of three decades, and negotiations in earnest have spanned the past 11 years.

But it’s still unclear exactly how much power the territorial government will have to take policy in its own direction once devolution occurs, the premier said. At first, most of the territory’s legislation will “mirror” federal laws and then be subject to any changes the territorial government chooses.

Other legislation will remain firmly federal, with the territorial government as administrator, despite political pressure on the NWT government to negotiate full powers.

Exactly what legislation falls into which category is still a matter of negotiation, said McLeod.

“It’s a combination of both.”

Similarly, the territorial government has yet to agree to Ottawa’s insistence on keeping the \$100 million in annual federal revenue from the Norman Wells oilfield.

And discussions about who gets what share of the bounty from future off-shore developments won't be broached until after devolution actually takes place, McLeod added.

The territory has a population of just 41,000 people but covers 1.3 million square kilometres rich in energy, minerals and diamonds. Seven mines are poised to open by 2020, enabling the territory to double its economic output, McLeod said.

Ottawa and the territorial government signed an agreement in principle a year ago. But only four out of seven regional aboriginal groups support the deal. The others are caught up in land claims negotiations and are concerned that those talks would be derailed by devolution.

Devolution would mean that about 50 per cent of resource royalties would go directly to the territory, subject to a cap. The territory would have drawn in about \$62 million in 2012. A quarter of that amount would have then been distributed to the seven regional aboriginal governments.

Despite the complex negotiations, McLeod says Northwest Territories are an example for the rest of Canada to study as provincial and federal governments figure out how best to divvy up natural resource revenues with aboriginal groups.

Epoch Times – February 1, 2013

Canada's NWT to get Province-like Powers

Feds, territory set to close devolution deal

Matthew Little

PARLIAMENT HILL, Ottawa—The Northwest Territories is about to get the keys to its economy in a sweetheart devolution deal with the federal government.

In an agreement government sources say could be finalized in two weeks, the territory will get legislative control over its burgeoning mining sector and half of the associated mining royalties.

It will also gain control over programs now controlled by the feds, with additional money to further develop those programs.

The increases will come without the territory losing on its transfer payment. That transfer was \$1.1 billion in 2012-13 and accounted for 73 percent of the territory's revenue, according to Finance Canada.

According to the NWT, its entire GDP topped \$3.1 billion in 2011 with mining by far its biggest industry—33 percent compared to 12 percent for public administration, the next largest sector.

The feds hope the deal will take effect in just over a year, said Northern Development Minister John Duncan.

"It's a tight timeline, but that is what we're trying to achieve," he said Wednesday.

Devolution has come in stages to the territory, with previous deals granting control over healthcare, forestry, social services, and more, but this final agreement will bring NWT as close to a province as it can get without the approval of the provinces themselves and other constitutional considerations.

"They will actually have considerable powers, province-like powers," said Duncan.

The deal is based on the Yukon's 1993 devolution deal, said Duncan, but a source in the NWT government said it is more generous than the Yukon deal.

In an earlier emailed statement, Duncan said the deal would help the NWT economy.

"The benefits of a devolution agreement are clear; Yukon signed a devolution agreement and now has one of the more robust economies in the country," he wrote.

Under the deal, the territory can keep half its mining royalties to a maximum of five percent of its government budget. Last year that would have amounted to some \$65 million. Anything over that amount would go the feds.

This final agreement will bring NWT as close to a province as it can get without the approval of the provinces themselves and other constitutional considerations.

With its budget increasing by about five percent annually, the territory could be keeping up to \$100 million of mining royalties by 2020, said the NWT government source.

One quarter of that amount will be sent onto participating aboriginal governments. Of seven aboriginal governments, four have signed on to the deal. The remaining three could sign on at any time—although they have unsettled land claims, unlike those that have signed on.

The arrangement will require the two levels of government to work together on land and resource management.

The source said the government is confident devolution does not affect aboriginal rights or land claims.

The source also said the discussions with aboriginal governments, both those in support and those who have stayed out of the agreement, have brought all parties closer together.

