

NWT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY NEWS RELEASES

2000

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- 00-25 June 19 MLA for Range Lake launches website.
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- 00-28 June 22 Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight say an independent agency is needed to oversee the government’s human resource policies.
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- 00-39 Sept 27 North Slave MLA says maintenance is the key to Highway #3.
- 00-40 Sept 28 McLeod proposes new idea to old problem.
- 00-41 Oct 6 Sandy Lee, MLA Range Lake reports on Commonwealth Conference.
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- 00-43 Oct 25 MLA for Frame Lake launches website.
- 00-44 Oct 31 MLAs support Stanton surgery ward re-opening.
- 00-45 Nov 6 Northern robe for the speaker.
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00-01

For Immediate Release

Let Premier choose Cabinet, YK South MLA recommends

Yellowknife (January 6) – Changing the way Cabinet Ministers are selected and putting that responsibility into the hands of the Premier would result in a stronger and more accountable government, says Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell.

“Northerners have clearly indicated they want a government that is not only accountable but also transparent,” Mr. Bell said. “If we want residents to continue to support the consensus system of government we have to ensure that it meets the standards and expectations of the people we represent.”

He has sent a proposal to all Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly outlining his concerns with the current system and suggesting that in this Assembly the Premier should be allowed to choose his/her Cabinet.

“This is not a radical change in terms of the government itself, however I believe that it will lead to a more effective government and will meet the demands of the public,” he said. “All we really would be doing is giving the Premier similar responsibilities to those of the Prime Minister and provincial Premiers.”

According to Mr. Bell, the current system has three shortcomings:

- the Premier, and Cabinet as a whole, assume no accountability for the performance of individual Ministers since Ministers are elected by all Members;
- it is almost impossible for the Premier to remove non-performers from Cabinet or bring in new Ministers with different skills or talents as only the Legislative Assembly can remove a Minister; and
- it is difficult for Cabinet to work as a team as each Minister has his/her own support within the Assembly and therefore he/she is not accountable to the Premier and may not have any allegiances with the leader.

He said the system would be improved and a stronger team would develop if the Premier selects his/her own Cabinet Ministers.

“By giving the Premier to power to choose Cabinet you give the Premier the responsibility and authority for ensuring Cabinet Ministers are accountable and effective, not only to Ordinary Members but to all Northerners” he said.



Mr. Bell acknowledges that some Members may not support the idea but urges his colleagues to look closely at shaping a government that is more accountable and transparent. He intends to raise the issue during meetings next week and hopes that the matter will be discussed publicly during the Territorial Leadership Committee meetings tentatively scheduled to begin on January 17th.

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00-02

New Mace unveiled as Members of 14th Legislature officially take office

Yellowknife (January 14, 2000) – A new Mace for the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was unveiled today following the swearing-in of the Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

“This is probably one of the most, if not the most, unique mace you will find in the Commonwealth,” said David Hamilton, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. “The most unusual feature is the sound that is created when it is moved. It sounds similar to a rainstick and that sound represents the voices of the northern people.”

The sound is made when the tiny pebbles within the language band, the shaft and the foot move and shift. People in all 33 communities in the new Northwest Territories collected the pebbles.

Designed and created by Inuvialuit artist Bill Nasogaluak, Dene artist Dolphus Cadieux and silversmith Allyson M. Simmie, the Mace is more representative of the Northwest Territories following division.

Members of the Special Committee on Western Identity in the 13th Legislative Assembly agreed that a new Mace, one more reflective of the Northwest Territories, was needed following division. A Mace is the symbol of the authority of the Legislative Assembly and its Speaker and must be in the Chamber before the Legislature can start.

Composed mostly of silver and bronze, the Mace includes several other northern elements including a band of beadwork designed to resemble Delta braid and porcupine quillwork. The beadwork was done by Fort McPherson elder Rosie Firth and the quillwork was done by Sarah Hardisty, an elder from Jean Marie River. A diamond from the Northwest Territories adorns the top of the Mace.

Also included is a crown on the top of the Mace that glistens with a number of snowflakes that was designed to create the illusion of one large, three dimensional snowflake. A silver band engraved by hand with the words “One land, many voices” in 10 languages spoken in the Northwest Territories lies directly beneath the crown.

A display stand for the Mace is made of white marble representing the snow that is so predominant in northern life. Images of the Mackenzie River, Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake have been carved into the marble. Also featured are

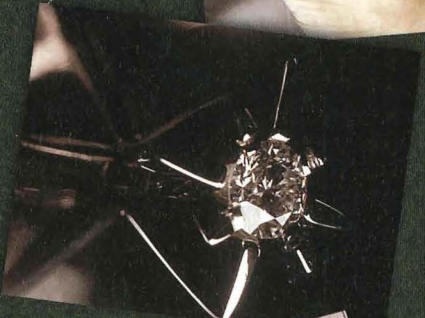
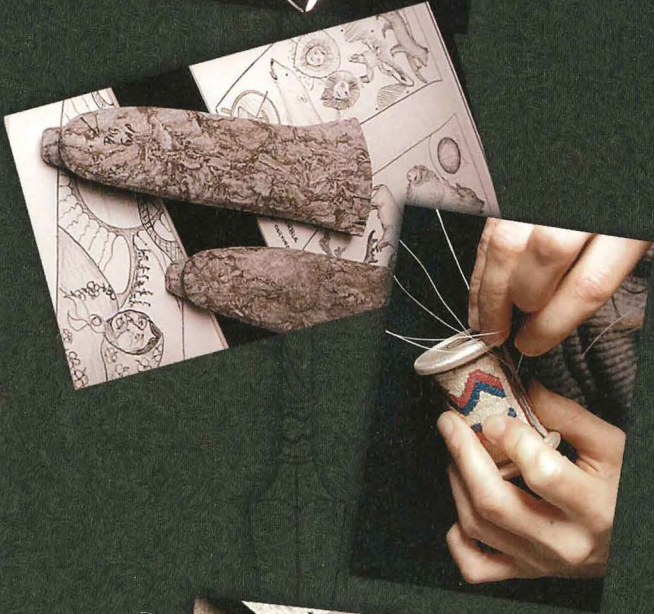
images of the Mountain Aven, the territorial flower, made of silver and NWT gold surrounded by clusters of the oldest rock in the world and 33 gold nuggets representing the 33 communities in the Northwest Territories.

The former Mace used in the Legislature was retired in October at the dissolution of the 13th Legislative Assembly. The original Mace is in storage at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. The replica will remain on display in the Legislative Assembly Building in Yellowknife.

A detailed story of the making of the Mace has been attached. The story and photographs of the new Mace have been posted on the Legislative Assembly Web Site at www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

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The Mace of the Northwest Territories



The Mace of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

This Mace was unveiled at the start of the 14th Legislative Assembly in January 2000. The Mace reflects the new Northwest Territories and is the symbol of the authority of the Legislature and its Speaker. Designed by Bill Nasogaluak, Dolphus Cadieux and Allyson M. Simmie, the Mace is truly unique in many aspects of its design.

Composed mainly of silver and bronze, the mace measures 1.5 metres in length and weighs 12 kilograms. The top glistens with a snowflake crown symbolizing the strength and diversity of the people and the traditional link with the British monarchy. Nestled within the snowflake crown, a

golden orb represents the midnight sun, the circle of life and the world. On top of the orb sits a silver crosspiece that together forms an ulu, a tipi and a house representing the cultures of the territory – Inuvialuit, Dene/Métis and the many non-aboriginal people. On top of the crosspiece sits a 1.31 carat northern diamond.

Beneath the crown rests a band of silver engraved with the words "one land, many voices" in ten of the languages used in the NWT. Below the band are six high relief panels inlaid in silver that depict northern wildlife and cultures. A band of beadwork resembling Delta braid is found beneath the head.

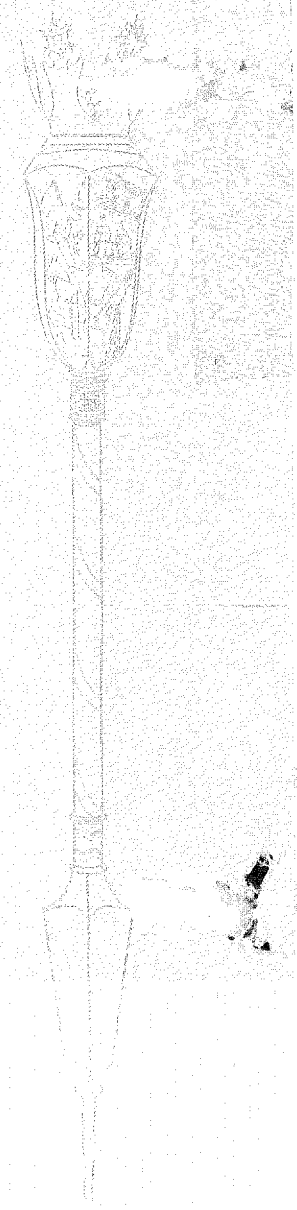
The shaft of the mace is a bronze cast of a stylized narwhal tusk honouring the history of our legislature. Further down the shaft, a band of porcupine quillwork shows another aspect of Dene/Métis heritage.

The final section features a six-sided foot of silver, carved in shallow relief, depicting the entire landscape of the Northwest Territories from north to south.

The most unusual feature of this mace is its sound. Within the language band, the shaft and the foot are tiny pebbles collected from the 33 communities in the NWT. When moved, the shifting of the pebbles creates a magical sound similar

to a rainstick. This sound represents the united voices of the people.

When not in use, the mace rests in a stand made of white marble to symbolize the snow that is so much a part of northern life. The images of the mighty Mackenzie River and Great Slave and Great Bear lakes are carved in the marble. Also carved are images of the territorial flower, the mountain aven, in silver and NWT gold surrounded by clusters of the oldest rock in the world (3.962 billion years old). Between the two lakes are 33 nuggets of northern gold, representing the strength and unity of the 33 communities in the NWT.



The Mace of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Steeped in symbolism and ceremony, the use of the mace dates back centuries to traditions in the Parliaments of the British Commonwealth. Originally designed to be a weapon to protect Kings, over time, the mace has become symbol of respect for our governing institutions.

Without the mace, no proceedings may take place in the Chamber. The mace is the symbol of the authority of the Legislative Assembly and its Speaker. When the Legislative Assembly is in session, each day begins with the procession of the Speaker and the mace into the Chamber. The Sergeant-at-Arms carries it with honor and pride, placing it on a special stand located in the centre of the Chamber. The mace remains in the stand until the Assembly adjourns for the day, at which time the Sergeant-at-Arms carries it out.

The NWT received its first mace in 1956. It was presented to the Northwest Territories Council by the then-Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey. Nine Inuit craftsmen from Cape Dorset, a community that is now a part of the new Nunavut Territory, created the original mace. Working together for 21 days under the direction of well-known artist James Houston, the artisans created a magnificent object of native copper, whalebone, narwhal tusk, muskox horns, Yellowknife gold, Fort Providence porcupine quillwork and oak wood salvaged from the wreck of the HMS Fury led by British Explorer, Sir William Parry. The completed mace was 1.7 metres in length and weighed 15 kilograms.

In the late 1950s, the Council held its meetings in various communities across the North. The constant handling, shipping, and temperature and humidity changes took its toll on the delicate natural materials of the mace. After three short years, the original mace was retired to preserve its priceless heritage. It now resides in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

A more durable replica was produced, replacing many natural elements with gold plated brass. Delicate materials that remained to highlight the design include a narwhal tusk, muskox horns and porcupine quillwork. The replica mace served the Legislative Assembly for 40 years from 1959 to 1999.

On April 1, 1999, the Northwest Territories bid farewell to the eastern Arctic as it moved off to become the territory of Nunavut. In that same year, the Legislative Assembly of the NWT commissioned three well-known artists to design and create a new mace that would be representative of a redrawn Northwest Territories.

Dubbed the "Snowflake Team", Bill Nasogaluak, Dolphus Cadieux and Allyson M. Simmie began to create one of the most ornate and unique designs in mace history. The three artists, who have worked as a team on previous projects, have examples of their master skills in painting, carving and metalwork displayed around the world. Combining their skills, cultural backgrounds and artistic

knowledge, this incredible team – combined with the expertise of some of Canada's top silversmiths – produced a masterpiece of priceless art for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Composed mainly of silver and bronze, to ensure durability, the mace measures 1.5 metres in length and weighs 12 kilograms.

The top of the mace glistens with an elaborate composite of snowflakes, designed to create the illusion of one large, three dimensional snowflake. As a universal element in the North, the snowflake was chosen for its unique features. Every particle has a six-sided crystalline structure, which give it strength and a firm foundation, yet there are no two snowflakes exactly alike. The snowflake crown symbolizes the people of the Northwest Territories – their strength, diversity and the common bond of a new territory and a new age. It also recognizes the respect that northerners have for the traditional link with the British monarchy.

Nestled within the snowflake crown is a golden orb that represents many images significant to the North – the midnight sun, the circle of life and the world of which we are all a part. On top of the orb sits a silver crosspiece, which together forms an ulu, a tipi and a house. This represents the cultures of the NWT – the Inuvialuit, the Dene/Metis and the many non-aboriginals from around the world who have made the NWT their home. On the top of the crosspiece and the very top of the mace is a 1.31 carat diamond from Canada's first diamond mine. It is also one of the first diamonds to be cut at the NWT's first diamond cutting and polishing centre.

Beneath the snowflake crown is a band of silver engraved with the words "One land, many voices". The phrase is written in the 10 languages – Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in, North Slavey, South Slavey, Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun, English and French – used in the Northwest Territories. Below the band is the head of the mace – a commanding circular panel of carved glacier-spun, stromatolitic marble from the shores of Great Slave Lake. The six high relief panels are inlaid in silver and depict northern scenes representing the wildlife and cultures of the NWT. Each panel alternates between a vertical and a horizontal design.

Directly beneath the carved head is a band of beadwork designed to resemble a Delta braid pattern. Beadwork is a traditional art form of the Dene/Metis and Delta braid is a traditional fabric art of the Inuvialuit from the Mackenzie Delta region near Inuvik. Rosie Firth, an elder from Fort McPherson, created this vibrant piece of beadwork.

The shaft of the mace is a bronze cast of a stylized narwhal tusk. Although narwhals in Canada are primarily found in Nunavut, the tusk replicates the real ones used in the previous maces and was included as a way of honoring our history as a legislature and our ties with Nunavut. It is a way of carrying the past into the future.

Further along the shaft is another element of Dene/Metis heritage - porcupine quillwork. This colourful piece was created by Sarah Hardisty, an elder from Jean Marie River.

The final section of the mace features a six-sided foot of silver carved in shallow relief. As you follow it around, the carving depicts an endless view of the entire landscape of the Northwest Territories from north to south.

