

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

10TH ASSEMBLY, 4TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 18-85(1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 20, 1985

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Government of the Northwest Territories



MR. CHAIRMAN:

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AT THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORICAL CONFERENCE. I THANK YOU MR. PRIME MINISTER, FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON THE STRENGTH OF EACH REGION. THIS ISSUE IS OF COURSE OF IMPORTANCE IN ANY CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY BUT RECOGNIZING THE VASTNESS AND DIVERSITY OF OUR COUNTRY IT ASSUMES CRITICAL IMPORTANCE.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I ALSO APPLAUD YOUR INITIATIVE TO HOLD THIS CONFERENCE AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL AND AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT IT IS BEING HELD IN REGINA, WHICH AS YOU KNOW, WAS AT ONE TIME THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. OUR LIMITED PARTICIPATION AT THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR US A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND IF AS ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES THIS MORNING SAID, A "STEP" IS GETTING HALFWAY THERE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO ACHIEVING THE OTHER HALF AT SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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OUR PARTICIPATION ON THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, IS, I WOULD SUGGEST, VERY APPROPRIATE FOR AS A REGION, THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REPRESENTS ONE-THIRD OF THE LAND MASS OF CANADA. THE LATE HONOURABLE JOHN DIEFENBAKER HAD THE WISDOM AND THE VISION TO RECOGNIZE THIS TWENTY YEARS AGO. HE DID A GREAT DEAL TO REMOVE THE MYSTERY ABOUT THE NORTH AND AWAKENED IN SOUTHERN CANADIANS A DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR FELLOW CANADIANS IN THE NORTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE KINDLED A NEW FLAME IN THIS COUNTRY, YOU HAVE GENERATED A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE WITHIN WHICH GREAT STRIDES CAN BE TAKEN ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. DUE TO THE NATURE OF OUR COUNTRY, ANY SUCH STEPS THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES TAKE, MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF ALL REGIONS OF CANADA SO THAT NO ONE REGION BENEFITS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE OTHER. THIS NECESSARILY MEANS THAT THERE HAS TO BE RECOGNITION AND ACCOMMODATION MADE FOR THOSE REGIONAL NEEDS, SO THAT ALL REGIONS OF CANADA CAN PROSPER. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE IN TODAY'S CLIMATE AND THEREFORE THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL.

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, LIKE EVERY OTHER REGION OF CANADA, ENJOYS ITS OWN UNIQUENESS. IT IS THE ONLY PART OF CANADA WHERE THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE IN THE MAJORITY WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RELIES VERY HEAVILY ON THE TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLE YET IT EMPLOYS SOME OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN EXTRACTING HYDROCARBONS FROM SEA BED AND UNDER THE ICE. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BALANCE THESE EXTREMES. WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT DESTROY THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE SIMPLY TO ACCOMMODATE TECHNOLOGY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TWO CAN CO-EXIST AND CO-EXIST VERY WELL IF THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO ENSURE THAT EACH SECTOR CAN GROW AND THRIVE WITHOUT INTRUSION FROM THE OTHER.

LET ME FIRST SPEAK OF OUR NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES. IN 1983, IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL PRODUCTION AMOUNTED TO ONE-HALF OF THE GROSS TERRITORIAL PRODUCT. WITH THE RECENT INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF THE NORMAN-WELLS PROJECT, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF PRODUCTION OF HYDRO-CARBONS IN THE TERRITORIES IN A BIG WAY. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OIL AND GAS RESERVES CONTAINED IN THE BEAUFORT SEA, MACKENZIE DELTA AND THE ARCTIC ISLANDS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY TO THE TERRITORIES, BUT TO

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CANADA IF IT IS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF ENERGY SECURITY. CANADIANS FROM ALL PARTS OF CANADA HAVE INVESTED A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IN THOSE PROJECTS. APPROPRIATE INCENTIVES MUST CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN FOR THOSE PROJECTS, SO THAT THOSE INVESTMENTS ARE NOT PUT INTO JEOPARDY.