The Epoch Times left messages with four of those aboriginal governments, including all three that remain out of the deal, but did not receive a reply by press time.

The change will see some 24 pieces of legislation and regulation be passed from federal to territorial control, where they may be modified to better suit NWT's needs.

Under the deal, federal employees will be laid off with three months' pay and offered comparable jobs with the territory. Contract workers may be hired, but not automatically.

The territory is expecting as much as \$28 million in indirect benefits.

IPolitics – February 1, 2013

Northwest Territories comes to Ottawa

Elizabeth Gray-Smith

The Honourable George Tuccaro, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, points to the presentation at the front of room. Three screens harmonize the vivid glow of the Aurora Borealis. It is mesmerizing.

“This is what it is,” he says bragging about the natural beauties of the Northwest Territories. “It is just a glimpse, and it is just beautiful.”

He stands with his predecessor, Tony Whitford, introducing himself casually as George, to the steady stream of guests walking through the stylized ice tunnel entrance. George is but one individual in a large delegation here in the capital to showcase the strengths, successes and natural wonders of the Northwest Territories. He is joined by the entire NWT cabinet, members of the NWT Legislative Assembly, Aboriginal leaders, northern business leaders, and of course, the friendly and very approachable Premier, Bob McLeod.

The North Star Gala, held Wednesday evening at the Chateau Laurier, was the Territory’s moment to shine in Ottawa and organizers went all out for this soirée. “We are here to make a splash,” says the Minister of Tourism, David Ramsay. The Laurier Room was transformed into a museum of NWT cultural highlights and natural wonders, complete with an eight-foot taxidermied polar bear standing on its hind legs. The creative genius behind the event set-up is Lynne Feasey, the Yellowknife-based visionary who brought us the award-winning Northern House at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

“The North draws a lot of people,” says the NWT Commissioner. This event was certainly a testament to that, attracting a large crowd from the Hill. Just three days in from a long break, Members of Parliament showed up in numbers: John Duncan; Dennis Bevington; Chris Alexander dressed appropriately in his Sorels; Carol Hughes; Alice Wong; Leona Aglukkaq; Stéphane Dion; Peter Penashue; Steven Fletcher; Peter Van Loan; Charlie Angus; Brian Masse; and Bal Gosal, to name a few.

But it wasn’t just a party for the political leaders. Seen standing by the polar bear was David Mitchell, President and CEO of the Public Policy Forum, and across the room by the stuffed arctic hare, Russell Mills, Chair of the National Capital Commission. At the entrance, a boisterous John Manley met up with an old friend, Tom Clark.

Also seen in the room: Michael Wernick, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development; Wayne Wouters, Clerk of the Privy Council; Senators Betty Unger, Vernon White and Terry Mercer; and Yaroslav Baran.

NWT wants federal money to keep people out of jails

Laura Stone

The minister of justice for the Northwest Territories is asking his federal counterpart to commit to longer-term funding for a program that appears to be keeping people out of jail.

Glen Abernethy, part of a delegation in town this week to talk about devolution of public lands, planned to meet with Justice Minister Rob Nicholson Wednesday afternoon.

Abernethy is hoping for a multi-year commitment to funding under the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy, which allows for aboriginal communities to have an increased involvement in the administration of justice.

“It’s about trying to find ways to keep people out of our facilities,” said Abernethy in Ottawa. “We are seeing some really positive results.”

The territory’s five correctional facilities — including a women’s facility and a youth facility — are less than 50 per cent full right now. At last count, the territory had 121 incarcerated inmates, with a maximum capacity of about 300 people, Abernethy said, adding that the low numbers could be seasonal and subject to change.

The territory gets about \$316,000 every year under the strategy, with the money going towards community justice committees set up in all the territory’s 33 communities. But it’s only guaranteed on an annual basis.

“Obviously it helps us with planning when we actually have guaranteed” money, said Abernethy.

It wasn’t immediately clear if the government will make the funding commitment, but a spokeswoman for Nicholson said the minister “always welcomes the opportunity to meet with his provincial and territorial counterparts.”