The most stunning feature of this mace - and what makes it truly unique - is its sound. Within the language band, the shaft and the foot are tiny pebbles collected from the 33 communities in the NWT. When the mace is moved, the shifting of the pebbles creates a magical sound similar to a rainstick. To achieve this special sound, the interior of the foot is divided into five compartments and the interior of the shaft is imbedded with 12 bronze spikes, specially set at 30 degree angles to achieve maximum tone. *This stunning sound represents the united voices of the people and serves as a reminder of the role of the Legislative Assembly.*

The display stand created for the new mace is made from white marble, representing the snow that is a major part of life in the North. Carved into the marble is the image of the mighty Mackenzie River - the lifeline of the land - starting from the Delta near the Arctic Ocean and reaching south to the famous Pelican Rapids at Fort Smith. Included are the two major lakes in the NWT - Great Slave and Great Bear.

Adorning the stand are images of the territorial flower - the mountain aven - fashioned in silver and NWT gold. Surrounding the flowers are clusters of "the oldest rock in the world". This rock, found on an island in the Acasta River near Great Bear Lake, is age dated as 3.962 billion years old. Located between the images of the two lakes are 33 nuggets of gold from Con Mine, north of Yellowknife. Arranged in a circle, the nuggets represent the strength and unity of the 33 communities of the NWT.

GREAT SLAVE LAKE STROMATOLITIC MARBLE

OLDEST
ROCK

This piece of marble was brought from the East Arm of Great Slave Lake by East Arm Freighting. It is a fine marble formed by the compression of a rare fossil called a *stromatolite*. These fossils are actually layered mounds or columns of a blue-green algae called cyanobacteria. They were among the first life forms found on earth and originally appeared during the Archean period, about 4 billion to 2.5 billion years ago. As stromatolites became more common they gradually changed the Earth's atmosphere from a carbon-dioxide rich mixture to the present day, oxygen rich atmosphere, which paved the way for more complex life-forms. The East Arm is one of the few places in the world where stromatolite fossils from the Archean Age are found.

Modern stromatolites were discovered still growing in a coastal region of Australia known as Shark Bay. The water in the bay is so salty that the stromatolites are the only life that can survive there. They are growing on top of each other at a rate of 1mm a year, giving them the nickname of "living rocks".



Great Slave Lake Stromatolites

The Oldest Known Rock in the World

3.962 Billion Years

This geological specimen contains the mineral zircon which has been age dated at 3.962 Billion years (± 3 million years). Each and every piece of this rock came from the site where the world's oldest known intact crustal rock was discovered, on an island in the Acasta River, Northwest Territories, Canada.

65°10'30"N — 115°30'30"W

Discovery

Credit for this find belongs to Dr Sam Bowring and a team of geologists from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri, the N.W.T. Geological Division of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). This research was also supported by NASA and the U.S. National Science Foundation. The age dating was done by Bowring, I.S. Williams and W. Compston at the Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra Australia. (reference: GEOLOGY, Nov 89, Vol. 17, No. 11, P. 971 The Geological Society of America, Inc. Boulder Colorado) The mineral rights to this area were staked November 23, 1989 by Yellowknife prospector Walt Humphries and B.E. Weir P.GEOL.

Geology

Without getting into a lot of complex geology and mineralogy, the planet Earth is currently thought to be approximately 4.5 billion years old. An early crust formed and a few microscopic fragments dating as far back as 4.1 billion years have been found but never an outcropping. 3.962 billion years ago, part of the crust was metamorphosed into this

Tonalite Gneiss, making it the oldest known rock in the world. Prior to this discovery the oldest known rock was at Isukasia, Greenland, dated at 3.8 billion years, and the oldest known rock in North America, at 3.4 billion years came from the Minnesota River valley in the U.S.A. The discovery of this rock is an important scientific-geological find and from now on most text books will refer to the 3.962 billion year old Acasta River Gneiss, Northwest Territories, Canada.

Gneiss

This is the generic name of a class of rocks geologically defined as: a coarse grained rock in which bands rich in granular mineral alternate with bands in which schistose minerals predominate.

Tonalite

There are many types of gneiss but the Tonalite Pass in Italy was where the first Quartz-Diorite Gneiss of this type was discovered and described, hence the name Tonalite Gneiss.

Mineral Content

The oldest known rock in the world contains the following minerals:

ZIRCONS — $ZrSiO_4$ in this case, less than 1% of the rock is composed of micro zircons and these were formed when the rock originally metamorphosed into a Tonalite Gneiss 3.962 billion years ago. They also grew slightly at latter dates of metamorphism (3.6 billion years ago).

Atoms and molecules have a certain size and shape, and like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, tend to form crystals of a certain shape. As the crystals grow, atoms of uranium are a close enough fit to become locked inside of the crystal, while lead is completely excluded at this stage. However, uranium slowly deteriorates into thorium and thorium slowly deteriorates into lead. By cleaving the zircon crystal and analyzing the ratio of uranium to lead, the age of the rock can be calculated.

Quartz — SiO_2 is the greyish-white mineral.

Plagioclase Feldspars — they vary in composition between $NaAlSi_3O_6$ and $CaAl_2Si_2O_6$. These are milky white to orange minerals, often seen in seams. A small amount of red potash feldspar is present in some samples.

Biotite — (black mica) $K(MgFe)_3(AlSi_3O_{10})OH_2$ is the shiny black mineral.

Hornblende — $Ca_2Na(Mg,Fe)_4(Al,Fe^{++},Ti)_3S_8O_{22}(O,OH)_2$ is the dark (black) mineral.

Allanite, Sphene, Garnet, Magnetite, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Sphalerite, and a whole range of trace minerals may be present. This rock was, after all formed by the planet's primordial geological stew.

To make a long story short, when you hold a piece of this rock in your hand you are holding 3,962,000,000 years of history and

OLD ROCKS & ANCIENT MINERALS

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THE OLDEST KNOWN
THING ON THE PLANET,
FROM THE PLANET.

PROPERTY - LOCATION - ACCESS

This property was staked by W.J.Humphries on November 24, 1989. It was a sunny day with a few scattered clouds. It was 35 degrees below zero Celsius and the snow was knee deep once you got off of the lake. Brian Weir won the coin toss to name the claim and called it "OLDEST ROCKS (IN THE WORLD #1". The claim is owned 50% by W.J.Humphries and 50% by B.E.Weir both of the city of Yellowknife.

The mineral claim bears the tag number F12545 and is located on claim sheet 86-G-4. The claim is a 3000 foot square, 206.6 acres and it completely covers an island on an unnamed lake which is itself part of the Acasta River System.

The claim is approximately 200 km NNW of the city of Yellowknife (which is currently the capital of what is still called the Northwest Territories of Canada). You can get there from here by bush plane, helicopter, snowmobile, dog team and/or walking depending on how keen or wealthy you are.

HISTORY

No one knows what intrepid explorer first stepped ashore on this island in the Acasta River. Presumably since the last glacial epoch several people or groups of people visited this area including hunters, trappers, prospectors, geologists and other assorted ner-do-wells.

Dr. Janet King and a GSC mapping crew left their mark on the island in the 1980s and then one stormy day in 1987 Dr. Sam Bowring stopped by and picked up a few rocks. These were age dated and then age dated again and again eventually going to Australia for the definitive date. On Oct. 15, 1989 it was announced in Australia, the USA and later in Canada that THE OLDEST KNOWN ROCKS IN THE WORLD had been discovered and age dated at 3.962 BILLION YEARS \pm 3 million.

Needless to say this announcement initially generated quite a bit of interest in the north and among geological circles. A lot of people were curious and wanted to see or own a piece of the rock unfortunately the only rock available was in government hands. In late November Humphries and Weir decided to charter an aircraft to go and get some rock and they decided to stake a mineral claim while they were there. The rest, as they say, is history.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

This claim sits on the TAIGA, an ecological mixture, half way between the tundra and the northern boreal forest. It is a rather scenic location with rounded rocky hills, till filled valleys and sandy beaches. Small stands of forest occupy the more sheltered and fertile places while tundra covers the more exposed locations.

The main island is shaped roughly like a misshapened upside down ULA. A nice sandy spit separates the northern blade from the southern handle. This spit provides a good camp site and a twin otter aircraft can usually dock within wading distance of the sandy shore.

If you look NE from this campsite you will see a cliff. At its base there is a jumble of blocks of rock which have sluffed off of the cliff. Approximately half way along is the site of the really old rocks and you can recognize the spot by the freshly broken rubble pile.

The lake itself is just a basin of the Acasta River which flows in at the NW corner and empties out from the SE corner. The lake has a dark bottom due to accumulated biological matter so visibility is limited. The fish however is good with GREAT NORTHERN PIKE, LAKETROUT and GREYLING. The flora and fauna of the area is typical of the Taiga with even the occasional beligerent grizzly bear reported (just ask Doctor Sam).

GEOLOGY

"THE OLDEST KNOWN ROCK IN THE WORLD" is a tonalite gneiss. Some now call it "ACASTANITE" in honour of its age and location. (As for the name ACASTA, the highly paid government Toponymists say, it was the name of a British ship which got sunk during the Second World War and hence a river in the NWT was named after it.)

The old rock site has had more government PHDs per meter crawling over it, then possibly any other spot in the NWT so there is not much point in me a lowly prospector describing the geology or mapping it. After all that is what these PHDs are supposedly being paid to do, when they use visiting this site as an excuse to plunder some rock for various and dubious uses.

The appendix of this report contains various articles on this rock by Dr. Sam Bowring and the GSC press release.

SECONDARY BENIFITS

Had we not staked a mineral claim on the OLDEST KNOWN ROCKS IN THE WORLD the news story about the rocks would have diminished early. By selling the rocks they and the north recieved quite a bit of coverage and we even got the rock mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Alot of people bought samples and this all helps to develop an appreciation of the north and geology. It is often small novel items like this that get people interested.

We decided at the start to donate rocks to schools, museums and universities. As a results the rocks are on display around the world in Japan, the US, the Netherlands, Denmark, the Royal Ontario Museum and the National Science Center. This means that thousands of people every day are seeing the rock and learning about the NWT.

How can you put a price on such exposure.

Currently the rocks are for sale at the EXPO in Spain.

It is unfortunate that the government isn't a little more aggressive or helpfull in these matters and had we not staked the claim I just wonder what if anything would have happened.

The NWT chamber of mines has put the old rock site on their maps but by and large the government now seems to ignor the whole thing. I was surprized at how big and active the rock collecting market is, particularly in the US and it is something tourism should thing about tapping into because one thing we have in the north is alot of rocks.

ALLYSON SIMMIE

Ottawa ON

- Coordinator, metalworking team
- Snowflake Crown Design & Execution
- Model making
- Assistance with low relief carving
- Construction of small scale silver and gold detailing

Allyson has been a practicing metalsmith and artist for over 12 years. She has participated in more than fifteen solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards and honours for her work including the Peoples Choice Award at the Great Northern Arts Festival (1997 & 1998) and the Award of Excellence in the Metal Arts Guild & the Conseil des Metiers d'Art du Quebec touring show in 1998. Her work is currently exhibited in galleries across the country. She also counts the Canadian Geographic Society and the Governor General of Canada among her clients.

Allyson has also been actively involved in the teaching and promotion of precious metal jewellery making in the North since 1994. Most recently, she was contracted by Aurora and Nunavut Arctic College to set up and teach the first metal jewellery making program in the Western Territory (Rae-Edzo, NT).

ALLYSON SIMMIE

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Education

- 1992-1993 University of British Columbia
Technical Theatre Studies and Design
- 1991-1992 University of Ottawa
Technical Theatre Studies, Design and Acting
- 1985-1989 Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Major in Jewellery, Minor in Ceramics

Professional Work Experience

- Spring 1999 Aurora/Nunavut Arctic College- Studio set up and teaching the first
jewellery making Program in the Western Territory.
Rae-Ezdo, NT
- April/July
1998 Invited Artist- Commemorative Carving Project
1 of 5 artists including Bill & Eli Nasogaluak, Dolphus Cadieux, & Paul Malliki
Yellowknife, Inuvik NT
- Feb. 1998-
Present Allyson Simmie ~ Metal Arts
Sole proprietor
Ottawa, Ontario
- Aug. 1994-
May 1997 Nunavut Arctic College
Jewellery Instructor
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- July/Aug.
1996 Acting Coordinator
Fine Arts & Crafts Program
Nunavut Arctic College
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- Nov. 1995
Feb. 1996 NSDP (Northern Skills Development Program- Jewellery Making Module)
Module Content (Curriculum Design), and Instruction
Community Studio Design, Set up and Maintenance
Cape Dorset, Nunavut
- Jan/Feb.
1995 Introductory Jewellery Course- Nunavut Arctic College
Studio Set up, Curriculum Design and Instruction
Cape Dorset, Nunavut
- 1989-1991 Goldart Jewellery Studio
Custom Jewellery Design and Goldsmithing
Ottawa, Ontario
- 1986-1988 Fireworks Craft Gallery
Jewellery Sales & Repair Intake, Display
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Volunteer/ Related Work Experience

- Oct. 1998 First peoples Arts Conference- Advancing indigenous arts beyond the millennium
Ottawa, Ontario
- Oct. 1997-
Present Inuit Art Foundation
Volunteer as required with Qaggiq, assistance with visiting artists
Ottawa, Ontario
- July 1997 Great Northern Arts Festival
Invited Artist & Jewellery Making Workshop Presenter
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
- Feb. 1997 Conference: Sivumut- Learning Together in Nunavut
Presenter- CTS (Career and Technology Studies) Jewellery Making Module 101
Instructor Training, Preparation and Distribution of Training Manual
Baffin Divisional Board of Education
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- Oct. 1996 Conference: A River Runs Through It- Currents in Art Education
Fredericton, New Brunswick
- Sept. 1996 CTS Conference (Career and Technology Studies)
Consultant- Development of Jewellery Making Module 101 (Curriculum Design)
Baffin Divisional Board of Education
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- August 1995 Instructional Skills Workshop
Nunavut Arctic College
- Sept. 1995-
May 1997 Agvvik Society- Women's shelter
Member of the Board (Secretary)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- April 1992 University of Ottawa
Workshop II Theatre Stage Manager, Set Designer
Ottawa, Ontario

Selected Solo and Group Exhibitions

- March 1999 *Alumni Show- Instructors and Graduates of the Jewellery Program at NSCAD*
Anna Leonowens Gallery
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Nov. 1998-
Feb. 2000 *Identity: An exhibition presented by the Metal Arts Guild of Ontario and the*
Conseil des Metiers d'Art du Quebec
Touring Show
- Sept. 1998 *Nature in Art Show*
Museum of Nature
Ottawa, Ontario
- July 1997 &
July 1998 Great Northern Arts Festival
Inuvik, NT

