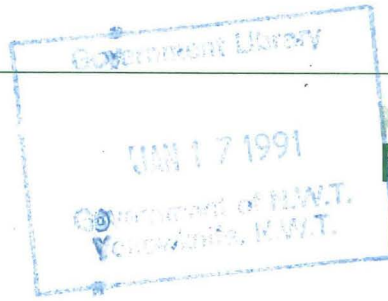


1991

- January 15, 1991 Committee to Review Government Spending
- February 6, 1991 Fort McPherson Residents Receive Commissioner's Award for Bravery
- March 19, 1991 Committee Calls for Greater Role for NWT in Amending Constitution
- April 3, 1991 Legislative Assembly Appoints Communication Services Coordinator (Brad Heath)
- May 1, 1991 Committee Argues for Inclusion in Constitution Process in Ottawa
- May 8, 1991 Public Input Sought on Seven Bills Before Legislative Assembly
- May 27, 1991 N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society to Hold Bondholder, Annual Meetings on June 10
- June 7, 1991 New Conflict of Interest Legislation for MLAs Proposed
- June 26, 1991 Dedication Ceremony Held on Future Site of Legislative Assembly Building
- July 8, 1991 Hay River, Yellowknife, Ontario residents most frequent visitors to the Legislative Assembly this summer
-
- July 30, 1991 Elections N.W.T staff available to answer questions
- August 22, 1991 Finance Committee to Review Process for Awarding of Community Petroleum Delivery Contracts
- August 30, 1991 Northwest Territories 1991 General Election is Officially Under Way
- September 16, 1991 Record Number of Candidates Vie for Seats in October 15 Territorial Election
- October 2, 1991 21,002 N.W.T Residents Eligible to Vote October 15
- October 23, 1991 Tu Nedhe MLA Don Morin says Dene/Metis MLAs should work together in selecting Cabinet members
- November 4, 1991 Stephen Kakfwi announces candidacy for Government Leader
- November 7, 1991 Nunavut Caucus opposes election of Executive Council on basis of ethnic background, says Allooooloo
- November 20, 1991 Appointments Made to Legislative Assembly Committees
- November 28, 1991 Canada's Christmas Lights Go On December 2

December 2, 1991 Legislative Assembly Reconvenes Monday Dec.9

December 18, 1991 Betty Harnum Appointed Languages Commissioner



COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Yellowknife (January 15, 1991) **Government spending for the 1989/90 fiscal year will be reviewed during two days of hearings at the end of the month.**

On January 29 - 30, 1991, the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Accounts will review the Territorial Government's accounts and the Report of the Auditor General of Canada for the 1989/90 fiscal year. Committee Chairman Nick Sibbeston announced today the release of the Auditor General of Canada's "Report on Other Matters", an annual review of Government of the Northwest Territories' spending.

"This is the earliest we've ever had the report", said Mr. Sibbeston. "I commend the Auditor General and his staff for their efficiency. This will allow us to address concerns within the report very quickly this year."

Unlike previous reports, which covered spending across a range of government departments, this year's report concentrates on two areas: government funding for Health Boards and Education Boards.

"This has been a new growth area for government spending over the last few years", noted Mr. Sibbeston. "We're giving more and more money to various boards and agencies, and we want to make sure government is spending taxpayers' money wisely."

During this year's review, the Committee will also follow up on its report from last year to ensure that its recommendations have been implemented.

more.../

The Public Accounts review will be held in Yellowknife on Tuesday, January 29, 1991 and Wednesday, January 30, 1991, in the Caucus Room of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee will be sitting from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The public is welcome to attend.

Copies of the Auditor General's report are available from the Committee Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, at (403) 873-7999 , or by calling toll free 1-800-661-0784.

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CONTACT:

Sharon Hall
Public Affairs Officer
Legislative Assembly
(403) 920-8096

*available at
reception desk.*

Press Statement

Office of the Commissioner • Government of the Northwest Territories • Yellowknife • NWT

Fort McPherson Residents Receive Commissioner's Award for Bravery

YELLOWKNIFE (Feb. 06) - Two Fort McPherson residents have received the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the Highest level for risking their lives to save a Whitehorse family.

Commissioner Daniel L. Norris presented the awards to Bella Rosie Robert and Abraham Stewart Jr. during a community feast and dance in Fort McPherson on Saturday, Feb. 2 in honour of the occasion.

Bella Rosie and Abraham were camping on the Peel River, in September of 1987, when they saw four people in a small boat attempting to cross the river during a severe storm with high winds and driving rain.

The four managed to reach the middle of the river before large waves swamped the boat, spilling them into the river. The Whitehorse residents were Robert O'Brien and Bill Hobson, both adults, and Matthew O'Brien, age 9, and Jacob O'Brien, age 7.

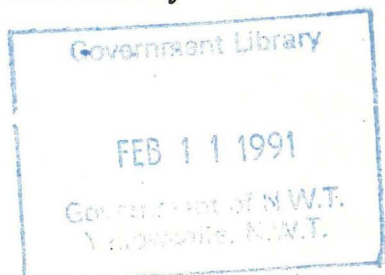
Even though their boat was too small to challenge the storm, Bella Rosie and Abraham did not hesitate to attempt a rescue —at great personal risk to themselves.

When they got close to the victims, Bella Rosie and Abraham had to shut down the motor to avoid injuring anyone. As a result, the boat rocked wildly and Abraham fell overboard. Bella Rosie was able to help him back into the boat and they continued with the rescue.

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant
Commissioner's Office
(403) 873-7332

or

Brad Heath
Public Affairs Officer
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 873-7343



COMMITTEE CALLS FOR GREATER ROLE FOR NWT IN AMENDING CONSTITUTION

YELLOWKNIFE (March 19, 1991) - The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on Constitutional Reform today told a federal committee that the people, Government and Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories must be included in all discussions on amending the Canadian Constitution.

The Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Process for Amending the Constitution of Canada was in Yellowknife today to hear presentations from residents of the Northwest Territories. The Joint Committee is visiting all provincial and territorial capitals to consult with Canadians before recommending an amending process for the Constitution.

"Constitutional processes such as intergovernmental meetings, First Ministers' meetings and conferences and all public forums that may operate to include Canadians in constitutional reform are not complete unless the two Territories are represented at the table by Northerners", Special Committee Chairman Michael Ballantyne (MLA Yellowknife North) told the Joint Committee.

"We do see in the current written provisions, and in the amending process generally, an unjustified bias against the two Territories in particular and against Canadians living in these jurisdictions", the committee chairman noted.

Mr. Ballantyne also stressed the need for resolving outstanding aboriginal concerns through a process that involves aboriginal peoples. He suggested that the general aboriginal population must have access to governmental and executive decision making that relates directly to their interests.



"A national forum that brings together First Ministers and aboriginal leaders is necessary, now more than ever, to continue the dialogue on identifying and defining constitutionally protected rights of aboriginal peoples", he said.

In its presentation, the Legislative Assembly Committee suggested the current provisions of the amending formula should be changed using durable and widely-shared principles. "Changes to the amending formula must not be made simply to address current political problems", Mr. Ballantyne said. "Political leaders have not been given a mandate to take Canada to the brink of destruction".

Political egos and past history are not valid reasons for amending the Constitution of Canada, he said. Before changes are made to the amending formula or any other part of the constitution, "there must be a clearly demonstrated need for change", the Chairman noted.

The Committee also argued that the current process has no requirement for public input other than through elected members of provincial legislatures and Parliament. "Party discipline operated to prevent constructive changes to the Meech Lake Accord. The minimal role played by elected representatives in constitutional amendments will continue unless there are fundamental reforms in the party system in Canada", Mr. Ballantyne said.

The Special Committee will make a more comprehensive presentation in Ottawa in late April or May on technical matters to be addressed in amending the constitution. These include the role of the First Ministers and Legislative Assemblies in amending the formula; the timeframe for proclaiming constitutional amendments; and the role of the Territories in matters that directly affect them, including the creation of new provinces and extension of provincial boundaries in the Territories.

- 30 -

For further information, contact:

Doug Schauerte
Committee Clerk
(403) 920-8098



Legislative Assembly Appoints Communication Services Coordinator

Yellowknife (April 3, 1991) **The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, today announced the appointment of Brad Heath as Coordinator of Communication Services.**

As Coordinator of Communication Services, Mr. Heath is responsible for providing information to the public about the activities of the Legislative Assembly and MLAs, and for coordinating visitor services for official delegations, special interest groups and the public. Mr. Heath is also responsible for media relations and providing communication support services to MLAs.

Mr. Heath is a journalism graduate from Niagara College with more than a decade of experience as a reporter, editor and public affairs officer.

He comes to the Legislative Assembly from the Office of the Press Secretary, where he served as a Public Affairs Officer for nearly two years. Prior to that, he was sports editor of the Yellowknifer and News/North newspapers and subsequently editor of the Yellowknifer.

Before moving to Yellowknife in 1987, Mr. Heath worked in Hay River as a reporter/photographer with The Hub newspaper.

Mr. Heath was raised in Wallaceburg, Ontario. Prior to moving to the N.W.T. in 1986, he spent more than five years working for newspapers in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

CONTACT:

David Hamilton
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
(403) 873-7457
or
Brad Heath
Coordinator, Communication Services
(403) 920-8096



Committee Argues For Inclusion In Constitution Process in Ottawa

OTTAWA (May 1, 1991) - The Government of the Northwest Territories and aboriginal people want to be partners in the development of Canada's Constitution.

Appearing today before the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Process of Amending the Constitution of Canada, N.W.T. politicians stated that for 10 years, they have sought an equal voice with other Canadians.

Chairman Michael Ballantyne and Richard Nerysoo and John Ningark of the N.W.T. Special Committee on Constitutional Reform suggested that a national plebiscite would provide federal and provincial governments with the necessary mandate to initiate constitutional reform.

"We believe that ...a national plebiscite on the question of whether the amending formula should be amended would at least give Canadians a chance to express their views about a matter on which many First Ministers appear to have already made up their minds," Mr. Ballantyne told the Joint Committee. He added that many people testifying before the Joint Committee have already stated that the amending formula is not the problem.

If, however, Canadians believe the amending formula must be changed, Mr. Ballantyne said that any reform package and its subsequent ratification must include aboriginal representatives, and representatives of the two territorial governments.

"As most of you know, we have been ignored or worse, rejected, when Constitutional reforms were proposed that directly affected our vital interests," Mr. Ballantyne said.



Mr. Ballantyne outlined six principles which the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform believes should be entrenched in federal, provincial and territorial legislation and used to govern the amending process:

Mandate. Governments must have a clear mandate to proceed with any fundamental changes to the Canadian Constitution.

Role of the People. Any new amending formula must guarantee that Canadians will be involved at all stages of significant constitutional amendment.

Role of Legislatures. Any new amending formula must ensure that a significant majority of members of each legislature are required to ratify amendments. A free vote would be part of this approach.

Role of the Executive. Any new amending formula must clearly and carefully balance the role of the executive arm of the government with the role of Canadians and their elected representatives sitting in legislatures.

Role of Aboriginal Nations. Aboriginal nations must have a guaranteed role in any constitutional amendment process that affects aboriginal interests.

Role of the Territories. Any changes to the current amending formula or any new formula must provide for the involvement of territorial residents and their elected representatives in matters that directly affect constitutional developments in the territories and the role of territorial residents in national affairs. Any new amending formula that might involve regional representation must recognize the Northwest Territories and Yukon as a distinct region within Canada, and not as an interest group to be consulted in some other, less formal way.

