

Northwest Territories LA News Releases | 2013

13-01	Jan. 28	Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya confident that the Norman Wells gas crisis will be resolved shortly
13-02	Feb. 11	Deh Cho MLA Michael M. Nadli announces Daniel Sonfrere as a Recipient of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal
13-03	Feb. 18	Deh Cho MLA Michael M. Nadli announces recipients of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal
13-04	Apr. 17	Apology from MLA Nahendeh, Kevin Menicoche
13-05	Apr. 19	MLAs lose fun bet to Range Lake MLA during Northern Hockey Challenge Championship Game
13-06	Apr. 19	Priorities and Planning Committee accepts Chair's resignation
13-07	Apr. 23	Sahtu MLA concerned for his constituency
13-08	Apr. 24	NWT Income Security Programs: Standing Committee on Government Operations challenges department to act on the recommendations of the Auditor-General
13-09	May 01	On the passing of Shirley Firth-Larsson
13-10	May 02	MLA for Frame Lake pleased to see Auditor General's comments on inadequacies of federal search and rescue capabilities
13-11	May 03	Youth Parliament 2013
13-12	May 13	Standing Committee cancels week of travel
13-13	May 28	Standing Committee on Government Operations voices concern with NGO Funding Policy
13-14	May 28	MLA for Frame Lake elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning
13-15	May 29	Electoral Boundaries Commission Report tabled
13-16	May 30	Standing Committee reschedules <i>Wildlife Act</i> travel
13-17	June 04	Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley Congratulates Det' on Cho
13-18	June 06	MLAs paving the way for organ donations

Northwest Territories LA News Releases | 2013

13-19	June 10	Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya commends progress on <i>Liquor Act</i> Amendment
13-20	June 11	Government to move forward with proposal for revisions to <i>Human Tissue Act</i>
13-21	June 20	NWT citizens burdened by unacceptable delays for Health Care Cards
13-22	July 04	8 th Annual CANOL Youth Leadership Hike
13-23	July 12	Highway #4 By-pass project
13-24	July 16	Closing of Nats' ejee K' eh Treatment Centre
13-25	July 26	Ministerial response to MLA's question on fuel price regulation in the NWT
13-26	July 30	Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche calls on the GNWT to take action on academic achievement
13-27	Aug. 29	Changes to Health Governance Model Prevents Effective Delivery of Services
13-28	Sept. 09	Standing Committee on Government Operations postpones public hearing due to tragic accident
13-29	Sept. 13	Standing Committee on Government Operations reschedules public hearing in Norman Wells
13-30	Sept. 23	MLAs to discuss Anti-Bullying Law with students
13-31	Sept. 30	Yellowknife Centre MLA concerned About Giant Mine Remediation Proposals
13-32	Oct. 02	Members Appointed to Independent Commission to review Members' compensation and benefits
13-33	Oct. 11	Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley congratulates Diavik Diamond Mines
13-34	Oct. 15	Range Lake constituency meeting
13-35	Oct. 17	Legislative Assembly Twentieth Anniversary celebrations
13-36	Oct. 18	Hay River North MLA recovering in hospital
13-37	Oct. 23	Lifeguards for Lodune Project at Long Lake Beach

Northwest Territories LA News Releases | 2013

13-38	Oct. 24	Members of the 17 th Legislative Assembly to debate Electoral Boundaries Commission Report
13-39	Nov. 04	Options for a new <i>Mental Health Act</i>
13-40	Nov. 07	Appointment of new Languages Commissioner
13-41	Nov. 15	Range Lake MLA asks for the Government's position on Senate reform
13-42	Nov. 25	MLAs Speak With Youth Conference participants
13-43	Dec. 03	Legislative Assembly launches new website

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya Confident that the Norman Wells Gas Crisis will be Resolved Shortly

(Yellowknife) Monday, January 28, 2013 – The town of Norman Wells has declared a state of emergency after a disruption in the natural gas flow from the Imperial Oil compression plant, which heats the town. The MLA for the Sahtu region, Norman Yakeleya, says he is optimistic that the situation will be resolved shortly.

“On the coldest day of the month so far, the residents of Norman Wells are facing a very tough situation,” says Yakeleya. “Although gas supply to the town is currently being restored, and heat to many homes appears to be returning, we must remain vigilant in ensuring the safety of all residents. I have been working with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and have been in touch with the Mayor of Norman Wells, and I am confident that everything is being done to keep everyone safe from the cold temperatures.”

“The Government of the Northwest Territories is working in conjunction with local residents and businesses to keep everyone informed on where to go should their homes get too cold, and is also working with Imperial Oil to ensure that the gas returns quickly. I know the residents of Norman Wells will be there to help each other out, and I am sure that the town can weather the storm.”

For more information, please contact:

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-446-2366
Email: Norman_Yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

Deh Cho MLA Michael M. Nadli Announces Daniel Sonfrere as a Recipient of Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal

(Fort Providence) Monday, February 11, 2013 – Michael M. Nadli, MLA Deh Cho, is pleased to announce Deh Cho constituent Daniel Sonfrere as a recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. Mr. Sonfrere is a respected elder who has been a strong advocate of the Dene culture and the preservation and promotion of the Dene language. He was one of the Chiefs who negotiated a settlement with the Government of Canada to form the first Northwest Territories reservation, the K’atlodeeche First Nation Reserve.

“Mr. Sonfrere is an elder who has had many experiences. He has hunted, fished, and trapped. He also sat in boardrooms and negotiated the establishment of the K’atlodeeche First Nation Reserve, the first and only reservation in the entire territory. He always inspired me with his speaking skills, and often told stories to reinforce key lessons. It is a great honour to recognize Mr. Sonfrere for his passion and commitment in representing the K’atlodeeche First Nations over the many years he served as leader,” says Mr. Nadli.

To be eligible to receive the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal, a person must have made a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region, or community within Canada. Awarding of the medal should focus on the achievements of people who have helped build the Canada of today, and to have distinguished themselves from others in the same field through their achievements and sustained contribution.

“Mr. Sonfrere has played an important role in preserving the Dene language by assisting in the creation of a Dene dictionary. His hope was that this dictionary would help younger generations learn their language. Because of his passion for learning, the Chief Daniel Sonfrere Community Learning Centre of Aurora College for Adult Learners was named in his honour. Mr. Sonfrere has helped to ensure that northern youth will have the opportunity to learn their traditional language,” says Mr. Nadli.

For more information, please contact:

Michael M. Nadli, MLA Deh Cho
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2268
Email: michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca

**Deh Cho MLA Michael M. Nadli Announces Recipients of
Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal**

(Fort Providence) Monday, February 18, 2013 – Michael M. Nadli, MLA Deh Cho, awarded three Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medals today in Fort Providence, NT. The three recipients are Johnny Landry, Sam Gargan, and Margaret Thom, all of Fort Providence.

“I am honoured to be able to award the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medals to such distinguished individuals of Fort Providence. Johnny Landry is a well-known musician and has a gift of creating songs from a Dené perspective. He has travelled throughout the Denedeh to help revitalize his Dené language. Sam Gargan has had a notable career in politics: he was the MLA for the Deh Cho for 16 years, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mayor of Fort Providence, and Grand Chief of the Deh Gah Got’ie Dené Council. Mr. Gargan has been a strong voice for the Dené people. Margaret Thom is a former Deputy Commissioner of the NWT and has worked diligently for the people of Fort Providence through counseling and education. She has organized many healing circles, parenting workshops, cultural camps for students, and other programs that have benefited the Dené people,” says Mr. Nadli.

To be eligible to receive the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal, a person must have made a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region, or community within Canada. Awarding of the medal should focus on the achievements of people who have helped build the Canada of today, and to have distinguished themselves from others in the same field through their achievements and sustained contribution.

“All three of these recipients today are well-deserving of this honour. They have all worked tirelessly for the best interest of the Dené culture and for the youth of our future,” says Mr. Nadli.

For more information, please contact:

Michael M. Nadli, MLA Deh Cho
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2268
Email: michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca

Apology from MLA Nahendeh, Kevin Menicoche

(Yellowknife) Wednesday, April 17, 2013 – I apologize to my constituents for my recent lack of judgment and behavior during meetings in Inuvik on April 12 - 13, 2013. I take full responsibility for my behavior and do admit that I did not attend two days of meetings. I have asked the Legislative Assembly to bill me for any extra costs that may have been incurred on my behalf.

