

Creating Our Future Together

In Search of a Common Vision for the
Northwest Territories

A Report to the People of the Northwest
Territories on the Results of the Premier's
Public Engagement Process



Premier's Message



Premier Floyd K. Roland
Government of the
Northwest Territories

The Northwest Territories is at a pivotal point in its development. We house untold natural resource wealth that can generate jobs and prosperity as we meet the needs of Canada and the world community hungry for new sources of energy, metals and minerals to power economic growth. We have a young, dynamic and fast-growing population eager to put its talents to work. We harbour spectacular, unspoiled areas teeming with wildlife that provide sustenance to our people and attract visitors from all corners of the globe. We are also the early warning system for what's on the horizon for humanity

as climate change takes hold. By our very presence, we confirm Canada's claim to Arctic sovereignty. In short, we are this country's future.

The vital role the Northwest Territories plays on the national level and the international stage has not gone unnoticed. The eyes of the world are increasingly focused on our homeland and its resources. Many important decisions are being made about the North's fate. All too often, those decisions are being made elsewhere without the input and involvement of the NWT. That's why we undertook this process of *Creating our Future Together*.

Members of the Northern Leaders' Forum agreed that the people of the NWT must have a say about the way the future should unfold in our Territory. We agreed to solicit the public's views in order to develop a common vision for our Territory 20 to 30 years from now. Each of the Northern leaders has pursued independent consultation and engagement processes. *Creating our Future Together* is the Premier's public outreach effort to take the pulse of our residents' concerns and priorities, and their hopes and dreams for the future.

In order to develop a shared vision, we turned to the true experts on the North for input: those who live, work and study here; those who run businesses and community organizations; those who can trace their ancestral roots back centuries, as well as those who have chosen to make the North their home. We wanted to hear from young and old, from our smallest communities and our larger centres.

We discovered that people had a lot to say. We learned that Northerners are passionate about preserving all of the best and unique features of the NWT. We learned, as well, that Territorial residents have innovative ideas about how best to address the social, economic and environmental opportunities and challenges facing the Territory to enable the NWT to realize its incredible potential.

I have made a special effort to reach out to youth – our future leaders. I challenged them to speak up, and they really delivered. Young people from across the NWT took up the challenge of discussing our common future. They spoke with honesty and passion about the future and their role in shaping it. They did not back down from tough issues.

What quickly became apparent is just how much NWT residents care about this place we all call home and how committed we are to securing its future. I am encouraged by their determination to find common ground. And that is what this report reflects.

This report summarizes the most frequently heard themes and ideas that emerged during the engagement process. It captures the aspirations of Northerners for the longer term, well beyond the confines of any government mandate. By setting out these priorities, Northerners are putting all political leaders – present and future – on notice that the people of the NWT expect action in these areas.

Some may ask, why now? I believe that there is no better, or more crucial, time to have this territory-wide conversation given the forces in play that will affect the NWT's future. For too long, decisions about the NWT have been made by outsiders, whether in the corridors of Parliament or corporate offices around the globe. We cannot take a back seat in these discussions. We must play a central role in determining our future.

I am inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of the people from all walks of life who took the time to lend their voice to the discussion. I thank all of you for contributing your suggestions and making your voices heard. You understand clearly that it is up to each of us to stake a claim to the future we want.

It is now the turn of Northern leaders to review and consider the ideas generated through these various engagement processes. It is my sincere hope that we will find common ground and collectively frame a vision for our Territory that will enable us all to seize the NWT's immense potential.

The feedback we have received will be valuable input for the next Legislative Assembly and future decision makers. Guided by the results of this engagement process, they will be able to steer the NWT on a path determined by Northerners in the pursuit of a better future for us all.

One thing made clear by this process is that this territory-wide dialogue has been healthy for democracy. Discussions continue around kitchen tables and boardroom tables in communities throughout the NWT. That is precisely what I hoped to achieve when I initiated this conversation by, for, and about Northern residents and the Territory we all care so much about.

Sincerely,

Floyd K. Roland, Premier

What YOU Said

- ▶ “I welcome the *Creating our Future Together* initiative. After so many failed attempts by the federal government to create a future for the Northwest Territories, it’s very refreshing to see our government taking the initiative to craft a truly ‘made in the NWT’ vision.”
- ▶ “I wish someone had started this exercise 30 years ago.”
- ▶ “It’s our future and our choice. We can seize the opportunity or we can let it go. We can set the standard for other Canadians or we can continue to let the federal government design our future for us. *Creating our Future Together* presents an opportunity to start the dialogue.”
- ▶ “The NWT needs to act quickly. The federal government is increasingly focused on the extraction of northern oil and gas, minerals and diamonds and is viewing the NWT as a northern storehouse that should be unlocked. Its primary focus is the federal interest. The interests of Northerners do not necessarily receive the attention that Northerners think appropriate.”
- ▶ “We will only succeed if decisions are taken now that lay the groundwork for the future.”

Listening to Northerners

Premier Roland invited all NWT residents to describe the future that they envision for themselves and their Territory. He encouraged people to identify their priorities: what must be preserved, what has to change and what we need to do to prepare for our future.

Residents were invited to provide their input in a variety of ways. They could write the Premier directly or send him an email. They could also provide their views online on the Premier’s website or on the *Creating Our Future Together* website. For those who preferred telephone, the Premier hosted a call-in radio show to provide residents a further opportunity to share their vision for the future of the NWT.

In addition, Northerners representing a broad cross-section of community, regional and territorial associations and organizations – along with youth from all regions – had the opportunity to meet personally with the Premier. He hosted a series of roundtable events and youth forums in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River to hear local perspectives on what the NWT can and should be, and how we can work individually and together to create the kind of future we want.

The purpose of the engagement process was to seek the views of NWT residents and to start a discussion by, and between, Northerners about the future they would like to see for themselves and the Territory. The engagement process was not a ‘survey’ intended to produce statistically relevant or reliable data or information. Rather, it was meant to be a conversation starter – an opportunity for Northerners to have their say about the future of the Northwest Territories.

As you will read in the following pages, a number of themes emerged repeatedly that were identified as key concerns and priorities of residents throughout the Territory. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to look at the entire collection of public comments. All of the input provided by Northerners throughout the engagement process is available as an Appendix to this Report at www.premier.gov.nt.ca OR at www.creatingourfuture.ca.

What was said

The following pages capture the themes that emerged most frequently. The priorities identified by NWT residents, in no particular order, are:

- the people,
- a sustainable economy,
- the land and the environment, and
- governance.

While there were common themes identified in Northerners' priorities, there was a diversity of opinion about how they might be addressed.

One overarching message coming out of the consultations is that Northerners are committed to achieving harmony and balance – celebrating our diversity and ensuring that all that is good about the people, the land and our northern lifestyle is preserved and protected, while also preparing for and capitalizing on the potential of the future. In this respect, it is clear that Northerners have the same aspirations; we share a common vision.

Differing Perspectives

Inevitably, there were differing perspectives on what's needed to make the NWT the best it can be in the future.

For example, some felt that more people should be encouraged to come North to settle and raise their families, to keep the Territory's population strong and growing. Others, however, expressed concern that too many Southerners exploit what the North has to offer but leave little in return. For this reason, they believe that Northerners, alone, should advance the Territory's progress.

There were also different perspectives on government policies and programs that address barriers to employment for designated groups. Some felt such programs need to be strengthened to increase the inclusion of members of designated groups. Yet, others believe there is no place for preferential policies that favour one group over another, and that all Northern-born residents should have equal access to employment opportunities.

The healthy debates about these issues reinforced the benefit of open discussions about sensitive subjects in order to appreciate the experiences and perspectives of others. They also underlined peoples' willingness to consider diverse views and to accommodate such differences.

What YOU Said

- ▶ “We set aside our differences and realize that that it's not just about our family or community, but the whole territory is our family. We make decisions that not only help us locally but help the entire territory. Working together, we support the whole family – the whole territory – which benefits us all in the long run.”
- ▶ “People become more accountable for their decisions and take responsibility for their actions.”
- ▶ “Our job at school is to give people the tools to make informed choices about the best options and the abilities to succeed. But it starts at home. The roots are parents and the community; school provides the wings.”
- ▶ “Education is redefined so it's not just formal education but also comes from the land and our traditional knowledge and skills.”
- ▶ “Our culture and language are stronger than today in every region.”

What YOU Said

- ▶ “I wish the same for the NWT as I do for myself in 20-30 years; to be healthy, on solid financial ground, and in control of its own destiny.”
- ▶ “The NWT is still a good place to raise a family, and grow old and retire – a place where we have protected our land and resources yet also made it a thriving business place.”
- ▶ “There would be proper housing, better roads, more creative employment that promotes the arts, sports and our land, and one-stop social services that include early childhood development programs and healing that benefit all people.”
- ▶ “In the future the North’s standard of health facilities and services is comparable to anywhere else in the country.”
- ▶ “We have a modern society in which technology is used to bridge the large geographical gap between us and the rest of the world.”
- ▶ “The NWT reflects all people who live, work and commit their lives to the North.”

The People

If there is one common view that is front of mind among Northerners, it is responding to the needs – and promoting the potential – of the people of the NWT. In the future, Northerners want:

- All citizens to be well educated and trained for employment
- All citizens healthy in body, mind and spirit, with lower rates of suicide and sexually transmitted diseases, decreased rates of diabetes and a reduced incidence of addictions
- Addictions, abuse and family violence addressed to break the cycle from one generation to the next
- Zero tolerance for violence against women and greater gender equality
- Homelessness eliminated and adequate housing available for everyone
- Families taking responsibility for the upbringing of their children, making sure they get to school ready to learn and are encouraged to achieve their potential
- Strengthened parenting supports to equip people with the tools and knowledge to raise healthy families
- A lower cost of living that makes everything – from food, to housing to travel – more affordable and accessible
- Northern languages and cultures protected and promoted as they are the foundation of strong, healthy communities
- The wisdom and knowledge of Elders respected and utilized
- Elders and seniors playing a leadership and mentorship role among NWT youth
- More professionals from the NWT - teachers, lawyers, health care workers - trained and retrained in the North
- Leadership training to cultivate a new generation of Northern decision makers
- Regional health facilities and locally-based doctors and nurses so it is not necessary to leave communities to receive treatment and care
- More locally produced food from NWT fisheries and farming
- Healthier food more widely available at affordable prices
- A dramatically reduced crime rate and a decrease in the need for community justice committees to handle a backlog of cases
- An increased focus on sports and recreation

- Family-friendly communities that provide green space and hiking trails
- Small and large communities that are self-sustaining
- A vibrant arts and cultural scene that reflects and celebrates the vast array of cultural communities that make the NWT home
- A shared NWT 'identity' that celebrates the diversity of peoples in the Territory and that is inclusive of all
- Adequate support in communities for those needing assistance, such as people living with disabilities
- Advance planning will have anticipated the health needs of an aging population in order to effectively care for Northerners

Education a priority

An especially dominant theme for residents is the need to strengthen educational opportunities for Northerners and to better prepare youth for future success.

NWT residents want to see:

- A University of the North and relevant college system that encourage and enable more youth to study at home instead of in the south
- Day care programs that allow parents to re-enter the workforce
- Early childhood learning programs to get young children off to a good start
- More Aboriginal and Northern teachers
- Cultural sensitivity and awareness training for Southerners who teach in the North
- Alternative teaching methods, including 'hands-on' learning, for people who do not succeed in a traditional school setting
- Dene immersion programs
- No social passing
- Avoiding the practice of streaming Aboriginal students into non-academic and pre-employment courses
- Increased funding for FASD and literacy programs
- Territorial education that matches Canadian standards
- Educational opportunities in institutions, such as jails, so people can learn job skills such as the trades
- Northern based research institutes that cultivate research and development expertise in the NWT and which marry traditional and contemporary scientific knowledge

What YOU Said

- ▶ "Our territory is financially secure, uses energy wisely, generates and uses its own sources of energy, and embraces and celebrates the many cultures that live in the NWT."
- ▶ "All of our students, regardless of need, receive the social, medical and academic support they need to reach their dreams, and community size and location are no longer barriers to services."
- ▶ "All our communities are safe and caring places to raise a family, and the partnership between homes and schools is strong."
- ▶ "I hope that affirmative action will have served its purpose and that all residents will be treated in the same manner"
- ▶ "We have instilled hope and belief in the future and given youth the tools they need to achieve their dreams so youth take pride in where they come from."
- ▶ "Crime and abuse are no longer issues, there are affordable groceries, housing and daycare for everyone, there are no homelessness problems, better education is available to everyone regardless of age or special needs, and good employment is provided by northern companies."

Ideas

for a sustainable economy

From Inuvik to Hay River to Yellowknife, people called for economic diversification beyond non-renewable resource development:

- Large scale undertakings like hydro development and tourism
- Medium scale economic development such as vibrant film and cultural industries or Northern recycling facilities
- Small scale activities including local gardening, farming, fishing and forestry operations, and handicrafts

A Sustainable Economy

Northerners' aspirations for the future economy are a study in contrasts: some want to preserve and maintain traditional ways of living off the land, while others wish to develop the region's vast non-renewable and renewable resources or utilize modern technology to create innovative industries. In all cases, Northerners are united in wanting an economy that is sustainable and that yields benefits for the long term.

Among the top priorities for the coming decades, people of the NWT would like to see:

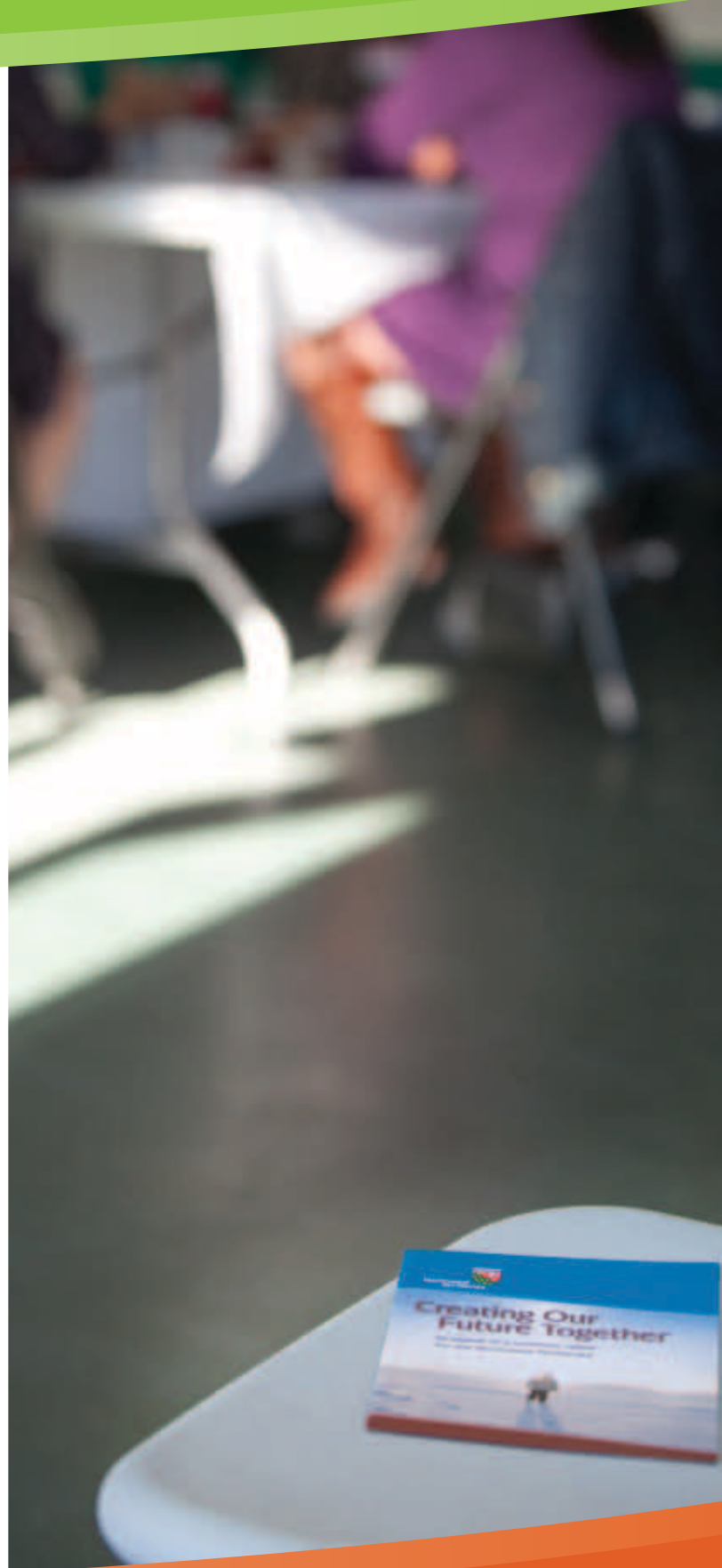
- A business climate conducive to investment
- Settled land claims
- An improved regulatory regime
- A lower cost of living
- Shortened timelines for development while at the same time ensuring that proposed developments take into account all environmental and socio-economic factors
- Infrastructure development – particularly the Mackenzie Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline – to drive the economy
- Transportation infrastructure up to national standards to promote economic development, link our communities and reduce the cost of living
- All-weather roads that increase connections among regions for intra-territorial commerce
- Smaller scale infrastructure development in communities, such as ports and harbours
- Development of a 'green' economy built on renewable resource development including hydro, solar and wind power
- Fully developed tourism markets that attract visitors from all corners of the world, creating jobs while preserving our Northern heritage

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Creating a Vision for Our Future

In Search of a Common Vision for the
Northwest Territories

Results from the Premier's Youth
Engagement Process



A Message from the Premier

When I set out to hear the views of NWT residents on what they would like the NWT to look like in the next 20 to 30 years, I made a special effort to reach out to you - our youth - to seek your advice and guidance on what the NWT should look like in the years ahead.

Those of you who attended the major youth events in Dettah and in Yellowknife in August, 2010, may recall that I challenged you to play a leading role in shaping the Territory of tomorrow. I did this because the future truly belongs to you. As our emerging generation of leaders, you have a right, and an obligation, to speak up and to make your voices heard. I am proud of the way you rose to the challenge. I learned a great deal from what you had to say, and how you said it. Your insights, your ideas, your passion and your ability to listen respectfully to each other to seek common ground are an example of how to work together.

Equally valuable, you have shown that NWT youth are not, as some would believe, disinterested or disengaged. In fact, you *want* to be more involved in your communities, to learn more about how governance works, to be mentored, to carve out a role for youth in decision-making and to foster a greater understanding of the way of life in our communities.

Some of you shared some very personal insights with me. I thank you for that, and I hope the things I shared with you will help you to see that the future is filled with promise. I believe in the future because I believe in each of you.

In my years in public life, I have come to realize that there can be no higher calling than to serve your community or Territory. Being in the public eye isn't always easy, but a life in public service can really make a difference. I want you to know that the time I spent listening to you has been among the most rewarding experiences in my time as Premier. I wish all of you every success as you go forward and answer the call to build a bright and prosperous future for the NWT.

Sincerely,

Floyd K. Roland, Premier

Hopes and dreams for the coming decades

Where Youth Stand Now

Our youth are fully engaged in society, keen observers of what is happening all around them. They look forward to the future and the exciting lives they will lead. Because they are the ones who will work and raise families in the NWT in the decades to come, they are able to speak with conviction about the things that are good about the NWT and the things they would like to change. The lists below summarize the shared observations of the Territory's youth:

Best

- Our people
- Unspoiled natural spaces
- Wealth of natural resources
- Active Northern lifestyle
- Northern hospitality
- Traditional way of life
- Cultural diversity
- Opportunities for jobs and career advancement
- Student Financial Assistance and summer placement programs
- High wages and Northern living allowance
- Support for local businesses
- Excellent health care
- Low pollution levels
- Ability to contact politicians easily

Worst

- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Suicide and depression
- High cost of living, especially travel
- Isolation
- Alienation within the Territory and from the rest of Canada
- Loss of culture
- Racism
- Low levels of educational attainment and literacy
- Lack of understanding in Yellowknife about life in the communities
- Little to do in communities
- Limited access to health services in remote communities





'To do' List For Tomorrow

In many ways, the future that NWT youth would like to see mirrors the vision of their parents and grandparents. Like all Northerners, young people made it clear that what matters most to them are the land, the people and the unique Northern lifestyle. And when it comes to development, they want it on their terms – good both for the economy *and* the environment – to protect everything that makes the North so unique and a great place to call home.

But NWT youth also have their own ideas about how the future should unfold, and what they expect of their current generation of leaders.

In the future, they hope to see:

The People

- Inspirational leadership from politicians, corporations and parents who lead by example, demonstrating how Northerners can live in harmony with each other and the environment
- More youth councils in communities
- Increased knowledge-sharing opportunities and mentorship from Elders
- Better bridging of the distances between people and their communities through improved technological infrastructure to foster greater interaction between urban and rural youth, so people know and understand each other better and respect each other more
- Programs to overcome addictions that go beyond 'quick fixes' and help people gain skills that make them employable; dignity comes with a job
- Increased self-reliance and personal responsibility
- Volunteerism promoted to address social challenges and build pride within our communities
- Sensitivity and Northern cultural awareness training for newcomers to the NWT, especially teachers and community nurses
- A stable and growing population
- Better success at attracting professionals to the NWT and keeping Northerners in the NWT by promoting what makes it so great

“We remember where we come from and tap into where we’re going by making our own decisions as northerners.”

Education

- Greater investment in early childhood education, with programs offered in Aboriginal languages
- Increased use of social media to connect and interact with youth
- Stronger school curriculum that reflects our Northern history, peoples, cultures and languages, and that better explains land claims and self-government agreements, as well as how consensus government works
- More and better-trained Aboriginal teachers
- Scheduling of school terms to reflect seasonal practices in the communities
- Ensure streaming doesn't discourage people from attending post-secondary institutions or steer students solely into the trades, by promoting math and sciences, the arts and social sciences
- An end to 'social passing' that leaves students ill-equipped to succeed and requires people to upgrade in order to move ahead
- Wider use of technological innovations such as "smart boards" in NWT schools
- High school exchanges between schools within the NWT to increase community awareness

“Improved and relevant course curriculum offers students new programs in earth sciences, geology, mineral exploration, mining, business, GIS, social work, tourism development and wildlife monitoring.”

- Increased Student Financial Assistance to make post-secondary education more accessible
- More innovative educational initiatives, such as the Dechinta University program
- Aurora College and a University of the North offer programs such as conservation, alternative energy technology and tourism
- Establish research institutes in the North
- Greater emphasis on mentoring of summer students and interns, paired with adults working in fields related to students' studies
- Increased participation in sports and formal recognition of Aboriginal athletes





The Economy

- The NWT gain control over Northern resources and royalties
- Employment and economic benefits from major development projects (e.g. pipeline, highway construction) maximized by leaving a financial legacy for the future
- The NWT as a place people want to see and where they want to stay
- Adventure and eco-tourism development that creates jobs and protects our lifestyle

“Resource development is important but we would also like to see the NWT become a more arts-positive place, with more emphasis on making the NWT a place for artists to thrive in the visual and performing arts, music and literature.”

- NWT-wide broadband coverage and better telecommunications infrastructure that connects Northerners, as well as the NWT, with the south and the wider world (e.g. develop databases that display attractions and activities in communities across the NWT)
- A knowledge-based, ‘green’ economy based on sustainable economic activities, such as energy-efficient technologies and carbon offsets
- Increased investments in geothermal technology, hydro, solar and wind power
- Support for artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers and actors, showcasing the NWT’s cultural diversity and making it a magnet for visual and performing arts, music and literature
- Production of healthier foods produced closer to home through greenhouses, community gardens and farming
- Traditional knowledge marketed as a renewable resource that companies could tap into
- Strengthened traditional industries (sewing, beadwork, crafts) that bolster tourism
- Incentives for Northern workers to stay in the NWT
- More small businesses, especially Aboriginal owned and operated businesses

The Land and the Environment

- Modern science and traditional knowledge merged
- Greater use of traditional knowledge in decision making about development
- Co-management of the land and resources between Aboriginal groups and companies
- A stronger environmental regulatory framework that protects the land and water
- Increased monitoring of water quality for contaminants
- Better tracking of wildlife to get a true gauge of the health of animal populations
- Stricter regulation of major undertakings, such as mines and ports
- Increased recycling and use of green bins in communities
- Reduced waste in workplaces through recycling and increased use of technology, such as electronic records
- More protected areas with environmental and/or cultural significance
- People taking greater responsibility for the welfare of the land
- Respond quickly to climate change challenges while there is still time

“Conservation should not only be about the environment but also our cultures. We need to preserve traditional knowledge and breathe life into lost languages and skills because solutions may be found in our traditions.”

Governance

- Reduced dependence on the federal government
- Greater control over NWT resources
- Less in-fighting and conflict between various levels of government within the NWT and between NWT governments and the federal government
- More information sharing and networking among Aboriginal governments
- Within the GNWT, equal hiring opportunities for anyone born in the North

The Future Starts Now

If there is a single message youth of the NWT would like to have heard, it is that they want to play a major role in deciding the NWT's future. If youth are part of the process, they can be a bigger part of the solution.

All of the input provided by youth at the Deton Cho Youth Conference and the Youth Forum is available as part of an Appendix to this Report at www.premier.gov.nt.ca OR at www.creatingourfuture.ca.





Wish List For the Future

- More opportunities to engage with leaders, provide input to NWT governments and be involved in decision-making
- High-quality education and job training and higher graduation rates
- A Northern university
- Maintaining and improving Student Financial Assistance
- Culturally-relevant learning, including on-the-land programs and Aboriginal language immersion
- Balancing economic development with environmentally sustainable practices
- Strong environmental laws to protect the land, water and wildlife
- Green energy and a green economy
- Adoption of new and evolving technologies to keep both people and communities connected
- Better support for people with addictions and drug resistance education

Sustainable Economy (continued)

- Vibrant arts and cultural industries that promote the NWT's unique assets and produce employment for Northerners, especially in smaller communities
- Greater emphasis on energy efficiency in transportation infrastructure, with more focus on rail and barging
- A 'heritage' fund that invests proceeds from non-renewable resource development to help underwrite other economic development opportunities
- Large scale economic projects balanced with community economic development
- Greater support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, including better access to capital and one-stop shopping for business assistance
- More agricultural activity in the NWT to maximize access to locally grown food and to increase employment
- Value-added food production, such as a processing facility to support local fisheries
- More import substitution – purchasing goods and services locally rather than from elsewhere in Canada
- Increased training and skills development to produce job-ready workers
- Partnerships – private & public, private & Aboriginal, national & multinational – will be a common business model

What YOU Said

- ▶ “The NWT will be using the strength of its resources and people to be self-sustaining – a ‘have’ region of Canada where northern and aboriginal people will be gainfully employed and proudly contributing to themselves, their families, the North and Canada.”
- ▶ “We have invested in building infrastructure, creating jobs and educating our youth – this is what I hope for our territory in the next 20 to 30 years.”
- ▶ “Our grandchildren are able to carry on the same traditional pursuits many of us enjoy today, standing in both worlds – able to carry out traditional harvesting practices and to engage in the modern economy.”
- ▶ “The North will not be seen as a desirable place to live if the different political and Aboriginal groups continue to be divided on the majority of business opportunities that come along.”
- ▶ “Dividends from the construction and operation of a pipeline flow to Aboriginal shareholders provide revenues to address social problems.”

What **YOU** Said

- ▶ “Lots of well-maintained parks and green space in and around the city provide walking and biking trails that encourage a healthier lifestyle and decrease emissions from vehicles.”
- ▶ “Invest a specific portion of the budget into long term legacy projects to provide a sustainable economy for the next generation. Let’s assign 15% each year to either new capital or to pay down previous infrastructure.”
- ▶ “We have responsible development, responsible citizens and Northerners who respect wildlife”

The Land and the Environment

Without exception, Northerners value the land and Northern way of life. The natural beauty of the land and its rich resources, and the opportunities they provide, were cited repeatedly as some of the best features of the NWT.

In the coming decades, people of the NWT would:

- Protect the environment – the land and wildlife – so the Territory continues to be a pristine place with clean air, fresh water and healthy animal populations
- Maintain traditional Aboriginal lifestyles, so people can continue to live off the land
- Ensure that development is successfully balanced with conservation
- Employ land use planning that assesses the risks and benefits of development
- Make sure the NWT becomes an energy-efficient Territory that pollutes less, is less dependent on fossil fuels, and capitalizes on its wealth of renewable resources – hydro, solar, wind
- Blend the best of traditional knowledge and science and technology to protect the land and its resources
- Increase recycling, with the Territory establishing its own recycling facilities that clean up the environment and create jobs, and offer incentives to encourage zero waste
- Ensure the legacies of past mining operations in the NWT are not repeated
- Undertake mine reclamations to restore the land to its natural state

What **YOU** Said

- Enforce strong environmental protection laws so industry is adequately regulated and monitored, and strengthen 'polluter pays' policies that penalize businesses that harm the environment
- Institute measures to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Reduce greenhouse gases at all levels – among individuals, governments and industry
- Make sure protected areas and parks are off limits to development
- Beautify green space for recreational and traditional pursuits, and to attract tourists and potential residents to the NWT
- Receive government incentives that reward energy efficiency

- ▶ "You can still walk out your back door and experience the North as it was a century ago."
- ▶ "We would be using a blend of renewable and non-renewable resources to ensure the economy was sustainable and diverse enough to withstand the market fluctuations of the world."
- ▶ "The legacy should be sustainable jobs for our children and a vibrant, diverse economy that protects and preserves the environment we enjoy so much."

What **YOU** Said

- ▶ “The North is an affordable place to live where all governments respect their own roles, where public government does not come at the expense of Aboriginal self-government and vice versa.”
- ▶ “It concerns me that our leader, the Premier, can come into that position without having had a single vote from the public.”
- ▶ “No system of government is perfect, but ours is pretty good. We are heard and have easy access to MLAs; that would not exist under party politics.”
- ▶ “We could introduce a different type of representation that would include Aboriginal governance within the public government. The representative would stay in better contact with their constituents and we would not be adding another level of government in a small territory.”
- ▶ “A less convoluted political system than we currently have, with one voice rather than dozens.”
- ▶ “The three levels of governments work collaboratively, with clarity on jurisdiction.”

Governance

One of the unique aspects of the NWT’s system of governance is the principle of “consensus” government. This style of government - which blends traditional Aboriginal decision making and the British Parliamentary system - has been in place for some time. However, it may not be a concept that is widely understood by many Territorial residents.

The role of consensus government in the future generated considerable debate and discussion. Opinions varied, including:

- The current consensus style of government works well and should carry on as is;
- Consensus government should continue but be modified, providing a different process to elect the Premier; and
- The present system of government should be replaced with a system of political parties with defined platforms from which voters could choose.

There are some who foresee a future in which Aboriginal governments function independently, in isolation from others in the NWT. Others pointed to the Territory’s history of working collaboratively, convinced there will be a place and role for all forms of government in the future.

Many viewed governance as being a broader discussion and provided a range of suggestions for changes to the way the NWT is governed in the future.

Among the many perspectives shared, the people of the NWT indicated they wish to see:

- Devolution of ownership and responsibility for the NWT’s natural resources from the federal government to the North
- Greater accountability and fiscal responsibility on the part of the GNWT
- Aboriginal people develop their own laws, regulations and policies under land claims and self-government agreements
- Aboriginal governments working collaboratively with public government
- Increased community capacity development to facilitate local decision-making

What **YOU** Said

- Smaller government, reducing the overall number of government jobs in the Territory
- Government services privatized to reduce costs and create private sector jobs
- Reduced dependence on government by building a stronger economy
- Government funding to communities based on needs, not on per capita numbers
- An end to the influence/interference of the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, with decisions about the Territory decided by and for Northerners
- Future decision making focussed on Northern ideas and priorities, not Southern needs

- ▶ “There will be no shortage of ideas on what the future should be – implementation is the stumbling block that will need to be addressed and this requires a different system of government.”
- ▶ “Land claims are settled and Aboriginal governments are working for their people.”
- ▶ “I see an NWT where Northerners are sitting together at the table making common decisions and sharing resources and wealth, being innovative and looking at new technologies, where ‘out of the box’ is the norm, and where we don’t have another 20 years talking about the same old problems.”
- ▶ “We have more collaborative institutions, avoiding duplication and redundancies, to keep the cost of government in line so we have a fiscally sustainable government.”
- ▶ “Devolution is complete and the NWT receives revenues from its resources.”
- ▶ “I could argue for both consensus government or party politics but at the end of the day any system is only as good as the people that run it.”

What **YOU** Said

- ▶ “I truly believe that feedback from the people who live in the North is critical if we wish to foster transformative change in the North.”
- ▶ “The NWT has the opportunity to set its own course within the Canadian fabric, a course that reflects the vision and views and aspirations of residents, one that can be created with the strength and vision of two peoples. It’s our future and our choice. We can seize the opportunity or we can let it go. We can set the standard for other Canadians or we can continue to let the federal government design our future for us. *Creating our Future Together* presents an opportunity to start the dialogue.”
- ▶ “Once the Common Vision is determined, stop consulting and begin making decisions and taking action on strategically aligned initiatives that support the vision.”
- ▶ “It is incumbent upon all of us to support whatever vision comes out of this dialogue.”

Summary

The thoughtful and passionate views of people expressed throughout the engagement process reinforce that NWT residents care deeply about the future of the NWT.

While their visions of the future may vary, people want – and expect – their leaders to respect their concerns and priorities when making decisions that will affect the lives and livelihoods of Northerners for many years to come.

Without exception, participants in the engagement process said they welcomed the chance to take part in this territory-wide discussion about the Territory in the decades ahead. Residents embraced the opportunity to express their views, and the views of the organizations they represent.

Premier Roland will present this Report to the members of the Northern Leaders’ Forum as one source of ideas and inspiration with which they could eventually frame a Common Vision and Roadmap for the Northwest Territories. Northern Leaders will discuss these and many other ideas generated through their various engagement processes. It’s hoped that common themes from all of these activities will emerge that lay the foundation for a clear vision of the NWT in the Spring of 2011, for the decades to come – one crafted by all Northern Leaders, and one that fully respects and reflects the broad range of interests of all residents of the Territory.

Final Note

There is a wealth of interesting ideas and opinions about how best to “Create our Future Together.” In addition to the highlights of Territorial residents’ input contained in this Report, summary documents of the various meetings that took place over the summer of 2010 are available, as are the anonymous online submissions of numerous individuals. In some cases, people took extra time and made a special effort to contribute their ideas to the common vision initiative. Several people prepared detailed submissions. To view any or all of these documents, please see the Appendix to this Report at www.premier.gov.nt.ca OR at www.creatingourfuture.ca.

Creating Our Future Together

In Search of a Common Vision
for the Northwest Territories

Appendix

To the 'Report to the People of the
Northwest Territories on the Results of
the Premier's Public Engagement Process'.

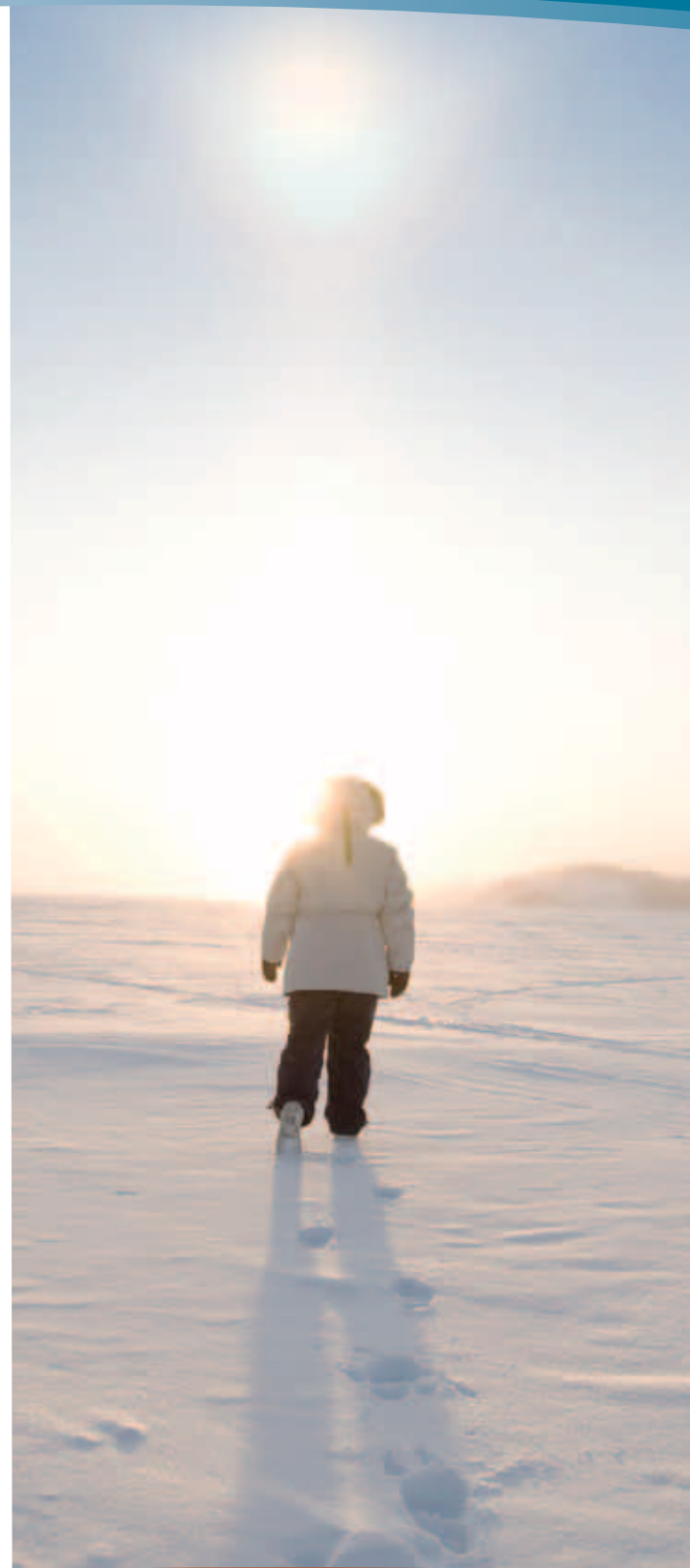




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Creating Our Future Together
NWT Residents and Organizations
Online Survey and E-mail Input

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

Submission # 1

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Land claims settled and aboriginal governments working for their people.
Devolution complete and NWT being able to get revenue from resources.
Sustainable, with no fossil fuels being used for power. More local food and
country foods emphasized. A diversified economy with emphasis on renewable
resources, not mining. Educational opportunities for all.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Settle land claims and work on devolution. Look at a truly sustainable base for
the economy and diversify it - it's too easy to rely on resources alone.

I'm willing to put the welfare of everyone ahead of my own personal interests to
make this happen. I'm willing to use my skills to assist in the transition.

**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

I like the idea, but not sure it works in practice. Too much emphasis on what a
local community or area's needs are. To make tough changes, some of us
may have to sacrifice and that means that the welfare of the many will come
before the welfare of the few.

**4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in
terms of finding the right balance between economic development and
conservation?**

Need to make sure there is enough harvestable wildlife for aboriginal peoples
to continue their cultural practices. Need to ensure that the place will be
liveable - I favour being very cautious about resource development.

**5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow
generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**

More emphasis on people-based jobs, than resource-based jobs. More building
of providing services locally.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best - the people, the unspoiled land.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

Worst - restrictions of climate and distance (it's expensive to provide services to people spread over great distance). The atmosphere of paternalism is not helping people move forward - there still is an attitude of "we know what's best for you and we'll take care of you so you don't have to be an adult"

Submission # 2

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

In 20-30 years the NWT will continue to have a vibrant economy that continues to be lead by the mineral sector but tourism has greatly increased as well.

Other provinces and countries look to the NWT as a leader in sustainable development (creating key employment for northerners at the same time protecting the environment). The cost of living in the North has been greatly lowered for residents, the regulatory regime has become streamlined, there is an investment climate that encourages sustainable development and outstanding land claims have been settled.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Point #1 can only occur if decisions are taken now (in 2011-2015) for the planning and construction of strategic infrastructure projects which the Federal government needs to lead in funding in order to demonstrate that they support the North and that it is strategically vital to Canada. The government needs to pool all the critical and or strategic infrastructure projects into one list, get feedback from industry, governments (aboriginal and non-aboriginal) and prioritize the ones that will create the best return on investment to the North (environmentally acceptable, quickest to build, creates years of employment, creates large returns on royalty payments, and creates further opportunities for other projects to proceed). Once a priority list is finalized – there needs to be agreement from all to proceed.

An example of two projects that can assist both the mineral and tourism industry is an all-weather road extension from Yellowknife to Kugluktuk through the Slave Geological province along with a new hydroelectric power grid system into the Slave Geological Province. This would reduce the dependence on ice roads, lower the costs to operating existing mines and well as future mines. At the same time, this road system would take tourism industry to an exciting new level (new camp grounds and RV parks, ecotourism lodges, aurora sightseeing on the tundra, tourism outlets, numerous other business opportunities, not to mention all the additional regulator requirements (park wardens, officials etc). Look at what the Alaska Highway done to tourism in

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

northern BC and the Yukon. Fishing and hunting could all be controlled from the start.

**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

In order to have a vision one needs to switch away from consensus government and switch to party politics like the Yukon has done. That way the various parties of the North can create their vision and the people of the North can support that vision.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

The legacy should be quickly evaluating all the major infrastructure projects that would benefit the North and in unity (industry, aboriginal and non-aboriginal gov'ts) prioritizing the best projects to proceed with and commence work on them. If this would have been done 3-4 years ago – one would see that the Fort Providence Bridge would not have been in the top 5 projects to benefit the North. Instead of having a bridge over budget, another project (i.e. all weather road through Slave Province, or Talston expansion) would be in construction instead.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Point #2 will take care of that so that we continue to encourage exploration and mineral development in a responsible manner at the same time promoting tourism industry in the North.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Worst feature – there is no Vision and the regulatory regime is too complicated which is deterring investment in the North.

Best features – the economic potential the North has - if the regulatory regime is fixed (quicker timelines, certainty at the same time ensuring responsible and sustainable development).

Submission # 3

Comments:

i think this is a great idea, youth nowadays are not looked at and never asked what they really want, i mean lets be honest more money is spent on things way less important than the youth, i mean its the truth the youth of the communities are the leaders of tomorrow, but most times you hear them all say " i cant wait to get out of here" thats the last thing you should ever have to hear, its time people start sitting down and asking the youth what they want, what they would like to see happen, dont just put barriers in front of them, make their great ideas reality, and only than will they know they have a voice and they can actually use it, let the youth know they have a power far greater than that in your meetings where youth arent even allowed, make a meeting where adults arent allowed to speak out of turn give the youth a voice and let that voice be heard

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

i want to see the youth of the communities who work hard to make change the new leaders, i want to see a community where its not just about development, its about personal growth as well. the youth dont want a future thats in doubt and a future that they believe isnt theirs, too many leaders and town councils say there doing all they can for the youth, but at the meetings there are no youth to hear it because they arent allowed a voice, i wanna see more youth say when im done school i wanna be part of the change we see in the future. thats what i wanna see

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

im a single person but im always there to give youth advice they may need, young leaders arent born there built up with good role models, i try to be positive letting the kids who play sports, who struggle in school, who have been in jail thats theres always time to make things better for you, takes patience and they need to ask for help, i always do my best to give a leg up to my friends letting them know theres a big world out there, the more they learn the more they will be able to see, and some of them have made the decision to go to college down south and they even thank me, they will go farther than most people a little push is all they needed,

**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

i dont even believe i hear anything about youth when big meetings happen, nothing really needs to change but that in my opinion

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

communities need to stop pushing away technology, its part of the reason you see youth not get involved with anything, you find a balance when you have the opinions of everyone. and look at whats not needed to what is needed, and i never see anything for the youth all i see is what the towns currently need and the younger generation is usually left with nothing to do

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

put together trades workshops!!!!!!!!!!!! bring them in its the biggest thing talked about, theres a boy i know in fort good hope who hasent even graduated yet nor has he ever taken a mechanics course and he is capable of taking apart and rebuilding entire engines which i think is amazing, there are so many kids out there like him, there just never given credit for what there able to do, more tradees workshops being brought in will give the youth ideas of where they wanna go.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

best would be how we conserve the natural beauty of our territory, worst part is a high % of the jobs dont go to people of the territory.

Submission # 4

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

An economic flourishing territory with trice the amount of inhabitants.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Yes, by just doing things, less debate about it. With a more authoritarian government things will be done way quicker. Think about how long it took until we finaaly begun to build a bridge over the MacKenzie. If there wasn't so much debate about it it would have been there years ago.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

See comment above. Less consensus is less talk. Its time we gonna do things and not debate it. Lets get rid of that MLA system. This system only provides a handful of qualified politicians. Anybody can put themself up for being elected, qualifications/knowledge or not. Isn't that ridiculous? Lets get rid of these deadweights in our Legislative Assembly and get some real knowledgeable politicians in there.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Educate the young people. Send them to school. Get them in higher education after highschool, then they will be able to see the perspective of this territory and can find the right balance between development and conservation.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

First: make a small nuclear powerplant outside the city so we all can share a reliable power supply. This primitive power supply bumps out as soon as there are clouds on the horizon. How can you get economic development if you hardly can have reliable power!!

Second: make use of all our resources. Water, maybe some oil here and there, diamonds etc. And we have lots of space here which is not hard to make habitable. Attract some manufacturers to build some manufacturing plants here.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best feature: easy climate. No excessive weather like in the rest of canada. Lots of room to expand our economy.

Worst: economic isolation. Expensive living (but that can change if people/businesses are willing.)

Submission # 5

Comments:

I work with families in crisis and specifically child protection. I would like for our focus to change. We need more resources and support for our families in crisis in order to keep the children in their home. It is very traumatic to remove

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

children from their bio families. I would like for us to stop repeating the residential school era mistakes by separating aboriginal children from their families. We are destined to fail.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Infrastructure - roads, highways, resources, improved and every community have access to better roads. i.e. paved, chip sealed.