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For more information,
contact:

Doug Schauerte
Committee Clerk
(403) 920-8098

MAY 09 1991

Government of N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Public Input Sought on Seven Bills Before Legislative Assembly

YELLOWKNIFE (May 8, 1991) - The Standing Committee on Legislation will hold public meetings in Yellowknife and Hay River next week to discuss seven bills that have been tabled before the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislation is seeking public input on the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Access to Information Act, and acts to amend the Environmental Protection Act, the Public Service Act, the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, and the Travel and Tourism Act.

The Hay River meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 2 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the Ptarmigan Inn.

The Yellowknife meetings will be held Tuesday, May 14 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room of the Legislative Assembly.

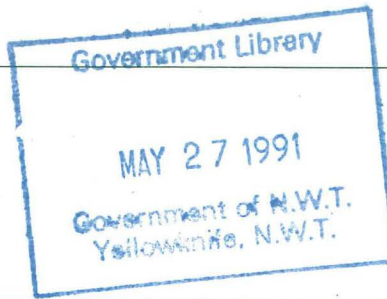
Persons interested in making a presentation or wishing to receive more information are asked to contact Rhoda Perkison, Clerk of the Standing Committee on Legislation, at (403) 873-7255 or call 1-800-661-0784 toll free.

All meetings are open to the public.

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For more information,
contact:

Rhoda Perkison
Clerk of the Standing Committee on Legislation
(403) 873-7255



N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society To Hold Bondholder, Annual Meetings on June 10

YELLOWKNIFE (May 27) - The N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society will hold its bondholder and annual meetings the morning of Monday, June 10 in the Legislative Assembly Caucus Room, says Society Chairman John Parker.

The Society was formed June 15, 1990 to oversee the financing, construction, ownership and operation of the future permanent home of the Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.

The building is being financed through a bond issue and 20-year conventional mortgage. Investors throughout the N.W.T. were given an exclusive opportunity to participate in the project through the purchase of bonds offering attractive rates of return, resulting in a fully-subscribed bond issue. As well as spreading the financial cost over a considerable period of time, this also ensures that the people of the N.W.T. will become owners of a valuable asset as opposed to continuing to pay rent as is now the case.

The design, location and development of construction plans for the building are proceeding on schedule towards occupancy in the fall of 1993.

Further opportunity to become involved in this exciting project is possible through memberships in the Building Society. Application forms are now available from the Society's office. A membership drive is planned for this September.

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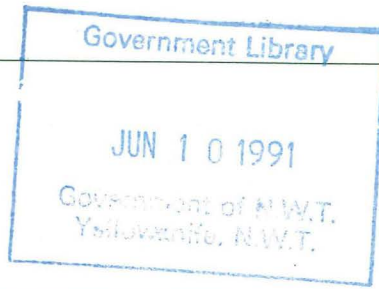
For more information, contact:

Dorothy Morrison
Executive Secretary
N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society
(403) 920-6900
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

OR

Brad Heath
Coordinator
Communication Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.
(403) 920-8096





New Conflict of Interest Legislation For MLAs Proposed

YELLOWKNIFE (June 7, 1991) - The Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories have announced proposed conflict of interest amendments to legislation governing the conduct of MLAs.

"If approved by the Legislature, the revised act will provide us with some of the strictest conflict of interest provisions in Canada," Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Richard Nerysoo said today. "Enforcement of the new provisions will help strengthen public confidence in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of MLAs."

Government Leader Dennis Patterson says the proposed amendments to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act will be placed before the Legislative Assembly when it reconvenes on June 25. If passed, the amendments would be in force to govern the 12th Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T. to be elected this fall.

Under the existing legislation, MLAs are only required to declare a conflict of interest if they have direct or indirect financial interest in any matter in which the Legislative Assembly or a committee of the Assembly is concerned, and must refrain from participating in any discussions regarding the matter in question.

"MLAs feel that more should be required of public figures in order to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the Legislative Assembly," says Mr. Patterson.

The existing legislation also places the onus on the public for detecting any breach of the conflict of interest legislation and subsequently applying to the Supreme Court for a decision.

"MLAs believe this process is faulty because it is possible for a such a breach to occur without the public's knowledge," says Mr. Nerysoo. "It is also time-consuming and expensive for a member of the public to apply to the Supreme Court for a ruling on whether or not the conflict of interest guidelines have been breached."

Under the proposed amendments, a financial disclosure system would be established under which all MLAs would be required to file a list of all assets, liabilities and financial interests with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis. The Clerk would prepare a disclosure statement listing the nature of these assets and make the statement available to the public.

The amended guidelines would also prohibit MLAs from using information or influence gained through their offices for personal benefit.



Members, their spouses and dependent children would not be permitted to hold government contracts during their term of office. Spouses and dependents would, however, be permitted to be employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Spouses and dependents of Ministers and the Speaker would be prohibited from being employed by the department that their spouse is directly responsible for.

Ministers and the Speaker would be restricted from operating a business or from outside employment during the member's term of office. After they cease to be a Minister or Speaker, they would be restricted for 12 months from holding a contract with or lobbying for remuneration with a government department they were responsible for during their last 12 months as Speaker or a Minister.

As in the existing legislation, there are provisions calling for disclosure and withdrawal on matters being discussed by the Legislative Assembly, committees, Executive Council or the Management and Services Board in which the MLA has a conflict of interest.

All members would be prohibited from accepting remuneration or gifts in connection with their duties. They could accept gifts received in the line of duty as a matter of protocol or social obligations. Any gifts valued at more than \$400 would become the property of the office and not the member.