- April 1997 *Arctic Landscapes- Combining Baffin Island stone with precious metals*
Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum
Solo show
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- Sept. 1996-
April 1998 *Celebration- 50th Anniversary of the Metal Arts Guild*
Touring Show & Retrospective
Canada & the U.S.
- June 1993 *The Feminine Viewpoint*
Works by Contemporary Women Artists
Canada wide exhibition
- March 1990 *JUGED GESTALTET*
Sonderschau der Internationalen Handwerksmesse, Halle 3
Munich, Germany
- July 1989 *PATTERNS*
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- April 1989 *Rounded Corners - Solo show*
Anna Leonowens Gallery
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- May 1988 *Spatial Inclinations*
The Craft Gallery
Toronto, Ontario

Awards/Honours

- Nov. 1998-
Feb. 2000 *Identity: An exhibition presented by the Metal Arts Guild of Ontario and the*
Conseil de Metier d'Art du Quebec
Award of Excellence
- July 1998 *Great Northern Arts Festival*
- Peoples Choice Award
- July 1997 *Great Northern Arts Festival:*
- Peoples Choice Award
- Artist Choice Award (Co-recipient with Matthew Nuqingaq)
- Sept. 1988 *NSCAD Endowment Fund Scholarship*
- July 1988 *Haliburton School of Fine Arts Scholarship*
- May 1988 *Honourable Mention, Metal Arts Guild of Canada Show*
Spatial Inclinations

Published Articles and Reviews

- February 1999 News North: *Jewelry making comes West*
Article with student photos
Northwest Territories
- August 1998 News North
Article with photo- Commemorative Carving
Northwest Territories
- July 1998 CBC Radio
Live interview- Commemorative Carving
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
- June 1998 Ottawa Citizen
Article
Part 2 of 2- Commemorative Carving
- April 1998 Ottawa Citizen
Half page article with photo
Part 1 of 2- Commemorative Carving & Arctic Landscape work
- Feb. 1998 CBC Northbeat
Pre-taped T.V. Feature spot
Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- May 1997 Jewellery And The Land
Photo Feature, News North
Northwest Territories
- Feb. 1988 ART AUREA Lebenslexier und Zauberformein-
On the Move, Jewellery on Canada's East Coast
Ebner Verlag GmbH and Co. KG
Germany

Private Collections

- 1997 Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum
Permanent Collection
Iqaluit, Nunavut
- 1990 The Maritime Life Assurance Company
Head Office Collection
Halifax, Nova Scotia

DOLPHUS CADIEUX

Yellowknife, NT

- Sectioned marble carving (mace head)
- Low relief carving in silver on Foot
- Design and construction of stand for the mace
- Final assembly & finishing

Dolphus is a Northern artist who lives and works in Yellowknife. He has been a practicing artist for more than 18 years working in a wide variety of mediums including painting, printmaking, sculpting and mosaic work. Many of Dolphus' pieces have been stone sculptures, many using northern resources such as Great Slave marble and local granite.

His work has appeared in many exhibits including but not limited to the Arts from the Arctic Exhibition (Circumpolar Exhibit), Jeux Canada Games, Canadian Pavilion Exhibit, "Six Visions" Exhibit- Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Center, Expo 1986, and the Pope John Paul II, Dene/Metis Art Exhibit. In addition Dolphus has been a regular member of the NWT snow carving team in Quebec City since 1989.

Dolphus has had numerous commissioned works, including a painting by UNESCO (Paris), a sculpture by the Royal Canadian Academy of Artists, and a painting by the Dene Nation (Yellowknife). The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center to date has acquired seven pieces (paintings, prints, and carvings) for their Permanent Collection.

DOLPHUS CADIEUX

Box 2894 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L8

Exhibits

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| July 1998 | Great Northern Arts Festival
Inuvik, NT |
| June 1993 | Solo Exhibition, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center
Yellowknife, NT |
| May 1993 | Arts from the Arctic Exhibition
Alaska, Greenland, Canada & Scandinavia |
| September 1991 | Exhibit and demonstration, Ontario Science Center
Toronto, Ontario |
| March 1990 | Arctic Winter Games, NWT Arts Council Exhibition,
Yellowknife, NWT |
| February 1990 | Museum of Civilization
Hull, Quebec |
| July 1989 | Mewassin Centre exhibit and demonstration
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| May 1989 | Centennial Library Art Show
Hay River, NWT |
| July 1988 | Arctic Art Gallery Exhibit
Yellowknife, NWT |
| Feb- March 1987 | "Six Visions" Exhibit, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center
Yellowknife, NT |
| July 1986 | Expo 1986
Vancouver, BC |
| March 1985 | Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Exhibit
Yellowknife, NT |
| September 1984 | Pope John Paul II, Dene/Metis Art Exhibit
Fort Simpson, NT |
| June 1984 | First Dene/Metis Art Exhibit
Yellowknife, NT |
| November 1983 | Peace Hills Trust Company Native Art Exhibit
Edmonton, AB |
| September 1982 | National Native Art Conference
Regina, Saskatchewan |
| July 1982 | Assembly of First Nations, Assiniboine Art Gallery
Regina, Saskatchewan |

Snow Sculpting

- February 1999 Winterlude National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Ottawa, Ontario
- February 1991 Quebec National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Quebec City, Quebec
- March 1990 Caribou Carnival Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Yellowknife, NT
- February 1990 Winterlude National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Hull, Quebec
- February 1990 Quebec National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Quebec City, Quebec
- February 1989 Winterlude National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Hull, Quebec

Awards

- February 1990 Artist' Choice Award, Quebec National Snow Sculpture Exhibit, Quebec City, Quebec

Commissioned Work

- July 1998 Commemorative Sculpture: A Glacier Spun Symbol of Unity
- July 1992 Ceramic Mural, Fitzgerald's Carpeting, Yellowknife, NT
- October 1989 Painting- Arctic Suite, Fraser Towers, Yellowknife, NT
- July 1989 Sculpture- Saskatoon City Hall, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- September 1989 Painting, Dene Nation, Yellowknife, NT
- June 1988 Painting, UNESCO, Paris, France

Professional Affiliations

- 1993 Judge, Festival of the Arts, Yellowknife, NT
- 1993 Judge, Dene Arts Competition, Yellowknife, NT
- 1991- Board member, The Tundia Awards foundation
- 1992 Board member, Multinational Steering Committee
"Arts from the Arctic" project, UNESCO
- 1991 International Judge, Quebec International Snow Sculpture, Quebec City, Quebec

BILL NASOGALUAK

Yellowknife, NT

- Sectioned marble carving (mace head)
- Low relief carving in silver on Foot
- Design and construction of stand for the mace
- Final assembly & finishing

A Master sculptor and painter originally from Tuktoyaktuk, Bill has been creating works of art since he was a child. His paintings and sculptures share common themes, including interpretations of his Inuvialuit background and culture, the mythology and legends of his people and the relationship between land and wildlife. Bill has been influenced by his traditional upbringing with his family and listening to the legends and stories of his people. Bill's work is found in collections across North America and Europe.

Bill is a recognized and talented member of the Northern Arts Community. He has participated in many exhibitions nationally and internationally, and his work is found in collections all over the world. He has been the artist representative from the Northwest Territories for the Canada Council for the arts and Aboriginal Tourism Team Canada (Air Canada Aboriginal National Competition). Most recently he was a panel speaker at the Business of Art Conference held in Yellowknife.

Bill has participated in and lead many successful collaborative artist projects. Bill was the team Captain for the Commemorative Sculpture: A Glacier Spun Symbol of Unity (life size marble carving) created to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik. The carving was officially presented to Minister Steven Kakfwi in July 26th, 1998.

Bill Nasogaluak

Art Resume

Exhibitions

1998

- Spirits in the Sun, Scottsdale Arizona

1997

- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT

1996

- Arts in the Park, Loveland Colorado

1994

- Arts From the Arctic, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
- Solo Exhibit, Arctic Art Gallery, Yellowknife, NT
- Images of the North, Art Mode Gallery, Ottawa, ON

1993

- The Shamans Drum, Images of the North, San Francisco USA
- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT
- Arts From the Arctic, Greenland Exhibit, Nuuk Greenland
- Festival of the Midnight Sun, Yellowknife NT

1992

- Southview Gallery, Medicine Hat, AB
- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT
- Expo'92, NWT Pavilion, Seville Spain

1991

- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT

1990

- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT

1989

- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NT

1988

- Azumi Mena Front Gallery, Edmonton AB

1987

- Group of Nine, Two Hills, AB

Collections

Local Granite Sculpture
Cycles

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Yellowknife, NT

Great Slave marble sculpture
East Arm Moon

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Yellowknife, NT

Italian marble sculpture
Winged Spirit

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Yellowknife, NT

Print
Nesting Owl

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Yellowknife, NT

Three acrylic paintings
City Reflections
Islands
Northern Lights

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Yellowknife, NT

Collections

- Arts from the Arctic, Nuuk Greenland
- Alex De Figueurado & Chris Steckler, Vancouver BC
- NWT Development Corporation, Yellowknife, NT
- Esso Resources, Calgary, AB
- The Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, NT
- The Bank of America, San Francisco, USA
- Pam Harris, Inuvik, NT
- The Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation & Harvard Developments, Calgary, AB
- The Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Museum, Yellowknife, NT
- Peter Lau, Yellowknife, NT
- The Honourable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada, Ottawa, ON

Events & Activities

1999

- The Business of Art Conference (Invited Panel Speaker)
- Team Captain, Snow Sculpture, Quebec City, QC

1998

- Team Captain, Snow Sculpture, Quebec City, QC
- Team Captain, Commemorative Sculpture: A Glacier Spun Symbol of Unity, Inuvik, NT (81/2' Monumental marble carving)
- Conference- To See Proudly: Advancing Indigenous Arts Beyond the Millennium (Invited participant)
- Peer Assessment Committee member, Canada Council for the Arts, Ottawa, ON

1995

- Art Instructor, Aurora College Fine Arts Program, Fort Simpson & Inuvik, NT
- Judge at the Kivalliq Arts & Crafts Festival, Rankin Inlet, NT

1994

- Spirit of the Land, 18' monumental sculpture, The Alberta Stock Exchange Building, Calgary, AB
- The 1994 Commonwealth Games, Cultural Park, Victoria, BC
- Sedna, 16' Snow sculpture, Winterlude Festival, Ottawa, ON

Education

Formally educated as a certified electronics technician. A self taught painter and sculptor with no formal art education.

00-03

Process for Territorial Leadership Committee confirmed

Yellowknife (January 14) – Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly have clarified the process to be used to elect the Speaker and Premier during Territorial Leadership Committee (TLC) meetings next week.

The Caucus of 19 Members has agreed that the first order of business on Monday, January 17th will be the election of the Speaker. The process to be used will be similar to the process used in past TLC meetings where candidates are nominated, a vote is held and the results released. Once the Speaker-elect has been chosen he/she will Chair the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting.

The meeting will continue with a confirmation of the process to be used to elect the Premier followed by a discussion on the process to be used to elect the Cabinet. The three issues to be addressed are the number of Ministers to be chosen, the process for selection of Ministers and the balance of regional representation on Cabinet.

Once these discussions have concluded the Premier will be elected followed by the election of Cabinet if necessary.

The Territorial Leadership Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, January 17th in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly Building and will continue on Tuesday, January 18th if necessary. The meeting will be shown live in Yellowknife on the Community Access Television Channel.

Copies of the processes to be used for the selection of Speaker and Premier have been attached.

Formal motions to ratify the TLC selections will be brought forward when the 14th Legislative Assembly convenes on Wednesday, January 19th.

Contact: David M. Hamilton
Clerk, Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
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TERRITORIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

*January 17 - 18, 2000
Convening at 9:30 AM*

Chamber, Legislative Assembly Building
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Opening Remarks by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
5. Election of Speaker
 - Nominations
 - Voting
 - Results
 - Speaker Elect assumes Chair of Territorial Leadership Committee
6. Confirmation of Process for Election of Premier
7. Process for Election of Cabinet
 - a) Number of Ministers
 - b) Selection of Ministers
 - c) Regional Representation

8. Election of Premier
 - Nominations
 - Candidates' Speeches
 - Questions by Members
 - Voting
 - Results

9. Election of Ministers
 - Nominations
 - Candidates' Speeches
 - Voting
 - Results

10. Adjournment

TERRITORIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

SPEAKER SELECTION

- This election takes place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.
- It is a secret ballot election.
- The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly presides over this election process.
- Campaign speeches and questions are not permitted.
- The Clerk asks for nominations from the floor and the nominee either immediately accepts or declines the nomination.
- Members are not permitted to nominate themselves.
- If only one person is nominated, that person is acclaimed.
- If an election is required.
- The names of nominees are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot.
- A ballot box is placed in front of the Clerk's Table and two voting booths are placed on either side of the Speaker's chair.
- Members are permitted to cast their ballots by proxy.
- To do so, a Member must provide a letter to the Clerk, no later than one (1) hour prior to the casting of the first ballot, in which the Member's proxy is named.
- Members receive a ballot from the Clerk's Table.
- All Members proceed to vote.
- Once all Members have voted, the ballot box is taken to the Clerk's Office where the votes are counted.
- The bells are rung for five minutes to bring Members back in once the results are determined.
- A minimum of 10 votes is required for election.
- Vote totals are not announced.

- If one candidate does not receive the required number of votes, the name of the candidate having the fewest number of votes is dropped from the ballot and further voting takes place.
 - If two or more candidates receive the fewest number of votes, all names remain on the next ballot.
 - The Clerk announces the candidates who will remain on the ballot.
 - Candidates may withdraw their names after the first ballot but must do so before the start of the second or subsequent ballots.
 - Voting continues in the same manner until one candidate receives the required number of votes.
 - The Clerk announces who the Members have elected as their Speaker-elect.
 - The result of this election is formally ratified by a motion in the House.
 - Candidates unsuccessful in a bid for this position are eligible to seek election for Premier and/or Cabinet positions.
-

TERRITORIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

PREMIER SELECTION

- This election takes place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.
 - It is a secret ballot election.
 - The Speaker-elect presides over this election process.
 - The Speaker-elect is granted all authority necessary to maintain order and decorum during the course of this process. Points of Order and Privilege are not allowed.
 - The Speaker-elect asks for nominations from the floor and the nominee either immediately accepts or declines the nomination.
 - Members are not permitted to nominate themselves.
 - If only one person is nominated, that person shall be acclaimed.
 - The names are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot.
 - In alphabetical order, each candidate is permitted to make a twenty minute speech.
 - Following the speeches, every Member, except the candidates themselves, are permitted to question the candidates for Premier. Each Member is allowed to ask four questions of each candidate.
 - The Speaker-elect, as the presiding officer, is not permitted to participate in the question and answer period.
 - Once all Members have finished their questioning, the Speaker-elect calls on Members to commence voting.
 - A ballot box is placed in front of the Clerk's Table and two voting booths are placed on either side of the Speaker's Chair.
 - Members are permitted to cast their ballots by proxy.
 - To do so, a Member must provide a letter to the Speaker-elect no later than one (1) hour prior to the casting of the first ballot, in which the Member's proxy is named.
-

-
- Members receive a ballot from the Clerk's Table.
 - Members proceed to vote. The Speaker-elect is permitted to vote after all Members have voted.
 - Once all Members have voted, the ballot box is taken to the Clerk's Office where the votes are counted. The Speaker-elect is not involved in the counting of the ballots.
 - The bells are rung for five minutes to bring Members back in once the results are determined.
 - A minimum of 10 votes is required for election.
 - Vote totals are not announced.
 - If one of the candidates does not receive the required number of votes, the name of the candidate having the fewest number of votes is dropped and further voting takes place.
 - If two or more candidates receive the fewest number of votes, all names remain on for the next ballot.
 - The Speaker-elect announces the candidates who will remain on the ballot.
 - The names are listed in alphabetical order.
 - Candidates may withdraw their names after the first ballot but must do so before the commencement of the second or subsequent ballots.
 - Voting continues in the same manner until one candidate receives the required number of votes.
 - The Speaker-elect announces who the Members have elected as their Premier-elect.
 - The result of this election is formally ratified by a motion in the House.
 - Candidates unsuccessful in a bid for this position are eligible to seek election for Cabinet.
-

00-04

For Immediate Release

Antoine announces he won't seek re-election as Premier

Yellowknife (January 17) - Nahendeh MLA Jim Antoine, confirmed today that he will not seek re-election as Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Antoine made the decision after careful consideration and consultation with his family.