Attract competition to challenge silo companies that have had a monopoly on business for years. If you are sole supplier then you do not have to improve your services; We are a captive consumer.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Strong leadership. More infrastructure money. We need to be able to benefit from our natural resources in the NWT. All of the monies flow out of the North directly to Ottawa.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus is a relative term. Watching our government sit for the past couple of years has been a show of disrespect, in fighting, wasted air time and inhibiting progress.

I actually would like to see the government streamlined and cut back. i.e. we have two MLA's to represent Hay River. What for? What are their accomplishments?

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We need to continue to respect the land and the animals. We need to ensure that there is sustainability of the land and its resources by regulations and monitoring. What happened to the caribou herd? Was someone not watching? We do not want to see a repeat of this since we do have a huge department of Renewable Resources.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

If we are going to have a policy of affirmative action -then it has to be enforced across the North and also with all Authorities.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

We have seen a revolving door - People do not stay.

Affirmative Action stats are dismal. In 1979, we were approximately 32% aboriginal hire. In 2010, we are still at that percentage.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best - Its people and their hardiness, humour and character.

Worst - Out flow of money and resources to the South.

Submission # 6

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

The Urbanization trend will continue. The NWT will have a population greater than 100,000 most concentrated in the regional centers with half the population in Yellowknife. The economy is more diverse with less reliance on government. A number of Aboriginal owned companies are important economic drivers. The North a pan territorial system of technical/research learning institutes driving students from across the circumpolar world.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Government's role has to change. With the devolution of resource royalties/management, the focus must shift from an over reliance on regulation to building and retaining wealth.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

It is time for a major rethinking of how the North is governed. Instead of piling one government on top of another, there is a need to build more collaborative institutions, avoiding duplication and redundancies. The cost of government has to be brought into line. We need to have a fiscally sustainable government.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

The current regulatory system is unsustainable. With greater certainty, the north will continue to be an economic wasteland. The MERA process ensures that all resource potentials are identified before land is withdrawn.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

Development can occur in ways that will enhance protection. The greater the use the higher the land value.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Educate, educate, Build a relevant and effective college system Build alliances with other institutions in the circumpolar world. Norway, Sweden, Iceland are way ahead of us.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best is the harmony and respect between diverse cultures. The worst is that we are too insular.

Submission # 7

Comments:

We have a very rich and unique territory and much of our land is untouched by civilization. However before we can even look at a commonality we need to fix up some of the issues suppressing our people. One area across the NWT is the nepotism within governments be it Territorial, local and aboriginal we need a law and guidelines in place to alleviate this major issue that is breaking down our people especially the young who are always looked upon as our future leaders our legacy. A common vision for all to follow implanted by the GNWT as the leaders would make it law that Relative: for the purposes of this section only, with respect to a public official, means an individual who is related to the public official as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, niece, nephew, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, step father, step mother stepson stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother and half sister for any boards or agencies within government cannot hire their own family members. This is a major problem that must not be over looked any longer. Imagine being in the public in a small community and you witness a sister, brother-in-law and nephew hire a relative what message does that send to the public. I cannot understand how MACCA gives government funding to Hamlets and Council members who are contractors allocate funds to themselves. Within the same funding you see the SAO and family members teaching technigues and reciving funding from macca along with their salary. Within aboriginal governments you witness board members taking children on the land and are provided with gas, food and a salary. Housing is also a visable area of boardmembers allocating housing to family. Our school is family and friends as staff and the board who are friends with the pricipal sign documents even though they know the relationships of family w ho are being hired. It is one thing for a private

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

business to hire family but it is not something our government should allow to happen and we need a policy or law in place in order to have a common vision for our future.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I wish to see all people succeed and feel good about themselves and I also wish to see everyone benefiting from programs and services. I wish to see proper housing, better roads, highway connection from Aklavik to Yukon to cut our cost of living which is very high, more creative employment options, on the job training, one stop shopping with social services, income support, early child hood, housing, healing program all in one office for the benefit of the people. We need a cultural camp, invest in our local talent of music, drum dancing and metis dancing, a Mad trapper tourist site, beautification funds to make us proud of our homes and community, college and university programs in our community to encourage the people to continue on in their educational endeavours, sports and activities to make future olympions, economic development programs to meet the needs of our people.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Because our people continue to listen to government workshops should be held in the community for all to attend and every government office with community governments must be participants with a guideline to follow for all to benefit and be heard. We need funds to invest in our future so this is the route of any progress to occur as we have little pots of money that each organization continue to fight over rather than working together for the betterment of the community.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I myself prefer a consensus government as it allows you to have access to the leaders. Party politics is not an aboriginal way of governing it is the racist non-aboriginal way and we have been suppressed for all these years and finally have a voice and I would hate to see this change for our children our future leaders.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

If we were able to have our wishlist met with all the ideas formulated we would certainly leave behind a positive legacy for our children.. We have lots of depression, income support clients and people in greiving from loss of loved ones, residential school and need the programs and services to begin to heal

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

then we can move forward. Family violence and alcohol are major concerns and this is suppressing our young children.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Stop nepotism, set up healing programs, and create employment and training opportunities for all to benefit. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

We have an aboriginal government with our Premier and MLAS as the majority, We have local and aboriginal governments and we have the ability to become self sufficient and a strong nation . The worst features is that our government allows nepotism to run our local communities and this angers and frustrates our younger generation. We have long term government employees who know lots of what is happening on the frontline but cannot voice their opinions without being reprimanded this needs to change use the resources that can strengthen the nation. I would like to add more but will maybe make another submission and hope that someone comes to our community so we can share our concerns and ideas to make a better tomorrow with a common vision for all to benefit.

Submission # 8

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

In 20 to 30 years, I would like an NWT that is self-sustaining. I would further like it to be a place that balances financial need with social and environmentally responsible policy. I would like to see real effort made to reduce incidence of domestic violence, child poverty, and poverty. I would like to see us moving forward in providing quality education at the primary, secondary and post-secondary level.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

This vision can only be achieved if we change the way we work both as a government and as a territory. We need strong policy development at the GNWT level that uses a gender and social lens to ensure that the secondary impacts of policy do not create more issues than solutions. We need in some cases to change the way we think about policy. For example in domestic violence, if the courts imposed a requirement for the perpetrator to pay a fine

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

when convicted this would go a long way in reducing recidivism. If the perpetrator cannot pay they would automatically do significant jail time. This is the type of policy change that as a government we need to consider. I am very willing to help in any way I can. I currently work for the GNWT, volunteer in my community and will continue to do so.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?
I think that the consensus is the most pure of the democratic systems. It has it's problems and issues, but essentially is less corruptable than a party system and we should continue in this fashion of governing.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?
I envision a territory that balances economic need with good social policy which includes conservatism. At times the cost for economic development in human terms is too high and as a territory we need to recognize this and make the decision to forgo that particular development opportunity for the common and overall good.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?
We need to support cottage industries. The boom/bust economy of the NWT is quite often disastrous to the people it serves. Put more effort and resources into helping people become self-sufficient and sustaining in the cottage industries that will provide them with a steady income instead of lots of income for a short period of time. This can be done creatively without pouring too many more resources in by providing shadowing, consultant support, short training courses etc.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?
I think the best features of the NWT besides the obvious beauty of the land is the people. As a people, we are kind, generous, forgiving. If we marketed our people better, we would see a rise in tourism etc.

The fact that we have not yet figured out how to appropriately address our social issues - trauma, post traumatic stress disorder etc. which show itself in the symptoms of alcohol and drug abuse and domestice violence is the worst feature. We could change this if we stopped treating the symptoms and started treating the disease.

Submission # 9

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I wish it to be the same welcoming, full-of-opportunity place that it has been for the past 30 years. The north's best assets are its natural beauty, abundant fresh water and energetic population.

In another 20 or 30 years, I hope the NT is still a place that welcomes everyone and provides adequate opportunities for those who want to make their lives here.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Vision for the future of the NT cannot include decisions made on race based policies. Such policies create divisions rather than unity and move society in a backward rather than forward fashion. The world has already seen and experienced policies and laws based on race. We don't need to repeat those mistakes. I can contribute to this vision by making my views known, seeking the opinions and input of others and working to achieve positive, inclusive policies through my MLA.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Although I appreciate the unique qualities of consensus government, there are many challenges to this system of government, and I am moving slowly toward the notion that perhaps NT is outgrowing this system. In the past few years I have seen and heard of too many instances where MLA's have had to compromise on important issues in order to advance consensus. Surrendering one's integrity is no way to represent people.

In order to achieve representation by population, a shift will have to occur, especially in light of one detail in your "Creating Our Future Together" booklet, the fact that Yellowknife will grow 5 times faster than the rest of the territory. If Yellowknife is to grow faster than other communities, the numbers of MLA's in the Legislative Assembly must accurately represent population numbers.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

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Strong environmental protection laws, mandatory clean up clauses for all resource development and extraction enterprises, environmentally sound decisions for resource permitting and modest mineral/nonrenewable resource exploration. If we have to have development to drive the economy, make sure it is adequately regulated and monitored. The resources for this will have to come from licensing.

Drilling in the far north should not be allowed under present conditions.

Canada needs to maintain its sovereignty over the northwest passage.

I hope that the NT never enters into any fresh water deals that will compromise our lakes and rivers. The pressure for this type of deal will continue to increase, but the maintenance of this resource should be the whole of Canada's number one priority.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Explore and expand green energy options in all regions.

Encourage families to pass along traditional skills and language in order to revitalize aboriginal culture. Languages and culture will not survive if they are taught in schools but not practiced in homes. I applaud government initiatives to maintain culture, but effectiveness is without the input and commitment of families to speak and maintain their cultural practices.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Abundance of fresh water and natural landscape.

Race based policies.

Submission # 10

Comments:

I am a 33 year resident of Yellowknife - I find it offensive not to be able to vote for a government leader, and to never have any clear idea of a platform of what the government is going to do over its term

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

An end to squabbling over who has authority would be great - get rid of the federal presence in the NWT - sort out aboriginal land and resource authority -

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

have a GNWT that runs the territory with a sense of direction (this will only be done with an accountable political system unlike the current consensus arrangement)

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

No comment

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I dont care for it (see above) - to make it more sustainable make it accountable (ie. party politics)

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Allow development to take place that will not destroy the environment or leave contaminants and the like behind - the current system of Land and Water Boards strikes me as cumbersome and prone to regional and personal politics

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

No comment

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best - great open expanses and wilderness - rivers and lakes - worst feature is cost of living and isolation

Submission # 11

Comments:

This is a ridiculous and embarassing wasted of tax dollars. The money could be much better spent recruiting nurses, hiring teaching assistants, paving roads, reducing the cost of power. A government should have a vision. The people should vote for it and provide legislators with a mandate. That is not happening. With all due respect to the regional Aboriginal leaders, they do not represent public government. They were not elected by the public to provide public services. Shouldn't the public government of the Northwest Territories be focussed on doing its job?

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I want the NWT to be an affordable place to leave where all "governments" respect their own roles. There is no need to reshape public government in the NWT. Public government does not come at the expense of Aboriginal self-government and vice versa. I wish our Premier would realize that.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

I don't think it will be achieved until our MLA's realize that they are there to serve the public. It won't happen until people, including our own MLA's appreciate the role, responsibility, and legitimacy of public government. This "searching for a common vision" boondoggle is a clear indication that

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government does not work. Who elected Premier Roland? 19 MLA's. The people of the NWT certainly did not. Where is the accountability that is provided with a true mandate and a vision that residents can endorse with their votes. Instead of the well-established democratic party system, we get a collection of "independents" all vying for Cabinet and unwilling to take a stand because they need to win favour with everyone to boost their chances of securing a Cabinet seat. A good example was the cell-phone debacle, where MLA's from the rural communities declared the issue unimportant because no cell-phone service was available in their ridings. Talk about the politics of division. It is like reasoning that YK shouldn't have an ambulance because Colville Lake doesn't have one. Absolutely absurd and a shameful display of our ineffectual "consensus" system. It does not deserve to be "sustainable". Nice leading question by the way.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

What a useless question. Of course the "current generation" should strike a balance between economic development and conservation for future generations. Make the whole territory a park, as seems to be planned now and there won't be many people of the next generation sticking around. They will leave to go where the jobs are.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Good grief this is questionnaire is painful. We need to find leaders that don't need to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars asking ridiculously obtuse questions.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Worst - embarassingly bad poltical system and leadership that seems to think that the NWT needs a "vision" crafted by "regional leaders" that have no business directing public government.

Too bad I can't express my dissatisfaction by voting you or your party out of office. Seriously, this is the lamest waste of tax dollars.

Submission # 12

Comments:

The first thing that has come to my mind when I think about the future is children and thier education. The overall graduation rate in the NWT is quite low especially in rural communities. I would like to see improvments made to the education system. Improvements need to be made to the curriculum, more materials created to teach students about their culture. There is also a need for more recycling depots especially in the North this is our land and we need to take care of it no matter what the cost. Thsi should be a priority teaching everyone how to be more environmentally friendly and establishing recycling depots across the NWT.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I hope that the NWT will have a good economy, thriving wildlife, an environment that is still able to sustain us and our wildlife, an increase in graduation rates.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

I think that changes to the curriculum need to be made and more courses offered that offer students hands on learning expereince such as experiential science. Their is a need for more education about our environment and how we can sustain it, we only have one Earth and without it we have nothing.

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- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
no comment
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
Ensure that they receive their education and continue to teach traditional ways to future generations our people survived off of very little and did little damage to the environment, this is something we should all remember and try to bring into our lives.
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
Educate people so they are equipped with the skills for the jobs
- 6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?**
the best is the land and the cultures and the worst would be alcohol and drugs

Submission # 13

Comments:

I believe persons who are born and have long term residency should be on an equal footing with PY1 candidates in the NWT for employment. Many of our non aboriginal students are finding it as difficult as the aboriginal students to find funding and employment. If we want the territories to grow we must change our attitude and ensure that more Northerners are hired for work.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

In 30 years I would like to see all courses available from Arctic College via correspondence, online and in person irregardless of where you live.

In 30 years, I would like to see summer school for grades 7-12 across the territories regionally to help students who need a bit more to achieve it rather than go through social promotion.

In 20 years I would like to see social promotion eliminated from the education system. It is more of a stigmatism that we are paying for through increased lack of employable youth due to low numeracy and literacy levels graduating from high school. Better to stay back until you get it. Kids need a motive and an incentive to work towards. Now they act out because they know no matter what they will pass.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

In 20 years we will have truancy officers in every education department. Boards will be gone. They are ineffective due to a lack of understanding the govt. system and they are more costly than helpful. We will have 3 hospitals that all have facilities that will reduce the need to go south for routine dialysis, X rays and special clinics. We will have Northern doctors, teachers and counselling staff that is certified.

You will be able to check your mail or do your banking or get a dental or clinic appointment up to 8:00 p.m. at night.

We will recreation programs that are covering 5 - 55 age groups that are diversified. We will have regional tournaments and scrap Arctic Games which have become too big, too expensive and too meaningless to our children. Instead regions will compete on a rotational basis.

In 30 years we will have the highway down the valley linking with the Dempster and Nunavut. This will increase tourism.

In 30 years, employees will be able to take training that is meaningful and certified online rather than having to leave home to take it or take time off work.

In 20 years, there will community wide aptitude testing at Manpower so that high school students or adults wanting to find a career will have a direction.

In 20 years there will large communities of 5,000 plus. All communities under 500 people will be eliminated for cost efficiencies. Having larger communities has meant less infrastructure costs, better lifestyles and increased employment.

In 20 years, Northerners will not have to sit by and watch "gangs" of southerners coming North and taking all the new work like they did in 2010 in Inuvik. So many Southerners came that they had to lease a hotel while at least 3 dozen young men between 19 and 25 sat around because there was no way to enter the apprenticeship program to learn to do those jobs before they happened. Instead they were forced to work under the table for crappy wages and labour only work. In 20 years, it will be illegal to have under the table employees and business owners who do this will lose the right to operate in the NWT. They will be caught because there will be an NWT hotline.

In 30 years, the NWT becomes stronger because the govt. works with the UNW and the NWTTA when employees are first hired by allowing staff to take union courses during work time to ensure that they know their rights and understand the requirements of being an employee.

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In 20 years all roads will be paved in all communities. There will be 3 bridges; DeCho, at McPherson and Inuvik crossing.

In 20 years due to the high retirement rate of baby boomers the last 10 years, the GNWT offers to mentor employees with 20 plus years so that they can move into management eliminating the skill gap that has grown. Colleges and schools will be targeted to ensure that students are also learning relevant job skills not just upgrading and life skills.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

As an employee if I was ever given the opportunity, I would point out that employees need to be part of the process when designing training. Too often only management or silly courses are being offered. Many employees want to become management but there is no entry point to do that. I have given examples of other things in #1.

I believe that alot of the old guard thinking Us and Them has to be eliminated. Better management training and some more careful scrutinizing of who is being hired needs to be done. The H.R.department despite tons of money and training continues to fall flat on its face because it lacks accountability protocols.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Like all govts. consensus has its good points and its bad points. I believe that the portfolio loads are too heavy and maybe its time to spread them out so that no one has more than one. I believe that the direction of stakeholder advice versus consultants is a move in the right direction. I believe who is being selected as the participants in such stakeholder meetings still needs work and that the GNWT needs to remember to let participants see the final outcomes. I participated in the Disabilities Review for Employees and am still waiting almost a year later for the outcomes which were promised to all participants.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

A govt. that puts the needs of people before the almighty dollar first. A govt. that puts Ottawa in its place when it needs to. We need more visibility and openness in GNWT. Take a good look at Obama. He is succeeding because he admits when things are not going well and takes a stand.

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Govt. leaders are a joke to people in the NWT because they expect their constituents and their employees to tow a very straight line but their behaviours show a lack of respect for the trust given to them and their conduct has made the leaders appear to be foolish people who are wasting the time and taxpayers money.

There are many people who start their day wondering if they can eat, stay warm and find a job. Arguing over the constant collapse of poorly planned mega projects or who is sleeping with who and who knew it leaves a bad taste in the mouths of Northerners.

Employees in particular have developed a lack of respect for Northern leaders and they are currently veiwed by many as cheaters, liars and untrustworthy spoiled brats who get what they want and yet they fire and discipline their own employees so strictly that many people are leaving because the work environments in many departments are too poisonous to continue working there. We are no longer offering a benefits package that is keeping above the South and given the choice our youth are leaving the North and that is the sad legacy of this generation of leaders has left to the next generation.

Don't stay here. There's no work outside of Yellowknife that is permanent, Don't stay here, you can't get a real course that will help you get a real degree from Arctic College and don't stay here because the GNWT will only lay you off or keep youi out of management positions. Why stay, no health care, no pension futures, no work for children, high utility rates, poor selection of products that are overprices, high health risks due to climate and inaffordable housing.

The new motto is How Long Do I have Left Until I Go To Alberta! At least there I can get a small house and be able to afford to eat. If I get sick, I won't have to worry about whether I am "approved" for cancer treatments or anything Sandy Lee doesn't want to pay for.

With each passing session, this legislature has eroded the trust and quality of life of its citizens. Now it wants us to bail them out. Let's see, how much do you guys make a year? Maybe its time to just sit down and make a list. People are sick of giving you guys the answers and then you go do stupid things anyway.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Stop creating and placing all of the employment in Yellowknife. In my region for the last 6 months, I have noticed that jobs are not being filled when people leave, no new jobs that are long term or sustainable are coming out of GNWT and people do not feel career supports are in place. Instead we get initiatives

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that see enough money for 1 person to be hired to find the questions and not really do anything worthwhile.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The NWT is too expensive; food, travel, gas, clothing, freight, substandard housing at exorbitant costs, lack of services for addictions and families in crisis. There is a lack of family interaction stemming from the archaic methods used by departments such as health and justice. Overall the worst is the fact that people of the NWT know what the problems are, they have been talked to death and our leaders are not listening and acting on the information.

What is the best, that's become really hard to say. The physical geography of the NWT. Not much really pulls right now. Certainly, nothing stemming from govt.

Submission # 14

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to participate. I trust that everyone's comments and voices will be considered equally with no preference to voices that may be viewed as "uneducated", or irrelevant. I also trust that this your request for voices is sincere and not a cynical publicity stunt. Government leaders face tough choices in the context of Canada and our ability to live sustainably.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

An educated population that can make informed decisions about what is best for their health and well being and their communities.

Achieving waste reduction targets set 20 to 30 years prior that protect our land, air, and water.

Achieving GHG reduction targets through increased efficiency and the development of renewable energy resources and independence from fossil fuels.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

A shift in focus from developing non-renewable resources, or industries that are heavily dependant on fossil fuels, to developing the human potential in the NWT to live sustainably through, education, and skills training. The unique conditions in the NWT require a creative solution to the way we handle

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materials and generate waste in the NWT with an emphasis towards waste elimination

**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

It appears that cabinet appointments have more to do with experience in government than actual policies brought forward by MLA's.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Economic development and conservation are only at odds if the government is committed to it's current path of dependance on non-renewable resources. Pursuing Fossil Fuel Independence will be the key to living sustainably.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Jobs are not the key. A Genuine progress indicators measures our well being through indicators such as health, education, leisure time, and level of happiness.

Education is the key to well being.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best - Communities living in remote regions and developing unique lifestyle suited to life in the NWT.

Worst - People living irresponsibly for short term gain.

Submission # 15

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

A modern society in which technology is used to bridge the large geographical gap between us and the rest of the world and a desirable place for professionals who work in that field can live comfortably. It should also have a university so that learning can be done without travelling outside the territory.

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2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

By connecting ourselves well to the rest of the world through internet or otherwise and by harnessing our rivers to make cheap power available to technology centres.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I think it performs well enough not to bother changing to something else.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

The current generation should ensure that infrastructure is well maintained and improved while keeping in mind the toll that takes on the environment.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Education needs to be a very high priority, as well as expecting to grow economically and making a plan to achieve it.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Isolation

Submission # 16

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Create accessible sustainable communities that our families can continue to reside and prosper within.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Long term investment in infrastructure with a view to supporting economic opportunities in all region's instead of just continuing to expand Yellowknife as the center of the universe. We could look at the current assets with a view to

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maximizing them. An example would be to support a project like the Avalon mine, to develop a hydrometallurgical plant in Pine Point along with making it economically viable for this plant to operate- ie affordable power, and infrastructure. Promote the Pine Point area as a place to put Fortune Minerals hydrometallurgical plant also. If we did this in each region we could make the north stronger.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

We are over governed we should have regional govt's comprised of chief's/Mayors established with authority to appoint from their ranks representatives that would sit on the GNWT legislature, in that way they remain accountable to the people that appoint them, and it would reinforce a process of working collectively.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We should wind up with a territory that embraces visitors, and investment, and one that residents choose to reside and vacation within. In that way we ensure that we support pride of ownership

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

See 2. The example sited above deals with the south slave area, but each area should be looked at to maximize employment and economic opportunities to make the regions sustainable. Once that is done we will have an environment that provides opportunities for all northerners, and it will entice people to not only stay in the north, but would also provide an enviroment that individuals would want to relocate to participate.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Worst features is that we have way to much bureacracy for a small territory which makes us very slow to permit change. We have approx one burecrat for every resident and that does not count the municipal and federal levels of government.

The best feature of the north it is still the land of opportunity as long as we are concious of the environment. You can still walk out your back door and experience the north as it was a century ago.

Submission # 17

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I'd like it to be a vibrant, inclusive, forward thinking place. A good place to raise a family. A good place to grow old and retire. A place where we have protected our land and resources yet also made it a thriving business place.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

We need a governments, territorial and aboriginal to work together, leave the egos at home and work toward the future of all people of the NWT. I can participate by being informed, by participating in panels and forums, talking with my MLA.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I have been a supporter of consensus government for 40 years. No more, it no longer works. Party politics has it's own issues but at least there would be some accountability. We wouldn't have politicians constantly being 'swayed' to vote one way or the other. With a party, there is more opportunity to participate in the selection of a premier.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We need to learn to work together, to balance environmental and social issues with the need to provide a livelihood for our people. Many of our resources are non renewable, we must remember that and ensure we have other industry to support us.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We need to learn to work together, to balance environmental and social issues with the need to provide a livelihood for our people. Many of our resources are non renewable, we must remember that and ensure we have other industry to support us.

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6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best features of the NWT is the land, where we live, the beauty, even the harshness of the land can have it's own beauty.

The worst feature of the NWT, at this particular time, is our government. The power struggles between the territorial govt and aboriginal govts. continues to lead to ineffective governing. It's become a game and it's harmful to all who live here.

Submission # 18

Comments:

First of all, I would like to thank Premier Roland for the opportunity to express our concerns and ideas for Denendeh. Thank you, mahsi cho.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

To have an economy with more green-collar jobs and to see management, CEO, and ED positions being filled by Aboriginals.

To see a steady Caribou population and to have healthy ecosystems.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

The vision can become tangible by:

Education/promotion of traditional knowledge, environmental sciences, political science and community development so the children and youth can learn about leadership, tradition, and human rights at a young age.

I have always seen a huge push for the trades and healthcare, we need to offer more options for our future generations to protect our way of life and to live in peaceful conjunction with GNWT and the non-Aboriginal community.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I am pleased to see MLA's represent Tu-Nedeh, Thebacha, and other regions where there is an Aboriginal majority.

Sustainability of the concensus government can be functionable and beneficial for everyone as long as the Dene Laws are honoured. This goes for the Federal government as well.

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4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

An on-going fund for the community gardens in the regions, and setting a plan that allows Aurora College to offer on-going traditional knowledge, environmental sciences, community development and political science courses being taught by qualified educators. Too many students leave the north after graduation or lose touch with their culture when moving south; let's keep the education homegrown.

Also, allowing Dene harvesting rights to be exercised at all times and not being in conflict with government. There shouldn't even be a questions about this. Sustainability is key. Our people will not be starved of our traditional foods.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Exploring green technology since fossil fuels are short-lived. This requires innovation and creativity. Are we ready to move forward? Do we want to ruin our environment, or preserve it?

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best features of the NWT is the land and rich cultural diversity. Worst feature is the abuse of Affirmative Action, as there are loop holes. P1's/P2's don't always get the higher paying positions.

Submission # 19

Comments:

Do the residents of the NWT want to be independent and live life in dignity or do they want to exist with an entitlement mentality? Should a "traditional hunt" include the use of publicly funded charter aircraft or should hunting be truly traditional?

In order for the people to be truly independent and self sufficient there must be entrepreneurial ventures that provide employment and profit for sustainability. Small business is essential.

Dignity requires meaningful employment that contributes to society and is not part of a "make work" program.

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I suggest inviting Chief Clarence Louie to speak to the Legislature and to community leaders. Here is what he has said in the past...

INDIGENOUS people must become more entrepreneurial to overcome entrenched social problems, says a visiting Indian tribal chief from Canada.

Chief Clarence Louie was speaking at the Indigenous Economic Development Conference in Melbourne.

Chief Louie attacked welfare and the culture of dependence among native people in Canada and Australia. He cited statistics from Canada that show that of the \$C9 billion (\$A9.6 billion) Indian Affairs budget, 96 per cent was spent on social areas but only 4 per cent on economic development.

"What's needed is for aboriginal people to get involved in the economy," he said. "More of this program spending should be spent on economic development, and entrepreneurship and employment and training. Not on social programs.

"Our people are moving from a mind-set of spending underfunded federal grants to making our own money. And there's a whole different mind-set: from spending money to making money.

"Aboriginal people have to start making their own money, because there's an illusion to think that a great white mother or a great white father is going to supply your needs. They never have and never will."

Chief Louie heads the Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corporation, a body committed to helping native businesses in Osoyoos, 400 kilometres from Vancouver on Canada's west coast. The 450-strong community is home to a bustling tourism sector and has low unemployment.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Numerous small businesses that contribute to the economy of the NT. Full employment. No street people. A forward thinking independent attitude that does not rely on the Federal Government rather stability through profitable small businesses.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Clear definition of the needs in the North that can be met by people in the North or by bringing in "experts" to train people in the North. Once expertise is developed products and services can be "exported" to YK, NU, AK and other markets. These needs/business opportunities might have to do with tourism,

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arts and crafts, housing, energy self sufficiency, clothing manufacturing, small manufacturing. I can contribute through economic development activities, marketing, and numerous contacts in both Canada and the US who are willing to come for short term training of Northern people.

A couple of months ago I made a business trip to Calgary on behalf of the GNWT to collect an outstanding debt owed to the Government and while there did some proactive calling on corporations doing business in the NWT. The response was amazing to see. They appreciated someone from the GNWT coming to see them. How much additional business could we create if we proactively introduced opportunities to companies that are able to solve some of the problems we have and to supply products and services that are needed in the North? These same companies might be willing to train our people. These are the kinds of meaningful partnerships that should be created. Partnerships where both partners make a contribution rather than the entitlement partnerships I see in some situations in the NWT.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I have not thought enough about the pros and cons of consensus government. If the goal is to have sound management of our finances and resources, do we have that now? Does the GNWT have a reputation that instills confidence and trust with corporations that might like to do business in the North? What changes need to be made in how we reach out to corporations to partner with us and to develop resources (natural resources and people) in the NWT? Case in point Fortune Minerals and the location of part of the processing operation in SK rather than in the NWT. What could be done to keep jobs in the North? How could this deal be negotiated so the company wants to deal with the GNWT and lets other companies know we are open for business?

The bottom line is not whether we have consensus government or the party system but rather are the people who are elected good stewards of what they have been elected to govern? Do they have a united vision and at the end of their term is the NWT better because they served? Are they leading us forward in the right direction?

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

A common sense approach to preserve clean water and to clean up old environmentally damaged sites...to hold the people/companies who caused the problems responsible and accountable to pay for their environmental damage.

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At times the "environmentalism movement" lacks common sense. All off shore drilling is not bad, all mining is not bad -- employment and economic development are essential while following best practices to avoid polluting and damaging the land or water.

Perhaps an economic ombudsman is required to help both sides arrive at common sense and responsible solutions to Licensing and Permitting of mines, off shore drilling etc. to ensure the environment is adequately protected and at the same time ensures employment and economic opportunities are not unduly impeded.

In my present position I have called companies to account and brought environmental situations to light that have been ignored for sometime. I am not afraid of controversy and so far have been able to negotiate effectively to achieve the right results while maintaining a good relationship with the companies involved.

If we can clean up long standing environmental problems and move forward with sound environmental stewardship and economic sensitivity we will improve the quality of life for all residents of the NWT for years to come.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

As described under question 2. There are new technologies for producing energy that should be explored. The cost of electricity is much too high and more cost effective ways of supplying electricity should be provided. There are new technologies that can create employment in supplying electricity and heat for homes and businesses in each community. Limited training is required. Tourism can be enhanced by simply advertising on Ice Road Truckers and Ice Pilots -- we are missing the boat here, tourism can also be increased by providing free internet at our airports and other airports across Canada and the US that includes a 2 minute video on the North that must be watched in order to obtain the free access, short video clips to be shown before movies on planes, theatres etc. - promotion of what is available in NT that is not available elsewhere - pure air, pure water, landscape, fishing, arts, northern lights, the culture, etc. Manufacturing and exporting of products and services that make use of natural abilities, raw materials, and unique needs in construction and energy.

We need to implement education, if this is not already being done, on alcohol and drug education starting in Jr. High and continuing through High School and College to encourage a healthy life style so the workers of the future have a sound work ethic and are healthier in all respects than the present generation of workers.

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What are the needs that are specific to each region and what needs are common? The first step is to define the needs. What resources do we have presently to meet these needs and what is required to train people so the needs can be met on a local level? Are the regions willing to cooperate and work together? Can ethnic and tribal differences be put aside for the betterment of the the NWT for all?

Are community leaders willing to listen to a new message of self sufficiency and independence through entrepreneurial efforts - profitable small businesses?

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best - the opportunities, natural resources, stability due to Federal funding

Worst - attitude of entitlement, lack of vision - but these can be overcome. The cost of housing and utilities discourages some well qualified people from applying for employment in the NWT.

Submission # 20

Comments:

My husband and I, have lived and worked in the North since 1998; living in Norman Wells, Tulita, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. My husband and I decided to raise our family here; we have bought a home and invested ourselves in the North. We support local business and airline carriers when possible and have truly embraced a life that balances work and play. My husband is an avid outdoors man and is instilling in our child that same love of the outdoors. The North has been good to us; it has provided us with secure jobs, the ability to own a home, start a family, and make friends that we will have for life. We have had experiences in remote communities and with people of many different cultures. We feel privileged to have discovered the beauty and limitless opportunities the North has to offer. We hope that our daughter will realize how lucky she was to grow up in Canada's Last Frontier.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I truly hope that the overall landscape remains the same as it is today. The beauty of the North is that we have every amenity we need for a sustainable and enjoyable life, yet within 10 minutes you can be "away from it all" as you are lighting a fire on a small island and hearing your children squeal with laughter as they explore wilderness.

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2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

I think we need to stay on course by empowering/encouraging our leaders to build environmentally sound and sustainable working and living spaces. As an individual I am prepared to make life choices that support this view by cutting back on waste, recycling where possible, encouraging my child to live an active and healthy lifestyle, participating in community events, commuting and remaining a one car family. I also strongly believe that you must respect nature and always leave it as it was found or more pristine if possible.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I have concerns that in the territory citizens have too much access to their MLA's and that MLA's make unrealistic demands on the Minister's. I don't believe that the common citizen should be able to make a complaint to an MLA and have that MLA in turn demand a response from a Minister. I think that residents take advantage of the access and that their expectations are unrealistic, it creates a dependency.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

This generation needs to ensure that a balance is found, that the wilderness spaces we have are protected and that the city does not grow outside its limits. We need responsible development, we need responsible citizens and we need Northerners who respect wildlife. I think that the government will have to make some unpopular decisions and live with them. The short outburst of anger will pass and we will all be better off for it.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We need to remember that the term "Northerners" - reflects all people who live, work and commit their lives to the North. Entry to many jobs in the north is limited by race and more focus needs to be placed on what truly defines an individual as a Northerner and that isn't what aboriginal group they belong to.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The access to wilderness is our best feature.

The reverse discrimination is our worst. (being non-aboriginal can be a challenge when job seeking)

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Submission # 21

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I was surprised to read that fewer Claim beneficiaries now work for government than 5 years ago. My vision of the NWT in 20 years would be a mutually- or co-governed NWT, with aboriginal participation eventually leading to self-government, while continuing to act as part of Canada - I'm convinced that self government doesn't have to lead to dis-infranchisement, but instead can be collaborative.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

I'd like to see an increased effort to engage First Nations, and in particular aboriginal youth, in an effort to build upon the existing collaborative environment of co-governing that exists today. Until we get to that point, our efforts to govern, such as restrict inharvest on Barren-ground caribou, is compromised and contentious. I think there's room to merge Traditional Knowledge with science, and this kind of collaborative environment is the only way it can progress and succeed.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

From comment #1, today there are fewer First Nations GNWT employees. For our consensus government to sustain itself, we need to encourage an increased participation by aboriginal peoples, at all levels. I'm encouraged by people such as Leeroy Andre who have worked hard to ensure their participation and position themselves to have a positive influence.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

I was in forestry for years...and I learned to value 'the working forest'...in other words nature is wonderful, but people have to eat too. I think the development of the NWT's oil and gas is inevitable. We have an opportunity now to shape what the eventual outcome will be. We've made some headway in evaluating the potential impact of the MVP...and the highway infrastructure to support the MVP. We need to build on that.

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5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Build an integrated development plan that assesses the risks and benefits of development. Rick Wind's geomatic section in Yellowknife is part of the foundation of that integrated plan - in so much as the creation of the new Spatial Data Warehouse and Land Use Framework that will support decision-making based upon a common theme or reference. This will better prepare us to face the facts; the price of development in some cases may be too high to warrant it.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best: beauty, nature, remoteness, unspoiled landscapes, some of the last intact, undeveloped and non-fragmented ecosystem left in the world. Good people, fascinating mix of cultures.

Worst: GNWT has done a great job of getting access to health care for people in spite the remoteness. The remoteness and isolation of some communities makes collaboration difficult.

Submission # 22

Comments:

This is a good opportunity for all NWT residents to respond - however, we are mostly unimpressed with government Canada-wide. I have asked my 5 children to respond, but I doubt they will as they don't trust government.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

I hope that affirmative action will have served its purpose and that all residents will be treated in the same manner.

The summer student programme should be changed so that all students who have attended K-12 in the NWT should be treated the same regardless of whether or not they are aboriginal. 30 years ago, there was a definite disparity; however, today, students attending school all have access to the same materials regardless of their ethnic background. The affirmative action could be P1 = students who have attended K-12 in the NWT; P-2 = students who have attended some schooling in the NWT; P-3 = all other students who have no schooling in the NWT.

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2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

Educate, educate, educate. Tony Whitford, at one of the school graduation ceremonies, asked the students that when they left, they should travel, learn and come home - we need them. This is so true. The youth is our future and has been since forever. They will be paying for my retirement.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

While we're known for consensus government, we actually do not practice that. Just listen to the ordinary MLAs bellyache because they are left out of decisions. When I attended meetings in the communities - be they were Hamlet, Church or community meetings, they were not adjourned until EVERYONE was onside. This does not happen 'in the House'. In fairness, it cannot; otherwise, any progress would not be made. I do not want to see party politics, but let's not fool ourselves that this is consensus.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

Conservation is used as a catch-all term. We need jobs, but it seems that the pipeline and mining are all that we're holding out for. It's important that we protect our land and resources - the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a wake-up call to all of us. Tourism is not viable as it's so expensive to travel north and we residents are not proud enough of our communities to keep them clean. Sports hunting and fishing depend upon cycles that we don't have much control over.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

We should look at other circumpolar countries - Norway Government owns the north sea oil development - we should not be too quick to sign over to the oil companies.

Instill a sense of pride in our residents - we have so much garbage littering our streets and communities.

Find a way to control our garbage - Europe has major incinerators that can reduce garbage to a fraction of its volume. It's great that we are finally turning to recycling. Although it's very expensive, the alternative is just as costly - just in a different format.

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6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

The best features are the people. We are a very cosmopolitan group of citizens. No matter what community you reside in, residents are made up of aboriginal Canadians, southern Canadians, American, European, Asian, South American, Eurasian people. Due to this, we are more relaxed and tolerant than many of our southern relatives. We are fortunate to live close to Nature. Living in small communities makes us better neighbours to each other.

The worst would be our tendency to neglect what we have and lose it.

Submission # 23

Comments:

I'll just mention some things that have come to mind after the conference.

Summer student employment should be summer student employment. Any person born in the NWT and going to school should have priority over somebody who is a casual worker. Affirmative action status should first apply to students first, once all positions have attempted to be filled with students then if necessary one would go and look into the casual pool. This is a policy that would not cost much to change. Some may be opposed to it, if possible raise their initiative to become a full time employee or get some additional education as well.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I would like to see a literate and respectable north that can function without so much hand holding from the NWT Gov or the Federal Gov.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

one thing i thought of was:

Literacy in the north is pretty terrible. I'm almost certain there would be a correlation between low illiteracy and depression. Somebody who can't read, can only get certain kinds of jobs, of which there are only so many. Somebody who can't work depends on the government for their money and has no hope of change in the future. This idleness and hopelessness may possibly lead to depression, substance abuse or suicides. I don't know how this can be done or how many generations it will take to raise the literacy and unemployment up to "acceptable" rates in the smaller communities. Another possibility would be to "refocus" the north into the larger communities (Inuvik, Yellowknife, Simpson,

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Hay River and Fort Smith) with somewhat functioning economies so they may be part of the growth.

It is my understanding that in the smaller communities there is not a lot of possibility of growth. The unemployment rate is very high, as well as illiteracy and the only jobs that are available are those provided by the government. There does not seem to be a way to eliminate the dependency on the government in these small communities. If you are a teenager in a situation like this, it is pretty depressing. Is there a point to living if you don't like what you have and you feel unable to change it? Maybe this is why our suicide rates are so very high. A working functioning community has to have a working functioning economy with opportunity, and growth. Bring these communities somewhere that is functioning (maybe not perfectly but whatever) give them opportunity, and if the "invisible hand" (the market / capitalism) works, maybe they won't be so reliant on the government. Maybe the NWT won't be so reliant on Ottawa.

If some say this could destroy the uniqueness of certain places or destroy our culture; i feel like this is an age where development and our culture are not mutually exclusive.

- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
- 6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?**

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Submission # 24

Comments:

In years to come, many of you will be leaders in your community and out Territory; if you had the chance to be the Premier “even for a day“ what role would you see for yourself? What would you try to achieve and how would you do it?

If I was Premier for the day, I am not too sure if I would make any radical changes. Being a politician is a skill. While everyone may not like you, the Premier must still make a conservative effort to build relationships with all governments including those in our very backyard. Although aboriginal governments in our Territory are not as structured as the British Columbian or Albertan governments they are still governments with law and governing bodies and deserve the same respect we show other provincial governments. This should not exclude them from the Territory’s attention or relationship building capacity. This is one thing I would try to encourage and maintain if I was Premier for the day. Making a phone call, even to a person you may not like, shows your ability to go above and beyond your role not just as Premier but as a human being.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

In 20 to 30 years I hope the Territory will continue to grow and prosper without the constraints of the federal government. While we may believe we are free to make our decisions, much of what we decide hinges on what our federal parents decide for us. As a Territory we should be making our own decisions, however, we are not. Provinces are able to run their own affairs without the pressures of the federal government. We are not given this liberty. In order to provide the best services and programs to our residents we must assert our sovereignty to make our own decisions on our own terms. Without this assertion we are simply an ineffective government, without rights to decide for ourselves what is best for our Territory.

While other Canadian citizens enjoy the luxuries of roads, affordable living, and access to fresh produce the NWT is not as fortunate. We live in one of the most expensive and desolate areas in the country. Our Northern communities such as Tuktoyaktuk or Tulita are not accessible by road year round and flights in and out of the communities are extremely expensive. When I talk about the cost of 2 Liters of milk or how many communities still receive water by a water truck to someone in the South many think I am crazy. We live in third world conditions and this is simply unacceptable. We must continue to build infrastructure in our smaller communities in order to move our Territory forward. Government housing, welfare, and handouts from the government do not send out the right message to our youth. I have heard many people say,

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“Why would I work if I could pay \$32 a month to live in a Government house.” This is not the message we should be sending to our residents. We need to provide jobs instead of welfare checks.

Our economy needs to grow and expand. In your speech to the Deton’Cho youth, you stressed the importance of giving youth the opportunity to succeed. You continued to say that our Territory is no longer invisible to the global economy and that we are major players in the world. While I do not agree with this statement completely I do believe we have many things other countries’ want and need such as clean water and natural resources. In order to move our Territory we must invest in building infrastructure, creating jobs, and educating our youth. This is what I hope for our Territory in the next 20 to 30 years.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

In order for our Territory to move forward in the ways I previously described, we need to be united and speak with one voice. While this is the motivation behind the Northern Leaders’ Forum and the Creating Our Future Together initiative, you must also understand all territorial residents have their own agendas. If you were to ask a non-aboriginal resident what they thought of aboriginal governments or what the role of an aboriginal government is, what would they say? While I can only speculate what the resident might say I would argue that many would not be able to answer this simple question. Your role as a territorial government is to educate the Territory’s population about these types of relationships. While these relationships between the GNWT and local aboriginal governments may not always be favourable, the GNWT must continue to try. As a territorial government, we must also continue to close the gap between the success of non-aboriginals and aboriginals in our Territory. When I talk about ‘we’ I am including myself.

As a post-secondary student at a premier American institution I believe my role in the Territory’s success is just as important as yours. AFN Chief Shawn Alteo once said if we don’t open the doors to education we are only opening a jail cell. In the NWT our education system has failed our people not because we don’t care but because our system is simply not made for everyone in our Territory especially aboriginals. While I do not believe we have the resources or capacity to build a University in the North at this time, I do believe we can build the capacity to successfully graduate our aboriginal people at a higher level than they are currently are. If you look at statistics in our Territory and across the country, aboriginal people lag behind their non-aboriginal counterparts in every category: health, high school graduation rate, and job retention.

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Without a healthy aboriginal population, the Territory will not move ahead. Instead of recruiting outsiders to our Territory we need to educate our own. Like elders have told me before we cannot rely on others to make changes for our people – it is up to us to make these changes. While I am unsure at this point whether or not I will return to the North, I am optimistic things will change. This place is my home and always will be.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government is a tricky question because there are many positives and negatives to this system of government. You can argue that consensus government mirrors traditional forms of aboriginal governance. However you can also argue that consensus government does not allow for 'modern' politics to take form. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut are the only two territories that still govern by consensus government. The Yukon Territory and the rest of the Provinces use party politics. If you look at our current system of government it allows for individuals to run for government positions without the constraints of party politics, which is a positives. Individuals can run in their particular ridings with allegiance to their own area. While I do not have much to say about consensus government I think this is an important question to ask. What are the positive and negatives of consensus government and is it really working for the NWT?

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

This is an important question to ask: how can we be economically savvy without compromising the state of our traditional homelands. In describing the sale of aboriginal land an elder once said what did we get from selling our land money - money goes away but our land is forever. While I agree with this statement I also believe we need to forward thinking as aboriginal people. We must develop our lands in the most environmentally friendly way and as times change our relationship with our land also change. Without economic development, we will never move forward. If we do not make the decisions to develop our lands someone else will make this decision for us.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We need to educate our people. We need to create jobs that are sustainable and stimulate areas of the economy we normally do not invest in. We have a lot of potential but potential does not mean anything if we do not invest in it.

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6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

I think one of the best features of the NWT is our land and the fresh beds of water we sit on. The worst feature of the NWT is our isolation.

