

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

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TABLED ON OCTOBER 22, 1986

SEP 10 1986

Mr. Kenneth C. Thomas,
Chairman,
Native Economic Development Board,
9th Floor,
330 Portage Avenue,
P.O. Box 3130,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4K6

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OCT 2 2 1986

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Program Delivery in the Northwest Territories

Our Government feels very strongly that the Native Economic Development Program ("NEDP") is an important program that is uniquely suited to the Northwest Territories. Two thirds of our population is native and the obstacles to obtaining conventional business financing are far greater than in southern Canada. The native business community is rapidly expanding and needs your help.

We are aware that the NEDP has experienced implementation problems, not only in the NWT, but in southern Canada as well. Travel and communications are considerably more difficult in the NWT given the great distances involved.

The fact that the NEDP has not received great numbers of applications from the NWT does not indicate fewer opportunities or a lack of entrepreneurial drive. Quite the opposite is true - only adverse early publicity concerning implementation problems has prevented a flood of applications. If the door was opened, the northern native community would respond.

There are now, and will be, many large projects appropriate for NEDP assistance in the NWT. To name a few:

- "strategic investment" funding pools, currently being sought by the Metis, Dene and Nunasi Development Corporations to allow them to play key investment and financing roles in the north
- hotels, such as one being planned in Pangnirtung
- real estate development
- a reindeer industry
- an aquaculture industry
- a lumber industry

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We are confident that problems with implementation can be solved, but it will take a sincere and innovative approach to do so. I know Jim Britton will be able to help. My Department is prepared to help as well. I would be willing to second an Officer who would work in an NEDP office located in the Northwest Territories and provide other support such as offices in the field assisting applicants.

We would hope to see the NEDP playing a major role in the development of the Territories' economy. Given the downturn in the Beaufort the program is now more important than ever. Native business people need your help and are waiting for positive results in the implementation of your valuable program.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
TAGAK CURLEY

Tagak Curley,
Minister.

c.c. Honourable Bernard Valcourt

TRUDEAU/jt:

