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02-008	Jan 31	Panel completes WCB Legislative review.
02-009	Feb 05	Joint Leadership Council begins work to implement action plan.
02-010	Feb 05	NWT airports free from the Air Traveler's Security Charge.
02-011	Feb 07	February 28 th – deadline for NWT Arts Council grants.
02-012	Feb 07	Health services report highlights need for healthy choices.
02-013	Feb 07	NWT's award winning apprentices recognized.
02-014	Feb 08	New projects to provide increased access to furs and hides.
02-015	Feb 13	BHP Billiton to sponsor Northern student education initiative.
02-016	Feb 15	NWT heritage exemplifies industry and innovation.
02-017	Feb 19	Team Canada 2002 to produce future results for NWT business.
02-018	Feb 19	Premier meets with diamond companies in London.
02-019	Feb 19	Award winning Northern author begins 10-day tour.
02-020	Feb 19	Antoine says foundation for the future is strong.
02-021	Feb 20	2002-2003 NWT budget address seeks balanced approach.
02-022	Feb 22	Beneath the Dancing Sky puts NWT in international spotlight.
02-023	Feb 22	Day care investment reflects GNWT commitment to early childhood priority
02-024	Feb 27	Premier assigns lead Minister to address the issue of homelessness.
02-000	Feb 28	Media Advisory : Executive Assistant (Cheryl Fennell) to the Premier.
02-000	Feb 28	Commissioner's press release : N.W.T. to mark Queen's golden jubilee.
02-025	Mar 5	Minister announces Education Week March 4 –10, 2002.

02-026	Mar 6	Ministerial Council on Literacy convenes in Yellowknife.
02-027	Mar 7	Premier recognizes enormous contribution of NWT's women.
02-028	Mar 7	NWT to host annual National Conference for Youth.
02-029	Mar 12	Canada gala strengthened NWT ties to Yukon and Alaska.
02-030	Mar 13	NWT Premier says pipeline development must respect environment.
02-031	Mar 14	NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel selects co-chairs.
02-032	Mar 18	Minister says FAS symposium successful.
02-033	Mar 18	Kakfwi says NWT has strength and resources in people.
02-034	Mar 22	Meeting highlights potential for co-operation between NWT and Greenland.
02-035	Apr 03	Minister appoints new Workers' Compensation Board chairperson.
02-036	Apr 08	2001 Language leaders announced.
02-037	Apr 08	Minister says initiatives support NWT's rich cultural heritage.
02-038	Apr 09	Ministers agree on common approach to strengthening recreation and sport.
02-039	Apr 09	GNWT increases fur price program payments.
02-040	Apr 11	GNWT to lobby for share of \$2 billion from Federal Infrastructure Fund.
02-041	Apr 12	Transportation Minister reaffirms support for MacKenzie River bridge.
02-042	Apr 15	NWT to use national indicators [SAIP: School Achievement Indicators Program] to measure future improvement.
02-043	Apr 16	New service for job seekers and employers launched today in Yellowknife.
02-044	Apr 16	Antoine says NWT is in infrastructure crisis.
02-045	Apr 17	Kakfwi says Federal understanding has increased for NWT investment.
02-046	Apr 19	Premier and Ministers encouraged by week's meetings.
02-047	Apr 19	Government of the Northwest Territories – media statement. [condolences to families of soldiers]
02-048	Apr 19	Finance Minister says he hopes tax increase will discourage smoking.
02-049	Apr 23	Minister announces task force on organ and tissue donation.
02-050	Apr 23	Minister commends retailers for compliance with the Tobacco Act.

02-051	Apr 23	Minister congratulates winners of NWT literacy awards.
02-052	Apr 24	Outstanding NWT volunteers honoured.
02-053	Apr 24	Kakfwi says proposed subsidies threaten marketability of Canadian NWT gas.
02-054	Apr 25	Minister congratulates NWT diamond polishers.
02-055	Apr 29	Collective agreement reached.
02-056	May 1	Premier Kakfwi says he was shocked and saddened this morning to hear of the passing of Goo Arlooktoo, a former colleague and friend.
02-057	May 1	GNWT applauds opening of Mackenzie Gas Project regional offices.
02-058	May 2	Emergency Preparedness Week declared in the Northwest Territories.
02-059	May 3	Antoine says benefits of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline are long term.
02-060	May 13	Report supports GNWT's concerns about Alaskan natural gas subsidies.
02-061	May 16	Premier and Minister call for improvements to Canada's health system.
02-062	May 21	"Beneath the Dancing Skies" to be staged in NWT.
Media Advisory	May 21	Handley to deliver infrastructure fund request to Ottawa.
02-063	May 22	Northwest Territories Flagperson's Handbook released.
02-064	May 22	Options must fit Kyoto framework Antoine says.
02-065	May 23	Handley delivers transportation infrastructure proposal.
02-066	May 29	Miltenberger meets with Federal Health Minister.
02-067	May 30	Kakfwi convinced of Ottawa's support for Mackenzie Delta gas development.
02-068	May 31	Government takes action on tobacco.
02-069	May 31	Power Corporation Chairman (Gordon Stewart) re-appointed.
02-070	May 31	Territorial infrastructure lobby builds Federal support.
02-071	June 01	New legislation makes it easier to plan for financial future. (Power of Attorney Act)
02-072	June 05	GNWT takes action on Review of Seniors Programs.
02-073	June 14	RWED Minister to address World Diamond Congress.
02-074	June 18	Youth Secretariat to Assist Minister Responsible for Youth.
02-075	June 19	Historic signings mark Government's commitment to the future.

02-076	June 20	Governments to provide advance for healing (Horne).
02-077	June 25	Agreement reached in equal pay complaint.
02-078	June 26	Income tax reductions to take effect July 1.
02-079	June 28	New board appointments at Northwest Territories Power Corporation.
02-080	July 02	Premier announces changes to deputy minister appointments.
02-081	July 16	Members reappointed to NWT Development Corporation Board.
02-082	July 19	GNWT increases fur price payment programs.
02-083	July 19	Minister appoints new member to WCB board.
02-084	July 23	Minister announces increases to homeownership program for Yellowknife.
02-085	July 24	NWT students awarded \$45,000 in aviation bursaries.
02-086	July 26	Direct deposit initiative to provide improved customer service.
02-087	July 30	Department of Transportation to host National Rodeo in Yellowknife.
02-088	Aug 02	Kakfwi outlines US subsidy battle at annual Premiers Conference.
02-089	Aug 05	Premier's statement. (News North : "Big city dreamers can go South").
02-090	Aug 21	Kakfwi says GNWT agenda remains unchanged by PM's announcement.
02-091	Aug 22	Proposed revisions to Business Incentive Policy released.
02-092	Aug 28	Recruitment and retention of nurses is top priority for H & SS (Health and Social Services) Minister.
02-093	Aug 29	Minister of Health and Social Services orders Stanton review.
02-094	Sept 10	Minister [of Education, Culture and Employment] urges coordinated approach to Federal program funding.
02-095	Sept 12	2002 NWT Arts Council award winners.
02-096	Sept 18	Canada not bound by 25 year old treaty.
02-097	Sept 20	Weledeh student named to present book to Queen Elizabeth II.
02-098	Sept 24	Editorial shows opposition to subsidies is consistent and strong Antoine (Minister of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development) says.
02-099	Sept 24	Hardy (Rod Hardy) now NWTPC (Northwest Territories Power Corporation) Vice Chairperson.

02-100	Sept 25	Stanton [Hospital] operational review commences.
02-101	Sept 27	Premiers launch public awareness campaign for health care funding.
02-102	Sept 27	Premier says support for resource development is threatened.
02-103	Sept 30	NWT participates in Canada-wide reporting on health indicators.
02-104	Oct 03	Department of Transportation pleased with brake safety roadside inspection.
02-105	Oct 09	NWTPC (Power Corp) instructed to withdraw one rate.
02-106	Oct 10	Fire Service merit award winners honoured.
02-107	Oct 10	Allocation of seniors' housing in Inuvik resolved.
02-108	Oct 11	Provisional settlement reached in Horne litigation case.
02-109	Oct 15	Minister revokes NTPC (Power Corp.) appointments.
02-110	Oct 23	Government will work with process identified by AOC (Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight) for AG (Auditor General) report.
02-111	Oct 29	Human Rights Act is leading edge legislation in Canada.
02-112	Oct 30	"Doing our part" the GNWT responds to the NWT Social Agenda.
02-113	Oct 31	Premier announces Jubilee Medal recipients.
02-114	Nov 06	Alcohol-related motor vehicle collisions reduced.
02-115	Nov 07	Kakfwi thanks business coalition for infrastructure support.
02-116	Nov 07	Minister receives final report on the Stanton operational review.
02-117	Nov 14	Minister releases NWT recruitment and retention plan.
02-118	Nov 15	MOI (memorandum of intent) signed for construction of Deh Cho bridge.
02-119	Nov 15	Volunteers key to Restorative Justice Programs.
02-120	Nov 15	Operational review of Stanton Hospital released.
02-121	Nov 15	Antoine pleased Energy Bill dies in US Congress.
02-122	Nov 21	Minister Handley appoints new Power Corporation Board.
02-123	Nov 25	Out of the North – Top of the World Skiers (the T.E.S.T. program).
02-124	Nov 27	Revisions to public housing scale ensure break to those most in need (harmonization of public housing and income assistance programs).

02-125	Nov 27	Approval reached on division of museum collections.
02-126	Nov 27	NWT Liquor Commission offers responsible hosting tips.
02-127	Nov 28	Minister accepts recommendations of Stanton Board.
02-128	Nov 29	Premier welcomes Romanow recommendations.
02-129	Dec 03	Minister announces additional resources for Health Care.
02-130	Dec 04	Kakfwi, Fentie meet to discuss several issues.
02-131	Dec 06	Analysis on economic impacts of Kyoto Protocol now available.
02-132	Dec 06	Alberta-Northwest Territories discuss co-operation initiatives. (Joint release)
02-133	Dec. 09	GNWT applauds De Beers for decision to supply rough diamonds to NWT.
02-134	Dec. 09	Federal Government still not clear on funding.
02-135	Dec 10	Kakfwi commends coalition for report.
02-136	Dec 10	Antoine named champion for Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council.
02-137	Dec 19	GNWT awards tanker contract to Buffalo Airways.



02-001

RWED Minister Pleased with Pipeline Announcement

YELLOWKNIFE (January 7) -- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says yesterday's announcement by Mackenzie Valley Producers Group and the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Corporation to proceed with preparation of a regulatory application for a gas pipeline is a positive signal for the economic future of the Northwest Territories.

"We have been waiting for this announcement for some time," he said. "Moving into the formal planning stages for a pipeline is a significant commitment on the part of producers and means groundwork to define the technical environmental and commercial aspects of the project can begin along the proposed route."

Mr. Antoine says, even in the short-term, NWT communities and northern businesses will benefit from the opportunities associated with the project definition phase.

"I am particularly pleased that the Aboriginal people of the NWT are a partner in this project and are working to have a significant share of the ownership in the proposed pipeline," Mr Antoine said. "This now provides Deh Cho leaders with a proposal to consider."

The NWT Minister of Resources wildlife and Economic Development was in Ottawa last month where he met with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and members of the Western and Northern Liberal caucus on the status of economic development opportunities in the NWT.

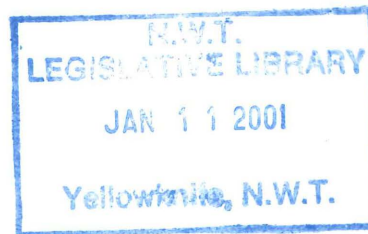
"The fed government has told us that they will consider investment in the Northwest Territories once a pipeline application is filed," Mr Antoine said. "This announcement by the Mackenzie Valley Gas producers opens the door for federal investment to begin."

Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi, DIAND Minister Bob Nault, NWT Aboriginal leaders and Mr. Antoine are scheduled to discuss devolution and resource revenue sharing at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum later this week in Fort Simpson.

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
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02-002



Premier's Annual Address Focuses on People and Environment

YELLOWKNIFE (January 11) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi said yesterday that the Government of the Northwest Territories will work to mend the social fabric of the NWT and better reflect the important balance between environmental management and resource development.

In his second Annual Address to the People of the Northwest Territories, the Premier said that the GNWT's Non Renewable Resource Development Strategy has helped to create the positive economic climate needed to maximize the benefits of large scale resource development for the good of all residents of the NWT.

"Our economy has momentum," he told a luncheon of the Rotary Club of Hay River Sunrise. "In fact, compared to other jurisdictions in Canada, we're number one."

Mr. Kakfwi said the government will use this momentum to continue what it has begun and to focus on the North's greatest strengths and most precious resources – the identity, language and culture of the people of the NWT and the protection and management of its environment.

"The lands and waters that we call our own continue to be owned and managed by the federal government," the Premier noted. "It is time for this to end."

The Premier and Members of the Legislative Assembly have begun a process to identify a new name for Canada's emerging "have territory". He credited the entrepreneurial spirit of the North's original people for the historical and unprecedented manner in which the NWT has taken control of its future.

"It is this enduring northern spirit that gives me the pride and the confidence to say, we will complete the tasks that we have set out for ourselves," he said.

For a copy of the Premier's address, visit: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/thisweek/news/index.html>

For more information, contact:

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Address to the People of the Northwest Territories

Premier Stephen Kakfwi
Friday, January 11, 2002
Rotary Club of Hay River Sunrise

Elders, youth, guests, leaders and people of the North.

It is the beginning of a New Year and also the mid-point of my term as your Premier. It is an honour to be here today to address you.

I want to take a moment to thank those of you who took the time to give me your statements of support this past October and the support that you gave to the economic and social and political direction in which your government, your territory and all people are heading.

Personally, I want to thank the Native Women's Association who gave me comfort, the chiefs, the Inuvialuit and Metis leaders who came to my defence, and the business and community leaders who came out publicly to declare their support for my leadership in the vision that we all share together.

I would like to highlight for you some of the key achievements that this government, this legislature, this cabinet, with your support, has achieved to date.

More than anything, we should recognize that in Canada and in North America we are enjoying an economy that is performing very well, driving primarily by natural gas exploration, diamond mine construction and the operation, as well as related resource sector activity. Our economy has momentum. In fact, compare to other jurisdictions, in Canada, we are number one.

To support this momentum, we are encouraging new partnerships with southern businesses. We are building capacity in our labour market and territorial business community. We are working to maximize northern employment, particularly for our young people, our youth. And we will continue to work to improve infrastructure, to serve our residents and the needs of industry.

The decisions that some of us made 25 years ago to begin taking control of our future, I believe are starting to produce results today.

It is recognized that the U.S. President Bush and our Prime Minister Chretien have had discussions about the Northwest Territories: the resources we have here and the will of the people to be part of a global economy.

Multi-national corporations are now discussing the future of the Northwest Territories with us, and the development of the resources. We have taken a lead in articulating the dreams and the visions of our people, and to carve out a place for ourselves not just in Canada, but in the global community. That is how we must continue to see ourselves if we are going to ensure ourselves a future.

It is historic to see that one day discussions and decisions made by any one of our Aboriginal land corporations here in the North would be discussed the following day in a boardroom in Houston or Calgary. Historically, in an unprecedented way, Aboriginal leaders declared at the beginning of 2000 that our people must have equity in any future pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley.

We developed a non-renewable resource strategy to help create a positive climate for investment and development in the North for ourselves and Canada and, again, on a global basis.

On Monday of this week the gas producers and Aboriginal pipeline corporations responded to this positive climate with a notice of intent to apply for a pipeline permit to see the construction of a pipeline to bring Canadian gas, northern gas to markets.

Even the federal government, which we have often criticized for inaction, has responded in part with funding for ice road construction, but more notably, Finance Minister Paul Martin found the political will to agree to a \$60 million adjustment to offset our costs incurred during division of the Northwest Territories.

It is apparent that we have created a new confidence amongst ourselves here in the Northwest Territories and in Canada. I believe Monday's announcement will only help convince our Prime Minister, Finance Minister Paul Martin, and indeed the northern Minister Bob Nault that we must work together to ensure that federal investment flows through the North so that we can get the support we need to maintain the course we have set for ourselves, and to continue to work to realize our full potential.

I want to address the importance of recognizing and using the full potential of all our peoples here in the territory:

The Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, the Deh Cho, the Akaitcho, the Dogrib, the Metis; those of you who have had the courage and the vision to come North years ago to make this your home; and those of you who have come recently with the intent, the strength and the vision to see this as a place to make your home.

Each and every one of us is challenged to help improve the health and well-being of our communities, our families, our women, our elders, our children.

Each day we are challenged with family violence, abuse in all its forms, poverty, inadequate housing, fetal alcohol syndrome, and the legacy of residential schools.

They all continue to assail us, to damage our social fabric. While the task of addressing these many issues is complex, I believe that together we can make a difference. But it will take the commitment of this government, in partnership with you the people to make positive change.

In keeping with that, in June of last year, our government hosted a major gathering of non-governmental organizations, community groups, Aboriginal governments and the federal government to develop a made-in-the-north social agenda.

We took this step because our social fabric is essential and must be balanced with resource development, employment and business initiatives. The task of completing a social agenda is in the hands of the Social Agenda Working Group, which will be reporting to us, to all of us in the near future.

Partnerships are fundamental to realizing our vision, and nowhere is this more apparent than our commitment to recognize and support Aboriginal governments. To date, relationships with Aboriginal governments have been improved by significant agreements such as the South Slave Metis Political Accord.

Progress has been made in regional land claim and self-government negotiations involving the Beaufort-Delta, the Dogrib Nation, and the Salt River First Nations. An agreement has been reached on a tri-partite action plan for both economic development and capacity building. We are especially pleased and proud with the progress made by an Intergovernmental Forum during this past year. This is a truly unique way of bringing together all levels of government to deal with

territorial-wide issues.

Later today I will join Minister Jim Antoine, Aboriginal leaders and DIAJND Minister Bob Nault in Fort Simpson to discuss arrangements for future negotiations on resource revenue sharing and devolution.

As you know, the lands and the waters that we call ours continue to be owned and managed by the federal government in Ottawa. It is time for this to end. As I speak to you today, revenues from diamond mines operating in our backyard continue to see dollars flowing to Ottawa. This too must change.

All of us understand and respect the need to protect our lands, our resources and our environment. Our ancestors have done that. Our future generations demand that. Let me state categorically, this government is committed to ensuring that the land is protected for all our future generations, and for the duration of our term we will continue to work and to organize ourselves in ways that better reflect the important balance between environmental management and resource development.

We have also established an Energy Secretariat to produce a comprehensive strategy to include environmentally friendly energy sources. We will complete and implement this initiative by the end of our term. We need to recognize that territorial and regional boards and agencies established under land claim agreements are now very much a part of the environmental review and decision-making process on land use and development matters.

In the next two years, in co-operation with our Aboriginal partners and the federal government, we will work to improve and streamline our regulatory process.

Our work has already led to a dramatic increase in confidence by industry evidenced this week by this week's announcement.

We will continue to work: to expand community and regional capacity to manage and monitor the environment; to expand monitoring capabilities for air quality wildlife and forest inventory; to support local, regional, national and international actions to reduce emissions from pollutants including greenhouse gases; and to promote a reduction of energy consumption here in the North in our own homes, and in our communities.

Our ancestors were strong people. Their strength came from their belief in themselves - an unwavering belief in the gifts, resources and qualities given by the Creator. We that follow them must continue that tradition and face up to the challenge of every day by believing in ourselves.

This demands dedication to one another, to our diverse cultures and languages, our individual identities, and a commitment to see the development of a unique identity that will encompass all of us as a people of the new territory.

These are our greatest strengths and our most precious resource: our Aboriginal diversity of Inuvialuit, Metis, Gwich'in, Sahtu, Deh Cho, Dogrib and Akaitcho Dene. Together, with the diversity brought to our land by people who came North generations ago and those who have come recently make us truly unique.

We must find ways, each and every day to support and celebrate this diversity, to meet the challenges it presents so that we can together go into the future to meet the challenges that are confronting us.

Governments, both public and Aboriginal, must and will, continue to have a role in maintaining and reviving our languages, promoting and enhancing our cultures, and finding ways to encourage the development of a unique culture for all our peoples within the territory.

Last year we passed legislation to recognize our Aboriginal heritage, by declaring an annual holiday on June 21st. We are the first in Canada to make National Aboriginal Day a true holiday, a day to celebrate and to recognize our Aboriginal peoples.

We also continue to work to put our unique northern impression on educational programs and health care delivery, in naming of our buildings, and arts and crafts, eco and cultural tourism, northern sports and our country food.

We should recognize that many of our leaders and our communities have lead the way in seeking an identity by renaming themselves, reclaiming ownership of what is theirs.

Today we know Fort Norman as Tulita, Lutsel K'e was Snowdrift, Arctic Red River has become Tsiigehtchic, Fort Franklin is now Deline. We have Whati, Gameti, Wekweti.

These people and communities are putting a unique stamp on the map of Canada, a strong statement of culture and identity. We have an obligation to respect that. Our leadership initiatives must be recognized as contributing to the development of an identity for all of us our communities and our people.

A major challenge still facing us is to find a name for our territory, our home. It is a challenge that we must address together, as we seek to assume control of our future, our resources and our land, and to continue the work to develop a unique identity for ourselves.

Recently, Members of the Legislature collectively agreed on the need for a process to help us identify a new name for our territory - a process and a name that will symbolize for all residents our uniqueness, our unity, our diverse and unique makeup, and more than anything, declare our place in Canada.

MLAs have instructed Cabinet, and Cabinet has given our support to Minister Antoine and MLA Bill Braden of Yellowknife, to take the lead in this initiative and to provide recommendations at the March session of our legislature.

All of us have come a long way as governments and as peoples. Twenty-five years ago, many of us stood up to the oil and gas industry and the federal government of Canada and said there will be no pipeline until it is built to our benefit and on our terms.

Two years ago we shared our dream of having a territory that is self-sufficient, self-reliant. A territory where careful planning and strategic investment in large-scale resource development, could be maximized to improve the lives and the well-being of all our people, all northerners.

Earlier this week the Mackenzie Valley Producer Group and the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Corporation told us they are ready to proceed with the regulatory application for a gas pipeline. The Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories have positioned themselves to seek one-third ownership of this pipeline, of this project.

We have come this far because we have a spirit, an entrepreneurial spirit that exists within each of us, each of our families, each of our peoples: the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, the Deh Cho, the Dogrib, the Akaitcho, the Metis families, the Metis Nation, and those of you who have come generations ago to make this your home.

The spirit that brought you here, the spirit that has served you to survive and endure and development and establish families here is what we need to recognize, to celebrate and make use of.

It is this spirit that has given us the confidence and the power to rise above the obstacles that we face, to continue to be innovative and creative in the face of adversity, and to be courageous through the hard times that we have faced, face today and will face tomorrow.

It is this spirit that tells me that we will continue to stand resolute as we meet the challenges of tomorrow. It is this enduring spirit, this northern spirit that gives me the pride and the confidence to stand here today and say that I know and I believe with absolute confidence that we are able and we will complete the tasks that we've set out for ourselves in our vision.

Thank you very much.



02-003

Minister Introduces Plan for Reform of NWT Health and Social Services System

YELLOWKNIFE (January 16) -- Minister of Health and Social Services (H&SS) J. Michael Miltenberger today released his department's plan to improve the delivery of health and social services to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The Health and Social Services System Action Plan, 2002-2005 builds on the recommendations of reports and studies done on the NWT Health and Social Services system over the past eight years and the advice of NWT leaders, residents and health care professionals.

"It's time to move beyond studies and get on with substantial reform of the health and social services system," Mr. Miltenberger said.

The action plan, to be implemented over the next three years, addresses five major areas of improvement: services to people, support for staff, system-wide management, support to trustees and accountability. Under each of these major areas, actions are identified.

A Joint Leadership Council, established and chaired by the Minister of Health and Social Services, will lead and monitor the implementation of the action plan. This council includes the Chairperson of each Health and Social Services Authority as well as the department's Deputy Minister.

"This action plan seeks to ensure that the health and social services system of the NWT can provide residents of the NWT with the appropriate service, at the appropriate time by the appropriate provider," Mr. Miltenberger said.

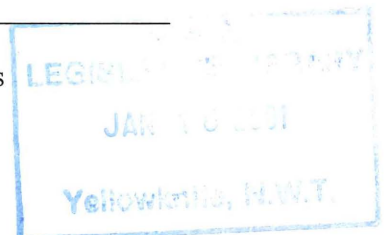
On his appointment to the Health and Social Services portfolio in November 2001, Mr. Miltenberger committed to providing an action plan to the people of the Northwest Territories within 90 days of taking office. Today's announcement fulfils the Minister's commitment ahead of schedule.

Many other Canadian jurisdictions have also completed system-wide reviews and changes in the health and social services sector. "We have many common challenges," the Minister noted.

The Health and Social Services System Action Plan, 2002-2005 will be available in hard copy and can be viewed on the Department's website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

For more information contact:

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02-004

NWT Help Directory to be Valuable Tool for H&SS Professionals

YELLOWKNIFE (January 24) – The Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) today released its 2001 NWT Help Directory.

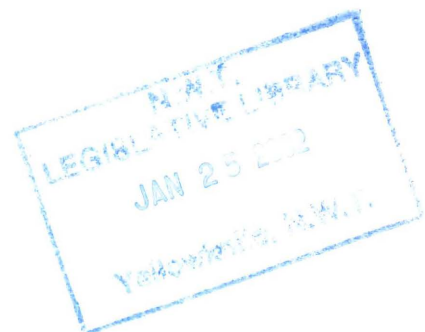
The updated and redesigned Help Directory will provide a comprehensive resource for both health care and social services professionals as well as those working in support roles in related fields.

“This directory can provide ready access to information for school counsellors acting in support of students, community social workers seeking support services for clients or physicians referring patients to community home care programs,” Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger said.

The Minister says the NWT Help Directory is a welcome tool for those people working to enhance the health and well being of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:

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Department of Health and Social Services
867-920-8927





02-005

Family Literacy Day Provides Opportunity to Build Stronger Families

YELLOWKNIFE (January 25) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says literacy is not just about reading, writing and arithmetic. He is encouraging all NWT families to use Family Literacy Day January 27, 2002 as a time to strengthen their families through communication.

"Families can enhance their literacy by organizing family events, doing household chores like grocery shopping, and welcoming the hand-drawn birthday card that their five-year-old made for grandma," Mr. Ootes says.

With new initiatives and programs such as *Towards Literacy: A Strategy Framework* and the *Early Childhood Development Plan*, Mr. Ootes says the GNWT is working with NWT families to increase literacy levels

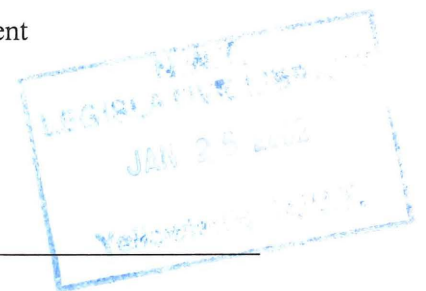
The GNWT Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services will collaborate in 2002 to bring the Early Childhood Development Plan to the forefront of daily life for NWT families.

Through family photos, activities for children and information for new parents, this plan will aid parents in making the most of their child's first six years – a critical time in which children will master communication tools for later success.

This year's, Family Literacy Day will come just three days after the passing of Peter Gzowski - Canada's foremost proponents of literacy programs. "Mr Gzowski's promotion and advancement of literacy in the NWT will always be an important and enduring building block for our future as a people," Mr. Ootes noted.

For more information, contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 873-7252





02-006

**Government of the Northwest Territories - Media Statement
YELLOWKNIFE (January 25)**

Peter Gzowski

Peter Gzowski will always be in our hearts. All of his friends in the Northwest Territories will remember his love and respect for the North. His quiet, endearing manner, honesty and genuine love for his homeland embodied the quintessential northern spirit we each aspire to possess.

For ordinary Canadians he was our link with each other. He gave us a voice, he gave us stories and he listened to ours. For us in the North, that was very special. He made all of us realize that across this vast country, there is more that binds us than divides us.

We considered him a true Northerner.

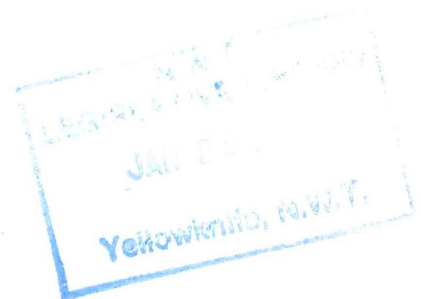
Mr. Gzowski's contributions to literacy programs in the North have provided a powerful tool with which we are building a future for our children. This contribution to our region is matched only by the lift that he would provide to our northern spirits whenever he extolled the beauty of the North and the warmth of its people.

Like he did so many times, Peter Gzowski has united Canadians once again as we all share, with his family, in the sadness of our loss.

The Northwest Territories have lost more than a friend – we have lost one of our own.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Executive
(867) 669-2304





02-007

Kakfwi Says He Prefers to Stay Right Here

YELLOWKNIFE (January 31) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he has no intention of changing jobs. Reacting to speculation that he is considering candidacy in the next federal election, the Premier said today, "I want to stay right here".

"I like being the Premier of the Northwest Territories," Mr. Kakfwi said. "I feel very privileged to serve in this capacity at this important time in our history."

The Premier said he and his colleagues in the 14th Assembly have a lot of work to do to implement their vision of a better tomorrow. "We have taken real steps toward resolving a number of monumental and historic issues for the people of the NWT," the Premier said. "I want to be here and help finish what we have started."

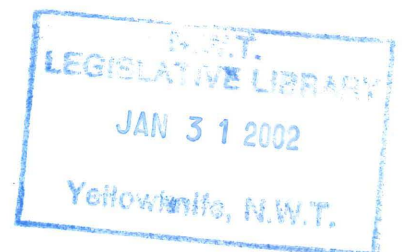
Mr Kakfwi also reiterated his continuing support for Western Arctic Member of Parliament Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

"Ms. Blondin-Andrew has, and will continue to provide, a strong voice in Ottawa both as our MP and as a Cabinet Minister," the NWT Premier said. "She is an integral part of our Territory's emerging self-reliance."

Last fall, NWT residents, Aboriginal leaders and the Territory's business community were clear in their support for the NWT government, its vision and the leadership provided by Premier Kakfwi.

For more information, contact:

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





02-008

Panel Completes WCB Legislative Review

YELLOWKNIFE (January 31) - Ministers Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Joseph Handley and Kelvin Ng, today released *Act Now* - the final report of the Legislative Review Panel.

Both Ministers expressed praise for the Panel members. "I'm sure their task must have seemed daunting at times," Mr. Handley said. "But they worked as a team and they worked hard." Mr. Ng commended the diligence of Panel members. "They went into a community and literally knocked on doors," he noted. "They placed people's opinions in very high regard."

Panel members visited nine communities in the NWT and Nunavut between March and August 2001 and sent an extensive questionnaire to stakeholders in both territories to receive input on issues important to WCB stakeholders.

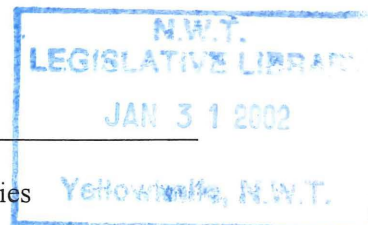
The Panel, made up of Chairperson Louise Vertes, members Alex Stuit, Steve Petersen, Dan Halldorson, Don Yamkowy, Shona Barkley and David Simailak, was struck in December 2000 to undertake a review of Workers Compensation Legislation in Nunavut and the NWT.

The report is available to the general public through the contact persons listed below and will be posted online at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html> The Ministers say they would like to receive any feedback and comments on the report's recommendations by February 28, 2002.

For more information please contact:

Chris Lalande
Executive Assistant to Kelvin Ng
Minister Responsible for
the Workers Compensation Board
Tel (867) 975-5076

Lisa Richinger
Executive Assistant to Joseph Handley
Minister Responsible for
the Workers Compensation Board
Tel: (867) 669-2309





02-009

Joint Leadership Council Begins Work to Implement Action Plan

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5) -- The newly formed Joint Leadership Council (JLC), responsible for the implementation of the Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) Action Plan 2002-2005, met for the first time in Yellowknife Friday, February 1, 2002.

Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger said it was important for the Council to establish an immediate foundation of collaboration and co-operation.

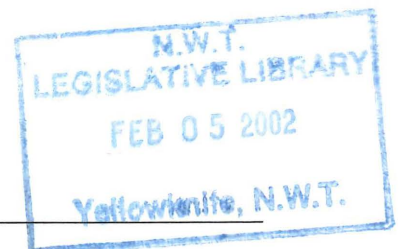
"Ensuring effective co-ordination and delivery of health and social programs and services throughout the NWT will require that members of the JLC play a strong leadership role in system reforms," he said.

The Joint Leadership Council, established in January and chaired by the Minister of Health and Social Services, is comprised of the Chairperson of each Health and Social Services Authority as well as the Deputy Minister of H&SS. It is tasked with the stewardship and direction setting of the NWT's health system.

The JLC provides direction to the Joint Senior Management Committee (JSMC) made up of the Chief Executive Officers of Health and Social Services Authorities and senior managers from the H&SS Department who are responsible for the system wide coordination of operational activities.

Mr. Miltenberger says one of the first priorities will be to strengthen recruitment efforts for health and social services professionals. "The Joint Leadership Committee is also committed to establishing a closer working relationship with professional associations," he said.

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





02-010

NWT Airports free from the Air Traveller's Security Charge

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5) -- Minister of Transportation Joe Handley today confirmed that the new Air Traveler's Security Charge will not be applied on flights to and from community airports within the Northwest Territories.

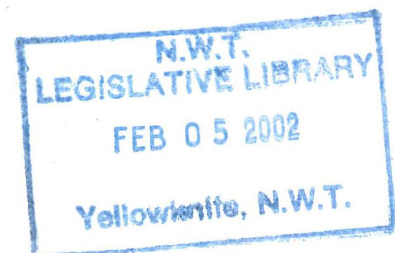
Only flights departing from the Yellowknife Airport to other designated airports in Canada will be subject to the ticket charge when it takes effect on April 1, 2002.

