

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

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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT CABINET MEETINGS

NWT/YUKON IN

WHITEHORSE OCTOBER 10 & 11, 1986

On October 10 and 11, 1986, the governments of Northwest Territories and Yukon conducted joint Cabinet meetings in Whitehorse.

Your Executive Council found these meetings to be positive and frank discussions with the Cabinet of our sister Territory. Our purpose in conducting these joint meetings was to share information about issues common to the two Territories, to learn from each others experiences and to seek common ground on issues facing both of us.

Our joint discussions centered on four major areas: Constitutional Development, Aboriginal Claims, the Economy and Renewable Resources.

Constitutional Development

Discussions concentrated on the progress the respective Territorial governments are making in Devolution negotiations with the federal government. Your Executive shared our general approach to Devolution as described in Tabled Document 67-86(1) A Sessional Paper: Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories. This paper was tabled on June 16, 1986 and discussed June 24, 1986.

During our joint meetings, we concluded it was in the interests of both Territories to seek co-operative negotiating positions with the federal government. Ministers confirmed that this was already happening and cited negotiations for the transfer of the B and C Airports Program as a good example of territorial co-operation.

We had a general discussion of the territories role at First Ministers' Conferences, Premiers' Conferences etc. and agreed to continue to pursue a betterment in the status accorded our respective governments.

Aboriginal Claims

The position of the GNWT in response to the Report of the Task Force to review comprehensive claims policy "Living Treaties: Lasting Agreements" or the Coolican Report as it is commonly known, was tabled with this House on June 10, 1986.

The Yukon Government's position is a similar one and we agreed to take advantage of opportunities for joint action similar to the joint press release issued by the Yukon Government Leader and the NWT Minister of Aboriginal Rights some months ago.

The Economy

Yukon described their "Yukon 2000" public planning process. This is a series of meetings or conferences aimed at producing an economic plan for the future. Your Executive described the Regional Economic Planning Conferences taking place in each region of the NWT.

There was agreement to pursue opportunities at the officials level regarding tourism strategies.

Renewable Resources

Both Territories reported on their efforts related to curbing the Anti-fur lobby. There was agreement to combine our efforts where feasible and to continue to support Pro-fur actions.

We confirmed our mutual interest and roles in support of the Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Agreement.

While in Whitehorse, the two Government Leaders signed a five year transboundary agreement as the start of a formal process to discuss mutual concerns on resource development and management along the Northwest Territories/Yukon border. The agreement demonstrates both governments' commitment to work together to support development with a minimum of delay, public cost and regulatory confusion. Officials appointed by both governments will identify issues of mutual concern and recommend methods of dealing with them.

Both governments agreed to the early signing of a Mutual Aid Agreement for Civil Emergency preparedness. This agreement will formalize the unwritten good neighbor policy which has existed between the respective governments for many years. Basically the intent of the agreement is that if either Territory needs help in dealing with an emergency situation, the other will provide help if it can.

Bilateral Meetings

Ministers had the opportunity to pursue portfolio specific interests with their counterparts. While these were informal and preliminary meetings it would appear a number of joint opportunities will be pursued.

Conclusion

In conclusion, both Yukon and NWT Ministers felt the meetings were positive and reinforced our commitment to continuing discussions of mutual concern. Joint solutions, which benefit both Territories, will serve each of us well.

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
- JOINT CABINET MEETINGS, NWT/YUKON
IN WHITEHORSE, OCTOBER 10 and 11, 1986**

OCT 22 1986

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Γō'ē-ē'ē b'ōlōnō-ā'ē'ēw'ē

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