IN THE MINING SECTOR, WHICH IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, ENCOURAGEMENT MUST BE GIVEN TO ENSURE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT. WE MUST WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DEVELOP SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO FIND WAYS OF REDUCING THE COST OF ENERGY, THE COST OF PRODUCTION AND THE MEANS TO CONSIDER AND CUSHION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, LIKE MANY OTHER REGIONS OF CANADA, LACKS THE NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO FULLY REALIZE ITS RESOURCE POTENTIAL. WE MUST WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO OUR RESOURCES SO THAT WE CAN COMPETE ON THE WORLD MARKET. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE MUST MAKE TIMELY DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL.

RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MUST GEAR THEMSELVES UP TO TAKE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OUT OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES. A SIGNIFICANT AND EXCITING FEATURE OF THE CURRENT AND PENDING ABORIGINAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WILL BE THE POTENTIAL INVESTMENT CAPITAL THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RE-INVESTMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ITSELF THROUGH NATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS. THIS WILL LEAD TO A STRONGER ECONOMY AND GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN ALL FACETS OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE MUST EQUIP OURSELVES WITH THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THIS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE THROUGH GREATER TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH I WAS PLEASED TO NOTE WAS A TOPIC FOR YOUR DISCUSSION. THE IRONY OF THE SITUATION TODAY IS THAT WHILE IN SOME COMMUNITIES IN THE TERRITORIES, EMPLOYMENT IS AS HIGH AS 20% TO 40%, LABOUR HAS TO BE IMPORTED FROM THE SOUTH TO WORK ON THOSE PROJECTS.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I ALLUDED TO THE OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR ECONOMY--THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE SECTOR AND THE IMPORTANCE TO PRESERVE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEW ERA AND THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE. ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, THE SEALING HARVEST REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD AND CASH INCOME FOR THE INUIT. NOW IT HAS ALL BUT DISAPPEARED. THE ANIMAL WELFARE LOBBY HAS SERIOUSLY ERODED THE COMMERCIAL

MARKET FOR SEALING AND FUR BEARING ANIMALS. MR. CHAIRMAN, OUR HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US WHAT ROLE THE FUR TRADE PLAYED IN THE FOUNDING OF CANADA. YET FOR THOSE OF US WHO RELY ON THE TRADITIONAL WAY FOR OUR SUBSISTANCE, THE FUR TRADE IS ALL BUT DESTROYED. I BELIEVE THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS PRESENT HERE NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE SO THAT CANADIANS CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY. THERE ARE NO FARMS ON BAFFIN ISLAND, THE INUIT ARE NOT FARMERS, BUT AS THE ORIGINAL CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY SURELY THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO CHOOSE THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

WE NEED TO CONVEY THIS AT THOSE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WHICH DECIDE ON SUCH ISSUES, SO THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF THEIR DECISIONS IS APPRECIATED. MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE LOOK TO YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON THIS MATTER. AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, WE WILL EXTEND THE FULLEST CO-OPERATION TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE IN EVERY WAY WE CAN.

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MR. PRIME MINISTER, I THANK YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR GIVING ME AND THROUGH ME CANADIANS LIVING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON THE ITEM OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS SUBJECT AND INDEED THIS CONFERENCE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.



Northwest
Territories Government Leader

APR 19 1985

MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

GNWT Statement at the First Ministers'
Conference on The Economy

I have attached a copy of the statement that was tabled at the First Ministers' Conference. The statement was to be delivered as part of the opening statement had the GNWT been given the opportunity to make a statement. Since the government did not, I took the opportunity to table the document at the conference.

The statement which I gave did not follow a set text. If you wish, I can provide you a copy of my presentation based on the transcripts. I would be pleased to answer any questions that may arise.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Nerysoo".

Richard Nerysoo,
Government Leader.