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin introduced the new security charge in his December Budget Speech as a means to recover the cost of tighter security measures at Canadian airports. Information released with the Budget Speech indicated that all Canadian airports would be subject to the charge.

Mr. Handley says he sought clarification from Ottawa on behalf of NWT travelers pointing out the effect that such a charge would have on the already high cost of air travel in the North.

For more information, contact:

Peter Vician
Deputy Minister
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 920-3460





02-011

February 28th - Deadline for NWT Arts Council Grants

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7) - The deadline for NWT Artisans, musicians and registered arts organizations wishing to apply for an NWT Arts Council grant is February 28, 2002.

The NWT Arts Council provides this annual funding to artists and organizations projects in a variety of recognized artistic media.

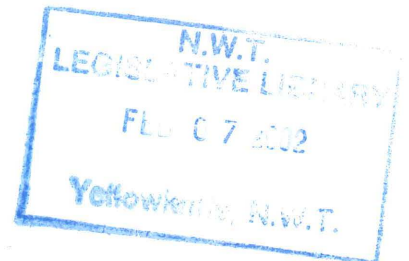
“The artistic community in the Northwest Territories is extraordinarily rich in talent,” Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says. “Funding by the NWT Arts Council is designed to support individual artists and projects while encouraging the spirit of mentoring and training that must exist to foster future talent.”

Last year, the NWT Arts Council awarded 30 grants, worth \$140,000, to a variety of artists and territorial organizations. Musicians and composers like Ekuinox of Fort Simpson and Skip Yeknom of Hay River have used their grant money to produce and record more than 30 original songs.

Funding also assisted festival organizers to host workshops for NWT artists at the South Slave Music Festival in Fort Smith and the 13th Annual Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik.

For more information, please contact:

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





02-012

Health Services Report Highlights Need for Healthy Choices

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7) – The cost of health services provided in the Northwest Territories for the treatment of preventable injuries due to accidents, heart attacks and strokes highlights the importance of prevention, health promotion and healthy lifestyle choices,” Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger said today.

The Minister released *The NWT Health Services Report 2000* on the use of health services in the Northwest Territories between 1994 and 1999. It is the first such report on the NWT health system in over a decade. He says it will enable practitioners and decision-makers to analyze the use of health services and the relative costs of providing these services in the NWT.

“It will help us answer questions about who uses which services, when, how often and for what reason,” the Minister said, “and will provide a baseline to measure future trends.”

The report focuses on four areas of the NWT health system most used by NWT residents: hospitals; health centres and public health units; physician services; and medical travel.

“It illustrates the need to develop more responsive effective, responsible and sustainable methods of delivering and managing health services as reflected in our recently released *Health and Social Services System Action Plan, 2002-2005*,” Mr. Miltenberger said.

For more information, contact:

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





02-013

NWT's Award Winning Apprentices Recognized

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today offered his congratulations to the NWT's Top Apprentices.

"Your commitment has earned you the recognition of being the best in your field," the Minister said.

With more than 300 apprentices registered in the NWT, the Apprenticeship program in the Northwest Territories is among the most successful in Canada.

February 4-10, 2002 is Apprenticeship Week in the NWT. Mr. Ootes says it serves as an opportunity to recognize those who contribute to the success of Apprenticeship Programs.

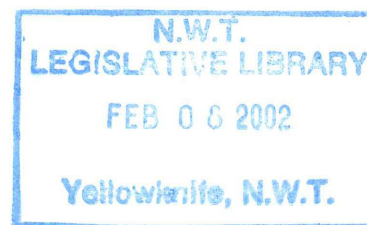
"These programs are built on a solid foundation of partnerships between industry, private business, NWT schools, Aurora College and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment," the Minister said. "Employers who hire apprentices are the cornerstones to this foundation."

A complete list of the NWT's award-winning apprentices will be printed in the February 18, 2002 edition of News North.

For more information, contact:

Bryan Johnson

Manager, Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification
Education Culture and Employment
Tel (867) 873-7553





02-014

New Projects to Provide Increased Access to Furs and Hides

YELLOWKNIFE (February 8) -- Two pilot projects, developed by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) will provide arts and crafts producers with increased access to dressed furs and hides.

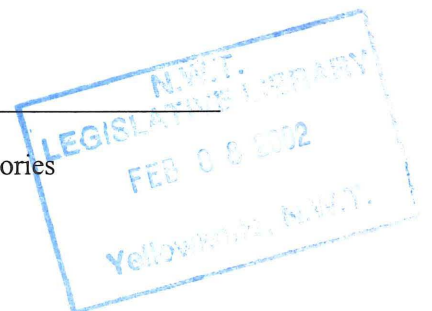
The first project will focus on increasing the production of smoked moose hide. Funding will be provided for: the acquisition of green hides; mentoring programs to teach tanning skills to young people; processing procedures and technology transfers and projects that would make the tanning process less labour intensive.

The second project will increase the access to dressed furs for arts and crafts producers. Assistance will be available for youth mentoring programs and craft production as well as the purchase of either select lots of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs for dressing or fur that has been locally dressed.

“The development of a healthy and successful fashion design industry in the Northwest Territories has been reflected in an increased demand for our arts and crafts,” RWED Minister Jim Antoine says. “The success of these industries relies heavily on the availability of tanned hides - particularly moose hides and dressed fur.”

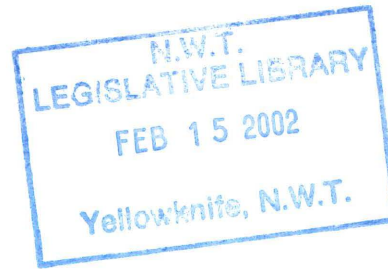
Funding applications are available at regional or area Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development offices.

For more information, contact: **Doug Stewart**
Director, Wildlife and Fisheries
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Tel: (867) 920-8064





02-015



BHP Billiton to Sponsor Northern Student Education Initiative

YELLOWKNIFE (February 13) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today welcomed BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. as the newest co-sponsor of the hugely successful Northern Student Education Initiative (NSEI).

For more than a decade, the NSEI has provided support and counseling to assist NWT students and workers in addressing many of the challenges they face when attending post-secondary institutions in the Edmonton area.

“An overwhelming southern urban environment can be intimidating and distracting to NWT residents hoping to further their education,” Mr. Ootes said. “BHP Billiton’s commitment to the Northern Student Education Initiative is welcomed recognition of this fact.”

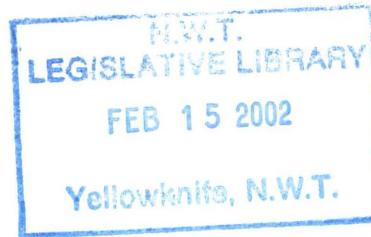
Mr. Ootes noted that BHP Billiton’s \$10,000 contribution to the Northern Student Education Initiative would ultimately be reflected in the lasting academic and professional success of students benefiting from the program. “In the long run, the contribution will also serve to strengthen both our workforce and our future as a Territory,” he said.

BHP Billiton joins Bellanca Developments Ltd./Princeton Developments Ltd., NorTerra Inc., Enbridge Inc., the University of Alberta and the Government of the Northwest Territories as sponsors of the Northern Student Education Initiative.

For more information call:

Laurie Morton

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



NWT Heritage Exemplifies Industry and Innovation

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15) – Celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of NWT residents, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today recognized February 18, 2002, as Heritage Day in the NWT with the theme “Heritage 2002, Industry and Innovation.”

Mr. Ootes says this theme gives the people of the NWT an opportunity to take pride in their rich history.

“From the traditional and innovative economies of hunting and trapping, to the industry-rich and rapid resource development of today, the people of the NWT have developed a unique and highly motivated character that is enabling them take command of their future,” the Minister said. “This enduring spirit should be a source of pride and confidence for us all.”

The Heritage Canada Foundation annually proclaims the third Monday in February as Heritage Day in Canada. In Yellowknife, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre will celebrate Heritage Day with a special Amazing Family Sundays event, called *Mining Memories – Now and Then*. The Centre is also hosting a small exhibit titled *Yellowknife Heritage*, developed by the Yellowknife Seniors, for the community display area.

Steve Rowan of Fort Simpson is the NWT Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation and an active member and volunteer with the Fort Simpson Historical Society. He invites all people to join in observing Heritage Day 2002.

“Considering our many different backgrounds, celebrating and helping to preserve the heritage of all people in the Northwest Territory, can only make us stronger,” he says.

For more information, contact:

Barb Cameron
Culture, Heritage and Languages
Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 873-7551



02-017

Team Canada 2002 To Produce Future Results For NWT Business

BERLIN (February 19) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Moscow by Canada North Projects Ltd. with Petrospekt of St. Peterersburg is just the tip of the iceberg for business opportunities in Russia and highlights the importance of the Team Canada Trade Mission for the NWT business community.

The MOU worth \$250,000 annually was signed February 15, 2002, and sets the terms for the Yellowknife-based company to provide technology to its Russian partners for the manufacturing of wood frame structural building components.

“Our harsh and isolated environment has necessitated innovative and unique methods of construction ideally suited for the NWT,” the Premier said. “The Team Canada forum allows us to market this proficiency beyond traditional markets.”

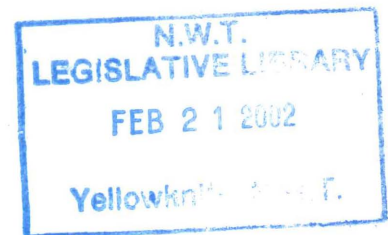
While in Russia, Premier Kakfwi also joined Stefan Simek of Ferguson Simek Clark for meetings with government officials and business representatives. Last week, Prime Minster Chretien singled out Ferguson Simek Clark as a “Canadian business pioneer” in developing Canada-Russia partnerships and “a household name” in the Russian construction industry.

While immigration issues prevented Mr. Simek from finalizing any additional contracts in Russia, Premier Kakfwi says the expertise, equipment, training and materials perfected by the NWT construction industry will continue to be sought by Russian businesses.

Both Canadian and Russian businesses have raised concerns during the trade mission that immigration concerns have placed them at a competitive disadvantage with USA and European Businesses.

For more information, contact:

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





02-018

Premier Meets with Diamond Companies in London

BERLIN (February 19) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he will continue to insist that De Beers allocate a percentage of all future NWT production to cutting and polishing operations in the Northwest Territories.

The Premier met with representatives of the diamond mining company last week in London England. He says it is obvious that more negotiations will be needed before an agreement can be reached.

“The De Beers’ strategy is to sell all diamonds without identifying the source,” Mr. Kakfwi said. “This does not necessarily work in the best interests of the NWT diamond industry.”

While in London, the Premier also met with Rio Tinto representatives (Diavik) who confirmed that they will market diamonds based on national origination. “They have agreed that there is a premium to be obtained by marketing NWT diamonds,” Mr. Kakfwi said.

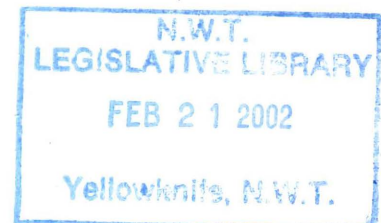
The Premier’s meetings with De Beers and Rio Tinto were part of a concerted effort by the Government of the Northwest Territories to maintain an open dialogue with the diamond industry regarding global perspectives and market trends.

Premier Kakfwi says he reiterated his request to De Beers officials that they show their presence in the diamond capital of North America by placing a company sign on the main street of Yellowknife.

“They have indicated to me that this will not be a problem,” the Premier said.

For more information, contact:

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





02-019

Award Winning Northern Author Begins 10-day Tour

NORMAN WELLS (February 19) -- Award winning Fort Smith author Richard Van Camp today kicked off a 10-day speaking tour of NWT schools and libraries.

The tour is sponsored by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with NWT Divisional Education Councils the Yellowknife Education Districts, the NWT Literacy Council, Canadian North, the Yellowknife Book Cellar, the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre and Inkit Ltd.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says it will be a remarkable opportunity for educators to encourage children, teens and young adults to embrace literacy and develop a lifelong passion for reading and writing.

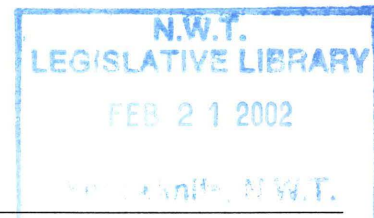
"Mr. Van Camp exemplifies the success that every resident of the NWT is capable of," Mr. Ootes says. "He's worked hard to achieve his dreams. Today, a graduate student at the University of British Columbia, he is also an internationally recognized award-winning writer."

Mr. Van Camp will visit Norman Wells, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Wekweti and Rae Edzo before ending his tour in Yellowknife on February 27, 2002.

"We are pleased that Mr. Van Camp is sharing his time with young people across the NWT," Mr. Ootes said.

For more information, contact:

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



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02-020

Antoine says Foundation for the Future is Strong

YELLOWKNIFE (February 19) -- Deputy Premier Jim Antoine says the Government of the Northwest Territories has established a strong foundation on which to build its vision of a better tomorrow for all residents of the NWT.

In a statement marking the beginning of the fifth session of the 14th Legislative Assembly, Mr. Antoine said the GNWT will now focus on a balanced agenda and a fiscally responsible budget.

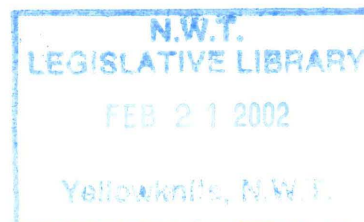
“Early on, we realized that implementing our agenda would depend upon the investments we were prepared to make, he said. “These investment decisions took courage but we knew it was right and would produce results.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories will build on the partnerships it has established to balance its investment in the economy, environment and social fabric of the NWT.

“We remain committed to investment,” the Deputy Premier said, “not only to take advantage of economic opportunities, but to improve the quality of life for all constituents.”

Finance Minister Joe Handley will deliver his Budget Address to the Legislative Assembly tomorrow.

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



02-022

Beneath the Dancing Sky puts NWT in International Spotlight

MUNICH (February 22) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the NWT's presentation of *Beneath the Dancing Sky* was a celebration of the richness and diversity of the Northwest Territories and a fitting end to a successful Canada Trade Mission for the NWT delegation.

The GNWT-sponsored event, staged Thursday evening in Munich, showcased NWT diamonds, furs, designer fashions and accessories and a variety of arts and crafts to over 250 people including representatives of the German business community, government dignitaries, members of the German aristocracy and Team Canada Trade Mission participants.

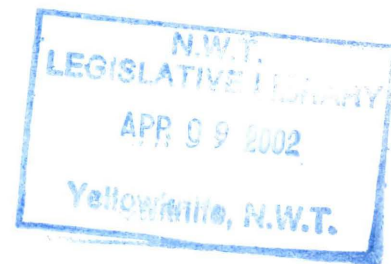
Premier Kakfwi says the response to the show and the NWT in general was overwhelmingly positive. "This has been an effective tool to raise the profile of the NWT and promote the products and services of NWT business at an international level," he said.

In addition to a fashion show of contemporary and traditional Aboriginal fashion designs, *Beneath the Dancing Sky* provided visitors the opportunity to observe NWT artists and craftspeople demonstrating their unique crafts in the natural setting of a recreated cultural village. A reception featuring several NWT delicacies was also included.

"Our cultures traditions and pristine environment have been well represented," the Premier said.

For more information, contact:

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





02-023

Day Care Investment reflects GNWT Commitment to Early Childhood Priority

YELLOWKNIFE (February 22) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says the Government of the Northwest Territories' investment in early childhood programs will give NWT families greater access to affordable, quality day-care and a greater opportunity to realize their own career dreams.

The Minister today outlined details of the GNWT's proposed \$1 million investment in day care funding introduced in the Finance Minister's Budget Address on Wednesday.

"Early Childhood is a priority for this government," the Minister said.

Daily contribution by the government to licensed day care programs will increase by up to 60 percent while child care subsidies to low-income parents will also rise and program criteria adjusted to better meet the needs of those who work shifts or during summer months.

"The NWT's economy is vibrant and generating new jobs," the Minister said. "We must take steps to allow our residents to benefit from this prosperity."

For more information, contact:

Lesley Allen

Assistant Deputy Minister Advanced Education & Careers
Education, Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 873-7252



02-024

Premier Assigns Lead Minister to Address the Issue of Homelessness

YELLOWKNIFE (February 27) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has assigned Hon. Roger Allen as the lead Minister to Address the Issue of Homelessness. Mr. Allen will co-ordinate and advance the work and objectives of other Ministers and departments with responsibilities related to homelessness.

The Premier says Mr. Allen's appointment will also provide support to the GNWT's implementation of recommendations to improve the delivery of social programs and services expected from the Social Agenda Working Group in the next few weeks.

"This appointment reflects priority that this government has given to ensuring that NWT residents have access to adequate housing," the Premier said.

The Housing Corporation will provide resources and administrative support for the Minister's work.

Mr. Allen will outline to Members of the Legislative Assembly, by the conclusion of this session how he, his Cabinet colleagues and their departments, will collaborate to address the issue of homelessness in the NWT.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Premier & Executive Council
Tel: (867) 669-2304





Commissioner of the Northwest Territories

Northwest Territories to Mark Queen's Golden Jubilee

February 28, 2002 -- To mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Commissioner Glenna Hansen has introduced a new Commissioner's Award for Public Service by Youth. The award will be given annually to one individual, between the ages of 18 and 25, to recognize their outstanding public service in the Northwest Territories.

The Commissioner's Award was one of several initiatives introduced for the Northwest Territories this afternoon to commemorate the 50th year of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne. A reception to launch these initiatives was held in the Legislative Assembly's Great Hall.

"I believe this provides a great opportunity to recognize youth who are committed to being role models as they strive to reach their goals." Ms. Hansen said.

In keeping with its priority to focus on youth and the promotion of literacy, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will invite NWT students to write a story to share with Her Majesty. Prizes will be awarded in four categories and winners published in a book to be provided as a gift to the Queen.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes introduced a motion of congratulations this afternoon to be forwarded by the NWT Legislative Assembly to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Office of the Commissioner will also be distributing 300 portraits of the Queen, on behalf of Canadian Heritage Canada, to schools, public agencies and organizations across the NWT.

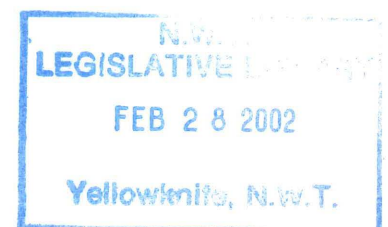
"The Queen's Jubilee provides a tremendous opportunity to help Canadians of all ages, particularly young Canadians, learn about our government and its origins, symbols and institutions," the Commissioner said.

For more information, contact:

Julene Summerfield
A/Executive Assistant to
Commissioner of the NWT
Tel: (867) 873-7332

Carmen Moore
Protocol Communications
Executive
Tel: (867) 873-7167

<http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/jubilee/english.htm>





Media Advisory

To: NWT Media

From: Drew Williams
Communications, Executive
Government of the NWT
(867) 669-2304

Date: 02/28/02

Executive Assistant to the Premier

(February 28) -- Effective today, Cheryl Fennell has joined the Premier's office in the role of Executive Assistant to the Premier. Ms. Fennell is on short-term assignment from the Department of Education Culture and Employment where she has worked since 1988 as a policy advisor.

Ms. Fennell replaces Margaret Embleton who has taken on new duties as Executive Assistant to Hon. Glenna Hansen, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

For more information contact: **Drew Williams**
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
(867) 669-2304





02-025

Minister Announces Education Week March 4-10, 2002

YELLOWKNIFE (March 5) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes yesterday launched Education Week (March 4-10, 2002) in the Northwest Territories with the theme *Changing Land, Changing Peoples*.

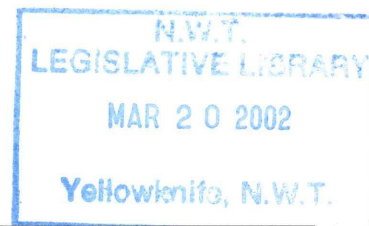
To celebrate education week, participants in early childhood programs, schools, college campuses and libraries across the NWT were asked to share stories about the drum that they have heard or experienced. These stories were written on paper drums and now form the basis of a display unveiled yesterday by the Minister in the Legislative Assembly's Great Hall.

"As the Northwest Territories evolves into a self-reliant, economically viable territory, it is important that we invest as much knowledge and information as we can, not only to understand the impact and significance of change but also to participate fully in that change," Mr. Ootes said. "Education Week is an excellent opportunity for each of us to reflect on the significant role education plays in our lives."

The theme for Education Week, Changing Land, Changing Peoples will be reiterated at the Interchange on Canadian Studies conference planned for April in Yellowknife. The Interchange is an annual conference that gives high school students a chance to meet, listen to prominent speakers and share ideas and experiences significant to Canada.

For more information, contact:

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





02-021

2002-2003 NWT Budget Address Seeks Balanced Approach

YELLOWKNIFE (February 20) -- Saying the Government of the Northwest Territories must balance its investments in the strong NWT economy with investments in the NWT's people, communities and environment, Minister of Finance, Joseph Handley today introduced the GNWT's 2002-03 Budget in the Legislative Assembly.

Strong economic growth and large one-time revenue increases will provide the GNWT with a \$160 million operating surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. A surplus, Mr. Handley says, that will allow the GNWT to make investments that would otherwise not be possible.

"Today's budget responds to the concerns of individual NWT residents and proposals put forward by Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chiefs, community leaders, business and non-government organizations over the past two years," he said.

The Finance Minister says he's committed to laying the groundwork for future economic development while balancing this investment with support for the environment and funding to ease social pressures caused by rapid economic growth.

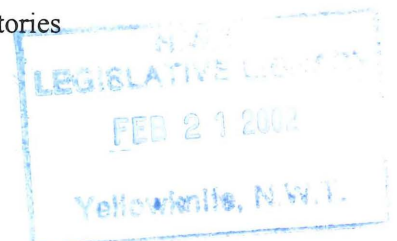
Support is also included for the NWT's cultural diversity. "This is one of our most precious resources and the source of our strength," Mr. Handley said.

The Minister says he will look for alternatives to the proposed Commercial Vehicle Permit Fee to finance the Highway Investment Strategy. Today's budget includes \$33 million for investment in the NWT highway system.

There is also tax relief for NWT taxpayers. If approved by the Legislative Assembly, increases to the personal, married, age and disability income tax credits will go into effect on July 1, 2002 saving a single taxpayer \$246 in income tax, and a single income couple \$575. Meanwhile, a minimum Cost of Living Tax Credit of \$250 per individual and \$500 per couple will go into effect for the 2002 tax year.

In the long term, however, Mr. Handley says expenditures will exceed revenues unless additional revenues are realized.

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While the 2002-2003 Budget includes \$64 million in additional operating expenditures, the Finance Minister says without additional one-time revenues, he expects revenues to fall in 2002-2003 and is forecasting a \$12 million deficit in the coming fiscal year.

“While we will invest a portion of our one-time revenue increases in economic and social initiatives, we must also set aside a portion to finance projected future deficits,” he warned.

For more information contact:

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

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



02-026

Ministerial Council on Literacy Convenes in Yellowknife

YELLOWKNIFE (March 6) -- The NWT's Ministerial Council on Literacy met for the first time in Yellowknife today. The Council, made up of representatives of the non-profit sector, employers, Aboriginal organizations, educational authorities and GNWT departments, was mandated by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, to provide guidance on the implementation of the NWT Literacy Strategy.

The Minister says the need to improve literacy levels is one of the most fundamental issues facing the GNWT today.

"Literacy is at the heart of education," Mr. Ootes said. "By working together, we can help to ensure the NWT Literacy Strategy is fully implemented and our goal of a literate society is realized."

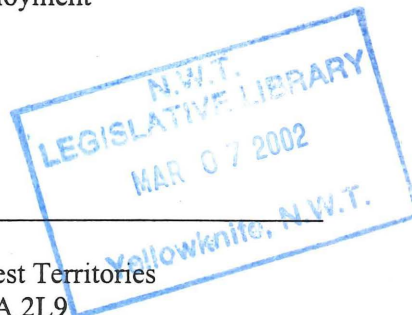
The NWT's Literacy strategy, *Towards Literacy: A Strategy Framework* recognizes that the development and maintenance of literacy skills is a lifelong process. It acknowledges that literacy programs should be developed and supported in all the official languages of the NWT.

"It is appropriate that the Council meet for the first time during Education Week," Mr. Ootes said. "It is an opportunity to reflect on the increasing need for each of us to commit to a lifetime of learning as a means of understanding and embracing change."

Literacy is defined as an individual's ability to listen, speak, read, write, view, represent, compute and solve problems in one or more of the official languages of the NWT at a level of proficiency necessary to function in the family, in the community and on the job. Higher literacy levels are linked to healthy lifestyle choices, progressive social and economic development, greater employment opportunities and higher incomes.

For more information, contact:

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



Backgrounder to:

Ministerial Council on Literacy Convenes in Yellowknife

Members of the Ministerial Council on Literacy

Earl Jacobson

Chair Aurora College
Fort Smith

Allan Landry

Kakisa DEA
Kakisa

Muriel Tolley

Secretary, ECE
Yellowknife

Alex Illasiak

Aklavik DEA
Aklavik

Bette Lyons

Hay River

Jim Villeneuve

Employer
Fort Simpson

Katherine Peterson

President
NWT Literacy Council
Yellowknife

Jeri Miltenberger

Mary Kaeser Library
Ft. Smith

Lesley Allen

ADM ECE
Yellowknife

Dora Ritis

Student, Aurora College
Inuvik

Sandra Elanik

IRC
Inuvik

Bernie Hughes

GNWT
Yellowknife

Jane Dragon

Fort Smith



02-027

Premier Recognizes Enormous Contribution of NWT's Women

YELLOWKNIFE (March 7) -- Calling them the "backbone of their communities", Premier Kakfwi today thanked the women of the Northwest Territories for improving the lives of all NWT families.

Speaking at a luncheon marking International Women's Day, the Premier credited women's advocacy for advancing improvements in day care, social income support, family law and adoption, education and justice programs in the NWT.

"It is the voices of women and special interest groups that have challenged our Government to commit to working together to better understand and serve the people who have not been heard," he said.

In his role as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Premier also encouraged all residents of the NWT to support and encourage women leaders to step forward for public leadership.

"We must instil in them the desire to run for Chiefs, Mayors, MLAs and MPs, he said. They have so much to give to the North."

While on the Team Canada trade mission 2002 to Germany last month, Premier Kakfwi donated a Bow Loom crafted by Ruby Minoza of Fort Providence to a time capsule marking the opening of the Canadian consulate in Berlin.

"It is women like her and the art they create that capture the challenge of the future and the strong and courageous spirit of the Northwest Territories," the Premier said.

For more information, contact:

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

Backgrounder Re:
Premier Recognizes Enormous Contribution of NWT's Women



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Bow Loom Woven Quillwork - The Northwest Territories' contribution to the Time Capsule, Berlin, February 2002

The Northwest Territories, home to the Inuvialuit, the Dene, Metis and non-Aboriginal people from many backgrounds is a land of incredible beauty and wealth of resources which inspires innovation, demands adaptation and depends on collaboration in building a prosperous future together.

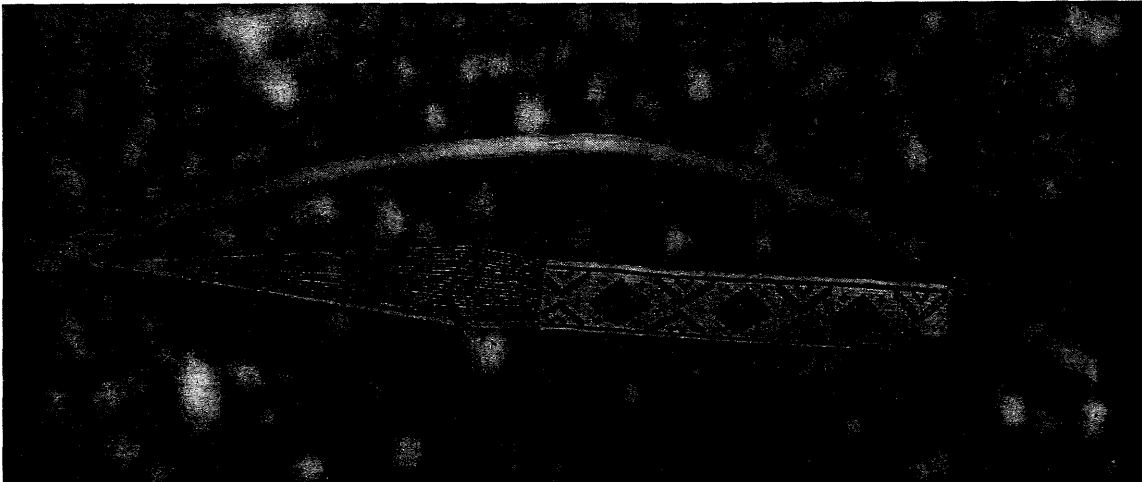
The bow loom with the porcupine quillwork was made by Ruby Minoza of Fort Providence, a small Dene community situated along the mighty Deh Cho (also referred to by many as the Mackenzie River). It is women like her and the art they create that capture this challenge of the future and the strong and courageous spirit of the Northwest Territories. The loom, its maker and its creation represents...

- o Century old knowledge and techniques that are still being used today in many of our communities
- o Women of the North, from all backgrounds who are the keepers of the many traditions characteristic of our rich cultural diversity
- o Old and new ways of life finding a modern rhythm - the century old technique of preparing quills, still used to make today's garments and artwork
- o The materials harvested from the land - the land which will always be the foundation of our ways of life
- o The women of the North who create such beauty and continue to be the backbone of our communities
- o Today - a piece of quillwork which is not yet completed, but a work in progress - like the Northwest Territories which is engaged in the exciting and ever challenging process of confirming its identity and assuming its rightful place in the Canadian Confederation.

It is with tremendous pride that I, Stephen Kakfwi, on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, offer this bow loom to the time capsule as a symbol of the many faces and stories of the Northwest Territories.

Stephen Kakfwi
Premier

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
YELLOWKNIFE NT
CANADA X1A 2L9
Telephone (867) 669-2311
Facsimile (867) 873-0385



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Stephen Kakfwi
Premier



02-028



NWT to Host Annual National Conference for Youth

YELLOWKNIFE (March 7) – Award-winning Canadian scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, Dr. David Suzuki will be the keynote speaker at a national youth conference to be held in Yellowknife next month.

The Interchange on Canadian Studies/Echange sur les etude canadiennes conference (ICS) brings Grade 11 students from every Canadian province and territory together annually to meet and listen to prominent speakers and share ideas and experiences significant to Canada.

In all, over 300 people are expected to attend the conference to be held at Sir John Franklin and St. Patrick High Schools April 6-13, 2002. The theme of the conference is *Changing Land, Changing Peoples*.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says the NWT's current political and economical environment make it a fitting location to address such a theme.

"Our unique emerging role in the Canadian mosaic will provide these young Canadians with a real-life demonstration of how social, economic, cultural and political change can be co-ordinated to build and strengthen a territory and its people," he said.

The Governments of the NWT and Nunavut will sponsor the ICS conference in partnership with the Yellowknife District Education Authorities and the Dogrib Community Services Board.

For more information, contact:

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



02-029

Canada Gala Strengthened NWT Ties to Yukon and Alaska

YELLOWKNIFE (March 12) -- Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says a Canada Gala in Anchorage, Alaska on March 9, 2002 served to strengthen cultural and commercial relationships across the North.

Mr. Ootes and Minister of Public Works and Services, Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen joined Alaska legislators, NWT and Yukon government officials and representatives from the Petroleum Industry in a celebration of the Alaska-Canada relationship and to identify and promote areas of economic and political co-operation.

“With recent announcements confirming that the Mackenzie Highway gas pipeline will likely be constructed first, it is time to pursue the potential that has been created for increased trade and business opportunities between the Northwest Territories and both the Yukon and Alaska,” Mr. Ootes said.

Alaska and the Northwest Territories already benefit from a close working relationship in several areas of common interest. They include the transportation of goods via the Mackenzie River into the Alaska North Slope and Bering Sea region, a pilot project for the community-based construction of a housing project in Stebbins, Alaska and community infrastructure development.

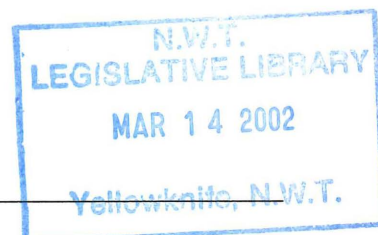
Future co-operation in the oil and gas sector could maximize resource development in both regions.

“Both Alaska and the NWT would realize significant benefits by combining our gas for transportation to market,” Mr. Steen noted. “Given the lower capital costs and the economies of scale, a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline would provide a double positive impact for both basins.”

The Canada gala was hosted by the Canadian Consulate General, in collaboration with the University of Alaska, the Alaska World Affairs Council and World Trade Centre Alaska.

For more information, contact:

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Executive
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02-030

NWT Premier Says Pipeline Development Must Respect Environment

VANCOUVER (March 13) -- Speaking to delegates at *The Globe 2002 Conference* in Vancouver, Premier Stephen Kakfwi today warned that although the people of the Northwest Territories welcome economic development, it must be done in a way that respects the environment and brings benefits to the Northwest Territories.

“Our sacred tie to the land has existed for thousands of years, he said. “We are aware of the balance required between developing our resources and ensuring our grandchildren’s grandchildren have the same access to clean lakes, abundant wildlife and healthy land throughout the Northwest Territories.”

The Premier praised British Petroleum for its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a point exceeding those set out by the Kyoto Protocol.

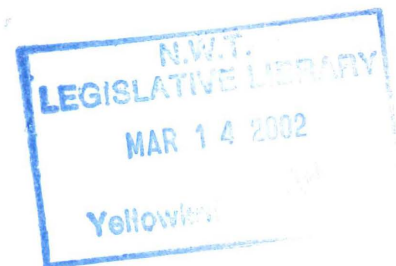
“When corporate partners share the important priority of the balance between development and environment, then we have a relationship built on a strong foundation, not mere platitudes.” Mr. Kakfwi said.

The Globe Conference is one of the foremost settings for government and industry representatives to discuss how major developments in energy policy and sustainable development can be translated into technology solutions and business opportunities.

