LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

10TH ASSEMBLY, 4TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 5-85(1)
TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1985



85-030

GOVERNMENT BUDGET WINS AWARD

YELLOWKNIFE (Feb 07)- The Government of the Northwest Territories is receiving the highest form of recognition in North America for government budget presentation.

Announcement of the award - for the government's 1984-85 budget document - was made recently by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

It is the first time a government in Canada has received the award.

The association's Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation will be accepted by Finance Minister Tom Butters on behalf of the Territorial government.

While more than 4,000 governments participate in the association, only 30 organizations have ever received its award for budget presentation.

The award "represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," said J.L. Esser in a letter to Butters. Esser is the association's executive director.

The government's 1984-85 budget document was reviewed on behalf of the association by a panel of independent budget experts. The document's effectiveness was evaluated as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide and as a communications document. To receive the award, a budget must be rated proficient in all four categories.

The association says "winning entries represent truly pioneering efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide excellent examples for other governments and non-profit organizations throughout North America."

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Butters described the award as a "fine acknowledgment of the quality of work performed by this government's financial planners and managers. To be the first government in Canada to receive this award is a real honor."

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional association serving 9,500 government finance people in North America. It has offices in Chicago and Washington.

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