"It became clear to me during the recent election campaign that I need to spend more time with the people who elected me," he said. "It has been difficult to balance the needs of the six communities in Nahendeh with the demands of being Premier."

"Nahendeh is experiencing a great deal of change at the moment. There are major developments underway in the oil and gas fields and other resources. The Deh Cho First Nations are moving forward with the Deh Cho process. I want to do my best to be an effective MLA for my constituents and to do that, I must have more time to concentrate on constituency matters."

Mr. Antoine said he would let his name stand for a cabinet position since, from previous experience, he knows that this would allow him enough time to represent his constituents in the manner they deserve.

"It has been my privilege and honour to serve the people of the NWT as their Premier and I hope to continue serving them as a Minister in the future. I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly who put their trust in me to lead the government, and those people who have encouraged me to run again," Mr. Antoine said. "However, at this time, I feel it is time for a fresh start, both for myself and for the government. I look forward to working with the new Premier."

Contact:

Hon. Jim Antoine
MLA, Nahendeh
Phone: (867) 669-2311 or toll-free 1-800-661-0784



00-05

For Immediate Release

Tony Whitford elected as Speaker of 14th Assembly

Yellowknife (January 17) - Kam Lake MLA Anthony (Tony) Whitford today was elected as the Speaker of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Whitford was chosen as the Speaker over the Member for Mackenzie-Delta David Krutko in a secret ballot vote held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

A three-term veteran who was elected on December 6th, 1999, Mr. Whitford was first elected as the MLA for Yellowknife South to the Legislative Assembly in a by-election in 1988 and was returned by acclamation to the 12th Legislative Assembly in 1991. Kam Lake is one of three new seats in the City of Yellowknife that were added prior to the recent General Territorial Election.

Mr. Whitford is well-known throughout the Northwest Territories as a dedicated and tireless volunteer and is a former member of the Commonwealth of Sergeant-at-Arms. He is also a Notary Public and a Marriage Commissioner and is the past chairman of the NWT Canada Day Committee.

He has previously served as the Minister of Health and Social Services in the 12th Legislative Assembly and has served on numerous Special and Standing Committees in both the 11th and 12th Legislative Assemblies.

He has also served as the Executive Assistant to former NWT Commissioners John Parker and Helen Maksagak.

Mr. Whitford graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Social Work. Born and raised in Fort Smith, Mr. Whitford and his wife Elaine have three sons, Warren, Blair and Ian.

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00-06

For Immediate Release

Kakfwi chosen as new Premier of the Northwest Territories

Yellowknife (January 17) - Sahtu MLA Stephen Kakfwi, a four-term veteran MLA, has been elected as the seventh Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Kakfwi was elected in a secret ballot vote after he and Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Floyd Roland answered more than three hours of questioning today in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Kakfwi was re-elected as the Member for the Sahtu for his fourth term on December 6th, 1999. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1987 and was acclaimed in 1991 and was re-elected in 1995.

Prior to his election as Premier, Mr. Kakfwi was the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Justice and was the Minister Responsible for National Constitutional Affairs. In previous governments he has held portfolios in Housing, Education, Safety and Public Services, Aboriginal Rights, Personnel and the Workers' Compensation Board.

Born and raised near Fort Good Hope he is the former President of the Dene Nation. Mr. Kakfwi also received the 1997 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service.

Mr. Kakfwi and his wife Marie Wilson have two daughters Kyla and Daylyn and one son Keenan.

A copy of his biography has been attached.

Contact:

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Stephen Kakfwi
MLA, Sahtu

Stephen Kakfwi is Minister Responsible for National Constitutional Affairs and Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Justice. First elected in 1987, he is serving his fourth term in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories representing the Sahtu constituency. He is a recipient of the 1997 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service.

Mr. Kakfwi has held portfolios in Education, Housing, Safety and Public Services, Aboriginal Rights, Personnel, and the Workers' Compensation Board. He was responsible for the amalgamation of Renewable Resources, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and Economic Development and Tourism to create the new Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in 1996. As Minister of Justice he created a new probation services division and established the advisory committee to assist with the design of a new adult correctional institutional and two young offenders facilities.

He is the former President of the Dene Nation, an aboriginal organization composed of status and non-status Dene people living throughout the Western Arctic.

Born near Fort Good Hope, a small community on the shores of the Mackenzie River, Mr. Kakfwi attended residential school in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith. He is the first Aboriginal Minister of National Constitutional Affairs in Canada.

As head of the Dene Nation, he guided the Dene/Metis land claims discussions, spearheaded the creation of the Dene Cultural Institute, established the organization known as Indigenous Survival International, initiated and organized the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1984 and 1987 on behalf of aboriginal peoples of Canada. Mr. Kakfwi was formerly a board member of the NWT Housing Corporation and a member of the federal Energy Options Committee. He was past Chairman of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, a group of northern political representatives established to negotiate a new form of public government in the western Territories.

As Minister of Education, Mr. Kakfwi established regional Divisional Boards of Education in the West and established a leadership school for high school students devoted to achieving excellence.

As Minister of National Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi has been the lead minister in constitutional negotiations at the national level, achieving a significant breakthrough on aboriginal and territorial issues in the Charlottetown Accord. Mr. Kakfwi has continued his lobby on behalf of trappers, travelling on several occasions in the past

00-06

For Immediate Release

Kakfwi chosen as new Premier of the Northwest Territories

Yellowknife (January 17) - Sahtu MLA Stephen Kakfwi, a four-term veteran MLA, has been elected as the seventh Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Kakfwi was elected in a secret ballot vote after he and Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Floyd Roland answered more than three hours of questioning today in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Kakfwi was re-elected as the Member for the Sahtu for his fourth term on December 6th, 1999. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1987 and was acclaimed in 1991 and was re-elected in 1995.

Prior to his election as Premier, Mr. Kakfwi was the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Justice and was the Minister Responsible for National Constitutional Affairs. In previous governments he has held portfolios in Housing, Education, Safety and Public Services, Aboriginal Rights, Personnel and the Workers' Compensation Board.

Born and raised near Fort Good Hope he is the former President of the Dene Nation. Mr. Kakfwi also received the 1997 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service.

Mr. Kakfwi and his wife Marie Wilson have two daughters Kyla and Daylyn and one son Keenan.

A copy of his biography has been attached.

Contact:

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00-07

For Immediate Release

New Cabinet Ministers chosen

Yellowknife (January 17) – Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly have elected six new Cabinet Ministers.

The Cabinet Ministers were chosen in a secret ballot election in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly today. Three votes were needed in the northern constituencies.

The following Members, once formally sworn in at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19th, will join Premier-elect Stephen Kakfwi on Cabinet:

- Hay River South MLA Jane Groenewegen
- Inuvik Twin Lakes MLA Roger Allen;
- Nahendeh MLA Jim Antoine;
- Nunakput MLA Vince Steen.
- Weledeh MLA Joe Handley; and
- Yellowknife Centre MLA Jake Ootes.

As per the format agreed to by all 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly, two Ministers were elected from constituencies north of Great Slave Lake, two from south of Great Slave Lake and two from the Yellowknife region.

A formal motion in the House is required for Members to officially become Cabinet Ministers. The Premier-elect will assign cabinet portfolios at a later date.

Contact:

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00-08

For Immediate Release

YK South MLA urges Cabinet to put children first

Yellowknife (January 18) - Children should be the new Cabinet's top priority and that means getting contract talks with the NWT Teachers Association back on track, says Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell.

"I am urging this government to make children their number one issue and that means addressing any issue that keeps children out of the classroom or negatively affects the development of our children," he said.

Mr. Bell said he is concerned that the rotating strikes that have been staged in communities around the NWT in recent days are having adverse affects. He said he understands why such actions were taken but urges both sides to return to the negotiations table and reach agreement on a deal.

He said he strongly supports any initiative that can be undertaken that will resolve the dispute between the Government and the teachers' union. Mr. Bell said he is excited about the new Cabinet and thinks that they will work hard to resolve the many important issues facing the people of the Northwest Territories.

"This matter needs our immediate attention and our utmost effort to resolve," he added.

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00-09

Yellowknife MLAs disappointed by Ottawa's refusal to grant interim land use permit to Diavik

Yellowknife (January 19) - The Federal Government's refusal to issue an interim land use permit to Diavik Diamond Mines means that construction at the mine site will be delayed for another year, say four Yellowknife MLAs.

"We were very disappointed to hear that Ottawa has ignored this Government's advice and denied the interim land use permit," said Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent speaking on behalf of the four MLAs. "This project would have created approximately 400 to 500 direct and 700 indirect jobs, however those are now lost for at least this year."

Mr. Dent, Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell, Great Slave MLA Bill Braden and Range Lake MLA Sandy Lee said the new jobs could have gone a long way to improving and stabilizing the northern economy. The four Members estimate that the company will spend about \$70 million less in the North this year than they would have if the project had been given the go ahead.

Members said the Federal Government's decision only reinforces how important and necessary it is bring control over northern resources home.

"We have to wrest control out of the hands of Ottawa and reach consensus among Northerners about sharing ownership and the control of resources," said the city MLAs. "Only when we have control over these resources will we truly see northerners benefit."

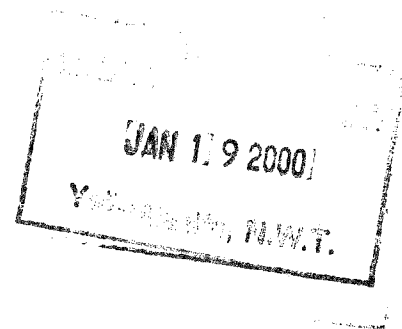
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00-10

YK MLAs optimistic about Diavik Diamond Mine

Yellowknife (January 20) – Yellowknife MLAs are encouraging the Federal Government and Diavik Diamond Mines to resume talks to get a second diamond mine back on track for this year.

“We see a window of opportunity from Mr. Nault’s comments this morning that we are close to seeing the start-up of a second diamond mine,” said Range Lake MLA Sandy Lee. “Diavik has also indicated they are prepared to continue working towards a successful completion of this project.”

Ms. Lee and her Yellowknife colleagues – Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent, Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell and Great Slave MLA Bill Braden – met with Mr. Nault, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, earlier today when he met with the 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Nault later reiterated his comments during a public address at the Legislature in which he suggested that the Diavik project was moving ahead.

The four Yellowknife MLAs said the direct and indirect jobs expected to come with the construction of the second diamond mine are critical to the North’s economy right now. Estimates suggest that 400 to 500 direct jobs and 700 indirect jobs will be created with construction of the mine. The company is also expected to spend upwards of \$100 million in the north if construction goes ahead.

Members say they hope that progress can be made in the next couple of days to ensure that a substantial amount of the work on the project continues this year.

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00-11

For Immediate Release

Range Lake MLA Applauds Tentative Settlement with Teachers

Yellowknife (January 24, 2000) The MLA for Range Lake is pleased to hear that a 'tentative settlement' has been reached between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the NWT Teachers' Association.

"The package is reasonable given the fiscal realities facing our government, said Ms. Lee, "I encourage the membership of the NWTTA to accept the government's offer."

Should the agreement be ratified, Ms. Lee was particularly pleased that the tentative agreement would allow normalcy to return to the northern school environment. "This enables all children and their parents to attain a measure of comfort that educational needs will be addressed by this government as a priority," said Ms. Lee.

Ms. Lee will work with other MLAs and the government to amend legislation in order to implement the Memorandum Of Understanding between the Premier and the NWTTA on issues relating to the pupil-teacher ratio and funding for special needs.

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00-12

For Immediate Release

Caucus sets agenda for next two months

Yellowknife (January 25) – Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly have released their schedule for the next two months beginning with a planning workshop in early February in Fort Providence.

“We have gone through numerous orientation sessions in the past couple of weeks and it is now time to focus on the next four years and identifying our key priorities,” said Caucus Chairman Bill Braden, the Member for Great Slave. “We’ll be looking at issues under the areas of governance, social and economic impact and how to monitor and communicate results.”

Members will meet in Fort Providence February 8 to 11 in the first of a series of workshops to be held in communities over the next four years. Members made a commitment to visit communities so they can hear firsthand local concerns and issues.

The Fort Providence workshop will be in-camera but Members will also meet informally with aboriginal and municipal leaders to discuss local and regional concerns.

“We want to build strong partnerships with our counterparts at the aboriginal and municipal levels of government to ensure that we are working together for the collective good of all Northerners,” said Tu Nedhe MLA Steven Nitah, Caucus Deputy Chairman.

Members will convene in Yellowknife on February 22nd, 2000 for the Second Session of the 14th Legislature. At that time it is expected that Standing Committees will be formally established. The sitting is expected to continue to February 29th.

The Second Session will reconvene on March 21st after spring break and is expected to continue until the end of the month.

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STEPHEN KAKFWI, M.L.A.

00-13

For Immediate Release

Sahtu MLA returns from successful constituency visit

Yellowknife (January 31) - The Member for Sahtu, Stephen Kakfwi, thanks his constituents for their warm welcome on his most recent tour of the electoral district. It was his first trip home since the election in December and being elected Premier earlier this month.

On Friday, over 300 people attended a drum dance and a feast in Fort Good Hope where there were many speeches from elders and representatives of Aboriginal organizations. Mr. Kakfwi was presented with two framed posters and a pair of moccasins. He briefed constituents on current government activities and on some of the issues he is currently dealing with. He also had several private meetings with constituents. Mr. Kakfwi's children traveled with him to Fort Good Hope and stayed on with their grandmother until Sunday.