The Premier spoke as part of a Northern Leaders Summit addressing Continental Energy on the theme: *Balancing Business Opportunity and Environmental Risk*. He says he’s confident that natural gas will flow through the Mackenzie Valley by 2008.

For more information, contact:

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





02-031

NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel Selects Co-Chairs

YELLOWKNIFE (March 14) - Two northern artists, Sonny McDonald of Fort Smith and Suzan Marie of Yellowknife will co-chair the Northwest Territories Arts Strategy Advisory Panel.

The panel, appointed earlier this year by Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine and jointly funded by his department and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, will assist in the development of programs and services supporting arts and cultural industries in the NWT. The 12-member panel includes artists, business people, festival directors and GNWT officials.

“By building a foundation for the arts in the NWT today, we can strengthen culture and identity 25 years from now,” Ms. Marie says. “It is important for elders to pass on traditional skills and practices to the youth, and provide a foundation for young artists and artisans to practice traditional and contemporary arts.”

“The common goal for all members of the panel is to get artists, business people and government working together,” Mr. McDonald adds. “We believe the government will listen to us and will act on what we have to say.”

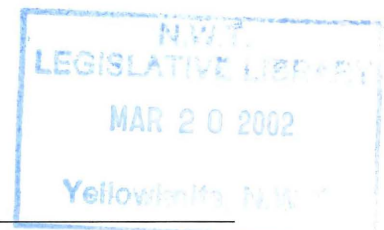
The NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel will examine a number of issues critical to the success of the NWT arts sector. They include the need for a consistent supply of raw materials, the importance of matching products to markets, the development of new, global markets for NWT products and services, and ensuring traditions and techniques are passed on to succeeding generations.

The panel will conduct community consultations before submitting their recommendations this summer on how the Government can support a healthy and sustainable arts and cultural sector in the NWT.

For more information, contact:

Suzan Marie
Co-Chair
NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel
Tel: (867) 920-2394

Sonny McDonald
Co-Chair
NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel
Tel: (867) 872-5935





02-032

Minister Says FAS Symposium Successful

YELLOWKNIFE (March 18) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger says an FAS Symposium in Yellowknife this weekend provided an excellent opportunity to discuss comprehensive and coordinated efforts to combat the reality of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Mr. Miltenberger says the symposium also provided an opportunity to highlight the GNWT's integrated approach to addressing FAS and FAE through a broad community-based approach of prevention and health promotion activities, early identification and intervention and the development of skills for parents and service providers.

"Our goal is to reduce the number of children who are born with the fetal alcohol effects," Mr. Miltenberger said. "But, it is also important that parents, social workers, health professionals and educators have the skills to assist children who must live with the damaging effects of pre-natal exposure to alcohol."

The GNWT's Department of Health and Social Services, as a member of the Prairie Northern Pacific FAS Partnership, organized the symposium for health professionals, social workers and educators from Western Canada.

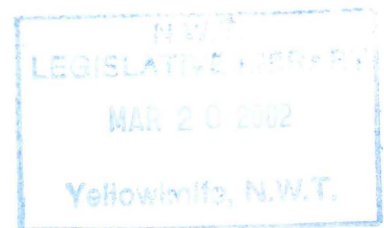
The symposium also featured presentations from Dr. Loretta Fuddy, Deputy Director of Health, Government of Hawaii and Brad Bell, Co-ordinator Healthy Families, Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon, on the development and implementation of effective home visitation programming for at-risk families.

This programming focuses on promoting positive parent-child interaction, effective child development strategies and increasing awareness for parents of social and medical services. Both speakers focused discussion on key challenges and similar building blocks for successful programs.

"It is very important that service provider's are made aware of practical and effective approaches to addressing needs," the Minister said.

For more information, contact:

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





02-033

Kakfwi says NWT has Strength and Resources in People

YELLOWKNIFE (March 18) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the people of the Northwest Territories have initiated dramatic changes in their society but how issues such as FAS and FAE are addressed will still make or break the future of the NWT.

Speaking at a symposium on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Yellowknife, the Premier told health care professionals from western Canada that the strength of NWT residents will be tested to the core in the next 5 –10 years.

“How, and how well, we address social issues such as FAS and FAE could very well affect how history will turn out for us in the next 20 years,” the Premier said.

Premier Kakfwi says the Government of the Northwest Territories is balancing its investment in resource development with a deep commitment to its social agenda.

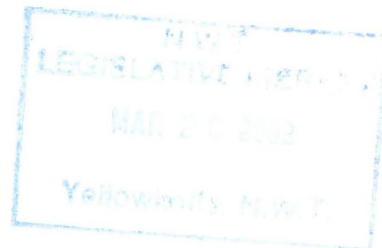
“This is not just a distance interest,” he said. “We have dreamers and visionaries, we have committed people with specific strengths and gifts offering them in service to better the lives of others. We have strength in the best society of elders that will ever be available. We must ensure the network the resources and programs are in place to support them.”

The Premier says he’s confident that together, the people of the NWT will overcome and eliminate issues such as FAS and FAE.

“We have more than a chance,” he said. “We have survived because we know how to reach out to each other.”

For more information, contact:

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Executive
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02-034

Meeting Highlights Potential for Co-operation between NWT and Greenland

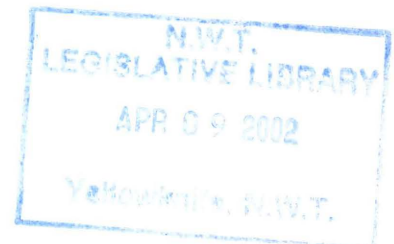
NUUK (March 22) -- Ministers from both the Government of Greenland and the Northwest Territories met on Tuesday during the Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland to discuss mutual interests in areas such as education, culture, research and sports.

GNWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen met with Hon. Lise Lennert, Minister of Culture, Education, Research and the Church, Government of Greenland.

"The strength of Greenland's culture and people is immediately visible," Mr. Ootes said. "Not only in the context of sports and the Arctic Winter Games, but in the cultural initiatives and education programs of the Greenland government. This strength is of great interest to the NWT and one from which we can learn and benefit.

In 1989, the Governments of the Northwest Territories and Greenland entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to co-operate in a number of areas including education and cultural exchanges, wildlife research, fisheries and tourist ventures.

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
Press Officer
Office of the Premier/Cabinet
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-035

Minister Appoints new Workers' Compensation Board Chairperson

YELLOWKNIFE (April 3) -- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board Joe Handley today announced the appointment of Andrew Wong as the new Chairperson of the WCB's Board of Directors.

Mr. Wong is a current member of the WCB Board of Directors and brings extensive Board experience and a strong financial background to his new role. He replaces Ms. Joanne Deneron, who served as Chairperson from January 1998 to March 31, 2002, and has resigned to pursue other interests.

"I would like to thank Ms. Deneron for her commitment and contribution to the Board and wish her all the best," Mr Handley said. "I know Mr. Wong will equal her dedication and strive to ensure a fair and responsible Worker's Compensation system in the North."

Under Ms. Deneron's stewardship the Workers Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut demonstrated leadership in worker rehabilitation while maintaining the lowest average employers' assessment rates in Canada and providing among the highest workers benefits.

"I'm committed to working with current board members, and our stakeholder groups, to further Ms. Deneron's efforts," Mr. Wong said.

For more information, contact:

Michael Triggs
Corporate Secretary
Workers' Compensation Board of
Nunanvut and the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 920-3888





02-036

2001 Language Leaders Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (April 8) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today congratulated recipients of the 2001 Language Leader Awards for having the foresight and courage to lead by example.

“This year’s community language leaders don’t just talk about the importance of their languages, they live and work in their languages daily,” the Minister said. “Their example reminds us that it is people who make language live and sing.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment introduced the Community Language Leader Award program to promote awareness to efforts or initiatives undertaken by NWT residents to maintain and promote the official languages of the NWT.

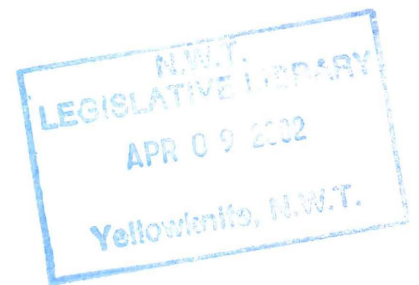
Each year, nominations are received from each of the NWT’s eight official language communities. Recipients are awarded a certificate and a cash prize of \$250.00.

For 2001, eight individuals and one volunteer community group were chosen to receive the award:

Georgina Biscaye - Fort Resolution
Dorothy Desjarlais - Fort Smith
Mary Rose Sundberg - Dettah
Louie Taniton - Deline
Margaret Leishman - Kakisa
Eunice Mitchell - Fort McPherson
Mabel Nigiyok - Holman Island
Rosie Albert - Inuvik
Community Radio Volunteer Community - Yellowknife

For more information, call:

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





#02-036 BACKGROUNDER

2001 LANGUAGE LEADERS ANNOUNCED
YELLOWKNIFE (April 8)

List of Winners – 2001 Language Leader Awards

Chipewyan—Georgina Biscaye, Fort Resolution

- A resourceful volunteer who ensured that Chipewyan Elders participated fully in the Chipewyan Language Working Group
- Oversaw the creation of Chipewyan street signs in Fort Resolution
- Created a Chipewyan street map of Fort Resolution
- Produced an instructional Chipewyan audio recording
- Traveled throughout the NWT and southern Canada with the Chipewyan Language Working Group hosting linguistic and cultural workshops for the public

Cree—Dorothy Desjarlais, Fort Smith

- A fluent Cree speaker who teaches Cree in her home community of Fort Smith
- A talented translator

Dogrib—Mary Rose Sundberg, Dettah

- A volunteer who helped develop Dogrib-language curriculum for teachers and students
- Co-produced an audio CD of Chipewyan prayers and songs sung by Elders in Dettah
- Teaches members of her community how write in Dogrib using Roman orthography
- A interpreter who translates for: people in territorial court, Elders on medical travel to Yellowknife and Edmonton and the community at community events like special church services, feasts, ceremonies and funerals

French—Community Radio Volunteer Community, Yellowknife

- Started working in 1993 to get Radio Taiga, CIVR 103.5 FM broadcast 24-hours a day, seven days a week
- Realized that dream on September 14, 2001
- Through their affiliation with Réseau francophone d'Amérique, the volunteers are increasing presence and profile of Franco-Tenoise (Francophone residents of the NWT) throughout French-speaking Canada

Gwich'in—Eunice Mitchell, Fort McPherson

- Although a fluent English speaker, Eunice speaks primarily in Gwich'in, thereby encouraging members of her community to speak Gwich'in regularly
- Eunice is always willing to share her knowledge with anybody who asks
- Through her example, she's rekindled public interest in learning and using Gwich'in

Innuinaqtun—Mabel Nigiyok, Holman Island

- A long-time volunteer Sunday School teacher who teaches in Innuinaqtun
- Mabel incorporates Innuinaqtun stories and songs into her lessons and encourages her students to express their culture artistically

- Residents of the Beaufort Delta see Mabel as an invaluable resource to the community

Inuvialuktun—Rosie Albert, Inuvik

- Taught Inuvialuktun at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School from 1985 until she retired in 1998
- A former broadcaster for the CBC and the Inuvialuit Communication Society who helped translate the Eskimo Hymn book into the Inuvialuktun dialect
- Interpreted during the historic Berger Inquiry of the mid-1970s, as a field worker during the COPE negotiations of the early 1980s, and Rosie also interpreted for people at meetings of the National Energy Board and the Science Council of Canada

North Slavey—Louie Taniton, Deline

- Helped fellow educators incorporate the North Slave language and culture in the school curriculum
- A gifted drumming teacher who keeps the spiritual teachings of the North Slave language and culture alive
- Made North Slave legends, stories and language an integral part of children's reading books in the North Slave region

South Slavey—Margaret Leishman, Kakisa

- Uses her language in her capacity as: a Slavey teacher at Kakisa Lake School, a drug and alcohol counselor, and a workshop facilitator
- A strong supporter and practitioner of South Slavey knowledge and values

For more information, call:

Bob Galipeau

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



02-037

Minister Says Initiatives Support NWT's Rich Cultural Heritage

YELLOWKNIFE (April 8) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says two key heritage initiatives by the Government of the Northwest Territories reflect the intention of a UN proclamation celebrating the 2002 United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage.

First, *Lessons from the Land*, an interactive educational program available on the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre web site, provides an entertaining virtual journey from which visitors can learn about the NWT's many diverse indigenous peoples and cultures and gain a deeper appreciation for the NWT's unique heritage.

Second, the declaration of June 21st as a statutory holiday, by the GNWT, to mark National Aboriginal Day in the NWT and funding commitments to support community cultural events and activities in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

"I encourage all residents of the NWT to reflect on the wealth our rich cultural heritage bestows upon us daily." Mr. Ootes said. "Residents of the NWT are rich in language, knowledge, resources and resiliency. A mark of distinction that is reflected in the global interest expressed for our heritage and culture."

Last December, representatives at the 56th Assembly of the United Nations General Assembly identified 2002 as the Year for Cultural Heritage. The Year 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

For more information, call:

Barb Cameron
A/Director, Culture, Heritage and Language
Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 873-7551





02-038

Ministers Agree on Common Approach to Strengthening Recreation and Sport

YELLOWKNIFE (April 9) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen and his colleagues responsible for sport, recreation and fitness in Canada have endorsed the first-ever Canadian sport policy. Ministers endorsed the policy during their meetings in Iqaluit, Nunavut April 5-7, 2002.

The policy will provide federal, provincial and territorial governments with a common approach to strengthening recreation and sport in Canada.

The policy was developed to create a more effective and transparent recreation and sport system in Canada. Territorial and provincial governments worked with the federal government to develop the policy. Extensive consultations were also held with the sport community, including a northern sport conference held in Yellowknife in July of 2000.

The new policy represents a shared vision and goals for recreation and sport development over the next ten years and commits all governments to setting targets for increased participation and enhanced high-performance sport in partnership with their sport communities. A key goal of the policy is to enhance the participation of Canadians in quality sport activities at all levels and in all forms of participation.

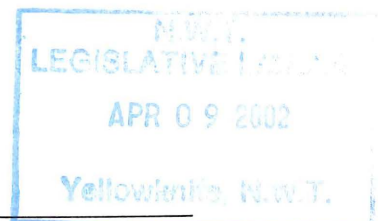
"Recreation and sport are an important part of life for people in the Northwest Territories," Mr. Steen said. "This new policy will help the Government of the Northwest Territories work with our partners to support a system that will allow all NWT residents to participate in recreation and sport to the best of their ability and interest."

Other goals of the policy include enhancing excellence, capacity and interaction. Ministers agreed to identify innovative funding sources for sport and recreation facilities, including an infrastructure program.

The policy also emphasizes the importance of sport and physical activity to the health of Canadians. Ministers shared this message with the Romanow Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada during a collective presentation on April 7, 2002.

For more information, contact:

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Municipal and Community Affairs
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#02-038 BACKGROUNDER

Ministers Agree on Common Approach to Strengthening Recreation and Sport
YELLOWKNIFE (April 9)

The development of the *Canadian Sport Policy* is an outcome of the extensive consultation process launched in January 2000 by the federal Secretary of State (Amateur Sport) in conjunction with P/T governments. In April 2001, a federal discussion paper, *Towards a Canadian Sport Policy*, based on the consultations, was released and was the basis for discussion at the *National Summit on Sport* later that month.

The discussion paper was reviewed at the Meeting of F-P/T Ministers Responsible for Sport, also held in Ottawa in April 2001 immediately prior to the National Summit. At this meeting, the Ministers set themselves the deadline of a year to finalize the *Canadian Sport Policy* and implementation framework for collaborative action in sport. A work group of Deputy Ministers was charged with overseeing the completion of these initiatives.

Ministers agreed to consult with their respective sport communities in order to get their input in the development of the final document. The Canadian Sport Policy and F-P/T Priorities for Collaborative Action 2002-05 is the culmination of these efforts and were endorsed by Ministers at their conference in Iqaluit in April 2002.

The Vision of the Canadian Sport Policy is to have by 2012:

A dynamic and leading-edge sport environment that enables all Canadians to experience and enjoy involvement in sport to the extent of their abilities and interests and, for increasing numbers, to perform consistently and successfully at the highest competitive levels.

The Goals of the Canadian Sport Policy are:

Enhanced Participation

A significantly higher proportion of Canadians from all segments of society is involved in quality sport activities at all levels and in all forms of participation.

Enhanced Excellence

The pool of talented athletes has expanded and Canadian athletes and teams are systematically achieving world-class results at the highest levels of international competition through fair and ethical means.

Enhanced Capacity

The essential components of an ethically based participation/athlete-centred development system are in place and are continually modernized and strengthened as required.

Enhanced Interaction

The components of the sport system are more connected and coordinated as a result of committed collaboration and communication amongst the stakeholders.

Canadian Sport Policy

- Provides vision and direction for sport for the period 2002 to 2012 and challenges the sport community to share in their achievement.
- Commits to four goals for Canadian sport - enhanced participation, enhanced excellence, enhanced capacity and enhanced interaction.
- Commits all governments to setting targets for increased participation and enhanced high performance sport in collaboration with their respective sport communities.
- Reflects the involvement of stakeholders not previously included in the policy development process.
- Emphasizes increased communication and collaboration among governments.
- Commits governments to strengthening their regular and formal communication with their respective sport communities.
- Will be implemented by complementary Action Plans developed by governments collectively and individually, bi-laterally and multi-laterally, and by the sport community.

F-P/T Priorities for Collaborative Action 2002-05

- For the goals of enhanced Participation, Excellence, Capacity and Interaction, 13 priorities and 22 actions have been developed for F-P/T collaboration. These are aimed at:
 - increasing the public's understanding of and participation in sport
 - increasing the participation of women, persons with a disability, Aboriginal peoples, and visible minorities
 - increasing sport and physical activity in schools
 - establishing targets for athlete and sport system performance
 - implementing the Competency Based Education Training program for coaching
 - developing a sport event hosting strategy
 - improving sport and recreation facilities
 - implementing the "Canadian Strategy on Ethical Conduct in Sport"
 - fostering the diversification of the resource base of sport organizations
 - enhancing Aboriginal sport development
 - increasing the awareness of sport within government
 - strengthening communication with the sport community and engaging in joint planning
 - enhancing collaboration between sport organizations
- The work plan for the implementation of the actions will be developed by officials in consultation with stakeholders.
- The F-P/T Priorities document will be up-dated and implemented on a three-year "rolling plan" basis.
- The F-P/T Priorities document is expected to be complemented by action plans developed by the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, and sport communities.



02-039

GNWT Increases Fur Price Program Payments

YELLOWKNIFE (April 9) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is increasing the Fur Price Program (FPP) payments it provides to trappers for trapped muskrats pelts.

The FPP program, administered by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), offers NWT trappers an assured price for fur pelts in advance of auction. When fur pelts sell at auction, proceeds are charged against the advance with any residue being paid to the trapper.

NWT trappers currently receive a regular fur advance payment of \$2.50 per pelt plus an additional \$1.00 under the FPP for trapped muskrats. Today's announcement will increase the total advance payment for trapped muskrat pelts received in good condition to \$4.75

"The Fur Price Program is designed to be responsive to changes in fur prices RWED Minister Jim Antoine noted. "Muskrat pelts are bringing very good prices this year at various fur auctions."

The price will remain in effect until end of the 2002 Spring Trapping season.

For more information contact:

Francois Rossouw
Traditional Economy & Fur Management Co-ordinator
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Tel: (867) 873 7478





02-040

GNWT to Lobby for Share of \$2Billion from Federal Infrastructure Fund

YELLOWKNIFE (April 11) - Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the GNWT will act quickly to ensure that federal money earmarked for infrastructure development in Canada flows to the Northwest Territories.

“It is in the best interest of both Canada and the Northwest Territories that this funding be targeted to strategic investments that will result in economic growth benefiting the North, the West and Canada,” the Premier said.

An economic analysis completed by economists from the University of Calgary and released last week estimates that a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline and economic spin-offs will add between \$40.8 and \$57 billion to Canada's gross domestic product and earn the federal government up to \$18 billion in revenue. More than 157,000 person-years of employment would be created over the lifetime of the project

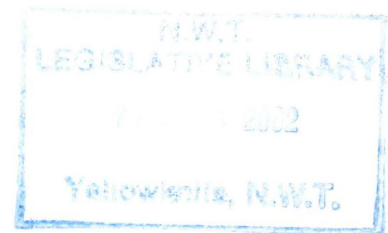
“Strategic investments in infrastructure should support the development of NWT gas and a pipeline but also improve the quality of life for NWT residents at the community level,” Mr. Kakfwi said.

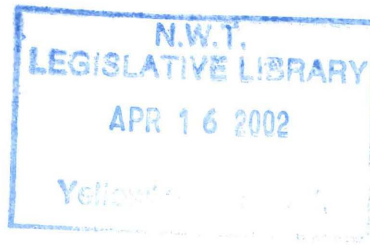
The Premier's comments come on the heels of a visit to the NWT by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Bob Nault and in response to recommendations from the NWT business coalition which recently lobbied federal Ministers and officials for investment in the NWT.

The federal government introduced its \$2 Billion Strategic Infrastructure Fund in December 2001 “to leverage public and private sector money for major projects across the country that meet the essential infrastructure needs of the 21st century economy and society.”

For more information, contact:

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Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-041

Transportation Minister Reaffirms Support for MacKenzie River Bridge

FORT PROVIDENCE (April 12) – Minister of Transportation Joseph Handley has reaffirmed the GNWT’s qualified support for a privately built and operated bridge across the Mackenzie River (Deh Cho) at Fort Providence.

Speaking to members of the Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance, Mr. Handley said yesterday that the GNWT believes their proposal merits serious consideration and will make a contribution to advance work already completed by the Alliance. He also encouraged the Alliance to seek further support from the federal government.

“We like what we’ve seen so far,” Mr. Handley said, “but we are not in a position to make a final commitment to the project at this time. We need to ensure that this is a good deal for the taxpayer and bridge users, as well as the community.

Mr Handley says the GNWT is prepared to work with the proponents of the project to confirm design and cost estimates, discuss financing arrangements and other terms of a potential agreement. The Department of Transportation, with the assistance of other departments, will also complete a comprehensive review of the proposal.

A feasibility study, funded through contributions from the GNWT and DIAND, was submitted to the government with a proposal in February. It proposes that the bridge would be privately financed and built with revenues coming from government savings and user fees. After 35 years the bridge would be handed over to the GNWT.

The Alliance, which includes the Deh Gah Got’ie Dene Council, the Fort Providence Metis Council and the Hamlet Council, welcomed the Minister’s announcement. “We are very pleased with the Minister’s response,” Deh Cho MLA Michael McLeod said. “We know there is a lot of work to do, but this positive signal brings us one step closer”.

Alliance representatives and Minister Handley concluded their meetings this week with an agreement to work towards a decision over the next few months.

For more information, contact:

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Deputy Minister
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 920-3460

Michael McLeod
MLA, De Cho
Tel: (867) 669-2285



02-042



NWT to use National Indicators to Measure Future Improvement

YELLOWKNIFE (April 15) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says results from the Canada-wide School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) will provide a valuable tool for educators in the Northwest Territories to assess the progress of NWT students.

However, the Minister says he has concerns about the level of NWT results.

The results, released last week, follow a pan-Canadian test of 13 and 16 year old students administered in the spring of 2001 by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). In total, 41,000 students from across Canada were tested on either their ability to apply problem solving skills or understand mathematics content.

While NWT students overall scored better in the mathematical content component than in the problem solving assessment, they scored below the Canadian average in both age groups.

“The SAIP assessment is most valuable as a tool for monitoring progress within the NWT,” Mr. Ootes said. “Combined with regular and ongoing assessment and evaluation in all NWT schools, these results will provide baseline data against which we can measure success in subsequent years.”

Additional details will be provided to the GNWT’s Department of Education, Culture and Employment in a technical report that will enable the Department to conduct a thorough analysis of the results.

“I have instructed the department to complete an extensive analysis and come up with strategies to work, in consultations with education authorities throughout the NWT, to improve future test results,” Mr. Ootes said.

“I’d like to see our results up there with the best of them.”

For more information, contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
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#02-042 BACKGROUNDER

NWT to use National Indicators to Measure Future Improvement

YELLOWKNIFE (April 15)

The School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) is a cyclical program of pan-Canadian assessments of student achievement in mathematics, reading and writing, and science that has been conducted by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada since 1993.

Because school curricula and the sequence in which specific content and skills are taught vary across the country, SAIP results help jurisdictions determine whether students across Canada reach similar levels of performance at about the same age.

The 2001 Mathematics results are the first available to the NWT since Division. In the NWT, 859 thirteen year olds and 442 sixteen year olds participated in the assessment.

SAIP results are most valuable as a tool for monitoring progress and are designed to complement existing assessments in each province and territory.

Assessment is an important part of academic advancement as it supports decisions related to program development and student promotion. In broader terms, regular assessment, using a wide range of assessment tools, helps inform decision making and policy development.

Details provided to the GNWT's Department of Education, Culture and Employment will enable educators and policy makers to identify measures to assess student performance on assessments and other factors within the education system that influence assessment results.

The strength of NWT schools and students also depends on factors like the continuity of teaching staff. The goal of the Aurora College Teacher Education program is to develop a homegrown northern teaching force in an effort to reduce teacher turnover, especially in small communities.

Initiatives like the Teacher Mentorship Program are intended to contribute to the retention of teachers by helping to ensure that teachers who are new to the North have the support they need to adapt quickly to the cultural and environmental adjustments many new teachers to the North encounter.

A new math curriculum was implemented in the NWT in 1996. Each January ECE provides in-service training for teachers who implement the Math curriculum in Yellowknife and regional centres. The need for more "hands on" learning opportunities in mathematics has been identified and a series of effective practices is being developed, documented and shared with parents and teachers.

A Student Support Needs Assessment carried out in all NWT schools two years ago provided the Department and the Divisional Education Councils with baseline data that identifies what types of support NWT students need to be successful. This data is being used to make informed decisions about programs needed to meet specific learning challenges in each school. In 2002, the

Department of Education Culture and Employment has committed an additional \$3 million to NWT schools specifically for student support.

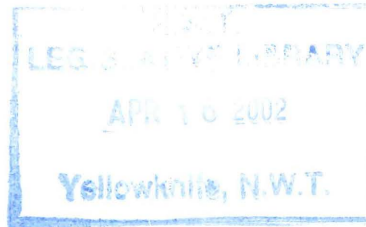
For more information, contact:

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02-043

New Service for Job Seekers and Employers Launched Today in Yellowknife

YELLOWKNIFE (April 16) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says a new electronic labour exchange will give job seekers and employers in the Northwest Territories another way to match up in the NWT’s growing labour market.

The Minister officially launched jobsnorth.ca today. It provides a free-of-charge internet site for registered job seekers to view postings, store resumes and apply for jobs online. Employers who register with jobsnorth.ca can post vacant positions and view applications received online. Job postings will be accepted by a site administrator located in Yellowknife.

“Electronic labour exchanges have revolutionized the way people everywhere look for work,” Mr. Ootes says. “jobsnorth.ca was built in the Northwest Territories, with the help of employers and job seekers, and is tailored to meet the specific needs of the northern workplace.”

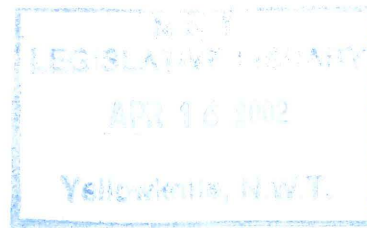
In 1998, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment signed a Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) with the Government of Canada to deliver benefits and employment support for Employment Insurance claimants in the NWT. jobsnorth.ca is one more way of providing this information.

“This exciting new initiative is another demonstration of how NWT residents can embrace innovation to take command of their future,” the Minister said.

For more information contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
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02-044

Antoine says NWT is in Infrastructure Crisis

OTTAWA (April 16) – Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the Northwest Territories is experiencing an infrastructure crisis.

Speaking to members of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources, Mr. Antoine reiterated the GNWT's call for federal investment in the territory's infrastructure needs saying failure to do so could limit or impede the economic future of the NWT to the detriment of all Canadians.

"The pressures of resource development have strained our ability to provide new and maintain existing infrastructure," the Minister said. "Our highways are running past capacity and the municipal infrastructure of our communities is becoming overloaded."

The Minister is in Ottawa as part of a delegation headed by NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi to lobby federal Cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister for a share of \$2Billion in Infrastructure funding announced by the federal government in the December 2001 budget.

Mr. Antoine also warned members of the Standing Committee that on-going debate in the US Senate to mandate a less economic gas pipeline route and provide subsidies for oil and gas producers could have a drastic impact on the development of Mackenzie Delta gas resources.

"It has compromised the Canadian position," he said.

The Minister encouraged the Government of Canada to evaluate the impact of oil and gas development in relation to its own position and the national interest.

"It is the dawn of a new era in the sustainable economic development of Canada," he said, "where the vision of a Canada that is prosperous from sea to sea to sea can finally be realized."

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02-045

Kakfwi says Federal Understanding has Increased for NWT Investment

OTTAWA (April 17) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the Northwest Territories and the significance of NWT resource development to Canada are now legitimate features on the federal government's agenda. He says the support of INAC Minister Bob Nault and Western Arctic MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew has been critical in reaching this objective.

The Premier says federal officials have finally made the link between investing in NWT infrastructure and the contribution that NWT developments such as gas pipelines and diamond mines make to the economy of Southern Canada. The Premier, and Ministers Jim Antoine and Joe Handley, will conclude a three-day lobby in Ottawa today.

"Federal investment in NWT infrastructure will pay huge dividends for Canada," the Premier said. The federal government now understands the urgency we are placing on this issue. We need investment now because impacts are being felt now and preparations for future impacts must be started now."

In meetings with the Prime Minister, and Ministers John Manley and Paul Martin, the NWT delegation has also insisted that federal investment in the NWT, when it comes, must consider the inadequacy of per-capita funding to the NWT and the GNWT's limited capacity to contribute in cost-sharing formulas.

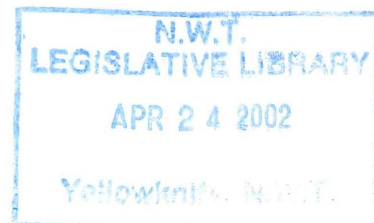
"The GNWT is not about to reallocate resources from our social agenda to respond to the impacts being felt from resource development," Mr. Kakfwi said. That is why we are seeking federal investment."

The GNWT will formalize its proposal to the federal government later this month. Premier Kakfwi says it will be important for Industry and Aboriginal governments to endorse the GNWT's approach.

"We will need to demonstrate to the federal government that our collective investment not only responds to the need for better roads; a better quality of life for NWT residents; and getting the NWT into the economic mainstream – it also represents the fulfilling of a vision," he said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
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Tel: (867) 669-2304



02-046

Premier and Ministers Encouraged by Week's Meetings

YELLOWKNIFE (April 19) Following a week of high-level meetings in Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary, Premier Stephen Kakfwi, Finance Minister Joe Handley and Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Jim Antoine say they are encouraged by government and industry response to their efforts to promote investment in NWT infrastructure and resources.

The GNWT proposals seek federal investment from the Strategic Infrastructure Fund identified in the federal government's December 2001 Budget and are based on the GNWT's Non Renewable Resources Development Strategy (NRRDS) prepared, at the request of the federal government, two years ago.

Premier Stephen Kakfwi says NWT MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew and INAC Minister Bob Nault were critical to the success and timeliness of GNWT's meetings in Ottawa where the delegation met with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Ministers Paul Martin and John Manley.

"We were able to cover a lot of ground," the Premier said.

Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Handley and Mr. Antoine also used their travel to raise NWT concerns regarding US Senate initiatives to subsidize the transportation of Alaska gas and the potential consequences of such actions on the development of Mackenzie/Delta gas and a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. Mr. Antoine spoke to members of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources on Tuesday.

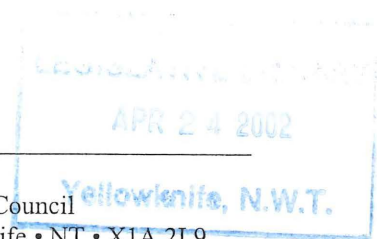
"MPs from all parties must remember that market disruptions by the United States government may strand Canada's NWT gas, he said. "These concerns need to be expressed to Washington."

Finance Minister Joe Handley, who leads the GNWT's efforts to secure federal funding, commended the contribution of the Northern Coalition, who lobbied in Ottawa for federal infrastructure investment in March. He says he's optimistic that both lobbies will pay off but warns that more work will be required.

"We will need to ensure continued support particularly from key federal Ministers," he said.

On Thursday, Premier Kakfwi also met with Premier Ernie Eves in Toronto to discuss potential benefits to Ontario from a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and NWT support for Ontario's emerging diamond industry.

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
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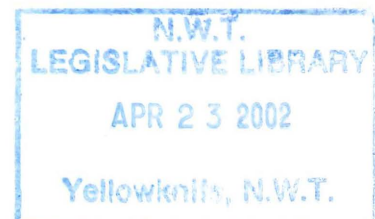
02-047

**Government of the Northwest Territories – Media Statement
YELLOWKNIFE (April 19)**

Premier Stephen Kakfwi today joins all Canadians in expressing his condolences to those touched by the tragic deaths of members from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Afghanistan.

"The courageous career path of these young people, who chose to serve our country, does not negate the very-real pain that this tragedy represents in the lives of those family members, friends and colleagues who are left to mourn their passing. As human beings, we are struck by the tragedy of these circumstances and share in the sorrow of Canada's loss," the Premier said.

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
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02-048

Finance Minister Says He Hopes Tax Increase will Discourage Smoking

YELLOWKNIFE (April 19) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories will increase its tobacco tax rate to 16.6 cents per cigarette and to 10.6 cents per gram of loose tobacco, Finance Minister Joe Handley announced today. The new rates will take effect on Monday (April 22, 2002). The tax rate on cigars will remain unchanged.

The new tax rate represents an increase of 75 cents for a pack of 25 cigarettes and increase of 2 cents per gram of loose tobacco. NWT tobacco taxes are determined based on a percentage of the retail price of cigarettes and tobacco. These retail prices have experienced a marked increase since the last change in tobacco tax rates of October 1, 2000.