As a result of a recent media story, I feel I may have embarrassed my constituents and deeply regret that. I will be taking the necessary steps this week to address my personal problems, which includes use of the Members' Assistance Program to seek treatment. I will continue to represent my constituency and carry on the important work of the committees that I sit on. I will not be commenting any further to the media on my personal matters.

I would like to thank all well-wishers and supporters as I move forward.

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Menicoche, MLA Nahendeh
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2294
E-mail: kevin_menicoche@gov.nt.ca

Priorities and Planning Committee Accepts Chair's Resignation

(Yellowknife) Friday, April 19, 2013 –The 17th Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, consisting of the eleven (11) Regular Members, has accepted the resignation of Committee Chairperson, Kevin Menicoche.

“The Members’ Conduct Guidelines call on all MLAs to serve the people of the North with integrity and honour. They also acknowledge human vulnerabilities and how Members should strive to act in ways which help to overcome the hardships which destroy life and hope, and the human frailties which fall upon us. Citizens should have faith or belief that their political leaders will act in a right, proper, or effective way. Two of our colleagues, the MLA for Nahendeh Kevin Menicoche, and the MLA for Mackenzie Delta Frederick Blake Jr., recently experienced a very painful and very public lack of judgment. As colleagues, we will support Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Blake in their journeys of personal healing,” says Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny, who is the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

Mr. Dolynny adds, “These actions demonstrate that Members of the Committee view this situation in a very serious yet compassionate light and wish to take the steps necessary to preserve the true dignity of this institution and the people it represents. Committee Members recognize the position of trust we are in as elected representatives and highly value the public’s right to expect Committee accountability. We will stand by Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Blake in their efforts to address their personal issues but acknowledge that positive work on behalf of our constituents must continue.”

As Deputy Chair, Mr. Dolynny will act as the Chairperson on an interim basis until the Committee chooses a permanent replacement at the outset of the May/June sitting of the House.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, Deputy Chair
Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
Email: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

MLAs Lose Fun Bet to Range Lake MLA During Northern Hockey Challenge Championship Game

(Yellowknife) Friday, April 19, 2013 – Hay River North MLA Robert Bouchard and Inuvik Boot Lake MLA Alfred Moses lost a fun bet to Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny during the recent Northern Hockey Challenge game in Hay River on April 6 where Yellowknife beat Hay River in sudden-death overtime for the Western Championship. The Northern Hockey Challenge showcases senior men’s hockey in Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

“It’s been amazing to witness the spirit of comradery between Hay River, Inuvik, and Yellowknife and to see all of the northern support for both volunteers and sponsors. I know that there have been many hours of behind-the-scenes planning for these events and the volunteers should be commended for their services; I would like to thank the many sponsors and endless volunteers for their ongoing support during this challenge. First Air should be applauded for putting this together in such a short time frame and for getting the teams where they needed to be safely,” says Mr. Dolynny.

“The spirit of the communities is so important in the NWT; we watched some great hockey and the communities were always there cheering their home team on. This is definitely a great event for the development of hockey in the north. We had a great deal of youth attend the events and we want to promote events like these to keep northern youth active. I would also like to thank the sponsors that make these events possible,” says Robert Bouchard, Hay River North MLA.

“I would like to thank First Air for coordinating the inaugural Northern Hockey Challenge as well as other sponsors who made this northern challenge possible. The hockey challenge brought out community pride and spirit in each of the three western communities and was an event that all northerners are proud to be a part of. I’d like to congratulate the Yellowknife Flyers on their victory and I am sure they will represent the NWT with great pride and enthusiasm. I know I will definitely be cheering them on as an NWT resident! I would also like to thank my fellow colleagues for our own fun challenge which resulted in a donation to the Yellowknife Food Bank,” says Mr. Alfred Moses, Inuvik Boot Lake MLA.

Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Bouchard, and Mr. Moses had a bet on who was going to win the Western Division championship; the loser of the bet had to choose a charity to support. Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Moses will be donating a total of \$400 to the Yellowknife Food Bank.

Iqaluit won the Eastern Division and will be battling the Yellowknife Flyers for the Northern Hockey Challenge win beginning on Friday, April 26 at 8:30pm at the Multiplex in Yellowknife.

For more information on the Northern Hockey Challenge, please visit www.northernhockeychallenge.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
Email: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Sahtu MLA Concerned for his Constituency

(Yellowknife) Tuesday, April 23, 2013 – Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya is concerned for the people in his constituency due to the recent events that have taken place in Tulita, NT. A total of 180 bottles of alcohol were seized on two different occasions during the month of April and two people were stabbed during the weekend of April 20.

“This is not right, this is not normal behaviour. There are people breaking laws and hurting each other; we need to stand up as leaders and look at solutions for dealing with these issues,” says Mr. Yakeleya.

“I have invited the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Tom Beaulieu, and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Glen Abernethy to visit my constituency on May 1, 2013 and they have both agreed. I want them to come and listen to the people about the recent events and what steps can be taken to help our constituency,” continues Mr. Yakeleya.

For more information, please contact:

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2270
Email: norman_yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

NWT Income Security Programs: Standing Committee on Government Operations Challenges Department to Act on the Recommendations of the Auditor-General

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, April 24, 2013 – The Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO) is challenging the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to act on the recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada to improve delivery of four Northwest Territories income security programs.

Government Operations is the committee mandated to review reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the NWT Legislative Assembly. The Committee examined the Auditor General’s report during public meetings with senior officials from the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of ECE on April 16 and 17 in Yellowknife.

Committee Chair Michael Nadli (MLA Deh Cho) said “We’ve heard from constituents about all the hoops they have to go through to get income assistance, with delays in payments, lost documents, and rude staff. Now we’ve heard from the Auditor General that the Department isn’t managing its client files according to program requirements. We need to know the \$30 million we spend on these programs is reaching the people who really need it.”

“It’s encouraging that the Minister accepted all of the Auditor General’s recommendations. Officials listened closely during our meetings, and they said they’ve started to act. We challenge ECE to finalize a comprehensive response, to act on all the recommendations and to report regularly on results to Members and the public over the next two years.”

The audit identified systemic problems with the delivery of Income Assistance, Student Financial Assistance, Senior’s Home Heating Subsidy, and the Childcare User Subsidy. A majority of files in the review sample didn’t comply with key legal and policy requirements - 90% in the case of the Income Assistance Program - and the errors were considered significant.

Wendy Bisaro (MLA Frame Lake), Deputy Chair of SCOGO, added, “Behind the statistics are real people who need our help and our respect - income security program workers and their clients. It’s indicative that the Department has a 50% annual turnover rate for Client Service Officers. We expect the Department to support their staff with the necessary tools to become truly client-focused and we will be watching to make sure they do it.”

The Auditor General’s report underlines the fact that many Client Service Officers (CSOs) are struggling with vague guidelines, lack of monitoring and supervision, and inadequate training.

The Auditor General also called attention to CSO caseloads, which in some cases may be higher than 100 per month, overworked managers, and employees' safety concerns.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations will report on its review during the May-June Session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee consists of MLAs Michael Nadli (Deh Cho), Wendy Bisaro (Frame Lake), Alfred Moses (Inuvik Boot Lake), Daryl Dolynny (Range Lake), and Norman Yakeleya (Sahtu).

For more information, contact:

Michael Nadli, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations

MLA Deh Cho

Legislative Assembly of the NWT

P: 867-669-2268

E: michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca

On the Passing of Shirley Firth-Larsson

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, May 1, 2013 – The Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories today expressed condolences to the family of Shirley Firth-Larsson, Olympic athlete and Legislative Assembly employee, who passed away on Tuesday.

Speaker Jackie Jacobson said, “On behalf of Members of this Assembly, it is with great sadness and sorrow that I offer condolences to Ms. Firth-Larsson’s family and loved ones. Shirley was not only my Executive Assistant, but my good friend, and it was an absolute honour to work with her. She will be missed by many people; she touched so many lives and was such an inspiration to Aboriginal women. The North has lost an amazing person.”

Shirley and her sister, Sharon Firth, were part of a pioneering program to introduce skiing to Northern Canada’s Aboriginal people and were the first Aboriginal women to be members of Canada’s national ski team representing the Northwest Territories. Shirley was inducted into the Canadian Ski Museum and the Skiing Hall of Fame in 1990. She competed in four Winter Olympics, four World Ski Championships, and numerous Canadian and North American Championships. Shirley was also voted the Canadian Women’s Nordic Skier of the Year six times by *Ski Racing Magazine*.

