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Canadian Zinc and Nahanni Butte Sign Impact and Benefit Agreement

(YELLOWKNIFE) January 20, 2011 – Canadian Zinc, the mineral exploration company that is working 90 km southeast of Nahanni Butte, and the community of Nahanni Butte will be signing an impact and benefit agreement (IBA) for work that will be done at the Canadian Zinc mine.

Kevin Menicoche, MLA Nahendeh, is pleased that Canadian Zinc and Nahanni Butte have agreed to sign the IBA, “I am pleased that Nahanni Butte is willing to move forward with this agreement. There will be positive economic and social impacts seen with this project through the participation of local labour and business in Nahanni Butte.”

“I hear every day about the struggles of small communities with high unemployment and lack of economic development opportunities. Nahanni Butte is willing to work with industry to address this,” says Mr. Menicoche.

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MLA Great Slave urges Federal Government to continue the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnerships Program

(YELLOWKNIFE) February 18, 2011 – The member for Great Slave, Glen Abernethy, today presented a motion in collaboration with the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, regarding the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnerships program (ASEP).

The ASEP program was created in 2003 by the Federal Government to increase aboriginal participation in the workplace. Since its creation, ASEP has resulted in over 900 aboriginal northerners obtaining full-time northern employment in the mining, transportation, construction and petroleum exploration sectors. The Federal Government plans on discontinuing the ASEP program on March 31, 2012.

“We urge the Federal Government to continue with the ASEP program. This program has had, and will continue to have, a significant, positive impact on the economic development of the NWT. I am very happy that cabinet members and regular members were able to come together as an entire assembly and work towards the greater good of the people of the NWT,” says Mr. Abernethy.

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Cabinet Seat to Remain Vacant

(YELLOWKIFE) April 7, 2011 – At a meeting of the Caucus held earlier today, Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly decided not to fill the vacancy left on Cabinet by the resignation of the Member for Range Lake, Sandy Lee. Accordingly, the Territorial Leadership Committee to be held this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. has been cancelled.

Caucus' decision was based on the costs associated with selecting, swearing in and briefing a new minister with less than four months remaining in the term of the current Legislative Assembly. Wendy Bisaro, Caucus Chair and MLA Frame Lake says, "today was the first opportunity that the full Caucus has had to meet since the resignation of Ms. Lee on March 26. Members agreed that the costs of filling the vacant cabinet seat and a potential cabinet shuffle were too great given the remaining life of this legislative assembly."

Caucus has agreed to a number of measures to ensure that all members have an active role to play in cabinet decision making for the remainder of this Assembly. A protocol has been agreed upon whereby Cabinet will identify and consult with Regular Members on any major decisions that may be required in the lead up to the general election and during the election period. Caucus has also scheduled a three day meeting in Norman Wells from May 30 to June 1 to discuss transition issues for the remainder of the 16th Legislative Assembly. The ministerial portfolios that are now vacant will be shared by the existing ministers on the Executive Council. Premier Roland will make an announcement to that effect in the coming days.

A seven-Member Cabinet is a political convention and can be changed at any time by the direction of the Caucus. The decision to continue with a six member cabinet is an interim measure that will expire after the current Assembly is dissolved. As usual, the Caucus of the 17th Legislative Assembly will re-visit this convention following the upcoming general election in October.

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Legislative Assembly Speaker Rescinds Recall Notice

(YELLOWKIFE) April 7, 2011 – The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Paul Delorey, has rescinded the recall order which was issued March 30, 2011 to reconvene the Sixth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly, scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2011.

The Speaker, acting on the advice of Cabinet and Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled a meeting of the Territorial Leadership Committee to fill the vacancy on the Executive Council due to the recent resignation of the Member for Range Lake. Formal recall of the House would have been necessary to ratify any decision of the Territorial Leadership Committee.

Caucus, meeting today for the first time since the Members resignation, has determined that it will not be necessary to fill the vacant position at this late date in the life of the 16th Legislative Assembly. After consideration and consultation with all Members, the Speaker has directed that the recall of the House for April 8, 2011 be rescinded as it is no longer necessary for the House to meet at that time.