Smoking is a major public health problem in the Northwest Territories. At 34 per cent, the smoking rate among adolescents in the Northwest Territories is twice the national rate.

"I hope that this does discourage individuals, especially young people, from smoking," Mr. Handley said.

Mr. Handley says evidence suggests that higher tobacco prices and taxes are an effective way to reduce and prevent smoking among adolescents. Various health organizations, including the Canadian Paediatric Society, recommend increased tobacco taxation as a means of reducing smoking among young people.

The increased tax revenue will also help to defray the costs associated with tobacco use. Based on a national study, the Department of Health and Social Services estimates the cost to the Northwest Territories for health care, residential care, fire damage, absenteeism from work and lost productivity from smoking to be \$31 million per year.

"Ultimately, the best way to reduce the severity and rate of tobacco-related illness is to decrease the number of people who start smoking," Mr. Handley noted.

For more information, contact:

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

or

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





02-049

Minister Announces Task Force on Organ and Tissue Donation

YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger today announced the appointment of a task force to review options for establishing an organ donor registry for the Northwest Territories.

The task force will define ways for NWT residents to become involved in organ and tissue donation and develop a long-term plan to improve NWT participation in the donation process. Task Force members include representatives from the Department of Health and Social Services, Stanton Regional Hospital and the general public.

“It is important to identify just how northerners, even living in this isolated area of Canada, might successfully participate in helping others who are in need,” Mr. Miltenberger said.

In November 2001, the Minister committed to members of the Legislative Assembly that he would consider ways for NWT residents to use space on their NWT Health Care cards to allow for and facilitate organ donation. The task force is expected to have an action plan for this project in place by August.

I believe that many NWT residents would like to do more to support organ and tissue donation in Canada,” Mr. Miltenberger said.

April 21-28 is National Organ Donor Awareness Week. At 13.7 per million of population, Canada’s organ and tissue donation rate is one of the lowest rates among industrialized countries. Approximately 3,700 Canadians are waiting for organ transplants that could enhance or save their lives. From 1995 to 2000, 26 Northerners benefited from organ and tissue transplants.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon

Manager, Communications and Planning
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





02-050

Minister Commends Retailers for Compliance with Tobacco Act

YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger today congratulated retailers in Hay River and Enterprise for their compliance with the federal *Tobacco Act*.

In a recent undercover investigation, a Health Canada Tobacco Enforcement Officer monitored eight, of the 14 retailers in Hay River/Enterprise who sell tobacco products to the public. None of the eight retailers sold tobacco products to underage youth.

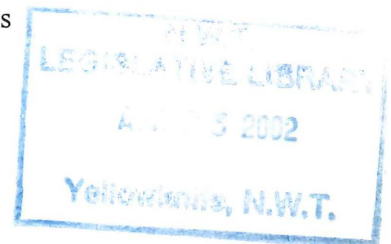
Our efforts to discourage smoking by NWT youth is reliant on our partnerships with communities, health professionals and the private sector," Mr. Miltenberger said. "By refusing to sell cigarettes to minors, NWT retailers do a lot to prevent young people from lighting up for the first time."

The Department of Health and Social Services and the Health and Social Services Authorities work closely with Health Canada to support the federal *Tobacco Act*. Environmental Health Officers work together with the Federal Tobacco Enforcement Officer to educate NWT tobacco retailers about their responsibilities under the law.

A federal Tobacco Enforcement Officer visits NWT communities on a random basis every six to eight weeks to monitor compliance.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications and Planning
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





#02-050 BACKGROUNDER

Minister Commends Retailers for Compliance with Tobacco Act YELLOWKNIFE (April 23)

Exerts from the *Tobacco Act*:

Purpose of Act

4. The purpose of this Act is to provide a legislative response to a national public health problem of substantial and pressing concern and, in particular,
- a. to protect the health of Canadians in light of conclusive evidence implicating tobacco use in the incidence of numerous debilitating and fatal diseases;
 - b. to protect young persons and others from inducements to use tobacco products and the consequent dependence on them;
 - c. to protect the health of young persons by restricting access to tobacco products; and
 - d. to enhance public awareness of the health hazards of using tobacco products.
 - e.

PART II

Access

Furnishing tobacco products

8. (1) No person shall furnish a tobacco product to a young person in a public place or in a place to which the public reasonably has access.

Defence

- (2) A person shall not be found to have contravened subsection
1. if it is established that the person attempted to verify that the person was at least eighteen years of age by asking for and being shown documentation prescribed for the purposes of verifying age, and believed on reasonable grounds that the documentation was authentic.

Signs

9. Every retailer shall post, at retail, in the prescribed place and manner, signs in the prescribed form and with the prescribed content, that inform the public that the sale or giving of a tobacco product to a young person is prohibited by law, or that contain a prescribed health message, unless that retailer is exempted by the regulations from the requirement to post the signs.



02-051

Minister Congratulates Winners of NWT Literacy Awards

YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) -- Calling them role models in their communities, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today congratulated and thanked winners of the NWT Ministerial Literacy Awards.

"These individuals and organizations have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving literacy for themselves and others," the Minister said.

NWT Ministerial Awards honour the achievements of individuals, businesses and organizations in the Northwest Territories, who are dedicated to improving literacy levels in one of the NWT's official languages.

Members of the Ministerial Council on Literacy chose the winners at their first meeting March 2, 2002, in Yellowknife. Prizes were awarded in four categories: the Learner Award, the Teacher Award, the Business Award and the Organization Award.

This year's winners are:

- **Peter Mackenzie**, Rae-Edzo
The Learner Award

Peter is enrolled in the Workplace Learning Program at the BHP Ekati mine. He won the Learner Award because of the courage and positive attitude he brings to learning. After working all day at the mine, Peter finishes his day by studying and improving his literacy skills. Peter's enthusiasm for learning inspires his fellow employees.

- **Violet Sanguéz**, Trout Lake and **Sister Margaret Ann Beaudette**, Hay River Reserve
The Teacher Award

The Ministerial Council on Literacy chose two people who are equally deserving of the Teacher Award. Violet is the Aboriginal Language Specialist at Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake. In addition to encouraging children to learn the South Slavey language, culture and traditions, she edits stories, poems and songs in her language. Sister Margaret Ann is a committed and innovative teacher who teaches at Chief Sunrise Education Center on the Hay River Reserve. Her passion for literacy touches the whole community through the many leadership roles she accepts including that of community librarian.

- **Judith Drinnan**, Yellowknife
The Business Award

Judith has developed many innovative campaigns to promote literacy. Judith supports visiting authors in the NWT, Nunavut and Southern Canada by organizing and promoting public readings and signing events. Judith also works closely with the city and school libraries.

- **Northern Territories Federation of Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut** (in partnership)
The Organization Award -

This productive partnership produced plain language literature for workers and employers. Their work together was so successful that the Canada Labour Congress featured it in CLC newsletters. They also published aboriginal language dictionaries for their employees and clientele.

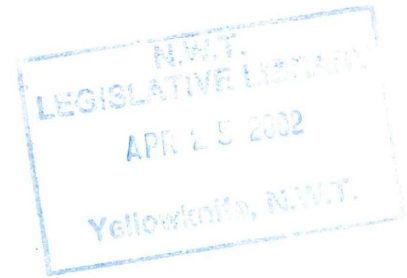
The following people were recognized by the Council, with an honourable mention, for their efforts to promote literacy:

David Wedawin, Rae Lakes, BHP's Workplace Learning Program
Joe Wetrade, Rae Lakes, BHP's Workplace Learning Program
Angus Sangris, N'Dilo, BHP's Workplace Learning Program
Celine Mantla, Yellowknife, Adult Basic Education student, Aurora College
Berna Matto, Fort Providence, Aboriginal language promoter/tutor
Marsha Argue, Yellowknife, English-as-a-Second Language/Literacy tutor

The Ministerial Awards for Literacy will be awarded annually by the NWT Ministerial Council on Literacy.

For more information contact:

Lesley Allen
ADM Advanced Education and Careers
Education Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 873-7252



02-052

Outstanding NWT Volunteers Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (April 24) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen today announced the recipients of the 2002 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs presents these awards annually to individuals or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to the NWT through their work as volunteers.

Receiving 2002 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards are:

- Janet Wong, Yellowknife — High Five Youth Award
- Ed Jeske, Yellowknife — Respected Elder Award
- Dusty Miller, Yellowknife — Board Member Award
- Dixie Penner, Fort Smith — Outstanding Volunteer Award
- Lori Uhlenberg, Hay River — Good Neighbour Award
- Thrift Shop, Hay River — Outstanding Community Organization Award

Award recipients were selected from over 70 nominations submitted by NWT residents. The selection process involved regional committees and representatives at both the regional and territorial levels.

“Volunteers are becoming an increasingly important part of our every-day lives,” Mr. Steen noted. “I am pleased to have this opportunity to identify and acknowledge the contribution made by all individuals and organizations who work selflessly to contribute to the lives of others. In particular, I congratulate the nominees and recipients of this year’s Outstanding Volunteer Awards.”

Regional awards, which were introduced for the first time last year, are presented to outstanding volunteers in each region. From those winners, territorial winners are selected. This year, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation is the major sponsor of the program.

The announcement of the Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients and nominees is part of celebrations for National Volunteer Week April 21-27, 2002.

For more information, contact:

Flora Evans,
Policy/Communications Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092



#02-052 BACKGROUNDER

Outstanding NWT Volunteers Honoured
YELLOWKNIFE (April 24)

The 2002 Territorial Volunteer Awards were presented in five categories:

The High Five Youth Award is presented to an NWT young person to recognize outstanding youth volunteer service.

The Respected Elder Award is presented to recognize the outstanding volunteer contribution made by an NWT senior citizen.

The Board Member Award is presented to recognize outstanding volunteer service as a member of an NWT board.

The Good Neighbour Award is presented to recognize informal outstanding volunteer service done as an individual and not as a member of a formal volunteer organization.

The Outstanding Community Organization Award is presented to recognize the outstanding contribution made by a non-profit community organization.

2002 Regional Awards and Nominees

Inuvik Region Award Winners

Lorraine Lokos (Inuvik) – Board Member Award

Robert McLeod (Aklavik) – Good Neighbour Award

Church of the Ascension Anglican Church Parish (Inuvik) – Outstanding Community Organization

Pam McDonald (Inuvik) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Edward Ruben Sr. (Paulatuk) – Respected Elder Award

Kendra Sittichinli (Inuvik) – High Five Youth Award

Inuvik Region Nominees

Cindy Knoller (Aklavik)

Persus Dick (Aklavik)

Rita Simizo (Aklavik)

Brenda Smith (Inuvik)

Garry Smith (Inuvik)

Linda Eccles (Inuvik)

Sheila Blake (Tsiigehtchic)

Sahtu Region Award Winners

Joe LeBlanc (Norman Wells) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

North Slave Region Award Winners

Doreen Nitsiza (Wha Ti) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Phoebe Ann Wetrade (Gameti) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

South Slave Region Award Winners

Elizabeth McKay (Ft. Resolution) – Board Member Award

Lori Uhlenberg (Hay River) – Good Neighbour Award

Thrift Shop (Hay River) – Outstanding Community Organization

Dixie Penner (Fort Smith) – Outstanding Volunteer

Christine Fabien (Ft. Resolution) – Respected Elder

Brandie Miersch (Ft. Resolution) – High Five Youth Award

South Slave Region Nominees

Freda Elief (Ft. Resolution)

Dave MacDonald (Hay River)

Deninoo Kue Seniors Society (Ft. Resolution)

Matthew Fraser (Ft. Smith)

Cheryl Hval (Ft. Smith)

Arthur Sanderson (Ft. Resolution)

Pat Tennant (Hay River)

Deh Cho Region Award Winners

Heather Passemore (Ft. Simpson) – Board Member Award

Nahanni Inn – Good Neighbour Award

Ft. Simpson Minor Hockey – Outstanding Community Organization Award

Val Gendron (Ft. Simpson) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Connie Villeneuve (Ft. Simpson) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Lewis Beck (Wrigley) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Brian Mavin (Ft. Liard) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Paul Stipdonk (Ft. Simpson) – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Jim Villeneuve (Ft. Simpson) – Respected Elder Award

Tiffany Pederson (Ft. Simpson) – High Five Youth Award

Yellowknife Award Winners

Dusty Miller – Board Member Award

Wendy Carlos – Good Neighbour Award

Yellowknife Seniors Society – Outstanding Community Organization

John Argue – Outstanding Volunteer Award

Ed Jeske – Respected Elder Award

Janet Wong – High Five Youth Award

Yellowknife Nominees

Helen Kronstal – Honourable Mention
Brian Gelinas – Honourable Mention
Board Sport Association – Honourable Mention
Shawn McCann and Jordan Martin
Elaine Berthelet
Moe Miller
Leslie Wakelyn
Bernie Hughes
Dave Ritchie
Elaine Keenan Bengts
Monica McKay
Gail Leonardis
Jim Wylie
Heather McCagg-Nystrom
Robin Weber
Dave Ritchie
Kevin Brooks
Gladys Eggenberger
Violet Franki
Matthew Grogono
Kerry Lynn Durnford
Larry Pineda
Donna Latremouille
Jennifer Wahlroth
Lorie Crawford
Floyd Adlem
Theresa Reid
Scott Dunbar



02-053



Kakfwi Says Proposed Subsidies Threaten Marketability of Canadian NWT Gas

YELLOWKNIFE (April 24) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he's concerned that an amendment, introduced yesterday, to a US Senate Energy Bill will strand Canadian natural gas and severely distort the North American gas market.

The tax amendment, designed to ensure construction of an Alaska natural gas pipeline, proposes floor price subsidies for Prudeau Bay gas producers worth up to \$2 million US per day to at last year's average natural gas price. Premier Kakfwi says proponents of the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline should be alarmed.

"The US Senate is gearing up to underwrite a pipeline project that is uneconomic," he said. "These subsidies could threaten the viability of North American natural gas markets and potentially undermine the need for a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline for the foreseeable future."

The NWT Premier says there is no reason for American taxpayers and natural gas consumers to pay subsidies to companies that earned profits in excess of \$10 billion dollars US last year.

"Canada has a cheaper, faster and equally effective answer to North America's Energy needs," he said. "The Government of Canada has got to evaluate the impact of these measures in relation to Canadian interests. Action is required at the highest level to ensure fairness and balance consistent with US Canada energy trade relations."

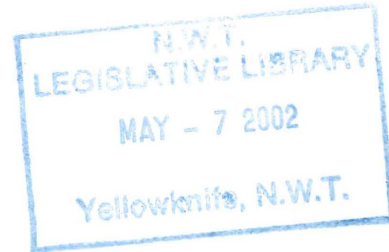
An economic analysis completed by economists from the University of Calgary estimates that a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and economic spin-offs from the project will add between \$40.8 and \$57 billion to Canada's gross domestic product and earn the federal government up to \$18 billion in revenue. More than 157,000 person-years of employment would be created over the lifetime of the Canadian pipeline project

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304



02-054



Minister Congratulates NWT Diamond Polishers

YELLOWKNIFE (April 25) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes today congratulated Tina Nasholm-Rudkevitch, Michael Brown and Tom Lupton on being the first Diamond Polishers in the NWT to be certified using the standards and certification process developed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The three NWT residents, employed by Sirius NWT Ltd. in Yellowknife, received their occupational certification as diamond polishers earlier this month following a three-year internship.

“This is a remarkable achievement and an important step for the secondary diamond industry in the NWT,” Mr. Ootes said. “The development of these standards alone is an accomplishment of note.”

Nearly 50 individuals are currently enrolled in Occupational Certification programs in the Diamond Industry at Sirius, Deton’ Cho Diamonds and Arslanian Cutting Works in Yellowknife.

Mr. Ootes says he’s pleased that the NWT has been able to work with industry representatives in Canada, Belgium and the United States to develop Occupational Standards.

“Our commitment to the pursuit of excellence is showing positive results,” the Minister said. “We will continue to ensure our standards meet the needs of this important industry to the Northwest Territories.”

For more information, contact:

David Gilday

Director, College and Career Development
Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 873-7146



#02-054 BACKGROUNDER

Minister Congratulates First NWT Diamond Polishers YELLOWKNIFE (April 25)

Diamond Polishing consists of two phases, crossworking and brillianteering. A crossworker creates the 17 primary facets of a rough diamond and is the second-to-last step in the diamond polishing process. The final step is brillianteering, in which the facets are polished.

Tina Nasholm-Rudkevitch has worked at Sirius Diamonds since 1998. The first woman to receive her certification, she took an intensive six month diamond polishing program in Victoria – a joint venture between Aurora College, Vancouver Community College and Sirius Diamonds, then pursued her interest at Sirius Diamonds where she is employed as a Crossworker. Tina says Occupational Certification gives Diamond Polishers a goal to work toward. The designation she has earned gives her a sense of accomplishment and, she believes, an acknowledgement of her skills by other diamond professionals.

Michael Brown also participated in the six month program in Victoria. He began working at Sirius in 1998. Although Diamond Polishing is quite different from what he thought it would be, Mr. Brown enjoys his work so much that he has encouraged others to begin working at Sirius. He's been involved in training some of these new employees and enjoys that aspect of the job, as well as the opportunity he has to work on large stones. He is now looking forward to obtaining a second endorsement as a Fancy Cut Specialist.

Tom Lupton is currently employed as a Brillianteer at Sirius. He says the highlight of his job is enhancing the natural beauty of the stone. He especially enjoys working on large stones and has been with Sirius since 1999, following the completion of the first Aurora College "Introduction to Diamonds" program.

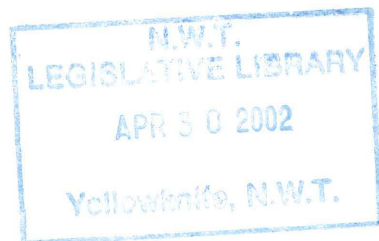
Nearly 50 individuals are currently enrolled in Occupational Certification programs in the Diamond Industry at Sirius, Deton' Cho Diamonds and Arslanian Cutting Works in Yellowknife.

The certification program was piloted by two individuals who moved north with Sirius Diamonds in 1998. Brad Taylor, one of the individuals, is currently a trainer with Sirius Diamonds.

Peter Finnemore, Technical Manager of Sirius Diamonds in Yellowknife has played an integral role in the development of the Occupational Certification program in the NWT through his ongoing support and participation in development. Mr. Finnemore has been in the diamond business in Belgium, South Africa and Siberia since 1965. He joined Sirius in 1998 and says the most gratifying thing about his work is passing along his knowledge and experience to students and watching the first NWT polishing plant become a success."



02-055



Collective Agreement Reached

YELLOWKNIFE (April 29) -- The Union of Northern Workers and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached agreement for the renewal of their Collective Agreement.

Bargaining took place between the two parties during the week of April 22, 2002 with an agreement achieved on April 26, 2002. Both parties are pleased with the progress that was made during bargaining. Many improvements have been made to the employee compensation package.

Agreement was reached on issues including:

- A three year agreement, with increases to the pay line of 3% per year;
- Annual leave entitlements improved for employees with seven and more years of service;
- Shift changes require 14 days notice or overtime is paid for the first new shift;
- A \$440 increase to the Northern Allowance amounts for each community, with a commitment to review the Northern Allowance methodology;
- Availability of winter bonus days for employees who are not permitted to take their vacation during the winter months;
- Improvements to shift premiums and standby pay;
- Parental leave top up increases from 12 weeks to 17 weeks;
- Employees who act in a higher level position will receive a minimum of a 10% increase for the acting period;
- Reimbursement for professional membership fees;
- National Aboriginal Day is recognized as a statutory holiday;
- Standardization of language for hours of work for shift workers.

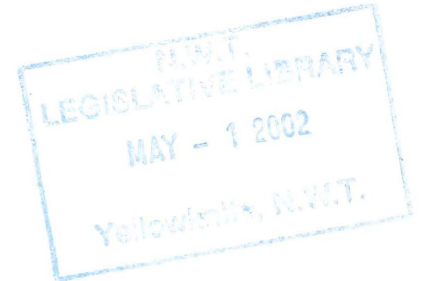
For further information contact:

Georgina Rolt-Kaiser
President
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Tel: (867) 873-5668

Sylvia Haener
Director
Labour Relations & Compensation,
Financial Management Board
Secretariat
Tel: (867) 920-8900



02-056



Government of the Northwest Territories - Media Statement
Goo Arlooktoo

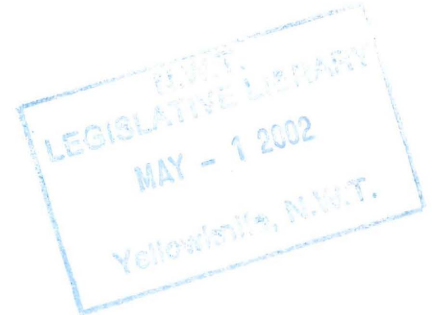
YELLOWKNIFE (May 1) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he was shocked and saddened this morning to hear of the passing of Goo Arlooktoo, a former colleague and friend.

“Mr. Arlooktoo was a well loved and respected member of our Assembly and Cabinet who stepped up in his role as the Deputy Premier to guide our government through a critical time in our history. He was a tireless worker for his people. I will remember him for his love and dedication to political life, and the passion with which he approached his work. My thoughts and prayers are with his family,” the Premier said.

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



02-057



GNWT Applauds Opening of Mackenzie Gas Project Regional Offices

YELLOWKNIFE (May 1) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says yesterday’s announcement by the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group and the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Corporation (MVAPC) marks the next important step in ensuring NWT residents and communities are involved in the development of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

The MVAPC and the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group – Imperial, Conoco Canada Limited, Shell Canada Limited, and Exxon Mobile Canada, said yesterday that they will open regional offices in the Northwest Territories this summer.

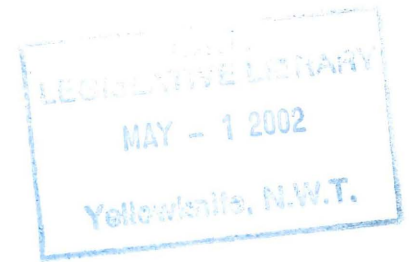
“It’s good news,” Mr. Antoine said. “I applaud this initiative and encourage the Producers Group and the MVAP to continue community consultations, as they prepare the regulatory applications needed to develop a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline.”

Three Mackenzie gas project offices will open this summer in Inuvik, Norman Wells and Fort Simpson.

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



02-058



Emergency Preparedness Week Declared in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (May 2) Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen says all levels of government – federal, provincial, territorial and community have a role to play in emergency preparedness and response.

The Minister today announced the NWT's participation in national Emergency Preparedness Week celebrations May 6 – 12, 2002. The theme for this year's event is *Keeping Canada Safe – Emergency Preparedness Begins with YOU*.

"Planning for emergencies is everybody's responsibility," Mr. Steen said. "If properly prepared, everyone will know what to do before, during and after a disaster."

The Minister says increased awareness to risks and a practical plan can help reduce fear and aid in recovery from an emergency situation. Emergency Preparedness Week is one opportunity for NWT residents to learn how they can be better prepared for emergencies.

"Emergency preparedness begins with the individual," Mr. Steen noted.

To mark Emergency Preparedness Week, posters and self-help materials have been widely distributed to community governments throughout the NWT. Territorial and national websites at: www.maca.gov.nt.ca/about/emergency.html and www.emergencypreparednessweek.ca also outline the objective of Emergency Preparedness Week and provide links to preparedness materials and other useful information.

The Emergency Services Division of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) co-ordinates emergency preparedness planning on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. MACA also provides emergency planning support and assistance to NWT community governments.

For more information, contact:

Flora Evans,
Policy/Communications Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092



02-059

Antoine says Benefits of a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline are Long Term

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3) -- Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the benefits of an Alaska highway pipeline do not compare to those of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline, which will open up new areas of Canadian gas for development and spawn development of the Canadian petroleum industry.

Commenting on a report commissioned by the Yukon Government, Mr. Antoine cautioned northerners to maintain a long-term outlook.

“There is no doubt that the construction of a pipeline, along the Alaska Highway will create employment and revenue, he said, “but at what cost? Subsidies proposed by US politicians to facilitate the construction of an Alaska pipeline will distort the North American natural gas markets significantly.”

The Minister says he does not believe that provinces that produce and export natural gas are prepared to take that risk.

“What’s in it for British Columbia beyond some intensive construction activity in BC and the Yukon over two or three winter seasons?” he asked. “What long-term benefits will Alberta derive from a bullet pipeline which simply moves Alaska gas through their province to Chicago? Canada must protest these subsidies.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories maintains that Canada should support the development of Canadian gas reserves first. Economic studies show the potential impact of gas development in the NWT at \$57 billion dollars

“The economic impact of developing new gas resources in the NWT and connecting Mackenzie Delta natural gas to southern markets via a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline dramatically increases the benefits to Canadian industry and governments,” Mr. Antoine noted.

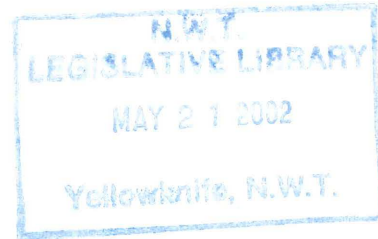
It is the same message that Premier Stephen Kakfwi will take to industry representatives in Vancouver and Calgary this weekend.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304



02-060



Report Supports GNWT's Concerns about Alaskan Natural Gas Subsidies

YELLOWKNIFE (May 13) -- A report by an international energy industry consulting firm supports the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) assertion that proposed subsidies for Alaskan natural gas will severely distort the North American gas market.

The report, produced by Purvin & Gertz, examines the impact of the recent Energy Bill, passed by the United States Senate, allowing for a tax credit subsidy that sets the floor price of Alaskan natural gas at \$3.25 US in Alberta.

The report concludes that such a subsidy will eliminate the market risk for Alaskan gas and negatively impact production in all other North American gas basins. Long-term natural gas price forecasts for Alberta are all below this floor price. The study concludes that the annual subsidy could be as high as \$3US Billion and could be as high as \$45US Billion over a 15-year period.

"It supports what we have been saying," Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine, said. "Alaskan natural gas subsidies will hurt the development of Canada's natural gas resources possibly stranding NWT gas. The federal government must take an aggressive stand against these proposed subsidies, work with the NWT to ensure that Canadian gas is developed first and invest now to ensure that it happens."

Economic studies show that the potential economic impact of natural gas development in the NWT is \$57 billion nation wide.

Founded in 1947, Purvin & Gertz, Inc. is an international energy industry consulting firm with headquarters in Houston, Texas and an international network of offices in Canada, the US, Europe, South America and Asia.

For more information, contact:

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



02-061

Premier and Minister Call for Improvements to Canada's Health System

YELLOWKNIFE (May 16) - Minister of Health and Social Services, Michael Miltenberger says a comprehensive and integrated approach is needed to improve health care in Canada. The Minister and NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi spoke today to the *Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada* presenting eleven specific recommendations to its Commissioner Roy Romanow.

Mr. Miltenberger detailed many of the reform initiatives described in the GNWT's *Health and Social Services System Action Plan*. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between legislators, aboriginal leaders, health practitioners and other service providers to ensure accessible, high quality services for all NWT residents.

"We must act as one system if we are to be successful in providing the best possible service," Mr. Miltenberger said.

The Premier challenged the federal government to accept its fiduciary responsibility for providing health care to all Aboriginal people in Canada and to live up to commitments it has made to advance the health status of Aboriginal people.

"The piece-by-piece, bit-by-bit approach to providing health care for Aboriginal people does not work anywhere in this country," he said.

The GNWT's presentations highlighted many challenges to providing health care in the NWT. They include the high costs of medical travel, the recruitment and retention of health care professionals and the increasing demands brought about by the rapid pace of economic development.

"While the health system itself needs reform, NWT residents must also play a direct role by choosing healthy lifestyles," Mr. Miltenberger noted.

"We have made a commitment to the people of the Northwest Territories that we will take a balanced approach to economic and social development," the Premier said. "I believe that our health care system is sustainable. It is, however, under funded."

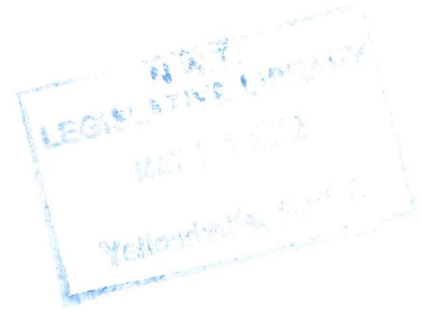
For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon **or**
Manager of Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
(867) 669-2304



02-062



“Beneath the Dancing Skies” to be Staged in NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (May 21) – The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) will stage its internationally acclaimed fashion and tourism production: *Beneath the Dancing Skies* in Yellowknife.

The show, previously staged in Dallas, Texas and Munich, Germany during Team Canada Trade Missions, will serve as an affiliate event of the *True North Strong and Free* national symposium, being sponsored by the Living History Society.

“The symposium provides a great opportunity to showcase our emerging fashion design industry to a cross-section of NWT residents and influential Canadians including Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson,” Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine said. “We are proud of the advances in our fur, fashion and jewelry design industries and look forward to celebrating the talents and achievements of our territory’s talented artisan, craftspeople and designers.”

Symposium delegates will see the *Beneath the Dancing Skies* production on Wednesday, June 19, 2002. A second show for the general public will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2002. Both shows will be staged at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre in Yellowknife.

“Staging a show of this magnitude also provides an opportunity to train NWT residents in advanced lighting, sound, stage management and modelling techniques,” Mr. Antoine noted. “This investment will raise the level of technical skills within our small, but growing, performing arts, television and film industry.”

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton
Communications
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Tel: (867) 873-7379



Media Advisory

Handley to deliver Infrastructure Fund Request to Ottawa

(May 21) - Finance and Transportation Minister Joseph Handley will travel to Ottawa this week to deliver the GNWT's proposal for federal investment in NWT infrastructure development.

The GNWT committed to formalizing the \$133 million proposal in April following meetings with Canada's Prime Minister and key Cabinet members.

Federal officials have told the GNWT that the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF), introduced in the December 2001 federal budget, is intended to flow funds to projects contributing to the economic growth and activity of all Canadians.

To that end, Mr. Handley will also deliver the recently published Wright Mansell report: An Evaluation of the Economic Impacts Associated with the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline and Mackenzie Delta Gas Development.

The report confirms the economic impact of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline and associated spin-offs at between \$40.8 and \$57 billion to Canada's gross domestic product. The project will also earn the federal government up to \$18 billion in revenue while creating 157,000 person-years of employment across Canada.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Communications Division
Tel: (867) 669-1720





WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
Northwest Territories and Nunavut

02-63

Northwest Territories Flagperson's Handbook Released

YELLOWKNIFE (May 22) – The Department of Transportation and the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut have released an update to *The Northwest Territories Flagperson's Handbook* to enhance the safety of workers and the public travelling in constructions zones.

The updated handbook provides a comprehensive overview of duties and procedures for flagpersons working on NWT highways or construction sites and will be a beneficial resource for anyone in the construction industry or interested in pursuing employment in the field.

“Information and training are critical elements of safety,” Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for the WCB Joe Handley said.

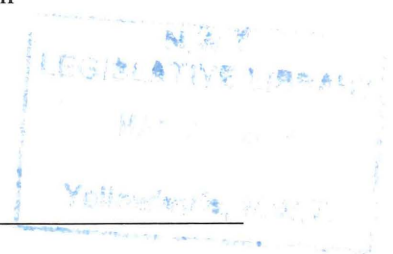
“The information in this handbook is clear, simple and should help to prevent accidents,” WCB President Penny Ballantyne added. “The WCB is pleased to be part of this project.”

The *Northwest Territories Flagperson's Handbook* can be obtained from the WCB in Yellowknife or Inuvik and is available online at www.gov.nt.ca/transportation or www.wcb.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann
Public Affairs Officer
Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut
Tel: (867) 920-3845

Bob Kelly
Manager, Public Affairs and Communication
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712





02-64

Options must Fit Kyoto Framework Antoine Says

CHARLOTTE TOWN (May 22) -- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says any new options to address climate change nationally must fit within the Kyoto framework.

"The Kyoto protocol is the only coordinated global plan on climate change," he noted.

Mr. Antoine reminded Canadian Environment and Energy Ministers meeting in Charlottetown yesterday that residents of the NWT are already experiencing the effects of climate change. He reiterated the NWT's commitment to continue working with Canada, the provinces and territories to develop options that will allow Canada to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Energy and environment Ministers yesterday reviewed Canada's discussion paper providing options to reach Canada's Kyoto target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An Alberta plan of action was also considered.

"Climate change is one of the most significant issues facing the world today. Northerners in particular must learn as much as possible about climate change to make the most informed decision on what actions to take," Mr. Antoine said.

A meeting to review the federal discussion paper with NWT stakeholders will be held in Yellowknife next month. It will be one in a series of stakeholder and public consultation sessions sponsored by the federal government to take place across Canada in June.

In support of its commitment to address climate change, the Government of the Northwest Territories is finalizing a greenhouse gas strategy and is in the process of consolidating its approach to the use of energy through a broad energy strategy.

In addition to investing in energy efficiency and supporting the development of alternative energy sources, the GNWT is also promoting the development of Mackenzie Delta gas reserves and hydroelectricity to increase the availability of clean energy sources for territorial, Canadian and North American markets.

For more information, contact:

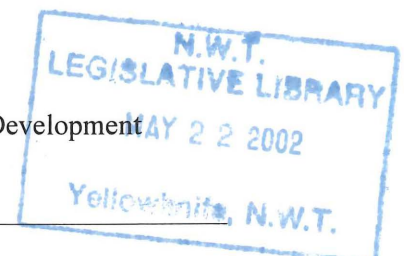
Emery Paquin

Director

Environmental Protection

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Tel: (867) 873-7654





02-065

Handley delivers Transportation Infrastructure Proposal

Ottawa (May 23) -- Minister of Finance Joseph Handley has delivered a Government of the Northwest Territories' transportation infrastructure proposal aimed at Ottawa's new \$2 billion Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

Titled, *Corridors for Canada*, the proposal calls for a federal investment of \$133 million in two NWT transportation corridors: the Mackenzie Valley and the Slave Geologic Province over a four-year period beginning in 2003/04.