After marrying her husband, Jan Larsson, Shirley settled in Europe for over 20 years where she and Jan raised three daughters. While there, she lectured on Dene and Inuit cultures at various universities, schools, and cultural centers in central Europe and Scandinavia. Shirley was awarded the Order of Canada in 1987, the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

“This is a sad day for the North, and especially for the Gwich’in community. She motivated so many youth to work toward their goals; her dedication and passion for the North and its people will truly be missed,” said Speaker Jacobson.

For more information, please contact:

Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2234 or 1-800-661-0784
Email: jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca

MLA for Frame Lake Pleased to See Auditor General’s Comments on Inadequacies of Federal Search and Rescue Capabilities

(Yellowknife) Thursday, May 2, 2013 – Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro welcomes the observations contained in the recent report of the Auditor General of Canada on the need for improved Northern search and rescue capacity in the North.

The observations appeared in the 2013 Spring Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, released this week by Auditor General Michael Ferguson.

“Northerners spend a lot of time on the land and it is not uncommon for travellers to run into trouble and become stranded. Our vast uninhabited expanses and extreme climates put anyone lost in the Arctic in great danger. An aircraft dispatched from Trenton or Victoria two hours after a call for assistance will not arrive in the North for several more hours. We need a responsive Search and Rescue (SAR) system and a SAR base located in the North to better protect both Northerners and visitors to the North,” says Ms. Bisaro.

One of the report’s recommendations is that National Defence should give priority to the acquisition of new aircraft that are best suited for search and rescue activities and ensure that it has sufficient numbers of these resources to meet search and rescue needs on an ongoing basis. “I am pleased to hear that the Government of Canada has accepted this recommendation, and that the outdated SAR aircraft will be replaced. Still, it’s unfortunate that it has taken over ten years to progress this far on improving search and rescue, and that we are as yet no closer to any new aircraft,” says Ms. Bisaro.

Read the report here:

http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_201304_07_e_38192.html

For more information, please contact:

Wendy Bisaro, MLA Frame Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2274
Email: wendy_bisaro@gov.nt.ca

Youth Parliament 2013

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, May 3, 2013 – Nineteen high school students from across the North will take part in Youth Parliament 2013 beginning on Monday, May 6 at the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife. The students will participate in three days of meetings and briefings in preparation for the Youth Parliament Model Session during which they assume the roles of their respective Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Jackie Jacobson says, “Youth Parliament has been a proud Northern tradition among both high school students and the Legislative Assembly; it is an excellent program that develops student awareness about our unique form of government in the Northwest Territories. At the same time, it builds on the student’s leadership skills and provides an 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 by 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. Brandon Thom
Great Slave – Ms. Mary Cairns
Hay River South – Ms. Kateryna Staszuk
Inuvik Twin Lakes – Ms. Chantal Grey
Mackenzie Delta – Ms. Angela Koe
Nahendeh – Mr. William Alger
Range Lake – Mr. Syed Mohammed Raza Rizvi
Thebacha – Mr. Luke James
Weledeh – Ms. Zara Tehseenah
Yellowknife South – Mr. Ethan Phypers

Frame Lake – Ms. Kirianne Ashley
Hay River North – Ms. Elycia Nimegeers
Inuvik Boot Lake – Ms. Vanessa Lennie
Kam Lake – Ms. Anita Kolback
Monfwi – Ms. Rhonda Apples
Nunakput – Mr. Larsen Nasogaluak
Sahtu – Ms. Keesha Antoine
Tu Nedhe – Ms. Tammy Gon
Yellowknife Centre – Ms. Huzaifa Malik

The Youth Parliament 2013 Model Session is taking place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly building on Thursday, May 9, at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to view the Youth Parliament proceedings from the Public Gallery. Media are encouraged to arrange interviews with the students prior to the sitting day.

For more information, please contact:

Danielle Mager
Public Affairs and Communications Advisor
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2230 or 1-800-661-0784
Email: danielle_mager@gov.nt.ca

Standing Committee Cancels Week of Travel

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, May 13, 2013 – The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure cancelled its travels on the Wildlife Act this week.

The committee comprises six members, and four (Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, and Mr. Nadli) were unable to attend the tour due to various health and other reasons. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Menicoche were available to travel, but quorum for this committee is four members.

The committee has three alternate members, all of whom were already fully booked with constituency meetings, conferences, and other travel. The committee decided not to travel without a quorum. This is an unfortunate but unavoidable situation, as people's health and other circumstances are beyond our control.

“Health concerns are a personal matter,” says committee chair Mr. Robert Hawkins. “With that said, I would rather not speak to individual reasons why a member is unable to travel other than to say I view them as very valid considering the nature of the concerns that have been highlighted to me.”

The committee is accepting written submissions from members of the public until June 14, and still plans to travel the week of June 10-14. See the travel schedule at: <http://bit.ly/13IlcOj>.

For more information, contact:

Robert Hawkins
Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2265
E: robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca

**Standing Committee on Government Operations
Voices Concern with NGO Funding Policy**

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, May 28, 2013 – The Standing Committee on Government Operations wants the Department of Executive to improve its Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund before budgets for 2014-15 are finalized. The fund helps NGOs who deliver critical services on behalf of the territorial government.

Committee members plan to use their Members' Statements and Oral Questions on Tuesday, June 4 to call attention to their concerns with the policy. Interested NGOs are invited to contact their MLAs and provide feedback on the policy before the sitting.

“The committee’s concerns include the need to provide clearer information to applicants, overly restrictive screening criteria and prioritization of projects, and inadequate funding levels,” said committee chair Michael M. Nadli. “We conveyed our concerns to Premier Bob McLeod in a letter last December, but the government has not changed either the policy or the funding for 2013-14.”

Total funding available under the policy is \$350,000 per year, an amount that has remained the same since the program’s first full year of operation in 2010-11. In 2012-13, 27 organizations applied, requesting a total of \$1,082,657. Twenty-one of the 27 were considered eligible for funding, with requests totaling \$807,207. Eleven applicants’ projects were prioritized for funding, with requests totaling \$481,845; eight of the eleven successful applicants did not receive the full amount they requested.

NGO representatives are also invited to sit in the public gallery during the June 4 sitting and be recognized for their work.

The committee consists of MLAs Michael M. Nadli (Deh Cho), Wendy Bisaro (Frame Lake), Daryl Dolynny (Range Lake), Norman Yakeleya (Sahtu), and Alfred Moses (Inuvik Boot Lake).

For more information, contact:

Michael M. Nadli, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2268
E: Michael_Nadli@gov.nt.ca

NGO Stabilization Fund Concerns Backgrounder

The Program:

- The GNWT Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Stabilization Fund is administered by the Department of Executive
- The fund was established in 2009
- The \$350,000 fund provides contributions to a maximum of \$50,000:
- To NGOs who already receive GNWT funding to deliver “critical services,” mainly food, shelter, and treatment; for example, homeless shelters, addictions treatment programs, women’s shelters
- For “stabilization,” including management, governance, organizational development, and extraordinary operations; not core funding or new projects
- See <http://www.executive.gov.nt.ca/ngostabilization/> for the application process

Results (figures rounded to 100K for those in millions; otherwise nearest thousand)

- In 2011-12
 - 35 groups requested \$1.5 million. Thirteen did not meet eligibility criteria.
 - 22 eligible groups requested \$800,000. Eight were not recommended for grants.
 - 14 recommended groups requested \$484,000 and received a total of \$350,000. Several did not receive the full amount of their request.
 - Regionally, groups approved included 5 NWT-wide organizations, 4 Yellowknife NGOs, 2 NGOs “North” (Inuvik and Norman Wells) and 3 “South” (Behchoko, Fort Simpson and Hay River).
- In 2012-13
 - 27 groups requested \$1.1 million. Six did not meet eligibility criteria.
 - 21 eligible groups requested \$807,000. Ten were not recommended for grants.
 - 11 recommended groups requested \$482,000 and received a total of \$350,000. Eight did not receive the full amount of their request.
 - Regionally, groups approved included 4 NWT-wide organizations, 3 Yellowknife NGOs, 4 NGOs “North” (Inuvik) and 0 “South.”