The proposed amendments would also establish an enforcement system. Complaints of conflict of interest would be examined by investigators appointed by a Standing Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest. The investigators would inquire into the matter and either dismiss the complaint or refer it to the committee for a full, public hearing. If the committee found that the member contravened the Conflict of Interest provisions, it could recommend to the Legislative Assembly any of a wide range of sanctions including declaring the MLA's seat vacant.

Mr. Patterson emphasized that this legislation is not designed to replace existing civil remedies and criminal sanctions which continue to apply to the conduct of all MLAs. "The new law establishes a code of conduct and additional sanctions appropriate to the public trust placed in MLAs."

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

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Coordinator,
Communication Services
Legislative Assembly
(403) 920-8096

Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
Executive
(403) 920-3310

Dedication Ceremony Held On Future Site of Legislative Assembly Building

YELLOWKNIFE (June 26, 1991) - The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories held a dedication ceremony today on the site where the Assembly's new building will be constructed during the next two years.

More than 100 dignitaries, invited guests and members of the public turned out for the dedication ceremony, held at the site of the new Legislative Assembly near the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Speakers included Commissioner Daniel Norris, Government Leader Dennis Patterson and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Richard Nerysoo. His Excellency Bishop Denis Croteau blessed the site while Bishop J.R. Sperry gave the closing prayer. Elva Pigalak, an elder from Coppermine, and Jeff Pinto, a student at Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife, unveiled a replica of the commemorative plaque which will be attached to rock on the site of the ceremony.

"We are gathered here today to dedicate this land as a meeting place for all northerners, now and in the future," Commissioner Norris said. "On this site there will be a building constructed which will house the Legislative Assembly of this land for many years to come."

Residents of the N.W.T. - the only Canadians without a permanent Legislative Assembly building - will no longer have to pay rent on temporary facilities. Commissioner Norris added that residents of the N.W.T. will benefit from the new building through improved services for MLAs.

"This is a special occasion to mark yet another milestone in the evolution of representative government in the Northwest Territories," Mr. Patterson said. "Some of you undoubtedly remember that it was almost 40 years ago that responsible government began to take form in the Northwest Territories."

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On Sept. 17, 1951, Merv Hardie, James Brodie and Frank Carmichael were the first representatives to be elected to the Northwest Territories Council. The first fully elected Legislative Assembly took office 24 years later on March 10, 1975.

The Legislative Assembly moved into its present facilities in 1984. Prior to moving into the addition constructed beside the Yellowknife Inn, the Assembly held its sessions in temporary, rented facilities such as hotels and school gymnasiums.

"And now we're only two years away from opening our first permanent place of assembly. I think you'll all agree that our growth as a government has been nothing less than remarkable," Mr. Patterson said. "And just as remarkable are the chapters of our development that will be written in our new home as we work together towards our common good."

Mr. Nerysoo thanked John Parker, Dorothy Chattell, Jim Britton, Ernie Daniels, Al Jamal, Bill Graham, Fred Hunt, Andrew Morrison and Janice Rennie, the founding members of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society.

Special recognition should also go to Mr. Red Pederson, the Speaker when the construction project was initiated, and the members of the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. Nick Sibbeston and Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk, Mr. Nerysoo said.

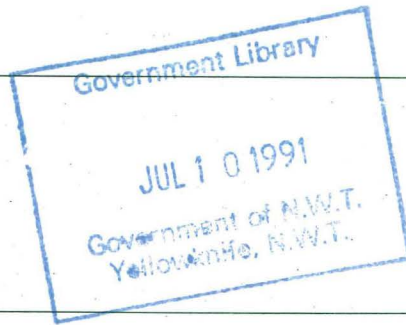
Mr. Nerysoo also recognized the involvement and support of the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, the Minister of Public Works, and her staff for their continuing management of the project on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

"And, of course, thanks to all of the people of the Northwest Territories for their support in this historic and exciting project," Mr. Nerysoo said.

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For more information, contact:

Brad Heath
Coordinator
Communication Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.
(403) 920-8096



Hay River, Yellowknife, Ontario residents most frequent visitors to the Legislative Assembly this summer

YELLOWKNIFE (July 8, 1991) - Residents of Hay River, Yellowknife and Ontario have been the most frequent visitors to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories so far this summer, says Speaker Richard Nerysoo.

More than 200 guests from Canada, the United States, Australia, France and England have toured the Legislative Assembly since the Summer Visitors Program resumed Monday, June 3.

The largest single delegation to tour the Chambers to date was from Hay River: 53 students and staff members from the Harry Camsell Elementary School toured the Chambers on Tuesday, June 18.

Thirty-two Yellowknifers have toured the Assembly in the past four weeks, while 30 residents of Ontario have taken one of the five tours offered every weekday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Canadians from the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the N.W.T. communities of Fort McPherson, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit have also toured the Chambers.

International guests include citizens of Australia, France, England and the American states of Vermont, California, Florida, Georgia, New Mexico and Nevada.

Afternoon tours of the Chambers were temporarily cancelled Tuesday, June 25 due to the reconvening of the Eighth Session of the 11th Legislative Assembly, however, both morning and afternoon tours are available once again. Tours can be arranged by phoning Chantal Richard at (403) 920-8700 or by registering at the front desk of the Legislative Assembly.

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For more information, contact:

Brad Heath
Coordinator
Communication Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.
(403) 920-8096

Elections N.W.T. staff available to answer questions

YELLOWKNIFE (July 30, 1991) - Territorial residents with any questions regarding the Oct. 15, 1991 general election for Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories are urged to contact the Elections N.W.T. office.

The Elections N.W.T. office can provide information on qualifications for voting, voting rights, voting by proxy, advance voting, running for office, contributions to election campaigns, and any other questions relating to the election.

Five brochures and one booklet are available upon request from the Elections N.W.T. office. The brochures are entitled "A Guide for Voters in the Northwest Territories", "Prospective Candidates: Some Things to Think About", "Your Contributions to Election Campaigns", "Voting Rights in the Northwest Territories" and "A Voter's Guide for Students". The booklet is entitled "The Electoral System in the Northwest Territories".