Mr. Kakfwi spent Saturday in Deline where he had lunch with local elders and held some private meetings with constituents. That afternoon, he continued on to Tulita to attend a feast, which was catered by the Tulita Youth Group. Mr. Kakfwi was presented with a pair of moccasins made by Julie Lennie. Mr. Kakfwi stayed overnight at the new Two Rivers hotel in Tulita before heading to Norman Wells on Sunday.

In Norman Wells, Mr. Kakfwi attended a lunch with constituents at the Legion, where he provided an update on current activities and issues, and held several private meetings. He returned with his children on the regularly scheduled Canadian Flight 444 from Norman Wells to Yellowknife.

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00-14

For Immediate Release

Building a Better Tomorrow

Yellowknife (February 11) – Moving towards a better tomorrow for the Northwest Territories will require stronger financial and political partnerships between Aboriginal and NWT governments, MLAs have agreed.

“Our four days of meeting and discussion about priorities in Fort Providence clearly showed the need to deal quickly with our fiscal situation,” said Caucus Chairman Bill Braden, MLA for Great Slave. “But equally our discussions showed encouraging and dramatic opportunity to turn the medium and long-term situation around.”

“To address these challenges it will take the individual and collective efforts of all people – Aboriginal governments, businesses, communities and political leaders – to solve this. We cannot do this as an Assembly alone.”

As one of the early steps, representatives of the 14th Legislative Assembly hope to meet this month with their Aboriginal colleagues to develop ideas for a proposed Intergovernmental Forum, tentatively scheduled for April, in Yellowknife. The forum could be an avenue for federal, territorial and aboriginal governments to pursue in greater detail the fiscal and economic outlook and the devolution of northern resources to northern control.

“The Assembly is resolved that equitable control and sharing of our tremendous natural mineral and petroleum resources is what we deserve,” said Tu Nedhe MLA Steve Nitah, Deputy Chairman of the Caucus. “However, it won’t be handed to us, we’ve got to join as true partners in order to succeed.”

He also said that there is consensus that the five key elements in the Agenda for a New North, released in the 13th Legislative Assembly, will form the basis for the 14th Assembly’s priorities. The five elements are:

- getting governance right;
- sharing control of northern resources;
- restructuring our fiscal relationship;
- harnessing our economic potential; and
- improving our social well-being.

Members also agreed to hold regular meetings to continue discussing their priorities and setting tangible and realistic goals on the road to creating a better tomorrow for the Northwest Territories.

00-15

For Immediate Release

Legislature names Committee membership

Yellowknife (February 22) - This afternoon the Legislative Assembly will name Members to its Standing Committees and adopt a new Committee structure that Members believe will be accountable and effective.

All 11 Regular Members, those not the Speaker or Cabinet Members, will serve on the Accountability and Oversight Committee. This Committee will function in a role similar to the Standing Committee on Government Operations in the 13th Assembly.

The Committee's mandate will include reviewing all issues with government-wide implications such as the budget overview and fiscal framework, the Auditor General's report and the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Committee will also co-ordinate House business on behalf of Regular Members.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs will deal with departments in the Social Envelope. Members include Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell, Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent, North Slave MLA Leon Lafferty, Deh Cho MLA Michael McLeod and Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development will be responsible for reviewing issues related to finance, public works and services, municipal and community affairs, transportation and renewable and non-renewable resources. Members will include Great Slave MLA Bill Braden, Hay River South MLA Paul Delorey, Mackenzie Delta MLA David Krutko, Range Lake MLA Sandy Lee, Tu Nedhe MLA Steven Nitah and Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Floyd Roland.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has also had its Members appointed. Committee Members are Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell, Hay River South MLA Paul Delorey, Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent, Mackenzie Delta MLA David Krutko and the Hon. Joe Handley, MLA for Weledeh.

Committees will be formally appointed by motion when the Legislature resumes sitting this afternoon.

The detailed mandate of each committee is attached for more information.

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Fact Sheet

Committees of the Legislative Assembly

Introduction

Committees have become an essential part of modern legislatures. They make the NWT Legislative Assembly more effective by allowing Members to look at issues in a detailed way. Committees occasionally travel to various parts of the Northwest Territories - 'taking the Legislature to the people'. Committees can meet during Sessions or between Sessions. The Legislative Assembly has three types of committees - Committee of the Whole, Standing Committees and Special Committees.

Committee of the Whole

This Committee consists of all the Members of the Assembly. It is the Assembly itself - but the proceedings are not as formal and have more flexible rules. A Chairperson, the Deputy Speaker, chairs Committee of the Whole in place of the Speaker. There are also two Deputy Chairpersons who assist the Chairperson.

The Legislative Assembly refers many matters to the Committee of the Whole. For instance, all Bills are brought to the Committee after Second Reading where they are looked at very carefully and possibly changed.

All business discussed in Committee of the Whole is reported to the Assembly by the Chairman. The Assembly then decides whether to accept the Committee's report and whether to adopt the decisions made in Committee of the Whole.

Standing Committees

Standing or permanent committees carry out much of the work of the Assembly, saving Members a considerable amount of time during sessions. They also help to ensure that all Members can give their opinions on each issue.

The 14th Legislative Assembly has adjusted the committee structure and have four Standing Committees and the Board of Management.

The Committees are:

- Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight;
- Standing Committee on Social Programs;
- Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development;
- Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

The shared mandate of both the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development and the Standing Committee on Social Programs is to:

- a) Review legislative and policy proposals, multi-year plans and budgets, Bills, boards and agencies, public accounts issues;
- b) Review departmental performance; and
- c) Consider any other matter referred by the House

Each committee concentrates its efforts on a different group of government departments.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development considers the above matters for the Departments of: Finance; Public Works and Services; Municipal and Community Affairs; Aboriginal Affairs; Executive; Personnel Secretariat; the Financial Management Board Secretariat; Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; and Transportation.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs considers the above matters for the Departments of: Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Justice; and the Northwest Housing Corporation.

The mandate of the **Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight** is to:

- a) Review issues with government-wide implications;
- b) Conduct the overview of the budget and the fiscal framework;
- c) Consider the budgets and financial management of boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any Standing Committee including the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- d) Examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Report of the Auditor General;
- e) Review Government reports on financial and performance results and program evaluation reports to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
- f) Coordinate House Business scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate Cabinet representatives; and

g) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall inquire into matters that are referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker, or the Management and Services Board.

The Board of Management, chaired by the Speaker, administer the Assembly support services and advise the Legislature on matters such as Members' indemnities, benefits and allowances. The Legislative Assembly's staff forms a separate unit, which reports to the Management and Services Board.

Special Committees

Special committees are created as needed by the Assembly. For example, the Eleventh Assembly established three special committees to deal with each of the following: the northern economy; constitutional reform; and aboriginal languages. The Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Special Committee on Housing and the Special Committee on Division were set up during the Twelfth Assembly. The Thirteenth Assembly established a Special Committee on National Unity to co-ordinate consultations with Northerners on National Unity.

The Assembly sets the responsibility of these special committees.

For more information, call:
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www.assembly.gov.nt.ca

00-16

For Immediate Release

Committees appoint Chairs and Deputy Chairs

Yellowknife (February 25) - The Legislative Assembly has announced the Chairs and Deputy Chairs for its Standing Committees.

Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent will chair the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight with Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Floyd Roland serving as the Deputy Chairman. This Committee is responsible for reviewing all issues with a government-wide impact.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs will be chaired by Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger and Deh Cho MLA Michael McLeod will serve as Deputy Chair. The Social Programs Committee reviews all issues related to the Social Envelope.

Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Floyd Roland will be the chair of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. Range Lake MLA Sandy Lee will be the Deputy Chair. This Committee reviews all issues relating to governance and economic development.

Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell will serve as the Chair of the Rules and Procedures Committee and Mackenzie Delta MLA David Krutko will be the Deputy Chair. The Rules and Procedures Committee is responsible for reviewing issues referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker and the Board of Management.

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00-17

For Immediate Release

Proposed changes to *Education Act* a good beginning to addressing education needs of Northerners, says Range Lake MLA

Yellowknife (February 28) – Putting amendments to the *Education Act* as one of the first items on its legislative agenda shows that the Government is committed to improving the situation in schools around the NWT, says Range Lake MLA Sandy Lee.

“The need for more funding to address crowded classrooms and increased special needs requirements was one of the most frequently raised issues during my door-to-door campaign,” said Ms. Lee. “This amendment is a step in the right direction to address the problem and shows that the Government is serious about fulfilling its commitments.”

The proposed Bill would put into legislation the settlement reached between the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association and the GNWT. Once enacted, the changes to the legislation will pump \$14 million more into the education system over a four-year span. Ms. Lee said the additional money will result in a lower student to teacher ratio, from 18:1 to 16:1, over the same four-year period and increased funding for student support services from 8.2% to 15%, beginning in the next school year.

While this amendment arises from the deal negotiated to settle the rotating strikes by teachers outside Yellowknife, putting it into legislation means the same provision would apply to all schools in the NWT. This will mean additional funding for the Yellowknife schools too, notes Ms. Lee.

“The feedback I have received from the school boards in Yellowknife have been quite favourable,” she added. “It is also an important step at this time in light of the fact that recruiting and retaining teachers poses an increasing challenge in the North.”

The proposed Bill received second reading on February 25 and will be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Social Programs before it returns to the House for third reading.

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00-18

For Immediate Release

**14th Legislative Assembly vision priorities scheduled for release on Friday
March 31st**

Yellowknife (March 24) – “Towards a Better Tomorrow,” the vision and priorities of the 14th Legislative Assembly will be released on Friday March 31st, Caucus Chair Bill Braden announced today in the House.

Mr. Braden stated that combining the concepts and ideas of the Members into a vision was among the 14th Assembly’s earliest tasks. Members felt that it was important to set a direction for the next four years and to share it with Northerners so that both the Legislative Assembly and government can be held accountable.

“The Honorable Joe Handley, Government House Leader, will join me and the Caucus Deputy Chair Steven Nitah, the MLA for Tu Nedeᑭ in its release to the people of the NWT,” said Mr. Braden. “We want to talk about the plan, and hear what Northerners think.”

Members believe that the future of the NWT is bright and the opportunities promise to be plentiful. This spirit of optimism is captured in the title, which was inspired by the words of a prayer by Fort Providence elder Mitch Landry.

The document will be distributed throughout the NWT as well as to a broad range of other governments and agencies. It will also be posted on the Legislative Assembly web site at www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

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00-19

For Immediate Release

14th Legislative Assembly releases vision priorities

Yellowknife (March 31) – Today, the 14th Legislative Assembly released “Towards a Better Tomorrow,” its vision and priorities for the next four years.

Today the Honorable Joe Handley Government House Leader, joined Bill Braden the Caucus Chair, and Steven Nitah the Deputy Caucus Chair in releasing the vision document, “Towards a Better Tomorrow.”

Mr. Nitah introduced the document as a framework that will provide broad strategic direction to the Government of the Northwest Territories. “It was developed through a collaborative effort by all Members of the Legislative Assembly and will guide our activities over the next four years,” said Mr. Nitah.

The framework highlights four key priority areas where the Members plan to invest their energies; they are,

1. Self-reliant individuals, families and communities, working with governments, toward improving social well-being
2. Better governance through partnerships
3. A northern-controlled economy that is balanced, diversified, stable and vibrant
4. Adequate resources helping all levels of government to become more self-reliant in meeting the needs of the people they serve

Mr. Nitah explained that “Towards a Better Tomorrow” provides a vision for the future, sets attainable goals, and offers a plan of how the Members will get the job done. The framework calls for partnerships with other governments, communities, regions, families and individuals.

“All the members believe that the future of the NWT is bright and the opportunities promise to be plentiful. We would like to encourage Northerners to participate by sharing their thoughts and ideas by contacting their MLA,” concluded Mr. Nitah.

The document is being distributed throughout the NWT as well and to a broad range of governments and agencies. It is also posted on the Legislative Assembly web site at www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

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00-21

For Immediate Release

MLA for the Mackenzie Delta fights to preserve the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd and a way of life thousands of years old.

Yellowknife (April 19, 2000) - Mr. David Krutko, the MLA for the Mackenzie Delta, recently returned from London, England, where he was successful in drawing attention to the importance of protecting the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd and a way of life thousands of years old.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), in northeastern Alaska, contains the calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou herd and is considered to be one of the world's most important wildlife sanctuaries. Each spring the 130,000-member herd migrates north from the Ogilvie Mountains in the Yukon to the Alaska coastal plain to give birth to their young and nurse them through the critical first months of life. The Gwich'in and other aboriginal groups have relied on the caribou for 20,000 years and remain dependent upon the herd for their subsistence and as an integral part of their culture and heritage.

Over the last ten years, **British Petroleum (BP Amoco)** has spearheaded a campaign to open up the area to oil and gas development. This proposal is being strongly opposed by the Gwich'in because of the sensitive nature of the ecosystem that, if disturbed, would displace and have a negative impact on the herd and its numbers and migration pattern.

Mr. Krutko and others traveled to London in an effort to lobby the people of Great Britain and to gain support and draw attention to BP Amoco's plans. This was the first time that this initiative received support from various environmental and animal protection agencies from Canada, Europe and the United States including, **Greenpeace**, the **World Wildlife Fund**, the **Wilderness Society (US)**, the **Gwich'in Steering Committee**, **Caribou Commons**, the **Alaska Wilderness League** and the **Sierra Club**. This group lobbied the shareholders at BP Amoco's Annual Shareholder's Meeting to withdraw its interest in opening this area up for exploration and development.

A motion at the Shareholder's Meeting to abandon any future plans to drill in the arctic was defeated, but an impressive 13.5% of the shareholders - collectively owning \$1 billion in shares - voted in favor of the motion. This large show of support is being trumpeted as a moral victory for the preservation cause. In the future it will be much harder for BP Amoco to dismiss the environmentalists as an insignificant minority.

Mr. Krutko's show of support has helped continue the fight against any development in the calving grounds and to demonstrate that the Gwich'in and other aboriginal groups continue to rely on the Porcupine Caribou herd for their subsistence.

In August, the Millennium Trek - a journey by the Gwich'in from Aklavik in Canada's Northwest Territories to the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge - will further raise awareness to the continued need for protecting the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd and in turn the continued existence of the Gwich'in.

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00-22

For Immediate Release

MLA Concerned By Premier's Comments

Yellowknife (April 19, 2000) Threatening and negative comments made by the Premier during a press interview this week about the MLA for Thebacha and other former Cabinet Ministers have MLA Michael Miltenberger concerned.

The Thebacha MLA is worried about the impact of the Premier's comments on how the 14th Assembly will operate. Mr. Charles Dent, Mr. Floyd Roland and Mr. Michael Miltenberger were negatively singled out in the Premier's comments for their efforts to ask questions about issues important to their constituents and to the Northwest Territories. "Our job as Regular Members is to ask questions and to ensure the government is open and accountable. How can we do our jobs if the Premier uses intimidation and threats against our ridings for speaking out on issues?" stated Mr. Miltenberger.