The proposal could realize the construction of permanent bridges on the Mackenzie Valley winter road, reconstruction of the Dempster Highway and first-phase construction of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk road. In the Slave Geologic Province corridor, the proposal identifies funding for the Deh Cho Bridge across the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence, reconstruction and paving of a section of Highway 3 and reconstruction of Highway 4.

The GNWT would contribute an additional \$67 million to the infrastructure plan. Aboriginal and industry partners would add another \$43 million.

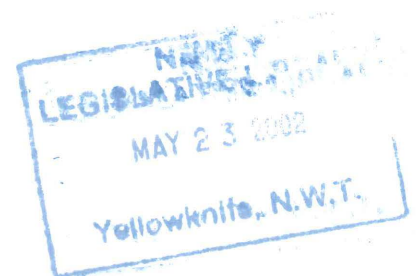
"Industry cannot be expected to fully fund improvements to the public highway system, but should contribute to certain projects according to the benefits derived," Mr. Handley said.

The GNWT committed to formalizing its proposal in April following meetings with Canada's Prime Minister and Cabinet members. It is based on infrastructure requirements presented in the GNWT's Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy.

"It is an investment in the vast resource potential of the Northwest Territories which includes oil and gas exploration and development, a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, expansion of the diamond mining sector, hydro development and opportunities for expansion of the tourism sector, Mr Handley said.

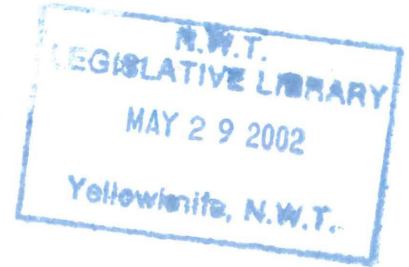
For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-066



Miltenberger Meets with Federal Health Minister

YELLOWKNIFE (May 29) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger says a meeting with federal Minister of Health Anne McLellan will provide the basis for continuing collaboration between the territorial and federal governments.

Mr. Miltenberger says the May 24th meeting in Edmonton highlighted a mutual interest in strengthening prevention and promotion activities.

"I was very pleased with Ms. McLellan's interest in working co-operatively to identify and address key issues," he said.

In discussions surrounding the Prairie Northern Pacific Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Partnership, which recently held its annual conference in Whitehorse, the two Health Ministers agreed that this partnership is an excellent example of how governments can share resources and move forward on improving FAS programs and supports.

Mr. Miltenberger raised several unresolved matters. Specifically, he identified the importance of improved communications and the need for a northern office for the Northern Secretariat of Health Canada.

"I feel that the Northern Secretariat, which has been organized to serve all three territories, should be located in the North and not in Ottawa," Mr. Miltenberger said.

Mr. Miltenberger also highlighted the need for sustained federal support for the NWT health system. He briefed the Minister on the GNWT's presentation to the Romanow Commission, including its call for a revised approach to funding which will recognize Northern needs and the critical importance of training health professionals to work in all areas of Canada.

For more information contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927

02-067

Kakfwi Convinced of Ottawa's Support for Mackenzie Delta Gas Development

OTTAWA (May 30) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he's convinced that the federal government will not allow Mackenzie Delta gas to be stranded.

The Premier's comments follow meetings with a number of federal Ministers aimed at securing infrastructure investment from the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF). Mr. Kakfwi says he's confident that Ottawa will support Mackenzie Valley pipeline development and that the US Administration will confirm their stated position that North American markets determine the route and timing of any natural gas project.

The Premier first identified in April that proposed US Senate subsidies for Alaska gas would prevent Canadian NWT gas from reaching its market. In a meeting today with federal Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal, Premier Kakfwi expressed appreciation for the federal Minister's stand and was assured that the fight will continue until these subsidies are removed from the US Senate energy bill.

Mr. Dhaliwal has not been alone in his support for Canadian gas. Canada's Deputy Prime Minister John Manley has also expressed grave concerns about the potentially market-distorting gas subsidies. Canada's US Ambassador Kergin expressed similar sentiments in an editorial for the Wall Street Journal. Meanwhile, trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew this week announced a program to promote Canada's trade messages on softwood lumber, agriculture and energy in the United States.

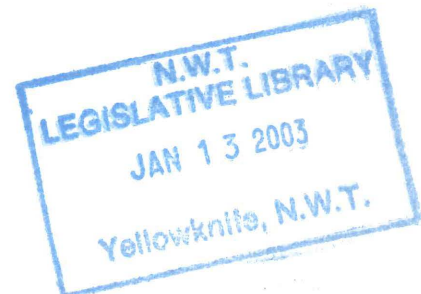
Premier Kakfwi says that while more work and support are still required, these developments bode well for the development of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline.

"Ottawa understands the benefits to Canada. Studies prove Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario will benefit substantially and increasingly Yukoners are being employed in the Beaufort Delta. Meanwhile, I will continue working to get Canada's Premiers on side," the Premier said.

More meetings are planned tomorrow with federal Ministers.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-068

Government Takes Action on Tobacco

YELLOWKNIFE (May 31) – Marking *World No Tobacco Day*, Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger today released the GNWT's *Action On Tobacco* strategy.

The strategy outlines how the GNWT will address high rates of smoking in NWT society highlighted in *Smoke Alarm*, a report released by the Department of Health and Social Services one year ago. The strategy identifies 12 actions in four main areas of focus: prevention, protection, cessation and denormalization.

“For many NWT residents, smoking is considered normal, even respected, behavior,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “It is not enough to protect youth from environmental tobacco smoke or assist smokers in overcoming their addiction. We must take a leadership role in changing attitudes towards smoking so that smoking is regarded as an unhealthy and undesirable behaviour in the eyes of our youth.”

The Departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Municipal and Community Affairs and the Workers' Compensation Board contributed to the development of the strategy,

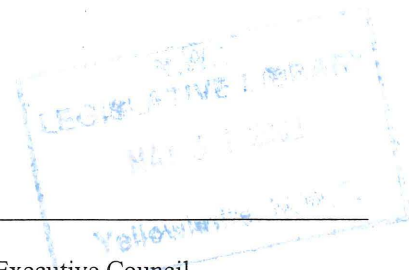
NWT Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Andre Corriveau says to successfully reduce smoking in NWT homes and communities the issue must be tackled on a number of fronts.

“No single agency can reduce the prevalence of smoking in the NWT. It is only through coordinated actions by both government and communities that we will begin to influence how NWT residents regard smoking and see an improvement,” he said.

Action on Tobacco is available at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





02-069

Power Corporation Chairman Re-Appointed

YELLOWKNIFE (May 31) – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Joe Handley, today announced the re-appointment of Gordon Stewart as Chairman of the NWTPC Board of Directors.

Mr. Stewart's re-appointment, for an additional three-year term, commences June 1, 2002 ending May 31, 2005. He was first appointed to the Board of Directors in 1995 and appointed as its Chairman in March 2000.

Under Mr. Stewart's chairmanship, the Power Corporation has undergone significant changes including the division of the Corporation, and a shift in focus to become increasingly customer-driven and resulting in a restructure and decentralization of the business.

"The Power Corporation continues to work toward a new vision of its role in the NWT economy and changing energy and environmental expectations", Mr. Handley said.

The Minister said he's pleased that Mr. Stewart has agreed to continue as Chairman of the Board for the Crown Corporation.

"There is no doubt that his experience and ability to provide continuity will be very beneficial to the future endeavours of the organization," he said.

In addition to his work with the NWTPC Board of Directors, Gordon Stewart is associated with a number of businesses in the Northwest Territories and is presently Chairman and CEO of BBE Ltd. He also sits on the Board of Peter's Expediting Ltd.

For further information, contact:

Lisa Richinger
Executive Assistant to
Hon. Joe Handley
Tel: (867) 669-2309



02-070

Territorial Infrastructure Lobby Builds Federal Support

OTTAWA (May 31) -- Minister of Finance Joe Handley says a second round of meetings in Ottawa is helping to build a solid understanding of the NWT's transportation requirements among federal Ministers.

Mr. Handley and Premier Stephen Kakfwi met Thursday and Friday with Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Nault, Minister of Resources Dhaliwal, Minister of Transportation Collette and Minister of Industry Rock in Ottawa. They continued to lobby federal Ministers on the GNWT's Strategic Infrastructure Fund proposal: *Corridors for Canada* calling for shared federal and GNWT transportation infrastructure investments over the next four years.

"Support is growing among federal Ministers for federal investments now," Mr. Handley said.

The GNWT's proposal includes a highway and bridge investment program of \$200 million over four years with a federal share of \$133 million and an NWT share of \$66 million. The package also proposes additional industry contributions of \$43 million primarily through tolls on the proposed Deh Cho bridge.

"A key feature of our package is strong private sector and industry support," Mr. Handley noted. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Gwich'in Tribal Council have already provided letters of support.

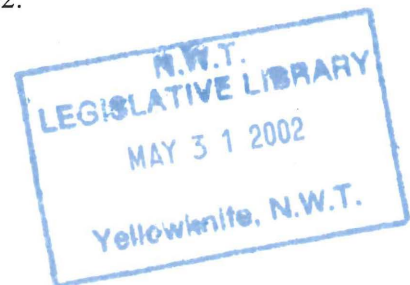
Federal Ministers are particularly interested in knowing how federal investment will provide concrete benefits to both the Northwest Territories and Canada.

"Benefits are not limited to improving the quality of life for NWT residents who drive and depend on NWT highways," Premier Kakfwi noted. "Federal investment will serve to accelerate and facilitate diamond mine, natural gas and pipeline developments in the NWT which will benefit all of Canada and particularly Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario."

A federal response to the GNWT proposal is expected by the fall of 2002.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-071

New Legislation Makes it Easier to Plan for Financial Future

YELLOWKNIFE (June 4) – The Northwest Territories’ Powers of Attorney Act came into force on June 1, 2002.

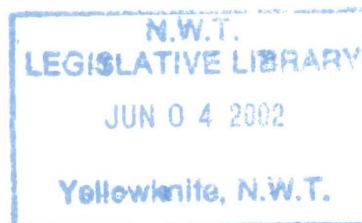
The new *Act*, which brings the Northwest Territories in line with other Canadian jurisdictions, allows persons to appoint individuals to handle their financial affairs in the event that they become mentally incapable of doing so in the future.

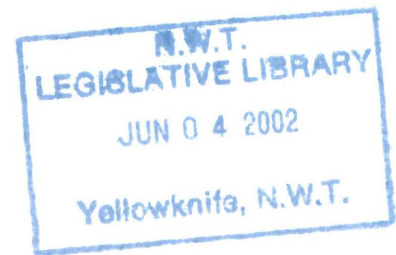
“The new legislation greatly enhances the ability of persons to plan for their financial future,” Minister of Justice Roger Allen says. The Minister thanked the NWT Seniors’ Society for their support of the new legislation.

In the past, if a person became incapable of handling their financial affairs, an application had to be made to the Supreme Court. This required a lawyer and involved medical and financial assessments. Under the new *Act*, this costly and time-consuming process is avoided.

For more information, contact:

Larry Pontus
Public Trustee,
Tel: (867) 873-7464
Toll free: 1-800-535-0423





02-072

GNWT Takes Action on Review of Seniors Programs

YELLOWKNIFE (June 5) – Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors J. Michael Miltenberger says government actions to improve programs and services for NWT seniors will produce tangible results over the course of one year.

The Minister today introduced an *Action Plan for Seniors Programs and Services* in response to issues identified by seniors and the GNWT and documented in a *Review of Programs and Services for Seniors*. The Action Plan identifies 28 specific actions to be taken by various GNWT departments and the NWT Seniors Society over the next year to improve seniors programming across departments and at the community level.

"This plan builds on the existing base of seniors programs and services, and creates an ongoing forum for seniors issues with both the current and future political leadership of this government," Mr. Miltenberger said.

In June 2000, Members of the Legislative Assembly recommended a comprehensive review of seniors programs and services. A multi-agency working group was created with representation from the NWT Seniors Society and GNWT Departments of Executive; Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Municipal and Community Affairs; the Financial Management Board Secretariat; NWT Bureau of Statistics and the NWT Housing Corporation.

A series of public consultations were held in eleven communities across the NWT during the spring of 2001.

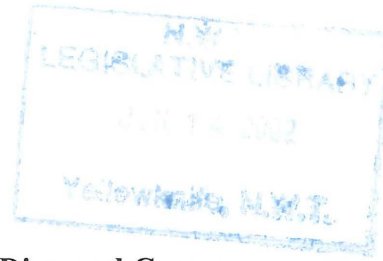
Mr. Miltenberger will take the lead in implementing the *Action Plan for Seniors Programs and Services*. Both documents are available from the Department of Health and Social Services' website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: 867-920-8927



02-073



RWED Minister to Address World Diamond Congress

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine will emphasize the Northwest Territories' growing international reputation as a diamond producing and manufacturing centre when he addresses delegates at the World Diamond Congress in Vancouver on Monday.

The World Diamond Congress is an international meeting dealing with diamond exploration, mining and marketing issues. The Northwest Territories is leading the way for Canada's provinces and territories in developing a world class diamond industry.

In his speech to delegates, Mr. Antoine will reiterate the GNWT's position on the definition of a 'Canadian' diamond. Guidelines issued last year by the Competition Bureau of Canada define a Canadian' diamond as one mined in Canada regardless of where, or under what conditions, it is cut and polished.

"This has to change," Mr. Antoine says. "To be truly Canadian, a polished diamond must be mined, cut and polished in Canada. We take exception to the confusion and uncertainty the Competition Bureau is creating for the Canadian diamond industry."

The World Diamond Congress will provide an opportunity for the Government of the Northwest Territories to promote its diamond certification program and explore further marketing opportunities for Canadian Arctic™ diamonds.

"We want to see that benefits to our residents and Canadians are maximized," the Minister said. "Recognizing that a Canadian diamond must be cut and polished in Canada is critical to the success of our growing diamond cutting and polishing industry."

For more information, contact:

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



02-074

Youth Secretariat to Assist Minister Responsible for Youth

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18) – Minister Responsible for Youth Roger Allen today announced the establishment of a Youth Secretariat in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The Secretariat will assist the Minister in his duties related to NWT youth.

“Young people are our future,” the Minister said. “I am pleased to have the support of this Secretariat in my work with, and on behalf of, NWT youth and their organizations in the NWT.”

A number of projects are proposed for the new Secretariat. They include: a youth corps pilot program in each region to test various program models; a youth contribution policy to provide funding to various smaller youth-development projects and a commitment to assist the NWT Youth Association with costs associated with its 2002 Annual General Meeting in Fort Simpson.

“These initiatives demonstrate the GNWT’s commitment to working in partnership to develop strong, capable youth in the NWT,” the Minister said.

The mandate of the Minister Responsible for Youth includes: the development and delivery of programs specifically targeted to youth; the recommendation of strategies affecting youth; advising departments and Ministers on programs and policy objectives and representing the Government of the Northwest Territories on youth matters.

For more information, contact:

Flora Evans
Policy/Communications Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092





02-075

Historic Signings Mark Government's Commitment to the Future

YELLOWKNIFE (June 19) -- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Jim Antoine says the settlement and implementation of land resources and self government agreements across the NWT is an important commitment by the GNWT to the future of the Northwest Territories.

Addressing members of the Legislative Assembly today, Mr Antoine noted that two historic agreements, to be celebrated this weekend, will work to give NWT residents greater control, authority and responsibility over decisions in their communities and their regions.

On Saturday in Fort Smith, the Salt River First Nation will host a ceremonial signing ceremony to commemorate their treaty settlement agreement signed in January of this year.

"This Agreement represents the fulfillment of Canada's obligations to the Salt River First Nation based on Treaty 8 signed over 100 years ago," the Minister said.

On Sunday in Inuvik, the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit will celebrate the signing of the Beaufort Delta Agreement-in-Principle. Final Agreement negotiations will lead to new and restructured governments for the Beaufort Delta Region to serve and represent all residents, while respecting the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit inherent right of self-government.

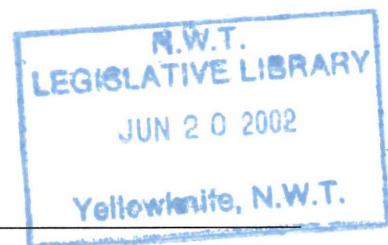
"It serves as an example to other regions across Canada that a new relationship can be forged between Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal people to realize political change," Mr. Antoine said.

Weekend celebrations in Fort Smith and Inuvik have been scheduled to coincide with territorial celebrations of National Aboriginal Day, celebrated for the first time this year as a statutory holiday for NWT residents.

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will travel with NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger, federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Bob Nault and Western Arctic MP Ethel Blondin Andrew to join NWT residents in their celebrations.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-076

Governments to Provide Advance for Healing

YELLOWKNIFE (June 20) The Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will advance \$3.2 million to fund treatment plans and pay expert expenses related to the healing and recovery of individuals abused by Edward Horne. Eighteen plaintiffs began treatment at the Somba K'e Healing Lodge in Yellowknife June 17, 2002.

The advance payment comes as a result of significant progress in negotiations between the Governments and representatives of the 82 plaintiffs and three estates. A previous advance of almost \$1million was made to plaintiffs in January, 2002.

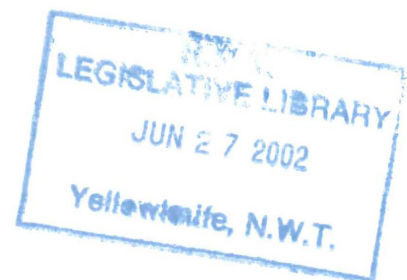
Legal action was commenced against the NWT and Nunavut governments in January 2001 for damages incurred by plaintiffs from sexual abuse between 1971 and 1985 when Mr. Horne was employed as a teacher for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Agreement was reached that year to use alternative dispute resolution procedures available under the rules of the court to work towards an expeditious settlement of the litigation.

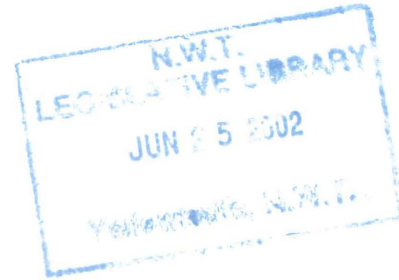
Counsel for the plaintiffs and defendants will continue to negotiate over the summer and are optimistic that a settlement of all claims can be achieved by the end of September.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304

Annette Bourgeois
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier
Government of Nunavut
Tel: (867) 975-5059





02-077

Agreement Reached in Equal Pay Complaint

YELLOWKNIFE (June 25) -- Minister Responsible for the GNWT Public Service Joe Handley, National President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Nycole Turmel and Acting Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) Anne Adams today announced a settlement has been reached in the equal pay for work of equal value pay dispute filed against the GNWT by the PSAC in 1989.

The negotiated settlement respects and protects the rights of former and current GNWT unionized employees and addresses the legal and financial concerns of the three parties.

The settlement, to be shared by thousands of eligible current and former unionized indeterminate, term and casual employees, is valued at \$50 million. Compensation eligibility will be based on a person's position and length of service in a variety of female dominated occupational groups that existed in various GNWT Departments, Boards and Agencies between March 28, 1989 and March 31, 1998.

"This is a fair and equitable settlement," the Minister said. "It respects the rights of our employees, it effectively and efficiently ends years of potential legal processes and financial uncertainty for employees, taxpayers and the government, and it allows us to now focus our energies on building a strong public service to deliver programs and services to Northerners."

"Once again, our determination and perseverance in the fight for equal pay for work of equal value has paid off. With this agreement, the work of all of our members employed by the GNWT has been recognized. It is a tremendous achievement for all concerned," PSAC National President, Nycole Turmel said.

Anne Adams, Acting Chief Commissioner of the CHRC, welcomed the result, noting that the Commission had been instrumental in assisting the Union and the GNWT to reach an agreement. "It is in everyone's interest to end this lengthy litigation. Settlements like this help to close the wage gap between men and women."

Of the total \$50 million, some \$23 million has already been distributed to 4,300 unionized current and past GNWT employees.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal officially approved the terms of the settlement on June 25, 2002 with the issuance of a Consent Order. The Consent Order acknowledges the settlement meets all the requirements of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and thus brings the complaint process to an end.

.../2

The first compensation payments will be mailed out in December 2002. The process of compensating eligible employees will be completed by December 31, 2004.

The GNWT will undertake a publicity campaign to inform people of the agreement and how it might affect them.

For more information, contact:

Shaleen Woodward
Manager, Equal Pay
Labour Relations & Compensation
Financial Management Board Secretariat
Government of the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 873 - 7502

Nycole Turmel
PSAC National President
Tel: (613) 560-4330

Georgina Rolt-Kaiser
President, Union of Northern Workers
Tel: (867) 873-5668

Doug Workman
President, Nunavut Employees Union
Tel: (867) 979-4209

Catherine Barratt
Senior Advisor, Media and External Relations
Human Rights Promotion Branch
Canadian Human Rights Commission
Tel: (613) 943 - 9119



02-078

Income Tax Reductions to Take Effect July 1

YELLOWKNIFE (June 26) -- Reductions in the NWT's personal and corporate income tax rates take effect July 1, 2002. Minister of Finance Joe Handley, announced the personal income tax reductions in the February 2002 Budget. The Minister announced the corporate income tax cuts earlier this month.

Effective July 1, 2002, the general corporate income tax rate will decline from 14 per cent to 12 per cent. The small business rate will decline from 5 per cent to 4 per cent.

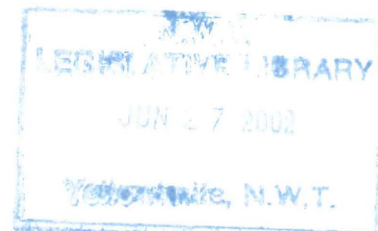
Source income tax deductions from employees' wages and salaries will also be adjusted July 1st to reflect increases announced in the February Budget for the Personal Basic Amount, Married and Equivalent-to-Married Amounts, Age Amount and Disability Amount.

Employees who are declaring an age amount, disability amount, or are claiming a spouse, common-law partner, or equivalent-to-married status, and want the increased credits recognized in the tax withheld from their pay, should provide their employers with a revised TD1NT.

Taxpayers not claiming any of these credits do not need to fill out a new form. New TD1NT forms are available at: <http://www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/td1nteq/td1nt-02e.pdf> Taxpayers do not need to fill out a new federal TD1.

For more information, contact:

Kelly Bluck
A/Director of Fiscal Policy
Department of Finance
Tel: (867) 920-6436





02-079



New Board Appointments at Northwest Territories Power Corporation

YELLOWKNIFE (June 28) -- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NWTPC) Joe Handley today announced a new appointment and a reappointment to the NWTPC Board of Directors.

Mr. Ric Bolivar, owner-operator of Ryfan Electric Ltd since 1979, brings with him a wealth of board experience. He has been appointed to the Corporation's Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Mr. Bolivar was a founding member of the Arctic College Board - serving four years with the Executive Committee and three years as Chairman of the Finance Committee. He has served as President and Director of the NWT Construction Association and as a member of the GNWT Trade Advisory Committee. Mr. Bolivar is also a member of the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation. His appointment to the NWTPC Board is effective July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005.

Eric Shelton of Calgary, Alberta has been re-appointed for a three-year term commencing September 1, 2002. Mr. Shelton was first appointed to the Corporation's Board of Directors in September 1998. Mr. Shelton worked for TransCanada Pipelines/NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. for thirty years prior to his retirement in 1999.

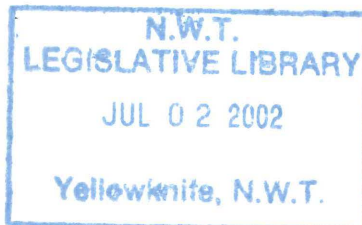
"The leadership, expertise and experience represented by members of the NWT Power Corporation's Board of Directors is critical to the ongoing success and growth of the Corporation", Mr. Handley said. "These appointments will ensure that power continues to be delivered across the North in a safe and reliable manner."

For more information, contact:

Lisa Richinger
Executive Assistant to
Hon. Joe Handley
Tel: (867) 669-2309



02-080



Premier Announces Changes to Deputy Minister Appointments

YELLOWKNIFE (July 2) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi has today announced that three senior public servants will be assigned new responsibilities.

In a move designed to broaden senior management experience and coordinate actions initiated to advance the goals set out in *Towards a Better Tomorrow*, two Deputy Ministers have been reassigned new responsibilities and an Associate Deputy Minister has been promoted to Deputy Minister.

Mark Cleveland, currently Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, has been asked to serve as Deputy Minister Responsible for Corporate Review and Transition Planning. Mr. Cleveland will oversee a review of, and help coordinate various government-wide initiatives and actions undertaken to address the vision and objectives of the 14th Assembly.

Dave Murray, who has served as Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs since February 2000, will take over at Health and Social Services and assume the lead on the implementation of the Minister's action plan to reform the NWT's health and social services system.

Debbie DeLancey, a long-term northerner with extensive experience working with Aboriginal and community groups, first joined the GNWT in 1987. Currently, Associate Deputy Minister assigned to Health and Social Services, Ms. DeLancey will take over as Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

"We are now planning for the final year of this government's term, Premier Kakfwi said. "It is our responsibility to ensure that initiatives approved by the 14th Assembly are properly implemented and coordinated to allow the 15th Assembly to build upon this good work. Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Murray and Ms. DeLancey each have a wealth of experience with the GNWT and I am pleased that each of them will continue to bring their skills and perspectives to the important challenges that lie ahead.

.../2

The Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, and the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Vince Steen join the Premier in welcoming the Deputy Ministers to their new jobs.

Today's assignments will take effect 5 p.m. July 5th, 2002.

For more information, contact: **Elizabeth Snider**
Secretary to Cabinet
Executive
Tel: (867) 669-7100



02-081

Members Reappointed to NWT Development Corporation Board

YELLOWKNIFE (July 16) – Five members have been reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories (NWT) Development Corporation.

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine announced the reappointments today.

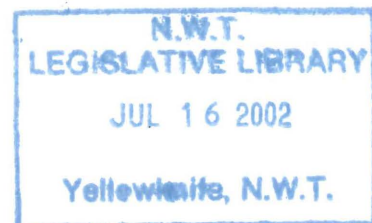
Elizabeth Wyman of Yellowknife, Denise Yuhas of Fort Smith, Joy Stewart of Hay River, Daniel McNeely of Fort Good Hope and Ernie Smith of Rae will each serve a three-year term.

Wyman has been appointed chair of the Board of Directors and Denise Yuhas has been appointed vice-chair.

Other members of the Board of Directors are Albert Elias of Inuvik, Charles Furlong of Aklavik and Darrel Beaulieu of Yellowknife.

For more information, contact:

Fred Koe
President
NWT Development Corporation
Tel: (867) 873-1037





02-082

GNWT Increases Fur Price Payment Programs

YELLOWKNIFE (July 19) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is increasing the Fur Price Program (FPP) it provides to trappers for seal pelts.

The FPP program, administered by the Department of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), offers NWT trappers an assured price for pelts in advance of auction.

These prices will be based on the grade of a pelt: Grade 'A' pelts will receive \$60, grade 'B' pelts \$45 and grade 'C' pelts \$30.

Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development, Jim Antoine says changes in the fur price program are based on community consultation and market fluctuations.

"We are very excited that NWT seal pelts are once-again in high demand," he said. "In the past three year, we have witnessed an increase in the price of seal pets. We are adjusting our program to stay competitive in the market."

The new prices will take effect for this summer's harvest.

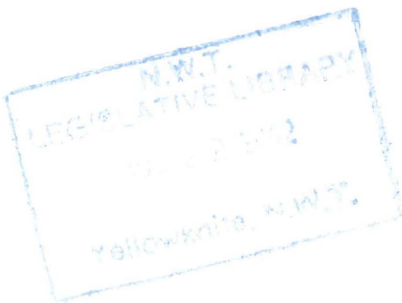
For more information contact:

Francois Rossouw

Co-ordinator, Traditional Economy & Fur Management
Resources Wildlife and Economic Development
Tel: (867) 873-7478

Tim Devine

Manager, Wildlife and Fisheries
Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (Inuvik)
Tel: (867) 777-7230





02-083

Minister Appoints New Member to WCB Board

YELLOWKNIFE (July 19) - NWT Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board Joe Handley today announced the appointment of Craig Browne to a two-year term as an employer representative on the WCB's seven-member Board of Directors.

Mr. Browne, a resident of Fort Smith since 1993, has lived in the North since 1984. He is the owner operator of C.A.B. Construction Ltd. in Fort Smith and brings considerable on-site field experience to his new appointment.

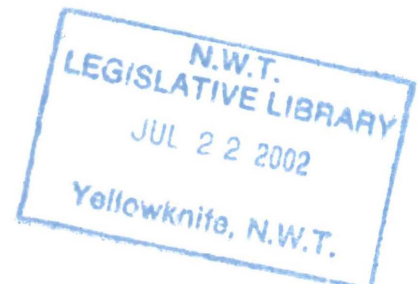
"As our workforce continues to grow and evolve, Mr. Browne's background will provide valuable insight to address challenges facing the WCB," Mr. Handley said. "He is a valuable addition to the Board."

"As an employer in the construction business, I can certainly appreciate both the human and financial costs of workplace accidents," Mr. Browne said. "I look forward to working with the WCB particularly to raise awareness for worksite safety."

The WCB is a not-for-profit insurance corporation, operating at arm's length from government, whose mandate is to promote safe work practices for all Northern workplaces.

For more information, contact:

Andy Wong
Chairperson,
Workers' Compensation Board of
Nunanvut and the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 920-3898





02-084

Minister Announces Increases to Homeownership Program for Yellowknife

YELLOWKNIFE (July 23) -- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will provide affordable homeownership under the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program (EDAP) for up to 189 families in Yellowknife over the next five years.

The Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program (EDAP) assists families in purchasing homes through conventional financing by providing down payment or loan assistance, based on a sliding scale, geared to income.

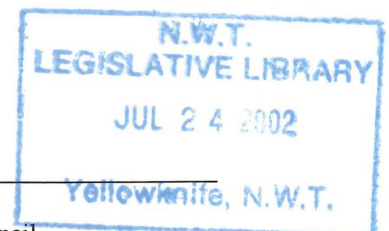
Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Roger Allen says the NWT Housing Corporation will broaden its criteria for EDAP client selection in Yellowknife beginning in mid-August.

“There is a severe housing shortage in Yellowknife right now. We are addressing this problem head-on,” Mr. Allen said. “This initiative will work to provide more families with an opportunity to own homes while increasing the availability of public housing units to low-income clients.”

For applicants who meet the criteria, first priority will be given to existing tenants in subsidized rental housing units and then to applicants who have been on the waiting list for subsidized rental housing for a continuous period of over one past year.

“The housing crisis in Yellowknife requires a quick and decisive response,” Mr. Allen noted.

For more information contact: **Juanita Case**
Manager, Housing Programs
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
Tel: (867) 920-6534





#02-084 BACKGROUNDER

Minister Announces Increases to Homeownership Program for Yellowknife
YELLOWKNIFE (July 23)

The NWT Housing Corporation will begin delivering EDAP in Yellowknife in mid-August 2002.

The objective of the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program (EDAP) is to provide assistance for families to obtain homeownership through conventional financing. Under the Program, the NWT Housing Corporation makes downpayment assistance available to reduce the monthly operating expenses for those clients who wish to buy, build or repair their home.

The level of assistance available varies depending on the client's income and the cost of the home being bought, built or repaired. The client must qualify for a private mortgage or loan. The mortgage or loan is based on the cost of the house less the sliding scale subsidy provided by the NWT Housing Corporation.

For new construction, purchase or purchase/repairs, the sliding scale subsidy ranges from 40% of the cost (maximum construction cost of \$180,000 including land) for lower families to 10% for higher income families.

Under the repair or expansion (addition of new bedrooms in case of overcrowding) option, the maximum eligible project cost is \$67,500 (75% of the building component (\$90,000) of the maximum construction cost). The sliding scale subsidy ranges from 40% for lower income families to 25% for higher income families.

The Corporation's first priority for delivery of EDAP in Yellowknife will be applicants who currently are tenants in a subsidized rental housing unit or applicants who have been on a waiting list for a subsidized rental housing unit for a continuous period of over one year.

Client Criteria

The client must be at least nineteen (19) years of age or older and have resided in the NWT for five (5) years, one (1) year of which must be continuous prior to approval.

Clients who have previously received assistance under specified programs may not be eligible for assistance under the EDAP.

The client's income must be below the Core Need Income Threshold (CNIT) for Yellowknife.

The CNIT is the maximum level of income that a household can earn and qualify for Housing Corporation programs.

The client is required to have a mortgage or loan approved.

The client must have sufficient income to pay for all ongoing operating, mortgage/loan and maintenance costs for the house.

Clients who already own their houses are only eligible for the repair/expansion portion of the program.

Clients who reside outside community boundaries will be eligible if they qualify for mortgage financing or CMHC is willing to underwrite the mortgage. Others may still receive assistance from a NWT HC guarantee to the bank on a case-by-case basis;

The assistance provided under the program is limited to one loan per client and his/her partner on a once in a lifetime basis for home purchase and new construction.

Land tenure must be acceptable.



Canadian North™

02-085

NWT Students Awarded \$45,000 in Aviation Bursaries

YELLOWKNIFE (July 24) – Nine NWT students were awarded \$45,000 in bursaries today under the Aviation Career Development Program identified by the Department of Transportation to encourage and assist students pursuing careers in the aviation industry.

The Aviation Career Development Program provides money, summer employment and mentoring to NWT aviation students. The bursary program is jointly funded by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North and supported by Northern Air Transport Association.

“Aviation has played a key role in the development of the North and will continue to be a vital factor in our continuing economic growth, Minister of Transportation Joe Handley said. “We are grateful for the support this program has received from both Canadian North and NATA.”

Nancey Steven-Whiteman of Norman Wells and Yellowknifers: Corey Mound, Norman Byrne, Ryan Byrne, Robin Sorenson, Jeffrey Bowden, Carolyn George, Gord Stephenson and Jan Levicek, were each awarded a \$5,000 bursary at a ceremony in Yellowknife today.

“These northern students should be very proud,” Canadian North President Carmen Loberg said. “They have made an outstanding effort towards realizing their dream of being a part in the NWT’s aviation industry. It is one reason why we are so excited to be a part of this program and continue to support the future of Canada’s North.”

“On behalf of the Northern Air Transportation Association and its members we would like to congratulate all of the successful candidates in the Aviation Career Development Program and wish them the best in their studies,” NATA Director Terri Arychuk said.

