

GNWT NEWS RELEASES

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Media Advisory

From: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary, GNWT
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403-873-5086 (h)
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Subject: Resignation

Date: January 11, 1995

Premier Nellie Cournoyea has accepted the resignation of Rebecca Mike from the Government's eight-member Cabinet.

Ms. Mike's resignation was offered after a number of discussions with the premier this week. The discussions dealt with circumstances prior to and including an incident in Pangnirtung that resulted in a local resident being charged by the RCMP for assaulting the Minister.

The resignation was effective at 5:00 pm today.

Finance Minister John Pollard will take over her responsibilities for Municipal and Community Affairs, on an interim basis, and the Premier will assume responsibility for the Department of Personnel.



95-001

Arctic 'A' Airports Transfer

YELLOWKNIFE (Jan 12) — Minister of Transportation John Todd announced today that the Government of the Northwest Territories will enter into an agreement with Transport Canada for the transfer of the last nine federally owned and operated airports in the NWT. The transfer agreement covers the airports at Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit and Resolute Bay. Mr. Todd expects the transfer to take effect on July 1, 1995.

Mr. Todd said the territorial government "considers the air transportation system in the North crucial to northerners and our economic growth." While acknowledging the excellent work Transport Canada has done in building and operating airports in the North, he said, "placing the ownership and resources to finance their operation in the hands of northerners will ensure that the airport system continues to meet our air transportation needs in the future".

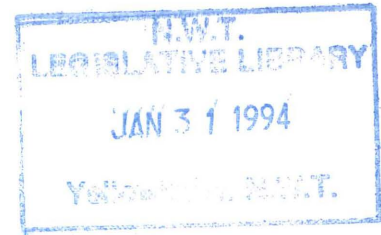
The addition of the nine airports to the 43 already owned and operated by the territorial government signals the successful completion of the airport transfers which began in 1985. Thirty-six federal airports were transferred to the territorial government in April 1990.

Mr. Todd says, "I have given the Department of Transportation clear objectives to meet following the transfer. Maintaining the highest regard for safety, the Department will manage and operate the airports in a 'customer driven', business-like manner. It will strive to meet or exceed the airports' current levels of service. The Department is committed to include the aviation industry, municipal governments, the business community and organized labour in all major decisions related to future changes in levels of service, new infrastructure and revenue initiatives."

The Department of Transportation is working closely with Transport Canada for a smooth transition so that the airports will continue operating as usual when the transfer takes place. The Department expects most staff employed at the airports will accept employment with the GNWT. The knowledge and experience they bring is important for the continuity of operations and working relationships with airport customers and tenants.

The federal Minister of Transport, Mr. Doug Young, is carrying through with the National Airports Policy he announced in July 1994. The intent of the policy is for the federal government to withdraw from the business of operating airports and to concentrate on its role as air regulator. With the transfer, the Northwest Territories will be the first jurisdiction in Canada where the federal government does not own or operate any public airport facilities.

Contact: Andrew Gamble
Deputy Minister
(403) 920-3460



95-002

Collective Bargaining

YELLOWKNIFE (Jan. 26) — Chairman of the Financial Management Board John Pollard agrees with the recommendation by Facilitator Vince Ready for interest arbitration to bring the collective bargaining dispute with the Union of Northern Workers to a timely and rational conclusion with Mr. Ready as the arbitrator.

Vince Ready was appointed by the Government and the Union of Northern Workers to facilitate stalled negotiations for a collective agreement for the main Government employee group.

In his report Mr. Ready described that this set of negotiations "has been the most difficult contract negotiations facing these parties during their collective bargaining history." Mr. Ready concluded that "the parties" current sets of proposals are at opposite ends of the spectrum, with neither side prepared to move to the other's bargaining agenda or for that matter, to move off of its own respective bargaining agenda."

Mr. Ready recommended that "this dispute be submitted to interest arbitration so that the items in dispute may be rationally argued and then analysed and resolved in a final and binding manner by a third party to break the impasse."

Mr. Pollard said the Government is prepared to accept Mr. Ready as the arbitrator in this dispute, noting that he is one of the country's best arbitrators, is familiar with the issues and has a good knowledge of the North from previous experience.

"With Mr. Ready as the arbitrator, the process he set out for the arbitration hearings is acceptable. We would like this matter resolved in a timely fashion. The process that Mr. Ready outlines would seem to be the best way to proceed," Pollard said.

Contact: Evelyn Dean
Deputy Secretary to the
Financial Management Board
(403) 873-7705



95-003

Funding Provided to Record Oral Traditions

YELLOWKNIFE (January 30) — Thirteen projects were awarded over \$90,000 through the Oral Traditions Program in 1994/95, Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment said today.

"To maintain a healthy society, we must celebrate our cultures and heritage," the Minister said. "The cultural projects made possible through this funding play a valuable role in preserving and communicating the diverse traditions of the North."

Funding provided by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment through the Oral Traditions Program, ensures that the oral traditions of the Northwest Territories continue to be recorded and preserved. The recipients of the funding attended a Department sponsored workshop earlier this year where they received basic training in methods used to collect, catalogue and store the recordings, so that the recordings are accessible to general public in their community.

The following projects received funding this year:

- The Igloodik Inullariit Society was awarded \$7,670 to prepare interviews with elders for printing and to collect new interviews. Subject topics include: weather, autobiographies, hunting, dog sleds, astronomy, kayaking, religion and belief systems.
- Manasa Evic of Pangnirtung, was awarded \$9,100 to document the traditional place names of Cumberland Sound.
- Lynn Hancock of Fort Simpson, was awarded \$5,500 to document the life stories of women of the Deh Cho.
- Sandra Dolan of Fort Smith, was awarded \$6,014 to continue recording the oral histories of the Salt River Settlement.
- Miriam Aglukkaq of Gjoa Haven was awarded \$8,000 to continue to document the oral traditions of Gjoa Haven elders on video.
- The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in Taloyoak was awarded \$8,375 to document the oral histories of Pelly Bay elders.
- Judy McGrath, formerly of Cambridge Bay, was awarded \$5,500 to record stories of Taloyoak elders on cassette to be included in a book for children.
- Doug Stern of Umingmaktok was awarded \$9,000 to continue recording the oral traditions of Bathurst Inlet elders.
- The Qatqamiut Historical society of Baker Lake was awarded \$9,300 to document the recollections of elders about the early settlement of Baker Lake.
- The Dene Cultural Institute was awarded \$9,300 to continue documenting the traditional governing systems of the Rae Lakes Dogrib prior to 1921.

.../2

Funding Provided to Record Oral Traditions: Page 2

- The Tuktoyaktuk Community Education Council was awarded \$3,500 for the Life and Times of Our Elders, a project to record stories about seasonal activities on video.
- The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute of Tsiigehtichic was awarded \$5,000 to support the oral history component of its Tsiigehtichic ethnoarchaeology project.

Applications for the 1995/96 fiscal year are now being accepted. All applications must be received at Cultural Affairs by March 31, 1995. For an application guideline contact the Cultural Liaison Coordinator, at Cultural Affairs, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, at 403- 920-3102 or write to:

Cultural Liaison Coordinator,
Cultural Affairs, Culture and Heritage,
Education, Culture and Employment,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Contact: Charles Arnold
Director
Culture and Heritage
Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
403-873-7551

or

Cathy Jewison
Co-ordinator, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
403-920-6222



95-004

HIV/AIDS in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3) — The first HIV infection was found in the Northwest Territories eight years ago. Since then, 28 people have been identified to be carrying the virus and just about half are known, or believed, to have become sick and died of AIDS.

Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Ian Gilchrist says people with HIV are from all parts of the Northwest Territories, and range in age from babies to elders. Both men and women are included and many of the infections have been spread between them by simple unprotected sex (sex without using a condom).

Dr. Gilchrist says one of the problems in trying to stop the spread of HIV, is that sometimes people can go for many years with the virus in them, without feeling sick, and without knowing about it. Of the 28 known infections, 27 of them were only found when the people became sick and went to a doctor or nurse (or somebody close to them got sick).

"This means that they all could have been spreading the virus for a long time."

Dr. Gilchrist notes that one way of trying to get an idea of how many other people may be infected, but where HIV has not been suspected, is to test the blood of these people too. As a result, in 1990-91, a process called Unlinked Anonymous Surveillance (UAS) was introduced in the Northwest Territories.

The UAS process, encouraged by the World Health Organization, assures donor anonymity and makes use of leftover blood, taken by a doctor, a nurse or at a laboratory, for some other tests. The unmarked blood is then tested for HIV.

"It is not possible to tell who the blood came from, but it at least gives us an idea of how many unknown infections there are. Out of 971 samples checked during the 1990-91 program, one had HIV in it."

Dr. Gilchrist says he plans to implement the UAS program again in cooperation with the Health and Social Services Regions of the Northwest Territories, to collect further samples of blood sometime in the next few weeks.

"Four years have gone by since the last anonymous testing program and it's time to see if there are still unknown infected people, or if there are more of them," he said, noting that results should be available in the spring and will help residents of the Northwest Territories gain a better understanding of what is happening with the HIV situation."

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HIV/AIDS in the NWT: Page 2

Patients who do not want their blood tested under the UAS program should advise their doctor, nurse, or laboratory technologist accordingly. Additional information about HIV or AIDS can be obtained by calling the AIDS Hotline at 873-7017 in Yellowknife. People living outside of Yellowknife can call 1-800-661-0795.

Contact: Dr. Ian Gilchrist
Chief Medical Health Officer
(403) 920-8946



95-005

Award of Air Tanker Contracts

YELLOWKNIFE (Feb. 07) — Minister of Public Works and Services Don Morin announced today the awarding of three five-year contracts to Buffalo Airways Ltd. of Hay River/Yellowknife.

The contracts are for the provision of air tanker services for the Department of Renewable Resources' Fire Management Program and are worth about \$18,500,000 over five years. The first year of operation will be 1995.

It's the first time the air services contract has been awarded to a northern aviation firm. Proposals to provide services were solicited from the Territories only and were received from Air Tindi Ltd. of Yellowknife, Big River Air Ltd. of Fort Smith, and Buffalo Airways Ltd.

"The decision reflects our determination to do everything we can to make sure northern businesses benefit from government spending," Morin stated. "Buffalo Airways now has the opportunity to provide a service that has been supplied by a southern outfit for the last 20 years."

Two of the contracts are to operate and maintain four CL-215 lake skimming water bombers under lease to the GNWT from the Government of Canada. The third is to supply heavy land based retardant bombers.

The Buffalo Airways proposal has received the support of Dene Metis Holding Limited and the two companies have initiated discussions on opportunities for future cooperation.

Meanwhile, Minister of Renewable Resources Silas Arngna'naaq says the decision should facilitate negotiations with Dene Metis Holdings for the provision of hanger and maintenance facilities at Fort Smith for the Fire Program.

Contact: **Bob Doherty**
Deputy Minister
Public Works & Services
(403) 873-7114



95-006

Two Colleges Now Serving Residents of NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7) — Two colleges are now serving residents of the Northwest Territories

Arctic College has been divided into two institutions, one located in the western Northwest Territories and the other in the Eastern Arctic, as a result of the passage of the Public Colleges Act by the Legislative Assembly last November. As well, science and technology activities, previously carried out by the Science Institute, have now been consolidated within the College system. The two colleges replace Arctic College, which has operated as a corporation since 1988.

"These changes are part of the overall strategy to strengthen adult and post-secondary education across the North," according to Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

He noted that with two colleges it will be possible to better focus on community and regional needs, particularly as the NWT move towards division. Each new college will continue to operate three campuses and a network of community learning centres. As well, the college system will include new offices to guide science and technology activities and to manage the four territorial research centres.

"Investment in adult and post-secondary education is a key element of our Department's strategic plan. Effective operation of the two public colleges will provide northerners access to high quality programs close to home, which are designed to address northern needs."

Over the past decade considerable progress has been made in offering additional college programs. This past year 1,500 full-time and more than 9,000 part-time registrations were recorded in the college system. The two new colleges will build on this success.

The new colleges are currently finalizing corporate plans which will guide their activities over the next five years. These plans support the directions established by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in the Department's strategic plan.

Contact: Mark Cleveland
Assistant Deputy Minister
Culture and Careers
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7252



95-007

Public will have improved access to NWT Archives' photo collection

YELLOWKNIFE (Feb. 14) - The public will have improved access to the NWT Archives photographic collection, thanks to a partnership between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Canadian Council of Archives.

"Over the years, a number of northern residents have donated their personal collections to the NWT Archives. These provide us with an excellent record of life in all regions of the Northwest Territories," said Mr. Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, in making the announcement. "However, we have received such a large number of photos that a backlog has developed."

The Canadian Council of Archives is providing a grant of \$21,822 to hire a project archivist to catalogue and index the Archives' collection, which is housed at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The NWT Archives photographic collection provides researchers with some of the best documentation of human activity in Canada's Arctic. The eight collections which will be catalogued cover a variety of topics such as trapping, art, whaling, exploration, Hudson's Bay Company activities and medical practice. They also document people from regions such as Holman and Nahanni.

The following is brief description of the collections:

Jack and Kay Wood Collection (1934-1943)

The couple's collection includes images from the Western and Central Arctic; photographs of a number of ships including the Lady of Lourdes, Prospector, Distributor and Aklavik; and photographs of the communities of Aklavik, Reindeer Station, Shingle Point, Fort Good Hope and Fort Providence.

Dr. Sylvester Drabbit (1962-1965)

The doctor's slide collection includes images relating to his medical trips to the Eastern Arctic. The images include people, scenery, flora, fauna, people living on the land, snow houses, medical staff, medical facilities, transportation and living conditions.

Gus and Mary Kraus (1934-1987)

The Kraus collection depicts the daily life in the Nahanni area, Kraus Hot Springs, and Doctor Lake, as well as photographs of visitors to the area.

Public will have improved access to NWT Archives' photo collection: Page 2

R.C.Knights (1956-1964)

Mr. Knights, a former RCMP officer, lived in the North during the 50's and 60's. Included in his collection are images of Arctic Red River, Sachs Harbour, Inuvik, Eskimo Point and Rankin Inlet.

B.C.Hawkins (1954-1969)

Mr. Hawkins joined the RCMP in 1952 and was stationed in Yellowknife in 1954. He spent the next 15 years in the North at a number of different postings. His 600 colour slides were taken at Fort Simpson, Port Radium and Fort Liard.

Contact: Charles Arnold
Director, Culture and Heritage
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7551

The Honourable E.N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C.

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NEWS RELEASE

Commission of Inquiry to Convene March 13, 1995

YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 1995) The Commission of Inquiry, established pursuant to the provision of Part III of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to investigate the complaint of Jeannie Marie-Jewell (MLA for Thebacha) against the Honourable Don Morin (MLA for Tu Nedhe), will commence in public session at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife, 9:30 am, Monday, March 13, 1995.

The establishment of the Commission of Inquiry was announced on February 8, 1995 by the Chief Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories Mr. Joel W. Fournier. Members of the Commission are the Honourable James Bourque, Ms. Anne Crawford and the undersigned, who will serve as Chair of the Commission.

The nature of the complaint and the questions to be answered by the Commission, should the allegations which form the basis of the complaint be established, are set forth in the document marked "A" and attached to this news release.

Legal counsel engaged to assist the Commission in its work is Ms. Virginia A. Schuler, Q.C. of the Yellowknife law firm of Peterson, Schuler & Hudson.

Inquiries pertaining to the Inquiry can be directed to either the undersigned or Ms. Schuler who can be reached at telephone (403) 873-4456 or fax (403) 873-6543 in Yellowknife.



E.N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C.
Phone: (604) 356-9283
Fax: (604) 356-6580

Attachment "A"

**To News Release by the Honourable E.N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C. dated February 17, 1995
With Reference to the Complaint Pursuant to Section 80 of the Legislative Assembly
and Executive Council Act by Jeannie Marie-Jewell, MLA for Thebacha, Against the
Honourable Don Morin, MLA for Tu Nedhe**

A THE ALLEGATIONS

1. In November 1994 a sole source contract (one awarded without bidding or other competitive process), relating to fire suppression and other options to be developed for the tanker-base operations in Fort Smith, was granted by the Hon. Mr. Morin to Foulger Aviation Services Inc.
2. At this time Norman Zigarlick, as a consultant for Foulger Aviation Services Inc., had considerable involvement with that company and was described by the company as "a very valuable member of our team". The Hon. Mr. Morin was then renting his residence in Fort Resolution to Zigarlick at a monthly rent of \$400.00 which was being received by the Hon. Mr. Morin.
3. The rental income received by the Hon. Mr. Morin was not disclosed by him in the disclosure statement provided for by section 77 of the Act and hence no subsequent public disclosure of it was made pursuant to provisions of section 78 of the Act.

**B QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE COMPLAINANT TO BE ANSWERED BY THE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN THE EVENT OF SUBSTANTIATION OF THE
ALLEGATIONS**

1. Does the receipt of such rental income constitute "a significant private interest" as that term is used in section 66(1) of the Act such that the Hon. Mr. Morin has a conflict of interest as defined by that section which provides:
 - 66(1) For the purposes of this Part, a member has a conflict of interest when the member, or the spouse or a dependent child of the member, has significant private interests that afford the member, or the spouse or dependent child of the member, the opportunity to directly or indirectly benefit from the performance of any of the duties of office of the member.
2. If such a conflict of interest is found to exist and it is shown that the Hon. Mr. Morin failed to either disclose the general nature of the conflict of interest or transfer the decision-making responsibility with respect to the awarding of the

contract, was the Hon. Mr. Morin in breach of section 69(3) of the Act which, in part, provides:

69(3) A Minister who has a conflict of interest in any matter relating to the performance of the duties of the Minister shall

- (a) disclose the general nature of the conflict of interest to the Executive Council;
- (b) delegate to a Minister designated by the Government Leader the responsibility to perform his or her duties in respect of the matter; and
- (c) . . .

3. Does the Hon. Mr. Morin's acceptance of such rental income and his concurrent or subsequent awarding of a sole-source contract to a company with a close relationship to his tenant constitute a violation of the spirit and intent of section 67 of the Act which provides:

67 Each member shall

- (a) perform his or her duties of office and arrange his or her private affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the member;
- (b) refrain from accepting any remuneration, gift or benefit the acceptance of which might erode public confidence in the integrity, objectivity or impartiality of the member, and in all other respects act in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny;
- (c) arrange his or her private affairs in conformity with the provision of this Part and act generally to prevent any conflict of interest from arising; and
- (d) make all reasonable efforts to resolve any conflict of interest that may arise in favour of the public interest.

4. Does a failure to disclose such rental income constitute a violation of section 77 of the Act which, in part, provides:

77(1) A member shall file with the Clerk a disclosure statement in a form established by the Management and Services Board within sixty days after

- (a) the commencement of the first session of the Legislative Assembly after the election of the member; and
- (b) each anniversary of the day referred to in paragraph (a).



95-008

New Policy Considered

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15) — A new policy is being considered to provide for greater local control over the administration of community lands in the western Northwest Territories.