Attachment

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I AM PLEASED TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HERE IN REGINA, A HISTORIC CAPITAL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PRIME MINISTER SIR WILFRID LAURIER, WHEN HE INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT THE BILLS TO ESTABLISH THE PROVINCES OF ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN, REMARKED THAT THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE TERRITORIES WAS "ABSOLUTELY UNFIT FOR AGRICULTURE", ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR MINERAL WEALTH. HE WENT ON TO CONCLUDE THAT MINERAL WEALTH WHEN NOT ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURE, MADE FOR A "PRECARIOUS GROUND ON WHICH TO FOUND THE HOPE OF THICK AND PERMANENT SETTLEMENT". WELL, THE NATION IS NOW GETTING USED TO LOOKING NORTH FOR OIL AND GAS AND MINERALS; AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE YET ANOTHER DIVISION. EACH TIME DIVISION HAS OCCURRED IT HAS BEEN DONE IN RECOGNITION OF THE REALITY OF DIVERSE PATTERNS OF POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORIES. THE IMPENDING COMPLETION OF TERRITORIAL DIVISION THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUNAVUT AND A WESTERN TERRITORY, THEN, IS NOT AN IRONY OF HISTORY; IT IS SIMPLY THE CONCLUSION OF A PROCESS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FORESEEN BY THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SOON TO BE ESTABLISHED ARE CAPABLE AND WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR PERSPECTIVES TO FORUMS OF EXECUTIVE FEDERALISM SUCH AS THE CONTINUING CONFERENCES OF FIRST MINISTERS ON THE ECONOMY.

(MR. CHAIRMAN).../2

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE AGENDA WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED FOR THIS CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS DEBATE ON SOME OF THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN THE CORNERSTONES OF THE CANADIAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR MOST OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

IF WE, AS FIRST MINISTERS, ARE SUCCESSFUL IN CHALLENGING THESE ASSUMPTIONS AND CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON A NEW ECONOMIC DIRECTION FOR CANADA, WE MAY VERY WELL BE ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY.

IF WE ARE DISCUSSING A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER FOR CANADA FOR THE NEXT CENTURY AND I BELIEVE WE ARE, THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HAS A LARGE STAKE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. BEFORE RESPONDING SPECIFICALLY TO THE AGENDA I WILL PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NWT ECONOMY.

NWT ECONOMY

TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE NWT ECONOMY WORKS TODAY, ONE ONLY HAS TO LOOK TO ITS SIXTY-FIVE COMMUNITIES. THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNITIES IN THE NWT: SINGLE RESOURCE TOWNS, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES, TRADITIONAL NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND THOSE WITH A MIXED ECONOMY.

WHILE THE CATEGORIZATION WAS MADE TO DISTINGUISH COMMUNITIES BASED ON ECONOMIC FACTORS, IT APPLIES EQUALLY WELL TO THE CHARACTER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES. HISTORICALLY, RESOURCE TOWNS HAVE BEEN

(COMPANY TOWNS WHERE)...3

COMPANY TOWNS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE OUTSIDERS ATTRACTED BY HIGH INCOMES AND ADVENTURE, WHOSE FUTURE LIES SOMEWHERE ELSE. WHEN PRODUCTION CEASES, MOST EMPLOYEES WILL MOVE SOUTH WITH THEIR FAMILIES. UNEMPLOYMENT IS RARE. IN REALITY, THE PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ARE EXPORTED TO THE SOUTH.

IN CONTRAST TO SINGLE RESOURCE TOWNS, THE ECONOMIES OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES LIKE YELLOWKNIFE, FORT SMITH, INUVIK AND FROBISHER BAY ARE NORMALLY QUITE DIVERSE AND GENERALLY STABLE IN THE SHORT TERM. IN THESE TOWNS, UNEMPLOYMENT IS LOW, LESS THAN HALF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

ON THE OTHER END OF THE ECONOMIC SPECTRUM ARE THE FORTY-TWO PRIMARILY NATIVE COMMUNITIES, WHERE 62% OF THE POPULATION LIVES. THESE COMMUNITIES ARE DEPENDENT ON THE RENEWABLE RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND INCOME. GOVERNMENT TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND INCOME EARNED FROM EMPLOYMENT AT VARIOUS REMOTE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME. AVERAGE FAMILY INCOMES IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF THAT OF INCOMES FOR THE TERRITORIES AS A WHOLE AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE OFTEN THREE TO FOUR TIMES HIGHER, BUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IS RICHER AND GIVES TO CANADA, AS A WHOLE, A DISTINCT CULTURAL FLAVOR.

