

## Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2001

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01-017	Feb 09	Physicians for contribution to NWT Health Care.
01-018	Feb 15	2001-2002 Budget Address promises investment in a better tomorrow.
01-019	Feb 19	Transportation the theme for Heritage Day 2001.
01-020	Feb 20	Premier says Team Canada mission an eye opener.
01-021	Feb 22	NWT Commissioner to visit Inuvik.
01-022	Feb 22	Government releases Literacy Strategy for NWT.
01-023	Feb 23	Findings of TB Report released.
01-024	Feb 26	Youth Exploration Program to strengthen Northern spirit.
01-025	Mar 02	Early childhood professionals meet in Yellowknife.
01-026	Mar 02	Fuel subsidy available to commercial fishing sector.
01-027	Mar 08	NWT Housing Minister announces details of fuel rebate initiative.

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01-028	Mar 08	Premier says winning conditions for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.
01-029	Mar 09	Changes to Labour Standards Act give parents more time with children.
01-030	Mar 13	Premier announces changes to Deputy Minister appointments.
01-031	Mar 14	Minister hosts ski symposium.
01-032	Mar 15	Response to the report on TB control released.
01-033	Mar 26	Minister declares Education Week in the NWT.
01-034	Mar 27	Status of NWT species documented.
01-035	Mar 29	NWT Premier says proposed Alaskan legislation is a desperate act.
01-036	Mar 29	GNWT to assist communities with insurance costs.
01-037	Apr 03	NWT poised to play key role in North American energy policy.
01-038	Apr 09	Sahtu leaders to work together to review programs and services.
01-039	Apr 10	Income assistance clients allowed to keep Federal fuel rebate money.
01-040	Apr 17	New legislation makes legal registries easier to use.
01-041	Apr 23	Outstanding NWT volunteers honoured.
01-042	May 08	Conference to focus on revitalizing Aboriginal language use.
01-043	May 09	GNWT Comptroller General wins national recognition.
01-044	May 09	Minister recognizes outstanding efforts of youth.
01-045	May 14	French reading materials for NWT Libraries.
01-046	May 14	Construction contract awarded for Inuvik Regional Health and Social Service Centre.
01-047	May 16	Mediation to be scheduled. [GNWT and NWTTA] (NWT Teachers).
01-048	May 16	Social agenda conferences to sharpen focus on social issues in the NWT.
01-049	May 18	Minister announces more money for NWT schools.
01-050	May 18	Minister announces aviation career development bursary.
01-051	May 18	Premier Kakfwi confirms support for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group.
01-052	May 22	NWT residents challenged to be more physically active.
01-053	May 23	Youth Exploration Program to provide travel opportunities for NWT youth.
01-054	May 28	Council of Grandmothers formed.



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01-055	May 29	Federal Court of Appeal announces decision on Constitutional Status of GNWT.
01-056	May 31	Release of new report on smoking in the NWT.
01-057	June 4	Seniors week – June 3-9, 2001.
01-058	June 6	Finance Minister announces tax on income and Tax Advisory Committee.
01-059	June 7	GNWT initiatives will maximize Northern employment.
01-060	June 8	Minister says review on Health and Social Services due June 25 [2001].
01-061	June 14	GNWT sets stage for \$100 million highway investment strategy.
01-062	June 18	GNWT to increase income assistance benefits.
01-063	June 20	2001 NWT Arts Council award winners.
01-064	June 21	Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs website launched.
01-065	June 21	Premier says Aboriginal Day special for NWT.
01-066	June 22	Amendments to protect NWT archaeological sites.
01-067	June 22	Social agenda conference (Hay River) a successful first step.
01-068	June 25	Minister releases Report on the Health and Social Services System Review.
01-069	July 4	Educational leadership program underway. (Certification of Principals)
01-070	July 12	GNWT pleased with judgement of Federal Court of Appeal.
01-071	July 13	Heritage Centre featuring – the Canoe : a Canadian cultural icon.
01-072	July 16	Minister extends public consultation period on Health and Social Services system review.
01-073	July 17	Health and Social Services Joint Leadership Council meets.
01-074	July 19	GNWT provides funding for tourism marketing.
01-075	July 20	Minister (Steen) announces first phase in Highway Investment Strategy.
01-076	July 23	Kakfwi confident NWT will see pipeline application by fall.
01-077	July 23	Groenewegen resigns as Deputy Premier.
01-078	July 26	NWT Premier pleased by Ontario's position on per capita funding.
01-079	July 26	Bevington to head Energy Strategy Secretariat.
01-080	July 30	GNWT Student Employment Program successful.

## Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2001

01-081	July 30	NWT Premier shocked/saddened by Deline tragedy.
01-082	Aug 03	Annual Premiers' Conference garners support for NWT future.
01-083	Aug 20	Former Administrator [Dr. Loretta Foley] appointed Deputy Minister of ECE.
01-084	Aug 21	Handley meets with Alaskan delegation.
01-085	Aug 22	NWT-Alberta continue co-operative discussions.
01-086	Aug 27	Educators/Instructors prepare for new year and new strategy.
01-087	Aug 31	McLeod appointed to Canadian Tourism Commission's Board of Directors.
01-088	Sept 04	Handley says Mackenzie Valley pipeline project should proceed.
01-089	Sept 07	Minister (Jane Groenewegen) responds to recommendations on TB control.
01-090	Sept 07	International FAS Awareness Day – September 9, 2001.
01-091	Sept 11	Statement – NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi re: US tragedy.
01-092	Sept 17	Call for nominations – 2001 Community Language Leader Awards.
01-093	Sept 17	Minister (Jane Groenewegen) outlines GNWT plans to revitalize Health and Social Services.
01-094	Sept 18	GNWT provides core funding for Skills Canada.
01-095	Sept 18	Minister (Jake Ootes) announces scholarship increases to Student Financial Assistance.
01-096	Sept 18	Premier (Stephen Kakfwi) appoints new Deputy Premier (Jim Antoine).
01-097	Sept 19	Government launches early childhood development action plan.
01-098	Sept 19	Premier appoints Minister (Groenewegen) responsible for disabled.
01-099	Sept 20	NWT reserves contain only economically viable arctic gas.
01-100	Sept 20	Minister announces appointments to NWT Status of Women Council.
01-101	Sept 21	Ministers responsible for transportation and highway safety meet in Halifax.
01-102	Sept 25	Territorial Health Ministers to meet in Yellowknife in November.
01-103	Sept 27	Health Ministers' meeting provides good forum for NWT interests.
01-104	Sept 28	Minister declares Literacy Week in the NWT.
01-105	Oct 04	Call for nominations – Ministerial literacy awards.

## Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2001

01-106	Oct 05	October 5, 2001 – World Teachers’ Day.
01-107	Oct 12	Finance Minister meets provincial colleagues.
01-108	Oct 12	Minister pays tribute to long-time Yellowknife educator (Bradley).
01-109	Oct 15	Premier says Federal Government cannot ignore signing of (Aboriginal Pipeline Group and Mackenzie Delta gas producers) MOU.
01-110	Oct 16	Premier says NWT mourns the loss of leaders and friends.
01-111	Oct 16	Deputy Premier (Antoine) says one-point pipeline plan is straight forward.
01-112	Oct 17	Public Works and Services to host Project Management Conference.
01-113	Oct 17	Council of Grandmothers identifies key themes for wellness.
01-114	Oct 17	NWT Premier says meeting with US Ambassador highlights common bonds.
01-115	Oct 17	NWT Premier works to maintain NWT profile in Ottawa.
01-116	Oct 18	Chief of Staff, Lynda Sorensen has been chosen as a recipient of the Governor General’s Persons Case award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to women’s equality.
01-117	Oct 22	Third annual Principals’ Conference to address effective school leadership.
01-118	Oct 23	Kakfwi urges unity amongst members.
01-119	Oct 23	Debate of Committee report should follow political practice Kakfwi says.
01-120	Oct 26	Kakfwi says the people will decide his future.
01-121	Oct 29	Premier and Cabinet agree on plan to re-structure senior staff positions.
01-122	Oct 29	Tentative agreement reached between NWTTA (Teachers) and GNWT.
01-123	Oct 29	NWT aboriginal youth attend National Conference in Edmonton.
01-124	Oct 29	NWT Premier receives resounding vote of support.
01-125	Nov 01	Kakfwi announces departure of Chief of Staff (Lynda Sorensen).
01-126	Nov 01	Miltenberger to be Minister of Health and Social Services.
01-127	Nov 02	Delegates attend Primary Health Care Conference.
01-128	Nov 05	Take our kids to work day.
01-129	Nov 07	Kakfwi shuffles cabinet to reflect challenges.

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01-130	Nov 13	Minister announces signing of Workers' Compensation Board agreement.
01-131	Nov 15	New initiative will harmonize public housing and income support.
01-132	Nov 16	Overvold appointed Special Advisor to Cabinet.
01-133	Nov 21	New partnership to promote volunteer recognition. (Power Corp)
01-134	Nov 22	Kakfwi appoints new principal secretary (Melody Morrison) to cabinet.
01-135	Nov 23	South Slave Metis political accord signed.
01-136	Nov.27	Report includes possible changes for NWT personal income tax.
01-137	Nov 27	GNWT disappointed with decision regarding Canadian diamonds.
01-138	Nov 29	Team Canada participation nets marketing deal.
01-139	Dec 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.
01-140	Dec 11	Department of Justice launches website. <a href="http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca">http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca</a>
01-141	Dec 11	NWT business to receive funding from Private Sector Partnership Fund.



01-001

### **SSDEC Structure to Remain Unchanged**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 02) -- Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says he will not approve the creation of a new Hay River and Area Education Division at this time. The Minister responded by letter today to a request from the Hay River District Education Authority (DEA) to remove Hay River Education District 14 from the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC).**

“The petition has come at a time when the government is conducting a review of its regional administrative structures,” Mr. Ootes said. “Any decision at this time would be premature.”

During consultation with other member communities of the South Slave Divisional Education Council, costs involved in bringing about any changes became a very important issue. The Minister says reorganizing the council at this time would not provide other member communities in the SSDEC with enough time to fully explore their options.

“It is my responsibility to ensure that overall funding for education throughout the NWT is done in a way that is equitable and ensures that as much money as possible goes directly to fund school programs and services,” Mr. Ootes said.

He says the people of Hay River will have an opportunity to provide input during the GNWT’s review of its regional administrative structures.

**For more information, contact:**

**Lesley Allen**  
Acting Deputy Minister  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252



## Joint news release



### Governments to review Workers Compensation Board

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 15, 2001)** – Ministers Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Joe Handley and Kelvin Ng, announce a review of the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Safety Act* will begin this month.

"Both *Acts* are fairly dated and we have heard from WCB stakeholders, the public and Legislative Assembly Standing Committees the need to go forward with this review," Minister Ng said.

Ms. Louise Vertes will chair a review panel appointed with members recommended by both employer and labour organizations.

"I am extremely pleased that Ms. Vertes has agreed to take on this position," Minister Handley said. "With her past experience with the Workers' Compensation Board and heading up other projects of this magnitude, I am confident with this panel's ability to provide sound recommendations on all issues presented by stakeholder groups."

Other members of the Panel appointed to date by the Ministers include Mr. Steve Peterson, Mr. Alex Stuit, Ms. Shona Barkley, Mr. Dan Halldorson, and Mr. Don Yamkowy.

The Panel will begin scheduling public consultations later this month. The Panel's Report will be completed by December 2001.

-30-

For more information, contact:

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Director, Legislative Review  
Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut  
☎ (867) 669-4441

01-002



01-003

## 2000 Community Language Leader Awards

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 15) -- Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today announced the winners of the 2000 Community Language Leader Awards.**

Based on recommendations from the language communities in the Northwest Territories, the Minister recognized seven individuals and two groups for their efforts to raise the awareness of, and promote the preservation and use of, the NWT's official languages.

"The number and caliber of the nominations received make it difficult to choose only one winner from each language community," Mr. Ootes said. "I join the language communities in acknowledging the hard work and commitment of all the individuals and groups nominated. Their on-going efforts to encourage and help others to learn, use and promote their language ultimately enhances northern society for us all."

The winners of the 2000 Community Language Leader Awards are:

**Raymond Beaver** of the Cree Language Community was nominated for his enthusiastic efforts to encourage the use of the Cree language among young people in his community by teaching Traditional Knowledge and Living off the Land. A former Chief of the Salt River First Nation, Mr. Beaver is a respected elder who was born and raised in Fort Smith.

**Jim Stauffer** of Wha Ti received the Dogrib Community Leader Award because of his efforts to learn the Dogrib language and to translate the Bible and other religious materials into Dogrib. A missionary with the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, Mr. Stauffer has developed Dene fonts for the computer and made them available free of charge on the Internet. Mr. Stauffer was also involved in translating and dubbing the "Jesus" video into Dogrib.

**Bertha Francis** is a Gwich'in Elder from Fort McPherson. She is a gifted orator who is being recognized by her community for her tireless efforts to promote the Gwich'in language at events, meetings and through Trapper's Radio. Ms. Francis works diligently at the Gwich'in Language Centre to help preserve the language by making herself accessible to others in the community.

**Mary Okoakhion** is recognized by the Innuinaqtun Community for her efforts to preserve and teach her language through summer language camps and at the Early Childhood Development Centre. While Ms Okoakhion is also known in the community for teaching traditional tool making and games, she is always eager to learn new skills.

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## 2000 Community Language Leader Awards Page 2

**Ann Kochon-Orlias** is recognized for her efforts to promote the use of the North Slavey language by teaching it in school and by completing work on a dictionary of the North Slavey language. Ms. Kochon-Orlias put her interest in the history of traditional language to work by supporting the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board in identifying, naming and finding the legends behind traditional place names. She is committed to using the language herself and encouraging its use amongst others through community events and activities.

**Margaret Vandell** of the South Slavey Community has worked tirelessly and passionately to teach young people the value and significance of their language and culture and it's relationship to the land. She has recorded the stories of Elders and researched place names and legends as well as supporting the publishing of the book called "Naheh cho'keh – Our Elders." Ms. Vandell, who continues to lead an active outdoor life at her camp along the Mackenzie River, is an excellent role model because of her commitment, dedication and sacrifice over many years to reviving, maintaining and developing the South Slavey language.

**Brian Rogers** has shown the people of the Inuvialuktun Community that language is the heart of culture and tradition through his work as Lead Drum Dancer, teaching children language through traditional song. Brian is also well known for his sewing skill and his willingness to share his knowledge with others. Brian grew up on the land with his mother, Effie Rogers.

**The Deninu Kue Chipewyan Language Working Group** is made up of Elders and other adults based in Fort Resolution who are committed to and volunteer their time to promote and encourage the daily use of the Chipewyan language. The group has established a Language Resource Centre and is actively involved in fundraising to support the work at the Centre. The members of the Group are: Marcel Norn, Mary and Henry Pierrot, Mary Sanderson, Eva Villeneuve, Christine Fabien, Freddy King, Henry Yelle, Henry Calumet, Beatrice Dawson, Catherine Boucher, Arthur Lafferty, Georgina Biscaye and Julie Biscaye. All have given their time selflessly and by doing so embody the very purpose of the Community Language Leader Award.

**L'Association des parents francophones de Yellowknife** is recognized primarily for its success in promoting the use of the French language and in preserving and promoting the French culture. A parent's association, the work of L'Association des parents francophones de Yellowknife has an impact on the entire Francophone community.

The Community Language Leader Awards will be presented annually to recognize the work of individuals and groups whose efforts ensure that the official languages of the NWT are preserved and their use promoted.

**For more information, contact:**

**Charles Arnold, Director**  
Culture, Heritage and Languages  
Education, Culture and Employment  
(867) 873-7551





01-004

### **Premier Delivers Address to the People of the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 17) -- In a speech marking the first anniversary of his election as Premier, Stephen Kakfwi said today that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will guarantee employment to every NWT graduate from a recognized nursing or teaching program.**

The Premier's promise came in a live radio and television address to NWT residents. "We will aggressively recruit and retain individuals in competitive job categories," he said, "so that from within our own ranks, we can meet the shortage of these professionals." By the end of March, the Premier said, the GNWT intends to extend the same guarantee to other priority occupations as well.

It was one of many initiatives the Premier said his government will pursue to achieve its vision of a proud and independent "have territory" in Canada's north.

To this end, the NWT Premier also renewed his government's commitment to conclude Aboriginal rights negotiations and announced that a process will be established to look comprehensively at political and constitutional development in the NWT.

"With the support of our Aboriginal partners and with recognition by the federal government that the Northwest Territories has come of age, we can move forward together," Mr. Kakfwi said. "We are ready, willing, and more than able to take control of our own affairs and our own destiny."

Today's speech by the NWT Premier sets the stage for the GNWT's 2001 Budget Address to be delivered when the Legislative Assembly meets next in February. The Premier's speech is available on line at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html>

**For more information, contact:** **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-005

## **Joint Recruitment Drive to Attract Teachers to the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 18) -- The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is teaming with the NWT's five Divisional Education Councils and two Yellowknife Education Authorities in a pilot project aimed at attracting teachers to the Northwest Territories.**

Over the next month recruitment teams from the NWT will take part in education career fairs and make presentations to interested students at seven different universities across Canada, including the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The theme of the campaign is "Respond to the Beat of a Different Drum, Teach in Canada's Northwest Territories".

Minister of Education Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes says the joint initiative will go a long way to ensuring that NWT students continue to receive the highest quality education possible. "Aggressive competition for Canadian teachers around the world, means the Northwest Territories has to be creative in its efforts to recruit teachers," he said.

The co-ordinated teacher recruitment drive has been developed in addition to ongoing efforts by individual jurisdictions in the territory to recruit teachers currently living and working in the NWT, and graduates of the Aurora College Teacher Education (ACTE) program.

Increased awareness and accessibility to ACTE at all three campuses of Aurora College is also expected to result in a significant increase in northern teachers graduating in the spring of 2002 and 2003.

"There are many great reasons to take a teaching job in the Northwest Territories," Mr. Ootes said, "the opportunity to try different things, meet people from different cultures and access pristine wilderness. Teachers here make a big difference in helping to define the future of the Northwest Territories."

**For more information contact:**

**Chuck Tolley**

Director, Education Operations and Development

Education Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 873-7673



01-006

## **Minister Appoints Trustees to Stanton Regional Health Board**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen, today announced the appointments of Bernadette Stewart and David Wind as trustees to the Stanton Regional Health Board.**

Ms. Stewart and Mr. Wind and were chosen from a number of candidates who either applied, or were nominated by a community stakeholder, for the position. "Their vision and leadership skills will be a valuable asset to the Stanton Regional Health Board and the Health and Social Services system in the NWT," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

Bernadette Stewart has lived in Yellowknife for more than 13 years and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of the NWT. Her experience and accomplishments span both government and business environments as a former manager of the NWT Housing Corporation and the current President of Braden-Burry Expediting Ltd.

David Wind is a Yellowknife resident known for his significant contributions to business as the former owner and operator of Tamarack Computers and as an information technology consultant. Mr. Wind also possesses previous experience with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and is an active member of the community, currently involved with several boards and committees.

The Stanton Regional Health Board is the largest board in the NWT providing a wide range of programs and services to people throughout the North, primarily through the Stanton Regional Hospital. It is through the dedication and support of its trustees that these services are delivered with the highest possible standards.

"I would like to thank all candidates who allowed themselves to be considered for these appointments," Mrs. Groenewegen said, "It is vital that they and other members of the public continue to step forward and serve in these and other community service roles."

These appointments take effect immediately.

**For more information, contact:**

**Penny Ballantyne**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173



01-007

### **Deadline for 2001 NWT Arts Council Grants February 28th**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is accepting applications from NWT artists, musicians and organizations for 2001 NWT Arts Council grants.**

Funding is awarded annually by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) through the NWT Arts Council for creative projects in the visual, literary, media or performing arts field. "Every year, these applications reflect the rich cultural and artistic diversity that makes the NWT such an enriching and rewarding place to call home," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said.

In order to receive funding, each project must be completed within the next year. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, February 28, 2001.

As well as providing funding to individuals, the NWT Arts Council has, in the past two years, made contributions to groups such as Yellowknife's Folk on the Rocks music festival and the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik. Money was used at both events to support workshops for festival participants and interested persons, inspiring the creative flow and exchange of ideas and techniques between artists and the public.

**For more information, or to request an application, contact:**

**Boris Atamanenko**  
Community Programs Office  
Education, Culture and Employment  
(Tel) 867-920-6370



01-008

### **Consultation Begins on the Business Incentive Policy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 25) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is inviting Aboriginal governments, northern businesses and other organizations for their input on the Business Incentive Policy (BIP).**

“Territorial business and industry associations, as well as the Economic Strategy Panel, have indicated support for a revised and more focused Business Incentive Policy,” Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Joseph Handley said today. “Northern businesses are in the best position to provide recommendations on a northern business incentive policy.”

A discussion paper, “BIP – A New Direction”, is being distributed to Aboriginal governments, northern businesses, communities and other organizations.

The paper outlines issues related to BIP given the current operating environment in the NWT. It also poses specific questions to guide analysis and discussion and proposes options for redesigning the current BIP.

Public information sessions are being scheduled for each region of the NWT. The sessions will begin in mid-February and run until mid-March. A copy of the discussion paper is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/ti/bip/index.htm>

The deadline for comments on the BIP discussion paper is March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8048



01-009

### **Annual In-Service Develops and Refines Curriculum for NWT Schools**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 25) - Sixty educators and consultants from the five Divisional Education Councils and two Yellowknife District Education Authorities are in Yellowknife this week for the 2001 Education, Culture and Employment In-Service.**

In-service sessions are organized annually by the department to support classroom teachers in the implementation of curricula for NWT schools. "These sessions provide development opportunities for educators in the territory and ensure that curriculum-development work by the department is culturally relevant to our students," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said.

Three learning strands will be addressed: student support, mathematics and language learning. Language learning workshops will address the topics of English Language Arts, Western Canada Aboriginal Language Curriculum, Dene Kede for Grades 7 to 9 and French Language Arts.

Today's session will feature a presentation entitled "Celebrating Student Diversity," by Marilyn Hrycauk of Alberta's Northern Lights School Division. Ms. Hrycauk, a teacher for 25 years, has extensive experience in presenting workshops on brain research, multiple intelligences, programming that meets student diversity, student literacy and improving student achievement.

"Initiatives such as this annual in-service session go a long way to ensuring that we meet our goal of creating learning communities that will promote a healthy and self reliant future for all residents of the NWT." Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Public Affairs Co-ordinator  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222



01-010

### **Annual Aboriginal Language Communities Workshop in Yellowknife**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 25)** - Representatives of the NWT's Aboriginal language communities met in Yellowknife this week to share information and develop strategies on revitalizing, enhancing and promoting the NWT's traditional languages.

Many of the language communities are in the second year of implementing language plans to revive and promote their Aboriginal languages. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, acknowledged their hard work. "It is the commitment of people in these communities that plays the most important role in ensuring the continued use of Aboriginal languages," he said.

Delegates also discussed territorial wide initiatives to increase awareness of the diversity and importance of language to the cultures that make up the NWT.

Work by the language communities is supported by funding from the Department of Education Culture and Employment and the federal Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canada-Northwest Territories Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the NWT.

A number of initiatives, aimed at promoting, preserving and revitalizing Aboriginal languages in the NWT are already in place. They include the recording of traditional stories, drumming and drum songs in North Slavey, the establishment of literacy classes on the Hay River Reserve in South Slavey and the production of a Chipewyan 2001 calendar.

"These are only a few of the many excellent examples that exemplify the determination of people in our language communities to ensure that traditional languages remain a strong and vital part of northern society," Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Charles Arnold**  
Director, Language and Culture  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7551



01-011

### **NWT Premier in Ottawa for Meeting with Prime Minister and Throne Speech**

**OTTAWA (January 30) -- NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi says Canada's Prime Minister shares the Government of the Northwest Territories' vision of a self-sufficient NWT that is a contributor to Canada as a whole.**

The NWT Premier met privately with the Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien in Ottawa prior to today's Throne Speech. The two leaders discussed a broad range of issues of importance to the people and government of the Northwest Territories, including devolution and resource-revenue sharing; the location of federal positions in the NWT; and mining and oil and gas development over the past twelve months.

"I am encouraged by the Prime Minister's understanding of our development potential and the need for a resource-revenue sharing arrangement that would share revenues among all levels of government," Premier Kakfwi said.

While in Ottawa, Premier Kakfwi attended the Throne Speech by Her Excellency The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada. The Premier says he's pleased with the federal government's commitment to do more for Aboriginal people.

"Today's Throne Speech demonstrates a growing recognition by Ottawa of the urgent need to address the concerns and issues of Aboriginal people. Additional federal support can only serve to assist the government and people of the Northwest Territories in achieving our priorities and aspirations," Mr. Kakfwi said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
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Executive - GNWT  
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01-012

### **Minister Introduces Valuable New Resource for Teachers**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 31) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes launched a book of traditional Dene legends and stories yesterday that will help ensure culturally relevant concepts are taught in Northwest Territories' classrooms.**

"Legends and Stories from the Past", written by Dene elder George Blondin, was published by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. It will be used as a teaching resource for the Dene Kede curriculum in grades K-9.

Legends and stories included in the book have been cross-referenced with related thematic units within the curriculum. Teachers will also find the material relevant and valuable in other courses of study including language arts, northern studies, science and math.

"This new teaching tool supports the Department's goal of enhancing and protecting aboriginal culture through a focus on culture-based education," Mr. Ootes said. "Mr. Blondin's book strengthens our belief that culture, families and communities are the heart of the education process."

"Legends and Stories from the Past" is available in a PDF downloadable format at: [siksik.learnnet.nt.ca](http://siksik.learnnet.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

**Pauline Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-8061



01-013

### **February 5-11 is Apprenticeship Week in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 02) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes has declared February 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 as Apprenticeship Week in the Northwest Territories with the theme "Apprenticeship...your ticket to the future."**

"Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification have moved to the forefront of a bustling economy in the Northwest Territories," Mr. Ootes said. "This year's theme is especially appropriate as the government continues to work with industry and educational institutions to ensure the NWT develops a work force ready to take advantage of job opportunities in emerging industries."

The NWT Apprenticeship Program currently offers training in 42 designated trades and seven occupations. This year, 239 apprentices are working towards journeyman status in designated trades. The NWT Apprenticeship Program is one of the most successful in Canada. Nearly 20 out of every 1,000 residents in the NWT, (twice the national average), is an apprentice.

Estimates show that by the year 2010, increased economic activity will result in the creation of approximately 3,600 jobs in the NWT. "This represents a tremendous opportunity for all NWT residents," Mr. Ootes said. "We need to plan carefully to provide the training and education which will result in skills that meet that demand."