Accordingly, the Legislative Assembly will reconvene as previously scheduled on May 11, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

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MLA Robert Hawkins believes that Federal Party position's regarding northern issues is key information for our residents

(YELLOWKNIFE, NT) April 28, 2011 – Robert Hawkins, MLA Yellowknife Centre would like to acknowledge and thank Premier Floyd Roland for ensuring that the Federal Leaders and candidates had a chance to responded to questions posed by our government which in turn help northerners better understand the individual positions held by parties with respect to their northern platforms.

As stated by MLA Robert Hawkins in the Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2011, “this is an opportunity to get northern issues on the table for discussion and certainly commitments”.

“With an election only days away, clearly the Liberal, NDP and Green Party’s have taken an interest in northern issues by taking the time to acknowledge and respond to the Premier’s questions. At the same time, I’m disappointed not all parties have made an effort to take the time to comment on issues important to all northerners”, said MLA Robert Hawkins.

MLA Robert Hawkins also stated, “it is my belief that the Western Arctic seat is a much coveted seat by all the parties and it should be earned. By responding to questions from our Premier, this shows that they respect and acknowledge northern issues. It’s not up to me to pick or even suggest one candidate over another. However this is an opportunity for northern residents to see the responses and even the lack of responses which is critical for informing our northern residents”.

To see the Premier’s questions and responses posed to all Federal Parties:
<http://www.premier.gov.nt.ca/federal2008/>

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Legislative Assembly to Welcome Youth Parliamentarians

(YELLOWKNIFE, NT) April 29, 2011 – Nineteen high school students from across the North will take part in Youth Parliament 2011 beginning on Monday, May 2 at the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife. The students will participate in three days of meetings and briefings in preparation for the Youth Parliament Session during which they assume the roles of their respective Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Paul Delorey says, “For over a decade, Youth Parliament has been a proud Northern tradition among high school students; it is an excellent program that develops student awareness of Northern civics. At the same time, it builds on a student’s natural leadership skills and provides opportunity for personal growth in areas such as public speaking, writing, research, and interpersonal skills.”

Youth Parliament is one of several educational outreach programs offered at the Legislative Assembly through the Office of the Speaker. The program is aimed at educating Northern youth about consensus government, with an emphasis on the Assembly operations, its function and history, and the important role the institution holds in the NWT.

The participants, by constituency, are:

Deh Cho – Mr. Spencer Bonnetrouge
Great Slave – Mr. Robert Doak
Hay River South – Mr. Patrick Smith
Inuvik Twin Lakes – Ms. Alison McDonald
Mackenzie Delta – Ms. Alannis McKee
Nahendeh – Mr. Timothy Gargan-Lacasse
Sahtu – Ms. Michelle Krutko
Tu Nedhe – Ms. Annika Olesen
Yellowknife Centre – Ms. Kendall Tecsy

Frame Lake – Mr. Matt Nguyen Ha
Hay River North – Ms. Chelsea Larkin
Inuvik Boot Lake – Ms. Euodia Mutua
Kam Lake – Ms. Cassidy Blampied
Monfwi – Ms. Magdalene Steinwand
Range Lake – Mr. Steve Norbert Gomes
Thebacha – Ms. Emily Sturgeon
Weledeh – Mr. Jarette Crookedhand
Yellowknife South – Ms. Emily Bevan

The Youth Parliament 2011 session is taking place on Thursday, May 5th, at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to come watch the Session from the Public Gallery. Media are encouraged to arrange interviews with the students prior to the sitting day.

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MLA Nahendeh Concerned About Enbridge Pipeline Leak

(YELLOWKNIFE) May 10, 2011 – The Member for Nahendeh, Kevin Menicoche, is concerned with the recent leak from an Enbridge Pipeline near Willowlake River, north of Fort Simpson. The leak was reported earlier this week by Chief Timothy Lennie of Wrigley who noticed strong fuel odours in the area he was hunting this week.