To reach the Elections N.W.T. office from outside of Yellowknife, call toll-free to 1-800-661-0796. In Yellowknife, call 920-6999. The Elections N.W.T. facsimile number is (403) 873-0366. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, N.W.T., X1A 2L9.

The Elections N.W.T. office is located on the 7th floor of the Precambrian Building in Yellowknife (4922 - 52nd Street). The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Coordinator of Operations for Elections N.W.T. is Rosemary Cairns. Helen Lawson is the Administrative Assistant.

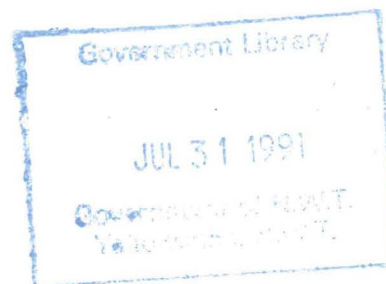
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For more information, contact:

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Coordinator of Operations
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(403) 920-6999

OR

Brad Heath
Coordinator
Communication Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.
(403) 920-8096



Finance Committee to Review Process for Awarding of Community Petroleum Delivery Contracts

YELLOWKNIFE (August 22, 1991) - The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance will review the process for the recent awarding of Community Petroleum Delivery Contracts during a meeting to be held tomorrow in Hay River.

Government Services Minister Tom Butters, the Minister responsible for the department which awards the petroleum delivery contracts, is also scheduled to participate in the review.

The meeting, set for 11 a.m. in the Banquet Room of the Ptarmigan Inn, has been scheduled for nearly two months but members of the Standing Committee on Finance decided last week to add the subject of the petroleum delivery contracts to the agenda, says Committee Chairman John Pollard.

Committee members will review the government's process for awarding the contracts and the long-term financial implications to the government, says Mr. Pollard.

Members of the Standing Committee on Finance are Mr. Pollard, Deputy Chairman Brian Lewis, Sam Gargan, Ipeelee Kilabuk, Don Morin, Red Pedersen, Ludy Pudluk, Nick Sibbeston and Tony Whitford.

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For more information, contact:

In Hay River
Doug Schauerte
Clerk of Committees
(403) 874-6781

In Yellowknife
Brad Heath
Communication Services
(403) 920-8096

***Not for release before Friday, August 30, 1991.**

Northwest Territories 1991 General Election is Officially Under Way

YELLOWKNIFE (August 30, 1991) - The Northwest Territories 1991 general election officially begins today with the issuing of a Writ of Election to the Returning Officer in each of the N.W.T.'s 24 constituencies.

The Writ of Election gives the Returning Officer in each constituency the authority to hold an election on Tuesday, Oct. 15 to choose a Member to sit in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

The Writ of Election was signed today by Commissioner Daniel Norris and following its issue, Returning Officers can now begin to accept nomination papers. Nominations close on Monday, September 16 at 2 p.m. local time in each constituency. Nomination papers must be returned to the Returning Officer in the constituency in which the candidate is seeking election.

The Returning Officers for the 1991 general election are: Aivilik, Stephen Kopak of Repulse Bay; Amittuq, Solomon Awa of Pond Inlet; Baffin Central, Olassie Evic of Pangnirtung; Baffin South, Elisappee Ikkidluak of Lake Harbour; Deh Cho, Rosemary Minoza of Fort Providence; Hay River, Hazel Haight; High Arctic, Maureen Doherty of Nanisivik; Inuvik, Audrey Litster; Iqaluit, Frank Pearce; Keewatin Central, Margaret Kusugak of Rankin Inlet; Kitikmeot, Rhoda Maghagak of Cambridge Bay; Kivallivik, Shirley Tagalik of Arviat; Mackenzie Delta, Joyce Edwards of Aklavik; Nahendeh, Rita Cazon of Fort Simpson; Natilikmiot, Terry Sieffert of Spence Bay; North Slave, Theresa Antoine of Rae-Edzo; Nunakput, Clara Bates of Tuktoyaktuk; Sahtu, Gail Melnyk of Norman Wells; Thebacha, Anne Jones of Fort Smith; Tu Nedhé, Violet Beaulieu of Fort Resolution; Yellowknife Centre, Valery Braden; Yellowknife Frame Lake, Penelope Kocik; Yellowknife North, Debbie Nider, and Yellowknife South, Jacoba Sherstone.

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The following is a description of the electoral districts comprised of more than one community. Aivilik: Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour. Amittuq: Hall Beach, Igloolik and Pond Inlet. Baffin Central: Broughton Island, Clyde River and Pangnirtung. Baffin South: Lake Harbour, Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq. Deh Cho: Fort Providence, Kakisa and Hay River Reserve. High Arctic: Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute and Nanisivik. Keewatin Central: Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. Kitikmeot: Bathurst Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Coppermine and Umingmaktok (Bay Chimo). Kivallivik: Arviat and Baker Lake. Mackenzie Delta: Aklavik, Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson. Nahendeh: Wrigley, Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and Tungsten. Natilikmiot: Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay. North Slave: Edzo, Rae, Lac La Martre, Rae Lakes and Snare Lakes. Nunakput: Holman, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk. Sahtu: Colville Lake, Fort Franklin, Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman and Norman Wells. Tu Nedhé: Reliance, Fort Resolution, Snowdrift, Pine Point and Rocher River. Yellowknife North: Yellowknife, Dettah and Lot 500.

Contact Elections N.W.T. for more information. Outside of Yellowknife, call toll free to 1-800-661-0796. In Yellowknife, call 920-6999. The Elections N.W.T. facsimile number is (403) 873-0366.