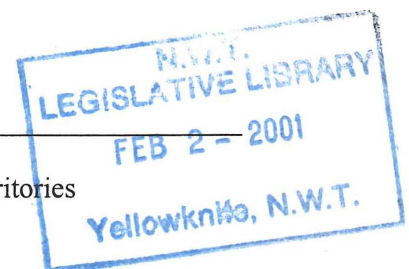
Special events are planned in all NWT communities to recognize the efforts of local businesses who support and promote the trades by employing apprentices and the efforts of the many other partners who have played a role in making the NWT Apprenticeship program one of the most successful in Canada.

**For more information, contact:**

**Lesley Allen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252

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01-014

### **Minister Meets with Fort Smith Health and Social Services Board**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 06) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen met with the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Board last week to discuss a joint plan of action to ensure the ongoing stability of health and social service delivery in Fort Smith.**

Mrs. Groenewegen said the reason for the meeting was to discuss administrative and operational concerns identified through recent reviews conducted by the Department of Health and Social Services. "I wanted to assure the Board that it is my department's intent to work closely with them to address these issues," the Minister said.

The Department and the Board have agreed to a joint plan of action that will include the provision of direct support from the department in key finance and human resource management areas.

"It is critical to reassure people that despite some administrative concerns, the front line staff delivering health care have been doing an excellent job of delivering programs and services to patients and clients. At this time, I have no reason to be concerned about the quality of care that is being provided to the residents of Fort Smith," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi**

Executive Assistant to Hon. Jane Groenewegen

Minister of Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 669-2310



01-015

### **NWT Premier to join Team Canada**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 08) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi leaves today to join Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and other Canadian Premiers on the 2001 Team Canada Trade Mission to China.**

The Prime Minister initiated Team Canada trade missions in 1994 as a way of promoting Canada and Canadian businesses in other countries. For Premier Kakfwi, the mission also provides a valuable opportunity to network with the Prime Minister, other Canadian Premiers and to meet with Canadian politicians, bureaucrats, private sector and banking representatives and the Canadian business media.

In addition to a busy schedule with the entire Canadian delegation, the Premier will participate in sidebar meetings with Chinese government and business officials responsible for mining, diamonds and the airline industry.

The federal government is covering the costs of the official NWT delegation. In addition to the Premier, the NWT delegation includes Principal Secretary John Bayly, and Premier Kakfwi's wife, Ms. Marie Wilson, who will participate in the spouses' itinerary.

Darrell Beaulieu, Chief Executive Officer of the Deton'cho Corporation will join this year's trade mission as part of Canada's business delegation. Mr. Beaulieu's primary interest is the diamond industry in China. There are several potential markets for Canadian diamonds in China.

**For more information, contact:**            **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-016

### **GNWT Participates in Wekweti Re-supply**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 09) – The Departments of Public Works and Services and Transportation will work in partnership with Northland Utilities (NWT) Ltd. to carry out their winter re-supply for the community of Wekweti by truck haul.**

The Petroleum Products Division of Public Works and Services plans to ship six truckloads of fuel while the Department of Transportation has one load of equipment destined for the community.

Northland Utilities (NWT) Ltd. is required to re-supply their bulk fuel tanks in Wekweti annually. This year the company has contracted Stan Dean and Sons to transport fuel shipments to the community.

Government shipments will be combined with those for Northland Utilities and costs shared by both parties based on the number of loads shipped.

In years when a truck haul is not viable, re-supply must be carried out, at greater expense, by air.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mike Burns**  
Regional Superintendent  
Public Works and Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7650

**Larry Rust or Brian Roy**  
Northland Utilities Ltd.  
Tel: (867) 874-6848



01-017

### **Physicians Recognized for Contribution To NWT Health Care**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 9) – Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen, today recognized the contribution of NWT physicians to the improved health and well being of residents in the Northwest Territories.**

In a ceremony held in the Legislative Assembly's Great Hall, the Minister presented long-service awards to 32 physicians who have contributed five or more years of service in the NWT. "I am pleased to recognize the dedication of these physicians who provide medical services in our communities," Mrs. Groenewegen said. "These individuals have persevered throughout the physician shortage we have experienced, and continue to provide the stability to ensure quality medical care is available to all who need it."

The Minister also introduced two new medical bursaries designed to support NWT medical students during their schooling and residency. The bursaries are named after Dr. George Gibson and Dr. Earle Covert, two physicians who have made great contributions to community life and their profession while working in the NWT.

The Minister also announced the first recipient of the Dr. George Gibson Medical Bursary: Mr. Michael Parkins, was in attendance at this afternoon's ceremony.

The ceremony represents the first time that NWT physicians have been formally recognized by the GNWT for their long-term commitment to health care.

**For more information, contact:** **Penny Ballantyne**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173



01-018

## **2001-2002 Budget Address Promises Investment in A Better Tomorrow**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 15) -- Successful efforts to constrain spending, increased economic activity, a one-time large increase in corporate tax collections and stronger Formula Financing revenues have turned a projected \$13 million deficit in 2000-2001 into a \$23 million surplus for the Government of the Northwest Territories.**

In an upbeat Budget Address to the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife today, GNWT Minister of Finance, Joseph Handley said that the improved fiscal situation will carry over into 2001-2002 when he projects a \$2 million surplus.

“We used our first year in office to finalize our strategies and to determine how they could be financed,” Mr Handley said. “This Budget sets out how our vision will be implemented. This surplus gives us the opportunity to make some critical investments.”

While Mr. Handley noted that the 2000-2001 revenue windfall provides temporary fiscal relief, he says the Government of the Northwest Territories cannot rely simply on luck. “We cannot continually depend on the federal government for the majority of our revenues – especially when we live in a territory endowed with such great natural wealth,” Mr. Handley said. “We must be allowed to make the investments that will allow our economy to grow and our people to prosper.”

Mr. Handley noted that only the devolution of lands and resources and the transfer of a fair share of resource revenues to northern governments will provide the means to address the long-term requirements of the Northwest Territories. “But,” he said, “the NWT cannot wait for devolution to invest in the future. If we want to create a climate of growth and development and if we want to leave our children a legacy of fulfilling and meaningful work, we need to make the investments in our social fabric and our economy now.”

The Finance Minister is confident that, by working with federal and Aboriginal governments, as well as community and business leaders, the Government’s ambitious program to maximize the benefits of the NWT’s immense potential can be achieved for everyone.

Budget details can be found in the attached highlights. The Budget Address and Main Estimates can be found on the GNWT’s web site at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html>

**For more information contact:**

**Margaret Melhorn**  
Deputy Minister of Finance  
Tel: (867) 873-7117

or

**Lew Voytilla**  
Secretary of the Financial Management Board  
Tel: (867) 873-7211



01-019

### **Transportation the theme for Heritage Day 2001**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 19) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes has joined his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts across Canada in declaring today Heritage Day.**

The Heritage Canada Foundation annually proclaims the third Monday in February as Heritage Day in Canada. This year, the theme chosen by the foundation is: "Travel Through Time: the Heritage of Transportation."

"Residents of the Northwest Territories have long been reliant on a wide range of transportation methods to improve and enhance their quality of life," Mr. Ootes said. "Because of the vastness of the land in which we live, we welcome advancements in the evolution of transportation, especially in this time of rich and rapid resource development."

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, the Norman Wells Historical Centre and the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith, will open today with special programs and displays in recognition of Heritage Day.

"Travelling Through Time," a travelling exhibit of 20 photos selected from the NWT Archives and related to the history of transportation in the North will tour NWT Schools, Libraries and Community Heritage locations throughout the year.

"Without the hard work and determination of pioneers in transportation, our lives today would be very different," Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Charles Arnold**

Director, Culture, Heritage and Languages

Education Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 873-7551.





01-020

### **Premier Says Team Canada Mission an Eye Opener**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 20) -- NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi says his participation in Team Canada's Trade Mission to China was an exciting opportunity and a worthwhile learning experience. The Premier returned to the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly today.**

"It was a chance to explore first-hand some of the business opportunities which may exist in China for NWT companies," the Premier said. "As important, were the opportunities I had en route to speak personally with the Prime Minister and his staff, my fellow Premiers and key representatives of the private sector and business media."

Most notable to the NWT Premier was the potential world market represented by China's burgeoning middle class and the opportunities for possible trade and information sharing with the NWT. Also of interest to the NWT Premier was China's experience in the diamond industry.

Together with the President of the Deton'Cho Corporation Darrell Beaulieu, Premier Kakfwi visited the Shanghai Diamond Exchange where discussions touched on the need for a North American Diamond Exchange possibly located in the NWT. Mr. Kakfwi and Mr. Beaulieu also toured and met with representatives from "Diamond" one of China's largest diamond cutting and polishing companies.

In a meeting with the Vice-Minister of China's Land and Resources Ministry, the highest government authority regulating natural resources in China, the Premier discussed the possibility of future exchanges of information and expertise.

The NWT Premier also met with the Vice-Minister of the General Administration of Civil Aviation. While primarily an introductory meeting, the Premier discussed air-transport issues first raised during a visit, by Chinese representatives to Yellowknife in 1998. "We talked about the potential of Yellowknife as a staging, stopover and/or emergency landing spot for the airline industry," Mr. Kakfwi said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



Northwest  
Territories Commissioner

00-021

### **NWT Commissioner to visit Inuvik**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 22) – The Honourable Commissioner Glenna Hansen will travel to Inuvik today for a five-day community visit.**

During her visit, Commissioner Hansen will pursue her program of meeting Northerners in their own communities.

These visits are conducted to provide citizens and organizations with an opportunity to increase the Commissioner's awareness of local activities and concerns and to allow the Commissioner to demonstrate her personal interest in and support of various events and initiatives.

During her visit to Inuvik, Fibbie Tatti, the Northwest Territories Language Commissioner, will accompany Commissioner Hansen. In addition to visiting the Education Board and Schools, Inuvik Transition House and the hospital they plan on meeting with available community leaders and will attend the official opening of the Arctic Oil and Gas Services and Petro-Canada Oil and Gas Swimming Point Camp.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob Boettger**  
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner  
Tel: (867) 873-7400



01-022

## Government Releases Literacy Strategy for NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 22) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today released a draft government-wide strategy to enhance existing literacy programs and ensure literacy training is available in NWT communities.**

*"Towards Literacy: A Strategy Framework"* was developed in response to a motion presented by regular members and passed by the Legislative Assembly last summer. The Department of Education Culture and Employment has allocated \$2.4 million in its 2001-2002 budget to implement the strategy for the first year.

"There is a direct positive link between education and employment, Mr. Ootes said. "Not only are people with more education more likely to have full time work, they are also more likely to continue to learn and to acquire skills. Literacy contributes directly to a higher quality of life for individuals - a key goal of this government's vision of educated northerners making responsible personal choices for themselves and their families."

The draft strategy addresses the need to expand literacy programs to NWT residents through community-based programs and active partnerships with individuals, families, communities, government and non-government organizations.

The Minister encourages all NWT residents to read the draft Strategy Framework and provide feedback to the Department of Education Culture and Employment by March 15, 2001.

**For more information, contact:** **Lesley Allen,**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252.



01-023

### **Findings of TB Report Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 23) – Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen, today released the main findings of the review she commissioned on the state of tuberculosis (TB) program delivery in the NWT.**

The review was lead by Dr. Anne Fanning, a world recognized expert in TB, assisted by the Regional Medical Health Officer for the Inuvik region, Dr. Mike Mulherin. The results of their investigation are summarized in the final report prepared for the Minister, entitled *A Report on Tuberculosis Control in the Northwest Territories*.

“I have just received this report and, as promised, I am making the findings publicly available,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “I am directing department and board officials to examine the 26 recommendations identified by Drs. Fanning and Mulherin, and to prepare a detailed response in early March.”

**For more information, contact:**      **Penny Ballantyne**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173



01-024

### **Youth Exploration Program to Strengthen Northern Spirit**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 26) -- Minister Responsible for Youth Roger Allen, says the Youth Exploration Program, introduced on Friday, is a worthy investment in the youth of the NWT.**

The partnership program between Canadian North and the Territorial Youth Association will enable young people in the Northwest Territories to access either complimentary or discount airfares to travel in the NWT for productive and beneficial events.

Applications to the program are to be co-ordinated by a joint committee comprised of representatives from the Minister's office, Canadian North and the Territorial Youth Association.

To qualify for support from the new partnership, NWT youth will need to meet criteria and priorities outlined by the committee. For 2001, these priorities are stated to be the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, youth development and training, youth justice and crime prevention and sports and recreation.

"I applaud the Territorial Youth Association and Canadian North for their commitment to invest time energy and resources into our young people," Mr. Allen said. "I encourage all NWT youth and youth organizations to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen our northern spirit."

**For more information, contact:**

**Tom Williams**

Executive Assistant to Hon. Roger T. Allen

Tel: (867) 669-2315



01-025

### **Early Childhood Professionals Meet in Yellowknife**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 02) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today welcomed more than 140 early childhood professionals from across the Northwest Territories to Yellowknife for two days of professional development, networking and fun.**

“The programs you provide for children up to 6 years of age are critical to establishing a foundation for learning,” Mr. Ootes told delegates in his opening address. “Research shows that the earlier learning enrichment begins, the better prepared a child will be for a lifetime of learning.”

The theme of the Conference is “Experience the Magic and Wonder.” A series of workshops will deal with topics such as family and early childhood literacy, the importance of speech and language development, food preparation and handling, infant care and the importance of incorporating culture in early childhood programs.

Keynote speaker Sandra Griffin, the Executive Director of the Canadian Childcare Federation (CCCF), will welcomed delegates to the conference this morning. Children’s poet and story teller Sheree Fitch will share with delegates tomorrow how to turn a story they love to tell into a children’s book of their own.

“This conference supports the efforts of the GNWT to ensure that the professionals who provide care and education have the support they need,” Mr. Ootes said. “By working together we can help to ensure that every child in the NWT has the greatest possible opportunity to experience the magic and wonder of childhood.”

**For more information, contact:**

**Ellie Elliott**

Director, Early Childhood and School Services

Tel: (867) 920-3491



01-026

### **Fuel Subsidy Available to Commercial Fishing Sector**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 02) -- A fuel subsidy of \$150.00 is now available for people holding commercial fishing licences in the Northwest Territories.**

The fuel subsidy was announced today by the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Joseph Handley.

“Commercial fishermen, like trappers, are bearing the burden of increased fuel costs,” Mr. Handley said. “This subsidy will help them cover some of these costs.”

The subsidy will be provided to any individual, holding a commercial fishing licence, with sales of more than \$500.00 in the past year.

**For more information, contact:**

**Robert McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8048



01-027

### **NWT Housing Minister Announces Details of Fuel Rebate Initiative**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 08) – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Roger T. Allen and Minister of Finance Joe Handley yesterday released details of the GNWT's initiative to assist homeowners and renters in coping with the increased cost of heating oil, propane and natural gas.**

The Fuel Rebate Initiative will provide eligible applicants whose annual household income is below \$75,000.00 with a one-time fuel rebate: \$320 for homeowners and renters who directly pay for all fuel costs; and \$150 for renters who indirectly pay for fuel costs. Applicants with a total household income above \$75,000.00 but below \$85,000.00 may be eligible for 50% of the rebate.

Qualifying households must also meet specific program criteria. Restrictions apply to residents who receive various forms of rent subsidies and to residents who already receive some form of fuel subsidy. Seniors who receive the Fossil Fuel Subsidy are still eligible to receive assistance under this initiative.

Fuel Rebate Initiative guidelines and application forms will be available in all communities next week at the Local Housing Organization offices, Band/Municipal offices and all District offices of the NWT Housing Corporation. Applications and guidelines are also available on the NWT Housing Corporation web page at <http://nwthc.gov.nt.ca>.

Applications must be received at the NWT Housing Corporation Headquarters in Yellowknife or be postmarked on or before, March 31, 2001. Qualifying recipients will receive their rebate within a month of receipt and approval of their application.

Further information for all residents will be provided early next week through the various media outlets in the NWT.

**For additional information contact: Fred Pedersen**  
Policy Analyst/Public Affairs Co-ordinator  
Tel: (867) 873-7854  
E-mail: [fred\\_pedersen@gov.nt.ca](mailto:fred_pedersen@gov.nt.ca)





01-028

## **Premier says Winning Conditions Exist for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

**CALGARY (March 08) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the Northwest Territories is prepared to help solve North American's energy problems.**

The NWT Premier told delegates at the Arctic Gas Symposium in Calgary Thursday that the Mackenzie Valley pipeline is the "missing link" between the energy hungry continental market and the abundant oil and gas resources of Canada's Northwest Territories. He called on the federal government to invest in the "made-in-northern Canada" solution to North America's energy crisis.

The NWT Premier promised that if the Canadian government committed to investing in resource development in the NWT, it would enable, not only the timely development of infrastructure and industry in the Northwest Territories but, the flow of benefits to all Canadians. Mr. Kakfwi noted that the NWT could also provide the stable energy source sought by Prime Minister Chrétien and President Bush as a component of a future North American energy policy.

"The time is at hand to develop and begin to export our Mackenzie/Liard gas reserves," Premier Kakfwi told the 300 plus delegates in attendance. "The winning conditions in the Northwest Territories will make the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline a reality."

Premier Kakfwi reiterated that any decision regarding the route by which Alaskan gas should be shipped is best left to the gas producers. He noted, however, that sharing the cost of a Canadian pipeline would work in favour of Alaskan gas producers. "They have a vested interest in providing a reliable supply of reasonably priced gas to their customers" he said.

In October the Canadian Energy Research Institute calculated that the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline was commercially viable at less than half of the current market price of natural gas. Four major Mackenzie Delta Gas Producers have indicated that they are prepared to put forward an application for a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline before year-end.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-029

## **Changes to Labour Standards Act Give Parents More Time with Children**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 09) – Minister of Justice Jim Antoine says changes to the *Labour Standards Act*, passed Wednesday by the Legislative Assembly, mean more parents in the NWT can now take full advantage of extended parental leave benefits provided by the federal government.**

Under the federal Employment Insurance program, parents can now receive financial benefits for up to 50 weeks after the birth of a child and 35 weeks after the placement of a child for adoption. Changes to the NWT *Labour Standards Act* have extended the amount of time employees in the NWT can take off work to match the new federal benefits.

“The GNWT has committed to improving the social well being of the NWT and has focussed much effort on supporting and enhancing the role of the family,” Mr. Antoine said. “These changes will offer more parents the opportunity to share fully in the critical first months of their children’s lives.”

Changes to the legislation take effect on April 15, 2001 and will effect parents who have had children, or received them for adoption, since December 31, 2000. These changes apply to eligible parents who work in the private sector. Government employees are already eligible for the extended leave under a different scheme.

Further information regarding the changes is available from the Labour Services office of the Department of Justice.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Janis Cooper**  
A/Director, Policy & Planning  
Department of Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3131



01-030

## **Premier Announces Changes to Deputy Minister Appointments**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 13) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi today announced that the Deputy Ministers of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Health and Social Services will exchange job responsibilities.**

In a move designed to broaden senior management experience within the social envelope, Mrs. Penny Ballantyne, the current Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services will take over the helm as Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mark Cleveland, the current Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, will assume responsibility as the head of Health and Social Services. These changes will become effective on April 1, 2001.

“Mark Cleveland and Penny Ballantyne are both valued senior managers with a wealth of experience in portfolios of critical importance to serving the public. They are integral members of the GNWT’s senior management team and I am pleased that each will bring his and her unique knowledge and perspective to their new positions,” Premier Kakfwi said. “This move will help strengthen senior management within the social envelope as we prepare for the important work of developing a social agenda.”

Penny Ballantyne joined the GNWT in 1977 and has held such positions as President of the NWT Housing Corporation and Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mrs. Ballantyne has been the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services since July 1998.

Mark Cleveland joined the GNWT in 1976 as the Adult Educator for Arctic Bay and has held such positions as President of Arctic College and Assistant Deputy Minister of Culture and Careers. Mr. Cleveland has been the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment since May 1997.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes join the Premier in welcoming the Deputy Ministers to their new jobs. The Ministers say they are looking forward to working with the Deputies in their new capacities because of the extensive experience each brings to the job.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Elizabeth Snider**  
Secretary to Cabinet  
Department of Executive  
Tel: (867) 873-7100



01-031

### **Minister Hosts Ski Symposium**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 14) — Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Roger Allen will host the Territorial Experimental Ski Training (TEST) Ski Symposium in Inuvik March 21-23, 2001.**

The symposium is part of ongoing government consultations with the NWT sport and recreation community to find ways to improve participation opportunities for all NWT residents. Delegates will consider the state of cross-country skiing in the NWT, past successes, ideas for further development of the sport and ways to get people more involved in sport and recreation activities.

“We know that active living leads to improved health for Northerners,” Mr. Allen said. “We can help NWT residents lead active lives by improving their opportunities to participate in sport and recreation activities. The TEST program is one NWT success story that we can look at for new ideas.”

The TEST program was a development program for NWT skiers, based in Inuvik, from 1967-1975. Athletes from the program raced in national and international competitions, including four World Ski Championships and four Winter Olympics. Former members of the program include Mr. Allen, Sharon Firth and Shirley Firth-Larsson.

Delegates to the TEST Ski Symposium will include former members of the TEST program, leaders in cross country skiing and youth. The symposium will coincide with the NWT Ski Championships, which will be held in Inuvik March 24-25, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Shaun Dean**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512



01-032

### **Response to the Report on TB Control Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 15) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen today released a response to the *Report on Tuberculosis Control in the Northwest Territories*.**

The response addresses 26 recommendations identified by Dr. Anne Fanning and Dr. Mike Mulherin in their review of the delivery of TB programs in the NWT. It provides a plan of action to improve TB programs, with a focus on early detection of TB, training of health care providers and increasing community awareness.

“We will work with each of our health and social services boards to strengthen TB program activities at the board and community level.” Mrs. Groenewegen said.

The Minister promised NWT residents a timely response to the report during a news conference presenting the report’s main findings on February 23, 2001.

Copies of the Report on TB Control in the NWT and/or the Department’s response are available from the NWT’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

**For more information, contact:**

**Dr. Andre Corriveau**  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-3231



01-033

### **Minister Declares Education Week in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 26) – Students from Fort McPherson joined Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes via the Internet today to launch the Northern Studies 10 Online program. The launch helped mark the beginning of Education Week (March 26 to April 1) in the NWT.**

“The North has always been a leader in using and adapting technology in innovative ways,” Mr. Ootes noted. “Northern Studies 10 Online is an excellent example of a made-in-the-north program that meets national standards while maintaining the cultures and traditions in which our education system is rooted.”

The theme for this year’s Education Week is ‘*Discovering New Trails...Learning Together*’. “It is an opportunity to celebrate learning and to acknowledge that regardless of which trail we take, our lives are a journey of discovery,” Mr. Ootes said.

NWT communities were given the opportunity to celebrate education week in a uniquely northern way this year. Each school, library, teaching or learning centre and daycare was provided a kit containing materials to build a dog team. Each resident who experienced learning was encouraged to write about their experience on one of the paper huskies provided in the package. One by one these dogs were connected to a dogsled and community teams were created.

A territorial dog team, with contributions from each of the communities, was unveiled as part of today’s kick off to Education Week 2001 at the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife. The dog team will remain on display throughout Education Week.

**For more information contact:**

**Pauline Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Culture & Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-8061



01-034

### **Status of NWT Species Documented**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 27) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Joe Handley has released a report outlining the general status of more than 400 wild species of plants, birds, fish and other animals in the Northwest Territories.**

“The NWT Species 2000 Report honours part of our monitoring commitment under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada,” Mr. Handley said. “It will serve as a valuable wildlife management tool.”

The on-going monitoring of the status of NWT species will allow northerners to detect changes in species distribution, population numbers and potential threats to wildlife populations or habitats. Information and data included in the report is gained through both traditional and scientific knowledge and will be updated every five years.

The report was produced by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in partnership with the Sahtu and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Boards, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee and the federal government.

Copies of the NWT Species 2000 Report are available from regional RWED offices or on the Internet at: [www.nwtwildlife.rwed.gov.nt.ca/monitor.htm](http://www.nwtwildlife.rwed.gov.nt.ca/monitor.htm)

**For more information, contact:**

**Doug Stewart**

Director, Wildlife and Fisheries

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Tel: (867) 920-8064



01-035

## **NWT Premier Says Proposed Alaskan Legislation is a Desperate Act**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 29) -- NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi says proposed Alaskan legislation to prohibit construction of an offshore pipeline from Prudhoe Bay is an act of desperation by state legislators and proves they recognize the Mackenzie Valley route with an over-the-top link is the best option for moving North Slope gas to markets.**

Bill 164, introduced by Kenai Peninsula state senator John Torgerson, would prohibit leases on state-owned submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea, eliminating the option for Alaskan gas producers to get Alaskan gas to continental markets via the more cost-effective Mackenzie Valley route.

Studies of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline option show the route to be flatter, shorter, environmentally more favourable and the least costly of any alternative. Premier Kakfwi says it is the route that will take Canadian gas to market with or without an over-the-top connection. Alaskan producers, who have said they need to be economical, will spend \$75 million (USD) over the next year to assess their options, including sharing the cost of a pipeline with Canadian producers by linking the offshore route with a Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

“This peremptory move by Alaska state legislators may serve to price Alaskan gas producers out of the market by forcing them to use a more expensive route to get their product to market,” Premier Kakfwi said. “It is a move that is contrary to the spirit of a continental energy policy and shows no regard for the public who will pay the higher price.”

In a news conference earlier today, US President George Bush recognized the important role an NWT route can play in helping to provide gas to southern consumers. “In the end, it won’t be the cheaper Canadian gas that is stranded,” Premier Kakfwi observed.

The NWT Premier, who will speak at the Ziff Energy Group North American Gas Strategies Conference in Houston, Texas, on April 3, called upon the federal government to ensure that Canadian interests are protected in the development of a continental energy policy being advocated by President Bush.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
Resources Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8048





01-036

### **GNWT to Assist Communities with Insurance Costs**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 29) - Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Roger Allen today announced that the Government of the Northwest Territories will provide additional funding to community governments to cover increases in municipal insurance premiums.**

Hamlets, cities, towns and villages in the NWT hold group general liability insurance through the NWT Association of Municipalities (NWTAM). Recently, the association was advised that the cost of this insurance would increase substantially. To cover this unanticipated increase, the GNWT has agreed to provide an additional \$565,000 to community governments subject to higher insurance premiums.

“Increased insurance costs represent a significant burden for NWT community governments,” Mr. Allen said. “This additional funding will help community governments maintain their insurance coverage without passing the increased costs on to their residents.”

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will work with the NWTAM to explore longer-term options for reducing the cost of municipal insurance in future years.

**For more information, contact:**

**Shaun Dean**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512

**Yvette Gonzalez**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NWTAM  
Tel: (867) 873-8359



01-037

## **NWT Poised to Play Key Role in North American Energy Policy**

**HOUSTON (April 3) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories is intent on having direct involvement in discussions regarding a continental energy policy Premier Stephen Kakfwi told delegates at a North American Gas strategies Conference in Houston this morning.**

The NWT Premier cautioned that such a policy, designed to ensure a secure supply of reasonably priced energy to North America, is not compatible with parochial interests and reiterated his belief that Alaskan producers should be left to determine how best to move Alaska gas to market.