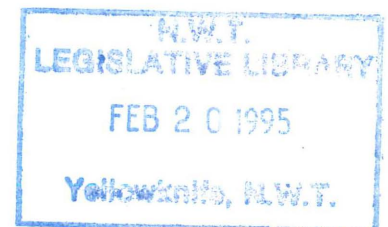
According to Kelvin Ng, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, discussions on a new policy are expected to result in a process that allows communities in the western Northwest Territories to choose whether community lands are available for sale or lease only.

The initiative follows consultation and evaluation of the government's Land Lease-Only policy, created in 1985 as a temporary measure to restrict the sale of community lands until the completion of aboriginal land ownership discussions between Dene/Metis groups and the federal government.

Mr. Ng said today that he expects a new policy to be in place by the end of July and that it will respect the ongoing negotiations for aboriginal self-government, comprehensive land claims and Treaty Land Entitlement in the North Slave, Deh Cho and Treaty Eight areas.

The existing Land Lease-Only policy will continue unchanged until July 31 to allow time for discussion with aboriginal organizations, the NWT Association of Municipalities and individual communities.

Contact: Vern Christensen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs
(403) 920-6355





95-009

Koe Team Exemplifies True Sportsmanship

YELLOWKNIFE (February 16) — The coveted National Fair Play Award—an award that is given to a team that exemplifies outstanding sportsmanlike behavior - is being given to the Koe Junior Men's curling team.

Last year, with close to a million Canadians watching the national television coverage, and two thousand spectators, the final rock of the 1994 Canadian Junior Men's Curling Championship was delivered. With the outcome hanging in the balance the rock came to rest at the far end of the ice.

Just prior to the final score being determined, a potential scoring Alberta rock was accidentally moved by a Koe team player. The officials, in a tough judgement call, awarded victory to the Alberta team.

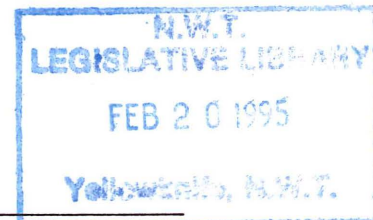
"The Koe team's acceptance of that ruling was carried out with all the class and dignity of a seasoned world class team," says Kelvin Ng, Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation. "The Kevin Koe team did curling and Canada proud and set a standard of fair play that all should strive for."

Team members include: Kevin Koe (skip), Jamie Koe (3rd), Mark Whitehead (2nd), Kevin Whitehead (lead).

The Awards Selection Committee of Fair Play Canada received a number of nominations in this category. However, it was unanimously agreed that the Koe team stood above all others and will receive the awards at the Canadian Sport Awards Banquet in Toronto on March 28.

Fair Play Canada, in conjunction with the Canadian Sport Council, award three National Fair Play Awards each year. They are given to an athlete or team, coach and an organization. Awards winners are selected based on a demonstration of the concept of fair play through a specific action or general approach to sport or sport development.

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Koe Team Exemplifies True Sportsmanship: Page 2

"The Koe team is an inspiration to all our northern teams and athletes. It's not just winning that counts, it's obviously also being able to accept defeat with grace and dignity in the spirit of fair play," says Mr. Ng.

Contact: Dan Schofield **or**
Sport & Recreation Division
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(403) 873-7755

Sue Enge
Public Affairs Officer
Dept. of the Executive
(403) 669-2241





95-010

Investing in People Work Activity Project Begins in Rae Lakes

YELLOWKNIFE (March 9) — The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has signed a \$49,999 contribution agreement with the Rae Lakes Community Education Council to carry out a work activity project for social assistance recipients under the Investing in People Initiative.

The Gameti Work Activity Project began in Rae Lakes earlier this month with 12 participants, who will be provided with training and skill development, educational upgrading and work experience aimed at establishing positive employment patterns and behaviours, as well as with ongoing counselling and support. The project is sponsored by the Rae Lakes Community Education Council, a member of the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education. An instructor has been contracted through College West to carry out the project.

Participants will begin their work experience at the end of March. The project has received strong support from the community. Work experience will take place at local businesses and government departments to provide participants with practical work experience in different types of careers.

Eligible clients have been referred to the Gameti Work Activity Project by the Community of Rae Lakes.

The Investing in People Initiative is a two-year pilot program. Human Resources Development Canada, under its Strategic Initiatives Fund, and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, will share the cost of Investing in People on a 50/50 basis, up to a total of \$2 million in 1994-95 and \$6 million in 1995-96.

Contact: Mark Cleveland
Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture and Careers
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7252

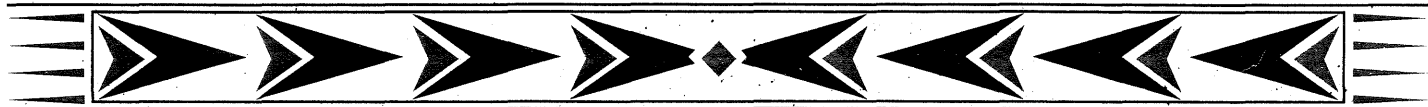
or

Kyle Kelly
Rae Lakes Community Education Council
Rae Lakes, NT
403) 997-3700

Languages Commissioner of the N.W.T.

Commissaire aux langues des T.N.-O.
UQAUHILIRINIRMUT KAMISINAUYUQ NUNATTIARMI
Júhdá Hínéné Gogha Xədə Hek'éyadhádı
Jadızi Nēne Xa Yatı K'eyı'ı
Gınjıh Eenjit K'andahnahtı N.W.T. Geenjıt

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Uqautchitigun Isivriuriyi Nunaptinni
Góhdlı Ndéh K'eh Zhatıé Xo?ehndıh Dené
Edzanék'e Gha Yatı Hà?a Xòehdı Dq
Pikiskwiwineh Okimaw Kíwıtın Ohci



Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renewal of the Canada-NWT Languages Agreement: important challenge ahead

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT, March 14 1995

Ms Betty Harnum, the NWT Languages Commissioner, says she is pleased to see that GNWT and Canadian Heritage have reached an agreement for the renewal of the *Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages*.

"This agreement relieves a lot of anxiety among the people of the Northwest Territories" says Harnum. However, the Languages Commissioner is disappointed that this state of uncertainty lasted so long. "I hope that the activities and the budgetary allocations for this fiscal year and the next will be released very soon because further cuts will be applied", Ms Harnum said. These are public documents.

Because of the significant cuts in this new agreement, it is important for the GNWT to consider one of the Languages Commissioner's recommendations in her 1993-94 Annual Report. This recommendation suggests that GNWT explore the possibility of establishing a joint management committee for the administration of funds for Official Languages. "It's essential that the communities be involved in the decisions that have to be made about how the resources will be used. There are many ways of meeting obligations in the *Official Languages Act*. GNWT can still meet all of those obligations in

good faith; but some changes will be necessary in the way services and programs are delivered” says Harnum.

As a linguistic ombudsman for the NWT, Ms. Harnum handles complaints and inquiries about the NWT *Official Languages Act* or any other Act or Regulation relating to the status or use of Official Languages in the NWT. Even with these cuts, the Languages Commissioner will continue to address any reasonable complaints should they arise.

Under the NWT *Official Languages Act*, there are eight Official Languages in the NWT: Chipewyan, Dogrib, Slavey (North and South), Gwich'in, Cree, Inuktitut (including Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun), French and English. The Languages Commissioner, along with the GNWT, also provides information to the public on matters relating to Official Languages.

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For more information:
Office of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT
Benoît Boutin
(403) 873-7034 or 1-800-669-0889



Media Advisory

To: Northern Media

From: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Date: Monday, March 20, 1995

Don Morin has resumed his responsibilities as Minister of Public Works and Services for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

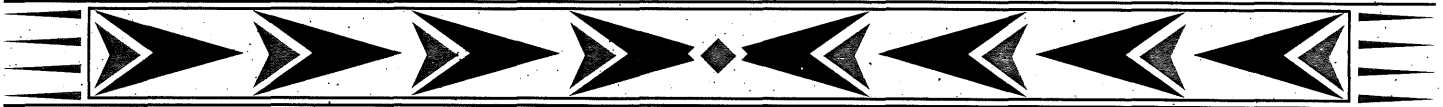
Mr. Morin had asked Premier Nellie Cournoyea to assign his responsibilities to another member of Cabinet while a Commission of Inquiry looked into allegations that there was a conflict of interest in his awarding of a recent contract to Folger Aviation. In a public statement Wednesday, the commission cleared the minister of the allegations.

Premier Cournoyea said she is pleased the matter has been put to rest and that the workload of individual ministers can be returned to normal. Mr. Morin's responsibilities for Public Works and Services had been assigned to Finance Minister John Pollard when the Commission was established.

Languages Commissioner of the N.W.T.

Commissaire aux langues des T.N.-O.
UQAUHILIRINIRMUT KAMISINAUYUQ NUNATTIARMI
Júhdá Hínéné Gogha Xədə Hek'éyədhíhádi
Jadží N'éné Xa Yatı K'eyı?ı
Gıńjıh Eenjıt K'andahnahtı N.W.T. Geenjıt

D'á b b ɔ
Uqautchitigun Isivriuriyi Nunaptinni
Góhđlı Ndeh K'eh Zhaté Xó?ehndih Dené
Edzanèk'e Gha Yatı Hã?a Xòehđı Dó
Pikiskwiwineh Okimaw Kiwitin Ohci



Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poster Contest for the Aboriginal Month and French Week by the Languages Commissioner of the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT, March 20 1995

During the month of March, Aboriginal languages and French are celebrated across Canada. For this reason, the Languages Commissioner is sponsoring a poster contest in all Northwest Territories schools to celebrate the NWT's Official Languages. "We want to encourage people to think about the importance of preserving their languages and using them more in everyday life," said Betty Harnum, Northwest Territories Languages Commissioner.

Two posters will be chosen for each of the Official language groups. The posters can be drawings, paintings, computer graphics or any other medium. They can be created by individual students or groups of students. Each poster should contain a message in the Official language(s) of the artist(s) which conveys the idea that "Language is a gift".

The purpose of these posters is to increase awareness about Official Languages, promote their use and preservation, and encourage cooperation among linguistic groups. The posters will be distributed to schools, museums, band offices, hamlet offices, and other public institutions and will be used for displays at gatherings where language is a subject of discussion.

The deadline for submitting posters is May 31st, 1995. Winners will be publicly announced in June and prizes of gift certificates for books will be awarded at that time.

Under the NWT *Official Languages Act*, there are eight Official Languages in the NWT: Chipewyan, Dogrib, Slavey (North and South), Gwich'in, Cree, Inuktitut (including Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun), French and English.

As a linguistic ombudsman for the NWT, Ms. Harnum handles complaints and inquiries about the NWT *Official Languages Act* or any other Act or Regulation relating to the status or use of Official Languages in the NWT. The Languages Commissioner, along with the GNWT, also provides information to the public on matters relating to Official Languages.

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For more information
Benoît Boutin
(403) 873-7034 or 1-800-669-0889

Press Statement

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

Edward Lennie Receives Commissioner's Award

INUVIK (April 3) — Edward Lennie was presented with a Commissioner's Award for Public Service at the highest level during a special ceremony here Friday.

The award was presented by Commissioner Helen Maksagak for his contributions to the community and as a leader in the retention and development of cultural traditions in the Western Arctic.

Mr. Lennie was the founder of a movement to re-introduce traditional games into the Western Arctic culture and, by 1970, had developed them to a level where they became part of the first northern games competition.

Two years later, he and a select group of young people brought the Inuvialuit and Inuit traditional games to all of Canada during a televised half-time performance during the Grey Cup. Since then northern traditional games and competitions have taken their rightful place in the Arctic Winter Games schedule and have been incorporated by the Canada Games organizers as a demonstration sport.

“These efforts and many others too numerous to recall, have resulted in a deep respect for Mr. Lennie by his community, the Mackenzie Delta, the North and Canada as a whole,” the Commissioner said.

Contact: Russell Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
(403) 873-7210

Background Information
Edward Lennie
Recipient of the Commissioner's Award for Public Service

Edward Lennie is a widely respected and distinguished Inuvialuit leader and business man residing in the Western Arctic. One of the many reasons for the high regard in which he is held throughout the NWT is his developmental work in the field of traditional native games.

The re-introduction of traditional games into the Western Arctic's cultural environment had been an objective of Mr. Lennie for many years prior to the holding of the first Northern Games competition in Inuvik in 1970.

In 1972, Mr. Lennie and a select group of the young people he had encouraged and coached over the years, introduced the Inuvialut and Inuit traditional games to all of Canada through the medium of CBC's half-time show at the Grey Cup game. On a later occasion, they were asked to demonstrate the Northern Games for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

While Mr. Lennie has received much encouragement and support for his work over the years, the restoration of Northern Games to their rightful place in the North's cultural and recreational environment is the sole result of his vision, determination and dedication. His initiative has encouraged many others to become involved and work with him to ensure the continuity and spread of the Northern Games program. Not only has Mr. Lennie's initiative stimulated Inuit leaders to revive the games traditionally practiced in the Central and Eastern Arctic, but also included Dene youth in the NWT and Yukon, and non-native athletes challenged by the personal and physical demands of the games.

In addition, increased and improved communication have ensued between native peoples of Alaska and Canada and many Canadian athletes have left their marks and competitive achievements in the history and record books of Alaska's Eskimo Olympics.

When Mr. Lennie began to encourage and train young athletes over 25 years ago, the Arctic Winter Games bi-annual competitions did not include the traditional games of native people. Over the years, Mr. Lennie's persistence had changed this situation with the northern traditional games and competitions now occupying their rightful place in the Arctic Winter Games schedule.

Canada Games organizers have also incorporated Northern Games competitions into their program schedule but to date recognition of traditional native games has not proceeded beyond the demonstration sport level.

Mr. Lennie's initiative and persistence have also stimulated a renewed interest in the production of traditional garments, work in babiche craft, the construction of traditional drums, sleds and other products intrinsic to the native economy and life style.

Mr. Lennie is no longer actively involved in the organization and management of the Northern Games celebrations, but he remains keenly interested and available to serve Western Arctic youth as a teacher, coach, visionary and role model as he has for over 25 years.

His efforts have reminded northern peoples of their rich and remarkable cultural heritage and have proudly informed all Canadians of this national treasure.

Speaking Notes for
The Hon. Helen Maksagak, Commissioner of the NWT
at a ceremony to present
The Commissioner's Award for Public Service at the Highest Level to
Mr. Edward Lennie
Friday, March 31, 1995 at Ingamo Hall

Ladies and Gentlemen, Special Guests:

If you live in the Mackenzie Delta, it is not long before you learn that if you want to organize a community project, find a willing worker or just plain get a good old-time dance going that the person to call upon is Edward Lennie.

For many years, Edward has contributed to the community as an outstanding family man, as a participant in community affairs, and as a leader in the retention and development of our peoples culture.

He was the founder of a movement to re-introduce traditional games back into the Western Arctic culture and, by 1970, had developed them to a level where they became part of the first northern games competition.

In 1972, he and a select group of young people brought the Inuvialuit and Inuit traditional games to all of Canada by being part of the CBC's half-time show at the Grey Cup. Among other accomplishments was also a demonstration of their northern games skills for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

The development of the Northern Games was as a whole the result of Mr. Lennie's vision, determination and dedication. These games have also now been incorporated by the Canada Games organizers as part of the games demonstration sport level.

Full inclusion of Traditional Games in annual sports remains a challenge for the second 25 years of Northern Games development.

These efforts, and many others too numerous to recount, have resulted in a deep respect for him by Edward's community, the Mackenzie Delta, the North, and Canada as a whole.

It gives me great pleasure to add to that recognition by presenting, this evening, the Commissioner's Award for Public Service at the highest level, knowing that this can give nowhere close to recognizing all of the things you have done, but I hope you will accept it now with our deepest appreciation.



95-011

Health and Social Service Bursary Deadline May 15

YELLOWKNIFE (April 10) — The Department of Health and Social Services is providing limited financial support to people interested in pursuing or furthering a health or social service career in the NWT.

Health and Social Service Bursaries are available for full or part-time studies in a variety of health and social service related careers. Preference will be given to residents of the NWT who wish to work in occupations needed in the North, such as nursing, social work and environmental health.

Health and Social Service Bursaries encourage and assist northerners in pursuing health or social service related studies. This will ensure a supply of skilled workers and professionals for northern communities.

People who receive bursaries will be required to work in the NWT for a period of time following completion of their training. The length of service will depend on the amount of funding received.

The deadline for bursary applications is May 15. Application forms and additional information are available from the Senior Human Resource Planner, Department of Health and Social Services, Government of the NWT, 7th Floor, Centre Square Tower, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9 or by phoning 1-800-661-0782.

Contact: Barry Lange
Senior Human Resource Planner
Dept. of Health & Social Services
(403) 920-8758

or Sue Enge
Public Affairs Officer
Dept. of the Executive
(403) 669-2241

BAFFIN REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

**OTTAWA ENDORSES IQALUIT FOR CAPITAL OF
NEW CANADIAN TERRITORY**

IQALUIT (Thursday, April 6, 1995) Ottawa city council voted yesterday to endorse Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay) as the capital of the new territory of Nunavut which will be carved out of the existing Northwest Territories under Federal legislation on April 1, 1999.

27 jet flights a week link the two centres, creating important cultural and business links. "It's good business for Ottawa, and it's good business for Iqaluit", said Mayor Jacquelin Holzman. "There's \$100 million worth of business generated in Ottawa because of Iqaluit."

With a population of 3,700, Iqaluit is the largest town in the new territory. "We're very happy that the capital of all Canadian capitals has endorsed us as the capital of Nunavut", says Joe Kunuk, Mayor of Iqaluit.

"It's very good that Ottawa's city council is supporting Iqaluit", says Jerry Ell, President of the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Iqaluit is the cheapest place to build the new capital, so this is a smart decision from a financial point of view."

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Jerry Ell, President,
Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce
c/o Regional HTA office: (819) 979-5391
or via the BRCC office: (819) 979-4653

or

Joe Kunuk, Mayor of Iqaluit
(April 6 & 7:) c/o Discovery Inn, Yellowknife, (403) 873-4151



FaxMemo

To: News Desks

From: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary, Office of the Premier
GNWT

403-669-2302 (w)
403-873-5086 (h)
403-873-0169 (fax)

Subject: Conflict Complaint Dismissed

Date: Thursday, April 12, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YELLOWKNIFE (April 12) - Chief Conflict of Interest Commissioner Joel Fornier has dismissed a complaint involving Premier Nellie Cournoyea.

He said in a report Wednesday that the complaint, made under the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, "falls perilously close to being frivolous or totally political in nature."

The conflict of interest complaint was initiated by Karl Mueller of Enterprise, NT, and involved hiring practices and the awarding of a contract to a Saskatchewan contractor.

"It is quite understandable that members of the public become frustrated from time-to-time with the operation of government," Mr. Fornier observed. "Nevertheless, this should not be taken as just cause for the filing of a complaint under this Act that is supported by mere rumour and innuendo."

He added that the conflict of interest provisions are not intended to be used as a convenient means of attempting to sully the reputations of office holders who happen to upset members of the electorate but otherwise act in a legal and proper manner.

(An unsigned text of Mr. Fornier's report follows. It has been retyped to improve its legibility for facsimile transmission purposes).

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT BY MR. KARL, MUELLER
WITH RESPECT TO ALLEGED CONTRAVENTIONS
OF PROVISIONS OF PART III OF
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT
BY THE HONOURABLE NELLIE COURNOYEA, PREMIER.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
PURSUANT TO SECTION 81 OF PART III
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT.

