

NWT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES

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96-001

Partners Working Together to Address Loss of Chief Julius School

YELLOWKNIFE (January 11) — The territorial government is working closely with the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education and the community of Fort McPherson to address the issues arising from the loss of the community's school, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment said today.

"The local school plays an important part in the life of any community, and this is a severe loss for Fort McPherson," Mr. Dent says. "I want to assure the people of Fort McPherson that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is working closely with the Department of Public Works and Services, the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to address the issues arising from the loss of Chief Julius School."

The Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education is taking the lead role in making alternate arrangements for the students, and in the planning needed to rebuild the school. The board has been working closely with the Gwich'in leadership in the region and with the community of Fort McPherson.

A planning team has been established in Yellowknife to support the board in making alternate arrangements for the students and to guide the development of a new school. Representatives of the team -- which consists of staff from Education, Culture and Employment, and Public Works and Services -- will travel to Fort McPherson in the coming days to discuss the process to rebuild the school. The community of Fort McPherson and the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education will be fully involved in the process of developing the new school.

"Community involvement will be essential to ensure that students miss as little class time as possible, and in rebuilding the school," Mr. Dent says. "The community of Fort McPherson, the Gwich'in leadership and the Divisional Board of Education are doing an exemplary job of working together to find solutions. I am confident that this process will allow us to address these issues as quickly as possible."

Contact: Malcolm Farrow
Director, Board Operations
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96-002

Funding Provided to Preserve Oral Traditions of NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (January 15) – "An invaluable bank of audio material documenting unwritten information on the peoples and cultures of the Northwest Territories is being created with the encouragement and financial assistance of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment," says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "The Oral Traditions Contribution Program is in place to assist community-based projects that will enhance the survival of NWT oral traditions."

Copies of all audio material created through this program are sent to the NWT Archives. The tapes are catalogued and entered into a database. People can access the database at the NWT Archives, located at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

For the past several years, the program has provided funding and professional assistance to groups and individuals to record and preserve the oral traditions of the NWT. Recipients attend an annual department-sponsored workshop on collection, storage, and use of oral traditions to promote greater accessibility of traditional knowledge to the public.

In the 1995/96 fiscal year, a total of 15 projects are being sponsored from a fund of \$83,700.

The following groups and individuals have received funding:

- Miriam Aglukkaq, Gjoa Haven, to continue a project to collect stories of Gjoa Haven elders
- Colville Lake First Nation, to research the names, geographic coordinates and fish that are in each of the 300–400 lakes around Colville
- Mathurina Cotchilly, Norman Wells, to record elders on the history of Norman Wells from the early 1900s
- Dene Cultural Institute, Hay River, to conduct an oral tradition project whose material will be used in a Dene magazine pilot
- Dene Cultural Institute, Hay River/Rae Lakes, to complete interviews of elders participating in the Traditional Governing Systems Project of Rae Lakes
- Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, to document traditional sites and trails (between Weldon Creek and the Forks) in connection with the ethno-archaeological project along the Arctic Red River
- Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Iqaluit, to produce programs of legends from the Keewatin for broadcast on IBC
- Inullariit Elders' Society, Igloolik, to document knowledge about Inuit traditional values and norms (emotional expression, moral values, interpersonal relationships) pertaining to community social life and individual responsibility

.../2

Funding Provided to Preserve Oral Traditions of NWT: Page 2

- Métis Heritage Association, to continue with the oral history research project in Hay River and another community
- Native Communications Society, to gather oral recording of traditional stories, legends, folklore, and local history
- Northern Life Museum, Fort Smith, to conduct interviews about the history of the Wabisca House
- Saipaaqivik Day Care, Cape Dorset, to record elders' knowledge of the traditional stories, legends, folklore, and local history
- Doug Stern, Bay Chimo, to continue recording stories from Bathurst Inlet elders
- Tuktoyaktuk Elders committee, to transcribe and translate approximately 50 tapes of drum dance songs and legends
- Yellowknives Dene Band, for the Somba K'e Dene Project to research, record, transcribe and disseminate information about the history, traditions and legends of the Yellowknives Dene Band.

Applications for funding under this program for the 1996/97 fiscal year are now being accepted. For application guidelines, contact: Cultural Liaison Coordinator, Community Programs, Culture and Heritage Division, Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife at 403-920-3102. All applications must be submitted to the Culture and Heritage Division by February 28, 1996.

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



96-003

Language Enhancement Contribution Program 1995/96 Funded Projects

YELLOWKNIFE (January 15) – Eighteen groups received \$315,800 in funding under the Language Enhancement Contribution Program in 1995/96, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

The program assists community groups to maintain, enhance and revitalize aboriginal languages. Funding is provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, through the Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the Northwest Territories

The following groups received funding:

- Lutsel k'e Dene Band/Dene Cultural Institute, to continue the family Chipewyan learning project in Lutsel K'e
- Yellowknives Dene Band, to produce a video in Dogrib which will accompany an educational kit on the drum; and for Dogrib language classes in Dettah and Ndilo
- Hunters and Trappers Association, Deline, to do research for Slavey signs and street names
- Inuvialuit Communications Society, to continue production of their newspaper *Tusaayaksat* in three dialects of Inuvialuktun as well as English
- Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Taloyoak, for the Gjoa Haven Elders Project
- Dene Cultural Institute, Trout Lake and Rae Lakes, to conduct Slavey literacy workshops in Trout Lake; and to produce a mini-dictionary containing Dogrib term and concepts about traditional governing systems in Rae Lakes
- Saipaaqivik Daycare, Cape Dorset, for Unikkaat
- Tariagsuk Video Centre, Igloolik, to start up local TV programming in Inuktitut
- Native Communications Society, to produce aboriginal language lessons for broadcast on TV
- Inuvialuit Social Development Program, to do Inuvialuktun transcriptions of material collected during the Aulavik Project
- Fort Good Hope Dene Community Council, to continue work on the North Slavey Dictionary
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Baffin, for an elders Inuktitut HIV/Aids language development project

.../2

Language Enhancement Contribution Program 1995/96 Funded Projects: Page 2

- Nuvulik Project, to complete the North Baffin Dictionary
- Deninu Kue First Nations, to produce Chipewyan textual material
- Fort Good Hope Hunters and Trappers, to teach North Slavey in a bush environment
- Tetlit Gwich'in Band, Fort McPherson, for a program of Gwich'in language training
- Holman Community Corporation, for the Holman Senior Youth Council to hold a language/cultural camp for young people
- Salt River First Nation, for Chipewyan drumming/singing workshops and for Cree classes

Contact: **Charles Arnold**
Director
Culture and Heritage Division
Education, Culture and Employment
403-873-7551

Press Statement

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

Commissioner's Awards Presentations

YELLOWKNIFE (January 16) - Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Helen Maksagak, presented bravery awards yesterday to three people who rescued a Fort Simpson man from a house fire.

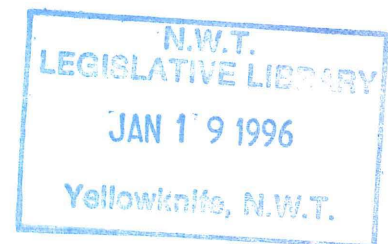
Ernie Paul Isaiah and Jack Lee Mouse received the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the highest level and Ernest Wayne Loutit was presented with the bravery award at the second level. They were instrumental in saving Michael Cazon from a burning house in Fort Simpson in September of 1993. That fire took the lives of three others.

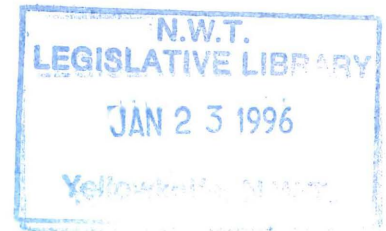
Mouse and Isaiah were in a neighboring house when the community fire alarm sounded. They ran over to the burning house, went inside and began crawling through the smoke searching for people. They discovered an unconscious Cazon and pulled him into the hallway. While both went back looking for others who were in the house, Ernest Loutit entered the burning building and began dragging Cazon outside. By this time, the whole building was engulfed in flames and both Mouse and Isaiah were forced to give up their search. They then helped get Cazon out of the burning building to a safer location.

"Mr. Cazon was very lucky. Although he received burns to over 60 per cent of his body, he is here today as a result of the heroic efforts of Ernie Paul Isaiah, Jack Lee Mouse and Ernest Wayne Loutit," Commissioner Maksagak said in making the presentations.

Fort Simpson residents held a feast and drum dance in honour of the recipients after the medal presentations on Monday, January 15.

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
873-7332





96-004

Keeping Languages Alive

YELLOWKNIFE (January 19) . Three individuals who continue to speak in their own language each day and actively encourage others to do so will receive special awards during Aboriginal Languages Month and Francophone Week in March, says Premier Don Morin.

Nominations are open this month as the territorial government's Official Languages Unit works to coordinate and introduce the new award program in the Northwest Territories. The public and language organizations are invited to participate in the Community Language Leader Award,

Mr. Morin says the winners will have demonstrated they are personally committed to preserving, maintaining and enhancing their language.

"The pressure to use English continues to increase as it remains the country's main working language. We have to make a concerted effort to reward our people for keeping our languages alive in the North," Mr. Morin states.

Three language groups will be recognized: Dene/Cree, Inuktitut and French. Because English is the predominant language used in the NWT, it is not included.

There were several key stakeholders in the languages field that were asked to help the Official Languages Unit develop the criteria for the selection process: the NWT Languages Commissioner, the NWT Literacy Council, the Inuit Cultural Institute, the Dene Cultural Institute and the Federation Franco-Tenoise.

A panel of five representatives from the public will be appointed by the Premier to select the finalists. The three award winners will receive a plaque and \$250 to be donated to a recognized community organization involved in language development.

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or

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(403) 669-2241



96-005

Kakfwi Presents Constitutional Views to Senate

YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) - Minister of Justice Stephen Kakfwi will tell members of a Senate committee on Tuesday that the Northwest Territories should be allowed to play a greater role in the national unity debate leading up to the 1997 constitutional conference.

Kakfwi will appear before the Special Senate Committee on Bill C-110 in Ottawa to argue for changes which would ensure continued territorial participation in national constitutional discussions.

Bill C-110 proposes to change the way the federal government participates in amending the Canadian Constitution. A key element of the proposed bill would effectively give veto powers over constitutional amendments to Ontario, Quebec, B.C. and the Western and Atlantic regions of Canada.

The Northwest Territories wants to participate in amending formula discussions which directly affect the territories such as the creation of new provinces or the extension of provincial boundaries into the territories.

Kakfwi's presentation outlines several areas where the proposed legislation might restrict territorial interests. It states that the proposed bill, as written, might exclude the territories from participating in national unity issues leading up to and including the 1997 national constitutional conference.

Territorial participation at First Ministers' Conferences had been confirmed and supported by the Liberals through their endorsement of the Charlottetown Agreement and the Beaudoin-Edwards report in 1991. Kakfwi's presentation explains that Bill C-110 turns back the clock on progress that has been made in recent years.

Other elements of the bill would create more cumbersome amending procedures which would restrict the ability of the federal and territorial governments to address aboriginal constitutional matters. In addition, the bill fails to recognize or make allowances for the new territory of Nunavut when Nunavut comes into effect in 1999.

The Senate committee can make amendments to Bill C-110 which could address these issues. The Senate votes on the bill before sending it back to the House of Commons for final approval.

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



96-006

Fisheries Act Charges Disappointing

YELLOWKNIFE (January 23) — Minister of Transportation Jim Antoine says that he is surprised and disappointed that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has proceeded with charges against the government in relation to winter road construction.

The charges, filed in Territorial Court on December 29, refer to regulations under the federal Fisheries Act and relate to last year's winter road construction activities in the Mackenzie Valley north of Wrigley.

Each year the Department of Transportation constructs a winter road north from Wrigley to the communities of Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Deline and Fort Good Hope. The road is the major transportation link to the communities for the supply of fuel, food and materials. It also provides a short period of time each year when residents can travel by road to visit family members in neighbouring communities.

The winter road system relies on a supply of snow to create a road base, to fill small creek gullies and to build snow bridges across larger streams and rivers. Last year was a particularly difficult year for road construction because of the low snow levels in the Sahtu area early in the season.

Mr. Antoine said he is concerned over the impact the charges might have on winter road activities.

"The winter road system provides a vital link between communities", he stated. "The federal action threatens the winter road system causing great concern to community residents and myself."

The Minister went on to say that the government takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously. "We have taken all reasonable measures to minimize the impact of winter road construction and I am confident that our activities have not resulted in any significant damage."

Contact: D. Bruce Rattray
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(403) 920-3461

Press Statement

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

Commissioner's Award to be presented to Emmanuel Felix

YELLOWKNIFE (January 25, 1996) — Emmanuel Felix, Sr. of Tuktoyaktuk is the recipient of the Commissioner's Award for Public Service at the highest level.

Northwest Territories Commissioner Helen Maksagak will present Felix with the award at a special evening ceremony in Tuktoyaktuk on Friday, January 26, 1996.

"The people of Tuktoyaktuk thought it was time we all recognized Emmanuel for all the effort he has put towards making his community a better place to live," said Commissioner Maksagak.

The award is a recognition of the many years of service Felix has given to the community and Delta region. He served as an elected member of the Tuktoyaktuk Hamlet Council for 23 years and is an active participant on numerous committees.

"This means he spends many evenings away from home and family in service of that larger family -- his community," Commissioner Maksagak said. "It is an award well deserved."

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
(403) 873-7332



96-007

Eastern Arctic Fuel Contract Decided

YELLOWKNIFE (Jan. 26) — The Territorial government intends to enter into a 3-year contract with Northern Transportation Company Ltd. for the supply and delivery of petroleum products to the Eastern Arctic, according to Public Works and Services Minister Goo Arlooktoo.

NTCL's proposal was judged best and most cost effective of six received and evaluated by a steering committee of senior government officials and an independent consultant from Price Waterhouse. The contract has an estimated value of about \$85 million.

Mr. Arlooktoo said awarding the contract will be conditional on finalizing all if of its terms to the satisfaction of government and in accordance with the Request for Proposals.

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

Distribution List:

The following is an advance copy of a press release for your information.

**WORLD'S FIRST POLAR SATELLITE IMAGE TRANSMISSION TO BE
ATTEMPTED BETWEEN ARCTIC COMMUNITIES**

Aklavik, N.W.T., January 30, 1996 - A team including a scientist, engineer technician, and renowned Arctic photographer, Eugene Fisher, will arrive in Inuvik to establish a base to test leading edge communications technology in the Western Arctic.

On February 3, 1996, the SES / IDC team will travel to Aklavik and attempt an historic transmission from Aklavik to Inuvik. If successful it will be the first ever low earth orbiting polar satellite digital imaging transmission between two communities above the Arctic Circle.

The Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC) has been working with the Systems Engineering Society, (SES) of Massachusetts, USA, to develop affordable, reliable, light weight, voice, data and imaging technology for the Arctic. Traditional satellite technologies are less effective in communities North of Inuvik because of the curvature of the Earth relative to the position of most satellites over the equator.

Further testing is planned at a remote oil company camp on an ice road close to the Beaufort Sea and in the Community of Tuktoyaktuk. The tests will culminate with Sach's Harbour being featured on the global internet during the "24 Hours in Cyberspace", on February 8, 1996.

IDC is discussing the possibility with NEC, Kodak and HDM Digital, of supplying a number of communities with equipment, training and lines to explore the feasibility of a community based network linking the communities to each other and the Internet.

-30-

For More Information Contact:

Rick Selleck, Systems Engineering Society, (403) 979-2801

Agnes Tardiff, Aklavik Community Corporation, (403) 978-2815

David Connelly, President & CEO, Inuvialuit Development Corporation(403) 979-2419



96-008

Negotiations Resume for Rankin Tank Farm

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2) - Public Works and Services Minister Goo Arlooktoo says the government will negotiate provision of fuel storage services at Rankin Inlet with officials of a joint venture involving Tapiriit Developments and Sakku Investments Ltd.

Under consideration is relocation of existing fuel storage facilities in Rankin Inlet to a new site within the community and the construction of an additional 15 million litres of new storage capacity.

Should negotiations be successful, the contractor will own the tank farm, be responsible for its design, construction and operation and provide services to the government through a long-term contract of 20 to 25 years.

"This is the first instance of privatizing facilities and services in Nunavut that have traditionally been provided by the Government. The steps we're taking are expected to provide long-term business opportunities for the Keewatin Region," Mr. Arlooktoo said today.

"I'm very proud that this will be the first Inuit-owned and operated facility of its kind."

He said the significant savings to be realized by making Rankin the fuel shipping hub for the Keewatin, rather than Churchill, Manitoba, will be felt by all residents of the region.

An estimated 40 per cent of the Keewatin's fuel requirements are consumed in Rankin Inlet. Making that community the supply centre avoids the double handling and reshipping of the fuel products that are presently shipped to Churchill and from there to the Keewatin.

Mr. Arlooktoo said the government will also negotiate with Northern Transportation Company Ltd. to establish new tariff rates for the delivery of dry goods from Churchill and fuel product within the Keewatin Region, noting that there will be no increase to residents of the region for the dry cargo rates as a result of the initiative. NTCL recently was successful in its bid to obtain the resupply contract for the Eastern Arctic.

Negotiations for the tank farm began late last year with Tapiriit Developments, but they were suspended at the request of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated until discussions could take place regarding the inclusion of other interested parties.

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Negotiations Resume for Rankin Tank Farm: Page 2

Those discussions led to the joint venture proposed by Tapiriit and Sakku Investments. The two companies represent beneficiaries and shareholders throughout the Keewatin and Eastern Arctic.

The Churchill tank farm, owned by the Government of Canada, is scheduled to be shut down in 1998. The Territorial government had the opportunity to purchase the facility, but declined.

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(403) 873-7114



96-009

The Department of Renewable Resources Receives Wildlife Conservation Award

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2) - Safari Club International has presented its annual International Wildlife Conservation Award to the territorial government's Department of Renewable Resources.

Safari Club International is an organization dedicated to the conservation and management of wildlife. They are based in the United States and have over 130 chapters and over one million members world-wide.

The award is presented each year to a wildlife management agency that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in wildlife management. It was announced at a ceremony in Reno, Nevada, January 26.

Renewable Resources Minister Stephen Kakfwi says there has been tremendous international interest in the department's use of co-management boards and agreements which directly involve community leaders and aboriginal hunters and trappers in wildlife management.

"It gives me great pleasure to see that our efforts are being recognized by the international community. We've been strengthening our working relationship with northern harvesters, largely because their knowledge about the land and wildlife is vital to its conservation."

The international group examined the polar bear co-management agreements established in the eastern Arctic, and reviewed the operations of the five regional wildlife management boards, in particular the Beverly, Qaminariak and the International Porcupine Caribou Management Boards.

Safari Club International also praised the department for developing and supporting world-class outfitting opportunities to hunt and fish in the North.

"We have a well-regulated guiding and outfitting industry that we would like to see grow and prosper - providing that the laws that govern the taking of fish and wildlife are respected," says Mr. Kakfwi.

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



96-010

Cultural Enhancement Contribution Program 1995/96 Funded Projects

YELLOWKNIFE (February 9) – Several groups and individuals in the Northwest Territories have received funding for the 1995/96 fiscal year for projects under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's Cultural Enhancement Contribution Program:

The program offers financial assistance to community-based groups to promote and preserve the cultural identity of the indigenous cultures of the Territories. Projects that meet this mandate are given priority.

Projects funded include:

- Baffin Regional Youth council, for cultural enhancement workshops as part of a ten-day camp for young people in two Baffin locations – Pond Inlet and Broughton Island
- Baker Lake Hospice Society, to teach traditional knowledge related to survival skills to the young people of Baker Lake
- Cape Dorset Youth Justice Committee, to deliver a program to teach young adults traditional on-the-land survival skills
- Coppermine Radio Society, to provide for storytelling as a cultural activity to transmit skills and knowledge over the radio
- Coral Harbour Community Education Council, to conduct an evening program of traditional skills teaching
- Dene Cultural Institute, for cultural workshops in the Dogrib communities to share the results of research on the traditional governing systems
- Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, for a three-week field school at Martin Zheh in which elders taught various traditional bush skills
- Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, to conduct three camps where students from the Gwich'in Settlement area go on the land with an elder who teaches them traditional environmental knowledge and bush skills
- Inullariit Society, Igloodik, to teach specific skin-sewing skills to young people
- Inuvialuit Social Development Program, to deliver the Inuvialuit language and cultural camp program in six communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

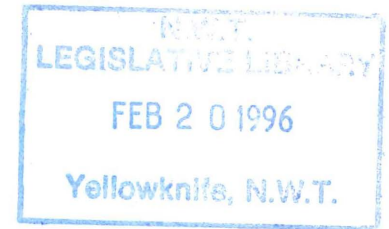
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Cultural Enhancement Contribution Program 1995/96 Funded Projects: Page 2

- Pangnirtung Kayak Club, to reintroduce the skill of building an Inuit kayak to the youth of the community
- Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre, to operate a cultural daycamp for youth that teaches traditional values and skills
- Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre, to conduct a drum and snowshoe making course for men
- Métis Heritage Association, to research, document and promote Michif as the first phase of a three-year project

Applications for funding under this program for the 1996/97 fiscal year are now being accepted. For application guidelines, contact: Community Programs, Culture and Heritage Division, Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife at 403-920-6963. All applications must be submitted to the Culture and Heritage Division by February 28, 1996.

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



96-011

Heritage Day An Opportunity To Celebrate Roots

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15) - Heritage Day is an excellent time for all northerners to celebrate their culture, says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Heritage Day is sponsored by the Heritage Canada Foundation, and this year it will be held on February 19.

"Heritage provides a foundation for each of us. It shapes how we see the world, how we learn, and how we relate to others," Mr. Dent says. "Heritage Day offers an opportunity for each of us to learn a bit more about our culture, and a bit more about ourselves."

This year's national theme for Heritage Day focuses on the contributions of Nordic Canadians.

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre will be "celebrating the Nordic Spirit" with its Amazing Sundays program on February 18. Events will include the First Annual Knut Skibstad L'il Loppet ski race for children age 5 to 12. The race is being held to honour the late Knut Skibstad, a Canadian of Norwegian descent who worked as a cabinetmaker and exhibit fabricator at the Northern Heritage Centre for 14 years. Mr. Skibstad enjoyed cross-country skiing while growing up in Norway. He was also as an active member of the community who coached speedskating for the Arctic Winter Games.

Other activities to be held during Amazing Sundays on February 18 include a film on Jackrabbit Johannsen, who brought cross-country skiing to Canada a hundred years ago. The film will be introduced by Yellowknife resident Kim Poole, who is part Norwegian and who has met Jackrabbit Johannsen.

In addition, the Northern Heritage Centre will be open on Monday, February 19, offering a series of children's activities to promote awareness of Nordic Canadian cultures.

Museums and heritage organizations in other NWT communities will also hold events and activities in celebration of Heritage Day.

The Northwest Territories has a rich cultural heritage that stretches over thousands of years. There are many ways in which all northerners can learn more about their own culture and heritage. Here are some suggestions for heritage activities that can be carried out through the year:

- celebrate with all Canadians on national Heritage Day, Monday, February 19, 1996
- learn about an NWT artist or author
- visit an elder and ask about his or her childhood

Heritage Day An Opportunity To Celebrate Roots: Page 2

- trace the origin of your street or community name
- make a "time capsule" to give to a family member or school class in the next generation
- develop a list of family traditions (family foods, daily rituals, etc.)
- spend an evening looking at family photo albums
- plan a visit to a museum, heritage building or historic site
- tape record or write a family letter to be opened in the future
- go for a walk and enjoy the natural surroundings
- share a heritage meal using a traditional family recipe
- exchange stories or traditions with someone from another culture
- learn about the many cultures that make up your community
- learn about how your favourite sport began

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

Communique

Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15) - Northwest Territories Premier Don Morin has launched an ambitious plan to reduce government expenditures by \$150 million in order to return to a balanced budget within two years.

Morin said in a statement to the Legislature here Tuesday afternoon that his government will bring things back into line through a combination of program and service reductions, by cutting back on wages and benefits paid to employees, layoffs, privatization and a reduction in the number of departments.

Premier Morin, his cabinet and members of the Legislative Assembly have been working on a deficit management plan that will come together when Finance Minister John Todd presents the budget in late April or early May.