Submission # 25

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I would like the NWT to be totally self sufficient and to contribute accordingly to Canada in every way.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

We have to educate the rest of Canada and the Federal Government that it costs many times more money per capita to carry out government programs in the NWT. Furthermore, we have to educate the southern NWT that it costs more money to carry out government programs in the Beaufort Delta than in the southern NWT.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Because of the low population of the NWT, our system of consensus government is the best. Constant public information and request for public input and scrutiny on every important issue will make this system of government sustainable.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We need to assure the population that conservation measures are part of economic development and vice versa and come up with longer term plans, for example, how will the land be recaptured when a mine closes?

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

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We need to hire more government staff in the communities and not rely on private business to carry out program delivery. We need to make sure the education system prepares the students for trade entrance instead of university entrance.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best features of the NWT are the land and its people. The worst features are the communities, buildings and garbage strewn about.

Submission # 26

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

- A strong sustainable economy even if we have depleted our non-renewable diamond and mineral resources.
- Lots of well-maintained parks and green space in and around the city.
- Lots of walking and biking trails and routes. These can encourage a healthier lifestyle as well as decrease emissions from vehicles.
- A strong cultural presence, both traditional aboriginal cultures and other cultures present in the north.
- A clean and safe downtown Yellowknife.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

- Less economic reliance on non-renewable resources such as gold and diamonds.
- More tourism promotion and maybe the development of more activities for tourists visiting Yellowknife. Hopefully tourism could provide a renewable income for the Territory and encourage natural and cultural conservation.
- The conservation of green space in and around the city.
- Increased efforts to clean up downtown. The new cigarette and recycling bins are great. Too many people I talk to aren't comfortable walking alone downtown because they have been harassed even during the day by people who seem to have been drinking.

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- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
 - Put work into the education system with respect to drop out rates so that future generations will have the education necessary to do more than basic labour. This may allow us to fill more existing higher-paying jobs with northerners in the future.
- 6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?**

Best:
The natural beauty of the north. Our cultural diversity, with people of so many cultures coming to live here.

Worst:
High drop out rates. Jewison (1995) reports that 76% of students in the NWT leave school before graduating grade twelve. Social problems such as drugs and drinking.

Submission # 27

Comments:

- 1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?**

That everyone living in the NT to have an eco-conscious lifestyle to protect our fragile environment; that newcomers respect the lifestyle and adapt to it during their stay here. Sustainable Development being a key focus. I would also like to see Northwest Territories name changed to Denendeh to reflect the homeland of the Indigenous Aboriginals, like Denmark is to the Danish as an example. Time to put colonialism where it belongs....too much damage has been done.
- 2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?**

Anything can be attainable and achievable if you have the passion to make it happen and through Education and Awareness. Clearly identify what the issues are and provide solutions to make things happen. If you don't like the

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way things are, change it to improve life for the better. Don't just complain, offer solutions, and make changes for the better.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government is a whole lot better than political party ideologies. In fact, current system needs to incorporate aboriginal governance, indigenous aboriginal governments need to have a significant role in the governance of the northwest territories.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Leave enough renewable and non-renewable resources and good governance to carry future generations. The northwest territories with its abundant resources and basically clean environment could be better managed to disallow further exploitation of our resources and resource revenues by multinational companies and federal government.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Educate and train northerners throughout the northwest territories, whether it is for a traditional/cultural; wage; or technological economies.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best features are the land and water and the long winters and short summers; the cool and pristine environment; and the unique cultures/traditions.

The worst feature being poverty in every community, poor living conditions, poor health services...and so on.

Submission # 28

Comments:

I believe the Sahtu Region should be treated as that, a separate and distinct region with its own regional office of government departments both federal and territorial. I also believe this region should be connected to the rest of Canada by a all season road as soon as possible.

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1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I see the NWT as a territory of diverse peoples who are committed to helping their youth become educated and trained, with the leaders been educated also. The leaders coming from the people who speak for the people. With communities making education and training a worth while goal and a priority.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

It can be achieved by educating the youth now, giving them the tools to become better parents, community members and citizens of Canada.

Getting them to understand that in reality we are all one. We must work and learn as one, to become strong. The needs of the group must come before personal gain.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I think this type of government will eventually fade away because it does not represent the population as a whole. People see it as a way not to make big decisions but just to talk.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

A legacy of educated children who are leaders in their own right, who respect their environment and each other. A legacy of protection of your children and youth, elders and disabled. A society that protects the weakest and stand up for all people.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We need to train our youth, and move forward with big dreams, like the MGP and the Mackenzie Highway. We must give the people a chance to grow not be hindered by lack of education, and small mindness that comes from living isolated lives seeing only their individual needs not the community or region as an whole.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best features- Natural Beauty, the people, the unlimited resources.

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Worst- the Isolation, lack of education and the ill treatment of youth who are trapped in a live not tof their making.

Submission # 29

Dear Premier Roland,

I'm writing this letter in response to the letter you sent out July 30th. That letter called for youth input into the future of our territory.

I think that one of the most important things to consider when receiving feedback from youth, is that although we are often quick to condemn the actions of those older and more experienced than ourselves, we have a very unique perspective of the modern world. We, the youth, are still searching for our path, and because of this we want to leave all doors open. We want opportunity. This is what the government, and many youth groups are trying to give us, but still there is something missing. For every great leader that we see emerge from our territory, so many youth balk at the responsibility and choose to remain living unemployed at home.

It can be hard for us to learn the responsibility that we need for our future, especially if we haven't learned it at home. Many parents these days love their children so much that they forget that youth need to be given challenges, risks, and regular work in order to succeed as adults. As much as these parents might like to keep their children at that age forever, time forgets no one, and with the exception of Peter Pan, we all grow up. If youth are not given challenges, risks, and regular work the world will be an impossible and intimidating place as adults. The most pressing issue facing the next generation, is building responsibility so that they may excel at whatever opportunities they are given in the future, be these at home, school, or the workplace.

How do we as a society, the North in particular, teach responsibility? That is the big question, and unfortunately I don't have an answer for you- at least not yet. I'm working on a program called "The Ts'uah Young Leaders Program" where I will attempt to teach responsibility and team building to youth in Nahanni Butte. The youth are aged 9-16 and will meet on Fridays to plan their hiking trip the following weekend. Everyone will share the responsibilities in camp. This also gets many of the youth out of the community when substance abuse is at its worst. I am not writing about this as a publicity stunt, but rather to sum up some of my ideas. I think that we need to support more outdoor programs, by people who have proven they are at the top of their class in terms of responsibility and compassion. These programs need to put youth in situations where they are forced to consider what role and responsibility they have in a team.

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I hope that this may give you some new ideas about the youth of the Northwest Territories, or perhaps just a different perspective. Either way, I would be more than happy to receive feedback on this, or to speak with you about other issues concerning youth in the future.

Sincerely,

Bhreagh Ingarfield (Age 18)
Nahanni Butte, NT

Submission # 30

Comments:

Unity and cooperation as Canadians are ideals to strive towards.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

The majority live in the major urban areas , same as down south . That leaves some of us in smaller communities with greater opportunity to enjoy the land without crowds.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Jobs are needed. People need to regain their dignity and self respect , fend for themselves and stop the dependence on government hand outs.

I got trained, volunteered to get experience, got a job, pay my own way through life.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Dont believe concensus will work as each first nation gains autonomy and every minority gets special priveleges. it's tearing the fabric of Canada apart. a land of equal opportunity has become one of reverse discrimination ; against working , male, educated,Canadians of European descent.

Stop greasing the squeaky wheels and loud mouths in society.

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4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We are the richest area in Canada with untold wealth in resources undeveloped. This includes quiet palces, clean air and water as well as the gold in them there hills..

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Promote education and training.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best: the wilderness experiences.

The worst: The people that abuse alcohol and drugs and cause needless crime of all manner. Show no mercy to drug dealers and bootleggers; especially those that target youth.

Increase all fines and penalties in the courts system. punitive justice is needed as a deterrent.

Submission # 31

Comments:

Some of the questions ask about our wishes, but in reality we do have limitations in money, time and people to do the work to bring these changes about. Overall, strive for more opportunities to bring people together to find commonalities, build working relationships, listen to others and try hard to get some of these ideas done. Best of luck.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

1. Land claims completed and functioning.
2. Healthy resident population (physical and mental well-being).
3. Healthy wildlife population (carbou, fish et al.).
4. Education and literacy levels have increased, more advanced education programs/degrees offered in the north
5. PAS completed and MIneral Expl. and Development areas established.

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6. Land Use Plans completed with "Areas for future development" clearly defined.
7. Mine site clean-ups completed and history preserved for future.
8. NWT defines areas through regional govt and self govt consultations and promotes itself as "Open for business" not closed til we figure it out.
9. NWT communities have paved roads (main arteries and airport routes to centre of town).
10. Work on devolution done.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

1. Establish strict timelines/deadlines to meet and stick to them. If federal govt cant meet deadlines establish a penalty fine so that the delay dollars can help fund cost overruns to keep moving forward.
2. Improve social counselling work in communities and schools. Promote healthy lifestyles, physical exercise built into work and school days. Free access to basic exercise classes for youth and seniors.
3. Wildlife monitoring surveys to include aboriginal hunters and guides. Widespread testing of fish, wildlife for contaminants.
4. Improve relevancy of course curriculum to students and offer new programs in earth science/geology, mineral exploration, mining, business, GIS, social work, tourism development, wildlife monitoring.
5. Completed PAS by 2020.
6. Offer Land Use Planning workshops and have guest speakers present completed examples from established areas ON, BC, AB.
7. DIAND funding for minesite clean-ups will taper off and majority of sites are remdiated. Ongoing monitoring of Giant, Colomac, Ekati, Diavik, Snap, Prairie Creek, Nechalacho etc.
8. Diamond mine closures spark new quest for "Where will future jobs come from?" Rare metals or some other commodity not considered yet. Large effort required to attract business and exploration back to NWT may be taking effect 30 yrs from now.
9. Two new communities per year will have 5-10 km of paved streets completed.
10. Mlning Recorders Office will be better integrated. Self govt will be established in numerous areas and will need better understanding of process and will need to work together. Land manager from each self govt may be put in place in new MRO

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11. Aboriginal self-government will be playing larger role in structure of overall government.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government reflects old-style of decision making and gathering public opinion and what is best for overall population or community. It may no longer serve us well and may be more of a hindrance to getting things done in the future as self government will bring more people around the table to make decisions. Population may lean towards party politics to replace consensus government. Within the next 10-20 years, consensus government will most likely be replaced with party politics.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Conservation has been given the number one priority over the last several decades and within the next 10 years, communities will have finished working out the protected areas, wilderness and parks areas for the future. All current and future developments are scrutinized with high environmental standards. Knowledge about economic viability and the cost to proponents as a result of lengthy delays needs to be dealt with more carefully because the loss of projects/opportunities can impact NWT and Canada.

Make sure decisions made today to create parks and wilderness areas do not permanently close off opportunities for tomorrow.

Keep fiscally responsible so debt to future generations doesn't get out of hand.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Many northern jobs revolve around our natural resources. Engage youth in learning about NWT earth science. It is a very broad field and many ties exist with culture and traditional life, so many interesting pathways and careers can emerge to build on our current knowledge. The geologic time scale stretches over 4 billion years of earth history and our NWT cultural and human history is intricately tied to the land. It is a good fit for northern youth to learn more about their culture but also to put it into context with the history of our earth. Our earth provides us everything and the natural resources we use are found by geologists. We could use more northern-based geologists to help in the research and exploration of a sustained supply of natural resources to aid our economy and keep jobs flowing to the north for a vibrant and healthy future. Excite kids with science because the microscope is being focussed on the

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north in terms of issues like climate change, sovereignty, and resources and their careers can lead to studies in their own backyards.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

Best features:

- Natural beauty and landscape
- Access to wilderness areas
- People of the north
- Geology/rocks/resources are world-class
- Potential for discovery is high and exciting (new plants species, animals, minerals, fuel, ancient life etc.)

Land area is vast, under-explored and holds much promise for the future.

Worst features:

Uncertainty for development and exploration.

In limbo for next 10-20-30 years, noone knows when or for how long?

Negative view towards development.

Lack of support for mineral exploration.

Tarnished image for mining and exploration companies even though great changes have been made in the last decades to improve practices. All companies treated as negative players instead of leaders in their industry and outstanding corporate citizens. Pendulum has swung too far against the industry, work needs to be done to foster and encourage companies to do work in the North. We are resting on the good-fortune of the three diamond mines with little interest in other companies looking for the commodities of the future. Some mineral incentives may be needed to win this back in the future.

- Lack of respect by some recreationalists, damaging wildlife areas with skidoos, boats, offroad vehicles etc.
- Social issues need further work (dealing with abuse, addictions, FASD, lasting effects of residential schools).
- Adequate housing, infrastructure, roads in some communities.

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Submission # 32

Comments:

Here we go again. Asking us questions. When are you going to start giving us the details of the last 5 or 6 meetings with the people that were held. Promises by contractors to share that info has yet to be met. It is making people believe that the GNWT is paying political lip service and then making the decisions it wants to make and people are becoming frustrated with the process. ie - Disabilities forum, social reform, energy planning in communities, privatization of NWTPC, employee surveys and on and on. It is great that you are listening but you need to share with people who have given you their voice. These questions are cute but too generic. You could simply go back to departments and review statistics to gain the answers you need to move forward.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I want it to be clean. I want sustainable jobs for our people. I want to be able to have green spaces in every community. I want to be able to purchase food that is fresh, reasonably priced. I want to have vibrant communities that attract people not just for money but for the long term. I want children born in the North to be able to get a real education and be educated by people born here.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

I believe we must relook at hire from within, reactivate a real apprenticeship program that comes from the high school, is supported by the college and employer incentives that are real. We must stop socially passing our kids. We're tying their and teachers hands when we do this. We must educate our workforce from the bottom up and not the top down. We must make basic needs be met and not on an as/when basis. There must be knowledge sharing with the public after being asked for their voice and we must use the people who are on the frontlines to tell us the problems and the solutions not Southern experts. WE keep recreating the wheel and we know what has to be done, there must be more of a public voice towards the Federal Govt who are the reason we are not moving forward.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

It has good and bad points. It creates problems when people put their personal agendas first and forget about who put them there. We need to make the top of govt as accocountable as the bottom of govt. It is hard to watch someone work 8 years and earn a lifelong pension when people at the bottom struggle for 20+ years and receive little for that effort. Govt. for the people by the people must

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listen to all sides without recriminations for speaking out. There can be good govt. but it must be fair and open to listening and doing things more creatively.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

A solid health care system, a fair system that looks at residency before the colour of one's skin on all levels. The distinction of being willing to create long term lives here over 2 or 3 year stays. A college that does more than upgrade. A fair market for recreation services, flights in and out that cost more than international travel eliminated. Training and increasingly knowledgeable work force. A cradle to death life that is rich, cultural and attainable.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Stop hiring people from the south and start mentoring your older employees to move into management. Give people born here equal PY1 status. Slap a 5 year residency requirement onto education grants, expect people to have a background in boards they apply for and force boards to follow GNWT practices for operations. Start cooperating with unions to ensure low end staff are being well treated and not a bitter attitude towards employer. Clean up the hospitals and the health care system. Stop doing mega projects all at once. Do them in stages. If you want bridges start with small ones and work up until you have expertise to use from home. Did we really need all southern crews to build everything in Inuvik this past 2 years while local people out of work watch. Start healing the people. Institute upgrading for UCEP at home rather than paying for it down south. Inject the colleges with money so people can do correspondence courses and upgrading at every campus. Put the Govt. training into the colleges.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The North is a quiet place that is great to raise children up to 10 years of age. It sucks for retirement due to utility costs. WE have great camping but low level parks. We have communities that lack population bases to be able to start and sustain businesses. Our airfares are terrible in comparison to the South and companies like North Mart are not putting back into the North. When a family of four is spending over 500.00 to eat and 300.00 a month to have water, power and garbage something is very wrong. We have a crappy court system that does not support wholistic healing of our youth rather they alienate families and there is no special consideration of past education, problems or futures for these youth. Our RCMP contain few northerners and most of our top level people are transplanted southerners with less than 5 to 10 years in the North making bad decisions from the top to the bottom. Working in the North is

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stressful and yet it can be rewarding. No one talks to the low end employees to find out if we are satisfied. There is little future for Youth and drugs and alcohol are saturating our small communities. LPeople from small places are moving to big places and swamping the job market. We watch Harper come to Inuvik 5 times and give us nothing and our leaders sit by and allow this to happen.

When I came here, everyone was equal and work was easy to find. If you had a high school diploma you could go places. I watch my son languish after doing this. It is becoming a trend that our boys are going to alcohol and drugs and then to jail by their mid 20's. They see no future here. Of his class of 88 almost all are gone because they cannot find work at home. This is shameful. Inuvik is becoming the home of Eastern Canada. There is very little homegrown talent running the place. The mayor is a Nova Scotian, The Principals are Nova Scotians, 3/4 of the staff is from Nova Scotia at both schools and people in the community have stopped applying on even Ed. Asst. jobs because only nova scotians are hired. Even arts and crafts are being infiltrated. These people leave and their families send their daughters and sons who eat up our SFA money and prevent kids like mine born here find a future here.

What is good. The arena. The library. The level of internet. The trees and the greenness of the place. I like that we have pavement but we still have trees. I like that we have a beautiful park by the river but we still have people going to bush camps. I like that the number of playgrounds are increasing. I like the energy alliance home evaluations although there is more that they could be doing helping homeowners who keep towns afloat. I like that the town has grown but it disturbs me that more young people are afraid to settle here because they see no future here, Yes there are buildings going up but without local participation. I don't like the freight rates. I don't like that needs are not being equitably distributed. I don't like that the high school is not what it was when I went there. Overall we are still seen as people who don't know how to take care of ourselves and that our opinions particularly by the GNWT are not publicly open. Yes we get to speak but not one of the last years meetings has been publicly mentioned once it has occurred. I dislike that People who live here have no say in matters more so than people who come here for money and leave within 5 years without contributing to the North. And that includes our leaders. I want to retire here and give back to the North but when I look at the cost of living here as a senior I can't find a way to make it work. I want my kids and their kids to stay here but they can't find a future. I want to have the services that I would have in the South. I want communities of 5,000 people that can support businesses and are not dependent on GNWT and welfare. I want to know that people who control my health care, my taxes and my food are giving me the best bang for my money. I want to stop being ashamed of the conduct of the leaders I live under.

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Submission # 33

Comments:

Most of my comments are inter-related, ie, you can't read one without reading the others. My general thesis is that we should use the natural advantages we have in non-renewable resources to build capacity and a healthy North that is proudly self-sufficient. I hope we have other opportunities to work on the development and implementation of the Vision creation. I will look forward to helping wherever I can.

Tom Hoefler

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

The NWT will be using the strength of its resources and people to be a self-sustaining "have" region of Canada. Northern and Aboriginal people will be gainfully and proudly contributing to themselves, their families, the North and to Canada, and we will have done so in a way that sustains a healthy environment.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

We need to generate excitement and recognition that looking after oneself and one's family is a responsibility that each of us gladly takes on. This is the way it once was. We are responsible for creating positive consequences for ourselves, our neighbours and our communities. We can do that by staying in school to help us get our best jobs, by living healthy, and by thinking positively. We look for government to help support this through education.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government makes it very difficult to create the vision and direction that party platforms can. Consensus government can create too many "priorities" with the result that they are no longer priorities and we spend too much effort and money in chasing, rather than focusing our efforts to make greater improvement.

Could each region of the NWT accept the responsibility to develop their own regional economic development strategy with the goal of becoming more self-sustaining by generating wealth for itself, the north and Canada? We have a protected areas strategy that is liberally funded. We should have an economic development strategy for balance.

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4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We currently are out of balance with an overbalance to conservation. Every year southern taxpayers subsidize the Northern economy with \$100s of millions of dollars that they created through their own economic development. We are not paying our own way. Is it because we have a protected areas strategy, but no economic development strategy?

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Educate, educate, educate. Educate to build capacity, e.g., solid schooling, post secondary education, business education. Educate leaders, government, board members on how economies work. Educate people to understand "the art of the possible", to reduce fears of development, etc. Use examples like the Inuvialuit and Tli Cho economic development successes. Educate businesses, industry and investors on the benefits of building local capacity.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?

The worst: We do not celebrate our successes. Land claims has us thinking regionally within the NWT, and not for the entire NWT. We need to learn to be optimistic and see "the art of the possible".

The best: we have great people who, with the right opportunity and support, can do great things. We have great resource potential. We have world class examples in the diamond mines, of what is possible through resource development - meaningful opportunities and environmental protection.

Submission # 34

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am somewhat unclear about how you will use these comments and hope they will be read and reflected upon. I hope people take time to reflect on all people's input and I hope that all people's words are attributed to them. I would love to see a document that contains mostly peoples comments and little synthesis. That way I could see what people other than myself are thinking.

Good luck with your work.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

My dream wish is that my birthplace, the NWT, will have:

- a) the lowest rate of drug, alcohol and gambling addiction;
- b) the lowest rate of diabetes;

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- c) the highest rate of healthy citizens including a health care system that fully supports a balanced health regime through participation in both western and eastern medicine and allows coverage for acupuncture and naturopathy;
- c) a community based system of justice that provides healthy intervention for married couples or others in dispute rather than lawyers who are costly and who inadvertently promote divisiveness and all the associated social and monetary costs;
- d) the highest success rate ever achieved of Aboriginal students who are healthy who enter the widest number of careers and are able to get work in the NWT with the highest level of remuneration;
- e) promotion in all fields that targets youth in school and post secondary institutions;
- f) a new way to work in institutions of government where we work in offices half a day and go into the community the rest of the day to apply what will help society progress;
- g) free child care and child care within the work place;
- h) former NWT students who left the NWT return to bring their new knowledge and expertise to create a vibrant NWT society;
- i) the lowest rate of power and heating fuel;
- j) a peaceful accepting society that promotes the unity of all different groups and peoples

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

The vision is essentially a picture with each individual at the centre and on each side of them are partners in the path towards a healthy, safe, secure, sustainable life. I wish that each person could develop their innate talents and gifts so that we could see a society that is vibrant with unique businesses and new ways of living and working.

I am prepared to help people in the workplace and outside of the workplace to gain that vision and to see how they can make a difference.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus government is the way of the future and our government could be truly consensus if it operated that way. Our government appears as a two-party system with the MLA Party and the Cabinet Party. Simplistically linear and endlessly costly discussions and decisions centre around 'have' versus 'have not' bread and butter issues that limit the emergence and exercise of

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consensus disengage and isolate members within government and society. Rededication to practicing and modelling leadership that is above reproach and fair in its decisions will make people believe in government. Perhaps we should research and reflect on our growing numbers of different communities of people in the NWT that illustrate consensus decision making.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

This is a great question as it provokes more questions. Has this generation found the right balance between economic development and conservation? What is the current balance/imbalance between economic development and conservation? What part of society is achieving this balance/imbalance? Do people think and act for the long/short term? Social scientific research by northern grad and post grads would be beneficial to answer these questions.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We have to increase the offerings of a wider variety of opportunities for Northerners so that our youth and others do not move outside of the NWT. We are losing our brightest youth and our recently retired families to the south because they desire a healthy social and economically viability environment. Part of an exciting community includes developing new business in new ways. Our power, fuel, freight and other basic living costs need to be severely reduced to offer a reasonable economic environment in which to stimulate the economy in the northern regions.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best features of the NWT are its landscape, people and sense of community, and its spirituality and culture. The worst features are that government promotes the sale of alcohol and that others promote the sale of drugs and gambling with costly, severe and long term addiction; that families are torn apart by the boom impact of the recent surge in resource development ; that we have a huge percentage of young people who appear overweight; that we are unable to get any breaks related to high costs of power and fuel and in many cases basic needs; that we are virtually left out of major decisions in the building of our society; and that we lose many of our valued youth to southern Canada. I would go on but you get the picture.

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Submission # 35

Comments:

I attended the Youth Forum in Yellowknife.

Just a few comments from the Forum. I found it to be very well organized and really enjoyed discussing and developing a vision for the north with my peers. Just a quick comment....

Pizza, Donuts, Sugar candy and Red bull.

We talked a lot about nutrition and health promotion in our group, and about places where we can save money. It wasn't necessary to feed us, we would have come to the forum without the promise of food... we were getting paid to be there, and it was fun day out of the office for us.. this was enough incentive. If we were told to bring our own lunches, we would have. Providing us with unhealthy food does not represent the forward thinking that we talked about needing to have. If our youth are the future.. then why are we feeding them junk? I went out to subway that day because there was no way I was going to eat pizza and then not be able to focus for the rest of the afternoon. As a future teacher of our youth, and a student who has worked hard to undo poor eating choices throughout my youth, I understand the need for stronger nutrition and health in our schools and community. I don't mean to be rude, I understand the thinking process, "these are students, let's give them what they like"... the days of pizza and pop are over for our students, we are a more health conscious generation than the one before us, we need to start thinking forward in that sense.

- 1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?**
- 2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?**
- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
- 6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?**

Submission # 36

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I would like to see a territory that:

- is financially secure
- uses energy wisely
- does not import energy (generates and uses its own sources energy)
- embraces and celebrates the many cultures that live in the NWT

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

This is a strange and vague question.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

I have always admired the system of consensus government in the NWT. It is particularly useful in helping the people of the NWT be represented despite the relatively small population.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Our natural resources, whether they are forests, water or energy resources, are finite. We need to ensure that we develop these responsibly. We have one chance to get it right. To get it right we need to improve our method of doing business. We need an improved royalty and tax regime so that we can be financially secure and save for future generations. We should use our financial resources to build a sustainable future. This means we need to have the infrastructure in place to generate our own energy and meet more of our own food needs.

We also need to set limits so that the pace and scale of development does not exceed our ability to manage it or destroy the natural environment we hold so dear. If a development project will use large amounts of labour from elsewhere and the profits will leave the territory then it is either too big or the timeline to develop the resource is too quick. We need to ask the questions "How much is too much?" and "What is the appropriate pace of development?"

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5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

The NWT economy should be dictated by northerners not by the timelines of southern companies. We have always been dependent on southern companies to develop our resources. We should be asking how we could develop them ourselves. We could have northern-owned businesses that develop the resources, using northern labour.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The NWT is beautiful. Our natural environment is the best feature of the NWT.

Submission # 37

Comments:

The need for a common vision is manufactured. Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I wish the NWT to look as close to what it looks today: a pristine landscape without a natural gas and natural gas liquids pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley, and without a highway in the Mackenzie Valley.

I wish our residents had much lower suicide, sexually-transmitted disease, and other disease rates, and higher high-school graduation and post-secondary competition and acceptance rates.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

The GNWT can restore student financial assistance scholarships to aboriginal and non-aboriginal students worth \$500,000 that this assembly terminated one year ago. The GNWT can stop wasting public funding on large infrastructure developments such as the prohibitively expensive Deh Cho Bridge. The Premier can { Text Removed } begin to focus on how the NWT a housing rental ceiling rate would help alleviate our high cost of living and how a carbon tax and regional cap and trade program (see BC) would mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions.

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**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

Consensus government is not unique, it's a hybrid form of cabinet government from British Parliamentary tradition. Also, any witness to a session of this assembly quickly realizes there is not much consensual about consensus government. Majority rules, not complete agreement. And stories of intense bickering and even personal threats in the Ledge that appear in our local media over the years are a testament to this adversarial style of government.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

This question is encouraging but misses the mark. Conservation is a very narrow representation of an extremely diverse environmental movement in Canada today. More parks are a great thing, yes. And this is more a federal responsibility. I care more about our sustainability. This means we cannot rely on fossil fuel resource exploitation, least our government fall victim to the petro-politics that plague Alberta and other oil-rich states in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Sustainability means moving to a low-carbon economy by focusing on our substantial renewable energy resources, such as forest or hydro. Sustainability also means becoming less reliant on mineral or oil and gas exploration because we all saw how vulnerable our economy was in the 2008 recession.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

We need to invest more in our Biomass Strategy, to create new opportunities in remote communities by investment and innovation to utilize our local wood resources to generate heat and power across the NWT. We need to address the underlying social problems that create joblessness and lack of capacity so there are Northerners apt to fill Northern jobs in all our regions.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The best features of the NWT are our rich and diverse cultural traditions that continue to thrive across our beautiful land. The worst features are the dark poverty and crime that haunts every community in this land.

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Submission # 38

Comments:

I do work for the GNWT and am somewhat limited to what I can comment on, this I feel is what I can say to add to the future of the NWT.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

20-30 years from now, the NWT should be a vibrant self supporting Territory that has a functional productive Government, that is not run by the power of the individual Ministers idea's on what or who they don't like or agree with. It should be for the better of the entire NWT and not one section of the MLA's riding

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Set aside individual differences and what each one should have to believe in and work towards making the NWT a place to be proud of.

I can work towards educating the people outside of the NWT by telling them how much potential that we have as a Territory and can achieve that by working together with all of the Land cLaims groups and Gov'ts

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus Government never worked in the NWT, mainly because of the differences of opinions and whats best for each region or individuals belief that it should be, what works for one area doesn't neccasarily work for another part of the Territory or for ones own belief in who all should agree with him or her

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

that working together in a positive and productive direction, things can be achieved and accomplished.

Education and having an open mind in what works for the better of our Territory is always an accomplishing goal

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5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

More training and education that effectively reflects what is needed to advance productively in the NWT and the rest of Canada, definitely more focus on teaching our future that a proper education is needed and not just advancing them to the next grade because that is the politically correct thing to do these days. ensure that they meet or exceed the standards of education required to enter the University of their choice.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?:

The best of the NWT is the Land and the People in it.

The worst of the NWT is the style of Gov't that the rest of the Country see's and how ineffective it is and how far behind the real world that we are. in education and politics.

Submission # 39

Comments:

Sustainable Economic Development in the Northwest Territories: if Norway can do it, why can't we?

I welcome the "Creating our future" initiative. After so many failed attempts by the federal government to create a future for the Northwest Territories, it's very refreshing to see our government taking the initiative to craft a truly "made in the NWT" vision.

In my view, the vision and accomplishments of Norway serve as a useful model and starting point for a comparable NWT vision.

Norway, by most measures, is an economic and social success story. Despite its small population, remote communities and hostile environment, Norwegians have created one of the world's richest economies in a relatively short time, thanks largely to their careful development of their oil and gas resources and a national sense of mutual responsibility. Norway has invested the earnings from the sale of its resources into education, social programs, diverse industries and has set aside a multi-billion dollar heritage fund.

While Norway has been developing its economy, it has simultaneously reduced its greenhouse gas emissions. Its renewable energy sector is a world leader in hydropower, bio-fuels, wind power and other alternate energy technologies.

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Norway's population is highly educated. As a consequence of careful, sustainable non-renewable and renewable resource development and wise investment, Norway enjoys the highest standard of living and quality of life in the world.

The parallels with the NWT are intriguing: we too have small remote communities, a difficult environment and the NWT is rich in natural resources including oil, gas, minerals and diamonds. The NWT also has very large hydropower potential. We are developing a pellet fuel industry, initiating some wind power development, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and have initiated waste reduction programs.

However, we differ from Norway in some key ways: our population is poorly educated; our communities even more remote than Norway's; our investment in alternative, renewable energy is limited; and despite oil and gas developments and diamond mines, non-renewable resource development in the NWT is relatively limited. We are in many ways where Norway was several decades ago. And, of course, the NWT does not have control over the development of its natural resources. That rests largely with the federal government. Much of the benefit of resource development flows to the federal government, not to NWT residents. All that said, the opportunity to develop a rich, sustainable, responsible economy in the NWT, like that of Norway but in accordance with the vision of NWT residents, is real, challenging, exciting and urgent.

We too can ensure that we too have responsible economic development in the context of sound environmental stewardship. We too can leverage development to build the capacity we need to achieve our vision.

But the NWT needs to act quickly. The federal government is increasingly focused on the extraction of northern oil and gas, minerals and diamond and is viewing the NWT as a northern storehouse that should be unlocked. Its primary focus is the federal interest. The interests of northerners do not necessarily receive the attention that northerners think appropriate. Decisions made in the south are often based on southern (and federal) values and no matter how well-intentioned cannot fully reflect the vision and values of NWT residents. For example, the so-called "Northern Strategy" is in effect a southern strategy for the North - and it does not, in many cases, coincide with the vision northerners have for their own future.

The federal view of the NWT at the moment is more inclined to ensuring that federal interests are addressed than in ensuring that residents are empowered and enabled to achieve their own vision, particularly where it differs from the federal view. The transfer of federal powers to the NWT will address this issue, but devolution has proven to be a very slow, cumbersome and a sometimes (internal to the NWT) divisive exercise. It is not focused on what residents want

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or on their well-being, let alone on the transfer of decision-making authority to the NWT.

So what is it that residents of the NWT want? First, they want to make their own decisions, decisions that reflect the unique blend of Aboriginal values and western technologies that is the emerging NWT. Residents want development, jobs for themselves and their kids and their grandchildren, but we do not want it at the cost of the environment or at the cost of the social fabric that knits us together. The environment has been damaged enough; the social fabric is frayed enough. Residents want to strengthen their ties to the community and to the land, not break them down further and they will be seriously impaired in their ability to do that as long as key decisions are made elsewhere, by people who do not live here.

Second, residents want economic development that benefits them. After all, it is our backyard in which these developments are taking place and it will be our backyard after the developers leave. Responsible economic development means development at a pace and of a nature that ensures maximum revenues and opportunities to locals and results in minimum economical, cultural and social harm. We want revenues to be reinvested in education, culture and social programs to strengthen the capacity of the NWT and strengthen the fabric that holds society together. We want a university and linkages to southern institutions so that our kids can get the best education possible and find rewarding work in our communities. Residents no longer want - never have - to see these jobs exported elsewhere.

Third, residents want responsible development to take place in a context of sound environmental stewardship. Among other things this means completing the conservation area network, completing land use plans, ensuring that the land and water boards and the review boards and the renewable resource boards make sound and wise decisions that reflect the views and aspirations of residents, not the objectives of developers or decision-makers elsewhere. It means developing a sound approach to land and water and wildlife stewardship. It means directing funding to NWT priorities. Residents have seen the benefits of development accrue to non-residents and they have been left with a legacy of social and environmental harm. No doubt the resource management boards will make mistakes, but they will be our mistakes, not those of others and we will take responsibility for them.

Norway has a sustainable and prosperous, resource based economy; it has a small, well-educated population; it has an extensive social safety net and a well-developed and deeply entrenched sense of mutual social responsibility; it places huge importance on training and learning and higher education; it has a clear vision of where it wants to go and what it wants to be; it has integrity. We are where Norway was several decades ago - on the cusp of change, with very important decisions to be made. Norway chose a path that has lead it to where

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it is now: one of the most successful societies anywhere. We can achieve the same in the NWT.

The NWT has the opportunity to set its own course within the Canadian fabric, a course that reflects the vision and views and aspirations of residents, one that can be created with the “strength (and vision) of two people”. It’s our future and our choice. We can seize the opportunity or we can let it go. We can set the standard for other Canadians or we can continue to let the federal government design our future for us. “Creating our future” presents an opportunity to start the dialogue.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:
see above

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:
see above

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?:
I support the consensus government approach. That said, I do think that consideration should be given to creating a "senate" directly representing the Aboriginal peoples of the NWT - perhaps two representatives from each of the settlement regions. The roles and responsibilities of this "senate" need to be considered carefully, but I think it might resolve some of the issues inherent in the current electoral system.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:
I think it's a question of ensuring responsible economic development in the context of sound environmental stewardship. Economic development needs to be responsible - economically, culturally, socially - and it must benefit the residents of the NWT to the greatest degree possible. However, economic development must be conducted in the context of sound environmental stewardship. We need to get that context right and then turn our attention to ensuring that development, when it proceeds, is responsible. The stewardship context includes completing land use plans that capture the vision of residents (not the aspirations of the federal government), completing the network of protected areas, ensuring that environmental reviews are thorough and patient and wise, and so on.

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5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

I think we need to complete land use plans for all regions and ensure that they reflect the vision and aspirations of residents. We need to complete the environmental stewardship framework. We need the territorial government and the aboriginal governments working in partnership, rather than as adversaries. We need land claims settled. And we need to ensure that when development proceeds it proceeds in the interests of NWT residents. 50% of the land base in the NWT can more than address our collective economic needs; there's no need for developers (or government) to insist on all land being available at all times for development purposes.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?:

Among the best : our people, our diverse cultures, our natural environment, our resources. Among the worst :short-sighted decisions that result in pain now and pain later; the fact that many of our communities that experience near-third world conditions; the sometimes parochial views of governments at all levels; the divisiveness that sometimes plagues communities and divides aboriginal governments and the territorial government.

Submission # 40

Comments:

I am happy to participate in this survey with the GNWT and encourage you to go another one in 5 or so years.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

I wish the same for the NWT as I do for myself in 20-30 years; to be healthy, on solid financial ground, and in control of its own destiny.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

Consultation is good but too much and you're spending your time meeting with everyone when maybe a constant theme emerges early. I think it is safe to say we as northerners want to benefit more from our natural resources therefore our vision for the future should revolve around this theme - independence.

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3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?:

My knowledge of our system of consensus government is limited. I do understand it allows for representation from a large and varied group of people who live in the north which to me is a good thing. It does concern me that our leader (Premier) can come into that position without having had a single vote.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

Ideally I would hope we could leave more for the future generations than we had for ourselves; to show them we cared more about them than us. This could be done through setting up a solid devolution framework with the Federal gov't.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

One thing that bothers me as a northerner is the diamond industry. This is a non-renewable resource which to me is not benefitting the north as much as it could be. By the time my son is old enough to understand, these mines may be closed and the revenue generated not shared as equitably as it should have or could have been.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?:

The one thing i love about the NWT is the vastness of our Territory. We have an abundance of land and lakes which I hope will remain prestine for years and years to come. The worst feature of the NWT is its cost of living. My family of 4 struggle month to month to cover our bills, power especially.

Submission # 41

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

I'd be happy with a few small changes within the next few years, and all of them have to do with government.

- I wish for leaders to lead by example. People can't fault anyone for having a different opinion from them, but they can fault someone for stating an opinion and then having no conviction for it.

- I wish for government policies to be applied equally (it seems like the stated rules are not always applied or are applied one way for some and then another way for others).

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- I wish the government would stop enabling people. Encourage self reliance rather than treating everyone like they are babies.
- Government should be more concerned with productivity and redundancy within its midst.

Some things I would like to see in 20-30 years (I wouldn't call them visions though) and in no particular order:

- Mackenzie Highway finished to the delta
- Some measurable success at dealing with problems of poverty, social issues (drug and alcohol problems, family and domestic violence, homelessness) in the NWT
- Encouraged mineral exploration. Even though minerals and mining are still more of a federal jurisdiction, a clear message from the GNWT on their stance on mining and mineral development would be good. There is always this idea of "we are open for business" but that is not the way it appears to anyone involved in mineral exploration.
- Energy sources close to home. Don't ignore nuclear in any discussion of clean energy either, along with wind, solar and hydro options
- Help for small businesses to keep them viable.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

Good direction from good management might help fix some of the above.

Learn from past mistakes. Take time to do something right rather than making time to do it again (honestly, some GNWT publications could use a good proof reader or technical editorial; there are often mistakes and sometimes contradictions that make the entire issue confusing, and really don't help your government's image!).

Being really damn lucky: the NWT was very lucky diamonds came along when they did and this particular commodity wasn't registering on anyone's radar.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?:

I'm not sure any political system or ideology is sustainable; like anything, even politics has to evolve with the times. I think consensus government works well but unfortunately personalities, egos and agendas cloud the way. I'm not sure that party politics actually work better though. Look at how many people can't tow their party's line and have to cross the floor, change parties or end up reprimanded for their view. I think that is totally wrong and I'd rather see people with independent minds than a pile of sheep running any government. With respect to our own Legislative Assembly, I do feel that some MLA's bring in too much individual constituent baggage for discussion. Rarely are these

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personal plights shared by a majority of the NWT population or even other constituents. It is simply not possible for the government to pay for everything or give everyone everything they want. I think there are much bigger issues that need debate and solutions.

I also find that I find that MLA's talk for too long to ask the same question over and over again. If you wonder why people can't follow politics or are unengaged, listen to yourselves sometime. If you talk, then have a point, get to it quickly and make the question count. I'm waiting for the day when the speaker says "no" to someone who asks permission to sum up when they've had plenty of time to state their case!

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

I learned in my social studies classes (taught in YK schools) that we need to work with what we were blessed and for the NWT that is pretty much a good helping of mineral and oil/gas wealth. I'm not sure there will be a future for future generations if we continue to shun mineral development at the rate we seem to now. You can't ignore that there is a growing feeling of disdain for mining in the north these days and I've heard very little from the GNWT other than the idea that "we are open for business" unfortunately, it has become impossible to do exploration and it is more politics, paper filing and public relations than anything.

People often suggest alternative industries to mining (farming, forestry and tourism) and people present them as "sustainable" options. Lovely ideas but are they practical or realistic as a replacement for mining and the amount of revenue it can bring in? If the north was meant to be an agricultural haven, we would be one by now. Our growing season is short. We might have the occasional fertile flood plain but for the most part, our soils are not well developed. People also forget that farming is bloody hard work and pretty well a 365 day a year job. It is not a career path that pays much or attracts many people. Gold prices this summer have been the highest in the last 20 years and the NWT, having a fabled history with gold exploration, should be crawling with companies interested in this commodity. The NWT is vast and under developed. Rules are a lot different now as far as answering to environmental issues than the past messes that people always drag up as proof of anti-development. No industry is perfect and if people don't like living with the potential for environmental problems, then they really should make the personal choice to cut out many of the conveniences in life that they enjoy. Yet if many people had their way, most of the NWT will be a protected area or park all the while enjoying all the benefits of a developed society and wanting more of what they want. I don't understand that free loading life and never will. But that is rapidly the image of the North I see in the future but I would hardly call it a legacy.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

Education is a major concern. Here are a few items that I've noticed over the years (I have had 3 kids in the school system for the last decade). Despite the notion that we need to be in line with Alberta or the rest of Canada as far as levels of education, I think that is not good enough and there may be better examples globally. Many individuals in Europe can function in 2-3 languages, yet North American schools struggle to educate most kids well in one. The NWT curriculums seem very heavy on "information", rather than skill based. There also seems to be some notion that technology makes us smarter, not sure that is true, particularly for the early grades. Learning basic reading, writing and math skills is critical and will carry any student further in their education than ever turning on a computer. I feel computers have no place in a school until middle school grades, and I know there are other parents out there that feel the same. The line between education and childcare is becoming increasingly fuzzy. We're offering pre-schools now, and anything schools can offer to parents as a "convenience" when it comes to child care makes me wonder why we just don't open up residential schools again? It seems like we're headed in that direction half the time. The value of education in society has eroded. We need parents to muster a responsible attitude themselves and promote the value of education, not look at it as daycare. I also think adults are some of the worst role models I've ever seen. We hear people all the time "hate my job and I can't work with idiots" and then we tell kids they have to get a good education so they can get a job. Well, do you think they really want one with all the crap they hear from people about their lousy workplaces? NO wonder kids seem lost! In YK, the three school boards create more problems than they solve and the expense of this many boards for barely 3000 students is unbelievable, not to mention how damaging the enrolment war has been. Its' painful to see energy, time and money wasted this way, all the while each board saying they are doing what is best for all children. We confuse learning disabilities with emotional problems/behaviour problems caused by social ills. I've seen many a kid who is capable of learning but doesn't function well at school or in a classroom because they are too full of emotion resulting from their extremely miserable home life filled with violence, substance abuse and general neglect. Yet there are kids with definite learning disabilities who do not cause behaviour problems in school yet miss out on valuable learning because a teacher is often left with the former issue. It is a no win situation. This area concerns me a lot, mostly because I've heard stories from young kids that make me shudder. These kids have experienced more anguish and grown up emotions in their short lives than many adults ever will or are prepared to cope with themselves. It kills me that many workplaces will offer assistance, support, stress leave, etc to adults when they struggle with situations at home that cause stress and interfere with their work yet society expects kids who suffer stress brought on by crappy home lives to still attend school, focus, learn and excel at their studies. Why is this?

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Consistency in teaching is also an issue. One year your child's teacher will focus on spelling or certain skills (such as grammar and punctuation), the next year teachers won't mark for it or worry about it. This is terribly confusing for kids and very frustrating for parents. As a start, and because the Auditor General seemed to indicate the Dept of Education needed to provide more oversight it might not hurt to survey parents and teachers about education and the various issues (amount of emotional needs versus actual learning needs, technology in schools, professional development, substitutes, effectiveness of teachers, the curriculum, inclusive schooling, etc). Is the GNWT aware of what parents think and feel about their children's education or how teachers feel about their jobs? It would be interesting to see the comments that come back. Unfortunately, some of these problems within the education system are the result of issues with poverty, homelessness and other social issues. I do know that lots of kids are lost because they have no one to care for them and this just leads to continued issues through their education. I don't know all the past attempts by government and the various agencies to address poverty and social issues, but I don't think bandage solutions are working either. The education system cannot replace the family for these kids.

I will admit that I find the entire issue of poverty interesting. I accept there is a measurable income level for poverty and many Canadians can't meet that with the jobs they are currently working at but there is also an abuse of fiscal responsibility on many people's part that is beyond belief. I'm more than willing to buck up extra taxes to help the people that truly need it but those that choose to waste their money also seem to cost us money eventually and I find that a little ridiculous. I do see lots of people in Yellowknife with big salaries, big homes and lots of toys saying they can't afford to live here because of the cost of living but is it the cost of living or their spending habits and lifestyle that are actually the problem? I think it always is good to keep reminding people about spending behaviour and fiscal restraint. People need to be responsible for the choices they've made in their lives.

6. What do you consider to be the best - and - worst features of the NWT?:

Best - Our isolation is a great feature that many do not appreciate. You are minutes away from quiet seclusion almost anywhere and that is something you can't buy in many big cities and over-populated areas in the world. It is not for everyone but it certainly speaks to some of us in a special way.

Worst - Some people aren't meant for small town/territory life and anonymity is something that can actually be lacking. Everyone knows your business, your relationship issues, your baggage and it can be hard to leave it all behind without leaving the north. I've known several people who have left the north for this reason alone.