APRIL 12, 1995

In the matter of a complaint by Mr. Karl Mueller with respect to alleged contraventions of provisions of Part III of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act by the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, Premier.

This report deals with the allegations contained in the complaint filed on March 17, 1995 by Mr. Karl Mueller, against Nellie Cournoyea, Premier of the Northwest Territories.

First Allegation

This allegation is stated in the complaint as follows:

"Part III Section 67(a)

Honourable Nellie Cournoyea has contravened this part-section by recalling and hiring a Bob Doherty, a former resigned GNWT Civil Servant, who was Assistant Deputy Minister of Department of Public Works GNWT into the position of Deputy Minister for the GNWT Dept. of Public Works (under contract). Mr. Doherty is still in this position. There has been no reason given to the Public as to why and who extended his position (under Contract or otherwise) or why Mr. Doherty remains in this position. Further, this action was discussed in the Legislative Assembly by Fred Koe, MLA. He stated that this was an incorrect procedure that had been taken and that another GNWT employee wanted and would be suitable for the position of Deputy Minister in GNWT DPW. He would have applied for/accepted the position had it been advertised or had he been appointed. "

Section 67 refers to the obligations of members in general with 67(a) setting out the following:

"67. Each member shall

(a) perform his or her duties of office and arrange his or her private affairs in *such* a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the member; . "

After reviewing this allegation in light of the provisions of the Public Service Act I am satisfied that there was in fact no breach of section 67(a) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (hereafter referred to as the "Act"). Section 16.1(1) of the Public Service Act, as amended, states

"The Commissioner in Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Premier, has the exclusive right and authority to appoint persons to the position of Deputy Minister in the public service."

Obviously, the Premier has confidence in Mr. Doherty's ability to administer the day-to-day business of his department or she would not have recommended him to her cabinet colleagues. It is for the electorate or her fellow MLAs to decide if she has misplaced her trust. In any event, the hiring of Mr. Doherty under contract, for whatever amount and for however long, under the provisions of the Public Service Act is certainly not reviewable by this office as a breach of section 67(a) of the Act.

Second Allegation

This allegation is stated in the complaint as follows:

"Part 111 Section 67(b)

Honourable Nellie Cournoyea did not have to hire Bob Doherty but for reasons unknown why she felt Mr. Doherty was the best person for that position is unknown. We can conclude that she enticed him to this position by offering him a high salary of \$180,000.00 per year. (Re: Premier Harcourt March 10, 1995 Conflict of Interest based on a Reporter saying Harcourt gave a NDP supporter contracts).

Hiring Mr. Doherty did not benefit the public. He could not manage his own business he had in Ontario, so how can he manage a Government Department. He does not have the education or expertise for this position."

Section 67(b) provides

"Each member shall ...

(b) refrain from accepting any remuneration, gift or benefit the acceptance of which might erode public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity or impartiality of the member. and in all other respects act in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny; ..."

I am unable to find that Ms. Cournoyea was in breach of either of the two aspects of this section. She is not alleged to have accepted any remuneration, gift or benefit which would trigger the prohibition contained in the first part of the section. With regard to the second aspect, I am of the view that given the power invested in the Premier, pursuant to the Public Service Act, which has already been referred to above, she has acted in a manner that would in the words of the section, "bear the closest public scrutiny."

Third Allegation

This allegation is stated in the complaint as follows:

"Pan III Section 70(c)

Honourable Nellie Cournoyea DID make representation for remuneration on behalf of Mr. Doherty with respect to (c): any other matter (hiring him for another contract or probable extension of this contract) that relates directly or indirectly to the performance of the duties (Deputy Minister from Assistant Deputy Minister) of DPW office of the member, since Honourable N. Cournoyea oversees all government departments. Over the years they knew each other and it is very questionable that

they became friends."

Section 70 provides:

"A member shall not make representations for remuneration on behalf of any person, with respect to

(a) the awarding of a contract by the Government of the Northwest Territories or a department;

(b) the extension of a benefit to a person by the Government of the Northwest Territories or a department; or

(c) any other matter that relates directly or indirectly to the performance of the duties of office of the member."

This section is intended to prevent members receiving remuneration for lobbying on another person's behalf. I have not been provided, nor have I discovered, any information or evidence that Ms. Cournoyea received any remuneration of any kind or from any source whatsoever for her alleged representation on behalf of Mr. Doherty. In my view, the complainant has misinterpreted this section and is under the impression that the "remuneration" flows to the person who is the subject of the representation, in this instance, Mr. Doherty. However, even if I accepted that interpretation, which I do not, the allegation would still not be justified. The Premier has, as has already been pointed out, the sole authority under the Public Service Act to recommend Mr. Doherty's appointment, consequently, any representations she would make for remuneration for Mr. Doherty would have to be to herself. a state of affairs which would appear to be fanciful at best.

Fourth Allegation

This allegation is stated in the complaint as follows:

"Part III Section 68(1)

Honourable Nellie Cournoyea did use information she gained in the executive offices while being MLA, Minister, and then Government Leader. She promised during her campaigning that she would support Access to Information as it was initially written which was supported by the Public. As Government Leader she allowed this Act to be rewritten so as it will be of no use to the Public. Subsequently, she agreed to have this Act sit until a new election is called - leaving a chance that it will be defeated in the next election. Further, this Act does not meet the General Public availability of their requests and directly furthers Honourable N. Cournoyea's private interests as she fears that what she has done and written (track record) will defeat her in the next election.

Further, Honourable Nellie Cournoyea has allowed herself and the GNWT MLA's to write the up a Business Incentive Policy to support Northern Business and then through the GNWT evaluation support whoever they want, thus betraying the Northern Residents."

Section 68(1) reads

"A member shall not use or share information that is gained in the execution of an office of the member and that is not available to the general public to *further or seek* to further, directly or indirectly the private interests of the member of the spouse or a dependent child of the member."

In the first paragraph of this allegation it is asserted that Ms. Cournoyea, using information she gained during her tenure with the Government of the Northwest Territories, delayed the coming into force of the Access to Information Act to further her private interests. This claim attributes to the Premier a power she does not possess. The decision to dictate the substance or affect the timeliness of this Act would have to be made by the Legislative Assembly since it has the sole authority for the enactment of legislation and when it subsequently comes into force. It follows then that I can find no justification to this portion of the fourth allegation.

The second paragraph deals with the Business Incentive Policy]icy and a suggested betrayal of northern residents. Even if the allegations contained therein were correct, and in my view they are not, in order to show a breach of section 68(1) of the Act, Ms. Cournoyea would have had to act in such a way as to further her own private interests by using or sharing information not available to the general public. There has been no suggestion that this was done nor has any evidence come to light that would indicate she intended to do so.

Fifth Allegation

This allegation is stated in the complaint as follows:

"Part III Section 70(1)

Honourable N. Cournoyea did make representation for remuneration on behalf of an unregistered Saskatchewan Contractor for a contract in the NWT. Registered or not registered with respect to awarding of a contract by the GNWT DPW, (when she was Minister) she intervened despite intervention by the regional MLA."

Section 70 provides:

"A member shall not make representations for remuneration on behalf of any person, with respect to

- (a) the awarding of a contract by the Government of the Northwest Territories or a department;
- (b) the extension of a benefit to a person by the Government of the Northwest Territories or a department; or
- (c) any other matter that relates directly or indirectly to the performance of the duties of office of the member."

As has already been discussed in the "Third Allegation", this section is included in the Act to prevent lobbying for remuneration by members (my emphasis) on behalf of other persons. Therefore, it is immaterial with regard to this Act as to whether or not a Saskatchewan contractor unregistered in the Northwest Territories was awarded a contract. To become material and substantiate any allegation with regard to the section it would have to be shown

that Ms. Cournoyea had received remuneration from the contractor involved. My investigation shows absolutely no evidence of this and, in fairness to the complainant, I do not believe that this was his intent. Once again, as mentioned above, I believe the provisions of section 70 were misinterpreted.

In view of all of the above and pursuant to section 81(1)(a)(i) of the Act, I find that the complaint does not disclose a contravention of the Act in any way and it is hereby dismissed in its entirety.

I should take this opportunity to add that this complaint falls perilously close to being frivolous or totally political in nature. It is quite understandable that members of the public become frustrated from time-to-time with the operation of government bureaucracies as they affect their daily lives and, particularly, their means of earning a livelihood. Nevertheless, this should not be taken as justification for the filing of a complaint under this Act that is supported by mere rumour and innuendo. The Conflict of Interest provisions were enacted as a means of calling to account elected officials who take advantage of their power in ways the Act proscribes. It is not to be used as a convenient means of attempting to sully the reputations of those office holders who happen to upset members of the electorate but otherwise act in a legal and proper manner.

Dated this 12th day of April 1995.

Joel W. Fournier
Chief Commissioner
Conflict of Interest Commissioner



95-012

Five Work Activity Projects Approved

YELLOWKNIFE (April 17) — The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has recently signed contribution agreements with five community-based organizations to deliver projects offering education, work experience and support systems to social assistance recipients under the Investing in People Initiative, Minister Richard Nerysoo announced today.

"These five community-based projects will help people gain the skills and knowledge needed to participate more fully in our economy and to start down the road to increased self-reliance," Mr. Nerysoo said.

They include:

- A contribution agreement for \$143,000 with the Kakivak Association to provide training in firearm safety, first aid, small engine repair, komatik building, land and survival skills, and caribou hunting and trapping for up to 12 participants in Iqaluit. In addition to the funding from Education, Culture and Employment, \$17,965 in funding is being provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs through its Economic Development Agreement with the Department of Renewable Resources.
- A contribution agreement for \$153,000 with Great Slave Lake Forest Products Ltd., which is sponsoring classroom instruction and work experience in logging for about 15 participants from Fort Resolution. As well, up to 20 participants will receive training on the job at the sawmill, which may be supplemented with other courses.

Also in Fort Resolution, the Deninu K'ue Development Corporation has signed a contribution agreement for \$35,000 to offer training and work experience in fibreglass manufacturing to four participants from early February to the end of July.

- The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has entered into a contribution agreement for \$82,000 to deliver educational upgrading and work experience to about 12 participants in Cambridge Bay. The work experience will be in a community service area such as a recycling project, a second-hand store, an after-school activity program for children, as well as in production of saleable crafts.

.../2

Five Work Activity Projects Approved: Page 2

- The Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Association of Coral Harbour has signed a contribution agreement for \$133,000 to deliver theoretical and practical instruction and experience in commercial caribou harvesting, marketing and the abattoir process for up to 10 participants.

Classroom instruction includes tool and equipment making and the life cycle of the caribou. Harvesting of two thousand caribou began in mid-March and includes training in field dressing and carcass processing, in preparation for secondary processing, both at the Keewatin Meat and Fish Plant in Rankin Inlet for local consumption, and in Edmonton for sale to national and international markets.

In addition to this funding from Education, Culture & Employment, funding is provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs through Economic Development Agreement budgets of the Departments of Renewable Resources and Economic Development and Tourism, which are responsible for the commercial harvest and abattoir.

These five work activity projects are part of the Investing in People Initiative, a two-year pilot program. Human Resources Development Canada, under its Strategic Initiatives Fund, and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, will share the cost of Investing in People on a 50/50 basis, up to a total of \$2 million in 1994-95 and \$6 million in 1995-96.

Contact: Mark Cleveland
Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture and Careers
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7252



95-013

Usherwood is a Great Role Model!

YELLOWKNIFE (April 24) — Yellowknife resident Helene Usherwood has been selected to receive the 1995 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Service Award at a special presentation in the city on April 26.

Ms. Usherwood will receive a plaque, a Sonny MacDonald carving, and a letter of citation from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Kelvin Ng at a volunteer appreciation dinner sponsored by the Storefront for Voluntary Agencies. The dinner is held each year during National Volunteer Week, April 23 - 29.

Nominated by Yellowknife Mayor Dave Lovell, Ms. Usherwood is noted to have spent the past 20 years as a volunteer: serving the disabled, developing programs for NWT Girl Guides, teaching Sunday school classes. She has worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association, the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, Storefront for Voluntary Agencies, and the Psychiatric Nursing Association of the NWT, of which she is a founding member.

"Ms Usherwood has given unstintingly of her time, effort and skills, on a volunteer basis, throughout her adult life, and the residents of the NWT have been beneficiaries of this generosity," states Mr. Lovell.

Throughout the years, Helene has cooked for Caribou Carnivals, and baked at fundraising dinners for the NWT Council for Disabled Persons. Her private home has also been known to be a refuge to the homeless or less fortunate.

"There are volunteers who go beyond the call of duty to make the NWT an even better place to live. They are people whose personal conviction and commitment make them wonderful role models. Ms. Usherwood more than deserves this special award this year. She's reached out to others who need help in our society, and for that merits the highest form of appreciation we can offer," notes Mr. Ng.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Jocelyn Christensen will receive special mention as a role model for youth volunteers. Ms. Christensen, nominated by the Yellowknife Special Olympics, has been coaching and training physically and mentally challenged northern adults on how to swim for the past 3 years.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs invites nominations from across the NWT to commemorate the countless hours of service northerners devote to improve the quality of life in NWT communities and region. A five-member selection committee reviews all nominations and makes a recommendations to the Minister. Members on the selection committee include: Ann Meekitjuk Hansen (Iqaluit), Doug Crossley (Cambridge Bay), Dick Hill (Inuvik), Rebecca Kudloo (Baker Lake), and Lynn Brooks (Yellowknife).

.../2

Usherwood is a Great Role Model!: Page 2

Previous recipients of the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Service Award include: Jan Stirling of Yellowknife, 1991; Donald Clark of Rankin Inlet, 1992; Larry Gordon of Inuvik, 1993; and Max Melnyk of Norman Wells, 1994.

Contact: Ian Legaree or Sue Enge
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Sport & Recreation Division Department of the Executive
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Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-014

NEW FIREARMS ACT WILL CREATE NEW CLASS OF CRIMINALS

OTTAWA (April 24) - Proposed federal firearms legislation must be changed in order to work in the Northwest Territories, according to Territorial Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi.

"Despite Bill C-68's good intentions, this legislation would impose unnecessary hardship on Northern people," Mr. Kakfwi says. "It would criminalize traditional activities of Aboriginal people who depend on the use of guns for food and community protection and as a way to make their livelihoods."

Mr. Kakfwi chairs a caucus sub-committee of the NWT Legislative Assembly that was struck to examine the impact of the Firearms Act on the Territories and its hunting and trapping economy.

The Justice Minister appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs in Ottawa today to present proposed amendments to Bill C-68 that address the North's unique situation. He was accompanied by MLAs Dennis Patterson, John Ningark, James Antoine, Fred Koe and Jeannie Marie-Jewell.

He told Committee members there is concern that provisions of the new act requiring the registration of guns will make criminals out of law abiding citizens in the Territories who will be reluctant to abandon their traditional methods of storing, sharing and using firearms to live a life off the land.

"The lending of firearms amongst aboriginal people in the North occurs in the same way a neighbour would lend a shovel or an electrical tool in the South. This concept may seem foreign to Southerners, but it is part of the reality of life in the North," Mr. Kakfwi said.

"Northern residents, living in small communities or on the land, face another reality when they need easy access to firearms to defend themselves and their families against polar bears or grizzly bears."

The proposed legislation allows an individual to lend a firearm to another person. But he must also transfer its Firearms Registration Certificate and make sure the borrower holds a valid Firearms Licence. Anyone found guilty of circumventing this process could be sentenced to a term of up to 10 years. The minimum sentence is one year when a person is convicted of a second offence.

"While this might make sense in large, urban centres, it is overly complicated and totally out of place in a wilderness or rural setting. Processes set out in the proposed legislation are burdensome and its administration will be impossible to implement for either level of government," Mr. Kakfwi said.

NEW FIREARMS ACT WILL CREATE NEW CLASS OF CRIMINALS:

Page 2

The minister stated that such a massive intrusion into the lives of people who are not criminals and for whom firearms are a part of a way of life simply can't be justified. This is true for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal northerners.

In its submission to the committee, the Territories note that over half of 60,000 residents in the NWT are aboriginal people. Most of them use firearms and some will inevitably challenge the legislation as an "excessive intrusion" by the government into the exercise of their aboriginal right to hunt.

That interference spills over into the area of sports hunting, particularly in relation to the increasing number of Americans who are paying a great deal of money for the privilege of hunting in the Northwest Territories, the submission states. It adds that the confusion about the nature and scope of various restrictions is already having a negative impact on outfitting operations in the Territories.

American sports hunting organizations, the submission explains, have recently served notice that they are not prepared to live with the impact of the new legislation and hunters have been advised not to take their trade to Canada.

"If this happens, the outfitting and guiding industry in the NWT - which provides income for many Aboriginal residents - will be severely damaged."

Meanwhile, the submission states the Territories is not convinced the new legislation will reduce crime rates in the 60 small northern communities spread across a geographical area that makes up one-third of Canada's land mass. In addition, it expresses a confidence that it is possible to find a way for its application to have some flexibility and a respect for regional and cultural differences.

"We support large urban centres in their bid for control over the illegal use of firearms, but we don't see why we should have to accept legislation that does not work for us, anymore than we would expect people living in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to accept legislation designed for the Northwest Territories."

Federal legislation that does not adequately take provincial and territorial interests into account is contrary to the standards of fairness and respect for diversity to which all Canadians attach the highest of value, the submission concludes.

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 Press Secretary
 Government of the Northwest Territories
 Telephone: (403) 669-2301

Press Statement

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

Commissioner's Awards Presented

LAC LA MARTRE (April 24) — Four residents of this community have been recognized for the parts they played in the rescue and resuscitation of a friend pulled from the bottom of Lac La Martre.

Frankie Nitsiza and Peter Moosenose were presented with a Commissioner's Award for Bravery and Alfred Nitsiza and Lloyd Bishop received Letters of Commendation for the part they played in the rescue.

The presentations were made by Commissioner Helen Maksagak during a special ceremony today in this northern community.

"We can all be thankful that a near disaster was averted through the quick thinking of these four persons," she said, noting that the incident should be a warning to everyone that you can never be too careful around water.

The rescue took place August 12, 1993, when wind and wave conditions prevented Andrew Beaverho, 9, and Larry Flunkie, 11, from paddling a make-shift raft back to shore. Both boys abandoned the platform and attempted to swim the 150-foot distance to the community dock.

Mr. Beaverho reached the dock. But, Mr. Flunkie had to be pulled from the lake bottom by Peter Moosenose who had dived from a boat piloted by Alfred Nitsiza. Mr. Flunkie was reported to have been underwater for at least five minutes.

An earlier attempt to reach him by Frankie Nitsiza failed. Mr. Nitsiza had attempted to swim to the victim while his friends struggled to get the boat engine started.

Returned to the dock, Mr. Flunkie was revived after two-man CPR was performed by Mr. Nitsiza and Lloyd Bishop. He was subsequently taken to the nursing clinic and transported to Stanton Yellowknife Hospital for treatment and observation.

Contact: Russ Look
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(403) 873-7332



95-015

European Ban of NWT Fur Draws Nearer

YELLOWKNIFE (May 1) — The wild fur industry may be in jeopardy if European legislators do not extend or amend their plan to ban the import of fur from countries still using the leg hold trap, says Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq.

Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq and Yellowknife MLA Brian Lewis spent the last week in Brussels meeting with members of the European Commission and Parliament, as well as with representatives from the American, Russian and Canadian embassies.

Despite a week of negotiations, the territorial delegation was unable to persuade the European Commission, responsible for implementing the fur import regulation by January 1, 1996, to postpone or revise its interpretation. Commission members are insisting that a fur exporting nation must have in place a nation-wide ban of the leg hold trap and implement more humane trapping methods in order to meet the requirements of the regulation and be eligible to sell fur in Europe.

"The situation is frustrating. That interpretation is preventing the NWT from gaining access to the European market. Our government has spent millions of dollars exchanging leghold traps with quick kill or conibear traps and training NWT trappers to use them. But we may still lose access to the European market," Mr. Arngna'naaq said.

Although the NWT has taken major steps to make trapping more "humane", other jurisdictions in Canada, the United States and Russia have not done so yet, largely because it is still unclear what international standards will be considered acceptable to the European Community in place of the leghold trap.

The process for establishing international standards for humane traps has not yet been completed by the International Standards Organization (ISO), and there is still disagreement on the exact interpretation of key provisions in the regulation, according to Mr. Arngna'naaq.

The European Commission for Environment made it very clear during talks last week that it will not consider any delays in the implementation of the regulation or any amendment to it, Mr. Arngna'naaq said.

"We want to maintain our wild fur industry as a respectable economic activity and we have done everything that was expected to improve our trapping systems. But we are now faced with intransigent European politicians who are heavily influenced by animal rights activists

.../2

European Ban of NWT Fur Draws Nearer: Page 2

who keep creating new rules," he said. He explained that the only alternative is for Canada to appeal this situation through the World Trade Organization which is replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

European trade officials, American and Russian Ambassadors appear more open to work with Canada to find a solution. Several alternatives were put on the table for discussion. The first would allow Canada and United States to work with the European Community to develop international trapping standards - bypassing the more cumbersome International Standards Organization (ISO) process. Another alternative would give jurisdictions within countries the right to trade with Europe if it met regulation requirements on its own. A third would permit the selling of fur species for which quick-kill traps were used.

"Although there was no clear agreement on what actions we may want to pursue, the meetings were very useful and must continue," said Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Canada's Federal Ministers of Trade and Foreign Affairs will get an opportunity to raise the fur trade issue with Sir Leon Brittan, European Commissioner for External Trade during his visit to Canada, May 1-5. A letter which addresses these concerns has already been sent to Sir Brittan from Canada's Minister of Trade.

"We cannot continue to rely so heavily on Europe for fur sales, " Mr. Arngna'naaq said. "We must find new markets, and we need to find ways of using more of our fur and fur products within our own territory and country."

Mr. Arngna'naaq plans to follow up the Brussels meetings with a teleconference call with other Ministers in Canada responsible for fur harvesting. The main subjects to be discussed are alternatives to the present reliance on European Markets, an appeal to the World Trade Organization, and the need for improved public information on the fur industry.

Contact:	Joe Handley Deputy Minister Renewable Resources (403) 873-7420	or	Sue Enge Public Affairs Officer Dept. of the Executive (403) 669-2241
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95-016

New Approach to CTI Planned for Baffin

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3) — The Territorial government is going to try a different approach to implementing community transfer initiatives in Nunavut.

Premier Nellie Cournoyea said a pilot project will be developed for the Baffin Region which would involve having the initiative administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the government's regional director.

The community transfer initiative, a process that turns over management and control of Territorial government programs and services to local communities, has been headed up by Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Stephen Kakfwi since its establishment nearly four years ago.

He will remain lead minister, but under the Baffin pilot project Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Kelvin Ng will take on a more active role in implementing the initiative.

The necessary financial resources and a position, reporting to MACA and the regional director, will be based in Iqaluit and draw upon the experience gained in Cape Dorset, one of the first communities in the Northwest Territories to complete the community transfer initiative.

Premier Cournoyea said the pilot project is in response to urgings of the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to consider new approaches to transfers in light of division of the Territories and creation of Nunavut.

She added the community transfer initiative would be reviewed over the next few months to determine whether it should continue to be operated out of Yellowknife and what steps might need to be taken to reflect regional priorities.

The review would also consider the future role of Municipal and Community Affairs and the government's regional offices in implementing the initiative.

Contact: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2301



Media Advisory

To: News Desks

From: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Subject: Ministerial Assignments

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Premier Nellie Cournoyea has announced some changes to the assignments of her eight-member Cabinet.

- Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi will take over responsibility from the Premier for the Women's Directorate - a unit of government mandated to work on women's issues.
- Public Works and Services Minister Don Morin, who recently arranged and concluded the first northern-based air tanker services contract, will be responsible for the forest fire management program.
- Silas Arngna'naaq will take over responsibility for the Personnel Secretariat in addition to his responsibilities in Renewable Resources, including the task of continuing the lobby against European fur import regulations that could jeopardize the NWT fur industry.

The changes are effective immediately



95-017

Health and Social Services makes summer opportunities available for students

YELLOWKNIFE (MAY 15) — Adult Basic Education students in the Northwest Territories who are interested in a career in the Department of Health and Social Services can try out their skills this summer through a new orientation program.

The career promotion initiative for students provides one week of orientation in Yellowknife followed by three weeks of on-site work experience at a health centre or social services office in the student's home community. Participants will spend the first week in Yellowknife becoming familiar with the career opportunities available through the department. Travel, accommodation and an honorarium will be provided to the successful applicants. Two eligible Adult Basic Education students will be selected from the following regions: Baffin, Inuvik, Kitikmeot, Keewatin, Fort Smith/Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. The four week program begins on July 10, 1995.

The deadline for applications is May 31, 1995. Application forms and information are available from Adult Basic Education Instructors and Regional Staff Development Officers in communities or from the Career Promotion Officer, Department of Health and Social Services, Government of the NWT, 7th Floor, Center Square Tower, Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2L9.

Contact: Lona Hegeman
Career Promotion Officer
Department of Health and Social Services,
Yellowknife, NT
(403) 873-7207
1-800-661-0782



Energy Awareness poster winner picked for Nationals.

YELLOWKNIFE (May 26) — Corie Flett, a student from J.B. Tyrell School in Fort Smith will have a whole month all to herself. Her entry in the territory-wide Energy, People and Environment poster contest, sponsored by the department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, becomes part of a national Energy Awareness calendar. The entry from the grade four student at J.B. Tyrell School was selected to represent the Northwest Territories in the national Energy and Environment poster contest. The representatives from each province and territory have their poster printed in the national calendar.

The annual Energy Awareness poster contest solicits entries from across the NWT. This year's three top winners for the NWT are:

Gisselle Maiyogina, Grade 6, Kullik Ilihakvik School, Cambridge Bay.
Vanessa Aubrey, Grade 4, J.B. Tyrell School, Fort Smith.
Cheslea Hamilton, Grade 4, Nakasuk School, Iqaluit.

Contact: Greg Krysko
Coordinator, Energy Management Programs
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(403) 873-7203



95-018

NWT loans DC-4 to Alberta for firefighting

YELLOWKNIFE (June 2) — The NWT is lending the Province of Alberta one DC-4 to help with that province's firefighting efforts.

"We are prepared to loan other aircraft and personnel whenever they can be released from our needs," said the Minister Responsible for Forest Fire Management, Don Morin. "If these planes meet Alberta's requirements, then they certainly are good enough for ours."

Mr. Morin noted that following a recent review, Transport Canada inspectors are satisfied that all Buffalo Airways pilots are fully qualified to operate air attack airplanes and that aviation safety is not compromised. Transport Canada also indicated that training of Buffalo Airways air attack pilots has exceeded current regulatory requirements.

The Department of Renewable Resources provided additional orientation sessions for both air attack and airtanker pilots to ensure they are familiar with departmental forest fire management procedures.

"With this news from Transport Canada, we are now ready for what should be a busy forest fire season," Mr. Morin said.

Contact: Joe Handley
Deputy Minister
Renewable Resources
(403) 873-7420



95-019

State of Emergency Declared

YELLOWKNIFE (June 9) - Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Kelvin Ng has declared a state of emergency in Fort Norman and Norman Wells and the areas surrounding both communities.

“We’re concerned about people trying to get back into Fort Norman before it’s safe to do so. And we have to make sure that we are able to manage the number of people in Norman Wells should a complete evacuation be necessary,” he stated this afternoon.

The declaration prohibits unauthorized air and river travel into the area because of the extreme threat of a huge forest fire that forced the evacuation of Fort Norman followed by a partial evacuation of Norman Wells early this morning.

Only authorized personnel and traffic will be allowed into the areas while the declaration is in effect. Any other traffic will only add to the problem and create further risk, Ng stated.

Mr. Ng added that steps are not being taken at this stage to legally require people to remove themselves from the communities. However, he stated that failing to cooperate with the RCMP or other designated individuals will result in consideration of the need to expand the declaration.

The minister has named Roger Connelly, chair of the Inuvik Region Emergency Measures Organization, as his designate for carrying out the operational aspects of the declaration.

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Director, Emergency Measures Organization
(403) 920-6133



95-020

Round-the-Clock Safety Inspection

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14) — The Department of Transportation will join other Canadian provinces, the United States and Mexico in an international safety inspection of an estimated 50,000 trucks and 3,000 buses and their drivers, June 20-22.

"We will have 12 officers manning our two inspection sites at Enterprise and Inuvik for this 72-hour effort, which is designed to call public attention to our routine day-to-day commercial vehicle inspection activities," says Mark Schauerte, Assistant Director, Motor Vehicles Division.

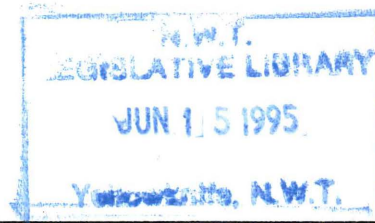
"This year's activities will emphasize the enforcement of laws and regulations related to human factors. Our officers will be paying particular attention to driver's licenses, driver qualifications, and driver fatigue," he said.

Trucks or buses with serious safety violations will be removed from service and not allowed to proceed until repaired. Fatigued or unqualified drivers will be prohibited from proceeding and may be charged with violating driving regulations.

The 1994 North America wide roadcheck resulted in about 25 percent of nearly 46,000 vehicles inspected, and a little less than six percent of drivers being put out of service. In those instances the driver or the vehicle were prohibited from proceeding on the highway. No drivers were put out of service in the Northwest Territories, but seven percent of the vehicles were.

This year's effort is coordinated by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance - a North America partnership involving Canada, the United States, and Mexico. It is designed to promote the safe operation of large commercial transport units on North American highways utilizing uniform inspection procedures and criteria. The Northwest Territories has been a member of the Alliance since 1988, and will be participating in the international safety inspection blitz for the 7th consecutive year.

Contact: Mark Schauerte
Assistance Director
Motor Vehicles Division
(403) 874-6763





95-020

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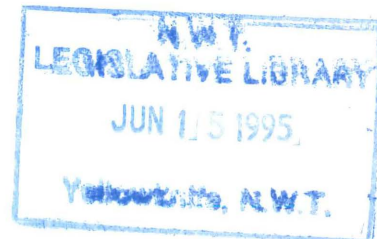
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95-021

"Northern Needs are Still Overlooked" NWT Says Amendments to Bill C-68 Inadequate

OTTAWA (June 21) — A delegation of MLAs representing the Government of the Northwest Territories today told members of the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs that the federal gun control bill is still unsatisfactory to Northern Canadians. They urged the Senators to visit the North to see for themselves that the current legislation will not work.

Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi reiterated Territorial concerns -- raised in April when he appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs hearings into the controversial legislation -- that Bill C-68 does not adequately address the unique needs of NWT residents, particularly Aboriginal people.

"Despite the changes my federal counterpart and the Common's Committee have made to the legislation, it still fails to take into account many of our concerns," said Mr. Kakfwi. "The amendments to Bill C-68 do not go far enough. I am very disappointed that our voice has not been heard."

Federal Justice Minister, Allan Rock, incorporated an array of amendments to the legislation in response to the Standing Committee's recommendations. Among them is a non-derogation clause respecting Aboriginal treaty rights and a relaxation of the lending provisions. Although these motions attempt to address Territorial concerns, they do not fully recognize and protect Aboriginal rights.

The non-derogation clause simply restates rights that already exist in section 35 of the Constitution Act. It will remain for individuals to go to the expense and effort of proving in court that their rights have been impaired by this legislation.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has also raised concerns about the legislation's severe penalties, high administrative and enforcement costs, and pointed out the impracticality of implementing the law in the North.

The gun control issue and fur-harvesting concerns were prominent during the recent visit to the Eastern Arctic by Prime Minister Jean Chretien and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl following their G-7 summit meetings.

The Legislative Assembly is calling on the Senate of Canada to hold public hearings in the Northwest Territories on Bill C-68 so residents in remote Northern communities can explain their special circumstances.

"Northern Needs are Still Overlooked"
NWT Says Amendments to Bill C-68 Inadequate: Page 2

"It is obvious southern Canadians simply do not recognize the realities of how people live in the Northwest Territories or appreciate the importance of this issue to people in the North," Mr. Kakfwi added. "Our people need to tell their own stories, in their own languages, in their own communities -- where the use of rifles is a part of our everyday lives."

In addition to meetings with Senate Committee members, Minister Kakfwi, accompanied by Iqaluit MLA, Dennis Patterson, met with leaders of national Aboriginal organizations while in Ottawa. They discussed matters of mutual concern, specifically those related to Bill C-68's recognition of Aboriginal treaty rights.

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95-022

Hanger Facility Cancelled

YELLOWKNIFE (June 23) — The Territorial government has rejected a proposal by Dene Metis Holdings Co. Ltd (DMHL) of Fort Smith for the construction of an aircraft hanger and maintenance facility in that southern Mackenzie Community.

Citing major fiscal problems facing the government, in addition to the recently enacted Deficit Elimination Act, the Territorial Cabinet decided Thursday night to cancel the project.

Premier Nellie Cournoyea said today the government is facing a debt of over \$100,000,000 by April first of next year largely because of federal cuts. In addition, the Deficit Elimination Act passed at the recently concluded session requires a return to a balanced budget by 1999.

Had the proposal been accepted, it would have resulted in minimum benefits to the Town of Fort Smith and a long-term liability to the government, she said.

The proposal called for construction of a 16,500 square foot hanger facility at an estimated cost of \$2,888,000. After construction, DMHL would lease the hangar to the government for a period of 20 years at a cost of \$334,439 per year. The cost of servicing the site, along with estimated annual operations and maintenance costs of \$165,000, were not included in the proposal.

The proposal is based on provision of a bare or empty facility. The government would have to fit up the building for maintenance purposes and make sure all Transport Canada regulations were satisfied. These steps would be at extra cost to the government.

There would also be incremental costs associated with relocating Buffalo Airway's maintenance services from Yellowknife to Fort Smith. The government's contract with Buffalo Air would require the company to service its aircraft in Fort Smith if a hanger facility was constructed there.

The government has been attempting to successfully negotiate a deal with DMHL for the past year. Discussions on a hanger and maintenance facility with the community date back to 1992.

Ms. Cournoyea said the structure would have stood a better chance of becoming viable had it been built at that time. But there were a few false starts at the community level and then, finally, pressure to negotiate construction of the facility with DMHL.

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Hanger Facility Cancelled: Page 2

Since then it hasn't been possible to get a satisfactory proposal and the government's financial situation has taken a dramatic turn for the worse.

Ms. Cournoyea added that cancellation of the project is regrettable, but that Fort Smith certainly hasn't suffered from lack of government support in other areas.

"As we look at our budget situation over the next few months, we will be faced with additional hard decisions. Cabinet will have to review its commitments throughout the Northwest Territories and seek alternatives where possible."

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Press Secretary
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-023

Computer Predicts Emissions at Royal Oak

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29) — A computer program is being used to predict future air pollution levels in Yellowknife generated by roaster stack emissions from Royal Oak's Giant Mine. Preliminary results are contained in a recently released technical report.

The report, commissioned last year by the Department of Renewable Resources and Royal Oak Mines Inc., evaluates the changes that could be made at the mine to reduce air pollution levels.

Sulphur dioxide and arsenic emission data and weather data collected from previous years, is being used to facilitate these computer predictions. The accuracy was verified by comparing air pollution levels the computer program calculated, with real measurements collected by the department.

The program is known as a computer dispersion model. Air dispersion modelling is commonly used in other Canadian jurisdictions.

A Yellowknife engineering firm, who just completed the report and was responsible for processing the weather and emission rates into the new computer program, stated that some preliminary predictions about sulphur dioxide have already been made.

Preliminary computer predictions show that changes to the roaster stack, such as increasing its height, would allow emissions of sulphur dioxide to disperse or mix into the air more quickly. This would cut down air pollution levels in the area.

At current rates, sulphur dioxide emissions would need to be reduced 90 to 95 per cent in order to keep from exceeding the NWT air standard if the stack is not changed.

The report entitled, *A Report on Air Dispersion Modelling of Giant Mine Roaster Stack Emissions* is available to the public.

For more information, contact:

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(403) 873-7420

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95-024

New Action Fund Supports Community Wellness Initiatives

YELLOWKNIFE (July 6) — NWT communities will share \$2.9 million this year to support community wellness activities.

The new Community Action Fund will encourage the people of the Northwest Territories to work together to achieve wellness in their communities, Premier Nellie Cournoyea announced today. The one-year \$2.9 million fund will support communities and regions in the planning and development of their own wellness strategies.

"Community Wellness is a major on-going initiative of this government that will have a significant effect on programs in the social area," said the Premier. "The Community Action Fund is a part of a larger process."

"The Community Action Fund is a recommendation from Working Together for Community Wellness, the directions document for the Community Wellness Strategy. This document points to the need for community-based funding to support the development of new and better ways of doing things," Ms Cournoyea said.

The Premier, responsible for Health and Social Services, made the announcement on behalf of Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Richard Nerysoo; Minister of Justice, Stephen Kakfwi; Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Don Morin and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Kelvin Ng. The ministers of health and social services, justice, education, culture and employment and the minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation make up the Social Envelope Committee.

The Community Action Fund will encourage new integrated approaches to addressing community and regional social issues. It will promote planning and collaboration between caregivers, community groups, and the various departments and levels of government.

Funding decisions will be made at the community level. Governing bodies in each community will be encouraged to form an interagency committee of community groups with an interest in community wellness. In collaboration with the interagency committee, the local governing body will review and approve funding proposals. The local groups will be supported by a Regional Committee, which will provide overall coordination and liaison between communities and the region.

Funding will be allocated to the communities on the basis of population. Some funding has been allocated to Regional Committees to organize community wellness conferences and regional workshops on such issues as the training of community members and caregivers.

.../2

New Action Fund Supports Community Wellness Initiatives: Page 2

The Community Action Fund will be offered on an interim basis during the 1995/96 year only. At the same time, departments in the Social Envelope will begin to restructure programs and services to make them more flexible and responsive to the needs of communities.

An information package will be sent by Regional and Area Directors to local governing bodies in the near future.