“There have been a few big oil leaks in the world recently. The most current is the leak in northern Alberta. I am concerned about the safety of the public, our water and our animals. It is my hope that the leak is contained and addressed as safely and as quickly as possible,” says Mr. Menicoche.

Chief Lennie reported it immediately to Enbridge Pipelines Inc. in Fort Simpson who dispatched an investigation team. His concern is for local residents who live at the mouth of the Willowlake River. Chief Lennie was also concerned as to how a modern leak detection system did not alert Enbridge Pipelines.

“I will continue to monitor the situation and I have been advised that the leak is contained, but it is not known how long it will take to clean up the site,” says Mr. Menicoche.

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MLAs Visit Enbridge Pipeline Leak

(YELLOWKNIFE) June 9, 2011 – Yesterday, Kevin Menicoche, MLA for Nahendeh, Norman Yakeleya, MLA for Sahtu and Bob Bromley, MLA for Weledeh visited the Enbridge oil spill site. The leak occurred near Willow River which, for residents of the community of Wrigley, was a pristine traditional hunting ground.

The crude oil spill was first reported by Chief Timothy Lennie of Wrigley in early May. The first estimate from Enbridge indicated only four barrels of oil had been spilled, but as of Monday, June 6th, the company now said it is possible that up to 1500 barrels of crude oil may have leaked from a pinhole in the pipeline.

MLA Kevin Menicoche is very concerned that the early estimates were based on visible oil and do not take into account subsurface volumes. While efforts were focused on the leak site, “Enbridge could have had a better public information strategy to inform the communities and the public on the progress of the leak and the clean up,” said Mr. Menicoche.

MLA Norman Yakeleya strongly encourages the National Energy Board, which regulates pipelines, “to take a more proactive approach to monitoring pipeline companies with recovery and remediation action plans during an oil spill.”

Given that it was only a pinhole leak that caused the spill, MLA Bob Bromley questioned the leak detection system. “Somebody was short about a thousand barrels of oil, so why didn’t the company know – and how will things be improved?” said Mr. Bromley.

The MLAs recognize that Enbridge Pipeline staff and contractors are striving towards containing the spill and achieving full recovery. Enbridge provided transportation and a tour of the site for MLA’s and the media.

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Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Visit Legislative Assembly

(YELLOWKNIFE) June 27, 2011 – Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, will observe and participate in a meeting of the 2011 Youth Parliament as part of the Northwest Territories portion of the 2011 Royal Tour. They will also meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly and participants in the inaugural Elders Parliament hosted by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in May of 2010.

The 2011 Youth Parliament was hosted by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Paul Delorey, in May of 2011. Youth representing the nineteen electoral districts of the Northwest Territories spent a week in Yellowknife learning about consensus government, meeting with their MLAs and debating various issues of interest to them including zero tolerance for bullying, promotion of sexual health among youth and increased investment in youth programs and facilities. The participants in this year's Youth Parliament have been invited to select an additional issue of importance to them to debate in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses commencing at 1:05 pm on July 5, 2011 on the floor of the Chamber of Legislative Assembly.

Following the Youth Parliament debate, Their Royal Highnesses will view the Mace of the Northwest Territories and learn about the unique system of consensus government that is practiced in the Northwest Territories. A brief reception will follow in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly where the Duke and Duchess will meet with the Youth Parliamentarians and their families, Members of the Legislative Assembly and participants in the 2010 Elders Parliament. Prior to departing the Legislative Assembly, Their Royal Highnesses will sign the Legislative Assembly Guest Book and receive the official gift from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Entertainment during the reception will be provided by youth fiddlers of the Kole Crook Fiddle Association and the student choir of École JH Sissons.

“In 1994 Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II dedicated the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly to the people of the North, to the wisdom of the elders and to the vision of their children,” said Speaker Delorey. “On the occasion of their first official visit to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, I am very pleased to highlight not only the service of our current MLAs, but also our elders and youth from across the Territories. These and other legislative outreach programs have been very successful in terms of bringing the work of the Legislative Assembly closer to the people we serve. I'm thrilled that the Royal Visit will provide the participants with the profile and recognition they deserve.”