Issues Identified by MLAS and the Standing Committee

- \$350,000 is not adequate, even for the current number of recommended applicants
- Funding is also needed for NGOs that are not now receiving GNWT funds, but that do provide critical programs and services, e.g. food banks
- The non-government sector is not well developed outside Yellowknife and some regional centres. Consideration needs to be given to ways of developing service provider NGOs, e.g., a fund for emerging NGOs, and to funding other types of non-profit groups, e.g. land claims organizations that are providing similar types of critical services.
- The NGO Stabilization Fund is poorly understood and many NGOs do not understand why their applications are not successful. More needs to be done to explain the program criteria in plain language and communicate results clearly.

**MLA for Frame Lake elected Chair of the
Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning**

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, May 28, 2013 - The MLA for Frame Lake, Ms. Wendy Bisaro has been elected by her colleagues as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The vacancy was filled after the Committee's previous Chair, Kevin Menicoche, resigned in April.

In her role as Chair, Ms. Bisaro will lead the 11-Member Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning as it undertakes its mandate and reviews issues that have government-wide implications. The Standing Committee also examines fiscal and business planning initiatives as well as the oversight of all matters pertaining to the proposed Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

The Chair of a committee is responsible for maintaining order in committee proceedings and ensuring that any rules established by the committee are respected. Chairs of committees also often assume a leadership role in planning and coordinating the committee's work and studies.

Ms. Bisaro has spent considerable time in the political arena. In 1988 she was elected to the Board of Trustees for Yellowknife Education District #1, and was a board member for the next twelve years (re-elected three times). She acted as Board Chair for five of those years. In 2000, Ms. Bisaro moved to municipal politics and was elected to Yellowknife City Council for two consecutive three-year terms, chosen to be Deputy Mayor by her fellow council members during her second term. In 2007, Ms. Bisaro changed her political course again, and was elected to the NWT Legislative Assembly as the Member for the riding of Frame Lake.

For further information:

Ms. Wendy Bisaro, Chair
Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2274 or toll free 1-800-661-0784
Email: wendy_bisaro@gov.nt.ca

Electoral Boundaries Commission Report Tabled

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, May 29, 2013 – The report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today by the Honourable Speaker Jackie Jacobson. The report provides the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for changes to the existing NWT electoral boundaries.

On October 23, 2012 the following individuals were appointed to the Electoral Boundaries Commission: Justice Shannon Smallwood (Chair), Mr. Ian McCrea, and Mr. Charles Furlong. The establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission every eight years is a requirement of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*. The current Commission was established by the Legislative Assembly with a mandate to provide a report within seven months.

The report includes options for an 18, 19, and 21 Member Legislative Assembly. Copies of the report were distributed to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and were made available to the public on the Assembly website at www.assembly.gov.nt.ca, under House Business, Tabled Documents, or at the Legislative Assembly building.

For further information, please contact:

Jackie Jacobson, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2234
Fax: (867) 873-0273
E-mail: jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca

Tim Mercer, Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2299
Fax: (867) 920-4735
E-mail: tim_mercer@gov.nt.ca

Standing Committee Reschedules *Wildlife Act* Travel

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, May 30, 2013 – The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, chaired by Mr. Robert Hawkins, has rescheduled its travels on the *Wildlife Act* into the Nahendeh, Deh Cho, and Monfwi ridings.

“We are pleased to be able to continue our travel after the unfortunate events that prevented us from travelling in May. It is important that we receive community feedback on this act and that people have the opportunity to voice their concerns,” says committee chair Mr. Robert Hawkins.

The committee is extending its deadline for written submissions from members of the public until June 24, and will be travelling the weeks of June 10-14 and June 17-19. See the full travel schedule at: <http://bit.ly/13IlcOj>.

For more information, contact:

Robert Hawkins
Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2265
E: robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley Congratulates Det'on Cho

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, June 4, 2013 – Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley has offered his congratulations to the Det'on Cho Corporation for its recognition in the Profit 500 ranking of Canada's fastest growing companies.

Det'on Cho is the only Northwest Territories (NWT) firm to be included in this year's prestigious Profit 500 listings, which are Canada's largest annual celebration of entrepreneurial achievement.

"Det'on Cho continues not only to succeed, but to excel," Mr. Bromley says. "It has achieved remarkable and stable growth, while spreading the benefits of employment, training and investment to Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) members and the NWT economy."

"I salute Det'on Cho on the occasion of this latest high profile recognition," says Mr. Bromley.

Det'on Cho Corporation is the wholly owned economic development enterprise of the YKDFN. Since its inception in 1988, Det'on Cho has grown to a company of 16 subsidiaries, partnerships, and joint ventures with a total of 300 employees, 40 per cent of them Aboriginal and 90 per cent NWT residents. Over the past five years, Det'on Cho's revenues have nearly quadrupled.

For more information, please contact:

Bob Bromley, MLA Weledeh
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2272
Email: bob_bromley@gov.nt.ca

MLAs Paving the Way for Organ Donations

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, June 6, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny is pleased that Members of the Legislative Assembly passed a motion for a revised *Human Tissue Act*.

“Today’s motion speaks to the modernization that must occur to our outdated NWT *Human Tissue Act* before we can move forward on this subject. A single organ donor can save up to eight lives and tissue can help up to 50 other people. Improving the *Human Tissue Act* is the necessary first step in improving our system of tissue and organ donations,” says Mr. Dolynny.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya, who seconded the motion, adds, “I am pleased that the Legislative Assembly debated this motion today; it shows that we are ready to move forward with a new organ donation plan. Our current act was written in 1988 and is only a page long – it’s time we had something new and revised for the people of the NWT.”

The government must provide a response to the motion within 120 days.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2270
E-mail: norman_yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya Commends Progress on *Liquor Act* Amendment

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, June 10, 2013 – Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya is pleased that Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act* received second reading in the House and will be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

The bill, which seeks to enable Sahtu communities to vote in a plebiscite to determine if liquor sales should be restricted in the Norman Wells liquor store, received second reading in the House on Thursday, June 6, and has been referred to the committee for further review.

“This bill is the work of Sahtu leadership, who felt that as a region we should be able to vote on whether or not restrictions should be in place. The bill receiving second reading gives us an opportunity to debate this question. The people of the Sahtu will have the chance to voice their opinions and speak for themselves on this important issue,” says Mr. Yakeleya.

If the bill passes into law, it would allow for the possibility of a plebiscite in the future. Mr. Yakeleya looks forward to the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the bill.

For more information, please contact:

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2270
E-mail: norman_yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

Government to move forward with proposal for revisions to *Human Tissue Act*

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, June 11, 2013 – On Thursday, June 6, 2013, Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly debated a motion on Organ Donation/*Human Tissue Act*. The motion, brought forward by Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny, calls for the government to revise the current *Human Tissue Act* in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Dolynny was the first to speak to the motion, “Improving our *Human Tissue Act* is a necessary step in improving our system. We owe the residents of the NWT, and other Canadians, a functioning system of tissue donation.”

Government House Leader, Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, on behalf of Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Tom Beaulieu, confirmed that the “government is going to come forward with a legislative proposal” outlining proposed amendments to the *Human Tissue Act*.

Mr. Dolynny was pleased that the motion received 100% support from all Regular Members during the recorded vote.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

NWT Citizens Burdened by Unacceptable Delays for Health Care Cards

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, June 20, 2013 – Sunday evening a mother contacted Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins hoping to receive proof of her son’s health care status before he departed for an out of town sports tournament this past Wednesday. In the case of an injury that requires medical attention, she was concerned that her son would be forced to pay upfront for medical services without his health care card.

“I have had constituent after constituent contact me wondering why they have not received their renewed health care card and what they should do in the case of a medical emergency. NWT citizens have been told that they can pay for their medical attention up front to be reimbursed later but who looks after those who cannot pay the large sum outright?” stated Mr. Hawkins.

After being approached by his worried constituent, Hawkins contacted Health and Social Services Minister, Tom Beaulieu, to remedy the issue. Just before her son’s departure, she was emailed a screen shot of an image that claimed her families renewed health care cards would arrive on June 25th. Not an official letter, nor an interim health care card, but a screen shot that could have been altered to a suspicious eye.