His government came into office last November facing a deficit projection of \$120 million. About \$60 million of that amount resulted from federal budget cuts.

Since then the situation has worsened, mainly because of how the financial arrangement between the Territories and Canada responds to provincial government cuts.

There's no jiggle room. It would take a 66 per cent increase in personal income tax to make up the shortfall. Rather than increasing taxes, the government intends to trim and consolidate its operations.

"Many of the old ways of doing things cost far too much money, Morin told the House Tuesday, adding that the Territories needs a change in direction in order the build the kind of future people want.

"Government is too large. We can no longer afford to be spending nearly half of every dollar for administration costs," he said.

Morin said new opportunities will be created by cutting back on government overhead and getting what money it can out to the communities, in the form of block funding, so that locally-elected leaders can set their own priorities and have the management and budget controls needed to get the job done.

"Government has to serve the people, not itself. It is not only necessary. It is right and we are going to do it."

Morin said job opportunities will be created through privatization and by seizing other economic development opportunities.

“We have a young, capable and willing population who can benefit from any opportunities we can create,” he stated, noting that there are exciting opportunities, particularly in the development of mineral resources as long as they proceed in a socially and environmentally-sound manner .

He said economic and employment benefits that will result from the current diamond play in the western Territories are immense.

However, the premier cautioned that the Territories will have to be aggressive with mining companies so that northern workers replace southern workers and get the opportunity for wage employment in the land where they live.

Northern control over northern resources is an essential part of the government’s strategy. Unlike the provinces, mineral and oil and gas development is currently controlled by Ottawa. Any revenue associated with non-renewable resource development goes to the federal government.

Because of this, Morin told the Legislature, the Territories must take control of the land and all of its resources.

“This is more significant to us than it is to Ottawa from a revenue perspective. The legislative authority is also important. It would let us manage the gas and oil exploration and mineral development that is currently taking place,” he said.

“The land we occupy belongs to the people who live here. It's time for people in the Northwest Territories to control their own future. It's time for the Federal Government to let go.”

Contact: Art Sorensen
Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
(403) 669-2301

Communique

Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 16) - Proposed amendments to the Public Service Act in the Northwest Territories will give union employees working in non-essential services the right to strike.

Finance Minister John Todd tabled the amendments in the Legislative Assembly today.

Todd said the government is facing tough times. It has to reduce expenditures by \$150 million in order to get back to a balanced budget within two years.

"All spending, including wages and benefits, must be considered for reductions," he said. "This has to be done in a fair and responsible manner."

The minister stated the amendments are required to set a more positive framework for negotiations with representatives of unionized employees on changes that will affect them. Current practices require disagreements arising during the negotiation of a collective agreement to be referred to a southern arbitrator.

Tabling of the amendments follows the announcement earlier this week of an ambitious government plan to return to a balanced budget.

The Legislature was told the government will bring things back into line through a combination of program and service reductions, by cutting back on wages and benefits paid to employees, layoffs, privatization and a reduction in the number of departments.

Premier Don Morin, his cabinet and members of the Legislative Assembly have been working on a deficit management plan that will come together when the finance minister presents the budget in late April or early May.

Todd told the House the amendments to the act places full responsibility for settling issues of common interest on both parties.

He said the changes would provide the government with the ability to change the terms and conditions of employment if negotiations fail to reach a new collective agreement within a reasonable time after the existing contract expires.

The union and employees, in turn, would have the right to withdraw their services if these changes are unacceptable to them.

"The Government values its employees and remains hopeful that all employee groups including our unionized employees will work with the government on finding solutions to our common problems," Todd stated.

Contact: **Art Sorensen**
Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
(403) 669-2301



96-012

Program Funds for Community-Based French Language Projects

YELLOWKNIFE (February 20) - La Fédération Franco-Ténoise received \$200,000 during the 1995/96 fiscal year to deliver a contribution program for French cultural projects in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and Iqaluit.

The funding was made available to the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages.

The program's objective is to support community and cultural development initiatives of the Francophone community by providing funding for cultural enhancement projects.

Education, Culture and Employment Minister Charles Dent says the funding supports language communities in setting their own priorities, noting that the program has the flexibility to make it possible for the Fédération Franco-Ténoise to decide how money should be allocated and for what purpose.

Examples of some of the cultural activities that have been funded include:

- territorial seminars on education
- adult education courses
- daycare programs
- a resource kit for parents
- the 10th anniversary celebration of l'Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife
- the annual Cabane à Sucre
- summer camp for children 6-12 years old
- a book and music fair
- film festival
- funding for a theatre group

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





96-013'

NWT Mineral Reports released

YELLOWKNIFE (February 20) - The current state of mining exploration and development in the Northwest Territories is outlined in two publications released this week by the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Significant Mineral Deposits of the Northwest Territories summarizes information on mineral discoveries made in the Territories.

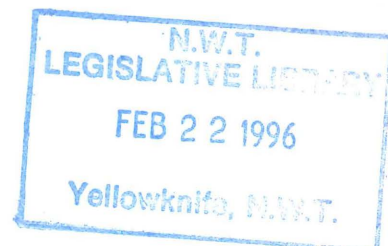
Information is drawn from department geologists, the Geological Survey of Canada, DIAND and from the mining industry. The discoveries include those undergoing active development work as well as discoveries which are not currently economic to develop.

The NWT Mineral Sector Report 1994 outlines exploration and development work in the territories.

It summarizes the work done in 1994 on various exploration projects and the results found so far. The report also reviews initiatives which affect northern mining such as commodity prices, labour markets and land claims agreements.

The publications are available from the Minerals Resources Division of the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in Yellowknife at (403) 920 - 3222.

Contact: Michael Cunningham
Director, Mineral Resources
Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources
(403) 920-3222



News Release/Communiqué

96-014

Northwest Territories Statutes On-line

YELLOWKNIFE (February 23) - Northwest Territories legislation is now available on the Internet in both English and French.

Federal Minister of Justice Allan Rock and Territorial Minister of Justice Stephen Kakfwi will be attending the Canadian Bar Association meeting at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife where the project will be officially launched February 26.

The legislative database is a joint venture of the federal and territorial departments of justice.

"The project is part of the federal government's effort to ensure there is Canadian legal content on the Information Highway and that provincial and territorial statutes and regulations are available to the public," said Minister Rock .

A representative of the Access to Justice Network (ACJNet) will give demonstrations of the Northwest Territories statute database to interested participants and the public on February 26.

"The on-line availability of the statutes makes legal research easier for those involved in the justice system. This will also make our laws and legislation more accessible to the general public," Justice Minister Kakfwi said. "The statutes are fully consolidated to February 15 and we anticipate updating the consolidations every six months."

The system allows individuals to download the statutes they need to their own personal computers.

Minister of Public Works and Services Goo Arlooktoo said the on-line database will be expanded in the future to include territorial regulations and the rules of court. "The Territorial Printer is responsible for publishing our statutes and other legislation and this provides another means of getting the information out to the people who need it."

.../2

Northwest Territories Statutes On-line: Page 2

The Access to Justice Network is a partnership of the federal Department of Justice, the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension, The NirvCentre and the University of Montreal Centre de recherche en droit public. The ACJNet mandate is to provide access to legal and justice information for the Canadian public and to support cost effective communications within the Canadian justice system.

The Canadian Statutes and Regulations, where the Northwest Territories statutes are located, can be found on the Internet at www.droit.umontreal.ca/ACJNet/index_en.html.

Contact : **Mark Aitken**
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Press Statement

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

Commissioner's Award presented to Andy Kaotalok

CAMBRIDGE BAY (February 23) - Northwest Territories Commissioner Helen Maksagak awarded the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the highest level to Andy Kaotalok of Cambridge Bay.

Commissioner Maksagak presented the award today to Andy at an assembly of teachers and students in Kullik School where Andy is a student.

The Commissioner made the award for Kaotalok's efforts in saving his brother, Bobby Kingektak Jr., from drowning on July 28, 1995. Bobby Jr. and his father, Bobby Sr., were checking fishing nets 25 metres from shore when their boat swamped and sunk. Andy heard their cries for help, launched another boat and went to their rescue. He was able to pull his brother into the boat but couldn't reach his father who was submerged.

Andy returned to shore to get help and returned to the accident site with another resident of the community. He was able to grab hold of his submerged father with a seal hook and pull him to the surface and into the boat. Both attempted CPR but were unsuccessful in reviving Bobby Sr.

"It's obvious that had Andy not acted swiftly with great presence of mind and as bravely as he did, his brother Bobby would certainly have perished," Commissioner Maksagak said. "It is saddening that they were unable to save Bobby Sr.; however, at the same time, we must be glad that Andy was there and could act so bravely in saving the life of his brother."

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
873-7332



Media Advisory

To: Northern Media
Subject: Arviat state of emergency lifted
Date: February 26, 1996 5:00 pm

YELLOWKNIFE - The state of local emergency in the community of Arviat has been lifted and the public buildings which were closed for the past four days are now reopened, says the Minister of Health and Social Services Kelvin Ng.

The state of local emergency was declared February 22 after the community experienced an outbreak of respiratory syncytial virus or RSV. To date approximately twenty-four young children and infants have been medivaced to hospitals in Churchill or Winnipeg with the virus. One death has been reported.

"We are keeping a very close eye on the situation there," says Mr. Ng. "Hamlet and health officials met this morning and will continue to monitor the conditions."

RSV is a contagious, communicable disease, It strikes like a common cold but on occasion develops into symptoms similar to the flu with high fever and severe lung congestion and mucus. The disease can be fatal in tiny infants whose airways constrict and clog with mucus. It can be transmitted in the same way as a cold or flu. In adults, the symptoms resemble a bad cold. Prevention involves covering up sneezes and coughs and washing hands often.

Public notices have been posted on buildings throughout the community to advise the general population about health precautions family members can take to prevent the spread of the virus.

Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer/Territorial Epidemiologist Dr. Andre Corriveau flew into the community February 22 to provide assistance to the community at large and families affected by the virus. Pamphlets, information brochures have also been handed out by nurses at the health centre, and public service announcements have been broadcast on the local radio station to keep the public informed.

The media are advised not to try to contact family members who have been affected by the outbreak. Information can be obtained from either the Hamlet of Arviat, Senior Administrative Officer Darren Flynn at (819) 857-2841 or Dr. Andre Corriveau at (403) 920-3231.

Sue Enge
Media Coordinator
Emergency Measures Organization
403 873-7083



96-015

Siksik celebrates its first birthday

YELLOWKNIFE (February 26) - For the past year, a siksik has been helping northern educators and students learn more about the world. But the siksik in question is not an Arctic ground squirrel -- it's the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's information site on the World-Wide Web. The World-Wide Web links computer information sites across the globe.

"Over the last few years, the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed itself to providing information to residents through the development of communications technology and information networks," says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "We are working with our partners in education to ensure northerners have access to the information highway, and that people from other countries have an opportunity to learn about the NWT."

Siksik was set up in February of 1995 to increase public access to information about the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; to serve as an electronic gathering place for the NWT learning community; and to host information sites called "home pages" for schools.

Siksik also contains direct links to other sources of information of interest to northerners, such as schools, curriculum resources, government information, Aboriginal resources, education resources from outside the NWT, academic (and other) circumpolar resources.

"Access to information technology is a key aspect of life-long learning and the development of community learning networks, as outlined in the department's strategic plan," Mr. Dent says. "Siksik is part of the infrastructure that will support the community learning networks model."

Siksik is maintained by Education, Culture and Employment's Information Networks division. Siksik's home page is found at <http://siksik.learnnet.nt.ca>.

One of the most popular systems for finding information on the World-Wide Web is called "Gopher," because it helps people tunnel through the wealth of information available. The name "Siksik" was chosen for Education, Culture and Employment's site because it is the closest thing to a gopher you can find in Arctic Canada.

Contact: Rici Lake
Coordinator, Distance Learning Systems
(403) 873-7251
rici@learnnet.nt.ca

Press Statement

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

Three from Gjoa Haven receive Bravery Commendations

YELLOWKNIFE (February 26) - Northwest Territories Commissioner Helen Maksagak will present bravery commendations to Sam Kenerk, James Kununak and Clarence Siutinnuaq of Gjoa Haven for saving five children from drowning.

The children, ranging in age from seven to 15 years, were riding on a four-wheeler ATV across lake ice near the community. They were going skating on another lake nearby. The ATV fell through the ice and dumped all five children into the water.

Kenerk, Kununak and Siutinnuaq, who were nearby and saw the accident, carefully raced over and managed to pull all five children out of the water.

"If it was not for these three men, the community of Gjoa Haven might have been a much sadder place today," Commissioner Maksagak said.

Commissioner Maksagak will present the recipients with the Commissioner's Award for Bravery (Letters of Commendation) at a ceremony in Gjoa Haven in April.

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
873-7332



96-016

Chief Coroner appointed

YELLOWKNIFE (February 28) - Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi appointed Mr. Len Davies as Chief Coroner on February 27, 1996 under the authority of the Coroners Act .

The administration of the Coroner Program will now be the responsibility of the Director of the Law Enforcement Division as a result of financial restraint measures initiated by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Davies is the Director of the Law Enforcement Division in the Department of Justice and now also assumes the duties of the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Contact: Nora Sanders
Acting Deputy Minister
Justice
403 - 873 - 7453



96-017

Premiers place bet on Arctic Winter Games

YELLOWKNIFE (March 4) - Premier Don Morin has a bet with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein.

Mr. Morin bet the Alberta premier that the Northwest Territories would be awarded the Hodgson Trophy at the conclusion of the Arctic Winter Games.

That would force Mr. Klein to wear the Territorial team jacket during an afternoon sitting of the Alberta Legislature. If Alberta wins the award, Premier Morin will wear the Alberta team jacket in the Territorial Legislature.

"We've already swapped team jackets so there won't be any delay collecting on the bet," Morin said.

The Hodgson Trophy is presented to the competing jurisdiction whose athletes demonstrate the best sportsmanship. The Northwest Territories won the award for the first time in 1992. Team Greenland won it during the last games in 1994.

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



96-018

Committee to Review Lay-Off Notice

YELLOWKNIFE (March 5) - A Department of Justice recommendation that led to a notice of lay-off being presented to the Territories' chief coroner will be reviewed.

The review was requested by the Standing Committee on Social Programs, one of three committees established by the Legislative Assembly to consider departmental business plans.

Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi said today he will be presenting background information and options to the committee when it sits in mid-March.

Chief Coroner Jo MacQuarrie was notified early last week of the department's intention to declare her position surplus because of a shortage of operating funds. The formal lay-off notice would not be issued until after March 22, giving Ms. MacQuarrie and the department time to explore various options.

Her supervisor Len Davies has been appointed Chief Coroner. Mr. Davies is the Director of Law Enforcement for the Department of Justice.

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



96-019

GNWT Supports Proposal to Transfer Social Programs to Fort Liard

YELLOWKNIFE (March 13) - The territorial government is supporting in principle a proposal from the Ache Dene in Fort Liard to transfer responsibility for a number of social programs to a community-based board, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

Recently, representatives of the territorial government and the Acho Dene (formerly known as the Fort Liard Band), discussed a proposal which would result in a consolidation of the human services committees and service organizations in Fort Liard into one community organization directed by a local board.

This board would manage a number of social program activities, including: the design and delivery of income assistance to suit community needs; integrating service delivery into a "one-window" system to improve efficiency and reduce costs; and working with the courts to integrate poverty-related support services with justice and rehabilitation.

The new structure would be supported by, but separate from, the Hamlet, Band and Metis local, so that each organization could focus on its specific responsibilities. For instance, the municipality would continue its focus on municipal "hard" services (i.e. water and roads), while the Band and Metis local would focus on "soft" services (i.e. social and cultural programs), as well as continue with their business initiatives.

While unconnected to land claims and not a self-government agreement, the new system would provide the almost 100% aboriginal client group with a meaningful capacity to design and deliver locally sensible programming. Yet, in the aboriginal tradition of sharing, the new system would be sensitive to the needs of all Fort Liard residents.

"I am pleased to support this innovative proposal from the Acho Dene. It supports a number of the territorial government's priorities, including empowering communities to make decisions on matters that most affect them," Mr. Dent says. "The proposal emphasizes streamlining services and making the best possible use of resources."

"The proposal also supports the work of the Minister's Forum on Income Support, focusing on the importance of offering people assistance in a culturally appropriate way, and taking into account the relationships between fields like education and justice." Mr. Dent said.

Acho Dene Chief Harry Deneron added, "We recognize the financial difficulties facing the territorial government. It is essential that programs are tailored to community's needs and we should get rid of the duplication of effort and counter-productive goals. My community has said, 'Give us block funding and real policy-making capability, and we will deal with our social and fiscal challenges.'"

GNWT Supports Proposal to Transfer Social Programs to Fort Liard: Page 2

Chief Deneron added that "we see community empowerment as a commitment toward the shared goal of ownership of social programs. Using our community's discussion paper as a basis for the talks, we are starting with what we need to do, not with what we can't do."

Senior officials from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will lead a government team and meet with community representatives to begin working out details of the new working relationship.

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



96-020

Hodgson Trophy Goes to Team NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (March 14) - Team NWT has been awarded the Hodgson Trophy for demonstrating outstanding fair play and good sportsmanship during the Arctic Winter Games in Chugiak-Eagle River, Alaska.

Manitok Thompson, the Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation in the NWT, who attended the 14th Arctic Winter Games from March 4 - 10, and Chef de Mission Dave Hurley accepted the trophy on behalf of Team NWT.

"There's more to sport and competition than just winning. While our players did extremely well, they also exhibited tremendous respect for their opponents, officials and rules and deserve recognition," Ms. Thompson said.

The Hodgson Trophy is presented at each Games to the contingent whose athletes best exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship.

The trophy is an Inuit piece of artwork. Scrimshaw decorates the narwhal tusk that stands as the centrepiece of the trophy, which is mounted on a soapstone base. A walrus carved into the base wraps itself around the tusk, and near the top, a soapstone bear clings to the tusk, symbolizing "reaching for the top" in athletics and fair play.

The Hodgson Trophy is on display in Yellowknife at the offices of the Sport North Federation. For the first time this year, each athlete, coach and team member received a Hodgson Trophy Pin.

Yukon received the Hodgson Trophy from 1978 - 1988, Alaska in 1990, Team NWT in 1992 and Team Greenland in 1994.

Contact: Dave Ramsden
Deputy Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs
(403) 873-7118



Media Advisory

To: Northern Media

Subject: Measles Revaccination Campaign

Date: March 19, 1996

In the next few weeks, children across the Northwest Territories will be revaccinated for measles. The NWT joins most of Canada in the second stage in a massive catch-up campaign to eradicate measles in Canada aimed at school age children and adolescents in 1996. Ontario has already started its reimmunization campaign. In the Northwest Territories, most of the revaccination will be done in the schools in April and May 1996, although in some regions the program may have already begun.

Who will be revaccinated?

All children up to the age of 18 who only received a single dose of measles vaccine in the past will be offered revaccination. The vaccine will also include protection against rubella, or German measles. School children and those attending daycare will be the first to be vaccinated. Others will be reached later this year. The vaccinations will only be given with a parent's or guardian's consent.

Why do we care about measles?

The illness commonly known as red measles is caused by a virus called rubeola. Although generally viewed as a somewhat benign illness, measles can cause grave complications depending on nutritional status and age. In North-America, pneumonia is seen in one to five per cent of cases, encephalitis (brain inflammation) in one case per 1000 (often leaving permanent brain damage) and death in one case per 2000. During the last measles outbreak in the eastern NWT in 1991, 10 per cent of nearly 500 cases required hospitalization, which meant substantial costs in medical travel and health care services rendered outside the territories.

Why a re-immunization campaign?

A first vaccine against measles became available in the mid-60s in Canada. The vaccine was eventually combined with that for rubella and mumps. MMR-II has been in use since 1981. Outbreaks, previously seen every two to three years, have decreased in size and frequency since then. However, despite initial hopes that a single dose would suffice, we now know a booster dose is needed to confer lifelong immunity and eradicate the disease. The single dose leaves approximately 15 per cent of children with insufficient antibody levels to protect them against the

virus. Over a five to seven year period, the number of susceptible individuals gradually increases, until an outbreak is possible if the virus is reintroduced in the region. Providing two doses of the vaccine will bring immunity levels up above 95 per cent, which will permanently interrupt transmission of the virus in our population, even if it should be introduced inadvertently from elsewhere.

Immunization is one of the most important success stories of modern preventive health care. Smallpox, which used to be a major cause of death around the world, has been completely eliminated since the early 1980s. Polio, a much-feared disease in past generations, is also on the way to being eradicated, and has been officially wiped out in the Americas since 1994. Just a few years ago, the introduction of a new vaccine against Haemophilus B resulted almost overnight in the disappearance of one of the most common causes of bacterial meningitis in infants.

Contact: André Corriveau
Medical Health Officer
Department of Health and Social Services
403-920-3303



96-021

Government Wants More Information

YELLOWKNIFE (March 20) - Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Don Morin is pleased with progress made by Interprovincial Pipelines (IPL) and Imperial Oil to reduce the tariff on using the Norman Wells oil pipeline.

However, the government wants additional information and has asked IPL to initiate a settlement conference before April 30, 1996, to allow the interested parties to review the proposal in detail.

The government would then decide on whether to withdraw its motion, or to continue to press the matter with the National Energy Board.

The companies recently reached a negotiated agreement-in-principle in response to the government's complaint on the tariff to the National Energy Board last October.

"A reduction in pipeline transportation costs will increase the value of our oil and gas resources. This should lead to increased exploration and development activity, and create new jobs, business opportunities and other economic benefits," Mr. Morin said.

Mr. Morin also noted that the reduction in the tariff will result in additional revenues to both Imperial Oil and the federal government, which owns one-third of the production from the Norman Wells oil field.

The Territorial government doesn't receive revenues from Norman Wells or any other oil and gas or mineral properties in the Northwest Territories. It is in the process of trying to finalize a package that would give the Territories northern control over northern resources.

"I can assure you that we won't be sitting on our hands while all of the revenue benefits from Norman Wells flow to the south. We will continue our efforts to achieve northern control and access to revenues from our resources."

Contact: Graham Nicholls
Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
(403) 873-7224



96-022

Additional Funds Provided to Coroner's Program

YELLOWKNIFE (March 20) - A notice of intent to lay-off Jo MacQuarrie as Chief Coroner of the Northwest Territories will not be proceeding.

Justice Minister Stephen Kakfwi made the announcement today following a review of the matter that had been requested by the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Ms. MacQuarrie's had been notified in late February that the Department of Justice intended to eliminate her position because of a shortage of operating funds. She was told the formal notice would not be issued until after March 22, giving her and the department time to explore various options.

A number of options were presented to the Standing Committee this morning. The discussion resulted in a decision to allocate additional funds to the Coroner's Program. As a result, the lay-off notice will not be processed.

Contact: Nora Sanders
Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Justice
(403) 873-7453



96-023

Language Leaders Receive Premier's Award

YELLOWKNIFE (March 28) - Three northerners who have demonstrated their commitment to their language have been selected to receive the Premier's inaugural Community Language Leader Award this week.

Mariano Aupilardjuk from Rankin Inlet, Johnny Eyakfwo from Rae-Edzo and Suzanne Lefebvre from Iqaluit will receive an honorary plaque and \$250 for the work they have done to preserve and promote the use of Inuktitut, Dogrib and French, respectively. An additional \$250 each will be donated to a community organization of their choice that is involved in language development.

The award is the first of its kind to be offered by the territorial government in its effort to promote and preserve language diversity in the Northwest Territories, says Premier Don Morin.

He says all three of them deserve special recognition because the survival of a culture is based on keeping the language alive in the home, school and workplace, something which they have done remarkably well.

"The very survival of our languages depends on exceptionally dedicated people like this going beyond ordinary measures to keep language alive. Our recipients have shown us how committed they are, now it's our turn to show our appreciation," says Premier Morin.

There are three language groups recognized in the Award: Dene/Cree, Inuktitut and French. Because English is the predominant language used in the NWT, it is not included.

About the winners:

Mr. Eyakfwo is an elder who has acted as a resource person in the development of a Dogrib Dictionary. He often works as a volunteer promoting the traditional way of life in his community and region and participates in the aboriginal language courses offered at the local schools in Rae-Edzo.

Mr. Aupilardjuk is an elder, a carver and a recognized ambassador of the Inuktitut language and Inuit culture. He is a consummate teacher and a captivating speaker. He has also worked with the Kivalliq Inuit Association teaching drum dances and songs to the youth.