ITS RESOURCES

UNLIKE THE CANADIAN ECONOMY, WHERE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOMES ARE FAIRLY EVENLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG, PRIMARY PRODUCING, MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES,

(THE NWT HAS NO).../4

THE NWT HAS NO SIGNIFICANT GOODS PROCESSING INDUSTRIES. WEALTH CREATION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES BOTH NON-RENEWABLE AND RENEWABLE, AND THE SALE OF LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS. IN 1983 THE GROSS TERRITORIAL PRODUCT WAS ESTIMATED AT OVER 1 BILLION DOLLARS.

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

THE NWT NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE POTENTIAL IS ENORMOUS; YET THE DEVELOPMENT RISKS ARE GREAT. EXPENDITURES ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION HAVE AVERAGED A BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. IN 1983, NWT MINERAL PRODUCTION WAS VALUED AT OVER HALF A BILLION DOLLARS. ONE OUT OF FIVE PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS IN THE NWT IS IN THE MINING SECTOR. HUNDREDS MORE ARE CREATED BY HYDROCARBON ACTIVITIES. FURTHER SERVICE SECTOR GROWTH AROUND THESE INDUSTRIES CREATES A WIDE VARIETY OF EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINING INDUSTRY TO THE NWT ECONOMY HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY BOTH IN TERMS OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT. NWT MINES CURRENTLY PRODUCE GOLD, SILVER, LEAD, ZINC, TUNGSTEN, BISMUTH, CADMIUM, AND COPPER. THE FUTURE POTENTIAL FOR THESE AND OTHER MINERALS DEPENDS LARGELY ON INVESTMENT CAPITAL FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE BY GOVERNMENT.

OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE DIVERSITY INHERENT IN THE NWT MINING INDUSTRY HAS ALLOWED THE INDUSTRY TO AVOID PROLONGED SLOWDOWNS OR MINE CLOSURES. LIKE

(LIKE OTHER).../5

LIKE OTHER INDUSTRIES, MINING FELL IN 1982. HOWEVER, SINCE THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY, PROFITS HAVE INCREASED. FUTURE EXPANSION AND GROWTH WILL DEPEND UPON THE INFUSION OF NEW CAPITAL AND SECURE MARKETS.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

WHILE THE MINING INDUSTRY HAS CONSISTENTLY PROVIDED BOTH INCOMES AND EMPLOYMENT, IT IS THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY THAT MAKES THE HEADLINES. WHILE EXPLORATION PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM WAS STIMULATED BY EXPECTATIONS OF CONTINUED INCREASES IN WORLD OIL PRICES, HIGH RATES OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITY AFTER WORLD PRICES FELL WERE SUSTAINED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF NEP AND THE PETROLEUM INCENTIVE GRANTS.

THE NWT IS ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN HALF OF CANADA'S REMAINING CONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS RESERVES. CLEARLY, ANY RATIONAL CANADIAN ENERGY SECURITY PROGRAM MUST INCORPORATE A NWT-BASED EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

IN FACT, NORTHERN ENERGY IN THE FORM OF CRUDE OIL WILL SOON BE MOVING SOUTH FROM PANARCTIC'S BENT HORN PILOT PROJECT. THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MILE-STONES. FIRST, IT IS THE FIRST COMMERCIAL CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN THE HIGH ARCTIC; AND SECOND, IT RECOGNIZES THE PRINCIPLE OF NWT RESPON-SIBILITY FOR MANAGING ITS RESOURCES AND SHARING REVENUES.

ESSO RESOURCES' NORMAN WELLS PROJECT IS ANOTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENT. WHEN

COMPLETED, TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND BARRELS PER DAY WILL FLOW SOUTH FROM THE NWT BY PIPELINE. OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PROPOSED WHICH, IF COMPLETED, WOULD PROVIDE MACKENZIE/BEAUFORT HYDROCARBONS FOR SOUTHERN MARKETS.

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT; PRIVATE AND PUBLIC; DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN INVESTED IN THE NWT BY THE MINING INDUSTRY OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. HYDROCARBON INDUSTRIES' EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM NEW CAPITAL, MUCH OF WHICH, RESULTS FROM FEDERAL INCENTIVES WITHOUT WHICH, NORTHERN INVESTMENT, WHICH IS LONG-TERM AND SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE RISK, WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

THE GNWT RECOGNIZES THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING FOR NORTHERNERS. PROVIDED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE NWT MEET CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT, CAPITAL INVESTMENT IS WELCOMED FROM ANY SOURCE.