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For more information, contact:

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Brad Heath
Coordinator, Communication Services
Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T.
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Record Number of Candidates Vie for Seats in October 15 Territorial Election

YELLOWKNIFE (September 16, 1991) - A record 84 candidates have declared their candidacy in the October 15 election of Members to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

When nominations closed at 2 p.m. local time today, six candidates went unopposed and were elected by acclamation. This leaves 78 candidates to vie for election in 18 electoral districts.

In the 1987 general election, 69 candidates sought election in the 1987 election. Three were elected by acclamation.

The following is a listing, alphabetically by electoral district, of the candidates in the Tuesday, October 15 election:

Aivilik: James Arvaluk, Peter Ernerk, Donat Milortok, Tongola Sandy and Andre Tautu.

Amittuq: Titus Allooloo, Enoki Iqittuq and Lucassi Ivalu.

Baffin Central: Peter Iqalukjuak, Ipeelee Kilabuk, Norman Komoartok, Myna Maniapik, Rebecca Mike, Sam Palituq, Pauloosie Paniloo and Lottie Toomasie.

Baffin South: Joe Aragutina, Joe Arlooktoo, Johnny Cookie, Joannie Ikkidluak, Mikidjuk Kolola, Padluq Melia, Pudloo Mingeriak, Kenoayoak Pudlat, Mathew Saveakjuk.

High Arctic: Larry A. Audlaluk, Jobie Issigaitok, David Kalluk, Moses Koonoo and Ludy Pudluk.

Inuvik: George Doolittle, Jeff Gardiner, Glenna Hansen, Vivian Hunter, Fred Koe and Cece McCauley.

Iqaluit: Val Haas, Dennis Patterson and Bryan Sedluk Pearson.

Keewatin Central: Jose Kusugak and John Todd.

Kitikmeot: Ernie Bernhardt, Edna Elias, Allen Maghagak, Kelvin Ng and Joe Ohokannoak.

Kivallivik: David Alagalak, Silas Arngna'naaq and Gordon Wray.

Mackenzie Delta: Roger T. Allen and Richard Nerysoo.

Nahendeh: Jim Antoine, Arnold Hope, Bill Lafferty, Daniel Lapierre, Steve Malesku, Joe Germain Mercredi, Bertha Norwegian and Pat Scott.

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North Slave: Joe Rabesca, Cecilia S. Wetrade, Richard D. Whitford and Henry Zoe.

Thebacha: Jeannie Marie-Jewell and Lou Sebert.

Tu Nedhé: Barbara Ann Beck and Don Morin.

Yellowknife Centre: June Balsillie, Fernand Denault, Brian Lewis, Bruce McLaughlin and Barbara O'Neill.

Yellowknife Frame Lake: David Barry, Charles Dent, Arlene Hache and Noel Montagano.

Yellowknife North: Michael Alan Ballantyne and Barry Conacher.

Elected by acclamation to the 12th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories were: **Deh Cho**, Samuel Gargan; **Hay River**, John Pollard; **Natilikmiot**, John Ningark; **Nunakput**, Nellie J. Cournoyea; **Sahtu**, Stephen Kakfwi, and **Yellowknife South**, Tony Whitford.

Advance polls will be held on Thursday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 8 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Polls will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, October 15, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. local time.

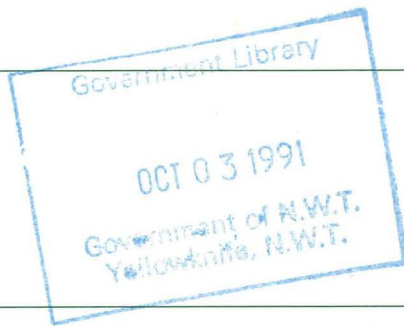
Contact Elections N.W.T. for more information. Outside of Yellowknife, call toll free to 1-800-661-0796. In Yellowknife, call 920-6999. The Elections N.W.T. facsimile number is (403) 873-0366.

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21,002 N.W.T. Residents Eligible to Vote October 15

YELLOWKNIFE (October 2, 1991) - A total of 21,002 voters are currently eligible to vote in the Tuesday, October 15 election of Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

All totalled, 27,367 voters were enumerated for this year's election. An additional 6,365 residents were enumerated in Deh Cho, Hay River, Natilikmiot, Nunakput, Sahtu and Yellowknife South, however, elections will not be held in these electoral districts since the candidates were elected by acclamation.

The following is a list of the number of eligible voters in electoral districts where elections will be held: Aivilik, 625; Amittuq, 1,136; Baffin Central, 1,047; Baffin South, 872; High Arctic, 650; Inuvik, 1,334; Iqaluit, 1,597; Keewatin Central, 996; Kitikmeot, 1,143; Kivallivik, 1,265; Mackenzie Delta, 1,030; Nahendeh, 1,263; North Slave, 1,234; Thebacha, 1,339; Tu Nedhé, 587; Yellowknife Centre, 1,747; Yellowknife Frame Lake, 1,252, and Yellowknife North, 1,885.

Any N.W.T. resident who was not enumerated and whose name does not appear on the official list of electors can still vote on Polling Day provided that he or she takes an oath at the polling station. A person who is not on the voters' list cannot, however, vote at an advance poll or by proxy.

In 1987, 15,901 ballots were cast as 71.56 per cent of 22,222 electors in 21 electoral districts voted. There were three acclamations in 1987.

Slave River was the most active electoral district in the 1987 election as 96.23 per cent of electors voted. In the electoral district of Hudson Bay, 92.51 per cent of the electorate voted. Yellowknife South had the lowest voter turnout with only 45.33 per cent of 3,470 electors voting. High Arctic was the only other electoral district where less than half of the electorate voted. A total of 332 of the eligible voters (47.29 per cent) in High Arctic voted.

Polls will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, October 15, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. local time. Advance polls will be held on Thursday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 8 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Contact Elections N.W.T. for more information. Outside of Yellowknife, call toll free to 1-800-661-0796. In Yellowknife, call 920-6999. The Elections N.W.T. facsimile number is (403) 873-0366.