“I am baffled by the lack of forethought to the recent health care card renewal process and what is making matters worse, this constituent has waited for more than four weeks for their renewal card as their present one is now expiring. The question I keep getting asked is, does Minister Beaulieu recognize the calamity around him or is he oblivious to the seriousness of this problem,” remarks Hawkins.

In British Columbia, their residents are issued an official temporary health care card until new ones are received. Hawkins wonders why a similar approach was not taken and why after countless public complaints, this issue of delayed or lost applications has not been addressed. He continues to fight for acceptable means to rectify the lack of responsibility that has been taken and urges the minister to find a remedy so that those who still have not received their health care cards can access medical care immediately.

For more information, please contact:

Robert Hawkins, MLA Yellowknife Centre
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2265
E-mail: robert_Hawkins@gov.nt.ca

8th Annual CANOL Youth Leadership Hike

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, July 4, 2013 – Once again, Sahtu youth will begin a journey into the past of their ancestors and take part in the 8th Annual CANOL Youth Leadership Hike. There are very few who will ever walk in the mountains and learn about themselves and the CANOL.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya has accompanied the youth on this hike for the past eight years. “This year we have 19 hikers in total, six are youths, and we have five hikers who are staying at base camp. We are hiking 25 miles, with a two-day Aboriginal Cultural Camp at Mile 36. We will be learning the history of the Aboriginal peoples, their contribution to the construction of the CANOL Pipeline, the construction of the 222-mile pipeline, and the abandonment of the pipeline. We will explore the reasons why big oil companies are interested in the CANOL shale formation and what the impacts may mean for the Sahtu,” says Mr. Yakeleya.

Mr. Yakeleya continues, “We need our youth to step into leadership roles because they will be left with the results of the major decisions made by Sahtu leaders today. The youth will be the ones to continue with our decisions or make their own in time.”

For further information on the 8th CANOL Youth Leadership Hike, please contact:

Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2270
E-mail: Norman_Yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

Highway #4 By-pass project

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, July 12, 2013 –Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny recently visited the Yellowknife Highway #4 By-pass project.

Mr. Dolynny has been very critical of this project since its inception, but is impressed at how well the project is being handled, “Visiting today, it is apparent that much has transpired since breaking ground on this project. The site looks very maintained and focused; Mr. Larry Purcka, Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, is doing a really great job keeping this project on target.”

Mr. Dolynny continues, “Over 85% of the jobs for this project are being filled by Northerners. I wish to commend the Deton’cho Corporation group of companies and their sub-contractors for an impressive display of work on this project. This project, once complete, will be the crown jewel of road construction in the greater Yellowknife area; I want to commend this Yellowknife Dene group of companies for a marquee performance.”

The by-pass road is scheduled for a fall 2013 opening.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

INGRAHAM TRAIL (No. 4) REALIGNMENT CORRIDOR 1



Closing of Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, July 16, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny is concerned about the Department of Health and Social Services' decision to end its contract with the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre.

In a stunning blow last week, the Department of Health and Social Services and its Minister made a unilateral decision to cease funding to the territories' sole residential addiction treatment facility. MLA Dolynny questions the decision and the way it was carried out. "The guiding principles of the 17th Legislative Assembly clearly state that except under extraordinary circumstances, members of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to discuss significant announcements, changes, or initiatives before they are released to the public," says Mr. Dolynny. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs were only briefed by the Minister on Wednesday, July 10 with no opportunity for comment. Mr. Dolynny states, "the use of such element of surprise is completely inconsistent with consensus government."

"The Minister of Health and Social Services and his department are clearly using the recent report from the Ministers' Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness to create a paradigm shift in thinking about addictions and treatment in the NWT. This newly-minted document should not be taking precedent over the department's official strategy, tabled in the Assembly last November," continues Mr. Dolynny. The strategy is called *A Shared Path Toward Wellness – Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan 2012-2015*. "It's as if the Minister is now looking at addictions and wellness with binoculars, but only using one of the eye-pieces."

Mr. Dolynny adds that "there are still many gaps in our addictions and wellness programs. We need to look at the full range of services for all NWT residents, not just a select few. We are failing people who need a proper detoxification program, or a stronger integrated service management program. We are failing the youth who need specific programs designed for them. We are failing people who need specialized addiction treatments for crack cocaine addiction, solvent abuse and prescription drug abuse. We need mental health and addictions programs for people who don't fit into the on-the-land and mobile treatment models. And finally, we need to make the best use of existing infrastructure for mental health and addictions. Closing the Nats'ejee K'eh facility goes directly against what was proposed to the Legislative Assembly only months ago. We had few facility options for our residents then; now with this closure we have nothing in the Northwest Territories."

MLA Dolynny says he supports the Minister of Health's intent to improve community wellness. "Even so, I am concerned that the quick closure of this facility is not the best way to go, especially with so little discussion of a transition period," he notes. "We have skilled care

workers there who have helped a lot of people over the years. I would like to know what the plan is for them, and just what the plan is for mental health and addictions services for all northerners.”

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Ministerial Response to MLA's questions on fuel price regulation in the NWT

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, July 26, 2013 – Minister Robert C. McLeod responds to MLA Hawkins on fuel price regulation in Yellowknife.

During the most recent sitting of the NWT Legislative Assembly, MLA Hawkins raised questions about the high prices of home heating and automotive fuels across the NWT. On July 11, 2013 Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, responded with the following arguments against fuel price regulation.

According to representatives from the Minister's office, fuel price regulation in the NWT is not a cost effective option given measures that are already in place so NWT residents can benefit from the lowest fuel prices possible. In the department's letter to MLA Hawkins, they explain that the Northwest Territories already has some of the lowest taxes on fuel in Canada and that there are consumer cost-saving programs through Petro-Canada and the Yellowknife Co-op that allow consumers to benefit from average gasoline prices comparable to the rest of Canada. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provide data in their letter claiming that "[a]s of March 2013, the average gasoline price per litre in Canada was \$1.302, whereas the price per litre in Yellowknife was \$1.312."

Statistics from the Natural Resources Canada (NRC) website provide a different view, indicating that the average gasoline price per litre in Canada over the past 82 weeks was \$1.278, whereas the average price per litre in Yellowknife was \$1.402 (see figure 1). NRC does not provide statistics on the average prices of neighbouring communities, but this is also something to consider given the astronomical prices that citizens pay in these regions.

MLA Hawkins feels that "further research from a third-party should be conducted to ensure that this is truly the case. Fellow provinces of Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have implemented legislation to regulate various fuel prices." Mr. Hawkins believes that "the NWT can learn from both the positive and negative ramifications of fuel regulation in neighbouring provinces so that a solution can be found to meet the diverse needs of the vast territories, but expert consultation is required." He "urges citizens to come forward to voice their concerns" and has set up an online petition so that "we can continue to advocate for consumer interest." MLA Hawkins welcomes all to visit http://epetition.lant.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/2182 to sign the petition in support of home heating and automotive fuel price regulation in the NWT.

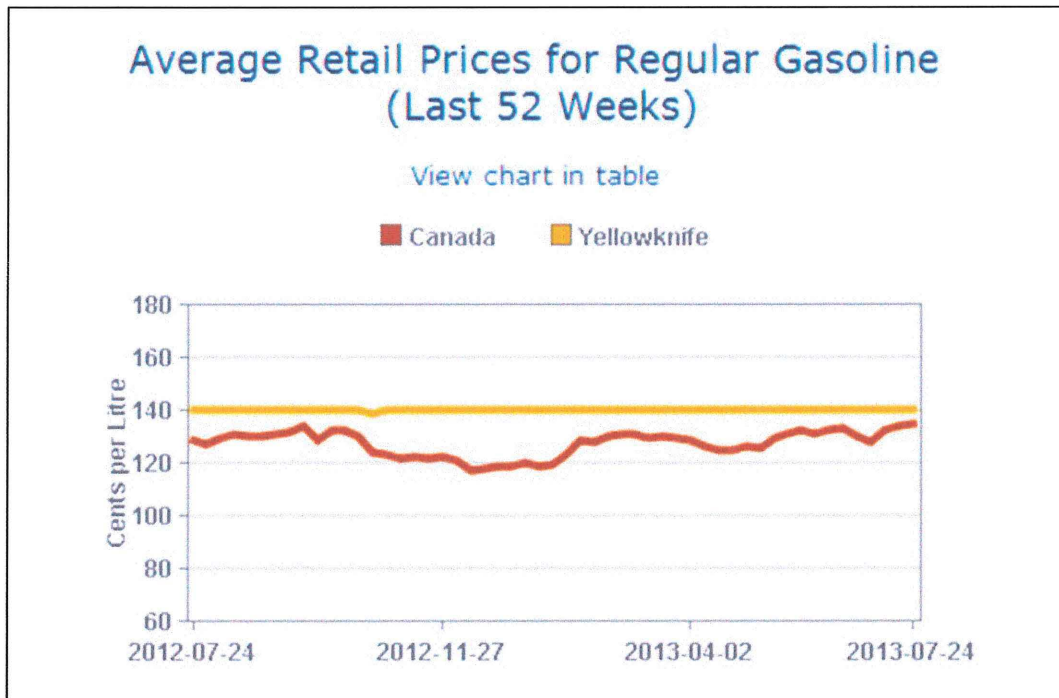


Figure 1
Source: Natural Resources Canada

For more information, please contact:

Robert Hawkins, MLA for Yellowknife Centre
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2264
Email: robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca

**Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche Calls on the GNWT to
Take Action on Academic Achievement**

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, July 30, 2013 – Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche, reacting to this month's release of the 2012 Alberta Achievement Tests assessment results for students of the NWT, said that he is disheartened and deeply concerned by the GNWT's failure to improve education achievement rates over time.

The 2012 Alberta Achievement Tests, along with an assessment of students' functional grade levels and attendance, indicate little improvement in the academic achievement of NWT students over the past six years.

Between 2006-07 and 2011-12, there was a mere 2% increase in the overall proportion of Grade 1 to 9 students performing at or above grade level in English language arts. The results are just as poor in mathematics where the improvement across time amounts to 1%. During the same period of time, the proportion of the government's annual budget spent on Education, Culture and Employment dropped by about 3%.

"In this year's Budget Address, the Minister of Finance said that 'investing in our children is the wisest move we can make,' yet we are not making the necessary investments to ensure their success, and what investments we do make are clearly not producing positive results," said Mr. Menicoche, noting that ECE reviews and reports on performance measures on a regular basis, yet in survey after survey any improvement in student performance remains elusive.

"It is especially distressing to see numbers showing how poorly students are doing in the NWT's smaller communities," said Mr. Menicoche. In the communities, as many as 67% of enrolled grade 3 students are performing below acceptable standards for English language arts, increasing to over 75% by the time they reach grade 9. In math, the numbers are similarly dismal, with almost 65% of grade 3 students performing below standard, increasing to almost 80% by grade 9. "Sadly, we are failing our children," said Mr. Menicoche.

"We cannot allow this to continue," concluded the MLA for Nahendeh. "I urge the Minister of Education to take decisive and proactive steps for positive change as part of the department's education renewal initiative."

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Menicoche, MLA Nahendeh
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2294
E-mail: kevin_menicoche@gov.nt.ca

Changes to Health Governance Model Prevents Effective Delivery of Services

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, August 29, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny is concerned once again about the Department of Health and Social Services’ unilateral decision to shut down the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority and instead appoint a public administrator.

On July 29, 2013 the Department of Health and Social Services announced the termination of the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority and the appointment of Mr. Jim Antoine as its new public administrator. MLA Dolynny questions the unilateral way in which the department has been making decisions, including this one, throughout the summer. “We just witnessed this a couple weeks ago with the closing of Nats’ejee K’eh, and again with this announcement”.

Mr. Dolynny reiterates how “the guiding principles of the 17th Legislative Assembly clearly state that except under extraordinary circumstances, members of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to discuss significant announcements, changes, or initiatives before they are released to the public. These surprise and stunning changes in policy are completely inconsistent with consensus government”.

Mr. Dolynny does not question the qualifications of Mr. Antoine, but rather the process by which the Department of Health and Social Services has been making its decisions.

MLA Dolynny is troubled by the changing health governance model in the territory and dilemma it presents moving forward. He asks, “with our territory now split down the middle between health boards and public administrators, how do we maintain standards, monitor policy, plan strategically, and appoint medical staff while at the same time ensuring quality care and responsible budgeting for our residents?” Moreover, Mr. Dolynny feels that “this fragmented approach is detrimental to maintaining high standards of health care delivery and does little to reassure the public that tax dollars are being well managed”.

Mr. Dolynny has been extremely vocal about the factors preventing the effective delivery of health care in the territory. “Duplicated services, inefficient design, low levels of accountability, continued failures in risk management, and unmet legal requirements are all factors actively impeding our health care system”, he said. “We would greatly benefit from a harmonized approach that addresses these shortcomings and ultimately provides more efficient and accessible care to all our residents”, he added.

MLA Dolynny concludes by saying, “it is unfortunate that elected members of the Legislative Assembly have no say in the provision of our health care. Removing the debate from the

decision-making process in this manner does a great disservice to the people of the Northwest Territories”.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

**Standing Committee on Government Operations postpones
public hearing due to tragic accident**

(NORMAN WELLS) Monday, September 9, 2013 – Due to a tragic accident that occurred in Norman Wells this past weekend, the Standing Committee on Government Operations postponed the public hearing on Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act* scheduled for Sunday, September 8.

Michael M. Nadli, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, offers condolences on behalf of the committee, “we offer our condolences to the family and to the entire community of Norman Wells during this difficult time and as a gesture of respect, the committee will reschedule the hearing on Bill 24 to a later date.”

Mr. Nadli advised Norman Wells Mayor Gregor Harold McGregor of the committee’s decision on Sunday.

For more information, contact:

Michael M. Nadli, Chair
Standing Committee on Government Operations
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2268
E: michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca

**Standing Committee on Government Operations
reschedules public hearing in Norman Wells**

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, September 13, 2013 – The Standing Committee on Government Operations has rescheduled the public hearing on Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act* in Norman Wells. The public hearing will take place on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 pm at the Dennis Drolet Community Hall.

“The Committee is looking forward to hearing from the people of Norman Wells,” says Mr. M. Nadli, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee has extended the date for written submissions to September 24, 2013. Submissions can be forwarded to the Committee Clerk.

For more information, contact:

Michael M. Nadli, Chair
Standing Committee on Government Operations
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2268
E: michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca

Gail Bennett, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Government Operations
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2343
E: gail_bennett@gov.nt.ca

MLAs to Discuss Anti-Bullying Law with Students

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, September 23, 2013 – The Standing Committee on Social Programs, chaired by Mr. Alfred Moses, will be visiting schools in Yellowknife and Norman Wells to receive input from students regarding Bill 12: *An Act to Amend the Education Act*. The bill establishes a definition of bullying, proposes the creation of a Territorial School Code of Conduct, and the development of safe school plans.

This bill is in response to a motion adopted by the Legislative Assembly in February 2012 calling on the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying and to provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims, and bystanders.

In addition to the public hearing on Monday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room “A” of the Legislative Assembly, the Committee will also be meeting with students of École Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife and Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells to hear their thoughts on the proposed legislation. The meetings will take place on Wednesday, September 25 at 8:30 a.m. at Sir John Franklin High School and Thursday, September 26 at 2:30 p.m. at Mackenzie Mountain School.

This is the first time a standing committee of the Assembly has met with students specifically to discuss potential legislation. The Committee is looking forward to hearing from the students on this important and timely issue, and is grateful to have the opportunity to provide students with some information on the work of Assembly committees and the important role the public plays in consensus government.

For further information, please contact:

Alfred Moses
Standing Committee on Social Programs
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2282
E: alfred_moses@gov.nt.ca

Gail Bennett, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on
Government Operations
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2343
E: gail_bennett@gov.nt.ca

Yellowknife Centre MLA Concerned About Giant Mine Remediation Proposals

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, September 30, 2013 – Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins is calling on Premier Bob McLeod to encourage Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Environment Canada to provide an incentive for innovative solutions to arsenic contamination at the Giant Mine site.

During the Giant Mine remediation discussion in N'Dilo earlier this week, it was noted that \$1.9 million dollars annually will be required to operate the mine into perpetuity. MLA Hawkins voiced concern that none of the recommended courses of action inspire the innovation necessary to find a permanent solution to this costly dilemma.