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Submission # 42

Comments:

With the diversity and uniqueness of the NWT both geographically and ethnically it is very hard to have a common goal. Even just in Yellowknife for example the YKDFN have a very different vision than I do for the north. The influx of 'outsiders' from down south also affects this vision. Mind is that we remain a territory but that we get our due from the Govt. of Canada to allow us to develop or preserve as we choose.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

Really, I wish it looked like it did 20 or 30 years ago. The influx of industry and the outsiders it has brought north has changed the NWT to just another place to live and not the true north I remember. We grew too big too fast. Diamonds are not as good for us as some think they are. The revenue they generate saved us when we lost the gold but we have paid a high price. Our social structures and many traditional skills/economies suffer because of this industry. In a way these riches cost us our identity.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

As a teacher it is important to me that we teach northern kids about the north. This will insure we have true northern. We now have students that could be at any school in north America. Most teachers know nothing of the north and don't care to learn or be part of the community. If we amend our curriculum to teach northern content rather than following Alberta curriculum we will be further ahead. I teach teachers now and it is my quest to have all of my teachers make Yellowknife their home and teach northern students northern content to the fullest extent possible.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?:

Our current government needs to do what was promised to the electorate. Our politicians should be allowed to do what they feel is best once they are elected. Consensus gov. will keep this in check whereas the party politics would not allow the gov. to carry out the mandates for which they were elected.

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4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

We have degraded the environment to such a degree that our effects may be longer lasting than several generations. To overcome the ill effects of something often takes more years than we are willing to accept. The influx of transient workers makes the preservation of our environment difficult because they do not really give a shit. Caribou hunting is good example. Both aboriginal and non aboriginal see the hunt as a god given right with no regard for the herd. I have heard YKDFN members say they will hunt until the last animal is harvested as it is their right to do so. Economics/Industry should be considered after all aspects of the environment are considered or we risk the effects for generations to come.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

Best-the people

Worst-the people

Our resources are our best feature and they are predicated on the people of the NWT using them wisely. This has not always been the case. An example is the appreciation for the land yet many communities are pig pens. Others are as pristine as the bush around the community. We need to get some consistency and come to some agreements. For as long as I can remember in Yellowknife aboriginal people have distanced them selves from town people and visa versa. We need to work together and not against one another.

Submission # 43

Honourable Floyd Roland:

Thank you for the invitation to provide some of my thoughts on your questions, and while I have already provided comments to the website in the past, I have taken the time to respond again to ensure that my perspective on the future for our north is conveyed.

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1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

I would like to see a north that was able to retain our youth to work on projects that were providing benefits to northern people. We would be in a situation where we were using a blend of renewable and non renewable resources to ensure that the economy was sustainable and diverse enough to with stand the market fluctuations of the world. It would be a diverse enough economy that we were able to attract human resources and capital from outside the north that would be educated in the values of northerners.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

This vision can happen if we are able to achieve control over our resources, and at the same time we would undertake a complete inventory of our resources such that we could set a plan in place to market them in an economic manner. This would have to be done in conjunction with a transportation strategy that would provide access to these resources.

The role that each of us can play in ensuring that we achieve this vision is to plan our business and personal life in such a manner that we support one another in the north in helping to make our territory sustainable while we are awaiting devolution. In this way the same activities that take us successfully to devolution would ensure that we maximize the benefits to northerners after devolution. The last thing we want to see is the door being kicked wide open and non of the northern residents seeing any benefits from increased activities.

1) I believe that a review should be undertaken to see how we could introduce a different type of representation such that we could include aboriginal governance within the public government without adding to the various level's of government we currently have. An example of this would be that each community could designate either a chief, Metis Leader, or Mayor to represent their area(using the same electoral boundaries that we have currently). This individual would be appointed by the region, but would have had to been elected by one of the identified groups, and would in that way be accountable to the region. It would be understood that their representation on the territorial government would be to deal with territorial wide issues. In this way the representative would stay in better contact with their constituents, and we would not be adding another level of government in a small territory.

Governance overall, could continue as it is. To go to a party system would not appear to benefit the north at this time. Possibly after all land claims are settled a new model may arise that is more relevant at that time.

2) The current generation should be investing a specific portion of the current budget into long term legacy projects such that we leave the next generation with the infrastructure to provide a sustainable economy for the next generation also. An example of this is that we have an annual budget of 1.4 billion, with a capital allocation and an o/m allocation. From the

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capital budget, let's assign 15 % each year to either new capital or paydown of previous infrastructure. More specifically if we were to prioritize and wanted to develop hydro power we would have say 15 % of a 100 million to invest annually, or 15 million. We realize that 15 million would not go far on capital infrastructure, but as an annual payment on debt this would allow for significant leveraging.

- 3) First of all we need to do some long term strategizing in conjunction with all stakeholders to see what is achievable and then break it down to see what will be necessary to participate. The answer's would start out with things like , education, capital, infrastructure etc, and then once we get by this we would see things like " how do we ensure that the benefits are shared amongst the regions". To achieve the next level would require participation by each region to see how we share the benefits, instead of what we are currently seeing, which is centralization of governance and power to one area. We need to ensure that an individual that wants to return to their home community will be able to do this and still be able to access the benefits accruing to the north.
- 4) The best feature to the north is that it is still a growing economy with opportunities available to people that want to pursue them. If we were to look at other provinces it is very difficult for startup businesses to access new opportunities due to the number of " established businesses". The worst feature of the north is the lack of cohesion between a very small population as it relates to planning and maintaining economic growth such that we can sustain our population. One only has to look at the time it takes to get a project underway in the north, to realize the lost opportunities we are experiencing.

Overall, the north will remain home to most of us, and therefore we will all bear the burden of not trying to improve the way we do things, so it is incumbent upon all of us to support whatever vision comes out of this dialogue. While you may receive some suggestions that are not achievable or economic, I feel that most northerners all want the same thing- " A better north for all of us, that would allow everyone to participate".

Thank you,
Jack Rowe

Submission # 44

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

Fully devolved from Ottawa with control over resource revenues and economic development. All land claims settled with a stable land use, land tenure and regulatory regime in place. Resource and supporting infrastructure

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development, coupled with environmental stewardship. Status as one of the "have" jurisdictions in Canada and an attractive place for new employees and immigrants.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

The current government needs to make land claim settlement a priority goal in order to move forward with policies for the entire NWT. Currently there are too many regional issues to allow effective policy management for the entire territory. Education of the populace so that jobs are kept within the territory is also a top priority. I contribute by offering world class safety and technical training at the job site.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?:

The consensus government has its fingers in too many pies. It is very difficult to make priorities with so many diffuse interests available. The one advantage of party politics is more focus on deliverables to the electorate. Without an opposition in the legislature there is no motivation to point the sitting government in the right direction.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

There is too much money and attention being spent on conservation. We have policies regarding conservation but nothing for economic development. The legacy should be sustainable jobs for our children and a vibrant, diverse economy that protects and preserves the environment we enjoy so much.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

Educate. We need quality public education systems and colleges for current residents. Politicians and policy makers need to be educated about economics, resource development and the environment. The public in general needs education about economics and development to remove any fears or hesitancy about these issues.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

Our best feature is our people. Strong and able to adapt to changes in the economy.

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Our worst feature is the regionalization created by multiple unresolved land claims. We need these resolved so that the focus can return to the territory as a whole.

Submission # 45

Comments:

Direct input is valuable and I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

The NWT requires infrastructure to access its resources and to supply its population with transportation, communication as well as power, water and education needs.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

Infrastructure will always lead development, but the magnification of revenues from any input costs make this investment by governments necessary.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

This form of government is very common in small groups, native culture and works well in these situations. Examples from around the globe tell us this doesn't work as organizations grow.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

The NWT has more parks and reserved per person than anywhere else in Canada. I don't think other provinces feel they have over developed, so no, I think the balance is clearly too far to conservation.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

We need education and business development. Without mines, miners, electricians, mechanics, etc. will leave. Mines are the single largest employer of high-paying entry-level or limited skilled people in the NWT. Mines cannot be found, they need to be made which requires decades of work.

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6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

The NWT contains mineral resources second to none in the world. The consensus style of regulation delays development and provides no certainty and thus the NWT's share of exploration funds has declined from 10% of Canada's total exploration expenditures in 1998-2000 to less than 3% today. This rate of decline is un-checked and is costing jobs today and jobs tomorrow. No jobs will have our youth revert to limited education as opportunities disappear,

Submission # 46

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

More community gardens that could bring forward a Farmer's Market where northern grown vegetables can be purchased at lower cost for all and the funds can go back into the community. Bring back more community minded activities events.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

Vision : to "set up" the territories with more tourist-like things. Turn the Giant Mine area into something for tours, where there is a fee to go through, has memorabilia of the era it was productive. Showing restored pieces / rooms; and under restoration rooms.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

The consensus government style should stay as it seems to be the most logical for the area.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

Have more courses / schooling dwelling into the trades -- construction; automotive; tourism; aboriginal language cultural building showing from then to now. More involved than the Prince of Wales Heritage Museum.

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6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

The best - probably fishing (I'm not into fishing myself); more access to wilderness camping that doesn't cost a whole lot to be able to see the scenery; roads for bikes / horses to get to places as the cost of planes and also the emissions which hurt the environment.

Submission # 47

Comments:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

Biologically diverse, with healthy functioning ecosystems, completed land use plans, established federal, territorial and aboriginal protected areas. Reclaimed mine sites. Healthy wildlife populations. Sustainable industries that create jobs without harming our shared environment.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

- A real investment in a diversified economy (e.g. A green building strategy in partnership with Aurora College to train northerners in the latest green building practices, in support for the creation of a film industry, in the development of an ecotourism industry)
- Support to local governments and boards (e.g. STRONG GNWT support for the completion of land use plans and protected areas process).
- Support to local community and government workers who want to work part time so that they can spend more time on the land. A wide policy that encourages part-time work.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Consensus takes time, but it is an important part of northern decision making.

Creating our Future Together - NWT Residents and Organizations Input

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

We should not follow Alberta's lead. We should be listening to local communities and governments who have been working for decades on land use plans that would find the balance that works best for them. We should be SUPPORTING those land use plans and be proud to be supporting progressive modern land use plans that have been developed by the people who live there. We should recognize the full value of conservation and protected areas in the north over the long term.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

A strong government that recognizes the opportunities for a diverse economy that lie beyond the mining industry and supports and encourages local governments.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

Best: Clean water and healthy, functioning wildlife populations and ecosystems. Collaborative decision making processes.

Worst: Giant mine clean up, the potential for future industrial messes in the absence of good planning and regulation.

Submission # 48

Comments:

I appreciate having the opportunity for my voice to be heard on such an important subject. I really hope that some form of change comes out of this and that the direction the NWT moves in will be a positive one.

I am disappointed, however that I have no choice but to enter my name and email address. As a government employee, I need to be clear that these are my personal viewpoints and in no way do they reflect the views of my employer. I hope that even though I am an employee that I can be free to comment and provide feedback without fear of retribution or being "red-flagged".

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

A self-sustaining, thriving province with adequate funding and revenue from resources. I hope that we will have a healthy population growth and that we will work to increase tourism and attract people to move north.

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2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

I can contribute by personally promoting the north both as a tourism destination and a great place to live to friends and family who live far away and are looking for a change. My argument needs teeth, however, and in order for people to want to come here either to visit or to move, the cost of living must be reduced.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

In my opinion, the concensus style gov't does not work very effectively. It has really become an "us" and "them" scenario between members and ministers. We need to find a way to work more effectively together to ensure that the people of the NWT are all represented in a fair and equitable manner. We need to ensure that platforms are clear amongst elected officials. The best way to do that is through party politics.

"independents" in government does not help with Federal negotiations. We need a more committed and unified approach in order to be taken seriously by officials in Ottawa.

Further, as a result of concensus government (majority rules), communities get left out when it comes to projects and spending and it seems the squeaky wheel gets the oil. This should not be the case. The majority of the people in the NWT live in Yellowknife, and yet time - and time again, there is a lack of regional support when it comes to spending money here - even when it is critically needed. I can certainly understand why but it is still an issue.

We need party politics.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

I don't know if there really is a right ballance. What seems right today may not be tomorrow due to things like global warming. We can only make the best decisions possible based on what we know today and based on the experience of other jurisdictions who continue to deal with this same issue.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

First of all we need to find some way to help reduce the high cost of living so that people who come north to work stay. We need to ensure that we have adequate supply of housing available and that the costs for same are affordable. Afterall, more people means more Federal \$.

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We need to capitalize on our resources and finalize agreements to ensure that \$ from resource development remains in the north. We need to ensure that any agreements for resource developments clarify that the majority of the employees must live and work in the north. No more flying workers in/out. We need to keep the money in the north.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

Best - the relatively untouched natural landscapes which are ripe with resources, the friendly people and the sense of community among long term northerners.

Worst - the cost of living is ridiculously high. It is very difficult to support a family in the NWT because the majority of costs go towards childcare and mortgage. People routinely work 2 and 3 jobs to make ends meet and then family life suffers. There used to be a much better ballance but in recent years the cost of living has become so high that our family has even considered leaving. Members of our extended family have moved and then subsequently left simply because the cost of living was so high they weren't getting ahead.

Budget pressures on Health care and the limitations imposed on medical travel are also having a significant impact on people. It seems that the standard answer from Gov't when making a request for something is "no" and then if you fight, it will be considered. This should not be the case. The system is very adversarial and discouraging. I recognize that there are budget constraints but we need a system and a government who truly works with the people, instead of just being reactive when issues arise.

Further, the high cost of being in the north can have a severe impact on tourism.

Submission # 49

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

A Canadian success model of political, economic and cultural integration.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

This can best be achieved if the NWT ensures that the many parts are stronger as a "whole". In other words, I am uncertain that the current approach, a somewhat balkanized approach, can be sustained. Each land claim group/political group must recognize that the NWT needs to speak with one voice on the important economic issues. The current one group vs. another vs. Yellowknife will only ensure that the NWT remains a hinterland and trails the

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rest of the country. Leadership is required to bring disparate groups together. See #5 for my contribution.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

This might not be the right question. New models should be considered. Cabinet solidarity makes it unlikely that there can be much of an effective opposition. There are too many MLAs; anywhere south of the 60th parallel there would be one MLA for the entire population of the NWT. And geographic representation only means that ineffectual MLAs are appointed to cabinet by virtue of geography rather than competence.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

The Legislature should be pro development, tempered with the strongest/best protected environment & conservation practices in the country.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

This is actually relatively easy to do. Certain divisions of the GNWT (not departments), like the Health Insured Services in Inuvik, need to be decentralized to (at least) regional centres. This brings good, well-paying jobs and professionals to the regions. Professionals demand good education programs for their children, demand effective services and standards, and provide real and top-level jobs for aspiring students in the regions (to counter the saying "why stay in school ... there are no jobs in our region anyway").

Also, give parents choice with respect to high school. They will make the right decisions. MLAs most often bring their high school aged children to Yellowknife, when they are elected to the Legislature. Most parents in our communities don't have this option for their children. How about giving parents a voucher (which they cannot actually spend, but which has actual \$ value) and let them send their children where they wish, anywhere in the NWT?

The economy can only generate jobs for a skilled workforce, if that workforce has the education and training necessary to compete for these jobs. The last time the NWT really set a direction for education was the commission in the late 1970's – Learning, Tradition & Change. A new commission should be struck for 2010 and beyond. The world has changed & the NWT needs to not only catch up, but can lead. I would be willing to sit on such a commission, and would do so at no expense to the NWT (volunteer my time).

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6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:

Best: one person and or group can still make a difference in the NWT

Worst: Gov't supported racial policies and/or programs (i.e. proposed supplementary health package, race-based).

I am disappointed that there were no questions relating directly to education, as I consider this to be fundamental for creating a successful future. For your reading pleasure, I have included a series of published articles I wrote for the News/North, which I consider to be important and integral to the success of our most important resource, our people.

Submission # 50

Comments:

Excellent initiative Premier Roland.

I like the idea of being pro-active in defining what the NWT can/will be and not leave it to others to decide or shape.

I enjoy living and working in the NWT.

Canada's history is linked to the NWT and the NWT's history is linked to Canada.

My Grandfather was born in the NWT(Camrose) before Alberta became a province.

I like to think the current NWT is open to anyone who enjoys nature, desires to carve out a fulfilling life for themselves and their family and who desire to strengthen their communities/neighbourhoods.

For me, "nature" includes both wilderness areas (recreation) and developing our natural resources in an environmentally sound way.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

- a place where people from all around the world come and contribute to a progressive and growing economy.

- a place where every person contributes to the economy - both traditional and wage.

- a place where decisions are made - the Federal Government role in the NWT would be similar to that of the Provinces.

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- a jurisdiction that benefits from resource development in its territory (royalties)
- a place where taxation/royalties are competitive - not seen as barriers.
- a place where the protection of our environment and resource development occurs together. (neither one should occur at the expense of the other)
- a place where we recognize/value our history - both Canadian and the uniqueness of each of the First Nations' cultures.
- a place where partnerships are common and promoted (private & public, private & First Nations' businesses, local businesses & national/multinational companies)
- a place where world class resource development occurs.
- a place where resource development is viewed as the enabler to the development of the NWT ; core infrastructure is put in place to support resource development and the quality of life for all residents.
(ie. roads and power generation, power distribution, broadband communication, etc - The Talston Hydro Line and Mackenzie Valley Road are seen as the catalyst/model for other infrastructure projects that enable economic growth in the NWT).
- a place where government(s) supports people through transition (social, economic, health, education) and views making dependent people as a failure. Self dependency and personal responsibility should be the goal.
- a place where land ownership/access is clear and certain.
- a place where recreational land access (defined & targeted) is promoted/encouraged and seen as beneficial (work, live/visit and play in the North) - natural attractions, land for cabins, camping, etc.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

- businesses will make investments and create jobs based on market and risk assessments - assuming the NWT has a competitive environment for investments, businesses will enter and grow.
- a functioning economy can support social and environmental goals and priorities. Speak out when it is the other way around.

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**3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government?
What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**

- I think the consensus government could work well - if elected members and public wanted it to. What you need/want is the willingness to work towards the best policy/decision . A Minister/Leader should put forward a position and encourage a debate on the position/policy to help ensure it meets the desired outcome.
- In government, it appears at times that individuals want to have their stamp/input on every piece of legislation/policy. In larger businesses, it is less about a single individual trying to get their way but about a group of people working together to find the best possible solution to an initiative or opportunity that fits with their strategic plan.
- Government works well when elected officials and bureaucrats worked together to find the most effective/efficient solution. For example, within Health Care, finding solutions that ensure the delivery of Health Care services to the public in the most efficient manner possible. Stick to a budget, identify targets and hold government employees accountable for achieving results.

Reward government departments/workers that implement efficiencies (reduce costs) and achieve the desired outcome(s).

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?:

- A good legacy would be many examples of world class resource development that are models of conservation and environmental sustainability.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?:

- Settle remaining land claims
- Streamline and improve the regulatory processes.
- Invest in infrastructure - roads, power generation and transmission networks, IP/Broadband, etc. in partnership with the private sector.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?:
Best

- The potential in our natural resources.

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- The people that call the NWT home - wanting to be independent.
- The land in NWT can provide for traditional life along with a wage economy - shared and protected at the same time.
- Availability of clean water, air and wilderness areas to explore, fish, camp, observe nature and hunt.

Worst

- The reduction of land available for resource development.
- Overlapping and uncertain regulatory assessments required for developing.
- There appears to be a growing mindset that the best way to protect our land/environment is to leave it alone. I believe we can become better stewards of the land by exploring and developing it in a responsible way. (ie. with the Diamond mines came studies and better management of all aspects of that area. We learn by exploring. I support the preserving of the very special/unique places in the NWT, these should be few and not vast areas.

Creation of residents who are dependent on Government for their needs.

Submission # 51

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?:

Economically successful jurisdiction that has found an appropriate balance and partnership between aboriginal and non-aboriginal co-tenants of Northern lands.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?:

The first requirement is to always work towards building the size of the pie in preference to fighting over the pie crumbs that currently exist. My contribution will be to continue to live and work here and to be involved in the community in an effort to reach consensus on the way forward.

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- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
I'm not overly fond of consensus government as it makes it difficult to know what policies you are voting for when you do vote. Government effectiveness would make the model sustainable; ineffectiveness will leave voters looking for an alternative.
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
Most current development is very sustainable i.e. there does not appear to be any more made in the GNWT Giant Mine environmental disasters awaiting us. The pace of economic development should be dictated more by the capacity of northerners to participate in the economic development than by the desire to simply halt further development.
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
Infrastructure development; both physical and human capacity. In addition, we need a regulatory regime that is timely, objective and predictable. Settlement of land claims throughout the Territory would help as would the willingness of aboriginal governments to cooperate in and support one regulatory process.
- 6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?**
The GNWT is a vast, wild and beautiful place with interesting people and tremendous opportunity for those willing to work hard and make a contribution. The worst feature of the NWT is the tendency to oppose things simply because they benefit others and not oneself i.e. to fight over the current pie instead of working towards making a bigger pie to share.

Submission # 52

- 1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20-30 years from now?**
The NWT needs to be a desired location for people in the south (and north) to truly want to live without wage being the primary factor. Too often money is the only way to initially attract people to the north and this does not seem to retain them long term.
- 2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?**

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I recently spent a year advertising, hiring a head hunting firm and travelling to do interviews to recruit a healthcare professional to my business. In that year I had two applicants of which one was serious. I was lucky enough to hire this individual. I feel the key to me being able to hire this person was the initial contact where he expressed interest in the position. Once he realized his pay scale would be to his advantage compared to his existing workplace, we focused on the benefits of living in the north. Very quickly both him and his wife were genuinely interested and extremely excited to come north. I think one factor that is holding people back from considering the north is a misconception of what the north can offer. People often ask me if there are polar bears, dog sleds and igloos that exist in our community. The vision of the north to a lot of people is only what they see in documentaries or in the media. I think when people in the south are job searching the NWT is not on their radar. This is what I would like to see change over the next number of years.

We need to better promote the north to the southern provinces as a place to live. This focus and attraction can come in the form of quality education, quality healthcare, and quality leadership within the Territorial Government and at the municipal level from the top on down. I can contribute to make this happen by discussing this vision with my local political leaders.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

As with any government or political system there are pros and cons. I could argue for both consensus government or party politics but at the end of the day any system is only as good as the people that run it. In order to sustain this method of government we need strong leadership and need to figure out a way to get the different political groups to agree and come together on a common vision of the north.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Economic development needs a balance between good government and strong private business throughout the North (not just in Yellowknife). As a business owner one of the main stumbling blocks I continue to see (in the media) is the different groups in the NWT constantly in disagreement. The North will not be seen as a desirable place to live if the different political and aboriginal groups continue to be divided on the majority of business opportunities that come along. Why would an outside organization or individual want to become a partner or work together with groups that are not congruent with one another.

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6. What do you consider to be the best - and worst - features of the NWT?

The worst feature I feel as a private business owner is the amount of public money that gets spent on meetings in the north that truly do not result in anything tangible or concrete. I was astounded to read the cost of this program (Creating our Future Together) at \$850,000.00. While we will not know if this money is put to good use for a few years it would be nice to understand the breakdown, where the figure came from and what the ongoing costs might be.

The best feature is easily the beauty and remoteness of the north that far too few people in the south know and/or understand. Perception is reality and we need to show the rest of Canada the north is a place that is desirable to live, affordable and open for business.

Submission # 53

Comments

This solicitation of input from NWT residents is a good idea - unfortunately I have my doubts that any of this advice will or can be acted on - given the system of government we have now and the poor timing of this initiative (at the end of a government rather than at the beginning)

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20-30 years from now?

Big question - opinions will vary widely from those who want the NWT to be 1 big protected area to those who would just as soon see an open pit development over the whole the territory. I would like to see the NWT as a land of opportunity, when we have removed major barriers to sustainable development and immigration and maintained a conservation ethic that will result in the continued unimpeded function of our ecosystem. These two aspects of this vision are not mutually exclusive but it will require some political balls to get there - and it is unlikely that it can be achieved in the environment of our misnamed "Concensus" government" style.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Change the system of government - the current system is undemocratic and is one of the main barriers to considering and acting on broader issues. Encourage business and industry to locate in the NWT - whether through beneficial tax regimes of special business development zones (I.e a zone of industrial development in the south slave where businesses can access energy at a lower cost (thus creating a real market for hydro development) and a more beneficial tax treatment - again the Concensus style of government we now have would never let that happen as it would be perceived that one region was

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getting more than another - which is where we need to be at least in the start. In order to create jobs for all there needs to be some serious decisions taken that will not be popular to all initially. Another opportunity would be to set an objective of development of a deep water port in Tuk - to take advantage of the opening up of the NW Passage and the opportunities that a third coastal supply route to the far east and Europe would have for Canada and North America. I have much to contribute to seeing this vision achieved but I fear that if we do not start immediately, the true potential of the NWT will be unachievable - we must start with fundamental change to the political system followed by changes to the land and resource management regime, followed by fundamental change to the Health and Social services System in the NWT. If the path to change is not begun immediately I fear that I will not have the time or opportunity to contribute. I would be prepared to do whatever it takes to ensure that our land and people achieve our potential.

- 3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?**
It is unworkable - good as a municipal model but it stops people from standing for anything but regional issues and muffles debate on issues that are important to our Territory as a whole. We must change to a system where people run on platforms - rather than acting like a bunch of Municipal politicians. Right now everyone runs on the same (very Regional) issues and people win because of personal popularity or family ties - not for their vision and what they stand for. The system of having unelected Premiers and those people picking their friends to be ministers is archaic and undemocratic. I want to vote on who the leader should be based on their platform and abilities - not have a group of people play Texas Hold'em for the job....
- 4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?**
The best thing the current generation could do is fix the regulatory system in the NWT and encourage development. We should be all for conservation but if economic development is not encouraged the next generation will leave - they will have nothing to do but enjoy our pristine wilderness - which is really hard to do if you don't have a job. We will not have to concern ourselves about future generations because they will all leave.
- 5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?**
Again - fix the regulatory system. The GNWT needs to take a much greater role in balancing the push for "no development" which seems to be playing here. Also the GNWT needs to take stands that are contrary to aboriginal

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organizations at times - the government represents all the people and should not be a silent partner agreeing with powerful lobby groups. Creating those special economic zones may be a start to economic self sustainability.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?

Best - Opportunity for development, entrepreneurship and access to unexploited resources

Worst - barriers placed in the way of opportunity - such as political decisions, lack of access to land and resources, lack of encouragement for industry to come and grow in the NWT

Best - Multicultural society

Worst - system that benefits /favors one part of society over another

Best - Focus on Education

Worst - Education system that does not give young people the tools they need to realize their dreams - whatever they are - delivery of a diffuse education with local (Regional) interference and the policy of passing children through grade levels even if they should not be. Also - lack of support to teachers in classrooms that are faced with all manner of special needs - it drags the whole system down.

Best - reasonable access to health services

Worst - inefficient administration of health services.

Best - the relatively unspoiled environment

The list goes on an on....

Submission # 54

Comments:

Below are some suggested points I have for the questions you mentioned:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20-30 years from now?

In 20-30 years the NWT will continue to have a vibrant economy that continues to be lead by the mineral sector but tourism has greatly increased as well. Other provinces and countries look to the NWT as a leader in sustainable development (creating key employment for northerners at the same time protecting the environment). The cost of living in the North has been greatly lowered for residents, the regulatory regime has become streamlined, there is an investment climate that encourages sustainable development and outstanding land claims have been settled.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Point #1 can only occur if decisions are taken now (in 2011-2015) for the planning and construction of strategic infrastructure projects which the Federal government needs to lead in funding in order to demonstrate that they support the North and that it is strategically vital to Canada. The government needs to pool all the critical and or strategic infrastructure projects into one list, get feedback from industry, governments (aboriginal and non-aboriginal) and prioritize the ones that will create the best return on investment to the North (environmentally acceptable, quickest to build, creates years of employment, creates large returns on royalty payments, and creates further opportunities for other projects to proceed). Once a priority list is finalized – there needs to be agreement from all to proceed.

An example of two projects that can assist both the mineral and tourism industry is an all-weather road extension from Yellowknife to Kugluktuk through the Slave Geological province along with a new hydroelectric power grid system into the Slave Geological Province. This would reduce the dependence on ice roads, lower the costs to operating existing mines and well as future mines. At the same time, this road system would take tourism industry to an exciting new level (new camp grounds and RV parks, ecotourism lodges, aurora sightseeing on the tundra, tourism outlets, numerous other business opportunities, not to mention all the additional regulator requirements (park wardens, officials etc). Look at what the Alaska Highway done to tourism in northern BC and the Yukon. Fishing and hunting could all be controlled from the start.

3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

In order to have a vision one needs to switch away from consensus government and switch to party politics like the Yukon has done. That way the various parties of the North can create their vision and the people of the North can support that vision.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

The legacy should be quickly evaluating all the major infrastructure projects that would benefit the North and in unity (industry, aboriginal and non-aboriginal gov'ts) prioritizing the best projects to proceed with and commence work on them. If this would have been done 3-4 years ago – one would see that the Fort Providence Bridge would not have been in the top 5 projects to benefit the North. Instead of having a bridge over budget, another project (i.e. all weather road through Slave Province, or Talston expansion) would be in construction instead.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Point #2 will take care of that so that we continue to encourage exploration and mineral development in a responsible manner at the same time promoting tourism industry in the North.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and-worst features of the NWT?

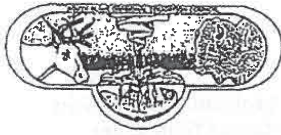
Worst feature – there is no Vision and the regulatory regime is too complicated which is deterring investment in the North.

Best features – the economic potential the North has - if the regulatory regime is fixed (quicker timelines, certainty at the same time ensuring responsible and sustainable development).

Erik and Bonny Madsen



Creating Our Future Together
Letters to the Premier



Creating Futures



Oct. 15, 10

Premier Floyd K. Roland
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Fax (867) 873-0385

PREMIER RECEIVED	OCT 25 2010
LOG #	3682
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	RESPOND
FOR PREMIER SIGN	
DIRECTLY & C.C.	
OTHER	xc Allen.
FILE	BF

Re: *Creating Our Future Together*

The South Slave Divisional Education Council is pleased to respond to the questions posed by the Northern Leaders' Forum through the *Creating Our Future Together* initiative. Several of the questions asked in the review are relevant to our organization and our input can add greatly to the dialogue that will help formulate our collective vision for the future of the NWT.

1. *What do you wish the NWT to be like 20-30 years from now?*

As an educational jurisdiction, we are focused on preparing our youth for the future. In fact our SSDEC slogan is "Creating Futures" and, as an education board, the SSDEC has worked hard to live up to the promise of this slogan. Our hopes and dreams for the future are captured in the following statements:

- We envision a future in which the vast majority of our students – aboriginal and non-aboriginal – will receive a high school graduation diploma and that the education they have received in our schools has adequately prepared each student for entrance into colleges and universities without the need for access programming.
- We envision a future in which NWT students are among Canada's best in terms of literacy and numeracy achievement and that reading and math competencies are no longer barriers to employment opportunities in all sectors of our economy.
- We envision a future in which school attendance rates for all students are high and that community support for education is evident in each of our community schools.
- We envision a future in which fluency in each of our nine official aboriginal languages is attainable by the end of high school and that language programming is supported in the homes and communities of our students.
- We envision a future in which the richness of our cultural traditions and heritage are fully integrated into all our school programs and that each of our schools is a reflection of the communities and heritages they serve.
- We envision a future in which all of our students, regardless of need, receive the social, medical and academic support they require to reach their dreams and that community size and location are no longer barriers to service.

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Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations

SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
P.O. Box 510 • Fort Smith, NT • X0E 0P0 • Phone: (867) 872-5701 • Fax: (867) 872-2150 • www.ssdec.nt.ca

- We envision a future in which our communities are free from the problems of addictions and abuse and that are communities are united against issues that detract from strong cultural and family values.
- We envision a future in which our teachers are among the most highly trained in Canada. They are skilled at implementing effective research-based teaching strategies and have access to professional development, support and the resources required aid them in developing engaging and responsive classroom programming.

2. How do you believe this vision of the future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to make it happen?

The vision expressed in the statements above might be construed as lofty and out-of-reach but one needs only to visit any school administered by the South Slave DEC to realize that this vision for the future is not only realistic but achievable as well given adequate resourcing and committed leadership and staff. The SSDEC is working diligently on all fronts to ensure that:

- all our students are supported and have the best chance possible to achieve their full potential
- all our teachers are the best trained in Canada and are delivering relevant and effective programming using research-proven instructional and intervention strategies
- all our communities are safe and caring places to raise a family and the partnership between homes and school is strong.

Over the past several years, we have narrowed our focus on just a few key priorities, with carefully selected strategies and a commitment to results. The data we have collected and the experience we have gained through the implementation of our initiatives may prove invaluable as the GNWT creates its roadmap for the future – one that might best parallel the path we have taken as a region over this past decade.

Below is a description of a few of our more noteworthy initiatives that, if adapted for other regions, could go a long way towards helping prepare the NWT for a brighter future:

- **Leadership for Literacy:** We are now in the fourth year of implementation of our hallmark “Leadership for Literacy” Initiative. This initiative is focused on raising the *reading* achievement levels of all students in the expectation that improved literacy rates will result in improved achievement in other subjects and in later life. To accomplish our goals, our Council has partially depleted our reserves in order to hire literacy coaches (one for each school) who provide job-embedded training and ongoing instructional support for all school staff so that they are proficient with their program planning and delivery using research-based teaching and intervention strategies. Significantly more resources have also been purchased to support our reading programs, including leveled books, and assessment tools that have been adapted to guide schools and teachers in their programming decisions. The initiative ensures that all our students have access to a varied array of resources geared to their specific reading level. They also all receive research-based instruction and have access to interventions if they are at risk of not achieving a full year of reading achievement. The initiative is very collaborative in

nature, providing for strategic professional development and promoting networking and parent involvement as partners in their childrens' education.

Our literacy initiative is not limited to English language instruction alone. We are focused on supporting schools and communities as they strive to increase the use and fluency rates of Aboriginal (Chipewyan, Slavey, and Cree) and French language users. The SSDEC has developed significant resources, both printed and electronic, to support the efforts of language revitalization at the school and community level. With over 160 print resources published over the past five years including two Aboriginal language dictionaries and numerous elder stories, the SSDEC is intent on preserving the language and stories of the elders as gifts to future generations.

Our results speak for themselves. Based on data collected from an array of assessments, the SSDEC has narrowed the reading achievement gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. Significantly more of our students are reading at or above the national averages than when the initiative began and many more students are achieving more than year of reading growth on an annual basis than ever before. Through this initiative and the tireless dedication of our teachers, South Slave students are catching up and keeping up to national reading achievement norms. Our reading achievement scores have increased to over 70% of our students reading at grade level and we are continuing to narrow the gap and move closer to our goal of at least 80% of our students reading at or above the national averages in reading achievement.

- Complimenting our reading priority is our commitment to improving *numeracy* achievement. We have only been able to afford one regional coordinator dedicated to providing SSDEC teachers with the resources and strategies required to develop and implement effective math programs. Our math achievement results (based on Alberta Achievement Test [AAT] scores) are significantly above NWT averages particularly at the grade 3 and 6 level but, as a region, we recognize that there is much work to do before we are completely satisfied with our results.
- Our third goal, as a region, is to promote and develop *socially responsible behaviour* among all SSDEC staff, students and partners. The basic premise is that responsible behaviours are foundational to creating environments conducive to teaching, learning, living, and working together in a just society. We have relied, almost exclusively, on third-party funding to finance the various programs aimed at improving behaviours and many noteworthy programs have been initiated through this funding. The acclaimed *Lights-On* program operating in Hay River is an example of a program designed to help build the capacity of our youth to live a make healthy, socially-responsible choices in life. This program, operating in our Hay River schools on Friday and Saturday evenings, provides our youth with an array of supervised, fun-filled activities all of which channel youthful energy towards activities which help build character and make our communities safer and kinder places to live.

The positive results of the *Lights-On* program (and its sister program in Fort Smith – *Crime Prevention through Mentoring and the Arts*) have supplemented related in-school programs across the region. For example, the *DJSS Leadership and Resiliency Program*

(LRP) is aimed at providing at-risk students with programs that help build their socially responsible behaviours, and has already had a positive impact upon student behaviours, achievement and attendance. The program offers a unique blend of role-playing, personal goal setting, individual and group counseling all designed to help the youth build their capacity to make healthy and responsible choices in life. The highly successful and award winning *Phoenix School* alternative program in Fort Smith—that has produced numerous high school graduates—is another example of creative commitment, with limited resources, to providing further opportunities for youth to realize their full potential.

The related cross-goal *Homework and Study Skills* initiative has been designed to help make homework an accepted routine in the households of our South Slave students in recognition of the fact that students who regularly complete their homework improve their chances for success in school and life. Our data indicates that the number of students completing all their homework has increased from 7% of total student population in 2006 to almost 20% in 2009-10.

Programs such as described above are helping create a firm foundation upon which our communities can grow and thrive in the future. The lessons to be learned from our success are the need for focused goal setting, strategic resource deployment, considerable staff training, and a commitment to results. Our success is defined by a long-term commitment to specific and measurable targets coupled with the dedication and commitment of highly trained staff at all levels. It is imperative that as the GNWT defines its vision for the future, that the goals are specific and measurable, and that staff are not only tasked with turning goals into reality, but are also provided the resources and training needed to collaborate and build collective capacity to meet those targets.

One factor that, at present, limits the scope of our goals and programs is the availability of suitable staff housing in our smaller settlements. The GNWT's vision for the future will remain clouded if the issue of staff housing isn't addressed. Our hiring practices must be defined by the contributions prospective staff members can make to our shared vision – not by the availability of suitable housing.

3. *What do we need to do today to ensure the economy tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all regions?*

The NWT is rich with resources and opportunities but one limiting factor is the education of the workforce. Effective educational programs that provide strong literacy, numeracy and social responsibility are foundations essential to the future growth and prosperity of the NWT. Territorial targets and related funding directed towards improving these three areas should be viewed as an investment that pays dividends for our youth now and for our future North.

4. *What do you consider to be the best - and worst – features of the NWT?*

The positive features of the NWT far outweigh any shortcomings there may be and this bodes well for the future of the territory. The richness and expanse of the land and the diversity of our many cultures help define our core values as a people. Given the intersection of these many cultures, we are still bound by an absolute respect for the land and the common realization that by acting as caretakers of the land and the environment, we are also

protecting our own future. As a people we speak out against injustice and support others through adversity. Although our communities are troubled by various social ills there is still a profound belief that through hard work and a cooperative spirit – our troubles can be solved and our future will be bright.

The South Slave Divisional Education Council is pleased to have had this opportunity to respond to your questions and to contribute to the *Creating Our Future Together* initiative. We are hopeful that our responses are appreciated and will help the GNWT and the Northern Leaders' Forum formulate a meaningful vision with carefully chosen strategies for the best possible future of the NWT and its people.

Sincerely,



Ann Pischinger
Chairperson

- c SSDEC representatives
South Slave Members of the Legislative Assembly
Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture & Employment

The Honourable Premier

Mr. Floyd Rolland

Creating our Future Together

Dear Mr Rolland:

My vision for the north in 20-30 years! Well being that I am born and raised in the north; I have investments throughout the South Slave, Deh Cho & North Slave. The following in priority are my comments

1. Education; more is required to elevate current achievements in grade levels and attendance. The north does provide a very good student financial assistance for post secondary students. The north is full of resource; I'm in favour of growing the north's trade school opportunity, keeping it industry specific. I don't believe investing in a northern university at this time would be the best use of education dollars, I feel the opportunity for youths to get out and experience the world, & gain an education is more important. Spend the money on ensuring we have jobs for them to return too.
2. Environment, the north is a pristine landscape that requires great vision & action, your government has done a good job in some areas i.e. beverage container act, implementing the tax on non reusable bags, going to non petroleum products such as pellets for Gov't facilities. More is required thou, the expansion of hydro electricity and ensuring it's affordable to industry. Affordable power will entice industry such as Avalon Rare Metals to set up processing plants and generate much needed employment in the north.
3. Business, steady growth, not boom & bust, an agreement on devolution, have an Alberta attitude; if you don't set up here you don't work here. I moved south with my parents in 1976 to finish schooling, I returned 1981 to work with my brothers in a family business after graduating. My first job was in Lupin Mines driving truck for Rowe's Construction. Rowe's were sub-contracting for Esterbrook Construction from the south. All of the workers in the mine were from the south doing a rotation of x weeks in & x weeks out, that was thirty year ago. Today we still have workers flocking north via southern jets for 2 in 2 out work schedule this needs to stop. Some of the agreements currently in place with the Diamond mines such as the Tli Cho and other aboriginal groups have mandated a % of local hire. This is a great start, but we need to strengthen these agreements to ensure even greater benefit for the north. Expanding on the NWT payroll tax for all non northern residents working in the north would be one suggestion.
4. Health care, aging population requires more consideration on affordable senior care centres. Hospitals are expensive to build, maintain & operate. Utilizing less expensive senior care centres will make certain our elders are cared for in a more comfortable setting. In the south there are communities that senior care centres are becoming the main industry i.e. Regina, Sask.
5. Recreation, investing in sports is known to save dollars on health care, legal and correctional cost, not to mention improving quality of life. Spending more dollars on infrastructures throughout the north is difficult because of the heinous cost. One solution would be to



amalgamate the 6 boards (Sport North, Aboriginal Sport Circle, Mackenzie & Beau-del Rec. , Parks & Rec. and Sport & Rec. that currently govern sporting & recreation activities. This was the original plan when the Sport & Rec. Board was formed approx 5 years ago? Cutting administration cost for these boards could help with the construction of new facilities, Sport North's admin cost alone are well over a \$1,000,000/yr that's just one board??

6. Politics, a less convoluted system then we currently have; one voice rather than dozens, we are a population of 43,000? Less boards, the money we are wasting is senseless (no pun intended). Who really has the say in the north's vision, one vote one voice for a stronger north?

What legacy should we leave for future generation; I believe we must develop our hydro potential. The north's primary obstacle to attracting industry & retaining people is non competitive power rates. Hydro is environmentally clean, creates employment and is a sustainable resource that will make the north more affordable for industry to set up and invest here.

The best feature in the north is our opportunity, we have it all. On the other hand our worst is the high unemployment, a lower grade average in our schools, insufficient affordable housing, lack of health care facilities and a total dependence on the federal government, we need devolution.

So my vision for the north is one of steady growth, ensuring we maximise our resources, most importantly our human resources. With the priority in education, employment, environment & quality of life, this is our home. Continue developing roads to open the north for responsible sustainable development, whether its oil & gas, mineral or tourism. The north is the last frontier; we need to maintain control over our resources and our land. At the same time we need to be open for business and provide industry with a competitive, confident work force.

Mr. Rolland, in closing I would like to thank you for inviting me to share my vision for our North. I wish you all the best and trust you will continue to steer us in the right direction.

Sincerely

Gregory Rowe

November 5, 2010

The Honorable Floyd Roland
Premier of the Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

PREMIER RECEIVED	NOV 17 2010
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OTHER	X.C. Allen
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Dear Premier Roland;

Creating our Future Together

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to you and the Government of the Northwest Territories on creating a vision for the future for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

I offer these thoughts as a concerned individual and as a resident of the Northwest Territories, and in no way are they a reflection of, view point or opinion of my employer.

Below are responses to the specific questions asked in your letter dated September 29, 2010.

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

- An attractive and well serviced home for resource development that enables and supports the safe, sustainable development and extraction of natural resources wealth to the benefit of all residents.
- A flourishing, diversified economy.
- A safe and healthy lifestyle for all with a competitive and fulfilling cost/standard of living.
- A place where traditional cultures are respected and enhanced. Where all residents have the opportunity to realize their dreams and reach their full potential.
- Aboriginal communities that are structured and supported to maintain cultural heritage and pride are filled with hope for a strong future, and where the youth have boundless opportunity to realize their full potential.
- A place where fundamental human rights are understood, promoted and respected, upholding and respecting the traditional rights of indigenous peoples and valuing cultural heritage.
- The leading global eco-tourism destination, enhanced with the unique extra flavor of Dene and Inuit culture.
- What ever Vision is developed, it must be communicated widely and clearly. People cannot get behind, or help or support if they don't know what the direction is.
- A global role model for how to successfully preserve and enhance traditional cultures side by side with a western civilization.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Achieved by:

- Actively seek and secure Federal and Territorial Investment in infrastructure to open up access for sustainable development across the North. This needs vision and courage as investments may not stand alone as strong economic cases, and yet if they are not done future growth will stagnate.
- Exploit the emerging imperative for northern and arctic sovereignty as a vehicle to create infrastructure.
- Take vigorous steps to preserve the unique aspects of the NWT and all its peoples for the enrichment of all Canadians, the global community and future generations.
- Be bold in making tough decisions in the face of future challenges and changing societal trends and expectations
- Develop systems of governance that facilitate rapid/clear and effective decision making and leadership
- Provide a jurisdiction that is trusted and recognized as a safe, supportive and reliable location for commerce and development. Actively promote good news stories
- Move now to create business strategies that take advantage of the NWT's inherent resources and strengths – environmental, cultural, natural history, scenic.
- Take a strategic look at our resources differently. What are we endowed with that others may want or need in the future? – abundant freshwater, untapped hydro-power capacity, limitless fresh air, peace and open space, eco-diversity. Consider these in light of massively growing future global demand for such fundamentals of society. Don't be confined by current thinking or norms.
- Retain and protect the pristine and unique environment.