ONE IMPORTANT SOURCE OF CAPITAL TO THE HYDROCARBON INDUSTRY HAS BEEN THE PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM. IF THIS PROGRAM IS NOT CONTINUED BEYOND ITS ORIGINAL DEADLINE, THE GNWT HAS HIGH HOPES THAT IT WILL BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER INCENTIVE WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN HYDROCARBON RESOURCES.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE MENTIONED THE NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE INDUSTRY FIRST, BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO CANADA. IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, WE DO NOT FORGET THAT OVER SIXTY PERCENT OF NWT RESIDENTS LIVE IN THE SMALL COMMUNITIES WHICH BENEFIT LITTLE FROM NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. THE PRODUCT FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES' ACTIVITIES IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF THESE COMMUNITIES. WHILE IT PROVIDES AN INCOME FOR HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS, IT ALSO PROVIDES RAW MATERIALS FOR MUCH NEEDED COTTAGE INDUSTRIES THAT PROVIDE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR WOMEN AND ADDED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY UNIT.

INCOME FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES IS DERIVED FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES INCLUDING THE SALE OF COUNTRY FOODS, FUR, IVORY, CRAFTS AND CARVINGS, AS WELL AS GUIDING, OUTFITTING AND SPORTS HUNTS. THE INCOME EARNED IN THE NWT FROM THE EXPORT OF FURS PEAKED IN 1978-79 AT OVER \$5 MILLION AND DROPPED TO APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION IN 1982-83. ALTHOUGH THE INCOME FROM FUR SALES IS SUBJECT TO CYCLES IN ANIMAL POPULATIONS, FUR PRICES, AND FASHION, THE FUR INDUSTRY IS NOW UNDER ADDITIONAL PRESSURE FROM LOBBYING BY ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS LOBBY WHICH HAS DESTROYED THE EUROPEAN MARKET. RISING EQUIPMENT AND FUEL COSTS, AS WELL AS GROWING COMMUNITY POPULATIONS, HAVE ALSO TENDED TO MAKE HARVESTING LESS PROFITABLE.

THE DOMESTIC HARVEST OF MEAT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO NORTHERN RESIDENTS. LOCALLY HARVESTED FOOD IS A STAPLE IN THE DIET OF MANY PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES, WHERE FISH, CARIBOU, MOOSE AND MUSKOX ARE OFTEN EATEN ONLY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE INDUSTRY TO THE STABILITY OF THE NWT ECONOMY IS OFTEN UNDERESTIMATED. WHEN JOBS DISAPPEAR OR WELFARE IS CUT OFF, PEOPLE RETURN TO THE LAND.

HUMAN RESOURCES

I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE RICHNESS OF THE NWT NATURAL RESOURCES, BUT I HAVE YET TO MENTION OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE - THE PEOPLE OF THE NWT. THE STRENGTH AND CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NWT IS AS RUGGED AS THE LAND IN WHICH THEY LIVE. THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND LATER THE EXPLORERS, TRAPPERS AND PROSPECTORS HAVE NOW BEEN JOINED BY THE PROFESSIONALS AND TRADESMEN TO FORM WHAT MUST BE ONE OF THE MOST RESILIENT AND RESOURCEFUL WORK FORCES IN CANADA. THIS RESILIENCE HAS BEEN NECESSARY. THE PACE AND FORCE OF CHANGE, POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY, HAS BEEN TRULY DRAMATIC.

STILL IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE NECESSARY, TO IMPORT SKILLED WORKERS FROM THE SOUTH. INVESTMENT IN TRAINING THE NORTHERN LABOUR FORCE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE - YEARLY, THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS ONE AND A HALF TIMES PER CAPITA THE AMOUNT SPENT IN THE PROVINCES. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE OR INCREASE CURRENT LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE IF WE ARE TO PUT IN PLACE THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, BOTH AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL AND AT THE POST SECONDARY LEVEL NEEDED. A 12% REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESS THAN GRADE NINE OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS PROVIDES EVIDENCE, THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. YET EVEN

(TODAY, THE NUMBER OF).../9

TODAY, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH LESS THAN GRADE 9 REMAINS ALMOST TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

THE PROBLEM IS MOST ACUTE FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHERE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE AT LEAST GRADE 9 IS THREE TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES APPEARS TO HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE NUMBER OF NWT STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL PRIOR TO COMPLETION. YOUNG ADULTS ARE BEING DISCOURAGED FROM FURTHERING THEIR EDUCATION WHEN THEY SEE THEIR OLDER BROTHERS AND SISTERS UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT. THE PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING LABOUR FORCE IS MORE THAN TWICE THE NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED.