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or

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Assistant Deputy Minister
Education, Culture & Employment
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95-025

European Parliamentarians Impressed

YELLOWKNIFE (July 10) — Three European Members of Parliament flew into five communities around Great Slave Lake to gain a better understanding of trapping and wildlife harvesting practices in the NWT.

British Conservative Robert Sturdy from England, European Socialist Maartje van Putten from the Netherlands, and Liberal Democrat and Reformist Group member Luigi Moretti from Italy arrived in Yellowknife July 6.

They spent the next two days touring communities with Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq and Deputy Minister Joe Handley. They met chiefs, trappers and elders from Rae, Lac La Martre, Fort Resolution, Ndilo and Dettah, as well as, delegates at the NWT Metis Nation Assembly in Hay River.

The group also went by boat and floatplane to trappers' cabins where they got a firsthand look at how Dene and Metis harvest natural resources from the land. Harvesters spoke of their close relationship to the land and described how important earning a living from harvesting and sustaining their family through a traditional country food diet were to their lifestyle and culture. Elders gave an historical account of how their way of life has been passed down from generation to generation.

"Words cannot express the experiences of the past two days," says Mrs. van Putten. "We intend to take back the message given to us by the elders that Europeans have no right to interfere with this lifestyle - which is both healthy and sustainable."

A European import ban on wild fur or products caught from the leghold traps will have a devastating impact and would destroy their present way of life, said community leaders. The effects can be seen even now, said elders from Ndilo. Instead of switching over to using the conibear trap, a lot of trappers have stopped trapping altogether.

Chiefs told the European delegation they are worried about their children's future. Instead of learning traditional harvesting and survival skills, their children are receiving an academic education. Yet, opportunities to use that education to gain employment are few, they said.

"I knew that if our European Parliamentarians could hear this message from the people themselves, it would make a tremendous difference abroad," Mr. Arngna'naaq said. "Seeing our land and meeting our people had the same effect on German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the British High Commissioner, Nicholas Bain.

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European Visit - page two

Mr. Arnngna'naaq added that all three European members confirmed they will not support the import ban, but will work against its implementation over the next five months.

"In the little time we have left, our government will continue to seize every opportunity to lobby for an amendment to the European fur import regulation. The regulation is scheduled to come into effect January 1, 1996.

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Press Information

For Immediate Release

95-026

Twenty students introduced to summer science.

YELLOWKNIFE (July 10) — Twenty high school students will participate in a six-week introduction to careers in architecture and engineering.

The students will be brought into Yellowknife in mid-July for an orientation which includes field trips to the new St. Pat's High School which is under construction, surveying lessons, departmental presentations and visits to private sector companies. They will also participate in a Math and Sciences Olympics as part of their introduction. After orientation week the students return home to complete an assigned work experience for the remaining five weeks.

The program is designed to expose students to career possibilities in architecture, engineering and computer fields. The objective of the program is to steer students towards careers in engineering, architecture and computers specifically and applied sciences in general.

Organizers had sent application forms for this program to all NWT high schools during the school year. They chose twenty students based on marks, references and their application letters. These students come from Arviat, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Iqaluit, Sanikiluaq and Yellowknife.

Four GNWT departments, Public Works, Transportation, Municipal and Community Affairs and the NWT Housing Corporation, jointly sponsored the summer initiative. Organizations and companies assisting in this effort are Ferguson Simek Clark, Park Sanders Adam Vikse, Hovat Construction, BHP, Department of Education, Sir John Franklin and St. Pat's High Schools, NWT Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists (NAPEGG) and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

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95-027

Learning On the Tundra

YELLOWKNIFE (July 24) — Fourteen earthbound students and teachers from Yellowknife will forego the comforts of their homes to spend nine days at a remote science camp on the barrenlands, July 25 - August 3.

The camp is called the Tundra Ecosystem Research Station. It was built by the Department of Renewable Resources in 1994 for researching and monitoring the effects of mineral exploration and development on the land and wildlife. The research station is situated on Daring Lake near the headwaters of the Coppermine River system, 300 km north of Yellowknife.

Students and teachers from Sir John Franklin and St. Patrick High Schools signed up for the course last month. The course offers a unique blend between traditional knowledge of Dene elders from the area with the academic knowledge of environmental scientists.

The students will study the geomorphic features of the tundra and diverse populations of wildlife species that inhabit this area. They will be taught different field research techniques, do some archaeological surveys, study plant species and examine the unique features of the tundra. The students will also conduct a small scale research project of their choice.

"The elders and scientists will be working very closely with the students. It will be exciting, hands-on learning. If we generate a level of enthusiasm within the students that sustains their interest in the sciences, we will have accomplished much," says Bob McLeod, Assistant Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources.

Barren-ground caribou, barren-ground grizzly, tundra wolves, arctic and red fox, arctic hare, ground squirrels, peregrine falcons and other bird species are commonly found in this region.

Much like a mini-research facility, this station is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including a solar energy system. Year-round research and projects are conducted by scientists from the department. The compound, designed to generate heat and electricity for itself, is completely surrounded by an electric fence to keep wildlife out.

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Learning On the Tundra: Page 2

This is the first time the Department of Renewable Resources is holding a program like this. It is being subsidized by grants and contributions from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Industry Canada; Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Yellowknife Catholic Schools; and the mining industry.

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95-028

Residents invited to present views on GNWT finances

YELLOWKNIFE (July 27) — NWT residents will be asked for their suggestions on how to trim the \$100 million deficit which the government of the Northwest Territories is facing next year.

Minister of Finance John Pollard today announced a territory-wide consultation on how to address the NWT's financial situation. The consultation will allow residents to express their views on what actions the new government should take to balance the budget.

The Legislative Assembly approved the Deficit Elimination Act during the last session. The Standing Committee on Finance supported the introduction of this bill which requires the government to balance its budget starting next year.

The Department of Finance estimates that the Government of the Northwest Territories could be facing a deficit as high as \$100 million in the 1996-97 fiscal year if government expenses grow at their current rate without a corresponding increase in revenues. The federal government has been reducing the amount of operating grant to the NWT.

To help make comparisons easier, a \$100 million deficit represents:

- 60 per cent of the government's annual tax revenues,
- one-half of the government's direct expenditures on salaries and benefits, or
- one-third of the government's spending on health and social services.

The territorial government hopes to find answers from the public on how to bring expenses in line through the budget consultation exercise.

The Department of Finance will be distributing a comprehensive information package containing facts, figures, issues and options to the major stakeholders in the NWT. A flier on the same subject will be delivered to all households in the Northwest Territories.

Public meetings will be held in all regions. Staff from the Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board Secretariat will make presentations and will be available to answer questions from the public during these discussions.

The Department of Finance has set up a toll-free telephone and fax number for those residents who cannot attend the regional meetings. People can phone or fax their comments on the issues or they can request additional information by calling 1-800-661-0874.

Contact: Eric Nielsen
Deputy Minister
Finance
(403) 873-7117



95-029

Common Curriculum Framework for Mathematics Developed

YELLOWKNIFE (July 31) — The Northwest Territories is one of six jurisdictions to participate in the development of a recently completed common curriculum framework for mathematics, Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today. The framework covers kindergarten to Grade 12, although parts of the framework for Grades 10 to 12 are still under development.

The mathematics framework has been developed under a protocol for collaboration in basic education signed by the Ministers responsible for education in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The group is known as the Western Education Consortium.

"Territorial and provincial ministers responsible for education and training are finding new ways to share resources and expertise in areas of common concern so that we can provide appropriate levels of service while living within our means," Mr. Nerysoo says. "The members of the Western Consortium share many educational goals. Specifically, we want to have higher standards in basic education and we all want to offer a variety of opportunities in basic education to individual learners."

The protocol provides for cooperation on matters relating to basic education for students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Specific areas that have been identified are: curricula in English, French and other languages; distance education and technology; special education; student assessment and standards of student performance; aboriginal education, including teacher education; and teacher preparation and certification.

Each province and territory will take the mathematics framework and make it into a curriculum document that reflects that jurisdiction's approach to education. The outcomes -- the knowledge and skills each student must demonstrate -- will remain the same across all jurisdictions.

Schools in the NWT will receive copies of the document and an implementation plan this fall. Implementation of the curriculum will begin in certain grades the fall of 1996.

The curriculum framework represents a shift in how math is taught in the classroom, rather than in the actual content of the math curriculum. A problem solving approach is mandated, and there is an emphasis on use of technology.

Projects will be carried out through Education, Culture and Employment's Numeracy and Literacy Initiative to identify and provide training and support teachers.

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Common Curriculum Framework for Mathematics Developed: Page 2

Two NWT teachers helped to develop the curriculum framework, along with teachers from each of the Western jurisdictions. NWT teachers who have had the opportunity to review the document are pleased with it. Teaching materials that support the curriculum framework will be available from the Western Consortium, and from individual jurisdictions. These will be of tremendous assistance to the classroom teacher.

The mathematics framework is the first project under the English Language section of the Western Consortium's protocol. A common curriculum framework for English language arts will be completed early in 1996, while frameworks for French first language education and French immersion will be completed in June 1996.

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95-030

Renewable Resource Officers Manning NWT Booth in Toronto

YELLOWKNIFE (Aug. 04) — Six Renewable Resources officers from the Kitikmeot, Baffin and Keewatin Regions are taking their knowledge and skills of wildlife management and harvesting practices in the North to Canada's largest exhibition in Toronto, August 18 - September 4.

Elijah Amarook from Baker Lake, Joe Savikataaq from Arviat, Salamonie Shoo from Iqaluit, Seeglook Akeegok from Grise Fiord, Josh Hunter from Coppermine and Jacob Keanik from Gjoa Haven will be taking turns at the NWT booth located in the 'Spirit of the Inuit' pavilion. The officers will be on hand to answer questions the public has about wildlife harvesting and management practices in the NWT.

The pavilion, organized and constructed by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, is the main feature this year. CNE officials chose Inuit culture as their main theme to mark the first year of the Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

"The event attracts close to two million visitors from around the world," says Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq. "That presents a great opportunity for us to show the rest of the world how modern Inuit in the 20th century still maintain a close connection to the land and its resources. It also gives us a chance to reaffirm the importance of seal harvesting to the survival of their culture."

The officers who were all born and raised in the eastern Arctic, will display muskox, polar bear, seal, and Arctic fox pelts. A 30-minute video produced in-house by their audio/visual division, will be played throughout the 18-day event. It presents a mosaic of land, people and wildlife images of Canada's Arctic.

China, Australia, Thailand, Spain, Switzerland, Hungary, Egypt and Mexico have all been successfully featured in previous years. The CNE is the largest annual exhibition in North America.

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or

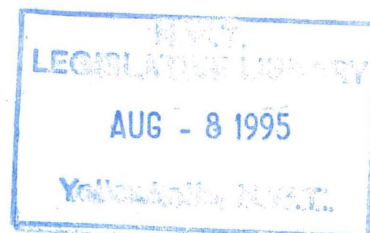
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95-031

'A Meeting of the Minds' - Chipewyan and Inuit Meet in Thelon Sanctuary

YELLOWKNIFE (August 4) — On a strip of wooded land that juts out into the tundra along the Thelon River valley, an historic meeting between the Chipewyan and Keewatin Inuit is taking place, August 8-11.

The two groups, whose ancestors have hunted and used wood from the area, are meeting for the first time in over 100 years. They're getting together to develop plans to jointly manage the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in the 21st century. 'Thelon' is a Chipewyan word. Elders from Lutselk'e are uncertain, however, of its meaning.

The Sanctuary is 53,000 sq kms - roughly the size of Nova Scotia.

It was established in 1927 primarily to protect muskox - a species seriously threatened and close to extinction at the time. It is thought that approximately 250 muskoxen lived in the Sanctuary at that time.

Hunting and trapping were prohibited by the federal government when the Sanctuary was established and a prohibition on prospecting and access was imposed in 1930. The federal government has "withdrawn the land from disposition", meaning that no development activities can take place within its boundaries. Currently, restrictions on wildlife harvesting are under NWT law.

Regulations governing the Sanctuary were originally put in place with little consultation with the aboriginal users of the land. This week, however, a 'meeting of the minds' of two distinct aboriginal groups will take place at Warden's Grove near the confluence of the Hanbury and Thelon Rivers.

Elders from Baker Lake and Lutselk'e who have lived and travelled in the Sanctuary will have the opportunity to meet one another and share common experiences. They will join with members of the Akiliniq and Thelon Dezzeth Planning Committees, the working groups comprised of Inuit, Chipewyan, federal and territorial representatives who have been planning for the Sanctuary's future.

"It's encouraging that people from the two cultures who have the strongest spiritual ties to this 'oasis of the Arctic', can get together to discuss joint management plans. Our ancestors used this area and now it's up to us to preserve its natural state through cooperative efforts," says Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq.

Talks between the two groups were initiated by requirements of Section 9.5.2 of the Nunavut Final Agreement. That section requires the development of a management plan for the Inuit portion of the Thelon Sanctuary - approximately 2/3 of its total land mass - by 1998.

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**'A Meeting of the Minds' - Chipewyan and Inuit Meet in Thelon Sanctuary:
Page 2**

There's an abundance of wildlife that migrate through or inhabit the area year round, such as: barren ground grizzly, arctic fox, red fox, moose, caribou and muskox; and raptors, such as peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks, and tundra swans. Arctic willow, dwarf birch and labrador tea grow in clumps along the Valley. Low, wet areas are filled in by sedge meadows. And there are lush, marshy areas along the banks.

There are two other wildlife sanctuaries in the NWT: Twin Islands Wildlife Sanctuary in James Bay; and Bowman Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on the south western shore of Baffin Island.

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94-032

Historic Changes at H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital

YELLOWKNIFE (August 16) - Minister of Health and Social Services, Nellie Cournoyea, and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada announced today they have come to an agreement to terminate the current contract by December 31, 1995 for the operation of the H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital in Hay River.

"The government has been forced to come to terms with the realities of reduced funding and significant new developments in the health care field. Although the contract held by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada extends to the year 2005, it was drafted at a time when it was impossible to anticipate the drastic changes that have occurred in recent years," said Cournoyea. "The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has been understanding and cooperative in addressing the issues with us and in coming to this agreement."

The remaining details and future arrangements for the management of the hospital will be concluded over the next few months. Sub Arctic Mission will continue to oversee operation of the hospital until the new arrangements are in place.

"This will truly be the closing of an important chapter for us," said Dr. Ken Birch, Executive Director of the Canadian Ministries Department of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. "But we believe that the closing of this chapter will lead to the opening of another new and positive chapter in this history of our work in the North."

The Mission established its first Hay River presence in 1949. It began medical work in Hay River in 1953 with the construction of a small hospital in Hay River's Old Town. The H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital was built in its present location after the 1963 flood.

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94-033

Partnerships Contribute to Improved Student Services

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24) - Two long-term northern corporations, NorthwesTel and Norman Wells based IPL (NW), will each commit \$10,000 annually to help fund the Northern Student Services Advisor position in Edmonton, Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

“Both of these companies have a long history of contributing to projects that make the NWT a better place. With their commitment to this project, they have confirmed their continuing interest in the betterment of northern people,” Mr. Nerysoo says.

For several years, the Student Services Advisor position has been funded through a partnership between Bellanca Developments/Princeton Developments, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the University of Alberta. Bellanca Developments/Princeton Developments and Education, Culture and Employment have each contributed \$20,000 annually to fund the position, and the University of Alberta has provided office space and support services within its Office of Native Student Services.

The Student Services Advisor helps ease the transition for northern students attending any educational institution in the Edmonton area. The support services offered by this position play an important role in helping northern students stay in school.

During the difficult financial times of the past two years, the partners recognized the need to offer greater levels of service to students and to provide long-term assurance for the Student Service Advisor position. Bellanca Developments / Princeton Developments took up the challenge of raising funds for the position.

“In doing so, the company has demonstrated the private sector’s ongoing resourcefulness, as well as its recognition of the importance of post-secondary education in today’s economy,” Mr. Nerysoo says. “I would like to offer special thanks to Mr. John Ferguson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Princeton Developments, for his leadership in this initiative and his ongoing commitment to education. Mr. Ferguson’s personal commitment to education is evident through his work as Chairman of the University of Alberta’s Board of Governors.”

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This partnership shows how business and government can work together to support public services, Mr. Nerysoo says.

“As the government’s financial resources becomes increasingly restricted, I would hope that other northern businesses might wish to contribute to NWT post-secondary education so that Student Service Advisor positions could be created for college campus locations in the NWT,” the Minister added.

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Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-034

Nunavut Day at the CNE

YELLOWKNIFE (August 30, 1995) - It's Nunavut Day at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto today and Renewable Resources staff attending the NWT booth are planning to participate in the celebrations.

Since the exhibition opened ten days ago, the Renewable Resource officers from the Kitikmeot, Keewatin and Baffin region have been busy providing information to the public on renewable resource management and use in the Northwest Territories. The officers who have been attracting a lot of attention wearing their sealskin vests, are making a tremendous effort to teach others how strongly the identity, culture and lifestyle of the North's indigenous peoples are attached to wildlife and resource harvesting, says Silas Arngna'naaq, Minister of Renewable Resources.

"This is the chance of a lifetime to tell the world we care deeply about wildlife and our environment, and strongly believe in the practice of sustainable harvesting," Mr. Arngna'naaq says.

People want to know more about the impact the European regulation which proposes to end the wild fur trade by January 1996, will have on the aboriginal people in the NWT, he says. Thousands of cards objecting to the passage of European legislation are being signed by visitors to the NWT booth and will be mailed to the European Parliament.

Celebrations are taking place in the 'Spirit of the Arctic' pavilion, organized and constructed by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

Mr. Arngna'naaq offers his congratulations to the ITC for coordinating the successful exhibit on Inuit culture. CNE officials chose Inuit culture as their main theme to mark the first year of the Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

For more information, contact:

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94-035

NWT launches expanded vaccination program

YELLOWKNIFE (Aug. 31) - Newborns and grade four students in the NWT will now be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus. This is part of a nation-wide vaccination program to eliminate Hepatitis B in Canada.

The NWT begins its vaccination program on September 1. All newborns will be eligible for the three-dose series of vaccinations. A catch-up program will be offered to all students in grade four across the NWT.

Hepatitis is a disease caused by a virus which produces chronic infection. This can sometimes lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. Adults who are infected with Hepatitis B often recover completely after some weeks of illness. As many as 90 per cent of infected children tend to become chronic carriers of the virus into their adult lives. The virus then spreads through the transmission of body fluids.

Hepatitis B vaccine has been used extensively since it was first produced 20 years ago. But newer vaccines have become easier to get and use. As a result, all provinces and territories have targeted the Hepatitis B virus for elimination.

Further information about the hepatitis vaccinations is available from Community Health Centres, Regional Medical Health Officers, the Territorial Epidemiologist at (403) 920-6280, or the Chief Medical Health Officer.

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Department of Health and Social Services
(403) 920-8946



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-035

Charges Laid Against Mackenzie Mountains Outfitter

YELLOWKNIFE (September 1) - Charges have been laid against a Mackenzie Mountain outfitting company for violations under the *NWT Wildlife Act*.

Renewable Resources staff, two RCMP officers and an Immigration Officer from Norman Wells flew into the base camp of Gana River Outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains yesterday to investigate.