3. What ideas do you have to make the NWT's unique system of consensus government sustainable?

No comment on this matter.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

- Work with industry now to create and leave examples of leading edge sustainable development, best practice mine closure, long life infrastructure etc.... The time to create the legacies of the future is now.
- A regulatory regime that recognizes and respects local environmental and cultural imperatives yet does not disadvantage commerce and industry when compared to other provinces/jurisdictions.
- A place where no outstanding Aboriginal self government claims remain.
- Adequate diverse ecosystems preserved in perpetuity for future generations.
- A society that reflects reduced, low community levels of substance abuse and addiction.
- An education system routinely producing high caliber articulate, compassionate, well educated high school and tertiary qualified graduates from all communities.
- Consider the risks and rewards of devolution very closely. This more than any other, is the fundamental decision that will cast in stone the future viability, or not, of the NWT.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

- Expedite Aboriginal self government claims to completion. This is where courage is required as solutions will not be easy.
- Provide a secure and trusted tax environment that is transparent, fair and balanced across all forms of taxation, and does not create a disadvantage to investment here vs other provinces.
- Obtain more Federal investment in future-focused infrastructure
 - Access to hinterland
 - Sustainable/renewable energy sources
 - Community facilities across the whole NT, to the same standard as Yellowknife capital infrastructure. (on pro-rated basis)
- Provide an investment framework attractive to all
- Remove environmental regulatory barriers – but must be in a sustainable way that honors cultural and environmental expectations.
- Provide an exciting future and high standard of education/facilities/staff that keeps youth in school to at least the national % graduation levels.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?

Best

- Diverse rich culture which must be preserved and enriched.
- Environmental uniqueness.
- Rich in natural resources.
- Great, friendly, generous, welcoming people.
- Clean and healthy environment.

Worst

- Inadequate Government recognition of, and support for the burdens of remoteness on residents.
- Work required to get the right balance between environment/cultural stewardship and resource development.
- Cost of living attractiveness to new and existing residents.
- Inequality of primary service delivery across all NWT locations and demographics
- Aboriginal communities caught at various stages between traditional and western cultures with an apparent absence of hope
- Time impacts of consensus approach to decision making.

Thank you for the opportunity afforded to all NWT residents to contribute to this process. It offers the potential to create a new future for the NWT. As the old Japanese proverb says:-
Vision without a plan remains a dream. A plan without a vision is a nightmare.

I look forward to receiving feedback in an appropriate form, and seeing the outcomes of your government's endeavors and deliberations.

Sincerely

November 8, 2010

The Honourable Floyd Roland
Premier of the Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Roland:

Creating Our Future Together

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to you and the Government of the Northwest Territories on creating a vision to work towards ensuring a prosperous future for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

I am writing to you as a private citizen and my comments below are my personal response to the specific questions asked in your public consultation brochure:

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

I wish the following for the NWT:

- That the NWT has a diverse economy built on abundance and sharing, utilizing the resources of the North through northern based ownership.
- That the NWT has abundant, affordable and clean energy.
- That the NWT has a Constitution that enables effective and responsible governance for the whole territory.
- That NWT residents have an education that allows them to fulfil their aspirations and potential and sets the standard for Canada.
- That NWT families and communities are accountable for the development and wellness of their people.
- That NWT residents are free from addictions and mental health issues enabling them to pursue their fullest potential and aspirations.
- That cultural diversity throughout the NWT is recognized, respected and celebrated.
- That community pride exists across the NWT and is the fabric of a strong and cooperative people making sound decisions for their future.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

- Work cooperatively with all governments within the NWT to develop and approve a common Vision that has **majority** acceptance and move ahead with the Vision even though some may choose to not participate or cannot agree to this new Vision.
- Once the common Vision is determined, stop consulting and begin making decisions and taking action on strategically aligned initiatives that support that Vision.
- Focus on the economy, education/training, and environment as the priorities as follows:
 - **Economy** – Encourage exploration through environmentally sustainable development that follows new and effective protection protocols and regulation versus the existing complex regulatory regime that is discouraging exploration, development and investment in the NWT.
 - **Education** – Focus on educating youth and keeping kids in school so that they achieve a true Grade 12 Diploma that enables them to pursue post secondary education or other pursuits. Provide social education to adults to break the cycle of neglect, abuse and other social handicaps that prevent NWT residents from maximizing the abundant opportunities available to them today to improve their situation.
 - **Training** – Focus on trades training and training for community government occupations so that local NWT communities become sustainable to govern themselves without reliance on outside help. Some examples are qualified trades journeypersons, senior administrative officers and comptrollers.
 - **Environment** – make sustainable environmental practices that allow for responsible industrial, renewable and non-renewable economic development a priority.

Once the above is achieved social problems will begin to diminish. With higher levels of education and more NWT residents able to realize their full potential, more social, economic and political progress in the North will be made.

The second part of your question asks what I can contribute to help make it happen. I currently work in an occupation that allows me to contribute to sustainable development in Northern communities and to maximize opportunities for Northerners. I am very proud of my work and continue to promote and support community development and partnerships that make sense for the North.

3. What ideas do you have to make the NWT's unique system of consensus government sustainable?

- Consensus government is difficult to sustain because of competing political agendas that sometimes derail the government's plan. The government needs to determine the critical issues it will deal with at each Session and execute according to that plan.
- MLAs have an important role and through the Standing Committee process have opportunity to provide strategic direction to the government while representing their constituents.
- Where the difficulty lies, in my opinion, is the necessity to also consult with Aboriginal leaders that represent the NWT Aboriginal land claimant areas. The heavy reliance on abundant consultation needs to be reviewed to ensure that there is balance between consulting when it is necessary and required to do so, and getting on with the job of making and implementing decisions even when some of the decisions are not popular but have majority approval in the legislature.
- I believe in Constitutional development for the NWT, however, once leaders are chosen to represent their constituents (as is the current system of MLAs that, collaboratively as a group, represent all residents of the NWT) there comes a time when further consultation needs to stop. The elected representatives are in the position to make decisions on behalf of the people they represent – and they need to do so – in order to get on with business and move from a continual need to consult.
- Our current system of government is failing because the Legislative Assembly is sometimes hostage to the collective voice of the Aboriginal Leaders when there are divergent viewpoints and disagreement on issues. We need a new system whereby the Aboriginal Leaders can have representation along with and equal to the other residents and constituency leaders (the MLAs) of the NWT. There should not be a two tiered system, nor should any Aboriginal Leader or claimant group have any veto power. This is where, I believe, that consensus government fails as when a particular group disagrees with the Legislative Assembly's or GNWT's proposed direction, often more consultation is sought and the job of making a final decision is not done.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

- In my opinion, economic development and an educated population is paramount to ensure a healthy future. The only way to develop a sustainable vibrant NWT economy is through non-renewable resource development and the government's existence, otherwise the economy will crash as was evidenced when the gold mines in the Yellowknife area closed. Another example is the boom and bust oil and gas cycles of the Beaufort Delta area.
- Once we create a strong economic platform and educate our people, the NWT will prosper with Northerners able to maximize every opportunity that economic development will bring with employment and business development and growth.
- Environmental protection can be implemented as economic development occurs, by ensuring that the traditional knowledge, cultural and social history of the people of the NWT is captured. With responsible economic development, funding can be directed to environmental initiatives.

5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

- As previously mentioned, we need to fix the regulatory regime, speak with one voice to encourage non-renewable resource development, and attract exploration activity and investment in the NWT. The priority must be to get Northerners educated so that they can participate in the workforce and become gainfully employed. The emphasis must be placed on families and communities to ensure that students are attending school and achieving true standards. New, dynamic and creative methods of instruction are required.

6. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?

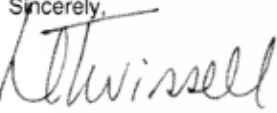
The best features of the NWT are:

- We have beautiful and diverse landscapes, abundant with natural resources and wildlife.
- We are a culturally rich people, who are proud, strong, resourceful, have unique Northern perspectives, and possess a great sense of humour.
- We are unique to southern Canada.
- We are environmentally conscious for the protection of our people, land and wildlife.
- We are a small population that is well networked with ready access to social, economic and political channels.

The worst features of the NWT are:

- We have escalating addictions, mental health issues, and crime that prohibits many residents from fully participating in the northern economy and an unwillingness to deal effectively with these problems.
- The sense of despair among these people escalates addictions, crime and the cycle of abuse.
- Many Northerners are poorly educated making them unable to maximize the opportunities available to them for training to obtain employment. There is a critical need for families and communities to support education and training of students.
- The non-renewable resource sector is the main economic driver followed by government. Other sectors have minimal to no sustainable influence on the North's economy (e.g. tourism).
- There is too much governance for 40,000 people.
- We have competing governments (Federal, Territorial, Municipal, Aboriginal) with competing political direction and no cohesiveness among the parties for support of a common Vision and direction for the NWT.
- As long as there continues to be political chaos in the NWT, the Government of Canada will defer making decisions on devolution and other important matters that will strengthen the NWT's autonomy.
- There are competing jurisdictions of regulatory boards and agencies.
- There are unsettled land claims with more governance to come once new claims are settled and more regulatory land and water management boards are created.
- The complex regulatory framework creates a costly and high risk environment which is driving investors and business away.
- The competing Consensus government is difficult to sustain as the North's political development evolves.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above topics. I wish you every success in determining new paths for the government's strategic direction that is aligned with the feedback from the residents of the NWT.

Sincerely,

Deana Twissell
Metis resident of Yellowknife

Creating our Future Together

Comments provided by:
Lisa and Rafe Smith

PREMIER
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LOG # <u>3823</u>
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1. What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

In 20 to 30 years we want the NWT to be able to showcase to the world that it is a leader in sustainable development. It is clear that the future of the NWT is in development of our abundant natural resources. We have oil, gas, minerals, water, and forests. It is the sustainable development of these resources that will be the backbone of our economy. We have the opportunity to create a unique and better resource based economy than the provinces because we can learn from their mistakes.

Arctic sovereignty is a serious consideration for Canada and the NWT. The best way to demonstrate our claim to the Arctic is to actively start using it. The present situation of a few national parks does nothing to improve Canada's stake internationally. A demonstration of generating revenue from the land would significantly improve Canada's claim.

The NWT has the opportunity to support a healthy forest industry. Forest industry has the potential to create many new jobs in communities as well as offset the high cost of fuel by producing biomass fuel. The NWT could work towards becoming self sufficient with heating fuel and keep more money within the territory that would otherwise be spent on petroleum products. There are many benefits which will be further explained in the next section.

To a lesser extent, there is the potential to develop tourism, agriculture and fisheries. I believe agriculture should be given more attention in the future. Agriculture has potential to reduce the cost of living for northerners and improve diets. There is also a significant community aspect with the development of community gardens. In Hay River, there is a summer market for selling produce and it is in much higher demand than can be met. There is also great opportunity for small scale livestock operations.

In 20 years we would like to see the cost of power significantly reduced for all northerners. Power is one of the major expenses for families, and the cost of power is a serious detriment and threat to the ability to develop new industry in the NWT. The NWT should be considering new hydro power projects.

The NWT we envision uses all of these resources to develop a more diverse and thriving economy. Opening access to resources is the key to opening the territory in so many ways. New opportunities are what will drive increased population, better infrastructure, larger communities with more

services, and more professionals such as doctors willing to permanently locate to the NWT. It will improve transportation and decrease isolation for many people in small communities, as well as bring in fresh money and new faces.

The other major hurdle which bears mentioning is the enormous weight of social problems that burden communities. In 20 years we would like to see communities become healthier, more productive places. We believe that new opportunities will be a key factor in helping people overcome the cycle of poverty, addiction and abuse. People need to be more connected to the world around them, and it is time that every community had a permanent road.

2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

GNWT needs to be a leader in sustainable development. There needs to be an active focus on positioning the government to be able to respond with knowledge and authority when new opportunities arise. The regulatory framework is convoluted and disjointed. The government lacks a full suite of policies and standard operating procedures to guide new developments. People are guided by a fear that any development will turn into a patchwork of fragmented landscape like in Alberta. As a result the NWT has become excessively conservation focused. The solution for many communities and government agencies, including the GNWT, has been to allow massive land areas to be locked up in parks and protected areas. We believe this is to the long term detriment of the surrounding communities and to the NWT in general.

A better approach is to be a leader in managing development effectively and sustainably. Communities need to be shown that they can benefit from development and still preserve local values. This will be done through community and land claimant empowerment over resource management, and through communities receiving direct benefits from the developments.

One of the largest impediments to development is unsettled land claims, which create an environment of uncertainty for business and government. Land is not easily accessible, even in a place like Hay River. The GNWT should be working hard to stabilize relationships with aboriginal governments, both settled and unsettled. A means of working with the land claims organizations so services and benefits of development flow to the community is needed. If they see clear benefits that bring them into a bigger economic picture, it will reduce adversity.

Since we work for Forest Management Division, we will briefly discuss opportunities for a new forest based economy.

Forest industry in the NWT is presently at a very low level of development, employing very few people. As the territory switches to alternate fuels to offset rising fuel costs, the feasibility of biomass based fuels is becoming realistic. A single small scale (30,000 tonne) pellet plant could

drive 50 to 80 jobs in various sectors including harvesting, transport, processing and distribution. There are also many related forestry jobs such as harvest preparation and silviculture/ regeneration.

Right now the NWT is approaching a 20,000 tonne demand for pellets, and the market continues to expand rapidly. It is conceivable that there could be pellet manufacturers and distributors in the South Slave and Dehcho regions supplying markets across the territory.

Forest industry is well suited to community businesses in the NWT and multiple communities could benefit from forestry as a sector. The pellet production industry is one where most of the money will stay in the territory. This is home grown money that has the potential to boost economies in many communities. There are numerous benefits of biomass fuel distribution including ease of handling, low environmental impact relative to petroleum products, they don't require intensive handling processes and they are readily portable. Production facilities in the South Slave and Dehcho could supply distribution systems along the highways and rivers, servicing many of the NWT communities at a fraction of the cost of fuel oil. Forest Management Division has been actively positioning itself for the last 10 years to be able to respond to these needs.

Smaller scale opportunities may emerge in areas where the resource is not as plentiful. Saw log markets will always exist, although they are subject to cyclical price fluctuations. They are still a staple of southern industry and if a biomass industry takes off in the NWT, saw log production will be an important component.

What we can contribute to this vision is an ability to work on behalf of northern people with a northern perspective. We have an understanding of the territory that comes from being from here, and a strong connection to the needs of the people. As professionals within the government, we have the ability to bring management perspectives to the government that are truly in the best interests of the people we are serving. Their needs have shaped our own development.

3. What ideas do you have to make the NWT's unique system of consensus government sustainable?

Is there a reason why consensus government should be sustained? We are not convinced that it is a great system. It seems there are too few people making all the decisions in our government, and often there does not seem to be very good cohesion between cabinet and regular members. We do not have a good grasp of how the system works.

4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

We need to get beyond the hold-ups. We need to get past land claims, get past devolution, and get on with the business of development.

PREMIER

WHAT SHOULD BE

1. What do you wish the NWT to look like in 20 to 30 years from now?

What we need is a strong central Territorial Government which has a vision, is run efficiently, cost effectively and looks after this great land and the well being of the land and all its people. The territorial government should also try to insure that the various self governments have compatible rules and regulations.

We need strong effective well run regional "aboriginal land claims governments" which look after regional and land claim areas.

We need strong efficient municipal governments for the major cities or centres like Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik and good municipal governments for the smaller communities.

It should be clearly laid out who is responsible for what, what the rules are, who is in charge, what happens when there is overlapping jurisdiction and how problems get resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

How do we get there. Education, co-operation, create a sense of the common good, sharing, uniting people rather than dividing them, inclusion rather than exclusion. The territorial government really has to get its act together and become a leader not a hindrance. The aboriginal groups have to get their heads out of the sand. Without some sort of economic base, most land claims and self governments are going to spiral into dysfunctional welfare states, once the land claim money runs out and the diamond mines close.

I will give some more detailed solutions as we go along but it is important from the start for the Territorial government to develop a mandate to work with all the various level of governments and to provide the overall leadership needed rather than just sitting in the Leg and contemplating their navels and planning their next "junket abroad" they need to roll up their sleeves and get to work solving problems not creating them.

HISTORY How did we get to where we are now?

I do worry a lot about the future of the NWT because if the past 30 or 40 years is any indication, there may not be a NWT left in 10, 20 or 30 years.

When I first came to the NWT in 1969, to explore this vast land: the Arctic Islands, Hudson Bay, the tundra and barren lands, the boreal forest, the Precambrian shield, the Mackenzie valley and of course the Mountains. It was a vast land, with a lot of potential. A great land and a great people but it also had a very small population. Most of the

people were honest, hard working and engaged in wrestling a living under harsh circumstances.

However it did have some problems. It was a neglected colony of Ottawa and the southern bureaucrats and political masters never had a feel or vision of or for the north. They either ignored it or put in misguided (idiotic) rules. They also didn't know what to do with the aboriginal issues. The times were changing. The NWT went from a trapping based, living of the land economy to an urban one when the fur trade shrunk and then collapsed. People used to have jobs working in the bush, working for small mines, working on the river to being unemployed in town.

The federal government were creating a welfare state where few people had jobs and as often happens in a welfare state the government made all the decisions. It was fast becoming a place where government handouts supported most of the population, people and obviously soon people expected the government to do everything for them. Many turned to drugs and alcohol and there was a social collapse in many places.

When the territorial government moved North rather than things getting better they got even worse. Bureaucrats who moved North began to control every aspect of people's lives. Let's face it, the original territorial government was an extension of the federal colonial government. Importing people to administer a land they knew nothing about. To this day that is largely the way it still works.

The Territorial Government didn't eliminate the federal government's colonial attitude to the north they just added another layer of colonial rule. We had the Berger enquiry fiasco the rise of the federally funded Dene nation and soon a move was afoot to divide the NWT in two. It didn't have to happen but the Dene and Inuit couldn't or wouldn't get along and the NWT was too weak to stand up for their rights so when the boundary was put in Nunavut came away the clear winner and no one thought to put in place rules for the joint management of resources.

Nunavut seems to want development and they have adopted the attitude one for all and all for one.

The NWT seems to want to stop all development and they have adopted the attitude that each little group is out for itself and to hell with the rest. The Territorial government seems to be as weak and inefficient as ever and lurches from one crisis, scandal and boondoggle to another.

POSSIBLE FUTURE

So here is what is happening now and what could happen to completely destroy the NWT.

The federal government was falling behind on the amount of the country that should be preserved for parks. They should have made a number down south where the population is and where they are most needed but instead said Hey lets turn vast stretches of the north into parks instead. So vast stretches of the NWT have been lost to the federal government and the NWT gets nothing out of it and the billions in potential revenue from that land has been lost to the residents of the NWT, forever. The GNWT just lets the feds take what they want.

Protected areas are also popping up all over the place and more land is lost to them and once again the overall population of the north gets nothing out of it. The land claims may look like a good idea now, just like the treaties did a hundred years ago but I really questions some of their principals and wonder what is going to happen with them down the road. There is a good chance that a number of them will fail. What happens when the majority of the "land claim recipients" no longer live in the land claim area but live in Yellowknife, Edmonton, Vancouver etc. What happens when you have people who through marriage belong to 2, 3, 4, 8 different land claim groups. Self government sounds like a good idea but is it really viable with each group making their own rules and trying to police itself. Other then hand outs and a welfare state from the government are these self governments really viable economically. What happens if and when they fail. What happens if the rest of Canada gets fed up supporting them or if there is a major shift in climate either global warming or an ice age and the land claim area is no longer habitable. There are a lot of questions there that just haven't been adressed or thought out. At some point I can see the Inuvialuit saying to heck with the rest of the territory. they don't like us, they don't include us and they are always standing in our way. We will separate form our own territory and with our oil and gas we can ship the stuff south via tankers.

Then the Gwitchen could say much the same thing and separate to join the Yukon. The Deh cho could join BC. Everything else south of the Great Slave Lake gets wooed by Alberta. The remaining communities all start fighting and subdivide the land claims settlement into smaller and smaller self government groups.

Without a strong effective territorial government (something we haven't had to this point) the NWT will just keep being carved up, subdivided and destroyed. What we desperately need is for a leader or the government to step forward with a vision for the entire NWT. One that includes all the people and all the regions.

To solve things you first have to understand the problem before you can come up with a series of solution.

THE GNWT

We have a large overblown incredibly expense bureaucracy centred in Yellowknife. Most of the civil servants know little about the rest of the NWT nor do they care. They are here for the money and the pension.

Just as Ottawa and the federal government there know next to nothing about the NWT, the bureaucracy in Yellowknife know little about the land and people they are suppose to govern. Even the Legislature, the government political body of the NWT are ignorant and misguided when it comes to the Territory as a whole.

Where is the map showing the NWT that they can look at as they try to make decisions., Where is the map showing the landforms, the geology, the possible resources, the people and the settlement.

If I were to make up a survey of basic information about the NWT that everyone should know and passed it out to the Territorial politicians and bureaucrats and the other leaders up here, how many people do you think would pass it.

Don't believe that well just give it a try.

Lets pick a few communities:

Ulukhaktok, Aklavik, Colville Lake, Nahanni Butt, Detah, Lutselke, Gameti, Yellowknife

What does the name of the community mean and where did it come from.

What is the population and status or ethnic mix of the community.

What are the main languages spoken.

What percentage of the people have jobs and what type of jobs. Government vs private.

What percentage own their own houses.

What is the geology geography of the area.

What resource potential (renewable and non renewable) is around the community.

What is the best and worse feature of the community.

How does the cost of living in the community compare to Yellowknife.

How much would it cost to get from the community to Edmonton.

Does the community have a doctor, nurse, dentist, RCMP, wildlife office.

Who would be the highest ranking GNWT person in the community.

When is break up and freeze up.

What grade does the school go to.

Is alcohol allowed in the community.

Now lets try a few general questions.

What are the top five industries in the NWT and how do they compare.

What is the tallest mountain in the NWT.

What is the biggest or deepest lake.

When did the last ice age end and when did the ice leave.

Name five rocks, minerals, trees, plants, flowers, birds, mammals, fish, insects, berries, mushrooms, etc to be found in the NWT.

Which community has the most hours of sun in a year, the best potential for wind power, hydro power, coal resources, natural gas.

What percentage of the NWT would fall under ocean and arctic Islands, mountain, tundra, boreal forest, Precambrian shield, Mackenzie valley.

Name a famous geologist, actor, musician, writer, painter, prospector, trapper, naturalist, from the NWT.

The questions could go on and on and even if it was an open book test....what percentage of the GNWT politicians, civil servants, general public do you think would pass.

The GNWT has done a terrible job of creating a sense or awareness of the territory as a whole. There is no book or manual or orientation course for new employees. I have talked with politicians, leaders, civil servants and the general public who know virtually nothing about the NWT other than a little bit about the community they happen to live in.

So lets try another quiz.

What does the GNWT do for you.

Who is in charge of or what role does the GNWT play when it comes to water, minerals, oil and gas, food, air quality, plane fares, power, TV, radio, search and rescue, hunting, trapping, fishing, fossil collecting, tourism, economic development, policing, health, education, the land, the environment, etc.

How well does the GNWT inter react with people.

If you have a question or problem and phone up the GNWT who do you call and what sort of answer do you get.

Does the GNWT treat its employees well.

Does the GNWT treat the public well.

Do the GNWT politicians listen to the people.

Are they more concerned about their free trips around the world at tax payers expense or the homeless people in the north and camped out around the legislature. .

Why doesn't everyone get the same pension plan as the MLAs

Do territorial politicians care about the good of the Territory as a whole or are they just out for themselves and their riding.

What salary does and MLA get and what benefits.

How much time do they actually spend working.

What percentage of MLAs and civil servant retire in the north and what percent leave as soon as they can afford to.

What do all the ex MLAs do.

What is their pension and when do they start collecting it.

Why are we building a bridge across the Mackenzie which we can't afford, will benefit only one community and increase the cost of living for the rest of us.

Why do we claim not to have [party politics when it is obvious many of the politicians have party loyalties and supported by political parties etc.

Do you feel you are getting support from the GNWT

Is the GNWT a help or a hindrance.

Does the GNWT really care about what is going on up here or if there is a mess do they just say "Not our jurisdiction".

One could ask the public a lot of questions and I fear the GNWT and its politicians and a lot of other leaders in the North, would largely get failing grades. So the GNWT has a lot of work to do to make itself relevant and useful to the people of the NWT.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL and GROWTH of NWT

Mining is the number one industry in the NWT and mineral exploration is number two. They have been the backbone and powerhouse of the NWT since 1930 when they started here, they are the main economic mover today and the only real major source of money and employment for the future.

So you would think all the political leaders would be well versed in how they work and that a health future for mining and mineral exploration would be their major focus. Is this happening. Of course not. Mineral exploration has basically been shut down, the word is out the NWT is a terrible place to try to work, avoid it at all cost and even if you did find something it is almost impossible to develop it. The NWT is full of graft and corruption.

What is going to happen in ten to twenty years when the diamond mines shut down. Hundreds of people will lose there jobs at the mines and hundreds more who service the mines will be out of work so we are talking about thousands of people losing their jobs and millions of dollars in lost revenue for the NWT. Aboriginal companies that supply trucking, aircraft, catering, services and equipment will go belly up because there will be no work for them. Lots of people aboriginal and non aboriginal will be forced to leave the north and the NWT will lose the leverage with the federal government and we will become one big welfare state. Yet our political leaders just merrily go along ignoring reality of the north.

Last year Nunavut put 110 people in 10 communities through a certified prospecting program. The NWT put 0 through in 0 communities because they killed the program a few years ago and even when it was operating it was at most 30 people in 3 communities a year. The Nunavut government has a field assistant program, something we don't even have.

In Nunavut they have an active prospecting grub stake program and it has lead to several interesting and significant finds. Almost all jurisdiction in Canada have a similar program except for the NWT because the GNWT cancelled it as well.

In Nunavut and other jurisdiction they are actively seeking companies to explore and develop mines. In the NWT they are doing everything they can to shut the industry down and it is working.

So what are the GNWT and the political leaders doing to educate people about the benefits of mining and mineral exploration in the north. Nothing.

What are the GNWT and the political leaders doing to ensure that there is a good and healthy environment up here for mining and mineral exploration. Nothing.

What are the GNWT and political leaders doing to prepare for the last diamond mine to close, for when thousands of jobs are lost and millions in revenue is lost. Nothing.

I have worked in the NWT in the business for over forty years and it is just one big mess and unless the GNWT and the political leaders up here get their act together it is spiralling towards disaster.

SMALL COMMUNITY WELL BEING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

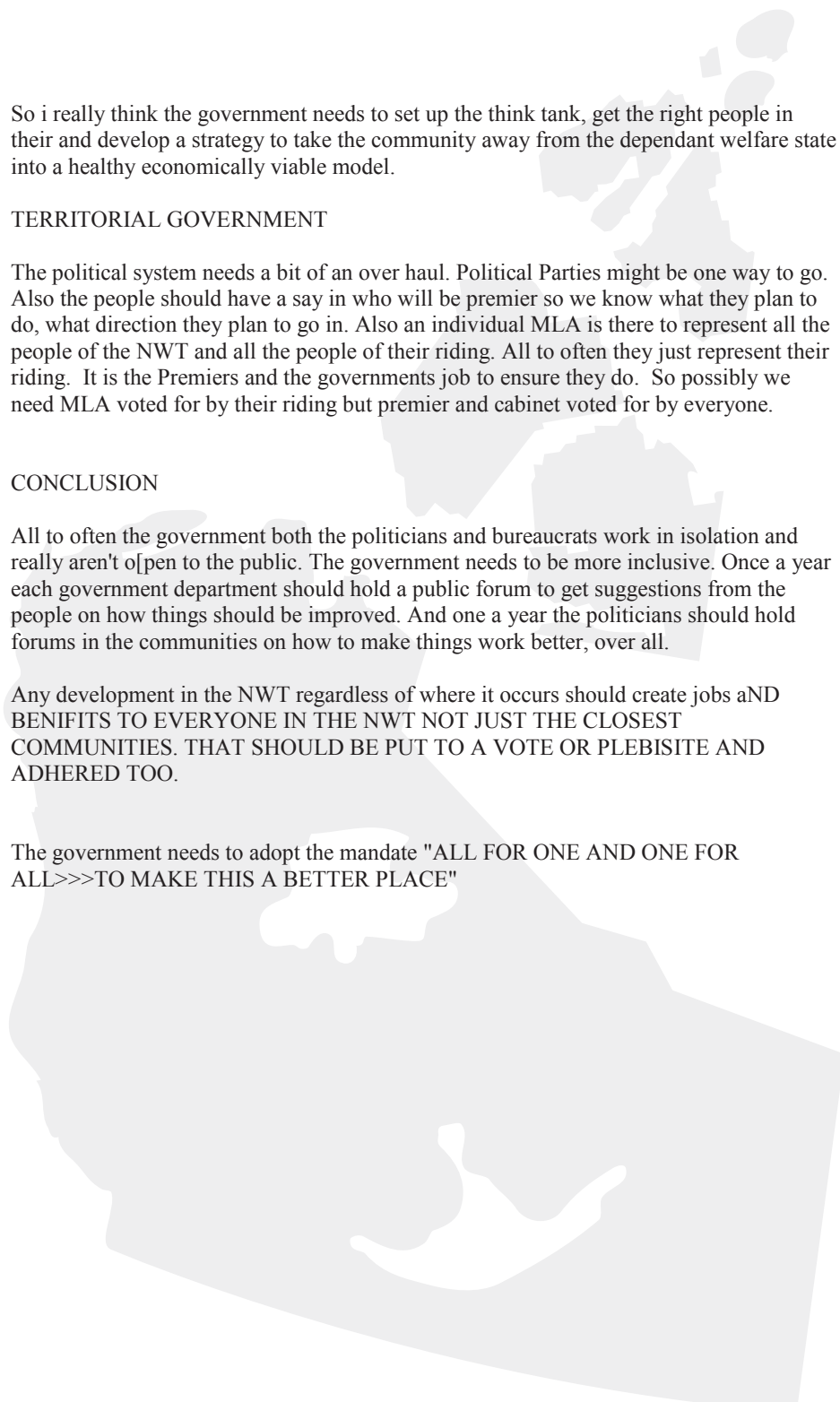
The communities in the North have largely evolved into welfare ones completely dependent on handouts. The only jobs there are ones created by the government and the only private businesses are the food stores, some sort of cab company and maybe a handyman business. the government actually discourages free enterprise and development.

What you need to do is put together a think tank to figure out how to make these communities politically, socially and economically viable. I believe it can be done. The projects aren't going to employ everyone but each job created, each business established is a victory. Some are going to be part time or seasonal jobs but that is OK, I have worked all my life on seasonal jobs and never once applied to unemployment or well fare because I have a second and third "occupation" to tide me over the rest of the year. There is no reason others can't do the same if it is encouraged and realistic rules are in place for it.

A lot of this involves education but we need to create and deliver education programs that meet the peoples needs rather than ones dreamed up by bureaucrats. Education should be fun and interesting, not a drudgery that you have to pay people to attend. Again I believe it can be done but needs a new model and frame work. This think tank would think outside of the box and come up with solutions that can be tried and offered to communities to "turn themselves around". The small bank/loan system that some third world countries use could work here as well.

Every community needs a web site that promotes the community, encourages tourism and sell local products for people, artists etc. Also if you encourage mineral exploration and have some people trained to take the jobs, who are also trained to be responsible and hard working then you will have created a number of seasonal jobs for people and will also have created a number of independent prospectors and entrepreneurs.

Hopefully the think tank in doing its work will also suggest ways that the government can stream line its departments and have them set up so they work with and for the people.



So i really think the government needs to set up the think tank, get the right people in their and develop a strategy to take the community away from the dependant welfare state into a healthy economically viable model.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

The political system needs a bit of an over haul. Political Parties might be one way to go. Also the people should have a say in who will be premier so we know what they plan to do, what direction they plan to go in. Also an individual MLA is there to represent all the people of the NWT and all the people of their riding. All to often they just represent their riding. It is the Premiers and the governments job to ensure they do. So possibly we need MLA voted for by their riding but premier and cabinet voted for by everyone.

CONCLUSION

All to often the government both the politicians and bureaucrats work in isolation and really aren't o[pen to the public. The government needs to be more inclusive. Once a year each government department should hold a public forum to get suggestions from the people on how things should be improved. And one a year the politicians should hold forums in the communities on how to make things work better, over all.

Any development in the NWT regardless of where it occurs should create jobs aND BENIFITS TO EVERYONE IN THE NWT NOT JUST THE CLOSEST COMMUNITIES. THAT SHOULD BE PUT TO A VOTE OR PLEBISITE AND ADHERED TOO.

The government needs to adopt the mandate "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL>>>TO MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE"

4415 School Draw Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2K2
nwticeman@hotmail.ca

July 23, 2010

Floyd Roland, Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
(premier@gov.nt.ca)

Re: Creating Our Future Together

Premier Roland,

In reply to your questions:

- 1 What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Answer

The NWT is a wonderful territory. It has energetic people, a wealth of resources, and a history of adventure and exploration. It is a land of opportunity. But it is not perfect. Discrimination, often subtle and hidden, is rampant in both government agencies and private enterprise. Specifically, people with disabilities struggle on a daily basis with a bureaucracy which purports to assist them but which blindly follows the letter of the law rather than using common sense, intelligence and empathy in making decisions.

20 or 30 years from now (hopefully in less time), I would like to see a more inclusive society. A society in which a person's abilities are more important than their disabilities. A society in which we are all equal and in which special adaptations to assist people with disabilities in being all that they can and want to be are the norm and are provided without questioning their need or cost.

- 2 How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to make it happen?

Answer

An inclusive society can be achieved by 'leading through example'. Systemic discrimination of people with disabilities, seniors, minorities, etc. must be eliminated. Policies must be put in place, and acted on, which encourages equality of opportunity. Bureaucrats must be sensitized to respond empathetically to the needs of their clients.

My contribution to making this happen will continue to be monitoring of government services, policies and actions to make sure the inclusion is an integral part those services, policies and actions.

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July 23, 2010

Premier Floyd Roland

- 3 What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?

Answer

Our consensus government is the best form of government. Party politics has no place in a democratic form of government.

As a constituent in the NWT, my vote goes toward the election of a local representative to the legislature. Since that representative also represents many other people in the constituency, I do not expect him/her to always have the same opinion as I do on a particular subject. But I do expect the elected representative to represent the wishes and opinions of the majority of the constituents. Party politics prevents this by forcing party members (the elected representatives) to vote based on party policies. The voice of the constituents is disregarded.

- 4 What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Answer

Without change and adaptation Darwin has shown us that a species dies out and disappears. Since humans first banded together in communities, economic development has moved society forward, has promoted growth. Economic development is a required component of a modern society.

However, economic development which ignores the consequences of its action places its own future in jeopardy. When one resource is destroyed at the expense of a second resource the economy does not develop, it regresses. Conservation does not mean stagnation. Conservation is another name for 'a different way of doing things'. Conservation can mean job opportunities. Conservation can mean long term economic development. Conservation can mean postponing development today in order to be able to do a better job tomorrow.

The legacy which this generation leaves for future generations must be one of understanding the relationship between development and conservation. It must be demonstrated that just because developers want something NOW, it may be better postponed until any community concerns are addressed and resolved.

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July 23, 2010

Premier Floyd Roland

5 What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Answer

De-centralize government services. The NWT is a large and varied jurisdiction. What is acceptable in one area may not be acceptable in another. History and culture in one community necessitates unique solutions, even if the problems are similar.

Decentralization is more expensive but the solution is better. It demonstrates that the local economy is more important than the 'bottom line'. It spreads the economic benefits throughout the territory. It generates 'local' jobs rather than forcing people out of their community in order to find work. It is a cascading effect - more local jobs creates a demand for more local resources which creates more local businesses which creates more jobs which creates more demand, etc, etc.

6 What do you consider to be the best and worst - features of the NWT?

Answer

Best - a group of individuals who are willing to try something new

Worst - a government which places more importance on the wants of 'Big Business' rather than the needs of the ordinary citizen

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours truly
Cornelius Van Dyke

cc: Glen Abernethy, MLA, Great Slave (glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca)



Creating Our Future Together

Media Round Table

July 7, 2010

Moderator's Summary



Background

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly, and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum have agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years from now. The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all Northern governments.

Process

Over the summer, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Floyd Roland, will be speaking with and inviting ideas and viewpoints from Northerners, asking "What do you want the NWT to be like in 20 – 30 years?"

The process will include round table conversations with Northerners from different walks of life in a number of communities. Every household will receive information on "Creating Our Future Together" and an invitation to provide their thoughts by mail, email, or on the web at www.premier.gov.nt.ca.

Round Table Discussions

On July 7, coinciding with the Premier's announcement the Creating Our Future Together initiative, Premier Floyd Roland met with leaders in the Northern media. Participants included:

Mr. John Agnew, CBC

Mr. Paul Andrew, CBC

Mr. Chris Brodeur, The Hub

Mr. Les Carpenter, Native Communications Society

Ms. Anne Crossman, Permafrost Media

Baptiste Foisy, L'Aquilon/Radio Taiga

Don Jaque, Slave River Journal

Ms. Marion Lavigne, Up Here Publishing

Ms. Sunny Munroe, former writer/journalist, Far North Oil and Gas

Mr. Mike Scott, Northern News Services Limited

Mr. Bruce Valpy, Northern News Services Limited

Summary of Themes

Three themes dominated the discussion:

- Empowerment of people (through shared identity; refocussing on culture and language, education, jobs), and empowerment of regions (through devolution, economic development, etc.).
- The future is now. We must start change now to reach our vision in 30 years.
- The current system of government (consensus) is not working, and change is needed.

Many of the other themes articulated lead back to, or grow out of these “overarching” themes. The following is a summary of themes emanating from the comments of the media round table.

Empowerment and shared identity

Both regions and people need to be empowered going into a successful future for the NWT.

Empowerment of Northern people is found in identity. In the NWT, that identity comes from our Aboriginal and cultural roots. It comes from a spiritual and cultural pride starts with tradition, culture and language.

Empowerment of regions means bringing all regions into decision making. It is intertwined with devolution. The government needs to reduce its dependence on the federal government, and people need to reduce their dependence on government.

This notion of “empowerment” was also articulated as the “glue” that comes from having a shared identity. Currently, there is no strongly shared identity among Northerners, and likewise, there is no strongly shared identity among governments. This “glue” or shared identity won't happen until the people want it, and make it happen. This, according to at least one participant, is where the initial focus needs to be: creating shared identity. In order to create this shared identity, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people need an opportunity to talk to each other. The Berger Inquiry (of the 1970s) was a

watershed because people talked. We haven't done this since. We need another forum for open dialogue between people.

The future is now

Thirty years may seem a long way away, but in order to create real change for the future, it needs to start now.

Diversification and the economy

The NWT of the future should be a one with a diversified economy. Too much money has been spent on the pipeline, and as well, we need to think beyond the mines, which have a limited lifespan. There is too much emphasis on Yellowknife. All services are centralized to Yellowknife and therefore economic development is concentrated here. NWT needs stronger, more diverse economies in communities.

The NWT needs to generate its own wealth and get over its dependence on government. Diversification in the economy can be large scale, such as tourism or hydro development, or it can be small scale such as local gardening, farming and fishing operations. We can have an economy of culture.

In order for diversification – and investment – to happen, the regulatory system needs to be improved. The regulatory system will need to be one that protects, but does not make it so expensive to invest in the NWT so as to exclude development.

Government jobs should be cut so that they become private sector jobs. Use the budget savings for job creation. Government is a large segment of the economy, and is where capacity is being built, and this is valuable. This should be used to grow capacity in the regions. (Strong regions create strength for Yellowknife as well.) Government should be the scaffolding with which to build. At the right time, it should pull away, not suffocate business development.

Opportunities to diversify the economy include tourism (new job creation and can help develop regions and infrastructure); hydro power; small scale agriculture; casinos; film development (need incentives). Economic opportunities in knowledge and science as well as the traditional economy should be fostered.

Global warming will open up different opportunities as transportation routes change. A deep sea port is an economic opportunity.

Jobs

The NWT of the future will have jobs for Northerners. When people have purpose; when they have a job, it positively impacts health, education and social services. Jobs can be traditional or market jobs. But when someone has a job to do, it develops in them a sense of self worth.

Land claims anchor business in the North. It doesn't allow the business to flow south.

Technology

Not all communities currently have cell phone service. Such service needs to be universal for the sake of safety and business development.

Technology teaches youth to be “still”, not active.

Technology can be used in innovative ways, for example, to further achievement of educational goals for the future; to improve the delivery of health care, and thus the health of Northerners. Technology can help create the “glue” that keeps people together. People become connected through communication. For example, a Facebook roundtable (to obtain views on Creating Our Future Together) should be considered.

There needs to be competition in information technology development or innovation will be smothered.

Language and culture

The territory’s mental spirit needs to return to where it was 20 years ago. Spiritual and cultural pride is embodied in language and language preservation. If people have their language, it will bring back pride, and everything else will follow. One vision of the future would see a public service fluent in one or more Aboriginal languages of the North.

Role in Canada

The NWT of the future should be an NWT that is contributing to Canada, and connected to the rest of the world. It should have parity with other regions. People in other parts of the country should know the NWT exists.

Governance/consensus government

The form of territorial government should change for the future. Consensus and party politics were discussed as was the benefit of having an elected Premier:

- A party system would result in greater accountability from elected leaders. Consensus government is always a minority government and doesn’t get much done. Under this system, doing the “right thing” is political suicide. Consensus government gets in the way of progress; of getting things done.
- The NWT needs to create its own style of government based on a consensus approach. A form of government where regional priorities are negotiated and become a mandate for the Assembly. We need a mechanism; a formal structure in the Legislative Assembly so that regional governments have input and power. Regional/Aboriginal governments need to be brought into decision-making, to get away from the “divide and conquer” approach.

There is no one “right” style of government, however, the current form of government makes it hard for the government of the day to make “difficult” decisions.

When the NWT divided (to form Nunavut), it went through a massive political change. Another political change of this magnitude is needed in the NWT to move the territory forward.

Our youth will need to be developed as political leaders.

Devolution

Finish devolution and get rid of INAC. The NWT of the future will have control over its own tax policy and revenues.

Not only must the federal government devolve authority to the NWT, there needs to be a further devolution to empower regions and communities. Resolve land claims and institute land use plans.

Education and research

Many issues are rooted in education. It provides a sense of history, culture and opportunity. People will shape the future, but they need the “equipment”. That equipment is education.

What education is, needs to be redefined. It’s not just formal education; it’s also informal and comes from the land and tradition. 48% of NWT Aboriginal adults have no formal education. This population is forgotten about. We need to take people back on the land, and value and use traditional skills.

Northern students need to have an education that is relevant to the NWT and reflects who we are; the Northern culture. Students should learn about treaty rights in school. Northern education needs to match the opportunities that exist in the North.

The NWT needs a Northern university. Think about reviving the successful “Frontier College” (a school for Northern leadership development). We need co-op education opportunities.

We do not know enough about our land. Independent companies (i.e. diamond mines, oil and gas companies) come up and do research and they take that knowledge base with them. We need to do a better job of documenting and keeping our traditional knowledge and Northern knowledge. We need research in the North that is publicly funded

Retain our youth; retain the brain trust

We need to keep our youth in the NWT.

There is little in the NWT to keep our brain trust, yet there are many things that lure them away, including opportunity and a lower cost of living in other parts of Canada. We need to keep our educated and skilled people.

Cost of living

The future needs to secure a lower cost of living for people of the NWT. Infrastructure development (i.e. highways) will do much to reduce costs.

Take care of seniors and elders

We have an ageing society. The population of seniors in the NWT will increase over the next 30 years. Seniors can't afford to live here. The NWT must be prepared to take care of its seniors.

There is little respect for elders any more. Elders used to be the spiritual leaders and community advisors. We lose this when we send our elders away (from our communities for care).

Social

Social issues, and the ability to address them, tie back to education. Economic development and jobs are not the problem in the North. *Keeping* jobs is the problem. Social problems are much deeper than what meets the eye. Residential schools and other pieces of our history create a legacy that we all have to own.

The social and economic transition process is linked. Because there are few economic opportunities in communities, people migrate to Yellowknife. This is a loss economically and socially for the communities.

The justice system needs an overall to better reflect the people of the North.

Environment

The NWT needs to have the voice on our environment, not the federal government.

Environment is key to Aboriginal people.

We need to gather environmental knowledge and keep it in the North, rather than housing it in the south. Right now the University of Calgary houses the Arctic Institute, and Laval University also has a strong Northern research focus. Repatriate these repositories of research to the North.

The Northern college at Blatchford Lake Lodge is a good example of advanced education that is "made in the North" and uses Northern perspectives. We need more of this.

Other advice and insights

The visioning process will be welcomed by the NWT public. People in the North try to do what's right and what's best. Everything has to stem from the ground up, starting with the regions.

A think tank to talk about the future on a regular basis, an honest forum of Northerners, can provide regular insight and input to the future.

It is important to bring forward options to people, but don't ask them to solve the problem. They may not have the solutions.

There will be no shortage of ideas on where the future should be. Implementation is the stumbling block that will need to be addressed, and this requires a different system of government.



Creating Our Future Together

Yellowknife Round Table

July 9, 2010

Moderator's Summary





Background

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly, and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum have agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years from now. The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all northern governments.

Process

Over the summer, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Floyd Roland, will be speaking with and inviting ideas and viewpoints from northerners, asking “What do you want the NWT to be like in 20 – 30 years?”

The process will include round table conversations with northerners from different walks of life in a number of communities. Every household will receive information on “Creating Our Future Together” and an invitation to provide their thoughts by mail, email, or on the web at www.premier.gov.nt.ca.

