

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 8TH SESSION**

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THE HONOURABLE BRIAN MULRONEY
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA
OTTAWA

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER

I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT DECISION TO RESUME TESTING OF THE CRUISE MISSILE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. DESPITE PREVIOUS REQUESTS NORTHERNERS HAVE YET TO RECEIVE CONCRETE ASSURANCES AS TO THE SAFETY OF FURTHER TESTING.

HOWEVER, THE ISSUES GO BEYOND SIMPLY THE QUESTION OF THE SAFETY OF THESE TESTS. THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARE OPPOSED TO THE FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS, PARTICULARLY OVER OUR NORTHERN HOME. IN JUNE AT THE LAST SITTING OF OUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY A MOTION WAS PASSED DECLARING THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TO BE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE. IN PASSING THIS MOTION, MEMBERS WERE FULLY AWARE THAT DEFENSE IS A MATTER OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT CANADA DOES HAVE COMMITMENTS TO THEIR NATO ALLIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE ASSEMBLY WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE THE REAL CONCERNS OF NORTHERN PEOPLE OVER THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE NORTH AS A WEAPONS TESTING GROUND. THE DEBATE, WHICH I AM SENDING YOU, WAS FULL AND REASONED AND DEALT NOT JUST WITH THE DANGERS TO NORTHERN RESIDENTS FROM FUTURE CRUISE MALFUNCTIONS BUT WITH THE BROADER ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND WORLD PEACE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOU RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION IN THIS MATTER AND SEEK MORE APPROPRIATE MEANS FOR CANADA TO MEET HER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS PRESENTLY SITTING AND I EXPECT IT WILL BE IN SESSION UNTIL NOVEMBER 7. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD RESPOND BY THAT DATE SO I MAY SHARE YOUR RESPONSE WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE ASSEMBLY.

YOURS SINCERELY,

NICK SIBBESTON,
GOVERNMENT LEADER.

COMM NWTGOV YK

COULD YOU PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY, THANK YOU.