The outfitting company from British Columbia now face charges of providing misleading information to the department - a violation of Section 86(1) of the Act. According to the Act, it is illegal to provide false or misleading information to wildlife officials in the application for an outfitting license.

Investigators found that Bill and Carol McKenzie, the owners of Gana River Outfitters, had in their employ an American citizen and allegedly submitted false documentation to the department about their guide. A fine of \$460 has already been levied against the American, who pleaded guilty in court earlier this week to charges of holding an illegal license to guide in the NWT and using false information to obtain a license.

The Department of Renewable Resources issues outfitting licenses each year. Outfitters are permitted to hunt big game in certain sections of the NWT and can take hunting parties into these areas on a seasonal basis, usually between early July to the end of August. In the Mackenzie Mountains, outfitters provide guides and equipment to hunters with a license to harvest Dall's Sheep, moose and caribou.

The Department of Renewable Resources conducts enforcement patrols in outfitting areas during the operating season. However, the department has been receiving equally important information lately from hunters and residents from the area. All information is investigated and charges laid when necessary. Over the past couple of years, at least five charges have been laid against outfitters operating in the Territories.

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95-036

Students "Visit" Museum Thanks To Computer Program

YELLOWKNIFE (August 31) - Students across the Northwest Territories can now visit the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre without leaving their home community, thanks to a new computer program.

"Heritage resources are important to the cultures and history of the North, and the Heritage Centre houses an important collection," says Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "But many NWT students cannot visit the Centre because they live too far away. This new computer program bridges the gap by bringing the Heritage Centre to each community."

The Virtual Tour of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre takes students through each of the galleries at the territorial museum. The program is interactive, which means that students can choose which areas they want to visit, and how long they spend in each gallery. Pictures and text explain the exhibits.

A series of learning activities helps students understand the information presented in the program. Students can build their own "electronic scrapbook" by answering questions, cutting and pasting pictures and colouring pictures. As the students move back and forth through the program and do the learning activities, they develop computer skills such as keyboarding and using a mouse.

"Improving access to Education, Culture and Employment's programs and services through increased use of technology is one of the directions in the Department's strategic plan," the Minister added.

The program has a special focus on two galleries -- the Mooseskin Boat Gallery and the Aviation Gallery. The sections on these two galleries provide additional information and include extra learning activities. The Geographic Names department is also featured. When students enter this part of the program, maps show the location of the NWT's regions and each community. By choosing any of the communities, students can learn the community's traditional name, what the name means, languages spoken, latitude and longitude and the community's population. The importance of sacred sites is also highlighted. Aboriginal legends, referring to these sites, appear in Inuktitut and English or Slavey and English.

The Virtual Tour of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre looks and sounds distinctly northern. The Inuit drum and Dene quill work appear throughout the program, as do other northern symbols, such as the raven. Drum sounds are also included throughout the program.

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Students "Visit" Museum Thanks To Computer Program

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The program is designed to be a resource for the Northern Studies curriculum offered by NWT schools, but it can be used to teach many other subjects, including language arts. The program can also be used in career planning because it includes information on the type of work carried out at museums.

The Virtual Tour of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre was developed for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment by Tyler Hawkins, a teacher who currently works for the South Slave Divisional Board of Education, and has also taught in the Dehcho.

The program will be sent to all schools in the Northwest Territories in September. It will be available on computer disc and CD Rom, and will also be posted on North of 60, Education, Culture and Employment's electronic bulletin board service, to ensure all schools can receive it. It is written in Hypercard, and is compatible with all Macintosh computers.

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Director, Culture and Heritage
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Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-037

Three Students Receive Community Planning Scholarship

YELLOWKNIFE (September 7, 1995) - Three students from the Northwest Territories are receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs this Fall.

Julia Tsetso from Fort Simpson, Christopher Hewitt and Chris Laing from Yellowknife will each receive \$1,000 to assist with their studies in community planning. The Department can award up to three scholarships each year to students who are interested in pursuing a career in this field.

Miss Tsetso is entering her second year of the Urban and Regional Planning Technology Program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Mr. Hewitt is entering his fourth year of the Bachelor of Arts in Regional and Urban Development Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Laing is entering the Master of City Planning Program at the University of Manitoba.

The Igal Roth Memorial Scholarship is open to Northerners, 17 years of age or older, who have resided in the NWT for the last two years and are attending an approved planning program.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 to commemorate the pioneering work done by community planner Igal Roth from 1978 to 1983.

For further information, contact the Municipal and Community Affairs Office in your region or write to Igal Roth Memorial Scholarship, Community Planning and Lands Division, Municipal and Community Affairs, Box 21, Northwest Tower, 600, 5201-50 Avenue, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 3S9.

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95-038

Miles Pepper Honoured For Legal Contributions

YELLOWKNIFE (September 13) — The Government of the Northwest Territories is honouring Miles Pepper on September 22 in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly for his contributions to revising NWT statutes.

Mr. Pepper, the Assistant Deputy Minister (Attorney General) for the Department of Justice, is retiring on September 29 after 6 years with the GNWT and 19 previous years working for Manitoba and Canada in the field of legislative drafting and revision. All three jurisdictions will be honouring Mr. Pepper with recognition of his work.

"Mr. Pepper is, probably, the first legislative counsel to have worked on statute revision projects in three bilingual jurisdictions," said Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi. "It is significant that the Manitoba re-enactment and the Northwest Territories revision involved the creation of complete bilingual versions of a statute base that had been first enacted in only one language."

The Government of the Northwest Territories asked Mr. Pepper in 1989 to head the Department of Justice's Legislation Division in order to meet the obligations of the NWT Official Languages Act. This required all Acts, regulations, rules, by-laws and proclamations to be issued in French and English. This project was completed with the publication in 1991 of the *Revised Statutes of the Northwest Territories, 1988* and the publication in 1992 of the *Revised Regulations of the Northwest Territories, 1990*.

Mr. Pepper came to the NWT post having completed a similar project for the Government of Manitoba where he was Assistant Deputy Attorney General and Chief Legislative Counsel. His duties included the re-enactment of all public Acts and regulations in English and French as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision that Manitoba legislation enacted in English only was invalid.

Mr. Pepper began his legal career in the private sector. He joined the legislation division of the federal department of justice in Ottawa and later held the post of Secretary of the Statute Revision Commission. The Commission was responsible for publishing the 1985 revised federal statutes.

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Miles Pepper Honoured For Legal Contributions: Page 2

The public is welcome to attend the ceremony recognizing Mr. Pepper's contributions. The function will be held in the Legislative Assembly's Great Hall beginning at 3:00 PM on Friday, September 22.

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95-039

Nunavut Appointments Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (Sept. 14) — Economic Development and Tourism Minister John Todd has announced the appointment of three additions to the department's Senior Management Team.

Katherine Trumper has been appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the three Nunavut Regions. John Parker has replaced Katherine Trumper as the Regional Superintendent of the Baffin Region and Graeme Dargo becomes the new Regional Superintendent of the Keewatin Region.

Mr. Todd noted "the appointments are part of ongoing organizational changes being made to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the department. These appointments are critical to improved program delivery in the three Nunavut regions".

Ms. Trumper has been with the department for 15 years, beginning as Economic Development Officer in Pangnirtung. She has held the positions of Regional Tourism Officer, Assistant Superintendent and most recently, Regional Superintendent of the Baffin Region.

Mr. Dargo joined the department in 1990 as an Economic Development Officer for Lake Harbour after a lengthy career in the private sector including managing Northern Stores in both Rankin Inlet and Fort Simpson. Mr. Dargo moved to Rankin Inlet in July of 1994 to assume the position of Assistant Regional Superintendent of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. Parker has been with the department in the Baffin Region since January of 1993. Before moving to the Baffin he served as Economic Development Officer in Fort MacPherson and had extensive experience in the private sector.

"The appointments of Trumper, Parker and Dargo comes at a critical time for the department" Mr. Todd noted. "Competent experienced people are needed to implement a recently completed economic strategy in the Nunavut regions."

He said the Senior Management Team for the three Nunavut Regions will be responsible for implementing a strategy that will mean finding new ways of working with the business community, other economic development organizations, municipal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

"I am confident the Senior Management Team that we have in place will be able to work quickly to accomplish this goal."

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95-040

Maintenance Enforcement Goes National

YELLOWKNIFE (September 18) — The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Justice has announced the NWT's Maintenance Enforcement Program now has the authority to access provincial driving licence records through the Interprovincial Records Exchange in order to locate people who have defaulted on child support payments.

The Government of the Northwest Territories recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the provinces and Yukon allowing these jurisdictions to access their respective driver licence and vehicle registration records. In return, the NWT Maintenance Enforcement Office will be able to search vehicle records in other provinces and Yukon.

This allows the NWT Maintenance Enforcement office to track down people who moved out of the Territories and who have not kept up with their child support payments.

The maintenance enforcement program has close to 1,000 files which it administers. The compliance rate is about 85 percent, says Mr. Kakfwi. "This arrangement with the other provinces and Yukon will make it easier for us to track down the remaining fifteen percent - those people who are not making their regular child support payments."

The NWT also has reciprocal arrangements with the other provinces to collect payments on their behalf when the person moves to another provincial or territorial jurisdiction.

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95-041

GNWT and Medical Association Agree on New Contract

YELLOWKNIFE (September 18) — The Department of Health and Social Services and the Northwest Territories Medical Association, which represents NWT doctors, have reached an agreement to reduce medical care costs in several key areas including fee for service.

Fees doctors charge the territorial government for providing services to the public will reduce on average by four percent. The fee schedule will be in effect from Aug. 15, 1995 to March 31, 1997.

The Department and the Medical Association have also agreed to work jointly on such issues as development of a physician resource plan for the NWT, reduction of spending associated with medical travel, examining laboratory testing costs and practices, and a public education program on the appropriate use of doctors' services.

"In a national climate where doctors' fee schedules are often hotly contested, we are pleased to work with partners so willing to collaborate in meeting current challenges," says Darrell Bower, Director of Health Services Administration. "Working together, the government and its partners in health care can make a difference."

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Dr. Jim Corkal
President,
NWT Medical Association
873-9253



95-042

Renewable Resources Tracks Grizzlies

YELLOWKNIFE (September 29) — The Department of Renewable Resources has just completed the first field season of a three-year tracking project which will provide the most current information about grizzly bear habitat, distribution and movement in the Slave Geological Province.

Biologists will catch 60 - 80 adult bears over the next three years and outfit them with satellite tracking collars. The bears' travels will be mapped in an effort to determine appropriate management area boundaries, important habitats, denning sites and potential impacts of future resource developments.

Twenty-two bears have been collared this season and preliminary results already show that these grizzlies are some of the best traveled in all of North America. One male bear collared near Aylmer Lake travelled 250 km to Burnside River west of Bathurst Inlet in 18 days. From there he made an equally long journey to the arctic coast 50 km east of Coppermine where he spent most of the summer. Another male bear travelled from Lac de Gras to the northern tip of Contwoyto Lake via Mackay, Jolly and Point lakes in 20 days, covering about 350 km.

Female bears have not travelled as far as the males but even their movements have surprised biologists. One bear went for a 20 day stroll around Contwoyto Lake, and swam 5 km across one section of the lake on her way back, covering a total distance of about 260 km. These movements are among the largest recorded for grizzly bears in North America.

The tracking collars are designed to transmit information to overhead satellites every two days. This frequency will be extended to eight days during winter when bears are in their dens. The data are relayed to the University of Saskatoon for processing and then back to biologists in Yellowknife.

In addition to mapping bear movement by satellite, biologists will locate the bears by airplane several times during the year to monitor cub survival, habitat use and foraging activities. The information collected would be useful in defining future management plans for the grizzlies and in determining any future hunting quotas.

.../2

Renewable Resources Tracks Grizzlies: Page 2

The Department of Renewable Resources grizzly bear tracking project is supported and funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the University of Saskatchewan, the BHP and Monopros mining companies, the Dogrib and Yellowknife bands, the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

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or

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95-043

Fifty-four Literacy Projects Receive Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (October 2) — Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment marked the beginning of NWT Literacy Week, September 30 - October 7, by announcing 54 literacy projects that will receive funding through their partnerships with community organizations, the NWT's public colleges and the Government of Canada.

"I am pleased to celebrate NWT Literacy Week by recognizing the commitment and dedication of community organizations and northern residents in improving literacy rates," Mr. Nerysoo says.

The partnerships between governments, communities and the colleges provides for a wide variety of English and Aboriginal languages literacy initiatives across the NWT. The Community Literacy Projects fund allows community groups to set their own priorities in the area of literacy, and then address those priorities in a way that is meaningful to the community.

The Aboriginal Language Literacy fund, made available through the Canada-NWT Official Languages Agreement, provides financial support to community groups to develop and enhance literacy in our aboriginal languages.

"The Federal government's contribution of \$125,000 each to Aurora College and Nunavut Arctic College provides essential literacy programming to Northerners who want to improve their skills and contributes greatly to the network of literacy activity across the NWT," Mr. Nerysoo says.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Government of Canada, through the National Literacy Secretariat and Heritage Canada, cost-share projects in support of literacy throughout the Northwest Territories.

Joint funding between the Federal and Territorial governments provides approximately \$700,000 for literacy initiatives throughout the NWT.

NWT Literacy Week celebrations include the annual "Read for Fifteen" event, sponsored by the NWT Literacy Council, as well as many locally organized activities in communities across the North.

A complete list of the 54 literacy projects by region is attached.

Contact: Cate Sills
Manager, Literacy & Adult Basic Education
Department of Education, Culture & Employment
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1995/96 Literacy Projects Page 2

The following projects are funded through partnerships with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the National Literacy Secretariat and Heritage Canada.

Baffin Region

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

The Baffin Regional Agvvik Society, Iqaluit has received \$5,900 to undertake a needs assessment as a first step in the development of a comprehensive education program specific to the needs of women who use the services of the Qimavvik Shelter.

The Iqaluit Centennial Library has received \$7,825 to research, design and write culturally relevant ESL/literacy materials for Inuit adults.

The Nanisivik Community Education Council has received \$7,000 to deliver a part-time English literacy program with a focus on developing and improving the skills necessary for employment.

The Rebecca P. Idlout Library, Pond Inlet has received \$10,140 to deliver a parent-child literacy program which will provide weekly activities for both parents with low literacy skills and their children.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

The Inullariit Society, Igloolik received \$16,180 to transcribe and publish Inuit oral histories into written Inuktitut in an effort to increase the availability of interesting, relevant Inuktitut reading material.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated received \$14,000 to develop more advanced Inuktitut literacy materials for publication and distribution to organizations interested in the delivery of Inuktitut literacy.

National Literacy Secretariat:

Nunavut Arctic College - Nunatta Campus

Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq - \$20,000 has been received for part-time literacy programming in both Inuktitut and English literacy.

Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Lake Harbour & Resolute Bay
\$42,632 has been received to deliver part-time Inuktitut literacy in seven Baffin communities not served by an Inuit adult educator.

Iqaluit - \$15,000 has been received to develop three sets of interactive, computerized Inuktitut materials.

1995/96 Literacy Projects Page 3

Keewatin Region:

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

Coral Harbour Community Education Council received \$3,050 to deliver a part-time English literacy program to elders in the community, as well as \$8,500 for a community-based theatre project which will attempt to develop English literacy skills through the performing arts.

Arviat Community Education Council received \$4,000 to deliver a community literacy summer school which involved a three week intensive reading program in both English and Inuktitut.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

Whale Cove Training Advisory Committee received \$7,000 to deliver a part-time Inuktitut literacy program which incorporates oral language and reading skills with traditional land skills.

National Literacy Secretariat:

Nunavut Arctic College - Keewatin Campus

Rankin Inlet - The Community Learning Centre received \$22,600 to undertake the development, design and implementation of Inuktitut literacy programming in the community. An additional \$12,000 was received to design and deliver a community-based workplace literacy program to provide opportunities for employed individuals in the community to increase their functional literacy skills.

Kitikmeot Region

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

The Inneotteet Women's Group, Taloyoak received \$4,600 to deliver a combined literacy/parenting skills program.

The May Hagonak Library, Cambridge Bay received \$24,200 to deliver a full-time parent/child literacy program. The intent of the program is to provide opportunities for adults with little or no literacy or workplace skills to participate in a literacy program which includes their children. Adult and children's programs will run concurrently with regularly scheduled activities planned to bring parents and children together to model and practice new skills.

National Literacy Secretariat

Nunavut Arctic College - Kitikmeot Campus

Gjoa Haven - \$7,300 was received for the delivery of part-time English literacy programming.

Cambridge Bay - \$23,760 was received for part-time computer assisted literacy instruction based on individualized training plans. Tutors will be available to work with participants. The program is available to employees interested in upgrading their basic skills as well.

Nunavut Arctic College Head Office, Iqaluit received \$6,708 for the delivery of Inuktitut literacy instructor training.

1995/96 Literacy Projects Page 4

South Slave Region

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

The Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre, Hay River received \$7,350 to provide a part-time English literacy program.

The Hay River Community Education Council received \$5,420 to create a reading awareness program using a travelling "word wagon". The word wagon will travel to different neighbourhoods in the community and the Hay River Dene Reserve and deliver a variety of reading activities, puppet shows, storytelling and singing in an effort to promote reading as a family activity.

The Mary Kaeser Library, Ft. Smith received \$11,050 for the delivery of individualized tutoring and family literacy activities.

The Salt River First Nations, Ft. Smith received \$5,000 to assist in the delivery of a basic literacy program for adults with disabilities.

The Jean Marie River Dene Band received \$12,800 to deliver a full-time English literacy program.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

The Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre, Hay River received \$5,840 to deliver a part-time Cree language program to community residents.

Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre, Ft. Smith received \$15,000 to deliver a variety of Cree language programs to adults, youth and children in the community.

The Liidli Koe First Nation, Ft. Simpson received \$12,355 to maintain a South Slavey language and cultural camp for the youth of the community.

National Literacy Secretariat:

Aurora College - Thebacha Campus

Wrigley - \$7,137 was received for the part-time delivery of Slavey literacy and cultural activities.

Kakisa - \$2,695 was received to deliver an evening English literacy program for interested adults in the community.

Nahanni Butte - \$7,545 was received to deliver a series of computer literacy workshops. Each workshop will teach the fundamentals of the program, explore immediate community application and allow participants an opportunity to publish a book of community writings.

Ft. Smith, Hay River and Ft. Simpson - \$19,000 was received for the development and delivery of workplace literacy activities at specific work sites in each of the three communities.

1995/96 Literacy Projects Page 5

North Slave Region

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

Yellowknife Association for Community Living received \$16,300 to provide tutoring and small group instruction to adults with intellectual disabilities. Focus will be on individualized learning plans which will provide the functional literacy skills needed to enhance independent living and support employment opportunities in the community.

The John Howard Society, Yellowknife received \$7,000 to undertake a literacy needs assessment to assist in defining appropriate literacy programming for offenders.

The Yellowknives Dene Band, N'dilo and Dettah, received \$14,505 to develop literacy curriculum materials. The project will integrate traditional knowledge, oral history and research in the development of an education kit. The theme of the kit is the Drum and learning activities will focus on the cultural and spiritual value of the drum in Dene life.

The Rae-Edzo School Society received \$7,600 for the coordination of a part-time literacy tutoring program.