Round Table Participants

On July 9, Premier Floyd Roland met representatives from business, social, and community in Yellowknife. Participants included:

- Mr. Jeff Barbutza, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. Mary Lou Cherwaty, NWT Federation of Labour
- Ms. Eileen Collins, NWT Seniors Society
- Ms. Michelle Gillis, NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities
- Ms. Bridget Larocque, NWT Sport and Recreation Council
- Mr. Francis Lemieux, Fédération Franco-ténoise
- Mr. Eric Madsen, NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines
- Ms. Annameika Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT
- Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, Alternatives North
- Mr. Doug Ritchie, Ecology North
- Mr. David Ross, Yellowknife Association for Community Living
- Ms. Christy Sinclair, Northern Aboriginal Business Association
- Ms. Ann Marie Tout, NWT Chamber of Commerce

Discussion Questions

Round table participants were invited to provide their input and insights into the following questions:

1. What do you want the NWT to be like 20 to 30 years from now?
2. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved, and what can you contribute to make this happen?
3. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?
4. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?
5. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for northerners in all our regions?

Summary of Themes and Viewpoints

There was a diversity of viewpoints and opinion among participants, as well as a number of common themes articulated by participants. Outlined below are the themes identified, including varying viewpoints on each theme.

Themes arising from questions 1 and 2 – Vision for the future, and is it achievable?

Harmony and inclusion

A future with harmony, respect and inclusion for all people of the NWT underpins the vision of the future for most round table participants.

The NWT is home to a variety of nationalities and cultures. Each deserves respect. The future should be one of harmony among all cultures. To this end, it is imperative that Aboriginal agreements (land and self-government) be resolved and implemented.

Harmony and inclusion includes gender equality such that women have equality in participation in leadership, in the economic sphere, and in terms of personal safety.

The NWT should be free of dividing lines, and the vision of the future should be a future for all, not just some. The NWT of the future should be inclusive and accessible to all regardless of gender, disability, race, or age.

Stable, sustainable, healthy communities

Round table participants also articulated a future with healthy, stable, sustainable communities. The definition of healthy, stable, sustainable communities, and how to achieve stable communities had variations from the participants. Elements discussed (see themes below) that impact sustainability included infrastructure, debt, and renewable resources, environmental consciousness, and the balance of the three sustainability pillars of environment, society (people), and business. It includes social, financial and physical health of both people and communities.

- Individual communities need viable economies. We should be open to learning from others. We need to be creative in how we give back to our communities, and should look to other circumpolar examples. Opportunities exist in arts, eco-tourism and other areas.
- We need to retain our population, and communities need supports to allow people to remain in communities. Look at funding and population needs together.
- The population is in decline, but there is growth in our youth. We need to find out and address why people are leaving, including addressing the cost of living.

Diversified, vibrant, economy

All participants see a future with a diversified and vibrant economy. Several different elements, requirements or opportunities to achieve a diversified and vibrant economy, including those below:

- A positive investment climate created by, among other things, a streamlined regulatory regime, and a reduced cost of living. Building the investment climate, and diversifying the economy should not be at the expense of non-renewable development.
- The non-renewable resource economy is valuable, but finite. It will eventually run out. Development of non-renewable resources should be well managed, and revenues from these resources fund a heritage or trust fund for the future. The NWT needs more than short-term benefit from non-renewable resources. At the same time, because non-renewables are finite, the NWT needs to build a renewable resource and “green” economy.
- Renewable economy potential includes farming, fishing, forestry (in the South Slave), and wind, solar, and hydro power.
- Green economy, including a more locally-based economy where goods and services that can be produced locally are; where renewable resources are used.
- In the future, people in the NWT should be exercising more import substitution, particularly in areas such as agriculture, lumber, arts and crafts. Those things that we do in the north should be sourced from the north.
- The NWT should strive for a goal of zero waste by instating more ‘polluter pay’ mechanisms. Polluter pay initiatives are in place for garbage and recycling, but more of these are needed.
- Renewable economy.
- An economy that includes resources, tourism, and leadership in sustainable development
- Jobs for all who want them.
- Use progress indicators, not GDP, as a measure of the economy.

Devolution

Discussion of devolution was integrated throughout the conversation and shows up throughout the themes. The following were specific comments on devolution.

- While devolution should be a goal, the GNWT does not need to wait for devolution in order to institute a fair tax system. Exercise this now.
- Devolution is needed so that the NWT can benefit fully from resource royalties.

Infrastructure

Like many other topics, the development of the north’s infrastructure related to many different discussion areas, including economic development and jobs. Specific comments on infrastructure development are captured here.

- The investment climate needs the NWT (government and industry) to agree and decide on what infrastructure projects are the priority. Highways, Taltson, Bathurst Port, and other projects

should be put through an economic analysis to identify the potential economic impact, the return on investment, so that everyone is on the 'same page' with respect to infrastructure development. Investment should focus on the highest priorities. A decision is needed soon. 30 years is today.

- Infrastructure development will provide significant opportunity for northerners. In recent years, and with the construction of the diamond mines, Aboriginal and northern companies have grown and developed with capacity for this work.
- The federal government needs to invest more in the north due to their interest in sovereignty.
- With agreement on priorities, the federal government will be able to invest in the priority.
- Trading routes in the NWT need to be connected by land road/ice road. This will do much to reduce the cost of living and provide food security to otherwise isolated communities.
- Our transportation infrastructure needs to be up to national standards.
- Energy efficiency should be considered in transportation infrastructure. Consider what is most energy efficient, for example, rail and barging.

Aboriginal rights agreements and land use plans

- Unsettled Aboriginal rights agreements need to be settled and implemented. This creates employment in communities.
- Land use plans need to be resolved in order for the articulated vision for the future to be achieved. It is at the crux of many challenges.

Education

Education and social health of the territory are interrelated. Education has been identified as a foundational need – it enables success in other areas.

- The NWT of the future should include a university with research capacity and northern exchanges. We should collaborate and partner with other circumpolar nations that share issues, and pursue multinational and bilateral initiatives.
- The future needs to focus on education, particularly early childhood, primary and secondary education. The NWT's system of education, and the competency of those coming out of it, needs to be comparable to the rest of Canada.
- An NWT education needs to be up to Canadian standards. The education system worked OK in the past, so why is it not working now? What is the problem?
- In order to achieve its vision, northerners must respect the history and culture of Aboriginal people. Elders are our greatest teachers. Youth don't have their history. We need to give them the tools to help them help themselves. Part of this comes from providing education closer to home.
- Literacy programs need to be supported.

Social matters

- Families should be supported – to remain in their own communities -- regardless of their disabilities. The NWT should be a place where northerners can call home for their entire life; stay in local communities, and keep families together.
- The NWT needs quality, affordable daycare. The territory must invest in this. The GNWT should demonstrate leadership in this area and institute in-house public daycare for employees.
- Our early childhood intervention programs should provide the right care early to allow our youth to reach their potential. (One in eight NWT residents has a disability).
- Parenting skills and supports, addressing social issues and education are all important to developing human capacity.
- More girls and women are needed in leadership.
- There should be zero tolerance of violence against women.

Capacity

Social matters and education together affect capacity.

- Investment in youth is important. It starts with education and creating opportunities that will allow youth to stay in the north into adulthood.
- Human capacity starts with strength and self confidence. And this derives from connection to culture. Pride in culture and who you are is a prerequisite to achieving educational goals. The NWT will not succeed in having a well-educated population until people have the strength and self-confidence that comes from cultural identity. Aboriginal culture needs to be celebrated, grown, and enriched.

Process to the future

Participants were asked whether the future they described was achievable, and what would need to be done to make it happen. In addition to practical requirements (captured above), participants pointed to a number of things that would enable the future to be pursued, and recommendations on how to approach the path to the vision.

- The vision articulated is possible, but requires a real plan with goals that are measurable and evaluated. The plan must connect with community economic development plans.
- In order to achieve the vision, the GNWT should screen its budget expenditures against social, environmental, and gender screens.
- Include the federal government (MP) in the Northern Leaders' Forum.
- Lobby for an increase in the borrowing cap in order to fund initiatives.
- There are several organizations in the NWT who can bring forward ideas and policy analysis, and the GNWT should look to these sources. We can learn from other places, including other circumpolar nations. We need a regular forum, like the round table on economy and environment that exists in other jurisdictions.

- Many of the north's leaders are without title, such as elders and religious leaders. It is important that the social base be engaged in the process of creating the future.

Themes and discussion arising from question 3 – Consensus government

Consensus government

- Consensus government is good. Party politics is too divisive in a small population.
- Consensus government is good because MLAs are not aligned with a party and can make his own decisions.
- Consensus government makes us unique. Consensus is the Aboriginal style of decision-making.
- It comes from our roots, but has gone away from its origins in Aboriginal-style decision-making. Consensus government needs to be improved if it is to be maintained. Consider an ombudsman for appeals and accountability.

Leadership

- The north needs more input from the people, through an elected premier.
- Women are not represented adequately in government. Politics is scary for women, given prevailing attitudes. We need to support women in leadership.
- We need to be engaging and supporting youth to become future (political) leaders.

Party politics

- There are benefits to party politics. Parties have platforms on which electors can make decisions. Without platforms, elections are popularity contests, and there is no accountability. Accountability is missing in the current system.
- Without party politics, the NWT does not have “clout” to negotiate with Ottawa. Party politics would bring the NWT into the Canadian “norm” and make it easier for other jurisdictions to include us.

Other comments

- The current system of government is not working. Cabinet and regular MLAs need to work closer together, and effective committees are needed.
- If Cabinet was eliminated, everyone would be a regular member.
- There is no perfect political system.

Themes and discussion arising from question 4 – Legacy from economic development and environment

- Need to think about how non-renewables lead to sustainable communities. They do so through the development of transferrable skills and through revenue capture. But for now there is little to show for the development of our non-renewable resources except for here and now. Legislation is needed now, not at devolution.
- The fossil fuel 'feast' is ending. We need to wean our selves off of dependence on fossil fuels. This weaning moves us toward a green economy and green economy jobs. A 'radical' path is needed to transition, with stronger policies.
- The north needs to prioritize its infrastructure needs. Doing so will improve the investment climate, and leave a legacy for the future.
- We need to include our youth now in building the legacy we will leave them. We need to demonstrate to youth that government is one of democracy, and that democracy works. We need to involve youth in discussions around the economic/environmental future.
- The legacy of the future should be one of healthy and safe work environments. The GNWT needs to work with the federal government on social supports such as EI and WCB.

Themes and discussion arising from question 5 – Jobs

- We need to get the word out that the NWT is open for business – come and live here.
- Exploration is down 80%. The regulatory process needs more certainty to turn this around. Infrastructure development needs to be prioritized in order to provide better certainty and boost the investment climate as well.
- Improve the regulatory system by fully funding the boards so that they can operate as they were formed to operate.
- Energy incentive programs can help reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and build a green economy.
- Stimulus spending is needed in recession to even out boom and bust cycles.
- Community economic development should not be forgotten while focusing on large economic projects. Communities need to develop as well.
- Community economic development requires improved literacy and numeracy, basic education and import substitution. These will help create local jobs (and jobs for local people).
- The long-term plan for the future should include a focus on food security, housing, training and education, and creative business ideas (arts and culture).
- Ask youth what they want. The ball is in their court.
- There is a disconnect between jobs and skills available. What skills will be needed in 30 years? The education system should connect now with those future needs.

Closing comments

Each of the participants was invited to provide brief comments on closing, providing an opportunity to put on the table, observations, or any input that did not otherwise get on the table during discussions. Most participants took the opportunity to thank the Premier for the opportunity to provide input, commend the effort, and underline points made previously. The following was new input from the closing comments:

- There is an income gap. The NWT needs an anti-poverty strategy.
- Visioning efforts have been done before, but have gotten derailed. We need ongoing ways to move forward.
- Pan-territorial, bilateral, and other relationships are important.
- Many of the organizations around the table want to contribute and work in partnership on setting and achieving the vision for the territory's future.



Creating Our Future Together

In search of a common vision
for the Northwest Territories



Creating Our Future Together

Inuvik Roundtable

August 31, 2010

Summary Notes



Background

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum have agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years from now. The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all northern governments.

Process

Over the summer, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Floyd Roland, has been speaking with and inviting ideas and viewpoints from northerners, asking “What do you want the NWT to be like in 20-30 years?”

The process will include roundtable conversations with northerners from different walks of life in a number of communities. Every household has received information on “Creating Our Future Together” and an invitation to provide their thoughts by mail, email, or on the web at www.creatingourfuture.ca.



Roundtable Participants

On August 31, Premier Floyd Roland met with representatives from business, social and community groups at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre in Inuvik. Roundtable participants included the following:

- Brent Kay, Western Arctic Business Development Services
- Billie Lennie, Great Northern Arts Festival
- Eddie Dillon, Chair, NWT Water Board
- Duane Smith, Chair, Inuvik Community Corporation and Inuvik Elders' Committee
- Bob Reid, President, Aboriginal Pipeline Group
- Mabel Brown, Inuvik Justice Committee
- Sarah Smith, Inuvik Justice Committee
- Jerry Hamilton, Inuvik Chamber of Commerce
- Sharon Vaughn, Inuvik Justice Committee
- Grand Chief Sam Gargan, Dehcho First Nations
- Mike Harlow, NWT Water Board
- Chief Ed Sangris, Akaitcho Territory Government (observer)



Discussion Questions

Roundtable participants were invited to provide input and insights into the following questions:

1. *What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?*
2. *How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?*
3. *What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?*
4. *What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?*
5. *What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?*
6. *What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?*

In previous roundtables, participants were asked to discuss the questions listed above in sequence; for this roundtable, the moderator asked participants to begin with Question 6 (describe the best and worst features of the NWT) to give participants an opportunity to take stock of current conditions in the NWT and to lay a foundation for discussing their vision for the NWT over the next 20 to 30 years.

Summary of Themes and Viewpoints

Note: the following are summary notes taken by facilitators and should not be regarded as a verbatim record of discussions.

As was the case with previous roundtables, there was a positive and respectful exchange of opinions among participants and a diversity of viewpoints. Outlined below are the themes identified, including varying viewpoints on each theme.

Viewpoints on Question 6 – the best and worst features of the NWT

The discussions on this question revealed an interesting and widely-held perspective: the things that make the NWT unique are really two sides of the same coin – these unique features of our Territory have a positive and a negative aspect to it. This dual aspect is illustrated in the table below.

Best and worst features	
<i>We are a young territory with unlimited potential</i>	
The future is ours to shape and we can learn from the experiences of others.	We have a long way to go and although things have changed, it has not always been for the best at times.
<i>We are unique in terms of how we govern our Territory</i>	
We have ready access to our politicians at all levels and feel that we can make a difference.	Many issues can get onto the agenda quickly, which can make it difficult for decision-makers to make progress on agenda items and priorities.
<i>We are fortunate to have great people in our Territory</i>	
People are active in the community, and get involved in the electoral process, serving on boards and volunteering.	The number of boards, councils and jurisdictions can result in us getting burdened down with process.
<i>We are blessed with a beautiful landscape and vast natural resources</i>	
The land and resources sustains our people and our cultures and renews our spirit.	The vast geography and lack of infrastructure makes us feel isolated.
The potential to develop our resources and drive our northern economy is huge.	The complex regulatory process and lack of control over our natural resources is a huge barrier.
We have an abundance of natural resources. People, governments and companies outside the NWT are taking notice.	We are challenged with developing our non-renewable resources at a pace we can handle. We also need to seek new sources of energy and move toward sustainable sources of energy – wind, solar, hydro.
<i>We have a young and growing population that could sustain our territory and our economy</i>	
The youth are our future leaders. Their energy and enthusiasm will help us to realize our future vision.	High rates of addictions and violence, lack of housing, literacy gaps and other social problems could compromise their ability to build our Territory and, if they see no future here, they may leave.

While participants appreciated the challenges in shaping a common vision, there is cause for optimism in their approach to tackling the problems: one participant spoke eloquently about the ability of people to look beyond their narrow interest and to take the wider view. He stated:

“I hope the roundtable gives us the opportunity to see that it’s not just our family or community, but the whole territory is our family. We may make decisions that don’t help us locally but help the entire territory. Working together will support the whole family – the whole territory – in the long run”.

Themes arising from questions 1 and 2 – Vision for the future, and is it achievable?

Working together to achieve common goals

Participants spoke of the need for all levels of government to work together in the NWT. One participant spoke of a future with three orders of government – federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments, with mutual recognition overlaying these governments’ relations. Other participants spoke of the need for all governments to work together and to heal the divisions that exist between different governments in the north. One participant stated that although there are divisions between governments, there is also so much potential that could be realized if all governments in the NWT would work together.

Working together is regarded as being essential to the NWT gaining control of its future. The ability to achieve success on key issues like devolution turns on the ability of all NWT governments to come together and make things happen.

The vision for the NWT over the next 20 to 30 years includes the following:

- Cooperation between all NWT governments.
- Developing major infrastructure projects such as the Mackenzie Valley pipeline and highway.
- Devolution, with profits from resource development being shared between NWT governments.
- A reduced role for the federal government in the NWT.
- Building capacity in the communities to facilitate decision making.
- A reduction in the need for policing and community justice committees through measures intended to prevent harmful behaviors that can result in crimes being committed.
- A business climate that is conducive to investment.

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- A vibrant and well-supported arts community.
 - Strong language and cultural communities.
 - Achieving energy efficiency and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.
 - Investing revenues from resource development in a heritage fund as a legacy for future generations.
 - Education and health systems that produce qualified people who can compete anywhere for jobs.
 - Finding a way to ensure sustainable use of our resources.
 - Affordable housing and day care.
 - Addressing the issue of the homeless.
 - Maintaining species such as a caribou.

Healthy, diversified and sustainable economy

Participants agreed that the NWT of the future should have a healthy, diversified and sustainable economy. They discussed the steps necessary to achieve this.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure needs to be developed. Building a Mackenzie Valley pipeline with northern gas going to southern markets is seen as the key to achieving the goal of a healthy, diversified and sustainable economy. The construction and operation of a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley would spur ongoing exploration activities. The dividends from the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, the equity owners in the pipeline, will flow to the Aboriginal shareholders and will provide revenues to help in addressing social problems. The pipeline would create jobs and revenue for people throughout the NWT. In the long run, these activities would help the NWT to move towards becoming a province. In the interim, the economic benefits from developing our natural resources could be shared between public and Aboriginal governments.

A highway down the Mackenzie Valley would be good for the communities and would reduce the high cost of living.

Regulatory processes

Regulatory processes are thought to be lengthy and time consuming. Improvements need to be made in the regulatory system as the time lines for approval can be exceedingly long.

Devolution

The issue of devolution underpinned much of the broader discussions on achieving a common vision for the NWT for next 20 to 30 years. Getting control of our resources away from the federal government is critical to unlocking our future. Participants spoke of the importance of self-determination and the need to be less dependent on the federal government. If resource revenues were to flow to the NWT, we would be in a better position to achieve our objectives instead of having our objectives determined by the federal government. A united front is needed to achieve success on devolution.

Business Development

In order to assist business development, it would assist entrepreneurs to align the delivery of business services to make investment capital more readily available and to make it available over a longer term. There is a concern with duplication and overlap of programs for business, and a one-stop shop for business assistance would be preferred. There is a need to reduce our dependency on workers from outside the NWT and to have more professionals in the communities outside Yellowknife. There is a need to embrace new technology.

A guiding principle is the need to ensure that development proceeds in a way that balances the preservation of the environment. One participant spoke of the need to ensure that our great grandchildren are able to carry on the same traditional pursuits many of us enjoy today. He spoke of the importance of “standing in both worlds” – to be able to carry out traditional harvesting practices and to engage in the modern economy.

Education

The role of education in shaping our future is vital. Participants spoke of the need to ensure that people receive a quality education that would allow them to compete anywhere. Professions such as engineering and medicine require more northern graduates. There is a need to make continued progress on graduation rates and to reduce the tendency for people to spend a great deal of time and resources to upgrade their education. The high rates of FASD in the North demand attention in programming to ensure those affected will lead healthy, productive lives. There is a strong view among participants that improving educational outcomes starts at home.

Social issues

Participants expressed hope that the next 20 to 30 years will provide opportunities to increase self-sufficiency and reduce the incidence of poverty and homelessness. The NWT needs to ensure affordable daycare is provided to allow families to engage in the economy. There is hope that an improved economy and infrastructure will spur business development and employment, and reduce the rates of unemployment that, if left unaddressed, could lead to social problems.

How the vision can be achieved

Participants discussed how to achieve the vision described above. Some of the ways to achieve it are as follows:

- Get control of our destiny away from the federal government.
- Build capacity within existing structures to allow us to properly manage our own affairs.
- Develop appropriate policies and programs.
- Elect leaders who can work toward achieving this vision.
- Need to communicate the benefits to the federal government of major infrastructure investments like the pipeline – the economic future of the Mackenzie Valley turns on this.
- Be realistic and set achievable goals.
- Train and retain more professionals – e.g., teachers, lawyers, health care professionals – from the North.
- Make people accountable for their decisions and assist them with developing skills to make them productive members of northern society.
- More creative solutions are needed for economic development, including long-term investment capital to sustain businesses over time.
- Act collectively to achieve the vision.
- More access to affordable and quality daycare.

Themes and discussion arising from question 3 – Consensus government

Consensus is not perfect, but it is working in the current context

Participants discussed the nature of consensus government in the NWT. One participant stated that “we were the ones who asked for it” and it should be left as is. The participant suggested that the way leaders are elected is fine, but it is the bureaucracy that determines whether things will or should change.

One participant felt that the relatively small population of the NWT is conducive to consensus government, but the model may have to change if the NWT’s population increases significantly because it may be difficult to get anything done.

Another participant was not as supportive, and felt that change is needed in the system because the elected representatives are not doing what is best for the people.

A significant advantage of consensus government for many participants is the accessibility of elected representatives to their constituents and their ability to make decision without having to “toe the party line”. So long as they are transparent and accountable, the system is seen to work. One participant noted that some elected members in southern Canada wouldn’t even return a phone call, but in the NWT, an elected leader will generally respond quickly to a request.

The principle of consensus government should be taught more in schools. The Youth Parliament and Elders’ Parliament initiatives of the GNWT were seen as positive measures to teach consensus government.

Themes and discussion arising from question 4 – Legacy from economic development and environment

- There is a need to find harmony between economic development and conservation and this can be expressed in a land use plan. The Dehcho land use plan contained a five-year review provision but the plan was never accepted and the five-year period would be up this year if it were approved. Had it proceeded, there would have been development ongoing. If we can get all governments to work together, we can leave a legacy for our future.
- There is a need to develop our resources safely so that people can still live off the land after the projects have closed. It is hard to find a balance. We do not want to see any more Giant Mine situations – we don’t want to leave that kind of legacy for our children.
- A recent University of Alberta study found that there are toxic chemicals from the tar sands (near Fort McMurray) that are affecting systems downstream. The Government of Alberta persists in saying that these chemicals are naturally occurring. We need to think about the pace

of development and keep an eye on jurisdictions like Alberta to see how these issues are addressed.

- A land use plan is like a road map. It is very important that it is clearly understood. It should not stifle economic development. The oil sands¹ developed really fast; the result is evident.
- There are areas for conservation and development. We have the eyes of the world on us in the Arctic. We need to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to control their own destiny and make the decisions. We need to control the pace of development. With reclamation going on at the same time. We don't want to see diamond mines that have a 25-year lifespan and see them run out in ten years. We need to be sure to leave something to our kids so they can make decisions.
- Protect the land and wildlife and develop but be careful not to develop so much that everything is gone.
- Future generations need to appreciate what we have now – clean air and water. Every generation has to protect these resources.
- Need to be careful of what we wish for. The tough part is making the decision. Make the decision now but don't do anything to affect future generations. Make sure you have all the facts before you make the decisions.

Themes and discussion arising from question 5 – jobs

- Build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.
- Build the Mackenzie Valley highway.
- Make sure we have hope for the future. Instill pride in the future and give youth the tools they need. Our people maintain sovereignty here.
- Take the long, slow road to development do not let multinationals pillage. Develop at a pace we are comfortable with to ensure their benefits are sustainable.
- Hydro developments – create long-term benefits and employment for people of the region.

¹ The term used to describe the bitumen sands at Fort McMurray has been described as the “tar sands” or the “oil sands”. These notes are faithful to the respective speakers’ descriptions.

- Northerners need to be qualified to do the jobs of the future. Students are reluctant to go south for an education but when they return, they have education and experience. We need to seek employees from the North before going outside to hire.
- We need to safeguard traditional occupations and find a balance. Creating knowledge, not just jobs.
- We need to make sure we have a regulatory process that makes a thorough review in a timely manner and is respectful of the environment. Education is key – we need a qualified workforce to seize these job opportunities.
- It starts with the family – the importance of culture, having self-esteem.
- Education is important. If there is to be a pipeline, people need to be trained for it.

Closing comments

The participants were invited to give brief closing comments.

- One speaker expressed concern with two major initiatives: the National Energy Board report on the pipeline, and the work being undertaken by an appointee of the federal DIAND Minister to streamline the regulatory regime in the NWT.
- Another participant felt the discussions were a worthwhile exercise and there is a need to start somewhere. There needs to be a roadmap to follow and these discussions should be taken seriously.
- The NWT is a nice place to live and we hope to attract more people here.
- We need to go slow on developments and to ensure we don't develop too fast.
- One participant stated, "I wish someone would have started this discussion 30 years ago. If you build something well, it can last a long, long time."

Premier Roland thanked participants for their input. He encouraged the participants to talk to others about the common vision. That goes beyond the four-year term of the Legislative Assembly. Premier Roland stated that if we do not change the way we do business, all the issue under discussion in these roundtables will remain, and someone else will be making decisions for all of us. We need to make decisions about our future. We need healthy people, healthy communities and a sustainable economy. He encouraged people to lend their voice and to make a difference.



Creating Our Future Together

Hay River Round Table

September 8, 2010

Moderator's Summary





Background

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years . The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all northern governments.



Process

Over the summer and fall, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Floyd Roland, spoke with and invited ideas and viewpoints from northerners, asking “What do you want the NWT to be like in 20 to 30 years?”

The process includes round table conversations with northerners from different walks of life in a number of communities. Every household will receive information on “Creating Our Future Together” and an invitation to provide their thoughts by mail, email or on the web at www.premier.gov.nt.ca.

Round Table Participants

On September 8, Premier Floyd Roland met business, social and community representatives in Hay River. Participants included:

- Mr. Alex Richardson, NWT Fisherman's Federation
- Mr. Brian Lefebvre, Hay River Chamber of Commerce
- Mayor Kelly Schofield, Town of Hay River
- Mr. Paul Harrington, Hay River Métis Government Council
- Mr. Bert Buckley, NWT Fishermen's Federation
- Mr. Lionel Rundle, NWT Fishermen's Federation
- Mr. Roy Courtoreille, Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre
- Raymond Sonfrere, Yamózha Kúǵé Society (Dene Cultural Institute)
- Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlo'deeche First Nation
- Fr. Don Flumerfelt, Hay River Ministerial Association
- Ms. Laura Rose, Hay River Soup Kitchen
- Ms. Jackie Milne, Territorial Farmers' Association
- Ms. Diana Yeager, MLA Paul Delorey's Office
- Mr. Chaal Cadieux, businessperson and Councilor, Hamlet of Enterprise
- Mr. Geoff Buerger, Princess Alexandra School
- Premier Floyd Roland, Legislative Assembly of the NWT

Discussion Questions

Round table participants were invited to provide their input and insights into the following questions:

1. What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?
2. What do you want the NWT to be like 20 to 30 years from now?
3. How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to make this happen?
4. What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?
5. What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?
6. What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for northerners in all our regions?

Summary of Themes and Viewpoints

There was a diversity of viewpoints and opinion among participants, as well as a number of common themes articulated by participants. Outlined below are the themes identified, including varying viewpoints on each theme.

Themes arising from question 1 - What are the best and worst features of the NWT?

Best of the NWT

The land, its beauty and bounty

The natural beauty and richness of the land and the resources and opportunities it provides were cited repeatedly as some of the best features of the NWT. The land provides raw natural resources such as water, forests and clean air in abundance. We have the opportunity to tap into the richness of our environment to sustain ourselves and to, for example, create wind power to reduce the high cost of living in the NWT.

Grass roots way of life

The Northern way of life is valued as one of the best things about the NWT. There are many grass roots activities and people doing what they love (like fishing) with the passion to make it work.

People

In addition to the land, the people make the north what it is. They are a resource in themselves and the opportunities for people in the north – especially for youth – are huge.

System of government

Consensus government enables things to get done at a local level. Individuals and communities have the ability to influence policy. Leaders are accessible and this increased the ability to make things happen in the north.

Worst of the NWT

Appreciation for natural resources

If an abundance of natural resources and natural beauty is one of the NWT's best features, a lack of appreciation for these resources is one of our worst features. People don't appreciate our natural resources until they're gone.

High cost of living

The cost of living in the NWT is high. People are leaving the territory because of the cost of living.

Daunting approvals process

It is not easy for industry to operate in the NWT. The approval process is daunting for businesses (like Avalon and Tamerlane), and can take years. This does not encourage business.

Fiscal responsibility in government

The fiscal responsibility of certain government departments (for example Housing) was cited as one of the NWT's worst features. Money should be reinvested, rather than spent.

Lifestyle change/development

Lifestyles in the NWT have changed. Life is getting "easier". People don't have to work as hard chopping wood, hunting and providing for themselves. Things are done for us. TV has changed how we see ourselves. We compare ourselves to unrealistic images on TV.

We need to make development sustainable. People think of development and conservation as opposites. We should be thinking about how these two concepts can support each other and work toward sustainability.

Decisions made outside NWT

Decisions about the NWT are still being made in Ottawa without real input from the North. Yet Ottawa does not know how we live here.

Themes arising from questions 2 and 3 – Vision for the future, and is it achievable?

The vision for the future, articulated by this group, focused on creating healthy, self-sustaining communities through local economies in addition to sustainable industrial development, education and needs-based funding.

However, 20 to 30 years is not that far in the future.

This vision for the future can be achieved. Indeed, it should not be asked whether it is possible. It is necessary. There are no options.

The group agreed that everything articulated in the vision is possible, incrementally, but it requires long-term vision. The GNWT needs to be actively working in partnership and this needs to start now. Some things can be started and done now, for example changing funding allocation based on need, rather than per capita.

We need funding to achieve our envisioned future, funding should come from the federal government.

In order to meet this vision, we need to embrace and take advantage of technology. We need to think of “alternative” approaches because if we keep doing things the way we’ve always done them, we can’t expect a different result. The north and our northern environment are unique. We need to be responsive to our uniqueness rather than simply taking a southern model and applying it to the north. We need to apply new technology and approaches.

In order to achieve our future, we need to be able to invest in it. This means raising local capital. Someone else (who may not have a northern perspective) is always assessing our ideas. We need opportunities to invest locally and we need local financial solutions. Related to this is the need for improved financial education, so that people understand what’s needed.

Local, self-sustained economy

In the next 20 to 30 years, the north should move toward communities driven by the local economy, with local infrastructure. More basic needs should be provided at the local level, such as food production, value added production and harvesting what we need from our environment. For example, in Hay River this would mean a processing facility in support of the local fishery. The north of the future could be a “blended” way of life reflecting who we are; a society based on co-operation and sustainability. There are only 40,000 of us, so this should be achievable.

This approach creates economy and infrastructure. It also gives a community resilience. It will help create self-sustained industry, without reliance on government support. A dollar spent in the local economy has four times the value of a dollar spent on imported industry. Business supporting local business is a model that works.

Devolution and control of resources

The NWT should be moving toward provincial-like powers through devolution. This will birth industry. The longer this takes the fewer resources we’ll have. The NWT should have control over its resources and there should be less reliance on Ottawa. This will make us more self-sufficient.

Education (university, learning in institutions)

The vision of an educated population was raised throughout the discussions. However the type of education need not be only formal and traditional. Northern youth need to be more educated on issues around our natural environment and how to live and develop sustainably.

Education does not come in one form. It is not always formal. Hands-on teaching is needed, so that people who do not learn well in a formal system – or who access it – can develop their skills and be valued for their natural skills.

One participant sees a university in the NWT’s future. In addition, the NWT should look at putting more education into institutions (such as jails) so that people could have access to learn, for example, a trade while in the institution.

Medical

The future should include more doctors in communities, and more decentralized medical care. This might include health centres and nurses in every community. We need to give medical practitioners a reason to come.

Road infrastructure

More roads are needed to provide greater accessibility to our vast land. This greater accessibility might encourage more tourists.

Industrial recycling depot

Hay River sees a future where there is a northern recycling depot for industrial waste in Hay River. This would support industrial remediation through recycling of things such as tires, steel, cars and so on.

Unity among cultures

The future of the NWT in 20 to 30 years should be one where we are unified; one where it is not “you versus me”. Differences between cultures (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) cannot be ignored, but we need to be unified in the NWT.

Funding on need, not number

The NWT of the future should fund based on needs, not based on per capita numbers. Healthcare, housing, and schools—these basic needs should be funded this way. To illustrate, an example was given. Bussing for schools is funded on a per capita basis, rather than based on where the students must be bused from (the need for bussing). As a result, in schools where students must be bused from a distance, the allocation is insufficient and funds must be taken from operating budgets to support the bussing need.

Focus on economics

The future of the NWT needs to focus on economics. We need to show Ottawa that we are economically responsible. This will lead to devolution.

The north in the future should be more welcoming for industry, with a shorter process for approvals. However, the guidelines must continue to be strict (or stricter).

Staying “northern”

Our future is unique, and should not be overly influenced by southern approaches. We need to focus on northern ideas and what we need here, not southern needs. For example, why do we have a French school and not an Aboriginal school?

Northern people value language, culture and tradition. We need to strengthen these and schooling and education are one way to do so. We need to teach the next generation to value the land and to value cultural and traditional approaches.

We need to hang on to our roots and tell the south “we’re not changing for you.”

Themes and discussion arising from question 4 – Consensus government

Consensus government

Overall, roundtable participants feel consensus government works well. However, it was identified that the GNWT is not a consensus government in the true sense of the concept. Traditionally, consensus government meant that everyone gets behind a decision – there is no vote. A true consensus government is not possible because everyone has different values and beliefs.

What works about consensus government now is that northerners have easy access to their MLAs that would not exist under party politics. The system is working ... for now. The system has delivered good results. With population growth, this may change.

People in the NWT don’t really understand what consensus government is or how it works. New members of the Assembly should be provided with some context and training.

No system of government is perfect, but ours is pretty good. We are heard.

Themes and discussion arising from question 5 – Legacy from economic development and environment

Balance and sustainability

Economic development and the environment need to be balanced. There is a tendency to view these as conflicting priorities. But they can support each other.

We can learn from nature. For example, the beaver does “development” in the creation of dams and lodges, yet at the same time the system is sustainable and contributes to diversity. We should be maximizing renewable sources of development such as mini-hydro and biochar.

We need to find a way to protect the land and water for future generations. Young people are going to have to work together to manage change. The land is sacred and this should form part of the long-term view. It is important to educate youth by teaching them respect for the land. Elders need to connect with youth to help bridge the change. It is important not to leave future legacies like Pine Point.

Before the Europeans, Aboriginal people lived in harmony. They fit themselves into the environment, rather than fitting the environment to their needs. They “left no footprint”. That is why it is hard to find evidence of the Dene, because they fit themselves in. In the future, the Dene will have a say in all economic activities. In the future, we need to work together so that no one is marginalized.

We need to use history to bring back harmony, but at the same time acknowledge the wage economy. How do we balance this in the future?

Northern decision-making

Decisions about economic development and the environment are driven from Ottawa, where people don't know the north. Northerners get "stuck" with these policies. Youth need to be educated on the value of renewable resources and have the knowledge and the confidence to stand up to Ottawa.

Development and economy

Development needs to be at a pace the north can handle, so resources can sustain us for 30 to 40 years or more.

We need to find new technology that is environmentally friendly and use it.

The north should have a facility for testing contaminants (in Hay River or Yellowknife). This will create jobs for youth and help keep our youth here.

We need to promote responsible, sustainable development. There should be hard rules, so no footprint is left. We need to entice industry, but the rules need to be clear and industry needs to know them.

Retaining our population, especially youth

In order to thrive in the future, we need to keep youth here. To do that we need something to keep them here. This may be maximizing our traditional economy and natural industries like hunting and fishing.

Many youth would stay here if there were jobs for them. However, much of the work in the north is not long-term work. We need options to keep youth here. There need to be opportunities for trades here to entice them back.

It is difficult to have industry in the NWT with a small population.

Youth, no matter where they are, seem to want to set out to other places. We need to equip them and give them the tools to succeed wherever they want to go.

We need to "sell" the north better. We have all these good things in the north, but people don't realize how good we have it.

At the moment it is hard for people to stay in the north. Housing is expensive, and difficult to find. We need to provide support to people here, but also make it easier for people who come to the north (professionals such as doctors, teachers, nurses who provide much needed services) to commit to staying in the north.

Themes and discussion arising from question 6 – Jobs

Preparing our youth

We're not properly preparing our youth for jobs in the north. In order to prepare our students we need to know what the future job demand is going to be, by industry, so that we can plan to address these. We need to place northern priorities (for learning and workforce development) first and prepare youth to be able to go anywhere.

Attracting industry

We don't have enough critical mass to attract industry and our youth and our workforce are being drawn south for opportunities.

The NWT is not doing a good enough job of selling itself as an appealing place to live and invest.

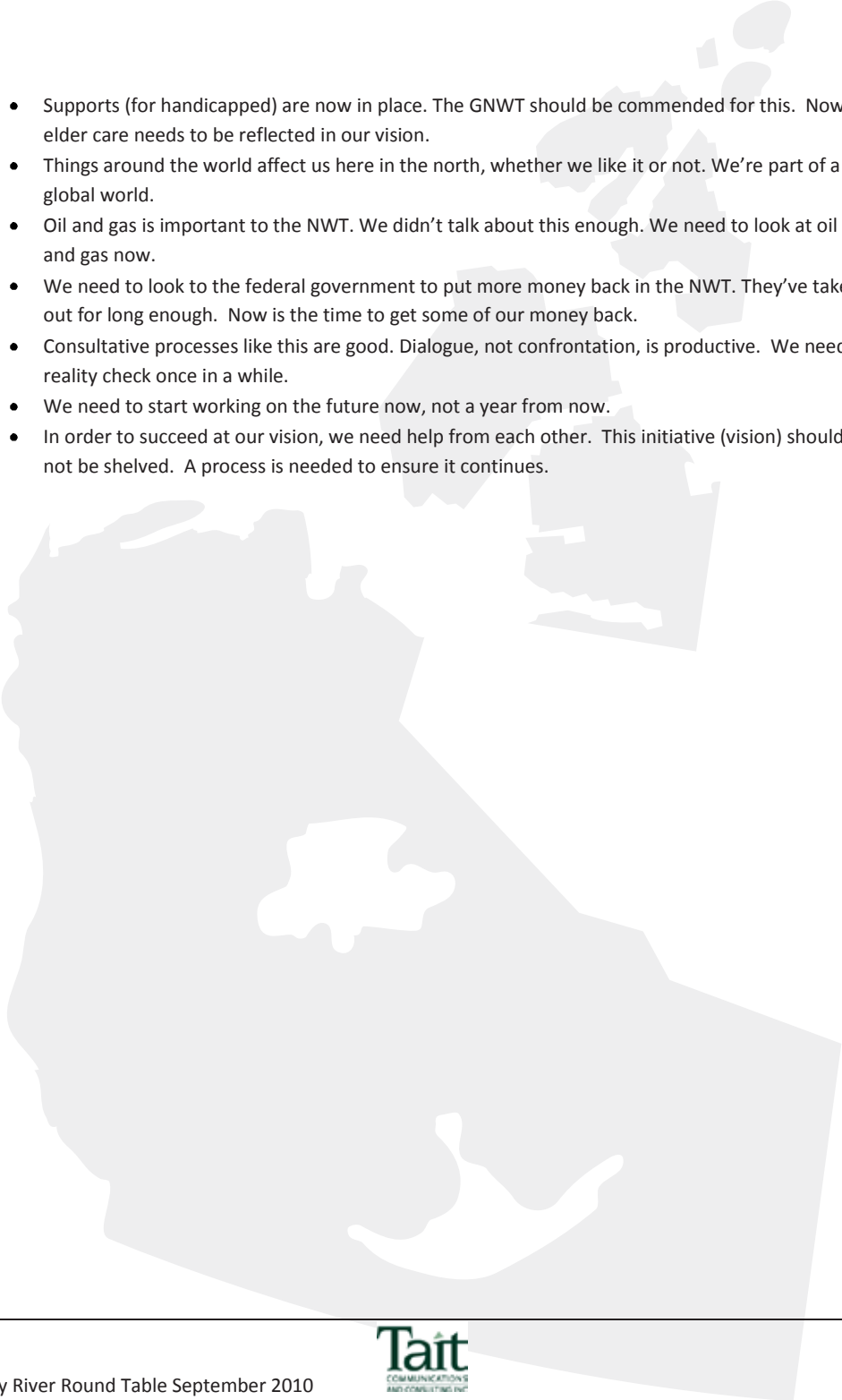
Community/traditional industry

There are industries and jobs that can be developed from community-based or traditional industries. The example was given of birch bark baskets. We don't market these because we can't meet the supply. Maybe there's an industry here to create the supply. Perhaps these types of cultural skills should be taught in school.

Closing comments

Each of the participants was invited to provide brief comments on closing, providing an opportunity to put on the table observations or any input that did not otherwise get on the table during discussions. Most participants took the opportunity to thank the Premier for the opportunity to provide input, commend the effort, and underline points made previously. The following was new input from the closing comments:

- The "Aboriginal spirit" of the people is gone. Dene pride has been lost and Dene identity has been lost. We need to deal with our identity. We need to restore harmony and balance between Dene and English identities. Education right now is "English" but we have Dene roots. A Dene immersion school might help restore this.
- We need to reinvent ourselves to survive. We need to get back to basics. We need to work in harmony with creation and the Creator.
- We need a re-education process that is land-focused and puts people in harmony with the land. Perhaps one way to do this is through land-based summer schools.
- "Dene" means "we come from the land". We need to keep that connection alive. We need to take care of the land.
- The future is our children. The focus of the future should be here.

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- Supports (for handicapped) are now in place. The GNWT should be commended for this. Now, elder care needs to be reflected in our vision.
 - Things around the world affect us here in the north, whether we like it or not. We're part of a global world.
 - Oil and gas is important to the NWT. We didn't talk about this enough. We need to look at oil and gas now.
 - We need to look to the federal government to put more money back in the NWT. They've taken out for long enough. Now is the time to get some of our money back.
 - Consultative processes like this are good. Dialogue, not confrontation, is productive. We need a reality check once in a while.
 - We need to start working on the future now, not a year from now.
 - In order to succeed at our vision, we need help from each other. This initiative (vision) should not be shelved. A process is needed to ensure it continues.



**Creating a Vision for our Future
Deton'Cho Youth Conference**

August 12, 2010

Dettah, NT



Deton'Cho Youth Conference ***Creating a Vision for our Future*** Location: Chief Drygeese Centre - Dettah, NT August 12, 2010

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly, and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum have agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years from now. The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all northern governments.

Premier Roland has made a special effort to reach out to youth in the NWT to hear their views on a common vision for our future. The Premier attended the Deton'Cho Aboriginal Youth Economic Development Conference on August 12th in Dettah, where he met with youth from throughout the NWT.



Process

Over the next several months, Premier Roland will be seeking input from NWT residents on how they would like the NWT to look in 20 to 30 years. Two major youth events are planned to elicit the views of NWT youth on the common vision: this conference, and a Youth Forum to be held in Yellowknife on August 17th involving NWT youth who work for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In addition, youth are invited to give their input by visiting the website www.creatingourfuture.ca.

Discussion Questions

Premier Roland gave an opening statement to describe the *Creating Our Future Together* initiative. Youth conference delegates were given the following questions to consider:

1. *What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?*
2. *How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?*
3. *What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?*
4. *What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?*
5. *What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?*
6. *What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?*

The moderator split the youth conference delegates into three groups and each group was assigned a question from the list. These groups discussed the questions assigned to them, with a facilitator on hand to take note of the discussions, ask questions of participants when required to clarify points made and to summarize the outcome of the discussions to the broader group.

The Premier listened to the discussion groups and gave a brief closing statement to thank the youth for their input. Delegates agreed that a record of the discussions could be posted on the

website at www.creatingourfuture.ca. The link to the July 9th roundtable in Yellowknife can be found at <http://www.creatingourfuture.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Summary-YK-Round-Table-100719.pdf>.

Participants

The Deton'Cho Aboriginal Youth Economic Development Workshop involved Aboriginal youth from throughout the NWT.