Abernethy said the community committees are important because they are made up of people who live there and design programs based on the community needs.

“They do important programs to help divert youth and others out of the justice system, and offer them programs to help them to rehabilitate before they actually get into a jail,” he said.

“We’ve been working really, really hard to address crime in the Northwest Territories.”

The territory’s jails only house inmates serving sentences of two years less a day, with some exceptions for federal inmates serving sentences of two years or more. They also take inmates from Nunavut.

Abernethy added projections of jail population growth as a result of Bill C-10 and its mandatory minimum sentences have not transpired as expected.

Resource Development and Energy News

China Daily – February 1, 2013

Canada's Northwest Territories woos Chinese investment

VANCOUVER - The participation of China is critical to the development of Canada's Northwest Territories to realize the benefits of a "very exciting period in the north", said the region's Premier Bob McLeod on Thursday.

"There is a large potential for development. We see ourselves as a powerhouse in Canada's economy. We are promoting partnerships," McLeod said during a conference call with the media.

In the vast northern territory covering more than 1.18 million square kilometers, a place that is home to only 41,462 people, based on the 2011 Canadian census, McLeod cited the potential for fur, gold, diamonds, minerals, rare earth, natural gas and petroleum for cooperation.

Earlier this week in a Conference Board of Canada report, the think-tank forecast that mining output in the NWT would rise from C\$732 million (\$732.1 million) to \$1.3 billion in 2020.

"On oil and gas, I'm convinced that we need to find alternative markets to the United States and we need to find a way to get our oil and gas to China. They have significant demand that's increasing by leaps and bounds every year," said McLeod, who visited China last September as part of a Canadian business delegation.

"(It's the) Same with mining. They're very interested. They want to invest. They know the rich resources we have," he added. With some from the territorial government currently in Ottawa for meetings with the ruling Conservative government, what the NWT officials are seeking is "devolution".

While such an agreement wouldn't give the territory provincial status, what it would provide the NWT with is control over its land, natural resources and water.

McLeod said an agreement was expected in the near future. "What that means is northerners will take more responsibility for making decisions on those things that effect us. We will take over responsibility for oil and gas, mining and managing the land in the Northwest Territories, and of course, we will collect the royalties and we will have more resource revenues to invest in our programs and our infrastructure for the people of the Northwest Territories," he said.

"Also with our aboriginal government partners, we will be the first jurisdiction in Canada that will provide for resource- revenue sharing with aboriginal governments," said McLeod.

NWT and Northern Alberta News

NWT News/North – February 4, 2013

Devolution deal close: McLeod

Large delegation of NWT leaders were in Ottawa for talks, cultural display

Laura Busch

The NWT was in the national eye last week as many Northern leaders were in Ottawa to talk devolution and promote the territory.

A large delegation of representatives of the Northwest Territories, numbering roughly 55 people, including all members of the GNWT cabinet, most MLAs, aboriginal leaders, industry leaders and youth ambassadors, were in Ottawa to promote the territory and participate in talks with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other federal leaders.

The series of high-level meetings, held Jan. 27 to Feb. 1 on Parliament Hill, focused on seven NWT priorities, with the devolution of land and resources topping that list, Premier Bob McLeod said Jan. 31.

"We're very close, we expect to have an agreement in the very near future," McLeod said about devolution talks.

If all goes to plan, devolution could take effect in April 2014.

"What that means is that Northerners will take more responsibility for making decisions on those things that affect us. We will take over responsibility for oil and gas, and for mining, and for managing our land in the Northwest Territories," McLeod said.

"Of course, we will collect the royalties and we will have more resource revenues to invest in our programs and our infrastructure for the people of the Northwest Territories," he continued. "Also, with our aboriginal government partners, we will be the first jurisdiction in Canada that will provide for resource-revenue sharing with aboriginal governments."

By 2020, the NWT's gross domestic product is expected to be double from what it is now, McLeod said. A large part of this boom relies on mining activity, with nine new mines expected in the territory by the end of this decade, promising 2,000 new Northern jobs.