The nine recipients were chosen on the basis of their scholastic history, career plan, an essay explaining their interest in a career in the aviation industry and letters of recommendation. Each anticipates returning to the North to work in the NWT’s broad aviation industry.

For more information, contact:

Bob Kelly
Manager Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712



02-086

Direct Deposit Initiative to Provide Improved Customer Service

YELLOWKNIFE (July 26) -- A new Direct Deposit service, allowing the Government of the Northwest Territories to deposit payments, grants and contributions directly into the bank accounts of businesses, government entities, individuals, organizations and students will provide faster payments and improve cash flow management.

The service, to be introduced in August, will be provided at no cost to the payee and will eliminate postal disruptions to delivery and the need to manually deposit cheques.

Minister of Finance Joe Handley says northern students at post secondary institutions and commercial businesses operating in rural communities will be the biggest benefactors of this new service.

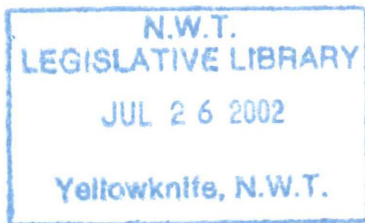
“This service will virtually eliminate inconveniences arising from more traditional means of delivering payments,” he said. “The GNWT continues to be committed to identifying and incorporating initiatives such as the direct deposit program that work to improve the delivery of government services to residents and business of the Northwest Territories.”

The GNWT will also benefit from the new direct deposit service from reduced costs in areas such as cheque printing, postage and mailing costs and associated bank charges and fees.

Businesses or individuals needing more information or wishing to access an application form for the direct deposit initiative should go to <http://www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS/documents/dox/DirectDeposit.htm> or phone: (867) 873-7548.

For more information, contact:

Doug Bothamley
Financial Policy and Systems Manager
Financial Management Board Secretariat
Tel: (867) 873-7173





02-087

Department of Transportation to Host National Airports Rodeo in Yellowknife

Yellowknife (July 30) – The Department of Transportation will host the National Airports Rodeo for airport equipment operators in Yellowknife August 6-9, 2002.

Minister of Transportation Joseph Handley says the rodeo will bring together the top equipment operators from airports across Canada. "We're pleased to play host to this national event," he said. "The work this group of professionals does is largely unnoticed by the public, but is essential to maintaining safe airport operations."

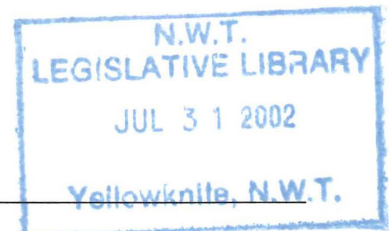
The event, which originated in Atlantic Canada, will bring together equipment operators from approximately 20 airports across Canada - including three from the Northwest Territories. It will be the first time the annual event has been held in the NWT since 1990 when the West began to participate in the annual event.

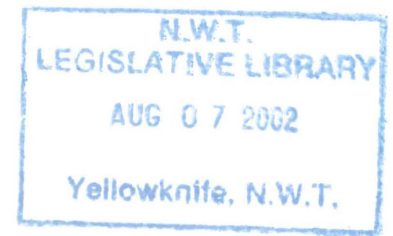
Competitors will test their skills in a truck, snowblower, and combined truck/sweeper on a course that will challenge them with differing obstacles. NWT entrants for next month's competition include Ernest LeGuerrier of Forth Smith, Alex Daigneault of Hay River and David Brown of Yellowknife.

Representatives from NWT airports have won a number of events at the national level. In 1999, Curtis Mercredi, an equipment operator at Yellowknife Airport, won the overall Canadian title at the national rodeo having placed second the year before. He will be a judge at this year's event.

The rodeo is open to the public at no charge and will be staged on the grounds of Adlair Air located at the western end of Yellowknife Airport.

For further information, contact: **Bob Kelly**
Manager, Communications & Public Affairs
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712





02-088

Kakfwi Outlines US Subsidy Battle at Annual Premiers Conference

HALIFAX (August 02) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the US administration, Canadian government and natural gas producers on both sides of the border agree that an Alaska natural gas floor-price subsidy, included in US Senate energy legislation, must be removed before it is approved by the President.

"US Energy Secretary Abraham has made it clear to the Senate that the US administration will not accept a billion dollar-a-year subsidy on Alaska gas, he said. "Minister Dhaliwal has also made it clear that the Canadian federal government will not allow Mackenzie Delta gas to be stranded at the expense of this subsidized Alaska gas."

The NWT Premier thanked the American and Canadian governments for their support. "Several Alaska producers also say that an Alaska gas pipeline is uneconomical at this time and for the foreseeable future," he noted.

The Alaska gas floor-price subsidy will distort North American gas market by removing all market risk for Alaska North Slope gas and leaving all other North American production, including Mackenzie Delta gas reserves, subject to risk - possibly stranding Canada's NWT gas for over a decade.

While the NWT opposes market-distorting subsidies, it recognizes that public investment through loan guarantees and profit-sensitive royalty regimes may be required to share the risks of Arctic energy projects.

The Premier remains confident that producers will go forward with an application to construct a Mackenzie Valley pipeline sometime in 2003. He says the elimination of Alaska gas subsidy provisions in US legislation will create further confidence and serve to accelerate the process.

Speaking at the Annual Premiers' Conference in Halifax, the NWT Premier also gave strong support to ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's time for action by governments because we are already feeling the effects of climate change in the North," he said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Press Officer
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304



02-089

**Government of the Northwest Territories - Media Statement
YELLOWKNIFE (August 7)**

News North Article Dated August 5, 2002

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

The August 5, 2002 edition of the News/North contains a report entitled "Big city dreamers can go south: Premier".

The report is based upon comments I made three weeks ago at the Dene Nation Annual Assembly in Fort Simpson.

In my remarks today, I want to set the context for my comments and to clarify any misunderstanding which the News/North report may have created.

As Premier I have been a strong advocate of developing NWT resources.

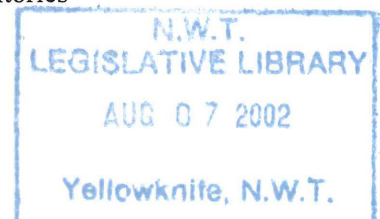
I will continue to be a strong advocate, but always on the condition that we have the ability to make decisions on the management and development of our resources and to control the impacts which resource development bring to our environment, to our society and to our communities.

When I spoke in Fort Simpson, my intention was to challenge the Dene Nation and all NWT residents to think about their future as we come to terms with what development will mean to our environment, our society and our communities.

We have been and will continue to make tradeoffs between the impacts of diamond mines and gas pipelines and protection of our land and wildlife.

I want to be confident that between Aboriginal governments and public government we have the processes in place to consider and make the tradeoffs and **balance** the impact of development on our environment.

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I also want all of us to have the confidence that we are well placed to **balance** the impacts of development on our society and our communities, especially our youth. Our youth are our future and they were well represented at the Dene Assembly.

That's why I suggested that we need to think about how much growth, particularly in terms of population in the larger centres, can be managed in the NWT and the needs of new residents in the larger communities **balanced** with the needs of residents in smaller communities.

We need to think of what Yellowknife and the NWT will be if we do not control the impact of development and create a balance between the best of what we have now and what further development will produce.

My observations in Fort Simpson should not be portrayed as discouraging people from moving to the north, raising a family and making a contribution. My intention was to get NWT residents, in Yellowknife, regional centres and smaller communities, to think about balance.

As Premier, I believe such discussion and debate about the important issues concerning our future are essential as we work together to achieve a productive and prosperous tomorrow for all citizens of the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:

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Executive
(867) 669-2304



02-090

Kakfwi says GNWT Agenda Remains Unchanged by PM's Announcement

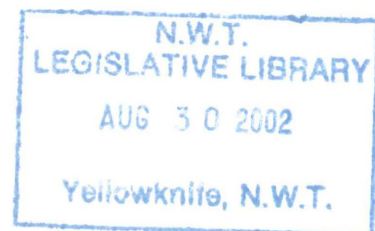
YELLOWKNIFE (August 21) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says today's announcement by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will not distract the Government of the Northwest Territories' agenda in Ottawa. The NWT Premier says the GNWT will continue with what has been a successful lobby of the federal government.

"We have completed a lot of work to increase awareness in Ottawa to our "have territory" and the benefits it will provide for all Canadians," Mr Kakfwi said. "Our lobby has been broad and not exclusive to the Prime Minister's office. It will continue."

The NWT Premier says he hopes today's announcement will put an end to speculation about the Prime Minister's personal future and enable the federal government to refocus its priorities. Priorities, he says that include improving the well being of Aboriginal people, the development of Canadian energy supplies, and supporting infrastructure development in Canada's North.

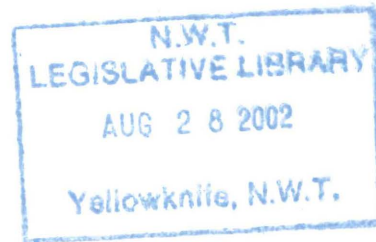
"The Prime Minister has not retired yet," Mr. Kakfwi noted. "There are many important pieces of business that we look forward to completing with him."

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-091



Proposed Revisions to Business Incentive Policy Released

YELLOWKNIFE (August 22) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine today released proposed revisions to the Business Incentive Policy (BIP).

The updated policy clarifies the definition of a BIP business and strengthens administrative procedures. It establishes formal complaint mechanisms and sets new thresholds for the application of BIP bid adjustments.

“While NWT businesses are becoming more competitive, there is still a need for a Business Incentive Policy to encourage and support the development of a healthy private sector,” Mr Antoine said. “These revisions address the criticisms and concerns raised by NWT businesses and industry during public consultations on BIP.”

Established in 1992, the BIP applies to any procurement contracts, other than employment, entered into by Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) departments and agencies. The policy is administered by RWED.

Copies of the proposed policy are available from the BIP Monitoring Office in Yellowknife at (867) 873-7215 and on Internet at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/iea/bip/index.htm>

For more information contact:

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



#02-091 BACKGROUNDER

Proposed Revisions to Business Incentive Policy Released
YELLOWKNIFE (August 22)

What is the Business Incentive Policy?

The Business Incentive Policy (BIP) is an economic policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) that applies to any procurement contract entered into directly by the GNWT, with the exception of employment contracts. The BIP also applies to any procurement contract entered into where 51 percent or more of the funding for the contract, or for the operations of the procuring organization, is provided by the GNWT. Generally this means it applies to GNWT departments, GNWT funded boards and agencies, and NWT municipal/community governments receiving at least 51 percent of their operating funds from the GNWT.

The BIP requires procurement authorities to make purchases below a certain threshold only from approved northern businesses. For procurement over these thresholds it requires the procurement authority to make preferential adjustments to bids of approved northern and local businesses during the bid evaluation process. Pursuant to the BIP, a Registry of approved northern businesses is maintained by the GNWT.

Why was the BIP revised?

The current BIP has been in place since 1992. Concerns and criticism have been raised that the BIP does not meet key needs of the NWT business community such as access to government contracts or provide fair and consistent contract administration. The BIP also did not reflect the changing NWT economy.

The proposed policy is based on the comprehensive consultation done with the public and the business community across the NWT during the winter and spring of 2001.

What were the key issues and design considerations in shaping the proposed BIP?

Major issues included:

- Accountability and transparency.
- Policy definition of a northern business.
- Monitoring and enforcement.

What are the major changes in the proposed BIP?

Most of the major changes include:

- clarification of definitions applying to the BIP;
- the definition of a BIP Business;
- strengthened administrative procedures;
- a formal complaint mechanism; and,
- new thresholds for the application of the BIP bid adjustments.

Why was a new definition for a BIP business required?

The NWT business community has raised concerns about the old definition not recognizing the contribution of business to the NWT economy. The new definition was developed in cooperation with the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the NWT Construction Association and the Northern Manufacturers' Association.

What is the new definition for a BIP business?

To be eligible for registration under the proposed policy, a BIP Business must:

- maintain legal registration in the NWT;
- maintain a current business license issued by a municipal corporation or the GNWT, where applicable;
- operate from an owned or leased bona fide place of business in the NWT and has done so prior to the date of application;
- comply with the *Payroll Tax Act (NWT)* and not have any overdue returns or liabilities under that Act;
- in the case of a corporation, files, or undertakes to file, a Federal Corporate Income Tax Return that allocates taxable income to the Northwest Territories, or would allocate taxable income to the Northwest Territories if the corporation had taxable income;
- in the case of a co-operative association, files, or undertakes to file, a Federal Corporate Income Tax Return that allocates taxable income to the Northwest Territories, or would allocate taxable income to the Northwest Territories if the co-operative had taxable income;
- in the case of a partnership, the majority interest in the partnership is owned by NWT Residents;
- in the case of a sole proprietorship, the sole proprietor is an NWT Resident.

Why are thresholds being introduced?

During our consultations, the NWT business community expressed the need for a dollar value cap on the application of BIP bid adjustments. The caps recognize that northern businesses maintain an inventory of goods for small amounts but would likely have large orders delivered from the south providing little value added to the NWT. The thresholds are consistent with those contained in the AIT.

What are the new thresholds for the application of the BIP bid adjustments?Credit Cards and Sole Source Contracts

No Bid Adjustment will be applied to credit card purchases or sole source contracts.

Goods Contracts

For Goods Contracts, excluding credit card purchases or sole source contracts, a 15 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to the NWT Content. An additional 5 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to any Local Content.

For Goods Contracts in excess of \$25,000, the Bid Adjustment will be applied to no more than \$25,000 of the bid amount.

Service Contracts

For Service Contracts, excluding credit card purchases or sole source contracts, a 15 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to the NWT Content. An additional 5 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to any Local Content.

For Service Contracts in excess of \$100,000, the Bid Adjustment will be applied to no more than \$100,000 of the bid amount.

Construction Contracts

For Construction Contracts, excluding credit card purchases or sole source contracts, a 15 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to the NWT Content. An additional 5 percent Bid Adjustment will be applied to any Local Content.

For Construction contracts in excess of \$1,000,000, the bid Adjustment will be applied to no more than \$1,000,000 of the bid amount.

What does the new complaint system do for the government and business community?

There was no formal complaint system in the previous policy. Concerns about application procedures and compliance were raised during the public consultation. The new system addresses those concerns. It also provides clear direction about who will address these issues.

How does the new formal complaint mechanism work?

Applicants that have been denied registration by a BIP Qualification Committee may appeal in writing to the BIP Senior Management Committee.



02-092

Recruitment and Retention of Nurses is Top Priority for H&SS Minister

YELLOWKNIFE (August 28) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger says the recruitment and retention of nurses continues to be the number one priority for his Department and health and social services authorities in the NWT.

The Minister chaired a meeting of the NWT's Health and Social Services Joint Leadership Council (JLC) made up of the chairs of the seven NWT health and social services authorities August 24-25 in Yellowknife.

The Council and the Department of Health and Social Services, in consultation with partners in government, professional associations and the Union of Northern Workers, are preparing a number of identified short and long-term solutions for consideration by the JLC on September 20, 2002. Mr. Miltenberger says he hopes a course of action can be identified at that time.

"Training northern nurses and ensuring effective and efficient service deliveries are already key components of the GNWT's ongoing efforts to address the shortage of nurses in the Northwest Territories," the Minister noted. "But the situation demands that still more steps must be taken."

Mr. Miltenberger says it is important to recognise that the current nursing shortage is not simply a northern issue, but in fact is a nation-wide problem. He says he will pursue the issue with his federal, provincial and territorial colleagues at a meeting of Canada's health ministers to be held next week in Banff.

"The need to address the issue of attracting nurses to the NWT and keeping them here is critical to the sustainability of the NWT's health system, Mr. Miltenberger said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Executive
(867) 669-2304





02-093

Minister of Health and Social Services Orders Stanton Review

YELLOWKNIFE (September 3) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger has ordered an operational review of the Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife.

“Residents of the NWT are fortunate to have a hospital capable of providing the calibre of care that this facility provides, the Minister said. “This review will ensure that current challenges such as those posed by the recruitment and retention of health care professionals do not compromise Stanton’s reputation for providing high quality health care.”

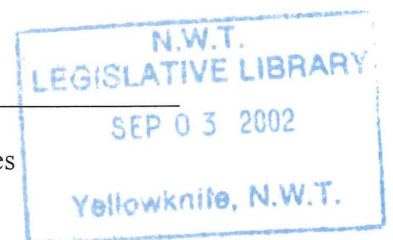
The independent review, to be completed by the end of October, will be co-ordinated by a project steering committee chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services and including two members of the Stanton Board of Trustees and a senior member of the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

“Reviewing operational practices and identifying possible improvements are an accepted means of ensuring that the highest possible service standards are maintained,” Mr. Miltenberger noted.

For more information, contact:

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OPERATIONAL REVIEW

- Stanton Territorial Health Authority

BACKGROUND

Historically, Stanton has provided a high level of care locally, regionally and for the entire Territory. However, there is growing concern related to the provision of health care services through the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. These concerns are primarily related to a growing shortage of health care professionals at Stanton and a high turnover rate. This lack of stability has resulted in a ward closure and reductions in service levels in key areas. Over the past year the hospital has had difficulties in maintaining service levels in several of the major specialty areas, including Surgery, the Intensive Care Unit, and more recently, in the Obstetrics Unit.

A second area of concern is the recent turnover of key managers within various departments of the hospital and the difficulties being experienced in recruiting new middle managers. The turnover in key management positions* compounds the recruitment difficulties in the clinical program areas.

Underlying this situation is a perception that there is a growing problem with morale at Stanton. Over the past two years there have been many references by nurses, physicians, and other health care professions to low morale at Stanton and the potential negative impact on quality of services.

Finally, the ongoing issue with how the hospital manages the Human Resource function within the guidelines of the Delegated Authority is an area of concern. The Minister Responsible for the Public Service has delegated the authority for hiring of staff, and for administration of Pay and Benefits, to the Authority. On several occasions over the past two years significant concerns with human resource management have been addressed in writing by both the Financial Management Board Secretariat and the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

This combination of factors could negatively affect the key responsibility that the Stanton Territorial Health Authority has in providing health care services for the people of the Northwest Territories unless these concerns are fully analyzed and addressed. There is a need to review management practices to ensure measures are in place to improve recruitment and retention of health care professionals, and that through improved stability the reputation of Stanton Territorial Health Authority, as a high quality health care facility, is maintained.

August 29, 2002

Page 1 of 4

* There is 1 Director and 4 Program Managers positions currently vacant including Director of Patient Care Services

The Minister of Health and Social Services has directed that an Operational Review of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority be undertaken. This will be in the context of the items noted above.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW PARAMETERS

The Minister of Health and Social Services is committed to ensuring a high quality of health care continues at Stanton and that the high level of turnover and morale issues are effectively addressed. The Minister has directed the Department and the Board of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority to address these matters through an operational review as follows:

1. Assess strengths and weaknesses in the overall management of Stanton Territorial Health Authority and make recommendations for any improvement, particularly in light of the current operating environment of health care worker shortages and ward closures.
2. Assess strengths and weaknesses in the current Human Resource management practices and make recommendations for remediating deficiencies, if any.
3. Over the past two years Stanton hospital has experienced a great deal of difficulty in recruiting and retaining health care professionals. The review will identify what are internal vs systemic (system-wide) factors contributing to staff turnover at Stanton and make recommendations to address these – with a particular focus on the internal factors. A review of this area will include a report on the exit interviews of staff that have already left the organization. Further follow up of staff that have left will be completed to ensure complete information in this area. As well, existing staff will be interviewed on a confidential basis to gather information on the current circumstances related to retention.
4. Investigate and assess the current state of morale at Stanton and if necessary recommend appropriate actions to address morale issues.
5. Delegated Authority – the hospital has specific authority delegated to it for hiring and administration of pay and benefits. It is recommended that a full review of the management of this delegation of authority be undertaken. A particular emphasis will be placed on measuring compliance in the areas highlighted in previous correspondence.

The Project Steering Committee will provide the Minister with detailed and general observations in each of these areas. A full report, including recommendations for improvement, will be provided to the Minister by October 15, 2002. The Minister will in turn brief the Board of Trustees of Stanton Territorial Hospital on the findings of this review.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the Terms of Reference for the Review 	Sept 1 /02	Minister of Health and Social Services in consultation with the Board of Trustees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a budget for the Review 	Sept 1/02	Assistant Deputy Minister H&SS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint the Project Steering Committee for the review process 	Sept 6/02	Minister
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract the services of a review contractor 	Sept 6/02	Project Steering Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Steering Committee meets with contractor to initiate the Review Project 	Sept 15/02	Project Steering Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft report to the Project Steering Committee 	Oct 7/02	Contractor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report tabled with Minister 	Oct 15/02	Project Steering Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister meets with Board of Trustees to communicate the findings of the Report • Board/Minister agrees on a joint plan of action and follow-up as required 	Oct 25/02	Minister Minister/Board of Trustees

* There is 1 Director and 4 Program Managers positions currently vacant including Director of Patient Care Services

STEERING COMMITTEE

For the purpose of this project, the Project Steering Committee will consist of:

- Deputy Minister, Chair of Project Steering Committee
- 2 Members of Stanton Board of Trustees of which one is the Board Chair
- Secretary to the Financial Management Board

The Committee will be responsible for providing overall direction to the contractor and ensuring that the Minister's Terms of Reference and schedule are met. The Committee will also deliver the final report to the Minister, Health and Social Services.

The Corporate Services section of the Department of Health and Social Services will provide project support to the Committee to facilitate meetings and other resources required to support this work.

PROJECT CONTRACTOR

This review will be undertaken by an outside independent contractor with extensive knowledge of hospital administration.



02-094

Minister Urges Coordinated Approach to Federal Program Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (September 10) Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says a National Aboriginal Round Table discussion on skills and learning, will provide an excellent opportunity for affected stakeholders to identify how they can work together to address Aboriginal skills and learning shortages throughout Canada.

The National Aboriginal Round Table, spearheaded by federal Minister of Human Resources Development Jane Stewart, will meet tomorrow in Yellowknife.

Mr. Ootes says he would like to identify a more co-ordinated method for distributing federal resources allocated for Aboriginal skill development and learning programs.

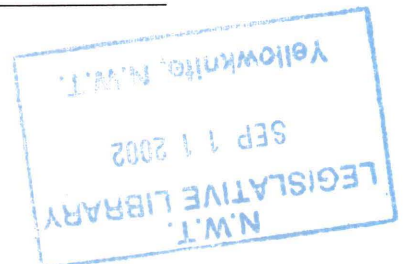
“Funding allocations come from a variety of sources – each with differing stakeholders conditions and target outcomes, Mr. Ootes said. “It challenges our ability to make the most of ever dollar that is provided.”

The Minister says the idea of a territorial training committee, currently under development with representation from industry, federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments, is one example of how funding can be pooled and actions co-ordinated to ensure maximum benefit for all ages of the NWT’s population.

“We’re at the same table,” the minister said, “all we need is a committed and collaborative step forward.”

For more information, contact:

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Communications
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Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-095

2002 NWT Arts Council Award Winners

YELLOWKNIFE (September 12) -- The NWT Arts Council has recommended 34 artistic projects and recipients for awards this year. In total \$140,000 will be distributed to Northwest Territories musicians, painters, carvers, photographers, playwrights, writers and artisans.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says the project funding will allow artists and organizations to share their talents and vision with all residents of the NWT.

“The recipients of these awards represent the creative ambassadors of our culture,” he said. “NWT Arts Council contributions enable us to show our support for their endeavours.”

Funding will be provided to a variety of groups, individuals, and arts organizations. It will fund diverse projects ranging from a multimedia CD/DVD highlighting the music and images of Kole Crook’s life, to workshops for Scottish country dancing, quilting and film techniques for shooting and editing, to a screenplay about a young girl trying to assist her sister’s spirit find her way to peace after committing suicide.

For more information Contact: **Boris Atamanenko**
Manager, Community Programs
Education, Culture and Employment
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BACKGROUNDER 02-095

2002 NWT Arts Council Award Winners
YELLOWKNIFE (September 12)

The successful 2002 NWT Arts Council Award winners are as follows:

1. **Ayla Gully** **Inuvik**
Painting – Create 3-D abstract paintings using watercolours, beads, feathers, leather, etc. The artist is 10 years old and currently has a three-month public exhibition at the Inuvik Centennial Library.
2. **Walter Harry** **Yellowknife**
Carving & Drawing – Create 24 carvings and 50 drawings. The carvings will be from soapstone, bone, antler, wood and metal.
3. **Leslie-Anne Jones** **Fort Smith**
Photography – Create a visual dialogue within the internal framework of a family using her grandmother, Dora Jones, and herself as subjects. She will detail the influence of a family's matriarch by identifying and recording the woman's quiet love and support, and subsequent structures of the heart.
4. **Tracy Kovalench** **Fort Simpson**
Photography with Audio Recordings – This project is a multi-sensory reflection on life in the Deh Cho. The artist will create 24 colour images of Deh Cho residents, which will be plaque mounted for exhibition. Audio recordings will accompany the exhibit.
5. **Madeline Sheridan** **Yellowknife**
Needlework – Design images, create new patterns with detailed instructions and conduct a workshop in needlework techniques using the new pattern.
6. **John Rombough** **Lutsel k'e**
Painting – Bring back old legends of the Dene culture by creating images that illustrate the stories. The artist will choose six legends and paint three illustrations to go with each one.
7. **Jane Storey** **Hay River**
Painting – Capture the landscape scenes in the Hay River area using acrylics and oils on canvas. The artist plans to complete 15 - 20 paintings.
8. **Kirsten Carthew** **Yellowknife**
Screenplay – Research and write the initial outline and treatment of a screenplay based in the NWT. Entitled "The Hanging World", the story centers on a young woman named Holly who returns from university to her home community to find her younger sister has committed suicide.
9. **Edward Collinson** **Hay River**
Poetry – Pursue publication of 130 poems which have already been hand written.
10. **Bren Kolson** **Yellowknife**
Book – Complete the final draft of a four-genre book on the barrenlands of the NWT. The story is based on the true-life experiences of three people living on the barrenlands 27 years ago.
11. **Joe Mercredi** **Enterprise**
Book – Prepare a manuscript for publication. The author is seeking funds to pay for services for proofreading, editing and photo selection for a book about life in a residential school.

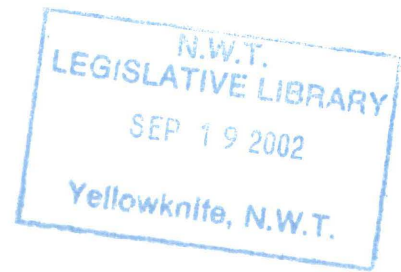
- 12. Yvonne Quick Yellowknife**
Book – Research and write a book on the history of aviation in the north from the 1960s to the present.
- 13. Greg Nasogaluak Yellowknife**
Recording – Record a demo of 8 songs – 6 instrumental and 2 with vocals. The artist wants to create songs that make the listener see images of his culture.
- 14. Nadine Neemeh Wekweti**
Recording – Record a demo of 5 - 10 folk and pop rock songs. She feels the demo would allow her to get a good sense of the industry and provide valuable insight into how she really feels about committing herself to writing, recording and performing her music.
- 15. Randy Randle Hay River**
Recording – Record a radio quality CD of 12 original county songs. The artist has written all the songs and will also provide lead vocals and guitar.
- 16. Aaron Von Hagen/ No Label Yellowknife**
Recording – The band “No Label”, represented by Aaron Von Hagen, would like to produce a demo so as many people as possible will have a chance to listen to their music and that they may provide inspiration to other young musicians.
- 17. France Benoit Yellowknife**
French Film Documentary – Write a script and produce a 50-minute film based on a true-life experience of the artist. Entitled “Alicia’s Story”, the film will centre around a “memory box” which belonged to a family living in pre-Castro Cuba.
- 18. Videolinks Club/St. Patrick High School Yellowknife**
Film Festival – Purchase materials (tapes and disks), and cover costs to build and maintain a website. The student’s sole motive is to create something artistic in which they find merit and value.
- 19. Western Arctic Moving Pictures Yellowknife (WAMP)**
Film Making – Conduct workshops on camera shooting in 12 NWT communities, as well as a non-linear editing workshop in Yellowknife. Twelve super 8 film cameras will then be sent out to the 12 communities so interested persons can film the people, land culture in their area.
- 20. Artists of the South Slave Society Fort Smith**
Aurora Arts School – Conduct 18 workshops as part of the Aurora Arts School summer workshop series. The group seeks to incorporate traditional arts and crafts skills with contemporary multi-media and new media design.
- 21. Folk on the Rocks Yellowknife**
Music & Stage Performance – Conduct 5 workshops for musicians and performers during the annual Folk on the Rocks Music Festival in Yellowknife.
- 22. Great Northern Arts Festival Inuvik**
Arts & Crafts – Conduct 17 arts and crafts workshops during the annual Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik. The festival strives to provide every attending artist the opportunity to receive free professional development workshops, delivered by recognized artists.
- 23. Lutsel k’e Dene Band Lutsel k’e**
Sign Making – Conduct a 5 - 6 day workshop for youth and adults on the techniques and skills of sign making. Participants will jointly complete three signs identifying specific community buildings which will then be mounted on those buildings.

- 24. NWT Highland Dance Association Yellowknife**
Dance – Conduct workshops in medal testing and highland dance instruction.
- 25. Open Sky Creative Society Fort Simpson**
Arts & Crafts – Conduct 9 workshops on a variety of arts and crafts during the annual Open Sky Festival in Fort Simpson.
- 26. Territorial Writers Association Yellowknife**
Writing – Conduct a variety of workshops on writing during the annual Territorial Writers Conference in Yellowknife.
- 27. Yellowknife Photo Club Yellowknife**
Photography – Conduct a 2-day photography workshop with renowned Canadian photographer, Sherman Hines.
- 28. Yellowknife Quilters Yellowknife**
Quilting – Conduct a 2-day quilting workshop to provide an opportunity for aspiring and experienced quilt artists to learn the technique of abstract quilt design with inspirations from nature.
- 29. Yellowknife Scottish Country Dance Yellowknife Club**
Dance – Conduct a 2-day workshop on Scottish country dancing using a certified instructor from western Canada.
- 30. Brian Collins Yellowknife**
Musical Stage Production – Workshop a script and score for an original musical play entitled “The Mad Trapper Musical”.
- 31. Stuck in a Snowbank Theatre Yellowknife**
Stage Production – Professionally produce a new northern script entitled “The Hudson’s Bay Boy”. The play will premiere in Yellowknife and consideration will be given to taking it on tour to northern communities, as well as outside the NWT.
- 32. Diane Boudreau Yellowknife**
Landscape Art – Design 5 insects by laying rocks and core samples from the Yellowknife area on the ground. Last year, the artist created five small insects and would like to continue with five more insects on a larger scale.
- 33. Dana Cross Hay River**
Music – Produce a multi-media CD/DVD containing a memorial/anthology of the music of the late Hay River resident, Kole Crook. The final product will be a mixed mode CD (audio tracks plus multi-media) and/or a DVD.
- 34. Federation Franco TeNOise Yellowknife**
Yellowknife Cultural Crossroads Project – Construct 3 elements of the project and videotape the work. McAvoy Rock in Yellowknife is the site of several artistic projects, collectively known as the Yellowknife Cultural Crossroads Project.

For more information Contact: Boris Atamanenko
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02-096



Canada Not Bound By 25 Year Old Treaty

EDMONTON (September 18) - Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says Treaties, Agreements and Statutes identified to support gas development 25 years ago are no longer applicable to today's discussions surrounding an Alaska gas pipeline.

The Minister has asked federal Minister of Natural Resources, Herb Dhaliwal to confirm the legal status of these 25-year-old agreements.

Minister Dhaliwal has told American lawmakers supporting subsidies for the development of Alaskan natural gas that a pipeline will not pass through Canada without the support of the Government of Canada. In response, however, officials and legislators have suggested that Canadians are already handcuffed by the 1977 Agreements.

"The Alaskan gas project is not the same. The natural gas industry has been transformed and age-old understandings regarding the role of private financing versus public guarantees are being challenged as I speak," Mr. Antoine noted. "Canada did not agree to these conditions 25 years ago. We are certainly not bound by them now."

The United States Congress is currently considering subsidies to favour the development of an Alaskan natural gas pipeline over the more cost-effective Mackenzie Valley proposal.

"We are by no means restrained from responding to an ill-advised measure proposed by the American Congress," Mr. Antoine said.

For more information, contact:

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Resources Wildlife and Economic Development
Tel: (867) 669-1084



02-098



Editorial Shows Opposition to Subsidies is Consistent and Strong Antoine Says

WASHINGTON (September 24) - Minister of Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development Jim Antoine says a recent editorial by the Wall Street Journal is a reflection of the mounting opposition to proposed floor price subsidies for Alaskan natural gas.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Canada, the Bush Administration, ExxonMobil, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Cato Institute and the Sierra Club have all taken public positions against the proposed subsidies.

"We have all consistently raised the same concern," Mr. Antoine said. "A floor price subsidy will only serve to distort markets and will benefit Alaskan gas producers, at the expense of all other natural gas basins in Canada or the US."

While the Government of the Northwest Territories remains strongly opposed to the use of floor price subsidies, it does not object to the use of more traditional government incentives to assist resource development projects. Incentives such as loan guarantees, accelerated depreciation schedules and profit sensitive royalty regimes can allow government to share project risks with developers.

"On the other hand, a guaranteed floor price will remove all market risk for the producer lucky enough to receive it," Mr. Antoine said. "If anything, this will threaten, not enhance, continental energy security."

Forecasts using the proposed subsidy level show that the subsidy, if provided, will total almost US\$ 20 billion.

"We can find no credible forecasts that show a sustained gas price above US\$ 3.25 million BTUs at AECO," the Minister said. "This subsidy will never be repaid."