The YWCA, Yellowknife received \$2,640 for the provision of tutorial support in its English as a second language program.

The Federation Franco-TeNOise received \$7,000 for the delivery of French family literacy activities.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

Yellowknives Dene Band, N'dilo & Dettah received \$6,000 for honoraria and translation of stories from elders from the community.

The Native Communication Society, Yellowknife received \$12,000 for the development and broadcast of aboriginal language lessons on the radio. A series of language lessons in five Dene languages will be broadcast on a daily basis.

National Literacy Secretariat:

Aurora College - Yellowknife

Yellowknife, N'dilo & Dettah - \$23,000 was received for a volunteer tutor training and drop-in literacy program.

Yellowknife - \$12,000 was received for the development and publication of a Literacy Instructor Resource Kit. The kit will include practical teaching and learning resources which are relevant to the NWT, learning activities specific to learners with limited literacy skills and general instructional tips and guidelines useful for the practice of literacy instruction.

Yellowknife - \$3,640 was received for the delivery of a family literacy program in cooperation with Weledeh school, Read Canada and the Yellowknife Public Library.

1995/96 Literacy Projects Page 6 Inuvik Region

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

Native Women's Training Centre, Inuvik received \$23,200 to deliver a full-time literacy program which on developing basic literacy and numeracy skills, life skills and career development activities.

Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre, Inuvik received \$8,000 to coordinate a literacy tutoring program for community residents.

The Aklavik Gwich'in Band received \$7,000 for a part-time English literacy program for older adults in the community.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

The Ehdiiat Gwich'in Band, Inuvik received \$13,680 to collect, transcribe and publish the biographies and legends from Gwich'in elders.

The Inuvialuit Social Development Program received \$9,950 to run Inuvialuit summer language and culture camps for youth in six Inuvialuit communities.

National Literacy Secretariat

Aurora College - Aurora Campus

Deline, Ft. McPherson & Norman Wells - \$35,000 was received to deliver part-time English literacy programs in three communities.

Aurora College Head Office, Ft. Smith

\$12,000 was received to develop a comprehensive literacy strategy for the Western Arctic through consultation with community and regional groups and identify literacy resources and partnerships.

\$15,943 was received to develop materials, resources, assessment techniques and training for instructors working with adult literacy students with special needs. A resource manual will be developed and published.

\$17,000 was received to undertake research, needs assessment and consultation in developing a comprehensive distance learning strategy for literacy.

NWT wide

Community Literacy Projects Fund:

NWT Literacy Council received \$4,000 for the editing and publishing of Northern Writes 1995, the publication of entries from the NWT Literacy Council's annual writing contest.

Frontier College received \$7,800 for the delivery, development and support for family reading circles across the NWT.

Aboriginal Languages Literacy Fund:

NWT Literacy Council received \$45,000 for the delivery of aboriginal writing workshops and the publication of stories emerging from these workshops.



95-044

Five Honoured for Contributions to Literacy

YELLOWKNIFE (October 3) — Education Minister Richard Nerysoo marked NWT Literacy Week, September 30 to October 7, by recognizing five northerners for their contributions to literacy in the Northwest Territories.

"The Literacy Recognition Awards are presented annually to people who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving their personal level of literacy or who have worked to promote and foster literacy within their community," Mr. Nerysoo says. "These awards provide an opportunity to recognize their achievements and honour them as role models for their communities and others across the NWT."

The announcement of this year's award winners was made at the Yellowknife Literacy Carnival, a celebration show casing a variety of literacy activities taking place in the city and surrounding area.

The following individuals received Literacy Recognition Awards:

Eva Beaverho, of Yellowknife, has been a learner in Aurora College's Read/Write program for the past two years. As a single mother of five children, she has worked diligently to upgrade her academic skills to reach her goal of becoming a teacher. During the last year she publicly spoke of the challenges she faces as a person with limited literacy skills at hearings held by the federal government's Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. She has also worked with the coordinator of the Read/Write project as an assistant. Eva is continuing her involvement in literacy both as a learner, as the children's coordinator of a family literacy project, and as a teaching assistant at Weledeh school.

Dominique Tobac, of Fort Good Hope, has demonstrated that it is never too late to learn. Seventy-eight years of age, he has been attending adult education classes at the Fort Good Hope Community Learning Centre for the past two years. As a unilingual North Slavey speaker, his interest was to develop some English language skills. Dominique's commitment to learning is inspiring to both adults and young people in the community of Fort Good Hope.

Trudy Crosby, a teacher from Taloyoak, has shared her love of reading and writing with the community by organizing a wide variety of activities, including authors visits to the community. She has initiated Project RED (Read Every Day) at Netsilik School and encourages parents of young children to read with them as preparation for school.

.../2

Five Honoured for Contributions to Literacy.. Page 2

Peoyok Enoogoo, of Arctic Bay, is a teacher and author of four Inuktitut books used widely throughout Baffin region classrooms. She believes that reading is one of the most powerful tools for learning and that children should be given as much opportunity as possible to read, and be read to, in their first language and in English. Peoyok strongly encourages students to learn traditional stories and legends so the valuable lessons they teach are kept alive.

Dorothee Komangapik, of Iqaluit, has been involved in adult education and northern aboriginal literacy issues for many years. She promotes aboriginal first language literacy as a necessary foundation for English literacy, and has a special interest in Inuit women's issues. She is skilled in the development of innovative multi-level adult literacy instruction and has written culturally relevant literacy learning materials for the Inuit students with whom she works.

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(403) 920-3482



95-045

Northern Skills Development Program enters second year

YELLOWKNIFE (October 4) — The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has signed contribution agreements with Aurora College and Nunavut Arctic College to deliver the second year of Northern Skills Development Program (NSDP), Minister Richard Nerysoo announced today.

NSDP is a community-based program which provides participants with life skills, academic upgrading, personal and career counselling, and work experience. In 1994-95, NSDP was offered in 10 communities in the NWT -- five in the East and five in the West -- with more than 200 social assistance recipients participating. Results from last year's delivery of NSDP have been used to adapt this year's curriculum and course delivery methods to better meet the needs of the participants, and to make the most of the economic and social resources and opportunities available in each community.

"The Northern Skills Development Program supports people in developing the skills they need to find jobs," Mr. Nerysoo says. "Client counselling is designed to help people develop career paths that build on their abilities and interests, and may lead them directly into the workplace or into further training."

NSDP instructors, community social service workers and career development officers work together to support participants by providing personal, social and career counselling. The NSDP courses and work experience build on the individual skills of the learners, to allow them to participate fully in community life, and to develop transferable and marketable skills.

As part of the program, and in anticipation that an aboriginal language will be the working language of Nunavut, Nunavut Arctic College will provide language instruction at the beginner, intermediate or advanced levels in either Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. Aurora College will provide aboriginal language and traditional knowledge where appropriate. Work experiences in the communities will be organized to enable participants to gain skills needed for local employment.

The agreements provide \$1.3 million to each College to deliver NSDP in 1995-96 to almost 350 social assistance recipients in a total of 29 communities. Aurora College will deliver NSDP to an average of 11 social assistance recipients in each of the following 15 communities: Yellowknife (ongoing), Rae-Edzo (ongoing), Snare Lakes, N'dilo, Tuktoyaktuk (ongoing), Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Tsiigehtchic, Inuvik, Lutsel K'e, Hay River (ongoing), Fort Simpson, Wrigley and Fort Liard.

.../2

Northern Skills Development Program enters second year: Page 2

Nunavut Arctic College will deliver NSDP to approximately 12 people, primarily selected from those receiving social assistance, in each of the following 14 communities: Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Baker Lake (ongoing), Repulse Bay, Pelly Bay, Coppermine, Gjoa Haven (ongoing), Pangnirtung (ongoing), Broughton Island, Cape Dorset, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Resolute Bay and Iqaluit (ongoing).

NSDP is a project of the Investing in People Initiative, a two-year pilot program. Human Resources Development Canada and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment are sharing the cost of Investing in People on a 50/50 basis, up to a total of \$2 million in 1994-95 and \$6 million in 1995-96.

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Greg Welch

President
Nunavut Arctic College
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95-046

Official Names for Four Communities to be Changed

YELLOWKNIFE (October 5) — The official names for four communities will be changed effective January 1, 1996, Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

The official name for Lac La Martre will be changed to Wha Ti, while Fort Norman will be renamed Tulita. The official name for Coppermine will be changed to Kugluktuk, while Lake Harbour will become known as Kimmirut.

The name changes have been requested by the community governments and supported by a majority of eligible voters in each community.

"Giving traditional place names official status is important in maintaining and promoting the traditional cultures of the NWT," Mr. Nerysoo says.

The territorial government's Geographic and Community Names Policy establishes a process for the official recognition of traditional names for communities in the Northwest Territories. The residents of Iqaluit, Arviat, Taloyoak and Lutselk'e, Deline and Tsiigehtchic have already had their community's traditional names officially adopted.

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Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7551



95-047

Fur Handling Workshops

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11) — Workshops on how trappers should handle furs in order to increase their value at the auction house have been presented in a number of northern communities during the past few months.

"The investment is well worth the effort and will pay off in the long run," says Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq. "If northern harvesters provide superior quality wild fur, they will continue to reap the highest price in the industry and sustain the demand from international fur buyers."

For the past three weeks, Dave Bosma, a grading technician, trapper, auctioneer and humane trapping instructor with 18 years experience in the business, has been holding workshops for fur harvesters in the Western Territories. Mr. Bosma works for the Fur Harvesters Auction Inc, a fur trading company in North Bay, Ontario.

Bosma has been explaining where furs from the Northwest Territories are sold, what happens to the pelts once they reach the auction house, what grading techniques are used at the auction houses to determine the value of the pelts, and what trappers can do to get a better price for their furs.

He says it is important for northern trappers to wait until the fur is prime before it is harvested, that it is fleshed well and not overstretched. Otherwise the fur will be downgraded and not earn the highest price from international fur buyers.

Mr. Bosma has visited Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort Good Hope, Deline, Fort McPherson, Yellowknife, Rae/Edzo, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. He travelled to the eastern Arctic and held similar workshops in August.

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95-048

ARVIAT'S QITIQLIQ SECONDARY SCHOOL INCLUDED IN NATIONAL EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS STUDY

YELLOWKNIFE (October 20) — The community of Arviat's distinctive approach to education has resulted in Qitiqliq Secondary School's inclusion in a national study of exemplary schools.

"The people of Arviat can take great pride in the achievement of national recognition of Qitiqliq School," says Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "This is a fine example of how partnerships between education and the community can produce extraordinary results."

The Canadian Education Association's Exemplary Schools Project studied successful practices in 21 secondary schools across the country. The resulting report, called Secondary Schools in Canada: The National Report of the Exemplary Schools Project, addresses issues such as the nature of school success, curriculum and learning, social goals of schools, student life, students at risk of dropping out, the role of teachers, community influence and school accountability.

The report describes Qitiqliq School's exemplary qualities:

The school is distinctive because it owes its existence to a concerted community effort to have a complete high school so that young people could finish their secondary education without having to leave home. The school is distinctive, too, in how it is trying to deal with change and prepare young people for a different future, in its links with the community, the development of community-oriented programs, and a climate of openness and collaboration.

The school community is remarkable in its sensitivity and its efforts to negotiate Inuit and southern approaches to learning, in a way that young Inuit will profit from the latter without undermining an identity rooted in the former.

Qitiqliq offers special programs such as: Career Orientation (for students returning to school), Enterprise and Innovation (entrepreneur skills), Career and Life Management, Inuktitut language, Inuktitut culture, Wildlife Management and shared care day care for the children of students.

Contact: Malcolm Farrow
Director, Board Operations
Education, Culture and Employment
403-920-8990



95-049

1994 GED National Award Presented to Hay River Resident

YELLOWKNIFE (October 24) — Lloyd Bast of Hay River was recently awarded the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) National Award for achieving the highest score in the NWT in 1994. Mr. Bast is one of 138 people in the NWT that wrote the GED tests in 1994.

"It is never too late to achieve a high school education," said Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "The GED Tests offer many people in the North the opportunity to obtain their high school equivalency and continue on with post-secondary education."

The GED Tests were developed in 1942 for people who have not completed high school. The tests give them an opportunity to prove that they have acquired the same level of learning as traditional high school graduates. The GED Testing Program has helped over 10 million adults obtain formal recognition of their level of education. The five tests in the GED battery (writing skills, social studies, science, literature, and the arts, and mathematics) are designed to measure the major concepts and lasting outcomes of a high school education.

To be eligible to write the GED tests in the Northwest Territories, an individual must be at least 18, be out of school for one full academic year, and be a resident of the Northwest Territories for six months. GED testing is available in every community throughout the Northwest Territories. Information on GED testing can be obtained from local adult educators, Aurora or Nunavut Arctic College or Community Learning Centres. In Yellowknife, information can be obtained from the Student Services Manager at Aurora College at 920-3030.

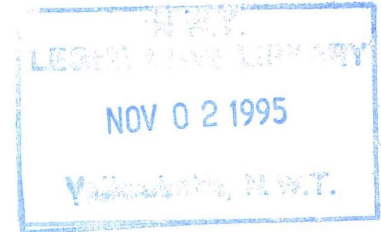
Contact: Bonnie Koslowski
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Education, Culture and Employment
403-920-8939



Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

95-050



Independent Review Established

YELLOWKNIFE (October 30) — Premier Nellie Cournoyea said today an independent review will be conducted into the process associated with a request for proposals for fuel supply and delivery in the eastern Arctic.

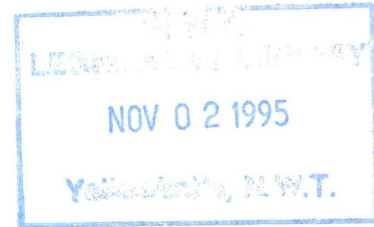
Public Works and Services Minister Don Morin asked the premier to establish the review following concerns he received regarding the handling of the proposal process. Documents received in response to the government's request for proposals were sealed by Mr. Morin when the concerns were first raised.

The review will be conducted by Brian Wallace, Q.C., a partner in Lawson, Lundell, Lawson & McIntosh - a Vancouver law firm which also maintains an office in Yellowknife.

Contact: **Art Sorensen**
 Press Secretary
 (403) 669-2301



95-051



New Income Support Program launched

YELLOWKNIFE (October 31) — Several changes will be made to social assistance benefits effective November 11, 1995, Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

"Consultation with the people of the Northwest Territories has pointed to a need for the territorial government to change its approach to social assistance," Mr. Nerysoo says.

"One of the problems with the existing system is that people find it very difficult to get off social assistance once they start receiving benefits. The focus of the program is therefore changing to one of income support, which is intended to help people through transitions in their lives. Instead of a social worker issuing a cheque, social assistance recipients will explore options for the future. These may include participating in wellness activities, or taking part in education, training and employment," Mr. Nerysoo adds.

Some changes that reflect this new focus have already been made. People can now receive an incentive of \$200 per month to participate in projects under the Investing in People initiative. People can also earn up to \$190 a month before extra earnings are deducted from their social assistance -- in the past, people could only earn up to \$100.

As part of the redesign of the program as of November 11, a number of special benefits previously available through Social Assistance will be reprofiled. Some of these benefits are being redistributed because they are already available through another government program, while others are not available to the working poor and as a result discourage people from training and employment.

The following special benefits will no longer be accessed through Social Assistance: special clothing, moving expenses, outstanding debts, instalment payments, compassionate travel, telephone, transportation, house repairs, deficit adjustment, Christmas bonus, employment needs, housekeeping, and laundry.

In addition, people must now be on Social Assistance for six months of the previous 12 months before they can receive a benefit for seasonal clothing.

New Income Support Program launched: Page 2

Assistance for basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter and utilities, has not changed. The changes have been made to benefits people have received above and beyond those designed to meet their basic needs.

In 1991, NWT residents told the Special Committee on Health and Social Services that steps should be taken to encourage pride, a desire to work and a sense of initiative in people who receive social assistance.

A similar message was received by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment's Forum on Income Support Reform in 1995. After consulting with northerners, this group recommended that programs like social assistance should:

- be linked to jobs and training in the wage and traditional economies;
- encourage people to make responsible choices; and
- make the best possible use of the money available.

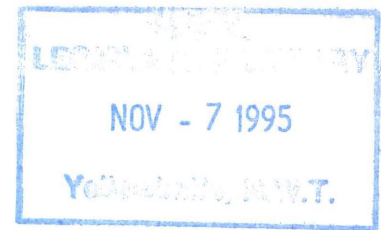
To link social assistance more closely to education and training opportunities, the Social Assistance Program was moved to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment from the Department of Health and Social Services this year.

People who would like more information on how the Income Support Program affects them should contact their community Social Worker, or call the Department of Education, Culture and Employment at 1-800-661-0763.

Contact: Mark Cleveland
Assistant Deputy Minister
Culture and Careers
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7252

or

Dana Heide
Director, Income Support
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 920-8921



NWT Métis Health Benefits Implemented

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6) — The new Métis Health Benefits program is now in operation, says Minister of Health and Social Services Nellie Cournoyea.

The Métis Health Benefits Program is similar to the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program offered by Health Canada for Inuit and Status Indians. The Métis Health Benefits Program covers 65 per cent of prescription drugs, medical supplies, equipment, vision care, dental services and medical transportation for eligible Métis.

The program does not replace coverage under other government health care plans or those provided by employers. As with Non-Insured Health Benefits, the Métis Health Benefits will also be administered by Alberta Blue Cross.

There are an estimated 1,537 eligible Métis residents in the Northwest Territories. Eligibility for the plan is based on criteria agreed upon by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Métis Nation.

Métis must register in order to receive any benefits under this plan. The Métis Nation - Northwest Territories will register eligible members through the Métis Local offices in communities and through its Yellowknife office. The Métis Nation will administer the enrolment process and conduct appeals arising from registration.

The benefits will be retroactive to April 27, 1995.

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(403) 920-6173

Gary Bohnet
President
Métis Nation - Northwest Territories
(403) 873-3505



95-053

TVNC Will Feature Phone-In Opportunities for Audience

YELLOWKNIFE (November 7) — A new series called Live & Well will premiere on TVNC on November 15. The programs will be broadcast live, allowing for phone-in opportunities for the viewing audience. The audience will also be able to post electronic messages on the North of 60 bulletin board maintained by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

"The interactive features of Live & Well present an opportunity for the people of the North to ask questions and voice their opinions about various Government of the Northwest Territories programs that will be highlighted throughout the season," says Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

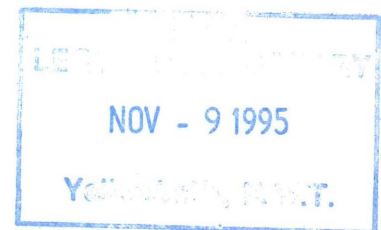
The new program will normally be broadcast on the first Wednesday of every month. Each program will feature a discussion on themes related to health and well-being. The first show, called Saving Energy in the Home, is sponsored by Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The show will feature information on ways people can conserve energy. It will air November 15 at 7 p. m. on TVNC.

The second show, jointly produced by the YWCA and Education, Culture and Employment, will be broadcast December 6. This program will focus on self-esteem issues for young women in the North. Future programs are in development.