Language Award - page 2

Ms. Lefèbvre works as a French language instructor at the Nakasuk Elementary School in Iqaluit. She has served as president of the Association francophone d'Iqaluit, director of the Comité-femmes d'Iqaluit and has been a longstanding member of the Fédération Franco-TéNOise's board of directors. She also received the *Prix Jeanne Sauvé* award in 1993 for her work as a volunteer for the francophone community.

There were ten finalists in the competition altogether, representing each of the nine official languages - two individuals tied in the Inuktitut category. The seven other finalists, who will receive a certificate in appreciation of their personal commitment to language, include: Bertha Francis of Fort McPherson (Gwich'in), Mary Wilson of Yellowknife (North Slavey), Andy Norwegion of Fort Simpson (South Slavey), Jonas Adams of Fort Smith (Chipewyan), Rosemary Meyok of Kugluktuk (Inuinnaqtun), Fred Wolki of Tuktoyaktuk (Inuvialuktun), and Mark Kalluak of Arviat (Inuktitut).

The award coincides with Aboriginal Languages Month in March and Francophone Week from March 20-26.

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Official Languages Unit
Department of Executive
(403) 920-6960



96-024

Surplus Computer Equipment Goes to Chief Julius School

YELLOWKNIFE (March 28) - The Government of the Northwest Territories is collecting surplus computers for the Chief Julius School in Ft. MacPherson. The school recently lost its computer equipment in the January fire.

"I am delighted that this government has been able to assist the school in acquiring their computers," said Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "I would like to thank the Department of Public Works and Services and the federal government for coordinating this endeavour and all of the departments who were able to contribute their surplus equipment."

So far, 15 computers have been collected for the school from various departments.

The Economic Development Agreement Directorate is donating a fully integrated Apple computer system valued at about \$37,000 to the Chief Julius School. The system includes 4 computers, 1 lap top, printers, modems and software. The Economic Development Agreement Directorate, an agency jointly funded by the federal and territorial governments, will be closing its offices as of March 31, 1996. The computers would have been surplus and sent to the GNWT warehouse.

Contacts:

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Bill Kaip
Department of Public Works and Services
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Hugh McKee
Manager, EDA Directorate
(403) 920-8744



96-025

Health Scholarships Offered to NWT Students

YELLOWKNIFE (April 12) - The Department of Health and Social Services will provide financial support to people interested in pursuing or furthering a career in health or social services in the NWT.

The department's scholarships help students in environmental health, social worker, dental therapist, alcohol and drug worker, nurse and other related programs at the college or university level. Studies must lead to a certificate, degree or diploma.

These scholarships are only available to Northwest Territories residents. Successful applicants can use the money help with fees, books and materials, air fares, accommodation expenses, and so on.

The application deadline is June 15, 1996. Information is available at community health centres or from: Barry Lange, Senior Human Resource Planner, Department of Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9. Tel: 403-873-7058 or toll-free 1-800-661-0782. Fax: 403-873-0280.

**Contact: Barry Lange
Health & Social Services
403-873-7058**



96-026

Community Constable Training Program Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (April 15) - A new community constable training program is being launched by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs this month to enhance the current enforcement authority of municipal bylaw officers, announced the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Manitok Thompson.

"We are working in cooperation with the RCMP "G" Division and the Department of Justice to establish a program where we will begin to see police service options enhanced at the community level," says Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson says the new program demonstrates two things: that the departments are working successfully with other agencies and communities, and that they have worked to empower communities at another level. She notes the newly trained officers will carry with them the authority of a Peace Officer which will grant them the authority to deal with a wider area of enforcement problems.

The Community Constable Training Program is being introduced to address concerns expressed at the 1995 annual general meeting of the NWT Association of Municipalities. Delegates said more bylaw officer training is required in communities to deal help them deal with enforcement issues.

Trainees will be expected to successfully complete an intensive four week training program at the RCMP Training Depot in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Municipal and Community Affairs regional staff will begin recruiting trainees for the program this month. Information packages have been prepared for those who are interested in taking the course and can be picked up from their regional Municipal and Community Affairs office.

Contact: Penny Ballantyne **or**
Deputy Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs
(403) 873-7118

Sue Enge
Public Affairs Officer
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2241



96-027

Morin Encourages Leaders to Find Common Ground

YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) - Premier Don Morin welcomed delegates at a self-government forum in Yellowknife today and encouraged them to work towards finding common ground.

"I hope we will be able to look back in a few years time and say this meeting represented a turning point for all of us because it was a time we decided to live and work together for the benefit of our people in the communities, regions and entire western territory," Mr. Morin said.

Premier Morin reminded participants that division of the Northwest Territories is only 35 months away and if they want to change the status quo in the West, everyone will have to work together.

Mr. Morin urged leaders to put aside their differences to begin the work of constructing a constitution for a new western territory.

He expressed confidence in the leaders' ability to seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a strong community in the West.

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Department of the Executive
(403) 669-2304



96-028

Fort McPherson Tent Project Builds Joint Venture Opportunity

YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) - The delivery of specially-made Logan tents to the territorial and federal government geologists from Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas this week marks the beginning of a new joint venture for the community-based company.

This partnership provided new jobs in Fort McPherson and future opportunities to manufacture products for Manta Industries of Winnipeg, one of North America's largest tent makers.

The major benefit that comes out of this project is the relationship developed between Manta Industries and Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas. This relationship could lead to work on other projects, said Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Steve Kakfwi.

The partnership was developed in response to the requirement from territorial and federal geologists for Logan Tents to use in geological field camps. The Fort McPherson company did not have the expertise to do the work at the time. Other large tent makers charged a premium for small, custom production runs.

The purchasing division of the Department of Public Works and Services in Yellowknife arranged the joint venture between Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas and Manta in Winnipeg to do the order. Manta provided the material and technical expertise; McPherson Tent and Canvas provided the people and facilities. The company doubled their workforce to ten people for the six week job and provided spin off benefits to northern suppliers and the Gwich'in-owned trucking company.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the geological mapping division of the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development combined their needs into one tent order. The Fort McPherson tent maker incorporated suggestions from geologists to improve the tent's design and durability.

Greg Toener, General Manager for Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas, said this project has given his company greater visibility in the marketplace but more important, "All the benefits are staying in the North."

Fort McPherson Tent Project Builds Joint Venture Opportunity: Page 2

Arctic Canada Wholesalers, a division of the NWT Development Corporation which acts as an agent for Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas, will target outfitters, expeditors and the Yukon government as markets for the McPherson-produced Logan tents. The company developed a special corporate pricing structure for volume purchases of the tents and their other canvas products.

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Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
(403) 920-3125

or

Bonita Melvin
Purchasing Officer
Public Works and Services
(403) 920-8866



Media Advisory

To: **YK Media**

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Subject:: Air Quality Monitoring Report

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Tests of air samples collected from monitoring sites in the Yellowknife area during 1994 have been analyzed and are presented in the 1994 Air Quality Monitoring Data Report prepared by the Department of Renewable Resources' Environmental Protection Division.

Each year, the department collects air samples in the City to test the level of Sulphur Dioxide, Lead, Arsenic and Total Suspended Particulate (dust) that is in the air. Air samples collected at Snare Rapids are also tested for acidity. The analysis is conducted at Environment Canada laboratories in Ottawa and Toronto.

The Division is responsible for testing and monitoring air quality in the Northwest Territories.

If you would like to discuss the results or obtain a copy of the report, please contact Emery Paquin, Director, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Renewable Resources, Government of the NWT. Tel: (403) 873-7654 or Fax: (403) 873-0221.



96-029

Fuel Resupply and Transportation Contracts Awarded

YELLOWKNIFE (April 29) . Imperial Oil Ltd is being awarded a three-year contract to resupply fuel to communities in the Western Arctic and will be entering into final negotiations with the territorial government this week, says Public Works & Services Minister Goo Arlooktoo.

It is the first time an open competitive process for the contract was conducted, says Mr. Arlooktoo. In the past, the territorial government acquired fuel from the Norman Wells refinery through a fuel purchase agreement with Imperial Oil Ltd. but was unable to agree to a new contract this year.

Three firms submitted proposals and were evaluated on the basis of cost; logistical plans; northern content; and the company's legal status, management and technical capabilities and financial capacity.

"We chose the best overall proposal - which was also the most cost-effective," said Mr. Arlooktoo.

The contract also includes the fuel requirements of the NWT Power Corporation in the Western Arctic.

A separate contract will be awarded to Northern Transportation Company Limited (NTCL) to transport the fuel to the communities. NTCL is a wholly-owned northern company based out of Hay River.

The combined three year contracts for both the resupply and transportation of fuel products are valued at about \$67 million.

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96-030

Flaherty is Volunteer of the Year

YELLOWKNIFE (MAY 2) - Grise Fiord resident Peter Flaherty has been selected to receive the 1996 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Flaherty will receive a commemorative plaque, a Sonny MacDonald carving and a letter of citation from the Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Manitoak Thompson at a brief reception in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly today.

Mr. Flaherty works hard to make life easier for others by helping people with their chores each day. Over the years, Mr. Flaherty has been helping families delivering messages and assisting at the boat docks. He also regularly carries groceries home for the elderly.

"He has made life easier for all members of the community and never looks for remuneration," says Ms. Thompson.

Two families will receive honourable mentions. The late Louisa and Marc Tungilik have been taking care of orphans in Repulse Bay and always offered food and shelter to people in need.

The second honourable mention goes to Victor Menacho and his daughters, Cathy, Lucy Ann and Rena from Tulita. Victor and his daughters founded the Tulita Dreamcatchers Dance Group drawing a number of local children to the performing arts. The dance group recently performed at the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska.

Volunteers are essential to community wellness and go beyond the call of duty to make the NWT an even better place to live, says Ms. Thompson. She says their personal conviction and commitment is exemplary and merit the highest form of appreciation we can offer.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs introduced the NWT Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Service Award in 1991. The award is designed to commemorate volunteers in the NWT. A five-member panel review nominations each year. They include: Ann Meekitjuk Hansen (Iqaluit), Doug Crossley (Cambridge Bay), Larry Gordon (Inuvik), Rebecca Kudloo (Baker Lake), and Lynn Brooks (Yellowknife).

.../2

Flaherty is Volunteer of the Year: 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, Helene Usherwood of Yellowknife, 1995.

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403-873-7245

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Dept. of the Executive
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96-031

Exploring News Ways to Govern

YELLOWKNIFE (May 2) - The territorial government will be giving equal attention to the development of a new western Constitution and government as preparations to divide the territories to form Nunavut continues, Premier Don Morin told delegates at the Polar Commission's northern forum in Ottawa earlier this week.

Premier Morin says that he is confident the North will start working together to carve out a system of public government that blends the constitutional interests of its residents with the self-government aspirations of aboriginal groups.

The consensus to build a new constitution in the West was confirmed by aboriginal leaders at the Self-Government Forum held in Yellowknife last week.

"We see the division of the Territories in 1999 as an opportunity to put in place new approaches to government in the West. We are exploring new ways to govern ourselves through approaches that are relevant to northern circumstances as we move into the twenty-first century."

"This is not an easy exercise in this climate of fiscal restraint," says Mr. Morin. "But we are making progress."

The Premier further noted that the political development process in the North may offer valuable insights to those involved in the difficult task of reforming the Canadian federation at the national level. "We have demonstrated how a small population that has eight official languages, and forms more than a third of the country, can rise above its differences and find common ground to move ahead."

Premier Morin says Canadians should join in and prepare to celebrate in 1999 when two new political jurisdictions are established because this will be achieved within the context of Canada and the Canadian Constitution.

Contact: Susan Enge
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96-032

Building Partnerships through Joint Use of Facilities

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3) - The quality of life in northern communities can be enriched if local organizations, councils and District Education Authorities can strike agreements to share the use of their facilities, says Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Manito Thompson.

Ms Thompson says there are too many instances where buildings lie empty in the evening and unused on weekends when they can be used for hosting a variety of educational, cultural and recreational activities. She says joint use facility agreements can help local groups access facilities after working hours.

The Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Education, Culture and Employment have produced a 35-page booklet called *Establishing Partnerships: Community-Based Joint Use Agreements*. It will be mailed to all NWT communities in mid-May.

The guide shows how joint use agreements between two different organizations can be negotiated and established. It explains what standard terms and conditions are required, and the key elements required in developing a joint use agreement.

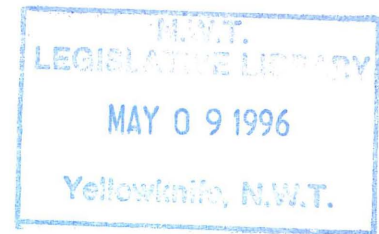
"All residents can benefit from having better access to facilities because it will generate more activity in the community," says Ms. Thompson. "More activity at the community level leads to healthier communities and a greater sense of community wellness."

Education, Culture and Employment Minister Charles Dent says the department is encouraging community councils, district education authorities, community groups/committees, adult educators, school principals and joint use committees to develop strong and positive partnerships.

"Studies have proven that a healthy, active body leads to better education performance. That's what we want to encourage in the North," says Mr. Dent.

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96-033

Seat Belt Safety Campaign Begins

YELLOWKNIFE (May 7) - Local law enforcement agencies will be conducting seat belt checkstops on roads and highways in communities across the Northwest Territories during the month of May.

Checkstops will be set up to ensure all drivers and passengers are wearing their seat belts and that child safety seats are properly secured, says Gary Walsh, Assistant Director for the Department of Transportation Motor Vehicles Division.

"While the use of seat belts by drivers and their passengers in Canada rose to a record high of 92 per cent in 1994, the use of seat belts in the NWT is still relatively low at 78 per cent - that's a slight increase from the previous year," says Mr. Walsh.

The failure to buckle up is the leading cause of death in motor vehicle collisions on NWT highways, he adds. Children should be properly secured in an approved child restraint system. Statistics reveal that the proper use of seat belts and child restraints for children continues to be very low at less than 50 per cent.

"Drivers and passengers have to accept the fact that wearing a seat belt can save lives and is required by law," he says. "Failure to buckle up can result in a fine and two demerit points added to the driver's licence."

The territorial-wide seat belt safety campaign coincides with National Transportation Week. The Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and local law enforcement agencies in all the communities work together to encourage the general public to buckle up when travelling on a road or highway.

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Department of Transportation

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96-034

Health Warning Labels Are Necessary

YELLOWKNIFE (May 9) - Liquor warning labels are effective and are an essential component of health promotion efforts in combatting alcohol abuse. That's the message that Inuvik MLA Floyd Roland delivered to a committee of MPs at public hearings on Parliament Hill today.

Mr. Roland was appearing as part of a three-person delegation that travelled to Ottawa to present the territorial government's position of proposed federal legislation that would require health warning labels on all alcohol beverage containers sold in Canada. Bill C-222 is being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Health in the House of Commons.

"Warning labels send a message that industry and governments, together, recognize that they are selling a unique product and that they are aware that some risks are associated with its use," Mr. Roland told the committee reviewing Bill C-222. "Warning labels set the stage for other awareness programs and health promotion strategies. We would like to see them on alcohol beverage containers in every Canadian province and territory."

Since 1992, the NWT Liquor Commission has had a policy that requires warning labels to be placed on products sold in Northwest Territories' liquor stores, with labelling costs borne by the government. Presently, the Yukon is the only other Canadian jurisdiction to have a warning label program. Bill C-222, if enacted, would force liquor manufacturers to label products elsewhere in Canada as well.

"These proposed amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* would have the effect of ensuring that a consistent message is provided in all provinces and territories, and it would shift the onus for providing this message to the liquor industry, where many northerners believe it belongs," said Mr. Roland.

Other members of the GNWT delegation were John Quirke, Deputy Minister of Safety and Public Services and Alan Downe, a senior official who has been coordinating a review of NWT liquor laws.

The NWT presentation followed an announcement in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday by Jim Antoine, Minister of Safety and Public Services. Mr. Antoine told MLAs that, "Frankly, we have been shocked and dismayed by some of the arguments that opponents of this bill have raised at public hearings to date."

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Media Advisory

To: News Desks

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Subject::

Date: Thursday, May 09, 1996

The water levels on the Salt River have dropped 14 inches since it peaked on Tuesday night, says Maurice Evans, Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Coordinator for the Fort Smith Region .

However, the threat of further flooding still remains. Residents are advised not to return to the area. Those who have remained at Salt river are asked to remain vigilant and ready to make arrangements to evacuate.

Representatives from the federal government's Water Survey of Canada, the EMO and Salt River resident Danny MacDonald flew over the river last night to look for further ice jams. Although there are large patches of ice still hung up at various locations on the river - due largely to the unseasonably cold temperatures - there were no visible signs of an ice jam.

Mr. Evans says there is still concern with two large ice patches situated on the Slave River between the community of Fort Smith and Bell Rock - just upstream from the confluence of the Salt River. He says there is still the possibility that the ice and water could back up into the Salt River causing further flooding and property damage.

The waters on both the Slave and Peace Rivers remain very high - although they are dropping slightly.

For further information, contact:

Maurice Evans
EMO Coordinator
Fort Smith Region
(403) 872-7286



Media Advisory

To: News Desks

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Subject:: Flood at Salt River

Date: Friday, May 10, 1996

The waters on the Salt River dropped again overnight, and have now dropped approximately 2 feet from the peak on Tuesday night.

Member of the Regional EMO Committee, and Chief Jerry Paulette of the Salt River First Nation, flew the Slave River at noon this day. All of the ice on the Slave River between Fort Smith and Salt River has now broken free and has moved past the confluence of the Salt River. Below Salt River, there are still some large patches of ice hung up near Grand De Tour, but there were no visible signs of ice jams.

The water levels on the Slave and the Peace Rivers continue to drop. The flows on the Peace River are now within its normal range, but the Slave River remains above seasonal averages.

Therefore, the threat of any further flooding and ice damage is now minimal, and residents may return to the area, but must continue to be on guard. Until all of the ice on the Slave River moves past Grand De Tour, the threat of a possible ice jam and waters backing up will not be completely eliminated.

Maurice Evans
EMO Coordinator
Fort Smith Region
(403) 872-7286



96-035

International Travel Trade Representatives to Tour Yellowknife and Inuvik

YELLOWKNIFE (May 13) - Twenty-four travel agents and tour operators from England, Western Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand will spend one day and night in Yellowknife and Inuvik each next week on a tour sponsored by the Department of Economic Development & Tourism.

The international visitors will tour and inspect the local sights, services and attractions in both communities and attend receptions to meet local tour operators and suppliers. The regional economic development and tourism offices are organizing the tour and making final arrangements.

"International travellers tend to book their vacations through agents and tour operators. It's important to increase awareness abroad of what the North has to offer as a quality travel destination spot. This is a productive and cost effective means of marketing the NWT," says Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Stephen Kakfwi.

Mr. Kakfwi says relationships which lead to increased business and tourism for NWT operators flow directly from tours like these. While less than ten percent of the visitors originate from outside the North American continent, this percentage will grow significantly over the next few years, he says.

The British and German markets are showing strong interest in the NWT - as is the Japanese market. Spain and Australia have been identified as good market potentials.

This tour was offered to buyers and sellers attending Rendez-vous Canada '96 in Edmonton as an post show option. Rendez-vous is an international travel trade show put on each spring by the Canadian Tourism Commission to promote sales of Canadian tour packages to international buyers. Close to 60 registrants expressed interest in the northern tour although there were only 24 selected.

A number of industry partners will also be contributing toward the success of this tour. Canadian North, NWT Air and are the corporate sponsors for travel between Edmonton, Yellowknife and Inuvik. Hotels in both communities will be providing accommodation on a complimentary basis. A number of local tour operators and suppliers will also be providing their services free of charge.

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96-036

Infrared Equipment Being Used to Detect Underground Hot Spots

YELLOWKNIFE (May 17) - Forest fire crews in the western Arctic will be searching over the next three weeks for fires that have been burning underground throughout the winter months, says the Minister of Renewable Resources Stephen Kakfwi.

"Although there were average snowfall levels in most regions, conditions still remain very dry in the southwest and extremely dry in the Fort Simpson and Fort Providence areas. We want to prevent these fires from flaring up on the surface and creating a bigger problem. So, it is essential we monitor the situation very closely," Mr. Kakfwi said.

The snow can act as an insulator for an underground fire. With deep, dry vegetative layers underneath the ground, fires can be kept burning slowly throughout the winter. As the snow melts and spring run-off is completed, the melt water can extinguish some underground fires. Sometimes, however, the fuels dry out on the surface or around a former burned out area and can cause a fire to become active again.

"Although smoke was reported last winter near the Rabbitskin River and Fort Norman areas, we found none when we flew over the Rabbitskin River last week, said Mr. Kakfwi.

Aircraft reconnaissance flights will be flying over the Fort Norman, Fort Providence, Redknife Hills and Horn Plateau areas to investigate. Infrared scanning equipment will be used on board to detect where there are hot spots or above normal ground temperatures. Increased surface temperatures usually indicate an underground fire. Local airline companies have also been asked to monitor these areas during their daily fly-over excursions.

On May 1 the first forest fire was detected five kilometres North of Wrigley. The Forest Fire Management Division acted quickly last week to extinguish the fire. Local crews travelled by snow machine to put out the fire that was burning underground along the Mackenzie River bank.

The Forest Fire Management Division will be consulting with communities this fire season to determine which fires to action. For the very first time, communities that want greater responsibility for managing forest fires will be able to coordinate the first attack on a fire that is burning in a high-valued zone near their community, and spend up to a maximum of \$20,000 per event. Local fire managers are expected to complete the assessment and identification of these areas within the month.

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96-037

Transportation Award Presented to St. Patrick's Students

YELLOWKNIFE (May 23) - An appreciation award is being presented to a group of students at St. Patrick's High School in Yellowknife today for the work they are doing to discourage their peers from drinking and driving.

Transportation Minister Jim Antoine will present a plaque to the students who formed the first Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD) chapter in the Northwest Territories in 1994 at an award ceremony this afternoon.

"This is the first time the department is presenting an award of this kind," says Mr. Antoine. "However, the students deserve special recognition because they care about the safety of their friends. They have been actively encouraging others not to endanger their lives by driving under the influence of alcohol. That is an honourable initiative and merits our appreciation," Mr. Antoine says.

Mr. Antoine notes the philosophy of the group is to encourage their friends to choose not to drink at parties, rather than focus solely on an anti-drinking campaign.

"It is great to see our youth getting involved in an initiative that may prevent needless deaths and injuries on our highways that is a result from drinking and driving," Mr. Antoine adds.

The St. Patrick's High School SADD chapter gained attention from their peers through their anti-drinking and driving campaigns at school assemblies, red ribbon campaigns and dry graduations. The Yellowknife Chapter also received recognition earlier this year from the Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving at a national conference and received an award.

Just recently, students from Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife formed their own SADD chapter.

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96-038

Students to Benefit from New Math Curriculum Framework

YELLOWKNIFE (May 24) - NWT students will join hundreds of thousands of their counterparts from the four western provinces and Yukon in taking advantage of a new mathematics curriculum framework, says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The Curriculum framework, which will begin to be introduced into NWT schools during the next academic year, is one of the first joint projects under the Western Canadian Protocol. The framework will benefit students in Kindergarten to Grade 9.

"I am pleased our co-operation with the Western Consortium has resulted in this high-quality curriculum framework, which will benefit NWT students." Mr. Dent says. "Participating in the Western Consortium allows us all to share information and pool expertise with other jurisdictions, which helps us stretch our resources as far as possible."

The new framework is designed to help students develop positive attitudes towards math and develop skills they will need in the 21st century. It emphasizes problem solving, how to communicate effectively about math, and how to connect mathematical ideas to other school subjects and to every day life experiences.

"Using a common framework also means that students can move to another jurisdiction, without having to worry about catching up with a different math program," Mr. Dent says. "And developing joint frameworks with other jurisdictions also provides another avenue for ensuring the quality of NWT curricula."

For the first time in the history of Western Canadian education, approximately 150 key resources have been selected to help educators teach the concepts in the framework. This collection provides consistency and increases the number of learning resources designed specifically for the western provinces and northern territories. Because these jurisdictions make up a sizable market, publishers and resource suppliers can now feasibly develop learning resources specific to western and northern needs.