To stimulate innovation, MLA Hawkins suggests a lump sum payment of between 10 and 20 million dollars be offered as a reward for designing a permanent solution. “By fostering creative thinking and ingenuity, this could provide the spark that causes people to find a solution to the arsenic problem once and for all”, he said. MLA Hawkins proposes that this reward be offered to national and international parties in order to attract the highest level of innovation possible. “If universities and private companies from around the world were to consider this challenge, the chances of achieving a long-term solution will greatly increase”, says Mr. Hawkins.

MLA Hawkins continues, “solving this problem requires the kind of spirit that has resulted in the greatest of mankind’s achievements. People are motivated by the advancement of science, technology, and the chance to contribute to the betterment of society. The situation at Giant Mine is complex, but this reward would motivate and encourage this type of inspired thinking. Additionally, an original solution would mean unique and great contributions to the field of environmental remediation”. According to MLA Hawkins, providing monetary incentive is a low-risk strategy that, if successful, would yield invaluable results. “If a solution is not found, it does not cost the government anything; however, if a solution is found, the upfront price tag still pales in comparison to the cost of maintaining the mine over the long-term”, he adds.

Mr. Hawkins hopes the Premier will consider his proposal as a viable option and will make efforts to include this suggestion into the Government of the Northwest Territories’ strategy for the remediation of Giant Mine.

For more information, please contact:

Robert Hawkins, MLA for Yellowknife Centre
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2264
Email: robert_hawkins@gov.nt.

Members Appointed to Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, October 2, 2013 – The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on recommendation of the Board of Management, appointed three members to the Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits.

Mr. Geoffrey P. Wiest of Yellowknife was appointed Chair of the Commission; Mr. Gregory J. Nyuli of Fort Providence and Mr. David Krutko of Yellowknife have been appointed as Commissioners. "I feel very confident in each of the individuals who have been appointed to the Commission and I look forward to seeing their recommendations," said Speaker Jacobson.

The review, to be undertaken within two years of a general election, of the indemnities, allowances, expenses, and benefits provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly is a statutory requirement of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The Commission, established under the *Act*, will review and assess Members' various benefits to determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the amounts provided and will review and assess the reporting requirements and procedures to determine an acceptable level of public accountability.

The last comprehensive review of Members' compensation and benefits occurred in 2009 with the report tabled in the House in May 2010 by the previous Commission members. The recommendations from this report resulted in a number of changes to legislation, regulations, and Board of Management policies.

Within ten months of the establishment of the Commission, a report will be delivered to the Speaker that may set out recommendations for changes to the indemnities, reimbursements, and all other benefits to which Members are entitled. These recommendations must be debated and formally adopted by the Legislative Assembly before taking effect.

For further information, please contact:

Jackie Jacobson, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2234
Fax: (867) 873-0273
E-mail: jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca

Colette Langlois, Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2299
Fax: (867) 920-4735
E-mail: colette_langlois@gov.nt.ca

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley Congratulates Diavik Diamond Mines

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, October 11, 2013 – Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley congratulates Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. on receiving the Canadian Wind Energy 2013 Group Leadership Award. Diavik was selected for its four-turbine, 9.2 megawatt wind project constructed at its mine site at Lac de Gras, 300 kilometers northeast of Yellowknife.

Bromley states, “technology like this saves money, uses renewable, northern energy and provides local jobs. This is a perfect example of what a company needs to do to maintain their “social license”. In fact, this should not be a voluntary best practice – this should be a requirement of industrial development in today's world.”

“Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions cause the global climate to change; climate change is happening even faster in the north than in the rest of the globe. Soon, the NWT will have 4 operating diamond mines and they will have come close to doubling NWT GHG emissions,” Bromley says.

Bromley calls upon the Government of the NWT to implement meaningful and responsible regulation of GHG emissions, particularly by large emitters such as the mining and oil and gas industry. He notes, “Diavik has taken a crucial first step in demonstrating that we can reduce GHG emissions and save money in the process. Diavik is not alone – wind energy is reducing the use of fossil fuels all around the world.”

Bromley also adds, “wind is abundant around those mines and renewable energy is everywhere. Our Government is being too timid - when will we find the fortitude to come through for our people on this looming issue that is being realized more each day?”

The [2013 International Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report](#), released last month, provides certainty that humankind is causing serious changes in the climate. The report demonstrates that the cost of waiting is skyrocketing, and the time for responsible action is now. “We can see the impacts all across our territory and some of them are traumatic – like the floods in Nahanni Butte. It will be governments such as ours that meets this need - or not,” notes Bromley.

For more information, please contact:

Bob Bromley, MLA Weledeh
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2272
Email: bob_bromley@gov.nt.ca

Range Lake Constituency Meeting

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, October 15, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny today announced that a Range Lake constituency meeting is being held on Thursday, October 17 at Range Lake North School from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

“I invite all Range Lake constituents to attend; we can discuss your thoughts and concerns about the constituency and the NWT as well,” said Mr. Dolynny.

He went on to say that, “public safety in Yellowknife is an important issue and I want to hear from the people I represent.”

Dolynny indicated that the Legislative Assembly begins sitting again on Thursday, October 17, and the session promises to be an interesting and busy one with a number of pieces of legislation under consideration.

Bills being considered include the *Wildlife Act*, the *Apology Act*, the *Education Act*, the *Dental Profession Act*, and the *Emblems and Honours Act*. Copies of these bills can be found on the Legislative Assembly website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

MLA Dolynny is also looking forward to the Final Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission which is looking into changes to the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

The Infrastructure Budget is also being reviewed. “Come out and tell me what is important to you,” said Mr. Dolynny.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Legislative Assembly Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, October 17, 2013 – The Legislative Assembly building opened on November 17, 1993, and will celebrate its twentieth anniversary this year. To commemorate this event, the Legislative Assembly is hosting a public celebration in the Great Hall on Friday, November 1, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Legislative Assembly building is the most important symbol of public government in the Northwest Territories. Since opening twenty years ago, the building has functioned as a focal public institution. The Legislative Assembly would like to acknowledge the public's contribution to the building through a public celebration.

The event will include the unveiling of design concepts for improvements to the Legislative Assembly precinct, the unveiling of portraits of former Premiers and Speakers, and a historical photo timeline. There will also be a panel discussion delivered by former Premiers, ceremonial drum prayers, and snacks and refreshments for all. Students from across the territory are being asked to submit letters or art to be placed inside a time capsule that will be buried on the legislative grounds next summer. Additionally, the building will be open to the public, including the Caucus Room and the Legislative Chamber.

For further information, please contact:

Jackie Jacobson, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2234
Fax: (867) 873-0273
E-mail: jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca

Colette Langlois, Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: (867) 669-2299
Fax: (867) 920-4735
E-mail: colette_langlois@gov.nt.ca

Hay River North MLA Recovering in Hospital

(Yellowknife) Friday, October 18, 2013 – Hay River North MLA Robert Bouchard is recovering in Ontario after an invasive surgery.

“I want my constituents to know that I am doing well and to thank them for their thoughts and well wishes. I am sorry that I won’t be there for a couple weeks of session, but please know that you can still contact my office with any concerns you may have,” says Mr. Bouchard.

Mr. Bouchard will be traveling back to Hay River next week. He is hoping to be able to attend session on October 28, 2013.

For more information, please contact:

Robert Bouchard, MLA Hay River North
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2250
Email: robert_bouchard@gov.nt.ca

Myrtle Graham, Constituency Assistant to
Robert Bouchard
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-874-6301
Email: myrtle_graham@gov.nt.ca

Lifeguards for Lodune Project at Long Lake Beach

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – On June 27, 2013, a seven year old boy tragically drowned at Long Lake Beach in Yellowknife. There were no lifeguards at the beach. Media reports indicated that in 2012, a five year old girl was rescued from a near drowning at the same beach.

Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny says, “Lifeguards for Lodune was started by a community group to patrol the Long Lake beach to attempt to make it a safer place for children because there are no lifeguards hired to watch over swimmers.”

An Industry, Tourism, and Investment spokesperson said there had been an agreement between the Territory and City of Yellowknife to share the cost of lifeguards, but the city hasn’t been able to staff the position.

Lifeguards for Lodune spokesperson, Tanya Silke said that they want to encourage a ‘no blame’ approach to the issue, as many people were blaming the government and the parents. Lifeguards for Lodune is a safety net put into place while parents and guardians wait for the real thing. The whole point is to get lifeguards here and to encourage community spirit and empower people to get involved to make a difference in their town.