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For more information, contact:

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Tu Nedhe MLA Don Morin says Dene/Metis MLAs should work together in selecting Cabinet members

YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 1991) - Don Morin, MLA for Tu Nedhe, today announced his intentions to seek greater commitment from his Dene and Metis colleagues in the new Assembly to act together and as a caucus in selecting Cabinet members.

"I worked hard in the last Assembly to develop a sense of responsibility among Dene and Metis Members to represent the collective interests of our people as well as the interests of individual constituencies," Mr. Morin said.

Along with the informal Nunavut Caucus, the last Assembly saw the development of a Dene/Metis Caucus.

"I will be making formal submissions to the newly established Constitutional Development Commission with the objective of formally entrenching mechanisms for having the collective rights and identity of our people represented in future Assemblies," he said.

Mr. Morin explained further that his promotion of the Dene/Metis Caucus now is consistent with the self-government provisions of the Dene and Metis organizations and should be viewed as an interim step prior to the formalization of a Constitution.

"The Dene and Metis have always said that self-government through participation in the public government system would only be acceptable if there was guaranteed Dene/Metis representation and if the collective interests and rights of our people could be entrenched," he added.

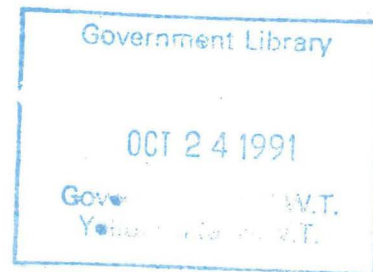
"What this means to me now is that any Dene or Metis Member interested in a Cabinet seat should first seek the full agreement and support of all Dene and Metis Members and once selected to Cabinet, he or she should meet regularly and participate fully in the Dene/Metis Caucus," he concluded.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

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Kakfwi announces candidacy for Government Leader

YELLOWKNIFE (November 4, 1991) - Following consultation with MLAs and constituents, Sahtu MLA Stephen Kakfwi has decided to run for Government Leader.

"I feel I have sufficient support to let my name go forward," he says.

Mr. Kakfwi believes the selection should be an open process with candidates for both Leader and Ministerial positions having to present their views and answer questions from MLAs in a public forum.

Members will meet in Yellowknife beginning Thursday, November 7 to choose a new Leader and Cabinet.

"The stage is set for the N.W.T. to undergo fundamental change," says Kakfwi. "We need a government leader and ministers who are passionate about the need for this change yet sensitive to the requirement for stability, particularly economic stability."

Mr. Kakfwi says his consultations have revealed that MLAs want to be more involved in setting government priorities and deciding on the agenda for government action.

"I've never been comfortable with the isolation of Cabinet from the ordinary MLAs in the decision-making process and I'll be looking for ways to involve MLAs more if I'm government leader," he says.

"Their advice and guidance on an ongoing basis, not just when the Legislature sits, will be critical to the accomplishment of our goals and priorities as a government."

Mr. Kakfwi says he's excited about the possibility that finally the selection process for Government Leader and Ministers may be done in public.

"During the caucus meetings in 1987, I advocated a public process and I'm pleased that others have agreed. I felt at that time that all MLAs should be accountable for the way in which they vote and the candidates they select."

Mr. Kakfwi feels a public process will provide an opportunity for the electorate to see and hear first hand how the rules are developed for the selection, and to witness the agreements made on the powers and responsibilities which caucus will vest in the Government Leader.

"Our consensus style of government is unique and in its early stages of development. It is important that we all have an opportunity to judge, with full information, whether it is a system we should continue to support for the new governments which will evolve once division takes place. A public selection of Cabinet is just the first step in a new and more open style of government," he says.

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Mr. Kakfwi believes constitutional development, aboriginal self-government and land claims issues will continue to dominate the government and Legislative Assembly agenda for the next few years.

"It will take strong leadership and commitment to make sure that we deal with these issues fairly and consistently with full attention to the economic agenda as well," he said.

"I will assure MLAs and northerners that although constitutional and land claims are a priority, I also know full well how critical a healthy and growing economy — renewable and non-renewable — is to the future of our children."

Mr. Kakfwi says that he sees the need for a major government commitment to education and training, along with job creation and small business development as critical to providing a balanced agenda for government action.

Mr. Kakfwi believes his major strengths are that he knows when to seek and discard advice and he is open to change and challenged by new ideas.

"I'm excited and energized by the fact that we in the West have a chance to shape our own style of government. My support for division of the territories is strong and consistent because I am in support of the Inuit dream for self government," he says.

During the next few days, Mr. Kakfwi will ask MLAs to provide him with their advice and assistance and a strong mandate through their support when the vote is taken.

"I'll be prepared for some tough questions from a strong and informed group of MLAs. It is an important part of the process to select the leader and I'm looking forward to it," he says.

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For more information, contact:

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or

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Nunavut Caucus opposes election of Executive Council on basis of ethnic background, says Allooloo

YELLOWKNIFE (November 7, 1991) - Members of the Nunavut Caucus say they do not support the concept of electing an Executive Council strictly on the ethnic background of the candidates who will be seeking election to the Executive Council.

Speaking on behalf of the Nunavut Caucus, Amittuq MLA Titus Allooloo said members of the Nunavut Caucus will vote on the basis of each candidate's capabilities — not ethnic heritage.

"When the Members of the Nunavut Caucus sought election to this Assembly, we did not do so on the basis of our ethnic heritage. We offered ourselves to our constituents as the best possible candidates to represent them in this Legislative Assembly," Mr. Allooloo told a press conference today.

"And when we cast our votes to elect the Executive Council, we will strive to select the most capable people — be they Aboriginal or non-native — to guide the Northwest Territories through the challenges of the next four years. This we owe to all Northerners."