The mathematics curriculum framework and resource collection is the result of the Western Canadian Protocol signed in December 1993 by the Ministers of Education for British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory. The goals of the agreement were to establish efficient and effective ways of developing common curriculum, expand the pool of resources and encourage development of resources specific to the needs of these jurisdictions.

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Early Childhood and School Services
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Media Advisory

To: NWT MEDIA

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Subject:: EMERGENCY LANDING

Date: Friday, May 31, 1996

This afternoon at approximately 12:15 Eastern Standard Time, a BOEING 747 from Virgin Atlantic Airlines enroute to Los Angeles, California landed in Iqaluit due to a medical emergency on board.

While manoeuvring on the ramp, an outboard engine hit a fuelling cabinet causing a fuel spill.

Emergency procedures were immediately implemented and the passengers and crew were evacuated from the aircraft for their own safety.

The fuel spill is under control; clean up procedures are underway and the airline company is working on finding another means to transport the passengers to their destination.

The Town of Iqaluit is housing passengers in the community's curling club at present until alternate transportation means can be found.

Jerry Peters, Airport Manager at the Iqaluit airport is coordinating local emergency procedures.

The media will receive updates as information becomes available.



Media Advisory

To: NWT MEDIA

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT
Tel: 403-669-2304

Subject: EMERGENCY LANDING

Date: Friday, May 31, 1996

Bulletin #2: 1:05 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time)

The Virgin Atlantic Airlines (VAA) 747 Boeing aircraft enroute from London, England to Los Angeles California that was forced it to land in Iqaluit due to a medical emergency on board, is making arrangements to transport its 396 passengers to Los Angeles tonight at 12 midnight.

The VAA is flying another of its 747 Boeing aircraft to Iqaluit.

Iqaluit Emergency Measures Organization team was activated after the 747 jet hit a fuelling cainet causing a fuel spill

Passengers are being housed at Arctic College, the Forward Operating Location site and the curling club. The EMO team are asking to community for 60 beds.

According to Jerry Phillips, the EMO coordinator in Iqaluit, the Iqaluit Tourist Office has been opened for the community's unexpected visitors.

Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.



96-039

New Guidelines for the Management of Waste

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3) - Three newly approved environmental guidelines will assist with the management of hazardous and industrial wastes, and ozone depleting substances in the Northwest Territories, says Renewable Resources Minister Stephen Kakfwi.

They are the Guideline for the General Management of Hazardous Waste in the NWT, the Guideline for Industrial Waste Discharges in the NWT, and Guideline for Ozone Depleting Substances. All were adopted under the *Environmental Protection Act* recently by the Minister.

"It's up to us to preserve the natural state of our land. One of the best ways to do this is to take proactive measures that govern the management of wastes from industrial and municipal activities," Mr. Kakfwi says.

The new guideline for hazardous waste requires a generator, carrier or receiver of a hazardous product to follow a general set of ground rules for its storage, registration, waste manifesting, treatment and disposal. Another set of more specific guidelines are being developed for the management of batteries, solvents, antifreeze, paint and its containers, asbestos, institutional chemicals and lead paint wastes. They will provide specific direction for the storage, handling and disposal of these products.

Similar guidelines for use, handling and disposal of industrial waste have been established. Under the new guideline, liquid material, solid, or sludge wastes resulting from the manufacturing, fabricating, or processing from a commercial or institutional operation will have to be handled and disposed of according to certain standards.

"Too many industrial waste products are currently disposed of in municipal landfills and sewage systems," says Mr. Kakfwi. "The new guideline will help make sure that any waste product is treated before it is disposed and that certain measures to prevent pollution to the environment is taken." The department's Environmental Protection Division worked with Municipal and Community Affairs to develop the guidelines for industrial waste discharges.

The Guideline for Ozone Depleting Substances establishes northern requirements for managing ODSs from building and motor vehicle air conditioners, refrigeration equipment, fire extinguishing equipment, and equipment used in the recovery, recycling and storage of ODSs. The guideline will help to bring the Northwest Territories in line with the efforts of other Canadian jurisdictions with respect to protecting the ozone layer.

.../2

New Guidelines for the Management of Waste: Page 2

Ozone in the atmosphere filters the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. Scientific evidence now indicates that the ozone layer is becoming thinner through the release of manufactured materials known as ozone depleting substances. These include chlorofluorocarbons which are used as refrigerant gases in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and halons which are used as flame retardants in fire protection equipment.

All three guidelines are being mailed to industries, government agencies, municipalities, industry associations and aboriginal organizations across the Northwest Territories.

The department will be monitoring the action of industry, government and municipalities to check whether the guidelines are being followed. If they are not, says Mr. Kakfwi, the department is prepared to draft enforceable regulations to make sure hazardous wastes are being properly managed and the environment continues to be protected.

Contact: Emery Paquin
Director, Environmental Protection Division
Dept. of Renewable Resources
(403) 873-7654

or

Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304



96-040

Public Invited To Watch Dogrib Elders Build Birchbark Canoe

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3) - The public is invited to watch a team of Dogrib Elders build a traditional birchbark canoe at a Dene camp on Russell Lake, near the community of Rae, from June 3 to 16. The Dogrib Divisional Board of Education, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and Department of Education, Culture and Employment are working with the Elders to help people learn more about the art of making birchbark canoes.

"My department is pleased to participate in this project, which is very important because so few people know how to make birchbark canoes," says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "I am also grateful to the Elders for inviting the public to watch them as they work. They are giving us an opportunity to learn more about Dene traditions and ingenuity in using the materials available in their environment."

The first phase of the project involved studying a birchbark canoe built by the late Chief Jimmy Bruneau of Rae. In 1973, the canoe was acquired by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, where it is currently on display. Elders met with other resource people at the Northern Heritage Centre from May 13 to 15 to document and discuss the canoe.

During the second phase, from June 3 to 16, the Elders will build a canoe at Russell Lake. The project is being recorded through photography, video, illustrations and audiotape.

Motorists can reach the site by taking Highway 3, turning on to the Rae Access Road, then turning right on to Russell Lake Road. The camp is near the end of Russell Lake Road. Staff of the Northern Heritage Centre are arranging for various Northern Studies classes in Yellowknife to visit the camp.

The Elders involved in the project are: Joe (Suze) and Julie Mackenzie, Nick and Annie Black, Paul and Elizabeth Rabesca. Staff of the Northern Heritage Centre, the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education, Treaty 11 Council representatives and other resource people are also involved.

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



96-041

Manitoba/Northwest Territories Sign Co-operation and Development Agreement

YELLOWKNIFE (June 10) - Premier Gary Filmon of Manitoba and Premier Don Morin of the Northwest Territories today announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote co-operation and development between the two jurisdictions.

"There are many common areas of interest between our two governments," said Filmon. "This agreement establishes a structure for long-term strategies in priority areas such as global trade, sustainable development and removing barriers to allow for freer movement of people, goods and services between Manitoba and the Northwest Territories."

"It also opens the door to explore development and increased usage of community, regional, institutional and transportation infrastructure as well as setting the stage for increased joint endeavours and inter-jurisdictional co-operation," said Morin.

In signing the agreement, the premiers also noted that the MOU commits the governments to investigate opportunities and development agreements in several sectors including: transportation, mining, tourism, energy, education, health, resource development, economic development, trade and commerce, including private sector participation.

The premiers also announced a joint steering committee will be established to ensure the intent of the MOU is met and to recommend subsequent agreements to the premiers and their respective cabinets.

The committee will also develop procedures for accession to the agreement by the new government of Nunavut following division of the NWT in 1999.

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304



96-042

Constitutional Working Group Formed

YELLOWKNIFE (June 11) - Representatives of the Aboriginal Summit, Western Caucus Members of the Legislative Assembly and Cabinet met in Yellowknife yesterday to advance the process of developing a new constitution for the western Northwest Territories.

A working group was formed to facilitate the round of discussions that will take place over the next few months as the critical work to determine the elements of a new constitution begins.

Two representatives will co-chair the working group. Jim Antoine, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs will co-chair the group on behalf of the territorial government. The co-chair representing the Aboriginal Summit will be designated in the near future. In the interim, the role will be carried out by George Kurszewski of the South Slave Metis Tribal Council.

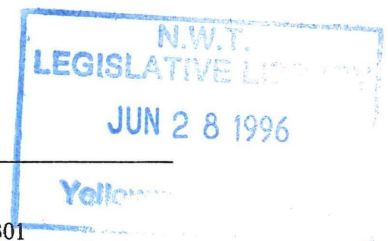
Mr. Antoine emphasized that best efforts will be made to keep the public informed about their progress and stressed the importance of seeking public input on the nature and content of the first constitutional draft.

He said particular attention will be given to the interests and concerns expressed by the NWT Native Women's Association, the Status of Women Council of the NWT and the western membership of the NWT Association of Municipalities. Summit representatives said the constitutional issue will be placed on the agenda of their Annual General Assemblies scheduled throughout the summer months.

The working group intends to place a draft constitutional document before the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, August 30. If consensus is reached on its contents, the document will then be tabled before the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly in October.

Despite the tight timelines, and demanding nature of the tasks which lie ahead," says Mr. Antoine, "the representatives are optimistic that real and meaningful progress can be achieved."

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304





96-043

Application Deadlines for NWT Student Financial Assistance

YELLOWKNIFE (June 13) - NWT students planning to attend college or university in the fall should be sure to submit their applications for Student Financial Assistance before July 15.

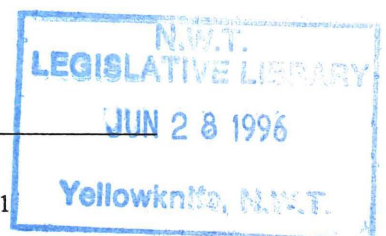
The following application deadlines for NWT Student Financial Assistance have been set for the 1996/97 academic year:

- July 15 for programs starting in the fall semester;
- November 15 for programs starting in the winter semester;
- March 1 for programs starting in the spring semester.

Even if students have not yet been accepted into their programs, they must submit their applications by the appropriate deadline. Late applications will not be accepted, so students applying after the deadline will have to reapply to be considered for the next semester of schooling.

Application packages, and help to fill them out, are available from guidance counsellors, adult educators, and career development officers.

Contact: **David Gilday**
Director, Career Development
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 873-7146





96-044

Forging Real and Lasting Partnerships

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14) - Premier Don Morin met with business people from across the Northwest Territories at the first meeting of the Premier's Panel on the Economy and Employment in Yellowknife yesterday.

The Panel of 16 business people was struck as part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' commitment to improve economic conditions throughout the NWT.

"We recognize that a healthy economy cannot be created by government alone," he said. "The prosperity of the North and the onus for building a strong economy depends on the success of local businesses. That responsibility should be shared with the private sector, aboriginal organizations and communities."

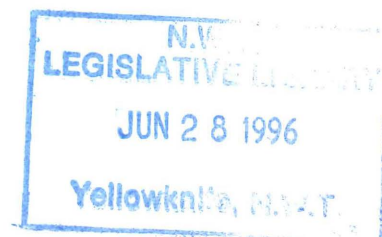
Panel members expressed support for this new initiative that strikes a partnership between government and business.

One of the goals the Panel discussed is how the business climate in the NWT can be improved in order to attract new jobs, investment and capital. The territorial government is seeking advice on developing incentive programs that give northern businesses a competitive edge.

These programs will reward companies that make genuine efforts to contribute to the economy, form real and lasting partnerships with northern and aboriginal companies and create jobs for NWT residents.

The Panel discussed how to simplify government regulations that sometimes make it difficult to conduct business in the North. It is looking at opportunities for programs and services to be transferred to the private sector. The territorial government is prepared to transfer some responsibilities to the private sector where services can be delivered more efficiently and at less cost, while creating new jobs for residents.

The need for improved education and training across the NWT was noted by Panel members as necessary for building a foundation for a strong economy. Young people need training that is relevant and will give them the skills needed for meaningful participation in economic development activity.



Premier's Panel - page two

Now that the Panel has had general discussions about how government and the private sector can work together, Premier Morin says the next step is to come up with more specific recommendations in these key areas.

The Panel plans to meet again early in the fall.

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304



96-045

HIV/AIDS Information Line Expands

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14) - This month two non-government organizations, one in the eastern Arctic and one in the western Arctic, will provide the service formerly offered by the NWT HIV/AIDS information line with the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Kamatsiaqtut Baffin Crisis Line will operate the Nunavut AIDS Information Line for residents of the central and eastern Arctic. The Canadian Mental Health Association/NWT Division will integrate the HIV/AIDS information line into its Help Line which serves the people of the central and western Arctic. Both information lines will operate from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. seven evenings a week.

The Department of Health and Social Services has operated a toll-free, anonymous HIV/AIDS information line for residents of the Northwest Territories since 1988. A recent evaluation of the information line showed a continuing need for this service. The changes will improve northerners' accessibility to the information line. For example, the majority of callers between 1992 and 1994 did not speak to an information line operator because one-half of the calls came in after 5 p.m. when operators were not available.

People in the central and western Arctic can now call the Help Line and AIDS Information Line at 1-800-661-0844 or 920-2121. These numbers are the same as the current Help Line numbers. Residents of the Kitikmeot Region and eastern Arctic can call the Nunavut AIDS Information Line at 1-800-661-0795 (979-0520 in Iqaluit) from June 11, 1996. Service is offered in Inuktitut as well as English.

The AIDS information lines provide current and accurate information about HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. As well, they provide support to callers, as needed, and provide callers with information on appropriate referral agencies at the community and regional levels.

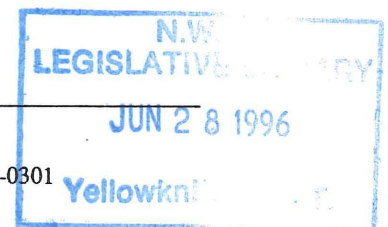
The Department of Health and Social Services will be responsible for funding; developing standards; providing an updated resource manual for telephone operators; and monitoring and evaluation with each organization.

Contact: Sandy Bell
Canadian Mental Health Association
403-873-3190

or Sheila Levy
Nunavut AIDS
Information Line
819-979-5281

or

Joanne MacKinnon
Consultant, HIV/AIDS
Department of Health & Social Services
403-873-7040





96-046

Antoine Opens Airport Terminal in Yakutsk

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18) - Transportation Minister Jim Antoine and Nunakput Member of the Legislative Assembly Vince Steen travelled to Yakutsk, Siberia earlier this month to participate in the opening ceremony of the city's international airport terminal.

An invitation was issued from Republic of Sakha's Minister of Material Resources, Trade and Transportation Mr. V. M. Chlenov, after a Yellowknife engineering firm completed the construction project last month.

Stephen Simek, President of Ferguson, Simek, Clark Ltd of Yellowknife, who designed and coordinated the construction of the airport terminal, attended the event along with representatives from Clark Builders Ltd. of Edmonton. Alberta's Department of Economic Development and Tourism also flew to the city for the ceremony.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Antoine said creating strong business partnerships and relations between the two governments and companies of Sakha can benefit both nations.

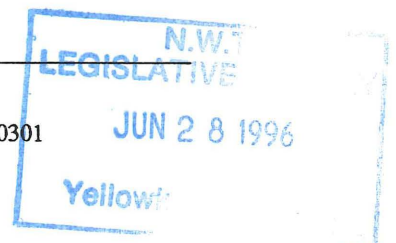
"This is an excellent opportunity to not only share Canadian technology and construction skills that suit our similar harsh, northern environment with our Russian counterparts, but it's a lucrative opportunity to expand our economy," Mr. Antoine said. "It makes good economic sense to export our unique expertise and products in construction, tourism and northern products, he added.

Nunakput MLA Vince Steen says NWT construction companies have invaluable expertise, knowledge and skill that can be of great use to the Russian construction industry.

"Our presence and technology is highly valued in this part of Russia. It's apparent the infrastructure in Russia is in great need of reconstruction and offers valuable business opportunities for NWT engineering and construction companies," Mr. Steen noted."

The contract to build the 6,000 square meters, two-storey terminal was signed in 1994 after extensive negotiations were held between the Sakha Ministry for the Construction of Foreign Projects and territorial government. The airport terminal cost approximately US \$16 million.

Contact: Bob Doherty
Deputy Minister
Department of Transportation
(403) 920-3460





96-047

Constitution Working Group Sets Action Plan

YELLOWKNIFE (July 4) - Members of the Constitutional Working Group will spend the summer preparing a package that they hope will provide a focus for discussion on a Constitution for the new western territory.

The Constitutional Working Group consists of Members of the Western Caucus of the Legislative Assembly and representatives from the Aboriginal Summit.

The group has already finalized an information package that will be shared with aboriginal assemblies and to other interested groups this summer.

Working Group members met in Yellowknife June 28 and agreed to a workplan that includes drafting a constitutional package to be presented to the Aboriginal Summit, Constitutional Development Steering Committee, the Western Caucus of the Legislative Assembly and Constitutional Affairs Committee of Cabinet by August 30 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly October 2.

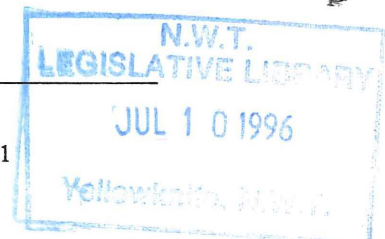
"We want to stimulate discussion on what should be in a Constitution," said Nahendeh MLA Jim Antoine, co-chair of the Working Group. "We will be strongly recommending a process for further public consultation and ratification."

Members of the Working Group strongly encourage people in the Western Arctic to contact members of the Western Caucus or the Aboriginal Summit over the summer to talk about the Constitution.

Other MLAs on the Working Group include Sahtu MLA Stephen Kakfwi, Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen, Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger, Mackenzie-Delta MLA David Krutko and Yellowknife North MLA Roy Erasmus. Representatives of the Aboriginal Summit on the working group are James Wahshee, George Kurszewski, Bill Erasmus and Bob Simpson.

Contact: Jim Antoine
Constitutional Working Group
Co-Chair
(403) 669-2333 or toll-free 1-800-661-0784

or George Kurszewski
Constitutional Working
Group Co-Chair
(403) 872-2118





96-048

Inuit Employment Plans Available for Review

RANKIN INLET (July 5) - Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, today unveiled the territorial government's plans for increasing Inuit employment in Nunavut.

"Inuit must hold a significant proportion of jobs in the Nunavut government if it is going to reflect the interests and priorities of the people it serves," Mr. Dent says. "The Inuit Employment Plans are an important road map for departments to follow as they work to increase Inuit employment in the Nunavut government."

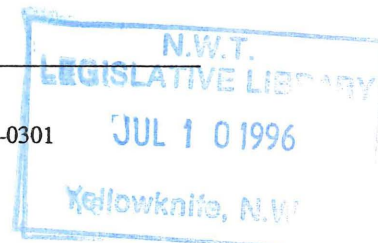
Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, GNWT departments must prepare plans showing how they will increase Inuit employment to a point representative of the Nunavut population. Inuit make up 85 per cent of the population of the settlement area.

In addition, the GNWT has committed to having 50 per cent Inuit employees overall in Nunavut by 1999, and specifically 50 per cent in management positions.

"The Inuit Employment Plans will be living documents, which will be updated to reflect any changes in the structure of the territorial government before 1999," Mr. Dent says. "We look forward to continued consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as we work to update and fine-tune the plans."

Every GNWT department will be posting its Inuit Employment Plan in its offices throughout the Nunavut area. A consolidated version, including plans from all departments, will be available for review in the GNWT's Career Centres and regional offices of the Financial Management Board Secretariat. The consolidated plans will also be available for review at every department's headquarters office in Yellowknife.

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





96-049

New Curriculum Frameworks For Language Arts, Math

YELLOWKNIFE (July 5) - NWT students will soon be benefitting from new curriculum frameworks in language arts and mathematics, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

The Western Protocol partners have just released common curriculum frameworks for English language arts (kindergarten to Grade 12), senior high school mathematics in French and English, French language arts (kindergarten to Grade 12) and the Français curriculum (kindergarten to Grade 12). The French language arts curriculum teaches French as a second language, while the Français curriculum is designed for students who speak French as their first language.

"The common curriculum projects are an excellent example of what we can accomplish by working together," Mr. Dent says. "By collaborating with our partners, we expand the pool of resources, experience and knowledge necessary to prepare high quality curricula for students."

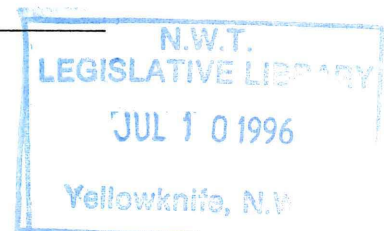
This cooperative approach also helps families who move, since programs will have the same general outcomes in each grade across the western provinces and territories. And since these jurisdictions make up a sizable market, educational publishers and resource suppliers can now develop learning resources specific to western and northern needs.

The Northwest Territories is a partner in the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, along with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. The protocol was signed in December, 1993. In June 1994, work began on the common curriculum framework for mathematics. By June 1995, the mathematics curriculum was completed for kindergarten to Grade 9 and a list of key learning resources had been identified.

Manitoba leads the development of the English language arts, French language arts and the Français curriculum. Alberta is the lead jurisdiction for the mathematics project. Although all of the western provinces are involved in these cooperative projects, each jurisdiction will decide when the common curriculum will be offered in their schools.

The curricula for English language arts and mathematics (kindergarten to Grade 9) will start to be introduced in NWT schools in 1997/98. Since NWT high school students write the same departmental examinations as their counterparts in Alberta, the mathematics curriculum will be introduced using the same schedule as Alberta: the Grade 10 curriculum will be introduced in 1998, with Grade 11 following in 1999 and Grade 12 in 2000. Implementation dates for French language arts and Français will soon be determined.

Contact: Helen Balanoff
Director
Early Childhood and School Services
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 920-3491



96-050

Co-operation Agreements Signed to Encourage Business Development

YELLOWKNIFE (July 8) - An agreement to establish a Canada/Northwest Territories Business Service Centre was signed at the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife today.

The agreement, which will promote business development in the North, was signed by John Manley, federal Minister of Industry Canada, and Stephen Kakfwi, Government of the Northwest Territories Economic Development and Tourism Minister.

The establishment of the Centre, which will provide a wide-range of services to businesses, is part of a nationwide effort spearheaded by Industry Canada. Information on marketing trends, the latest research from business journals and descriptions of government programs are just some of the material which will be available. By giving northern businesses better information on which to develop plans and formulate business decisions, the Centre will help spur private sector economic growth.

"By working together we can make sure that businesses have access to the information and investment opportunities that are needed to create jobs and enhance our profile internationally," said Mr. Kakfwi.

"Industry Canada is proud to welcome the addition of the NWT to the network of Business Service Centers which will help businesses compete and prosper in the global marketplace," stated Minister Manley. "This, along with the Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in International Business Development, is another great example of our working in partnership to provide more effective services and reduce overlap and duplication."

The memorandum of Co-operation in International Business Development, signed in March 1996, recognizes the need to increase international opportunities available to northern companies. In signing it, the federal government has made a commitment to reflect the interest of the Northwest Territories in the development of international business and trade strategies. The two levels of government have also agreed to share information and work together to identify the information needs of the business community.

The Canada-NWT Business Service Centre will make extensive use of informatics and telecommunications technology. It is expected to be open in late summer of this year.

Contact: Rolf Ziemann
Industry Canada
403-920-6004

or

Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Gov't of the NWT
403-669-2304



96-051

Community Action Fund

YELLOWKNIFE (JULY 9) - The Community Action Fund is once again available in all communities of the Northwest Territories. Last year, the territorial government created the Community Action Fund to promote community wellness. Based on the success of the fund last year, it has been extended for 1996/97. Approximately \$3 million will be made available for wellness across the NWT.

The Community Action Fund is intended to help communities develop their own wellness plans or carry out wellness plans they have already developed.

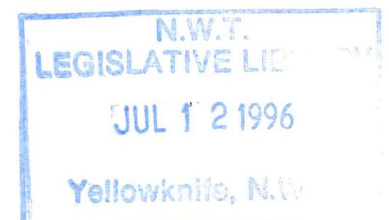
Community Action Fund money is available in each community. An information package explaining the Community Action Fund and how to apply for funding is now available from local community governments.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories' Agenda For Change says that the government will work towards healthy communities and community-based problem solving by supporting community wellness," says Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services.

"The Community Action Fund provides communities with a significant opportunity to move in this direction. This funding can be an important resource for people to set priorities and make decisions about how they will achieve wellness in their own community."