"Governments have a duty to encourage the most efficient and economic distribution systems," he said. "Constructing two pipelines where one will suffice may be good for those who build pipelines, but it is not good for the consumer who must pay the price in the end; nor is it necessarily good for the environment."

Mr. Kakfwi again called on the Canadian government to ensure Canadian interests are protected in the development of a continental energy policy by making the timely development of Canadian gas reserves a condition for Canadian participation in that policy.

Mr. Kakfwi's speech to the predominantly American audience was the first since President Bush's comments last week that he would consider NWT reserves as an alternate source of natural gas if necessary.

"I am very aware of the high priority that President Bush places on ensuring a secure and reliable supply of fuel and electricity for the United States and the North American continent," Premier Kakfwi said. "I am pleased to see that President Bush recognizes that gas reserves in the Northwest Territories offer an important and viable alternative to developing the sensitive Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Lands in Alaska."

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-038

### **Sahtu Leaders to Work Together to Review Programs and Services**

**DELINE (April 9) – Leaders in the Sahtu have agreed to establish a working group to review the delivery of government programs and services in the Sahtu region. Representatives of the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI), the Sahtu Dene Council, communities in the Sahtu and the Government of the Northwest Territories, met last week in Deline.**

The working group will be comprised of representatives from the communities of Tulita, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Norman Wells and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

It will work to identify how other processes may impact program and service delivery in the region; identify options to improve program and service delivery; and identify opportunities to work together on a regional basis to improve coordination of program and service delivery. It will also begin development of a Sahtu Regional Human Resource Development Plan.

“The Sahtu Dene Council is pleased with this first step and looks forward to hearing about the progress being made by the working group,” Grand Chief Frank Andrew said.

“SSI is particularly pleased that the working group will be considering a Sahtu Human Resource Development Plan that will look at the capacity requirements of this region”, Chair of Sahtu Secretariat Inc. Edwin Erutse said.

“I’m very pleased to be taking the first step in starting to work together with all the communities in the Sahtu Region,” said Norman Wells Mayor Kevin Diebold.

The working group will report back to its member organizations and leaders on a monthly basis. It is expected that an initial report and recommendations will be submitted to leaders prior to September 1, 2001.

“The GNWT is very pleased to be able to participate with Sahtu leaders in this review,” Premier Kakfwi said, “particularly the need to begin planning for how programs and services could be delivered in the Sahtu in the future.”

**For more information, contact:**

<b>Larry Hutchison</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Richard Bargery</b>
Executive Director		Special Advisor,
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated		IGF Secretariat
Deline, NT		Tel: (867) 920-8720
Tel: (867) 589-4719		



01-039

### **Income Assistance Clients Allowed to Keep Federal Fuel Rebate Money**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 10) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jake Ootes today announced that the GNWT has agreed to allow Income Assistance clients in the NWT to keep the money they received under the Federal Fuel Rebate program.**

“The extensive feedback I have received, particularly from income support recipients and concerned citizens, indicates a widespread feeling that this rebate should not be deducted from the cheques of income support clients,” Mr. Ootes said. “Any money previously recovered by the GNWT will be returned to clients as soon as possible.”

Mr. Ootes noted this is an interim measure to allow ECE to complete its current review of the regulations that determine the level of Income Assistance paid to eligible clients in the NWT.

Under that review, initiated in February, ECE expects a number of changes to the program, including increases to food allowance rates and the amount of income clients are allowed to earn while receiving Income Assistance.

**For more information, contact: Lesley Allen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment  
(867) 873-7252



01-040

## **New Legislation Makes Legal Registries Easier to Use**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 17) -- Minister of Justice Jim Antoine announced today that the Northwest Territories' *Personal Property Security Act* will come into force on May 7, 2001.**

"This new legislation and registry system will provide improved access to information, reduce administrative procedures and bring the Northwest Territories in line with other Canadian jurisdictions," Mr. Antoine said.

The new *Act* will substantially change the way security interests in personal property are registered in the Northwest Territories. Financial institutions, lawyers and many other commercial organizations have filed and searched documents in a manual paper-based registry for many years. These organizations will now enter notices of security interests in an on-line territory-wide Personal Property Registry from their office or home computers. The legislation provides for the transition from the existing paper-based registry to the new electronic registry.

Access to the Personal Property Registry will be available by subscription through Atlantic Canada On-Line (ACOL), a public-private partnership between Unisys Canada Inc. and the four Atlantic provinces. By agreement with the Atlantic provinces, the Northwest Territories Personal Property Registry is incorporated into this single-point-of-access service. This system will support multiple territory or province registration and search capabilities via the Internet.

The proclamation of the Personal Property Security Act will result in the repeal of the following Acts: *Assignment of Book Debts Act, Bills of Sale Act, Conditional Sales Act, Corporation Securities Registration Act, and Document Registry Act.*

Several other *Acts* will be amended with this new law, including the *Business Corporations Act, Factors Act, Garage Keepers Lien Act, and the Sale of Goods Act.*

**For more information, contact:**

**Tom Hall**  
Registrar,  
Northwest Territories Personal Property Registry  
Tel: (867) 873-7493



01-041

## **Outstanding NWT Volunteers Honoured**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Roger T. Allen today announced the recipients of the 2001 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs presents the awards annually to recognize the outstanding contribution volunteers make in all NWT communities.**

Recipients of the territorial award for 2001 are:

- Kristine McLeod, Inuvik - High Five Youth Award
- Esther Braden, Yellowknife - Respected Elder Award
- Juneva Green, Fort Smith - Board Member Award
- Edna Dow, Hay River - Good Neighbour Award
- Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department - Outstanding Community Organization Award

Recipients were selected from over 100 nominations submitted by NWT residents.

"I would like to congratulate the recipients and all nominees for the Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards," Mr. Allen said. "Volunteers are an essential part of our communities. During 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, it is particularly important that we recognize and thank all NWT volunteers for the work they do to make the NWT a better place to live."

To improve recognition of volunteers across the NWT, the awards program has been expanded for 2001. Beginning this year, awards will be presented in five categories to acknowledge the many different ways that people may volunteer.

A new regional awards program has also been introduced this year. Under the regional program, awards will be presented to outstanding volunteers in each region. Territorial awards will continue to be presented to individuals or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to the NWT through their work as volunteers.

The announcement of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award recipients and nominees is part of celebrations for National Volunteer Week, April 22 - 28, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Shaun Dean**  
Communications Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Phone: (867) 873-7512

## **Backgrounder — NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Award Categories**

The NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards were expanded in 2001 to better recognize the many different ways that volunteers serve NWT communities. Beginning with the 2001 Awards, territorial awards will be presented in the following five categories:

- High Five Youth Award - presented to an NWT young person to recognize outstanding youth volunteer service.
- Respected Elder Award - presented to recognize the outstanding volunteer contribution made by an NWT senior citizen.
- Board Member Award - presented to recognize outstanding volunteer service as a member of an NWT board.
- Good Neighbour Award - presented to recognize informal outstanding volunteer service done as an individual and not as a member of a formal volunteer organization.
- Outstanding Community Organization Award - presented to recognize the outstanding contribution made by a non-profit community service organization.

### **Regional Award Recipients and Nominees**

#### **Recipients - Inuvik Region**

Michael Muller - Regional Board Member Award  
Kristine McLeod - Regional High Five Youth Award

#### **Nominees – Inuvik Region**

Jeffrey Amos  
Leticia Byrch  
Rachel Devine  
Ryan McLeod  
Grant Potter  
James Ruben Sr.  
Sherri Rioux  
Greta Sittichinli  
Linda Smith  
Jo Ann Whiteside  
Clarence Wood

#### **Recipients - Sahtu Region**

Rosie Sewi - Regional Respected Elder Award

**Nominees – Sahtu Region**

Kristine Drader  
Patricia Modeste

**Recipients - North Slave Region**

Philip Nitsiza - Regional Respected Elder Award

**Nominees – North Slave Region**

Mary Adele Chocolate  
Doreen Nitsiza  
Hardy Nitsiza

**Recipients - South Slave Region**

Brandon Ashcroft - Regional High Five Youth Award  
Lizzie Beaulieu - Regional Respected Elder Award  
Theresa Bonnetrouge - Regional Board Member Award  
Meaghan Buglar - Regional Board Member Award  
Eileen Collins - Regional Board Member Award  
Edna Dow - Regional Good Neighbour Award  
June Erickson - Regional Board Member Award  
Marcella Fabien - Regional Good Neighbour Award  
Juneva Green - Regional Board Member Award  
Ben Greenfield - Regional Respected Elder Award  
Janie Hobart - Regional Board Member Award  
Brandie Miersch - Regional High Five Youth Award  
Ruby Ann Minoza - Regional Good Neighbour Award  
Dawna O'Brien - Regional Board Member Award  
Arthur Sanderson - Regional Good Neighbour Award  
NWT Track and Field Championships - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award  
Hay River Horticultural Society - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award  
Hay River Community Youth Centre - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award  
Saint Joseph Catholic Parish - Regional Outstanding Community Organization

**Nominees - South Slave Region**

Barry Ashton  
Andrew Butler  
Gordon Lefoin  
Harvey Lefoin  
Diane McCallum  
Arlene Mills  
Albertine Nadli  
Greg Turnbull  
Isabelle Wilcox



**Recipients - Deh Cho Region**

Betty Hardisty - Regional Board Member Award

Ed Ten Brinke - Regional Good Neighbour Award

Fort Simpson Fire and Ambulance Department - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award

**Recipients – Yellowknife**

Larry Babiuk - Regional Good Neighbour Award

Jerome Babyn - Regional Board Member Award

Esther Braden - Regional Respected Elder Award

Wendy Carlos - Regional Good Neighbour Award

Lorne Gushue - Regional Board Member Award

Karyn Hicks - Regional Board Member Award

Steve Lacey - Regional Good Neighbour Award

Teresa Lachowski - Regional Board Member Award

Rachel McNeil - Regional High Five Youth Award

Mara Smith - Regional High Five Youth Award

Canadian Mental Health Assoc./NWT Division - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award

Philippine Cultural Association - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award

Stanton Hospital Auxiliary - Regional Outstanding Community Organization Award

**Nominees - Yellowknife**

Charlotte Babicki

Michel Lefebvre

Maureen Pirker

Gloria Reyes

Arlene Yaceyko

Girl Guides of Canada/NWT Council

Literacy Outreach Centre

Yellowknife Gymnastics Club



01-042

## Conference to Focus on Revitalizing Aboriginal language Use

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 08) – Nearly 100 delegates have gathered in Yellowknife this week for a conference aimed at preserving and revitalizing Aboriginal language use for the future.**

Titled *Echoes of Language*, the three-day conference has brought together elders, parents, youth, language and culture specialists and educators from across the NWT and from as far away as Hawaii to partake in sessions designed to stimulate ideas and promote methods of encouraging the use of Aboriginal languages.

“This important work requires a co-operative and co-ordinated approach that includes families, schools and communities,” Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said. “Gathering to share common experience is one way of generating new ideas on how to incorporate Aboriginal language use into everyday life in the NWT.”

Key presentations this week will include those from Hawaii where successful language immersion programs have been established incorporating the teaching of elders; and Cold Lake, Alberta where the common use of Chipewyan has been returned through pre-school immersion programs.

A highlight of the conference is the participation of Elders from language communities across the NWT. “Traditional languages are key to preserving the essence of who our Aboriginal people are,” Mr. Ootes told delegates. “I hope you will leave this conference with a renewed commitment to preserving and enhancing both Aboriginal languages and cultures.”

*Echoes of Language* was organized by the Strength from Culture Guiding Committee including representatives from tribal councils, teaching and learning Centres, schools, divisional education councils and the GNWT’s Department of Education Culture and Employment.

It is this committee’s mandate to guide and support education in the Northwest Territories so that it continues to reflect the cultural and linguistic heritage of Aboriginal Peoples in the NWT.

**For more information, contact:**

**Pauline Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-8061



01-043

### **GNWT Comptroller General Wins National Recognition**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 09) -- Lew Voytilla, Comptroller General and Secretary of the Financial Management Board, has been awarded the Vanier Gold Medal in recognition of his leadership and contribution to the field of public administration in Canada.**

The Vanier Medal is named for the late George P. Vanier, Governor General of Canada, and presented annually by the Institute of Public Administration in Canada. Mr. Voytilla received the award last night in Edmonton.

GNWT Minister of Finance Joe Handley nominated Mr. Voytilla for the award. "This award is a well deserved mark of distinction and exceptional achievement," he noted. "Mr. Voytilla's years of dedicated service and indispensable advice to the GNWT have been invaluable on so many levels."

NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi praised Mr. Voytilla for his commitment and expertise. "Our jurisdiction is characterized by many unique and demanding challenges," the Premier said. "Mr. Voytilla's leadership and commitment continues to be central to our successful participation in many initiatives ranging from the creation of Nunavut, to the day-to-day responsibility of public administration, to progress on aboriginal rights negotiations and devolution. His accomplishments are indicative of his dedication to the North and its people."

Mr. Voytilla first travelled North in the early 70's as an employee of the Hudson Bay Company. He met his wife Cheryl while posted in the Mackenzie Delta. They have three children.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Communications Executive – GNWT  
Tel (867) 669-2304



01-044

### **Minister Recognizes Outstanding Efforts of Youth**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 09) – Minister Responsible for Youth Roger Allen has recognized the leadership and volunteer contributions of six NWT youth with 2001 Outstanding Youth Awards. He made the announcement last night during a celebratory dinner in the Legislative Assembly’s Great Hall marking International Youth Week (May 6-12).**

Regional award recipients include Jamie Moses (Wrigley), Sharon Touangeau (Fort Smith), Jackie Pascal (Fort McPherson), Marty Ann Kenny (Deline), and Lee Roy Koyina (Rae/Edzo). “Each are excellent ambassadors and role models for Youth in the NWT,” Mr. Allen said. “They are to be commended for their dedication to their communities.”

The Minister also presented an overall award to Yellowknifer Candice Underhay. “Our young people have an ever-increasing role in our society and we must tap into this resource,” he noted. “The GNWT will continue to support and provide opportunities for youth as they assume key roles in our northern society.”

The Minister presented the awards in partnership with the Territorial Youth Association and Canadian North. “I am very encouraged to see youth groups such as the Territorial Youth Association leading the way and providing programs in support of youth across the NWT,” the Minister said.

**For more information contact:**           **Tom Williams**  
Executive Assistant to the  
Hon. Roger T. Allen  
Tel: (867) 669-2315



01-045

### **French Reading Materials for NWT Libraries**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 14) – Libraries in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith will share over \$15,000 worth of new French-language reading materials Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes announced today.**

The materials, including fiction and non-fiction books, videos, reference material, magazines and weekly subscriptions to the Saturday editions of La Presse and Voir, will be purchased through the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the Northwest Territories.

“Language is one of the foundations critical to learning, Mr. Ootes said. “If the official languages of the Northwest Territories are to prosper and grow, it is necessary for the Government to help provide the tools needed by various language groups. This new French-language reading material is one of those tools.”

Residents outside of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith will also be able to access the new materials through the NWT Inter library loan system.

**For more information, contact:**

**Alexander McDonald**  
Territorial Librarian  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 874-6531

or

**Robert Galipeau**  
Manager, Language Services  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920- 8630



01-046

## **Construction Contract Awarded for Inuvik Regional Health and Social Service Centre**

**INUVIK (May 14) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Gronewegen, Minister of Public Works and Services Vince Steen and Chair of the Inuvik Region Health and Social Services Board Nellie Cournoyea today announced that the construction contract for the new Health and Social Services Centre in Inuvik has been awarded to a joint venture partnership of Uummarmiut Development Corporation and the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation.**

"Replacement of the current facility has been a goal of the Inuvik Region Health and Social Services Board for quite some time," Ms. Cournoyea said. "Our board members are very pleased with the planned new facility and the fact that construction will begin quickly."

Construction of the approximately \$37-million Inuvik Hospital replacement will begin this month and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2003. The 8,700 square-metre facility will include a 17-bed Acute Inpatient Care Unit, a 25-bed Continuing and Residential Care Unit, diagnostic and treatment facilities, a transient centre, emergency health services and social and community health services.

Ninety North Partners have been selected to provide project management. Representatives of the joint venture partners, the GNWT, the project management team and the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board have worked to confirm a design for the new facility that addresses program requirements and ensures that the project will be completed within budget.

"The level of cooperation has been excellent," Mrs. Gronewegen said. "All of the participants have made excellent contributions and we now have a design that will be very well suited to the needs of the region."

It is expected that 25 northerners will have an opportunity to advance their apprenticeship training on this project. An additional 40 regional residents will be employed in related fields.

**For more information, contact:** **Warren St. Germaine**  
Director, Financial & Management Services  
Health & Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8931



01-047

### **Mediation to be Scheduled**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 16) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the NWT Teachers' Association (NWTTA) have agreed to seek the assistance of a mediator to assist them in reaching a collective agreement that can be recommended for ratification. Although significant progress has been made during the last two negotiating sessions, a few outstanding issues remain.**

This decision comes as a result of collective bargaining discussions on May 14, 2001. These negotiations are for the renewal of the collective agreement that expires in August 2001.

Mediation will be scheduled as soon as the GNWT and the NWTTA select a mediator.

**For further information contact:**

**Karan Shaner**

Collective Bargaining and Labour Relations Advisor  
Labour Relations and Compensation  
Financial Management Board Secretariat  
Tel: (867) 920-6158

or

**Sharilyn Alexander**

Manager, Labour Relations  
Labour Relations and Compensation  
Financial Management Board Secretariat  
Tel: (867) 873-7248



01-048

## **Social Agenda Conference to Sharpen Focus on Social Issues in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 16) – Social service providers, Aboriginal leaders, Cabinet ministers and MLAs will meet to discuss social issues in the Northwest Territories at an upcoming Social Agenda Conference June 18 - 20 on the Hay River Reserve.**

The keynote speaker for the event will be Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief, Matthew Coon Come. Other speakers will include Premier Stephen Kakfwi and Chairman of the Native Mental Health Association of Canada Bill Mussel. Many of the more than 150 delegates expected to attend are service providers who work tirelessly to address social issues in communities across the NWT.

“This conference is the first of its kind in the NWT,” says Deputy Premier Jane Groenewegen, Chair of the Ministers’ Committee on the Social Agenda. “It will provide an opportunity for people who work first-hand on social issues to meet face to face with Aboriginal and community leaders, government legislators and policymakers. This conference is about looking together at underlying issues and forming partnerships to strengthen the well being of individuals, families and communities.”

Rapid economic growth can place an additional burden on social programs and service providers. Working together to prepare for any potential social impact will help people in the NWT make the most of economic progress. The conference is designed to sharpen the focus on social issues in the NWT. The economic future of the territory will lead to more jobs, business opportunities and disposable income.

“Dealing effectively with social issues is a priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories and our partners,” Mrs. Groenewegen says. “We must do our share to promote better relationships with Aboriginal governments, front line workers and communities. Together we can prevent problems before they develop and all help to address existing challenges more successfully. We want all NWT residents to be able to take full advantage of our economic prosperity.”

The conference planning team includes representatives from the Dene Nation, the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, the Yellowknife Women’s Centre, the Aboriginal Summit, the YWCA and the GNWT.

**For further information, contact:** **Sharla Carroll, Coordinator**  
Social Agenda Conference Planning Team  
Tel: (867) 920-8701  
Email: [sharla\\_carroll@gov.nt.ca](mailto:sharla_carroll@gov.nt.ca)





01-049

### **Minister Announces More Money for NWT Schools**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 18) -- Lower than expected student enrollments have allowed the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide an additional \$1.3 million in funding to NWT schools for the 2001/02 school year, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said today.**

This will allow the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to advance a planned budget increase to the funding formula for divisional education councils and Yellowknife school boards and will reduce the overall NWT pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) to an average of 16.5 to 1 for the 2001/02 school year.

Legislation passed last year requires the GNWT to reduce the PTR to 17 to 1 for 2001/02 and to 16.5 to 1 in 2002/03. "We have decreased the PTR one year earlier than expected," Mr. Ootes said. "This means more money for teachers and support staff working in classrooms and it ensures that our children continue to be given the best possible opportunity to achieve academic excellence."

Student support funding will also increase for the 2001/2002 school year to 12 percent of school contributions as announced in the Government's 2001/2002 Budget. This includes new funding for both program support and counselling - two areas identified as high priorities by educators during a recent student support needs assessment.

The increases are part of the \$93 million identified in this year's budget to support the operation of schools in the Northwest Territories. "I am pleased that we are in a position to be responsive to changing needs in the school system," Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Pauline Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-8061



01-050

## **Minister Announces Aviation Career Development Bursary**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 18) -- The Department of Transportation, Canadian North Airlines and the Northern Air Transportation Association have introduced a program to increase awareness to career opportunities in aviation and promote entry into these careers, Minister of Transportation, Vince Steen announced today.**

The new Aviation Career Development Program targets students entering post secondary programs and consists of job placement, work experience and mentor opportunities and a yearly bursary fund of \$40,000 with a maximum bursary of \$5000.00 per school year per applicant.

"Jobs in the aviation industry require people of many skill levels and a variety of education and training backgrounds," Mr. Steen noted. "Maximizing opportunities in the aviation sector will enable northerners to pursue jobs and career opportunities in an industry that is present in each and every one of our communities."

"Canadian North is extremely proud to be a partner in this initiative," said Michael King, Vice-president and General Manager of Canadian North. "Aviation has played a pivotal role in the development of the north and we believe in providing every opportunity for northerners to participate in this industry. We are also keenly committed to supporting the development of the youth of the north and we view this as an excellent opportunity for them to pursue careers in this important and dynamic industry."

"The Northern Air Transportation Association and its members are very excited to be a part of the Aviation Career Development Program. The aviation Industry is one of the largest employers in the North, with a variety of career opportunities. This program offers Northerners the support and opportunity to join the exciting world of aviation," said Teri Arychuk, President, Northern Air Transport Association.

Canadian North Airlines is an equal sponsor with the Department of Transportation in the program's bursary fund. Government and industry will jointly administer the program.

The deadline for bursary applications for the first year of the program is June 30, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**George Poirier**  
Operations and Training Officer  
Airports Division, Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-7726



01-051

### **Premier Kakfwi Confirms Support for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 18) – Premier Kakfwi says the work of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) will provide long term revenue benefits for the Aboriginal people of the NWT and has confirmed the GNWT’s support for the partnership.**

Reacting to media reports from the Deh Cho leadership meeting which raised criticism of the APG, Premier Kakfwi assured Deh Cho leaders that in addition to equity participation in pipeline development, the GNWT and Aboriginal governments are also looking for devolution and resource revenue-sharing agreements with the federal government.

“These issues will form part of the agenda for next Tuesday’s meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum in Inuvik,” the Premier said. “I would encourage the Deh Cho First Nations to participate in this upcoming forum to talk about the need for resource revenue-sharing as part of the benefits to Aboriginal people from non-renewable resource development.”

The GNWT has supported Aboriginal leaders of the Northwest Territories who, in January 2000, agreed in principle to build a business partnership to maximize ownership and benefits of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. In June 2000, the Aboriginal leaders provided the Aboriginal Pipeline Group with a mandate to develop a business plan to achieve the vision of NWT Aboriginal Leaders.

The Aboriginal Pipeline Group will meet to update Aboriginal leaders on their business plan and benefits for Aboriginal people from a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The GNWT will participate in this meeting, to be held in Hay River, June 4-6.

“In addition to sharing the concerns expressed by the Deh Cho leadership that resource development must provide long-term revenue benefits for Aboriginal peoples, the GNWT is working to ensure that benefits are maximized for all residents of the Northwest Territories,” Premier Kakfwi said.

**For more information contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive - GNWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-052

## **NWT Residents Challenged to be more Physically Active**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 22) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Roger Allen and Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen invite all NWT residents to be more physically active during SummerActive 2001.**

SummerActive is an annual campaign encouraging all Canadians to find ways to make physical activity a regular part of their lives. It runs, this year, until June 22, 2001.

"SummerActive is the perfect time for Northerners to start improving their health through physical activity," Mrs. Groenewegen said. "Regular physical activity can help prevent heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, stroke, type II diabetes and other diseases. It will also give you more energy, strengthen muscles and bones and help you live independently later in life."

"Being more physically active can be as simple as making time to take part in activities you enjoy" Mr. Allen said. "Build activity into your day in periods of at least ten minutes. After just three months of regular activity, you'll notice an improvement."

SummerActive events and programs will be held in communities across the NWT. Local recreation coordinators can provide information on events planned for each community. Information on SummerActive events and ideas for getting active are also available on the official SummerActive website at [www.summeractive.canoe.ca](http://www.summeractive.canoe.ca).

**For more information contact:**

**Shaun Dean**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512

**Cathy Praamsma**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7737



01-053

### **Youth Exploration Program to Provide Travel Opportunities for NWT Youth**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 23) -- Minister Responsible for Youth, Roger Allen, today congratulated the first ever recipients of the Youth Exploration Program sponsored in part by the Territorial Youth Association and Canadian North.**

The Tutila Wellness Agency will receive one free pass and nine discounted airfares from Norman Wells to Edmonton so that 10 youth can attend the Dream Catchers Conference in Edmonton in October 2001.

The Norman Wells Cub/Scouts will receive one free pass and two discounted airfares from Norman Wells to Yellowknife so that three youth can attend the first NWT Cubaree to be held in Yellowknife June 1-3, 2001.

Bosco Homes Territorial Treatment Centre will receive 16 discounted airfares from Yellowknife to Edmonton to allow eight youth (and eight caregivers) the opportunity to broaden their outlook and experiences by travelling outside of the NWT for the first time.

To qualify for support under the Youth Exploration Program, youth initiatives are required to meet criteria and priorities determined by the Territorial Youth Association. For 2001, these priorities include the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, youth development and training, youth justice and crime prevention and sports and recreation. The selection committee must also determine that the travel will have a positive affect on a large number of youth in the NWT directly or indirectly.

"I applaud the efforts of the Territorial Youth Association and Canadian North for their investment in the youth of the NWT," Mr. Allen said. "I encourage all NWT youth and youth organizations to take advantage of this opportunity to provide young people with the opportunity to explore and strengthen our northern spirit."

Interested youth or youth organizations can obtain additional information on this program from the Territorial Youth Association at (867) 873-5509.

**For more information contact:**

**Tom Williams**  
Executive Assistant to Hon. Roger T. Allen  
Tel: (867) 669-2315



01-054

### **Council of Grandmothers Formed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 28) – Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen has established a Council of Grandmothers to provide advice on promoting healthy individuals and communities and address health and social issues. The council held its first meeting May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Yellowknife.**

The Council of Grandmothers is composed of fifteen matriarchs from across the NWT. Each member brings years of personal and/or professional experience in social issues and all share a commitment to making the NWT a better place for everybody. The ongoing input of the grandmothers will also help to guide the development of a social agenda for the NWT.