Oil and gas development is also a large part of this projected growth. Development in the Sahtu is already underway and is expected to increase substantially in the next seven years.

The NWT delegation is also seeking federal partnerships on priorities other than devolution, such as the Inuvik-to-Tuktoyaktuk highway, a Mackenzie Valley highway and fibre optic link, housing improvements, regulatory improvements and environmental stewardship, said McLeod.

Aside from political meetings, the NWT hosted nightly galas on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31 where Northern culture was on display and the territory was promoted to officials and dignitaries who attended the events.

Also, NWT Days were held in Ottawa from Feb. 1 to Feb. 3. The aim of the event was to promote tourism to the territory and generally raise the profile of the NWT in Ottawa, said McLeod.

"I guess we're new on the scene so there was a lot of excitement last night," he said about the reception the delegation has received in Ottawa so far.

While Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington supports NWT Days and the intent behind this trip, he would like to see the territory establish a full-time presence in Canada's capital.

Currently, the Yukon and Nunavut have permanent offices in Ottawa, yet the NWT does not have a full-time office in the nation's capital, he said.

"It's really important to have a presence in Ottawa," said Bevington. "Nunavut has great people here and the Yukon has had a large presence here for a number of years."

Bevington also raised concerns with the current devolution deal, saying that important issues such as the GNWT's control over resource royalties and the conditions of amending environmental policy remain unclear.

During Jan. 30 question period in the House of Commons, Bevington asked Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan to specify whether the GNWT will have the ability to amend environmental legislation under the devolution agreement.

"He then started a personal attack on me and wouldn't answer the question," Bevington told News/North about Duncan's response.

Under the devolution agreement, the GNWT will adopt mirror legislation in line with current federal legislation surrounding the management of land and resources. Bevington would like the federal government to make clear if and when the territory will assume the right to change this legislation as it sees fit.

"It's simply an administrative arrangement, and I'd say that's probably not good enough," Bevington said of the devolution deal as it stands now, after a dozen years of negotiations. "I just don't see this being adequate, and it certainly wouldn't be adequate enough for (the NWT) to become more independent."

However, McLeod said that the GNWT will look at changing legislation to meet the needs of Northerners a few years after the devolution deal comes into effect.

"That's normally the way it works," he said when asked if the territorial government would amend the mirror legislation. McLeod gave the example of Nunavut separating from the NWT in 1999. The new territory adopted mirror legislation based on NWT laws and then started making amendments to suit its needs a few years after the Government of Nunavut took control of its own their territory.

Bevington added he supports the devolution of lands and resources to the NWT in principle, it's the lack of transparency about the details of the arrangement that makes him uneasy.

When the fathers of the confederation created Canada, negotiations were conducted in a public way, as was the process of creating Canada's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in 1982, said Bevington.

"I don't see any need for secrecy on this," he said.

Premier boosts territory at NWT Days in Ottawa

Meagan Wohlberg

The Northwest Territories is ready to take its place at the forefront of Canada's economy - a message Premier Bob McLeod made loud and clear during NWT Days in Ottawa last week.

The premier was in the nation's capital for three days of meetings along with the rest of cabinet and the majority of MLAs, some Aboriginal leaders and business leaders from the territory.

The delegation came with seven priority areas to discuss with its federal counterparts, with devolution and regulatory improvement making the top of the list.

McLeod said meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) Minister John Duncan gave positive signs that things are moving forward on the transfer of powers over land, water and natural resources.

"I think we're very close and probably in the very near future, I expect that our negotiators will be able to sign off and then it will come to the parties to ratify," McLeod told The Journal. "And we're still looking at a transfer date of April 2014."

Devolution negotiations were delayed slightly by pending changes to the NWT's regulatory regime coming from the federal level. While the initial mission was to secure full authority through devolution, it looks like the GNWT will receive delegated authority - similar to Yukon - as an administrator of federal legislation.

McLeod said he had discussions with Harper and Duncan on the timeline of those federal changes, along with other legislation.

"We were also trying to get more information on some of the proposed changes in the omnibus bills, just trying to get more clarification on those changes, so I think we had good discussions and they've indicated they're going to get more information, and so on," McLeod said.