THE CHALLENGES

MR. CHAIRMAN, WHEN I LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARE FORTUNATE. WE ARE PROUD TO BE CANADIANS AS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CANADIANS AND OTHERS WHO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES THAT ALLOW US TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL. IT IS ONLY WHEN I LOOK TOWARDS THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY THAT I AM REMINDED OF A SENSE OF FRUSTRATION THAT WE IN THE NORTH FEEL THAT SO MUCH IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. OUR FORTUNES ARE SO INEXTRICABLY TIED TO EXTERNAL FORCES: TO CHANGES IN THE WORLD PRICE OF OIL, TO INTEREST RATES, TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS, OR CHANGES IN CANADIAN

ECONOMIC POLICY. EVEN AS I SPEAK TODAY, I CANNOT FORGET THAT I AM AN OUTSIDER. AS THE GOVERNMENT LEADER, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THIS FACT, BUT AS AN ORDINARY MLA, I FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS WHY TO MY CONSTITUENTS IN FORT MCPHERSON.

WE IN THE GOVERNMENT FEEL IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE TO PARTICIPATE AS AN EQUAL PARTNER IN THE DECISIONS THAT WILL AFFECT THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF CANADA AND THE NORTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE NWT ECONOMY AS IT IS TODAY. THE CHALLENGES WE FACE AS A GOVERNMENT LIE IN THE FUTURE. JOB CREATION, TRAINING, STIMULATING CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY AND IN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT, ALL WILL BE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR POTENTIAL.

THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA, IN ITS REPORT ON REGIONAL DISPARITIES ENTITLED "LIVING TOGETHER" WAS SURPRISED BY THE DISPARITIES THEY FOUND IN CANADA. HAD THEY CONCENTRATED ONLY ON THE NWT, THEY WOULD HAVE FOUND INCOME DISPARITIES THAT ARE EQUAL OR GREATER THAN THE EXTREMES FOR ALL OF CANADA.

IN 1981, AVERAGE INCOMES IN THE NWT RANGED FROM \$22,250 IN SINGLE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES, \$16,600 IN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES TO \$10,000 IN COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES. IF GOVERNMENT TRANSFER

PAYMENTS WERE EXCLUDED, ONLY THE TOP 13% OF FULL TIME HUNTER AND TRAPPERS LIVING IN OUTPOST CAMPS HAVE A CASH INCOME GREATER THAN \$5,000. FOR THE NWT AS A WHOLE, 77% OF TRAPPERS EARN LESS THAN \$1,000 ANNUALLY FROM TRAPPING. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE \$49,000 THAT THE AVERAGE MINER MADE IN 1982.

THE BENEFITS OF MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO THESE PEOPLE ARE FEW AND SHORT LIVED AND THE SOCIAL COSTS IN TERMS OF SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT ARE HIGH. THIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA WHO CONCLUDED IN THEIR REPORT "LIVING TOGETHER", "THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SERVES AS A WARNING THAT RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH AND LARGE IN-MIGRATION MAY INVOLVE SOME HIGH SOCIAL COSTS BORNE BY A FEW UNFORTUNATE INDIVIDUALS".

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS NOW TAKING A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT WILL ATTEMPT TO CORRECT THIS IMBALANCE. WHILE EXISTING SHORT-TERM INCOME ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT WILL REMAIN IN PLACE, EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO REMOVING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVE PEOPLE AND TO OFFER PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TRAINING OR UPGRADING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE EMPLOYED OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. MR. CHAIRMAN, UNFORTUNATELY EVEN THESE STEPS WILL NOT EASE THE SITUATION FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. IN THE LONG TERM, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONSOLIDATE AND SIMPLIFY EXISTING PROGRAMS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO PEOPLE DEPENDENT UPON HUNTING AND TRAPPING.