“The experience of the members and their commitment to improving social conditions is very impressive,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “I am fortunate to be able to bring such a knowledgeable, innovative and respected group of women together.”

The council considered a number of key issues in their first meeting including the impact of addictions on families and communities, the importance of family bonds and good parenting skills, the value of education and how to ensure NWT communities are prepared to benefit from resource development.

The Council of Grandmothers will come together again at the Social Agenda conference, June 18-20 on the Hay River Reserve.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi**  
Executive Assistant to  
Hon. Jane Groenewegen  
Tel: (867) 669-2355



01-055

### **Federal Court of Appeal Announces Decision on Constitutional Status of GNWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 29) -- The Federal Court of Appeal has ruled that the Government of the Northwest Territories does have the status that is necessary to seek a fair hearing before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. However, the Federal Court of Appeal has also ruled that the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal is sufficiently independent to provide a fair hearing.**

The Federal Court of Appeal overturned an earlier ruling by the Federal Court that the GNWT does not have the status to challenge federal legislation. It also overturned a Federal Court decision in the Bell Canada case that the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal is not sufficiently institutionally independent to provide a fair hearing.

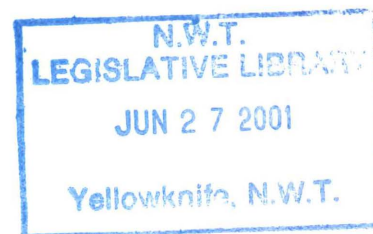
“The GNWT is pleased that the Federal Court of Appeal has agreed with our position and has found that the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Public Service Alliance of Canada were wrong to challenge our constitutional status,” Chair of the Financial Management Board Joe Handley said. “However, we are disappointed that the Courts did not see that the relationship between the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and the Canadian Human Rights Commission is a cause for concern.”

The GNWT continues to hold the position that the ability of the Canadian Human Rights Commission to issue guidelines that bind the Tribunal results in a process that does not provide institutional independence.

The GNWT will be studying the decision and determining what, if any, further action should be taken. Each party has several months in which to seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

**For more information contact:**

**Sylvia Haener**  
Director, Labour Relations & Compensation  
Financial Management Board Secretariat  
Tel: (867) 873-7786





01-056

### Release of New Report on Smoking in the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 31) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen, today released *Smoke Alarm! A Summary Report on Smoking in the Northwest Territories*.**

The report, released today, builds upon findings identified by the Department in the *NWT Health Status Report* published in 1999 which confirmed that tobacco use and, in particular, cigarette smoking are a serious public health concern in NWT communities.

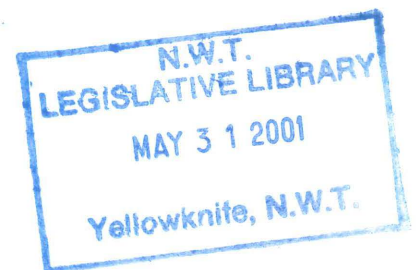
*Smoke Alarm!* provides an in-depth look at smoking in the NWT. The information contained in the report draws a portrait of smokers and smoking in the NWT. The report describes NWT smoking behaviour in relation to various factors including gender, age, ethnicity education and community of residence.

“The report provides essential information to this government and health care providers for developing effective programs and strategies aimed at smoking prevention, reduction, and cessation in the NWT,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “This report serves as a timely resource to a wide range of people with an interest in understanding factors that influence the risks of becoming a smoker and the chances of successfully quitting.”

Copies of the report are available on the Department’s website at [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca)

**For more information or to obtain a copy of *Smoke Alarm! A Summary Report on Smoking in the Northwest Territories*, contact:**

**Dr. Andre Corriveau**  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-3231







01-057

### Seniors Week – June 3-9 2001

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 04) -- Minister Responsible for Seniors, Jane Groenewegen, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Roger Allen and President of the NWT Seniors' Society Beatrice Campbell are encouraging all residents of the Northwest Territories to recognize the valuable contribution of seniors during Seniors' Week, June 3-9, 2001.**

"Seniors connect us to our past and provide us wisdom for the future," Mrs. Groenewegen said. "Seniors' Week is an opportunity for us to highlight the contributions that seniors and elders have made to our culture, heritage and northern society."

A luncheon ceremony will be held at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly tomorrow at Noon. Mr. Allen and Mrs. Groenewegen will present Respected Elder Awards to regional and territorial recipients. This is the first year these awards have been presented as part of GNWT's Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards.

This year's recipients, Rosie Sewi of Deline, Phillip Nitsiza of Wha Ti, Lizzie Beaulieu of Fort Resolution, Ben Greenfield of Hay River, Steven Rowan of Fort Simpson and Esther Braden of Yellowknife, each exemplify the strength and leadership of NWT seniors.

"Today's elders remind us that helping our family, friends and neighbours has always been part of the northern way of life," Mr. Allen said. "The International Year of Volunteers gives us the opportunity to recognize and thank our elders for the contribution they have made in communities across the NWT."

"The NWT Seniors' Society has chosen the slogan: 'Recognizing Northwest Territories Seniors/Elders – Contributing to the Future' in recognition of their contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Northwest Territories, its communities and its citizens," Mrs. Campbell said.

**For more information contact:**

**Karen Willy** or

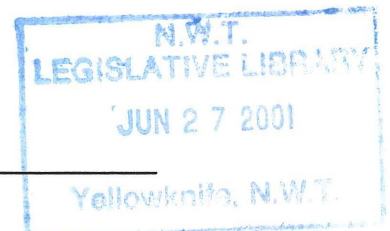
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**Shaun Dean**

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MACA  
Tel: (867) 873-7512

or **Bea Campbell**

President,  
NWT Seniors' Society  
Tel: (867) 920-7444





01-058

## **Finance Minister Announces Tax on Income and Tax Advisory Committee**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 06) -- Minister of Finance Joseph Handley says the GNWT has accelerated its plan to adopt a "Tax on Income" (TONI) approach to personal income taxation in the Northwest Territories.**

Beginning in 2001, the TONI system will see territorial income tax calculated as a percentage of taxable income, rather than as a percentage of federal tax as is now the case. The adoption of TONI will provide the GNWT with increased flexibility to design a tax system that better meets the needs of NWT residents.

Mr. Handley also announced today the establishment of a Minister's Advisory Committee on Personal Income Taxation. The Committee, to be chaired by Mr. Andy Wong of Yellowknife, will include Mr. Barry Ashton of Hay River, Mr. George Dimsdale of Fort Smith, Mr. Danny Yakeleya of Tulita and Mr. Derek Lindsay of Inuvik.

The Committee will consider options for future changes to the personal income tax system in the NWT and report to the Minister by October. "These individuals have taken on a daunting task – to review our personal income tax system, given the flexibility provided by Tax on Income, and make recommendations for a 'made in the NWT' system," Mr. Handley said.

The adoption of a Tax on Income approach in the NWT was proposed for 2003 by Mr. Handley in his February Budget Address. However, today's accelerated time frame will enable the GNWT to access federal funding and expertise to offset costs incurred in the transition.

Mr. Handley assured members of the Legislative Assembly that NWT residents would not see a change in 2001 income tax rates as a result of this accelerated change. "TONI will simply convert existing income tax rates," he said.

The Advisory Committee will be seeking written submissions from interested organizations and individuals and review all options before drafting recommendations to the Minister of Finance for possible implementation in 2003. Terms of Reference for the Committee were tabled in the Legislative Assembly this afternoon and are available at: [www.fin.gov.nt.ca/taxonincome](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/taxonincome)

**For more information contact:**

**Margaret Melhorn**  
Deputy Minister of Finance  
Tel: (867) 873-7117



01-059

## **GNWT Initiatives will Maximize Northern Employment**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 7) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today detailed \$6.5 million in government wide initiatives to address the training and employment needs of NWT residents.**

“These nine initiatives, developed under the GNWT’s priority to Maximizing Northern Employment, will provide residents with the training and skills necessary to take full advantage of the dramatic increase in economic activity in the NWT,” Mr. Ootes said. “They address real-life challenges that NWT residents confront in their efforts to be healthy, self-reliant and productive members of society.”

Some of the initiatives highlighted by the Minister today have already been implemented. These include summer employment opportunities for students, internships and guaranteed employment programs for graduates.

Six additional programs will be implemented shortly. These include: the Aboriginal Government/Private Sector Partnership Fund; the Expanded Northern Teacher Education Training Program; First Degree for all NWT Teachers; Student Success Centres at Aurora College campuses; Enhanced Training for the Oil and Gas Industry; and a Healthy Workplace Program.

Together, these initiatives designed to maximize northern employment, will provide opportunities for all employers to work together to ensure that northerners have the skills they need to be successful employees of northern businesses, industry and government.

“I look forward to introducing even more initiatives very soon,” Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Lesley Allen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
College and Careers  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252

**Lynn Elkin**  
Executive Director,  
Corporate Human Resources.  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 920-3399



01-060

### **Minister Says Review on Health and Social Services due June 25**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 8) – Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen today announced that the report on the Health and Social Services System Review will be released June 25, 2001.**

“The review of the health and social system is nearing completion and we will soon have a detailed report that will deliver practical, tangible recommendations about how to improve our current system, including how the Department may need to change its structure and operations to effectively support that system,” Mrs. Groenewegen said.

The review of the Health and Social Services System, undertaken by Cuff and Associates, focuses on the areas of governance structures, accountability, service delivery, and financing. The review will respond to the many critical issues pressuring the system today.

Copies of the report will be distributed for review to health and social services boards, professional associations and other groups with a direct interest in the health and social services system. The report will also be made available to the public through the Department’s web site and at health centres and other locations throughout the NWT. All will have an opportunity to respond to the recommendations or provide comments until August 1, 2001.

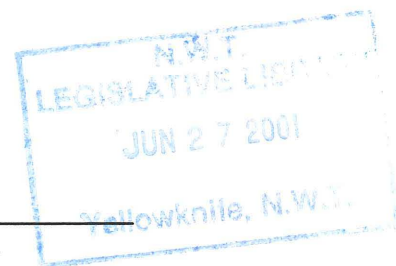
Mrs. Groenewegen says she will table the Department’s formal response to the report, and an action plan for implementation, during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The plan will include specific action items in response to the report’s recommendations, with timelines and anticipated outcomes.

“With the changing dynamics in health care delivery, pharmaceuticals and medical technology, we must be proactive to ensure the sustainability of a high quality health and social services system to meet the needs of all residents of the NWT”, Mrs. Groenewegen said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173

**Debbie DeLancey**  
Associate Deputy Minister  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7908







01-061

## GNWT Sets Stage for \$100 Million Highway Investment Strategy

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 14) – Minister of Transportation Vince Steen says Bill 9, introduced to the Legislative Assembly Wednesday, paves the way for an investment of \$100 million over the next four years to improve highways throughout the NWT.**

The Bill will establish the *Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act*, a key element in the Department of Transportation's Highway Investment Strategy outlined during the February Budget Address.

"Key to achieving our vision of a strong, unified and self-reliant Northwest Territories is the improvement of our transportation infrastructure," Mr. Steen said. "The Highway Investment Strategy, enables us to bring priority sections of our highway system up to the standards needed to support the residents and businesses that rely on our roads."

Once passed, Bill 9 comes into force on January 1, 2002 and will institute "trip fees" for commercial vehicles weighing over 12,000 kg. Resulting revenues will enable the Department of Transportation to fund reconstruction and upgrading of all existing highways.

Improvements to NWT highways will directly benefit residents and businesses throughout the NWT. "Construction will increase northern employment, create new business opportunities, and create training opportunities in construction fields," Mr. Steen said. "Improved highways will reduce wear and tear on vehicles, increase speed limits on some highways, eliminate or ease seasonal weight restrictions and, most importantly, improve highway safety."

A companion Bill was also introduced Wednesday by Finance Minister Joe Handley. Bill 10 establishes the *Public Highway Improvement Fund Act*. All fees collected from the *Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act* will be paid into the Highway Improvement Fund. The fund will be used for the repair, reconstruction and other improvements to NWT Highways as well as the repayment of money borrowed to pay for highway improvements and costs to administer commercial vehicle permit fees.

**For more information, contact:**

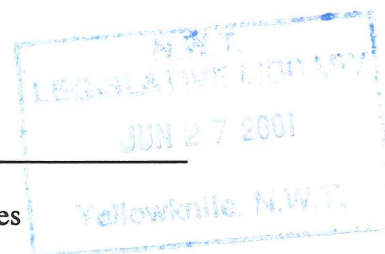
**Peter Vician,**  
Deputy Minister, Transportation  
Tel: (867) 920-3460

**or**

**Margaret Melhorn**  
Deputy Minister, Finance  
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01-062

## **GNWT to Increase Income Assistance Benefits**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 18) -- Income Assistance benefits will increase by \$1.2 million Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes announced today.**

The increase comes following a departmental review of food costs and other benefits paid out under the Income Assistance program. "I believe these changes move toward the desired balance between ensuring a reasonable level of support is available and providing an incentive for clients to pursue education, training and employment opportunities," Mr. Ootes said.

The amount of money a client receives for food will generally increase by an average of 7.8 per cent. Other benefit increases include \$50 per month to the single person's shelter allowance, \$5 per month for clothing and a \$50 increase in the annual seasonal clothing benefit.

The allowance paid to disabled and aged clients will increase from \$175 to \$225 per month. In addition, the amount of money that clients can earn before their benefits are affected will increase from \$150 to \$200 per month for a single person and from \$300 to \$400 per month for families. Furniture and emergency assistance benefits will also increase.

Following the successful pilot of a direct deposit service in the North Slave region on April 1, 2001, the Department of Education Culture and Employment has also introduced an option to allow clients to have their rent and utility bills paid directly by the GNWT.

"These changes confirm our continued commitment to deliver the Income Assistance Program in a manner that ensures the dignity and respect of those in need," Mr. Ootes said. "We will continue to review the program to ensure we are meeting the needs of our clients."

The Income Assistance program in the NWT is a program of last resort. The principles of the program reflect the GNWT's responsibility and commitment to help those who cannot help themselves, while ensuring that those who have the ability to work, or further their education, have the help they need to do so.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Lesley Allen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252

## INCOME ASSISTANCE BENEFIT RATES

	CURRENT RATES	PROPOSED RATES
<b>Income Exemption</b>	Families: \$300 per month Singles: \$150 per month	Families: \$400 per month Singles: \$200 per month
<b>Food Scale</b>	\$6,675,000	\$7,203,000
<b>Clothing</b>	Monthly: \$20 per person Seasonal: \$200 per year	Monthly: \$25 per person Seasonal: \$250 per year
<b>Furniture</b>	One month's food allowance: Old rates	One month's food allowance: New rates
<b>Singles Shelter</b>	\$450 per month	\$500 per month
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>	One month's food allowance: Old rates	One month's food allowance: New rates



01-063

## 2001 NWT Arts Council Award Winners

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 20) – On the recommendation of the NWT Arts Council, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today announced 30 awards, worth a total of \$140,000, for a variety of projects by NWT performers, musicians, carvers, photographers, artisans and craftspeople.**

“The artists of the Northwest Territories are the creative ambassadors of our culture. The NWT Arts Council awards provide an opportunity for the GNWT to support their endeavours,” Mr. Ootes said. “Each of these projects will allow the artists to share their talent and vision with all residents of the Northwest Territories.”

NWT Arts Council Awards are granted annually to individuals, groups and arts organizations. This year they will fund projects ranging from the writing of novels and poetry to photography, musical recordings and a variety of workshops.

This year’s recipients are:

**Ptarmigan Ptheatrics, Yellowknife** – Ptarmigan Ptheatrics will conduct developmental workshops in singing, dancing and acting techniques associated with the production of the play “Kiss me Kate”.

**Chief Paul Niditchie School, Tsiigehtchic** – The school will deliver “Musical and Cultural Programs” featuring extra-curricular instruction in Gwich’in jigging and fiddling.

**Marianne Bromley, Yellowknife** – Marianne will write a series of poems focusing on the land and people of the north, titled “The Changing North: A Poetic Perspective”.

**Erica Tesar, Yellowknife** – Erica will research and write a historical novel for young adults, tentatively titled “Journey Through My Journal”, based on John Franklin’s 1<sup>st</sup> Overland Expedition.

**Edward Collinson, Hay River** – Edward will have editing and proofreading done for approximately 100 poems based on his life experiences in the north and his expression of personal beliefs.

**John Seagrave, Yellowknife** – John will develop a professional theatre script, “The Bay Boy”, for northern and Canadian stage production using the workshopping method.

**Robert Buckle, Inuvik** – Robert will create 15-20 pieces of jewellery based on traditional Dene designs.



**Gary Elemie, Deline** – Gary will produce original photography and create paintings depicting Deline landscapes and wildlife.

**Bonnie Fournier, Yellowknife** – Bonnie will illustrate 30 common wildflowers found in the Yellowknife area using pen and ink with acrylic wash.

**Pamela Gray, Norman Wells** – Pamela will create 12 acrylic paintings which reflect Sahtu region landscapes.

**Dennis Kenny, Deline** – Dennis will create 4 carvings portraying Sahtu Dene shamanistic images.

**Herman Morsink, Norman Wells** – Herman will frame a series of 10 original paintings-in-progress to mount at a local community exhibition.

**Les Philipp, Fort Providence** – Les will create a photographic essay of daily community life in Fort Providence.

**Doris Rose-Smith, Norman Wells** – Doris will organize a community-based creative development project in lapidary technique.

**Shelley Strong, Yellowknife** – Shelley will create 10 sterling silver containers which explore the concept of women as vessels for creating life.

**John Vermillion, Fort Smith** – John will create several original oil paintings and wood carvings.

**Edward Drybones, Yellowknife** – Edward will create 15 paintings based on wildlife and spiritual vision.

**Ekuinox, Fort Simpson** – Ekuinox will produce a demo recording of 7-8 original songs.

**Terry Garchinski, Yellowknife** – Terry will produce a professional demo of 5 original multi-cultural folksongs.

**Northern Skies, Yellowknife** – Northern Skies will record a demo of 4 original folksongs.

**Sip Yeknom, Hay River** – Sip Yeknom will produce a demo recording of 15-20 original songs.

**Western Arctic Motion Picture Co-op, Yellowknife** – The team will develop a video short production (shooting and editing components).

**Artists of the South Slave Society, Fort Smith** – The society will coordinate a series of developmental workshops for visual artists during a two-week summer arts school.

**Aurora Arts Society, Yellowknife** – The society will coordinate a hands-on developmental workshop in mural painting.

**Fort Simpson Historical Society, Fort Simpson** – The society will coordinate several arts and crafts developmental workshops for visual artists during the Open Sky Festival.

**The Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik** – The festival will host a series of developmental workshops for visual artists attending the 13<sup>th</sup> annual festival.

**NWT Music Teachers' Association, Yellowknife** – The association will hold a week-long piano music developmental workshop for NWT piano students and teachers.

**Techi?q Ltd., Deline** – Techi?q Ltd. will conduct the Sahtugotine Spruce Root Basket Making Project workshop.

**Yellowknife Guild of Arts and Crafts, Yellowknife** – The guild will conduct a series of basket weaving workshops using natural materials.

**Yellowknife Guild of Arts and Crafts, Yellowknife** – The guild will hold pottery workshops (hand-built pieces, altering, tiles and decoration).

**For more information, contact:**

**Boris Atamanenko**  
Manager, Community Programs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6370



01-064

### Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Website Launched

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 21) - The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs marked National Aboriginal Day by launching its new website [www.maa.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maa.gov.nt.ca) during a live radio broadcast from William MacDonald School in Yellowknife this morning.**

Sixty grade-six students from four different schools in the Northwest Territories joined in a website scavenger hunt to mark the official launch. Students from Louie Norwegian School in Jean Marie River, Sir Alexander Mackenzie School in Inuvik, JB Tyrrell School in Fort Smith and William MacDonald School in Yellowknife used their surfing skills to locate answers to three trivia questions.

The new website allows users to understand the work done by the Ministry and the status of ongoing negotiations by viewing agreements entered into with Aboriginal groups in the NWT.

“The negotiation and implementation of agreements will change the face of governance in the NWT,” Mr. Antoine said. “We have put together the website for the Ministry as one means of ensuring residents have access to this important information.”

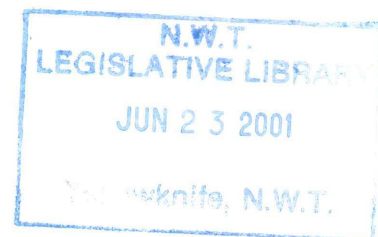
There are over 300 links contained within the new website, which is organized to allow for easy navigation, and includes archival photographs of NWT people and places.

Coffee mugs, posters and computer mouse pads have been produced to promote the new website. Visitors to the site are encouraged to sign the online guestbook.

**For more information, contact:** **Sue Enge**  
Communications Advisor  
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs  
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01-065

### **Premier Says Aboriginal Day Special for NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 21) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says residents of the Northwest Territories have real and tangible reasons to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.**

“National Aboriginal Day has special meaning for the people of the Northwest Territories,” Mr. Kakfwi said. “Beyond recognizing the contributions of Aboriginal people to our northern mosaic, it is a chance to acknowledge that the values traditions, languages and cultures of the Dene, Metis, and Inuvialuit people help define who we are as a territory.”

The Premier reiterated his belief that the Northwest Territories can serve as a model for nation building for the rest of Canada. “Our vision of a better tomorrow reflects the diversity of our many cultures and recognizes the collective and individual rights all residents of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “The NWT is a place that values healthy people and communities, a place where the system of governance reflects the rightful role of Aboriginal governments, and a place where economic partnerships are flourishing between southern, northern and especially Aboriginal companies.”

The Premier encourages all people of the Northwest Territories to join in the many cultural events and celebrations that are scheduled to take place today across the NWT.

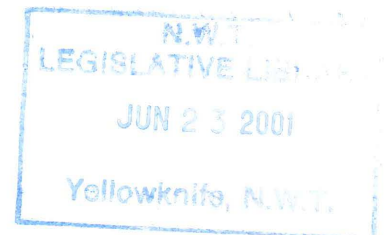
A bill to establish National Aboriginal Day as a holiday in the Northwest Territories has received second reading by the NWT Legislative Assembly and is currently before a standing committee. The passage of this Bill would see June 21<sup>st</sup> established as a statutory holiday for all NWT residents, starting in 2002.

**For more information, contact:**

**April Taylor**  
Director,  
Communications  
Tel: (867) 669-2255

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01-066

## Amendments to Protect NWT Archaeological Sites

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 22) -- Amendments to the NWT Archaeological Site Regulations will improve the protection of heritage sites in the Northwest Territories and simplify the process for granting archaeological research permits Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said today.**

The amendments ensure that the conditions of land claim agreements are met before any research is undertaken in the NWT. "The rich history housed on NWT lands is centuries old and is of particular interest to the people who first inhabited the lands," Mr. Ootes said. "It is vital that land claims groups have a say in the preservation and sharing of that heritage."

For the first time since the GNWT began administering the Archaeological Site Regulations in 1972, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is now responsible for signing or refusing permits for archaeological research.

In accordance with the new regulations, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is now the sole repository for archaeological artifacts found in the NWT. "Much of what is preserved here is unique in the world," Mr. Ootes said. "While we want to showcase our rich heritage for others around the world, we need to ensure that these priceless artifacts are properly preserved and that the public has access to them."

Other amendments introduced today will curb the illegal marketing of archaeological artifacts by placing restrictions on their possession and create a two tier system of permits – one for qualified archaeologists and one for researchers who wish to record, but not alter archaeological sites.

"These amendments put the authority over archaeological sites, artifacts and cultural items in the hands of northerners," said Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "The amendments are an example of achievements by the Government of Canada, the territorial government, Aboriginal and non-aboriginal partners working together and resulting in greater protection for Aboriginal landowners and a safeguarding of our precious northern heritage."

The governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon worked with the federal department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to update the regulations applicable to the three jurisdictions.

**For more information, contact:**

**Tom Andrews**  
Subarctic Archaeologist  
Education, Culture and Employment  
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01-067

## **Social Agenda Conference a Successful First Step**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 22) – Chair of the Ministerial Committee on the Social Agenda, Deputy Premier Jane Groenewegen, says the two day Social Agenda Conference, June 18-20 on the Hay River Reserve, was a tremendous success.**

"The conference marks the beginning of a new direction in dealing with social issues in the NWT. It reaffirmed that individuals, communities, non-government and government agencies all have a responsibility for dealing collaboratively with social issues," said Mrs. Groenewegen. "Everyone had an opportunity to be heard and the discussions generated some excellent ideas and the good will to work together. This is a good start on a framework for action, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us."

The conference focused on the underlying philosophy that guides social programs and services, instead of the mechanics of delivering these programs. There was overwhelming concurrence that communities need to have a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for social development.

The newly formed Council of Grandmothers was nominated as the receiving body for the conference report and has the discretion to involve a small number of other representatives as they guide the next steps of the process. The Council will ensure that all conference representatives receive a copy of the report so an action plan can be developed.

Approximately 230 participants attended the unique gathering, which involved front-line workers, from a broad cross-section of the helping professions, sitting side-by-side with community, Aboriginal and territorial leaders. Their purpose was to discuss what is working in the social areas, what is not working and what can collectively be done to address the issues.

Copies of the final report will be made available to the public.

**For more information, contact:**

**April Taylor**  
Director, Communications  
Tel: (867) 669-2255





01-068

## Minister Releases Report on the Health and Social Services System Review

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 25) – Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen today released a report on the health and social services system review. *It's Time To Act* was commissioned by the Minister to provide an evaluation of core health and social services programs in the NWT and to make tangible recommendations for positive change.**

Like other jurisdictions, the health and social services system in the NWT faces many external pressures that directly impact program and service delivery. These include the shortage of health professionals, the increasing costs of new technologies and pharmaceuticals, and the health challenges of an ageing population.

“We have a commitment to provide the best possible health and social programs and services to residents of the NWT. The report recommends changes to improve our health and social services system,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “I see this as a great opportunity and I am committed to acting now in order to sustain a quality care system for many years to come.”

The report, authored by George B. Cuff and Associates Ltd., is being widely distributed to all health and social services boards, professional associations, and other groups with a direct interest in the health and social services system. The report is also available to the public through the department's web site at [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) and at health centres, public libraries, and other locations throughout the NWT.

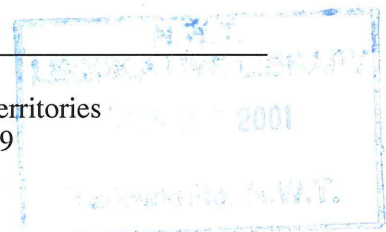
Interested parties have an opportunity to read the report's recommendations and provide any final comments by August 1, 2001. Mrs. Groenewegen will table the department's formal response to the report, and an action plan for implementation, during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The plan will include specific action items in response to the report's recommendations, with timelines and anticipated outcomes.