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or

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Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
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95-054

Tourism Industry Organizes Western NWT Association

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) — The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is sponsoring an organizational meeting to create a new tourism industry association representing licensed operators and industry partners in the western Northwest Territories.

The new regional tourism industry association replaces the five individual zone associations which had operated in the western arctic.

Participants at this founding meeting will be electing the Association's board of directors and setting its direction for the delivery of tourism marketing activities. The meeting is open to licensed tourism operators and industry partners.

The organizational meeting will be held from November 25 to 27 in Yellowknife. Licensed tourism operators and industry partners interested in registering for this conference can call Prestige Planning at (403) 873-6121 for registration information.

The tourism industry in the eastern arctic established its own regional association earlier this year to replace the three zone organizations which previously operated there.

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Economic Development and Tourism
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95-055

Fur Pricing Schedule Renewed

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) — Fur harvesters in the North will continue to benefit from another year of guaranteed prices offered under the Fur Pricing Program, says Renewable Resources Minister Silas Argna'naaq.

In a letter addressed to NWT trappers this week, Mr. Argna'naaq confirms that the territorial government is committed to ensuring that fur harvesting is a viable economic option in the North. He says that the Fur Pricing Program aims to encourage trappers to not only harvest abundant species but to continue to market good quality prime fur in southern markets.

Guaranteed prices will be provided for the same species again this year, and they include: Coloured Fox, White Fox, Marten, Beaver, Mink, Muskrat and Seal.

Local Renewable Resource Officers will continue to assess individual pelts. If the fur is in prime condition and has been handled properly, they will receive the following payments during the 1995-96 trapping season:

Species	Payment #1 (immediate)	Payment #2 (Fall)	Total Minimum Guaranteed Price
Coloured Fox	\$ 25	\$ 8	\$ 33
White Fox	\$ 25	\$ 13	\$ 38
Marten	\$ 55	\$ 15	\$ 70
Beaver	\$ 25	\$ 15	\$ 40
Mink	\$ 25	\$ 7	\$ 32
Muskrat	\$ 2.50	\$ 1	\$ 3.50
Seal	\$ 25	\$ 5	\$ 30

The guaranteed price for Marten has dropped \$5 to \$70 a pelt. Harvesters will receive an immediate \$55 payment from their local Renewable Resources Officer if the fur is in prime condition and has been handled carefully and properly, says Mr. Arngna'naaq. On the other hand, the guaranteed price for Muskrat has risen 50 cents, from \$3 to \$3.50 a pelt.

.../2

Fur Pricing Schedule Renewed: Page 2

Market trends encouraged the Department to alter prices for these species this year.

Second payment cheques were mailed last week to NWT harvesters. That income, like a fall grub stake, will help them gear up for another season of winter harvesting.

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95-056

Independent Review

YELLOWKNIFE (November 20 — An independent review has found no flaws in the process associated with a Territorial government request for proposals for fuel supply and delivery in the eastern Arctic.

Public Works and Services Minister Don Morin had asked the premier earlier this month to establish the review following concerns he received regarding the handling of the proposal process. Documents received in response to the government's request for proposals were sealed by Mr. Morin when the concerns were first raised.

The review conducted by Brian Wallace, Q.C., a partner in Lawson, Lundell, Lawson & McIntosh - a Vancouver law firm which also maintains an office in Yellowknife - stated in his report there is no reason to keep the proposals for resupply and delivery sealed.

He recommended the government augment its review committee with one or more outside professionals who were independent of government to ensure the objectivity and integrity of the process.

Premier Nellie Cournoyea said today that she is accepting the recommendation and that steps will be taken to contract an authority outside government to join the review team.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wallace also found there was no evidence that a conflict existed in the proposal process as a result of the membership of the Deputy Minister of Transportation Andrew Gamble on the board of directors of Canarctic Shipping.

He did, however, note there is a conflict between the interest of the government in using Canarctic as a vehicle for implementing its marine transportation strategy, on the one hand, and its interest as the purchaser of fuel and services on the other. As a result of this observation, Mr. Gamble has removed himself from the board of directors.

In a separate matter, Public Works Minister Don Morin has informed the premier that he has suspended negotiations for the construction and extension of a tank farm facility in Rankin Inlet because of recent concerns that they may not reflect the intent of Article 24 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Mr. Morin said he will continue to discuss this matter with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in order to address its concerns.

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95-057

Cabinet Members Elected

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 21) — The Legislative Assembly's Leadership Committee elected seven of its members to Cabinet today.

Three of the members held ministerial portfolios in the previous cabinet. They are:

John Todd (MLA Keewatin Central), Stephen Kakfwi (MLA Sahtu) and Kelvin Ng (MLA Kitikmeot).

New members include James Antoine (MLA Nahendeh), Goo Arlooktoo (Baffin South), Charles Dent (Yellowknife Frame Lake) and Manitok Thompson (Aivilik).

A total of 13 members, seven from the east and six from the west, ran for a position on Cabinet.

Premier Don Morin, elected yesterday, said he was impressed that so many members let their names stand for cabinet.

"For those who weren't successful, I just want to say that there is plenty of room for their expertise in the House and within the new committee structure being set up for the Assembly"

Mr. Morin said he expects to have the job of assigning ministerial portfolios completed by early next week.

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95-058

European Fur Ban Delayed

YELLOWKNIFE (November 22) — Premier Don Morin today welcomed the news that the European Commission is recommending a delay in implementing a ban on the import of fur from countries still using the leg hold trap.

The proposal has to be ratified by the Council of Ministers, made up of ministers from each member country.

"I'm confident the Council will ratify the proposal," Mr. Morin said. "I'm sure they understand the trapping industry up here would be devastated if the ban went into place early next year."

He added that various ministers and members of the Legislative Assembly, the Metis Nation and national aboriginal groups, had worked cooperatively to mount an intense lobby to persuade European legislators to delay implementing the fur import regulation on January 1 of 1996.

The Commission's recommendation calls for setting aside the scheduled ban for one year.

Premier Morin said maintaining the Territories traditionally-based fur harvesting program as a respectable economic activity is essential.

During the past few years, the NWT spent millions of dollars exchanging leghold traps with quick kill or conibear traps and training trappers to use them, he said.

However, until just recently Commission members had been insisting that a fur exporting nation must have in place a nation-wide ban of the leg hold trap and implement more humane trapping methods in order to meet the requirements of the regulation and be eligible to sell fur in Europe.

"The situation was frustrating," Mr. Morin said. "Now we've got the time to work things out - to agree on trapping standards that are acceptable at a national and international level."

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95-059

Cabinet to meet in Fort Smith

YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) — Premier Don Morin says Cabinet will meet for two days in Fort Smith beginning Tuesday.

He said ministers will meet there at the invitation of Thebacha MLA Mike Miltenberger to start the process of developing a common purpose on the many issues facing the government.

The premier also announced that Joe Handley will be heading up a transition team established to make sure there is a smooth change-over to the new government.

The premier said he expects the transition period to be handled in an "efficient and effective manner" and that he plans to announce portfolio assignments Tuesday.

Mr. Handley, deputy minister of renewable resources, has also been named acting Secretary to Cabinet. New responsibilities for Pierre Alvarez, who held the position, will be announced at a later date.

Bob Macleod, deputy minister of renewable resources, will head up that department until Mr. Handley's interim assignment ends.

Contact: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
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95-060

Ministers Assigned Portfolios

YELLOWKNIFE (November 28) — Premier Don Morin has announced ministerial assignments for his eight-member cabinet.

As Premier, Mr. Morin will be responsible for the Department of Executive, Economic Development and Tourism and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Goo Arlooktoo, MLA Baffin South, becomes Deputy Premier. Mr. Arlookto will also be responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services.

Other assignments:

Stephen Kakfwi (MLA Sahtu): Justice, Renewable Resources and Minister Responsible for National Constitutional Affairs.

John Todd (MLA Keewatin Central): Finance, Financial Management Board, Workers' Compensation Board and the Public Utilities Board.

Kelvin Ng (MLA Kitikmeot): Health and Social Services and the Housing Corporation.

Charles Dent (MLA Yellowknife Frame Lake): Education, Culture and Employment, Northwest Territories' Power Corporation and Minister Responsible for Youth.

James Antoine (MLA Nahendeh): Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Transportation and Safety and Public Services.

Manitok Thompson (MLA Aivilik): Municipal and Community Affairs and the Women's Directorate.

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95-061

Premier Concerned over Veto Provisions

FORT SMITH (November 29) — Premier Don Morin says he is concerned the prime minister's Quebec package fails to recognize the Northwest Territories as a partner in Confederation.

Mr. Morin said today that he will be communicating the government's concerns to the prime minister and other provincial premiers, particularly as they relate to veto provisions in a package of measures aimed at easing the Quebec situation.

"It's our understanding that a federal bill to implement a regional veto will give Quebec and three other regions the final say over constitutional matters including the creation of new provinces," Mr. Morin stated.

"This isn't acceptable. It throws the progress made since Meech Lake and during Charlottetown right out the window."

Mr. Morin said he will discuss the package with western premiers and that territorial interest would also be expressed at a meeting of federal/provincial/territorial deputy ministers of justice in early December.

"There is no proper reason for the territories to be excluded or to be represented by federal ministers or officials. We have to make sure that a regional veto doesn't offload federal responsibilities for political and constitutional development of the territories onto provincial residents and governments who likely know very little about our aspirations."

In respect to other provisions in the prime minister's package, Mr. Morin stated that aboriginal people constitute the original distinct societies in Canada.

"We'll be anxious to know how the federal government will reflect this fact beyond its self-government policy," he added.

**Contact: Art Sorensen
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95-062

FORT SMITH (November 30) — Premier Don Morin says a two-day Cabinet session in Fort Smith provided an opportunity for ministers to discuss a number of matters that require the immediate attention of the government and Legislative Assembly.

The discussions included the Territories' budget situation and the need to make some tough financial decisions.

Other matters included how government can position itself to become more efficient and cost effective and the need to set clear directions on the various challenges facing the territories as it moves towards division about 40 months from now.

Mr. Morin and Cabinet is particularly anxious to build new partnership and to open more effective lines of communication with people at the community level and with Aboriginal organizations.

"They have to know where we're at, where we're going, how we're going to get there and that difficult decisions are going to be needed along the way."

Mr. Morin said the meeting, much of it attended by co-chairs of Caucus Michael Miltenberger and John Ningark, was designed to provide Cabinet with its first opportunity to meet as a group and to discuss the need to develop a common action plan with the Assembly.

The process for developing that action plan begins next week as the Assembly's new committee system gets underway.

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95-063

Senior Appointment Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6) — Premier Don Morin has appointed former Secretary to Cabinet Pierre Alvarez as Chairman of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, effective April 1 of 1996.

Mr. Alvarez will replace Jim Robertson as chairman of the corporation.

Mr. Robertson has held the position since the Territories took over the federally-run Northern Canada Power Commission and turned it into the Power Corporation eight years ago. Mr. Robertson had earlier advised the premier that he would not be seeking a renewal of his contract.

The premier said he appreciates the dedication and professional approach taken by Mr. Robertson and the effort he has made in making sure the corporation became a viable utility.

He added that he is confident that Mr. Alvarez will provide the continuity required to make sure the corporation continues to operate in an efficient and business-like manner.

Mr. Alvarez will sit as a member of the corporation's board of directors until he assumes the chairmanship of the power utility.

Contact: Art Sorensen
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95-064

Safety Record Improves

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7) — The safety record for fixed wing aircraft used to fight forest fires in the Northwest Territories improved substantially during the 1995 fire season.

Final statistics indicate there was one incident reported for every 655 hours flown, compared to one incident for 474 hours flown in 1994, according to Acting Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources Bob McLeod.

Similar improvements were noted in rotary wing operations where there was one incident reported for every 388 hours of operation, compared to one incident for every 247 hours in 1994.

An "incident" is a matter that is reported to the air operations section of the Forest Fire Management Program and can involve anything from minor infractions of operating procedures to major infractions that could lead to loss of life and property.

Contact: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2301



95-065

Senior Management Changes

YELLOWKNIFE (December 8) — Premier Don Morin has announced a number of senior management changes

The following changes are effective Monday, December 11:

- **Don Avison** becomes Principal Secretary to the Premier.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice Nora Sanders will take over Mr. Avison's responsibilities as deputy minister of that department on an acting basis.

- **Roland Bailey** becomes Secretary to Cabinet and Deputy Minister of the Executive.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Doug Doan will take over Mr. Bailey's responsibilities for that department on an acting basis.

Joe Handley, who has been acting Secretary to Cabinet during the transition period, returns to his position as Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources.

The following changes are effective Tuesday, January 2:

- **Penny Ballantyne**, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, becomes President of the Northwest Territories' Housing Corporation.
- **Al Menard**, President of the Housing Corporation, becomes the Special Advisor to the Premier on Government Operations and Community Initiatives.

Contact: Art Sorensen
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95-066

Contaminants Study Reviewed

YELLOWKNIFE (December 18) — The health benefits from eating fish and marine mammals outweigh the known risks to Northerners from contaminants in these foods.

The Department of Health and Social Services recently reviewed Health Canada's study of contaminants in northern fish and marine animals. Health Canada evaluated data collected under the Arctic Environmental Strategy Northern Contaminants Program which looked for levels of organochlorines and heavy metals in fish and marine mammals across the North.

The assessment concluded that the potential loss of nutritional benefits and the social aspect of country foods could pose an even greater risk than that posed by contaminants. The contaminants found in some species of fish and marine mammals arrive into the Arctic on air and water currents from international industrialized centres.

Kelvin Ng, Minister for Health and Social Services, is concerned that these studies in the North will end when the Arctic Environmental Strategy funding runs out in 1997.

"Northerners have told us that they are concerned about the safety of country foods. We have worked very successfully with our aboriginal and federal partners on these issues to date. We want to ensure this important work continues. We must all work together to make sure northerners, now and in the future, can depend on a safe country food supply."

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Jack MacKinnon
Manager, Community Wellness,
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(403) 873-7730



95-067

Orientation Program Ready for Councillors

YELLOWKNIFE (December 20) — Community councillors elected into office can learn more about their duties, roles and responsibilities early on if they take part in the department's new councillor orientation program, says Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Manitoak Thompson.

"Leaders today are facing tremendous challenges as this government gives more responsibility for delivering government programs and services to community councils," says Ms. Thompson. "This orientation program will give councillors - especially the newly-elected ones - a head start in their jobs."

The program was adapted from a similar course developed at the Centre for Government Studies at St. Lawrence College in Kingston for councillors newly elected in rural Ontario.

Amended to reflect the political, social and economic conditions of the NWT, the program contains five modules or workshops which can be delivered individually to community councils upon request by trained municipal officers in the region. They include individual modules on the following subjects: the councillor's roles and responsibilities, how to run an effective meeting, the internal and external structure of both community and territorial governments and the relationship that exists between them, the financial management operations of a community council, and community planning.

Ms. Thompson says although the department has conducted orientation sessions for various NWT community councils in the past, this program is more comprehensive, thorough and has a wide range of learning resources.

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Municipal & Community Affairs
(403) 873-7118

or Sue Enge
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(403) 669-2241



95-068

NWT Artists and Arts Groups Receive Funding for Creative Projects

YELLOWKNIFE (December 28) – Thirty-three NWT artists and arts groups will receive almost \$200,000 dollars in funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1995/96 to undertake a variety of artistic projects, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, announced today.

"This funding support is an investment in our arts community," Mr. Dent says. "The arts community is a vibrant part of our economy and a vital part of our culture."

Artists who had received funding and have gone on to professional careers include: recording artist Susan Aglukark, sculptor Loody Pijmini, painter Dolphus Cadieux, and recording artist Tracey Riley.

The NWT Arts Council contribution program is administered through the Culture and Heritage Division of Education, Culture and Employment. The objective of the program is to encourage development of the arts in the NWT through financial support for artistic, creative projects. The NWT Arts Council, which is made up of representatives from all regions of the NWT, assess applications for funding and makes recommendations to the Minister.

Writers receiving support for various projects include: Inuvik poet Loretta Rose Deutscher, who is printing poetry inspired spiritually and physically by the Medaline River area; and Ishmael Alunik of Inuvik, who is writing and illustrating a manuscript of stories of his life and Inuvialuit legends and traditional knowledge.

Visual artists receiving funding include: Mary Kunuk of Igloolik, who is illustrating short poems for children using computer animation; and Craig Clark of Iqaluit, who is painting a series of portraits of Elders from the Baffin Region.

Other artist and organizations who have been approved for arts funding in 1995/96 are:

- Floyd Grossetete, Fort Simpson, to create a series of painting in oils and acrylics of the Nahanni National Park area
- Shane Daniels, Fort Smith, to record a demo of original songs
- Yanka Froncz, Yellowknife, to record a demo of original songs
- Ray Johnston, Yellowknife, to make a demo recording of original songs
- Jill Morziuk, Hay River, to make a demo recording of original songs
- Liidlii Kue First Nation, Fort Simpson, to hold workshops on the design and production of original native fashions and accessories
- Dorothee Marie Komangapik, Iqaluit, to write a collection of short stories, vignettes, poems and songs based on the author's experiences as a non-Inuk daughter-in-law in an Inuk family
- Mel Sabourin, Yellowknife, to make a demo recording of original music

NWT Artists and Arts Groups Receive Funding Page 2

- Robert Popson, Yellowknife, to record a demo of original piano music facilitated by the use of computer technology
- Jim MacDonald, Rankin Inlet, to record a demo of original songs
- Chris Philpotts, Yellowknife, to record a demo of original songs
- NWT Teachers' Association, Yellowknife, to hold educational music workshops
- Heather MacLeod, Yellowknife, to write, revise and compile a manuscript of poems and to research Aboriginal writers and their work
- Tom Hudson, Yellowknife, to record a demo of original country-style songs
- David Agglukark, Arviat, to record gospel music in Inuktitut
- Festival of the Midnight Sun, Yellowknife, to hold workshops in mural painting and puppetry
- Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, to hold workshops in various artistic disciplines at the 1995 Great Northern Arts Festival
- Marnie Hilash, Tuktoyaktuk, to create a series of collages using the technique of Polaroid print transfer to various watercolour and print-making papers
- Gyusook Oh, Iqaluit, to produce a series of print drawings showing the transformational qualities of animal form as metaphors of the human condition
- Amber LeMouel, Yellowknife, to make a demo recording
- Mabel Bourne, Hay River, to create a series of painting of northern animals and landscape in acrylic, oil and water colour
- Jones Henry, Yellowknife, on an extraordinary, one-time-only basis to attend a dance class at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School
- Pat Bourke, Fort Smith, to record a demo of original songs
- Ruth Roy, Yellowknife, to create adult coats and a child's vest of leather, beads, embroidery and ribbon applique
- Folk on the Rocks, Yellowknife, to hold technical workshops for musicians attending Folk on the Rocks
- Native Communications Society, Yellowknife, to produce radio and TV plays
- Benjamin Porter Jr., Gjoa Haven, to produce a series of paintings
- Ronal Kent, Yellowknife, to make a demo recording of original songs
- Lucy Angoyuaq, Baker Lake, to create a series of textile tapestries.

For information on how you can apply to this program, please contact the Arts and Culture Liaison Officer at 403-920-3103, or write to Community Programs, Culture and Heritage, Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9. The application deadline is January 31, 1996.

Contact:

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