Mr. Miltenberger pointed out that this is a serious break with tradition. "It is unheard of that a Premier in any jurisdiction would go into another Member's riding and make the kind of threats and negative comments that have been attributed to him by the Slave River Journal," said Mr. Miltenberger. "The Premier has put another nail in the coffin of consensus government which is based on all Members being able to share their opinions."

"The Premier responded to the article today by talking about consensus government but did not deny making the threatening statements. This is very disturbing," Mr. Miltenberger added, noting that NWT Ministers have been removed from Ministerial office for far less significant comments in the past.

Given the potential significance of the Premier's comments, Mr. Miltenberger has shared a copy of the comments with all Regular Members and the matter is being discussed by MLAs.

This week's edition of the Slave River Journal carries front page coverage of an interview with Premier Stephen Kakfwi during the final hours of his recent trip to Fort Smith for the Thebacha Campus graduation. The quotes attributed to the Premier include statements that the Western Arctic Leadership Program funding issue would have been resolved more quickly if the Thebacha MLA was more conciliatory towards the Premier and the suggestion that Mr. Miltenberger should not have actively supported and promoted other Premier candidates. There are also negative remarks about Mr. Dent, Mr. Roland and Mr. Miltenberger and their questioning of the Premier and his Cabinet.

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May 19, 2000

For Immediate Release

White Spruce Millennium Tree Planted in Yellowknife

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the Hon. Tony Whitford, was assisted by Yellowknife senior Ed Jeske and eleven-year-old Jenny Baton in the planting of the official Millennium White Spruce Tree in front of the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife today.

Millennium Trees across Canada was launched in Ottawa on May 5th by the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister Responsible for the Millennium Initiatives the Hon. Herb Gray.

The white spruce was chosen as the official Tree to mark the millennium in Canada because of its superior height, straight trunk, and relatively small and uniform conical crown. Grafts were taken and a controlled crossbreeding program began. The tree's offspring were greater in height with an above average fiber length. Its seedlings are being planted all across Canada, through a partnership between the Tree Canada Foundation and Natural Resources Canada.

The white spruce also plays a very important role in several Canadian industries. The white spruce is used for the manufacturing of food containers, general construction, millwork, plywood, and pulp. The bark is used in the production of candles and varnishes. In addition, the white spruce has an exceptional ability to carry sound vibrations, which makes it the preferred wood for instrument makers.

The Hon. Tony Whitford was pleased to participate in the *Millennium Trees across Canada* initiative and looks forward to seeing the tree flourish in its new home in the Northwest Territories.

For more information on the Millennium Tree, please visit the web site at, www.nrcan.gc.ca/communications/millennium/html/millennium_tree.html.

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May 30, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLA FOR RANGE LAKE TAKES ON WEIGHTY ISSUE

Ms. Sandy Lee, the MLA for Range Lake, is challenging her colleagues to “lose some weight this spring.”

Ms. Lee is challenging her fellow MLAs to donate their weight in books and magazines to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre (YCC) book drive. Ms. Lee strongly supports the book drive because it promotes literacy, and it encourages the recycling of useful reading materials that might otherwise be thrown out.

“Magazines, paperbacks and hardcover books, appealing to a variety of reading levels for adults, are all suitable for donation,” said Ms. Lee. “We can all lighten up for literacy.”

MLAs will be on the honor system when donating their weight in books. Ms. Lee will announce the results of the challenge on the first day of session when the House resumes in June.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the YCC book-drive can contact Bill Chipman at 669-8620 to arrange to drop-off or pick-up donated books and magazines.

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00-24



June 19, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLA FOR RANGE LAKE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

Ms. Sandy Lee, the MLA for Range Lake, has launched an exciting communication tool, her website <http://sandyleemla.com/>

The vision behind Ms. Lee's website was to be even more accessible for her constituents and to create another forum for two-way communication especially with children of the North. "I intend to use the website as an informational tool to keep the public informed about what I am doing as an MLA to represent Range Lake both inside and outside of the Legislative Assembly. I hope that people will use the site to express their thoughts, concerns and opinions on issues that are important to them," said Ms. Lee.

The website was inspired by the constituents Ms. Lee meet on her door-to-door campaign. "People in my riding inspired me to create this website to provide an additional way for them to contact me about what concerns them. Most importantly I hope this site will reach out to children of the North," concluded Ms. Lee.

For more information please visit Ms. Lee's website at <http://sandyleemla.com/>

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June 21, 2000

For Immediate Release

Range Lake MLA, Sandy Lee says "No to Hotel Tax"

Ms. Lee expressed disappointment with the proposed hotel tax introduced in the Budget Speech yesterday.

The Range Lake MLA is concerned that the new tax would send out a negative message to the Tourism industry, penalize tourists and hotel operators and add a whole new set of tax regime in the Territory.

Two of the largest groups using hotels in the NWT are government employees and Japanese tourists. The latter group has been steadily increasing and it is expected to grow again this year. "In most communities, government employees make up the bulk of the hotel users, so the government would be taxing itself, and at the same time extending a cold welcome to NWT tourists. That does not send out a positive or welcoming message," remarked Ms. Lee.

Another problem Ms. Lee noted was that hotel operators would be forced into becoming tax collectors. "After years of no action, we have been seeing lately new constructions of hotels and motels around the city, and this Government is responding to it by turning them into tax collectors."

What's more, "this tax initiative would create yet another regime within the government to manage more tax collection. The net amount that will be collected by the government will be thoroughly outstripped by the burden it will place on the hotel users and operators," stated Ms. Lee.

The tourism sector has been long ignored and paid lip service at best. In the recent past this sector has looked to the government for leadership to develop a comprehensive tourism strategy, increase product development, and expand marketing and research. "I am deeply disappointed that the first initiative of this government in the tourism industry was to introduce a new tax. This is a slap in the face to the NWT tourism industry. I intend to oppose it vigorously," concluded Ms. Lee.

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00-26



June 22, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLAs Participate in Cadet Recognition Week

Cadets from across the Northwest Territories challenged the MLAs to a battle of strength yesterday.

Cadets from across the Northwest Territories have been working as Pages in the Legislative Assembly this week. Yesterday the Cadets were matched against the MLAs in a tug of war and target shooting at the Legislative Assembly. In the tug of war, the two sides battled for some time, but after a mighty struggle the MLAs were victorious. Perhaps the cadets were being kind to the MLAs.

The target shooting competition gave the MLAs the opportunity to match their marksmanship against one another. After several Members took their best shots, the highest score was awarded to the Hon. Jim Antoine. Congratulations Hon. Mr. Antoine. After the competition a great time was had by all as the Cadets and MLAs had time to mingle and enjoy a short break together.

The Cadets have done a wonderful job as Pages this week and all the Members enjoyed the event yesterday and look forward to seeing the Cadets again next year.

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Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
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June 22, 2000

For Immediate Release

Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight say an independent agency is needed to oversee the government's human resource policies.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight want the GNWT to bring in legislation creating a Public Service Commission that would operate at arms-length from government. The Commission would be an independent agency responsible for monitoring human resource functions and ensuring that the government's policies are implemented consistently and fairly throughout the public service.

The Committee feels strongly about the need to have a representative workforce that is treated fairly where every employee has the opportunity for advancement in the public service. This requires a comprehensive human resource strategy that members of the Committee feel is lacking since the Department of Personnel disappeared back in the mid-1990's.

"Since 1992 there has been a 21% increase in human resource positions serving Government, yet the size of the public service has decreased 43% over the same period," said Charles Dent, Chair of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. "One rationale for doing away with the Department of Personnel was to become more efficient and save the government money, but that clearly has not been the case."

Members of the Committee have also expressed their concern that the Affirmative Action Policy has not produced a significant increase in representation of the groups targeted in the policy.

"Currently Aboriginal people make up only 30% of the public service, women occupy 30% of the management positions in the GNWT and both groups are relegated to the lower level occupations with lower incomes," said Floyd Roland, Deputy Chair of the Committee. "The government lapsed close to one million dollars in Public Service Career Training in the past three years that could have been used to train and promote affirmative action candidates in the Government of the Northwest Territories."

Members of the Committee are urging the government to act quickly and to establish a Public Service Commission as soon as possible, as has been done in almost every other jurisdiction in Canada, so that residents of the Northwest Territories and public servants can have confidence in the human resource practices of this government.

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June 22, 2000

For Immediate Release

Legislative Assembly passes motion to establish a Public Service Commission.

Following today's theme topic of human resources in the Government of the Northwest Territories, members of the Accountability and Oversight Committee today introduced a formal motion in the House calling on the Government to bring in legislation by February 15th, 2001 to create a Public Service Commission. The motion was passed with support of all eleven Regular Members while all Cabinet Members abstained. The text of the motion immediately follows.

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Charles Dent
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Motion

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide services and deliver programs to the residents through the establishment and maintenance of a Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories, in recruiting and retaining a professional Public Service, must ensure that it is representative of the diversity of the Northwest Territories population and allows access to all residents to opportunities within the Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories, in meeting its obligations to have a professional, non-partisan and representative Public Service, must ensure that human resource policies and procedures are adhered to;

AND WHEREAS since the dismantling of the Department of Personnel was completed in 1996-97, successive Governments have not demonstrated their ability to actively coordinate the human resources needs of the Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories statistical information regarding the success of the Affirmative Action Policy, does not appear to reflect the desired representative Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to demonstrate that it cannot coordinate and be accountable for its actions in certain aspects of meeting its human resource responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS the human resource function and responsibilities are now delegated to and spread throughout departments and boards of this Government;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for adequate reporting, monitoring and accountability by the Government of the Northwest Territories;

Date of Notice/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	June 22, 2000	Moved by/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	Mr. Dent
Date of Introduction/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	June 22, 2000	Seconded by/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	Mr. Roland
Disposition/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	Carried (R.V.)		
Carried/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	June 22, 2000	Ruled out of Order/ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ ᓄᓇ	



AND WHEREAS the current Public Service, and those wishing to become members of the Territorial Public Service, must be satisfied that the hiring process is transparent, fair and accountable;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for an independent agency to ensure that all persons are treated fairly and have access to employment opportunities in the Territorial Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories is currently the only jurisdiction in Canada, with the exception of Nunavut, which exercises authority over a public service and does not have an impartial or independent body or agency to ensure a representative public service;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, Seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake that this Legislative Assembly wishes to ensure that the Government of the Northwest Territories has a professional, non-partisan and representative Public Service;

AND FURTHER requests the Executive Council to bring forward legislation to establish a Public Service Commission for the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHERMORE that the Executive Council introduce this legislation by February 15, 2001.

June 26, 2000

For Immediate Release

Legislative Assembly Appoints Three Commissioners

The Commissioners for Languages, Conflict of Interest, and Information and Privacy were appointed on June 21st in the Chamber during the Third Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

The Languages Commissioner is Ms. Fibbie Tatti. Ms. Tatti has spent her entire adult life working in the field of Aboriginal language and culture. She has worked with the Department of Education Culture and Employment, the Dene Nation and CBC. Ms. Tatti brings many years of experience and skill with her to the position of Languages Commissioner, which represents all the language groups in the Northwest Territories.

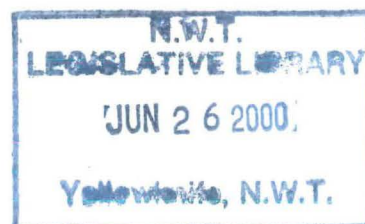
Elaine Keenan-Bengts was appointed as the Information and Privacy Commissioner. This is Ms. Keenan-Bengts second term in this position. She is a long time northerner and has been the Information and Privacy Commissioner since 1997. Ms. Keenan-Bengts was also recently appointed as Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner. Ms. Keenan-Bengts previous experience has provided her with the skills and necessary abilities to make her extremely qualified to fulfill this role.

Carol Roberts has been appointed as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Ms. Roberts is a lawyer and has a private law practice in Victoria, BC. She was a student at law and Barrister and Solicitor in Yellowknife with a local firm. Ms. Roberts worked for various departments in the Government of the Northwest Territories from 1983 – 1991. She has also worked as the Executive Director for the Native Womens Association of the Northwest Territories from 1981 – 1982. Ms. Roberts is extremely qualified and will bring her years of experience in administrative law and as an arbitrator and adjudicator to this position. Ms. Roberts was born and raised in Hay River.

In making these appointments the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Tony Whitford on behalf of all Members expressed that "These three truly northern women are role models and are well qualified to take on these challenging positions."

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Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
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Background:

The Languages Commissioner

The Languages Commissioner of the NWT is appointed by the Commissioner for a four-year period. The Languages Commissioner is a linguistic ombudsman. He or she is independent of the government. The Languages Commissioner's duty is to ensure that institutions of the Legislative Assembly and of the Government of the NWT respect the spirit, intent and provisions of the *Official Languages Act* and the provisions of any other Act or regulation relating to the status or use of Official Languages.

Information and Privacy Commissioner

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner for a term of five years. The Information and Privacy Commissioner is independent of the government. The role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is to provide an independent review of discretionary decisions made by public bodies under the Act. The Commissioner also ensures that individual privacy is protected.

Conflict of Interest Commissioner

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner for a term of four years. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is independent of the government. The role of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner is to provide advice to Members on how to arrange their business and financial affairs to comply with the Act. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner would also address complaints from persons who believe a Member may not have abided by the conflict provisions.

June 29, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes Launches Website

Hon. Roger T. Allen, the MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes, has launched his website <http://www.permafrost.com/rogerallen/>

Mr. Allen feels that in today's world the internet is an excellent communication tool and will provide his Inuvik Twin Lakes constituents with another means to keep them informed and allow them to express their thoughts, concerns and opinions on issues that affect their daily lives.

“Along with my regular newsletter, this website will be an ideal way for me to communicate with my constituents throughout my tenure as their MLA,” said Mr. Allen.

The website was developed and designed by *Compass Communications*, a company located in Inuvik. This provided an excellent opportunity for a local business to promote their expertise in website design.

For more information please visit, Mr. Allen's website at <http://www.permafrost.com/rogerallen/>

or contact:

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00-31



June 29, 2000

For Immediate Release

Members of AOC call for Literacy Strategy

Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight want to see a literacy strategy for the Northwest Territories.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight feel there is an urgent need for a comprehensive government-wide literacy strategy. This strategy would be led by the departments in the Social Envelope and require thorough consultation with the NWT Literacy Council, practitioners, non-governmental organizations, communities and Aboriginal groups.

“The government needs to make a long-term commitment to literacy skill development if we are going to see results in the areas of economic and social development in our communities,” said Michael Miltenberger, member of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. “We need to make the connection between literacy and some of the economic and social challenges that we are faced with if we are going to improve the lives of Northerners.”

There are no reliable statistics on literacy levels in the NWT and none that reflect literacy in Aboriginal languages, but information obtained from the 1999 Labour Force Survey indicates that 13% of the NWT population 15 years of age and older have less than a grade 9 education. However, many of the smaller communities in the Northwest Territories are experiencing levels much higher than that.