“We will be working closely with our system partners and members of the Legislative Assembly during this important next stage,” Mrs. Groenewegen said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173

**Debbie DeLancey**  
Associate Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7908





01-069

### **Educational Leadership Program Underway**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 4) - Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today announced that the Educational Leadership Program, offered jointly by the NWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Nunavut Department of Education, is taking place in Rae-Edzo, NWT from July 1 - 12, 2001.**

The Educational Leadership Program is designed to provide school administrators with an opportunity to move towards certification as a principal. "The NWT is one of only a few jurisdictions in Canada that require principals be certified and we have worked closely with the government of Nunavut to design and develop this program," said Mr. Ootes.

The program consists of two phases, each requiring 80 hours of class time and a practicum of at least 45 hours. Phase One focuses on the development of basic leadership skills. Phase Two is directed towards leadership strategies necessary for successful implementation of the principal's role.

In both phases, a mix of large and small group sessions combined with "home group" activities will be used to achieve the course objectives. Participants have the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of exemplary practitioners who participate as group facilitators and keynote speakers and to network with educational leaders from across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and southern Canada.

"The development of a northern workforce is a key element of this government's commitment to Maximizing Northern Employment," said Mr. Ootes. "Programs such as this move us towards that goal by offering training to education leaders within the NWT."

**For more information, contact:**

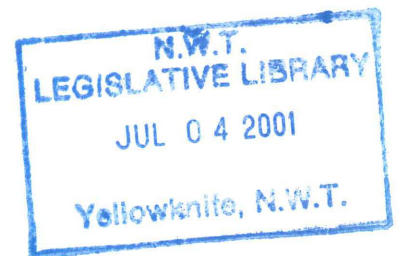
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01-070

## **GNWT Pleased with Judgment of Federal Court of Appeal**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 12) – A Federal Court of Appeal has ruled that a federal court does not have jurisdiction over the Government of the Northwest Territories, Legislative Assembly or the Languages Commissioner.**

In a lawsuit filed by the Fédération Franco-Ténoise, Justice Rouleau of the Federal Court ruled last fall that the GNWT, Legislative Assembly and Languages Commissioner were agents of the federal government and that any court case involving these three should be heard by a federal court. Justice Rouleau's decision was appealed by the GNWT.

The Federal Court of Appeal has overturned Justice Rouleau's ruling in a decision that recognizes that all territories, consistent with the principles of responsible government, are separate and distinct from the federal government.

Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he is pleased that the uncertainty over the legal status of the Government of the Northwest Territories has been removed. "This decision confirms the constitutional status of the territorial government and the authority of the NWT courts," Mr. Kakfwi said.

The Fédération Franco-Ténoise filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court in January 2000, claiming that the GNWT, the Legislative Assembly and the Languages Commissioner have not adequately followed provisions of the NWT Official Languages Act.

The merits of this case have not yet been considered. The Fédération Franco-Ténoise now has the option of commencing action in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, or applying for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Communications, Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-071

### **Heritage Centre Featuring - The Canoe: A Canadian Cultural Icon**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 13) -- A new exhibit honouring the importance of the canoe to Canadian culture and heritage will be on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre until December 31, 2001.**

Titled, *The Canoe: A Canadian Cultural Icon*, this travelling exhibit examines how the history, culture, society and economy of Canada are intertwined with the unique qualities of the canoe. An innovation of Aboriginal peoples, the canoe became the vehicle of the fur trade, an enterprise that formed significant chapters in Canadian history. A 14-foot birch-bark canoe in mid-construction will give visitors a chance to see the remarkable craftsmanship of these beautiful vessels.

“For centuries, bark canoes, skin-covered boats and kayaks played an important part in the lives of northern aboriginal people,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes. “For this reason, the canoe remains an important cultural symbol in Canada.”

The Northern Heritage Centre has linked its new exhibit to one of the permanent displays in the Feature Two Gallery – the mooseskin boat. Built in 1981, this boat was constructed by elders and youth of Tulita and Deline who were concerned about the loss of traditional boat building skills.

Accompanying the canoe exhibit is an educational program that will be available to the general public and visiting school groups from September through December 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Barbara Cameron**  
Acting Director  
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre  
Tel: (867) 873-7551



01-072

## Minister Extends Public Consultation Period on Health and Social Services System Review

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 16) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen today announced that she has extended the deadline for members of the public to provide comments on the recommendations contained in *It's Time to Act: A Report on the Health and Social Services System of the NWT*.**

Public comment on the study will now be received until August 15, 2001. "We recognize that this is a complex issue and that some members of the public would like additional time to consider and comment on the findings of the report," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

The report, authored by George B. Cuff and Associates Ltd., recommends a stronger emphasis be placed on quality care and services and a restructuring of the current management structures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health and social services system.

The report's recommendations, developed by an independent expert in the health field, are based on extensive consultation and a review of information developed in the Northwest Territories over the past ten years. In developing its response to the report, the Minister says the government will give careful consideration to both the report's recommendations and the response it receives from the public.

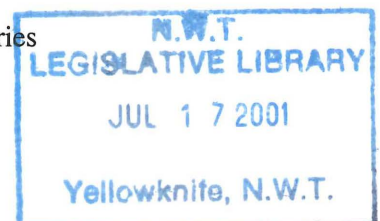
"I will also be working closely with my colleague, the Honourable Jim Antoine Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, to obtain the input of Aboriginal governments and organizations, so that health system reform is consistent with self-government negotiations," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

The Report has been widely distributed to all health and social services boards, professional associations, and other interest groups. It is also available to the public through the department's web site at [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) and at health centres, public libraries, and other locations throughout the NWT.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173

**Debbie DeLancey**  
Associate Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7908





01-073

### Health And Social Services Joint Leadership Council Meets

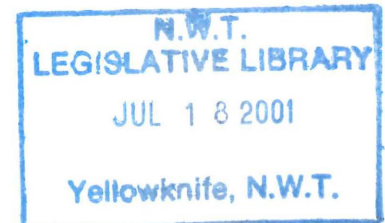
**YELLOWKNIFE (July 17) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen and the Chairpersons of the Northwest Territories health and social services boards, met in Yellowknife last week.**

The meetings provided an opportunity for discussion on several topics including the recruitment and retention of professionals, early childhood development programming, disease control and system financing. "The continued commitment to improving programs and services for NWT residents is a key focus for Board chairs," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

The joint leadership council also discussed recommendations included in *It's Time to Act: A Report on the Health and Social services System of the NWT*. "Board members and their respective chairpersons have done a good job responding to the findings and conclusions of this report, Mrs. Groenewegen said. "Their comments and considerations will be a unique and valuable insight in the development of an Action Plan

The Joint Leadership Council meets about three times a year to discuss operational and strategic matters relating to health and social services. Chaired by the Minister, the council includes all Chairpersons of territorial health and social services authorities.

**For more information, contact:**      **Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173





01-074

### **GNWT Provides Funding for Tourism Marketing**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 19) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will contribute \$900,000 to the marketing budget of the Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism Association (NWTAT).**

The contribution agreement was signed today by Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Joseph Handley.

“This investment will allow us to showcase the Northwest Territories tourism industry to the world - strengthening the image of the Northwest Territories as a tourism destination,” Mr. Handley said.

The funding will allow NWTAT to partner with the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) on a joint marketing program targeting both new and existing markets. The CTC is matching the GNWT's contribution bringing the total contribution to NWTAT to \$1.8 million.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8048





01-075

### **Minister Announces 1st Phase in Highway Investment Strategy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 20) - Minister of Transportation, Vince Steen today announced the first major contracts to be awarded under the Government of the Northwest Territories' new NWT Highway Investment Strategy.**

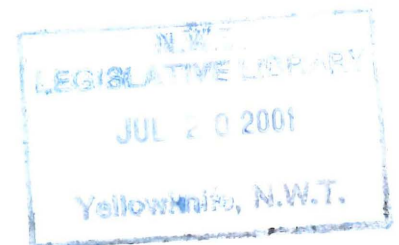
A contract for the reconstruction of an additional 8.45km of Highway #3 between Yellowknife and Rae/Edzo was awarded to RTL Robinson Enterprises Ltd of Yellowknife by way of public tender. It includes a target of 90% northern-employment and a requirement to train heavy-equipment operator/truck drivers.

A contract for the clearing of 23km of right-of-way on highway #3 in preparation for highway reconstruction next spring, was awarded to Nishi-Khon Freeway Inc. of Rae by way of public tender and requires a minimum of 90% northern employment.

"The benefits of accelerated highway reconstruction will be evident to many residents of the NWT," Mr. Steen said.

Funding for accelerated highway reconstruction across the NWT is a feature of the GNWT's Highway Investment Strategy, which will see an investment of an additional \$100M over the next four years.

**For more information, contact:**      **Rob Nelson**  
Director, Highways Division  
Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-7800







01-076

### **Kakfwi Confident NWT will See Pipeline Application by Fall**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 23) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says Prime Minister Chrétien's support of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and meetings he attended last week in Calgary leave him confident that a notice of application for the construction of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline will be filed this fall.**

"More importantly," the Premier told members of the Legislative Assembly today, "Mr. Chrétien's comments reflect his belief that the NWT's Aboriginal people are major stakeholders in this plan."

The Premier says NWT leaders must now work to ensure that a deal is reached for Aboriginal equity in a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, "one that offers maximum benefits to, and meets the terms and conditions of, the people of the NWT," he said.

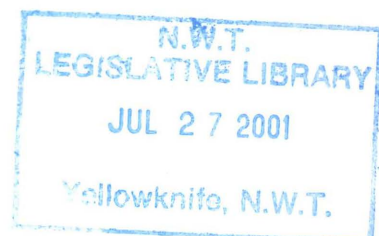
Last week the Premier and Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Joe Handley met in Calgary with Mackenzie Delta gas producers, explorers and pipeline companies on the development of Mackenzie Delta gas reserves.

"Producers and pipeline companies have indicated that the recent decline in gas prices has not affected their plans to develop Mackenzie Delta gas reserves," the Premier said. "It may have, in fact, improved the marketability of NWT gas because the Mackenzie Valley pipeline will provide a less-costly route to get the gas to market."

In meetings with the Premier and RWED Minister, industry representatives also reiterated their satisfaction with progress made by the territorial and national regulatory agencies to coordinate a regulatory review process for a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and the importance of getting Mackenzie Delta gas to market before Alaska gas.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-077

### **Groenewegen Resigns as Deputy Premier**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 23) – Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen has tendered her resignation as the Deputy Premier.**

In a letter to the Premier today, Mrs. Groenewegen says she demonstrated poor judgement by recording a telephone conversation between the Premier's Principal Secretary John Bayly and Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Carol Roberts.

"I wish to apologize for my actions and how they may have reflected on my colleagues and their offices," she said. "It has brought into question the integrity of the most senior levels of this government."

Premier Kakfwi says he has accepted Mrs. Groenewegen resignation. "I commend the Minister for taking personal responsibility for her actions," he said.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-078

## **NWT Premier Pleased by Ontario's Position on Per Capita Funding**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 26) – NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi says Ontario Premier, Mike Harris is supporting his call for new funding arrangements for federal programs. The two leaders met over breakfast this morning in Yellowknife.**

"Mr. Harris has certainly echoed my opinion that per capita funding puts the NWT at a disadvantage, Mr. Kakfwi said. "Per capita-based national federal funding programs for health, infrastructure or anything else, do not work for the NWT and Mr. Harris agrees."

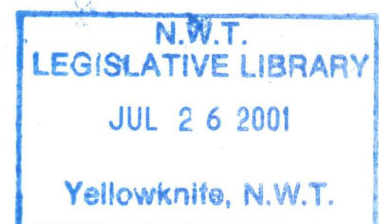
In a news conference following their wide-ranging morning meeting, Premier Harris praised the NWT premier as a leader in introducing the diamond industry to Canada. Mr. Harris told reporters that his province will learn from the NWT's unique success in cutting polishing and certifying Canadian diamonds.

The two Premiers toured an Aboriginally-partnered diamond manufacturing facility. Premier Harris is anxious to duplicate the success of facilities like Deton'Cho Diamonds Inc. in the development of Ontario's own diamond discoveries.

Premier Kakfwi also encouraged his counterpart to get engaged in the pipeline debate to capitalize on valuable pipeline supply opportunities. "Mr. Harris is excited about oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories. He understands what the development of Canadian gas reserves will mean for his province and Canada," the NWT Premier said.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-079

### **Bevington to head Energy Strategy Secretariat**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 26) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi today announced the appointment of Dennis Bevington as Special Advisor to the Premier on Energy. Mr. Bevington will head up the newly created Energy Strategy Secretariat in the Department of Executive.**

Premier Kakfwi first announced the establishment of a small energy strategy secretariat in June in his sessional statement to the Legislative Assembly. The Secretariat has been given a two-year mandate to coordinate the efforts of the GNWT towards the development of an NWT Energy Strategy.

"I am pleased to welcome Mr. Bevington to this challenging new position," the Premier said. "With his background and extensive northern experience, I am confident that Mr. Bevington has the necessary skills to lead the development and implementation of a consultation plan that builds consensus amongst all of our partners for an effective energy strategy."

Mr. Bevington, currently the President of Stand Alone Energy Systems Ltd., has held a number of key positions and appointments in the Northwest Territories. They include appointments to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Funds Council and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Mr. Bevington has served as the Director of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and President of the NWT Association of Municipalities. He also served as Mayor of Fort Smith from 1988-1997.

**For further information contact:**      **Elizabeth Snider**  
Secretary to Cabinet  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 873-7100





01-080

### **GNWT Student Employment Program Successful**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 30) -- A total of 340 NWT Students are gaining valuable experience for the future thanks to summer-employment opportunities with the Government of the Northwest Territories this year.**

“The young and vibrant workforce represented by these students will soon be one of the NWT’s most valuable resources,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes. He says increased summer employment figures are reflective of GNWT initiatives to maximize employment opportunities for NWT students.

Changes to the Summer Student Employment Program this year have ensured that NWT post-secondary students receive priority consideration for casual employment from May 1<sup>st</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>. Enhancements such as the Progressive Experience Program have further encouraged government departments to identify employment opportunities for students directly linked to their area of study.

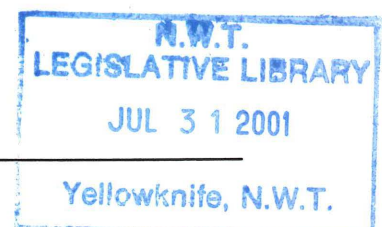
“Facilitating a successful and easy transition from school to the workplace is one way in which we can ensure that our territory benefits from the talents and skills of its young people,” the Minister noted.

Other initiatives added to the GNWT’s Student Summer Employment Program this year include the NorthWISE Summer Student Employment Website, Career Development Workshops, and a Student Orientation Program. Student mentoring programs between experienced GNWT employees and students working in similar fields of study was also introduced.

“The numbers we are reporting today say that we are on the right track,” Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Public Affairs Co-ordinator  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: 867-920-6222





01-081

### **NWT Premier Shocked/Saddened by Deline Tragedy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 30) – Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi was shocked and saddened today by news of the fatal shootings in Deline.**

The Premier offered his condolences to those friends and family members affected by the weekend tragedy and urged community leaders to work together to provide stability for the Sahtu community.

“Today, my thoughts are with the people of Deline,” he said. “I share in your loss. Healing is needed - for our families and for our community.”

The Premier, who is the Legislative Assembly’s member for the Sahtu, is enroute to Victoria to attend the Annual Premiers’ Conference.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-082

### **Annual Premiers' Conference Gathers Support for NWT Future**

**VICTORIA (August 3) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the NWT has secured support from Canada's provincial and territorial Premiers in its quest for federal investment in programs, infrastructure and resource development.**

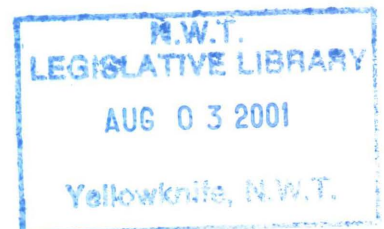
The NWT Premier's comments come at the conclusion of the Annual Premiers Conference today in Victoria. "My colleagues are aware that pipeline and resource development in the NWT will benefit all Canadians," Mr. Kakfwi said. "They recognize the NWT's potential to contribute clean energy sources to North America and are supporting our need for special consideration when it comes to federal investment."

In a communiqué from the Premiers' Conference, Canada's provincial and territorial leaders today supported the NWT's full participation in discussions surrounding the North American Energy Policy.

Mr. Kakfwi says he's also pleased that his colleagues have publicly recognized that federal funding allocated per capita does not work for the NWT. Canada's Premiers today called upon the federal government to find alternate ways to fund the infrastructure and program needs of jurisdictions like the NWT.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-083

### **Former Administrator Appointed Deputy Minister of ECE**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 20) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi today announced the appointment of Dr. Loretta Foley as Deputy Minister of Education Culture and Employment. She will succeed Penny Ballantyne who has requested a period of extended personal leave for family reasons.**

Dr. Foley, an experienced educator with a PH.D. in Educational Leadership, is well known to the northern education community for her contribution to educational excellence in the North. In her eight years as Superintendent of Yellowknife's Catholic Schools, she built a strong reputation as a visionary leader and was a driving force behind the construction of the new St. Patrick's and Weledeh schools in Yellowknife.

Mrs. Ballantyne has served as Deputy Minister of Education Culture and Employment since April of this year. She has held previous appointments as Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and President of the NWT Housing Corporation. She intends to return to the Government of the NWT at the earliest opportunity.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
(867) 669-2304





01-084

### **Handley Meets with Alaskan Delegation**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 21) -- Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Joe Handley will meet today in Yellowknife with Alaska Senator John Torgerson and other state senators and representatives of the Alaska State Legislature.**

The Alaskan delegation is in the Northwest Territories capital as part of a Western Canada Protocol mission that will also include stops in the Yukon, Alberta and British Columbia.

Mr. Handley and officials from the Government of the Northwest Territories will reiterate the GNWT's position that Canadian interests are best served by the construction of a single stand-alone Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

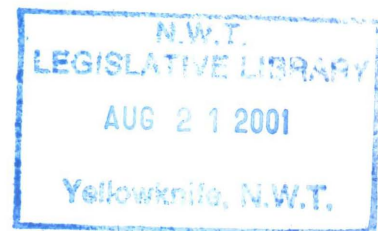
"The NWT has abundant proven oil and gas reserves," Mr. Handley said. "Resources that can play a role in addressing North America's energy needs. We also have a pipeline route that could be used to bring American gas to market for \$.72 per mcf less than the proposed Alaska Highway route."

The Government of the Northwest Territories has criticized recent legislation passed by the Alaskan Legislature designed to block the more affordable over-the-top link connecting Prodhoe Bay reserves with the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

"We are not about to allow our gas to be stranded just because a more costly Alaskan pipeline was built first," Mr. Handley says. It is a sentiment that was echoed yesterday in Yellowknife by both Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Stéphane Dion.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
(867) 669-2304





01-085

## NWT-Alberta Continue Co-operative Discussions

### **YELLOWKNIFE (August 22) -- The Co-Chairs for the 1998 Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development met yesterday in Yellowknife.**

GNWT Minister of Transportation and Public Works & Services Vince Steen and Government of Alberta Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Pearl Calahasen were joined in their discussions by GNWT Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Joe Handley and Gary Friedel, Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council and Member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly for Peace River.

The participants discussed a wide range of topics and, based on discussions, set the following priorities: resource development activities, transportation, northern skill development and tourism opportunities. "The benefits of working together to advance northern development are abundantly clear," Mr. Steen noted.

Working groups were established by the co chairs to refine a work plan encompassing initiatives in the priority areas and advancing cooperation on development. "Working groups will recommend to us ways in which initiatives can be implemented," Ms. Calahasen said.

The MOU, signed in 1998, by the Premiers of Alberta and the Northwest Territories identified this process as a means to promote cooperation between the two jurisdictions, especially in the area of economic development. Mr. Steen and Ms. Calahasen will meet again next February in Edmonton.

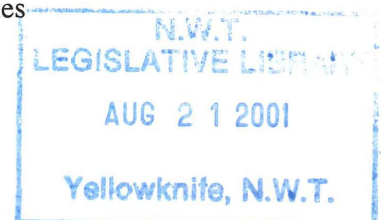
#### **For more information, contact:**

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**Tom Baldwin,**  
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Northern Alberta Development Council  
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01-086

### **Educators/Instructors Prepare for New Year and New Strategy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 27) -- Adult literacy and basic education instructors from the NWT have gathered at Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith for a week of training, information sharing, networking and expertise building prior to the start of the upcoming academic year.**

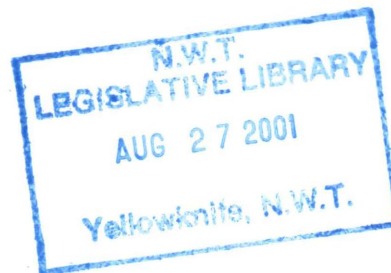
Conference participants, including instructors from the three Aurora College campuses, NWT Community Learning Centres, non-government organizations and private businesses that deliver education programs for adults, will receive an orientation to the new NWT Literacy Strategy, "Towards Literacy: A Strategic Framework 2001-2005" to be implemented for the first time this year.

"Effective partnerships will be the key to ensuring that the NWT Literacy Strategy is successfully implemented," Mr. Ootes said. "This conference is the perfect opportunity to enhance existing partnerships and promote new ones."

This week's conference is sponsored jointly by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Aurora College and the NWT Literacy Council. A range of professional development workshops and training on the revised Northwest Territories Adult Literacy Basic Education (ALBE) Curricula will also be featured.

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Public Affairs Co-ordinator  
Education Culture Employment  
(867) 920-6222





01-087

### **McLeod Appointed to Canadian Tourism Commission's Board of Directors**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 31) -- The GNWT's Deputy Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Robert (Bob) McLeod has been appointed as a public sector representative to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC).**

Brian Tobin, federal Minister responsible for the CTC, announced the three-year appointment for the jointly held Alberta/Northwest Territories/ Nunavut seat last week. GNWT Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Joe Handley says McLeod is an ideal choice for the position.

"Mr. McLeod has a broad background in tourism and will bring a wealth of knowledge about the Northwest Territories to this national organization." Mr. Handley said. "His appointment is timely as we are currently working very closely with the CTC to promote the NWT as a world class tourism destination."

Having served as Assistant Deputy Minister for ten years. Mr. McLeod was appointed Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in October of 1999. He has held the GNWT position of Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in addition to several senior management positions with the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Mr. McLeod is a past co-chair of the Northern Rivers Basin Study, GNWT representative to the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and member of the Board of Director's for NWT Arctic Tourism.

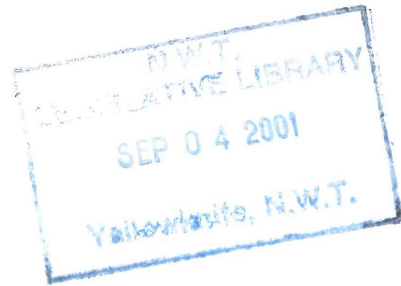
The Canadian Tourism Commission is mandated is to market Canada as a desirable tourist destination, provide information about Canadian tourism to stakeholders and support a co-operative relationship between the private sector and various governments. Mr. McLeod's first CTC Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for September 16-17 in Toronto.

**For more information please contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8048



01-088



### **Handley says Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project Should Proceed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 4) -- Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Joe Handley says he's disappointed that the Deh Cho Chiefs have not better positioned themselves to benefit from the inevitable construction of a natural gas pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley.**

"The Deh Cho people would have much to gain from a partnership with the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG)," Mr. Handley said. "I hope they will reconsider their position."

Deh Cho Delegates at a special assembly on the pipeline announced last week that they would not sign the agreement negotiated by the APG with the Mackenzie Delta gas producers until elements of their land claim are suitably settled.

Mr. Handley says that by then the opportunity for Aboriginal partnership may be gone. "The APG must proceed now if it to capitalize on the existing North American demand for natural gas," he says.

Earlier this month, NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi reassured Prime Minister Jean Chrétien that the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to resolving all outstanding land claim negotiations by the time an NWT pipeline is completed. "This includes the Deh Cho process," Mr. Handley says, "but if we don't start the pipeline project now there will be no benefit to having anything settled four years from now."

Mr Handley says the GNWT will encourage the Aboriginal Pipeline Group to move ahead with its proposal. "No community or region has a veto that can stop the momentum of this project," Mr. Handley said. "It will proceed with the majority of stakeholders on side."

**For more information, contact:** **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-089



### Minister responds to Recommendations on TB Control

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 7) – Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen, today responded publicly to recommendations made by a Coroner’s Jury to address the control of Tuberculosis in the Northwest Territories.**

“The Department of Health and Social Services is seeking every opportunity to improve tuberculosis control and education in all sectors of the health care system,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “The insightful and practical recommendations of the Coroner’s Jury complement these efforts and will be incorporated into the department’s action plan to guide our continuing work.”

The Department of Health and Social Services has already undertaken a range of activities to address recommendations made by the jury in June.

Funding has been identified through the Professional Strategy for a Community Health Representative training course to be offered by Aurora College beginning this fall. Additional resources have also been identified to increase the awareness of the general public to TB.

Orientation programs are being developed and expanded to increase the awareness of health service providers to tuberculosis in the NWT. Revised clinical practice guidelines are being implemented for the management of patients with a cough and an existing tuberculosis registry will be upgraded to support case management and follow up between different medical facilities in the NWT.

The recommendations of the Coroner’s Jury are consistent with the recommendations relating to service delivery in the recent health and social services system review: *It’s Time to Act*. In its response to the Fanning Report in March, the GNWT said it was committed to addressing the issue of TB in a comprehensive and effective manner.

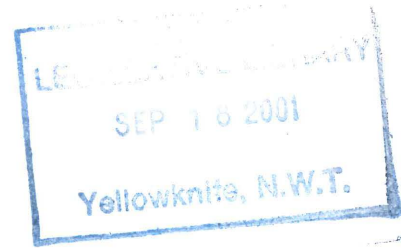
**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi**  
Executive Assistant to Ms. Groenewegen  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2355





01-090



### **International FAS Awareness Day - September 9, 2001**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 7) – September 9, 2001 is designated International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Awareness Day.**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen today congratulated those communities who have supported the establishment of early childhood developmental screening programs and those people who have undertaken the task of promoting FAS awareness in their community.

“The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to promoting prevention strategies for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE),” she said, “but it will take the efforts of entire communities to eliminate this problem.”

Many communities will mark FAS Day with events designed to educate and bring much needed awareness and understanding of FAS and its prevention. Church congregations across the NWT will host barbecues and free viewings of the video *Helping Families, Helping Children* produced by the Yellowknife Association of Community Living. In Inuvik, an FAS awareness teams has also organized a poster contest, march and speakers.

The Department of Health and Social Services is developing a public awareness campaign for FAS/FAE that will focus on prevention strategies. In association with the Prairie/Northern FAS Partnership, an FAS Symposium is scheduled to be held in Yellowknife in May, 2002 and will focus on professional development for service providers.