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Sahtu MLA Pleased with Oil and Gas Companies' Recent Interest in the Sahtu

(YELLOWKNIFE) July 6, 2011 – Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu, is very pleased with the recent announcement from the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of the winning bids for oil and gas exploration in the Sahtu.

Eleven parcels of land in the Sahtu garnered bids from five companies promising to spend over \$500 million over the next four years. Husky Oil won a bid for \$376 million on two parcels of land between Norman Wells and Tulita.

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu, believes it is a good thing that the major oil and gas companies of the world have confidence in the Sahtu and that the Sahtu is in a good position to reap the benefits from these projects. Mr. Yakeleya says, “There is still plenty of work to do for any one of these projects to proceed, as the Sahtu Dene and Métis will be major players in going forward with this. It is my hope that the agreement will be done in a timely manner with industry, that our people can go to work, and that our land will receive the highest protection against any negative impacts.”

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Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike at Risk

(YELLOWKNIFE) July 6, 2011 – For the last five years, youth from the Sahtu region of the NWT have travelled along the Canol Trail with business and political leaders. That may be about to end on short notice because the federal government has reneged on funding support previously committed for this year.

“There is a terrible environmental mess in the Mackenzie Mountains left over from the Second World War. The Government of Canada has a legal obligation to clean this up. At the moment, they are at least pretending they intend to do so,” says Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu. In 2010 the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development wanted to get the perspective of youth from the region on what ‘a culturally sensitive clean-up’ would look like.

For the first four years of the youth hike, organized by Mr. Yakeleya and others, the Government of the NWT and private industry provided necessary funding. Last year the federal government saw the value in the youth hike and provided the majority of the needed funding with the commitment that the funding would continue into the future.

“In January, 2011 the feds told the leaders of the youth hike that there was a \$25 000 commitment for the current year. In May that was reduced to \$20 000 and today, July 6th, not much more than one week before the hike, they advised that they have no money for the youth. Meanwhile they have been stringing us along with questions to us, we were told, to make our funding proposal fit within their new guidelines,” says Mr. Yakeleya.

“We are committed to the youth and to the hike. We believe we can make the hike happen next week. We call on the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to step up and provide the funding as committed to by his staff. Can we trust the word of the Government of Canada or not? That is a question we are asking today,” says Mr. Yakeleya.

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Members-elect of the 17th Legislative Assembly

(Yellowknife) October 4, 2011 – The polls closed at 8:00 pm Monday, October 3rd and the votes were tallied up to reveal the Members-elect of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. The Member-elect, from Inuvik Boot Lake constituency will be subject to a recount. New Assembly Members-elect will be in office starting October 12th but will not be officially sworn in until the middle of October.

The Members-elect, by constituency, are as follows:

Deh Cho – Michael Nadli	Frame Lake – Wendy Bisaro
Great Slave – Glen Abernethy	Hay River North – Robert Bouchard
Hay River South - Jane Groenwegen	Inuvik Boot Lake – Alfred Moses
Inuvik Twin Lakes – Robert C. McLeod	Kam Lake – David Ramsay
Mackenzie Delta – Frederick Blake	Monfwi – Jackson Lafferty
Nahendeh – Kevin Menicoche	Nunakput – Jackie Jacobson
Range Lake – Daryl Dolynny	Sahtu – Norman Yakeleya
Thebacha – J. Michael Miltenberger	Tu Nedhe – Tom Beaulieu
Weledeh – Bob Bromley	Yellowknife Centre – Robert Hawkins
Yellowknife South – Bob McLeod	

For information on results statistics visit the Elections NWT website at: www.electionsnwt.ca and for further information on rules and procedures contact:

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Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya Withdrawing from the Selection Process for NWT Premier.

(YELLOWKNIFE) October 20, 2011 – Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya has withdrawn from the selection process for NWT Premier.

“After much reflection and discussion with my wife, colleagues, and respected individuals in the community, I have decided I will be supporting a Premier that aligns their aspirations with mine. This Legislature needs to renew and commit to a consensus approach of governing.”