Mr. Allooloo said that if the process of electing the next Executive Council produces an all Aboriginal Executive, then it will have been the result of a fair and democratic process. Each MLA will have considered the abilities of all the candidates seeking Executive office.

"I would remind those who advocate an election based on ethnic background that although Aboriginal people form the vast majority in this Legislative Assembly, it is our duty to represent all of the people of the Northwest Territories — no matter what their ethnic background."

Mr. Allooloo closed the conference by assuring Northerners that the government of Nunavut will represent all of the people — not just the Inuit .

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Appointments Made to Legislative Assembly Committees

YELLOWKNIFE (November 20, 1991) - The Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T. recently appointed members to its five Standing Committees.

The five committees are: the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions; the Standing Committee on Finance; the Standing Committee on Legislation; the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

"The work of these committees is extremely important to the consensus system of government in the Northwest Territories," says David Hamilton, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions reviews and comments on the operations and financial statements of government agencies, crown corporations and commissions. The Committee may examine how appointments are made, remuneration levels and annual reports, and make recommendations as to whether or not a board or agency should be discontinued.

Members of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions are Chairman Fred Koe, Deputy Chairman Brian Lewis, Jim Antoine, James Arvaluk, Charles Dent, Jeannie Marie-Jewell and John Todd. Alternates are Ernie Bernhardt, Rebecca Mike and Richard Nerysoo.

The Standing Committee on Finance reviews the government's financial forecasts and estimates. It may also make recommendations to the Assembly concerning financial aspects of government programs and policies.

Members of the Standing Committee on Finance are Chairman John Todd, Deputy Chairman Jim Antoine, Ernie Bernhardt, Charles Dent, Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Rebecca Mike and Henry Zoe. Alternates are Silas Arnagna'naaq, James Arvaluk and Sam Gargan.

The Standing Committee on Legislation reviews most bills prior to introduction into the Legislative Assembly and, when necessary, proposes amendments to the sponsor of the bill. The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation Committee reports to the Assembly on the Committee's findings and may recommend changes to proposed bills.

Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation are Chairman Silas Arnagna'naaq, Deputy Chairman Richard Nerysoo, James Arvaluk, Sam Gargan, Brian Lewis, Kenoayoak Pudlat and Ludy Pudluk. Alternates are Fred Koe, Jeannie Marie-Jewell and Henry Zoe.



The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is responsible for reviewing government spending to ensure it is both effective and efficient. The Committee determines if government departments have operated according to the annual budget established by the Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee also makes recommendations on financial administration in government and conducts an annual review of the government's public accounts. Committee members also examine the Annual Report of the Territorial Accounts, and investigate issues raised in the Auditor General of Canada Report to the Legislative Assembly.

Members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts are Chairman James Arvaluk, Deputy Chairman Henry Zoe, Silas Arngna'naaq, Ernie Bernhardt, Sam Gargan, Fred Koe and Kenoayoak Pudlat. Alternates are Charles Dent, Ludy Pudluk and John Todd.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges reviews and makes recommendations on the Rules and Procedures of the House. The Committee also reports on additional matters referred to it by the House or Speaker. It also examines all matters of privilege that are referred to it for review and recommendations.

Members of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges are Chairman Henry Zoe, Deputy Chairman Richard Nerysoo, Rebecca Mike, Ludy Pudluk and the Government House Leader (to be announced). Alternates are Jim Antoine, Brian Lewis and Kenoayoak Pudlat.

The Standing Committees will formally establish their terms of reference early next month when the 12th Legislative Assembly reconvenes on Monday, December 9, 1991.

For more information, contact:

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Clerk of Committees
Legislative Assembly
(403) 920-8098

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Legislative Assembly Reconvenes Monday, Dec. 9

YELLOWKNIFE (December 2, 1991) - The First Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly reconvenes Monday, December 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Legislative Assembly Chamber in Yellowknife.

Sitting hours are 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. All sittings are open to the public.

If you wish to speak with your MLA during the session, phone 873-7999 in Yellowknife, or call 1-800-661-0784 toll free outside Yellowknife to leave a message.

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For more information, contact:

Brad Heath
Coordinator,
Communication Services
(403) 920-8096



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(403) 920-8096

Betty Harnum Appointed Languages Commissioner

YELLOWKNIFE (December 18, 1991) - Betty Harnum has been appointed the Northwest Territories' first-ever Languages Commissioner, Speaker Michael Ballantyne announced Monday on behalf of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Under the Northwest Territories Official Languages Act, Ms. Harnum will serve a four-year term, effective as of February 1, 1992, and will be responsible for reviewing the services provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories and recommending improvements and changes to ensure that Northerners receive the rights and services guaranteed by the Official Languages Act.

A 17-year resident of the N.W.T., Ms. Harnum can speak, read and write English, French and Inuktitut. She is familiar with most dialects of Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun, and has some knowledge of the Greenlandic and Alaskan dialects of the Inuit language. She is also literate in the Dene languages, and has basic conversational skills in Slavey.

Ms. Harnum received a Masters Degree in Linguistics from the University of Calgary in October, 1989. Her speciality was Native American languages, especially Inuktitut and the Dene languages.

Prior to being appointed Languages Commissioner, Ms. Harnum was employed for nearly two years as Manager of Legal Interpreting for the Government of the N.W.T.'s Department of Justice. For the past three years she has also taught Inuktitut as a second language.

Ms. Harnum served as an Inuktitut Linguist for the Department of Culture and Communications from August of 1983 to January 1989. She has also worked as a self-employed trainer/researcher, interpreter/translator, Teacher Education Program (TEP) instructor in Fort Smith, adult educator and substitute teacher in Cape Dorset, and executive assistant to the Minister of Aboriginal Rights, Constitutional Development and Local Government.

- 30 -

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