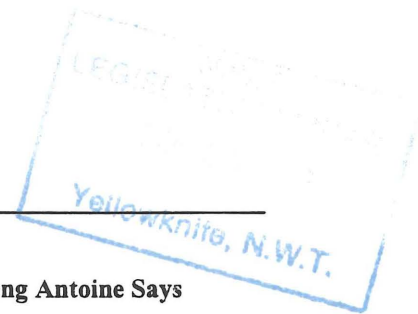
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#02-098 BACKGROUNDER

Editorial Shows Opposition to Subsidies is Consistent and Strong Antoine Says
WASHINGTON (September 24)



In its analysis of the proposed subsidy, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) notes that:

- Floor price subsidies benefit only the recipient. All other basins in North America will be negatively impacted.
- Fully two-thirds of the route for an Alaskan gas pipeline will cross through Canada. The Government of Canada is adamantly opposed to the use of subsidies.
- Given the change in terms for the proposed Alaska Highway project and the proposed subsidies, the GNWT believes that the Transit Treaty¹, the U.S.-Canada Agreement on Principles², the 1977 Northern Pipelines Decision³, the Northern Pipeline Act⁴ are no longer applicable.
- British Petroleum has offered an alternative to the floor price subsidy contained in the U.S. Senate energy bill. It calls for the subsidy to be calculated at the wellhead as opposed to AECO in Alberta.
- The impact of British Petroleum's wellhead subsidy would still provide billions of dollars in subsidies to an uneconomic project. GNWT analysis shows that at current prices, the subsidy would provide British Petroleum and its partners with over \$60 million per month in taxpayer assistance.
- There is neither a time limit nor volume limit on the Alaskan gas that would be allowed to claim this subsidy. The consequence would be an influx of exploration and development dollars into Alaska, reducing expenditures in all other basins.
- British Petroleum claims that their Alaskan subsidy is simply another use of already existing United States tax legislation. This is not correct. Section 29 credits are used in the United States to support the development of technologically difficult gas sources such as tight gas or non-conventional, coal bed methane gas. Alaskan gas is not non-conventional; it is simply farther from market.
- On June 28 in Anchorage, Alaska, Lord John Browne, Chief Executive Officer for British Petroleum, said that the company was not seeking any subsidies. Specifically, he said "So this is not a debate about subsidy. We are not asking for any subsidy. We do not want corporate welfare."

¹ Treaty on Transit Pipelines, Oct. 1, 1977, U.S.-Canada, 28 U.S. T. 7449.

² Agreement Between Canada and the United States of America on Principles Applicable to a Northern Natural Gas Pipeline, Northern Pipeline Act, R.S.C., ch. N-26, schedule I.

³ Reasons for Decision, Northern Pipelines (Nat'l. Energy Bd. 1977).

⁴ Northern Pipeline Act, R.S.C. ch. N-26 (1977)(Can.).

September 19, 2002. The Wall Street Journal Editorial

Alaskan Pipe Dream

There are many excellent reasons for President Bush to veto the energy bill now in House-Senate conference. One of the best is its mandate for a natural-gas pipeline through Alaska, which the conference approved last Thursday. If the bill passes with the Senate's language, taxpayers will be on the hook for up to \$20 billion in subsidies and another \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

There's a lot of gas up there in the frozen North and it makes sense to figure out a way to get it down to the lower 48. But isn't that a job for the private sector? The Bush Administration thinks so, as does the government of Canada, and a private energy consortium is pushing for a shorter and arguably cheaper route through Canada.

However, Congress has a different idea, and the Senate version of the energy bill would do two counterproductive things: First, require that a pipeline go through Alaska or not at all, and second, approve a tax credit to guarantee a floor price for Alaskan gas.

Let's start with some pipeline basics. There are two possible routes for delivering gas from the Arctic to American consumers: the Alaska Highway route and the Mackenzie Valley route through Canada. As the nearby map shows, the problem for those who support the much-longer Alaska route is that two-thirds of it passes through Canada anyway. Similarly, a portion of the Mackenzie Valley route goes under American waters in the Beaufort Sea.

The energy bill provision would pre-empt the market by mandating the building of the Alaska Highway route, and it would forbid the federal government from giving Canadians permission to build under the Beaufort Sea. And therein lies the rub: Canadians are on record as saying that if Congress goes ahead with this route mandate, they might not issue permits for the two-thirds of the pipeline that runs through their territory. Given the cross-border political battles that would ensue, the likely upshot would be that we'd end up with no pipeline at all.

The good news is that Canada's position is more or less the same as the Bush Administration's. Energy Secretary Spence Abraham recently wrote, in a letter to conference chairman Billy Tauzin (R., La.), that the Bush Administration believes "market forces should select the route of the pipeline" and "strongly opposes the price floor tax subsidy provision in the Senate bill and any similar provision because it would distort markets, could cost well over \$1 billion in annual lost revenue, and would likely undermine Canada's support for the construction of the pipeline and thus set back broader bilateral energy integration." Other than that, how was the play, Mrs. Lincoln?

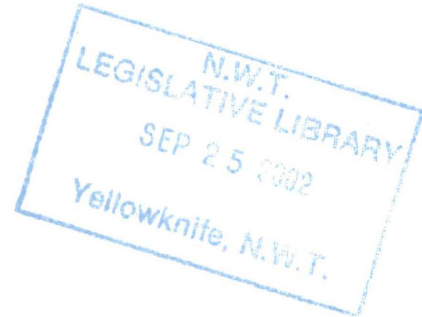
So why is Congress even considering an Alaskan pipeline? Meet Frank Murkowski, a GOP Senator from Alaska who is now running for Governor. Having all but lost the fight for drilling in ANWR, Mr. Murkowski is out to bring Alaska home a pipeline as a consolation prize — even if that means sticking it to taxpayers. The politics gets worse. In exchange for his own support for the Alaska pipeline, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle gets Senator Murkowski's support for one of the South Dakota Democrat's pet causes, ethanol subsidies. Moreover, this horse trade gives the Democrats something that, at least superficially, looks like a pro-development energy policy.

Senator Daschle and Alaska Governor Tony Knowles also figure that a pro-Alaska pipeline position helps the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer. And even if she loses, the thinking is that support for an Alaskan pipeline will help whichever Democratic candidate (probably Governor Knowles) runs for Mr. Murkowski's Senate seat. Governor Knowles is at least acknowledging some reality: He's just written an op-ed for Canada's National Post calling for both pipelines. So there we have the ultimate conclusion of America's energy politics: If you can't settle on just one pipeline that wouldn't make it without government support, push for two.

Let's hope this political scam dies in conference along with the rest of the energy bill, or that Mr. Bush will put us out of its misery with a veto.



02-099



Hardy now NWTPC Vice Chairperson

YELLOWKNIFE (September 24) – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NWTPC) Joe Handley today announced the appointment of Rod Hardy as Vice-Chairperson of the NWTPC Board of Directors.

Mr. Hardy, a retired businessman from Tulita, currently serves as a Director on the NWTPC Board of Directors. He has been involved in community politics for several years and also serves on the NWT Metis-Dene Development Fund Board.

Mr. Hardy has served as a negotiator for the Metis Land Claims, Vice-President of the Metis Nation, and until recently, Director and Chairperson to the Northern Route Gas and Pipeline Corporation. He formerly served on the NWTPC's Board of Directors from 1988 to 1998. Mr. Hardy's term will expire May 31, 2004.

The Minister says he's pleased that Mr. Hardy has agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chairman of the Board for the Crown Corporation. "His years of experience and ability will be beneficial to the future endeavours of this organization," Mr. Handley said.

Mr. Hardy replaces Kelly Kaylo of Yellowknife who resigned as a Director and Vice-Chairperson of the Board in July.

For further information, contact:

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Executive Assistant to
Hon. Joe Handley
Tel: (867) 669-2309



02-100

Stanton Operational Review Commences

YELLOWKNIFE (September 25) -- Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today announced that the operational review of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority is underway.

An independent team of evaluators from Edmonton-based Western Management Consultants will conduct the review. The seven-member independent team has extensive expertise in operational and human resource planning and evaluation, particularly in the health sector and hospital administration.

The consulting firm was awarded the contract following an invitational tender that included submissions by three firms.

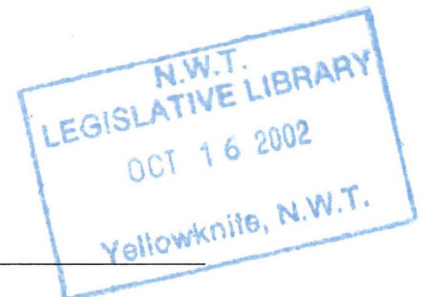
“We recognize the public’s concerns in regards to the staffing shortage at Stanton, and the need to identify short term actions to resolve the immediate situation,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “While our first priority is to ensure all hospital units are fully staffed, our actions cannot be limited to recruiting activities. We must work to keep the professionals we hire and this review will help Stanton do this.”

The review will complement recruiting activities already underway by Stanton and H&SS Department staff. The final report will recommend specific management and staffing actions to increase recruitment and retention of staff. The team will report on progress and provide a final report to the Minister by the end of October.

Information about the operational review will be posted on the Department of Health and Social Services website (www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) this week.

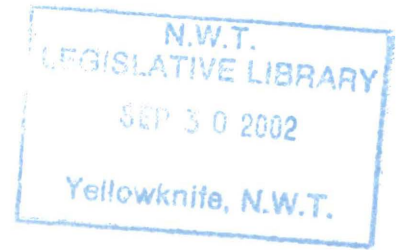
For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





02-101



Premiers Launch Public Awareness Campaign for Health Care Funding

CALGARY (September 27) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he hopes a national advertising campaign launched by Canada's Premiers will increase Canadians' awareness to health care challenges brought about by the reduction of federal funding.

The national campaign, sponsored by the Premiers' Council on Canadian Health Awareness, was launched this morning in Halifax.

"It's an unprecedented step," the NWT Premier said, "but it is critical that Canadians understand: the federal government is not paying its fair share of health care costs."

Federal contributions to health care have declined dramatically over the years from 50 percent in the 1960's to only 14 percent today. Canada's Premiers are calling for a new funding partnership with the federal government that will restore federal health funding to at least 18 percent.

"The lack of federal funding is impacting Canadians across the country - including residents of the NWT." Mr. Kakfwi said. "By working to correct this imbalance in funding responsibilities, we hope to increase our own capacity to address the health care challenges we are facing."

For more information on the campaign, please visit the council's Web site at www.premiersforhealth.ca.

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304



BACKGROUNDER 02-101

Premiers Launch Public Awareness Campaign for Health Care Funding
CALGARY (September 27)

The Premiers' Council on Canadian Health Awareness was created in January 2002 to improve Canadians' access to health information and enhance their awareness of current challenges and solutions in health care.

The Council is comprised of the Premiers of the 13 provinces and territories. Its mandate is to gather and disseminate information to Canadians on issues such as health care funding, health services innovation and best practices, human resource planning and management, and drug effectiveness and assessment.

The Premiers are committed to public accountability in health care, and this new Council is accountable to all citizens.

The Premiers' Council is also committed to communicating with Canadians to ensure they have the information they need to be engaged in this critical issue.

The Premiers' Council has developed a centralized Web site at www.premiersforhealth.ca to improve Canadians' access to information and to enhance their awareness of health care issues.

This Web site will include information from all provinces and territories on the initiatives they are taking to ensure the health care needs of citizens are met, now and in the future.

The Council is supported by a small secretariat consisting of an Executive Director and two other staffers, based in Ottawa, to plan, coordinate and implement the Council's work.

On September 27, the Council launched a national awareness campaign to help Canadians understand the facts about the growing pressures in health care and the need for increased federal government funding.

Canadians rank health care at the top of the list of priorities they expect their leaders to address. All Premiers are working together and doing their share to ensure the sustainability of health care. They are asking the federal government to step up and do its fair share.

The Premiers believe a partnership between the federal and provincial/territorial governments is essential so that the responsibility for funding can be shared more equitably and improvements can be made to enhance the quality of care for all Canadians.

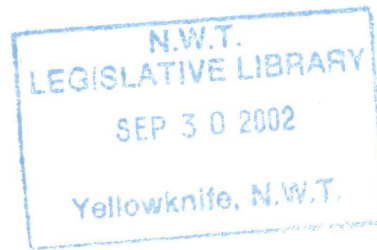
For more information, contact:

Robert Batherson
Premier's Media Office
Tel: (902) 424-6601

Loretta O'Connor
Premiers' Council on Canadian Health Awareness
Tel: (613) 563-4066



02-102



Premier Says Support For Resource Development is Threatened

CALGARY (September 27) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the lack of any real federal response to NWT infrastructure needs is threatening Aboriginal support for a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and the GNWT's capacity to prepare for development.

"We have invested as much as we can without upsetting the perilous balance of our economic and social fabric," the Premier told senior oil and gas representatives at a Calgary luncheon today.

Aboriginal support for a gas pipeline was identified almost three years ago on the understanding that significant federal investment would realize development and accrue benefits to the people of the NWT; and real and timely negotiations would begin on northern control and ownership of northern resources.

While the possibility of a natural gas pipeline has spawned development activity in the oil and gas sector, Premier Kakfwi says the Government of the Northwest Territories is yet to realize any significant investment from the Canadian government.

"In the absence of any benefits, and without an agreement on devolution and resource sharing, major resource development is of little value to the Government of the Northwest Territories," Mr. Kakfwi said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
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Tel: (867) 669-2304



02-103

NWT Participates in Canada-Wide Reporting on Health Indicators

YELLOWKNIFE (September 30) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger says a new reporting framework initiated by provincial and territorial Health Ministers will provide a consistent basis for jurisdictions to compare, improve and reform their health care systems. The 2002 *Report to Residents of the NWT on Comparable Health and Health System Indicators* was made available today.

For the first time ever, provincial and territorial health Ministers are reporting to their citizens concurrently on a set of comparable health indicators. The reports provide Canadians with reliable information about the health of the population and the performance of Canada's health system.

"Our participation in this cross-Canada initiative will provide NWT residents, health care professionals, policy makers and the GNWT with an effective and consistent comparison on which to base our discussions and decisions," Mr Miltenberger said.

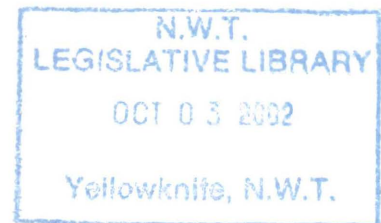
The technical information presented by the report contributes to the NWT baseline of information previously presented in the *1999 Health Status Report* and *2000 Health Services Report*. The Department of Health and Social Services will continue to work in partnership with other jurisdictions to improve and prepare similar reports every two years.

Today's release honours a September 2000 commitment made by Canada's Premiers to provide regular reporting on a set of common indicators for health status, health outcomes and quality of service.

All regional reports were reviewed by an independent auditor to ensure compliance with pre-set reporting requirements and the accuracy of the information.

The *2002 Report to Residents of the NWT* is available on the Department's public website (www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) under the *What's New* section.

For more information, contact: **Laura Seddon**
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





02-104

Department of Transportation Pleased with Brake Safety Roadside Inspections

YELLOWKNIFE (October 3) –Special roadside brake inspections, conducted in September by the Department of Transportation, show a high level of compliance among the vehicles checked.

Thirty-one commercial vehicles, inspected during the 12-hour event at Enterprise and Inuvik weigh scales, identified only three defective brakes out of 336 checked. All three were on the same truck, which was placed out of service until the brakes were repaired.

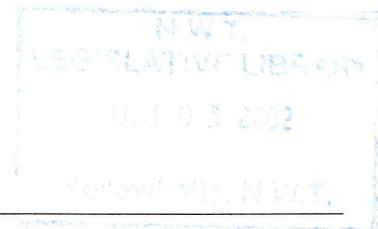
The vehicle inspections were completed as part of *Operation Air Brake*, a national brake safety campaign that originated in Canada in 1998, and is sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and Transport Canada.

“*Operation Air Brake* is showing the desired results,” Minister of Transportation Joseph Handley said. “Although they are still the most frequent equipment violations on commercial vehicles, brake-related defects and out-of-service conditions are on the decline.”

Operation Air Brake is just one of many campaigns and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Transportation to ensure NWT highways are safe for all users.

For more information, contact:

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Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712





02-105

NWTPC Instructed to Withdraw One Rate

YELLOWKNIFE (October 9) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the NWT Power Corporation has been asked to defer any further consultation and to cease its work on a proposed single rate zone for power costs until a proposed energy strategy for the Northwest Territories is complete.

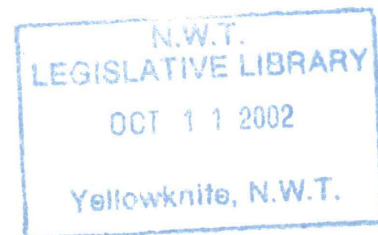
The Premier says the decision was made by Members of the Executive Council in August to allow for full and complete consideration of a proposed energy strategy by all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

“MLAs have expressed their concerns that such a specific initiative is currently being considered,” the Premier said. “They want to ensure that due process is maintained and respected in the consideration and discussion of our proposed energy strategy.”

The Premier met with the Minister Responsible for the NWT Power Corporation Joe Handley yesterday and asked him to convey Cabinet’s decision to the Chairperson of the NWTPC Board of Directors.

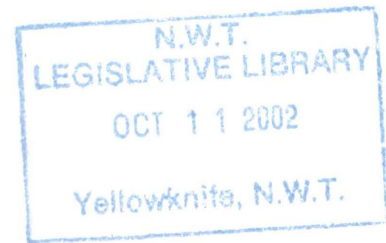
For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-106



Fire Service Merit Award Winners Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (October 10) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Vince Steen, today announced the recipients of the first annual NWT Fire Service Merit Awards.

The Awards program includes three separate categories: individual merit awards, individual length-of-service awards and community fire department awards.

“Fire fighters play an essential role in protecting the safety of NWT residents and communities,” the Minister said. “They should be recognized and thanked for their exceptional contributions.”

Regional individual merit awards were presented to fire fighters who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in fire service. This may be an innovative idea, a high degree of personal dedication, or a demonstrated effort to train.

Recipients of the *regional* individual merit awards for 2002 are: Russell Andre from Tsiigehtchic (Inuvik Region); Kelvin McLeod from Ft. Providence (Deh Cho Region); Blair Dewar from Yellowknife (North Slave Region); and William Reimer from Fort Smith (South Slave Region).

A *territorial* individual merit award winner was selected from the regional winners. This year, it was presented to William Reimer in recognition of his outstanding commitment to fire training in his community and region.

Today’s announcement of Fire Service Awards coincides with annual National Fire Prevention Week October 6-12, 2002. Community fire department awards will be announced later in the year following an assessment process while length-of-service awards will be presented at individual community events.

“In addition to their important role of fire protection, volunteer fire fighters, in particular, provide a significant public service and give of their own time to make the NWT a safer place to live,” Mr. Steen said.

For more information, contact: **Flora Evans, Policy**
Communications Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092



BACKGROUNDER (02-106)

Fire Service Merit Award Winners Honoured
YELLOWKNIFE (October 10)

The South Slave Regional Winner

William Reimer is an active member of the Fort Smith Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to his role as Safety Officer for the department, Bill plays an active role in training members of his fire department and departments across the NWT. Bill has selflessly given up weeks of his personal time to develop his own professional fire fighting skills and pass those skills on to others. Bill has achieved professional fire fighter designation as well as certified fire service instructor designation. His commitment to his department and other members of the fire service across the NWT sets a fine example of service for his community and the NWT.

The Inuvik Regional Winner

Russell Andre is the Fire Chief of the Tsiigehtchic Fire Department where he currently supervises a force of six fire fighters. He was appointed as Chief last year and since that time Russell has motivated the community members and has rallied support throughout the community for the Fire Department. Chief Andre has the full support of his fire fighting team and promotes active involvement of fire fighters in all major decisions affecting the Fire Department. Chief Andre shares and promotes the department's vision of being the very best volunteer fire department and is dedicated to working towards that end.

The Deh Cho Regional Winner

Kelvin McLeod has rebuilt the Fire Department of Fort Providence. One year ago the department consisted of only two dedicated individuals. However, since Kelvin took over as Fire Chief in the fall of 2001, the Fire Department has grown to a force of 11 people. Kelvin has personally recruited and trained many of these individuals on his own time in order to pass along his knowledge of fire fighting. Kelvin is a dedicated individual who has demonstrated that he never gives up, even when the going is really tough.

The North Slave Regional Winner

Blair "Chuck" Dewar of Yellowknife helped to develop and install the Ingraham Trail Mapping System, which is now used by the GNWT Emergency Measures, Forest Services of the GNWT, the RCMP and the Yellowknife Fire Department. Chuck personally installed addresses on all cabins and residences along the Trail. This new system enables emergency response teams to locate residents on the Trail quickly and easily. Chuck's commitment is ongoing as he continues to formalize and update the mapping system.



BACKGROUNDER (02-106)

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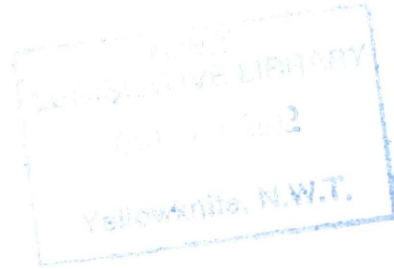
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02-107



Allocation of Seniors Housing in Inuvik Resolved

INUVIK (October 10) -- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Roger Allen says a resolution has been identified for the delivery of six Seniors' Independent Living Homes in Inuvik.

Twelve seniors' housing units were originally allocated for construction in Inuvik: six independent living homes and six units within a six-plex.

Although construction of the six independent living homes is currently near completion on Centennial Road, the Town of Inuvik and the Inuvik Seniors Society could not identify a mutually agreeable location for the six-plex.

Following a meeting with the Inuvik Seniors' Society on Tuesday, Mr. Allen says land will now be identified and the remaining six units delivered as independent living homes with construction commencing in the spring of 2003.

"This solution meets the agreement of all parties," Mr. Allen said. "We can now move forward and provide this much-needed housing for seniors."

These homes are constructed under the Seniors' Housing Initiative. The Seniors' Housing Initiative is a comprehensive five-year plan to provide affordable, suitable and adequate housing to seniors in the Northwest Territories.

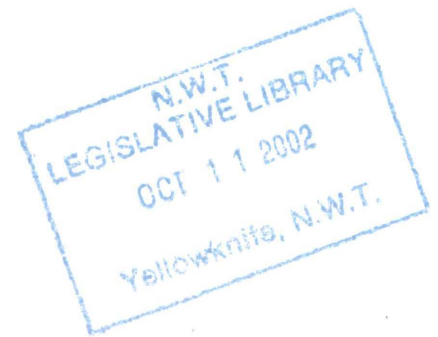
For more information contact:

Franklin Carpenter

District Director, Beaufort Delta District
Northwest Territories' Housing Corporation
Tel: (867) 777-7271

Revi Lau-a

Public Relations and Information Advisor
Northwest Territories' Housing Corporation
Tel: (867) 920-6561



02-108

Provisional Settlement Reached in Horne Litigation Case

IQALUIT (October 11) -- A provisional settlement has been reached between the Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and representatives of victims sexually abused by Ed Horne, a teacher employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, between 1971 and 1985.

Members of the legislative assemblies of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will be asked to ratify the expenditure of approximately \$21.5 million for the settlement.

Legal action in this matter was taken on behalf of 82 plaintiffs and three estates in January 2001. An agreement was reached later that year to employ alternative dispute resolution procedures through the Nunavut Court of Justice to facilitate an expeditious settlement of the litigation.

The NWT and Nunavut governments have already made two advance payments totaling almost \$4.2 million to plaintiffs in January and June of 2002 to fund treatment plans and pay expert expenses related to the healing and recovery of individuals.

Ministers from both Territories say they are relieved that a resolution has been reached without prolonged litigation.

"This is a fair and compassionate conclusion to a difficult case," Nunavut Finance Minister Kelvin Ng said today.

"The focus must now be on healing," NWT Minister of Justice Roger Allen said.

For more information, contact:

Glen Rutland
Policy Advisor, Communications
Department of Justice, GNWT
Tel: (867) 920-3130

Nino Wischnewski
Communications
Government of Nunavut
Tel: (867) 975-6001



02-109

Minister Revokes NTPC Appointments

YELLOWKNIFE (October 15) -- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) Joseph Handley has revoked the appointments of the Directors of the NTPC Board of Directors.

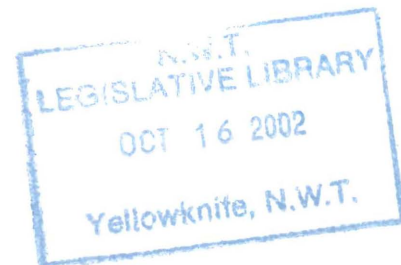
The Minister's action comes in response to the refusal of NTPC Directors to comply with specific direction from the Executive Council issued pursuant to the *Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act* - Section 8(4). Refusal to comply with the direction issued by the Executive Council contravened the *Act* and left the Minister with no choice but to revoke their appointments.

The NTPC Board of Directors was directed by the Executive Council on October 11, 2002 to withdraw its General Rate Zone Phase II application to the NWT Public Utilities Board (PUB) and to submit a new General Rate Application Phase II submission based on the existing PUB-approved rate structure.

As the Act requires that a Board of Directors of not less than six directors be in place, the Minister has appointed an Interim Board comprised of six senior Government officials with the function of the Interim Chairman being assigned to the Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Snider. The appointments of this Interim Board will take effect at 12:00pm Wednesday October 16, 2002 but will only extend for a few weeks while the process of seeking permanent directors from outside the government is undertaken.

For more information contact:

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





02-110

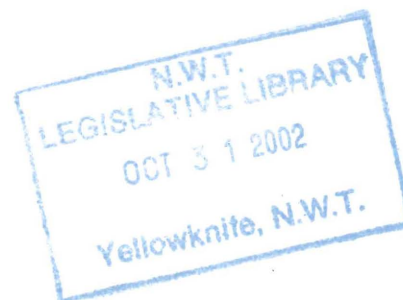
Government will Work with Process Identified by AOC for AG Report

YELLOWKNIFE (October 23) -- Minister Responsible for the Public Service Joe Handley says the Executive Council (Cabinet) will work within the process identified by members of the Standing Committee of Accountability and Oversight to ensure full and complete consideration of the Auditor General's Report by the Legislative Assembly.

The Government of the Northwest Territories takes issue with a number of the major findings in the report and is prepared to provide a more detailed response to Members of the Legislative Assembly once a process has been identified.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-111

Human Rights Act is Leading Edge Legislation in Canada

YELLOWKNIFE (October 29) -- Minister of Justice Roger Allen says proposed NWT Human Rights Legislation is on the cutting edge of human rights legislation in Canada.

Members of the Legislative Assembly began their final review of the proposed legislation in the Legislative Assembly today.

"With this Act, we are looking to the future," Mr. Allen said.

Once passed, the proposed legislation will replace the NWT's existing *Fair Practices Act*. It represents almost three years of consultation and development, both by the Department of Justice, and the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Social Programs.

"This *Act* challenges all of us to examine the way we deal with other people and to ensure that we treat people with dignity and respect," the Minister noted.

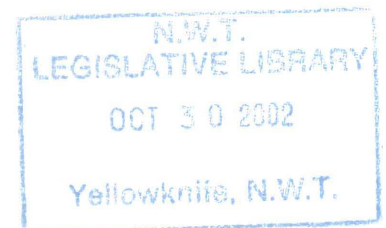
Northwest Territories legislation will be among the first in Canada to include protection against discrimination based on social condition. It will also protect NWT residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The *Act* introduces a Human Rights Commission for the NWT to work with people and communities on human rights promotion and education.

"*The Human Rights Act* will be an important piece of legislation for the Northwest Territories," the Minister said. "It signifies our recognition of the importance of tolerance, dignity and respect – and a commitment to uphold these principles."

For more information, contact:

Glen Rutland
Policy Advisor, Communications
Department of Justice
Tel: (867) 920-3130





02-112

“Doing Our Part” the GNWT Responds to the NWT Social Agenda

YELLOWKNIFE (October 30) – The Government of the Northwest Territories today tabled its response to recommendations made by the Social Agenda Working Group in June 2002.

The response, entitled *Doing our Part: The GNWT's response to the Social Agenda*, identifies the government's commitment to consider system-wide changes for the delivery of social programs and to seek out better working relationships with the NWT's community leaders, social agencies and organizations.

“These are concrete actions that we will take to contribute to positive social change for all residents of the Northwest Territories,” Premier Stephen Kakfwi said.

The response also includes \$1.4 million in new funding to increase community capacity, fund community-based demonstration projects, hire northern graduates and improve work space for NWT women's groups. It further provides a commitment to multi-year funding for eligible community based non-government organizations and social agencies.

Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger leads the GNWT's implementation of the Social Agenda.

“This additional funding, within a climate of constraint, emphasizes our commitment to improving social conditions in the NWT,” he said. “More importantly, it represents our willingness to do things differently.”

Copies of the GNWT's response can be requested from the Department of Health and Social Services or found online at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/Features/Initiatives/initiatives.htm>

For more information, contact:

Bronwyn Watters

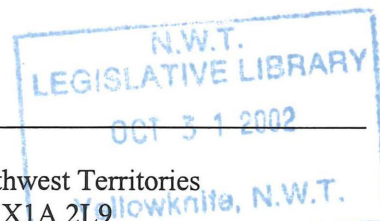
Director – Policy, Legislation and Communications
Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 873-7155

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02-113

Premier Announces Jubilee Medal Recipients

YELLOWKNIFE (October 31) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi today announced the names of 149 NWT residents nominated, by the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT Commissioner Glenna F. Hansen to receive medals commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada.

These individuals are being honoured for their contributions and achievements in a variety of areas including literacy, the arts, athletics, community leadership, public service and volunteerism.

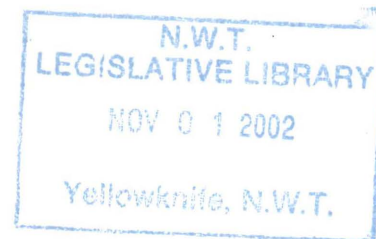
The Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II was announced earlier this year by Canada's Governor General. It is being awarded to Canadians who have distinguished themselves through their achievements or who have made an outstanding contribution to their fellow citizens, their communities or to Canada.

Nominations have been provided across Canada by a variety of partner organizations including federal, provincial and territorial governments; national professional, educational and cultural organizations; the military and the RCMP; veterans' groups; sports associations and charitable organizations.

In addition to those individuals nominated by the NWT Commissioner or GNWT, a number of partner organizations have also nominated NWT residents for medal recognition.

For more information on the Queen's Jubilee Commemorative Medal visit:
http://www.gg.ca/honours/golden-jubilee_e.asp

For more information, contact: **Carmen Moore**
Protocol Officer
Executive
Tel: (867) 873-7167





02-114

Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Collisions Reduced

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6) -- The Department of Transportation's 2001 Traffic Accident Facts report indicates that the number of motor vehicle collisions in the Northwest Territories involving alcohol has been cut by almost 50 percent since 1992.

Statistics compiled by the department and contained in the recently published report show the number of collisions in which alcohol was a known factor dropped from 91 in 1992 to 48 last year. Over that same period, the number of people injured or killed in collisions where alcohol was involved also declined - from 62 in 1992 to 36 last year.

Minister of Transportation Joseph Handley says increased emphasis on education, awareness and enforcement have contributed to the positive trend.

"It's encouraging," the Minister said.

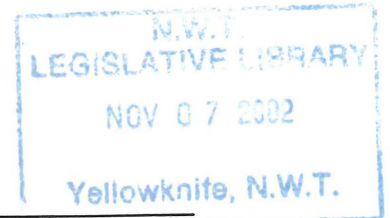
Overall, alcohol was a known factor in seven per cent of all collisions in 2001 and contributed to 17 per cent of all traffic injuries. Five per cent of all drivers involved in collisions had been drinking or were impaired by alcohol. For those drivers, 65 per cent were between the ages of 25 and 34.

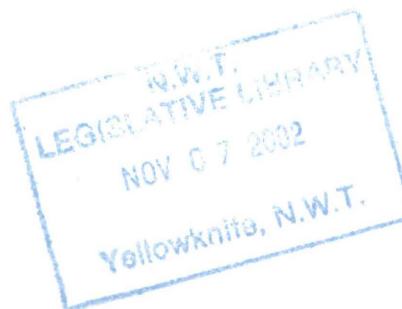
"Drinking-and-driving continues to be a major social issue," the Minister said. "A strong commitment and sustained effort is still needed to change attitudes and behaviours that contribute to this problem."

The complete 2001 Traffic Accidents Facts document is available in the Publications section of the Department of Transportation website at www.gov.nt.ca/transportation.

For more information, contact:

Bob Kelly
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712





Kakfwi Thanks Business Coalition for Infrastructure Support

OTTAWA (November 7, 2002) -- NWT Premier Kakfwi expressed his support today for the NWT Business Coalition's recent Ottawa lobby for federal infrastructure investments in the Northwest Territories.

"I was particularly impressed with the Coalition's Resources reception and show which portrayed both the need for infrastructure investment and the returns which the NWT and all of Canada will receive from gas field, pipeline and diamond mine development" said Kakfwi

The Coalition's reception and show attracted federal Ministers, senior bureaucrats and departmental officials with a northern development responsibility. NWT MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Senator Nick Sibbeston also attended the Wednesday evening function at Ottawa's Chateau Laurier hotel.

The GNWT was represented by Premier Kakfwi, Finance Minister Joe Handley and MLAs David Krutko and Jane Groenewegen.

While federal infrastructure Minister Allan Rock revealed in a meeting with Finance Minister Handley that there is no additional funding for the GNWT's Corridors for Canada proposal in Ottawa's Strategic Infrastructure Fund, he commended the NWT for the quality of the proposal.

"It appears it will take longer than I would have wished to secure additional investment, but I am encouraged that Minister Rock has agreed to work with the GNWT in considering our infrastructure needs in the federal planning of a ten year infrastructure program which was announced in the recent Throne Speech" said Minister Handley.

Premier Kakfwi was encouraged by expressions of support from DIAND Minister Bob Nault, in his remarks at the Coalition's Wednesday evening resources show.

"We have made a strong impression in Ottawa about the national importance of strategic infrastructure investments in the Northwest Territories. We need to remain determined. We need to keep working to find additional sources of infrastructure funding." Kakfwi remarked.

“The NWT Business Coalition has done a remarkable job, largely using their own time and resources, to keep the NWT’s infrastructure objectives on the national agenda” he said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams

Communications, Office of the Premier

Tel: (867) 669-1720



02-116

Minister Receives Final Report on the Stanton Operational Review

YELLOWKNIFE (November 7, 2002) – Today, the Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, received the final report on the Operational Review of Stanton Territorial Health Authority from independent consultants brought in for this project.