**For more information, contact:**

**Karen Willy**  
A/Manager, Planning and Communications  
Health and Social Services  
(867) 920-8927



01-091



### **Statement - NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi Re: US Tragedy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 11) – NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi has expressed his shock and dismay over the devastating events that have unfolded today in the United States.**

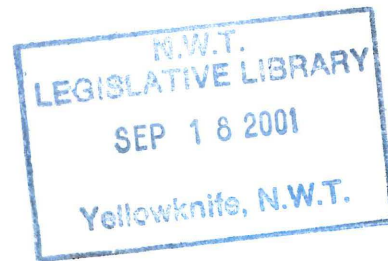
“The extent of the tragedy that we are observing is incomprehensible,” he says. “The emotional and physical repercussions will be felt around the world. My thoughts and prayers are with the many people whose lives and families have been forever altered by this catastrophic act of violence.”

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



01-092



### **Call for Nominations – 2001 Community Language Leader Awards**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 17) – Nominations are being sought for Community Language Leader Awards to be presented by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes in December.**

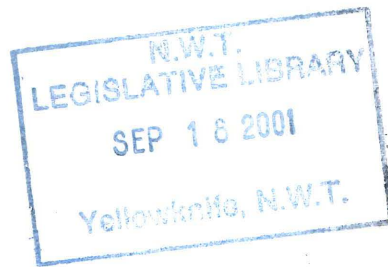
“The preservation, promotion and enhancement of all official languages in the Northwest Territories is a priority for this government,” Mr. Ootes said. “This award recognizes the vital role community members play in ensuring the languages of the NWT remain strong.”

Community Language Leader Awards are presented annually. Ten individuals will be recognized for their efforts to preserve and promote traditional languages. Any NWT resident who volunteers to promote the daily use of Chipewyan, Dogrib, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, Inunnaqtun, North Slavey, South Slavey, Cree or French can be nominated. A panel including representation from each of the NWT's language communities will choose the winners.

“I invite everyone to consider individuals who share their knowledge and enthusiastically promote the use of the language spoken in their community.” Mr. Ootes said. “These ambassadors of language deserve our support and recognition.”

The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 12, 2001.

**For more information, contact:** **Melody Mcleod**  
Co-ordinator, Language Services  
Education Culture Employment  
(867) 920-6251



01-093

### Minister Outlines GNWT Plans to Revitalize Health and Social Services

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 17) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen today introduced the GNWT's plans for a series of actions to revitalize health and social services in the Northwest Territories. These plans are the result of a comprehensive eight-month review of the NWT's health and social services system and reflect the advice of NWT leaders, residents and health care professionals.**

Studies undertaken by the GNWT over the past decade have shown that health programs are facing pressure from sharply increasing costs, the limited availability of health care professionals and the weak coordination of services. "The NWT, like many other jurisdictions in Canada, must address the facts," Mrs. Groenewegen said. "To ensure the best possible health and social services for our residents in the long term, we must contemplate changes now."

Planned changes touch on most aspects of health and social service operations including the:

- establishment of a clear territorial plan for service delivery that defines equitable levels of services, addresses the implementation of new technologies and assures the best possible services within resources available;
- improvement of coordination and planning for hospital and health services;
- establishment of a single employer for health and allied professionals to reduce competition and increase the focus on recruitment and retention;
- reduction of the number of regional health and social service boards from nine to seven and establishment of a standard approach to board member selection, orientation and training.
- redefining of the role of the Department of Health and Social Services, and establishment of a Northwest Territories Hospital and Health Services authority; and
- updating and streamlining legislation that supports health and social service delivery.

Many of the changes identified by the Minister today flow from the recommendations received in the report by George Cuff and Associates titled *It's Time to Act* released in late June.

In defining planned actions, Mrs. Groenewegen said she also considered public comment on *It's Time to Act*. "Public response was supportive with the exception of recommendations regarding board structures," she noted. "As a result, we will not be proceeding with the changes to board structures recommended by Mr. Cuff."

Instead the GNWT will make adjustments to board structures that continue to encourage regional involvement and recognize emerging Aboriginal self-governments within a framework of increased cooperation across the health and social services system.

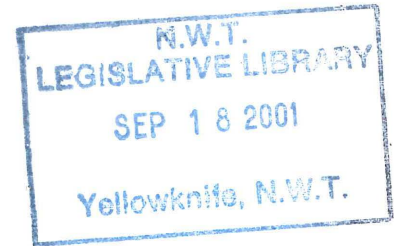


The Minister and her department will work closely with members of the Legislative Assembly, chairs of the health and social services boards, professional associations and Aboriginal leaders to further develop implementation plans. The Minister will table a detailed action plan during the October session of the Legislative Assembly.

**For more information, contact:**      **Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173



01-094



## **GNWT Provides Core Funding for Skills Canada**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 18) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes presented Skills Canada NWT/NU with a cheque for \$80,000 last night. The funding will help to ensure Skills Canada NWT can continue its work promoting careers in trades or technology fields to NWT youth.**

Through annual skills competitions in the NWT, and participation in national skills competitions, Skills Canada NWT/NU gives young people an opportunity to compete and showcase their excellence in trades and technology careers. The organization has been instrumental in helping to change the perception many people have about careers in the trades or in technological fields.

“Skills Canada NWT/NU plays a vital role in introducing youth to a wide range of careers,” Mr. Ootes said. “The GNWT is happy to support Skills Canada NWT/NU in its efforts to help NWT youth realize their potential.”

Skills Canada NWT/NU is committed to creating a network of industry, educational institutions, communities, labour unions and governments that will work together to ensure that the future work force in the NWT meets the needs of employers.

Executive Director of Skills Canada NWT/NU Allyson Stroeder, says support from the GNWT and industry is significant in ensuring the success of the joint program. “Given the vibrant resource-driven economy in the NWT, there has never been a better time to learn a trade,” she said.

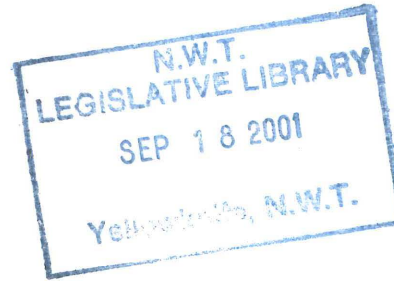
**For more information, contact:**

**Lesley Allen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Advanced Education & Careers  
Tel: (867) 873-7252

**Allyson Stroeder**  
Executive Director  
Skills Canada NWT/NU  
Tel: (867) 873-8743



01-095



### **Minister Announces Scholarship Increases to Student Financial Assistance**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 18) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes has announced scholarship increases ranging from \$500 to \$8,500 to scholarships from the GNWT's Student Financial Assistance (SFA) program.**

Mr. Ootes says the increases are necessary given the higher costs and debt load that students in post-secondary studies face. "The GNWT has consistently supported students in their efforts to pursue higher education," he said. "Enhanced incentives not only promote and encourage the academic success of northern students, they encourage students to return to the north with their expertise and energy."

Approximately 200 NWT students graduate with a degree or diploma every year. "We need them to put their skills to work in the NWT," Mr. Ootes said.

Acting on suggestions from the Standing Committee on Social Programs, the Minister also plans to introduce an Interest Relief Program to assist low-income students with increasing loan debt levels. Beginning in November, students whose monthly payments exceed a given percentage of their income may be able to reduce or defer monthly loan obligations. The new program will also work with students first entering the workforce, to help manage their financial affairs and maintain their credit ratings.

"The NWT has one of the best financial aid programs in the country," Mr. Ootes said. "It is indicative of our government's priority to maximize employment opportunities for NWT students."

**For more information contact:**

**Lesley Allen**

Assistant Deputy Minister, College and Careers  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7252

**Laurie Morton**

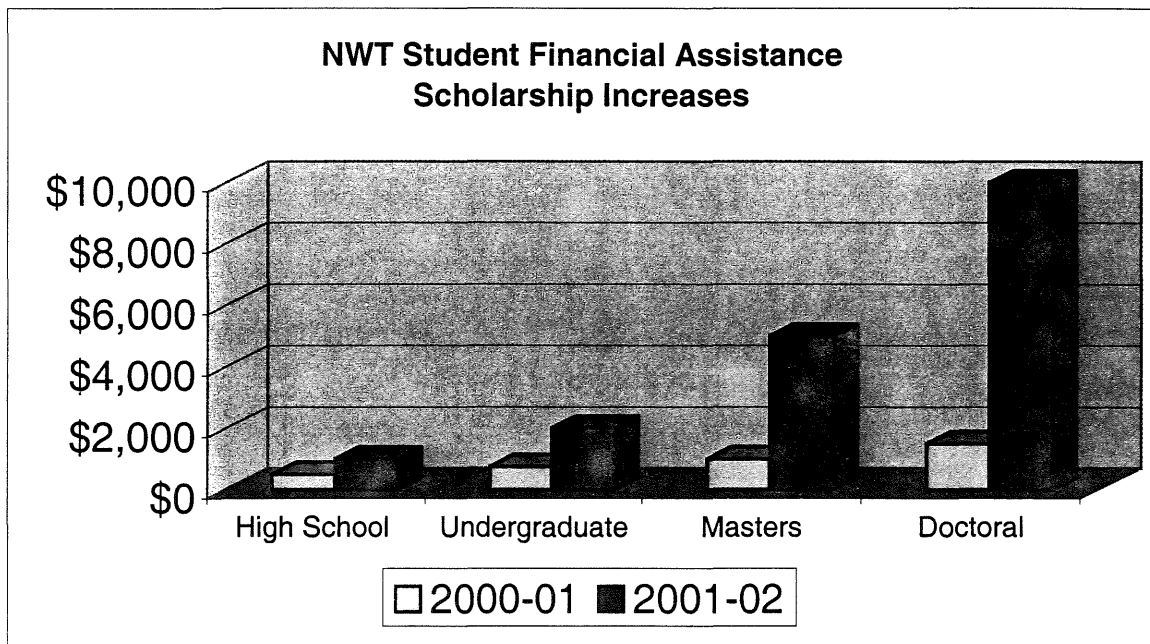
Manager, Student Financial Assistance  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 873-7194

## Backgrounder:

### Minister Announces Scholarship Increases to Student Financial Assistance

The changes being announced to the NWT Student Financial Assistance (NWT SFA) Scholarship Program today are designed to promote the academic success of northern post-secondary students, and also to provide increasing support to students at successively higher levels of education, where the money is often needed the most.

Students at the high school, undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels in years past will see the value of these increase from between \$500 and \$1,500 to between \$1,000 and \$10,000. This is especially good news for students at the masters and doctoral levels where tuition costs are high, and at a time when their grant and loan entitlements may have been exhausted. The graph below demonstrates the increases.



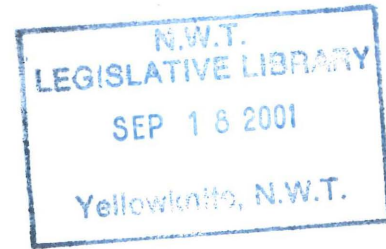
The value of the High School Scholarship has been increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. It is awarded to students who maintain an 80% average in grade 12 at a NWT high school. The Undergraduate Scholarship has increased from \$750.00 to \$2,000.00, and is awarded based on an "A" average.

The Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Masters and Doctoral scholarships have been consolidated into one award and are now available to all students who qualify. The Masters scholarship increased from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00, and the Doctoral scholarship increased from \$1,500.00 to \$10,000.00. Both scholarships are awarded to students who maintain a "B" average.

Every undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate student who applies and meets prescribed criteria will be awarded a scholarship to be awarded in the second semester of their academic year. There is no deadline for scholarship applications but students must be enrolled full time in a post-secondary institution at the time they apply. Students are eligible for scholarships each year they are enrolled in a post-secondary institution.



01-096



### **Premier Appoints new Deputy Premier**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 18) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has appointed Nahendeh MLA Jim Antoine as Deputy Premier effective today.**

“Mr. Antoine’s experience and proven leadership are well respected,” the Premier said. “It is my pleasure to entrust him with this key role on the Executive Council.”

Mr. Antoine was appointed Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Justice on January 24, 2000. He is also Minister Responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum. He will maintain these portfolios.

The *Legislative and Executive Council Act* establishes that if or when the Premier of the Northwest Territories is absent or unable to act, the Deputy Premier will exercise the powers or perform the duties of the Premier.

Mr Antoine was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1991, returned by acclamation in 1995, and re-elected on December 6, 1999.

**For more information, contact:** **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-097

## Government Launches Early Childhood Development Action Plan

**YELLOWKNIFE, (September 19) – Minister of Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes today launched the Early Childhood Development Action Plan.**

The GNWT will invest \$2 million each year over the next three years to implement initiatives for early childhood development. Supplemental funding of approximately \$400,000, \$600,000, and \$800,000 respectively, over the same time frame, will be provided through the federal Canada Health and Social Transfer.

“Children need positive learning experiences and healthy relationships with family and within their community,” Minister Groenewegen said. “We need to optimize the development of all young children and support their parents and families through the early years.”

Two documents - *Framework for Action: Early Childhood Development* and *Early Childhood Development: An Action Plan* form the blueprint for actions the GNWT will take to expand and enhance early childhood development initiatives. These activities are focused in four key areas: health and wellness and risk prevention; parenting and family supports; child development - care and learning; and community supports and community building.

“Investing in children is an investment in our future,” Mr. Ootes said. “The GNWT is committed to ensuring our children have the best start possible. Children are our most valuable resource.”

**For more information contact:**

**Karen Willy**  
A/Manager, Planning and Communications  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8927





01-098

### **Premier Appoints Minister Responsible for Disabled**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 19) -- NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi has appointed Hay River South MLA Jane Groenewegen as the Minister Responsible for the Disabled.**

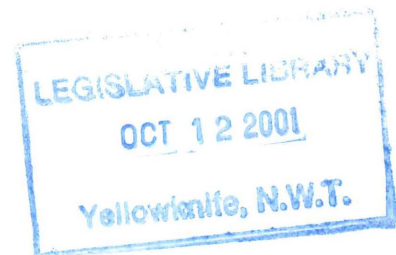
Issues facing persons with disabilities have been priority for this government and the establishment of this ministerial portfolio reaffirms this commitment.

I am pleased to have this additional recognition given to issues facing disabled Northerners," Mrs. Groenewegen says. "Together with my staff from the department of Health and Social Services, I look forward to continuing our work with representative organizations to address their concerns."

Mrs. Groenewegen also holds the portfolios of Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister Responsible for Family Violence.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi-Kellett**  
Executive Assistant to Mrs. Groenewegen  
Minister Responsible for the Disabled  
Tel: (867) 669-2355





01-099

## **NWT Reserves Contain Only Economically Viable Arctic Gas**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 20) – “Our pipeline will be built,” Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes told delegates at the Far North Oil and Gas Conference in Calgary this morning.**

Speaking on behalf of NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Ootes told delegates that recent findings by the Alaska Gas Producer’s Team have concluded that it is not feasible to transport Alaska gas to market. “It should now be clear to everyone that the only commercially viable Arctic Gas reserves are those in the NWT’s Mackenzie Delta region,” he said.

With the NWT on the brink of great economic growth, the GNWT has already invested heavily in preparing its work force for resource development but is still waiting for federal investment in the NWT.

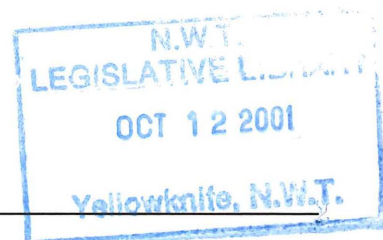
“It means thousands of jobs for Canadians and large contracts to Canadian businesses and steel mills,” Mr. Ootes said. “Ottawa stands to gain billions of dollars in tax and royalty payments but has yet to assist with desperately needed infrastructure development and direct training assistance.”

In recent meetings with Deh Cho leaders Premier Kakfwi has confirmed that while the Deh Cho interim measures agreement will be honoured, resource revenue sharing and devolution will be negotiated through the Intergovernmental Forum and existing regulatory regimes will be used to ratify construction of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline.

Oil and gas producers, pipeline specialists, financial analysts, energy managers and other industry professionals are attending the two-day conference. Mr. Ootes delivered the keynote address this morning in place of the NWT Premier who must appear before the NWT Legislative Assembly’s Special Committee on Conflict Process.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



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01-100

### **Minister Announces Appointments to NWT Status of Women Council**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 20) -- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Jane Groenewegen today announced four appointments to the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories.**

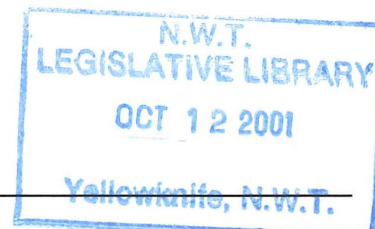
Theresa Etchinelle of Tulit'a, Jean Ekpakohak of Holman and Harriet Geddes of Fort Providence have each been re-appointed for a second term of one year. "It is with great pleasure that I ask these individuals to continue their contribution of wisdom and guidance as members of the Council," Mrs. Groenewegen said.

Lynn Brooks of Yellowknife has been appointed to the Council for a three-year term. "The Council welcomes her vast knowledge and expertise in the area of women's equality issues, Mrs. Groenewegen said."

The Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories is mandated to promote equality of opportunity for women, encourage discussion of and action on issues facing northern women, and advise and assist the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in addressing issues and priorities for women.

Today's appointments join two existing board members to form the council's full complement of six members.

**For more information, contact:**            **Bertha Norwegian**  
Special Advisor to  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Tel: (867) 920-3106



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01-101

### **Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety meet in Halifax**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 21) -- Minister of Transportation, Vince Steen met yesterday with provincial, federal and territorial transportation ministers in Halifax to discuss matters relating to transportation and highway safety in Canada.**

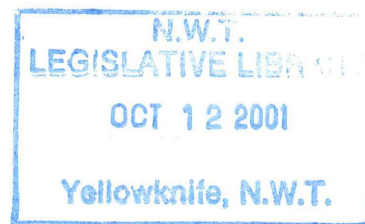
The meeting focused on key transportation issues including the report of the Canada Transportation Act Review Panel, the ongoing Transport Canada initiative to develop a transportation blueprint for Canada, the use of road salt for highway maintenance and proposed national safety code changes for motor carriers.

Federal Minister of Transport, David Collenette spoke to his colleagues concerning impacts on travel security and commerce resulting from the recent attack on the United States. These impacts include changes to security measures at Canadian airports and border crossings.

“As northerners, we are concerned with the economic impacts of additional security measures,” Mr. Steen said, “specifically on smaller regional airlines maintaining essential airline services in the north. The reduction of traffic and higher operating costs for northern airlines and will need to be considered in the context of any federal assistance.”

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Transportation will meet again in the new year to continue discussions on the transportation blueprint for Canada.

**For further information contact:**      **Peter Vician**  
Deputy Minister  
Transportation  
Tel: (867) 920-3460





01-102

### **Territorial Health Ministers to Meet in Yellowknife in November**

**ST. JOHNS (September 25) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen says she and her colleagues from Nunavut and the Yukon will meet in Yellowknife November 3-4, 2001 to focus on key issues facing health and social services delivery in the North.**

Plans for the formal session were finalized this week when all three ministers met during the federal/provincial/territorial meeting of Health Ministers in St. Johns, NF. It will be the first such meeting to be held by the territorial health and social services ministers in a number of years.

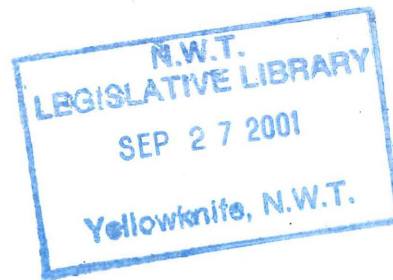
"We want to develop a northern plan to collaborate on common health and social services issues," Mrs. Groenewegen said. "Each territory faces its unique challenges but given the opportunity, there are many important areas in which we can share best practices and work together."

The Ministers set the stage for future discussions this week by examining issues including the recruitment of health care professionals, programs and services for those suffering the effects of FAE/FAS, funding issues and health governance matters.

"The discussions provided an excellent foundation for our November meeting," Mrs Gronewegen said.

**For more information, contact:**      **Mark Cleveland**  
Deputy Minister  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-6173





01-103

### **Health Ministers' Meeting Provides Good Forum for NWT Interests**

**ST. JOHN'S (September 27) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen says this week's Federal/Provincial/Territorial Meeting of Health Ministers has provided a forum for the discussion of important issues to the NWT.**

Minister Groenewegen says the meeting has afforded the health ministers, from smaller jurisdictions including the NWT, the opportunity to talk directly with the federal Minister of Health Allan Rock. She also noted that the proposed federal funding through the Health Transition Fund was discussed.

"While we have been successful in confirming that the territories and provinces with smaller populations will receive additional funding over and above the per-capita allocation, we have not confirmed the exact figures as yet," Groenewegen said.

The GNWT will use this money to offset transition costs in the revitalization of the Northwest Territories' health system. "Health system management is a very timely and key issue for all jurisdictions," the Minister noted.

"Our common concerns regarding the shortages of health professionals, management of costs and the implementation of primary care reform have all received careful consideration during these sessions," Groenewegen said.

Collectively, the country's health ministers also issued a discussion paper on tobacco-use reduction. The ministers also met with representatives of the Canadian Blood Services to monitor and support ongoing efforts by that organization to ensure the continued safety and availability of blood products.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi-Kellett**  
Executive Assistant to Hon. Jane Groenewegen  
Minister of Health & Social Services  
Tel: (867) 669-2310





01-104

### **Minister Declares Literacy Week in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 28) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes has declared September 29 - October 5, 2001 as Literacy Week in the Northwest Territories.**

“Literacy is a life-long learning process,” Mr. Ootes says, “the GNWT envisions a territory where all people have the literacy skills necessary to participate in and contribute fully to society.”

This vision is outlined in a strategy called *Towards Literacy: A Strategic Framework: 2001-2005*. It lays out the GNWT’s commitment to addressing literacy in the NWT through the delivery of, and its significant investment in, programs and services that support and encourage literacy skills.

Literacy is defined as an individual’s ability to listen, speak, read, write, represent, compute and solve problems in one or more of the NWT’s official languages at levels of proficiency necessary to function in the family, in the community and on the job. Low literacy levels have been identified as a barrier that prevents many people from participating in the social, political and economic development of the NWT.

“I want to encourage all residents to participate in the many activities that have been planned this week to highlight the importance of literacy,” Mr. Ootes said.

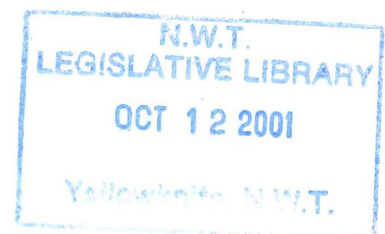
**For more information, contact:**

**Lesley Allen**

Assistant Deputy Minister, College and Careers

Education, Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 873-7252





01-105

### Call for Nominations – Ministerial Literacy Awards

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 4) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, today issued a call for nominations for Ministerial Literacy Awards to be presented in January 2002.**

“It is important to recognize the efforts of those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to advance the level of literacy in the NWT, Mr. Ootes said. “Their work, to promote and better literacy skills in the NWT is enabling many of our citizens to take control of their future as full and active participants in our northern society.”

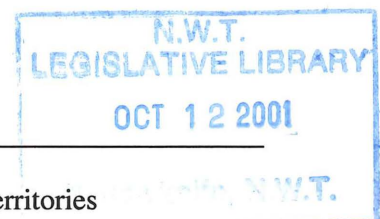
Five individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contribution and dedication to literacy. Nominations will be accepted for individuals who demonstrate dedication to literacy as a learner, a tutor/instructor or by promoting and enhancing literacy in one or more of the NWT’s official languages. Members of the Ministerial Council on Literacy will select the winners.

“I encourage all of you to seek out and recognize the work of these extraordinary individuals,” the Minister urged. The deadline for nominations is Friday, November 2, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Gloria Iatridis**

Co-ordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-3482





01-106

### October 5, 2001 – World Teachers' Day

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 5) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, today joins his counterparts across Canada in acknowledging World Teachers' Day and the important role teachers play in ensuring student success in school and in society.**

The theme for World Teacher Day is "Teachers Building the Future".

"By guiding student thinking and motivating student learning, teachers play a pivotal role in preparing young people as contributing and productive members of society," Mr. Ootes says.

Classrooms are more than learning environments. They are also safe havens in a time of uncertainty and anxiety. Teachers foster an environment in which students can express their feelings or work through their emotions.

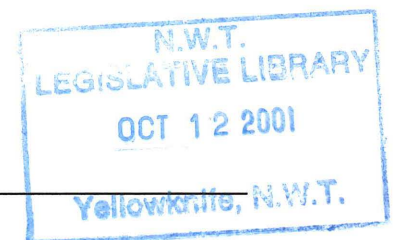
"As teachers, you are valued for the role you play in assuring students that their safety, freedom and dignity will be protected," Mr. Ootes says. "By encouraging students to be thoughtful and open minded, you play a significant role in promoting healing and understanding."

Parents and community leaders are urged to support the work of teachers in their homes and in their communities.

"Fostering an attitude of acceptance and good will to others, will ensure that we are building a future based on compassion and understanding," Mr. Ootes says.

**For more information, contact:**

**Evan Walz**  
Executive Assistant to Hon. Jake Ootes  
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 669-2366





01-107

## **Finance Minister Meets with Provincial Colleagues**

**VANCOUVER (October 12) -- Finance Minister Joe Handley met with his colleagues yesterday in Vancouver to discuss economic and fiscal challenges facing Canada's provinces and territories and particularly those arising since the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy in the US.**

"We are confident that despite the setbacks of recent events, the Canadian economy is sound," Mr. Handley said. "In the short term, we need to work together with the federal government to ensure we maintain our country's fiscal stability." The provincial and territorial Ministers have invited Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin to meet with them to develop common strategies in this regard.

The changing economic outlook is having a negative effect on provincial revenues. As GNWT revenues under the Formula Financing Agreement are tied to the growth of provincial government spending and the national economy, Mr. Handley says as federal and provincial governments respond to their individual financial situations their actions may impact GNWT's finances as well.

"We will be monitoring both provincial and federal fiscal measures closely," he said. "We may need to revise our own fiscal plans accordingly."

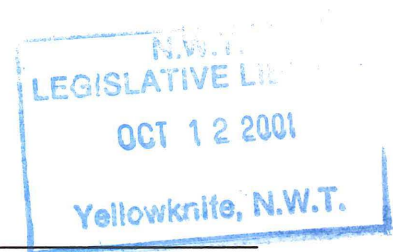
The provincial and territorial finance ministers also reiterated the call made by Canada's Premiers in August urging the federal government to restore federal funding for health care and committing the provinces to work together to improve the management of key areas of the public health care system.

"We must not lose sight of these long term objectives", Mr. Handley said, "particularly the issue of putting our health care system on a sound financial footing".