JOB CREATION

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HAS THE YOUNGEST AND FASTEST GROWING LABOUR FORCE IN CANADA, WITH A MEDIAN AGE OF 22 YEARS OF AGE. THE TASK OF CREATING EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL THOSE WISHING TO WORK IS IMMENSE. WITH ITS EXISTING RESOURCES, THE GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH, THE MAJOR BURDEN MUST BE BORNE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. TO OBTAIN AS MUCH LEVERAGE AS POSSIBLE WITH EXISTING RESOURCES, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IS TAKING SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT. SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- . THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VENTURE CAPITAL FUND TO PROVIDE EQUITY CAPITAL FOR NEW BUSINESSES PARTICULARLY IN THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE INDUSTRY AND IN NATIVE CONTROLLED VENTURES.

- . CREATION OF AN ART BANK TO REBUILD THE ARTS AND CRAFTS INDUSTRY.

- . WHERE FEASIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE PRIVATIZATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

- . PROVISION OF MONETARY INCENTIVES TO ASSIST NORTHERN CONTRACTORS TO SECURE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

- . BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL ADVICE TO NORTHERN BUSINESS TO IMPROVE SKILLS.

TRAINING

IN THE LONG TERM, CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE A NECESSITY IF NORTHERNERS ARE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL. IT WILL BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO PUSH FORWARD WITH CURRENT INITIATIVES TO PUT IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT WILL PROVIDE LIFE LONG EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL NORTHERNERS. AT PRESENT MANY SCHOOLS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES DO NOT OFFER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND GRADE 8. THEREFORE, IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING THAT 62% OF THE NATIVE POPULATION HAVE LESS THAN GRADE 8 AND 33% HAVE LESS THAN GRADE FOUR. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANT TASK OF PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE INTRODUCING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO ASSIST NATIVE PEOPLE TO GET INTO BUSINESS FOR THEMSELVES OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- . AN ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR NATIVE PEOPLE TO START A BUSINESS.

- . DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND INCREASED EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC AND BUSINESS EDUCATION.

- . ENHANCEMENT OF THE GNWT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS.

A PLAN OF ACTION IS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS END OF DECADE FOR WOMEN. THE PLAN WILL INCLUDE SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT TO ENHANCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN OUR ECONOMY. OUR GOVERNMENT IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL/ PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL WORKING GROUP ON CHILDCARE WHICH IS EXAMINING THE COST-SHARING FORMULA AND POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVES WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR THE BENEFIT OF WORKING PARENTS IN THE NORTH.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, SINCE MR. BERGER RECOMMENDED A TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE DOWN THE MACKENZIE, ALMOST TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND INDUSTRY IS TALKING AGAIN ABOUT A MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE. A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST NINE YEARS, NWT RESIDENTS AND NATIVE GROUPS ARE NO LONGER OPPOSING DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, SOME THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED. NORTHERNERS ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS AND THEY ARE STILL WAITING FOR GREATER CONTROL OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES AND A SHARE OF RESOURCE REVENUES. THE RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES IS STILL VERY IMPORTANT. YET NORTHERNERS LIKE ALL CANADIANS NEED INCOME TO LIVE, AND FOR THAT THEY NEED JOBS.

TO GET JOBS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CANADIANS WILL BE WILLING TO INVEST IN DEVELOPING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH. CONTRARY TO

SOUTHERN CANADA, THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN THE NWT IS AT OR NEAR FULL CAPACITY. THE NWT ECONOMY NEEDS INVESTMENT IF IT IS TO EXPAND. CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE PAST HAS COME FROM SOUTHERN CANADA, THE U.S. AND ABROAD. FORTY PER CENT OF THE SHARES HELD IN MINING COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE NWT ARE FOREIGN OWNED. FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DURING THE PERIOD WHEN FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS DISCOURAGED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT FELL BY OVER 12%. THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF BADLY NEEDED JOBS.

ONE FACTOR THAT HAS SHAPED THE OPINIONS OF NORTHERNERS TOWARDS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IS THE FACT THAT FEW NWT RESIDENTS HAVE INVESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH'S RESOURCES. THE EMERGENCE OF NATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS BACKED BY CAPITAL FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS IS A POSITIVE SIGN FOR THE FUTURE.