For more information about the Community Action Fund, people should contact their local city, town, hamlet, village, charter community or band council, or Gillian Burles in the Department of Health and Social Services at 403-920-3290.

Contact: Cathy Praamsma
Director of Community Health Programs
Department of Health and Social Services
403-873-7738





96-052

"No-Shooting" Corridor Being Revised Along the Ingraham Trail

YELLOWKNIFE (July 11) - The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs plans to amend a no-shooting corridor located along the Ingraham Trail, effective October 31.

The department has agreed to revise the 1.5 km no-shooting corridor along the highway after reaching agreement with the Yellowknives Dene Band.

"The proposal to amend the "no-shooting" regulation shows the government's commitment to deal with aboriginal interests," says Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Manitok Thompson.

The proposed regulation would restrict the public and YK Dene Band members from shooting along the Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife River area to the eastern end of Prelude Lake. The "no-shooting" regulation would no longer apply in the Pickerel Lake, Peninsula Lake and Tibbitt Lake area.

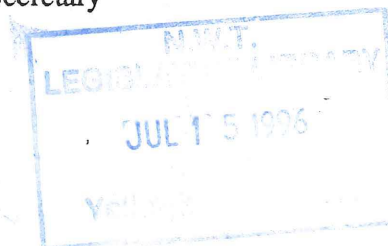
These areas were selected with the assistance of the Yellowknives Dene Band to address territorial government concerns for public safety while meeting aboriginal interests in harvesting wildlife, says Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson says local aboriginal people, interest groups and the public will have an opportunity to speak to the proposal during consultations scheduled to begin in September. She says the department intends to implement a revised "no-shooting" regulation by October 31.

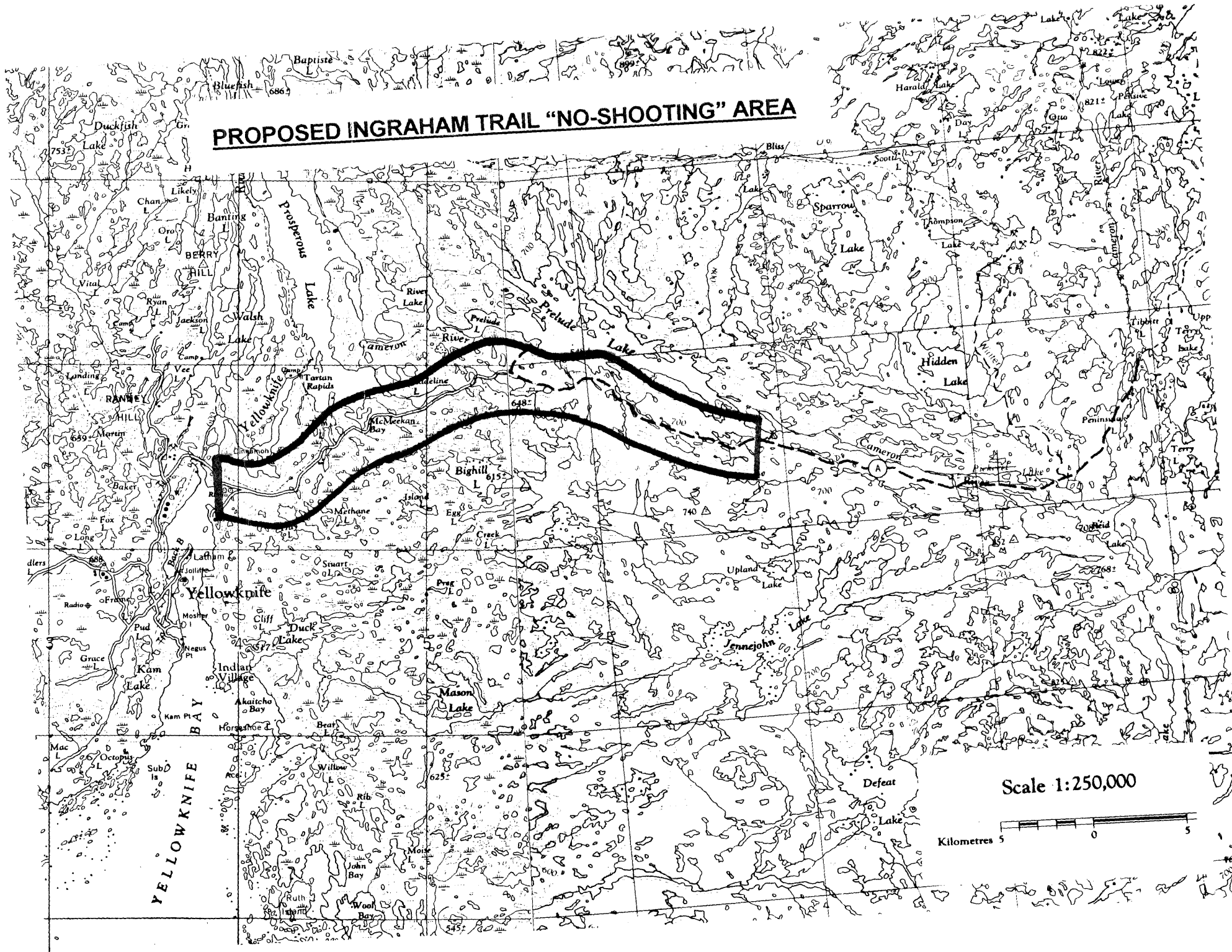
In the meantime, notes Ms. Thompson, the current regulations continue to apply. They ban shooting for 1.5 kms on either side of the Ingraham Trail in two separate areas.

Contact: Brian Render
Director
Community Planning & Lands
Municipal and Community Affairs
(403) 920-7569

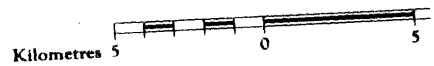
or Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304



PROPOSED INGRAHAM TRAIL "NO-SHOOTING" AREA



Scale 1:250,000



Press Statement

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



Commissioner Maksagak Invested as Honourary Patron of Lifesaving Society

YELLOWKNIFE (July 15) - Commissioner of the Northwest Territories Helen Maksagak is the first northerner to be invested as first Vice Patron of the NWT/Alberta Branch of the Lifesaving Society of Canada.

Barbara Kusyanto, President of the Alberta/NWT branch, will conduct the swearing-in ceremony at Commissioner Maksagak's office in Yellowknife today.

As Vice-Patron, Commissioner Maksagak upholds the humanitarian principles, visions and goals of the Society in the North. She also serves the Society as its official representatives and bestows lifesaving awards to northerners who go beyond the call of duty to rescue another and merit special recognition, says Ms. Kusyanto.

"I am happy to accept the appointment of Vice-Patron of the Lifesaving Society on behalf of the Northwest Territories. It is indeed an honour to know that the NWT is active in a society that is dedicated to saving lives and prevent unnecessary drownings, especially in a jurisdiction where the vast majority of its people live near large and small bodies of water," Commissioner Maksagak says.

The Lifesaving Society promotes safety in, on and around water. It is part of a world-wide organization called the Royal Life Saving Society which was founded in England in 1891 to reduce the number of drownings in Britain. Today the Society teaches people to save lives through drowning prevention in over 50 countries around the world.

Although the Northwest Territories does not have its own Chapter, it has been a part of the Alberta Branch since 1967.

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Government of the Northwest Territories
(403) 873-7332



96-053

Leaders Working on First Draft of Western Constitution

YELLOWKNIFE (July 24) - Constitution Working Group members are making good progress in drafting a new constitution for the West, says Co-Chair Jim Antoine, after an intensive two-day workshop wrapped up in Yellowknife yesterday.

Representatives from the Aboriginal Summit, Cabinet and western Members of the Legislative Assembly who sit on the ten-member group, spent the last two days trying to identify and carve out the principles and options for a new Western Territory Constitution. A new Western Constitution would replace the NWT Act when division of the NWT takes place in 1999.

"It's difficult to be more precise or specific at this point because we are still in the drafting stage. There could be major changes made at future meetings, so further detail on content cannot be provided at the moment," says Co-Chair George Kurszewski.

However, Mr. Kurszewski reconfirms the principle that everyone will get a chance to see the final draft and comment on it before it is presented in the Legislative Assembly in October.

"We want to assure the public there will be a consultation process built-in to this whole process. There will certainly be plenty of opportunity for them to express their views. But it would be premature to start that process now," he says.

Mr. Antoine says if the group continues at its current pace their deadline for completing the document in October may be reachable. The group intends to continue to refine the working document over the next two weeks before meeting again August 6.

In the meantime, the public are advised to consult or discuss their ideas and suggestions with their elected representative from their region or with constitution working group members. They include: Jim Antoine, Co-Chair (GNWT Minister of Aboriginal Affairs); George Kurszewski, Co-Chair (South Slave Metis Tribal Council); Stephen Kakfwi (GNWT); Jane Groenewegen, Hay River MLA; Roy Erasmus, Yellowknife North MLA; David Krutko, Mackenzie Delta MLA; Michael Miltenberger, Thebacha MLA; Bill Erasmus, President of the Dene Nation; Bob Simpson, Gwich'in/Inuvialuit official and James Wahshee, Dogrib/Sahtu representative.

Contact:	Jim Antoine	or	George Kurszewski
	Co-Chair		Co-Chair
	Constitutional Working Group		Constitutional Working Group
	403) 669-2333		(403) 872-2643



96-054

Court Challenge Is a Waste of Time and Dollars

YELLOWKNIFE (July 31) - The court challenge being launched by the World Wildlife Fund against the federal environmental review that recommended approval of the BHP diamond mine, is nothing but a waste of time and dollars, says Premier Don Morin.

The court action should not delay the federal cabinet's review of the Environmental Assessment Panel's recommendations or its decision on approval of the \$860 million project.

The WWF is requesting a judicial review of the procedures used during the hearings and is questioning whether the panel followed its own terms of reference. It also wants the federal government to set aside a network of protected areas in the central Arctic by 1998, before the diamond mine is approved and starts production.

"This government is more than willing to support the creation of protected areas, but within an appropriate forum and timeframe," says Premier Morin. "The court system is not the appropriate forum to address concerns the group has towards the environment."

Instead of tying up the project in the courts, the organization should work with the territorial and federal governments to ensure the protected areas are established with the cooperation of aboriginal groups, organizations and other stakeholders once a thorough analysis and proper planning of the areas are completed.

"The WWF is being unreasonable and unrealistic," says Mr. Morin. "It's always been the position of the territorial government to encourage and support the responsible development of its resources.

One of the best ways of doing this is to ensure that aboriginal land claims and impact benefit agreements in the area are completed. This would give northerners a definite role to play in the economic and environmental future of the North.

Premier Morin would welcome the assistance of the organization in addressing other major concerns to northerners: the fur lobby effort in Europe and low level flight testing. "Their expertise and knowledge can be of great use to the challenge we face in dealing with these issues," he said.

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304



96-055

Preliminary Agreement with Sakha Republic Signed

YELLOWKNIFE (August 6) - The territorial government and the Province of Alberta want to establish a formal interjurisdictional working relationship with the northern Russian Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

Officials from the three governments signed a Statement of Intent at a preliminary meeting in Edmonton last week and plan to meet again to formalize plans when the President of Sakha visits Canada this Fall.

Jim Antoine attended the meeting on behalf of the territorial government and says all three parties want to enhance economic and intergovernmental cooperation in a number of different areas.

"A trade agreement will significantly advance business development for NWT companies," says Mr. Antoine. "It should also address problems our businesses have experienced in developing contracts and delivering projects in the Republic."

The Government of the Northwest Territories has been actively providing technical expertise to the Sakha Republic since 1985. Several NWT construction companies have been working in the Republic since 1992 to help improve its infrastructure. The Sakha Republic is one of the richest regions in Russia, with significant developments in diamonds, oil and gas, and other minerals.

Contact: Bob Doherty
Deputy Minister
Dept of Transportation
403-920-3460



96-058

Students Gain Hands-On Experience Working with Renewable Resource Officers

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8) - Seven students from the eastern Arctic are gaining hands-on experience working with Renewable Resource Officers this summer in the Baffin Region, says Renewable Resources Minister Stephen Kakfwi.

The students enrolled in the Summer Student Career Placement Program - a joint initiative funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development through the Baffin Region Inuit Association and the territorial government's Department of Renewable Resources.

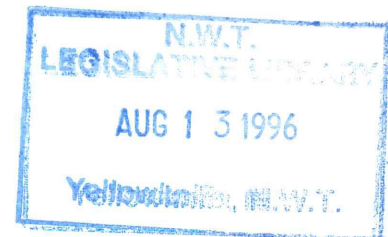
"This program would be considered a success if even one student from the group decides to pursue a career in this field. Real exposure to the work will help them determine if this is the profession of their choice," he said.

The summer students are administering programs, conducting boat and land patrols, helping researchers, collecting specimens, repairing engines, participating in community hunts, buying and grading seal pelts, and liaising with local resource harvesters and organizations.

Students have been placed in Clyde River, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay.

The program began July 29.

Contact: Bob McLeod
Acting Deputy Minister
Renewable Resources
(403) 873-7420





96-059

Premier Morin Satisfied With Federal Government Approval

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8) - Premier Don Morin joined Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron Irwin in Ottawa today to announce progress on the BHP diamond mine proposal.

In communicating the response of the Government of Canada to the report of the Environmental Assessment Review Panel on the proposed project, Mr. Irwin indicated that BHP could proceed to obtain the permits and licenses necessary to complete construction of the mine in the Lac de Gras area, located north of Yellowknife.

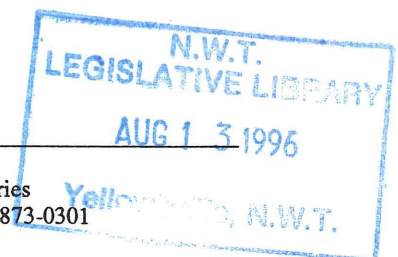
However, Minister Irwin emphasized that before major licences were approved, the Government of Canada would review progress on the negotiation of impact benefit agreements. He stated that work would be necessary in the coming months to solidify the partnership between the federal and territorial governments, northerners, Aboriginal people, BHP and others with an interest in the project.

"We are generally satisfied with the decisions announced today, said Premier Morin. "Clearly, the federal government has responded to our concern that progress is necessary on making certain that the people of the NWT have access to the opportunities that will result from this diamond mine project."

Premier Morin confirmed the territorial government is prepared to get on with making sure that appropriate agreements are completed as quickly as possible.

"Our goal is to make sure that the people of the NWT have acceptable access to employment. Our government also wants to ensure it receives revenues generated by this activity," he said.

Contact: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304





96-060

Constitution Working Group on Schedule

YELLOWKNIFE (August 9) - They're on schedule and working to find a balance of powers between aboriginal self-government and public government in a new western Constitution, reports Jim Antoine, Co-Chair of the Constitution Working Group.

The Constitution Working Group met again this week to continue the work of designing a new government model for the western NWT which reflects that balance.

"It's a delicate balancing act," says Mr. Antoine, "but members of the working group are discussing the options."

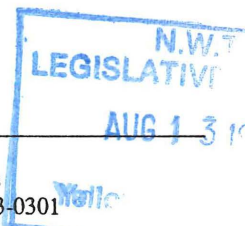
"It's a tall order given the variety of requests, recommendations and suggestions residents in the west have expressed over the past fifteen years," he said. "But we're committed to this process and recognize the time constraints we face as division of the territories draws nearer."

The group has been consulting with northern and aboriginal groups and organizations in the west throughout the summer. Presentations have been made at annual general assemblies in an effort to keep an open dialogue going through the summer months.

Members of the Constitution Working Group will review the draft package before it is finalized and tabled before the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly, October 2. After that, Mr. Antoine says residents in the West should prepare themselves to seriously consider what is being proposed, keeping in mind the delicate balancing act the Working Group has had to exercise to find common ground. A practical guide which explains the proposed new system of governance in clear and simple language will be produced and distributed to all the communities along with the official draft constitutional package.

Contact: Jim Antoine
Co-Chair, Constitution Working Group
(403) 669-2333

or Mike Miltenberger
Chair, Western Caucus
Legislative Assembly
(403) 872-5511





96-061

Elevator and Boiler Inspection Agreements Signed

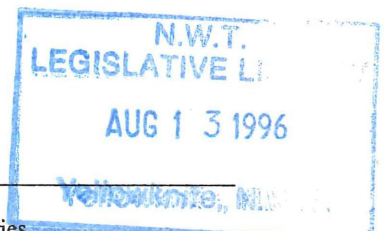
YELLOWKNIFE (August 9) - The operation and safety standards of elevators and boilers in federal buildings across the Northwest Territories will be inspected by the Department of Safety & Public Services for another year.

Labour Canada has agreed to renew the terms of its agreements, but will increase the funding to reflect the cost of inflation. The department has been conducting the safety inspections of all elevators and boilers on federal property since 1984.

Jim Antoine, Safety & Public Services Minister made the announcement today and says this added volume represents about twelve percent of the department's overall safety inspection work. Jim Antoine announced the signing.

Under the *Boiler and Pressure Vessels Act* and the *Electrical Protection Act*, the territorial government is responsible for ensuring their operation and safety standards are maintained in the NWT.

Contact: John Quirke
Deputy Minister
Safety & Public Services
(403) 873-7619





96-062

Dempster Highway Will Stay Open

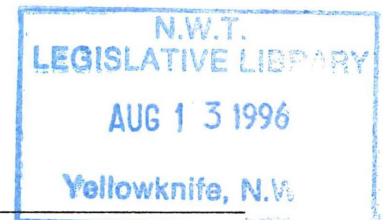
YELLOWKNIFE (August 9) - The Dempster Highway will stay open, but the cost to the Yukon to maintain and operate their portion of the road year-round will have to be reduced by \$1 million, reports Transportation Minister Jim Antoine.

After a meeting between Yukon and NWT government officials, Mr. Antoine says minimal disruption is expected on the highway. But, he says, the level of maintenance and service to the road may be affected as the Yukon Government continues to face similar fiscal pressures, as other governments across the country.

Mr. Antoine says the Yukon Minister understands the importance of the highway to residents of the Delta and agrees to work together to find a solution that will minimize the impact.

Both Ministers will meet in late August to finalize an agreement on how to coordinate operations on their respective sections of the highway. The 750 km Dempster connects Inuvik to the rest of Canada through the Yukon highway system. A 272 km section in within the NWT and is maintained by the Government of the NWT.

Contact: Bob Doherty
Deputy Minister
Dept. of Transportation
403-920-3460





96-063

Program to Award Pollution Prevention

YELLOWKNIFE (August 13) - The Department of Renewable Resources, and Environment Canada, and the NWT Chamber of Commerce are jointly introducing a program to award northern companies that reduce or eliminate industrial pollution from their daily operations.

The three agencies have been working together to create an initiative that would encourage and challenge NWT companies to develop and apply new pollution preventing techniques.

"Pollution prevention is fast becoming recognized as part of environmental management in Canada and in jurisdictions around the world," said Renewable Resources Minister Stephen Kakfwi.

The Pollution Prevention Recognition Program will award certificates of participation to companies that register a proposal to reduce pollutant creation in their operations. The technical data and merit of the company's plan will be reviewed by a steering committee.

The program will further recognize participants who go on to implement their proposals and achieve their goals towards pollution prevention. These companies will receive a Certificate of Achievement and permission to use the pollution prevention symbol on company stationary for one year.

In addition, companies that excel in their effort and achievement may be selected to receive a Pollution Prevention Leadership Award, which will be presented by the NWT Chamber of Commerce each year.

Information about the program is being distributed to the members of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, industries, government agencies, municipalities and aboriginal organizations this month.

Contact: Emery Paquin
Environmental Protection Division
Renewable Resources
403-873-7654

or

Pollution Prevention Coordinator
NWT Chamber of Commerce
(403) 920-9505



Media Advisory

To: **NWT Media**

From: Sue Enge
Public Information Coordinator, Emergency Measures Organization
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NWT
Tel: 403-669-2304
Fax: 403-873-0169

Subject:: CF-18 Crash

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 1996

Time: 3:00 p.m (MST)

The Department of National Defence is cleaning up the crash site at the Iqaluit Airport. Precautionary measures have been taken to ensure residents and local fire crews have not been affected by the smoke from the burning aircraft.

The fuel lines that were damaged from the impact of the plane will be repaired this week. Alternative measures to refuel visiting aircraft have been arranged to prevent a disruption of aircraft service into the community.

"Everything is under control," says Jim Winston, Director of Arctic Airports Division, Department of Transportation in Yellowknife. "The site is being cleaned up from the debris and plans to repair the fuel lines are being made."

Media are advised to confirm information they obtain from scanners with officials from the Emergency Measures Organization (local team), the GNWT department or myself before they are repeated in news reports to prevent information from being broadcast out of context.

For further information, contact: Captain Bannister, Department of National Defence, Iqaluit at Tel: 819-979-3454; Jim Winton, Director of Arctic Airports, Dept of Transportation, GNWT in Yellowknife at Tel: 403-873-7725.



Media Advisory

To: NWT Media

From: Sue Enge
Public Information Coordinator, Emergency Measures Organization
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NWT
Tel: 403-669-2304
Fax: 403-873-0169

Subject:: CF-18 Crash

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 1996

Time: 10:15 a.m (MST)

The resulting fire from the crash of a CF-18 jet at Iqaluit Airport was brought under control by local emergency response organizations at 10:15 (EST).

As a result of the crash, fuel lines supplying the community and the Iqaluit Airport have been damaged and aviation fuel supplies have been disrupted. Work is proceeding to make alternate arrangements to provide fuel and begin repair of the damaged lines. Power to the community has not been effected.

The tarmac has not been damaged as a result of the crash and aircraft service into the community will continue.

Because of the type of aircraft involved in the incident (a CF-18 military fighter jet) authorities are concerned by the possible presence of pollutants created by the burning of exotic metals and composite materials.

Federal officials from Health and Welfare Canada are on-site to conduct special procedures, including air monitoring tests, to ensure a safe environment for the emergency response team and residents of the community.

The military jet was involved in routine military exercises in this small community located on the southern part of Baffin Island. The community has a population of approximately 3,000.

For further information contact the Arctic Airports Division, Department of Transportation, Government of the NWT in Yellowknife at Tel: 403-873-7725; or, Department of National Defence, Public Affairs Officer in Bagotville, Quebec at Tel: 418-677-4000.



Media Advisory

To: NWT Media

From: Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the NWT
Tel: 403-669-2304
Fax: 403-873-0169

Subject:: F-18 Crash

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 1996
8:55 a.m.

At 9:25 a.m. (EST) a Department of National Defence F-18 military aircraft crashed on take-off from the Iqaluit Airport. The pilot ejected from the aircraft which came to rest on the main fuel lines which feed the community.

Emergency services and support units from both the Town of Iqaluit and the airport are at the scene and emergency/fire control operations brought the resulting fire under control at approximately 10:15 a.m.(EST).

For more information, contact Arctic Airports Division, Department of Transportation, Government of the NWT in Yellowknife at 403-873-7725.



96-064

Changes to Seniors Fossil Fuel Subsidy Program

YELLOWKNIFE (August 14) - The rules that determine who's eligible for the Seniors Fossil Fuel Subsidy Program have changed, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

Under the new criteria, only people who are eligible to receive the NWT Seniors Supplementary Benefit will receive the Seniors Fossil Fuel Subsidy.

"This change makes the best use of the money available by moving the program's focus to low-income seniors," Mr. Dent says.

In the past, the Seniors Fossil Fuel Program was available to all homeowners who were older than 60 years of age. Many people receiving the subsidy were working or had other substantial sources of income.

Approximately 40 per cent of the seniors who received the fuel subsidy in 1995/96 will not be eligible for the benefit under the new criteria, reducing the cost of the program by about \$200,000. People who experience hardship because of the change may apply for Social Assistance to have their full fuel costs paid.

The NWT Seniors Society has offered to provide information on the changes to the fuel subsidy through its Seniors Information Line.

People who would like more information about how the change to the program will affect them can call the Department of Education, Culture and Employment toll-free at 1-800-661-0763.

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



90
~~99~~-065 a

Design of Constitution for the West One Step Closer

YELLOWKNIFE (August 28) - Like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, the elements of a constitution for the West are coming together after a two-day workshop on the second draft took place in Yellowknife last week.

"We're hearing from all sectors of the North," says Co-Chair Jim Antoine. "What we're ending up with is a clear direction and a unified mandate to pursue with the development of a final package."