Environmental stewardship, the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the Mackenzie Highway, the Mackenzie Valley fibre-optic line, hydro potential and housing were also discussed at the federal level. McLeod said he made sure to emphasize the importance of having the federal government acting in a timely manner on the NWT's pressing infrastructure issues.

"We've been advocating that we'd very much like to see the government of Canada deal with it

expeditiously, and so we made sure that message was passed on," he said of the Inuvik-Tuk Highway project.

Apart from meetings with officials, including Governor General David Johnston, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and several standing committees, the delegation was put in a celebratory spotlight through gala events and the corresponding Spectacular NWT portion of Ottawa's famed snowy festival Winterlude.

Cultural and youth ambassadors from the territory, including accomplished singer-songwriter Leela Gilday, gave performances and displayed their talents over the weekend, from moosehide craftwork to Arctic and Dene games.

McLeod said it was an important occasion to promote the territory's culture, land and people, and emphasize the NWT's growing importance, economically, in Canada's future - boasts backed up by mining reports last week heralding NWT's potential for resource development.

"We are the future of Canada," McLeod said. "We're ready to take our rightful place in contributing to Canada's economy."

NWT News/North – February 11, 2013

NWT Days money well spent

Antoine Mountain

Friends, I attended the Spectacular NWT Days held at Ottawa's Convention Centre at the end of January.

Of course the best part was seeing some familiar and friendly faces from back home.

When you spend any time at all in the city you get so you find yourself longing for anything that reminds you of home.

There is no doubt that this is a good way for our government of the NWT to spend money, to promote the North and all of its wonders.

People who live in more southern climes have no idea that there are places here in Canada where there are no highways in or out, and so vast that you can often go weeks without seeing another soul.

Many of these people coming to drop by boasted to anyone who would listen that they had proudly entered their names into the contest to win a free trip to their new dreamland and were busy thinking of ways to put their names in again.

Of course it takes a small army to pull this kind of an event off successfully, but some of the individual people I do want to mention here who did a stellar job to put together such a massive undertaking include Camilla McEachern, who is actually a veteran of these sorts of cultural events.

Right by her side and pulling every possible thread of babiche to make it happen was Lynn Feasey, of Yellowknife's annual Folk on the Rocks and the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Great Northern Arts Festival.

The performers included the likes of Pat Braden and Jesse James Gon, aka Diga, who did their part to rock that downtown capital city joint. Not to be denied their ever-present glowing gaiety on and offstage were the youth ambassadors, a wonderful selection from all over the North, with even a couple from my neighbouring Khabamue Tue/Colville Lake. They all collaborated with a mixture of song, dance and lively demonstrations of Inuit and Dene Games, lead by Donald Kuptana.

Among the many and varied artists were Karen Wright-Fraser with her ever-present variety of beaded goods. Not to be denied her show of talents was Melaw Antoine, often in the company of

her uncle Gerry Antoine, former chief of Fort Simpson, who also just happens to be doing a multi-month training internship at the National Museum of Civilization.

His onstage antics, including how-to demos of lip-pointing had our visitors in stitches, wondering why people from the North are just so friendly and easy to get along with.

Of course there were a lot more organizers, artists and performers there, but I do want to make mention of Leela Gilday's new album titled Calling All Warriors.

Even from a first listen one is left with a sense of amazement that one performer could cover so much ground in both this one production's depth and the musical mileage she has travelled from before the days of Juno Awards and world recognition.

Her songs have always been lyrically and musically catchy, but increasingly now there is this sense of a mastery of the use of sound to add a new rock, soul, orchestral and even Middle Eastern element.

If there were only one song to listen to on a desert island, assuming one could find a coconut tree to plug this in and bust a move or two, I would pick the title tune, Calling All Warriors.

This anthem begins and ends with a pointed reference to the drum representing the heartbeat of our mother earth. A good mix of First Nations chanting heralds our own Leela as a new Buffy Sainte-Marie.

