

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 7TH SESSION**

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REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 1982

The groups most active in seeking political and constitutional change in the N.W.T. are working together in an Alliance. The Alliance members being Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement; Metis Association of the N.W.T.; The Dene Nation; and, the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly have presented a unified position in support of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly motion dated November 5, 1980 agreeing in principle to the division of the N.W.T. The Alliance has further agreed to work together to endeavour to have a large representative vote on the April 14 plebiscite in order to reflect the real aspirations of long-term residents for responsible governments as advocated by the Aboriginal Associations and the Legislative Assembly.

After several days of meetings in two sessions, the Alliance has produced two solid positions. The first is for the Alliance to support the initiatives of its members for constitutional reform that involve negotiations with the Federal Government. The second is to support the Western Arctic Regional Municipality (WARM) process which is an initiative for change within the Northwest Territories.

The Alliance members have in common the desire to realize significant constitutional, political and administrative change within the N.W.T. and between the N.W.T. and the Federal Government within the life of the Ninth Legislative Assembly.

The Alliance is committed to the principle that constitutional and political change must originate from within the N.W.T. as a result of an active public process. The Alliance is unequivocal that northern initiatives must not be impeded by policies or programs adopted by the Federal Government.

At the founding meeting, the Alliance adopted the above principles and agreed on the following co-operative efforts to achieve them:

- a) Invite and provide for full public participation and debate in all parts of the NWT in the process of constitutional reform;

- b) provide a forum and a means to assist members of the Constitutional Alliance in areas of common interest;
- c) initiate the development of common positions and negotiate Constitutional reform with the Federal Government; and
- d) initiate political and administrative reform within the NWT where the jurisdiction rests with the NWT Act.

Being committed to progressive political and constitutional change, the Alliance has agreed to take the initiative after the April 14, 1982 plebiscite for ensuring an open and fair process to work out the details necessary to realize significant political and constitutional reform.

The April 14 plebiscite will give impetus and direction for the future work of the Alliance. The Alliance will begin work at that time to define constructive solutions on such matters as boundaries, restructuring the government and administration, and the further devolution of powers from Ottawa.

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