“The consultants have done their work. Now it is time for us to carefully analyze the recommendations and then to act on these findings,” stated Minister Miltenberger.

The final report identifies 37 recommendations in three main areas – overall management, human resources management and compliance to legislation, policies and other key documents that set direction for the Authority.

The Stanton Board of Trustees has received the report and is reviewing the recommendations. The Board will be working with the Minister and Department of Health and Social Services to prepare a plan to address the consultant’s recommendations. This implementation plan will be released with the final report by November 19th, following briefings with Stanton staff and key stakeholders.

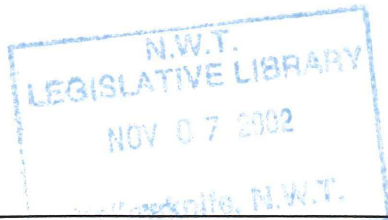
“I recognize the need to work closely with the Stanton Board so that the recommendations are acted upon,” stated the Minister. “I also want to recognize the very high level of interest and response from Stanton’s Board and employees. Without their active participation this review would not have been possible.”

The review was conducted by an independent team of evaluators – Western Management Consultants – a consulting firm based out of Edmonton. The consultants completed their review on time, as identified in the project’s terms of reference.

Background information on the operational review is available on the Department of Health and Social Services website (www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
tel: 867-920-8927
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02-117

Minister Releases NWT Recruitment and Retention Plan

YELLOWKNIFE (November 14) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today released the *Retention and Recruitment Plan for NWT Allied Health Professionals, Nurses and Social Workers*.

The Minister says the plan, developed through consultation with a broad range of individuals and stakeholders, builds on current initiatives to develop a northern workforce, retain current staff and successfully recruit in the professions experiencing shortages.

The new Retention and Recruitment Plan features initiatives to enhance the current Employee Development Program, bursaries to attract and retain current NWT nursing and social work students and the implementation of a mentorship program for social workers.

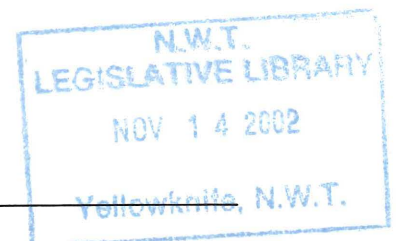
The plan also includes an assessment and review of staffing models and classifications in relation to other positions within the GNWT's public service and a commitment to work with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment on longer-term aspects of the program.

These initiatives will work to recognize the valued contributions of health and social services professionals in the NWT and bring stability to our workforce," Mr. Miltenberger said. "Staff are already implementing this plan to ensure that workers, and the health and social services system as a whole, reap the benefits as soon as possible."

The Recruitment and Retention Plan is posted on the Department's website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca (see Publications or What's New sections). Copies can also be obtained from the Communications Unit.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927



02-118

MOI Signed for Construction of Deh Cho Bridge

FORT PROVIDENCE (November 15) - The Government of the Northwest Territories and Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance today signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) for the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge at Fort Providence.

The MOI outlines the conditions and steps required for both parties to reach agreement on the design, financing, construction and operation of a bridge across the Mackenzie River. The document also commits the parties to begin formal negotiations towards this goal.

A key requirement of the MOI is that the bridge meets agreed standards at a cost of not more than \$55 million. The Alliance will be required to obtain all necessary environmental permits and arrange equity and debt financing.

Minister of Transportation Joe Handley signed the Memorandum of Intent today on behalf of the GNWT. "We are very pleased that the Deh Cho bridge proposal has advanced to this important point," he said. "While much work remains to be done, this is an important step towards the eventual completion of a bridge."

"We are one giant step closer to making this proposal a reality," Deh Gah Got'ie Chief Sam Gargan said. "We are confident that we can satisfy these conditions. This project is bankable."

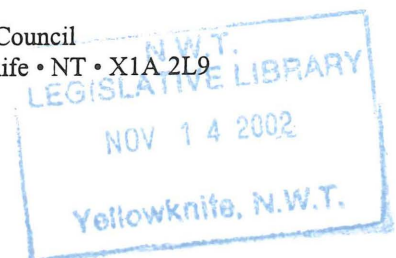
President of Fort Providence Metis Council and member of the Alliance's Bridge Committee Albert J. Lafferty says public consultation is now the most important task facing the Alliance. "There will be a commercial vehicle toll on the bridge," he said. "We need to ensure that people understand the proposal and know that it's a good deal for them."

If a final deal can be reached, construction of the kilometre-long structure could be completed by the summer of 2005. The GNWT will pay the Alliance the proceeds of a bridge toll on commercial trucks and the amount saved by eliminating current ferry and ice bridge operations. This money will pay for bridge maintenance and debt servicing while providing a return on equity to the Alliance. The bridge will be paid for in 35 years and then transferred to the GNWT.

For further information contact:

Michael McLeod or
MLA
Deh Cho
Tel: (867) 669-2285

Bob Kelly
Public Affairs/Communications
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712





02-119

Volunteers Key to Restorative Justice Programs

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) -- Minister of Justice Roger Allen today praised volunteers from across the Northwest Territories who have combined to make the NWT's restorative justice programs one of the most active in Canada.

The Minister's recognition of volunteers comes as federal, provincial and territorial governments across Canada mark Restorative Justice week (November 17-24 2002).

"Without our diverse group of volunteers, we would not have the community justice system we have today," the Minister noted. "Their dedication and hard work is creating safer communities and helping to create a justice system that reflects our cultures and values."

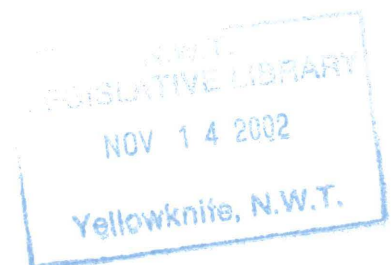
The GNWT's restorative justice program helps communities develop alternative ways of dealing with criminal justice issues. They include referring offenders to community justice committees rather than the courts, arranging for links between communities and offenders in correctional facilities and crime prevention activities with youth.

More than 100 volunteers across the NWT deliver the majority of the GNWT's restorative justice activities through local committees or other community initiatives.

The Minister says the theme for this year's Restorative Justice week "Towards a Justice that Heals" is particularly appropriate for the NWT. "Our restorative justice programs focus on healing everyone affected by the crime – the offender, victim and community," Mr. Allen said.

For more information, contact:

Glen Rutland
Policy Advisor, Communications
Department of Justice
Tel: (867) 920-3130





02-120

Operational Review of Stanton Hospital Released

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) -- Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger says results of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority Operational Review will ensure that Yellowknife's Stanton Hospital continues to provide high quality care for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Miltenberger initiated the review, conducted by Western Management Consultants, in September. It includes a review of the Stanton Hospital's management, human resource services and delegated authority.

The final report contains 37 recommendations, that address a wide range of issues, and includes terms of reference for the implementation of these recommendations.

It is important that we move quickly to ensure that these recommendations are implemented in a timely manner and that progress is reported regularly," Mr. Miltenberger said.

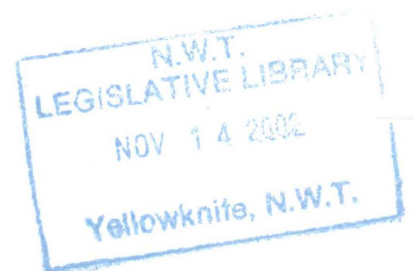
The Stanton Territorial Health Board will play a key leadership role in the follow up of this report. Broader recommendations will also require a direct role by Stanton administration and staff, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

"We are fortunate to have a hospital of the calibre of Stanton," the Minister said. "This review has identified the steps we must take to preserve and maintain this facility.

Copies of the report and terms of reference for the implementation of its recommendations are now available on the H&SS Department's public website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca (see Publications-Reports).

For more information, contact:

Dave Murray
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-6173





02-121

Antoine Pleased Energy Bill Dies in US Congress

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine is applauding the decision by the United States Congress to drop its draft energy bill.

“The draft bill was deeply flawed by the provision of a floor price subsidy for Alaskan North Slope gas,” Mr. Antoine said. “It deserved to be dropped from consideration.”

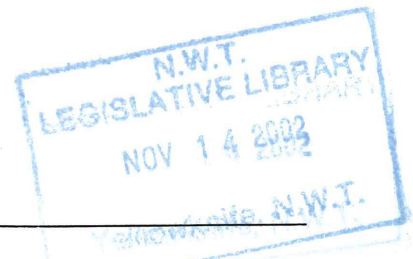
The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada, the Bush Administration and many gas producers adamantly opposed the proposed floor price subsidy to provide Alaskan gas with a competitive advantage over all other North American basins.

“It flies in the face of reason for a single gas project to receive a taxpayer funded floor price subsidy,” the Minister noted. “If the project is so badly needed, the market will support it without the need for government assistance.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories does not oppose the use of more traditional incentives such as accelerated depreciation allowances, loan guarantees and profit sensitive royalty regimes.

We will continue our opposition to a price subsidy if Congress chooses to revisit this subject in the New Year,” Mr. Antoine said.

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





02-122

Minister Handley Appoints New Power Corporation Board

YELLOWKNIFE (November 21) – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NWTPC) Joe Handley today announced the appointment of the NWT Power Corporation Board.

Richard Nerysoo (Inuvik), President of Trailbreaker Energy Services Inc., and former Member of the Legislative Assembly and Premier of the Northwest Territories will serve as Chairperson of the NWTPC. "Mr. Nerysoo brings extensive Board and governance experience to his appointment," the Minister noted.

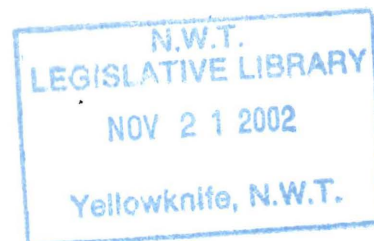
Mr. Nerysoo has held previous appointments or positions with the Gwich'in Development Corporation, Canada Post Corporation, NWT Community Mobilization and the Aboriginal Summit as well as being a past President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Peter Allen, President of Nexus Group Limited, a Yellowknife consulting company, has been designated as Vice-Chairperson.

The remaining appointees to the NWTPC Board at this time are Peter Guther (Norman Wells) Marion Lavigne (Yellowknife) Ray Woods (Calgary) and Louis Sebert (Fort Smith).

For further information, contact:

Lisa Richinger
Executive Assistant to
Hon. Joe Handley
Tel: (867) 669-2309





02-123

Out of the North – Top of the World Skiers (the T.E.S.T. program)

YELLOWKNIFE (November 25) -- A commemorative video highlighting the highly successful TEST (Territorial Experimental Ski Training) cross-country ski program was launched Saturday in Yellowknife by Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen and Minister Responsible For Youth, Roger Allen.

Out of the North – Top of the World Skiers was produced by a former coach of the program Bjorger Pettersen. The short video takes a historical look at the internationally-recognized TEST program which ran in the Northwest Territories from 1964 –1998 and highlights the program and its achievements.

“This video, and the government’s original support for the TEST program itself, demonstrate the GNWT’s commitment to foster an environment that encourages active living for all NWT residents,” Mr. Steen noted.

Skiers from the TEST program frequently competed at an international level and were so successful that at events such as the 1972 Sapporo Olympics, the Canadian national ski team was made up primarily of NWT residents.

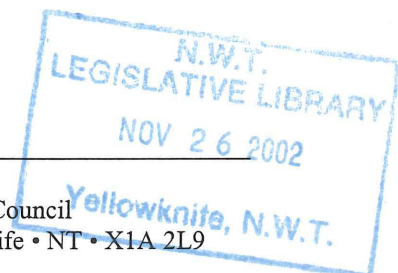
Minister Responsible for Youth Roger Allen, himself a TEST participant, says he’s pleased the Government of the Northwest Territories supported the initiative.

“Our youth represent the future of the NWT,” he said.

The video will be distributed to all NWT schools and communities, as well as Sport North, the NWT Ski Division and their affiliates. Copies of the video are available through the Sport Recreation and Youth Division of the Department of MACA.

For more information, contact:

Flora Evans
Policy/Communications Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092





02-124

Revisions to Public Housing Scale Ensure Break to Those Most in Need

YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) -- Revisions to the GNWT's harmonization of public housing and income assistance programs are now ready for implementation on April 1, 2003.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says the changes come in response to concerns raised by members of the Legislative Assembly regarding the program's impact on seniors and students.

The Harmonization initiative announced in November 2001 introduced a common income assessment tool to be used with all NWT residents applying for public housing and income assistance.

Concerns were raised that the implementation or transition to this new harmonized method of assessing income would negatively affect NWT seniors and students who currently pay little or no rent at all.

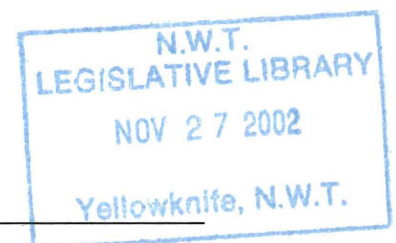
Seniors and students currently in public housing will now be grandfathered and will pay between \$20 and \$200 per month, depending on their income, during the first year of the program. In subsequent years, their rent will go up by \$50 per month each year until it reaches a final maximum of \$400 per month.

"NWT seniors living in public housing will continue to pay the lowest rent of almost any jurisdiction in the country," Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation Roger Allen notes.

Changes to the Harmonization Program will work to ensure that the initiative meets its original intent: to simplify the delivery of services to clients and to see the greatest benefits flow to those most in need of them.

For more information, contact:

Sue Glowach
Manager of Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 920-6222





02-125

Approval Reached on Division of Museum Collections

YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) -- An agreement has been reached to divide the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's museum and archives collections between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The division of the nearly 100,000 individual objects and more than 540 linear meters of archival records, currently housed at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, was negotiated through a separate process following the creation of Nunavut in 1999.

Workings groups, established to make recommendations on how the collections would be allocated, negotiated the agreement with the guiding principle that the appropriate governments would retain the items where the most historical and cultural significance was demonstrated.

GNWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes also commended the working groups tasked with the division. "Their careful consideration to these objects and records has resulted in the completion of an agreement without any arbitration," he noted.

Hon. Jack Anawak, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut says he's pleased with the results of the negotiations, and congratulate the working groups for their success in completing this complex initiative. "I look forward to the day when our heritage collections can be returned to their home in Nunavut," he said.

The collections that are to be turned over to the Government of Nunavut will remain at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre until such time as there are museum and archives facilities, as well as staff trained to care for those priceless collections, in Nunavut.

For more information:

Sue Glowach
Manager Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 920-6222

Penny Rumbolt
Communications Manager
Culture, Education, Elders & Youth
Government of Nunavut
Tel: (867) 979-4881



02-126

NWT Liquor Commission Offers Responsible Hosting Tips

YELLOWKNIFE (November 27) -- The NWT Liquor Commission has introduced a new booklet for NWT residents offering options for responsible entertaining, useful party planning information and valuable tips to help make celebrations both enjoyable and safe this holiday season.

Titled, *HOST: Guide for Responsible Entertaining*, the colourful 52-page booklet is available free-of-charge in NWT liquor stores while quantities last. It contains advice on how to stock your bar, host liability, facts about alcohol consumption and recipes for appealing non-alcoholic drinks for guests and designated drivers.

Produced in response to business and consumer requests for hosting information, it is the cornerstone of the Canadian Association of Liquor Jurisdictions (CALJ) responsible hosting initiative.

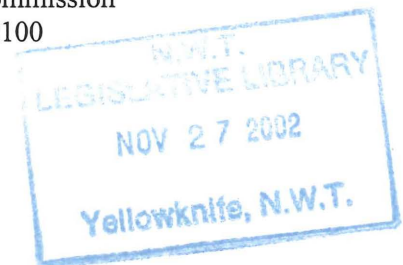
Minister Responsible for the NWT Liquor Commission Joe Handley says the release of the booklet is timely as NWT residents prepare to celebrate the holiday season.

“With the increase in opportunities for alcohol consumption, the prevention of drinking and driving becomes a priority for all residents of the NWT,” Mr. Handley noted. “This initiative will enable those planning or hosting an event to prepare for safer celebrations and encourage responsible drinking.”

Copies of *HOST: Guide for Responsible Entertaining* can be obtained from any NWT retail liquor outlet or by contacting the NWT Liquor Commission at (867) 874-2100.

For more information, or to obtain a copy of *HOST* contact:

Ron Courtoreille
General Manager
NWT Liquor Commission
Tel: (867) 874-2100



02-127

Minister Accepts Recommendations of Stanton Board

YELLOWKNIFE (November 28) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger has accepted the recommendation of the Stanton Territorial Health Board to terminate the employment of their Chief Executive Officer.

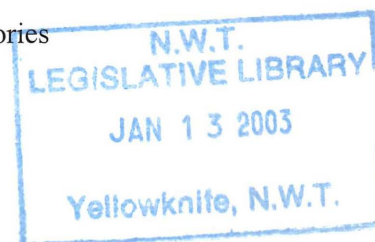
The decision was reached following a meeting of the Stanton Territorial Health Board last night. Following their decision, Members of the Board also recommended to the Minister that the Board be dissolved.

Mr. Miltenberger says he has accepted the recommendation to dissolve the Board and will be working to recruit a new CEO.

“I commend the members of the Board for taking this difficult step”, the Minister said. “Their actions allow a fresh start for management, administration and staff implementing the recommendations of the recent Review.”

In the interim, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Dave Murray, will serve as Public Administrator, and Al Woods will serve as Interim CEO, effective Monday December 2nd, 2002.

For more information, contact: **D.J. (Dave) Murray**
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-6173





02-128

Premier Welcomes Romanow Recommendations

YELLOWKNIFE (November 29) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he’s pleased to see priorities raised by the Government of the Northwest Territories reflected in yesterday’s report of the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

“Mr. Romanow’s Report supports the Government of the Northwest Territories’ position that a single, publicly-funded health care system is critical to ensuring quality services for all NWT residents,” the Premier noted.

GNWT presentations to the Romanow Commission in Yellowknife in May also highlighted the need to address Aboriginal health and the challenge of providing health care in remote communities of the NWT.

Beyond its strong call for increased federal health care funding, the Romanow report, *Building on Values – The Future of Health Care in Canada*, recommends an immediate injection of funds into five targeted areas: rural and remote access, diagnostic services, primary health care, home care and drug coverage for expensive therapies.

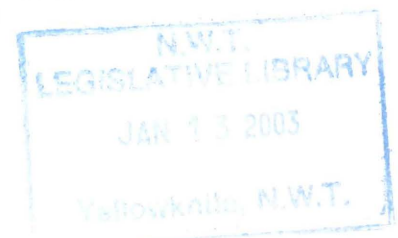
The Premier says that while the Northwest Territories stands to benefit from this immediate and targeted funding, he’s disappointed that the report falls short of endorsing funding based on need.

“We were clear to Mr. Romanow that federal funding based solely on population size does not recognize the NWT’s unique health and social conditions or the challenges we face in providing full access and service delivery,” the Premier said.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will be examining the report in greater detail over the next few weeks. Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health will meet in early December to discuss the implications of the report with the Federal Minister.

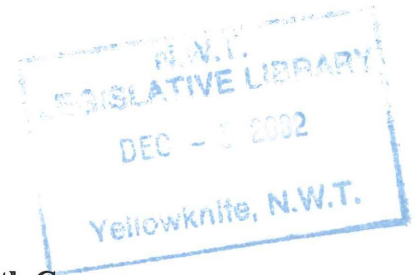
For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304

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02-129



Minister Announces Additional Resources for Health Care

YELLOWKNIFE (December 3) – The Government of the Northwest Territories will invest an additional \$8.3 million in human resources for the NWT’s health and social services system. Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger announced today.

The new resources will be dedicated to creating 42 new positions within the health and social services system, including:

- Ten (10) nursing positions at Stanton Territorial Hospital to address immediate relief, training and cross-training requirements;
- Thirteen (13) physicians positions, (10 general practitioner and 3 physician specialists), to increase community access to physicians and enhance specialized life-saving services at the territorial level;
- Fourteen (14) entry-level nursing positions to guarantee employment for NWT nursing graduates;
- Three (3) nurse practitioner positions to facilitate the introduction of nurse practitioners as part of implementing a new model of primary health care in the NWT; and
- Two (2) midwife positions to complement work, currently underway, to facilitate midwifery practice in the NWT.

An additional \$537,000 will also be directed to support ongoing training and mentorship programs.

“These new positions and resources will have a very real impact on frontline health care professionals working in the NWT,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “They will increase our capacity, not only to provide high quality accessible services but, to address the serious concern of burn-out in frontline staff as well.”

Extra resources will allow the GNWT to build on recommendations identified in the *Retention and Recruitment Plan* released in November. They will also support ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive human resource plan and a new model for primary health care in the NWT as identified in the *Health and Social Services System Action Plan* in February.

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While, today's announcement is a significant step in the GNWT's commitment to address challenges within the NWT health and social services system, the Minister says it will not be the end of the government's work on this issue.

"I look forward to continuing discussions with frontline workers and other stakeholders as we move to our shared vision of a stable, northern workforce," Mr. Miltenberger said.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon

Manager, Communications

Department of Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 920-8927

Kakfwi, Fentie Meet to Discuss Several Issues
02-130 - Wednesday, December 04, 2002

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CALGARY (December 4) - Premier Dennis Fentie of the Yukon Territory and Premier Stephen Kakfwi of the Northwest Territories had their first face to face meeting only three days after Premier Fentie was sworn in. The meeting was warm and lively and included a discussion of several major issues of importance to both jurisdictions.

"Premier Fentie and I both agree that the market will decide the pipeline route. Our job is to work together to ensure our territories benefit from development, no matter where it occurs in the North", said Premier Kakfwi.

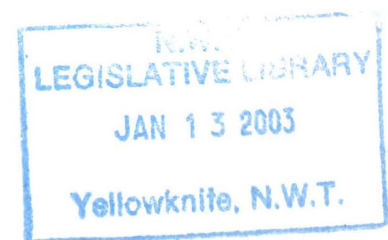
The two Premiers are looking forward to joining Premier Okalik of Nunavut in the near future in a revitalized Northern Premiers' Council, where the three northern Premiers discuss common priorities and issues of mutual concern.

"One of my priorities as a new Premier is to encourage much more east-west collaboration with our northern neighbours, and I am very encouraged that Premier Kakfwi and I are off to a great start", said Premier Fentie.

The Premiers agreed to pursue further discussions on climate change, economic development, training, job opportunities and health care and they agreed on the importance of involving their Aboriginal partners in shaping the future of the North.

For further information contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier/Executive Council
Tel: (867) 669-2304





02-131

Analysis on Economic Impacts of Kyoto Protocol Now Available

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6) – A preliminary analysis shows that the Northwest Territories would suffer few economic impacts from the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine released the analysis today.

“This analysis should provide some comfort to those people opposed to the Government of the Northwest Territories’ continued support for the Kyoto Protocol,” Mr. Antoine said.

The analysis, developed by the federal government, is based on a “reference case” and includes the impacts of approaches currently being discussed to implement the Kyoto Protocol. It assumes a Mackenzie Valley pipeline would be in production by 2012 and states that the pipeline project will not be affected by ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

While the analysis forecasts that measures aimed at energy efficiency will result in a reduction in the demand for electricity during the next two decades, no impact is expected on the demand for oil and gas or on diamond mining and other mineral industries in the NWT.

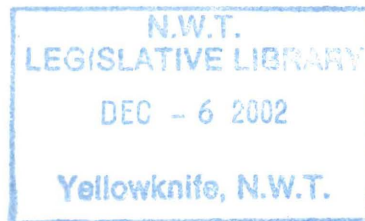
“We will continue to monitor federal government plans to implement Kyoto in an effort to identify potential economic impacts on the NWT,” the Minister said.

Costs relating to the impact of climate change are not included in the analysis. These include disruption to winter road schedules and increased maintenance on all-weather roads because of permafrost deterioration. The analysis also does not describe who will pay the costs of any new climate change measure that might be implemented in the NWT.

A copy of the analysis is available on the RWED website at:
<http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/eps/climate.htm>

For more information, contact:

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



December 6, 2002

Alberta-Northwest Territories Discuss Co-operation Initiatives

Yellowknife... The Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development for Alberta and the Honourable Vince Steen, Minister of Public Works and Services, and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the Northwest Territories met today to further advance co-operation between the two jurisdictions. Ministers Calahasen and Steen are the Co-Chairs for the Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development.

The Co-Chairs reviewed the progress of the various initiatives being undertaken within the framework of the MOU and supported a three year action plan.

"I am very pleased to see these initiatives further promote co-operation between Alberta and the Northwest Territories on resource development, transportation infrastructure, tourism and education initiatives," said Minister Steen, at the conclusion of the meeting Friday afternoon, adding that "Alberta is the NWT's most important neighbour, in terms of trade, economic linkages and social program connections."

Minister Calahasen also expressed her approval of progress on the MOU, "It is exciting to see valuable connections happening on tourism and skill development. We are continuing our support for the Deh Cho Travel Connection group, as well as other joint tourism initiatives. In the area of skill development, we adopted a framework for action focusing on greater contact between Aurora College in the Northwest Territories and Northern Alberta's post-secondary education institutions."

Also participating in the meeting were the Honourable Jake Ootes, the Northwest Territories' Minister of Education, Culture and Employment; and Gary Friedel, the Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

"I am especially pleased with the progress made in regards to skill development, training and education," said Minister Ootes. "There are opportunities for our respective jurisdictions to work on making our learning systems more effective, especially for students. We are truly moving forward on cooperative efforts."

Gary Friedel stated, "There are many projects currently underway that will require an effective transportation system between Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Development of our northern highways is essential to the generation of new economic opportunities and resulting employment in the North."

The Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation and Development was signed in 1998. The purpose of the document is to promote co-operation between Alberta and the Northwest Territories on development. The next meeting of the Co-Chairs for the Memorandum of Understanding will be held in May 2003 in Edmonton.

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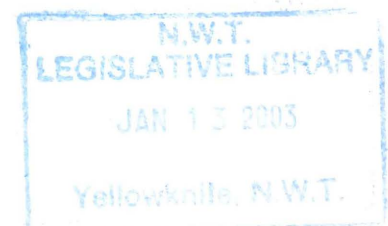
For further information, please contact:

Peter Tadman, Communications,
Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development
780-415-0876

Tom Baldwin, Executive Director,
Northern Alberta Development Council
780-624-6274

Drew Williams, Communications,
Office of the Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-669-2304

Bernie Hughes, Senior Policy Advisor,
Executive - Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic
Planning Government of the Northwest Territories
867-920-6378





02-133

GNWT Applauds De Beers for Decision to Supply Rough Diamonds to NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (December 9) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine is applauding De Beers Canada for its decision to supply rough diamonds from its Snap Lake mine to diamond manufacturers in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Antoine says he was clear in an August meeting with Gary Ralfe, Managing Director of De Beers, in London that the Government of the Northwest Territories was not prepared to compromise its policy on maximizing benefits from northern resource development.

“That policy includes providing rough diamonds to the NWT’s diamond manufacturing industry,” the Minister said.

On Friday De Beers Canada President Richard Molyneux committed to negotiating the supply of rough diamonds from De Beer’s Snap Lake project with the Government of the Northwest Territories. The announcement coincides with the onset of negotiations on a socio-economic agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

“De Beers is living up to its reputation of being a good corporate citizen,” Mr. Antoine said.

De Beers would join BHP Billiton and Diavik Diamond Mines in providing rough diamonds directly from NWT mines to NWT manufacturers.

For more information, contact:

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





02-134

Federal Government Still Not Clear on Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (December 9) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger, says he will continue to lobby his colleagues and the federal government to support a floor for the allocation of federal health care resources.

The need for an allocation of base funding was a key recommendation made by the Minister and Premier Stephen Kakfwi to the Romanow Commission last May in Yellowknife. "It's a point that we will have to keep pushing at every opportunity," Mr. Miltenberger said.

The Minister met December 6th with his federal, provincial and territorial colleagues from across Canada to discuss how jurisdictions will continue working together to improve health care across the country following the release of the Romanow Commission report.

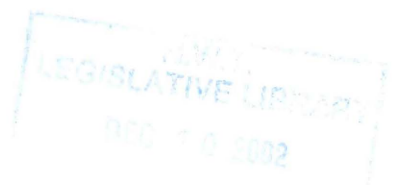
"The federal minister has confirmed her commitment to work with all jurisdictions and stakeholders but has not provided any indication on how much money will be made available to the provinces and territories," the Minister said.

Mr. Miltenberger says he's pleased to see that the position taken by the federal government supports existing health care initiatives in the NWT.

"The work we have set out for our own health care system, as indicated in the *Health and Social Services System Action Plan*, is consistent with the priority areas identified by my colleagues," he said. "These include the delivery of front line services, Aboriginal health, and the expansion of home care and mental health services."

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927





02-135

Kakfwi Commends Coalition for Report

YELLOWKNIFE (December 10) -- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Stephen Kakfwi says a research paper released yesterday by the Coalition against Family Violence represents a significant step towards addressing one of the Northwest Territories' most tragic problems.

Family Violence in the NWT: A survey of Costs, Services, Data Collection & Issues for Action examines the costs and hurdles that must be overcome to address family violence in the NWT. It includes a compilation of data on family violence, examines issues related to the response of support services to family violence, and identifies key considerations for the development of an action plan.

"This document reflects the direct input of grassroots agencies and frontline workers who work tirelessly on issues specifically related to family violence" the Minister said.

Participants in the study provided forty-two recommendations to help stakeholders address family violence in the NWT. Their recommendations cover general services and strategies, shelters & safe homes, family violence & victims programs, criminal justice system, children & youth and other services.

"We look forward to participating with the Coalition in the development of an action plan that will work towards the elimination of family violence in the NWT," Mr. Kakfwi said.

For more information, contact

Bertha Norwegian
Special Advisor to the
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Tel (867)-920-3106



#02-135 BACKGROUNDER**Kakfwi Commends Coalition for Report
YELLOWKNIFE (December 10)**

Earlier this month, Federal Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women released a major report titled "Assessing Violence against Women: A Statistical Profile".

The Ministers originally commissioned the report from Statistics Canada in September 2000 as a means to develop indicators on violence against women and as part of a long-term commitment to address violence against women.

"Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile" provides a readily accessible, but partial, portrait of women's experiences of violence. It includes preliminary information regarding possible changes in the prevalence and severity of violence against women that could serve as benchmarks and is intended to be used by governments, women's organizations, non-governmental agencies, academics and those involved in the policy process.

This statistical profile of violence was produced to increase awareness about the prevalence and severity of acts of violence against women and to help chart progress and identify direction for future action on emerging problems. The document gives an overview of how widespread and serious violence against women is.

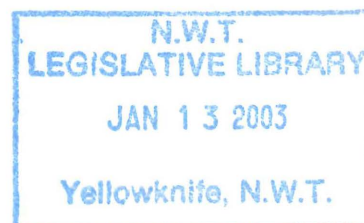
However, the surveys on which these statistics are based do not capture the full reality of violence in relationships. The report contains data primarily on one form of violence – domestic violence but contains limited information on the other forms of violence against women, such as sexual assault and criminal harassment. Current detailed data on these are lacking.

Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women believe this publication represents an important and critical beginning for various sectors to develop more complete and comprehensive set of indicators. All governments plan to monitor the situation of violence against women and determine the best prevention strategies.

Copies of "Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile" will be sent to Territorial women's groups, Government agencies and special interest groups.

For more information please contact:

Bertha Norwegian
Special Advisor to the
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Tel (867)-920-3106





02-136

Antoine Named Champion for Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council

YELLOWKNIFE (December 10) -- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Jim Antoine has been named a Champion of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada (AHRDCC).

Mr. Antoine was invited to join the Council by Eric P. Newell, O.C., Champions Co-Chair, after their recent meeting at the Skills and Learning Roundtable in Yellowknife on September 11, 2002.

The Council, founded in 1998, creates partnerships with Aboriginal groups, government and educational institutions to create career opportunities for Aboriginal people. It also encourages private sector investment in Aboriginal human resource development.

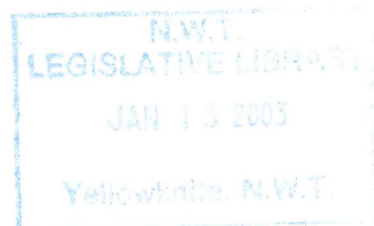
"It is an honour to be asked to participate in a Council whose goal is to encourage Aboriginal participation in the Canadian economy," Mr. Antoine said. "I look forward to sharing the success stories of the Northwest Territories' in this particular area and am eager to bring home innovative methods to increase Aboriginal employment in the North."

Mr. Antoine will attend the AHRDCC meetings with all Co-Champions December 12-13th, 2002 in Ottawa.

Other notable Champions of the Council include the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Matthew Coon Come, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada, Terri Brown and President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Jose Kusugak.

For more information, contact:

Julia Heyland
Communications Advisor
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-6989





02-137

GNWT Awards Tanker Contract to Buffalo Airways

YELLOWKNIFE (December 19) —Two five-year contracts for air and land-based tanker services for forest fire management in the Northwest Territories have been awarded to Buffalo Airways Ltd.

Buffalo Airways is the only totally northern-owned air tanker service provider capable of serving the needs of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

In making its decision, the Minister says the GNWT considered Buffalo Airway's strong seven-year track record of quality service and ensuring NWT residents benefit through employment, training and investment in infrastructure.

"Buffalo Airways has also followed through with its commitment to move its aircraft maintenance program to the Northwest Territories. This created additional full time employment," the Minister said.

The contract for the CL-215 tankers will have a total fixed cost of \$8.1 million and total variable costs of not more than \$14.3 million over its five-year term.

The land-based DC-4 services contract awarded to Buffalo Airways will have a total fixed cost of \$7 million and variable costs of no more than \$1.9 million over its five year term.

In announcing the five-year contracts, Mr. Antoine noted that that many other jurisdictions in Canada are currently renewing their fire-management aircraft.

"We will develop a public contract process for the provision of future air tanker services to the government beginning in the third year of this air tanker services contracts," the Minister said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Office of the Premier/Executive Council
Tel (867) 669-2304