ANOTHER MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT IS THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION. CURRENTLY, DIRECT TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES IN THE MINING INDUSTRY ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 10% OF THE TOTAL SALES, EXCLUDING INVENTORY AND STORAGE COSTS. TRANSPORTATION IS ALSO A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGH COST OF LIVING IN THE NORTH, WHERE THE COST OF COMMODITIES IN SOME COMMUNITIES IS MORE THAN THREE TIMES THEIR COST IN EDMONTON.

INVESTMENT IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IS STARTING TO PAY DIVIDENDS. EACH NEW FIND BRINGS THE INDUSTRY ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMMERCIAL VIABILITY. WHILE ARGUMENTS COULD BE MADE THAT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES THROUGH THE

PETROLEUM INCENTIVE GRANTS MAY NOT BE THE MOST EFFICIENT MEANS OF ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION, THEY HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE. IF PIP GRANTS ARE WITHDRAWN NOW WITHOUT NEW MECHANISMS BEING PUT IN PLACE, IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IN PARTICULAR. MY GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN INDUSTRY IS NOT WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK, THEN THE DOOR SHOULD BE OPENED TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

OVER ONE HALF OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE NWT IS EXPORTED. THE CURRENT BANK OF CANADA'S POLICY OF USING THE EXCHANGE RATE AS OPPOSED TO DRAMATICALLY INCREASING INTEREST RATES TO COMBAT A STRONG AMERICAN DOLLAR HAS BENEFITED THE NORTH A GREAT DEAL. ANY RETURN TO HIGH INTEREST RATES WOULD BE OPPOSED BY MY GOVERNMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT IN CONTRAST TO EXPORTS LIKE MINERALS, OIL AND GAS, THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR FURS MAY COLLAPSE. THE INTERVENTION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET IN BANNING IMPORTATION OF SEALS IS SEEN AS ONLY THE BEGINNING. THE INCOME EARNED FROM THE SALES OF FURS IN 1982-83 IS ONLY ONE HALF THE VALUE OF THE SAME PRODUCT FOR 1978-79. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK AT THIS TIME FOR THE STRONG SUPPORT OF ALL FIRST MINISTERS IN SUPPORTING THIS VITAL PART OF OUR HERITAGE.

(MR. CHAIRMAN, WE).../17

FUTURE DIRECTION IN ECONOMIC POLICY

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE ARE AT THE CROSSROADS, BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THE IMPORTANCE TO THE NWT OF THE DEBATE ON THE ECONOMY TODAY CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THE NWT WILL BE THE DIRECTION THAT EMERGES IN RESPECT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS WITHIN CANADA. I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT IF THERE CAN BE NO CONSENSUS AMONG US ON THIS ISSUE, THERE CAN BE NO AGREEMENT ON THE OTHER REMAINING ISSUES ON OUR AGENDA. FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION MUST BE SEEN AS MEANS TO AN END AND NOT ON THE ENDS THEMSELVES. OBJECTIVES MUST BE SET AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED FOR REGIONAL EXPANSION AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS APPLIED WHERE APPROPRIATE TO MEET THOSE OBJECTIVES. WE WERE GIVEN MANDATES TO SHOW LEADERSHIP, TO ARTICULATE AND IMPLEMENT OUR VISION OF CANADA. GUNNAR MYRDAL, A HOLDER OF NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS, HAS MADE THE POINT WELL.

"IF THINGS WERE LEFT TO MARKET FORCES, UNHAMPERED BY ANY POLICY INTERVENTION... ALMOST ALL THOSE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WHICH IN A DEVELOPING ECONOMY TEND TO GIVE A BIGGER THAN AVERAGE RETURN... GENERALLY WOULD CLUSTER IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES AND REGIONS LEAVING THE REST OF THE COUNTRY MORE OR LESS A BACKWATER."

WE, IN THE NWT, HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE BACKWATER TOO LONG. I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL NORTHERNERS WHEN I SAY THAT WE HAVE THE RESOURCES, THE ABILITIES AND CONFIDENCE TO ACCEPT OUR FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AS CITIZENS OF CANADA.