The official release of the provincial-territorial finance ministers' meeting in Vancouver can be viewed at: [http://www.scics.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.scics.gc.ca/new_e.html)

**For more information contact:**

**Margaret Melhorn**  
Deputy Minister  
Finance  
Tel: (867) 873-7117







01-108

### **Minister Pays Tribute to Long-time Yellowknife Educator**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 12) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says the death of Terry Bradley has left a huge hole in the fabric of education in the NWT. A highly respected and well-loved Yellowknife educator, Terry Bradley passed away early this week.**

"I was shocked and saddened to hear of Terry's untimely death," Mr. Ootes said. "On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to express my condolences to his family."

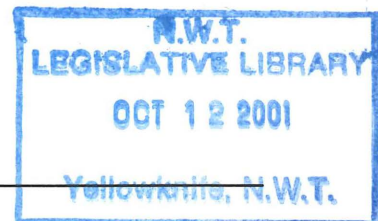
Terry Bradley first came to Yellowknife in 1991 to serve as Principal of J.H. Sissons and E'cole Allain St. Cyr Schools. He is remembered fondly by teachers, parents and students as an effective educator, administrator and terrific human being. Mr. Bradley believed that a successful school teaches knowledge, responsibility, love and respect for life. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm, his ready smile and his creative ways of challenging young people to reach their goals.

At the time of his passing, Mr. Bradley was serving as Director of the Commission Scolaire Francophone de Division.

Terry Bradley is survived by his wife, Marie-Claire and their four children. A funeral mass will be held in St. Joseph Church, Orleans, Ontario tomorrow. Details for a memorial service on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> in Yellowknife have not yet been finalized. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Diabetes Society, or the Yellowknife Women's Centre are requested.

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Co-ordinator Public Affairs Policy and Planning  
Education, Culture and Employment  
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01-109

### **Premier says Federal Government Cannot Ignore Signing of MOU**

**OTTAWA (October 15) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says today's signing of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group's business proposal by Mackenzie Delta gas producers should be a strong signal to the federal government that a Mackenzie valley gas pipeline application will proceed.**

"The message is clear," he said. "Producers would not enter into such a partnership if they did not intend to build a pipeline. The federal government must now respond to our requests to provide investment for infrastructure, training and business support."

Addressing the signing ceremony from Ottawa where he will meet this week with federal ministers on a variety of territorial issues, the Premier said that the Government of the Northwest Territories and Aboriginal governments have done their part to prepare for a pipeline.

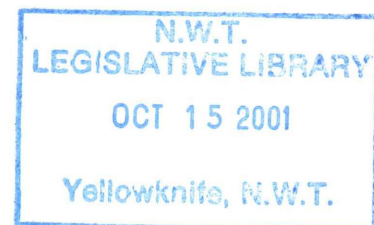
"Ottawa has also taken preliminary steps to address its own capacity," he noted. "But now we need them to provide the final investment to make this project a reality."

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Joe Handley represented the GNWT at a signing ceremony this morning in Ndilo. The Premier expressed his regret that he could not attend the celebration in person and congratulated the Aboriginal Pipeline Group for fulfilling the mandate set out by all NWT Aboriginal leaders in January 2000

"We now have every reason to expect the Mackenzie Delta gas producers will file a notice of intent for a Mackenzie Valley application by year end," the Premier said. "I want to reiterate, especially to the Deh Cho, that the GNWT remains committed to resolving all outstanding land claim negotiations by the time a pipeline is completed."

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-110

### **Premier says NWT Mourns the Loss of Leaders and Friends**

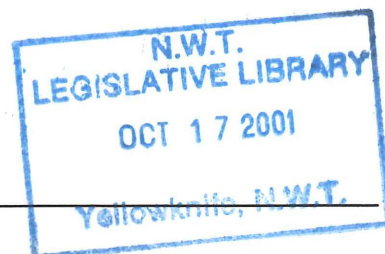
**OTTAWA (October 16) -- Premier Kakfwi says his thoughts and prayers are with the people of Fort Liard today as they come to grips with a tragic airplane crash that claimed the lives of three community residents while injuring three others.**

“The Deh Cho has lost two of its leaders,” he said, “At a time, when their strength and guidance is critical to their region, they will be remembered as visionaries and for their courage to embrace new ideas and a better future for their people.”

“Most tragically however, we mourn the loss of three members of our northern community. We remember them in our hearts for what they were - dear friends, and family members.”

“We pray for healing for all residents of the Deh Cho,” the Premier said.

**For more information, contact:**      **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
(867) 669-2304





01-111

### **Deputy Premier says One-point Pipeline Plan is Straightforward**

**CALGARY (October 16) -- Deputy Premier, Jim Antoine today told delegates at an oil and gas conference in Calgary that the NWT has a one point plan for the transportation of Canadian arctic gas to market.**

Contrasting the Alaska government's 10-point plan of tax incentives to make an Alaska Highway pipeline viable, Mr. Antoine said the NWT had a straightforward plan. "It is a stand alone Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline," he said, "and it is the only economical option to get Arctic gas to market."

Mr. Antoine's speech to the Mackenzie Delta Oil and Gas Development Strategies Conference in Calgary came a day after Mackenzie Delta Gas Producers signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aboriginal Pipeline Group for joint ownership in a proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

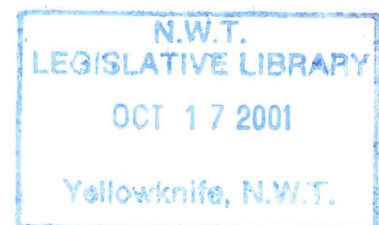
"The producers have sent a strong signal that their Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline application is imminent, the Deputy Premier said.

While the GNWT's priority continues to be a single stand alone pipeline for Canadian gas, Mr. Antoine noted that the Mackenzie Valley would also provide a secure and affordable corridor for transporting Alaskan gas as well.

"However, we believe that major resource development projects must proceed on their own economic merits," he said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
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Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-112

## **Public Works and Services to host Project Management Conference**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 17) -- A Project Management Conference to be hosted by the Department of Public Works and Services will promote closer ties within the industry and prepare the public sector to meet economic and technical challenges and maximize economic benefits for the northern construction industry.**

The theme of the conference, to be held November 27-29, 2001 in Yellowknife, is *Best Project Management Practices for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

Over 250 representatives from all levels of government, plus officials from Crown corporations, school and health boards, consulting and contracting companies, associations, manufacturers and suppliers, are expected to attend.

Although the NWT has a booming private sector fuelled by oil, gas and mining activities, Minister of Public Works and Services Vince Steen says the public sector faces major challenges.

“Providing and maintaining public infrastructure requires getting the most value from limited resources,” he said. “This means finding innovative and cost-effective project management solutions. This is best achieved when all parts of the construction industry work closely together, sharing their expertise and skills.”

Professional development conferences are hosted by the GNWT every two years to ensure individuals in the northern construction industry are kept up-to-date with the best project management practices and the latest trends and innovations.

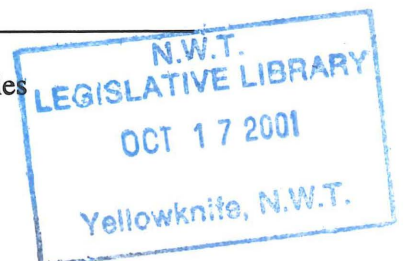
A trade show will be held at the Explorer Hotel during the conference. It will provide an additional venue for northern manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to promote their products, supplies and services.

**For more information, contact:** **Bruce Rattray**  
Deputy Minister  
Public Works and Services  
(867) 873-7114

**For conference registration, contact:** **Sukhi Cheema,**  
Manager of Technical Support Services  
Public Works and Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8088.

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01-113

## **Council of Grandmothers Identifies Key Themes for Wellness**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 17) – The Council of Grandmothers met in Yellowknife Monday in their continuing role to provide Minister of Health and Social Services Jane Groenewegen with advice and guidance on social development.**

The Council of Grandmothers identified key themes that they believe are critical to improve the wellbeing of Northerners. They recognized leadership, prevention, early intervention and personal responsibility as important foundations for social development.

“We must work to end the constant blaming of others for our problems. It’s not constructive and it doesn’t help to solve them” Grandmother Florence Barnaby of Fort Good Hope said.

“We need to remember the words of Bill Mussel, co-facilitator at the Social Agenda Conference, who said that 90% of things affecting our own health and wellness are within our control,” Grandmother Bertha Allen of Inuvik added.

The Council of Grandmothers was provided with updates on the development of a Social Agenda, Early Childhood Development initiatives, the Addictions, Mental Health & Family Violence Strategy and Family Violence Awareness Week.

“I value the wise words that these women provide,” Mrs. Groenewegen said. “Their years of personal and professional experience give them a unique perspective.”

The Council also attended the launch of this year’s Family Violence Awareness Week at the Legislative Assembly. They agree that continuing to raise awareness and maintaining a position of zero tolerance are important elements in the work to end family violence.

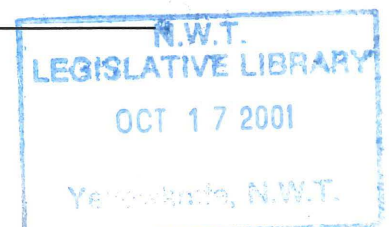
The Council of Grandmothers is an advisory group established by the Minister of Health and Social Services to provide her with advice and guidance on broad issues of personal and community wellness. The Council is comprised of 15 members from across the NWT who meets approximately three times a year.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sheila Bassi-Kellett**  
Executive Assistant to the  
Minister of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 669-2355

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01-114

### **NWT Premier Says Meeting with US Ambassador Highlights Common Bonds**

**OTTAWA (October 17) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the United States' desire to secure its energy supply on the continent will translate into increased interest in the hydro, oil and gas potential of the Northwest Territories.**

The Premier's observations come following his meeting with the US Ambassador to Canada H.E. Paul Cellucci in Ottawa on Tuesday.

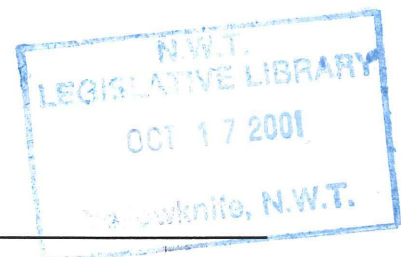
"We're aware that the President of the United States and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien have had conversations about the NWT and its potential as a supplier of safe and affordable energy, Mr. Kakfwi said. "I assured Mr. Cellucci that the NWT is working to ensure that gas can be provided to US markets in the relatively near future. I'm confident of that."

In his conversation with the American ambassador, Premier Kakfwi also took the opportunity to convey the heartfelt sympathies of all NWT residents touched by the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy in the United States.

"The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> are a reminder of how small the world has become. Your grief is shared by people across our country including the Northwest Territories" the Premier told the Ambassador.

The Premier says he has invited H.E. Paul Cellucci to visit the Northwest Territories next year.

**For more information, contact:**      **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-115

## **NWT Premier Works to Maintain NWT Profile in Ottawa**

**OTTAWA (October 17) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says it is critical that the Northwest Territories maintain a high profile in Ottawa as the federal government's budget process moves into high gear.**

In a meeting yesterday with the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Premier Kakfwi says he highlighted the extreme state of NWT highways stressing their conditions cannot be maintained without major investment.

"The honeymoon is over," the Premier said. "Mining companies are starting to make money from the development of our resources. BHP has begun to pay royalties to the federal government. It is time for the federal government to invest in NWT resource development beginning with our roads."

Premier Kakfwi's and Minister Nault agreed to seek the concurrence of Aboriginal leaders to advance the timetable of the governmental-forum process for devolution and revenue sharing.

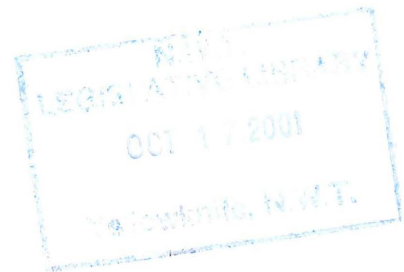
The NWT Premier has been in the nation's capital since Monday to meet with key federal cabinet ministers and officials. He says Monday's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mackenzie Delta gas producers and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group was timely to his efforts.

"It is a real partnership, an unprecedented win-win-win agreement that benefits industry, the NWT, the North, Aboriginal people and the federal government," he said.

The NWT Premier also praised the efforts of Western Arctic MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Senator Nick Sibbeston to advance the NWT agenda with their colleagues on Parliament Hill. Efforts, the Premier says, are evidenced by the recent meeting of the Liberal's western caucus in Yellowknife and visits this summer by Ministers Paul Martin and Brian Tobin to the NWT capital.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-116

### **GNWT Chief of Staff to be Awarded Governor General's Award**

**OTTAWA (October 18) -- Chief of Staff, Lynda Sorensen has been chosen as a recipient of the Governor General's Persons Case award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to women's equality.**

A mother of three, Ms. Sorensen is a founding member of the first northern branch of the Consumers Association of Canada and Yellowknife Business and Professional Women's Association. She is an active 25 year-member of the Western Arctic Liberal Association and past president of the National Women's Liberal Commission. She is also a former Member of the Legislative Assembly.

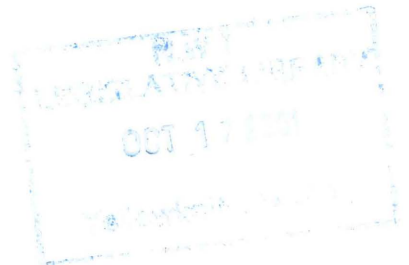
"Lynda has dedicated her life to helping, encouraging, and mentoring women of all ages," Premier Stephen Kakfwi said. "She has, and continues to be, a role model and motivation for her peers."

Persons Case Awards are named after the 1929 Privy Council ruling that confirmed women are persons under the law. Since 1979, Governor General's awards in commemoration of the persons case have been awarded on the October 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic ruling.

Ms. Sorensen will be one of five Canadians to receive the award this afternoon at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-117

### **Third Annual Principals' Conference to Address Effective School Leadership**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 22) -- Effective School Leadership will be the focus of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Principals' Conference beginning this morning in Yellowknife. More than 50 elementary and high school principals from across the Northwest Territories will attend.**

"Leadership is key to developing schools and communities where a positive environment creates an enthusiasm for learning," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says. "School administrators play a vital role in ensuring this success and it is important that they be supported, and given the opportunity to develop new skills that will assist them."

In his keynote address this morning, Hugh Fraser, Principal of Windsor Park Collegiate in Winnipeg and President of the Canadian Association of Principals, will address the changing role of school principals in the new millennium. Tomorrow, delegates will consider a community approach to teaching and learning with guest speaker Marcel Hardisty who works with the Hollow Water First Nation in Winnipeg.

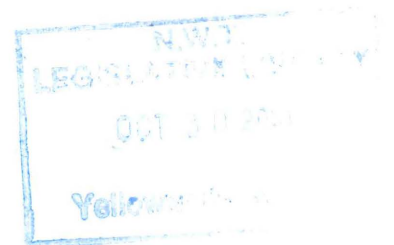
"Recent developments in the NWT have created an urgency around the need to develop a workforce that meets the needs of employers," Mr. Ootes says. "School principals are key to meeting this goal but it is also important to recognize the vital role the wider community plays in educating and preparing our young people for the future."

The agenda for this two-day conference, which will also feature a number of workshops and panel discussions, recognizes the symbiotic relationship between schools and the communities in which they exist.

"The impact of effective leadership in the school can be seen throughout the community," Mr. Ootes says. "Effective school leadership not only enhances academic learning it provides a model for the leaders of the future."

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Public Affairs Coordinator  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222





01-118

## **Kakfwi Urges Unity Amongst Members**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says unity among Members will be key to completing the Legislative Assembly's agenda to create a better tomorrow for residents of the NWT.**

In his Sessional statement to members of the Legislative Assembly today, Mr Kakfwi urged his colleagues to remain united and focused on the vision that that they agreed upon almost two years ago.

"It is important to stay the course," he said, "and to ensure that on those agenda initiatives which require immediate attention, and over which we have jurisdiction, we make decisions in support of our vision."

A key initiative of the government's vision, with significant revenue and infrastructure implications, is the highway investment plan.

"Investment now will provide returns for NWT consumers who want better and safer roads," Mr. Kakfwi noted, "for NWT businesses which will benefit directly and indirectly from a modern highway system and for industry, including that based in the NWT, which will profit from the development of our northern resources."

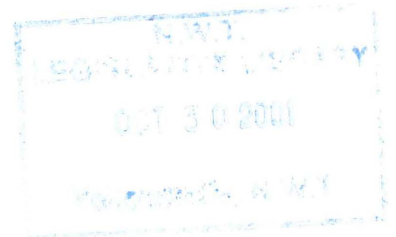
The Premier noted that an economic downturn in Canada and changes in federal spending priorities resulting from the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the US might also impact the GNWT's agenda.

Mr. Kakfwi told the Assembly that members of the federal Cabinet have assured him that opportunities presented by the NWT are still a part of the federal government's agenda.

"This should be a source of encouragement for us all," he said.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
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Executive  
(867) 669-2304





01-119

### **Debate of Committee Report Should Follow Political Practice Kakfwi Says**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23) -- Premier Kakfwi says he needs time to consider the report of the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on the Conflict Process before he can comment on its recommendations.**

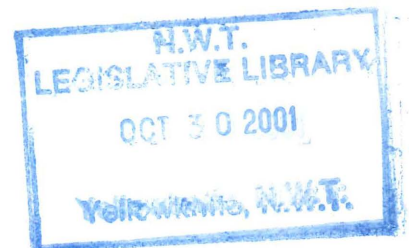
"These recommendations have far reaching implications for the professional and personal lives of a Minister, two distinguished NWT residents and an officer of the House," the Premier said. "I need time to consider the committee's recommendations and arguments on my own, with my colleagues in the Legislature and with my advisors."

Mr Kakfwi says that out of respect for both the individuals concerned and the practices of the House, he has requested his Cabinet colleagues not to comment publicly on this matter.

"A statement now is premature," the Premier said. "This report will be debated by the Committee of the Whole. The House and the public will hear from me at the appropriate time."

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
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Executive  
(867) 669-2304







01-120

### **Kakfwi Says the People Will Decide His Future**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 26) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says that on the brink of a deal on devolution, resource revenue sharing and a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley, it is time to put petty differences behind the Government of the Northwest Territories.**

The Premier told members of the Legislative Assembly yesterday that he will do what is best for the NWT, his constituents and for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"I am prepared for, and will welcome, a vote of confidence in this legislature," he said, "but it must be done publicly, to ensure that residents of the NWT, and I, know where each MLA and Cabinet members stands."

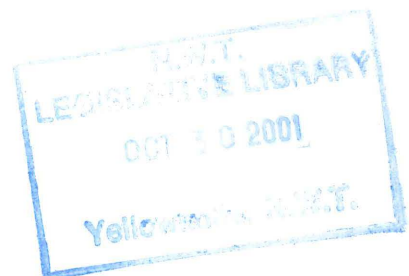
"If the outcome means I need to resign as Premier, that is what I am prepared to do," he said.

Kakfwi says he feels the people of the NWT have been well served by his government. He said that it is the duty of Members of the Assembly to be publicly accountable to their constituents on whether or not they support the work of their Premier.

"I need the people to say that they are happy with the work I am doing and that they have confidence in me," the Premier said. "Hopefully it will translate into a positive support for me from their Members in the Assembly."

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Communications, Executive  
Tel (867) 669-2304





01-121

### **Premier and Cabinet Agree on Plan to Re-Structure Senior Staff Positions**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 29) -- Premier Kakfwi says he and his Members of Cabinet have agreed on a plan to reorganize senior staff positions in the Office of the Premier.**

The Premier has accepted the resignation of John U Bayly as Principal Secretary. "Cabinet will work together to redefine and fill this role," the Premier said.

In addition, the Premier and Cabinet have eliminated the position of Chief of Staff. Mr. Kakfwi says he will reassign Lynda Sorensen to a position as his Executive Assistant.

The Premier says his changes are in keeping with the motion passed by the Legislative Assembly last week to restore confidence in the Office of the Premier.

He says his actions have the support of his Cabinet.

**For more information, contact:**      **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Communications, Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-122

### **Tentative Agreement Reached between NWTTA and GNWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 29) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories and the NWT Teachers' Association are pleased to announce that a tentative agreement was reached Saturday on terms for the renewal of their collective agreement.**

The current collective agreement expired on August 31, 2001. Bargaining sessions were held in March and May of this year with significant progress having been made. For this last round of bargaining, the assistance of mediator Vince Ready was sought. Both the NWTTA and the GNWT are recommending the agreement to their principals for ratification.

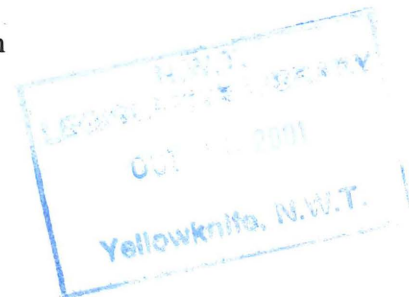
The terms of the tentative agreement include:

- 2 year agreement expiring August, 2003;
- Salary increases of 3% effective September 1, 2001 and 2.5% effective September 1, 2002;
- Allowances increased by the same rates as salary;
- An increase to the professional allowance of \$250, resulting in an annual allowance of \$750;
- Increases to the northern allowance to account for cost of living changes; and
- Parental (adoption or maternity) leave increased from six months to up to one year. This is in accordance with changes to Federal Employment Insurance changes.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sylvia Haener**  
Director, Labour Relations and Compensation  
Tel: (867) 920-8900

**David Murphy**  
President  
NWT Teachers' Association  
Tel: (867) 873-8501







01-123

### **NWT Aboriginal Youth Attend National Conference in Edmonton**

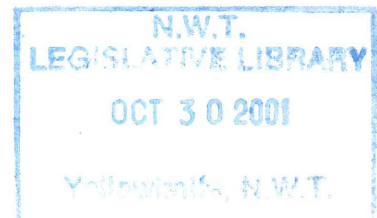
**YELLOWKNIFE (October 29) – Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Jim Antoine and 13 Aboriginal youth delegates, from seven communities in the NWT were among 120 delegates from across Canada to attend the National Aboriginal Youth Conference in Edmonton October 26-28, 2001.**

The conference was organized through collaborative efforts of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Canada's six national Aboriginal organizations. It sought the input of Aboriginal youth on the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy produced earlier this year. The strategy is intended to provide a set of guidelines that each jurisdiction and organization in Canada can use to measure its actions and progress on issues relating to Aboriginal youth.

Mr. Antoine says the conference gave Aboriginal youth from the Northwest Territories, and from across Canada, the chance to provide input into issues that will directly affect their lives.

"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow," Mr. Antoine says. "I'm impressed with the participation of the youth at this conference. The GNWT is proud to support this initiative as an investment in the most valuable resource our future holds."

**For further information, contact:**      **Julia Heyland**  
Communications Advisor  
Aboriginal Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-6989





01-124

### **NWT Premier Receives Resounding Vote of Support**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 29) -- Premier Kakfwi says the vote of confidence from members of the Legislative Assembly is the indication of support he was looking for to rejuvenate his work as Premier of the Northwest Territories.**

Members of the NWT's Legislative Assembly voted overwhelmingly in the Premier's favour in a public vote of confidence this afternoon.

"This is a resounding endorsement of the message this government has been sharing with Canada, about owning and build a pipeline, pursuing more diamond mining, exploring hydro development in partnership with Aboriginal people in the NWT and promoting our social agenda." Premier Kakfwi said.

Premier Kakfwi told members of the Legislative Assembly last week that he would seek their support and that of his Cabinet and the people of the NWT in deciding if he would continue as Premier.

**For more information, contact:**      **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-125

### **Kakfwi Announces Departure of Chief of Staff**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 1) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi today announced that former Chief of Staff Lynda Sorensen will conclude her employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories effective January 2, 2002.**

"Ms. Sorensen believes that political and media preoccupation with elements of her employment have brought the Premier's office under constant attack," Mr. Kakfwi said. "Rather than allowing the work of my office to be side tracked or derailed, she has chosen this time to pursue another career path.

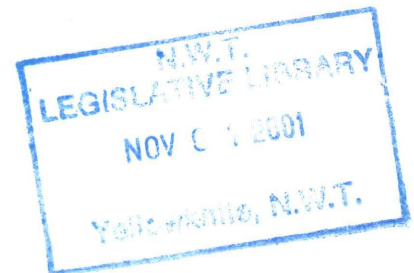
The Premier and Ms. Sorensen have worked together since 1985.

"When I started working for Mr. Kakfwi, I told him there would come a day when I would have to leave his side – that politics can be a tough business and that political staff have a limited shelf life," Ms. Sorensen said. "I had hoped that my shelf life would last until we both retired but that is not to be."

"Ms. Sorensen has been a loyal employee and friend," the Premier said. "It is with deep regret that I must respect her decision."

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
Tel (867) 669-2304





01-126

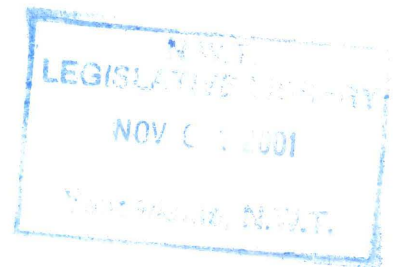
### **Miltenberger to be Minister of Health and Social Services**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 1) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has assigned the responsibility for the Department of Health and Social Services to Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger.**

Mr. Miltenberger was sworn in as a Member of the Executive Council yesterday. He will also take on the portfolios of Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities.

“Mr. Miltenberger’s political experience as a Member of this Assembly and as a former Cabinet Minister, combined with his work in the field of health and social services, make him a natural fit for the assignment he has been given.”

**For more information, contact:**            **Drew Williams**  
Press Officer  
Executive  
(867) 669-2304





01-127

### **Delegates Attend Primary Health Care Conference**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 2) -- Ninety delegates from the health and social services system in the Northwest Territories are attending a primary health care conference today in Yellowknife hosted by The Department of Health and Social Services in partnership with Health Canada.**

A variety of presenters will provide information on different multidisciplinary models for delivering health and social services in NWT communities.

The basis of these multidisciplinary models is a team approach to front line health care so that once a contact is made, a primary care team is mobilized to help meet an individual's needs. Any member of a primary care team can be the first contact for clients requiring services.

To that end, this weekend's conference will promote dialogue between all providers in the NWT's health and social services system in an effort to enhance primary health care teams at the front lines.

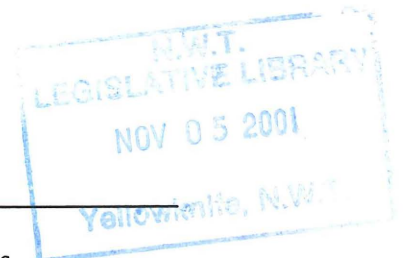
Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Miltenberger says working together will be the key to building frontline primary care teams in NWT communities.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the nurses, social workers, doctors, mental health workers, community health workers and other care providers that will make up these teams to discuss what primary health care could look like in the NWT," he said.