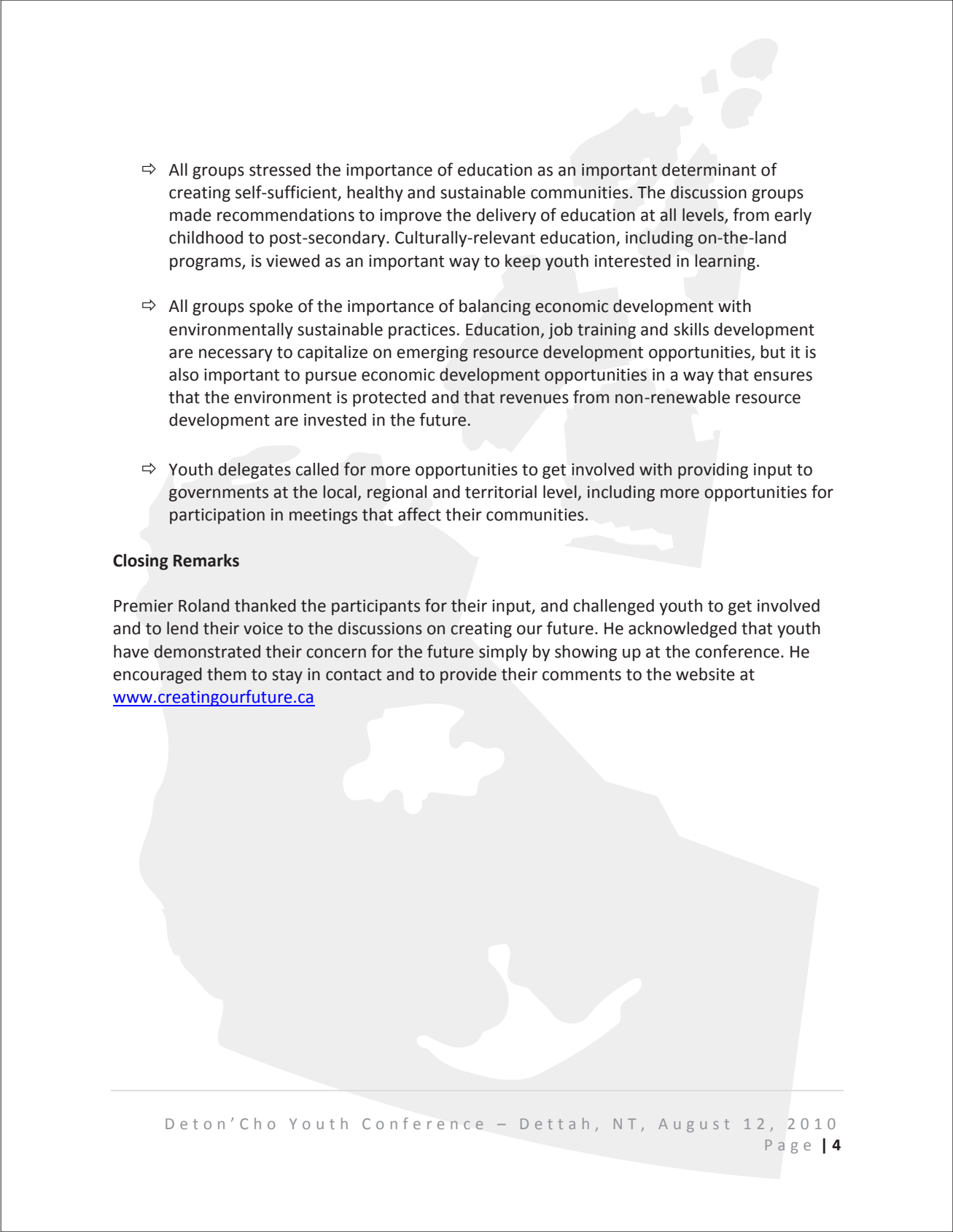
Summary of Themes and Viewpoints

Conference participants were drawn from larger and small communities, and their views on the future of the NWT were reflective of this diversity. In his opening remarks, Premier Roland asked some individuals present what things they see for themselves in 20 or 30 years. The responses suggest a mixture of optimism with a note of caution.

- ⇒ Some youth expressed a view that a self-sustaining economy is critical to the future. They discussed new technologies, greening the economy, more energy efficient practices and innovative solutions to deal with the effects of current energy practices on the environment.
- ⇒ Delegates expressed concern that land claim and self-government agreements may not be settled, even 20 to 30 years into the future. Premier Roland responded that it is important to send the message to leaders to get these deals finalized.
- ⇒ One delegate expressed an interest in a career in environmental monitoring. Premier Roland encouraged youth to consider building on these career paths by moving beyond the operational level to and take up the challenge of developing policies and legislation on environmental matters.
- ⇒ While much of the discussions were positive, some delegates saw the future with less certainty – a time when their main hope may be little more than living from day to day. As well, one of the discussion groups, when asked to answer the question on the best and worst aspects of living in the NWT, did not provide any response to the part of the question that asked them to describe the best thing about the NWT.

Themes – Group 1

The summaries from the discussion groups are included as an appendix to this report. The youth conference delegates were split up into three discussion groups. Some common themes appeared from these groups.

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- ⇒ All groups stressed the importance of education as an important determinant of creating self-sufficient, healthy and sustainable communities. The discussion groups made recommendations to improve the delivery of education at all levels, from early childhood to post-secondary. Culturally-relevant education, including on-the-land programs, is viewed as an important way to keep youth interested in learning.
 - ⇒ All groups spoke of the importance of balancing economic development with environmentally sustainable practices. Education, job training and skills development are necessary to capitalize on emerging resource development opportunities, but it is also important to pursue economic development opportunities in a way that ensures that the environment is protected and that revenues from non-renewable resource development are invested in the future.
 - ⇒ Youth delegates called for more opportunities to get involved with providing input to governments at the local, regional and territorial level, including more opportunities for participation in meetings that affect their communities.

Closing Remarks

Premier Roland thanked the participants for their input, and challenged youth to get involved and to lend their voice to the discussions on creating our future. He acknowledged that youth have demonstrated their concern for the future simply by showing up at the conference. He encouraged them to stay in contact and to provide their comments to the website at www.creatingourfuture.ca

Appendix "A" – Summary of discussion groups

Question #1

What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Participants expressed a desire to see more aboriginal leaders in the North and an increased role for self-government. Preserving the land and culture was also viewed as an important goal. The use of traditional medicines, for example, was cited as a way to decrease the burden on the health care system.

There is a need to continue to improve education outcomes, with more funding for early childhood education through to post-secondary. More work is needed to strengthen the curriculum in the NWT to reflect northern history and the peoples who shaped our history. The idea of a university based in the NWT was proposed, and more interaction between youth and elders was suggested.

With business development being the focus for the youth conference, participants spoke of the importance of capitalizing on the opportunities from resource development while balancing the need to protect and preserve the environment and maximizing investment in less-consumptive economic ventures like tourism.

Question #2

How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Participants expressed a desire to get more involved with the life of our communities and territory. Youth delegates made it clear that they are ready to engage with elected leaders. Many youth feel cut off from their leaders, and while they appreciate that leaders have busy schedules, they would like to have more opportunities to make their voices heard.

Greater engagement could be fostered through more frequent meetings with leaders at all levels of government. For example, youth could travel with community leaders to meetings within and outside the NWT, in order to share their perspectives and to learn the tools they will need as leaders. These increased opportunities to meet with leaders at all levels would allow for knowledge sharing that would allow for best practices to be applied here at home. Conference participants called for greater cooperation between and among Aboriginal Governments. The idea of youth councils in communities was advanced.

Question #3

What ideas do you have to make the NWT's unique system of consensus government sustainable?

The question on consensus government did not generate much discussion. The concept of consensus government seemed to have little relevance. Economic and social issues in the communities – not political process issues – seemed to be of greater interest to youth conference delegates. There appears to be a disconnect among some youth on the issue of consensus government and its relevance to the more essential issues of community life.

Question #4

What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Participants expressed strong support for the need to protect our environment and all of its species and systems that sustain us. Some speakers noted that there have been changes to the quality and quantity of water, and expressed the view that more monitoring is needed for measuring water quality and contaminants.

A stronger environmental regulatory framework is needed to protect the land and water. More work is required to ensure that resource developers do not leave NWT residents with a legacy of contaminated land and water for which we will have to pay.

Participants would like to see greener energy sources in the NWT like wind and solar power, the development of our agricultural potential and more locally-sourced foods. Tourism is seen as an area for future growth and more investment is needed. Participants recommended more initiatives to beautify Yellowknife's downtown core and to promote NWT artists and culture.

When resource developments do occur, it was recommended that resource revenue sharing be implemented to capture some of the revenues from resource development and invest it for the future. The NWT needs to reap a greater benefit from resource development, as the revenues currently go to the federal government.

Participants stated that we need to invest in education, including a university in the NWT so that students have the option to stay in the north should they choose. As well, there is a need to invest in early childhood development so that children can get a good start. Investment in daycare services would allow parents to return to the workplace and contribute to the economy. In the communities, Aboriginal languages should be taught in daycare programs.

The preservation of culture and language was regarded as an important goal. More content in Northern Studies is needed to ensure NWT residents learn about the people, culture and way of life. There needs to be more “on the land” programs and these programs should incorporate elders to retain traditional knowledge. These skills should augment reading and writing.

Participants expressed concern with social problems. The north needs more programs for people with addictions, and not only short-term fixes, but also programs to assist them with getting back into the economy. Many people have no marketable skills to support themselves when they do become sober and are shut out of the workforce. It is also helpful to have organized activities in the communities for recreation to give people something to do. Drug resistance education needs to be built into the school curriculum. This has worked for schools in areas such as Vancouver’s downtown east side.

Communications is a critical tool in the modern world. The GNWT needs to learn to use social media to communicate with people in the communities. There needs to be cell phone coverage in all the communities. Many participants at the conference stated they feel disconnected because of this. Even youth in the most remote communities have cell phones and they use them immediately when they arrive at bigger centres like Yellowknife.

Question #5

What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Participants spoke of the need to train more Aboriginal teachers. Existing programs like GNWT’s Student Financial Assistance program should allow for upgrading. The federal government has an important role to play in Aboriginal languages, and should provide resources for this purpose.

The idea of innovative education initiatives such as the Dechinta University program should be explored. Aurora College should institute more aboriginal content in their curriculum. An increased role for traditional medicine was suggested. Programs should allow for more Aboriginal entrepreneurs to pursue economic ventures. Youth delegates also expressed a desire to become educated through greater participation in meetings involving their community leaders.

Question # 6: What do you consider to be the best and worst features of the NWT?

Participants discussed several challenges to living in the current NWT, including a lack of funding for Aboriginal educational programs, a need to improve education delivery generally, concern with “streaming” Aboriginal students into lower-level classes, a lack of employment

prospects for Aboriginal people in high profile jobs, the high cost of living and concerns with water quality, housing and mental health programs.

Participants did not list any of the “best” features about living in the NWT.

Appendix B

Summary of discussions (raw notes)

Group 1

- ⇒ There was a recommendation for more Aboriginal language instruction, including immersion in Aboriginal languages.
- ⇒ A call for more support from GNWT on education.
- ⇒ A recommendation that more courses on northern resource management be added to the curriculum.
- ⇒ A need to be more self-reliant as Aboriginal people, to be “go-getters” and not letting anything hold us back.
- ⇒ A call for support of the Dechinta model (university courses delivered to students in a setting out on the land).
- ⇒ A recommendation for a school course dedicated to teaching traditional knowledge.
- ⇒ An expanded role for Aurora College in specific courses:
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Green workforce
 - In line with Dene traditions and values.
- ⇒ A call for addressing the high cost of living, including the cost of fuel in communities.
- ⇒ A need to protect waters.
- ⇒ Increased funding for student financial assistance for post-secondary education.

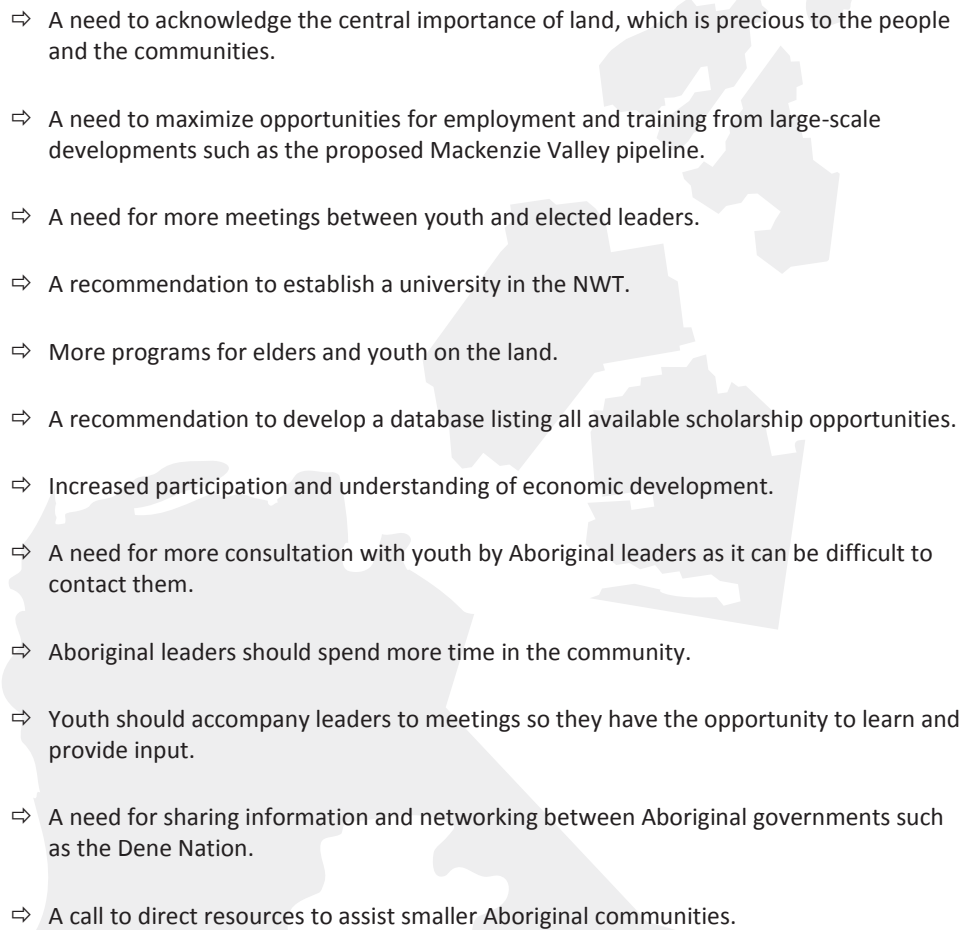
Themes – Group 2

- ⇒ A need for increased conservation measures to protect wildlife in the NWT.
- ⇒ A recommendation to slow the pace of extracting of natural resources to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks.
- ⇒ A call to ensure that water is safe.
- ⇒ A need to increase use of wind and solar energy.
- ⇒ A recommendation for stricter controls on mines and ports.
- ⇒ A call for increased food production locally through agriculture and market gardens.
- ⇒ A need for more human capital through increased post-secondary educational assistance.
- ⇒ More jobs in health care, including an increase in doctors from the North, to provide quality health care and create opportunities through business related to health care.
- ⇒ Aboriginal language immersion in schools.
- ⇒ An increase in arts and entertainment in the downtown core of Yellowknife to celebrate Aboriginal culture and to beautify the downtown core.
- ⇒ A need to engage in more sustainable development practices.
- ⇒ A call for resource revenue sharing to provide a legacy from the development of natural resources.
- ⇒ A call for taking greater responsibility for the land.
- ⇒ A need for increased usage of social media by the GNWT (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) to reach the youth.
- ⇒ A need to respect the role of Elders and to afford youth the opportunity to learn from them.

- ⇒ A need to provide funding to deal with addictions and to give youth the opportunity to make positive choices.
- ⇒ A need to support more traditional activities – camping, hunting, on-the-land programs.
- ⇒ A need for better telecommunications infrastructure in the communities.

Themes – Group 3

- ⇒ A call for more Aboriginal leaders in elected positions.
- ⇒ A need for greater self-government in the NWT to allow Aboriginal people to develop their own laws, regulations and policies.
- ⇒ A call to preserve land and culture.
- ⇒ A need to increase usage of traditional medicines.
- ⇒ A recommendation for more conference to discuss issues affecting Aboriginal people and communities.
- ⇒ A need to increase the representation of Aboriginal teachers.
- ⇒ More use of traditional knowledge in decision-making.
- ⇒ More instruction needed in traditional skills like hunting.
- ⇒ Teaching Aboriginal languages should start as early as possible in order to foster language skills.
- ⇒ More interaction between youth and elders through on-the-land programs.
- ⇒ An increase in participation in healthy lifestyles like sports, and giving formal recognition to Aboriginal athletes.
- ⇒ An increase in Aboriginal people running their own businesses.
- ⇒ Expanding access to successful business opportunities like franchising, e.g., starting a Tim Horton's in Inuvik.

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- ⇒ A need to acknowledge the central importance of land, which is precious to the people and the communities.
 - ⇒ A need to maximize opportunities for employment and training from large-scale developments such as the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline.
 - ⇒ A need for more meetings between youth and elected leaders.
 - ⇒ A recommendation to establish a university in the NWT.
 - ⇒ More programs for elders and youth on the land.
 - ⇒ A recommendation to develop a database listing all available scholarship opportunities.
 - ⇒ Increased participation and understanding of economic development.
 - ⇒ A need for more consultation with youth by Aboriginal leaders as it can be difficult to contact them.
 - ⇒ Aboriginal leaders should spend more time in the community.
 - ⇒ Youth should accompany leaders to meetings so they have the opportunity to learn and provide input.
 - ⇒ A need for sharing information and networking between Aboriginal governments such as the Dene Nation.
 - ⇒ A call to direct resources to assist smaller Aboriginal communities.



Creating a Vision for our Future

Youth Forum

August 17, 2010

Yellowknife, NT



Government of the Northwest Territories Youth Forum *Creating a Vision for our Future* Location: Yellowknife Ski Club Yellowknife, NT August 17, 2010

Creating Our Future Together: In search of a common vision for the Northwest Territories

Regional Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly, and the Government of the Northwest Territories have formed the Northern Leaders' Forum. The Forum reflects a growing recognition that our Territory needs a representative and unifying political forum that can rise above regional and community issues, differences and governing structures to address issues that are territorial in nature. As a first step, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum identified the need for a common goal: a shared vision for the future that they can collectively work toward.

To this end, members of the Northern Leaders' Forum have agreed to seek the views of their constituents about their vision for the Territory 20 to 30 years from now. The leaders will use this input to create a vision shared across all levels of government, with universal themes and shared priorities. This will create a made-in-the-NWT vision for the Territory that can guide all northern governments.

Premier Roland has made a special effort to reach out to youth in the NWT to hear their views on a common vision for our future. The Premier hosted a Youth Forum on August 17th in Yellowknife, where he met with summer students and interns from the Government of the Northwest Territories.



Process

Over the next several months, Premier Roland will be seeking input from NWT residents on how they would like the NWT to look in 20 to 30 years. Two major youth events were held to elicit the views of NWT youth on the common vision: the Deton'Cho Aboriginal Youth Economic Development Workshop in Dettah on August 12th, and a Youth Forum in Yellowknife on August 17th involving youth who work for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In addition, youth are invited to give their input by visiting the website www.creatingourfuture.ca.

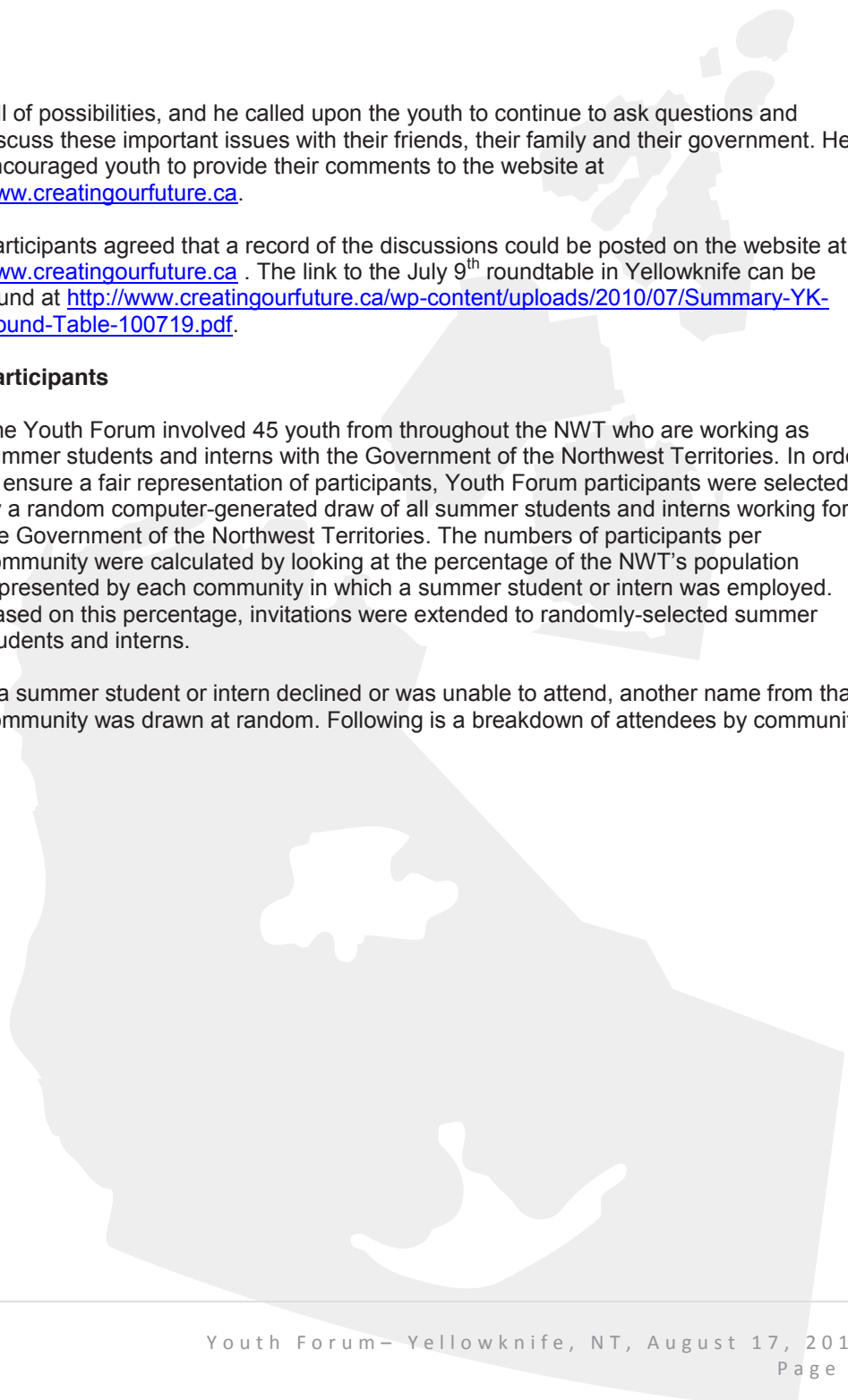
Discussion Questions

Premier Roland gave an opening statement to describe the *Creating Our Future Together* initiative. Youth Forum participants were given the following questions to consider:

1. *What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?*
2. *How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?*
3. *What do you think of our unique system of consensus government? What ideas do you have to make this system of government sustainable?*
4. *What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?*
5. *What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?*
6. *What do you consider to be the best – and worst – features of the NWT?*

The moderator split the youth conference participants into six groups and each group was assigned questions from the list. These groups discussed the questions assigned to them, with a facilitator on hand to take note of the discussions, ask questions of participants when required to clarify points made and to summarize the outcome of the discussions to the broader group.

The Premier listened to the discussion groups and gave a brief closing statement to thank the youth for their input. In recognizing the achievements of the group, he echoed the well-known phrase that 'knowledge is power'. The Premier stated that the future is



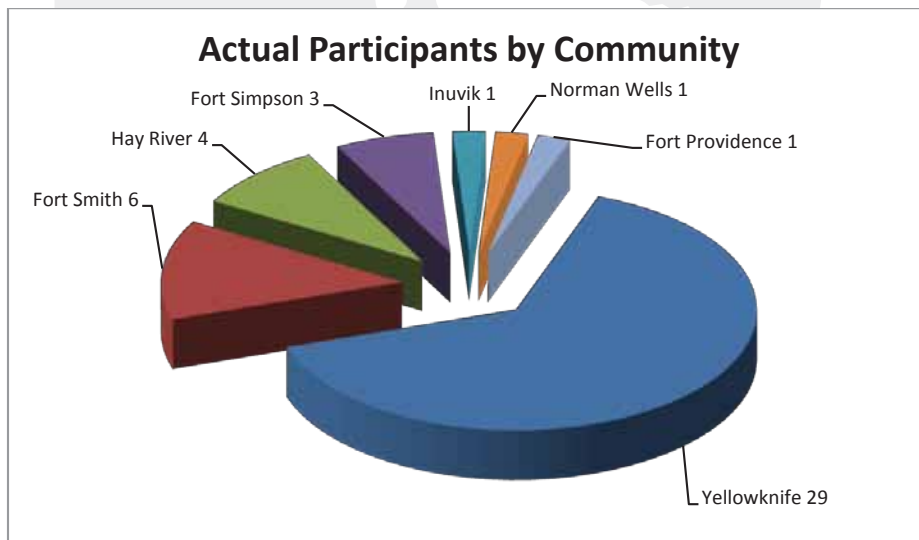
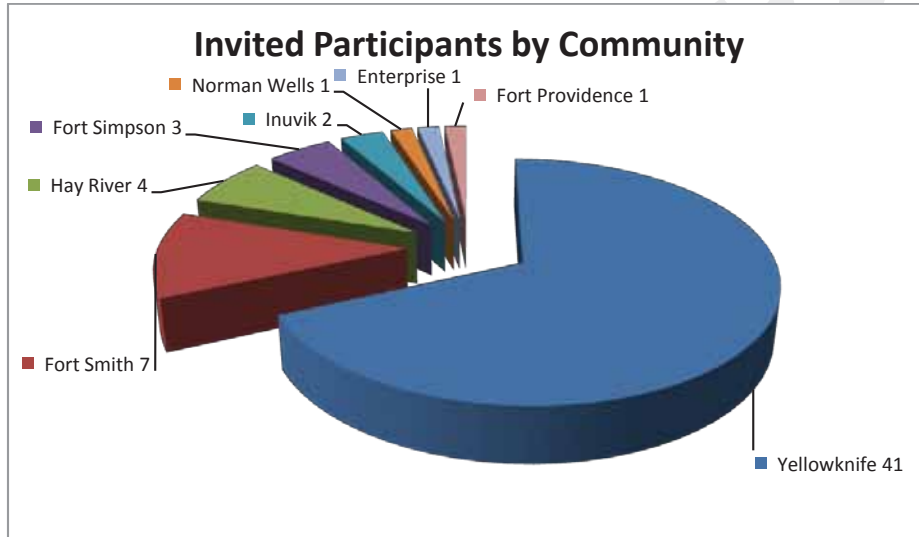
full of possibilities, and he called upon the youth to continue to ask questions and discuss these important issues with their friends, their family and their government. He encouraged youth to provide their comments to the website at www.creatingourfuture.ca.

Participants agreed that a record of the discussions could be posted on the website at www.creatingourfuture.ca. The link to the July 9th roundtable in Yellowknife can be found at <http://www.creatingourfuture.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Summary-YK-Round-Table-100719.pdf>.

Participants

The Youth Forum involved 45 youth from throughout the NWT who are working as summer students and interns with the Government of the Northwest Territories. In order to ensure a fair representation of participants, Youth Forum participants were selected by a random computer-generated draw of all summer students and interns working for the Government of the Northwest Territories. The numbers of participants per community were calculated by looking at the percentage of the NWT's population represented by each community in which a summer student or intern was employed. Based on this percentage, invitations were extended to randomly-selected summer students and interns.


If a summer student or intern declined or was unable to attend, another name from that community was drawn at random. Following is a breakdown of attendees by community.



Summary of Themes and Viewpoints

The summaries from the discussion groups are included as an appendix to this report. Youth Forum participants were split up into six discussion groups. Some common themes emerged from the discussions groups.

- ⇒ Education is a cornerstone of the key to our territory's future. Youth possess the knowledge, energy, and ideas to help the NWT to reach our full potential. Youth Forum participants discussed innovative approaches to increase graduation rates and prepare our students for success.
- ⇒ They believe we need a shift in thinking over the next 20 to 30 years to balance economic development with environmental protection to ensure that our territory develops in a way that maximizes opportunities while retaining the features that make it such a great place to call home.
 - Youth foresee a transformation toward a knowledge-based economy, with more emphasis on sustainable economic activities and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels. Innovative ideas, including the use of carbon offsets, were proposed as a means to reap the rewards for energy efficiency and make the transition to a more sustainable way of life
 - While they acknowledge that developing our natural resources will continue to be an important driver of the economy, they also believe that we should identify ways to direct some of the economic benefits derived from the production of non-renewable resources to meet current socioeconomic needs and to leave a financial legacy for the future.
- ⇒ Youth believe that we need to bridge the distances that exist between our people and our communities. These differences are both physical (the vast distances, lack of infrastructure and travel costs) *and* perceptual (the lack of opportunities for interaction and dialogue). The distances between our communities have limited the opportunities for youth to experience life in other communities in the NWT, which can exacerbate the differences between us. Youth Forum participants recommended innovative ways to foster more exchanges involving youth within the NWT. Connecting our communities through improving our infrastructure – highways, bridges and new technology – will bring our communities together and strengthen our collective identity.
- ⇒ Youth have are prepared to play an active role in shaping the way that we govern our territory. They understand that as NWT residents, they have unparalleled access to elected leaders and decision-makers in the NWT, and they welcome the opportunity to participate in processes where their views are appreciated and valued. As one Youth Forum participant stated, “Young people are a great resource – use us”.

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- ⇒ While government and industry will continue to play important roles in the NWT, youth also recognize that personal responsibility will be required to achieve the common vision. Youth Forum participants discussed some initiatives that all NWT residents can do to make their homes and communities better places to live and work.

Appendix “A” – Summary of discussion groups

Note: the following are summary notes taken by facilitators and should not be regarded as a verbatim record of discussions.

Question #1

What do you wish the NWT to look like 20 to 30 years from now?

Comments from Group A

Education

We need to make education a priority. Parents can get involved by making sure that their kids go to school.

There need to be improvements in curriculum and teacher training. We have to embrace new technology. New innovations like “smart boards” can be used in the classroom.

We need improvement in the delivery of the Northern Studies curriculum which is often taught by teachers with little or no experience in the North. The GNWT and the NWT Teachers’ Association can help by offering training in northern studies to new teachers before they go into the communities. This will inspire teachers and the students.

We need to look at the future role for Aurora College and the idea of establishing a university in the North. These institutions can develop programs to take advantage of emerging economic development opportunities such as alternative energy technology and tourism.

Keeping our population base stable in the NWT is vital (A drop in population affects federal transfer payments to the NWT, which results in a drop in funding for critical programs and services including education). It is important to keep the people we have and to try to bring new people in.

We can take advantage of exchange programs such as Northern Youth Abroad to broaden our horizons. We also need to look at more exchanges between schools within the NWT. Other than school sports, there are few opportunities for exchanges between our schools in the NWT.

Putting what we have learned to good use is important. The GNWT could improve the summer student and internship programs by putting more emphasis on mentoring and having an annual forum for summer students and interns.

"We were hired for a reason and have valuable things to say".

"We are a great resource; use us".

Economy

Resource development is important, but we would also like to see the NWT being a more arts-positive place, with more emphasis on making the NWT a place for artists to thrive in the visual and performing arts, music and literature. We have a unique pool of talent in the NWT. Supporting the arts would help to showcase the NWT, which is generally not well-understood outside our borders.

We need to celebrate our unique cultures and sense of identity. Support for traditional arts and crafts will enhance local economies and generate pride in our communities by preserving traditional skills (e.g., sewing, beadwork, traditional clothing) and using them in a modern context.

We need to connect the communities and build our transportation infrastructure. The cost of living is a huge barrier to development. Connecting all our communities will foster greater opportunities for travel within our territory and reduce high costs of goods and services in the communities. We see the bridge over the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence as a positive development that will connect the communities north and south of Great Slave Lake.

We need to look at more than non-renewable resources development and into areas like investing in tourism. Tourists need options that are attractive. We should look at the things that make the NWT unique and work with that to draw tourists to the NWT.

Environment

The environment needs to be respected. The role of resource development in the northern economy is important, but we also expect to see careful environmental stewardship. For example, mining companies have to clean up properly during and after the mines close to avoid the legacy of abandoned sites such as the Giant Mine in Yellowknife.

We need to reduce waste in our workplace, and should be doing things such as going paperless, instituting e-records and implementing two-sided printing.

The cost of healthy food in some communities is unreasonable. In Norman Wells, a banana is \$5.00 but chocolates only cost \$2.00. Even when healthy food is shipped to our communities, it can rot within two days of arrival due to challenges in keeping it fresh during transport. We need to develop more opportunities to produce healthy food

closer to home, including community gardens, greenhouses, farming and other related ways to develop our agricultural potential.

Comments from Group B

SFA – we need more funding, including more specialized scholarships

It is difficult to always have to go down south for schooling

Building facilities, not enough infrastructure to maintain a higher population

More Tourism – adventure, spa, honeymoon (use what we have)

We are not involved in how government is shaped; make the youth aware of what's going on.

Future: government getting youth involved plus awareness will be a benefit to our government future

Education and knowledge about the government and how our leaders are elected

Being young and learning about federal and territorial government

Hunting/fishing: continue strengthening industries that are growing, these are becoming obsolete

How to move forward when there are so many barriers

Leaders' consensus. Better way to lead, education towards a common good – how can we achieve this?

Promoting the NWT and education about the north outside of the north

More wealth spread out around to other communities besides YK

Higher education to unify and promote the NWT

Maintaining our resources

Promote the NWT to other Canadians

Controlling our economy and resources in 20 to 30 years, can we protect our resources as northerners?

Using tourism as a tool to keep people up here. NWT always has people going south. Need more quality things to offered in NWT

Preserving the culture of the NWT while bringing people up (environmental initiatives).

HS education needs to be up to Alberta standards

Things that are keeping people out: high cost of living i.e. Rent, food, activities, travel

Communities are so far apart, how we can maintain a sense of togetherness?

20-30yrs.

- Unify education, promote higher education in the NWT
- Controlling our resources
- Promoting the NWT
- Keeping people in the NWT long term by promoting the north to the northerners
- Create a sense of togetherness across the NWT
- How do we attract people w/ higher qualifications to do government

Comments from Group C

Education

The Dechinta program is a very innovative idea. We should invest in programs such as this. The GNWT needs to do some market research to see if a university is sustainable here.

GNWT's Student Financial Assistance ("SFA") program needs some improvement. Students' funding is not currently sufficient for students to cover the costs of tuition, rent, food, books and accommodations. SFA also needs to bring back the scholarship program. Our top students need to be rewarded. If they are properly recognized, there will be more of an incentive for them to return.

There is a low graduation rate among Aboriginal students. We need to improve on this.

Academic streamed students have more advantages than students who choose the non-academic path. Students who take the advanced studies route are the ones given the opportunities to be pages at the Legislative Assembly, participate in youth

conferences, and other travel opportunities. The other students do not get these kinds of opportunities.

Guidance counsellors only counsel students to pursue careers in business or science. The arts and social sciences are not encouraged but have real value in our economy.

We need to start a research institute here so that we can move towards a more knowledge based economy.

We need to be doing a better job of preserving Aboriginal languages. Nunavut does a great job at this so perhaps we need to look at their best practices.

Northern Studies needs to be revamped as people do not understand treaties, land claims, consensus government, residential schools, colonization and just general basic knowledge about the regions. We need to take students on the land so they can gain an appreciation for the trapper/hunter lifestyle. This could be done during Spring Break.

We need more Aboriginal nurses in our communities. These nurses understand the culture and the social problems that exist and can offer care in a sensitive and culturally respectful manner.

We need to encourage more students to participate in sport and leisure activities after school to keep them occupied and on the right path. These programs need to exist seven days a week and government and corporations must work together so that there is proper equipment available at these recreation centres.

Environment

We need to better monitor our lakes. This information needs to be made accessible to the public.

We need to do a better job of tracking our wildlife – specifically caribou. We need to have controlled monitoring of wildlife as there seems to be conflicting information about the caribou population in the NWT right now.

We need more regulations against mine clean up so we don't end up with any further arsenic problems. There needs to be plans in place for when these mines shut down so that we can monitor the long term clean up.

The NWT needs to be more proactive about recycling and being greener. The communities need funding for recycling programs and green bins need to be picked up by all municipalities.

We need to investigate the possibility of renewable energy. We should look into hydro dams and solar power initiatives.

Health and Social Issues

We need to tax junk food and take that money to subsidize health foods to all the regions. We need to create community gardens in every town so that people can get back to basics and understand how to cultivate and prepare their own food.

Mines and other businesses need to donate money to food banks and other local social services.

We need to improve social services for families. There is a tendency to remove children from homes but what happens to the parents after the children are gone? They do not receive treatment for their problems so the cycle just repeats itself. There needs to be on-going care for families as opposed to just dealing with them when they are in a crisis situation.

There is a high suicide rate here and there is no accountability for the social issues in our communities. All three levels of government must work together to address these issues and provide workshops, services and on-going care to residents. Rehabilitation services must be accessible in every region. Teachers and schools must provide kids with more information about how they can seek help for themselves and their families.

Question #2

How do you believe this vision of a future NWT can be achieved and what can you contribute to help make it happen?

Comments from Group A

Education

We need to increase graduation rates and establish measurable goals. One way to assist this is by continually improving teacher training and curriculum development. We can use innovative approaches such as culture-specific instruction and scheduling of school terms in accordance with seasonal practices in the communities.

We need to deal with the effects of alcohol, drugs and teen pregnancy and support healthy choices programming for young people.

We should look at alternatives to people being “streamed” through school and transitioning into low-paying jobs. There are alternative school models in the NWT that can provide options, such as flexible hours of instruction and increased support for young families.

We believe that corporations could play a greater role in supporting education by providing funding to assist the delivery of education.

Economy

We need to support tourism ventures that can diversify our economic base. It is expensive to travel within the NWT. It costs more to fly between some communities in the NWT than it does to fly from here to Europe!

Other provinces and territories use their land and people to draw tourists in. We need to develop our tourism industry to take advantage of new tourism opportunities including river rafting and guided trips by canoe, kayak or powerboats.

New markets in tourism can be exploited. For example, the GNWT can support business development for winter ice-fishing cabins for tourists to use on Great Slave Lake. We can use the examples of other areas and introduce guided river tours or adventure tourism operations like “zip lines”, which are growing in popularity. We need to “brand” the NWT and make it a place that people want to see.

We can develop the arts in the NWT by supporting the growing and diversifying number of artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers and actors. The success of festivals such as Folk on the Rocks has allowed NWT performers to gain exposure to a wider audience. Youth can play an important role in these initiatives by working as interns or volunteering with local, regional and territorial arts and entertainment festivals.

Comments from Group B

We need to strengthen communication between Northern communities through technology

Use our strengths – use non-renewable resources revenue to move in a renewable direction, while developing renewable industry

Work on being proud of where we are from to move towards the future. Pride = uniformity, want to work together to promote north with in the north, then move outside (like how we are proud to be Canadian)

Expensive to travel throughout the north; hard to go to all small communities.

Need reasons to go to these communities. Move more big events outside of YK, to attract people to smaller communities around the north

Northern festival that moves around the northern communities plus discount on travel to these communities to help tourism

University in the NWT? How can we compete with Aurora College in one place, bigger campus, and more education in one place?

More bush university programs like Dechinta

Induce pride throughout the northern communities through sport

Increase communication – there is a perception that Yellowknife doesn't treat smaller communities fairly

Lower transportation costs to smaller communities around the north to create an interest in travel within the NWT

Building facilities in smaller communities to hold more sport events, this can also connect the children from around the north and introduce them to diversity in other communities

Create a dance or gala after youth/ adult sporting events that spotlight the culture in the communities around the north (these can also be held at many other events)

Promote tourism in the north - TV commercials, posters. This can be our future revenue after the mines close (which is inevitable)

Create a data base to display the attractions and activities you can in northern communities

Create a reasonable job opportunity to everyone by re-evaluating the P-1 system

Help people recover from the dark past in the NWT with better social programs; more advertising and social groups for support.

Home programs to help parent promote education to children in communities

Comments from Group C

We need to encourage all forms of businesses in our communities: small businesses and Aboriginal businesses. These prospective businesses need to have regulations imposed on them by local/regional groups (i.e. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation currently does this).

Northern leaders need to start volunteering in our communities. Political and corporate leaders need to inspire people to do the right thing. RCMP needs to participate in this as well to gain the trust of residents.

We need to promote volunteerism in our communities. MACA should provide free weekend coaching clinics so that people can get certified to be coaches for their communities.

We need grants and funding in place so that we can preserve our rich culture and heritage. There should be arts councils in every community and other organizations dedicated to culture. We need to use art as a means to document the past and project the future.

The GNWT needs to promote its own programs more on the web and on television. They should really use young people in these commercials and really feature the communities so there is a sense of pride.

Devolution is absolutely necessary. We need to have control over our resources and royalties.

Question #3

What ideas do you have to make the NWT's unique system of consensus government sustainable?

Comments from Group A

We recognize that the consensus system is unique. Everything is about negotiation. It is based on traditional ways – a lot of talk between the players. It can take a long time to make a decision but everyone has a chance to give input. Issues can be reviewed in the House, though it can slow the business of government.

We get to elect people that we know and, who are more accountable and who cannot hide behind party lines. “We know where they live”. We haven’t heard any clamouring to change the style of consensus government.

We need to ensure everyone knows what consensus government means. We would like more education on consensus government. Maybe we can set up an electronic kiosk at the Legislative Assembly and use modern technology like ‘blogs to get the word out on what is going on.

Comments from Group B

A Group B spokesperson stated, “Some of us feel like we don’t know enough about this to be able to provide really strong, well thought-out answers”.

A more personal way of voting for someone in your constituency – real representation of views and concerns from your region.

It’s confusing – a lot of detail to understand completely.

If we had more information we would vote in our region. With better understanding I would be more interested in northern politics at a younger age.

If you’re not interested in government, you’re not going to learn about it.

We don’t know if it’s sustainable, because we don’t know enough about the three levels of government

Incorporating Aboriginal Government into consensus government to become more sustainable in the north

Comments from Group C

Generally, the students did not understand consensus government. They said the Northern Studies program needed to improve their understanding and that more kids should be participating in mock youth parliaments.

Of the few that did understand it, they felt that consensus government works. They appreciated how people run as independents and are not confined by a party line. They also liked how residents have access to their MLAs.

Students said that they did not know how to vote when they were away at school and that this information was not accessible.

They felt that mandatory social studies classes needed to be in place until Grade 12. Currently, you just need Social 10 to graduate so a lot of students have a lack of awareness for the political processes in the north and across Canada.

General Comments (Group C)

Question #4 is too difficult and needs to be reformulated.

Future events should have ice breakers at the beginning and possibly a debate at the end.

Students would like a follow-up forum next year. The Premier needs to do more youth engagement processes like this as students rarely have the chance to connect with other students from across the communities.

Question #4

What legacy should the current generation leave to future generations in terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation?

Comments from Group D

In particular, question 4 brought up eco-tourism and how we can utilize our landscape to bring people into our Territory. One participant discussed selling a “lifestyle” to Southerners, much like how some US states such as Colorado or Montana market their way of life.

Youth Forum participants from outside Yellowknife talked extensively about their particular community issues such as isolation, less programming, and education. In terms of finding the right balance between economic development and conservation, group members stressed the importance of personal responsibility and investing in eco-friendly industries.

People need to work together to help sustain the environment – there is no integration between land owners and the companies

Comments from Group E

Funding for technological advancement to find renewable energy sources

Tourism fosters a relationship with the environment. Through hunting tours and eco-tourism.

Preservation of culture

We would like to see mining companies take more ownership over the pollution and mess that they create. We would also like to see the mining companies work with the communities and let them know their progress. Mining companies should be Canadian companies and not multinational ones.

We would like to see more sustainable economy of resource extraction. We think that southern workers and companies should not be allowed to work in the North as they do not contribute by spending their money in the North or contribute to culture.

We would like to see more protected areas with environmental and cultural significance. We would like to see proper management of protected areas while utilizing traditional knowledge to answer questions.

We would like to see the current generation reduce their conflict between other governments (in-fighting) and work together to create more sustainable development. We are afraid of the “boom-bust” economy of the future. Programs like “take a kid trapping” help create self reliance.

While recognizing that all cultures are dynamic, the need still exists to preserve traditional knowledge and breathe new life to abandoned or forgotten practices because a lot of wisdom that exists in the North already can diagnose a lot of economic/conservation woes.

We would like to see more money for a University to bring academics north while creating and educated workforce.

Comments from Group F

We need to look at putting the two together by creating jobs in the conservation field. For example, we can explore looking into different means of energy and getting Aurora College to implement training programs to create workers in that field.

Ensure enough programs and resources are available to sustain the environment.

- It is important to have environmental protection boards that will ensure clean up of mine sites.

Modern science and traditional knowledge need to come together. We would encourage co-management between aboriginal groups and companies.

We need to look toward more use of geothermal technology/energy and wind power technology.

- By making the initial investment into looking for a more sustainable future such as the use of these technologies, we could then train employees to maintain them.

Push the tourism trade – expand Aurora College to offer tourism programs. Tourism is more sustainable than the mining industry

Conservation education – clean up of mine sites should take place during and after the life of a mine. Clean up could happen in areas that are no longer in use while the mine is still in operation.

When deals are made with mining companies, shares should be encouraged rather than impact benefit payments.

Question #5

What do we need to do today to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all our regions?

Comments from Group D

We talked about increasing and improving transportation (access) and infrastructure to communities outside Yellowknife. The cost of living was another issue of concern to this group.

While all agree that the cost of living in the North is expensive, some group members had no idea how much food cost Northerners in communities outside Yellowknife. For example, one group member from Inuvik talked about how the price of juice would change when roads were open as opposed to when they are closed.

In order to ensure the economy of tomorrow generates jobs for Northerners in all of our regions, the group said we needed to increase the population in the North. With an increased population group members agreed that industry would grow in areas such as hospitality and commercial goods.

All agree that the Northwest Territories is a pristine environment and must be protected to ensure that there is a future in the North.

While not directly linked to the economy, the issue of sport and recreation is regarded as an important contributor to well-being in the communities and in preparing young people to excel in all areas of life. While some Yellowknife participants spoke highly of the sport community in the North, others were less satisfied with the programming and opportunities outside Yellowknife. A Fort Smith participant stated that conditions for sports in the communities were not as great. He said “competition is healthy” and that opportunities for sports should be spread evenly to all communities, not just Yellowknife

Comments from Group E

Equal hiring opportunities for anyone born in the North

- Northerners should get a job over southerners
- Southerners don't contribute in the long term

If a P1 is more qualified than me, they should get the job.

- Because they are at a disadvantage

Keep government jobs for the students

- For summer students
- For interns

Networking – building professional relationships

The North is the best place to be when you are a student

Work experience is great at GNWT, but we would like to see more exciting projects

Program implementation would be a great learning opportunity

In the public sector, we sometimes find it slow

Work in the field as well as program review placements

How do we generate jobs for Northerners?