Ms. Silke stated, “there have been successes with the project, like the number of community businesses and people who joined forces with us to get supplies for the park patrols and of course our volunteers.”

The Lifesaving Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories completed a safety audit of the beach over the summer, but according to Industry, Tourism, and Investment the draft report didn’t recommend lifeguards be hired. The NWT government and the Lifesaving Society provided about 30 free personal floatation devices at Long Lake beach and provided educational materials.

Dolynny indicated that the group is concerned about volunteer liability involved with the patrols. Liability insurance costs a lot of money and the small group sees that issue as limiting the number of volunteers. Silke said this week, “it is sad and frustrating that liability concerns are limiting the project. Development of policies and procedures and group governance through a board of directors to guide future operations are also being considered.”

MLA Dolynny plans to raise the issue this week in the Legislative Assembly, “the government has a role to play in helping make our NWT territorial parks safe for residents and visitors. Let’s get a program in place now and be ready for next summer, lifeguards are needed.”

Ms. Silke said the group is planning to operate again next year if nothing is done to hire lifeguards. These incidents in Yellowknife raise overarching concerns about lifeguards at beaches across the NWT.

Representatives of Lifeguards for Lodune will be at the Legislative Assembly at 1:00pm, Thursday, October 24 and interested media are asked to attend.

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly to Debate Electoral Boundaries Commission Report

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, October 24, 2013 – Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly will debate the Electoral Boundaries Commission report on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 29, 2013 by the Honourable Speaker Jackie Jacobson.

The establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission every eight years is a requirement of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*. The current Commission was established by the Legislative Assembly on October 23, 2012 with a mandate to provide a report within seven months.

The report provides the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for changes to the existing NWT electoral boundaries and includes options for an 18, 19, and 21 Member Legislative Assembly. Copies of the report are available on the Legislative Assembly website at www.assembly.gov.nt.ca, under House Business, Tabled Document #70-17(4).

For further information, please contact:

Norman Yakeleya, Caucus Chair
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: 867-669-2270
Fax: 867-873-0276
E-mail: norman_yakeleya@gov.nt.ca

Colette Langlois, Acting Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Tel: 867-669-2299
Fax: 867-920-4735
E-mail: colette_langlois@gov.nt.ca

Options for a New *Mental Health Act*

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, November 4, 2013) – The Standing Committee on Social Programs (SCOSP) is seeking input from organizations working with mental-health consumers.

“Addictions and mental-health issues are some of the biggest problems we have in the Northwest Territories, and there is no one who is not touched by them,” said Committee Chair Alfred Moses.

Addictions and mental-health disorders, along with poverty and crime, are top priorities for the Standing Committee on Social Programs. One way to advance the Committee’s work is for the government to partner with non-profit and volunteer organizations in meaningful ways.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs plans to hear from these groups as the NWT *Mental Health Act* undergoes a comprehensive rewrite.

A series of discussion papers has been prepared by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to identify options for the new Act.

<http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/health-social-services/slides/public-input-new-mental-health-act>

The Standing Committee on Social Programs is seeking input on the discussion papers from any individuals or organizations working with mental-health consumers. The Committee is especially interested in views on the following:

- Should a review board be established to protect patient rights?
- Should community treatment orders be established as alternatives to hospitalization?
- Is a new model for involuntary admission required?
- Should a third-party “patient-rights advisor” be established?
- Is it appropriate for nurse practitioners to perform involuntary psychiatric assessments?

Feedback from stakeholders on the preliminary discussion papers is the first step in a lengthy process. Following this a legislative proposal and draft bill will be developed. There will be other opportunities for non-profit and volunteer organizations to have their say.

Feedback received by Thursday, December 5, 2013 will be considered in the Committee’s formal response to the DHSS.

Please send responses to:

Ms. Gail Bennett, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Social Programs
P: 867-669-2343 or 1-800-661-0784
E: alfred_moses@gov.nt.ca

Appointment of New Languages Commissioner

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, November 7, 2013 – The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories today appointed Ms. Snookie Henrietta Catholique of Yellowknife as the new Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Her appointment will take effect on December 1, 2013.

“I am pleased to welcome Ms. Catholique to this very important and vital role. Ms. Catholique speaks and writes in Denesuline fluently and has had input into the development of the Chipewyan dictionaries that are now part of the NWT school curriculum. She brings much knowledge and experience to this position and I look forward to working with her,” said Speaker Jackie Jacobson. “I would also like to extend my gratitude and thanks to Ms. Sarah Jerome for all of the excellent work that she has done during her tenure as the Languages Commissioner,” added Mr. Jacobson.

The Languages Commissioner is a position appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories upon the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly; the appointment is for a term of four years. The Languages Commissioner’s office is located in Yellowknife.

The Languages Commissioner is appointed pursuant to the *Official Languages Act* of the Northwest Territories. It is the duty of the Languages Commissioner to take all actions and measures within the authority of the *Official Languages Act* with a view to ensuring recognition of the rights, statutes and privileges of each of the Official Languages and to comply with the spirit of the *Official Languages Act* in the administration of the affairs of government institutions.

For more information, contact:

Jackie Jacobson, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2234
F: 867-873-0273
E: jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca

Colette Langlois, Acting Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
P: 867-669-2299
F: 867-920-4735
E: colette_langlois@gov.nt.ca

Range Lake MLA asks for the Government's Position on Senate Reform

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, November 15, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny is seeking information from the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding the government's position concerning senate reform.

"I think it is important for the residents of the NWT to know what the government's stance is when it comes to senate reform and how this could affect NWT residents and First Nations groups," said Dolynny.

"The Supreme Court of Canada is deliberating a reference made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government about whether the senate can be abolished with the approval of just seven provinces, representing 50 percent of the population. The residents of the NWT should know whether we will be part of this decision. Hopefully Premier McLeod can give us more information on our constitutional position," said Dolynny.

He went on to say that, "Regular Members have asked the government numerous times for updates on our government's position on this topic as our constituents are interested and have been asking us. The Northwest Territories runs on a unique consensus style of government, sharing positional information on the government's stance is paramount in order to keep our constituents informed."

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

MLAs Speak with Youth Conference Participants

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, November 25, 2013 – Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny and Frame Lake MLA Wendy Bisaro will be speaking to northern youth this week about their roles as Members of the Legislative Assembly. The students are participating in the Skills Canada Power Up Youth Conference.

The Power Up Youth Conference is provided to grade 8 students throughout the Northwest Territories. “This conference gives students the opportunity to learn more about careers in the NWT. It is a wonderful program offered to students to help guide them in their future career paths,” says Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Dolynny will be meeting with fifteen male participants on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 from 12:30 – 2:00pm.

Ms. Bisaro will be meeting with a nine female participants on Monday, November 25 at 2:45 to discuss her role as an MLA, and other career opportunities at the Legislative Assembly. “I am really looking forward to meeting with these students. I’ve always put a large emphasis on females in politics, and this will be a great opportunity to encourage these students to consider a future in politics.”

Jan Fullerton, Executive Director of Skills Canada NWT, organizes the conference yearly, “the main reason the Power Up Youth Conference is held is because it is really hard for students to prepare for the future; this conference gives them hands on experience during the interactive workshops. There are a number of workshops available to the students: baking, welding, construction, presentations from a number of government departments, and many more. It gives the students a wide variety of workshops to choose from. We have approximately 130 students attending this year. It’s going to be a really great, informative conference for these students.”

For more information, please contact:

Daryl Dolynny, MLA Range Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2244
E-mail: daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca

Wendy Bisaro, MLA Frame Lake
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2274
E-mail: wendy_bisaro@gov.nt.ca

Legislative Assembly Launches new Website

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, December 3, 2013 – The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Honourable Jackie Jacobson, today announced that the Legislative Assembly has launched a new website.

“The new Legislative Assembly website has a fresh new look. We have incorporated photo galleries for Youth and Elders Parliament and the Mace Tour, an interactive calendar, and the home page makes navigation of the site very easy. Users can also share content on the site using the social media sharing buttons. We will strive to continue to improve our new website, but I am very happy with the site overall,” said Speaker Jacobson. To view the new site, go to www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

The redesigned website helps continue the Legislative Assembly’s commitment to paper-saving strategies introduced in 2009.

For more information, please contact:

Danielle Mager
Public Affairs and Communications Advisor
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2230 or 1-800-661-0784
Email: danielle_mager@gov.nt.ca