A Sahtu Dene from Tulita, Norman Yakeleya has been the Sahtu MLA since 2003. This is his third term representing the communities of Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Tulita, and Deline in the NWT Legislative Assembly. Educated at residential school in Inuvik, at Aurora College, and through the Nehchi Institute, Mr. Yakeleya brings a wealth of education and experience to his role as MLA. In addition to his early career in health and wellness, Mr. Yakeleya earned the confidence of his region to represent it through progressively responsible roles as Chief Negotiator for the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim and the Tulita self-government agreement and the Tulita Dene and also Chairman of the Sahtu Tribal Council.

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Process for the Territorial Leadership Committee Confirmed

(Yellowknife) October 25, 2011 – Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories have confirmed the process to be used to elect the Speaker, Premier and Executive Council during the Territorial Leadership Committee (TLC) meetings being held tomorrow in Yellowknife.

The 19 Members of Caucus have agreed that the first order of business at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011** will be the election of the Speaker. Candidates for the Speaker's position will have five minutes to deliver a speech to Members of the Assembly regarding their suitability for the role of Speaker. After the speeches have concluded, a secret ballot vote will be held, and the results released. Once the Speaker-elect has been chosen, he/she will assume the Chair of the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting.

The TLC will select the Premier from among the 18 remaining Members. Each candidate nominated for Premier will be given 20 minutes to deliver a speech and will answer a maximum of two questions from each Member.

The Executive Council selection process, which gets underway at **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday**, will follow past practice whereby a total of six Ministers will be chosen. The regional balance of two Ministers from the northern constituencies, two from southern constituencies, and two from Yellowknife will be maintained.

The public is invited to observe the Territorial Leadership Committee meetings, which will be held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly building. Formal motions to ratify the TLC selections will be brought forward when the 17th Legislative Assembly convenes on Thursday, October 27th, at 1:30 p.m.

Copies of the processes used for the selection of the Speaker, Premier and Executive Council are attached to this news release.

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Northwest Territories Speaker-elect and Premier-elect Chosen

(Yellowknife) October 26, 2011 – The Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly have elected Yellowknife South MLA Bob McLeod as the Northwest Territories Premier-elect and Mr. Jackie Jacobson as the Speaker-elect of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The Territorial Leadership Committee conducted its selection process in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly earlier today. Formal motions to ratify the selections will be brought forward when the 17th Legislative Assembly convenes on Thursday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m.

This is Mr. McLeod's second term as the Member for Yellowknife South, having first been elected in 2007. During his time as a Member of the 16th Assembly, Mr. McLeod served as the Minister of Human Resources; Industry, Tourism and Investment; and Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board. He was also the Lead Minister on New Energy Initiatives as well as Lead Minister on the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline Project.

Mr. Jacobson was recently elected to serve a second term as the Member for Nunakput after first being elected in 2007. During his time as a Member of the 16th Assembly, Mr. Jacobson sat on the Board of Management, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, and the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning. He previously served as the Mayor of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Jacobson will occupy the Speaker's Chair on October 27th when the First Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is formally convened. Premier-elect McLeod will be sworn in as Premier of the Northwest Territories at a ceremony being held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber at 3:00pm on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

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Executive Council Members selected by the 17th Legislative Assembly

(Yellowknife) October 26, 2011 - Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly have chosen the six Members who, in concert with Premier-elect Bob McLeod, will form the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories. The Territorial Leadership Committee held the vote in the Assembly Chamber earlier today.

The following Members, once formally sworn in at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2011, will join Premier-elect Bob McLeod on the Executive Council:

Mr. Glen Abernethy, MLA Great Slave
Mr. Tom Beaulieu, MLA Tu Nedhe
Mr. Jackson Lafferty, MLA Monfwi
Mr. Robert C. McLeod, MLA Inuvik Twin Lakes
Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger, MLA Thebacha
Mr. David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake

The Executive Council selection process followed the established practice whereby a regional balance was maintained by selecting two Members from the northern constituencies, two from southern constituencies, and two from Yellowknife.