At any rate, I was very pleased to have been called to attend this Spectacular NWT Days in Ottawa and look forward to any future experiences like this one. Mahsi, thank you.

Embassy – February 13, 2013

Northwest Territories courts the Middle Kingdom

Aboriginal land claims issue “mystifies Chinese investors” says Canada China Business Council representative.

Carl Meyer

Dozens of Chinese firms are set to meet with Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod in Calgary, says a Chinese consulate official, on the heels of a major charm offensive by the premier to attract Chinese investment.

Chinese economic consul Lei Jianzhong confirmed the head of China’s Calgary mission, Liu Yongfeng, is hoping to lead a team of Chinese and local companies to meet with Mr. McLeod in Calgary next month.

Mr. McLeod is “very interested in Chinese investment,” said Mr. Lei. “He wants to promote his province, his territory, for Chinese business.”

While the consulate in Calgary has responsibility for the Northwest Territories, Ms. Liu has not led such a delegation before. She met the premier after he returned from a trip to China in September 2012, said Mr. Lei. Mr. McLeod was travelling as part of a trade mission with other premiers.

When he returned, the consular official said, Mr. McLeod told the Chinese that he wanted to meet with their companies in Calgary. But the meeting was postponed due to scheduling problems. Now the meeting is tentatively set for March 15, said Mr. Lei.

There are around 30 Chinese investment entities—both joint ventures and sole Chinese investment vehicles—that could be involved, he said. Part of the objective in bringing the two sides together will be to introduce Chinese investors to the Northwest Territories. Most Chinese, admitted Mr. Lei, don’t have much information about the territory’s potential riches.

“They don’t know what is there, and what they can do there, what they can buy or what they can sell,” he said.

The premier also told Embassy Chinese companies have expressed interest in investing in his territory.

“Since we’ve come back, there has been quite a few of them who have followed up,” said Mr. McLeod in an interview in Ottawa’s Chateau Laurier hotel on Jan. 31.

“They’re going to gather groups of people together so that we can meet with them to showcase what we have and how they can invest in the North,” he said.

Mr. McLeod was in Ottawa to push for an agreement with the federal government, known as devolution, that would hand down some federal powers to the territory.

The dragon in the North

The Chinese have already been moving dramatically northward in Canada, so it's no surprise that the Northwest Territories is a target as well.

For example, CNOOC Ltd., the Chinese state-controlled oil company behind the controversial but ultimately successful bid to purchase Calgary-based Nexen Inc., already has a majority stake in an oil and gas firm with significant interests in the Yukon.

CNOOC now has a majority of its people sitting on the board of directors of that firm, Northern Cross.

As well, one of the biggest new investments currently before the Harper government is a massive proposal from MMG Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Minmetals Corp., to develop a stretch of western Nunavut called the Izok Corridor.

Chinese minerals giant Wuhan Iron and Steel Group Corp. also bought a stake in 2009 of an iron mine in northern Quebec, near the border with Labrador. China is expected to continue investing in Canadian iron projects throughout 2013, according to a Jan. 9 Canadian Press article.

Chinese investors are interested in locking down minerals used in manufacturing, and have been doing so across Canada, said Sarah Kutulakos, executive director of the Canada-China Business Council.

While the handful of Chinese oil and gas deals in Canada have got the lion's share of attention, she said, between 2007 and 2012 roughly 115 mining deals were done, on average \$260 million per transaction.

"The mining deals tend to be smaller because a lot of these guys tend to be still exploring," she said.

Mr. McLeod's government is not the first territory to try and charm Chinese investment, she added. The Yukon government "has been very active in letting Chinese investors know about what's happening up there."

In addition, mining industry conferences and promotional efforts by other provinces have meant that the opportunities have not been hiding. The wheels have been in motion federally as well to bring the provinces and territories together with Chinese investment.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited China in February 2012, he signed the continuation of a Canada-China Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation, originally forged in 2001 and renewed in 2006.

“That results in a seminar being held each year in China...where the provinces then bring mining companies that are looking for investment to present to Chinese investors,” said Ms. Kutulakos.