The Committee believes that in order to address this problem effectively, there needs to be adequate multi-year funding identified so that those agencies delivering the programs can plan ahead and offer programming that meets the needs of individual communities.

Members of the Committee are concerned that the NWT is not going to be in a position to take advantage of future developments in the north that could provide residents with greatly needed employment opportunities.

“There is the potential for new jobs to be created in the diamond industry and in the oil and gas sector, but we need to improve the literacy skills and the education levels of Northerners now and in the long-term or our people will not benefit from this development,” said Sandy Lee, member of the Committee. “It is also important to recognize that the focus on literacy is not just about jobs, but that literacy has an incredible impact on the overall health and well-being of all our residents.”

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight would like to see consultation on a literacy strategy begin immediately so that the government has something to bring forward when the 2001/2002 Business Plans and the Main Estimates are reviewed in the fall of this year.

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Population with Less than Grade 9 Education by
Community
Northwest Territories, 1999 Labour Force Survey

	Pop. 15 & Older	Less than Grade 9	% Less than Grade 9
Northwest Territories	29,506	3,791	13
Aklavik	506	127	25
Colville Lake	66	28	42
Deline	422	134	32
Detah	152	51	34
Enterprise	68	3	4
Fort Good Hope	471	139	30
Fort Liard	357	158	44
Fort McPherson	628	199	32
Fort Providence	611	194	32
Fort Resolution	374	124	33
Fort Simpson	908	151	17
Fort Smith	1,921	192	10
Hay River	2,665	181	7
Hay River Reserve	200	57	29
Holman	310	126	41
Inuvik	2,347	197	8
Jean Marie River	59	15	25
Kakisa	28	17	61
Lutselke	244	72	30
Nahanni Butte	69	23	33
Norman Wells	651	25	4
Paulatuk	174	56	32
Rae Edzo	1,177	369	31
Rae Lakes	189	98	52
Sachs Harbour	101	34	34
Trout Lake	58	18	31
Tsiigehtchic	103	43	42
Tuktoyaktuk	655	208	32
Tulita	307	84	27
Wekweti	111	38	34
Wha Ti	310	107	35
Wrigley	125	55	44
Yellowknife	13,139	468	4

Prepared by NWT Bureau of Statistics, June 2000

August 31, 2000

For Immediate Release

Managing Change theme for Caucus meeting in Inuvik

Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly will meet in Inuvik, NT September 6th- 8th for their fourth Caucus planning session. The primary focus for this session will be “managing governance change.”

Members will review in detail the current status of land claims and self-government negotiations, and the impacts they will have on anticipated legislation and programs under GNWT authority.

“As self-government agreements are advancing on various claims, many issues on governance are becoming clearer,” said Bill Braden, Caucus Chairman and MLA for Great Slave. “Caucus feels it is important to examine the role of the territorial government and the Legislative Assembly in helping to implement these agreements,” said Mr. Braden. Implementation may include, for example, revising various NWT Acts to accommodate new aboriginal government structures. The Legislative Assembly is open to identifying changes in its structure that will result from the establishment of aboriginal governments and this planning session will assist the Members in working together to implement the governance provisions of final self-government agreements.

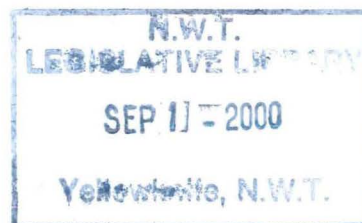
“Caucus is to develop the process for making those decisions, and to assign priority and responsibility to those tasks,” said Deputy Chair Steve Nitah (MLA, Tu Nedhe). “Our intention is not to decide in isolation what changes should occur, that can only happen with broad public input.”

This session is a continuation of the Legislative Assembly’s planning agenda “Towards a Better Tomorrow,” which was released at the end of March 2000.

Caucus will also consider the progress made on meeting its priorities, commitments and objectives for the remaining three years of the 14th Assembly’s mandate.

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September 6, 2000

For Immediate Release

Speaker of the Northwest Territories to represent Canada at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference

The Hon. Anthony (Tony) Whitford, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Ms. Sandy Lee, MLA for Range Lake will attend the 46th CPA Conference in London and Edinburgh in September to represent Canada. The focus of this year's annual meeting will be *Harnessing Global Communications to Enhance Democracy*.

Political leaders representing approximately 150 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures will meet in late September to discuss new ways to strengthen democratic institutions, including the use of global communications technology.

The CPA is an organization of more than 14,000 Members of Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures. The conference in London and Edinburgh, will be hosted by the United Kingdom Parliament. The September meeting, to be opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her capacity as Patron of the CPA and Head of State in the U.K., will be attended by more than 500 Commonwealth Members and parliamentary officials.

The Hon. Tony Whitford, is one of only three Canadians on the Executive Committee. "The Northwest Territories is very fortunate to have a representative on the Executive of this international organization. I am pleased to have this opportunity to represent Canada and the Northwest Territories, and I look forward to sharing information with the other delegates from around the world," said Mr. Whitford. Prior to the conference in London, Speaker Whitford will participate in three days of Executive Committee meetings in Jersey, which is one of the Channel Islands located between Britain and France.

Immediately preceding the CPA conference, the 20th Small Countries Conference will be held in Jersey. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake will attend as the representative for the NWT. The conference topics will be: *The Knowledge Economy and the Use and Benefits of Information Technology in Small Jurisdiction; Green Tourism; Means of Enhancing Local Culture and Identity Including Indigenous Languages in Small Jurisdictions, and Representation of Non-Independent Territories within the Commonwealth*. "I was pleased to be selected to represent the Northwest Territories and look forward to making a presentation on the advances the NWT is making in using communications technology in the areas of telehealth and distance learning," said Ms. Lee.

Ms. Lee will also participate in the newly recognized Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Group as they discuss ways of encouraging the participation of women in the parliamentary process. The conferences will take place between September 17th to 29th.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governance, Electoral Issues Top Caucus Agenda

Yellowknife, NT (September 8, 2000) – Issues surrounding self-government and electoral matters are closely linked, and the Legislative Assembly will be looking at processes to address these key issues. This was the message after, a two-day Caucus meeting in Inuvik.

“These issues have a direct impact on every voter, and for the structure and evolution of elected government at many levels in the NWT,” said Mr. Braden.

“As the central public government responsible for many Programs and services on behalf of all Northerners, we need to make sure that the role of public government is positive and balanced in sharing of resources, and accountability,” said Steven Nitah, Caucus Deputy Chair.

Meeting in Inuvik on September 6-7, all 19 MLAs discussed a process to help manage governance issues now before the Assembly. Caucus has identified areas relating to the implementation of self-government agreements, the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer and the electoral boundaries issues stipulated by the previous Assembly, as priorities.

One framework option under consideration is the creation of a Special Committee, which would get its mandate from, and report to, the Assembly on these related areas. The Caucus will examine this option in greater detail prior to the reconvening of the 3rd Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly on October 31, 2000.

While in Inuvik, Caucus Members met many residents at a reception, and toured the community’s greenhouse project. Members also met staff and students at an alternative school project, and enjoyed a lunch with Inuvik elders at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre.

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For Immediate Release

Braden urges broad scope for energy review

Yellowknife, NT (September 18, 2000) -- The Territorial Government should be prepared to look beyond the role of its electrical utility and address all aspects of energy policy in the NWT, says Great Slave MLA Bill Braden.

“There’s a huge need for a broader approach to managing all our energy and utility needs, subsidies and costs, and their impact on the environment. The review announced this morning goes in the right direction, but I hope it goes much further in addressing our overall energy future,” said Braden.

He was responding to a review of electrical power generation, distribution and regulation in the NWT, announced by Finance Minister Joe Handley and Jake Ootes, Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation.

“Homes and businesses across the NWT have just begun to feel the pain from the latest round of rocketing fuel costs. We owe it to ourselves to set good public policy initiatives that will help us all in the future,” said Braden, a former director of corporate development with NWT Power.

Braden says the NWT has considerable opportunity in new energy initiatives: exporting power from the Taltson hydro station, building new hydro capacity to feed emerging diamond mines, the chance to pipe natural gas into communities down the Mackenzie Valley, and new technologies in both power and heat service.

“We’ll need effective ways to handle these energy opportunities. Our own Power Corporation, plus other public and private sector and joint venture interests, should be included. That’s why this review needs to have the broadest possible scope.”

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00-36



For Immediate Release

Thebacha MLA Says Proposed Power Review Flawed

Yellowknife, NT (September 22, 2000) -- Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger urges the government to take the time to do its proposed power review properly. "Rather than bringing in short-term consultants to deal with our long-term issues, let's make sure we undertake a comprehensive process that will provide a strong foundation for our future decisions," he said in a letter this week to the Minister of Finance.

Miltenberger is concerned that the recently announced GNWT review of power generation, distribution and regulation is an attempt to find a quick fix for a long-term issue. "The directions set as a result of this review will very likely affect the future of northern power supply and distribution for the next twenty years," said Mr. Miltenberger. "I am not confident that a cursory six week assessment will do the job."

The Thebacha MLA says there are serious problems with the study: a very short timeline for project completion, a significant lack of consultation, and a very limited list of organizations who will be involved. He is suggesting that these problems contribute to the perception that there is already a predetermined conclusion and this review is nothing more than an exercise in confirming whatever that conclusion might be.

Mr. Miltenberger has concerns with the review's terms of reference. He cites a lack of distinction in the terms of reference between the need for a framework to govern power generation, distribution and regulation and the review of the role of NTPC. "The scope should be much broader than just what can be done with NTPC," he commented. "It is difficult to understand how objective decisions can be made about options in power generation, distribution and regulation when the role of NTPC is an integral part of the review."

He also has concerns with the lack of consultation. Although the review is supposed to be broad in its scope, only government agencies and NTPC will provide research support while Northland Utilities, a major territorial power supplier, has no role or contribution to the process. The opinions of communities and residents are also not part of the review.

"Rather than the current piecemeal approach, there should be an effort to develop an overall energy framework addressing the direction and priorities for all forms of energy." He cites this review, a Public Utilities Board strategic review and the GNWT greenhouse gas emission strategy as projects, which are all underway in isolation from each other.

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00-37



For Immediate Release

Accountability and Oversight Committee Meets to Review Auditor General's Report and Sessional Legislation

Yellowknife, NT (September 22, 2000) – The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight will be conducting a public review of the Report of the Auditor General for the years ended March 31, 1997 and March 31, 1998. Included as part of the review are public hearings scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 in Committee Room 'A' of the Legislative Assembly building. The hearings are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and are open to the public.

"The Committee is looking forward to this opportunity to meet with the Auditor General's staff to discuss matters that arose from their audits of the financial statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories", said Committee Chair Charles Dent. "Their role is very similar to that of our Committee in that we both promote accountability and best practices in government operations and we both want to see an answerable, honest and productive government."

Although the Auditor General's report examines issues from the 1997 and 1998 fiscal years, it wasn't tabled in the Legislature until late February 2000. "We are playing some catch-up in our review of these issues. However, the fall election and formation of our new government are now finalized. We are anxious to deal with these matters in a constructive manner" said Mr. Dent. The Committee plans to examine the Auditor General's report on the 1999 fiscal year later this fall once the report is tabled during the November sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

During their four-day meeting, the Committee will also be reviewing two bills that have been referred to the Committee:

- ◆ Bill 7: *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* – This Bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the Statutes of the Northwest Territories. The Bill also deals with other matters of a minor, non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the Statutes and repeals statutory provisions that have ceased to have effect. The public is invited to the hearing on this Bill on Thursday, September 28, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room 'A'.
- ◆ Bill 9: *An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act* – This Bill amends the *NWT Power Corporation Act* to provide the Corporation with the same investment powers that public agencies have under the *Financial Administration Act* and in addition to permit the Corporation to invest in any securities and investment instruments that it determines to be prudent. The public is invited to the hearing on this Bill on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. in Committee Room 'A'.

The Accountability and Oversight Committee continues to play an important role in the operations of our consensus system of government. "The interest and involvement of the general public is a key component of our continuing efforts", said Mr. Dent.

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For Immediate Release

North Slave MLA says Maintenance is the Key to Highway #3

Yellowknife, NT (September 27, 2000) - The MLA for North Slave says the reduction in speed limit on Highway #3 will not make the road last longer.

“As of Monday, September 18, the road was in better shape than it has been for three years,” says Leon Lafferty. “The time to lower the speed limit was before, during and just after the heavy rains on August 26 and 27th.”

Lafferty points out that speed limits fluctuate with road conditions not the opposite. “Even in communities with speed limits of 30 km/hour, the road deteriorates unless regular maintenance is done,” says the Member for North Slave. He adds that much of the dissatisfaction expressed about Highway #3 is from people concerned about the quantity, not the quality, of highway maintenance.

Mr. Lafferty adds that if lowering speed limits is a new system of highway maintenance, it could be implemented Territorial-wide to help save Government monies.

The Member from North Slave states that posted changes in speed limits will not be followed unless enforcement happens. He notes that commercial truck volume has increased in the evenings when highway patrols are off duty. This has some North Slave constituents worried.

A petition containing over 140 signatures has been gathered from people in Rae and also asking for the speed limit along Highway #3 to be reinstated to 90 km/hour.

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For Immediate Release

McLeod proposes new idea to old problem

Yellowknife, NT (September 28, 2000) - Michael McLeod, MLA for Deh Cho and the Community of Fort Providence are looking into ways of constructing a bridge across the Mackenzie River.

Mr. McLeod says, there are a number of interested parties willing to invest in this project and that new technology will make a bridge less expensive to build. It's estimated to cost about \$40 - \$50 million. This is the first proposal to involve the community with the intent of raising private funding rather than a totally government initiated project. "We ran this concept by a number of different groups of people trying to measure the interest, and we believe the interest is there", Mr. McLeod said.

The community of Fort Providence wants to spend this winter exploring the possibilities of constructing a bridge over the Mackenzie River. The Hamlet, Dene and the Metis Councils of Fort Providence plan to explore the concept of building a bridge over the Deh Cho. They also plan to hold a series of meetings with both levels of governments and the general public.

Mr. McLeod is the spokesperson of the community of Fort Providence. "The newly proposed building of the Deh Cho (Mackenzie River) Bridge is different from past proposals. We are considering the financing to be mainly of a private nature. A lower construction cost and relatively low interest rates have improved the economics of a bridge. The community wants to stay in the driver's seat on this project. How the different governments will be involved is yet to be determined."

Imagine, 24-hour year round access to the south or north. There will be a magnitude of economic spin-offs for everyone, all levels of government, industry, and aboriginal economic development. The idea is still in the early stages requiring further research to demonstrate the feasibility with a display from the community regarding technical, legal, financial and environmental concerns.

Currently, a ferry takes travelers across the Mackenzie River in the summer and an ice bridge is built for winter travel. During break up and freeze up, the highway 3 link to the south is cut off. This causes a shortage in grocery items, an increase in freight charges and an inconvenience for drivers traveling south or north. For years there has been talk of a bridge over the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence, but the Territorial government has claimed that the benefits of a bridge would not measure up to costs.