Co-Chair George Kurszewski says it's time to brief northerners about what has been done so far. He says an information package is needed to give northerners a good understanding of why this work is being done. An information package that outlines the reasons why the group is working on a draft constitutional package is being produced and will be ready for distribution to the public by the end of August.

The package will also explain how existing Treaty Rights, land claims, Metis rights and the Inuvialuit settlement play a part in the whole process.

More information on this issue should be of interest to Northerners who may want to understand why certain guarantees for aboriginal peoples in a proposed new government structure is necessary.

Mackenzie/Delta MLA David Krutko told the group communities want more control over their affairs. He says it's common knowledge northerners want a system that will provide them with the power to make their own decisions and determine their own priorities at the community level. Adopting a system of government that reinforces this approach is nothing new - it's compatible with a lot of current territorial government programs and policies, like the Community Empowerment Program.

The Constitution Working Group still intends to table the final draft constitutional package at the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly in October. Before that, however, they intend to brief federal officials in Ottawa about the process and work done so far by the group, says Mr. Antoine.

Contact:

Jim Antoine
Co-Chair, Constitution Working Group
(403) 669-2333

George Kurszewski
Co-Chair, Constitution Working Group
(403) 872-2643

96-065 b

Stranded and Hungry Muskoxen Removed from Island

KUGLUKTUK (September 11) - Seventeen muskoxen stranded and on the verge of starvation were airlifted off a small island on Pellett Lake, 400 kilometres northeast of Kugluktuk last week.

A biologist working for a mining company in the area discovered the small herd and reported their condition to a local Renewable Resource Officer in Kugluktuk. The herd had become stranded on the one kilometre long and 150 metres wide island when the ice melted in the spring.

A local hunter and wildlife officers found that the animal's preferred source of food on the island was totally diminished. They agreed the animals would not survive until freeze-up due to the lack of vegetation.

"All the sedge and Arctic Willow on the island were totally depleted. There were berries and lichen left but they don't like to eat them," says John Stevenson, Regional Superintendent for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in the Kitikmeot Region.

The five-man crew worked together to herd the animals to one side of the island before tranquilizing them for transport. A Bell Huey 212 helicopter, under contract with the Department during the summer, carried the muskoxen off the island, one-by-one, back to the mainland. One adult cow was equipped with a radio-collar to track the movement of the herd. The rest were ear-tagged.

A male bull is about five to six feet in height and can weigh up to 250-300 kilograms (400 lbs). A female cow, on the other hand, is less heavy and usually weighs about 200 kgs (300 lbs). Muskoxen are not migratory like the caribou, the depth of snow will keep them from moving around a much larger area.

Once back on the mainland, the muskoxen were last seen grazing contentedly in a thick sedge meadow.

Contact:

John Stevenson
Regional Superintendent
Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Kitikmeot Region
(403) 983-7222



96-067

Premier Receives Advice from Business Community

YELLOWKNIFE (September 16) - Premier Don Morin met with a Panel of northern business people this weekend to review major initiatives of the territorial government. This was the second meeting of the Premier's Panel on the Economy and Employment, which first met in June of this year.

The meeting was attended by the Premier and eleven business people from across the north. Also present were Presidents of the east and west tourism organizations.

Premier Don Morin says he is pleased with the progress of the Panel to date and looks forward to further discussion on how the business climate in the north can be improved in order to attract new jobs, investment and capital.

Commenting on major developments such as the BHP diamond mine, Morin said the government is in strong support of these mining initiatives, so long as northerners receive real benefits and the projects meet environmental requirements.

"Northerners feel that unless there are tangible benefits from mineral development, we might as well leave the resources in the ground," he said. "We will only support companies that form partnerships with northern businesses and create economic opportunities for northern residents."

The meeting included presentations and discussion on four main subjects: A proposed NWT Investment Support Program; the Business Incentive Program (BIP); Privatization Initiatives; and Tourism. For each topic, Panel members reviewed and assessed government programs and made recommendations for future direction.

Minister of Finance John Todd made a presentation on options being examined by the government on an Investment Support Program. These options were based on an

Premier's Panel - Page Two

investment search in the Maritimes and are aimed at increasing the amount of risk capital in the NWT.

This program is seen as one part of an overall solution to address the problem of a shrinking government budget in the face of increasing costs of social programs and other economic problems. The Panel offered suggestions on how to get maximum benefit for investment dollars spent in the north.

Panel members had a chance to comment on the BIP which has been under review for the past two years. Everyone agreed the policy has helped northern businesses expand, but need better information on the costs and benefits. With better information, the program can then be improved to achieve maximum benefit to northerners at the least cost to government.

Business people were pleased to see that the government was taking action in privatizing some of its operations. At the same time, they wanted assurance that government departments would downsize accordingly. They also recommended northern businesses be given equal opportunity to bid on contacts.

Presidents of the Nunavut and NWT Arctic Tourism Associations emphasized the need for a clear and consistent direction in transferring government responsibilities and resources for tourism. Panel members made recommendations for expanding the role of tourism associations, while emphasizing the need for full representation of its membership. There were also suggestions for cost cutting measures and raising revenues.

In wrapping up the meeting, both business people and the Premier felt much had been achieved. They agreed to continue to work together to address pressing economic issues. The next meeting of the Premier's Panel is planned for early in the new year.

Contact:
Sue Enge
Office of the Press Secretary
(403) 669-2304

News Release/Communiqué

96-068

McLellan Says Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord Demonstrates Commitment to Good Government

YELLOWKNIFE (September 17) - Anne McLellan, federal Minister of Natural Resources today announced the signing of the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord by federal, provincial and territorial ministers.

"The Accord's framework for cooperation between federal, provincial and territorial geological surveys in Canada demonstrates our commitment to good government in the 1990s," Minister McLellan noted during the signing ceremony at the Mines Ministers' Conference in Yellowknife.

Conference host and Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for the Northwest Territories, Stephen Kakfwi, said "the Accord will lead to a more formal coordinated approach in support of geosciences, a cornerstone of the mineral industry." Its signing marks the culmination of 18 months of negotiations to increase the effectiveness of government-supported geoscience.

These negotiations reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the federal, provincial and territorial geological survey organizations, and established new principles and mechanisms of cooperation that will maximize benefits to Canada.

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord is to focus on the strengths and increase the effectiveness of government geological survey organizations in Canada by: defining their different but complementary roles and responsibilities; outlining principles of cooperation that will optimize the use of resources among all of the geological survey organizations; and establishing mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration among geological survey organizations.

"By signing this Accord, we acknowledge that the best approach to geoscience research is a Canadian approach - working together, pooling our financial and human resources, sharing our expertise and building on our strengths," Minister McLellan added.

"This is important, because there is much work to do throughout our nation. The recent exploration boom for diamonds in the Northwest Territories and the Voisey's Bay discovery prove that we have barely scratched the surface of Canada's mineral potential."

Increasing our understanding of Canada's landmass and its mineral and hydrocarbon wealth is fundamental to sustainable development, jobs and our economic well-being," Minister McLellan stated.

.../2

McLellan Says Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord Demonstrates Commitment to Good Government: Page 2

The Minister also released the new Geological Map of Canada saying "This is only the third comprehensive national geological map ever produced, the first being in 1863. The production of this impressive map would not have been possible without the contribution of all the governments represented in this room."

"Indeed, this map produced with leading-edge technology is a Team Canada product, and it symbolized the commitment to cooperation that we are making today by signing the Intergovernmental Accord on Geoscience," Minister McLellan concluded.

The government of Quebec has chosen not to sign the Accord. However, it has indicated that it will work with the federal geological survey on a project by project basis.

Contact: Pierre Gratton or **Martin Irving**
Press Secretary to the Minister Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Natural Resources Canada Government of the NWT
(613) 996-2007 (403) 920-3125



96-069

HIV/AIDS Framework for NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (September 24) - With the recent release of the HIV/AIDS framework by the Department of Health and Social Services, communities and government have new tools to deal with HIV/AIDS as they plan community wellness initiatives.

The HIV/AIDS framework includes four documents: the HIV/AIDS Planning Guide for Communities, Regions and Organizations, an executive summary, a technical report, and a workplan for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The planning guide is a tool people can use to help groups, organizations or communities plan to address concerns they face. The guide and the executive summary have already been sent to many concerned individuals, groups and organizations. The technical report and GNWT workplan will be available shortly.

Communities, regions and organizations can use these documents to develop their strategies, programs, projects and services for HIV, AIDS and related issues. These will focus on:

- stopping the spread of HIV and STDs through education and prevention;
- providing HIV and STD information and testing to those who want it, and counseling and treatment services to northerners living with HIV And AIDS; and
- providing community-based care and support for HIV-infected people and their families, caregivers and friends.

The framework provides a made-in-the-NWT approach to address northern issues, such as:

- patterns and trends in HIV infection;
- self-determination;
- the vulnerability of northerners to HIV infection;
- incomplete information on the prevalence of HIV infection in northern populations;
- limited information on the progression of HIV infection in aboriginal populations; and
- culturally-based methods of education about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Mobilizations workshops will be held to train community members to use the planning guide. As well, the framework documents contain 11 recommendations and eight projects. Three projects have already begun. Other projects will begin when funding has been identified.

Contact: Joanne MacKinnon
Consultant, HIV/AIDS
Department of Health and Social Services
(403) 873-7040



96-070

New Deputy Ministers Appointed for Executive and Education

YELLOWKNIFE (September 27) -- Two new deputy ministers have been appointed to the Government of the Northwest Territories to head the departments of the Executive and Education respectively.

Premier Don Morin announced today that Jeff Gilmour, the current Chairman of the Worker's Compensation Board, has been appointed as the Deputy Minister of the Executive and Secretary to Cabinet, effective at 5 p.m. October 4, 1996.

Gilmour replaces Roland Bailey, who is leaving the position to pursue new business ventures.

"Roland has made an outstanding contribution to the government and we wish him the best of luck as he pursues opportunities," said Mr. Morin. "I am extremely pleased we are fortunate to have someone of Jeff's calibre to step into this position."

Mr. Gilmour, a resident of Yellowknife for the past 18 years, has been chairman of the WCB since March of 1993. Prior to that he served as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Justice, and several years as a lawyer for various departments in the Northwest Territories government.

Reporting directly to the Premier, the Secretary to Cabinet and the Deputy Minister of the Executive is the senior bureaucrat for the government, and is responsible for coordinating the operation of government, and activities associated with cabinet.

In addition to this appointment, Mr. Morin also announced today the appointment of Jerry Hammersmith as the new Deputy Minister of Education, effective October 21, 1996.

Mr. Hammersmith has over 26 years of experience in education and educational administration, and has worked extensively with aboriginal schools and education. That experience includes two years as the Vice Principal of Sir Martin Frobisher School Iqaluit in the 1960s, and as the Director of Education and Principal of James Smith Community School in Stony Rapids, the first Indian-controlled school in Saskatchewan in the 1970s.

More recently, he participated in the design, development and delivery of Indian government economic development, social development, organizational and institutional development management training programs for public and private sectors organizations, and aboriginal groups across Canada, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

.../2

New Deputy Ministers Appointed for Executive and Education: Page 2

"Jerry has the wide range of educational experience, skills and experience that we need for the person in this position," Mr. Morin said in announcing the appointment. "With his background and reputation with aboriginal education, I believe he is the right person to help us face the challenges of maintaining strong educational programming for the people of the North."

Contact: Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302



96-071

**Government fulfills commitment to increasing communication
with appointment of new Press Secretary**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 27) -- To help fulfill the government's commitment to effective communication and public consultation, Premier Don Morin today announced the appointment of Val Mellesmoen as the new Press Secretary for the Government of the Northwest Territories, effective September 17, 1996.

"With all of the changes and activities that are taking place in the Northwest Territories, effective communication is more important now than in any other point in the history of the territory," Mr. Morin said. "People need to have access to all of the information, and to fully understand how the changes that are occurring affect them as individuals and in their communities.

"Val's background in both public affairs and the media will not only be a benefit to helping ensure northern residents understand what is happening, but also help increase understanding of the territories and its people in southern Canada."

Ms. Mellesmoen is relocating from Calgary, Alberta where she has been working as Account Director for the consulting firm of Communication Incorporated. Before joining that firm in April 1996, she managed employee communications for PanCanadian Petroleum Limited. Her experience in the communication field also includes five years as Director of Public Relations for Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Alta. and six years as a journalist and newspaper editor in northern Alberta.

An active member of the International Association of Business Communicators, she currently serves as a Director-At-Large in charge of finance for the professional association's International Executive Board.

"I believe Val will be able to help the government tackle the considerable challenges that lie ahead as the government works to balance the budget, and prepare for division of the territory in 1999," Mr. Morin said. "Communication is at the core of everything we do, and with this appointment we are showing our commitment to ensuring the people of the North understand what decisions are being made and why."

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Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302



96-072

**Release of Draft Constitution Package for the New
Western Territory Set for October 16**

YELLOWKNIFE (October 2) -- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Jim Antoine today announced that the draft constitutional package for the western territory, originally set for release and tabling today in the Legislative Assembly, will now be released on Wednesday, October 16.

"The Constitutional Working Group has been putting considerable time and energy into ensuring the document we present offers a strong and positive starting point for the public consultation process," said, Mr. Antoine, co-chair of the Constitutional Working Group. "Recognizing the historical importance and significance of this process, we recognized we needed to take the time to do it right."

George Kurszewski, who co-chairs the Constitutional Working Group added that investing a couple of extra weeks up front will help improve the public dialogue, and set the tone for an informed and open debate.

"We are making vital decisions that affect the future of the western territory, politically and economically," Mr. Kurszewski said. "After much debate on the merits of rushing the process, we decided we could not let administrative deadlines force us to compromise the effectiveness on the process."

Mr. Antoine and Mr. Kurszewski said the draft constitution package will be released on the morning of October 16 and will trigger the public consultation process.

The Constitutional Working Group is part of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee of the Western Caucus of the Legislative Assembly and the Aboriginal Summit. Members include: Mr. Antoine; Mr. Kurszewski, representative of the Metis Nation; The Honorable Stephen Kakfwi, MLA for Sahtu; Roy Erasmus, MLA, Yellowknife North; Michael Miltenberger, MLA, Thebacha; David Krutko, MLA, Mackenzie Delta; Jane Groenewegen, MLA, Hay River; Bill Erasmus, representative for Treaties 8 and 11; Bob Simpson, representative for Gwich'in Tribal Council and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; and James Wah-shee, representative for the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council.

Contact: The Honorable Jim Antoine
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Co-Chair Constitutional Working Group
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or

George Kurszewski
Co-Chair, Constitutional Working Group
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96-073

New Social Studies Textbook Written for Northern Students

YELLOWKNIFE (October 7) - Grade 7 students in the Northwest Territories will soon be learning social studies from an attractive new textbook written specifically for them.

The Northern Circumpolar World, by Bob MacQuarrie, tells the story of a group of students travelling around the top of the world. The book, released today, is comprehensive in scope -- it includes information on landforms, climate, flora and fauna, history and economy, as well as northern peoples and their lifestyles, the challenges they face and the links they have forged with one another. The book encourages NWT students to take pride in their country and citizenship, while acknowledging their ties to other circumpolar nations. An accompanying teachers' guide has also been published.

The Northern Circumpolar World has been made possible through the unique partnership of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Bob MacQuarrie, and Reidmore Books.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment undertook the project in response to the concerns of NWT teachers. They found it difficult to teach the Grade 7 social studies curriculum because there were few resources they could use in the classroom. There was obviously a need for an interesting, relevant book, so the department took the first step in the project and hired Bob MacQuarrie to research and write the text.

Mr. MacQuarrie moved north in 1966 to become the school principal in Baker Lake, and later taught in Churchill and Yellowknife. He left teaching for a few years, to serve as a Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly from 1979 to 1987, including a term as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from November 13, 1979 to October 22, 1980. Mr. MacQuarrie has also developed a civics course for northern schools.

Reidmore Books has been publishing educational books since 1979. The company has an impressive track record of designing attractive, interesting textbooks and multimedia titles, as well as a well-developed system of book distribution. The company will market the book across southern Canada, and in the other countries that make up the circumpolar North.

"I am pleased that the co-operation between the government and the private sector has resulted in an attractive resource which will help young people learn more about the circumpolar North," says Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "Mr. MacQuarrie has brought his unique qualifications to this project, and written an interesting and informative text. Reidmore Books has not only designed a quality product, it is able to put a greater effort into marketing than government could do on its own."

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New Social Studies Textbook Written Specially for Northern Students: Page 2

"The northern circumpolar world is an important focus of study for students living in a circumpolar country. I'm pleased that I've had the opportunity to help develop materials that will support that theme," says Mr. MacQuarrie.

"It has been a real joy to work in partnership with Jean-Marie Beaulieu (Education, Culture and Employment's co-ordinator for the project), Bob MacQuarrie, and various departments of the government of the NWT. We all had one goal: the creation of an exciting, informative social studies resource. We are extremely proud of the finished product, and of the fact that it was accomplished without Reidmore receiving a publishing subsidy of any kind. Indeed, the government will receive a royalty on all copies sold outside of the NWT. This is the kind of public-private sector partnership in which everyone wins that people are talking about these days," says Patrick Reid, president of Reidmore Books.

The Northern Circumpolar World can be purchased from Reidmore Books, 1-800-661-2859.

Contact: Mieke Cameron

Director, Early Childhood and School Services
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 920-3491

or

Cathie Crooks

Director of Marketing/Sales
Reidmore Books
(403) 424-4420 or 1-800-661-2859



96-074

Minister Voices Support for Canadian Polar Commission

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11) -- The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Stephen Kakfwi today defended the Canadian Polar Commission calling its mandate "critical" to on-going and future development in the North.

Mr. Kakfwi said recent criticism and questions about the role and existence of the Polar Commission prompted him to review whether the commission still had merit from the government's perspective.

"I concluded that not only does it have merit, but it is possibly more critical today than when it was first established five years ago," he said. "More so than any other time in the past, it is important that all agencies and individuals should be aware of what is or is not being done by their colleagues in the many fields of polar research."

The Polar Commission serves as a catalyst and a promoter by providing information, monitoring activities, advocating cooperation and increasing shared knowledge within the research and northern communities, said Mr. Kakfwi. It is also a useful service for the various governments and agencies in encouraging their coordinated management of northern science and technology, and in making best use of the resources available.

Mr. Kakfwi added that in times when governments and non-government agencies are all finding themselves in a fiscal crunch, limited resources should be channeled through one source such as the Polar Commission to help avoid unnecessary or unknown overlap and duplication of efforts.

Overall, Mr. Kakfwi said that the Government of the Northwest Territories wants to ensure northern and aboriginal people are true partners in a coordinated and credible approach to Arctic and polar research.

"While recognizing that we all have responsibility towards the achievement of this goal, we want the federal government to undertake this commitment in partnership with the people of the North," he said. "I believe the Polar Commission can serve as an independent and credible source on Polar issues."

Contact: The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi
Minister, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
(403) 669-2366



96-075

Five Northerners Receive Literacy Award

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11) - Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, marked NWT Literacy Week, October 5 - 12, by recognizing five northerners for their contributions to literacy in the Northwest Territories.

The annual Minister's Literacy Recognition Award honours individuals 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.

This year's recipients are Mary King of Hay River, Helene Usherwood of Yellowknife, Nunia Qanatsiaq of Iqaluit, Dorothy Beaulieu of Fort Resolution and Sheila Purvis of Fort Smith.

"I am pleased to celebrate NWT Literacy Week by recognizing the commitment and dedication of these individuals to literacy. Literacy is an issue that requires the attention and support of all northerners. The efforts of those honoured this week will encourage others to work toward building a more literate society in the NWT," says Mr. Dent.

Mary King, a long-time Hay River resident, has been a strong proponent of children learning to read. She has been an active volunteer at the local elementary school working one-to-one with young children who have difficulties with reading. Mary also organized a very successful summer remedial reading program which was attended by 48 students from Grades 1 to 4.

Helene Usherwood is the adult educator at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife. She has developed a strong learner-centred program which supports adults with low literacy skills to develop their academic skills and confidence so they can move on to further education and training. Helene has made a significant contribution to the success of the program.

Dorothy Beaulieu has taught kindergarten and the Chipewyan language program at Deninoo School in Fort Resolution for 21 years. She is well-respected by the school staff and the community for her efforts in promoting the language and culture of the community to young children. Dorothy's work and commitment to her language has made her a valuable role model to children, parents and the community as a whole.

.../2

Five Northerners Receive Literacy Award: Page 2

Nunia Qanatsiaq of Iqaluit has been involved in literacy as both an educator and student for many years. She has just completed her Bachelor of Education degree, and is currently working at Nunatta Campus as the Literacy Coordinator. While she was a student, she was the editor of the college student newspaper. With her support, students from across the Baffin region submitted articles to the paper on a regular basis.

Sheila Purvis of Fort Smith, has been involved in literacy for more than 40 years. Sheila is an outstanding educator and trainer and has generously shared her expertise with adult educators across the North. She has recently retired from Aurora College but continues to be actively involved in the development of literacy education across the NWT.

The Minister also announced that 48 literacy projects have received funding through the department's partnerships with community organizations, the public colleges and the Government of Canada.

"The contribution of the federal government to the public colleges and to aboriginal languages greatly enhances literacy work across the NWT," says Mr. Dent.

Joint funding between the federal and territorial governments provides approximately \$700,000 for literacy initiatives in the NWT.

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96-076

Western Ministers Sign Cooperation Agreement on Science and Technology

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT (October 17) -- In a "high tech" ceremony, Dr. Jon Gerrard, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification and Science, Research and Development, and Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, today joined other western Ministers to sign an agreement which cements ongoing cooperation in science and technology throughout Western Canada. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will facilitate new initiatives immediately and lead to many other initiatives tailored to support industry.

In keeping with the high-tech nature of the agreement, Minister Kakfwi and Minister Miller of B.C. joined the signing ceremony in Edmonton via video conference.

The MOU will initially concentrate on cooperation in three basic areas of science and technology development and investment. It calls for the parties to work together to make strategic investments in science and technology infrastructure, strengthen commercialization efforts and promote awareness of the economic and other benefits of science and technology.

"The world's advanced economies are undergoing a fundamental transformation to knowledge-based industries," said Dr. Gerrard. "Just as steam power was the technological catalyst for the Industrial Revolution, knowledge and information -- their applications and technologies -- are at the root of the economic and societal shift now underway. Through this MOU, I'm proud to join with my provincial counterparts in bringing about changes that will result in increased jobs and economic growth throughout western Canada."

In the Northwest Territories, this agreement is significant. Not only does it signal an increase in the sharing of information and technology between the provinces, it will also help bring the Northwest Territories "closer" to the rest of Canada.

"We are embracing all forms of technology that help us communicate, share information and shrink the vast distances that separate us - both within our territory and from the rest of Canada," said Mr. Kakfwi. "Because of that, we are very pleased to enter into any agreement that links us to resources in other parts of our country."

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the ministers unveiled two initiatives currently being undertaken under the agreement.

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Office of the Press Secretary • Government of the Northwest Territories
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Western Ministers Sign Cooperation Agreement on Science and Technology: Page 2

A technology cluster strategy has been developed in consultation with industry to enable governments to take advantage of opportunities related to biotechnology, information technology and advanced materials manufacturing.

The second initiative involves the development of a summary of best practices in technology transfer from around the world. The summary will be made available to technology developers, giving them access to the world's best methods of turning ideas and newly-developed technology into practical and commercial reality.

The strategy outlined in the MOU was developed by the Federal/Provincial Task Force on Science and Technology which resulted from discussions at the Western Premier's Conference in November 1993.

For additional information, contact:

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WD World Wide Web Site:
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French: <http://www.deo.gc.ca>

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BACKGROUNDER

Enabling Clusters Strategy and Best Practices In Technology Transfer

Context: Federal/Provincial Science and Technology Task Force

- At the Western Premiers' Conference in November 1993, an initiative for western cooperation in science and technology was introduced. From it grew the Federal/Provincial Task Force. The task force is comprised of representation from Industry Canada; Western Economic Diversification Canada; the National Research Council; provincial science and technology representatives from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba; and, officials from the Yukon and Northwest Territories.
- The task force has identified three priorities:
 - strategic infrastructure;
 - commercialization of research and technology; and,
 - creating awareness of science and technology.