- More aboriginal studies at post-secondary level – Aboriginal government, land claims, negotiations)

We should be open to more partnerships with different educational institutions
More tourism in the northern communities

More traditional arts and crafts to create jobs and job security

- Small or large projects
- Can include writing for cultural preservation

Resource development

- Wildlife farming
- Dairy farming
- Organic produce

Comments from Group F

Create incentives for Northern workers to stay in the north. Examples:

- retain SFA program
- create jobs through remediation boards
- Tourism could work in all communities – e.g.: Cultural Tourism. Offer bursaries that would help get this off the ground.

Improve the reputation of the NWT to attract people to the north (e.g. push campaigns such as “Spectacular NWT,” make commercials and air them on southern networks).

Northern Art should be promoted - this could be privately or publicly funded

Explore options/ varieties of natural resources to open up new industries and markets.
e.g.:

- Geothermal energy
- Hydro power
- Solar
- Wind energy
 - We could use the money from the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline to foster these options.

Market traditional knowledge as a valuable resource. Outside companies could employ elders and local people when doing research in various NWT regions, as the people from the regions are the experts in their regions. Companies can work with

communities to convince them that it's in the company's interest to hire/employ locals. This would generate jobs for those communities. Elders could also be hired to teach TK courses, egg: Northern Studies course.

Creating more integrated cultural programs that are more hands on and involved; jobs for those who can teach and encourage the preservation of culture.

Establish a mode of independence and self-sufficiency so that we are less dependent on the Federal government – push for devolution and resource revenue sharing deal.

How can we sell our power to down south? There is no extensive, unified power grid in the NWT.

Sell carbon offsets – if we can generate power with low environmental impacts and then sell the carbon offset units to industrial corporations down south (there are greenhouse emissions caps on these corporations so there is a market for this).

Question # 6:

What do you consider to be the best and worst features of the NWT?

Group D

Best

Responsible use of the land
The people are the most important
Land

vs.

Worst

Loss of Culture
Substance Abuse
Lack of Education

Group E

- **Best:**
- - Our people
- - Our natural environment
- - The opportunities for jobs and career advancement
- - Summer student work opportunities
- - SFA is a nice perk
- - Cultural diversity, all the different languages and cultures
- - Unspoiled natural spaces

- - Health care is quick and generally available
- - Our water resources, there is so much water here!
- - Environmental regulations are a good thing as it protects our natural environment
- - Tight knit family support and communities
- - There is a lot of potential for undeveloped ideas and resources

- **Worst:**
- - Drug abuse
- - Alcohol abuse
- - Domestic violence
- - Racism
- - Isolation, access to health resources and doctors
- - Lack of health care in isolated communities
- - Low achievement rate and literacy rates, there is a big achievement gap
- - Loss of culture
-
- **Extra Questions that this group would have liked to have been asked:**
-
- - *What do you think the GNWT could do to be more productive?*
- - *For the most part, we really liked the questions, they were stimulating.*
- - *What things can be done to help the youth reach their full potential?*

Group F

BEST features

- Proximity to natural environment
- SFA program is “solid”
- Northern sporting events give excellent opportunities to travel – e.g. Arctic Winter Games and Olympics (“Northern House”)
 - Excellent opportunity for cultural representation (e.g. drummers, artists at Olympics)
- Job placement program for post-secondary grads
- Northern living allowance
- A lot of support for local businesses in smaller communities
- High wages

- A lot of jobs are available in Yellowknife
- Active lifestyle encouraged
- Small town hospitality
- Being able to attend an event such as this. Most kids in the south wouldn't get this opportunity
- Community-based atmosphere
- Rich in natural resources (diamonds, etc)
- Low pollution
- Unique consensus government
- Ability to contact political leaders – easy access to voice concerns (to MLAs)
- Lowest wait times for health care
- Leaders in communities have authority to implement dry communities
- Traditional ways of life
 - Looking after the collective (all members in a community) and taking only what you need (i.e., community hunts). Community members take care of one another

WORST features

- Community alienation (sometimes communities get left out)
- Seasonal depression
- Social problems:
 - Substance abuse
 - Suicide (high suicide rate)
 - depression
- alienation from the rest of Canada
- lack of knowledge about smaller communities – alienation from one another (e.g. most Yellowknifers have not been to smaller communities so it's difficult to understand or appreciate the struggles some smaller communities are faced with)
- expensive to travel in the north
- high cost of living
- first to feel the effects of global warming
- access to health care in small communities is a problem (e.g., unable to access physicians or nurses)
- little to do in the communities allows for crime / problems among youth
- more options for community schools; similar classes to what's available in Yellowknife (shop class, etc.)
- large difference between opportunities in Yellowknife and the communities (e.g., lack of advanced placement courses – (calculus, honours programs, etc)
- not much assistance for youth in communities (e.g. can't afford hockey)



**Creating Our Future Together
'Premier for a Day' Initiative**

Premier For A Day Initiative

NWT Resident

If I were premier for a day, things would be different. There would be extreme attempts to get the Northwest Territories on a road for developing an improved future. There are two main ideas I have about the Northwest Territories future, and they go hand-in-hand, substance abuse in minors and social recreation for teenagers.

Youth in the Northwest Territories need more social recreation. Lack of social recreation has led to substance abuse in the north. Picture this: you are a teenager in a small community like Behchokò. It is a weekend and you want to have fun with your peers. What would you be doing? What *could* you be doing? What would you *want* to be doing? Chances are there are not many options.

The observations I have made of my peer group is that even in Yellowknife there is not much to offer for social recreation. Therefore, the majority of kids I know and even some of my friends have moved on to substance abuse. It is very saddening to observe people growing up in situations like these because they usually end up having a harder life. This does not have to be this way and is preventable.

We would go about solving these problems by setting a curfew for the communities. Some might beg to differ, but having a curfew would help teenagers stay out of trouble in the late hours. Having someone actually there to stop them from causing trouble making mistakes would help.

For programming, there would be funding for more social recreation like community dances and groups and their advertisement. Events like this would be interesting to teenagers if addressed correctly. Of course action would have to be made to find out exactly what each community wants. This could be found out by doing surveys in schools or going from door to door.

To focus more on substance abuse, there would be tighter security in schools. There would be an organization that would go around to schools encouraging students and teachers to take more action. The committee would start off by warning the students of the affects of substance abuse. Then they would ask the students to tell an official if they know someone who is abusing substances. They would also ask the teachers and school staff to get more involved in students lives by becoming more social with them and befriending them. By asking them to make better observations of student behaviours and report them to a higher authority, penalty (from school, sports or other things they enjoy) can be made. This will hopefully make them realize that things can be different with their lives and they are worth so much more than what they put themselves through.

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This is a good idea because there are a lot of bystanders in my school; students *and* teachers. Almost everyday, students in high school class have to witness their peers coming to class high. This is preventable but the teenagers need to be encouraged. When they have completed high school they will regret these bad choices as they affect their futures.

In twenty to thirty years, I would like to see a decrease of substance abuse in the north among teenagers. This starts with more social recreation. If I were premier I would like to see teenagers making good decisions as they are our future. Getting teenagers into superior activities while they are young will give them a fantastic start for a remarkable future.

NWT Resident

If you give someone the responsibility of being the premier of the NWT, chances are they'd have pretty strong opinions. There are currently many growing issues in the NWT but I have two main points I'd like to bring up concerning the NWT and the future of the territory. Affordability of youth programs and social issues involving substance abuse are my main concerns right now. I'll discuss the concerns I have and offer solutions that I'd act upon if I was premier for the day.

The first issue and the most important that I'd like to address is the affordability of youth programs in the north. From personal experience, I have attended youth programs and youth groups here in Yellowknife and I've seen them work. The goal that I've seen them accomplish is that they give youth a place to be and to have safe, sober and healthy fun instead of being on the streets. The only problem is that there aren't many youth programs/groups in the north, and a number of them aren't provided from the government. With my own experiences, I've attended youth programs held in both Yellowknife and in Behchoko and the both of them were started and held by churches. I've seen them help kids in the towns as well. Holding weekly or even biweekly events can give kids a place to go, and it can show them that they can have fun without going out to the streets to find fun in illegal activities. If I was premier for a day, I'd start working on getting more youth programs and youth services to the towns and communities of the north. This can be done by creating a budget dedicated to helping the youth get off the streets by giving them a safe place to be.

Another problem that's continuously growing in the NWT is the social issues involving substance abuse. First hand, I have seen drugs and alcohol affecting the lives of many families in the north. On a recent trip to Behchoko, I had the privilege of meeting the pastor of the Christian church, his wife and their continuously growing family of foster children. The pastor and his wife have been foster parents to over 20 children in the 20 years that they have been there and they have made such a positive impact on the community by giving these children a safe home, away from the substance abuse they

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may have to face in their own homes. When talking to the youth there and specifically, the foster children, they would tell me of how their families were now broken from one parent or even both suffering from either alcohol or drug abuse. Many of the children in the community had to grow up being exposed to the danger, emotional and even physical abuse that stems from the substance abuse in the community. When I was there, I would watch kids play around broken liquor bottles from the night before, I saw children ages 4-12 come to youth group in dirty, unclean cloths with stained faces because their parent's weren't taking care of them mainly because they were too preoccupied with their addictions. Behchoko is legally a dry community but that doesn't stop the residents from bringing in alcohol from Yellowknife, which is only an hour drive away. Many of the smaller communities farther north are now dry communities but numerous amounts of people take the couple hour drive to come to Yellowknife, load up on liquor, drive back home and sell it for up to triple the original cost. It's a problem that's just escalating and it needs to stop. If I was premier for a day, I'd push harder liquor laws to make sure that these communities are staying dry. One way to help fix this is by creating more check stops for liquor and contraband all over the north. Another solution to help the problem that's already there is to offer more substance awareness courses and to offer more solutions for people that suffer from substance abuse. These solutions can include information on sober living, contact information on detoxification clinics and information for A.A or N.A meetings. Offering awareness courses to young children can help them make the right decision when they're older. Letting them know that there are better options can affect the choices they make in the future. Also, offering aid classes to those that battle with the addiction can help them get out and stay sober.

If I was premier for a day, affordability of youth programs and the social issues in the north are two main and growing problems that I'd address and work towards fixing. Offering more youth services and offering substance awareness for youth can help change the future of the NWT. Offering better options can help them make better decisions. Also, giving classes to help with those already suffering from substance abuse can show them that there are better options for them. These decisions can move the NWT one step closer to a better tomorrow.

NWT Resident

If I were premier for a day, I would focus on Dene Land, Animals and Climate Change. In twenty or thirty years I would want the Northwest Territories to look healthy, clean and basically the same.

The Dene Land is very important to the people. I highly believe that if our land gets damaged or wrecked the Dene people will be affected by the damage that has been done or is going to be done. If the land we live on is healthy and clean the Dene will not be affected by it. If the land were to be taken from us, Dene people will not survive. The

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Dene land is basically everything we need to survive. In the near future I do think we would love to keep our land. To the people it belongs to, to make sure nothing on or around is harmed by any work the Government decides or decided to do.

Animals in the Northwest Territories are a very high value in the North. The traditional ways have always been a high value. All Dene people value the animals and the land. In twenty or thirty years I would like to see the animals protected. If the Government decided to build or construct on the Dene land it will affect the animals. Therefore we need to keep the Land safe, because the land affects the animals. It is their natural habitat. If I were premier for the day I would think over the projects that are being in construction or being constructed and re-think it. Make sure there is a Dene Protection land claim. To make sure the animals aren't affected by the changes. So in twenty or thirty years I would like to see the animals safe.

If I were Premier for the day I would look into Climate Change. This is a very big issue. I am interested in climate change. When I say it's a very big issue I mean HUGE. Every topic I have talked about, everything that I would like to see in twenty or thirty years can and will be affected by climate change. In fact I was in Ottawa for the Climate Change Conference. It opened my eyes that nothing is getting done and it is affecting the people, the land and the animals everything I have been talking about.

All these topics and issues add up to my last topic. Protect the people. The Dene people need to be protected. If the Government decides to do any projects in twenty or thirty years. I want to make sure the Dene people are protected. If the projects are being in action the Government needs to think about a People Protection Plan when constructing their projects in the Northwest Territories.

If I were premier for the day the issues I have talked about I will focus on. So I highly believe that all these issues can be resolved or improved. I'd like to be premier for the day to focus on these issues. This is why I Erin Nadli would want to be premier for the day.

NWT Resident

The Northwest Territories of Canada are becoming one of the fastest ever-growing environments in the western world. With this ever-growing population the Northwest Territories must be prepared for the new amount of human demand for physical resources, transportation and education. Some of the most important aspects required in the growth of society are education as well as social services. Education is the key to the growth of population. Education and knowledge provides a society with individuals with greater intellectual capacity which allows for a more growth in the job sector and for greater respect from other countries and provinces which can also positively affect tourism as well as immigration. Social services are also required because of the fact

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that with a greater population in an area there are more families and individuals that will need services such as hospitals, doctors, nurses, health centres, elders' facilities, home care workers and so on. In addition to these seemingly obvious aspects of community growth one of the less spoken of but completely essential resources required in the growth of a territory is the availability and resources provided for peoples within intellectual and physical disabilities. People with mental and physical disabilities are individuals with a unique talents and abilities, but in order to utilise these peoples' talents and abilities resources must be provided for their personal and intellectual growth. Throughout this essay I will propose my thoughts and views on how I believe the Northwest Territories should look and be run within the next twenty to thirty years as well as the innovations of technology that will ultimately lead to the development of this northern environment.

As stated above one of the most important aspects in the expansion and development of a territory is through education. The Northwest Territories currently offers an education that is not consistent throughout the entire territory, in order for our territory to develop fully all communities, no matter the size should be offered an equal education. A consistent education system allows the entire territory to develop as one rather than simple to few larger cities and communities. An improvement is the Northwest Territories' educational system will not only allow expansion but will also allow the territory to prosper while being lead by people native to the land and communities.

The first step in beginning to improve the education system within the Northwest Territories must be through the better providing of educational and academic resources to communities outside of largely populated areas such as Yellowknife, Hayriver, Inuvik and Fort Smith. In small, isolated communities education is provided but the delivery and material can be much improved. It is essential for a school to offer a variety of courses and programs so that all students are challenged at their own level. A variety of different courses at different levels will not only improve the quality of education provided but will also allow students to become interested in school and the programs offered there which will also promote the completion of secondary school and post-secondary studies both in and out of the territory. The greater completion of secondary and post-secondary studies will also allow peoples native to the NWT will create a solid infrastructure, in other words an educated north is a successful territory.

In addition to an improvement of the educational system within our territory if I were premier for a day I would also improve the resources provided and the way resources are provided for peoples with mental disabilities. Per capita the Northwest Territories is home to an increased amount of peoples with disabilities, therefore in order for this northern environment to develop to its full potential all members of the society must be achieving all of their personal, emotional, physical and academic goals. As a territory we have the responsibility to provide for all members of this area and to begin we must provide for people that cannot fully provide for themselves.

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Within the Northwest Territories there are thousands of people with mental disabilities ranging from acute to severe. One of the most important aspects of aiding people with mental disabilities is offering a diagnosis at as young an age as possible. A diagnosis opens countless doors for resources and treatment programs both in and out of our territory. The next step that must be taken when helping peoples with mental disabilities must occur before the child enters school. From the ages of one and four all peoples are at their peak time of intellectual growth and during this time children with mental disabilities can learn much that will aid them throughout their entire lives; if this time is not utilized properly children will have to overcome an even harder obstacle and that is seemingly impossible to with the services offered currently. The step that must be followed after this is an IEP or Individual Education Plan. Students are required to be provided with an IEP and a qualified facilitator or educational assistant to implement these programs and ensure the student's progress. In addition to an IEP and facilitator students with intellectual disabilities should be provided with the most recent technological resources that will allow this student's success. Following secondary school the Northwest Territories must be supplied with economic, social and medical resources for the remainder of their lives. The most essential aspect of the delivery of these resources for peoples with disabilities is that they **MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE PERSON'S HOME COMMUNITY**. People with mental disabilities can love and do easily become emotional attached to people, communities, family members and daily schedules. Removing a person with a mental disability from their home community is the same as the process that occurred in residential schools and today victims of this process are still affected today. Therefore the final step of providing for people with intellectual disabilities will occur in the creation of resources and facilities to house and care for people within their home community to ensure their greatest possible success and fulfillment in life.

The Northwest Territories is one of Canada's most unique territories that has much to offer the modern western world. With an abundance of natural resources the Northwest Territories is able to maintain a solid infrastructure but in order for our territory to fully develop all aspects of life must increase in quality in all communities no matter size or location. The first step to increasing quality of life must be through supporting peoples that cannot support themselves. As well as aiding those with intellectual disabilities in order for this extraordinary area to progress and exceed present success our territory must increase the quality of education offered in all communities and areas of the NWT. The Northwest Territories is an exceptional and unique place to live and is an area where thousands of people are proud to call home; including myself. If I were premier for a day I would change the territory for the better so that the lives of present and potential citizens are as fulfilling and successful as possible. The peoples of the Northwest Territories have a unique perspective, are knowledgeable and successful, together we can create a progressive and independent territory, one person or premier at a time.

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NWT Resident

If I were Premier for a day I would work on the Schools in the N.W.T

I would work on Dene language in the N.W.T schools.

Dene language is almost lost in our culture we need more culture classes in the N.W.T We need to work on our language for the future generations. We need more culture teachers, Hunters and Trappers to teach culture to kids.

I would work on more workshops for people that don't go to school.

People who drop out of should go back to school, that is why we need more workshops. More workshops can provide more jobs and education. Workshops can keep people in school and out of trouble.

I would build Bigger gyms in the schools.

Bigger gyms in school could start more sport teams. It can provide a safe place to go on the weekends. Bigger gyms can get more kids into different kinds of sports.

I would work more on the use of class time.

Better use of class time could reduce the lateness in schools. Better use of class time could also increase learning in schools.

This is what I would do with the schools if I were premier for a day.

NWT Resident

If I were premier for the day, I would bring up the issues of roads. The roads in the north aren't all year access. Another thing is in the smaller communities, is to obtain the new technology. If they could get some newer technology kids would probably learn better. My last issue is activities for all of the smaller communities.

I was just recently driving down to Grande Prairie. The road was ok until I crossed the Fort Simpson fairway. Once I was past the fairway the road was full of potholes and bumps. It made the ride awful. We went down the Fort Liard highway. On the way back we went the other way. They were paving the road were they never were before. They should make the all season roads to places further north too because they could run out something and need help. It would make more transportation in the north too. All I can say is that they are making the roads a better place to be driving.

If we had new technology in schools this would mean kids would probably go to school more. It would help because if you are in school and need to type up something

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up, you could do this during class without disturbing anyone. You need to search something up you can in class. This would dramatically increase the schoolwork of children and teenagers. It doesn't mean laptops. The government could get e-books and I-Pads so they don't have to buy a lot of books. All you have to buy is one book and a lot of I-Pads or E-books. After awhile this will pay off because you buy one book on I-Tunes and download it on the I-Pads or E-Books.

The last issue is there needs to be some activities for the smaller communities of the NWT. There are very little things to do or to get away from (for some kids). Some teenagers do drugs and alcohol to get away. The NWT has this problem everywhere. The government needs to plan more activities for the older kids. Not just for the little kids.

I think fixing the roads, adding technology to schools and activities for the smaller communities needs to be done. It will help travelling and learning. There might be a decrease in drug and alcohol assumption because of the activities.

NWT Resident

My name is Goliah Cazon and If I were Premier for a day I would like to improve in the small communities; like fixing the road and highways, improving help in school and helping the environment. I would like to make the NWT a more accessible place.

I would like to fix some of the highways so it is safe to drive all seasons. To do so I would suggest paving or chip sealing all the highways including the Liard highway, which from experience is a rough drive, even in summer. The Liard Highway is narrow and is just gravel so to improve that we would need to widen the road so it is safe to drive on at night, and pave it so it isn't so rough. Also some roads in the communities have many pot holes and have lots of lose gravel. There have been many complaints, some have been sort of fixed but not fixed completely and I would like to fix it completely.

To help the communities I would also like to help the education in school. I thought that if we had laptops at every desk it would improve study and learning abilities. Also if we got new faster computers so work and study could be done faster. I would have extra teachers in every class so all students can get all the help they need in all subjects. Sometimes it is hard to understand what your teacher is talking about and looking it up on the computer or asking another teacher is very helpful.

Another thought is to help make recycling a lot easier and making more things recyclable so we can help the planet. I've lived in other places where basically everything is recyclable and lots of people are willing to recycle if it means saving the planet. I would like to increase recycling in smaller communities and make it so more

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things can be recycled. Also energy efficient heating and plumbing so water and power isn't wasted so easily. Houses can still be warm and help the environment around you.

If I were premier for a day I would help the communities and the environment so everyone can get what they need and we wouldn't be ending the planet.

NWT Resident

If I were premier for the day I would make some positive changes. I would like the NWT to have a special traditional workshop, in order for the youth to connect with the NWT culture. The NWT kids might be excited when there are special events happening in the school. We should reward students by cash prizes of getting perfect attendance. There should be one university in NWT, so by the time students graduate from high school they don't have to go all the way down south, they can just stay in the north. Also we can have a huge shopping mall in NWT. So when it's holiday time, birthday time, and Christmas time they don't have to spend half of their money on plane ticket, they can just drive to that community and buy whatever they want to buy.

Northwest Territories is in the north. Half of the communities are Dene people. Where there are Dene people, we should create a traditional workshop. Dene people probably want their kids to learn the Dene traditional games. So in each community we should set a workshop for all community members. There could be elders teaching kids how to sew moccasins, how to sew gloves, and how to sew purses. While a group of people are doing traditional sewing, the other group can do traditional games or dancing. For example hand game, drum dance, etc. When there is activities provide in the community, I'm sure it will make some people's lives better. While they do some traditional games they could even think of a new game that they would like to play.

I believed that kids and adults in the community are excited when something new happens. In each community of the NWT we should have cash activities. Some students and some adults think their study time or work time is too early. So if we have cash prizes for the people that have perfect attendance for the year, the adults and the students probably will attend the activities and also they will do their work well during the time.

When the students go to school in the NWT, pretty much half of the people is born there. I believed they want to stay as long as they can. I suggest we should build a university in Northwest Territories. I suggest this because when students graduate from high school and move on to university they probably don't want to leave their own town, but they have to go to university. So if we build a university in the Northwest Territories the students don't have to leave their own town, and also they can see their parents. This choice is good for the students and adults.

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In the Northwest territories we have lots of stores. For example Extra Food, North Mart, Northern, Wal-Mart, etc. These stores are all separated at different communities. If we have a huge shopping mall in one of our communities. We can just go there instead of going all over the place. The huge shopping mall will provide presents, supplies, clothing, and electronic stuff and groceries. So during the holiday people don't need to travel down south to buy present, they can just drive to the community with the shopping mall and get a lots of stuff they need. That way is easier for people to get what they want, and they save their time on shopping, not travelling.

In conclusion I think the four main points I suggest are all positive changes. I suggest we should have a traditional workshop, cash prizes, a huge shopping mall, and a University of NWT. I suggest these things because we don't have them in the North West Territories and if we add the stuff I suggest, it would make North West Territories better.

NWT Resident

If I were Premier for a day I would have schools hosting sporting events where the students get to travel out of the NWT more often, instead of all the same places every year. I also think that small towns like where I live, which is Fort Simpson NWT, should have a grocery store so people don't have to travel to other towns to shop. Another thing is that there should be a boat nature sightseeing place, where people could sightsee from the water.

The reason why I think schools around the NWT should have more sporting events outside of the NWT is so that students could have a chance to go somewhere different for a change. While they are on their trip they could also go to sightseeing places and also historical sites. They could learn a lot from travelling in different places. They could also have a lot of fun bonding and communicating with others. I think that it would be a good idea to give kids a chance of glory, even if they lose they still would have experienced something fun and exciting.

I think that small towns like Fort Simpson should all have at least one grocery store. It would be easier to just get in your vehicle and drive to the store. Instead people in small towns have to drive about a whole day to grocery stores somewhere else. Some people choose to shop in their small town store because it is easier than driving somewhere far away. The food is not always fresh at their hometown store, so that's why most people travel to some other town with a big grocery store to get fresh food. I always hear people complaining that they have to travel out of town to go grocery shopping, but at the same time they also like to go so they can get a break from work. People will always complain that they have to travel a lot just to get their fresh foods for their families.

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I think that having a boat nature sightseeing place would be a great idea. It would give people who live in this area and tourist an experience that they will never forget. It would be almost like the Great Slave Lake Boat Tours in Yellowknife, but it won't be the same because it could be traditional boat tours. There could be traditional medicine people and nature people that can teach the tourists about our land. It could be a great experience for everyone and they could also learn a lot of new things about the NWT's land. It could also be great for passing on traditions to younger people. The people who live out of the NWT and even out of Canada could tell their families about our traditions.

I chose these ideas to make the NWT a better place because I think that it would let people live, laugh and learn for a long time. Some people could experience new things and learn new things. These ideas could pass on cultures and traditions to other people who don't know about our culture and traditions. One of these ideas could save people time and gas. They won't have to travel so far to get groceries, but once in a while they will and it will always be their choice. These ideas could keep the NWT a great place for many years. There are a lot of other ideas but I chose these ideas because I think that they will make and keep the NWT a better place for many years to come.

NWT Resident

Since its creation, the Northwest Territories has been a symbol of change and innovation, altering itself as the world develops. As such, it will be substantially different in two or three decades than it is in the present day. Here is my vision of the future of the Northwest Territories.

The Economic Future

The Northwest Territories is a major force in environmentally friendly energy research, providing the territory with a strong source of income. The large amounts of fresh water here has helped make hydroelectric generators far more efficient, and drilling equipment left over from the diamond mines when they closed has been utilized to gain access to geothermal power. These "green" energy innovations have been used worldwide to reduce the use of fossil fuels and the effects of climate change.

Tourism has also become a strong industry. Advertising campaigns showing the largely-untarnished and lovely natural world of the territory has been highly successful. Extreme sports enthusiasts have been drawn to the territory as well because of its opportunities to climb mountains, go kayaking, and participate in other thrilling activities of the same sort.

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The Social Future

The standard of life in the territory has increased sharply. Technological improvements in construction have led to higher-quality affordable housing. Individuals and families can now all afford to live better and more safely, with next to no one having to worry about where to sleep at night. This has contributed to the drop in the homelessness rate.

The crime rate is also significantly lower than it was in the past. This is principally because of a police crackdown on the drug trade. There are no longer places where it is common knowledge that anyone can buy drugs at. This has happened mostly because the police budget for investigation and training has been increased, permitting them to catch and prosecute dealers more effectively. The territory has become safer to live in for everyone, young or old.

The Political Future

Of course, these great advancements did not appear out of thin air. The national Senate was overhauled about ten years ago so that every province and territory would have an equal amount of senators, as in the American political system. This has allowed the Northwest Territories to better advance its needs to the nation, helping us to improve our territory.

The territorial government has partnered up with land claim groups and struck a devolution deal with the federal government. The community land claim groups have an agreement with the territorial government that allows each citizen a vote in land allocation. This has been one of the factors allowing our economic boom.

The Canadian military's presence in the Northwest Territories has also become more visible. The former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan of "Arctic sovereignty" grew in popularity as the Northwest Territories grew in prominence, and we now have military bases in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Sachs Harbour.

A Future to Aspire to

This is my hope for the future of the Northwest Territories. Of course, all of these advancements and improvements will not appear overnight. They will require hard work and dedication, but we are able to do it, and if I have any say in the matter, they will.

NWT Resident

My dream for the NWT in the future is to have strong healthy communities that take care of the land they live in. I would like to see a territory which continues to grow with job opportunities, tourism and preservation of our cultures. I would like to see a territory with people who respect the land and cultures they live with. I would like to see

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the economy go up and for people to have better paying jobs. All of this would make our territory stronger.

Our communities are small and we need to work together to make them stronger. The price of living is extremely high compared to other parts of the world. If we could lower these costs we would have more and more people coming up here and that would expand our communities. We need to find ways to keep youth in school and out of trouble, decrease alcohol abuse, and make some healthier choices. If we provide training for jobs we could have highly experienced workers and more job creation. We need to provide more events that the whole community can get involved in and also keep the ones we already have.

I really want to see the economy go up all over the NWT but especially in my town and also all over the NWT. The pipeline needs to happen because so many people are waiting for it and expecting it to go through. If the pipeline goes through it will incredibly increase the economy of our territory and supply so many people with new jobs.

Our land is an important part of our lifestyle and culture. It is also a huge factor in our tourism. Tourism helps with jobs and the economy of our territory. The Dempster Highway is a huge attraction because it is a 736 km gravel road. People from all over the world travel here just so that they can drive it. If we do not protect the highway it will lose its value and that will lead to the loss of tourists. The NWT has some beautiful country and some people just don't respect it.

Our education needs to grow with our changing community and evolving technology. We need to find a way to keep our youth interested in staying in school. We need to encourage them to learn more about making our territory a better place.

If we make our territory stronger it will be a better place for us in the future. We have to preserve our cultures and our land. We need to have more job opportunities and keep encouraging tourism. This is what I want the NWT to look like in 20 – 30 years. This is my dream.

NWT Resident

I want to see a change in the north. One person cannot change everything, everyone has to agree to make a change. The future I imagine is wonderful, peaceful, and great. It's hard to describe the future I see.

The present is in so bad condition, the people are bitter, angry, sad, and suffering. I want to help the Northwest Territories change for the better. I want this generation and the older generation to make the change so we can have a great future, not only for us

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but for the new generation that is coming, so those kids could live together and work together well. I heard "a house divided by itself will not stand". Think of the Northwest Territories as the house and we're pulling it apart, the N.T. is a great province and has a lot of potential.

I don't want to waste that potential and live in a miserable place, were people hate or discriminate each other, put each other down from our differences or how we do things. I would really love to see the future I imagine, but we can only reach it by working together and agreeing that we want to change for the better. If you want to live in a great future, then we have to decide now and work on how we want our future to be.

If you don't make a choice, someone else will make the choice for you and the way things turn out might go the opposite way you want it to go. Today is the day I will work together with all the people who want to change for the better. I will make my voice heard and the plans we have for our future to be known.

I love the Northwest Territories and in the twenty or thirty years look back and see how of a big difference it has changed. In the future I don't want people to think of the north only as a really cold place to live but a place were nice, strong, friendly people live.

The present is not the worst it is, let's stop it before it becomes the worst it could be. Let's focus on making the dream our future into reality. Let's change for the better!

NWT Resident

Before the Dempster highway was built, the people were exited that there's going to be a road to travel faster on. But my grandmother told my father that once the road comes in, everything is going to be bad. There's things that will happen to people. There is going to be drugs, and alcohol tearing people's lives apart, and she was right.

Today people are struggling with these problems. We are now dealing with health issues, ex- cancer, diabetes, and aids. If I were premiere I would I wouldn't allow drugs and alcohol in the N.W.T. People are just going to have to live with it, they don't realize it's killing them. We would have such a better world without drugs and alcohol. They are the reasons why people are on the street today. In 20 to 30 years I would like to see people trying to be successful. I wouldn't want to see the pipeline either. If people want good jobs and good pay, they are going to have to go to school for their education. I don't want the pipeline killing our land, our culture, animals and our environment. What happens if there's a huge spill? Our land is dead. It would be nice to see them running around being free and wild. Not worrying about being affected by any oil or gas. I would also like to see us native people doing what we want on our own land, and If I were premiere I would atleast try to find a way for kids to stay in school. I wouldn't want to see people's children to be struggling in school having alcohol and drug problems

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because they think it's cool. This doesn't get them anywhere in life. They should be enjoying school trying to do something with their life. This would make me happy, it should make the premiere happy as well, I think.

NWT Resident

Changes that I would like to see in 20-30 years from now are mostly changes in the communities of the Northwest Territories. Like separate schools primary and secondary. The primary school would be immersed so the native language could grow instead of slowly dying, and giving solar panels to all the big buildings that use up lots of power.

If I were premier for a day I would put some of my time towards the environment. I would want to preserve our oil and gas so other provinces and countries won't use it and have to learn to use their oil and gas better. I would also want to preserve our land, water, and animals so our children's children could still hunt the same way we do or did. Another way we could preserve our land water and animals is using other types of energy like solar panels. We could give solar panels to the bigger buildings because if their bigger buildings so I'm guessing they use a lot of power.

I also want to bring up stuff about schools not the education but the schools. The Northwest Territories should have separate schools for communities with a population over 700 so the older students could have a bigger gym. So the older student so have a better workout and the younger student have the workout they need. Bigger classrooms so we could have more stuff to use in our classrooms. The Northwest Territories should hire more specialized teachers for more classes and we won't have to go south for upgrading so we can get into post-secondary.

Language and culture is another thing that want to bring up. The Northwest Territories should have a native immersion class for the younger students because people learn more when they are younger. Or better yet we could have just have a primary immersion school. Well we are talking about native language program we should just let the schools go out on the land as a field trip so it will be part of the school.

Community infrastructure is mostly for the youth again. Like in my town we play soccer in the baseball diamond because our soccer field is full of bison poop and its pretty small. I am going to bring this up again is separate schools so we can have bigger gyms and teachers for the right subject. My community could also we a new recreation center with a indoor gym and a hockey rink.

I believe that the changes are important because it will make youth more active, fit, and aware of their environment.

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NWT Resident

I am here today to tell you about what I want to see in the future of the Northwest Territories if I were premier. In the future I would love to see people of the North being more aware of the effects that they are putting on the environment and how they can fix this. To achieve this, it is all about actually letting them know how they are affecting the world and how they can change the bad affects they have on it. We should let them know what they are doing wrong but most of all that they have many alternatives. They can change what they drive, and what they do with their trash and many other things. With the many ways to change your habits and routines, you change the world.

To make people want to help out the environment I think that you first have to show them what effect that they are really having on it as a whole. The temperature is a very easy way to express this dramatic change and it affects many things up north such as the hunters and trappers plans and dates, the permafrost (which affects buildings), the wild life and even the temperature of the water. In 1960 the average temperature for January, the coldest month of the year, was -32.6°C , 20 years later in 1980 it was -27.7°C , and in 2000 it was a striking -23.1°C . This is a 9.5 degree difference in less than a life time. Now even though many people other than people in the north are making this dramatic difference we can try to introduce more of a change in routine to the people of the north.

One of the easiest ways to help the environment is to recycle. In many towns in the Northwest Territories you can recycle bottles and cans at local bottle depots. This is a great thing but I think that if I was premier I would take it to the next level and start to put depots in all 33 communities to be able to recycle more than just bottles and cans but newspapers and other forms of plastic. Doing this would help out the environment to a great extent and hopefully get more people doing it. This would definitely be costly but I think that if we did it, it would definitely help out the environment and it would put less of the recycling in the landfills and more into making other products.

Another idea that I would really make the people of the North aware of to help the environment would be the way you travel. You can now buy hybrid cars that combine the use of gasoline and an electric motor. This causes you to use way less gasoline than a regular car. You can plug this car in instead of going to the gas station and when you run out of battery, the vehicle can automatically switch to gas and it charges your battery while you drive. Using these cars instead of regular ones would cut down on gas emissions substantially. Also you can take public transit instead of buying your own car for short trips around town. The thing about the Northwest Territories, many of these towns do not even have a bussing system. Though it would definitely be expensive and many of the towns do not need it, there is definitely a few that could use an in town bussing system such as Hay River. It is a very spread out town and to many people on the reserve, this would be very helpful.

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If I was Premier I would inform the people and really put it out there that global warming is happening up north and it is affecting our climate and environment. I would tell them that they could do little changes like recycling, as well as big changes, like taking the environment into account when they are buying a car. I would want to tell them that they can decide to make these changes every day. I would also tell them that they should start now and start inspiring others to do the same because the more people who do this the better it would be for the north, for Canada, and for the world.

NWT Resident

If you were born in the 1960s or 70s you probably would have grown up and lived off the land. Now a days were spending close too 1000 dollars to go on the land during freeze up. We never had to do that, people would go out and look for a caribou or whale and get that to eat, or melt snow to use as water. Now we have tap water or bottled water and that is not so good for our environment and animals. It's polluting the habitat of animals and its decreasing in population.

Another thing people used to do with out all of this technology and what not is speak in their traditional language. I as a 16 year old is noticing that only our elders and people who really care about their cultural are the only people are speaking Gwichin or Inuvait. I kind of see a little tiny bit off difference in kids in the elementary school speaking it or teaching me how to say what I want to learn how to say.

If I were Premier I would work to see this solution. What we need to see in 20-30 years is people taking care of the environment and also at least trying to speak fluently in their traditional language. We can try as hard as we can to promote and help people learn how to speak and learn what their grandparents and great-grandparents did when they were kids and if we get enough people interested we can bring all of the cultural stuff back. Sure we have community feasts and old time dances here. But it really isn't bringing back all of our culture. People used to do it outdoors or in igloos or tents. Now we are doing it in indoor areas with heat.

The animals too are decreasing in population my parents told me when they were growing up here that when they would travel the Dempster it would be FILLED with caribou and other wildlife. Now when I travel the Dempster I see maybe 10 caribou. I think that people need to realize what is happening. For example: ENR is posting posters around town telling and trying to make people realize what they are wasting the caribou or fish and they are trying to tell them take everything possible you can take from the animal and not waste it because the animals are decreasing rapidly.

If I were Premier I would work to see this solution : I would try and get people notice what we need to do to fix the problem that is happening. In the next 20-30 year I hope to see our animals all come back and us trying to keep up what we are trying to do. So in

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other words I would try my hardest to get the culture and tradition back in the communities back. That is my vision on the NWT in the next 20-30 years.

NWT Resident

The Future, for the future I want the NWT to look like a better territory for everybody. I do not like seeing the drunks, just sitting around town doing nothing but loiter, and sometimes create trouble. And all the drugs and alcohol! There's so much drugs around town It's not even funny. The alcohol is worse though.

I would change how long the term is for your learners license. It would be 6 months instead of one full year, why would I change this? So that people do not have to wait so long, for the chance to take their actual drivers license.

I would try to get people to get a hold of their culture, so they will have less of a chance of loosing it. Hold a Culture day all over Canada to celebrate everybody's culture, or to prevent them from loosing it. Or just some simple stuff, like commercials, or community speakers promoting that the loss of a language or culture is bad.

The pipeline. It was suppose to be started in when? In 2007? But it hasn't really been touched. I would try too start it, and make it better for all of the NWT.

Mainly what I'm saying is, I want the NWT to be better for everybody, for Canada and ourselves, and to not be the territory with the highest rate of drunks and stoners, the place with more than 2 dieing languages, the place with a low graduate rate.

So in 20 or 30 years, I want this place to be drunk ridden, I want it to be free of drugs, and I want a good life for everybody who stays here in the NWT.

NWT Resident

The year 2040 you sit there seeing your land, my land. May I ask you a question? How do you envision it? Is it a beautiful land, free of all the problems we face now a days? Is our land free of drugs, diabetes, and health problems? Is there people living without homes and are hungry? Well it won't be and will never be if we don't change it now. This is what I would do if I was premier for a day.

Drugs and Alcohol abuse, it affects you, it affects me. A growing problem that's not seeming to go away. I'm sure many would like to see it go away, but is anyone taking any action? Is anyone trying to offered help about this problem? Talking to the young

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children today not only the physical affects, the ones that say that it is harmful and it hurts your body. The facts that stick for you for a day but you think will never happen to you. But the emotional affects the ones that will be forever living in your mind. The pain that you bring to the ones you love. Yet, no one seems like they are trying to help. We need change. We don't need drugs and alcohol abuse, which my next subject goes somewhat hand in hand.

Homelessness. You and I probably can't begin to understand how it feels. How it feels on a chilly northern night, hungry, having nothing to eat, sitting on the corner, having now where to go, no hope, feeling like they have nothing really to live for so what they do most is drink. Thinking there pain will just go away. But it won't go away, and neither will the problem. Handing out money to them doesn't seem to help because they can just buy more drugs and alcohol. Why don't we think about giving them a home, trying to find them a job? Something is better than nothing; just get these men and women off the streets. But that is not the end of my worries for the Northwest Territories; I have one more change I want to see.

Our health is important, it keeps us living. So, why do we ignore it, we treat it as less of a problem than it really is. There are 47% of people 12 and older who are inactive. That is nearly half of the territory. Inactivity leads to so much more problems that we know of. It can lead to obesity and diabetes. I doubt that the problem comes from the lack of physical activity, but the lack of encouragement, the lack of people getting out there and saying we need to change this.

Effort is all it takes. Effort is all it takes to change our territory. Effort, to make it drug and alcohol abuse free. Effort, to get a homeless man off the streets and into a home. Effort, for a child to run around without losing their breath. These problems affect everyone in the Northwest Territories. This is how my land and your land should look like in 2040.

NWT Resident

"What I want the NWT to look like in 20 or 30 years?"

We the people want to see a change, but just as people we can't just change something like that. Our community, our territory. We need a change. That's why we have a premier, who hears our ideas, and try's his best to fix them. Our voices *need* to speak up. So, if I were premier for just a day...

There are so many things I would like to see changed. My main idea would be to get young kids out of alcohol and drugs. Why would I like to see this? Because in the NWT there are so many young kids trying to be "cool" and trying to drink and getting into drugs. It can damage your relationships with people, it can hurt others who care, it can get you into big trouble, and it can also get you hooked into it. All these things alcohol

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can do to you. And around my community, it feels like no one cares about it.

Another idea would be to help encourage families to make healthier choices. They should be making healthier choices for themselves and their families because; they wouldn't want their children, and themselves becoming ill, and having health problems in their future lives.

Reducing extinction in the NWT... This is a very serious subject that needs to receive immediate and full attention from the general public. Only they can truly make a difference. The concept of extinction just doesn't seem to be fully understood by many people. Once they're gone, they're gone for good. There is no returning from extinction. What can be done? Letting people know that you can only hunt, and eat so much. People should volunteer with a local wildlife foundation. Another way to stop animal extinction is to recycle bottles, and the use of public transportation can be decreased because they destroy habitats for additional natural resources. With this being done, a lot of animals can still be here.

These are the ideas I would like to see in the next 20 or 30 years. I know there's many more things that need to be done in the NWT to make it a better territory, but these would be my main ones.

NWT Resident

The Northwest Territories is an important territory for we have a vast amount of languages. The Northwest Territories in the small towns that slowly grew overtime in those days, in those towns, the aboriginal lived off of the land. But here now in the 21st century we live in the globalized era. So much has changed since back then. The European who colonized our people, made the Gwitch'in children, Inuvialuit children, and many others speak English. Diseases such as measles, chicken pox, and small pox were brought up by the European and that ended up wiping out thousands of our people. Now there have been cases of many sexually transmitted diseases such as Cervical Cancer, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhoea that have been reported in the NWT. According to the chart from Health and Social Services the surveys recorded the percentage of how much drinking women from ages 15 to 44 do in the years 1996, 2002, and 2006. In 1996, 31% of women between 15 and 44 drink weekly or more. In 2002 28% of women between 15 and 44 drank weekly or more. Then In 2006 the percentage increased to 35%. Our health and the future of a good environment will need to be mainly focused on for the next generation of our people. If I were premier I believe that we have to act now for our future and in the next 20 and 20 years I want to see these problems fixed.

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Our Environment

The woodland caribou herd that used to surround our land is now perishing. The herd is becoming extinct because of the amount of caribou hunted by our people. Too many caribou were being killed and the breeding of the woodland caribou dropped drastically. Too protect and save our biodiversity of animals we need to stop the amount of killing caribou in the NWT. The more we continue to not allow the growth of the caribou we will lose the species and be left with nothing. We are going through other damages as well in our environment such as climate change. The Greenhouse Gases that fill our atmosphere. To fix this problem as a premier I would pay attention to the use of carbon dioxide used in our communities. Scientific research would be good to identify more about the climate change in our territory and parts of it especially the Arctic Ocean should be focused on. Also as premier I would want to see clean communities and bills on people who litter.

Entertainment

Entertainment can range from a variety of things. These things I believe in the next 20 or 30 years should help the development of the NWT. The NWT needs tourists and attractions in our communities for us to make money. Instead of putting a pipeline in the Beaufort Sea why don't instead of doing that put money in towards entertainment. In our small communities we need something fun and interesting to do. We can have something such as a Theater or gyms where people can host sports or maybe even cultural programs. There needs to be more spirit in our communities and we need to make teens cut the drinking and get the motivation. Motivational speakers, contests, even a little discipline in school. Ipods can help students work. In school students should at least be allowed to listen to music because music soothes the soul. We need to think more about teenagers' lives so they can become successful. Teens are going to get bored and when they do they chose drugs. It's obvious so many young teens can't past grades because they need to please themselves and make themselves feel better so instead they go out partying. School activities can change the atmosphere of schooling for teens instead of teens always choosing to stay home instead of going. Outdoor soccer games, baseball games, and active sports are a good entertainment source.

Health

So many small communities in the NWT have such a small amount of doctors and fully educated nurses. In the communities such as Tuktoyaktuk, McPherson, and Fort Smith and others we need to create nursing programs and opportunities because the more people you have in that type of education the more knowledge you get in saving other people's lives. The more the workers in the nursing force the better the health of our people. Diseases often are regulatory in the NWT. Sexual transmitted diseases especially. Drinking has taken a role in many lives in the NWT and drinking it's much easier to come in contact with diseases. To keep our communities safe for the future Alcohol awareness groups should talk to teens constantly throughout schools and communities as well as if you're sexually active to get checked out first before you have any sexual contact with the person. As premier I would want to see much healthier active lifestyles in the NWT as well as programs for people with Diabetes.

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To make the NWT a better place, in the next 20 or 30 years self-awareness is the important key towards our environment. We need more help towards the people that are heading towards a good future and we need more help towards the people in our communities that are struggling. We need to and can change what's happening now in our era and make our future a beautiful place where our language is strong. Where the woodland caribou are roaming the NWT and the biodiversity of the NWT is expanded. Where the amount of diseases reported in the NWT is low. We can make this happen.