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October 6, 2000

For Immediate Release

Sandy Lee, MLA Range Lake reports on Commonwealth Conference

Ms. Sandy Lee, MLA for Range Lake believes the future of the Commonwealth is dependent on the eradication of poverty and gender inequality in member countries.

Selected to represent the Northwest Territories at the 46th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference in London and Edinburgh in September, Ms. Lee was one of 30 Canadian delegates which included the Speaker of every province and territory. The focus of this year's annual meeting was *Harnessing Global Communications to Enhance Democracy*.

Ms. Lee was one of 15 members selected to speak at the final session of the CPA Conference, which was attended by 500 delegates from 50 Commonwealth countries. Ms. Lee expressed her belief that the future success of the Commonwealth would depend on how well it addressed two overarching issues, the eradication of poverty in member countries and gender inequality in the main stream political process. "The objective of the Commonwealth is to promote and enhance democratic principles, however, this goal cannot be truly attained if a majority of the 1.7 billion citizens are too poor or hungry to learn, think and act as true free beings," remarked Ms. Lee.

Ms. Lee also noted that, "the Northwest Territories is ahead of many of the member countries in various areas but we still have a lot of work to do in terms of eliminating poverty and gender inequality in our own back yard," concluded Ms. Lee.

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SPEAKING NOTES OF
THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MS. SANDY LEE, MLA, RANGE LAKE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
On "Future of Commonwealth"

At the Final Plenary of the
46th Conference of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Edinburgh, Scotland

September 28, 2000

Good morning Madam Chairperson, distinguished panelists, guests and fellow parliamentarians.

It's a great honour for me to share with you my vision, or perhaps my dream for the future of the Commonwealth and our Association - an Association of members with great privileges and resources, not to mention the tremendous past and the future potential to do so much good, and one that I'm proud to be a member.

Our Association derives its strength from the common thread that brings and binds us together, which is our mutual respect for, and adherence to the principle of promoting, sustaining and enhancing the democratic values in our member countries and around the world.

I believe, our concern this morning is the question of how to keep the Association and the Commonwealth "strong and relevant," to borrow the words of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, who spoke to us earlier this week.

For me, the issues that need to be addressed in order to keep our institution "strong and relevant" are those of (1) the eradication of poverty in our member countries; (2) achieving gender equality in our member parliaments.

I know that what I am saying is not anything new or revolutionary, but I believe it is something worthy of repeating again, again and again.

The simple fact is that we are not being true to our principle and mission if our goal for the future does not include the means of making every one of our 1.7 billion citizens in our 50 countries "free and able to be all that they can be," to borrow another phrase from Secretary General McKinnon.

But it is simply not possible to be "all that we can be" when our citizens are too poor and hungry to learn, think and act as free beings; and when half of our citizenship is deprived of the opportunity to fully participate in the mainstream political process.

I believe the simple fact is that democracy is a governance by people for people in all its manifestations. It is not a rule by the strong over the weak, nor by the elite over the commoner or by the rich over the poor or by the old over the young. And certainly it is not a rule by the men over the women.

There is not enough time for me today to list the possible solutions for the eradication of poverty and gender inequality. And in fact, these issues have been debated throughout this conference and the results have been well documented already and they are sitting on your desk.

I would certainly defer to the members from the countries most affected by poverty to suggest solutions in that regard.

But I believe the biggest obstacle to the proactive and effective change is the attitude and lack of willingness to address these issues. For it is clear to me, that we have in this very room enough resources among us to move Mount Everest if we, as a collective group, choose to make it our priority. And we know this to be true in our hearts.

As I conclude my remarks today, I want to tell you about two things that inspire me to say what I am saying here.

One is the fact that this is the last CPA conference for our Chairperson & President Madam Boothroyd. This is one of her last duties before her retirement in October after serving as an MP of the British House of Commons for 27 years and the last 8 years as the Speaker. I, on the other hand, am one of the youngest members in attendance, if not in chronological age, then in terms of the time in office, for I have only been an elected member for 10 months.

Madam Chair, I do not know if I will be returning to this Conference again. But I have to be optimistic at the possibility that we will make some substantial progress in shorter time than the next 27 years. I recall what a fellow delegate said about the process we are engaged in. In speaking about the speed of the progress we are making in these areas, she compared it to being on a "slow boat to China." And perhaps so, but I firmly believe that politics is about possibilities and if we are willing to act on changing things we can make a difference.

I am also inspired by the fact that we are having our conference in this beautiful and historic city of Edinburgh, a city that touched my soul the first time I saw it as a back packing student 3 years ago. Visiting this wonderful city for a second time has made me realize that the true beauty of this city comes from its ability to incorporate the modern with historic while preserving the essence of a world since past.

To give you a simple example, you might think I am silly but I was most inspired by the sight of a cash machine installed in one of the historic buildings in the city. Obviously, someone realized that the cash machine was necessary and made it fit into the old building and we see that the building did not fall down. My point being that we are very good at adapting to new elements if we choose to. It is as necessary for the Commonwealth and the Association to incorporate changes if we are to remain "strong and relevant" in the future.

In closing, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. Madam Speaker, may I take this opportunity to wish you a prosperous and happy retirement and to you all a safe journey home.

October 19, 2000

For Immediate Release

Speaker Appoints First Woman Sergeant at Arms

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is proud to announce the appointment of the first woman Sergeant at Arms in the Northwest Territories.

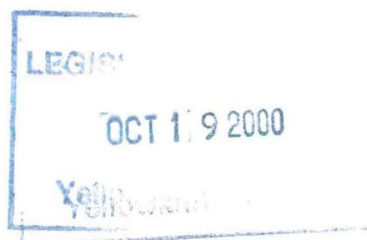
Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede has been appointed the Sergeant at Arms for the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Ms. Latour-Theede is a Metis woman born in Yellowknife and raised in a number of northern communities. She obtained her pre and post-secondary education in the north and has filled a number of significant roles including that of Mayor of Fort Liard.

As the first woman Sergeant at Arms in the Northwest Territories, Ms. Latour-Theede is excited to accept the opportunity and looks forward to introducing a fresh and innovative perspective to her position. In her role as our Sergeant at Arms she joins the company of Ms. Mary McLaren, Black Rod of the Senate of Canada, and fellow Sergeant at Arms officers, Ms. Phyllis LeBlanc of New Brunswick and, Ms. Elizabeth Gallagher of Newfoundland.

In announcing this appointment, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Tony Whitford expressed that, "It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Northwest Territories first woman Sergeant at Arms. She joins a long line of distinguished Sergeants at Arms. Ms. Latour-Theede's northern life experience, knowledge and personality will help build on this proud tradition. On behalf of all the Members I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Ms. Latour-Theede and to welcome her to the Legislative Assembly," concluded Mr. Whitford.

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October 25, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLA FOR FRAME LAKE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

Mr. Charles Dent, MLA for Frame Lake, has launched his website <http://www.charlesdent.com/>

As communication mediums continue to evolve, Mr. Dent expressed his belief that his website will provide the public with an additional way of sharing their thoughts and concerns with him.

“I am pleased to be able to offer my constituents an additional method of contacting me. With the launch of my website, I believe that I will be even more accessible and I look forward to hearing feedback from the people that I represent,” said Mr. Dent.

Mr. Dent’s website offers a variety of information including constituency news, current issues at the Legislature, a map of the Frame Lake riding area along with additional ways to contact his office. The site was developed by one of his constituents, Nena Dungey of Northern Lights Webpage Publishing.

For more information please visit Mr. Dent’s website at <http://www.charlesdent.com/>

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October 31, 2000

For Immediate Release

MLAs SUPPORT STANTON SURGERY WARD RE-OPENING

The Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly are pleased that the Stanton Regional Hospital Board has agreed to reopen the surgical ward.

During the past few weeks, the seven MLAs have met on three occasions with members of the Stanton Board to discuss the proposal to amalgamate the Surgical and Paediatric wards.

The issue of the proposed closure of the surgical ward was a major concern at the joint constituency meeting held last week. The Yellowknife MLAs believe that the needs of the public will be better served now that the surgical ward is being reopened.

Another major issue raised at the constituency meeting revolved around consultation with staff at the hospital when the plan to amalgamate the wards was first developed. The Yellowknife Members met with Stanton Board representatives yesterday and were advised that more extensive consultation would be undertaken in the future when plans for changing programs are being developed.

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November 6, 2000

For Immediate Release

NORTHERN ROBE FOR THE SPEAKER

Today the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly the Hon. Anthony (Tony) Whitford wore a robe reflecting the cultural diversity of the North.

In the Northwest Territories, Speaker's have traditionally worn robes that have represented the region and the culture of his/her origin. It is the desire of our current Speaker, the Hon. Tony Whitford, to wear a robe that captures the cultural mosaic that makes up the Northwest Territories. His robe reflects the wonderful diversity of people who live here. The Hon. Mr. Whitford has stated that "the ceremonial robes lend authority and cultural relevance to my position as Speaker. I am pleased to support the Northwest Territories tradition of wearing a robe that truly reflects our many cultures."

The Speaker was also pleased that several Members made positive statements about his robe including the Premier, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi. "Mr. Speaker, I recognize your personal commitment today in wearing a truly northern First Nations coat. It is a visible, strong statement. I want to commend you for it. I also would like to commend and recognize for the very first time, a truly positive change of garment by the Clerk and the deputies," said, the Hon. Mr. Kakfwi.

The Speaker's robe and the Clerk's jackets were designed by the local company, *Creations by Berna*. This is a 100% northern owned and operated establishment, which began in May, 1996. Owner and seamstress/designer Berna Beaulieu manages the company. The company also employs a number of highly skilled artisans in speciality areas such as traditional beadwork, embroidery and moosehair tufting.

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November 29, 2000

For Immediate Release

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTS CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Sandy Lee and the Hon. Jim Antoine have been appointed as Co-Chairs to the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause.

The Special Committee was established during the third Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly on November 16, 2000. It will now begin developing its mandate, determining the scope of its work, and discussing communication strategies for reporting progress to the public. The Special Committee will present its Terms of Reference when the Legislative Assembly reconvenes in February 2001.

The Members of the Special Committee include, Ms. Lee, the Member for Range Lake, the Hon. Mr. Antoine, the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Braden, the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Delorey, the Member for Hay River North, Mr. Lafferty, the Member for North Slave.

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November 30, 2000

For Immediate Release

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTS CHAIR

Mr. Steven Nitah and Mr. David Krutko have been appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Special Committee to review the *Official Languages Act*.

This committee was established during the third Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly on November 10, 2000 as required by Section 29 of the *Official Languages Act*.

The Special Committee will take the lead in the mandatory 10-year review of the Act. The review will include an examination of the administration and implementation of the Act, the effectiveness of its provisions, the achievement of its objectives, and may include recommendations for changes to the Act.

The Special Committee in consultation with the Languages Commissioner will be developing its terms of reference and work plan, which will be presented during the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly in February of 2001.

The Members of the Special Committee include, Mr. Nitah, the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Krutko, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Hon. Mr. Allen, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Bell, the Member for Yellowknife South, and Mr. McLeod, the Member for Deh Cho.

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December 4, 2000

For Immediate Release

ELECTRICAL ENERGY REPORT GOOD FIRST STEP

Following today's release of the Report on Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electrical Energy, J. Michael Miltenberger, MLA for Thebacha, is encouraging the government to take the next step and begin public consultations on the future of electrical energy.

Of particular interest to people in the South Slave are the recommendations regarding the untapped potential of the Taltson river basin. "Over the years, Fort Smith residents have talked about the tremendous potential to sell the excess electrical power that could be generated at Taltson to our neighbours to the south including Alberta and Saskatchewan. I raised this with the NTPC Board this fall and I am pleased to see it highlighted in the report," said the Thebacha MLA. The report picks up on this idea and indicates that it is an area that should be pursued.

The Taltson hydro electric potential is seen as a mega-project which will need the involvement of many South Slave partners. It presents a great opportunity for all the parties involved. "The South Slave has this untapped resource, hydro electricity, which will last forever. If we handle this right, it will provide long term revenues for the people of the South Slave today and for years to come," stated Mr. Miltenberger.

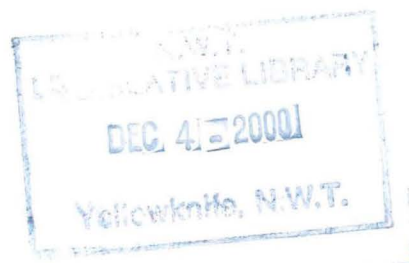
The MLA was also pleased to see a reference to the use of interruptible power, an initiative that is being explored already in Fort Smith. The Fort Smith project involves Federal and Territorial departments along with the College and potentially other major power users. "It is positive to see that the report confirms we are on the right track in Fort Smith both in terms of the Taltson potential and the work in interruptible power," said Mr. Miltenberger.

Mr. Miltenberger will be encouraging consultation on the document in Fort Smith in the near future. As he indicated, "Our community is already working on the interruptible power idea and Fort Smith is the natural centre for any development that takes place on the Taltson river basin. People in Thebacha will want to talk about the report and how to move forward."

Mr. Miltenberger pointed out that there is still a need for a broader energy strategy, noting that the electrical energy report contains a number of references to other forms of energy and how they should fit into the NWT energy picture.

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00-48



Dogrib Region bypassed in Government Studies

Yellowknife (Dec.8)- North Slave MLA, Leon Lafferty wonders how the Territorial Government can expect to share the resources of the Dogrib region when they continue to overlook the area in their studies, plans and visions.

"The recent documents which include an action plan released by the Department of Transportation, the energy strategies for the Territories and the review on the power corporation all disregard the assets in the Dogrib region," says Lafferty.

He adds that the long-term government visions are inefficient, as they do not take advantage of infrastructure currently in place in the North Slave region. "The Government is working on a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Power Corporation has a 65 year lease with the Dogrib Power Corporation to use hydroelectric power and yet this is ignored when a department creates its action plans," remarked Mr. Lafferty.

Lafferty maintains that a coordinated approach by the government would benefit the Territories as a whole. "I realize that each Minister has a full portfolio with many, many issues involved, however there are gross oversights occurring and issues are left unanswered despite being repeatedly brought up."

Lafferty says that if an all-weather road were built to connect the Dogrib communities, hydro lines could be placed beside the road. This could supply power to both the communities and the mines. Northern employment would be created during the construction of the road and the hydro lines.

A cleaner energy source, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, more affordable groceries and home heating fuel, as well as an all-weather route to the mines are some of the advantages.

"The Dogrib people have made it very clear that they are interested in having an all-weather road connecting their communities," says Lafferty. This road would have benefits for the mine sites, the environment, and for the entire Northwest Territories."

He adds that there are multiple benefits for both the North Slave and the Government if the Dogrib communities are included in strategic plans.

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