Cluster Strategy

- The Cluster Strategy addresses the task force's priority to make strategic investments in infrastructure.

What are Clusters?

- This new approach to economic development recognizes that innovation occurs at the regional level and is frequently centred on a grouping of key industries, supporting sectors and economic infrastructure. These organizations depend on each other because they share technology or skills. They are connected to each other because they use the same buyers and suppliers; because they share resources; and, because they cooperate even while competing. Businesses and infrastructure in this kind of relationship also help build the local economy through the demand they create for services and resources such as workers, technology, physical infrastructure, quality of life and regulations.

How the Cluster Strategy was Developed?

- To capitalize on the regional cluster approach, the Federal/Provincial Task Force on Science and Technology, in cooperation with industry and infrastructure organizations, recently completed a major initiative, the Enabling Technology Cluster Strategy. A study was undertaken to identify current and potential technology clusters in Western Canada. In industry workshops held throughout Western Canada, actions plans were developed which focus on strengthening clusters in information technology, biotechnology and advanced materials/ advanced manufacturing technology, and which address the task force's priority to make strategic investments in infrastructure. These action plans are key to implementing the strategy.

- The model utilized is concerned with adding value by focusing on activities such as research and development, design and prototyping, product development and marketing. The analysis reveals three key areas which are mandatory for strong clusters and should be the focus of industry and government action:

Strategic Economic Infrastructure - includes resource factors such as skilled labour, accessible technology, commercialization of research and development and infrastructure such as communications systems, research laboratories, labour climate, financing and industry associations;

Structural Factors - includes the relationships between related firms, effective use of technologies, supplier linkages, competitive and growth strategies; and,

Demand Factors - includes the size of the market, access to markets, procurement from local suppliers, relationships of firms to local and global markets and partnerships among related firms so that they can compete in global markets.

Best Practices in Technology Transfer

What is Technology Transfer?

- Technology transfer refers to the transfer of technologies developed in public facilities, such as universities or public research laboratories, to the private sector. The private sector then develops these technologies into new products or processes or improvements. There are examples from all over the world of where this process has sparked revitalization of existing industries, the creation of new industries and substantial job creation and income growth.
- Technology is transferred in a multitude of ways, through licensing, through spinoff companies, via consultation with the developer and within consortia to name just a few. Each of these methods has unique advantages and disadvantages depending on the mandate of the technology provider, the properties of the technology and the nature of the businesses which will employ it.

Best Practices Initiative

- One of the initiatives currently being undertaken by the task force, which addresses the task force's priority of commercializing research and technology, is the development of a compendium of Best Practices in Technology Transfer and Commercialization.
- A literature search has been undertaken to identify and benchmark methods of technology transfer and technology commercialization from around the world. As part of this initiative, the task force is further identifying how applicable these practices are to western Canadian situations.
- The task force plans to undertake further work in this area, including the development of a handbook of best practices for technology transfer and commercialization. This will be made available to technology developers and users giving them access to the world's best methods of turning ideas and newly developed technology into practical and commercial reality.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q. YOU SAID THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS MOU WAS BACK AT THE 1993 WESTERN PREMIER'S CONFERENCE. WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG TO GET TO THE SIGNING OF THE MOU?

A. The first seeds of an idea to cooperate on a pan-western science and technology strategy did arise at the Western Premier's Conference in late 1993. Then, in 1994, the ministers agreed in principal to the terms of today's Memorandum of Understanding, and the establishment of the Task Force on Science and Technology. Since that time, the task force has been working behind the scenes to not only finalize the MOU, but to put initiatives such as the Cluster Strategy and Best Practices compendium into action.

Q. HOW ARE THE FEDERAL S&T STRATEGY AND THIS MOU LINKED?

A. The federal S&T Strategy, announced last March, and this MOU are complementary, as they both recognize the importance and potential of science and technology as a means to sustained economic development.

Q. WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM TO FUND INITIATIVES UNDER THE MOU?

A. A significant investment is already taking place in science and technology in Western Canada. The challenge is to increase the returns on this investment and build in areas of strength and opportunity. Projects identified under the MOU will be funded from current resources of federal, provincial and territorial governments, and private industry.

Q. THIS SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE. WHERE'S INDUSTRY IN ALL OF THIS?

A. Industry has an important role to play in science and technology and in the initiatives arising from this MOU. For example, industry acted as co-chairs and played a key role in the workshops which launched the Cluster Strategy. This MOU, and our agreement to work together as governments will help to open doors for industry and make it easier for them to succeed. Industry will be a partner and have a role in many, if not all, of the initiatives arising from this MOU.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME EXAMPLES OF SOME CONCRETE THINGS THAT YOU HOPE WILL COME OUT OF SIGNING THIS MOU?

A. Yes. Already, many initiatives have been identified by the task force, and of those, some work plans have been developed. You can expect to hear more about these and other initiatives as work begins on them.

Having said that, there are already two initiatives underway. The Enabling Technology Cluster Strategy is a strategy to build partnerships with industry and infrastructure to strengthen those industries which show the most potential for stimulating economic development in Western Canada. The industries identified so far are biotechnology, information technology and advanced materials and manufacturing.

The second cooperative initiative under the MOU is the development of a compendium of best practices in technology transfer and commercialization. A review was undertaken to identify and benchmark the state of knowledge on best practices in technology transfer and technology commercialization globally. We then identified the applicability of these practices to western Canadian situations. A handbook of best practices is being developed and will be made available to guide technology developers and users in Western Canada.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A. Cooperative projects under the MOU are ongoing, as demonstrated by the work of the task force. The task force will continue to work on its three areas of focus:

- with respect to strategic infrastructure, the task force is working to undertake action plans and initiatives arising from the Cluster Study;
- with respect to commercialization of research and technology, the task force is identifying Best Practices in Technology Transfer and Commercialization for use by industry; and,
- with respect to creating awareness of science and technology, the task force is looking at six particular means to increase public understanding of science and technology.

Q. WHY IS ALL THIS EFFORT BEING DIRECTED TOWARD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHEN THE WEST HAS ALWAYS DRAWN THE BULK OF ITS PROSPERITY FROM ITS RICH RESOURCE BASE?

A. Exports of natural resources have historically been the core of wealth creation in Western Canada. Strengthening science and technology will, in turn, strengthen, not erode, our resource sector. It will do this in two ways. First, science and technology will provide new ways to become better and more efficient producers of primary goods. Secondly, it will enable us to become a producer of high value-added goods and services for world markets. Developing the science and technology sector will result in a stronger economy and the creation of jobs.

Q. WHY ARE YOU COMMITTING THESE RESOURCES TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT A TIME WHEN FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS BEING CUT BACK?

A. During times of fiscal restraint, the importance of maximizing cooperation, minimizing duplication and overlap, and leveraging resources is even greater. Through the environment of cooperation we are creating with this MOU, we will be able to accomplish more, for the benefit of all of Western Canada more efficiently.

Q. IF THE TASK FORCE WAS ALREADY UNDERTAKING COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES BEFORE THE MOU WAS SIGNED, WHY IS A MOU NEEDED, AND WHAT IMPACT WILL IT HAVE?

A. The western provinces and territories have a long tradition of working cooperatively in science and technology. The MOU formally recognizes that cooperation and cements a commitment to continued cooperation in the future.

Q. WHY HAS THERE NOT BEEN ANY FOLLOW UP WITH INDUSTRY ON THE CLUSTER STUDY YET?

A. Senior officials in all the western provinces and territories are currently being briefed. Once their concurrence with respect to future actions is obtained, industry will be contacted with the results.



96-077

Ten Graduates of Community Land Administration Program

RANKIN INLET (October 17) -- Ten students enrolled in the Community Land Administration Certificate Program have graduated from their one-year course at Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet yesterday.

"This program ensures there are land administrators employed in communities who are trained and prepared to handle the added responsibilities. All of our communities stand to benefit as the transfer of land administration continues to progress across the North," says Manitok Thompson, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Ms. Thompson says once the students complete their final practicum in November they will return to their community as land administrators employed fulltime with their Hamlet Council.

As land administrators, they will review and evaluate land applications and development proposals, recommend basic land administration and planning concepts and principles, recommend how to deal with contracts and handle acquisitions or disposal by-laws dealing with land. They are also expected to prepare and enforce legal land contracts.

A new award was presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment during their practicum. Sandy Stewart from Aklavik was selected by a joint committee to receive the first the Practicum Excellence Award.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs entered into agreement with Nunavut Arctic College to deliver this program for a second year. The program is sponsored and jointly funded by the Nunavut Implementation Panel.

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96-078

Northerners will miss great friend and supporter

YELLOWKNIFE (October 21) -- The North has lost a great friend and a great person with the death of the Honourable Jim Bourque in Ottawa October 19, says Premier Don Morin. Mr. Bourque, 60, died of a heart attack while visiting the city on business.

"This is a great loss for myself personally and for all northerners," said Mr. Morin. "Jim worked very hard on behalf of all of the people in the North. He was honest, well liked, and well respected. Everyone who knew him knew him as a fair man who believed in the rights of all people, who treated everyone with respect from trappers to world leaders, and who had a deep love of his family."

Born in Wandering River, Alberta, Mr. Bourque began his career in 1955 as a Park Warden in Wood Buffalo National Park, and served in a number of positions and locations with Renewable Resources throughout the Northwest Territories.

From 1982 to 1991, he served as Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources, and played an instrumental role in promoting the fur industry. In 1984, he founded the Fur Institute of Canada, and served as Chairman of the organization for four years.

His reputation and love of the North led to a role in constitutional development and unity efforts in the North, heading the "Bourque Commission" in 1993. The commission's report served as a base for the current constitutional discussions in the western Territory.

Among his other life's accomplishments, Mr. Bourque served as co-director of policy for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1994, and as President of the Métis Nation from 1980 to 1982.

Throughout his life and his career, Mr. Bourque was an advocate of Traditional Knowledge -- that is, knowledge and values which have been acquired through experience and observation from the land, and from spiritual teachings handed down from one generation to another.

He was working on a project aimed at promoting those efforts at the time of his death.

In recognition of his long service to people and the country, Mr. Bourque was appointed to the Privy Council in July 1992. Councilors to Privy Council are appointed for life by the Governor General at the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

The flags on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and at all territorial and federal buildings in the Northwest Territories, are being flown at half-mast this week in his honour.

.../2

Northerners will miss great friend and supporter: Page 2

"I remember Jim telling me once how it was so easy to lose perspective sitting in his office in Yellowknife, and that he loved getting back out on the land and onto Great Slave Lake to remember what is real, what this world is all about," Mr. Morin said. "I have always remembered that, and I will remember Jim for the simple joy he took in the land, and for his belief in the people of the North.

"There was only one Jim Bourque. We will miss him."

A memorial service will be held in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 25. For those unable to attend, plans are being made to have the service televised live. Specific details will be announced later this week.

Mr. Bourque was a resident of Yellowknife at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife Sharleen, children Arthur, Valerie and Edwin, and his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, Mr. Bourque's family has requested that donations be sent to the Canadian Diabetes Association in his memory.

For more information, contact:

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Media Advisory

To: NWT Media

From: Sue Enge
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Government of the NWT
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Subject:: Halloween Candles

Date: Wednesday, October 23, 1996

Fire safety officials are alerting consumers about the use of "Bleeding Hand" candles, commonly sold during Halloween. The candles pose as a fire hazard when lit because the wicks on each finger combine to form one large flame that burns over six inches in height.

Children should be discouraged from carrying these candles while out trick or treating because the flame can ignite their costumes if not handled properly, and cause severe burning.

"Anyone using these candles should place them on a large metal or glass baking dish big enough to catch all of the hot wax," says Don Gillis, NWT Fire Marshall with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The candles should not be located near combustible items such as clothing, window curtains, other Halloween decorations or shrubbery. The burning candles should be supervised by an adult at all times and should not be moved, says Mr. Gillis.

Water mist from a spray bottle or baking soda can be used to extinguish the flame.

For more information contact the Office of the Fire Marshall in Yellowknife at (403) 873-7469.



96-079

Premier to Attend Meeting with National Aboriginal Leaders

YELLOWKNIFE (October 24) -- Premier Don Morin will be joining three other provincial premiers and the government leader of the Yukon at a meeting with leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations in Calgary October 28.

The meeting, set to start at 10 a.m. at Calgary's McDougall Centre, is a follow-up to the Annual Premiers August Meeting in Jasper at which the Premiers agreed to hold the meeting to share information with aboriginal leaders on the Premiers' discussions.

The meeting will be chaired by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, and will also be attended by Premier Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan, Premier Gary Filmon of Manitoba, and Yukon Government Leader Piers McDonald.

The five national Aboriginal organizations participating include: the Assembly of First Nations; the Congress of Aboriginal People; the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; the Metis National Council; and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

"This meeting will not only be good for sharing information with the Aboriginal leaders, but will give the Premiers attending a good opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern," Mr. Morin said. "I believe this is also a good venue for Northerners to be heard at the national level, and more importantly, with national Aboriginal leaders."

For more information, contact:

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Media Advisory

To: Northern Media

From: Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Date: Thursday, October 24, 1996

No Injuries as Medivac Airplane Goes Off Runway

IQALUIT -- No one was injured this morning when a medivac Lear Jet with six people on board went off the runway at Iqaluit Airport.

People on the plane included two pilots, three adults and one infant.

Russ Head, Security and Protective Services Officer for Arctic Airports reported it is not known why the plane left Runway 18 at the 3,400 feet mark, and the incident is under investigation.

Damage to the aircraft is unknown, and additional details are not available at this time.

More information will be released when it is available.



Media Advisory

To: Northern Media

From: Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
Government of the NWT

Date: Thursday, October 24, 1996

Medivac jet okayed for service after runway incident

IQALUIT -- The Lear Jet that went off the runway earlier today at the Iqaluit Airport is undamaged and will be back in service later today.

None of the six people -- including two pilots, three adults and one infant -- on the plane were injured when the plane left the runway at about 6 a.m. this morning.

Arrangements were made for the passengers, who were being flown to Montreal, to leave Iqaluit on another aircraft this morning.

An investigation is underway to determine the reason why the plane went off the runway.



96-080

Agreement guarantees jobs and opportunities for Northerners

YELLOWKNIFE (October 24) -- The BHP Diamonds Project in the Lac de Gras area of the Northwest Territories is one step closer to reality, after the territorial government and BHP Diamonds Inc. signed an agreement October 22 ensuring as many Northerners as possible are hired, and Northern businesses have access to business opportunities created by the Project.

The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and Mr. Jim Excell, BHP's NWT Diamonds Project Manager, officially signed the Socio-Economic Agreement on behalf of the GNWT and BHP respectively.

This Agreement, combined with the Environmental Agreement announced by the federal government and the GNWT on October 11, the BHP/Dogrib Impact and Benefits Agreement signed on October 21, and the progress on other Socio-Economic Agreements, move the diamond mine closer to construction.

Highlights of the 22-page Socio-Economic Agreement include:

- During the construction phase, Northern Resident employment will be 33 per cent, with at least 44 per cent of the Northern Residents being aboriginal;
- In the operation phase of the diamond project, Northern Resident employment levels will increase to 62 per cent of the total work force, and up 72 per cent of the total employment when production increases. At least 50 per cent of the employment in the operational phase will be aboriginal;
- BHP and the GNWT will work cooperatively to exceed the employment targets identified for both the construction and operational phases;
- BHP will work cooperatively with GNWT and the NWT Status of Women to develop a strategy to actively train, recruit and employ women in traditional and non-traditional occupations;
- The GNWT will continue offering pre-employment training programs, and will commit resources to help ensure Northern Residents have the necessary employment skills. The GNWT will also develop accelerated apprenticeship programs to enable Northern Residents to become qualified tradespeople;
- The Agreement focuses on development and training of Northern Residents, both by BHP and its contractors;

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Agreement guarantees jobs and opportunities for Northerners: Page 2

- During the construction phase, BHP will purchase at least 28 per cent of goods and services from local Northern business, and will increase this objective to 70 per cent during the operational phase;
- BHP will provide annual reports on the success of the employment and business objectives;
- BHP agrees to provide travel assistance to Northern Resident employees in communities within a reasonable proximity to the mine site. Travel assistance benefits are only available to Northern Residents;
- The GNWT will develop a list of health and wellness indicators which will be used to prepare annual health and wellness reports. It will also consult with boards and organizations to review the results of the reports and develop action plan on how to improve the results;
- The GNWT agrees to assist Points of Hire communities in establishing day care programs in order to encourage the employment of Northern Residents in the Project;
- The GNWT agrees to adopt a proactive approach in assisting Points of Hire communities in preventing spousal abuse.

The Agreement also contains a Dispute Resolution Section which also provides for arbitration between the parties if required.

"This Agreement promotes a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect for our collective goals and aspirations," Mr. Kakfwi said. "I have been impressed with BHP's willingness to work with the government and the people of the North on this Project, and to ensuring all parties benefit from the development of this mine."

"This Agreement comes after much discussion between BHP and the GNWT. BHP is pleased with the outcome and welcomes the GNWT support for the Project," Mr. Excell said. "We believe the initiatives contained in this Agreement will provide positive benefits for the North and its residents."

The Socio-Economic Agreement will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories during its Fourth Session, which starts November 26, 1996.

For more information, contact:

Jim Excell
Project Manager
BHP Diamonds Project
(403) 669-9292

Stephen Kakfwi
Minister,
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
(403) 669-2366



96-081

Two Students Receive Community Planning Scholarship

YELLOWKNIFE (Oct. 29) - Two students from the Northwest Territories have each been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Christopher Hewitt and Chris Laing from Yellowknife will each receive \$1,000 to assist 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 community planning.

Mr. Hewitt is entering his last year of the Bachelor of Arts in Regional and Urban Development Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Chris Laing is entering his first year of the Master of City Planning Program at the University of Manitoba.

The Igal Roth Memorial Scholarship is open to Northerners who have resided in the N.W.T. for the last two years and are attending an approved planning program. A selection committee chose the two winners after reviewing their applications last month. Ten students applied for the scholarship this year.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 to commemorate the pioneering work done by Community Planner Igal Roth from 1978 to 1983. In 1980, he was appointed head of the Community Planning Section, a position he held until his death on February 6, 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 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9.

Contact:: Emmanuel Atiomo
Training Coordinator
Community Planning and Lands
Municipal and Community Affairs
(403) 920-8772



96-082

RWED plans "rescue" effort for endangered Peary Caribou

YELLOWKNIFE (October 31) -- Working in conjunction with the Calgary Zoo, and with the assistance of the Department of National Defence, the NWT Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is launching an effort aimed at conserving the endangered Peary Caribou.

The Peary Caribou is a small, white caribou that lives in the harsh environment of the high Arctic. Severe winters over the past several years, with high levels of snowfall and ice-covered vegetation, has driven the caribou to a 90 per cent decline in numbers since 1961. Found only in Canada, the Peary caribou was nationally classified as endangered in 1990.

The 1996-97 winter season in the High Arctic started with freezing rain in September, which formed ice layers on the ground at Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord preventing the caribou from getting at the vegetation. As this would mark the third consecutive harsh winter in the region, this potential threat to long-term survival of the Peary caribou prompted the current conservation effort, said Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

"Although it is not certain the Peary caribou face extinction this winter, severe weather may reduce their numbers to the point where long-term extinction is inevitable," said Mr. Kakfwi.

"To assist with their long-term survival, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is planning to capture 25 animals in early November, and transport them to Calgary to be housed in a conservation facility at the Calgary Zoo. Capturing the caribou will allow preservation of genetic resources for future restocking if numbers continue to decline."

Mr. Kakfwi added that the Peary caribou have long been a principal source of food for the people living in the High Arctic, and although hunting has been restricted in recent years to help the herds increase in numbers, nature has worked against the recovery.

On Friday, November 1, a Department of Defence Hercules transport aircraft from the 435 Squadron out of Winnipeg will take biologists and equipment to establish a Base Camp in Resolute Bay, 2,500 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife. From there, a professional wildlife capture crew, a government wildlife veterinarian, a government biologist and an Inuit community member will go over to Bathurst Island to capture 20 female and five male caribou.

.../2

RWED plans "rescue" effort for endangered Peary Caribou: Page 2

"Our number one concern is the welfare of the animals -- both in the short-term for transporting them safely and in the long term for the conservation of the species," said Doug Stewart, Director of Wildlife and Fisheries. "Everyone -- from the capture team to the biologists to DND to the Calgary Zoo -- will be taking every precaution to protect the animals, and make the trip as stress-free as possible."

Mr. Stewart added only young, strong and healthy animals will be relocated to Calgary.

If all things go well, the animals should be transported to Calgary by November 6. Once in Calgary, the animals will go in to a one-month quarantine at the zoo's Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, just outside of Calgary.

In addition to the Department of National Defence, Inuit organizations also support the initiative, and Inuit from Resolute Bay will be assisting biologists in finding and handling the animals. As well, a number of private companies and organizations have contributed cash, equipment and an airplane hangar to house the animals before transport.

"I think the cooperation of everyone involved speaks well for the value and importance of this initiative," Mr. Kakfwi said. "The loss of the Peary caribou would not only be a blow to the Inuit, but to the world as a whole. Too many species have become extinct, or face extinction, and we felt it was vital we take action to do what we could to ensure the Peary caribou survive."

For more information, contact:

Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302

Trish Exton-Parder
Communication Coordinator
Calgary Zoo
(403) 232-9381

Capt. Karen Mair
Air Force Public Affairs
(204) 833-2500, ext. 2029

Press Statement

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

Six Individuals Receive Commissioner's Awards

YELLOWKNIFE (November 4) - An experienced hunter in Baker Lake and five young residents from Rankin Inlet each received a Commissioner's Award at a public ceremony in Rankin Inlet, November 2.

Jacob Ikinilik was honoured with the Commissioner's Award for Public Service for providing country food to families, widows and individuals in need for thirty years without recompense, in good weather and in bad, said Commissioner Helen Maksagak.

"Jacob's generosity is well known to the community and region. It's time we recognized the tremendous contribution he has made in protecting the well-being of his fellow citizens," said Commissioner Maksagak.

Mr. Ikinilik has also served the community as a church leader, teacher of traditional knowledge, and worked on the local Hunters and Trappers Association board, Local Housing Association board and Hamlet Council over the years. Two years ago he started up his own business and now teaches youth about traditional knowledge.

Mr. Ikinilik was born in Gjoa Haven, grew up in the Back River area, and moved to Baker Lake in the late 1960s.

Commissioner Maksagak also presented Awards for Bravery to two men and three young boys who helped save their father and uncle from drowning during a hunting trip on the sea ice in June, 1996.

Felix Pissuk, his two sons William and Laurent, and three grandsons, Johnny 8, Jonathan 9, and Daniel Ramey 10 were returning home from a successful hunting trip when they approached a large crack in the ice. As Felix slowed his machine near the crack, the sled he was towing behind him which was loaded with 1,300 lbs of walrus and seal meat, rammed into the back of his skidoo and pushed him into the open water and under the sea ice.

His son Laurent, who was travelling behind his father, saw the accident and drove his skidoo to the edge of the open water. He quickly jumped into the

Six Individuals Receive Commissioner's Awards: Page 2

freezing water to save his father even though he did not know how to swim. Laurent began kicking his legs back and forth to keep himself afloat, imitating

swimmers he had seen on television shows. He grabbed hold of his father's shoulder and managed to push him safely back onto the sea ice.

His other son William had also jumped off his skidoo, grabbed a rope and ran towards his father. But he fell through thin ice and was quickly pulled under the ice by the strong current. Wearing a flotation jacket, he managed to drag himself back to the open crack by jabbing his harpoon underneath the ice and pulling himself back to open water. His three nephews John, Jonathan and Daniel grabbed hold of William's rope and pulled him back to safety.

Another hunter who came along shortly after the incident took the family to his cabin nearby where they were able to warm up and change into dry clothes.

"I am pleased to present both William and Laurent with the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the highest level, and give letters of commendation to Johnny, Jonathan and Daniel for the quick thinking on their part," said Commissioner Maksagak.

For further information, contact:

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



96-083

GNWT Minister to meet with CBC Chairman to voice concern about potential cuts

YELLOWKNIFE (November 14) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Maniok Thompson is scheduled to meet with CBC Chairman Perrin Beatty in Ottawa November 18 to discuss concerns about how proposed cuts may affect the quality of life and communication for residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mrs. Thompson will meet with Mr. Beatty on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and ask that the North be viewed as special case.