Information gained from this conference will be used to support efforts by the Department of Health and Social Services to strengthen health care services in the NWT.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Karen Willy**  
A/Manager, Communications and Planning  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8927







01-128

## Take Our Kids to Work Day

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 5) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes is urging Grade 9 students across the NWT to take advantage of a unique opportunity to link their education with the world of work on *Take Our Kids to Work Day* November 7, 2001.**

"*Take Our Kids to Work Day* is a 'show and tell' opportunity for adults," Mr. Ootes says. "It brings together students, parents, relatives, friends, teachers and employers to help young people appreciate the importance of a good education and the need to embrace a life of learning."

Last year, nearly 400 students in the NWT shadowed their parents or other family friends in workplaces throughout the NWT.

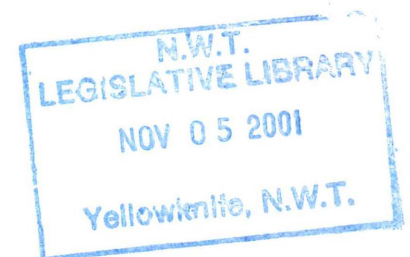
During their visit, these young people received a close look at the many different roles that exist in the workplace and had an opportunity to discuss those roles and responsibilities with a parent or teacher. Their experiences may have allowed them to explore a career path that they were considering or sparked interest in an entirely new field.

Events for this year's eighth annual *Take Our Kids to Work Day* in Canada will focus on workplace health and safety.

"Each of us has a role to play in ensuring that our workplace is safe," Mr. Ootes says. "Young people can and will make a greater contribution to the workplace if they are armed with knowledge about workplace safety and their rights and responsibilities."

**For more information, contact:**

**Janet Leader**  
Public Affairs Co-ordinator  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222





01-129

### **Kakfwi Shuffles Cabinet to Reflect Challenges**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 7) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has shuffled his Cabinet to provide a more co-ordinated approach to the management of energy portfolios and to formalize Cabinet responsibilities for Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger.**

“As we prepare to address the last half of our mandate, we must position ourselves to respond to challenges like future gas and pipeline development, resource revenue sharing and devolution,” the Premier said. “Today’s changes will also focus our approach to financing territorial and self-government.”

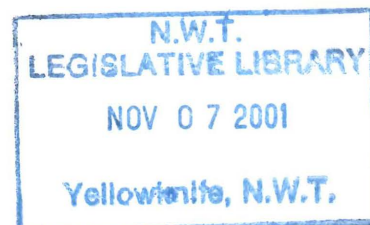
The Premier met with his Ministers this morning in Yellowknife to assign new portfolios. He says the timing of today’s announcement is important as Minister’s must now prepare for a review of the main estimates and budget in early February.

“I am pleased with the mix of assignments,” the Premier said. “We have maintained continuity where we are on track and made adjustments to reflect the skills and experience of Ministers. The public and the Assembly will continue to be well served by these changes.”

Today’s appointments will be effective at 5:00 p.m.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
(867) 669-2304





# **Cabinet Portfolio Assignments**

November 7, 2001

## **Hon. Stephen Kakfwi - Premier** **MLA, Sahtu**

Executive Council  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
Status of Women

## **Hon. James Antoine - Deputy Premier** **MLA, Nahendeh**

Aboriginal Affairs  
Intergovernmental Forum  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic  
Development

## **Hon. Joseph L. Handley - Government House Leader** **MLA, Weledeh**

Finance  
Financial Management Board  
Workers Compensation Board  
Transportation  
Energy and Hydro Secretariats  
NWT Power Corporation

## **Hon. Jake Ootes** **MLA, Yellowknife Centre**

Education, Culture and Employment

## **Hon. Vince Steen** **MLA, Nunakput**

Public Works and Services  
Municipal and Community Affairs

**Hon. Roger Allen**  
**MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes**

Justice  
Responsible for Youth  
NWT Housing Corporation  
NWT Public Utilities Board

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger**  
**MLA, Thebacha**

Health and Social Services  
Persons with Disabilities  
Seniors



01-130

### **Minister Announces Signing of Workers' Compensation Board Agreement**

**IQALUIT (November 13) – NWT Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Joseph Handley today announced that the shared arrangement, which allows the WCB to provide services in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been extended indefinitely.**

"I am pleased to confirm that Kelvin Ng, Nunavut Minister Responsible for the WCB, and I signed off amendments to the Inter-governmental Agreement on a shared WCB this morning," Mr. Handley said.

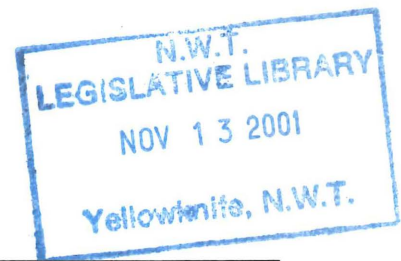
The amendments stem from an interim agreement that set out how the WCB would be governed from April 1, 1999, until December 31, 2002. Both governments retain the right to review and/or terminate the shared arrangement. One year's fiscal notice must be given if they wish to terminate.

Mr. Handley says the arrangement has proven to be beneficial to stakeholders in both territories. "The shared board has allowed the WCB to provide economies of scale and a high level of service to both workers and employers. It allows the WCB to continue its strong focus on accident prevention in the workplace, along with providing quality rehabilitation and fair compensation to workers throughout the NWT and Nunavut," he said.

Employers in the NWT and Nunavut pay the lowest average assessment rate in Canada, while worker benefits are currently the highest in Canada.

**For more information contact:**

**Teresa Sanderson**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Workers' Compensation Board of the  
Northwest Territories and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 920-3849





01-131

## **New Initiative Will Harmonize Public Housing and Income Support**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation Roger Allen and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today announced a new initiative that will harmonize public housing and income assistance programs in the Northwest Territories.**

Beginning April 1 2002, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will introduce a common income assessment tool to be used with all NWT residents applying for public housing and income assistance.

The harmonization initiative will introduce a graduated rent scale geared to income and designed to bring greater equity to the public housing program. The harmonization initiative will also provide for an increase in the amount of money clients receiving income assistance can earn without losing benefits.

“These changes are intended to be fairer and easier for clients to understand,” Mr. Allen said. “Harmonization of the two programs will work to ensure that public housing and income assistance benefits go to those with the greatest need.”

“This new initiative will help to ensure that programs meant to support residents also include incentives that encourage clients currently receiving benefits to earn additional income through employment,” Mr. Ootes added. “We believe this is clearly a better way.”

Every person currently receiving income assistance or living in public housing will be affected by the changes announced today. Most clients will benefit from the common income assessment policy that treats all income as income. Many tenants of public housing will see a decrease in the amount of rent they pay. Families receiving full income assistance, whose public housing shelter costs increase as a result of the harmonization initiative, will continue to receive shelter benefits that cover the full cost of their accommodation.

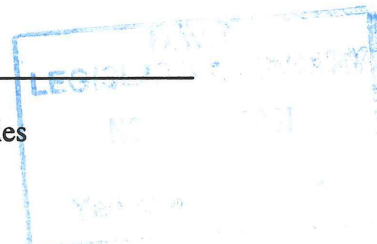
The harmonization initiative announced today also offers the potential to simplify the delivery of services to clients. A pilot project to co-locate public housing and income assistance services will be established in Fort Resolution in 2002. This pilot project will be evaluated and may be extended to other communities in the future.

**For more information contact:**

**Gary McLellan**  
Director, Policy, Programs & Informatics  
NWT Housing Corporation  
Tel: (867) 920-6533

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01-132

### **Overvold Appointed Special Advisor to Cabinet**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 16) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi has appointed Charles Overvold, currently Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, as a Special Advisor to the Premier and Cabinet responsible for providing strategic and policy advice on political and constitutional development issues.**

“This move will allow us to draw directly upon Mr. Overvold’s wealth of experience as we move forward in the final implementation of those goals identified in “Towards a Better Tomorrow,” Premier Kakfwi said.

Richard Bargery, Special Advisor to Cabinet for the Intergovernmental Forum, has been appointed Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

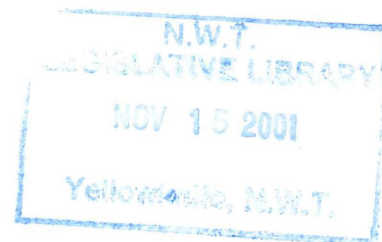
Responsibility for coordinating GNWT participation in and support to the Intergovernmental Forum will be moved to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

The integration of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is a further step in coordinating the GNWT’s efforts to build strong and lasting intergovernmental relationships with emerging Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories.

These appointments are effective at 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-133

### **New Partnership to Promote Volunteer Recognition**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 21) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen and President and CEO, of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Leon Courneya, today announced a new partnership to promote volunteer recognition in the NWT.**

Beginning next year (2002), the Power Corporation will become the sole corporate sponsor of MACA's NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards program.

The awards are presented annually to recognize the very important contribution volunteers make to all sectors of the NWT. Through this new partnership, the Power Corporation will assist MACA in promoting the program and funding the prizes that are presented to the winners at the regional and territorial award ceremonies.

"We are pleased to welcome the NWT Power Corporation as our sole corporate sponsor for this program," Mr. Steen said. "I am confident this partnership will help us focus even more attention on the excellent work that volunteers undertake throughout the NWT."

The Northwest Territories Power Corporation is committed to being an active participant in the communities it serves. Leon Courneya says the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards program provides a very good opportunity for the Corporation to achieve this goal.

"For some time we have been exploring sponsorship opportunities that would allow us to contribute to an initiative that provides positive outcomes that can be shared by all our customers", he said. "Volunteerism is the backbone of our society and this program recognizes and celebrates the efforts of volunteers and their contributions to our communities. The Corporation is very proud to be a part of it."

The NWT Volunteer Awards are presented at both regional and territorial levels. Recipients will be announced during National Volunteer Week in April 2002. Nomination forms will be available in December, with nominations closing February 28, 2002.

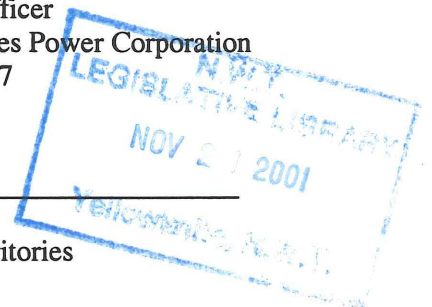
**For more information, contact:**

**Shaun Dean**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512

**Peter Watt**  
Public Relations Officer  
Northwest Territories Power Corporation  
Tel: (867) 874-5207

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01-134



### **Kakfwi Appoints New Principal Secretary to Cabinet**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 22) -- Premier Stephen has appointed Melody Morrison as Principal Secretary to Cabinet.**

Ms. Morrison is from Whitehorse, Yukon where she has worked since 1995 as an advisor to the Kaska Nation in land claims, self-government and treaty negotiations. She has worked for the Council of Yukon First Nations (formally the Council Yukon Indians) and served as Executive Assistant to the Minister of Renewable Resources and Tourism for the Yukon Government.

From 1992-1995 Ms. Morrison was Principal Secretary to the Premier of Ontario, co-ordinating all operations of the Premier's Office, and providing advice and support to the Ontario Premier in strategic planning, communications and the implementation of government priorities and planning.

"Ms. Morrison is an astute and energetic advisor, negotiator and team leader," the Premier noted. "She has extensive and diverse experience with issues across Canada and particularly in the North. Her insight and guidance will be a valuable and welcome resource to the completion of our mandate of a better tomorrow."

Ms. Morrison will assume her new duties January 3, 2001.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





01-135

### **South Slave Metis Political Accord Signed**

**FORT SMITH (November 23) -- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum Jim Antoine and President of the South Slave Metis Tribal Council (SSMTC) Robert Tordiff today signed a political accord formalizing the commitment of the GNWT and the South Slave Metis to recognize and respect each other government to government.**

The South Slave Metis Political Accord, which was also signed by SSMTC Vice President Cecil Lafferty and Secretary Treasurer Frederick Beaulieu, commits both parties to work in partnership to address regional issues and those initiatives undertaken by one government that may impact the other.

The Political Accord is intended to provide both governments with the opportunity to explore common issues including natural resource and resource revenue sharing arrangements, capacity building, communications and co-operation.

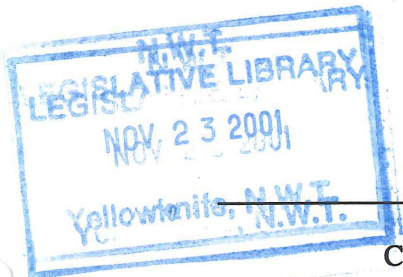
“This is a positive step for both governments that is distinct from Aboriginal rights negotiations but will support and complement the work currently underway on a South Slave Metis Agreement,” Mr. Antoine said.

“We are pleased to establish this working relationship with the GNWT so that we have a forum to address common issues in a positive, formal and respectful way” Mr. Tordiff added.

**For more information, contact:**

**Richard Bargery**  
Special Advisor to Cabinet  
Intergovernmental Forum  
(867) 920-8813

**Robert Tordiff**  
President  
South Slave Metis Tribal Council  
(867) 872-2770



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***Political Accord***

***Between***

***South Slave Métis Tribal Council (“SSMTC”)***

***And***

***Government of the Northwest Territories (“GNWT”)***

***(Hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”)***

***November 23, 2001***

**Whereas** the SSMTC desires a political accord with the territorial government to address certain matters, including:

- The exploration of revenue sources needed to support investments in economic, cultural and social development; and,
- Capacity building.

**And whereas**, the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has committed itself to working with the SSMTC and other NWT Aboriginal Peoples in building a shared vision for the Northwest Territories;

**And whereas** both parties desire to formalize a government-to-government relationship;

**And whereas** the South Slave Métis negotiations table is the sole forum in which the parties and the federal government have agreed to negotiate with the indigenous Métis of the South Slave and it is not the intention of the parties through this political accord to establish an alternate or parallel forum to negotiate or address matters described for negotiation in the South Slave Métis Framework Agreement;

**Now therefore**, the Parties agree as follows:

## **1. Objectives**

- i. The GNWT and SSMTC agree to work together on a variety of subjects including the following and any others the parties may agree to:
  - Develop the capacity of the SSMTC and the Métis Councils of Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Hay River, bearing in mind the need for the smooth implementation of the South Slave Métis Agreement now under negotiation;
  - Development of common goals and objectives;
  - Improve communications and co-operation between the parties in the areas of political, economic, cultural and social development;

- The consideration of possible arrangements for the SSMTC and the GNWT in the area of natural resources and the sharing of resource revenues;
  - SSMTC initiatives that might have implications on the GNWT; and,
  - GNWT and territorial initiatives that might have implications on the SSMTC pursuant to the South Slave Métis Final Agreement.
- ii. The parties agree to meet periodically with the aim of having open, candid and without prejudice discussions to share ideas and information on an ongoing basis on the broad topics outlined above and on specific initiatives or issues as agreed from time to time.
  - iii. The parties to the Accord shall work towards enhancing the co-ordination of activities and improving communications between GNWT regional and headquarters operations and the SSMTC.
  - iv. The GNWT agrees to provide the SSMTC with resources to participate in these periodic discussions and meet the objectives of this Accord. Such funding is subject to an annual review by the sponsor, general terms and conditions of government contribution agreements and available resources.
  - v. Nothing in this Accord prevents the parties from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

## **2. South Slave Métis Negotiations**

- i. The intent of discussions that arise from this Accord is to be supportive of South Slave Métis negotiations.
- ii. The role of the GNWT in the South Slave Métis negotiations has been set out in the South Slave Métis Framework Agreement.
- iii. The parties commit to work together to address any links between the two processes that may arise with a view to guaranteeing the integrity of the South Slave Métis negotiations pursuant to the

South Slave Métis Framework Agreement. Where there is an inconsistency or conflict between this Accord and the South Slave Métis Framework Agreement or the South Slave Métis Agreement, the South Slave Métis Framework Agreement or the South Slave Métis Agreement shall have precedence over this Accord.

- iv. For greater certainty, the parties agree that discussions under way pursuant to this Accord should not overlap with or in any other way interfere with South Slave Métis negotiations.
- v. The Chief Negotiators to the South Slave Métis Negotiations will be kept informed and be consulted on discussions related to subject matters identified in this Accord.
- vi. This Accord shall be reviewed by the parties on an annual basis.
- vii. This Accord may be terminated by any one party, or parties, following the receipt of written notification by the other party or parties.

Signed at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories on November 23, 2001

Representing the South Slave Métis Tribal Council:

*OSB*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Tordiff, President

*OSB*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cecil Lafferty, Vice President

*OSB*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer

Representing the Government of the Northwest Territories:

*OSB*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Honourable Jim Antoine  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



01-136

## Report Includes Possible Changes for NWT Personal Income Tax

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) - Minister of Finance Joe Handley has released the report of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Personal Income Taxation. The report includes suggestions for a made-in-the-NWT personal income tax system with measures that would reduce the tax burden for northerners – particularly low-income individuals, seniors and those with disabilities.**

Effective in the 2001 tax year, the Northwest Territories changed its personal income tax system from a tax on basic federal tax to a tax on income. The change provided the GNWT with the flexibility to design an income tax system that meets needs specific to NWT residents.

However, no adjustments were made to effective NWT tax rates at the time of this change. Instead, the Minister of Finance created an advisory committee of NWT tax professionals and practicing accountants to provide recommendations on how the income tax system could be altered to best serve NWT residents. The committee's mandate called for it to provide recommendations for tax rate changes that could be considered in time for implementation in the 2003 tax year.

Today's report culminates four months of analysis by the Minister's Advisory Committee during which time it studied other provincial and territorial personal income tax systems and solicited and reviewed submissions from NWT residents on how the NWT personal income tax system could be improved.

The Finance Minister will review the Advisory Committee's recommendations with his Cabinet colleagues and Members of the Legislative Assembly. "These recommendations must be considered with regard to the government's fiscal position and our overall budget priorities," Mr. Handley noted.

The Committee was chaired by Mr. Andy Wong of Yellowknife and included Mr. Barry Ashton of Hay River, Mr. George Dimsdale of Fort Smith, Mr. Danny Yakeleya of Tulita, Mr. Derek Lindsay of Inuvik and Ms. Martina Norwegian of Fort Simpson.

"Their work will be of great value to the GNWT in designing a personal income tax system that better serves NWT residents, Mr. Handley said. "I appreciate the time and effort these individuals have put into completing their task."

**For more information, contact:**

**Margaret Melhorn**  
Deputy Minister  
Finance  
Tel: (867) 873-7117

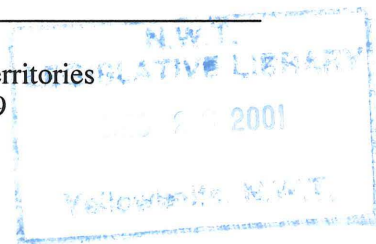
**Andy Wong**  
Chair  
Minister's Advisory Committee  
on Personal Income Taxation  
Tel: (867) 920-4404

To obtain copies of the report, call:

Tel: (867) 920-6436

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01-137

## **GNWT Disappointed with Decision Regarding Canadian Diamonds**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is disappointed in last week's ruling by the federal Competition Bureau on the definition of a Canadian diamond.**

The Bureau's decision implies that the location of the cutting and polishing of the rough diamond into a polished diamond is immaterial in the definition of a Canadian Diamond as long as it is demonstrated that the diamond itself originated from a Canadian mine.

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the decision perpetuates the traditional role of Canada as a harvester of raw materials and discourages the adding of value by further processing in Canada.

"The ruling will leave the consumer unprotected," he said. "There is no scientific or technological way to test a polished diamond and determine the origin of the rough diamond. The only way to verify a diamond's origin is to track it through the cutting and polishing process. The Competition has no authority or ability to monitor or assess cutting and polishing operations overseas."

Last year, the GNWT introduced a program to certify selected diamonds as mined, cut and polished in the Northwest Territories. All certified diamonds must meet the minimum standard of cut established by the NWT diamond industry. Participation in this program is voluntary.

The GNWT also introduced a stringent monitoring system that follows the diamond from the mine through the diamond factory. The program, the only one of its kind in the world, includes inspections of factories to examine the diamonds and review records.

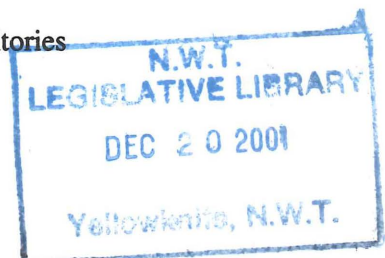
The Competition Bureau has been examining the issue for over a year and released its ruling on November 13, 2001. The GNWT is considering an appeal of the ruling to the Competition Tribunal.

**For more information, contact:**

**Martin Irving**  
Director, Diamond Projects  
Resources Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 873-7373

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01-138

### **Team Canada Participation Nets Marketing Deal**

**DALLAS (November 29) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in the Team Canada West trade mission to Dallas and Los Angeles has helped to secure a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for at least one NWT business.**

Chahe Arslanian of Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd yesterday signed an MOU worth \$6.4 million with Beny Sofer of Sofer Jewellers, New York City to be the official distributor of NWT government-certified CANADIAN ARCTIC™ diamonds for Arslanian Cutting Works.

Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the agreement is a concrete example of how NWT businesses can benefit from participation in such events. "I'm certainly pleased that they were able to use this environment to facilitate and finalize a deal that will benefit NWT business," he said.

Mr. Arslanian says the signing is also an important step in the development of the NWT's emerging diamond industry. "This marks a coming-of-age for the trademark ARCTIC diamond and the entire NWT diamond industry," he said.

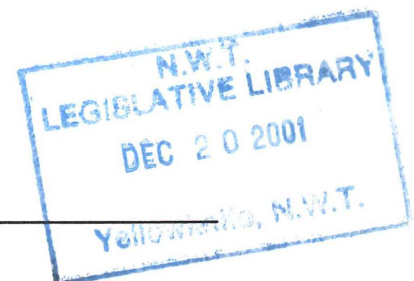
CANADIAN ARCTIC™ diamonds were just one part of a GNWT showcase staged yesterday afternoon in Dallas, Texas. The event, attended by political leaders business and media representatives, highlighted the splendour and riches of Canada's Northwest Territories and also featured fur coats by Dene fashion designers, artwork, crafts, historic pieces and highlights of tourism opportunities throughout the territory.

Arslanian Cutting Works (in association with the Dogrib Rae Band) began production in the NWT in December 2000 and are a key participant in the GNWT's secondary diamond industry and diamond certification program.

**For more information, contact:**

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Director  
Arslanian Cutting Works  
Tel: (867) 444-1448





01-139

### **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

**HAY RIVER (December 6) – Premier and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Stephen Kakfwi says today’s anniversary of the Montreal Massacre is an opportunity for all NWT residents to renew their stand against family violence and to consider specifically what actions they can take to end violence against women.**

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women marks the anniversary of December 6, 1989 on which 14 female students at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal were killed because of their gender.

“Tragically, violence against women continues to be an issue for us all to address,” the Premier said. “As elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, the commemoration of this horrific occurrence 12 years ago must serve to re-enforce our zero tolerance to family violence and our commitment to ensure that this issue is a priority of our government’s social agenda.”

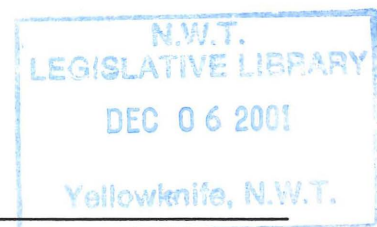
The Premier and his Legislative Assembly colleagues are meeting in Hay River this week to identify priorities and strategies for the remainder of their term as the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Mr. Kakfwi will participate today in a noon hour vigil marking the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

“Violence affects us all,” the Premier said. “We all have a responsibility to address it.”

A vigil will also be held in the Legislative Assembly’s Great Hall beginning at noon today.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
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Executive  
Tel: (867) 669-2304







01-139

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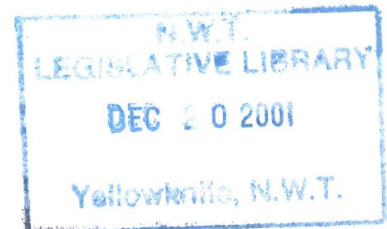
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**Drew Williams**  
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01-140

### Department of Justice Launches Website

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 11) – Minister of Justice Roger Allen yesterday introduced a new Website for the GNWT’s Department of Justice.**

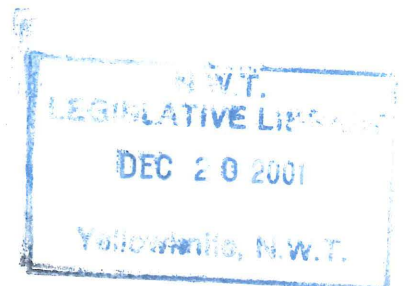
In addition to providing an overview to the Department, the new website contains general information on programs and services available to the public including e-mail contacts, telephone numbers, office hours, documents and forms that can be downloaded.

“It is increasingly critical for the GNWT to be able to provide timely information and services to all residents of the NWT,” Mr. Allen noted. “This web site will provide greater accessibility and communication between the Department of Justice and residents of the NWT particularly those living in the remote regions of our territory.”

The website will be updated regularly to keep NWT residents up to date with the activities of the Department. Additional forms and documents are being added daily.

The site can be accessed at <http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca> or through the GNWT main page at <http://www.gov.nt.ca>

**For more information, contact:** **Donald M. Cooper Q.C.**  
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Justice  
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01-141

## **NWT Business to Receive Funding from Private Sector Partnership Fund**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 11) – Thirty Northwest Territories (NWT) businesses will receive more than \$1.1 million to provide on-the-job training to NWT residents. The funding, provided through the Private Sector Partnership Fund, was announced today by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes and Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine.**

The Private Sector Partnership Fund is one of eight Maximizing Northern Employment initiatives currently being implemented in the Northwest Territories. It assists Aboriginal economic organizations and the private sector to recruit and develop a northern workforce in key areas of the NWT economy including the mining, construction, transportation, tourism, hospitality, forest and oil and gas sectors.

“Investment in on-the-job training projects in the private sector significantly increases the participation of NWT residents in all sectors of our economy,” Mr. Antoine said. “It also helps NWT businesses build the capacity they will need to handle the increased demand for services.”

Funding announced today will be used by businesses and projects to support the costs of training over 200 people for a broad range of jobs in the private sector including:

- 12 people to provide entry-level guide training for McKay Lake Lodge of Yellowknife and Rabesca’s Resources Ltd. of Rae;
- one person as a multi-discipline trades helper for Whiponic Wellputer Ltd. of Norman Wells;
- one person in basic-equipment operations and four people in snow-cat operations for Carter Industries of Hay River; and
- nine people to provide advanced service rig training for Polar Energy Services of Inuvik.

“Through our commitment to maximizing northern employment, the GNWT is seeking to ensure that NWT residents have the skills they need to be successful in their work and NWT employers are able to find residents with the right skills to fill those jobs.” Mr. Ootes said.

### **For more information, contact:**

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