Formal motions to ratify the appointments to the Executive Council will be brought forward when the 17th Legislative Assembly convenes on Thursday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m. The Premier will assign cabinet portfolios at a later date.

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Regular Members Pleased with Ministerial Portfolio Assignments

(Yellowknife) November 2, 2011 – Members of the Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, which consists of the 11 Regular Members, are pleased with the Ministerial portfolio assignments that Premier Bob McLeod announced earlier today.

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Chair of the Committee and MLA for Nahendeh stated “The Regular Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly are pleased that Premier McLeod acted quickly and decisively in making his assignments. We look forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting straight to work on the many issues and challenges that are facing all of our government departments and agencies. We wish to foster a positive working relationship with all Cabinet Ministers in their new and challenging roles.”

“There is much knowledge and experience in the Regular Member ranks and we trust the new Cabinet will feel comfortable in calling upon us to assist them in their duties as we move forward together on behalf of all people of the Northwest Territories” added Deputy Chair and MLA for Range Lake, Daryl Dolynny.

“Meaningful participation by all 19 Members in decision making is essential to good governance and is one of the stated principles of consensus government. I am sure our new Cabinet colleagues will respect this principle as we collectively serve our constituents,” said Mr. Menicoche.

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Caucus Identifies Priorities for the 17th Legislative Assembly

YELLOWKNIFE (November 17, 2011) The Caucus of the 17th Legislative Assembly concluded a significant phase of its strategic planning exercise today by reaching agreement on its vision, goals, and priorities for action under the theme of *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*; however, the caucus cautions that expectations must be tempered in light of the Government's fiscal reality.

"We have taken a different approach to strategic planning from past Assemblies," said Deputy Chair of Caucus Alfred Moses. "We recognize that the vision and goals set by the 16th Assembly are broad and long term and we did not see a need to make major changes to them. Instead we wanted to focus on setting a small number of priorities that we think we can achieve or make progress on during our four-year mandate, provided we can find the resources needed. This is going to be a challenge."

"People should not be alarmed that they do not see everything in this strategic plan that we have included in past strategic plans," said Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Kevin Menicoche. "In the past we have set out a job description for government, including many activities like education and land claims and self-government negotiations that are part of the core business of government and are ongoing. We want to reassure people that core government programs and services will continue. At the same time, we realize that if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority, and we need to focus our efforts in a few key areas to make our time here count. We are going to be challenged to achieve even this smaller set of priorities given our fiscal reality, and will have some tough decisions ahead of us."

~~The achievement of some priorities, in particular large infrastructure projects, will be contingent on federal government support and private sector involvement. Many of the other major investments identified will have to be delayed or may not be able to proceed at all if additional funds cannot be found. "We have rolled up our sleeves and tried to come up with the priority areas where we can make the most impact. At the same time, we do not have the resources to allocate to new strategic initiatives that we did in the past," said Government House Leader Michael Miltenberger. "We all need to temper our expectations in keeping with the fiscal situation."~~

The *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners* document will form the basis for the government business plans and budgets that will be prepared over the course of the Assembly. The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committees anticipate reviewing the first draft of the four year business plan in March 2012.

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Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche Pleased with Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Decision

(YELLOWKNIFE) December 9th, 2011 – Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche is pleased with the recent decision made by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (MVEIRB) on the Prairie Creek Mine development proposal.

The Prairie Creek Mine development would directly impact the communities of Fort Simpson and Nahanni Butte in the Nahendeh constituency. MLA Kevin Menicoche is pleased with the decision of the MVEIRB and says that it will lead to jobs and opportunities for the residents in his constituency.

“It is important for the Canadian Zinc Corporation to follow through with their Impact Benefit Agreement commitments to the communities so that people and the communities actually benefit,” says Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche.

The MVEIRB indicated that the development is not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment. “The onus is still on the company to follow through with their commitment to the highest environmental standards of construction and effective monitoring of their proposed water quality objectives,” Mr. Menicoche said.

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