"We are really concerned about what this may mean to the people living in all of the communities in the North," Mrs. Thompson said. "Across-the-board cuts will most certainly have a higher impact here than in any other region of Canada, where they have alternative providers of local, regional and national broadcast services.

"We believe, and will ask CBC, to view the North as a special case within its budget plans, because of our unique situation."

The GNWT is already on record as opposing any substantial cuts to CBC northern service through letters sent by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Charles Dent to Mr. Beatty, and to the two NWT Members of Parliament. Mr. Dent has also met with federal Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps to discuss the Government's concerns about the impact of the budget cuts.

"While I understand that CBC Northern Service is anticipating a minimum reduction for radio programming -- 28 per cent, or the same as other regions -- unlike other regions, there are precious few alternative means for many of the northern communities to be informed of Canadian news," Mr. Dent said.

Mr. Dent said there are no daily newspapers, and that only Yellowknife and a few other Mackenzie Valley communities have access to other radio stations. He also cited specialized television services, such as the daily 30-minute news program CBC Northbeat, as "critical programming for residents of the NWT."

"Unlike many southern regions, there are no alternative commercial television broadcasts in the north waiting to fill the gaps that may be left after CBC reductions."

Mrs. Thompson said she will be stressing three key points with Mr. Beatty:

.../2

GNWT Minister to meet with CBC Chairman to voice concern about potential cuts: Page 2

- Private broadcasters cannot economically serve the diversity of people and distance between communities in the North. CBC not only provides service to residents in almost every community, it also provides multi-lingual information and news services across four time zones;
- Northern interests are not currently represented on the CBC Board of Directors. No one on the Board is from the North, and hence, members may not recognize the unique circumstances and higher level of value and service the CBC provides to northern Canada;
- And, with the impending Division of the territory in 1999, easily accessible, multi-lingual information is more important than ever for the citizens of the NWT.

Attending the meeting with Mrs. Thompson will be Edward Picco, MLA for Iqaluit. Mr. Picco has publicly opposed potential reductions in CBC services, saying any cuts could have a major impact on people living in remote locations throughout the north.

For more information, contact:

Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302



96-084

Chief Coroner Plans Workshop in Iqaluit

YELLOWKNIFE (November 14) - Volunteer coroners and members of the RCMP will participate in a training workshop this week in Iqaluit that will increase their knowledge and skill in caring for the deceased.

This is the first workshop in two years that has been organized to train new coroners in the eastern Arctic, says NWT Chief Coroner Jo MacQuarrie.

Agenda items include: the process for dying, death investigation, crime scene investigation, blood spatter patterns, types of death, the autopsy and the inquest.

There are forty coroners from Nunavut and fifteen RCMP members from across the North participating in the workshop. Instructors for the workshop include coroners from Yellowknife and Cambridge Bay; a Regional Coroner from Vancouver, a Chief Medical Examiner from Edmonton, and RCMP members from Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

A training session for coroners in the West is being planned and may be held early in the new year.

For more information, contact:

Jo MacQuarrie
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
(403) 873-7460



96-085

***Footprints 2*, opening of Division Secretariat office
seen as positive steps towards creation of Nunavut**

YELLOWKNIFE (November 18) -- The release of *Footprints 2* is a major and positive step forward on the road to the creation of Nunavut, according to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"I am impressed with the work that went into *Footprints 2*, which was released earlier this week, and I believe it marks a major and positive step on the road to the creation of Nunavut," said Premier Don Morin.

Deputy Premier Goo Arlooktoo, who is also MLA for Baffin South in Nunavut, said the model of territorial government proposed in *Footprints 2* will move the activities, programs and staff much closer to the people in communities through Nunavut.

"The proposed model of government will be easier for people to understand and to deal with," said Mr. Arlooktoo. "It's now time to prepare our people to take advantage of the job opportunities with the Nunavut government. The *Footprints 2* report is clearly a step in the right direction for the new territory."

Mr. Morin said the Government of the Northwest Territories is currently reviewing all of the recommendations in the Nunavut Implementation Commission's report, and will respond formally to the recommendations in December.

Meanwhile, to affirm the GNWT's commitment to ensuring the Division process is successful and fair, the Government's Division Secretariat this week announced it is establishing an office in Iqaluit to support planning and preparation for the Division

"As a key partner in the development of Nunavut, we felt it was vital that we establish ourselves in Iqaluit to be able to deal more directly, and more immediately with some of the issues," he said.

The Honourable John Todd, Chairman of the Division Planning Committee of Cabinet, said there is a need to work closely with all of the parties involved with the creation of Nunavut. Having an office where the other two key players -- NTI and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development -- are located will allow the establishment of much closer relationships and partnerships.

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Footprints 2, opening of Division Secretariat office seen as positive steps towards creation of Nunavut: Page 2

The Iqaluit office of the Division Secretariat will serve as a focal point for the work associated with Nunavut aspects of Division, and will provide us with 'on-site' contact with the other two parties who are directly involved, and allow us to increase communication with all individuals and organizations in Nunavut, Mr. Todd said.

Once established, the office will also serve as an eastern base for other current government operations and initiatives.

For more information, contact:

Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302

Tom Isaac
Assistant Deputy Minister, Division Secretariat
(403) 920-3319



96-086

NWT Addictions Survey Released

YELLOWKNIFE (November 19) -- The Department of Health and Social Services will release the 1996 NWT Alcohol and Drug Survey, which investigates rates of use for alcohol, other drugs and tobacco, today.

On behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services, Assistant Deputy Minister Don Ellis introduced a summary of the survey at the kick-off luncheon for National Addictions Awareness Week.

The survey, conducted by the Bureau of Statistics, was a collaborative effort with the Department of Health and Social Services and Health Canada. A total of 1,599 people aged 15 or older participated across the NWT.

"We are deeply concerned about the results of this survey," Ellis said. "We know that statistics cannot aptly illustrate the kind of suffering and abuse which all too frequently accompany substance abuse."

Health and Social Services Minister Kelvin Ng said that efforts are being made to reform the addiction services system, and that more emphasis needs to be placed on preventing substance abuse and providing addictions services to children.

"The results of the survey will be very helpful in planning, allocating resources and developing programs and services which meet the changing needs of Northwest Territories residents," Ng said. "While the department will continue to provide support to those who need addiction services, it is equally important that families and communities play a greater role in supporting individuals making healthy choices."

Ng stressed the need for a co-ordinated approach in dealing with addictions problems.

"In many ways addictions are symptomatic of other serious issues. To make progress in dealing with the very serious addictions problems we have in the Northwest Territories, people must work together, share resources, and support each other as they undertake their journey of healing."

Contact: Cathy Praamsma
Director, Community Health
403-873-7738



96-087

Workplace Education Strategy Will Help Workers Improve Skills

YELLOWKNIFE (November 26) - Employers, labour unions, the NWT's public colleges and the territorial government will soon be working together to help people improve literacy skills in the workplace, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced recently.

The Workplace Education Strategy is designed to broaden the department's literacy partnership with Aurora College, Nunavut Arctic College, large and small business, labour organizations and community-based employers. This partnership will provide workers with opportunities to improve their basic reading, writing, math and critical thinking skills.

"The territorial government recognizes that developing the skills of employees in the private and public sectors is essential for the long-term economic health of the NWT," Mr. Dent says. "Workers often have the entry level qualifications for specific jobs, but may lack the skills to take on more demanding tasks or adapt to changes in the workplace. Workplace education programs offer an opportunity for employees to develop their basic skills and broaden their career opportunities. At the same time, these programs offer employers increased productivity."

The Workplace Education Strategy will include funding to help employers develop and deliver workplace literacy projects in the private, not-for-profit and public sectors. A public awareness campaign will be carried out to help stakeholders understand the nature and value of workplace basic skills programs. Workplace Literacy Advisory Committee will also be established, with representatives from business, labour, aboriginal groups and community organizations.

The department expects a minimum of 100 people to participate in workplace literacy projects over the next two years.

Contact: Lesley Allen
Director, Colleges and Continuing Education
Education, Culture and Employment
(403) 920-8843



96-088

Koe Appointed as Chair of WCB

YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) - Fred Koe has been appointed as new Chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board.

"As a long time northerner and businessman, Mr. Koe is familiar with the working conditions in the North and is capable of handling this new portfolio with confidence and understanding," says the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

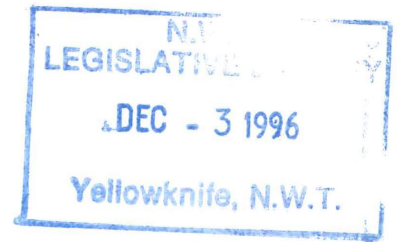
Mr. Koe, who replaces former Chair Jeffrey Gilmour, assumes the position on a part-time basis.

Mr. Todd says the shift to part-time is a result of recommendations from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions and the Report of the 1989 Review Panel.

The responsibilities of chief executive officer, formerly handled by the Chairperson, have been delegated to the President, Gerry Meier.

Mr. Koe has worked for government and private industry in financial and senior management positions since 1971. In 1987 he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and worked a year later for the Dene/Metis Negotiations Secretariat. Mr. Koe also served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Inuvik from 1991 - 1995.

Contact: Richard Bargery
Executive Assistant
(403) 669-2313



96-089

Four Northerners Awarded Medals for Work in Lifesaving

YELLOWKNIFE (November 28) - Commissioner Helen Maksagak is presenting award certificates and medals to two northerners on behalf of the Royal Lifesaving Society of Canada in Yellowknife on November 29.

Bronze Meritorious Medals are being awarded to Yellowknife residents Brian Kelln for his work in aquatic instructing, training and programming and to Kathryn Youngblut for her work in promoting lifesaving skills and drown prevention.

Ms. Youngblut also earns the Commonwealth Certificate of Thanks for the many years of service she has provided in the lifesaving field. She has been working at the water's edge since she moved North in the 1980s as pool supervisor, Territorial Aquatic Coordinator and currently Leadership Programs Officer for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Mr. Kelln is manager of the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool in Yellowknife. He has been coordinating the delivery of lifesaving courses for youth and adults in the city for several years.

"No one can place a value on life. Preventing unnecessary water accidents from happening saves lives and is very honorable indeed," says Commissioner Maksagak.

There are two other NWT residents who have also been nominated to receive the award. Melenda Simmons from Hay River and Janie Hobart from Fort Smith, who are both swimming instructors and examiners, will travel to Edmonton to receive their award from the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta at a ceremony December 2.

Contact: Russ Look
Executive Assistant
Office of the Commissioner
(403) 873-7400



96-089

New Income Support Program To Be Launched

YELLOWKNIFE (December 3) - The new Income Support Program will be launched in January 1997, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today.

The Income Support Program replaces the Social Assistance Program. The new program is designed to provide security for people in need, and to provide incentive and support so that people receiving assistance can become more self-reliant.

"Income Support is largely a transitional program, designed for people who need help while they develop new skills to become more independent," Mr. Dent says. "Community-based workers will help those receiving income support payments to develop career plans and identify positive choices, such as hunting, education, training and community service work."

"Elders, and others who are unable to work, will receive additional support. Improved administration of the program also means that those involved in productive choices may no longer have to visit the income support worker once a month to receive their cheques," Mr. Dent added.

Delivery and management of income support will be transferred to communities. This will enable communities to tailor the program so that it meets their priorities, and best uses their resources to help people in need. The program will be transferred to interested communities in the coming months, as agreements are signed.

The new Income Support Program provides:

- Basic benefits for people in transition who need financial help for a period of less than two months.
- Extended benefits for people who need help over a longer period, if they are involved in activities that contribute to their personal or community growth. For example, people can take training or academic upgrading, or participate in healing programs. The individual and the income support worker will work together to develop a career plan, and then choose a productive activity that will help that person towards future goals.
- Additional support for elders and people not able to work.

Income Support - page two

The new Income Support Program has been designed in response to concerns northerners have expressed about the Social Assistance Program. 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 in 1995.

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



96-090

Reminders of Expiry Dates Cancelled

YELLOWKNIFE (December 3) - Owners of vehicles will need to pay more attention to when their registration or driver's license expire as the government will no longer be sending out reminder notices, said Transportation Minister Jim Antoine today.

"In the past we mailed reminders to owners, but up to half of them were returned because people move without notifying the Motor Vehicles Division of their change in address," he said.

The department began mailing reminder notices to vehicle owners as a small service in 1989. It was intended to give people a timely reminder so they would not find themselves in the awkward position of having let their driver's license or vehicle registration expire.

In times of tight financial circumstances, cancelling this service will save the department approximately \$25,000 each year, Mr. Antoine said.

For further information, contact:

Bruce Rattray
Department of Transportation
(403) 920-3461



96-091

Christmas Drinking-Driving Campaign Begins

YELLOWKNIFE (December 4) - Local law enforcement agencies will be conducting drinking-driving check stops on roads and highways in communities across the Northwest Territories during the month of December.

Check stops will be set up to ensure all drivers are not impaired due to alcohol. Those drivers caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration in excess of the legal limit of .08 per cent will suffer the consequences, says Gary Walsh, Assistant Director for the Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicles Division.

"Drinking and driving is a major cause of death and injury in motor vehicle crashes on NWT highways," says Mr. Walsh. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be working in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and local law enforcement agencies in all communities. In Yellowknife, the Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD) will be involved in activities to raise awareness of the check stops to the motoring public.

The territorial-wide drinking-driving enforcement campaign is being supplemented by an advertising blitz. Half-page ads will be appearing in December issues of News/North. Ads will also be aired on all commercial and community radio stations using scripts written and narrated by SADD students. The message behind the ads is that drinking and driving is not socially acceptable. Every effort must be made to curb drinking and driving and reduce its tragic consequences.

Contact:

Gary Walsh
Assistant Director, Safety & Regulations
Motor Vehicles Division
Department of Transportation
(403) 920-8633



96-092

Government moves ahead with changes to teachers' terms and conditions of employment

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6) -- Finance Minister John Todd announced today the Government has given notice to the NWT Teacher's Association that changes to the terms and conditions of employment will be made as set out in the October 31, 1996 offer.

"The final offer provides reasonable terms and conditions of employment for teachers," Mr. Todd said. "The terms and conditions are consistent with the current terms and conditions of employment for other unionized and non-unionized Government workers. They are also consistent with the recommendation as set out in the mediator's report dated October 22, 1996."

Mr. Todd said it is unfortunate the teachers failed to ratify the final offer, but the Government has no flexibility to modify the terms for the Collective Agreement as set out in the final offer.

"Both the Government and the NWT Teacher's Association bargained in good faith," he said. "Many changes were agreed upon and signed off at negotiations and during the mediation process."

The Government must now go ahead with making the changes as outlined in the October 31 offer. A delay in making these changes opens the potential for recoveries of vacation travel benefits at a later date.

"The collective bargaining process has been exhausted," Mr. Todd said. "It is unfortunate the teacher's failed to ratify the final offer, but further negotiations may end up in frustrating both parties and potentially hurting ongoing relationships."

For more information, contact:

The Honourable John Todd
Minister of Finance
(403) 669-2377

Val Mellesmoen
Press Secretary
(403) 669-2302



96-093

Government prepares for Christmas shut-down

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6) -- While many government departments and offices will be shutting down from December 23, 1996 to January 1, 1997, some government operations will be maintained to ensure the health and safety of NWT citizens, according to Finance Minister John Todd.

"As many people know, part of this government's efforts to reduce the deficit and balance the budget involves shutting down government operations for an additional five days over the Christmas holiday break," Mr. Todd said. "However, there are some government operations that must and will be maintained."

Mr. Todd said while offices in the Departments of Health and Social Services, Justice, Municipal Affairs, Safety and Public Services, and Transportation will be closed, the following services and facilities operated by those departments will continue:

- Hospitals and Health Centres;
- Social Worker Offices;
- Correctional Facilities;
- Airports;
- Highway and Ferry Services (conditions permitting);
- Motor Vehicle Services (excluding Yellowknife and Iqaluit);
- Emergency Measures and Fire Marshall's emergency phone lines;
- And GNWT Liquor warehouses in Inuvik and Iqaluit.

Departments that will be closed over the period include:

- Education, Culture and Employment;
- The Executive;
- Finance;
- The Legislative Assembly;
- NWT Housing Corporation;
- Public Works and Services;
- And Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

If people are unclear about whether a specific office is open or closed, Mr. Todd advises phoning in advance before visiting the office.

All government departments will resume normal operations on January 2, 1997.

Contact: Val Mellesmoen
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96-094

New Information and Privacy Act Comes into Effect January 1

YELLOWKNIFE (December 9) - The territorial government is joining Canada's provinces and territories in implementing its own *Access to Information and Privacy Act* effective January 1, says Justice Minister Kelvin Ng.

Under the Act, northerners will gain the legal right to access government records, providing they are not of a confidential nature or concern personal information about other persons.

The new legislation complements existing procedures for obtaining government information and is meant to be used if information cannot be obtained by other means. It will apply to all government departments and other public bodies or agencies, such as the Workers' Compensation Board. The Act does not yet apply to municipalities and other local bodies. It is expected that those will be brought into the Act sometime in the future.

"The introduction of the Act demonstrates the government's commitment to provide open, accessible and accountable government to the people of the Northwest Territories," says Mr. Ng.

Access and Privacy Coordinators have been appointed in government departments, and the other public bodies or agencies covered by the Act, to handle all access and privacy matters, including receiving requests for information from the public. Their telephone numbers and addresses will be published in an **Access and Privacy Directory**, which will be distributed to government offices and libraries.

Responses to information requests are to be provided within 30 days. In the event more time is needed, Access and Privacy Coordinators are required to contact the applicant and indicate when they can expect a response.

Anyone denied the information request can then appeal to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

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New Act - page two

The cost of obtaining access to government records is free if the records concern personal information, providing the cost of photocopying does not exceed \$25.

There is a non-refundable initial fee of \$25 for access to general, non-personal information. There are no other fees unless the cost of processing the application exceeds \$150.

Other provincial and territorial governments with the exception of Prince Edward Island, currently implement a similar form of legislation.

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96-095

Mine Training Officer Will Work to Improve Training, Job Opportunities

YELLOWKNIFE (December 12) - The recent appointment of a Mine Training Officer will improve training and employment opportunities for northerners, Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announced today. Dan O'Neill, a 23-year employee of the territorial government, will co-ordinate the work of the Minister's Committee on Mining Sector Employment.

"It is essential that all stakeholders work together to address education and training needs if northerners are going to fully benefit from mining development," Mr. Dent says. "Mr. O'Neill brings to this job a great deal of knowledge about the North and the mining industry. He has also built successful partnerships with industry, government and aboriginal organizations."

Mr. Dent established the Committee on Mining Sector Employment to raise the profile of the mining industry and improve links among stakeholders. The committee is composed of industry, business, aboriginal and government representatives who have an interest in human resource issues affecting northerners and the mining industry.

Working under direction of the committee, Mr. O'Neill will promote mine training and employment opportunities for northerners. He will also develop programs, resources and promotional materials to encourage northerners to participate in the many opportunities that mining provides. Encouraging joint ventures between industry, educational institutions and the labour market will be a key aspect of this work.

Mr. O'Neill began his career with the Government of the NWT in 1973, when he became the settlement manager in Wha Ti. In 1976 he moved to Inuvik to become the regional superintendent of Municipal and Community Affairs. He later transferred to Economic Development and Tourism to be the department's superintendent for the Inuvik region.

Mr. O'Neill's work for Economic Development and Tourism included co-operating with oil and gas exploration companies to develop impact benefit agreements in the Beaufort-Delta area. These agreements enhanced northern participation in training and job opportunities, as well as business development. He also set up a special projects office in Norman Wells to make the most of employment, training and business opportunities during the expansion of the oil field and construction of the pipeline from Norman Wells to Zama, Alberta.

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Mine Training Officer Will Work to Improve Training, Job Opportunities: Page 2

In 1985, Mr. O'Neill moved to Cambridge Bay to become the Assistant Regional Director for the Kitikmeot. His duties included working with the mining industry to train and hire aboriginal people at the Lupin Mine at Echo Bay, as well as the Polaris Mine on Little Cornwallis Island.

Since 1991, Mr. O'Neill has lived in Yellowknife where he has worked on a number of projects including the restructuring and decentralization of government and income support reform. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Management Sciences from the University of Ottawa.

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96-096

Government to offer partial assistance to Grise Fiord Airlift

YELLOWKNIFE (December 12) -- After careful consideration, the Government has decided to provide partial financial assistance to help cover air freight costs of shipping essential goods to the High Arctic community, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Minister of Public Works announced today.

The Government will provide a one-time contribution of \$60,000 -- or about 75 per cent of the shipping costs -- to help offset the extra costs the Grise Fiord Co-op is facing because bad weather prevented the private carrier it hired to transport goods from reaching the community. Other goods that had been part of the annual Coast Guard resupply, which is coordinated by the GNWT, were successfully delivered to Grise Fiord.

Goods that were part of the Co-op shipment now have to be flown into the community at an estimated extra \$80,000 in cost. The community and High Arctic MLA Levi Barnabas had turned to the Government for assistance so the extra shipping costs did not have to be passed on to community residents.

"In order to be accountable to the rest of the Territory, we must be able to justify that what is being shipped is vital and really warrants emergency assistance," said Mr. Arlooktoo. "After reviewing the shipping manifest, it contains essential items for community residents, and therefore we are prepared to offer some funding to transport to cover that portion of the shipment."

Mr. Arlooktoo said the Government will provide assistance to ship items including canned goods, some dry goods, laundry detergent, diapers, baby food and supplies, some hardware and household items, and powdered milk.

"We must stress this is a one-time contribution, similar to what would be covered with disaster assistance, and our decision is based on what is in the best interest of the community residents," Mr. Arlooktoo said.

Mr. Arlooktoo said the GNWT arranges for the Coast Guard shipment because it guarantees delivery. If companies choose to go with other method of shipments, the Government should not be expected to pull out its chequebook to make up the difference.

"This situation is the result of a business' attempt to reduce its costs that, due to unfortunate circumstances, did not pay off," Mr. Arlooktoo said. "If the GNWT supported every northern business that has experienced that situation, there would be no money for *any* government programs -- social assistance, emergency support or otherwise."

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Government to offer partial assistance to Grise Fiord Airlift: Page 2

The exception is being made this one time, but is not a something communities or businesses should depend on in the future.

Mr. Arlooktoo said the funding will be provided as soon as possible to ensure the goods reach the community before it causes any hardship on residents.

For more information, contact:

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Press Statement

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

Government Employee honoured for long and outstanding service

YELLOWKNIFE (December 12) -- Calling him a true "Northerner", Commissioner Helen Maksagak presented a Commissioner's Award for Public Service today to 25-year GNWT employee Richard Abernethy, honouring his dedication to the government and people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Abernethy, the Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, is retiring from public service December 20.

"I have been asked many times, 'what is a Northerner', and I suppose like myself, if you were to ask that question to anyone else in the room or, for that matter, anywhere in the Northwest Territories, you might get a different answer each time," Commissioner Maksagak said. "For myself, being a Northerner means several things. Perhaps how long you have worked in the Northwest Territories, or perhaps it might be the number of years of dedication to the North, and its hopes and dreams.

"Whatever the case, whatever the measuring stick, I believe Mr. Abernethy meets them all."

Mr. Abernethy originally joined the GNWT on April 1, 1971 as an Area Service Officer in Iqaluit. His distinguished public service career also includes serving as Executive Assistant to the Regional Director and Regional Personnel Officer in Iqaluit, and as Assistant Regional Director in Fort Smith from 1975 to 1978, when he transferred to Yellowknife to take on his role as Secretary to the Executive Committee.

In his 18 years working with Executive Council, Mr. Abernethy served the Executive Committees of Stuart Hodgson, J.H. Parker, The Honourable George Braden, The Honourable Richard Nerysoo, The Honourable Nick Sibbeston, The Honourable Dennis Patterson, The Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, and now The Honourable Don Morin.

"Mr. Abernethy, to have survived that variety of personalities alone merits considerable recognition," said Commissioner Maksagak.

About 100 people, including current Members of Cabinet, colleagues, family and friends, attended a brief ceremony in the Great Hall as Mr. Abernethy was honoured and presented with the award.

"I hope you will continue to live in the North and continue to provide us with the many skills and the drive that has characterized your service with the Government of the Northwest Territories," she said. "Whatever you choose and wherever you choose to do it, I am sure it will benefit many."

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